

# Enabling Cyber-Power Grid Security and Resiliency

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For power system expertise

CIGRE Next Generation Network Webinar, August 17, 2023

# The Highly Dangerous 'Triton' Hackers Have Probed the US Grid

The same hackers behind a potentially lethal 2017 oil refinery cyberattack are now sniffing at US electrical utility targets.

## Ukrainian power grid 'lucky' to withstand Russian cyber-attack

By Joe Tidy  
Cyber reporter

12 April



Russia-Ukraine war



World's First  
**Power Outage**  
Caused by Hackers



## The Thwarted Baltimore Grid Attack is a Wake-Up Call on U.S. Grid Cybersecurity

March 27, 2023 / in News & Events, 2023 / by CHHS Research Assistants & Externs

By CHHS Extern Peter Scheffel

On Monday, February 6, 2023, two individuals were arrested by the FBI on criminal complaints

# What can we do about it?

Understand the  
Problem

1

**Cyber  
Vulnerability  
and Threat**

Cyber Threats,  
exposure, risk,  
analysis and  
Mitigation



Tools

2

**Data- Driven Tools for  
Cybersecurity and  
Resiliency with IoT**

Metrics and  
algorithms for cyber  
anomaly detection,  
classification,  
localization, root  
cause analytics and  
resiliency analysis

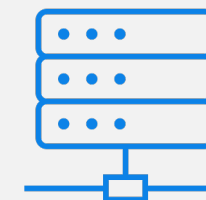


Testbed

3

**Testbed for  
Training and  
Validation**

Validate algorithms  
and tools for  
deployment

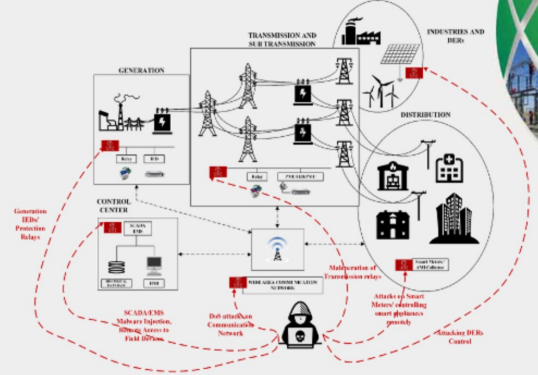


Understand the Problem

1

Cyber Vulnerability and Threat

Cyber Threats, exposure, risk, analysis and Mitigation

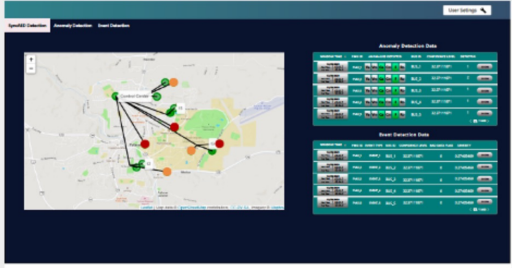


Tools

2

Data-driven Tools for Cybersecurity and Resiliency with IoT

Metrics and algorithms for cyber anomaly detection, classification, localization, root cause analytics and resiliency analysis

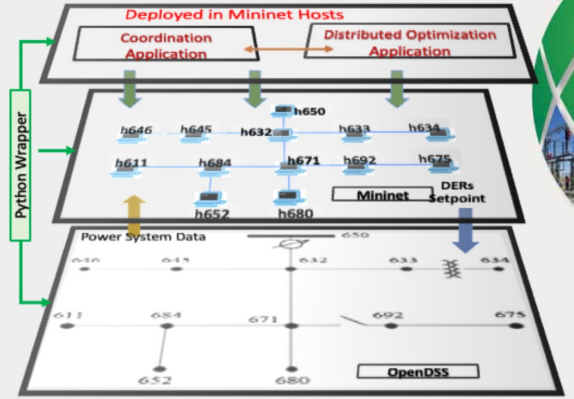


Testbed

3

Tested for Training and Validation

Validate algorithms and tools for deployment



Summary

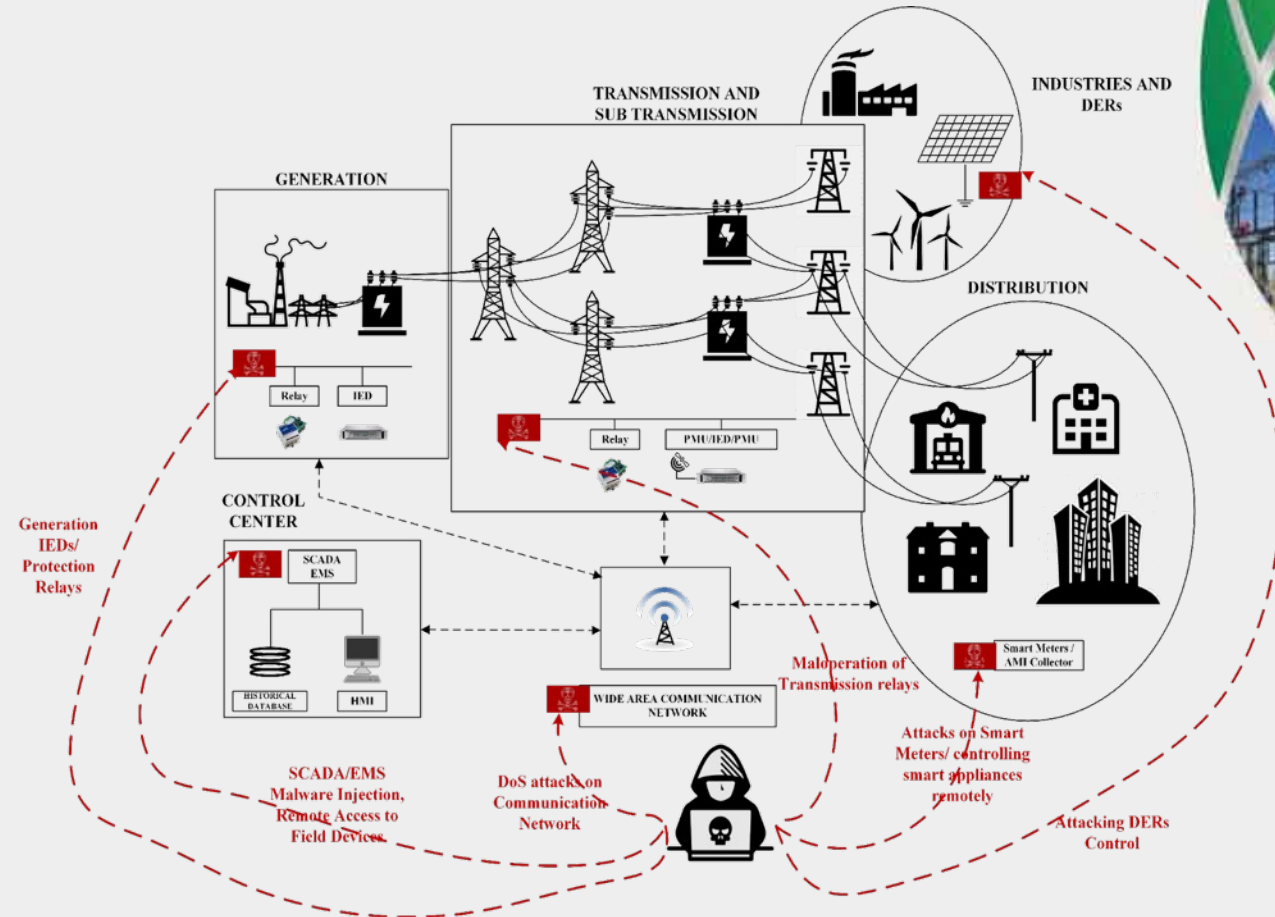
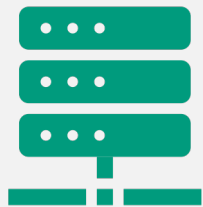


# Understand the Problem

# 1

## Cyber Vulnerability and Threat

Cyber Threats, exposure, risk, analysis and Mitigation



# Risk, Threats, and Vulnerabilities

- **Threat** – circumstance or event with the potential to adversely impact organizational operations
- **Vulnerability** – a weakness in an information system, system security procedures, internal controls, or an implementation that could be exploited by a threat source

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Threat} \times \text{Vulnerability} \times \text{Impact}$$

