



# Addressing Security in LabVIEW RIO Systems

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Embedded Software

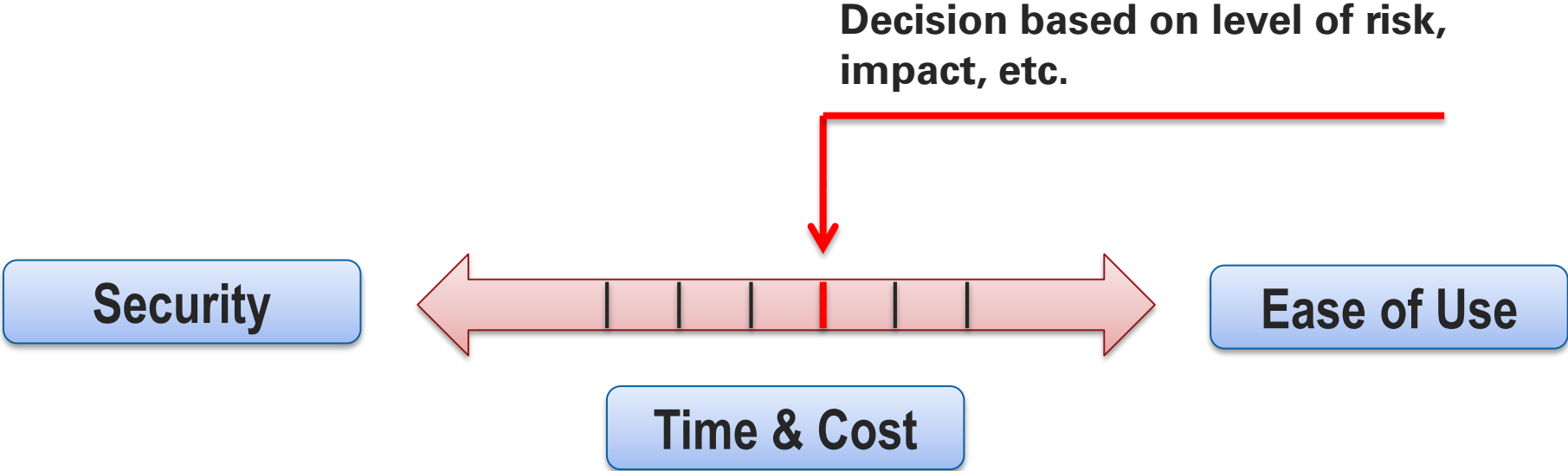
# NI Knows Its Customers Care about Security

- **Customers:** Define security objectives, assess application-specific risks, evaluate and implement security steps

**We want to work with our customers to help tackle this complex challenge.**

How much time should be invested in security?

# Balancing Security with Other Constraints



# The Challenge

## **Development is hard:**

Build a system that functions as designed

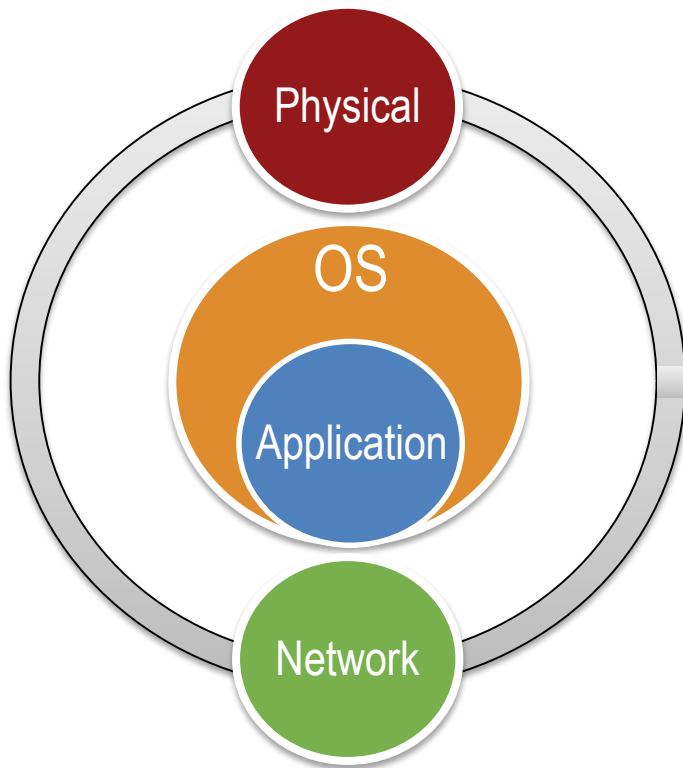
## **Security is really hard:**

Build a system that *can't be used any other way*  
*Examples: Surveillance, theft, impersonation, base of operations*

“A system's security is a function of its weakest link.”

# Layered Model of Security

- Security can be defined at many layers
- A breach at any layer can compromise other layers
- “Don’t invest in a retinal scanner for your house if you are going to leave your window open”
- “Defense in Depth”



# CompactRIO Development Stages

**NOTE:** Can you make the symbol for the application deployment something a little more innocuous like a computer or a start button, or something like that?

