



# All in this Together: Integrating Data across Disciplines & Functions Andrew West, Regional Technical Director, SUBNET Solutions

Cigré US GOTF, October 2021

© Copyright SUBNET Solutions Inc. 2021



#### Overview

Diversity in Grid applications

Some things are standardized

Everything can work together

There is benefit in integrating everything

- What? Data sharing between devices and functions
- Why? Improved decision making, new business practices
- How? Engineer for integration from the start



### **Grid Applications**

SCADA / real-time operations Asset management

EMS / DMS / ADMS / GIS Historian

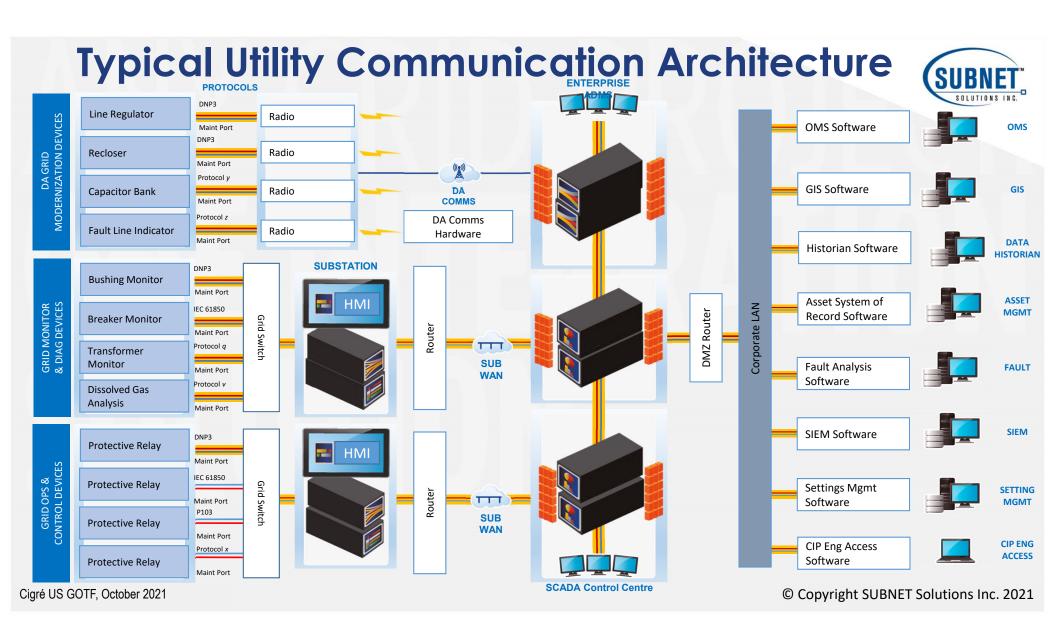
Monitoring / Diagnostics Cybersecurity

Protection / Fault analysis Configuration management

System engineering & System design

maintenance ... etc.

Sometimes applications are each managed individually and have evolved processes and protocols in isolation





#### **Data Flow**

# Multiple applications make use of data Data from a device might be used by multiple applications

- Some is operational/SCADA "real time" data
- Some data is only used by other centralized applications
  - Inbound, e.g.: History, asset management, fault analysis, etc.
  - Bidirectional, e.g.: Engineering access, device configuration, etc.

#### Traditional approach sends all data to control center

Control center forwards data to other applications

#### Operations system is often first data user

Other applications access data opportunistically





#### Real-time / SCADA data protocols are well standardized

- IEEE 1815 (DNP3), IEC 60870-5, IEC 61850, Modbus, etc.
- Migration from proprietary protocols to standards through 1990's-2000's

#### Some standardization in other areas

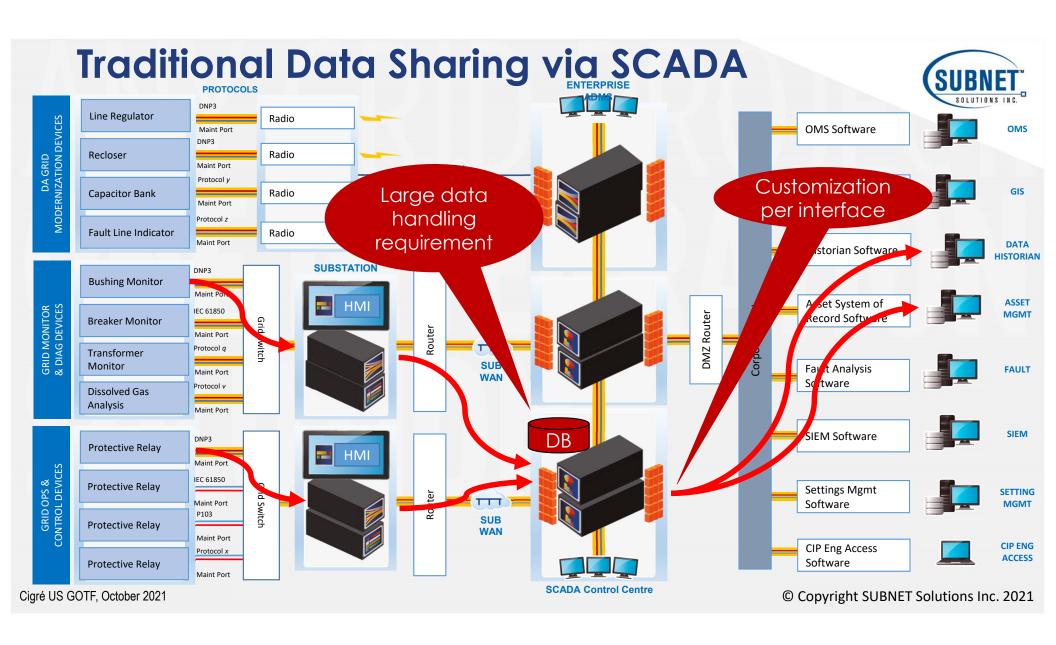
E.g.: COMTRADE file format for fault records