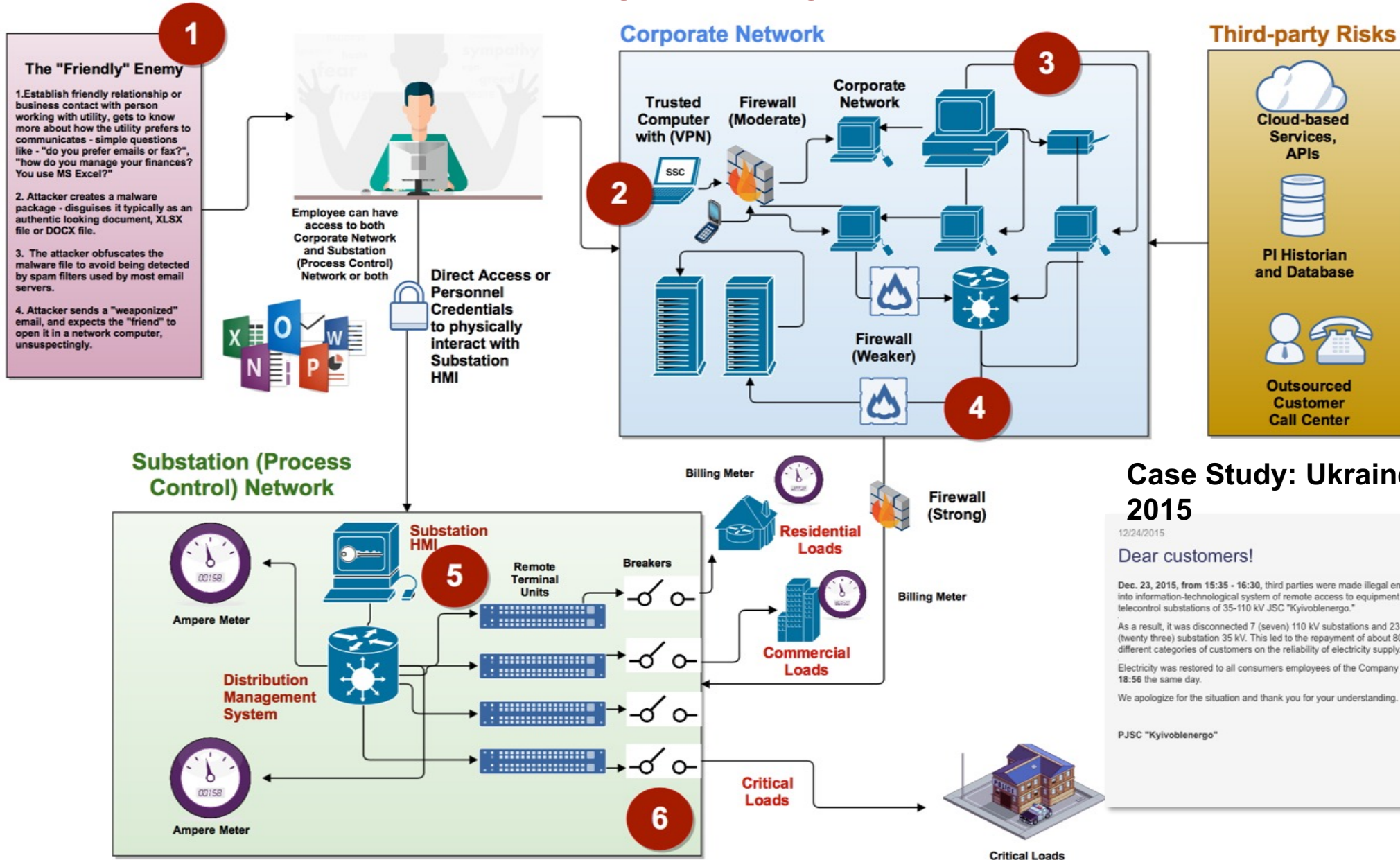
**What's  
New??**

$$\text{Risk (2005)} = \downarrow \text{Threat} \times \uparrow \text{Vulnerability} \times \downarrow \text{Impact}$$

$$\text{Risk (Today)} = \uparrow \text{Threat} \times \downarrow \text{Vulnerability} \times \uparrow \text{Impact}$$

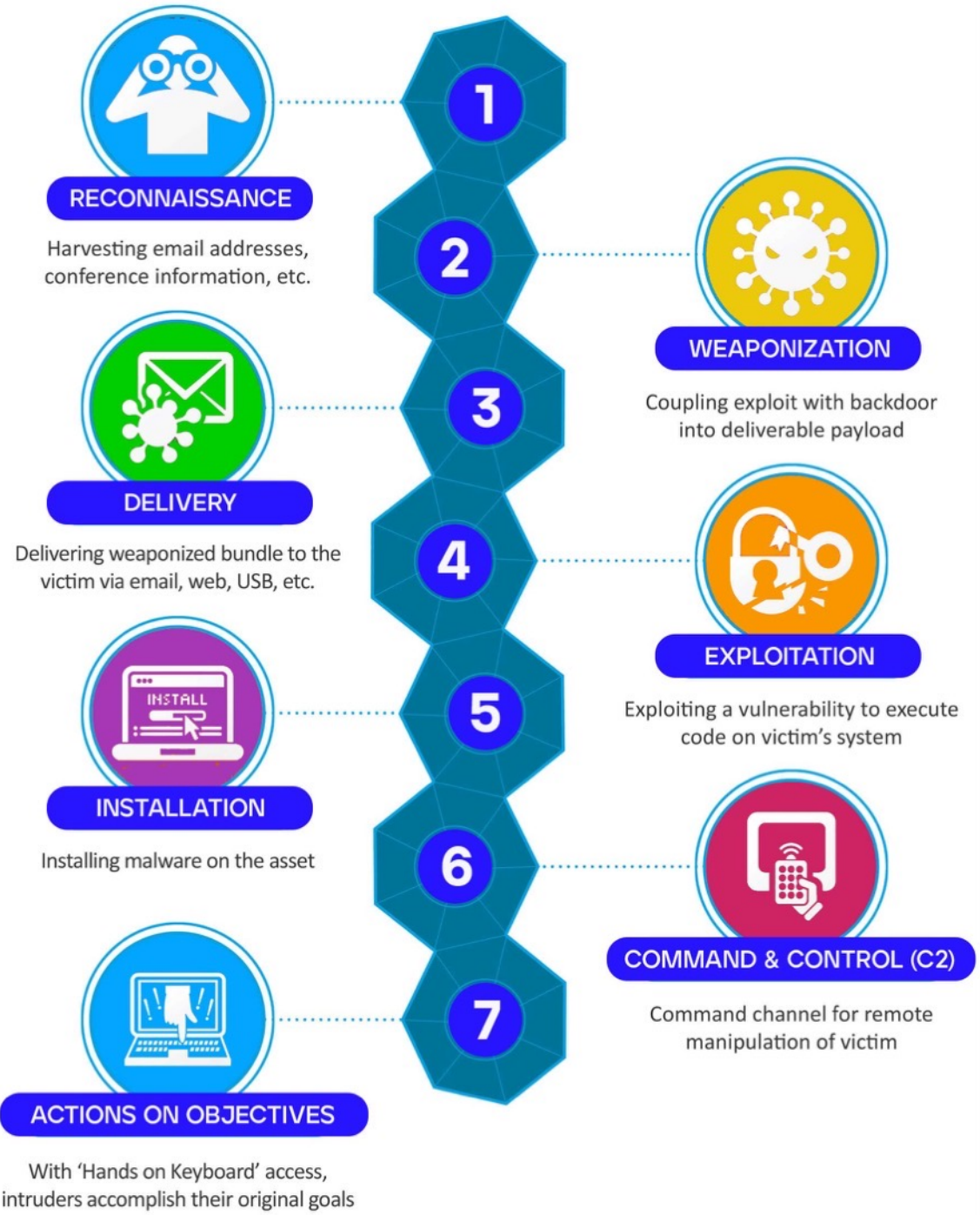
Source: NIST SP 800-30, rev1. [http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-30-rev1/sp800\\_30\\_r1.pdf](http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-30-rev1/sp800_30_r1.pdf)

# Anatomy of a Cyber Attack



# How do attackers

Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion
DLL Search Order Hijacking		
Legitimate Credentials		
Accessibility Features	Binary Padding	
AppInit DLLs	Code Signing	
Local Port Monitor	Component Firmware	
New Service	DLL Side-Loading	
Path Interception	Disabling Security Tools	
Scheduled Task	File Deletion	
File System Permissions Weakness	File System Logical Offsets	
Service Registry Permission Weakness	Indicator Blockin	
Web Shell	Exploitation of Vulner	
Basic Input/Output System	Bypass User Account Control	
Bootkit	DLL Injection	
Change Default File Association	Component Object Model Hijacking	
Component Firmware	Indicator Removal from Tools	
Hypervisor	Indicator Removal on Host	
Logon Scripts	Install Util	
Modify Existing Service	Masquerading	
Redundant Access	Modify Registry	
Registry Run Keys/Start Folder	NTFS Extended Attributes	
Security Support Provider	Obfuscated Files Information	
Shortcut Modification	Process Hollowin	
Windows Management	Redundant Acce	
Instrumentation Event Subscription	Regsvcs/Regasm	
Winlogon Helper DLL	Regsvr	
Netsh helper DLL	Rootkit	
Authentication Package	Rundll32	
External Remote Services	Scripting	
	Software Packin	
	Timestomp	
	MSBuild	
	Network Share Removal	
	Install Root Certificate	



Exfiltration	Exfiltration	Command and Control
Automated Exfiltration	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
Data Compressed	Data Compressed	Communication Through Removable Media
Data Encrypted	Data Encrypted	Custom Command and Control Protocol
Data Transfer Size Limits	Data Transfer Size Limits	Custom Cryptographic Protocol
Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Data Obfuscation
Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Fallback Channels
Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Multi-Stage Channels
Exfiltration Over Other Physical Medium	Exfiltration Over Other Physical Medium	Multiband Communication
Scheduled Transfer	Scheduled Transfer	Multilayer Encryption
		Peer Connections
		Remote File Copy
		Standard Application Layer Protocol
		Standard Cryptographic Protocol
		Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol
		Uncommonly Used Port
		Web Service
		Data Encoding

the MITRE activity  
 adversary  
 adversary  
 adversary



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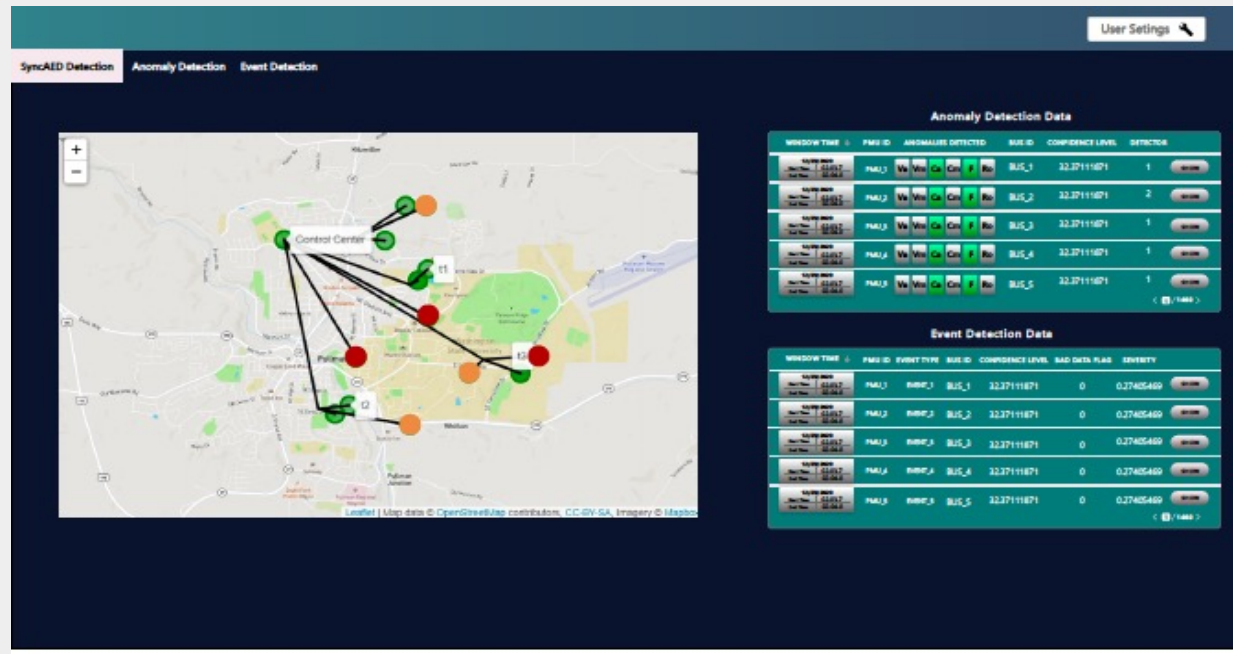