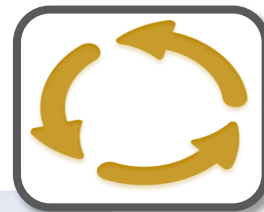
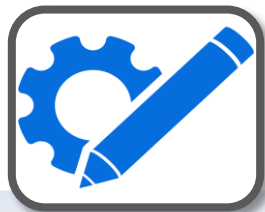
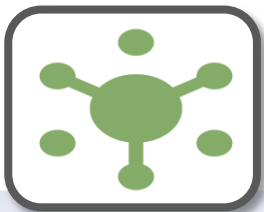
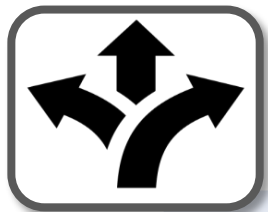
Platform  
Selection

System  
Configuration

Application  
Development

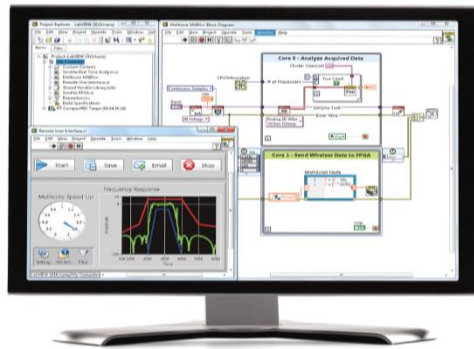
Application  
Deployment

Application  
Maintenance





# CompactRIO Development Stages



Ethernet

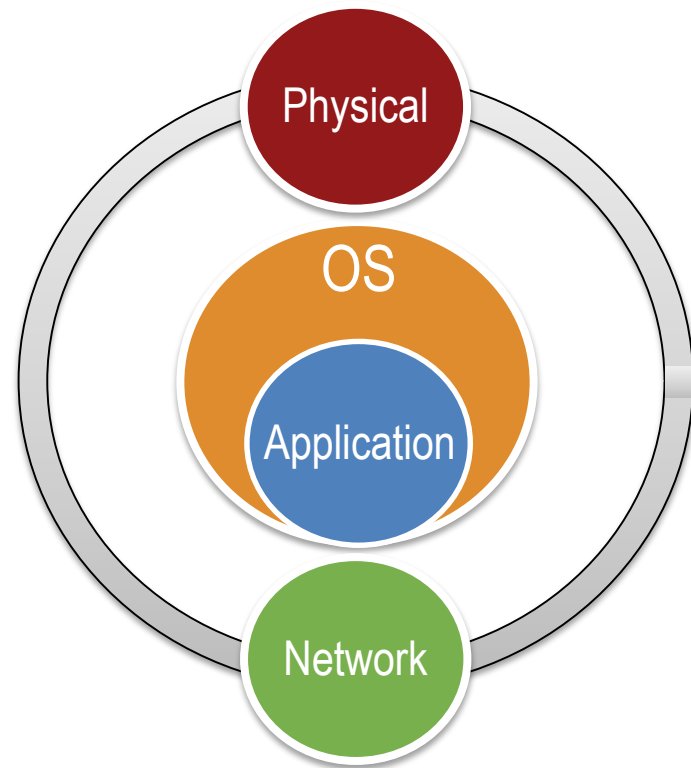


Development and/or  
Deployment PC

CompactRIO Embedded  
System

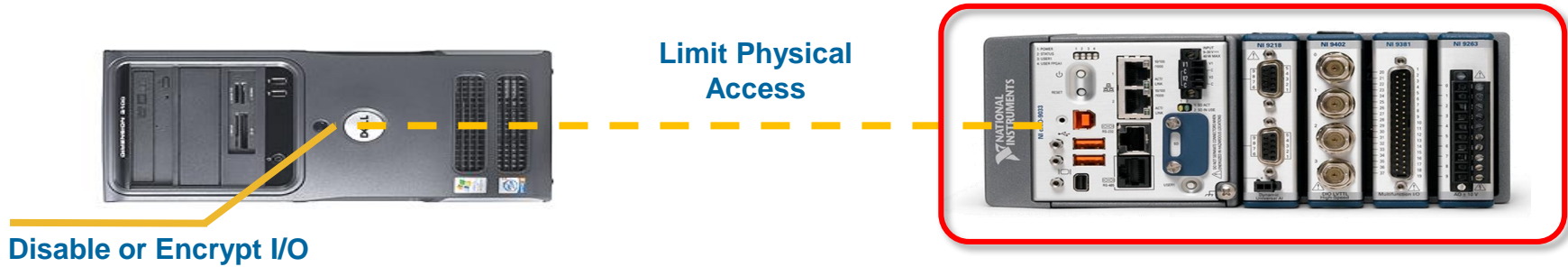
# Security Best Practices

1. Physical Security
2. Network Security
3. Application & OS Security
  - NI Linux Real-Time



# Physical Security

# Physical Security



- Limit environmental/physical access to Host PC and physically enclose the real-time target
- Disable or require encryption on I/O (USB, CD Drive, etc.)
- Implement hardware checking
  - USB dongle for IP Protection
  - Digital I/O to validate that enclosure is properly secured

# Network Security

# General Network Security

- **Secure network**

- Isolated network if possible; firewall if you connect to public infrastructure

- **Use web services for network communication**

- HTTPS provides integrity and confidentiality
- SSL certificate-based authentication between devices
- Password-based user authentication between services

