



TEXAS RE

talk with
TEXAS RE

Self-Logging

Alex Petak
Enforcement Attorney

Mishani Tamayo
Enforcement Program Coordinator

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March 9, 2023

APT Cyber Tools
Targeting
ICS/SCADA Devices



March 16, 2023

Cold Weather
Standards



March 29, 2023

Women's Leadership
in Grid Reliability and
Security Conference





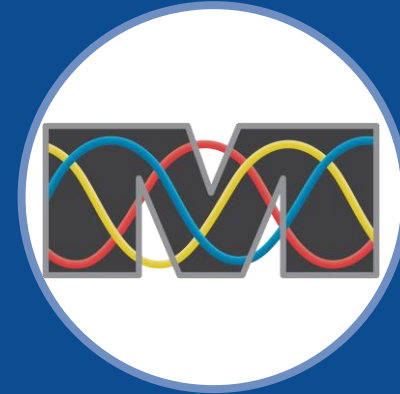
March 20, 2023

Technical Talk with RF



March 21, 2023

Spring Reliability and
Security Virtual
Workshop



March 22, 2023

MRO Hybrid RAM
Conference



Who has heard of the Self-Logging program?

#TXRE

Joining as a participant?

Enter event code

Join an existing event



Topics to Discuss Today:

1. What is the Self-Logging program?
2. Who is the program for?
3. Benefits of the Self-Logging program
4. How to join and submit logs
5. How to use the program effectively



An Alternative to Self-Reporting

Registered Entity Logs Minimal Risk Noncompliance

- Still contains essential parts
- Submitted to Regional Entity for review and approval at least once every six months
- Rebuttable presumption appropriate for compliance exception treatment



[NERC Self-Logging User Guide](#)