# Tools

## 2

### Data-driven Tools for Cybersecurity and Resiliency with IoT

Metrics and algorithms for cyber anomaly detection, classification, localization, root cause analytics and resiliency analysis



# Why Resiliency with IoTs?

## Resiliency

- Being a critical infrastructure, the power grid has been embracing cyberattacks of gradual increasing complexity and intricacy.
- Considering that these risks cannot be eliminated, resiliency becomes vital to enable the essential infrastructure to continue to perform when faced with such threats.
- National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a report titled "Enhancing the Resiliency of the Nation's Electricity System," details the need for defining resilience metrics that can drive planning and operational decisions.
- **Resiliency** : System's ability to keep providing energy to the critical load even with adverse events.

## IoTs

- Electric Grid transformation by advanced communication infrastructure and digital devices.
- IoTs record one of the fastest growth rates in computing technologies.
- Smart devices and appliances based on IoTs are replacing traditional distribution system loads and resources.

# Measuring and Enabling Cyber Resiliency

Information provided by Graph Theory

Usual Graph Theory Representation

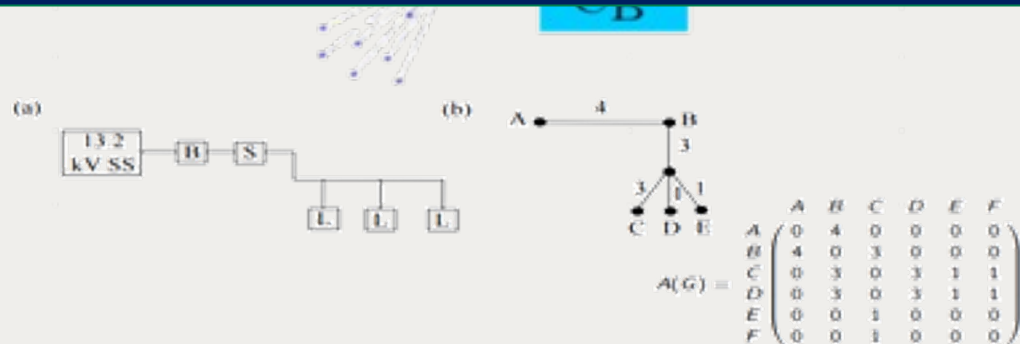
CANVASS: Cyber-Attacks and Network Vulnerability Analytics Software for Smart Distribution Grids

CyPhyR: Cyber-Physical Resiliency in Microgrid

CP-SAM: Cyber-Physical Security Assessment Metric

CP-TRAM: Cyber-Physical Transmission Resiliency Metric

- Infrastructure Parameter



Characteristic Path Length

$$\rho(i, j) = \frac{\rho(i, j) - \min_{i=1}^{\eta}(\rho(i, j))}{\max_{i=1}^{\eta}(\rho(i, j)) - \min_{i=1}^{\eta}(\rho(i, j))}$$

$$V = [A_{I_c} \ B_D \ C_{C_B} \ D_{I_C} \ E_{C_r} \ F_{\Delta\lambda} \ G_{\lambda_2}]^T$$

$$\mathfrak{R}_{\tau} = \sum_{j=1}^{\eta} V_j \rho(i, j)^{\tau}$$

# Power System IoTs

**According to the IEEE IoT Initiative: The definition often depends on the particular vision of the proponent entity with respect to the assets of IoT that are deemed more relevant.**

Devices with the following attributes are considered as IoTs-

- Connected to others and can exchange information.
- Has unique identifier like IP address.
- Connected to control devices, or a power source or load.
- Has computing capability.
- Has some autonomous activity.
- Plug & Play

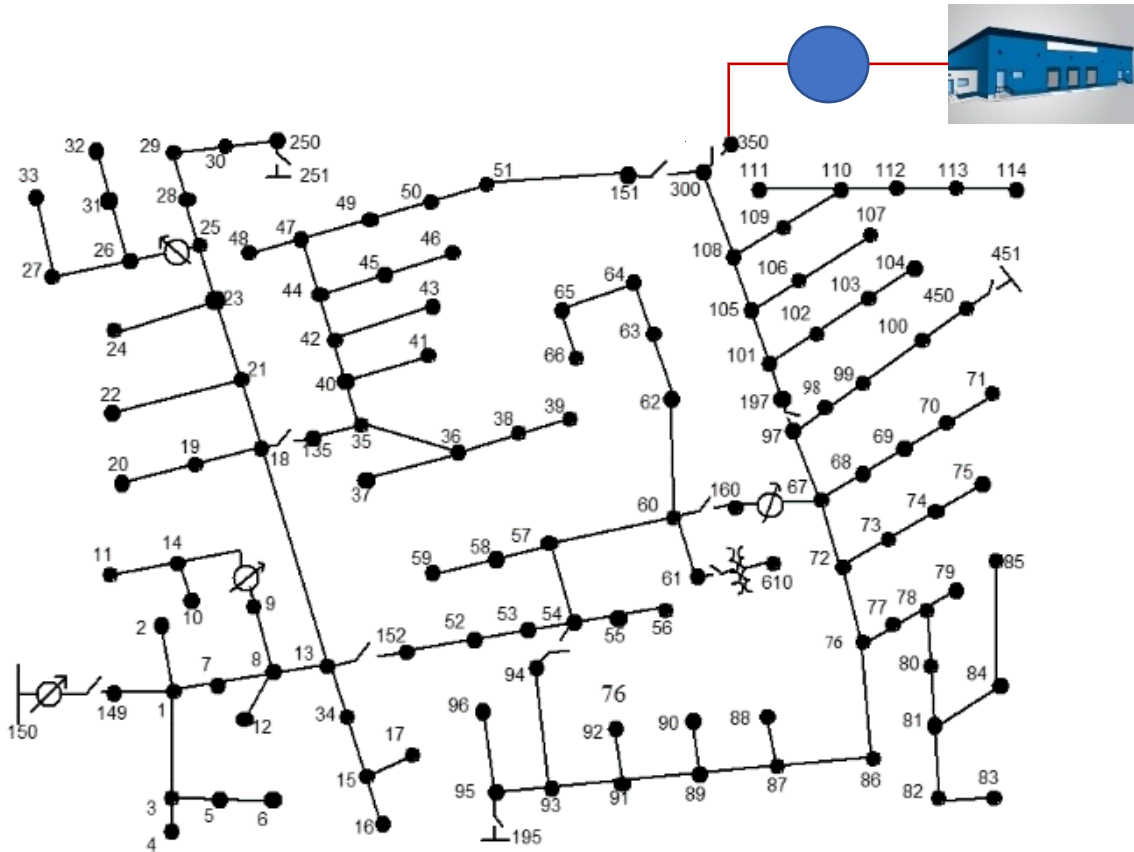
**Power System IoTs of Interest: Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) system; Solar PV; Battery Storage; and Electric Vehicle (EV)**

## **Challenges with IoTs:**

**IoT attributes need to be quantized for Resiliency Metric Formulation**

- IoTs data encapsulates very sensitive user information.
- Utilities or Microgrid operators do not have direct access to all the IoTs data.
- Limitation of available IoTs data.
- Data integrity and data privacy are big concerns when it comes to use of IoTs data

# Modeling and Analysis of Distribution system with IoTs



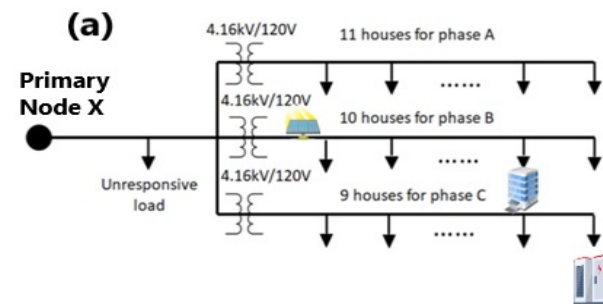
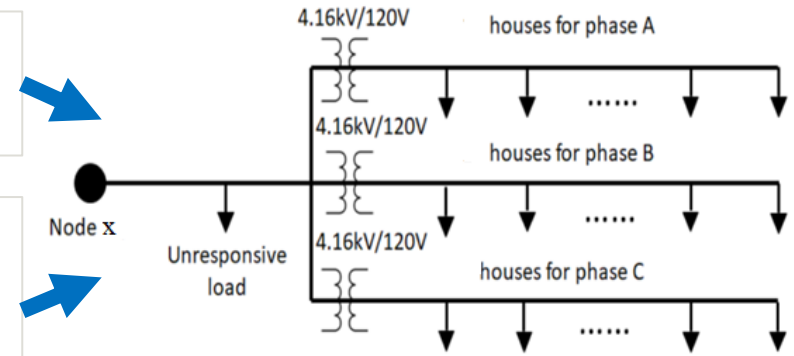
IoT – EV/HVAC/Critical loads

