

**OPC and MES 2014 Finland**



# **OPC UA Security**

Uwe Steinkrauss (ascolab GmbH)

# Getting real about the risk

Stephen Cummings, director of the British government's Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure,

**“Cyberterrorism is a myth”**



Denial

**CNN** INTERNATIONAL  
**.com/US**

September 27, 2007 -- Updated 1317 GMT (2117 HKT)

**Mouse click could plunge city into darkness, experts say**



Panic

Reality

- ▶ Cyber incidents are real and cyber security for industrial control systems must be taken seriously
- ▶ **but** it is a challenge that **can** be met

# Why, what and how to use?

## ► Thread

Why?

- Which security concerns are addressed by OPC UA?
- Which are not addressed by OPC UA security?

What?

- What are the concepts of OPC UA security?

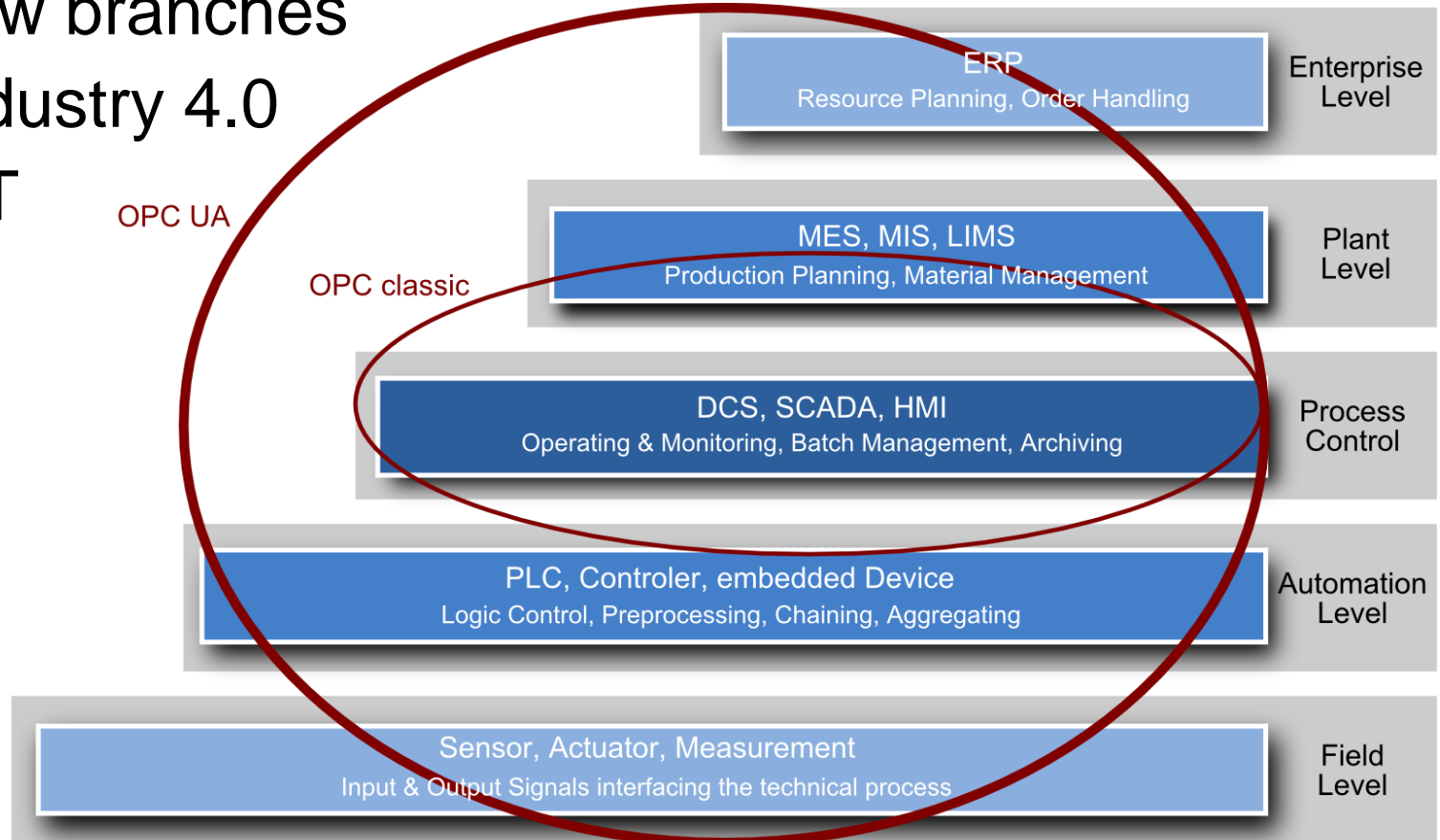
How to Use?

- How to choose the target security level?
- How to manage OPC UA certificates?

