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ABSTRACT for the 2018 ISA WWAC Symposium

## **SCADA: Your Most Critical Asset**

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### **SUBMISSION TYPE**

30 minute presentation

6-12 page paper plus 30-minute presentation

3 foot wide x 4 foot high large format poster

### **KEYWORDS**

SCADA, Automation, ISA, Standards, Cybersecurity, Operations, Operators, Effective, Efficiency, Data, Operations Technology, Information Technology, OT, IT, Investment, Return on Assets

### **ABSTRACT**

SCADA: Your Most Critical Asset. This discussion will demonstrate the hidden values of your SCADA system and ways to unlock them. We will discuss how we can move your organizations thinking of looking at SCADA as a cost and begin treating it as the Critical Asset that it is.

How many of us get a new laptop every three years but our SCADA Servers are still running Windows XP? How many IT departments have invested in high availability infrastructure for e-mail but have the plants SCADA servers sitting in a janitor's closet in the basement. Why is that? What organizational dysfunction has occurred to allow this to happen?

We need to break down barriers with our IT departments and engage them and their money to support our critical systems. We need to engage operations departments to demonstrate how much risk they really have with their systems because of the lack of investment.

We need to raise the SCADA system, its maintenance, its documentation, its resiliency and safety to new levels. And by doing so, we also need to unlock the power of that system to generate significant cost savings that our utilities can use to redeploy in other critical areas of the business.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Dean Ford's** entire 20+ year career has involved industrial automation. He is a Certified Automation Professional®, licensed Control Systems Engineer (CSE PE) and promotes manufacturing and automation to government and the public. He is an active Senior Member in the International Society of Automation (ISA), and many Standards Committees. He serves on the Government Relations and Workforce Development committee for the Automation Federation. As an advocate for the automation profession, Dean regularly travels to Washington, DC to educate policymakers and the public of the importance of the manufacturing and automation. Dean is currently making our Water Supply and Water Treatment systems more robust and safe by serving the outstanding professionals of Westin Technology Solutions, as Executive Vice President. Contact: [dean.ford@westindelivers.com](mailto:dean.ford@westindelivers.com)