**Primary feeder** IEEE 123 test feeder system  
**Secondary feeder** mapped to each node with houses, PV, and battery

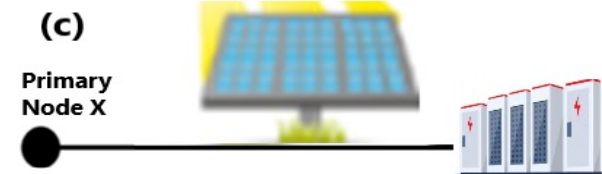
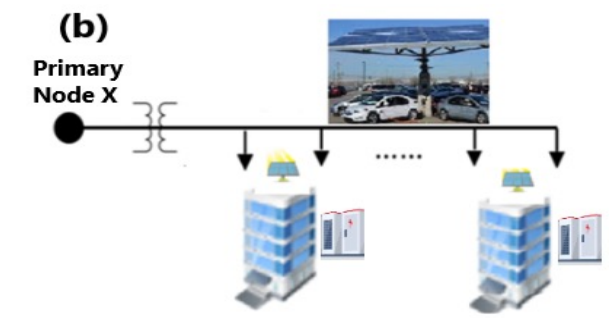
**IoT level –** 2 devices per house, can be expanded

**Physical Primary Node:** Primary Node with no digital component in the secondary level down stream.

**Cyber-Physical Primary Node without IoT:** Primary Node with no IoT devices in the secondary level down stream. Digital relays, CB, SW and any other non-IoT digital device



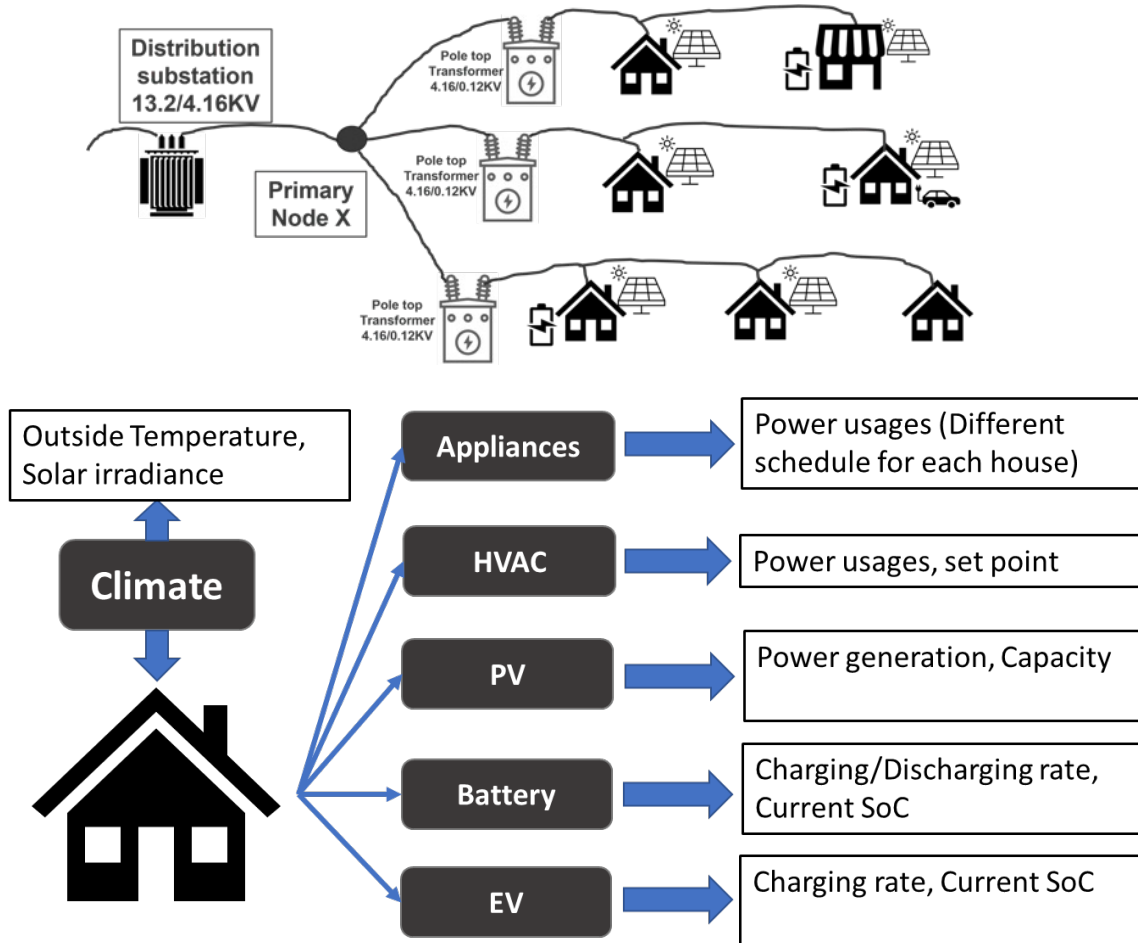
**Cyber-Physical Primary node with IoTs in the secondary level**



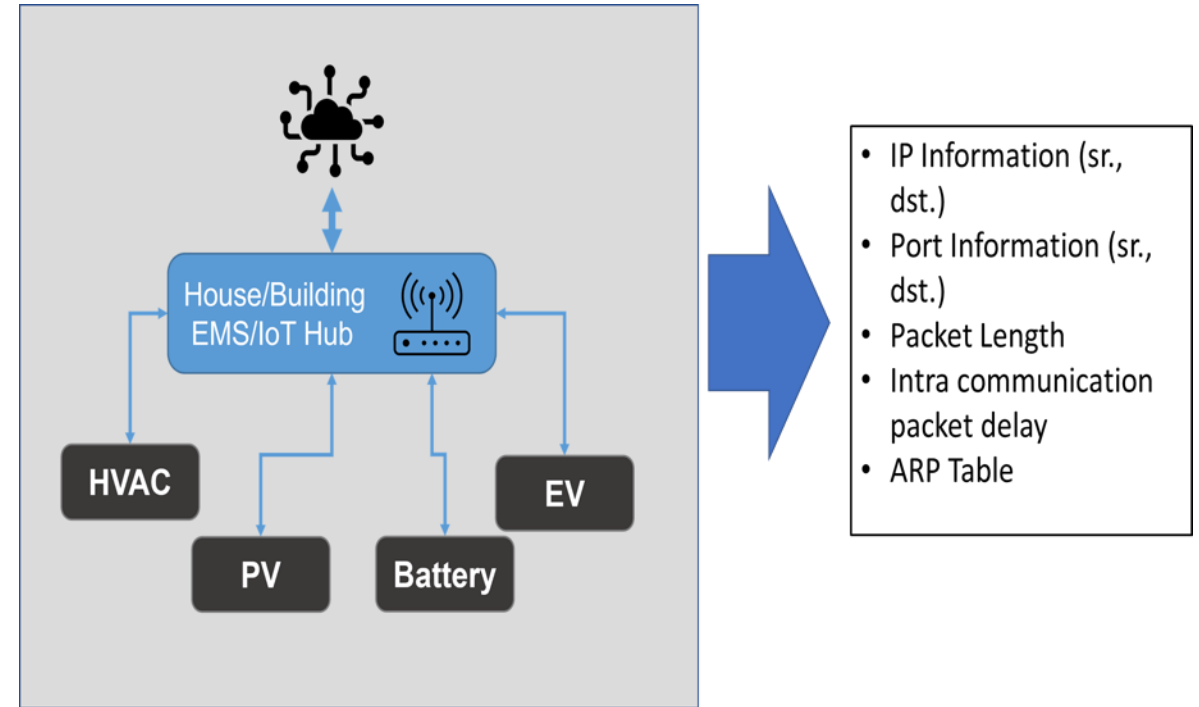
**Cyber-Physical Primary node with IoTs and no secondary level**

# Emulation of Power System IoTs

## Gridlab-D Model For Secondary Level

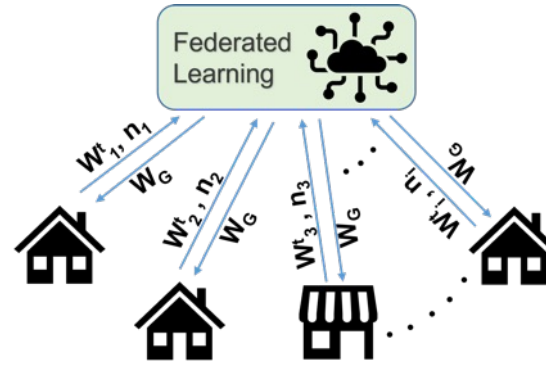
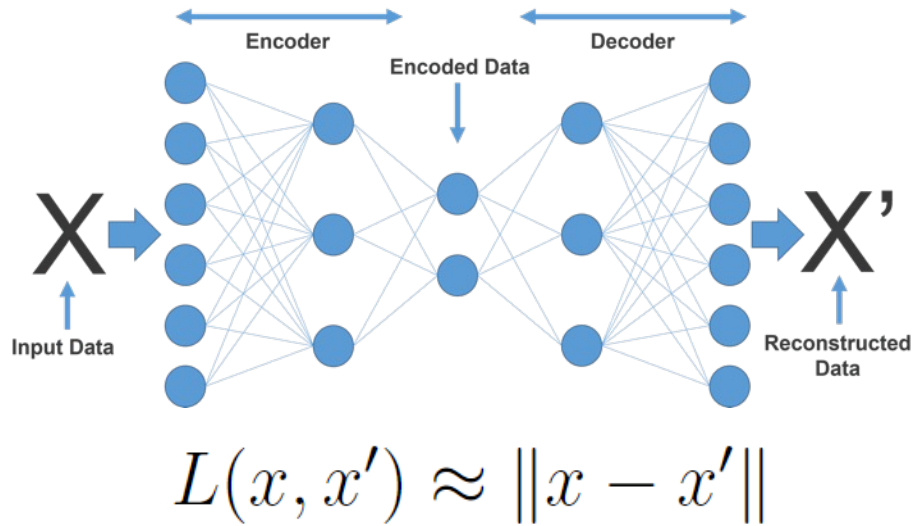