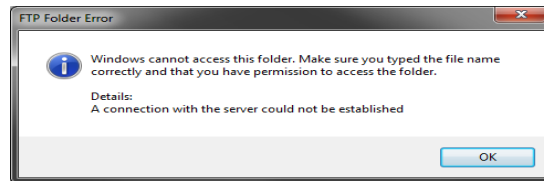
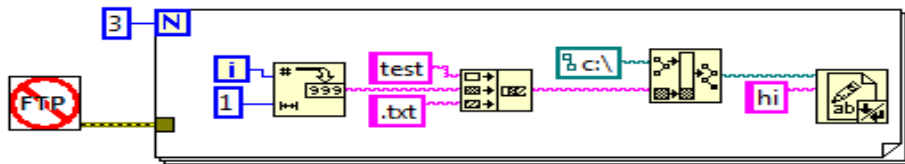
- **Understand the security risk of network protocols.**

No authentication nor confidentiality for:

- Remote Front Panel, Remote VI Server, Network shared variables
- Mitigation:
  - **Good:** Use IP address access control, blacklist Exported VIs
  - **Better:** Use lower-layer tunnel (e.g. VPN or SSL)

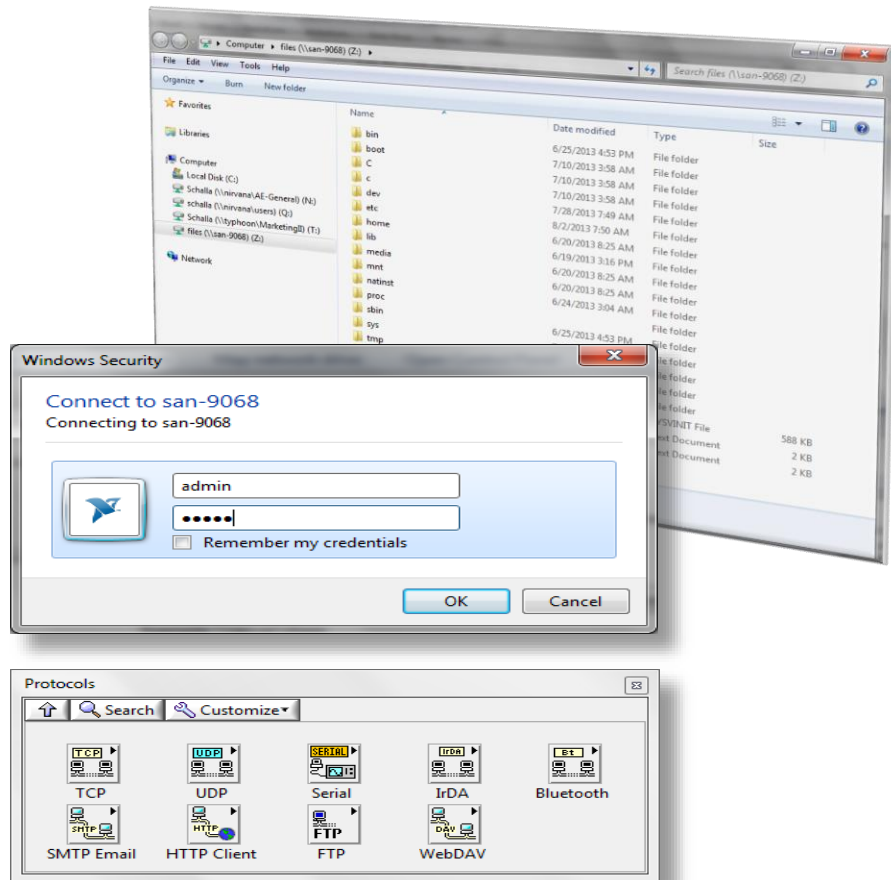
# Disabling the FTP Server

- Only on **VxWorks & Phar Lap**
  - There is no unsecured FTP by default on NI Linux RT
- Use Shutdown RT FTP Server VI in your RT application
- Must reboot to enable FTP server
  - Disable RT Startup App to enable FTP



# File Transfer: WebDAV

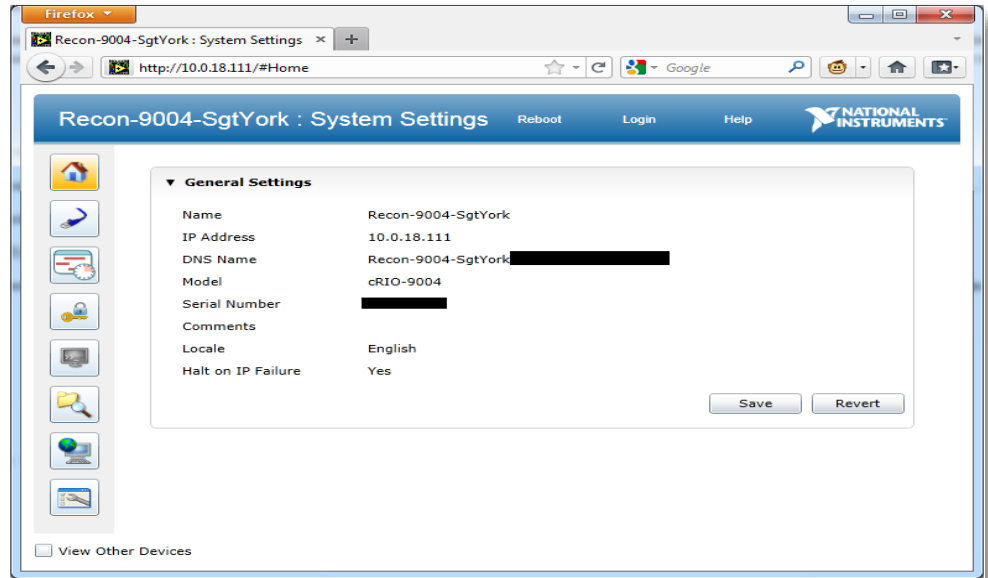
- Industry Standard Protocol
- Manage files on targets remotely over HTTP(S)
- Secure File Access
  - Authentication & Encryption
- Supported by all modern OSes and Web Browsers
- LabVIEW API for programmatic access
- WebDAV File Browser



