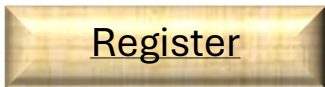


DNP Users Group Workshop Series

Understanding Integrity for OT Systems: Achieving Usable Security

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

This workshop is offered at no charge to our members and non-members.

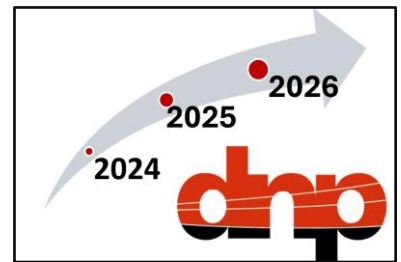
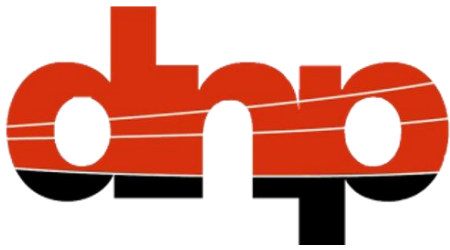


Description

The DNP Users Group (DNP-UG) develops and presents periodic workshops that are open to the public. Each event features industry leaders addressing important topics relevant to the industry and our members. Workshops will generally be followed by related tutorials and training courses for our members.

Operational technology environments depend on controlling trust, yet many control system implementations struggle to establish appropriate controls in real-world deployments. A recent analysis paper from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, [*Barriers to Secure OT Communication: Why Johnny Can't Authenticate | CISA*](#), highlights the gap between the intent of secure communication standards and how they are actually implemented, showing how complexity, lifecycle constraints, and human factors can undermine integrity even when cryptographic protections exist. This workshop will use these findings as a catalyst for a practical discussion on how integrity can be achieved in ways that are sustainable for operators, engineers, and asset owners.

The session will examine how decisions made across the system lifecycle shape security outcomes, including the challenges of deploying authentication and message protection in long lived and heterogeneous environments. Attention will be given to improving trust in existing installations without



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disrupting critical operations. Panelists will also explore engineering approaches that reduce operational friction and make secure behavior the default rather than an added burden.

Ample time will be allotted for audience participation and discussion.

Speakers (see bios below)

- John McDonald, Panel Chair, JDM Associates
- Matthew Rogers, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS)
- Virginia Wright, Idaho National Laboratory
- Demos Andreou, Patterson & Dewar Engineers

To receive periodic updates and news, click here: [Enroll](#)

The DNP-UG is a non-profit group. Our mission is to actively support measures that improve interoperability, new features and cybersecurity in DNP3-based systems by developing technologies and standards, providing a conformance program, and providing education to the industry. Utilities and vendors benefit significantly with reduced project and development costs and risks due to a broadly adopted, well managed, highly interoperable and secure protocol (if implemented).

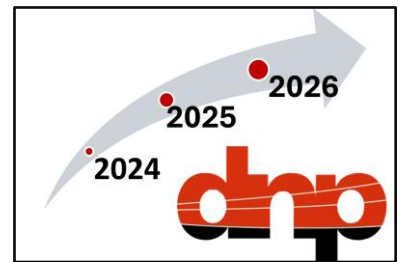
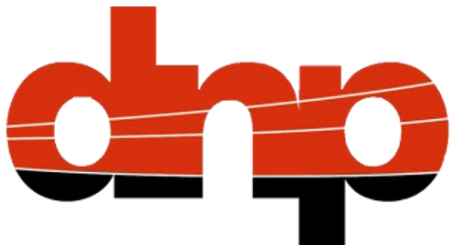
Members also benefit from our growing range of training options, Utility Council and services including SME Technical Support.

To participate and support our work please join us! Click here: [Membership Guide](#) or [Join](#)

For more information click here: [dnp.org home](#)

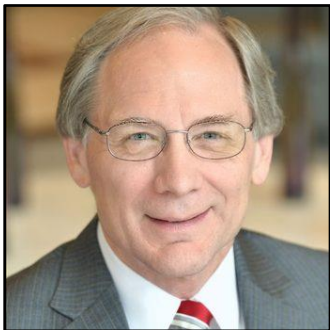
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For assistance or more information, contact Sara at membership@dnp.org



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Speaker Pictures and Short Bios

