CYBERSECURITY POLICY AND INCIDENTS BRIEFING

ICYMI: Intelligent Buildings explains the rising threat to operational technology (OT) assets and how it affects you and your buildings

06/11/21

SUMMARY

CISA (Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency published a fact sheet on 6/9/2021 entitled "Rising Ransomware Threat to Operational Assets" in response to the recent ransomware attacks. CISA's publication identifies basic best practices. These best practices help owners and operators improve resilience by reducing vulnerability to ransomware, thereby reducing the risk of severe business interruption.

WHAT IT MEANS

Prepare now! As seen in the news, acting after the fact can cost exponentially more, and disruption of services can cause loss of productivity and result in life/safety incidents. Remember, unlike IT systems that deal with data, OT systems interact physically with people and devices. You can prepare by:

- Determining critical operational processes, maintaining an up-to-date asset inventory, and identifying system connections and configurations.
- Implementing an incident response plan for operations if you lose access or control
- Practicing good cyber hygiene by separating IT and OT networks and monitoring OT networks for threats.
- Ensuring backups are being performed, tested, and secure.

HOW INTELLIGENT BUILDINGS CAN HELP

We have assessed thousands of buildings in the US, Canada, and overseas. In our experience, most building owners don't know what's connected, how it's connected and configured, and do not have recovery strategies in place. For example, even if backups are being performed, they are usually not being performed correctly or securely. Intelligent Buildings can assess your building systems and the contractors who support them and provide you with an easy-to-follow plan to secure your building control systems. Additionally, our managed service can ensure that these steps are being followed and bring your systems and contractors into compliance.

https://www.cisa.gov/publication/ransomware-threat-to-ot