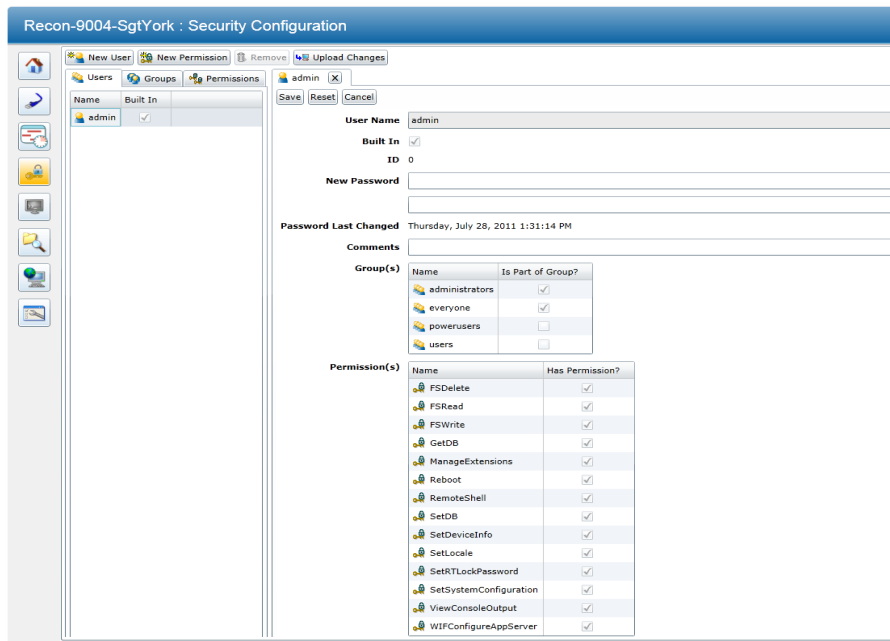


# Web Based Configuration and Monitoring

- Use to access NI Auth settings
- cRIO:
  - `http://<cRIO_ip.addr>`
- Host PC
  - `http://<host_ip.addr>:3582`

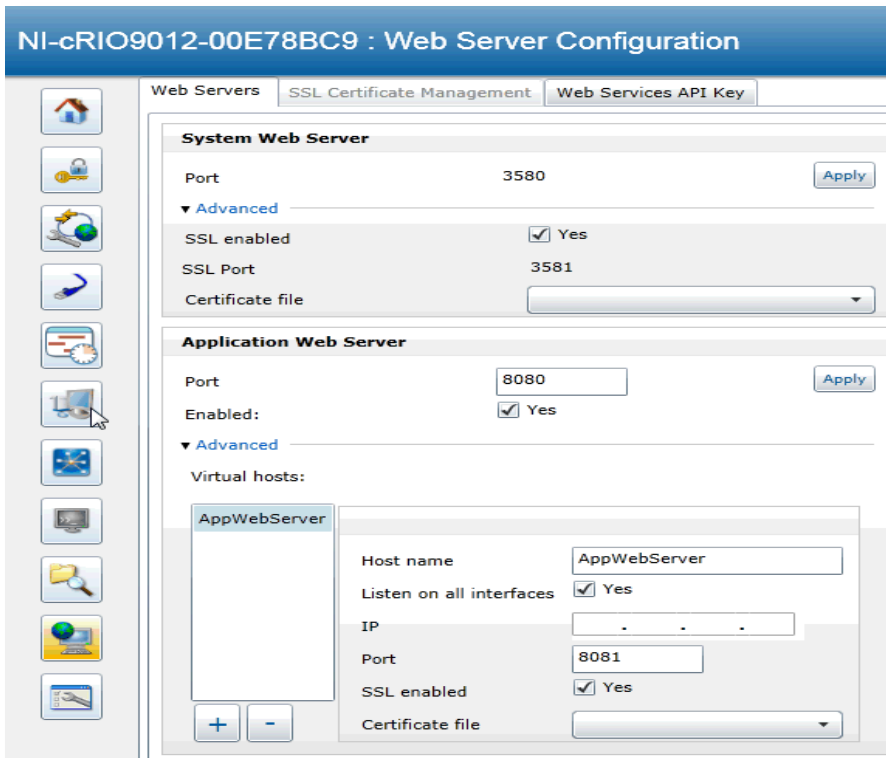


# NI-Auth Users & Permissions



- **Change password on 'admin' account**
- Set permissions on users and groups to restrict users & groups to only activities they are responsible for
- Currently applicable only to web services and web management

# Enable SSL



- Enable SSL for both System and Application Web Servers
- Turn off HTTP version and rely only on the HTTPS version
- Select and setup self signed certificates or go through a CA
- System Web Server available at
  - `https://<cRIO_ip.addr>`
  - `https://<host_ip.addr>:3581`

# Web Services Security palette

- Allows web service to retrieve NI-Auth attributes
  - User name
  - Group
  - Permissions
  - Session key (320 bits)