## ► Secure

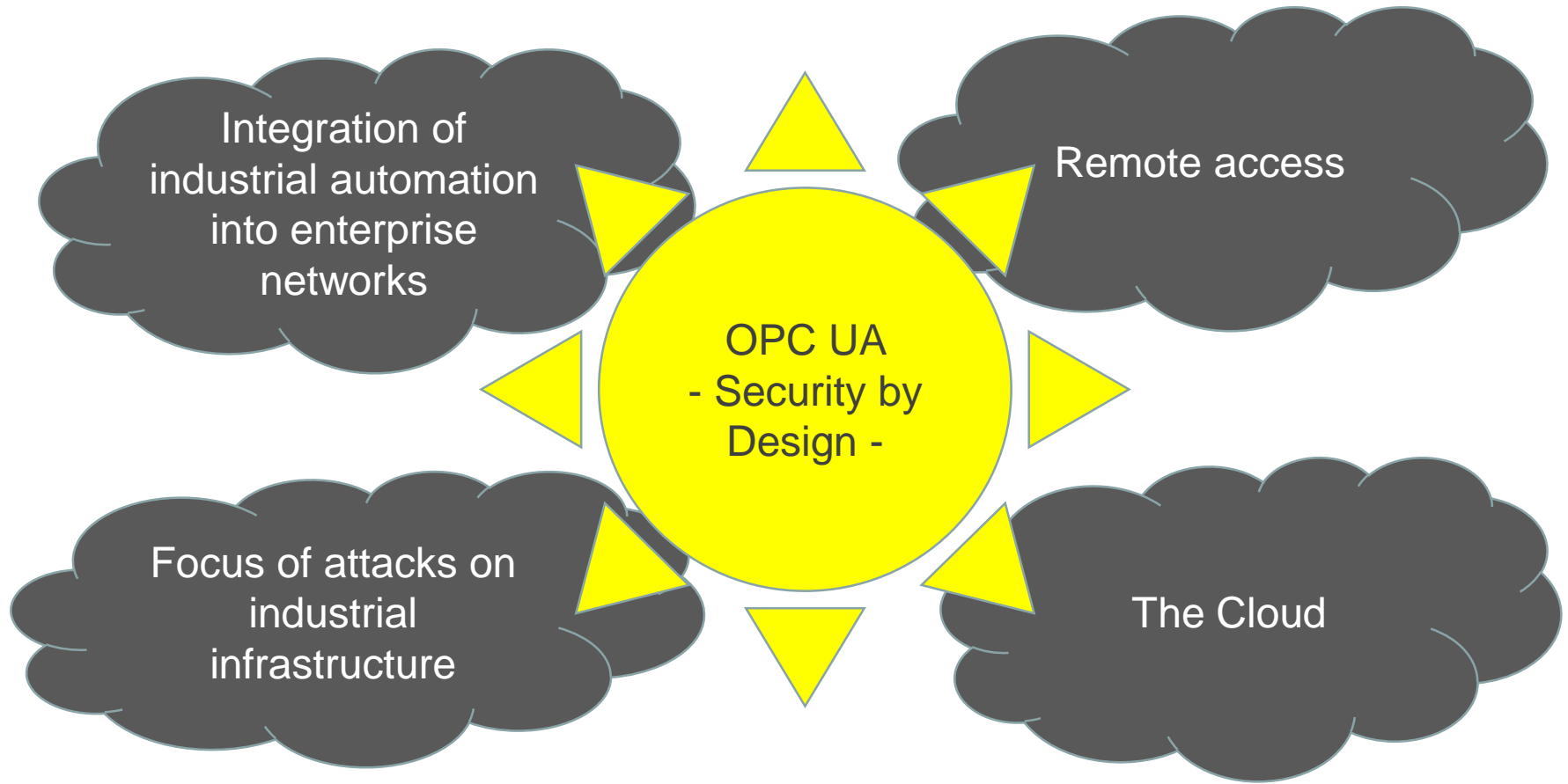
# OPC UA - Communication

- ▶ OPC UA covers more applications
- ▶ new branches
- ▶ Industry 4.0
- ▶ IoT



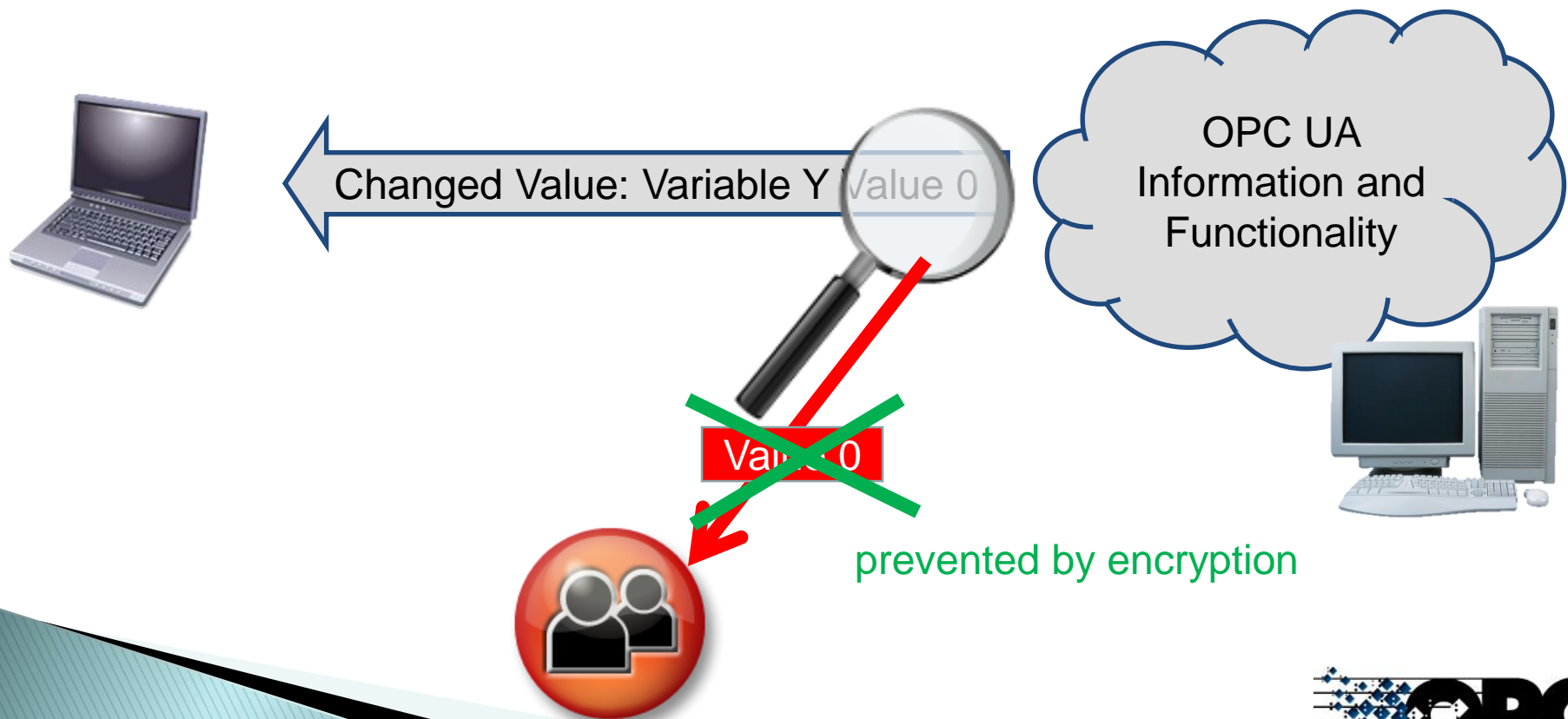
source: [www.ascolab.com](http://www.ascolab.com)

