



DER Security Considerations to Enable Grid Services

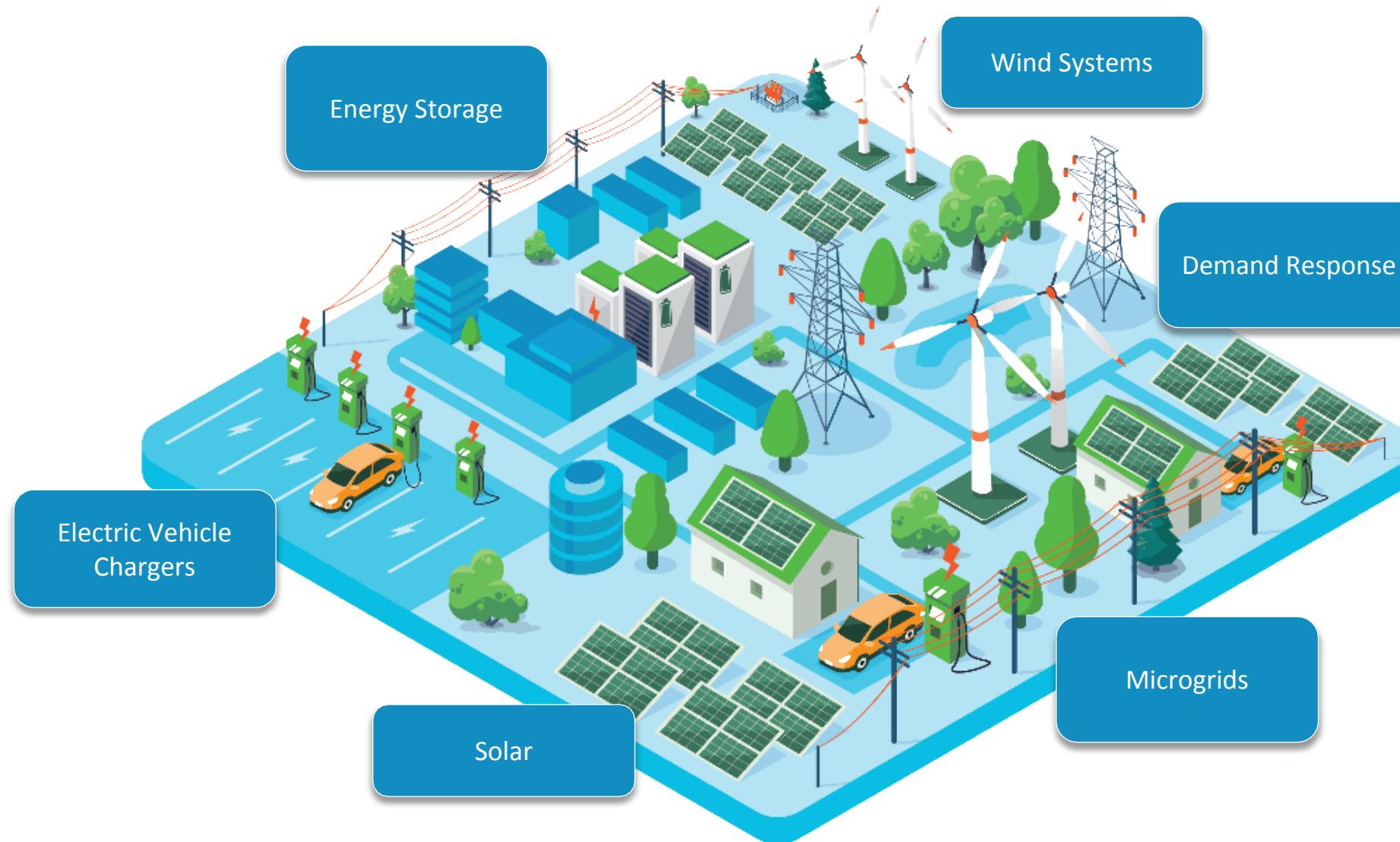
Jay Johnson
Sandia National Laboratories

Session: From Smart Grid to Energy Internet -
Recent Advances in Security and Resilience

Thursday, July 21, 2022

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Grid-Service Participants in the Future Grid



Utility-Interactive Converters are Smart Grid Building Blocks

Advanced, **interoperable, grid-support functions** for solar, energy storage, wind, and other DER assets **are the building blocks** for an efficient, **optimized power system** which supports high penetrations of renewable energy.

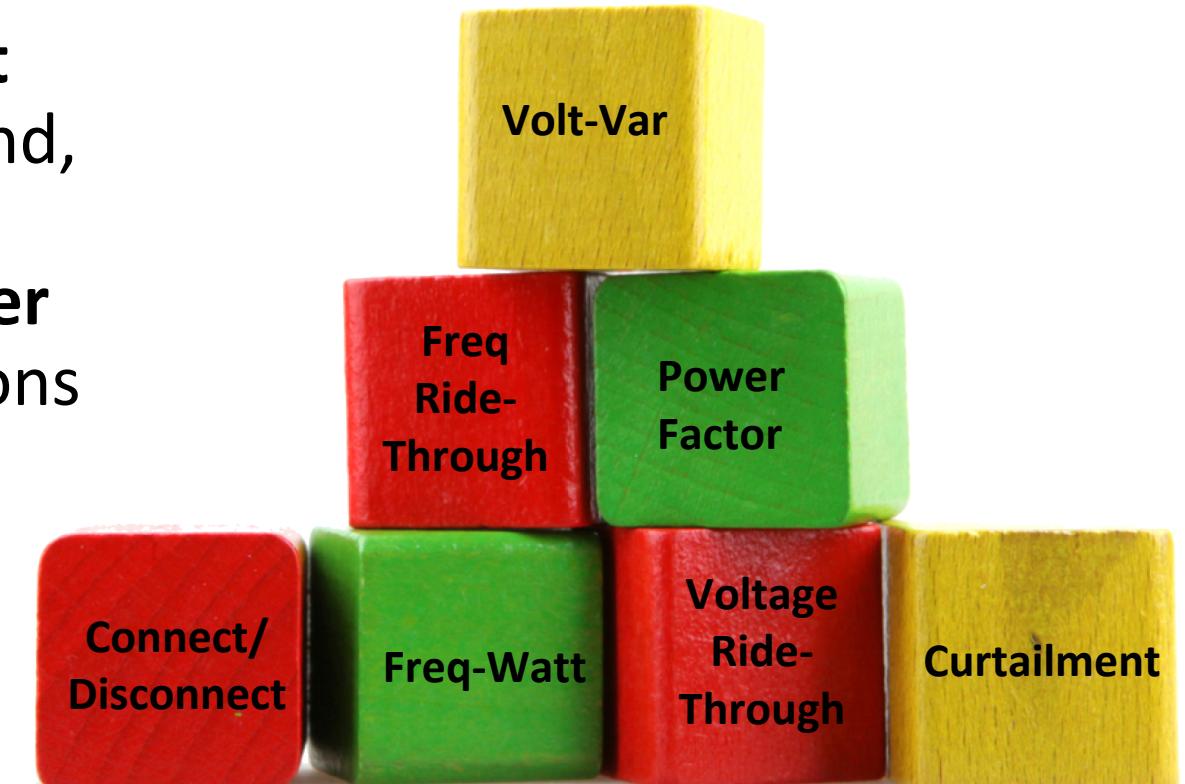
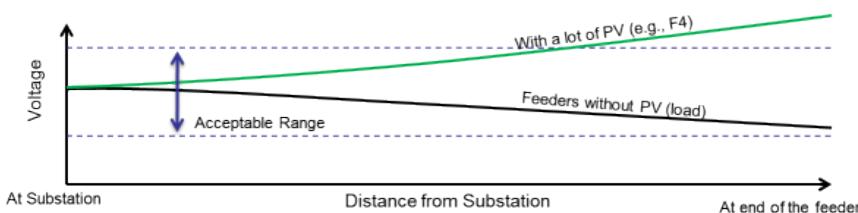


