

JPCERT/CC Activities Overview Topics

January 1, 2023 ~ March 31, 2023



JPCERT Coordination Center

April 18, 2023

Activity Overview Topics

– Topic1 – J-CLICS Countermeasures for Attack Pathways (Security Self-assessment Tool for ICS Users) Released

Since March 2013, JPCERT/CC has provided the J-CLICS Step 1/Step 2 self-assessment tool as a first step for ICS users in addressing ICS security. These tools include carefully selected countermeasures that are extremely important and easy to implement at the initial stage. This tool gives ICS users a means to evaluate the status of security countermeasures from a baseline approach. While it is an effective tool that can help first-time users to raise security countermeasures to a certain level, residual risks need to be clearly identified to achieve further risk mitigation. JPCERT/CC has received a considerable number of inquiries and requests from organizations that have implemented the initial countermeasures and seek a tool to help with the next countermeasures for further risk mitigation.

To address this demand, JPCERT/CC developed J-CLICS Countermeasures for Attack Pathways with the cooperation of SICE/JEITA/JEMIMA Security Working Group, industry members, and experts, and released the new tool on March 7, 2023.

J-CLICS Countermeasures for Attack Pathways is a tool for visualizing the status of countermeasures, checking their effectiveness in protecting against attacks, and considering future countermeasures. It targets industrial control systems that adopt a three-layer model consisting of a field network, control network, and control information network, and categorizes pathways attackers use to introduce malware in an attempt to cause infection into four groups: network pathway, wireless LAN pathway, BYOD pathway, and physical access pathway. The anticipated attack procedures and conditions for their success are clarified for each pathway, along with the countermeasures that should be implemented and their effectiveness.

JPCERT/CC invites ICS users to utilize this tool together with J-CLICS Step 1/Step 2.

J-CLICS Countermeasures for Attack Pathways (Security Self-assessment Tool for ICS Users) (Japanese)
<https://www.jpccert.or.jp/ics/jclics-attack-path-countermeasures.html>

"J-CLICS Countermeasures for Attack Pathways" Security Self-assessment Tool for ICS Users Released (Japanese)
<https://blogs.jpccert.or.jp/ja/2023/03/jclics-attach-path-countermeasures.html>

– Topic2 – ICS Security Conference 2023 Held

On February 9, 2023, ICS Security Conference 2023 was held online, attracting 436 participants. Following the opening remarks by Masahiro Uemura, Deputy Director-General for Cyber Security and Information Technology Management at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, which co-hosted the event, seven presentations were given, including four that were adopted through a call for presentation.

At the beginning, JPCERT/CC looked back on the year and gave an update on the current situation regarding ICS security and various efforts being undertaken. This was followed by insightful presentations from international IEC TC65/WG10 experts, security consultants, ICS vendors, security vendors, and other stakeholders in the field of ICS.

The presentations covered a wide range of topics, including the latest development regarding IEC 62443, an international standard that is attracting growing interest among ICS experts. Other topics included: realistic approaches to security countermeasures targeting popular products in light of circumstances faced by ICS users; issues and countermeasures regarding remote access to ICS, an area that has been seeing growing needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to drive digital transformation; suggestions for joint initiatives by vendors and users to achieve sustainable ICS security countermeasures that consider the impact on availability; and efforts to secure the viability of organizational policies on ICS security. The conference was capped off by a presentation from a JPCERT/CC analyst who talked about how ICS users should interpret the ICS-related vulnerability information released by JPCERT/CC, using actual analysis discussed in ICS vulnerability analysis reports published twice a year as examples.

According to the questionnaire survey conducted after the event (242 valid responses), the participants represented a diverse mix of professionals at rates roughly unchanged from last year: 36.0% ICS users, 11.6% ICS vendors, 15.7% ICS equipment vendors, 8.3% ICS engineering firms and 4.1% researchers. As the conference was held online again this year, participants could join from across the country. Over 100 participants attended the event for the first time, and the total number of applications exceeded the previous year's, indicating that interest in ICS security remains high.

ICS Security Conference 2023

<https://blogs.jpCERT.or.jp/en/2023/04/ics-conference2023.html>

– Topic3 – JSAC2023 International Conference for Security Analysts Held

JPCERT/CC held JSAC2023 on January 25 and 26, 2023. This conference was held with the aim of sharing information about ever-changing attack methods and new analytical techniques, to help improve the technical capabilities of security analysts who analyze and handle cyber attack incidents.

This year's event, which marked the sixth, was a hybrid of on-site and virtual conferences. The presentations covered technologies for incident analysis and response, including malware analysis and incident handling, and provided information about the presenters' own new technological insights and analytical tools. At JSAC2023, seven presentations were given as part of its Lightning Talk sessions, in addition to 14 presentations including two workshops.

Previous instances of JSAC presentations being discussed abroad or JSAC receiving presentation applications from overseas have indicated its international presence. Accordingly, this year's conference was held with the aim of making JSAC an international event, issuing a call for papers and providing event information in both Japanese and English, actively accepting participants from overseas, and offering simultaneous interpretation for all presentations. As a result, there were more than 100 participants in addition to 11 speakers from overseas, and the event grew into an international conference. Going forward, we will continue to welcome security analysts from around the world and make JSAC a venue where the latest, cutting-edge information can be shared.

Presentation materials of JSAC2023 are available on the JSAC2023 website, and a video recording of the presentations can be viewed on YouTube.

JSAC2023

<https://jsac.jpcert.or.jp/en/index.html>

JPCERT/CC Eyes: JSAC2023 -Day 1-

<https://blogs.jpcert.or.jp/en/2023/03/jsac2023day1.html>

JPCERT/CC Eyes: JSAC2023 -Day 2-

<https://blogs.jpcert.or.jp/en/2023/03/jsac2023day2.html>

JPCERT/CC Eyes: JSAC2023 -Day 2 Workshop-

<https://blogs.jpcert.or.jp/en/2023/03/jsac2023day2-workshop.html>

JPCERT/CC Official YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgEi6O-lWUIZ4uuYJE0jBurKg9vvL1gwm>

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