



The ICSCoE Report is a public relations newsletter on ICSCoE's activities.

The Core Human Resource Development Program for 5th Cohort

Introducing Our Efforts of Final Projects

English Reading for Security Engineers

Backgrounds and Issues

The characteristics of the cybersecurity world are “rapid change” and “no borders”. Security engineers must promptly and accurately utilize information from around the world; thus, English reading comprehension is indispensable.

In the meantime, we see an issue that many security engineers in Japan have an aversion to dealing with English. This project was designed to **improve the motivation and competency of English reading comprehension**.

Issue-Solving and Outcomes

The trainee, who conducted this project, produced two outcomes to aim to improve two abilities: **information-gathering ability** and **growth ability**. Information-gathering ability enables us to collect precise information from around the world and apply that information in practice, while growth ability empowers us to utilize voluminous information from English and improve our capability as an engineer.

Study Guide to improve English Reading Comprehension

He created the materials condensing a variety of hints to improve English reading comprehension and information-gathering ability.



The trainee modeled English learning into three pillars: Awareness, Practice, and Training; this model illustrates a path to improve English reading comprehension.

A final project is that our trainees utilize their knowledge and experience absorbed through a one-year curriculum and tackle the issues set for their dispatching company and industry as a team. The fifth-cohort trainees undertook 21 projects. We will introduce three of them.

セキュリティ英語特有の意味・用法

セキュリティ分野特有の言葉や、一般的な意味・用法とセキュリティ分野でよく使われる意味・用法が通う言葉がある。あらかじめ押さえておくことで混乱を避けられる。

セキュリティ英語特有の意味・用法の例

表現	セキュリティ特有の意味・用法の例	一般的な意味・用法の例
in the wild	(マルウェアや攻撃コードが) 実際の攻撃に使われている	野生の
compromise	～を侵害する	妥協する
actor	攻撃者、アクター	俳優
PoC (Proof of Concept)	(脆弱性を実証する) 攻撃コード	概念実証

This study guide outlines the contents of materials and a variety of hints to read English sentences.

Security English Vocabulary

The trainee created the English vocabulary list specialized for security engineers. He analyzed the overseas security news articles, considering the number of occurrences and uses, and carefully selected approximately 330 frequently used words. Furthermore, the trainee prepared the translations and usage cases based on the usages of the analyzed articles; thus, the English vocabulary list benefits security engineers who can utilize it practically. Since the security English vocabulary list is prepared in PDF and CSV files, security engineers can leverage it for rote exercises in various ways – importing it into an application.

- Feature 1 Carefully select “actually used” words in security news articles.
- Feature 2 Provide meanings and usage examples unique to security.

動詞

単語	意味	関連語	使用例
include	～を含む	【名】inclusion: 包含、含まれるもの 【形】inclusive: すべてを含んだ	the email including a malicious macro 悪意のあるマクロを含むメール
steal	～を盗む		steal sensitive information 機密な情報を盗む
exploit	(脆弱性) を突いて攻撃する 【名】exploitation (コード) 【形】exploitable: 悪用可能な	【名】exploitation: (脆弱性を突く) 攻撃 【形】exploitable: 悪用可能な	actively exploited vulnerability よく攻撃に使われる脆弱性
release	～を入手可能な状態にする 【名】記事やプログラムの) リリース		updates released today 今日リリースされたアップデート
target	～を標的とする 【名】標的	【形】targeted: 狙われた、標的型の	targeted attack 標的型攻撃
allow	～を可能とする、許可する	【名】allowlist: 許可リスト	the bug allowing attackers to execute arbitrary code 攻撃者に任意のコード実行を許可するバグ

Please visit our ICSCoE website for more information on “English Reading for Security Engineers”. You can download the study guide and English vocabulary list from the following QR code and link. This project was also covered on news sites.

https://www.ipa.go.jp/icscoe/program/core_human_resource/final_project/english-reading.html





The Core Human Resource Development Program for 5th Cohort

Acquiring Know-How in Penetration Testing for OT Systems

Backgrounds and Issues

Penetration testing (hereafter “Testing”) is an effective methodology to assess risks at critical infrastructures where even one success of a cyber attack is unacceptable.. In the meantime, Testing has the issue that its results depend heavily on the skills possessed by testers.

In this project, the team set up a theme of acquiring the know-how of Testing on OT systems with the objectives of tackling “Activities possible only at the ICSCoE” and “Challenges direct to operations after returning to each company.”

Activities possible only at the ICSCoE

- Utilize simulated plants
- Develop and implement Testing scenarios
- Obtain sophisticated advice from experts

Challenges direct to operations after returning to each company

- Testing planning/ assessment Abilities
- Know-how in developing Testing scenarios
- Skills in implementing Testing items

Issue-Solving and Outcomes

The team set up the primary purposes for this project as follows:

- Obtain vital points for developing Testing scenarios and abilities of Testing planning and assessment, and skills in performing Testing aiming to promote and implement Testing operations;
- Share insights with the personnel responsible for Testing operations

and acquire the know-how to utilize systematically.

Then, the team members deepened their insights through the five steps below and tackled outcome creation.