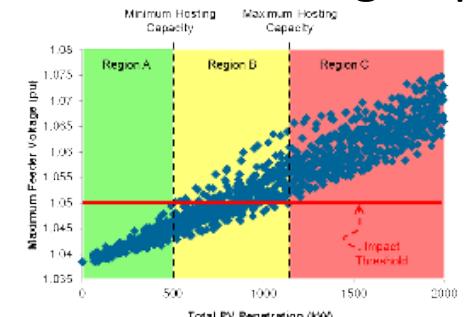
Image: BetaNews

Grid-support functions = visibility and control

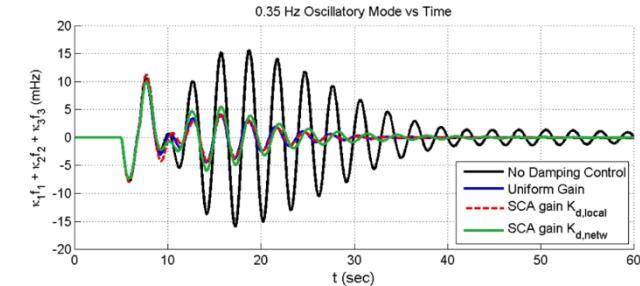
Distribution Voltage Regulation¹



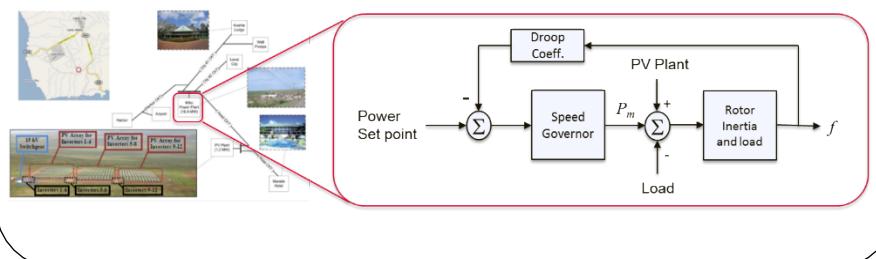
Feeder Hosting Capacity²



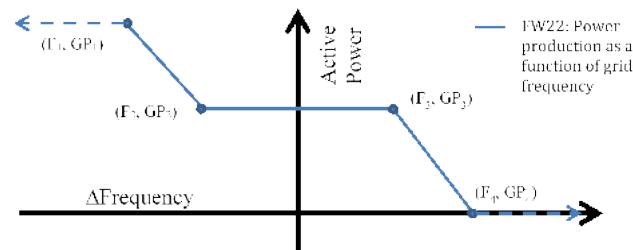
Wide-Area Damping³



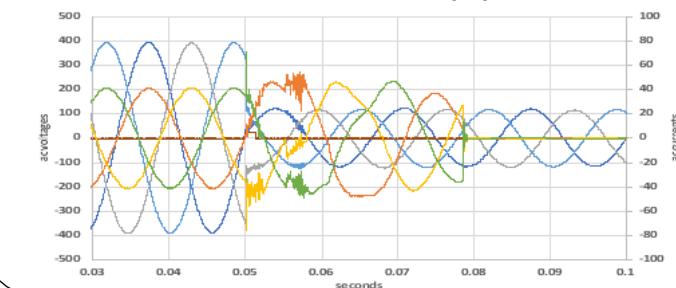
Frequency Control⁴



Ancillary Reserves⁵



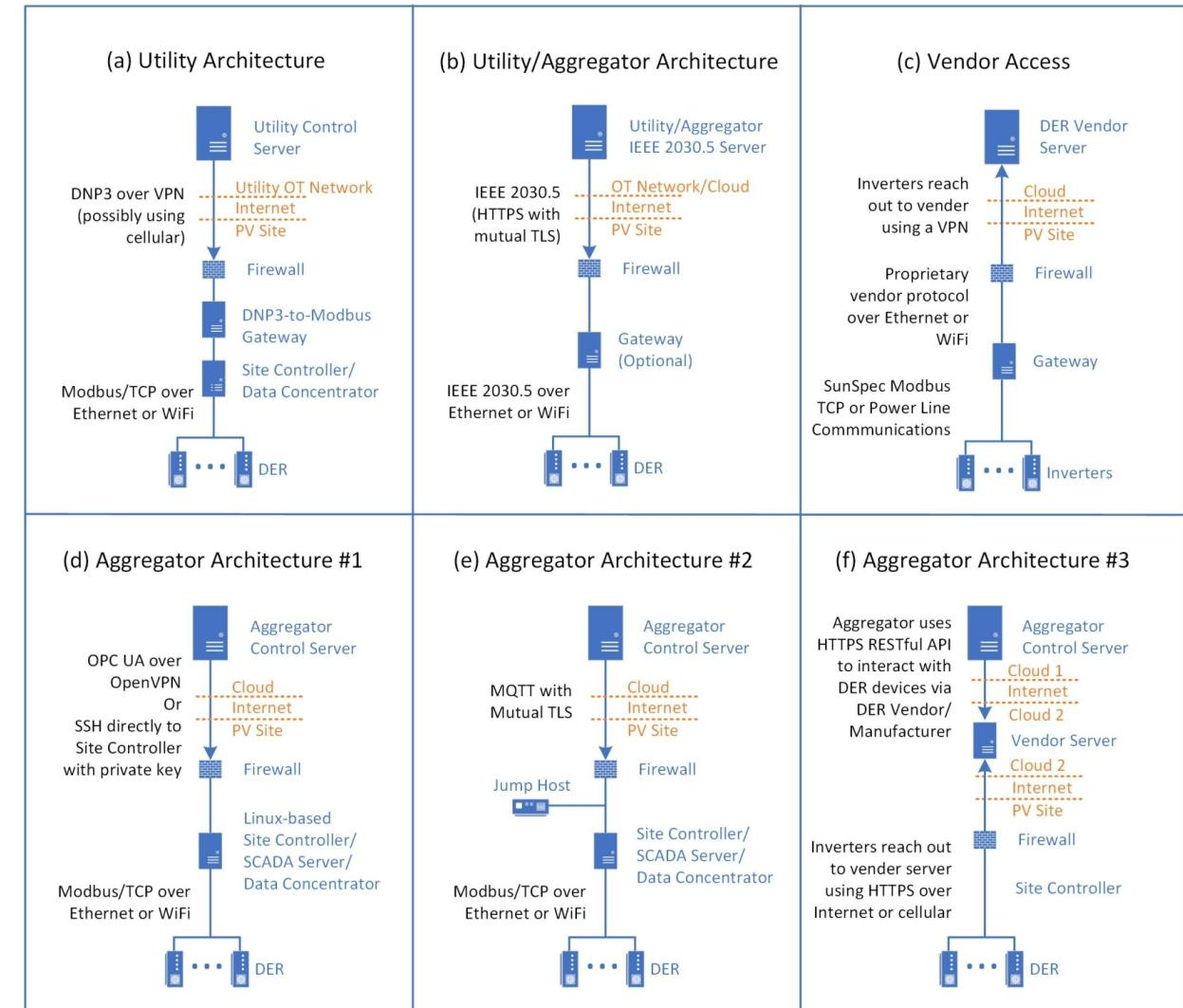
Protection Support⁶



1. J. Seuss, M.J. Reno, R.J. Broderick, R.G. Harley, "Evaluation of reactive power control capabilities of residential PV in an unbalanced distribution feeder," 2014 PVSC, pp. 2094-2099, 8-13 June 2014.
2. M. Rylander J. Smith, "Stochastic Analysis to Determine Feeder Hosting Capacity for Distributed Solar PV," Report 1026640, 31 Dec 2012.
3. J. Neely, J. Johnson, R. Bryne, R. T. Elliott, Structured optimization for parameter selection of frequency-watt grid support functions for wide-area damping, *DER Journal*, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 69-94, 2015.
4. J. Neely, S. Gonzalez, J. Delhotal, J. Johnson, M. Lave, Evaluation of PV Frequency-Watt Function for Fast Frequency Reserves, *IEEE Applied Power Electronics Conference (APEC)*, Long Beach, CA, March 20-24, 2016.
5. J. Johnson, J. Neely, J. Delhotal, M. Lave, "Photovoltaic Frequency-Watt Curve Design for Frequency Regulation and Fast Contingency Reserves," *IEEE Journal of Photovoltaics*, vol. 6, no. 6, pp. 1611-1618, Nov. 2016.
6. S. Gonzalez, N. Gurule, M. J. Reno, J. Johnson, Fault Current Experimental Results of Photovoltaic Inverters Operating with Grid-Support Functionality, *7th World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion (WCPEC-7)*, Waikoloa, HI, 10-15 Jun 2018 (submitted).

