



Congress 2024, June 30, 2024 to July 04, 2024 - Porto, Portugal

Addressing Cybersecurity in Power Systems

From requirements to solutions

Steffen Fries, Siemens, T CST

July 2, 2024

SIEMENS

Abstract

Critical infrastructures, taking power systems as one prominent example, are required to obey to specific regulatory requirements regarding their secure reliable and resilient operation. Utilities for instance need to obey the European Network and Information Security Directive (since 2023 the successor, the EU- NIS2 Directive, is in force). In addition, the EU Cyber Resilience Act (EU-CRA) is currently in finalization, posing security requirements to the product manufacturers directly.

To cope with these requirements, different standard (frameworks) have been developed. They address technical and procedural requirements as well as technical specifications to ensure interoperability between different vendors products. Moreover existing standards are renewed or enhanced to address upcoming requirements and advances in cybersecurity.

The presentation provides an overview of regulative requirements and solution standards ensuring secure operation of the electrical infrastructure. Besides this, examples are provided for challenges, requiring further investigation and solution discussion and development.

Businesses and Services of Siemens AG

Industrial Business

Digital Industries



Smart Infrastructure



Mobility



Siemens Healthineers¹



Portfolio Companies



Siemens Advanta



Services

Siemens Financial Services



Siemens Real Estate



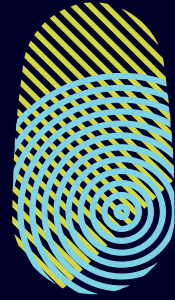
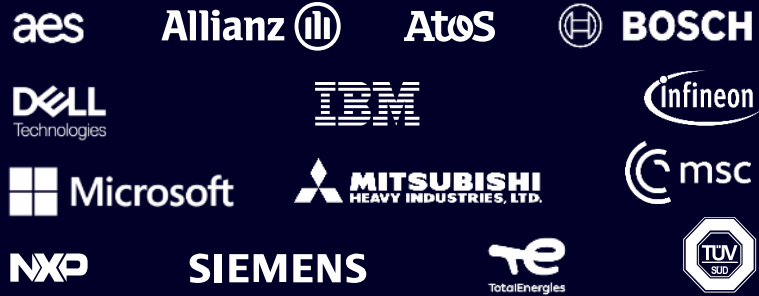
Global Business Services



¹ Publicly listed subsidiary of Siemens; Siemens' share in Siemens Healthineers is 75%

Charter of Trust

A joint initiative for a secure sustainable digital world



Charter of Trust

charteroftrust.com



Associated Partner Forum



01

Protect the data of individuals and businesses

02

Prevent damage to people, businesses, and infrastructure

03

Build trust in the digital world

Company Core Technologies

Innovation examples

Simcenter ROM Builder



- Creation of simplified, tool-neutral and reusable models by processing simulation and field data
- Model generation accelerated (up to real-time), interoperable, and deployable from simulation to edge and cloud

SINEC Security Monitor



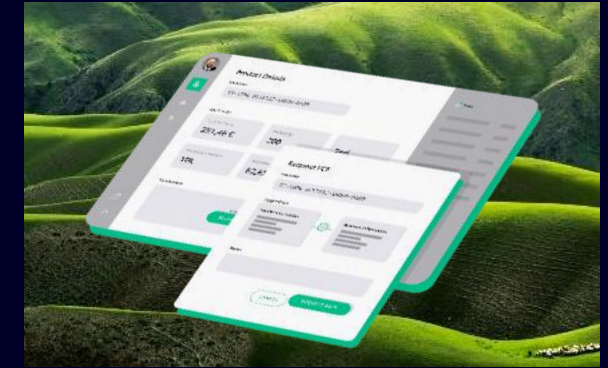
- Software for non-intrusive asset and vulnerability detection and AI-based anomaly detection for industrial production networks
- Continuous on-prem security monitoring during production
- Supports implementation of NIS2
- Internally developed and used core technology – now available for customers

Reliable power with renewable generation



- Assistant for power system operation with up to 100% renewable peak generation
- Collaborative stabilization and resilience of entire island grids (e.g. Hawaii)
- Capacity can be scaled up to a range between 100 MW and 100 GW

