

CYBERSECURITY RISKS TO FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH

An overview of real risks through the lens of a light-hearted fictional science project called sasqWATCH. See how Trusted CI's team can assist your research cybersecurity.

sasqWATCH Mission

To collect evidence worldwide as to the existence or non-existence of the Sasquatch and other Cryptids.



sasqWATCH Core Operational Functions

- Maintains the High Uptime Network for Tracking Ecological Rarities (HUNTER), a network of repurposed commodity hunting cameras across the US, Canada, and parts of Europe
- Operate a data warehouse, hosted at Deep Forrest University
- Analyze data and publish papers to raise awareness of cryptids

sasqWATCH Cybersecurity Risks

- Aging technology that is no longer supported
- Downtime of instruments during once-in-a-generation sighting event
- Leaked or manipulated data impacting sasqWATCH's reputation
- A compromise revealing location of sensors
- Data loss resulting in loss of years of research
- Difficulty of securely sharing insights with worldwide collaborators
- Supply chain risks with new, hard-to-find technology



How Trusted CI Can Help

- We are funded to support federally funded research
- Trusted CI Operational Technology Vendor Procurement Matrix - to assist communications with vendors about security
 - trustedci.org/ot-matrix
- Trusted CI Framework - a holistic and mission-focused standard for managing cybersecurity
 - trustedci.org/framework

Next Steps

- It's never too early to begin engaging with Trusted CI
- Research Security Cohort engagements help universities build cybersecurity programs
- Our "Secure Use of AI" team is looking for new risks arising from the use of artificial intelligence in research environments, and mitigations to those risks
- Join us at the NSF Cybersecurity Summit - trustedci.org/summit