Distributed Energy Cybersecurity

- Challenge:** The power system is rapidly evolving with cloud and internet-connected distributed energy resources (DER)
 - Cybersecurity is paramount for national energy infrastructure.
- Unique risks and hurdles:
 - Customer-owned and 3rd-party operated assets in a **non-federated environment**
 - Rapidly evolving environment with unclear responsibilities**
- DER cybersecurity is inherently different than ‘business-as-usual’ because:
 - DER often connected to grid operators via **public internet or cellular networks**
 - DER typically have **limited processing capabilities**, so they often do not support many cipher suites or host-based intrusion detection systems (HIDS)



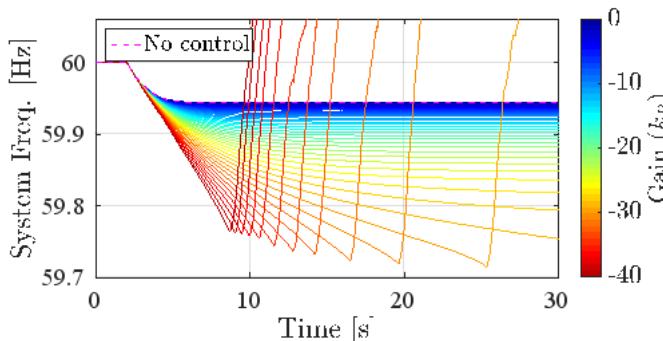
DER Communication Options

What could possibly go wrong?

Frequency Droop

$$\Delta P_j = \frac{f_{ref} - f_{eq}}{R} = k_R(f_{ref} - f_{eq})$$

$$\Delta P_j^{attack} = -\frac{f_{ref} - f_{eq}}{R} = -k_R(f_{ref} - f_{eq})$$

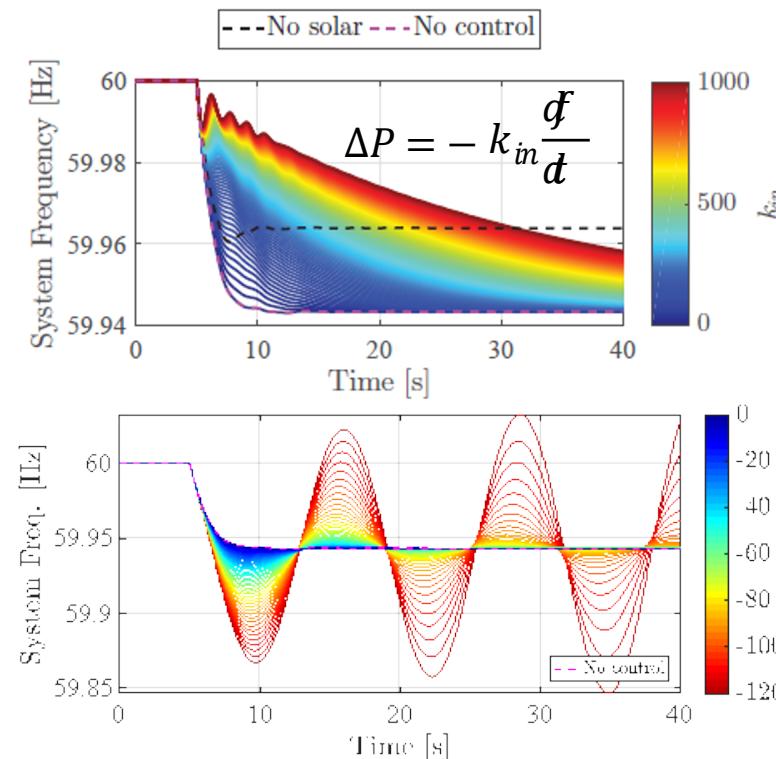


Attack: frequency-watt function is inverted to inject power at high frequency and absorb power at low frequency.

Result: Lower frequency nadirs, possibly leading to load shedding.

$k_R < -25$ causes loss of synchronism.

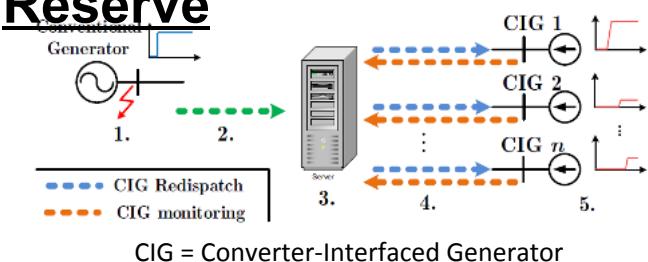
Synthetic Inertia



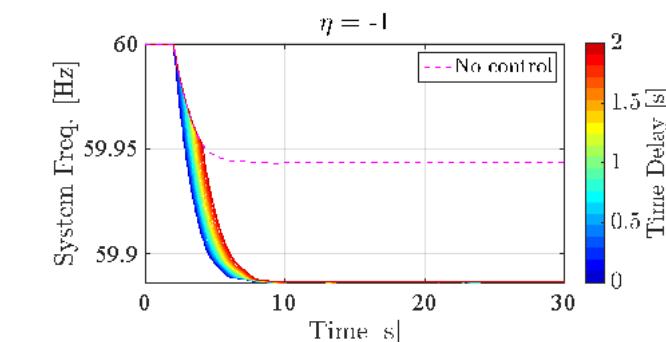
Attack: reverse sign on inertial gain to create positive feedback.

Result: Nadir is reduced and oscillatory behavior in the power system is created, leading to instability and possible blackouts.