## Cyber Model of in-House IoT Network in Mininet

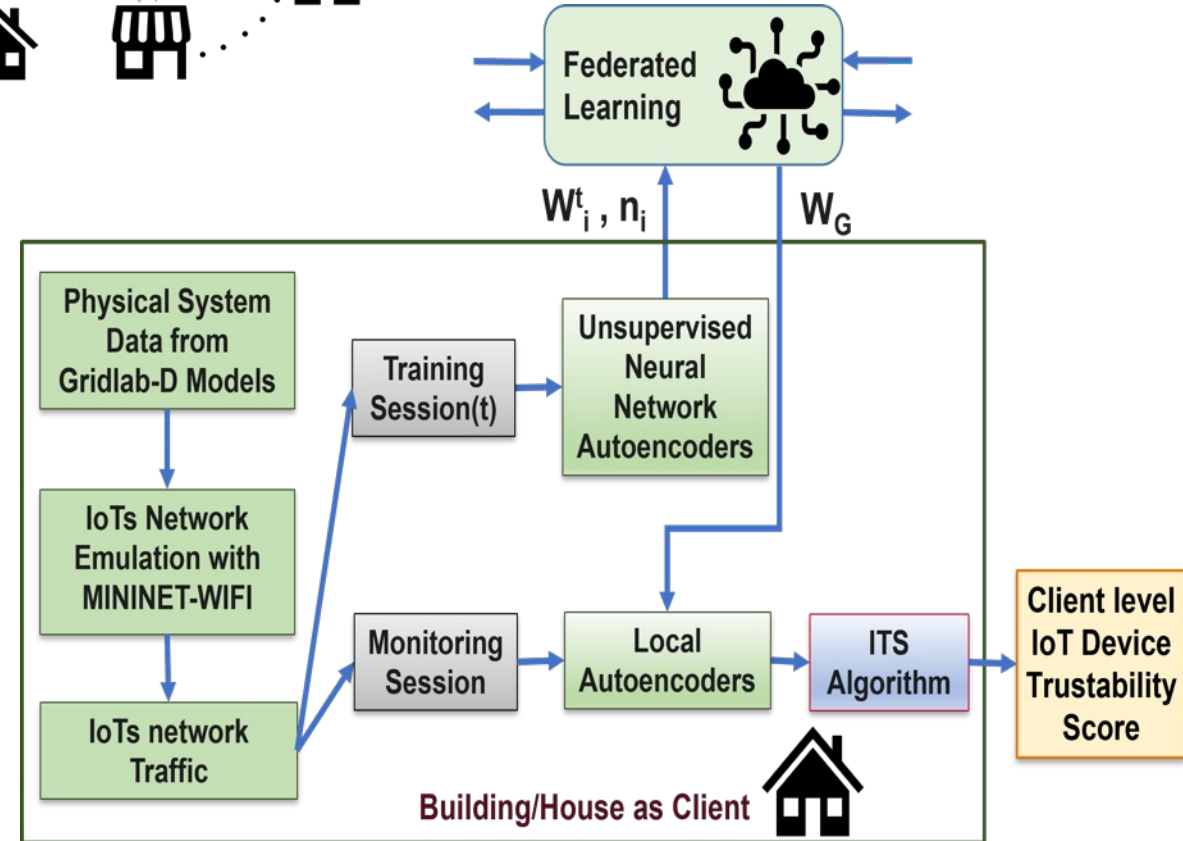


# IoT TRUSTABILITY SCORE (ITS)

Data Source	Features
IoTs network packet	Source/Destination IP, Source/Destination port, Packet length, Protocols, Intra-packet arrival time
HVAC	Timestamp, Load, Indoor temperature, outdoor temperature, Temperature setpoint, Indoor area, Building thermal insulation
PV	Timestamp, Power generation, Rating, Solar irradiance
Battery	Timestamp, Charging/Discharging rate, SoC, KW capacity
EV	Timestamp, Charging rate, SoC



$$W_G = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{n_i}{n} W_i^t$$



# IoT Trustability Score Algorithm

➤ Tolerance Value  $T_{err}$  for RE

➤ If  $RE > T_{err}$   
Anomalous Data Point (ADP) = Data Point (DP)

➤ Non-Anomaly Ratio (NAR)

$$NAR = 1 - \frac{\text{Total ADP number over } \Delta t}{\text{Total DP number over } \Delta t}$$

➤ Cumulative Non-Anomaly Ratio (CNAR)

$$CNAR_t = \sum_{j=1}^{\frac{T}{\Delta t}} \frac{T}{j\Delta t} NAR_{t-j\Delta t}$$

$$ITS_t = w_t \times NAR_t + w_{t-} \times \frac{CNAR_t}{CNAR_{max}}$$

where,

$$w_t \geq w_{t-} \quad \& \quad w_t + w_{t-} = 1$$

$$ITS = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^M ITS_{t,i}}{M}$$



# Primary Level Node Resiliency Metric Formulation

FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR RESILIENCY CALCULATION OF EACH TYPE OF CONFIGURATION.

Primary node configuration	Factors
Physical Primary Node	Available generation Amount of critical load Connectivity redundancy
Cyber-Physical Primary Node without IoT	Available generation Amount of critical load Connectivity redundancy Device and communication vulnerabilities
Cyber-Physical Primary Node with IoT (Type-A, B, C)	Available generation Amount of critical load Connectivity redundancy Device and communication vulnerabilities IoT Device Trustability Score

## Concerns related to Weight Assignment:

- No definite methods to evaluate the impact of different factors in the resiliency of cyber-physical power systems.
- Requires expertise decisions from different domains such as power systems, cyber-physical systems, and cyber system experts.
- Handle ambiguities and uncertainties in the existing information.

## Fuzzy Analytic Hierarchy Process (Fuzzy AHP):

- Fuzzy AHP comes from fuzzy multiple-criteria decision-making (MCDM).
- Can incorporate the impreciseness of human judgment raised due to the subjective or qualitative nature of the criteria that can not be represented by exact numbers.
- Can controls the uncertainty and vagueness in the decision makers' opinions through fuzzy set theory.

# Primary Level Node Resiliency Metric Formulation

## Fuzzification of factors' comparison:

LINGUISTIC PREFERENCES WITH SCALE FOR PAIRWISE COMPARISON [18], [20]

Linguistic preferences	Saaty's Scale	Saaty's Reciprocal Scale	Triangular Fuzzy Scale	Triangular Fuzzy Reciprocal Scale
Equally strong	1	1	(1, 1, 1)	(1, 1, 1)
Moderately strong	3	1/3	(2, 3, 4)	(1/4, 1/3, 1/2)
Strong	5	1/5	(4, 5, 6)	(1/6, 1/5, 1/4)
Very strong	7	1/7	(6, 7, 8)	(1/8, 1/7, 1/6)
Extremely strong	9	1/9	(9, 9, 9)	(1/9, 1/9, 1/9)
Intermediate values	2, 4, 6, 8	1/2, 1/4, 1/6, 1/8	(1, 2, 3), (3, 4, 5), (5, 6, 7), (7, 8, 9)	(1/3, 1/2, 1), (1/5, 1/4, 1/3), (1/7, 1/6, 1/5), (1/9, 1/8, 1/7)

For n number of factors, fuzzy pairwise comparison matrix

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} (1, 1, 1) & R_{12} & \cdots & R_{1n} \\ R_{21} & (1, 1, 1) & \cdots & R_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ R_{n1} & R_{n2} & \cdots & (1, 1, 1) \end{bmatrix}$$

Fuzzy geometric mean

$$r_i = (R_{i1} \times R_{i2} \times \dots \times R_{in})^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

Fuzzy weight

$$w_i = r_i \times (r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_n)^{-1}$$

Defuzzification using CoA

$$w_i = \frac{l_i + m_i + u_i}{3}$$

Final weight

$$W_i = \frac{w_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i}$$

Primary level Node Resiliency(PNR)

$$PNR = \prod_{i=1}^{n_c} (F_i)^{W_i}$$

## Introduction of Multiple Experts/Operators:

Let there be K number of experts  $\rightarrow R_k = (l_k, m_k, u_k), k = 1, 2, \dots, K$

Aggregated fuzzy ratings  $\rightarrow R = (l, m, u)$

$$l = \min_k l_k$$

$$m = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K m_k$$

$$u = \max_k u_k$$

# Distribution System Resiliency Metric

## Factors:

- 1) Primary Node Level Resiliency: Primary node level resiliency(PNR) considers all the attributes considering the secondary level configuration of a primary node.
- 2) Available power outflow: Available power outflow (APO) from primary node is the difference between the available power from different generation and storage resources, and the total amount of critical load presented in the downstream of that primary node.
- 3) Primary node centrality: Primary node centrality (PNC) provides the importance of a primary level node in the whole distribution in terms of connectivity using the concept of leverage centrality. It is very effective compared to other centralities in determining the importance of any node in a network where network flow can happen in any direction rather than only along the shortest path or in a serial fashion.

$$PNC_i = \frac{d_i}{\sum_{j \in N_i} d_j}$$

- 4) Device and communication vulnerabilities in Primary Network: ALL the device and communication vulnerabilities presented in the Primary (DCVP) level of a distribution system is considered here.

## Weight Assign and Aggregation:

- Weight distribution problem is formulized as a Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) problem.
- The concept from "Egoist's dilemma: a DEA game" is used to determine the weights so that each node will have the best set of weights so that they can contribute to the maximum possible value.

$$\max_{w^p} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m w_i^p f_{ip}}{\sum_{i=1}^m w_i^p \sum_{j=1}^n (f_{ij})}$$
$$s.t. \quad w_i^k \geq w_i^{ex}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^m w_i^k = 1$$