STEP 1 Basic Learning

First, within the limited project duration, the team realized they must absorb basic knowledge to hold constructive and concrete discussions among the members. The team **conducted study sessions** using materials (NIST SP800-115, MITRE ATT&CK for ICS) and **Testing experiences in IT systems**.

STEP 2 Prepare Testing Plans/ Reports

As the team learned basic knowledge to prepare Testing plans and reports, they **utilized the ICSCoE’s simulated plant (for electricity systems)** in Akihabara to recognize difficulties in Testing and gain practical insights.

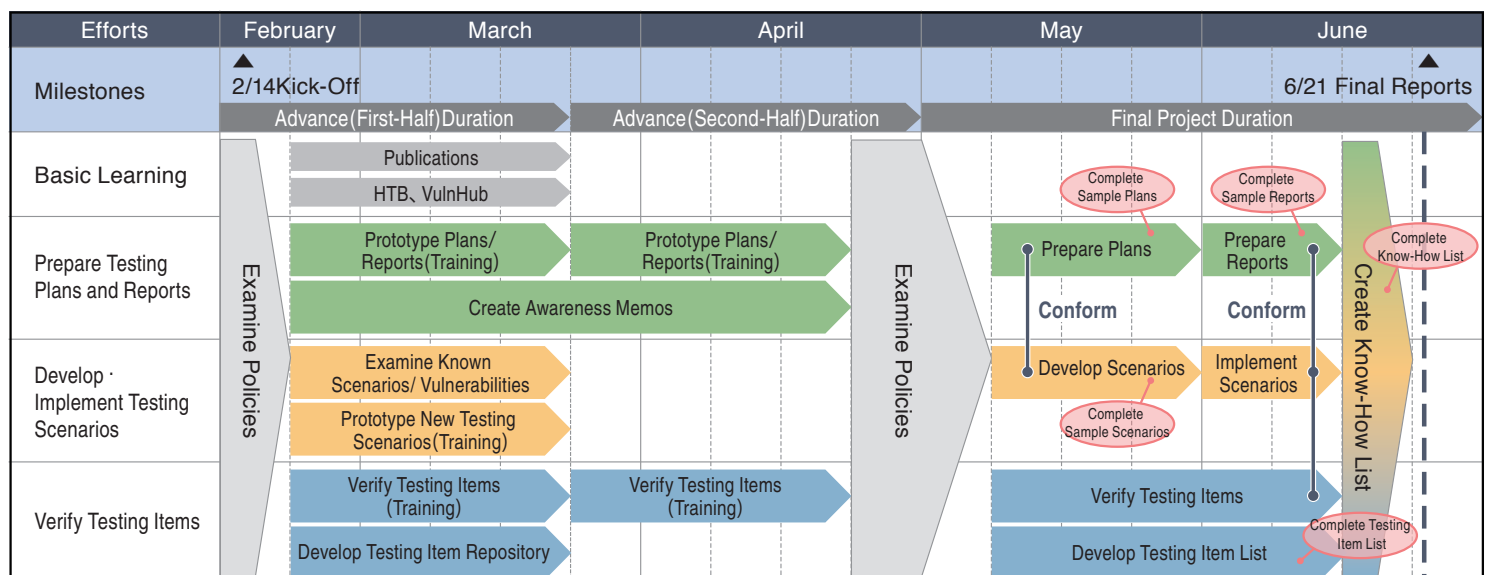


The simulated plant used for Testing

STEP 3 Develop · Implement Testing Scenario:

The project team developed scenarios using CCE – one of the frameworks – and reflected the outcomes in their Testing plans. Besides, the team **implemented their scenarios against the simulated plant**

Until Project Completion



Final Projects

and prepared the Testing reports regarding their obtained results.

*CCE (Consequence-driven Cyber-informed Engineering)

A methodology established by Idaho National Laboratory, which develops Testing scenarios from incidents unwanted to have occurred.

STEP 4 Verify Testing Items

The project team tried to have more Testing items as their options to actualize sophisticated and adequate Testing. They verified various Testing items using the simulated plant, **obtained the methods and cautions for performing Testing items** during the trial verifications, and summarized them into the Testing item list.

Examples of Testing Item List

Examination for testing items	テスト項目 対象	テスト結果	Criterion on Testing Results
Requirements Target Systems	ボートシステム (BPS) ネットワーク環境下、レイヤ3のIPアドレスを指定するホストを指定するボートシステムについてIPアドレスを付与するため、指定されたIPアドレスに接続できるボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。	ボートシステム (BPS)は、指定されたIPアドレスに接続できるボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。	ボートシステム (BPS)は、指定されたIPアドレスに接続できるボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。
Methods of Testing Implementation	ボートシステム (BPS)のIPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。	ボートシステム (BPS)のIPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。	ボートシステム (BPS)のIPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。
Consequences	ボートシステム (BPS)のIPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。	ボートシステム (BPS)のIPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。	ボートシステム (BPS)のIPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。 IPアドレスを指定するボートシステムが動作していることを確認する。

STEP 5 Create Know-How List

To get knowledge and skills entrenched and make them shareable, the project team **created a know-how list summarizing wisdom obtained through practically preparing and implementing Testing plans - reports and Testing scenarios**. The team assumes testers will utilize this list as reference notes during actual Testing. The list includes the precautions seen from the perspectives of system administrators, testing administrators, and testing operators.