Fast Acting Imbalance Reserve



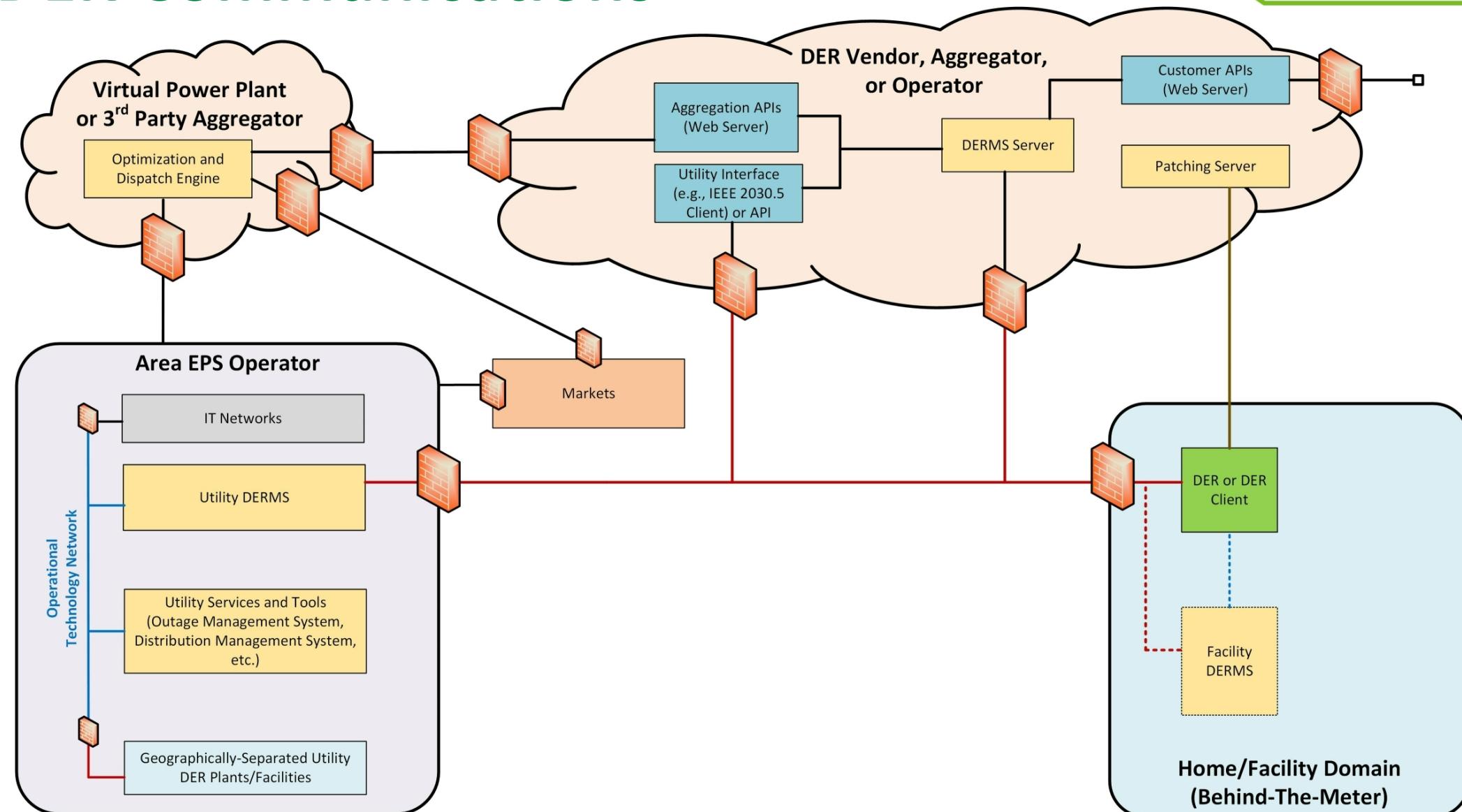
$$\Delta P_i = K_{FF}^i P_{imbal} \quad K_{FF}^i = \eta \frac{P_i}{P_{avail}}$$



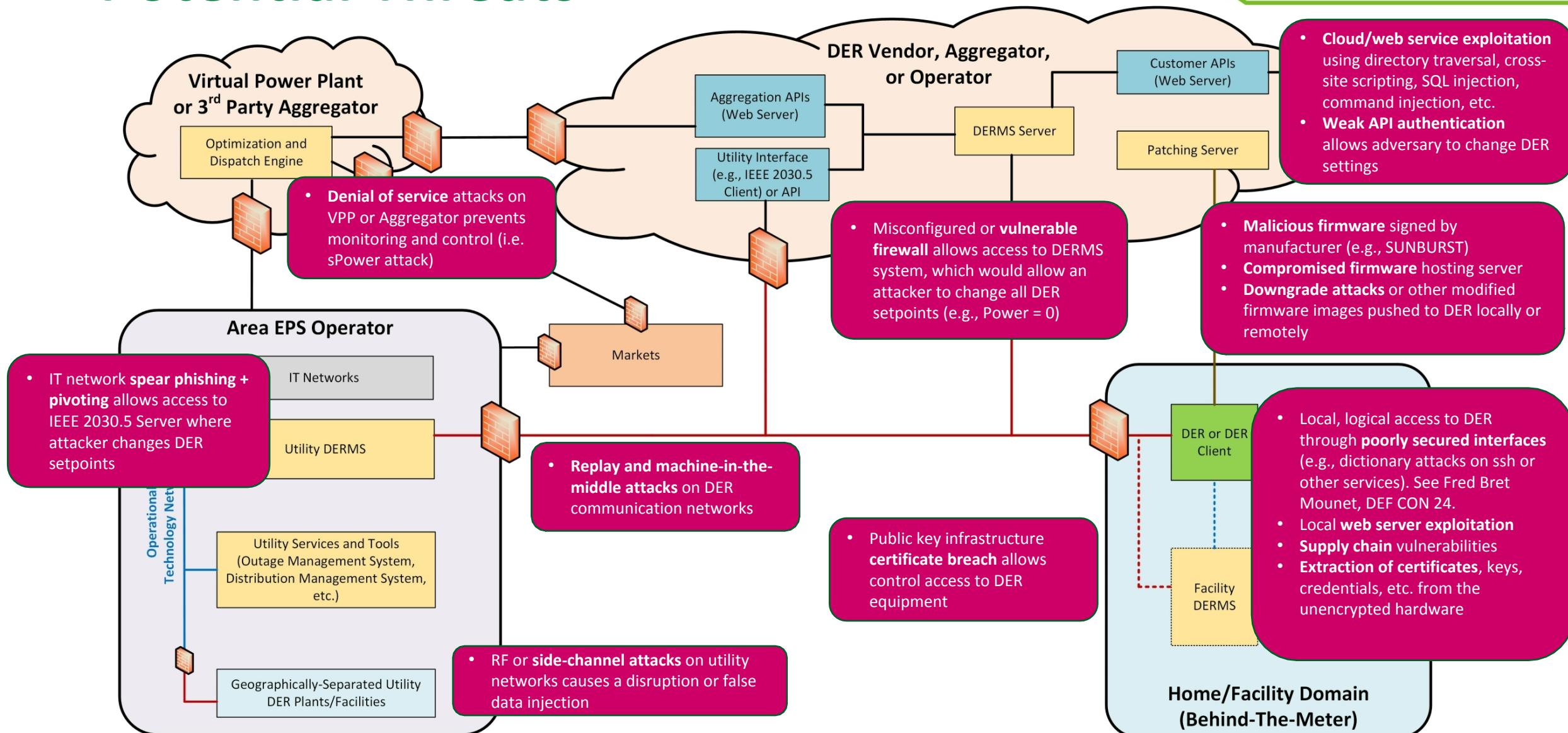
Attack: imbalance power compensation level, η , is set to reduce the power by the magnitude of the imbalance. In an attack: $\eta = -1$.

Result: Imbalance is worsened, possibly leading to a blackout.