# Why – OPC UA Security?



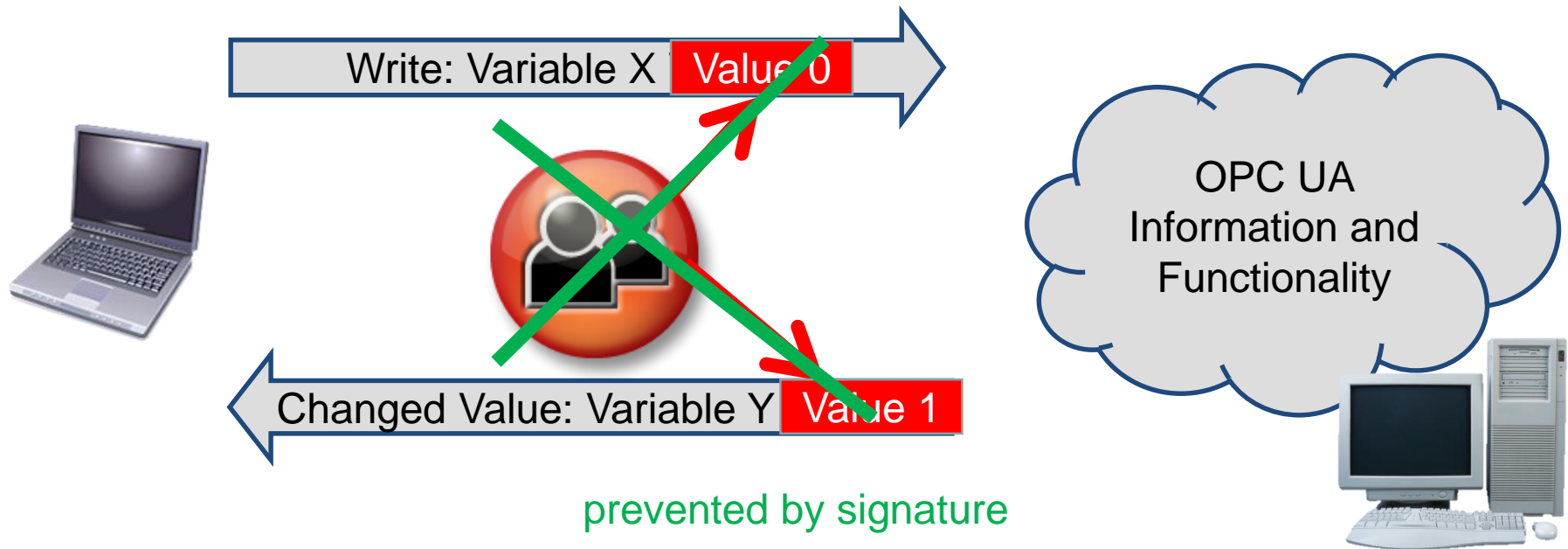
# Security Aspect - 1

- ▶ Confidentiality
  - Not reading the content of a message



# Security Aspect - 2

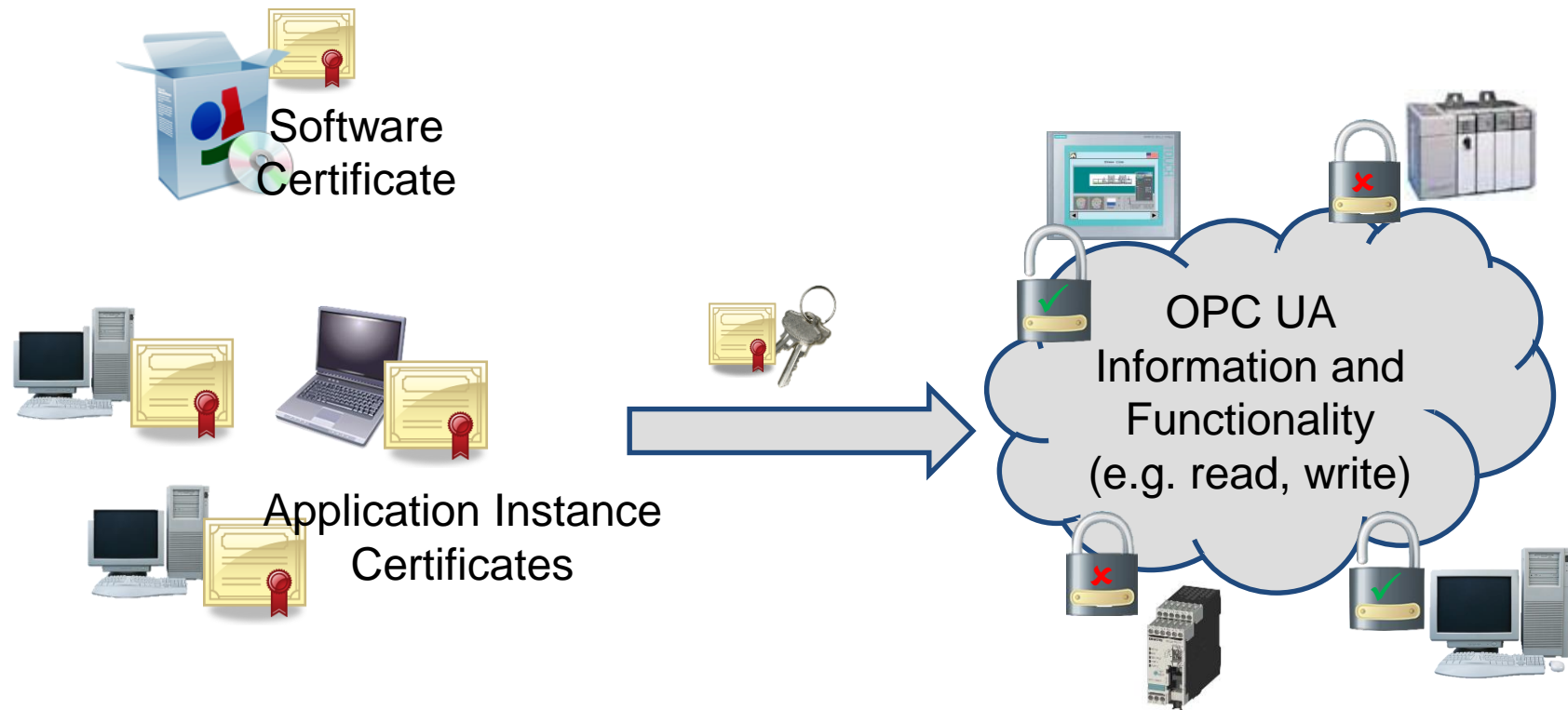
- ▶ Integrity
  - Not manipulating the content of a message





# Security Aspect - 3

- ▶ Application Authentication
  - Identification and access control for applications