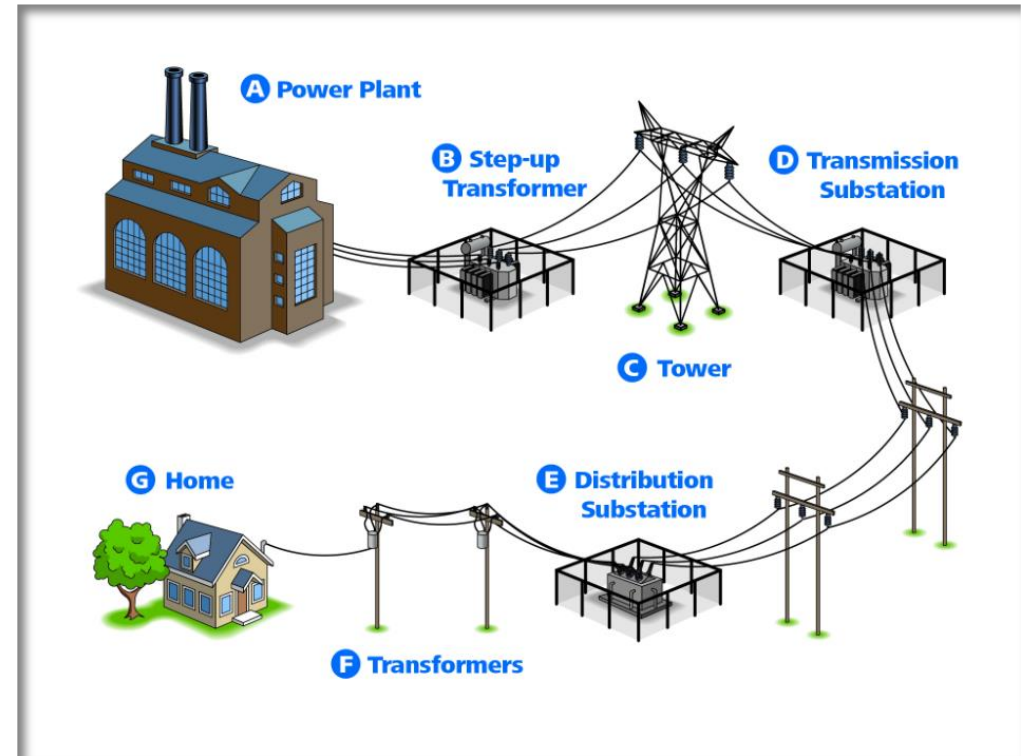




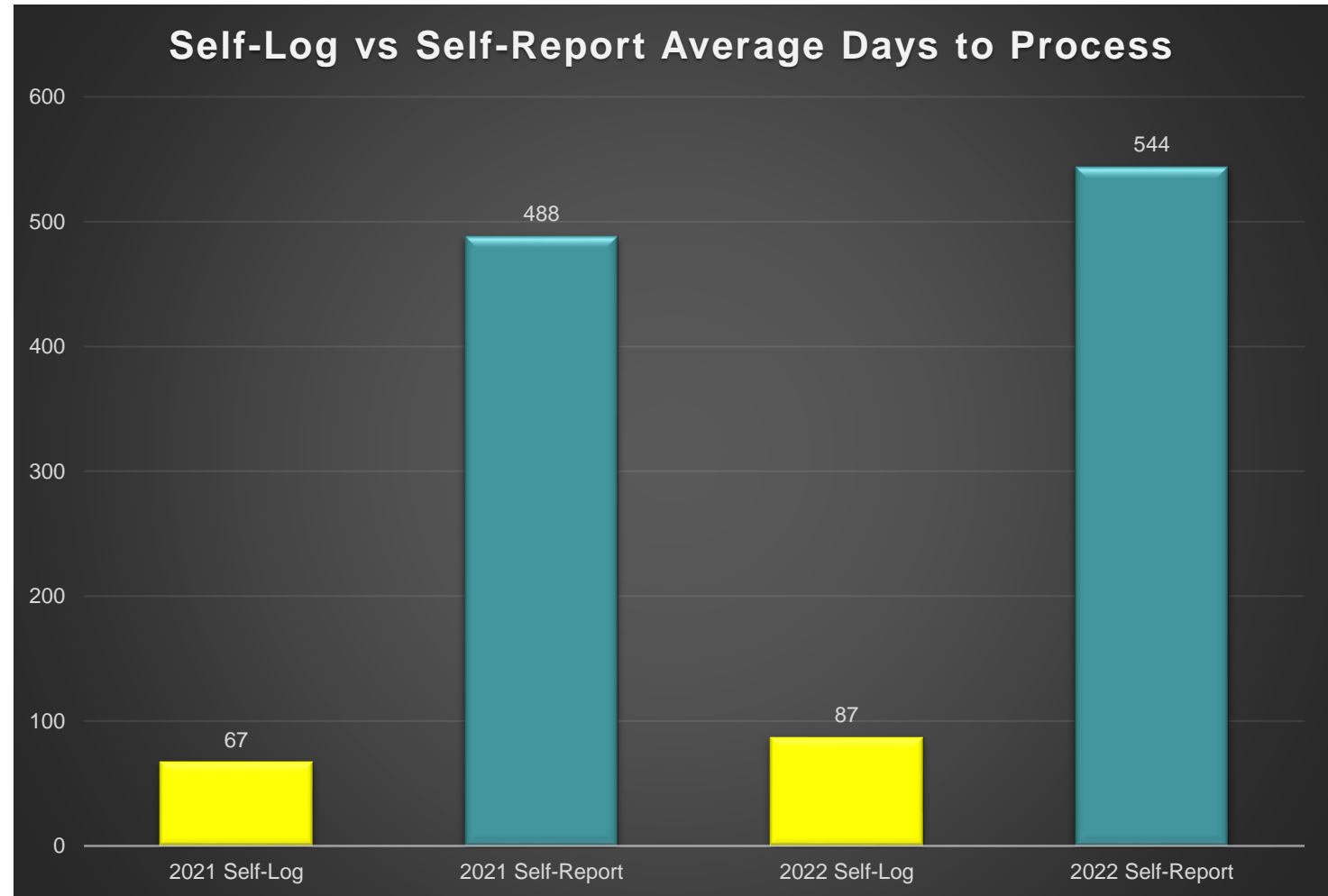
All registered entities may apply

Eligibility based on robust Compliance Program

- Identification of PNCs
- Evaluation of PNCs
- Correction of PNCs



- ❖ **Presumption of compliance expectation (CE) treatment**
- ❖ **No need to develop a Self-Report for every issue**
- ❖ **Fewer (if any) requests for information (RFIs)**
- ❖ **No evidence submission required**
- ❖ **Faster processing**



- ❖ Gives regulators confidence that the industry is monitoring and addressing their risks
- ❖ Can assist Regional Entities in trend spotting and further show a strong compliance culture



Slido Question

Who has submitted a self-log before?



