



Dear friend,

Welcome back to On the Radar - your monthly NST newsletter! This month, we're hearing some firewall tips and tricks from the brains behind the 005 Dive, hearing the long-awaited backstory behind NST's NERC CIP training, and keeping you in the loop on big events for the month. Take a look!





Employee Spotlight - Ben Seefeldt

Ben joined NST just under three years ago to fulfill a technical consulting role. Ben had spent time in all corners of the IT industry: Windows + Linux administration, server management, software development, and more. He enjoys looking at computer problems like puzzles, as proven by his love for the “CIP-005 Deep Dive”, and he appreciates the concrete logic behind computing. Hard to believe he said technical people sound less interesting on paper!

Ben’s first “005 Dive” came from a large organization with many firewall stakeholders. With a footprint spanning siloed IT, OT, and CIP compliance

departments, Ben notes, “difficulty of communication often leads to overly permissive rules.” Networks are constantly changing through device additions, removals, and replacements, so Ben advocates for the importance of “good housekeeping” within firewall rulesets. Patching holes left by retired devices and closing the gap on large port ranges are just two of the best practices that Ben encourages organizations to consider for their CIP-005 firewalls.

[Check out Ben's full bio here!](#)

[Click here to email the NSTeam about your own 005 Dive!](#)



Case Study - NERC CIP Training Development

Everybody loves a good NERC CIP training program! That's why this month, we're highlighting a project that allowed us to develop four tracks to prepare your SMEs for anything that comes their way. Whether you're updating your program, prepping for an audit, or simply looking for a refresher, we've got a module for you! Take a look!

Case Study - NERC CIP Training Development

Events on the Radar

We're keeping track of upcoming events so you don't have to! Here's what we're tracking over the next month:

MRO

- Penetration (Pen) Testing - Lessons from Pen Testing New Software Pre-Go-Live
 - Tuesday, February 4
 - <https://www.mro.net/event/penetration-pen-testing-lessons-from-pen-testing-new-software-pre-go-live/>
- 2025 Regional Risk Assessment Overview Webinar
 - Wednesday, February 5
 - <https://www.mro.net/event/2025-regional-risk-assessment-overview-webinar/>
- ERO Enterprise Women's Leadership Conference
 - Tuesday, March 4
 - <https://www.mro.net/event/ero-enterprise-womens-leadership-conference/?t%5bcategory%5d%5b%5d=news>

RF

- Technical Talk with RF - PJM Trends and Challenges
 - Monday, February 10
 - <https://www.rfirst.org/event/technical-talk-with-rf-february-2025/>

SERC

- Spring 2025 Reliability & Security Seminar
 - Tuesday, February 25 - Wednesday, February 26
 - <https://www.serc1.org/outreach/events-calendar/event-details?>

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Texas RE

- Talk with Texas RE: GridEx Planning
 - Tuesday, February 11
 - <https://texasre.org/pages/calendar/events/2025/february/talkwithtexasregridexplanning>

WECC

- Reliability in the West - A Discussion Series
 - Wednesday, February 5
 - <https://www.wecc.org/meetings/17051-reliability-west-discussion-series>
 - Reliability and Security Oversight Monthly Update
 - Thursday, February 20
 - <https://www.wecc.org/meetings/17286-reliability-security-oversight-monthly-update>
 - Grid Fundamentals
 - Tuesday, February 25 - Wednesday, February 26
 - <https://www.wecc.org/meetings/15751-grid-fundamentals>
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Catch you on the CIP side!

The NSTeam

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