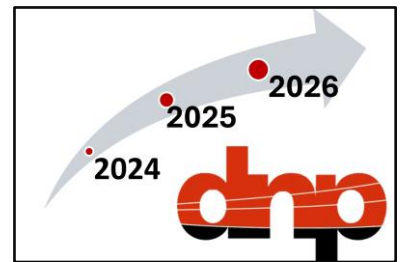
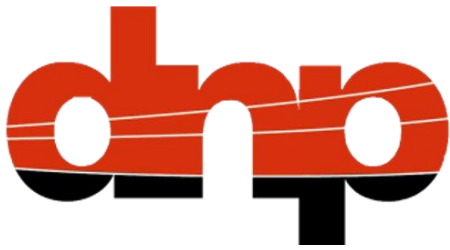


John D. McDonald, P.E., Founder & CEO of JDM Associates, LLC, Panel Chair

John D. McDonald has 50 years of experience in the electric utility transmission and distribution industry. John received his B.S.E.E. and M.S.E.E. (Power Engineering) degrees from Purdue University and an M.B.A. (Finance) degree from the University of California-Berkeley.

John is a Life Fellow of IEEE (member for 53 years), member of IEEE-HKN (inducted 53 years ago) and Tau Beta Pi (inducted 51 years ago), member of the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, and was awarded the IEEE Millennium Medal, the IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES) Excellence in Power Distribution Engineering Award, the IEEE PES Substations Committee Distinguished Service Award, the IEEE PES Meritorious Service Award, the 2024 CIGRE US National Committee (USNC) Philip Sporn Award, the 2016 CIGRE Distinguished Member Award, the 2016 CIGRE USNC Attwood Associate Award, the 2021 CIGRE Honorary Member Award, the Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative (SECC) Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity Career Achievement Award.

John received the 2009 Purdue University Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineer Award and the 2023 Purdue University Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award. John teaches Smart Grid courses at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Smart Grid courses for various IEEE PES local chapters as an IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer (since 1999). John has published one hundred fifty papers and articles, has co-authored five books and has one US patent.



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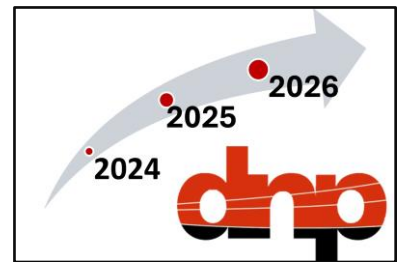
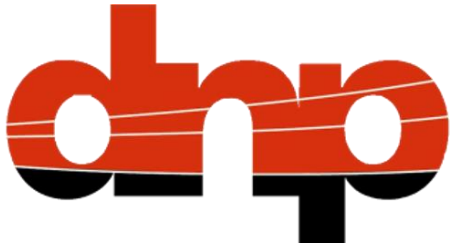
Matthew Rogers, PhD, OT Lead, Office of the Technical Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Matthew Rogers, PhD, is the Operational Technology (OT) Lead in the Office of the Technical Director at CISA and the lead for the Secure by Design initiative for OT. He received his PhD in securing legacy OT networks in vehicles from the University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. Matthew worked as the founding engineer at a vehicle and weapons system cybersecurity startup before pursuing broader ICS cybersecurity efforts at MITRE.



Virginia Wright, Cyber-Informed Engineering Program Manager, Idaho National Laboratory, Panelist

Virginia “Ginger” Wright is the program manager for Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIE) at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). She leads INL’s implementation of the National Strategy for Cyber-Informed Engineering developed by the Department of Energy. Ms. Wright has led multiple cyber research programs at INL including DOE-CESER’s Cyber Testing for Resilient Industrial Control Systems (CyTRICS™) program, Software Bills of Material for the Energy Sector, critical infrastructure modeling and simulation, and nuclear cybersecurity. Ms. Wright has a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems/Operations Management from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



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Demos Andreou, Senior Engineering Associate, Patterson & Dewar Engineers.

Demos has over 38 years of experience, the last 25 in the electric utility industry. His current position at Patterson & Dewar involves evaluation, design, deployment, test, and commissioning of smart grid technologies, as well as performing OT cyber security assessments, and remediation. Demos hold several cybersecurity certifications. Demos have spent 30 years as a field communication engineer, working on resolving complex communication and automation problems, designing testing, securing, and commissioning SCADA systems. He has extensive experience in Cybersecurity. He consulted for organizations in Financial, Government, Utilities and Telecom sectors. His technical expertise includes compliance, ethical hacking/penetration testing of industrial control systems and networks, application security, reverse engineering embedded controllers, networking protocols and scripting languages. He has written articles and presented at several industry conferences on SCADA implementation and design, communication protocols, cybersecurity best practices, securing legacy devices, implementations and real-world comprehensive field verification as it applies to critical infrastructure control systems.