Request and Review

- Registered entity requests to participate
- Texas RE reviews the request (and supporting documents)

Approval

- Texas RE sends a participation letter to the registered entity

Logging

- Registered entity submits first log using Align on date indicated in the participation approval letter
- Texas RE will notify NERC of participants



To Submit a Formal Request:

- (1) Complete the [Self-Logging Program Participation Request \(Template\)](#)
- (2) Include any documents (processes, etc.) describing your internal controls
- (3) Email Texas RE at: enforcement@texasre.org with the subject line “Request for Evaluation – [Registered Entity Name]”



Self-Logging Program ▼

The self-logging program permits registered entities that possess sufficient internal controls to maintain a self-logging spreadsheet for eligible minimal risk noncompliance issues. Registered entities submit their noncompliance logs to Texas RE quarterly. There is a presumption that these self-logged, minimal risk noncompliance issues will be resolved as Compliance Exceptions.

To determine a registered entity's eligibility to self-log, Texas RE conducts a formal review of the registered entity's internal controls. To participate in the self-logging program, the registered entity must demonstrate that it has sufficiently institutionalized processes in place to identify, assess, and correct operational risks to reliability. The details regarding the evaluation process for these internal controls are described in the [ERO Enterprise Self-Logging Program Document](#).

To be evaluated for self-logging, a registered entity should complete the [Self-Logging Program Participation Request](#).

Documents

- [FERC Order Accepting NERC Compliance Filing Self-Logging Guide](#)
- [Compliance Exception Overview](#)





CONFIDENTIAL

Self-Logging Questionnaire

A. Methodology to Evaluate Processes to Identify Noncompliance

1. Please explain how the Entity demonstrates that it has effective processes in place for identifying possible noncompliance with Reliability Standards.

These processes include:

- a) identifying and communicating possible noncompliance with Reliability Standards.
- b) investigating the facts surrounding an identified possible noncompliance.
- c) if the Entity determines facts do not amount to noncompliance (e.g., follow-up, if any, for near misses).

Response:

B. Methodology to Evaluate Processes to Assess Noncompliance

1. Please explain how the Entity investigates the facts surrounding an identified possible noncompliance.

Response:

2. Please explain how the Entity assesses the risk to reliability posed by a noncompliance.

These processes include:

- a) assessing risk to reliability posed by a particular noncompliance; and
- b) communicating reliability risk of possible noncompliance to individuals affected by the possible noncompliance.

Response:

3. Describe how the Entity's assessment of risk to reliability impacts its response to the noncompliance.



Self-Logging Eligibility Review Process

After Texas RE receives your formal request, template, and documents...

Texas RE May Request Additional Information to Complete the Formal Review

Notice Provided

Formal Eligibility Evaluation Begins



Texas RE Will Review Your Registered Entity's:

- History with Texas RE
 - Compliance history
 - Texas RE's experience with your entity
- Evidence of effective processes for identifying possible noncompliance
- Timing and quality of self-reports
- Risk Assessment ability/quality
- Mitigation Performance
- Internal Compliance Program
- Inherent Risk Assessment
- Proposed Self-Logging procedure (optional)



Self-Logging Program ▼

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To be evaluated for self-logging, a registered entity should complete the [Self-Logging Program Participation Request](#).

