

Transforming Utility and Energy Operations Under Pressure



The energy sector is the third most targeted sector by cyberattacks in 2020.¹

Ransomware is the #1 attack type against operational technology (OT), accounting for 33% of all cyberattacks.²

Stressed sectors are fighting for survival

The energy and utility industries deal with ecosystems altered by increased demand, environmental changes, automation and cyberthreats. The shift in cybercriminal focus to attacking infrastructure has exposed several industrial sectors and US regulators are setting "voluntary requirements" for installing and monitoring the electric grid. The sectors need to transform into agile and modern asset-light entities to survive.

Growing pains

The nature of the energy and utilities as critical infrastructure contribute to their rising challenges:

Ransomware attacks are increasing as bad actors understand the sector's value and target OT to inflict the most damage. The massive Colonial Pipeline breach was carried out using a single stolen password.

New regulatory attention was triggered by recent attacks requiring the installation of monitoring devices on the electric grid. This will improve visibility but expand the attack surface, adding to the generation, transmission, distribution of network targets.

OT/IT convergence is accelerating due to additional edge endpoints and IoT devices that increase exposure to IP threats.



Lower risks with Taos

Digital transformation with Taos helps energy and utility enterprises grow their businesses, capitalizing on scalability, enhanced security and cloud economics. Taos offers Advisory Services, Professional Services, to Managed IT and Security Services.



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Start your business transformation today and protect yourself in a growing threat landscape. Learn more about Taos **cloud modernization** and **digital transformation**.

Sources:

- 1, 2. IBM March 2021. "IBM X-Force Threat Intelligence Index."
- 3. McKinsey Digital 2021. "Cloud trillion-dollar Prize is up for grabs."