List of our Outcomes

- Testing know-how list
- Testing item list
- Sample Testing plans
- Sample Testing scenarios
- Sample Testing reports



Interview with A Graduate



Mr. KASHIMA Kakeru
Chubu Electric Power
Grid Co., Inc

What is your utmost benefit from this project?

I could have the concrete images of Testing through hands-on utilizing the actual plant equipment. Before participating in this project, I did not compass the detailed technological contents of the business operations from the management aspect. However, I now understand them and grasp the whole picture.

Methods for utilizing project outcomes

I immediately deployed the outcomes obtained through the project within the enterprise. Also, we carefully deepened our understanding of Testing and created materials since not all members were familiar with Testing as we launched the project. Thus, enterprises can leverage our outcomes as training materials for in-house education targeting newly employed and junior staff members.

This is unique to the ICSCoE!

These are absolutely the simulated plants and the presence of instructors. In general, I believe no enterprise equips a plant to experience Testing practically. The ICSCoE enabled me to try Testing utilizing the simulated plants over and over this time; therefore, I could obtain genuinely valuable insights from these activities. As proceeding the project, I got many advice and suggestions from the instructors, and I tackled the project "I will try them all." Consequently, I did acquire profound insights which I could never approach with only our predictions.

Your feedbacks after returning your company

After completing the one-year program, I got a response that I had made it this far in becoming a cybersecurity expert. Now, the learning experience at the ICSCoE became a turning point in my career. I will diligently attend to my duties with the idea of making a new start as an individual engaging in security after returning to my company.



The project members

Log Analysis・SIEM

● Backgrounds and Issues

Log analysis realizes to deter damage expansion and promotes preventive measures by defining damages and attack paths when occurring security incidents.

On the one hand, when adopting log analysis to your organization, you will see the following issues: “We need human resources with basic skills in TCP/IP and extensive knowledge across layers.”; “We will face time restrictions if manually performing log analysis.”

- The team members can acquire IT skills in various layers, which is the basis of log analysis, and identify incident indicators from the logs stored in multiple NW and security equipment.
- The team members can decide to adopt SIEM*, a log analysis tool, and determine its rules.

*SIEM (Security Information and Event Management)

A mechanism that notifies administrators of anomalies and measures based on the log information collected from each machine and application.

● Issue-Solving and Outcomes

The project team proceeded with learning under a dominant principle, “deepen our insights through hands-on.”

Processes of our Efforts

- 1 **Basic Learning** : Collecting information from books and publications.
- 2 **Building Emulation Networks** : Establishing practical environments.
- 3 **Penetration Testing** : Determining and implementing attack scenarios
- 4 **Performing Log Analysis** : Examining logs and recording attack indicators
- 5 **Adopting SIEM and Determining Detection Rules** : Formulating, adopting, and verifying detection rules based on analysis results

As a result of the efforts, the project team created two materials as their outcomes.

▶.....Methods for Utilizing Log Utility Tools Against Targeted Attacks.....◀

The team compiled their outcomes into two methods: **Manual log analysis** under penetration testing and **Automated and efficient log confirmation** using SIME and EDR.

*EDR (Endpoint Detection and Response)

A technology that continuously monitors and responds to cyber threats at endpoints of computer systems.

▶.....Rulemaking Procedures for Log Aggregation and Detection Using SIEM.....◀

The project team outlined the rules to set log aggregation and detection using free and open-source SIEM products. This material is **to provide the procedures necessary for the log aggregation for operators** while furnishing **the ideas and an implementing method of detection rules using SIEM** for security personnel.



Interviews with A Graduate



Mr. SAJI Yuki
OPTAGE Inc.

● **What is your utmost benefit from this project?**
I could learn a range of IT skills through the project. I constructed servers, connected them to networks, and installed SIEM into systems; I did conduct environment creation through verification by myself. I sometimes give staff consultations as a CSIRT member within the company. Due to my experiences absorbed through the project, I can respond to my colleagues with consistent images of systems.

● **Methods for utilizing project outcome**
For example, we can utilize our outcomes for educational programs in log analysis for beginners and for achieving mutual understanding among practitioners. I also take advantage of these outcomes when explaining to newly appointed junior

fellows. Since we outlined the methods to operate free and open-source SIEM on the setting procedures, we can utilize the outcomes during the phase considering the adoption of commercial SIEM.

● **This is unique to the ICSCoE!**
I could build a connection with the other members. In general, we never have the experience of learning with the same members for one year after entering the working world; however, I could establish a professional network with colleagues where I discuss issues not superficially but genuinely with them. Furthermore, I could dramatically improve my knowledge and skills throughout the program; now I feel that “I can contribute to my company.” and “I can proactively involve in in-house activities.” My change in awareness is also unique to the ICSCoE.