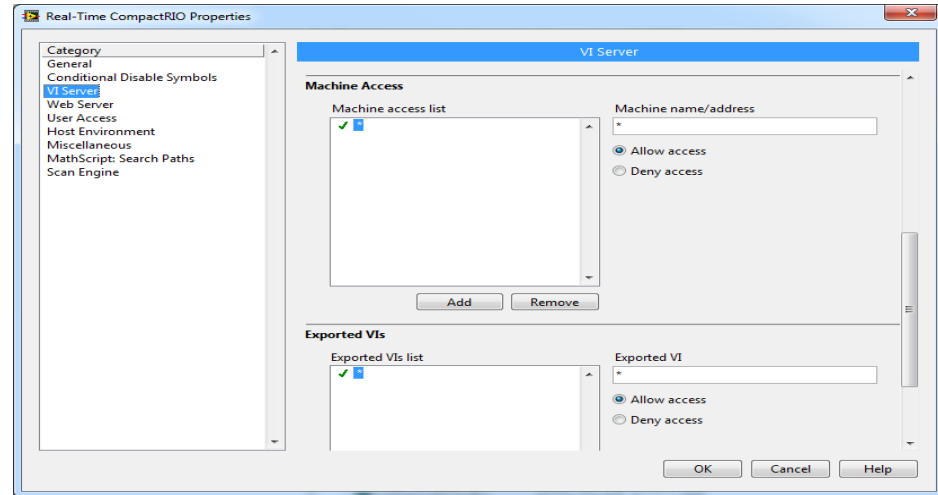
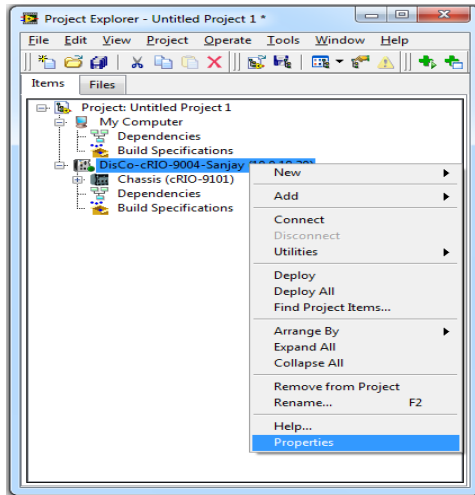


- Encryption functions that use the session key
  - Secure Remote Password (RFC 2945) using SRP\_SHA1
  - Message confidentiality
  - Message authentication/integrity using third-party HMAC



# Managing VI Server Access

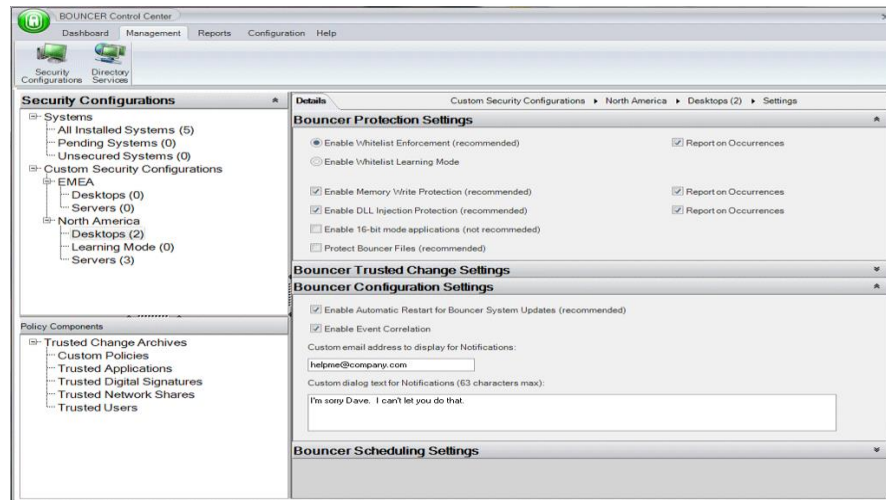
- Manage VI Server (TCP) Access to help prevent 'LabVIEW' viruses
  - Prevent remote access & execution of code on your PC or RT target
- For Host PC: Tools » Options » VI Server
- For cRIO: use Project Explorer as shown here