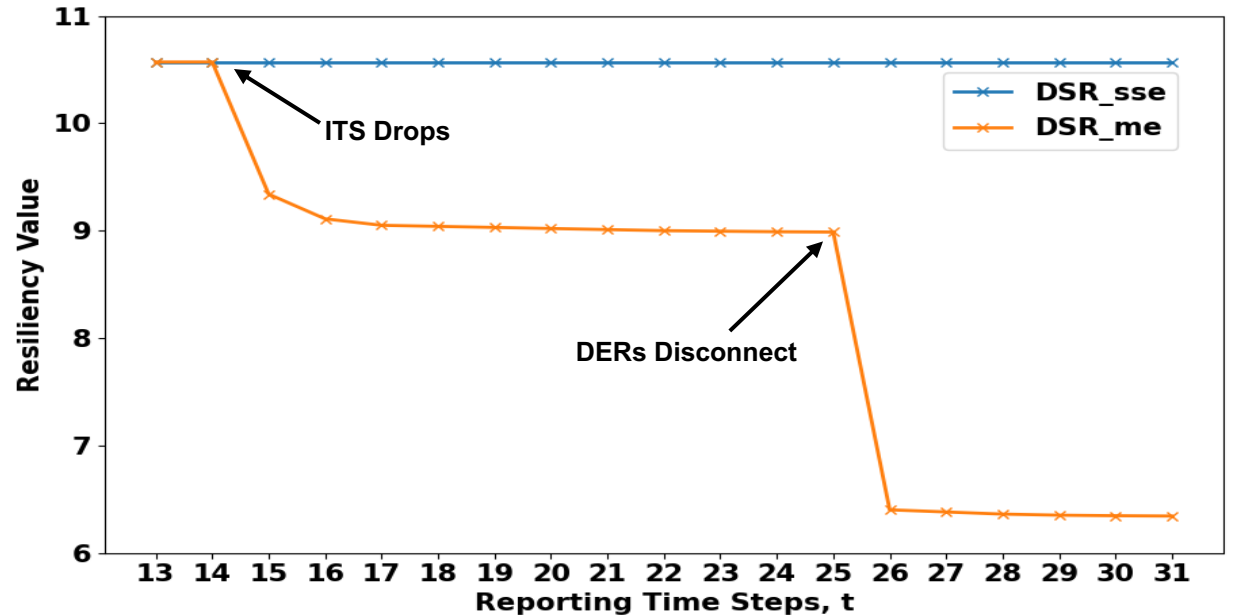
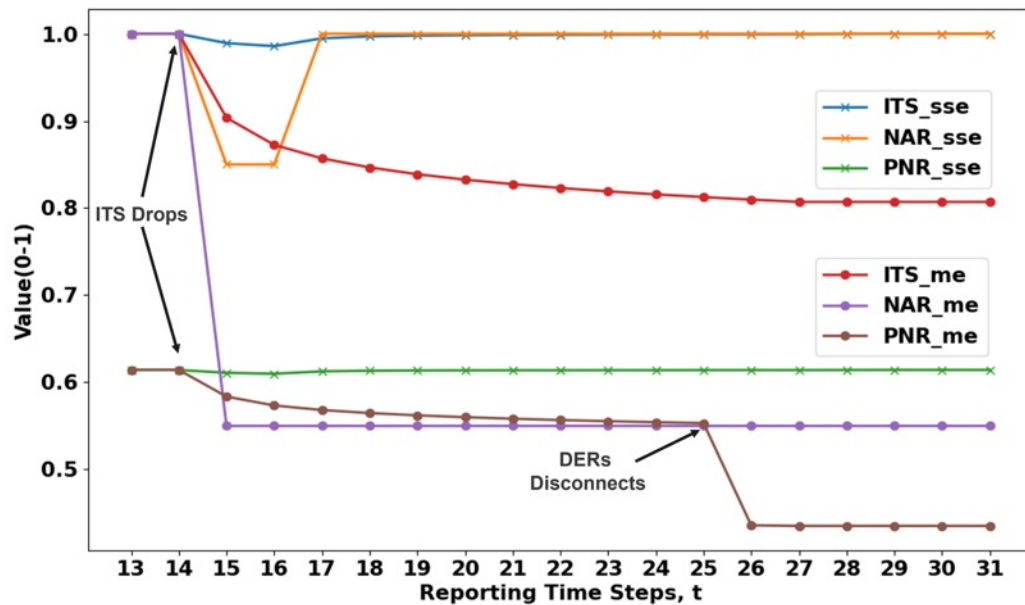
## Distribution System level Resiliency:

$$DSR = \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \prod_{i=1}^m (f_{ij})^{w_i^j} \right)$$

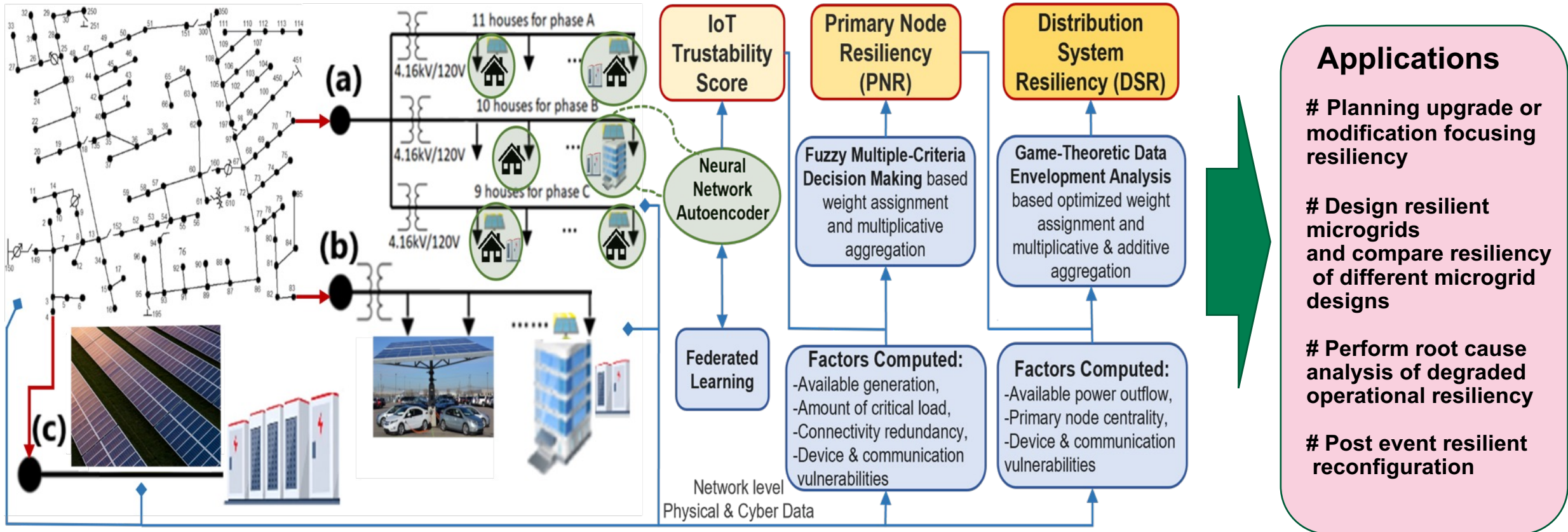
# Case Studies & Results

Short Suspicious Event (sse): solar PV of one house from the primary node accidentally got disconnected from its smart IoT-based inverter during maintenance of the PV panel.

Malicious Event (me): two houses and the commercial building use smart IoT-based inverters from the same manufacturer for their solar PV and battery, and attackers have discovered vulnerabilities of the inverters of that manufacturer.