Documents

- [FERC Order Accepting NERC Compliance Filing](#)
- [Self-Logging Guide](#)
- [Compliance Exception Overview](#)



Texas RE will provide formal, written notification of eligibility determination which will include:

- Whether the registered entity qualifies for Self-Logging
- The basis for Texas RE's decision
- The Reliability Standards for which the registered entity is eligible to Self-Log
- The date the first Self-Log is due



Registered entity enters log using Align on or before submission due date

- **No longer** a process where Entity emails log to Texas RE

Texas RE Enforcement reviews the Self-Log to ensure that the logged instances of noncompliance are:

- Adequately identified and described
- Reasonably and justifiably assessed as minimal risk
- Adequately and appropriately corrected (i.e. mitigated)



Self-Logs Must be Submitted Every Six Months

- Allowed to log anytime *before* your submission due date



Guidance for Drafting Self-Log

- CE Precedent located on the [NERC Enforcement and Mitigation Page](#)
- [Align for Registered Entities](#) (training videos for using Align)
- [Registered Entity User Guide](#)



Align User Guide

Welcome to Align. Along with the Align [instructional videos](#), this user guide will help you navigate through all of the features included in release 1. Click on a topic in the list below or in the ribbon above to begin.

Shortcut: Click the #4, it will take you to Creating a Finding

- 1 Accessing Align
- 2 Release 1 Scope
- 3 Reviewing the Dashboard
- 4 Creating a Finding
- 5 Updating a Finding
- 6 Responding to an RFI
- 7 Responding to Notifications
- 8 Mitigating Activities
- 9 Mitigation Status Progression
- 10 Responding to a Mitigation RFI
- 11 Requesting a Milestone Extension
- 12 Mitigation Plans
- 13 Scope Expansion
- 14 The Incomplete Status
- 15 Completing Milestones
- 16 Consolidated Mitigations



Creating a Finding

To create a **finding** in Align, navigate to the **Compliance Monitoring View**

- 1 Click the **dropdown arrow**
- 2 Select the **Compliance Monitoring** view
- 3 Click **Create Finding**

The screenshot shows the Align system interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon and a dropdown menu labeled 'My Align'. A yellow circle with the number '1' highlights the dropdown arrow. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'My Align', 'Compliance Monitoring', 'Enforcement Processing', and 'Mitigation Management'. A yellow circle with the number '2' highlights 'Compliance Monitoring'. Below the dropdown, there is a 'Welcome' message and a 'MY TASKS' section. A second screenshot shows the 'Compliance Monitoring' view. A yellow circle with the number '3' highlights the 'Create Finding' button in the 'MY REGISTRATIONS' table. The table has columns for 'REGISTRATION', 'APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS', and 'INSTRUCTIONS'. The 'REGISTRATION' column contains two entries: 'TEST00200 - TEST Energy Corp. in WECC' and 'TEST00200 - TEST00200.RF in RF'. The 'APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS' column contains 'Create Finding' for both. The 'INSTRUCTIONS' column contains a paragraph of text. Below the table is a 'MY DRAFTS' section with a table containing one row: 'Self-Report', '2020-06134', 'TEST00200 - TEST00200.RF in RF', 'PRC-005-6 RB', 'GO', 'RF-US', and '04/15/2020'.



Creating a Finding

Review the relevant **Standard** and create a new **finding**

4 Click on a **Standard & Requirement** to review

5 Review the language in the right panel

6 Click + in the "Create Self-Report" or "Create Self-Log" column

CREATE FINDING 2.0

SELECT APPLICABLE REQUIREMENT	
STANDARD	REQ
CIP-002-5.1a	R1
CIP-002-5.1a	R2
CIP-003-7	R1
CIP-003-7	R2
CIP-003-7	R3
CIP-003-7	R4
CIP-004-6	R1
CIP-004-6	R2
CIP-004-6	R3
CIP-004-6	R4
CIP-004-6	R5
CIP-005-5	R1

REQUIREMENT

Standard and Requirement: CIP-003-7 | R1.

Requirement Language: Each Responsible Entity shall review and approval at least once every 15 calendar documented cyber security policies that following topics:

Time Horizon(s): Operations Planning

Violation Factor:

Measure: M1. Examples of evidence may include, documents; revision history, records of from a document management system the cyber security policy at least once every documented approval by the CIP Senior security policy.