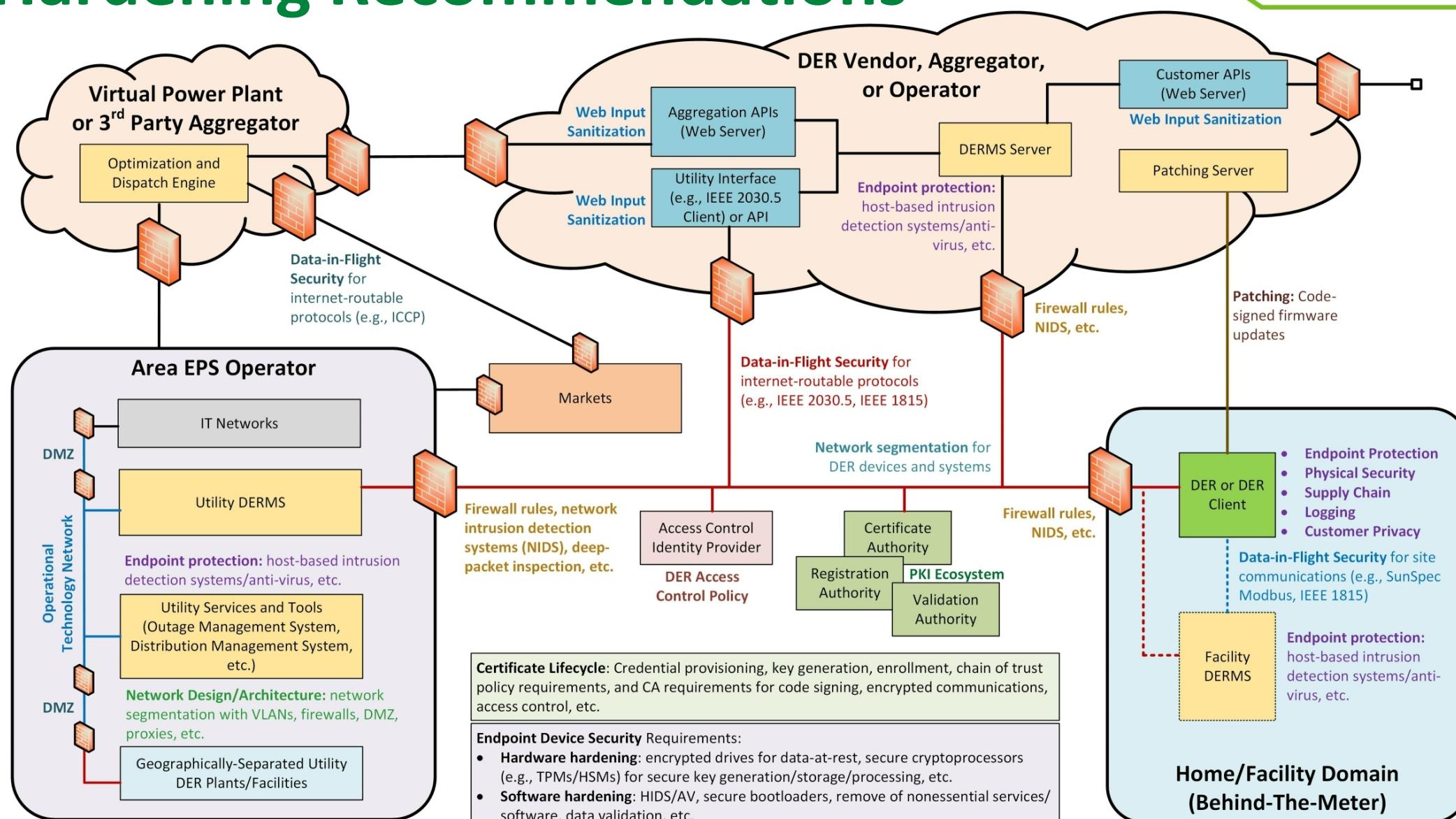
DER Communications



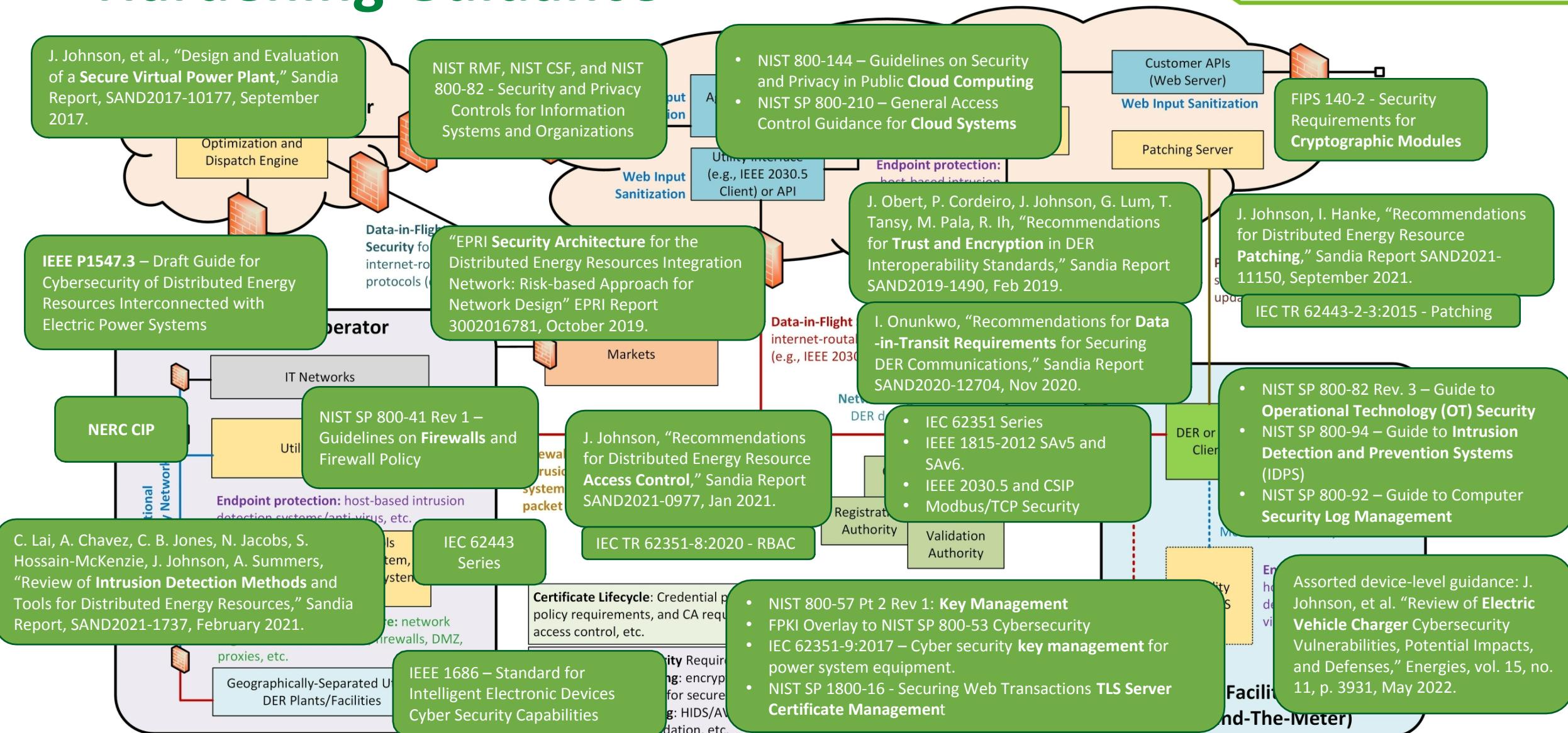
Potential Threats



Hardening Recommendations



Hardening Guidance



Join the conversation!