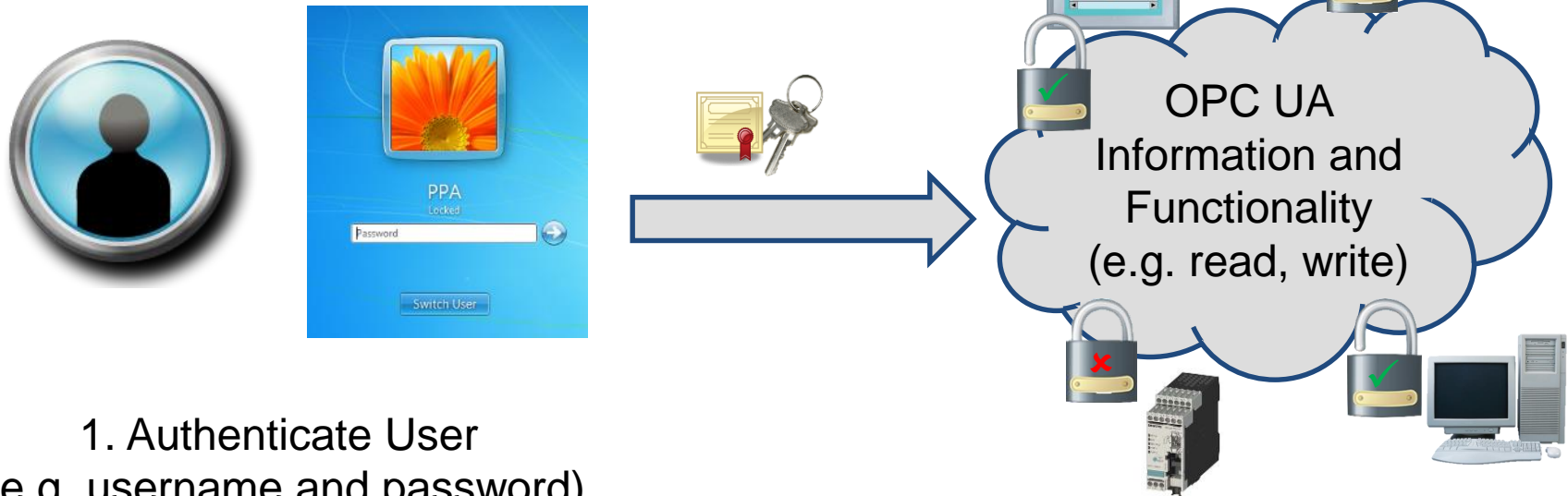




# Security Aspect – 4 + 5

## ► User Authentication and Authorization

- Identification and access control for users
- Access/execution rights on item level