# Application & OS Security

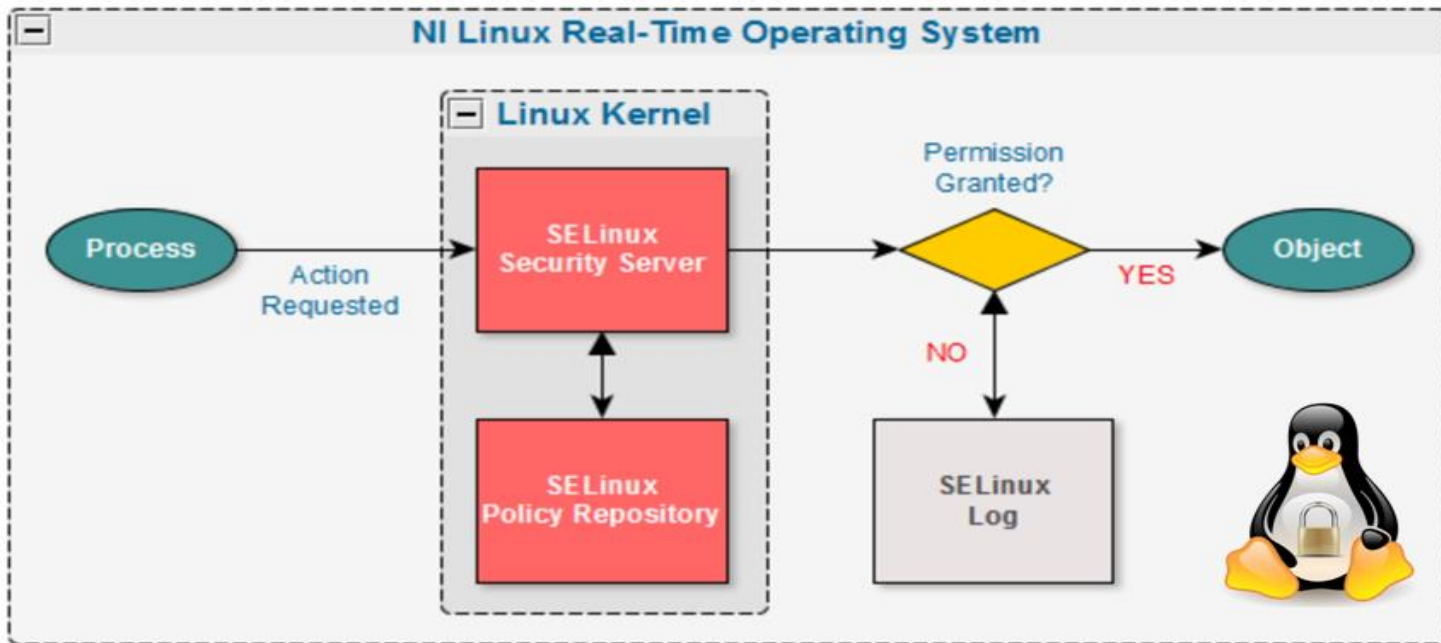
# Application Whitelisting

- Use to regulate code execution on host computer
- Compute and store checksum in a known good state
- Compare checksum against table
- Solutions:
  - CoreTrace Bouncer
  - McAfee Application Control
  - Bit9 Parity Suite
  - Microsoft AppLocker



# Malicious Code Prevention

## Security Enhanced Linux (SELinux)





# GitHub Reference Policy

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'ni / ni-refpolicy'. At the top, the GitHub logo is on the left, followed by a search bar containing 'This repository' and 'Search'. Navigation links for 'Explore', 'Features', 'Enterprise', and 'Blog' are on the right. Below the repository name, there is a 'Watch' button with a count of '5'. The main content area displays the repository's description: 'NI's SELinux reference policy.' Below this, a summary bar shows '3,834 commits', '3 branches', '0 releases', and '20 contributors'. A progress bar is visible below the summary. The current branch is 'master', and the repository name 'ni-refpolicy' is followed by a plus sign and a menu icon. A commit message is shown: 'README.md: add blurb for udev-cache issues'. The commit was authored by 'harisokanovic' on Apr 28 and committed by 'beshelto' on Apr 29. The latest commit hash is 'e49ecf0c95'. Below the commit message, a file named 'config' is listed with the commit message 'natinst: Added admin user to have same permissions as root' and a timestamp of '7 months ago'.

GitHub

This repository Search

Explore Features Enterprise Blog

ni / ni-refpolicy

Watch 5

NI's SELinux reference policy.

3,834 commits 3 branches 0 releases 20 contributors

Branch: master ni-refpolicy / +

README.md: add blurb for udev-cache issues

harisokanovic authored on Apr 28 latest commit e49ecf0c95

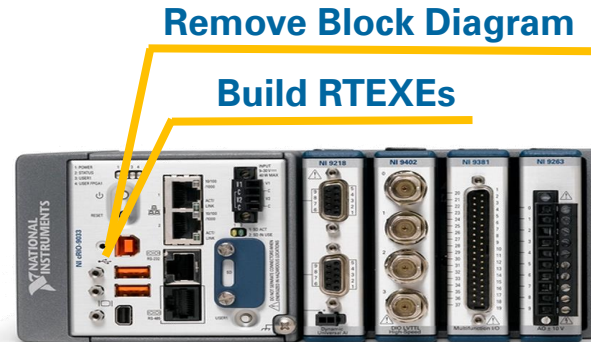
beshelto committed on Apr 29

config natinst: Added admin user to have same permissions as root 7 months ago

# Sensitive Data Protection

- Options for encrypting data in storage
  1. Several individuals offer LabVIEW VIs
    - Caution: Much slower than C/C++ implementations
  2. Use .NET library in LabVIEW
    - system.security.cryptography library
    - Add reference to mscorlib.dll
  3. Use DLL calls to the host OpenSSL/CAPI library
- General principle: "*Ensure the confidentiality of sensitive data through its entire lifecycle.*"

# LabVIEW and LabVIEW Real-Time Application Security



- Remove the block diagram: [LabVIEW Help: Removing Block Diagrams from VIs](#)
- Use Build Specifications such as EXEs & RTEXEs
- Remove the source code and the development environment from host computers on the deployed network

# LabVIEW FPGA

## Application Security



**FPGA Bounds**



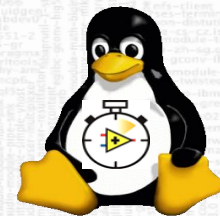
**FPGA Safe States**

- Implement bounds checking on FPGA I/O to prevent damage
- Use an FPGA Watchdog over RT and default to FPGA 'safe states' if something is erroneous on RT

# NI Linux Real-Time

# NI Linux Real-Time

- Maintained by NI
  - Custom built and optimized for NI embedded hardware
    - Supports ARM and x64, with cross-compilers provided
  - Easier integration of third-party peripherals and applications as most have Linux drivers or packages available
  - NI Package Repository: [download.ni.com/ni-linux-rt/](http://download.ni.com/ni-linux-rt/)
    - Over 3,000 packages
  - OS source: [github.com/ni](https://github.com/ni)
- PREEMPT\_RT
  - Enables real-time reliability through pre-emption, priority inheritance, and scheduling
  - Standard approach to real-time performance on Linux