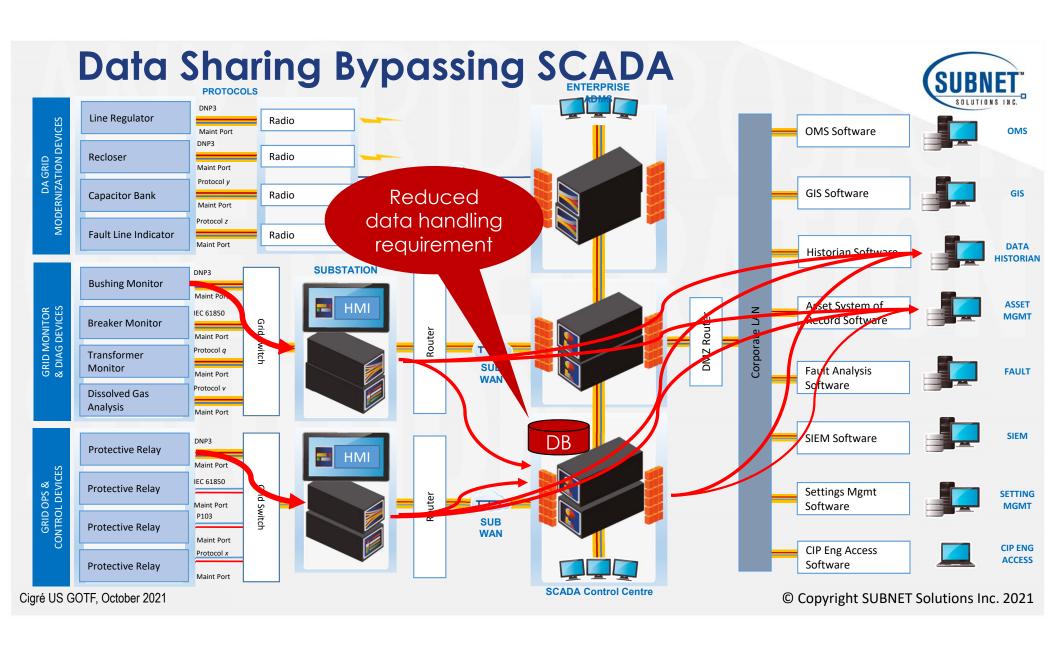
#### (Very) limited standardization of configuration management

• IEC 61850-90-16:2021 addresses firmware & configuration updates

#### Mostly proprietary access for engineering, configuration

 Many devices have proprietary configuration tools, proprietary diagnostic protocols, proprietary configuration data formats









#### Multiple applications use system data

- Most applications or users need only a limited range of data
  - Typically, applications need the same kinds of data from a fleet of different devices, e.g. Fault information
  - Needing to know how to access different kinds of devices is a hinderance
  - Users benefit from tools that present data consistently without needing knowledge of device types or proprietary differences
- Typically only configuration management or engineering access need knowledge of device configuration

### Cybersecurity



#### Role Based Access Control

- Each application or user is given access to data they need
- Data not required by a user may be hidden
  - Protected from inadvertent (or deliberate) manipulation
- Device passwords may be managed automatically
  - Users do not need to remember device passwords
  - Access may b revoked by managing user access, not by changing passwords on a fleet of devices

#### New device management workflows enabled

- Check/verify authorized configurations, firmware versions, etc.
  - Alert on unauthorized change, log audit trails of all actions, etc.



## System Expansion

System extension is usually triggered by operational needs. As the system is extended...

- Consider what data could be required for all applications, not only for operational/real-time SCADA, but also for maintenance, asset management, integration with corporate applications, etc.
- Involve stakeholders to determine data uses
- Provide appropriate access to data for all users who need it
- Minimize costs by considering this as part of the design process, not as an afterthought

Gain the maximum benefit of data available in the system!

#### **Architecture**



#### Managing all data by role

- Controls distribution of data to authorized users & applications
- Reduces loading on SCADA and operational systems
- Simplifies the view of the system seen by each user
  - Improves staff efficiency
  - Reduces training costs
- Remote engineering access
  - Expedites fault rectification
  - Reduces maintenance costs by reducing truck rolls/site work
- New workflows, improved system monitoring, improved cybersecurity



### Summary

Multiple applications use system data
When adding any new function or device

- Consider all stakeholders / data users
- Design-in support to provide data for all authorized users
- Consider whole-of-life costs

Ensure appropriate RBAC isolation of functions / access



감사합니다

Danke

谢谢

Merci

Thank You

Gracias

ありがとう

Спасибо

Obrigado

Questions?

#### **Contact Details**



**Andrew West** 

Regional Technical Director, Asia-Pacific

**SUBNET Solutions Pty Ltd** 

Andrew.West@SUBNET.com