# Resiliency Metrics and it's Usages

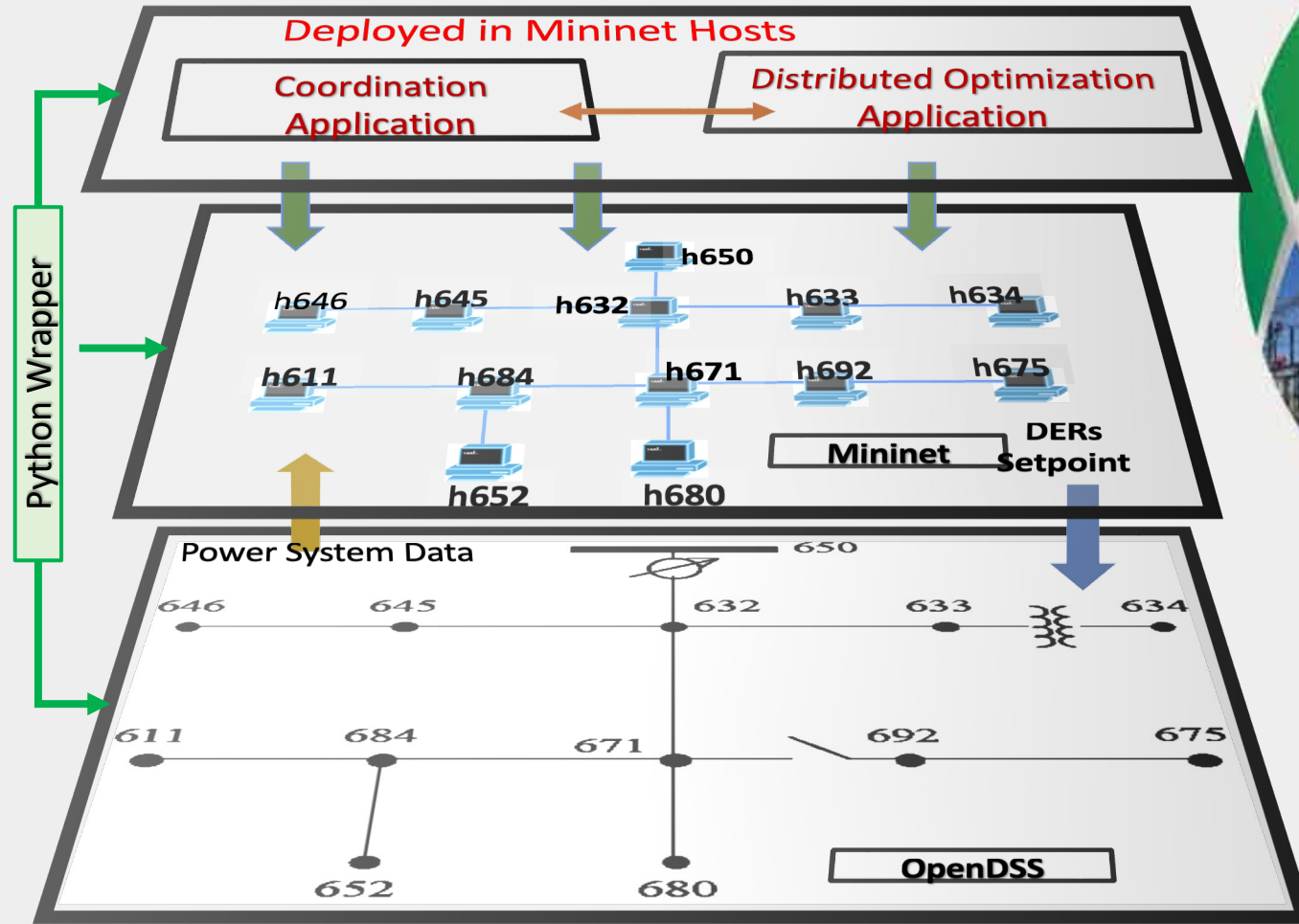


# Testbed

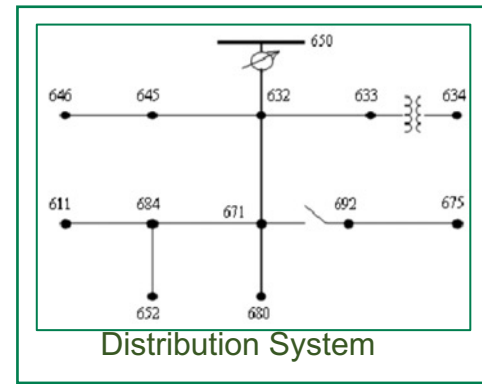
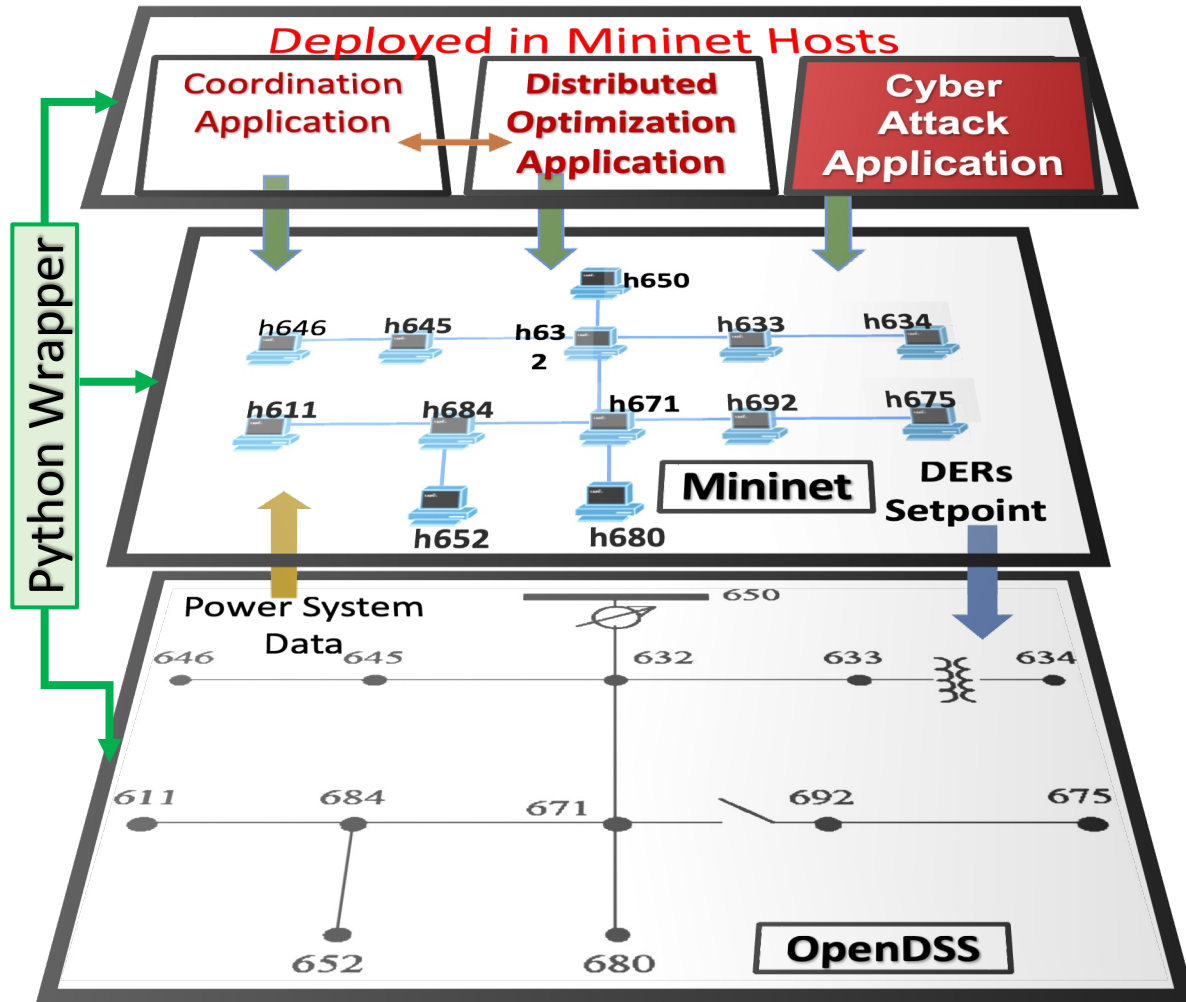
# 3

Testbed for Training and Validation

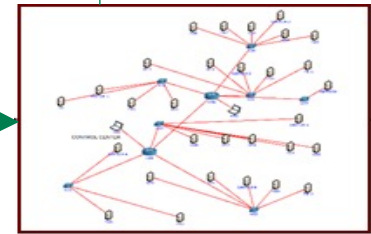
Validate algorithms and tools for deployment



# CYBER-POWER TESTBED



Sensors  
Controllers



Distribution System  
Communication Model

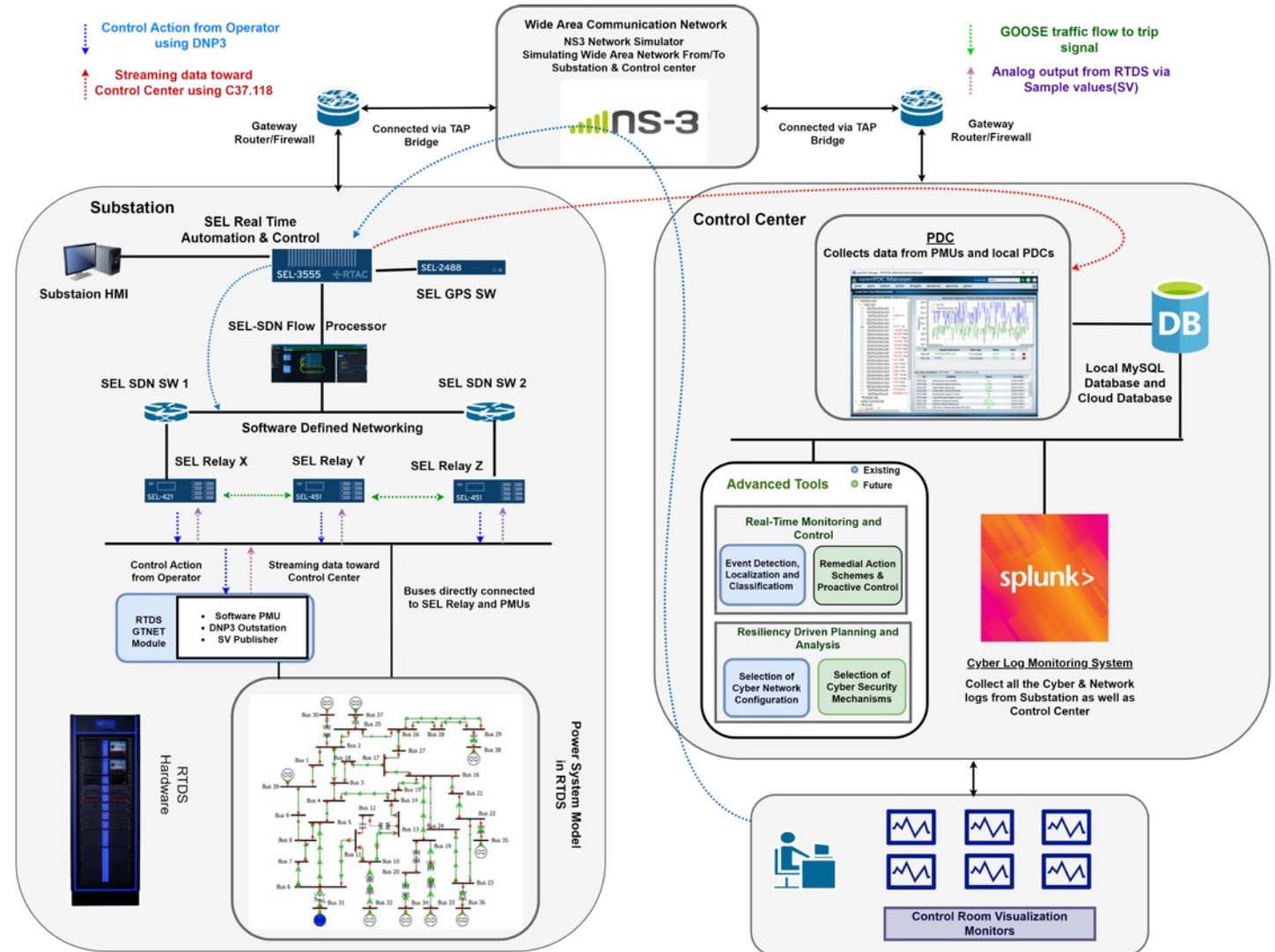
Testbed 2: Electromagnetic Real Time Simulator with HIL

Testbed 1: Electromechanical Simulator

# Real-Time Cyber-Power-HUMAN Testbed

## Developed Real-Time Cyber-Power Testbed

- Physical power system layer
- Substation automation and protection Layer
- Wide area communication network layer
- Control center layer
- Visualization and monitoring layer
- Human operator layer





# DIGITAL TWIN

## CYBER-PHYSICAL POWER SYSTEM

### Control/ Operation Center



Energy Control Center



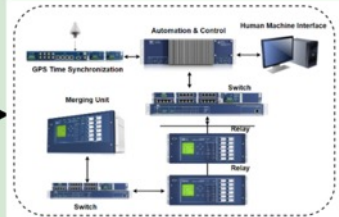
Network Control/Security Operation Center

