Tackling corruption with STPA-Sec

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Disclaimer

I have previously worked for a number of government agencies.

The comments in this presentation are solely my own and do not constitute claims of any position being held, or not, by the Australian Government.
‘The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you've got it made.’

— Groucho Marx
The Fraudster
So… what’s this got to do with safety?
Types of corruption

- Fraud
- Nepotism
- Bribery
- Rent seeking
- Noble cause
- Regulatory capture
- etc.
Current approaches
to tackling corruption
Measure it
Blame...
&
Punishment
‘Risk’-based methods
Education
Complications...
Measuring challenges

- Hiding
- Perception
- Effectiveness
Corruption actively hidden
Measuring the perception of corruption
Effectiveness

Measuring challenges
Punishment and deterrence
Big fish, little fish
Deterrence measures
Risk > Benefits?
Application woes
General controls don’t transfer well
Integrity pillars

Application woes
Applied anti-corruption controls
In summary

- Measuring
- Blame and punishment
- Application woes
The Fraudster’s sitting pretty
Reframing the problem

with STPA-Sec
Adapting STPA-Sec to addressing corruption

- Similarities
- Searching for integrity
- Tweaking STPA-Sec
Similarities
Searching for integrity
The deviation from expectations of honest, honourable, and just behaviour, for the benefit of one party over another, often resulting in debasement of public service or function.
### (Roughly) translated terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Integrity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsafe system state</td>
<td>Corrupted system state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard</td>
<td>Corruption*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System-level hazard</td>
<td>System-level hazard**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsafe Control Action</td>
<td>Ineffective Control Action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STPA-Sec UCAs (tweaked)

Unsafe Ineffective control action

Providing a control action leads to a hazard [corruption] or exploitation of a vulnerability [of an integrity control measure].

Not providing a control action leads to a hazard [corruption] or exploits a vulnerability [of an integrity control measure].

Providing a control action too late, too early, or in the wrong order leads to a hazard [corruption] or exploitation of a vulnerability [of an integrity control measure].

Stopping a control action too soon or continuing it too long leads to a hazard [corruption] or exploitation of a vulnerability [of an integrity control measure].
Case study: regulatory capture
A regulator with integrity could be said to be one that is trusted, independent, fair, authoritative, and a proportionate advocate.
Regulatory capture

Diversion of the regulator from fulfilling its mandate, with intent to preferentially benefit some other social actor.
Regulatory capture

Diversion of the regulator from fulfilling its mandate, with intent to preferentially benefit some other social actor.
Compliance programmes
Travel time
Cheapest fare*
42 hours
Observations

- Prioritisation
- Ideological and bureaucratic resistance
- Combat difficulties
- Culture and change
Concluding thoughts
The Fraudster. Sitting pretty?
More info?
Q (and possibly A)
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References