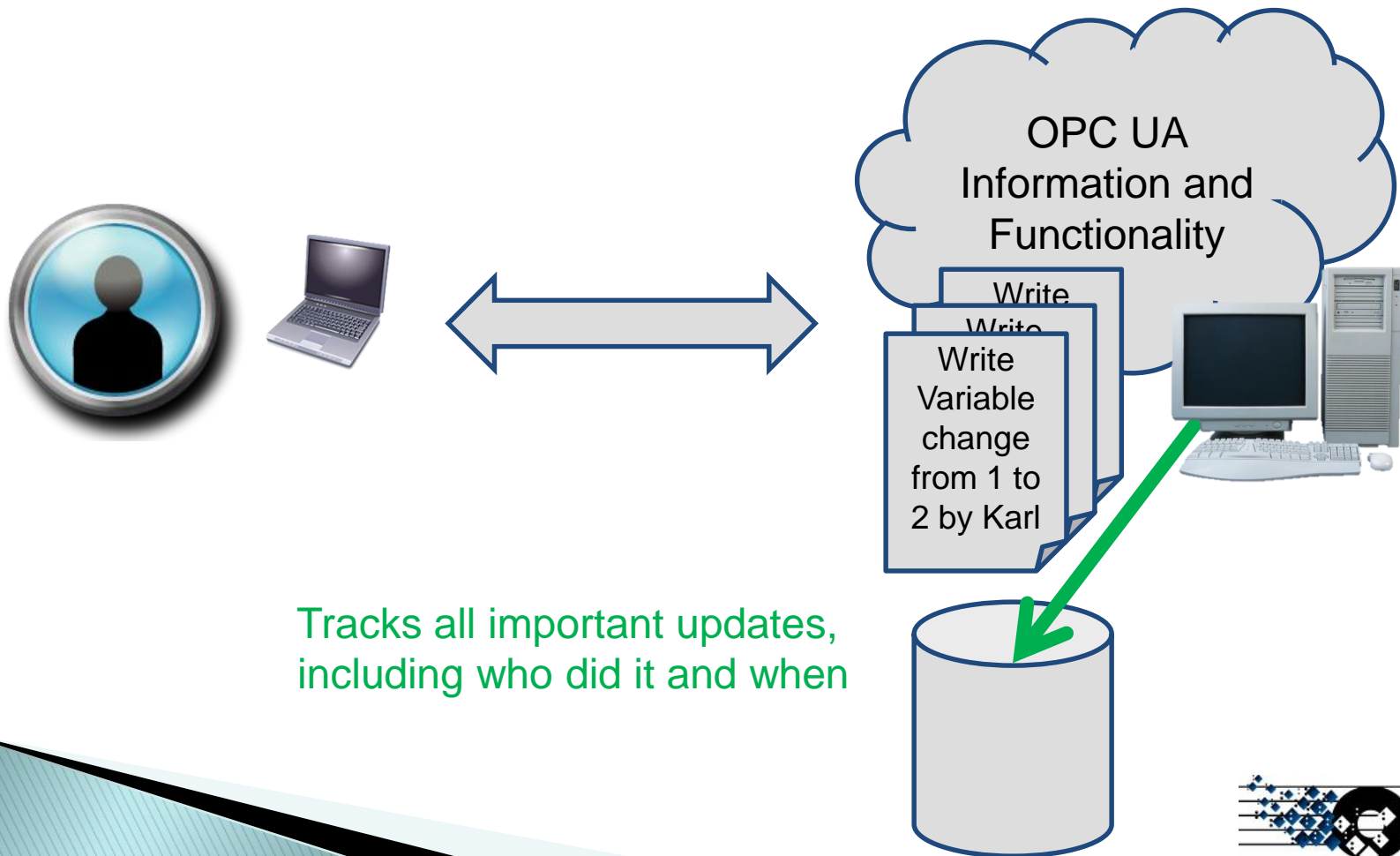


1. Authenticate User  
(e.g. username and password)

2. Authorize for specific  
operations and information  
