

Cybersecurity in information technology vs. operational technology

Computer security, cybersecurity or information technology security (IT security) is the protection of computer systems and networks from information disclosure, theft or destruction, as well as from the disruption or misdirection of the services they provide.[1]

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Objective focus

Information technology

IT security focuses on protecting networks, software, and systems from unauthorized access and disruption.

Operational technology

OT security focuses on safeguarding industrial systems and infrastructure from cyber threats.

System environment

Information technology

Handles common computing devices such as laptops, servers, and mobile devices.

Operational technology

Specialized systems like Industrial Control Systems (ICS) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), and often include legacy devices.

Risk and consequences

Information technology

Data breaches, intellectual property theft, and incidents leading to financial loss or reputational damage.

Operational technology

Operational disruptions, safety hazards, equipment damage, and environmental risks due to cyber attacks.

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