

## Phone Interview Consent Form

I am a PhD student in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University, and I am conducting phone interviews for my dissertation research. I am studying cybercrimes against industrial control systems (ICS) in the electricity infrastructure. The purpose of this study is to determine whether ethical hackers and ICS experts have different perceptions of ICS cybervulnerabilities.

During this study, you will be asked to answer some questions as to your opinion on the vulnerability of the electricity sector, its likely targets, types of attacks and responses, and publicized cyberattacks against this sector. This interview was designed to be approximately 30-45 minutes in length. However, please feel free to expand on the topic or talk about related ideas. Also, if there are any questions you would rather not answer or that you do not feel comfortable answering, please say so and we will stop the interview or move on to the next question, whichever you prefer.

This research is anonymous. Anonymous means that I will record no information about you that could identify you. This means that I will not record your name, address, phone number, date of birth, etc. If you agree to take part in the study, you will be assigned a random code number that will be used on each questionnaire. Your name will appear only on a list of subjects, and will not be linked to the code number that is assigned to you. There will be no way to link your responses back to you. Therefore, data collection is anonymous.

The research team and the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. Upon completion of this project, all data will be kept for three years, after which they will be erased. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, only group results or interview excerpts will be stated.

You are aware that your participation in this interview is voluntary. You understand the intent and purpose of this research. As the interview questions pertain to your perceptions and NOT actual cybercrime incidents, no risks are anticipated from taking part in this study. If, for any reason, at any time, you wish to stop the interview, you may do so without having to give an explanation. You will not receive any direct benefit for participating in this research. The research will provide a more plausible cybervulnerability assessment, thereby contributing to the areas of internal and external ICS security measures

You understand if you say anything that you believe may incriminate yourself, the interviewer will immediately rewind the tape and record over the potentially incriminating information. The interviewer will then ask you if you would like to continue the interview. The recording(s) will be used solely for analysis by the investigator. It will not include any personal identifier, and will be stored on a flash drive using file names with no link to subjects' identity, and will be retained for a period of three years, after which it will be erased.

If you have any questions about this study, you can contact me by telephone at (973)342-7891 or by email at: [aunshul@pegasus.rutgers.edu](mailto:aunshul@pegasus.rutgers.edu). You may also contact Dr. Clarke by telephone at (973) 353-1154 or by email at: [rclarke@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:rclarke@newark.rutgers.edu). Both Dr. Clarke and I can also be reached by mail at School of Criminal Justice, 123 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ: 07102.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers (which is a committee that reviews research studies in order to protect research participants). The IRB Administrator at Rutgers can be reached at:

Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey  
Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects  
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
3 Rutgers Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8559  
Tel: 732-932-0150 ext. 2104  
Email: [humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu](mailto:humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu)

You will be offered a copy of this consent form that you may keep for your own reference. It will be made available on the investigator's academic website: <http://pegasus.rutgers.edu/~aunshul/research>

Are there any questions about what I have just explained?

Are you willing to participate in this interview?