Requirement Applicability: BA, TOP, RC, IA, GOP, DP, GO

Additional Applicability: 4.1. Functional Entities: For the purpose herein, the following list of functional ent

CREATE FINDING 2.0

SELECT APPLICABLE REQUIREMENT		CREATE SELF-REPORT	CREATE SELF-LOG
STANDARD	REQ		
CIP-002-5.1a	R1	+	+
CIP-002-5.1a	R2	+	+
CIP-003-7	R1	+	+
CIP-003-7	R2	+	+
CIP-003-7	R3	+	+
CIP-003-7	R4	+	+
CIP-004-6	R1	+	+
CIP-004-6	R2	+	+
CIP-004-6	R3	+	+
CIP-004-6	R4	+	+
CIP-004-6	R5	+	+
CIP-005-5	R1	+	+



Creating a Finding

Ensure the **Requirement Parts** and **Reliability Functions** are applicable for the Self-Report.

Remove any Parts or Functions that do not apply.

7 Click **X** to remove Applicable Parts

8 Click **X** to remove any Reliability Functions

Create a Self Report

Self Reports are encouraged at the time a Registered Entity becomes aware that It has, or may have, violated a Reliability Standard. Self-Reports are encouraged regardless of whether the Reliability Standard requires reporting on a pre-defined schedule in the Compliance Program or whether the violation is determined outside the pre-defined reporting schedule.

Complete the information on this form and **Save** your Self Report as a draft. You can access draft Self Reports and Self Logs under the **My Drafts** section of the **Create Finding** tab and continue editing until you are ready to submit.

General Information

Registration: TEST00200 - TEST Energy Corp. in WECC

Applicable Requirement: CIP-003-7 R1.

Applicable Part(s):

- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 1. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 2. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 3. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 4. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 5. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 6. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 7. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 8. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 9. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 1. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 2. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 3. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 4. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 5. ✕
- CIP-003-7 R1. Part 6. ✕

Region - Jurisdiction in which the Potential Non-Compliance occurred: WECC-US

Other Region - Jurisdiction(s) where you are reporting this Potential Non-Compliance:

Applicable Reliability* Function(s): GO ✕

Save **Close**



Creating a Finding

Add any **Applicable Parts** and **Functions** not included.

- 9 Click the **Arrow** to open the drop-down list
- 10 Select the **Part** from the list
- 11 Click the **Arrow** to open the drop-down list
- 12 Select a **Function** from the list

The screenshot shows the 'Create a Self Report' form. Callout 10 points to the 'Applicable Part(s)' dropdown menu, which lists various parts like BAL-001-TRE-1 R10, Part 1. Callout 12 points to the 'Applicable Reliability Function(s)' dropdown menu, which lists functions like EA, DP, DP-LFLS, etc.

Creating a Finding

Select additional **Regions** to add to the finding, if necessary.

- 13 Click the **Arrow** to open the drop-down list
 - 14 Select the **Region** from the list
- You can Save the finding as a draft at any time. To save:
- 15 Click the **Save** button

The screenshot shows the 'Create a Self Report' form with the 'Instructions' section. Callout 14 points to the 'Region' dropdown menu, which lists various regions like FRCCUS, MRO-MB, MRO-SK, etc. Callout 15 points to the 'Save' button at the bottom of the form.



Creating a Finding

- 16 Click the **X** to close the Standards window
- 17 Click the **Refresh Icon** to see your new draft in the **Draft Findings** section
- 18 Click the **Unique ID** to open your finding

As you fill out the rest of the form, notice that some fields have a gray **question mark icon (a)**. Hover over these to see a description of what information the field is requesting.

Creating a Finding

Once you have completed the finding form, you'll need to select an **Action** from the Action dropdown (a).

If you try to submit the finding without selecting an Action, you will get an error (b).

- 19 Select the **Submit** option in the Action dropdown

- 20 Click the **Save and Action** button to submit

If you have left any required fields blank, the form will identify where you are missing information (c).