SunSpec/Sandia DER Cybersecurity

Workgroup was founded in Aug 2017

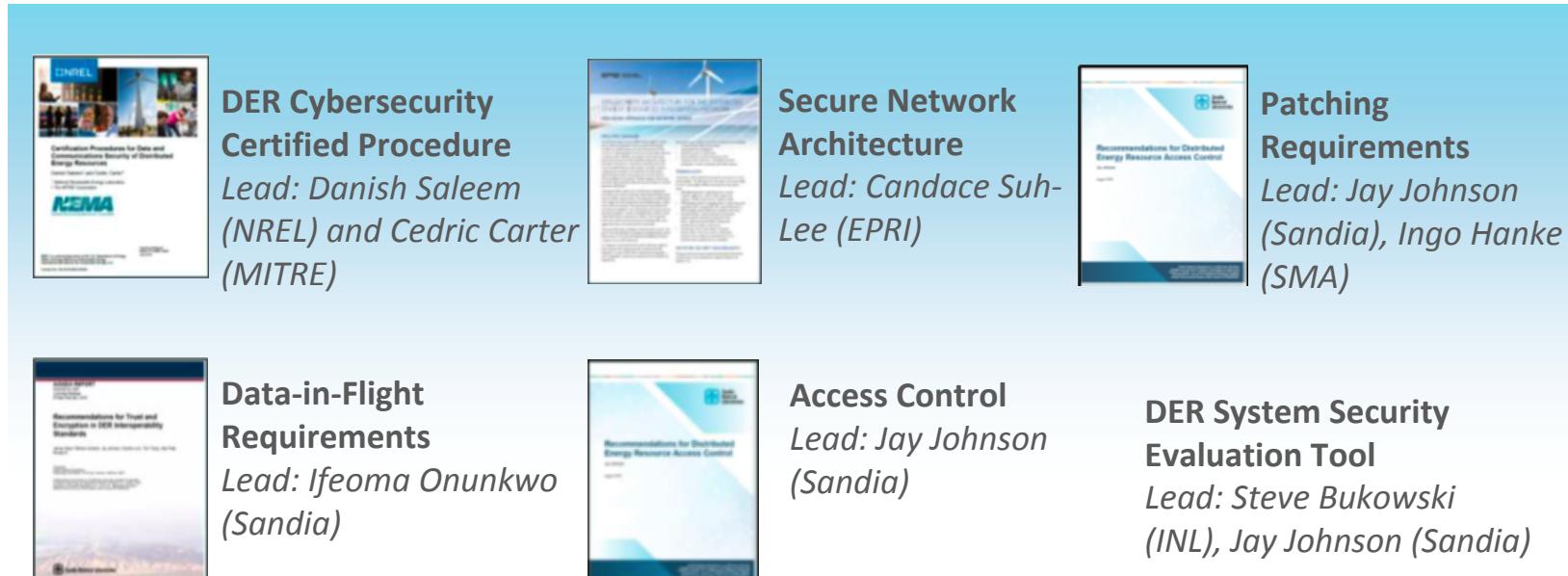
- 1,700+ DER and cybersecurity experts
- Two programmatic tracks:
 - Educational: monthly webinar series
 - Technical: generate best practices for national/international cyber standards
- Impact: DER cyber guide, IEEE 1547.3, was balloted with verbatim recommendations from several of the technical subgroup reports.
- Recommendations leverage by state regulators (NASEO/NARUC Cybersecurity Advisory Team).
- Funded through 3 DOE SETO cybersecurity projects



Webinars by



Technical Publications



Learn More - Educational Webinar Program

2021 Webinar Series

- 1/21/21 – Cybersecurity Advisory Group for State Solar (CATSS) Brief – NASEO
- 2/25/21 – Overview of IEEE 1547.3: A Guide for Cybersecurity of DER Interconnected with Electric Power Systems – *NPR Associates and Xanthus Consulting International*
- 3/25/21 – Conceptualizing Systems Cybersecurity Challenges for Rooftop Solar – *DOE SETO*
- 4/22/21 – Securing the Industrial Internet of Things: Cybersecurity for DER – *NIST NCCoE*
- 5/27/21 – An Industrial Cybersecurity Perspective – *Dragos*
- 6/24/21 – Centralized vs Decentralized DER Role-Based Access Control Implementation – *UNM*
- 7/22/21 – Software Vulnerabilities (Software Bill of Materials – Transparency in the Software Supply Chain; Longclaw – Firmware Analysis Framework; Next Generation Firmware Analysis for Energy Systems) – *USDC NTIA, LLNL, SNL*
- 8/26/21 – Cyber-Physical Intrusion Detection/Mitigation System – *SNL*
- 9/14/21 – Zero Trust Security for Distributed Energy Resources – *Xage*
- 9/23/21 – DER Incident Response – *FireEye/Miadant*
- 10/28/21 – Historical Public Key Infrastructure Failures – *Tufts University*
- 11/18/21 – CyTRICS: Cyber Testing for Resilient Industrial Control Systems – *INL & DOE-CESER*
- 12/8/21 – Cybersecurity Manufacturing Innovation Institute (CyManII) – *UTSA*

2022 Webinar Series

- 1/27/22 – Cybersecurity Risk Management for DERs – *NREL*
- 2/25/22 – Solar Inverter Risks and Defenses from Power Electronics Hardware Attacks – *University of Arkansas*
- 3/24/22 – Cryptographic, Protected Processors for DER Authentication, Control, Measurement, and Attestation - *Trusted Computing Group (TCG)*
- 4/28/22 – SunSpec Cybersecurity Certification for IEEE® 2030.5™ Client Gateways – *SunSpec Alliance*
- 5/26/22 – Defending America's Rural Electrical Grids: How to work with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Threat Analysis Center – *NRECA*
- 6/23/22 – Network Traffic Analysis with Malcolm – *INL*
- 7/28/22 – Integrated Cyber Risk Management for DER and EV Charger Supply Chains – *Fortress Information Security*
- ...



See the videos: <https://sunspec.org/sunspec-cybersecurity-videos/>

Contact

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Market Trends Driving DER Cybersecurity

A timeline showing the evolution of market trends driving DER cybersecurity from 2009 to 2022. The timeline is represented by a green arrow pointing to the right, with vertical green lines marking specific events. The events are:

- 2009: EPRI Smart Inverter functions paper published
- 2009: "50.2 Hz Problem" discovered in Germany
- 2011: Smart Inverter Working Group starts at PUC
- 2014: HI remotely upgrades 800K inverters
- 2016: CA selects IEEE 2030.5 as default protocol
- 2018: SunSpec test procedures & PKI established
- 2018: CSIP defined
- 2019: CA Rule 21 Phase 1
- 2020: CA Rule 21 Phase 2
- 2021: IEEE 1547.1 published
- 2022: U.S. roll out of interoperable DER commences

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022



DER Cybersecurity Workgroup Activities



SunSpec/Sandia DER Cybersecurity Workgroup



DER Cybersecurity Certification Procedure

- Defined standardized procedure for DER vulnerability assessments.
- Leads: **Danish Saleem (NREL)** and **Cedric Carter (MITRE)**
- Publication: "Certification Procedures for Data and Communications Security of Distributed Energy Resources"
- Future work: Expected development within UL 2900-2-4 STP



Secure Network Architecture

- Created DER reference architecture best practice.
- Lead: **Candace Suh-Lee (EPRI)**
- Publication: "EPRI Security Architecture for the Distributed Energy Resources Integration Network: Risk-based Approach for Network Design"
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



Data-in-Flight

- Encryption, authentication, and key management requirements.
- Lead: **Ifeoma Onunkwo (Sandia)**
- Publication: "Recommendations for Trust and Encryption in DER Interoperability Standards", another covering Data-in-Transit Requirements document.
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



Access Control

- DER Role-Based Access Control recommendations.
- Lead: **Jay Johnson (Sandia)**
- Topics: Access control taxonomy and security models
- Planned: "Recommendations for Distributed Energy Resource Access Controls"
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



Patching

- Establishing patching guidelines for DER devices and DER networking equipment.
- Lead: **Ingo Hanke (SMA), Jay Johnson (Sandia)**
- Publication: "Certification Procedures for Data and Communications Security of Distributed Energy Resources"
- Included in IEEE P1547.3 Draft. Future work unknown.



Convening!

DER System Security Evaluations

- Creating recommended auditing/assessment practices for DER systems and adding these recommendations to the DHS CISA Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSET).
- Started Jan 2022. Leads: **Steve Bukowski (INL), Jay Johnson (Sandia)**
- Topics: Step-by-step auditing procedure for internal or external compliance review.