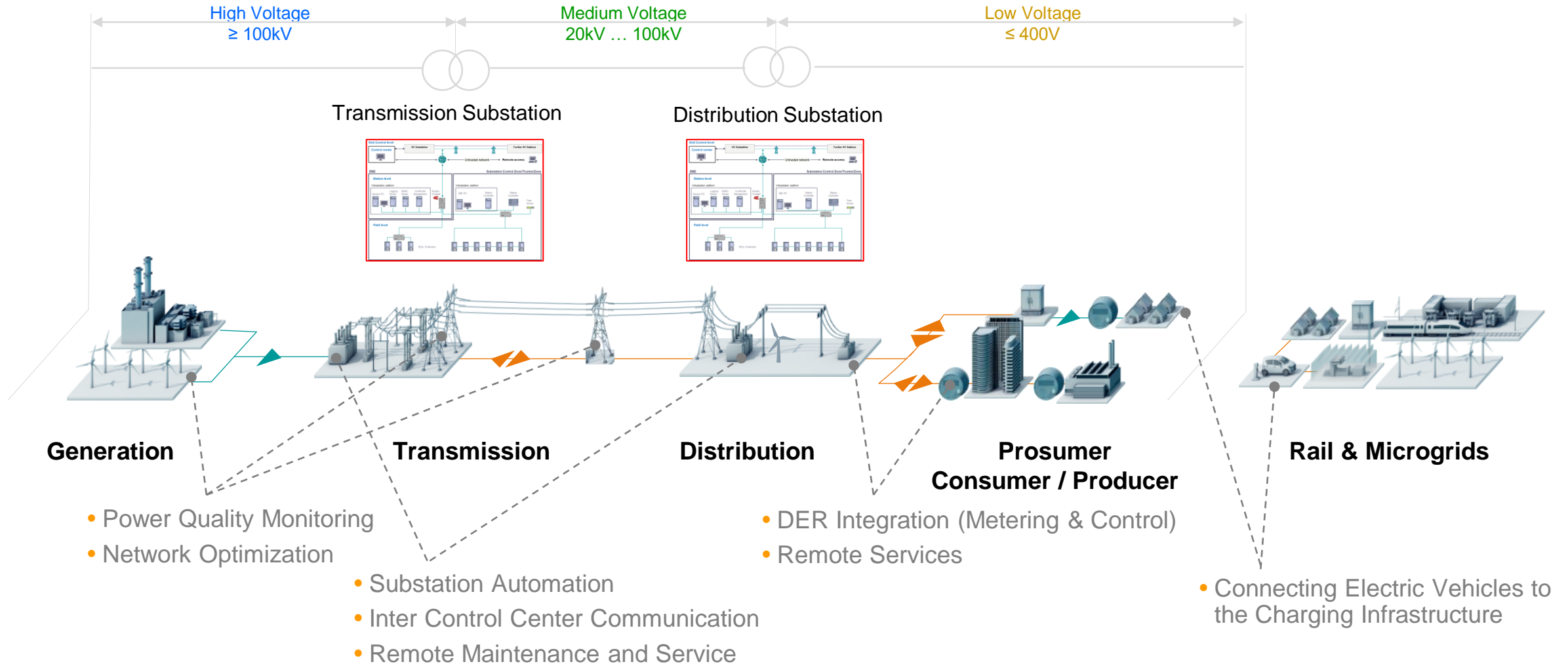
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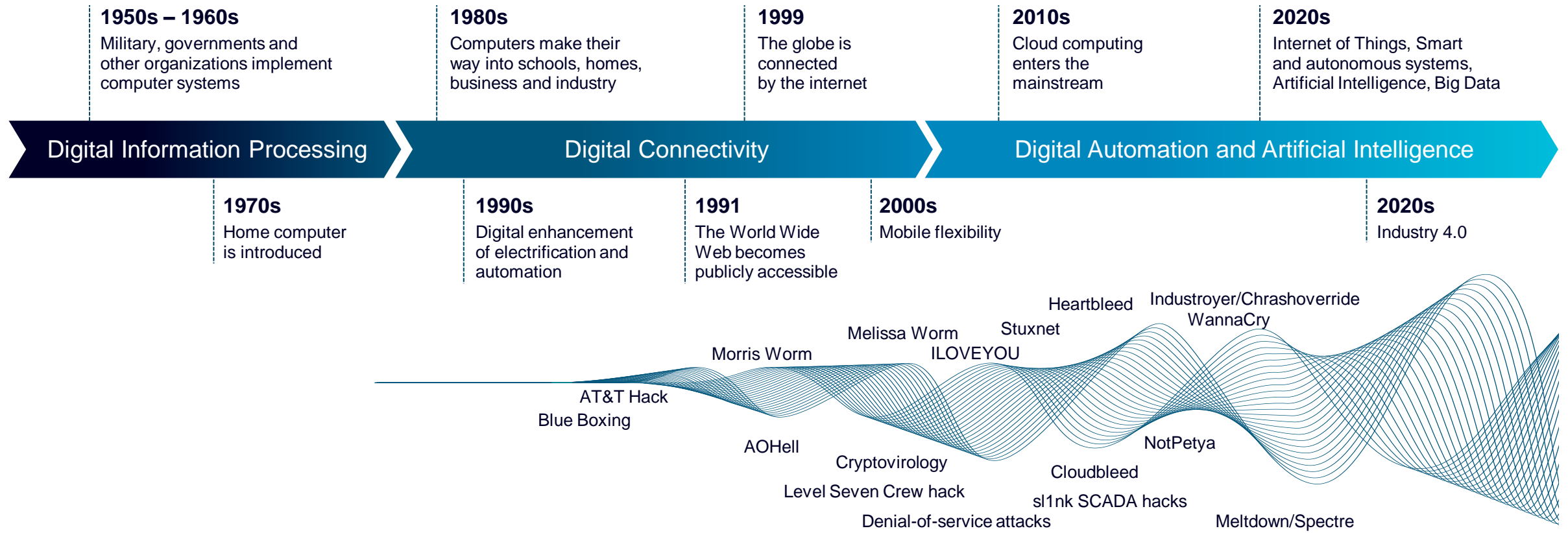
- Trustworthy exchange of actionable Product Carbon Footprints throughout value chains
- Use of verifiable credentials ensures transparency, confidentiality, and data control in supply chains