# Linux Ecosystem



## Database

Raima  
MySQL  
SQLite  
MongoDB  
CouchDB



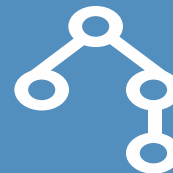
## Security

**SELinux**  
OpenVPN  
IP Tables  
System Logging  
fail2ban  
denyhost



## Code Re-use

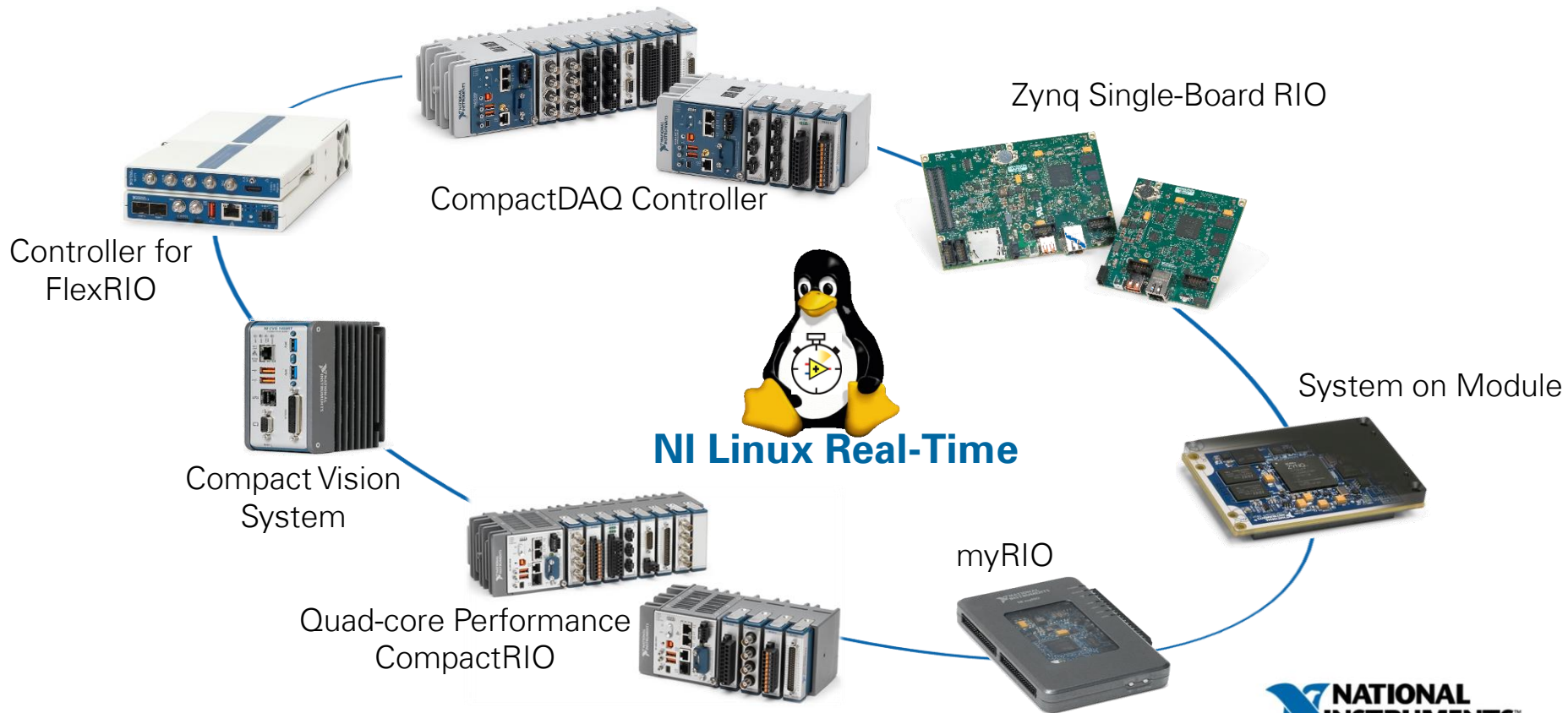
C/C++  
Shell scripting  
Python  
Ruby  
Perl



## Connectivity

Isshd  
IPv6  
SNMP  
NTP  
netstat

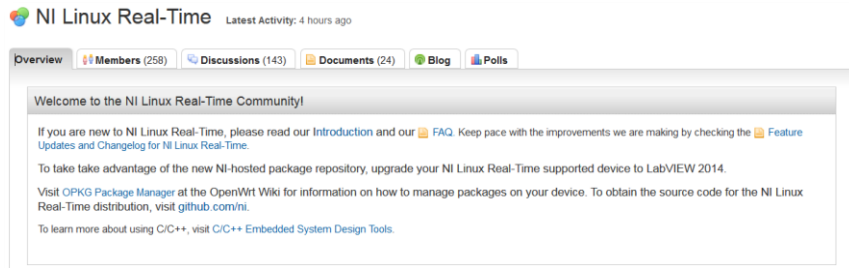
# Integration with the Latest Hardware Products