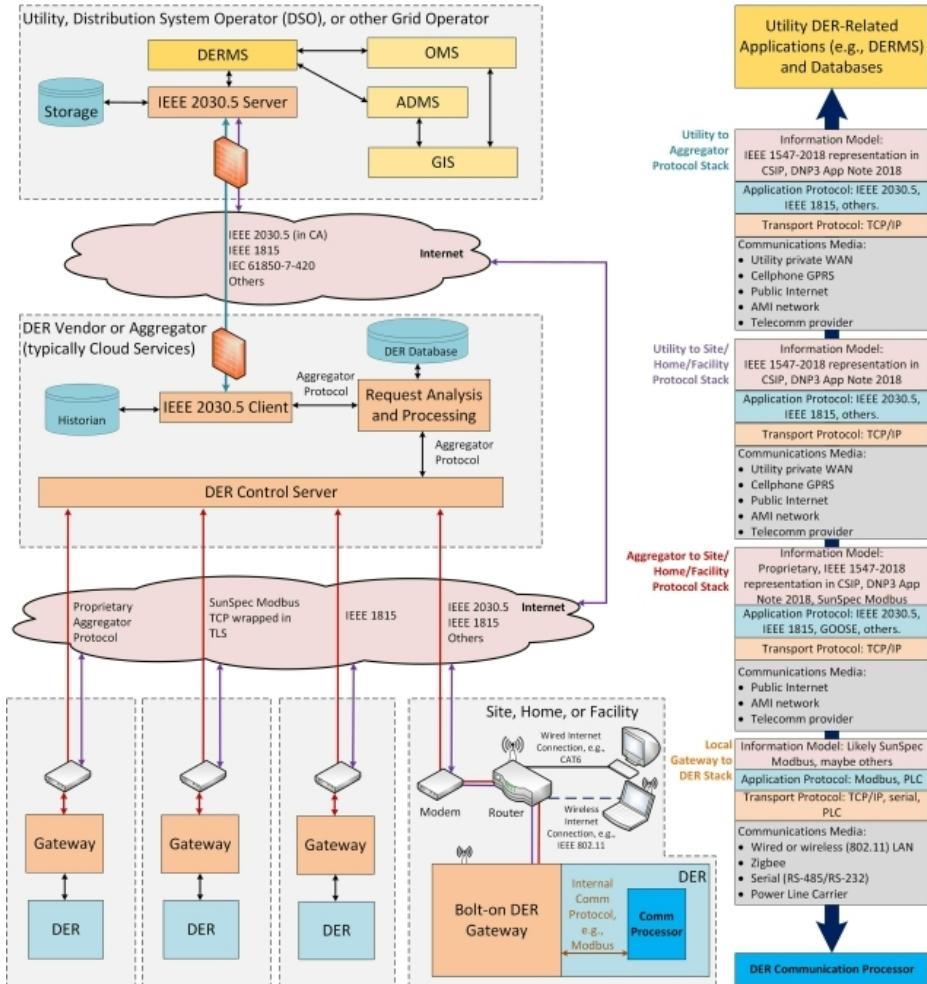
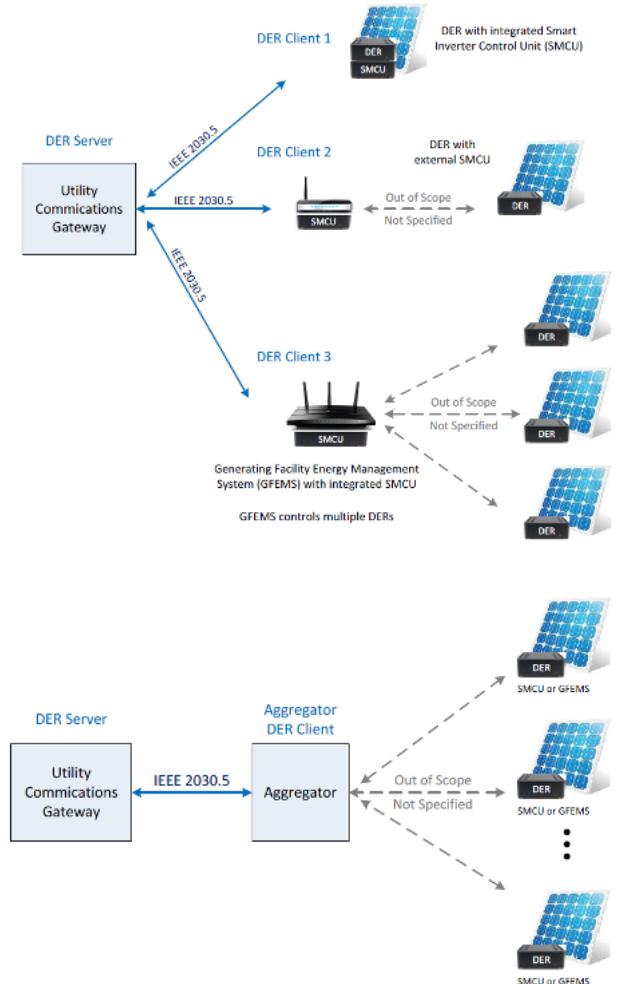
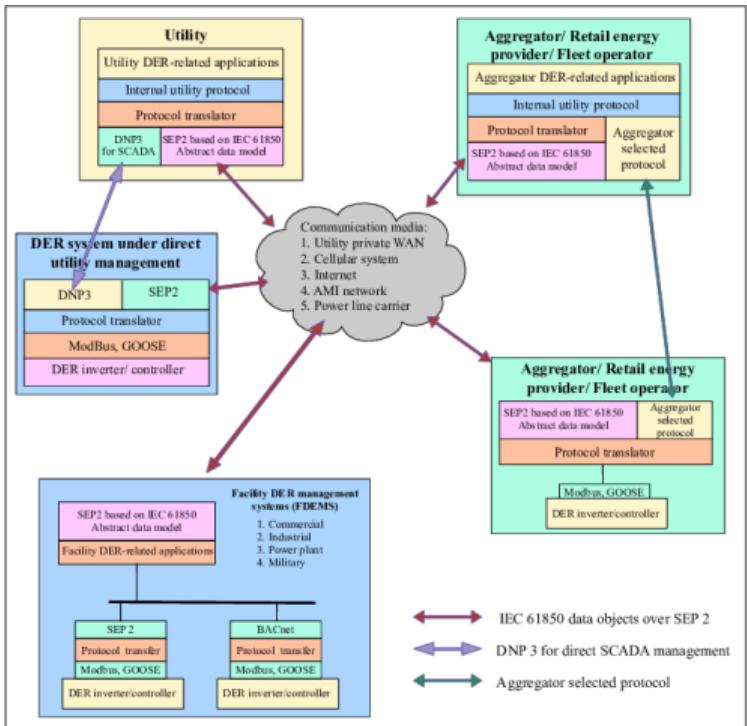
Related SunSpec Activity: SunSpec Cybersecurity Certification Workgroup