Creating a Finding

Scroll to the **Discovery and Description** section to complete the finding.

- 21 Select the **Date** the PNC discovered
- 22 Enter an **Explanation** of how the PNC was discovered
- 23 Enter a **Description** of the PNC

Creating a Finding

- 24 Select the **Date** the PNC started
- 25 Enter an **Explanation** why you selected the start date
- 26 Select **Yes** or **No** if the PNC is still occurring
- 27 If you selected **No**, select the Date you returned to compliance



Creating a Finding

To complete the **Extent of Condition and Root Cause** section:

- 28 Indicate if the Extent of Condition Review has been performed by selecting **Yes, No, or In-Progress**
- 29 If you selected yes, **describe** the Extent of Condition
- 30 Enter the **cause(s)** of the PNC

Creating a Finding

To complete the **Risk and Impact** section:

Self-Logs should only be Minimal Risk

- 31 Indicate the level of Potential Impact to the BPS as **Minimal, Moderate, or Serious**
- 32 Enter the **reason** you chose the Potential Impact level you selected
- 33 Describe **how likely** it is that impact could have occurred
- 34 Indicate if there was any actual impact to the BPS: **Yes, No, or Unknown**
- 35 If there was an impact, **describe** what that impact was



Creating a Self-Log Finding

Creating a Finding

Scroll to the optional **Additional Comments** section

- 36 Enter any **Additional Comments** that you want to document
- 37 Enter any related evidence in the **evidence locker** using the reference number (a) to link it to this finding.

Note: evidence not required for most Self-Logs

The screenshot shows the 'Additional Comments' section with a text area and a '36' callout. Below it is the 'Evidence and Attachments' section with a 'Data Locker Instructions' box containing a reference number '2020-00138' and a '37' callout.

The screenshot shows a table with columns: TASK, MILESTONE NAME, PLANNED COMPLETION DATE, and ACTUAL COMPLETION DATE. The table is empty, with a '38' callout pointing to the table area.

Generally, should have mitigation milestones figured out for most Self-Logs at submission

- 40 When you're ready to submit the finding, select **Submit** for the action
- 41 If you added Mitigation Information and want to submit it, click the **Submit Mitigations for Review with Finding** checkbox
- 42 Click the **Save and Action** button

The screenshot shows the 'Action' section with instructions, an 'Action' dropdown menu set to 'Submit' (with a '40' callout), a 'Submit Mitigations for Review with Finding?' checkbox (with a '41' callout), and 'Save and Action', 'Save', and 'Close' buttons (with a '42' callout).



Enter each instance into log when identified

- If multiple instances of same standard over time, possible to consolidate when processed for CE treatment
- Too many similar instances in a small amount of time may reduce chances of eligibility

Log should tell a complete story

Direct relationship between cause, minimal risk, and mitigating activities

Ideally, minimal review and editing of material needed before posting as a CE



Description of the Noncompliance	Description of the Risk	Description of the Mitigation
<p>Entity, as a Transmission Owner and Transmission Operator, had an issue with CIP-007-6 R5. Specifically, Entity did not implement one or more documented processes that included Part 5.2 on an EACMS server.</p> <p>The Entity uses multiple interfaces to review its assets on a periodic basis. On December 4, 2016, the Entity discovered a previously unidentified and un-inventoried default generic account on the EACMS server. The Entity discovered the account was not visible during the initial scan when an analyst used a graphical user interface (GUI), but was visible during a subsequent review when a different analyst used a command line interface. The EACMS server is associated with a medium impact BES Cyber System. The EACMS server was used for application discovery and dependency mapping.</p> <p>Entity ran both a GUI and command line interface to ensure it had identified and inventoried all known enabled default or other generic account types and identified no other inaccuracies.</p> <p>The cause of the noncompliance was that Entity failed to realize relying on GUI is insufficient and would not identify all of the accounts that were present on the device.</p> <p>The noncompliance began on July 1, 2016, when the standard became mandatory and enforceable, and ended on August 4, 2016, when the account was inventoried, approximately one month later.</p>	<p>This issue posed a minimal risk and did not pose a serious or substantial risk to the reliability of the bulk power system. Entity tracks approximately 2,000 default and shared accounts, meaning this noncompliance involved less than .05% of its accounts. In addition, the device at issue uses dual-factor authentication for electronic access that would have prevented most forms of unauthorized electronic access. A review of system logs did not identify attempts to access the account before Entity identifying and mitigating the noncompliance.</p>	<p>To mitigate this issue, Entity inventoried the account.</p> <p>To prevent recurrence of this noncompliance, Entity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conducted an extent of condition analysis and confirmed the noncompliance was limited to the single default generic account; and 2) augmented its procedures to conduct future assessments using both GUI and command line interface. <p>Entity completed these activities on December 1, 2016.</p>