# Key Resources

- [ni.com/linuxrtforum](https://ni.com/linuxrtforum)
  - Tutorials
  - Documentation
  - Forum for discussions
- [ni.com/linux](https://ni.com/linux)
  - Links to whitepapers
  - Embedded and Desktop uses
- [download.ni.com/ni-linux-rt/](https://download.ni.com/ni-linux-rt/)
  - Package Repository
- [github.com/ni](https://github.com/ni)
  - OS Source



NI Linux Real-Time Latest Activity: 4 hours ago

Overview Members (258) Discussions (143) Documents (24) Blog Polls

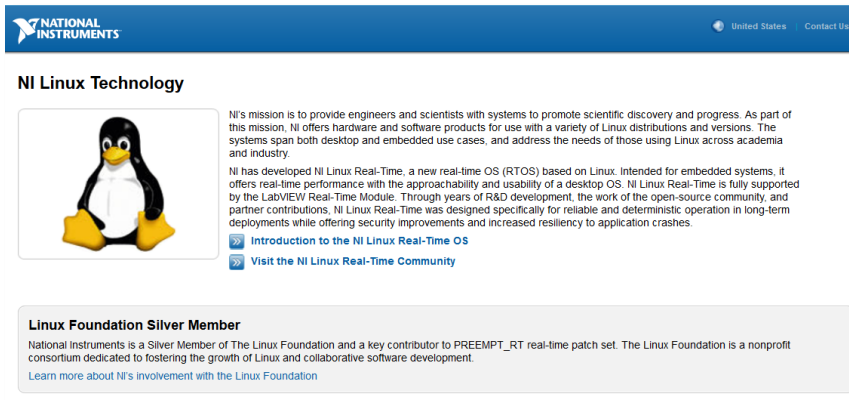
Welcome to the NI Linux Real-Time Community!

If you are new to NI Linux Real-Time, please read our [Introduction](#) and our [FAQ](#). Keep pace with the improvements we are making by checking the [Feature Updates and Changelog](#) for NI Linux Real-Time.

To take advantage of the new NI-hosted package repository, upgrade your NI Linux Real-Time supported device to LabVIEW 2014.


Visit [OPKG Package Manager](#) at the OpenWrt Wiki for information on how to manage packages on your device. To obtain the source code for the NI Linux Real-Time distribution, visit [github.com/ni](#).

To learn more about using C/C++, visit [C/C++ Embedded System Design Tools](#).



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## NI Linux Technology



NI's mission is to provide engineers and scientists with systems to promote scientific discovery and progress. As part of this mission, NI offers hardware and software products for use with a variety of Linux distributions and versions. The systems span both desktop and embedded use cases, and address the needs of those using Linux across academia and industry.

NI has developed NI Linux Real-Time, a new real-time OS (RTOS) based on Linux. Intended for embedded systems, it offers real-time performance with the approachability and usability of a desktop OS. NI Linux Real-Time is fully supported by the LabVIEW Real-Time Module. Through years of R&D development, the work of the open-source community, and partner contributions, NI Linux Real-Time was designed specifically for reliable and deterministic operation in long-term deployments while offering security improvements and increased resiliency to application crashes.

- [Introduction to the NI Linux Real-Time OS](#)
- [Visit the NI Linux Real-Time Community](#)

**Linux Foundation Silver Member**

National Instruments is a Silver Member of The Linux Foundation and a key contributor to PREEMPT\_RT real-time patch set. The Linux Foundation is a nonprofit consortium dedicated to fostering the growth of Linux and collaborative software development.

[Learn more about NI's involvement with the Linux Foundation](#)

# Next Steps

- Sign up at [ni.com/security](https://ni.com/security)
- Leverage online resources: [Overview of Best Practices for Security on NI RIO Systems](#)
- Engage NI with security needs such as security certifications (NERC CIP, IEC 62351, etc.)
- Use the Best Practices Checklist to evaluate and secure your system

## RIO Security Checklist

### Recommended:

Host	RIO Device
<input type="checkbox"/> Network Firewall	<input type="checkbox"/> VI Server Access
<input type="checkbox"/> Anti Virus	<input type="checkbox"/> NI Auth Settings
<input type="checkbox"/> OS Updates	<input type="checkbox"/> SSL System Web Server
<input type="checkbox"/> OS 'Limited User Accounts'	<input type="checkbox"/> SSL App Web Server with Web Service
<input type="checkbox"/> VI Passwords	<input type="checkbox"/> Disable FTP
<input type="checkbox"/> Build EXEs, remove source code	<input type="checkbox"/> RIO on internal network
<input type="checkbox"/> VI Server Access	<input type="checkbox"/> FPGA Bounds
<input type="checkbox"/> NI Auth Settings	<input type="checkbox"/> FPGA Safe States
	<input type="checkbox"/> RTEXE, not interactive mode

### Optional:

Host	RIO Device
<input type="checkbox"/> Limit Physical access	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit Physical access
<input type="checkbox"/> Disable/Encrypt I/O (USB hub, CD Drive, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> VPN Hardware Firewall/Router
<input type="checkbox"/> Status signal to RT	<input type="checkbox"/> Status signal to host
<input type="checkbox"/> Change default ports	<input type="checkbox"/> Change default ports

### Extreme:

Host	RIO Device
<input type="checkbox"/> Application <del>White</del> listing	<input type="checkbox"/> Software Checking
<input type="checkbox"/> Change default ports	<input type="checkbox"/> Hardware Checking
	<input type="checkbox"/> Encrypt Communication between FPGA and RT

### Resources:

[DevZone Article: Overview of Best Practices for Security on NI RIO Systems](#)  
Contact your local rep and/or support

# Questions?



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