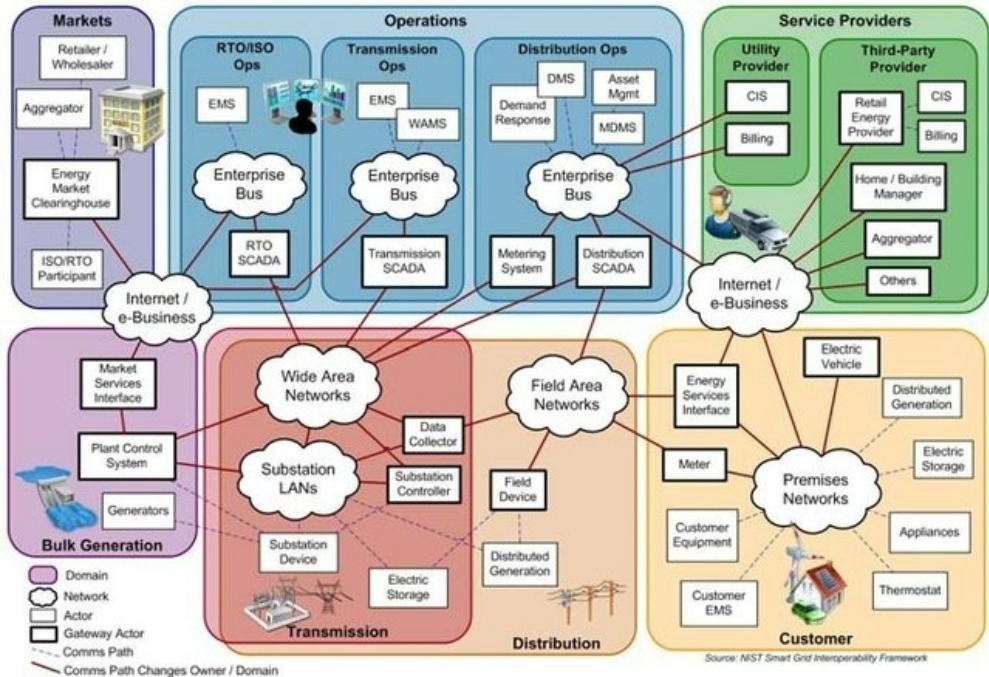
- Establishing voluntary DER/client cybersecurity certification test protocol.
- Lead: **Jörg Brakensiek (Wivity)**

Related SunSpec Activity: Blockchain Workgroup

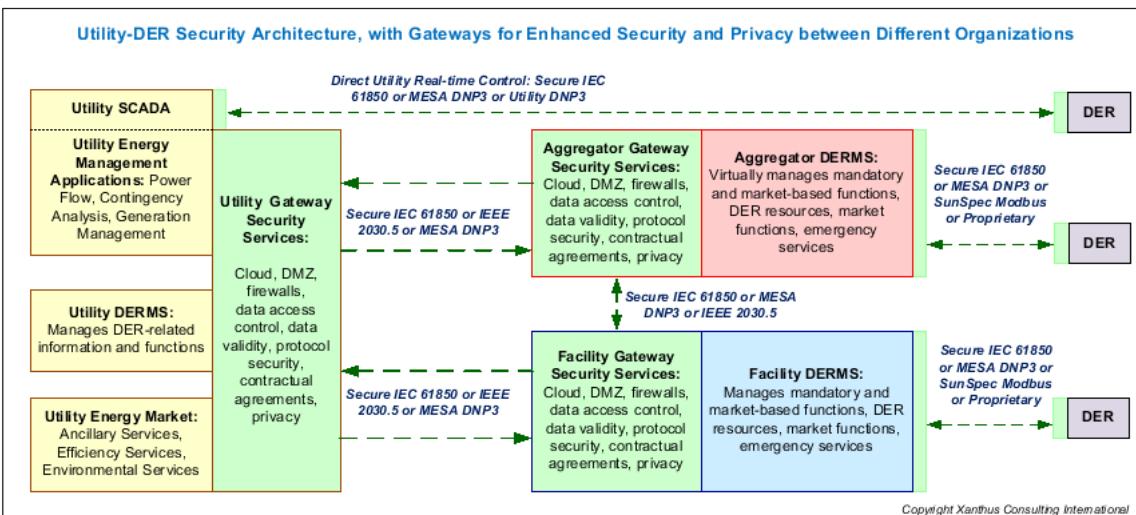
- Defined requirements and specifications for using blockchain to ensure the security of private keys in DER manufacturing environments.
- Lead: **Jörg Brakensiek (Wivity) and Alfred Tom (Wivity)**

DER Comms: A new power system attack vector

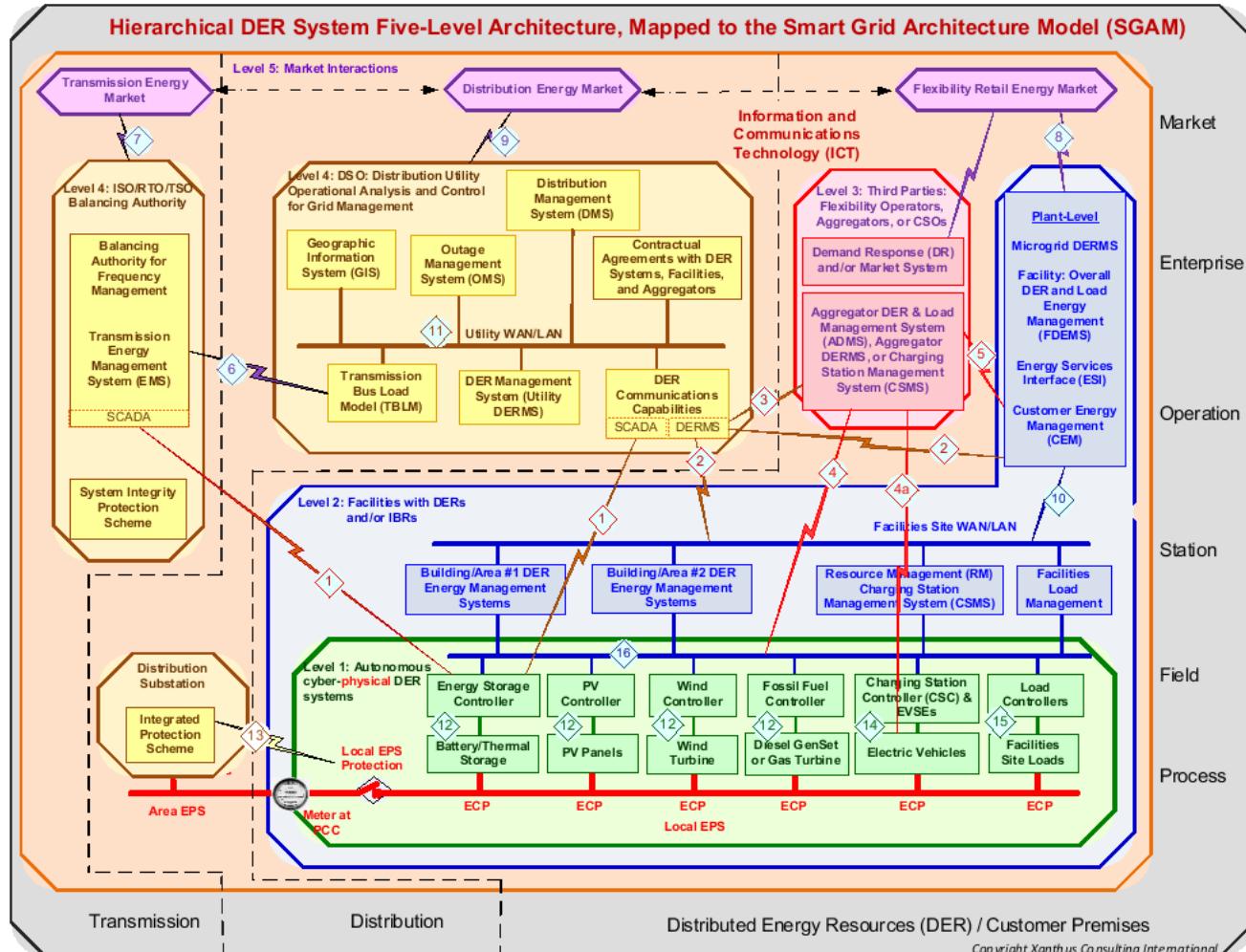




NIST Special Publication 1108, NIST Framework and Roadmap for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, Release 1.0.



From the IEEE 1547.3 Draft



From the IEEE 1547.3 Draft