How to Use the Program Effectively

Description of the Noncompliance

Entity, as a Transmission Owner and Transmission Operator, had an issue with CIP-007-6 R5. Specifically, Entity did not implement one or more documented processes that included Part 5.2 on an EACMS server.

The Entity uses multiple interfaces to review its assets on a periodic basis. On December 4, 2016, the Entity discovered a previously unidentified and un-inventoried default generic account on the EACMS server. The Entity discovered the account was not visible during the initial scan when an analyst used a graphical user interface (GUI), but was visible during a subsequent review when a different analyst used a command line interface. The EACMS server is associated with a medium impact BES Cyber System. The EACMS server was used for application discovery and dependency mapping.

Entity ran both a GUI and command line interface to ensure it had identified and inventoried all known enabled default or other generic account types and identified no other inaccuracies.

The cause of the noncompliance was that Entity failed to realize relying on GUI is insufficient and would not identify all of the accounts that were present on the device.

The noncompliance began on July 1, 2016, when the standard became mandatory and enforceable, and ended on August 4, 2016, when the account was inventoried, approximately one month later.

Standard at issue

Discovery, description of issue

Description of asset at issue

Extent of Condition

Root Cause

Description of start and end dates



Description of the Risk

This issue posed a minimal risk and did not pose a serious or substantial risk to the reliability of the bulk power system. Entity tracks approximately 2,000 default and shared accounts, meaning this noncompliance involved less than .05% of its accounts. In addition, the device at issue uses dual-factor authentication for electronic access that would have prevented most forms of unauthorized electronic access. A review of system logs did not identify attempts to access the account before Entity identifying and mitigating the noncompliance.

Scope

Mitigating Factors

No actual harm



Description of the Mitigation

To mitigate this issue, Entity inventoried the account.

To prevent recurrence of this noncompliance, Entity:

- 1) Conducted an extent of condition analysis and confirmed the noncompliance was limited to the single default generic account; and
- 2) augmented its procedures to conduct future assessments using both GUI and command line interface.

Entity completed these activities on December 1, 2016.

Fixed noncompliance issue

Ensured no other similar issues currently exist

Steps taken to ensure same issue doesn't happen again - corrects root cause

The cause of the noncompliance was that Entity failed to realize relying on GUI is insufficient and would not identify all of the accounts that were present on the device.



Examples of What Cannot Be Logged:



- Noncompliance posing moderate or greater risk
- Loss of load
- Instability to the BPS
- Uncontrolled separation
- Cascading blackouts
- Vegetation contacts causing extended outages
- Systemic or significant performance failures
- Intentional or willful acts/omissions
- Gross negligence



More *Nuanced* Examples of What Cannot Be Logged:

- If reasonable experts could disagree on the risk
- If there is a compliance history *with the same root cause where previous mitigation should have prevented reoccurrence*



Examples of Challenges with Self-Logs:

No preventative mitigation activities

Only listing “human error” as a root cause

Lack of discovery information

Too many similar cases filed in a short period





Alex Petak

alex.petak@texasre.org

(512) 583-4913



Mishani Tamayo

mishani.tamayo@texasre.org

(512) 583-4993



The background of the slide features a blurred Texas state flag on the left and a target with several darts on the right. The darts are clustered in the center of the target, suggesting a focus on a specific point.

Questions?



TEXAS RE

Ensuring electric reliability for Texans