(e.g. writing a specific value)

# Security Aspect - 6

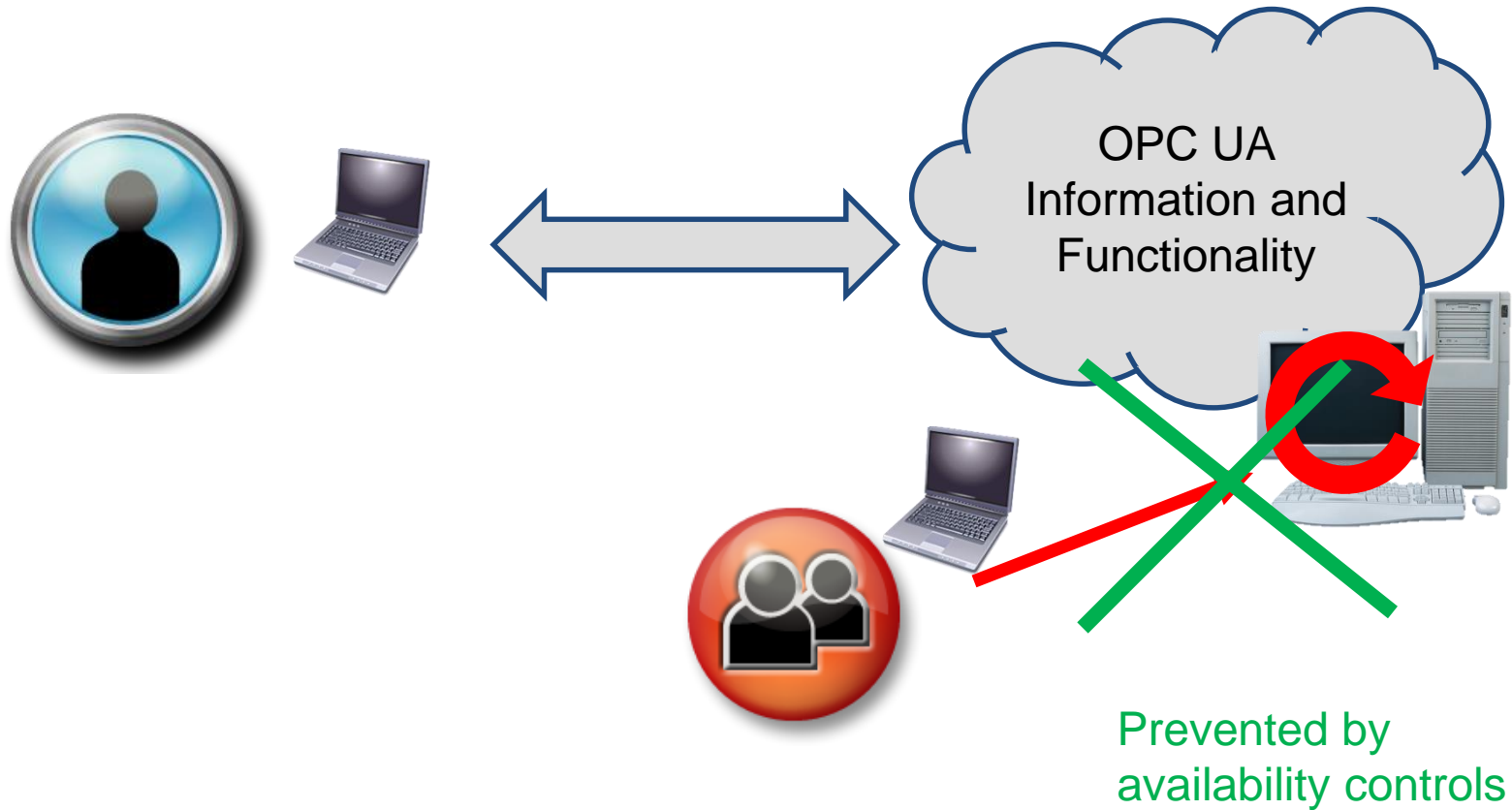
- ▶ Auditability
  - Tracking all important interactions