Situational awareness and decision support

### Real-World



Real Power System



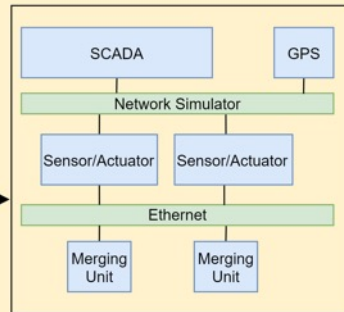
Real Cyber System

Secure link with real-time measurement and data exchange

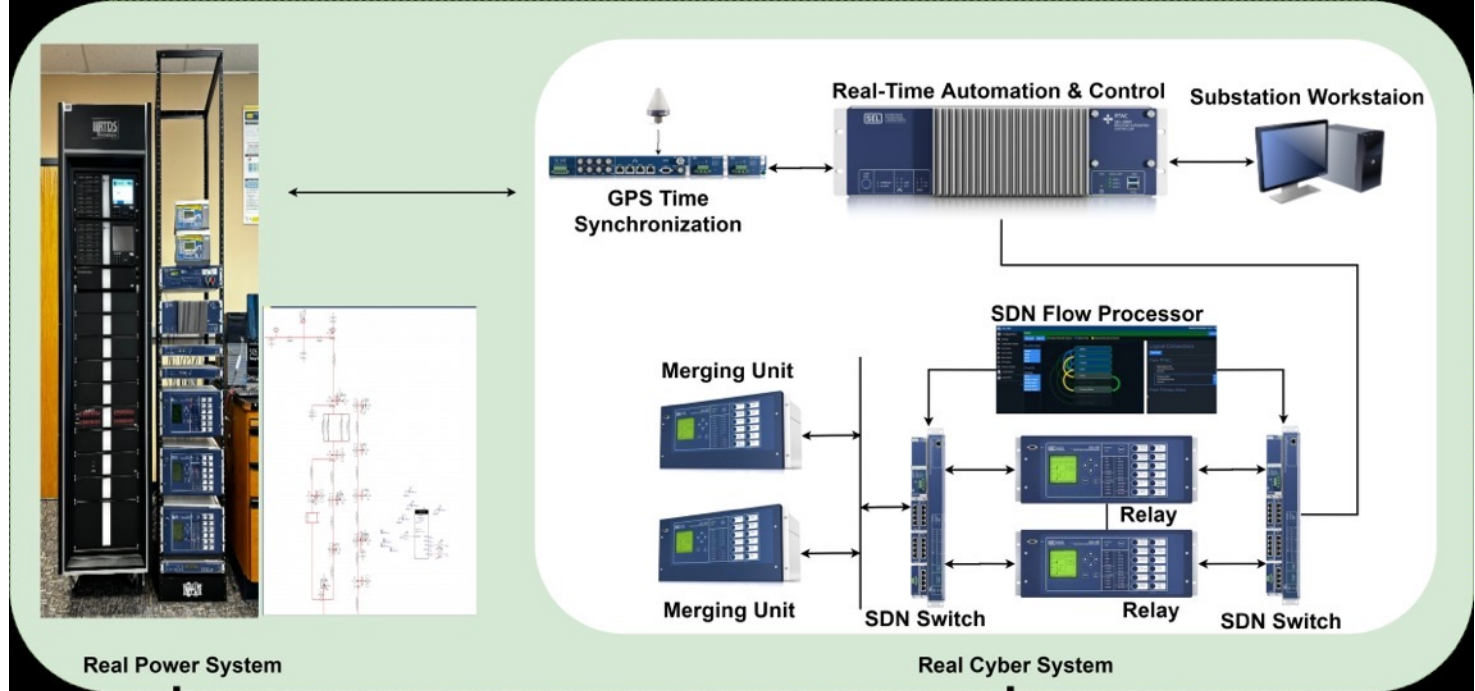
### Digital Twin



Power System Modeling with simulated / emulated or Hardware-in-the-Loop



Simulated/ Emulated or Hardware-in-the-loop Cyber System

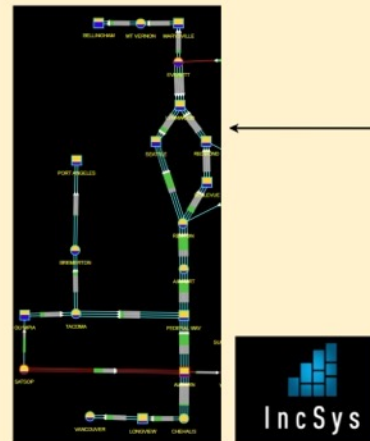


Real Power System

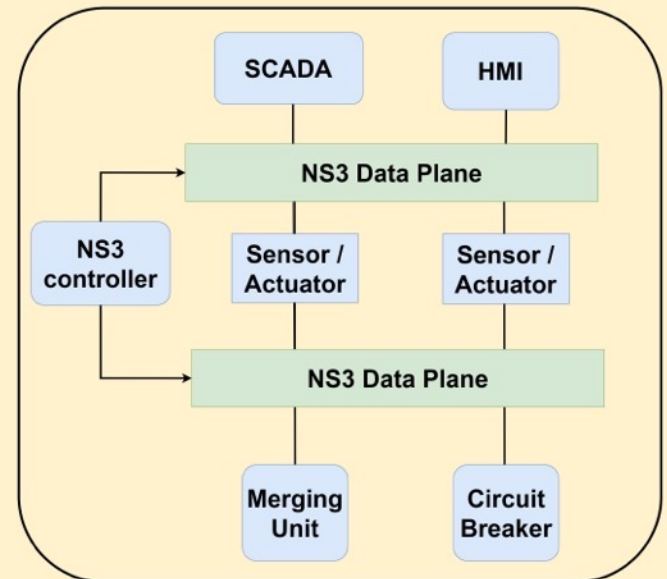
Real Cyber System

Python API

### Digital Twin

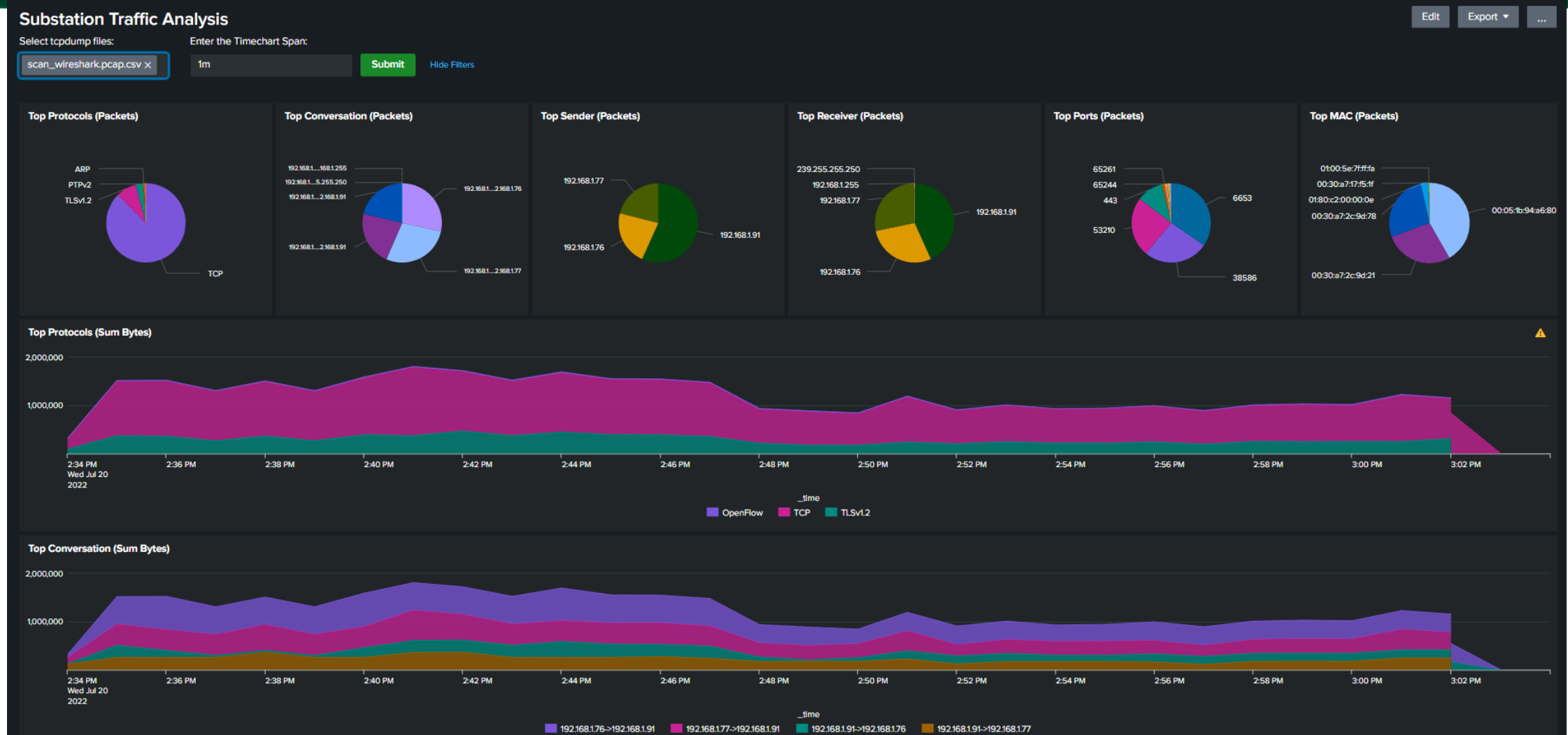


Power System Model



Simulated/ Emulated or Hardware-in-the-loop Cyber System

# SG-REAL CYBER LOG MONITORING SYSTEM



Assisting operator to investigate Network anomaly using dashboard and data logging

# Human operator layer - Eye Glass sensors

- Gaze mapping → maps dynamic eye tracking data onto a static 'reference' image of the environment.
- Heatmaps → visualization that summarizes which objects in a scene were looked at most by a group of respondents.
- AOI editor → derive eye tracking metrics related to objects or other defined parts of the stimulus.



# Summary



## Takeaway

Electric grid is cyber-physical-human network and going through major transformation

Introduction of IoTs based DERs, loads, and other devices leads to better and efficient operation with flexibility but also brings vulnerabilities.

Massive sensor data provides opportunity for transformative approach

ITS, PNR and DSR metrics offer visibility to the edge of the system.

Proposed metrics are scalable and capable to facilitate resiliency based monitoring and operation for any advanced microgrid/distribution system.

These metrics can be used to find out weaknesses for a given microgrid configuration and improvement actions can be prioritized based on the scores.

Testbed are important for simulated data and validating decision support





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