Tracks all important updates,  
including who did it and when

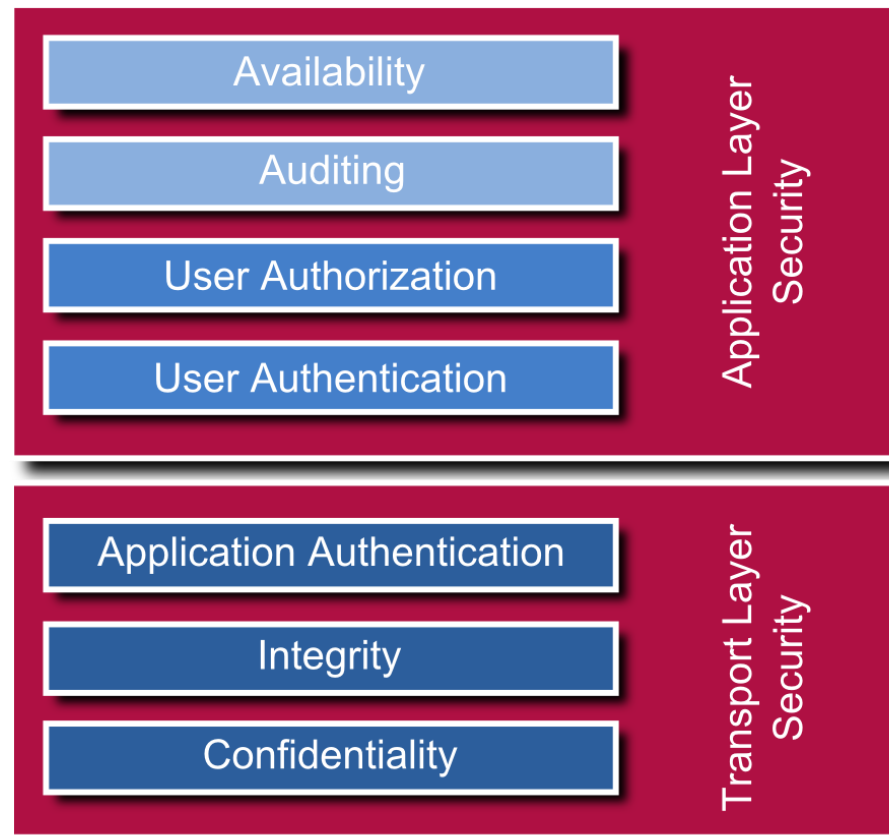
# Security Aspect - 7

- ▶ Availability
  - Always be functional



# OPC UA Security-Concept

**OPC UA covers 7 security aspects, which are in the core of the technology:**



source: [www.ascolab.com](http://www.ascolab.com)

# Application Layer Security

## ► Authentication of users

- Username / password, WS-Security Token or X.509
- Fits into existing infrastructures like Active Directory



## ► Authentication of individual installations

- Application instance certificates
- Certificate Authority (CA)



## ► Authorization

- Enforcement of authorization is server-specific
- Fine-granular information in address space
  - *AccessLevel* and *UserAccessLevel* – Reading and writing of values and their history
  - *WriteMask* and *UserWriteMask* – Writing of meta data
  - *Executable* and *UserExecutable* – Calling methods
  - Information not accessible is not visible to client (references, events, ...)

## ► Auditability

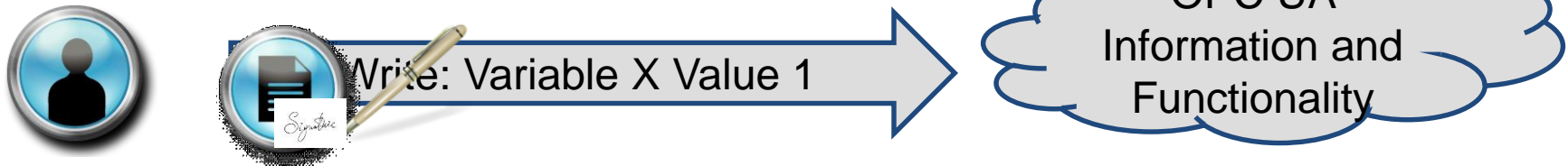
- Generating audit events for security related operations

# Transport Layer Security

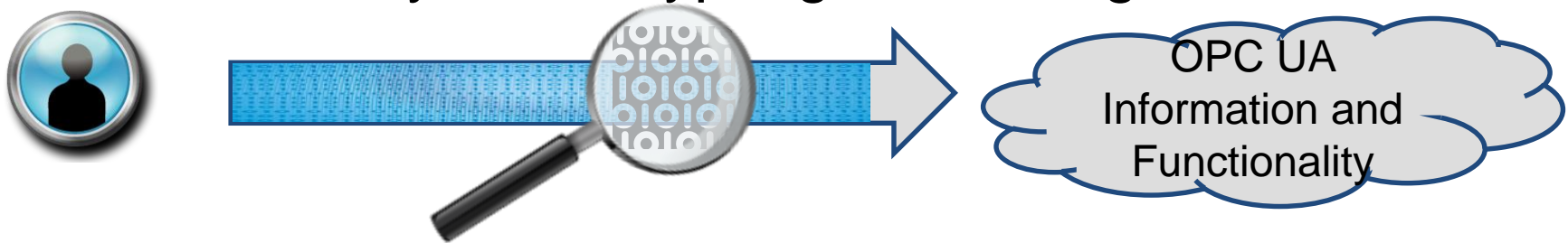
## ► Availability

- Depends primarily on the site for protection
- Minimum processing before authentication
  - Restricting message size
  - No security related error codes returned
  - ...

## ► Integrity → Signing of Messages



## ► Confidentiality → Encrypting of Messages





# NOT addressed by OPC UA

## ▶ **User Management**

- No standard way how to manage users like adding, deleting, assignment to roles
- No standard user roles
- > This is server-specific or defined in companion specifications

## ▶ **User Authorization Management**

- No standard way to define access rights
- > This is server-specific or defined in companion specifications

## ▶ **User Authentication Management**

- Not addressing mechanisms like biometric authentication, etc. directly, but can be used by the OPC UA infrastructure
- No rules for passwords
  - Syntax rules (min. length, requires upper case, number, special characters, ...)
  - How often they need to change
  - Where (not to) store passwords (e.g. note on screen)

## ▶ **Organizational issues**

- No definition how to handle physical access to site
- No definition of zones, security lifecycle or security policies
- Not addressing training of personal

## ▶ **Those things are addressed by other specifications like**

- IEC 62443 (ISA 99)
- NERC CIP
- Regulations and Corporate Standards



# Practical Approach

- ▶ **Identify and Verify your Security Risks**

# Drivers of cyber security

## Compliance vs. risk management

- ▶ Many cyber security activities are motivated by regulation or similar compliance regulation

- "Checking the boxes" exercises with least effort possible
- Defining out of scope as much as possible



- ▶ Cyber security is a risk management activity

- Should be driven by understanding of the risk
- Should follow an organization's risk management framework



# Consequence assessment

## Answer the “*what if*” ?!

- What if I cannot operate this asset?
- What if someone else can operate this asset?
- What if this information gets disclosed?

**What if someone opens this valve?**

**What if it does not close when it should?**

# Likelihood assessment

Accident / Error

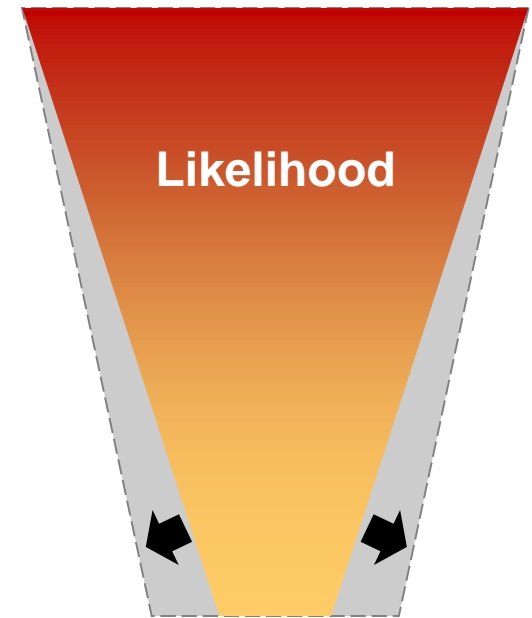
Rogue insider/employee

Malware/Virus/Trojans

Thieves / extortionists

Sabotage / competitors

Enemies / nation states / terrorists



→ Not enough recorded incidents or statistical data

# Choosing appropriate security

Risk management based approach

- ▶ Identify critical assets
- ▶ Identify potential threats
- ▶ Assess likelihood of attack types
- ▶ Assess potential consequences of different types of security breaches
- ▶ Derive security objectives
- ▶ Select appropriate security controls

# Using OPC UA security

- ▶ Select appropriate security controls for each of the critical assets
- ▶ Implement and maintain selected security controls
- ▶ The OPC UA Security Model support includes
  - ▶ Different security policies specified in the standard
  - ▶ Product design and system engineering define when to use which policies
  - ▶ Endpoints support security policies, exposed in Discovery Services
  - ▶ SecureChannel Services utilize supported policies

# Conclusion

- ▶ **Use of OPC UA security must be embedded in a security management system to provide meaningful security**
- ▶ **OPC UA is secure-by-design** and addresses security concerns by providing
  - Authentication of
    - Users
    - Application instances
    - (Software)
  - Confidentiality and integrity by signing and encrypting messages
  - Availability by minimum processing before authentication
  - Auditability by defined audit events for OPC UA operations
- ▶ **OPC UA allows to setup different levels of security**
- ▶ **OPC UA certificate management can be**
  - integrated into existing infrastructure of the site or
  - newly set up based on requirements



# Thanks for Your Attention !



**Uwe Steinkrauss**  
Executive Director

**ascolab GmbH**  
Am Weichselgarten 7  
D-91058 Erlangen  
Phone +49-9131-691-120  
[info@ascolab.com](mailto:info@ascolab.com)