Digital Grid – a Critical Infrastructure in Need of Protection

Power system value chain and use case examples



Security must be (continuously) adopted to the changing threat and vulnerability landscape



To prevent potential blackouts, a holistic cybersecurity approach is necessary!



How to provide appropriate cybersecurity?

Cybersecurity needs a holistic methodology

Recover

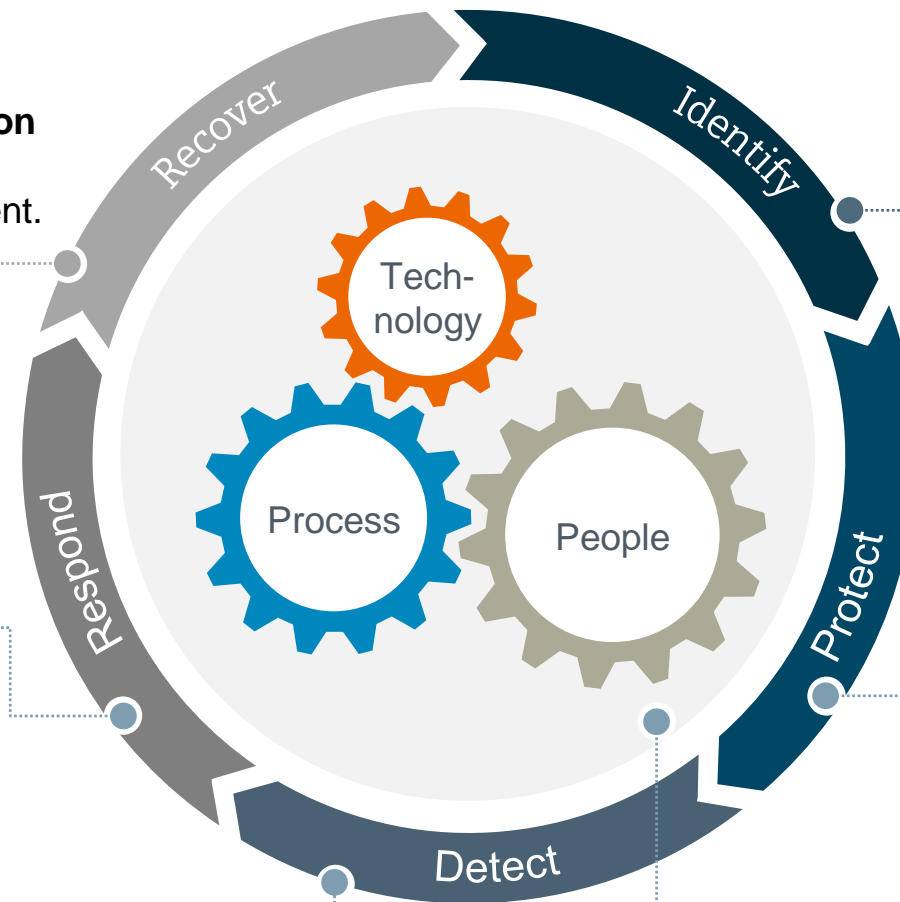
Creating plans for **resilience and restoration** of any capabilities or services that were impaired due to a cyber security related event.

Respond

Taking action against detected cyber security related events. Supports the ability to contain the impact of a potential event.

Detect

Rapid **identification** of the occurrence of a cyber security related event.



Identify

Understanding the business context, the resources that support critical functions and the related cyber security risks.

Protect






Protection of critical infrastructure service, e.g., energy supply by safeguarding the overall system.

Govern

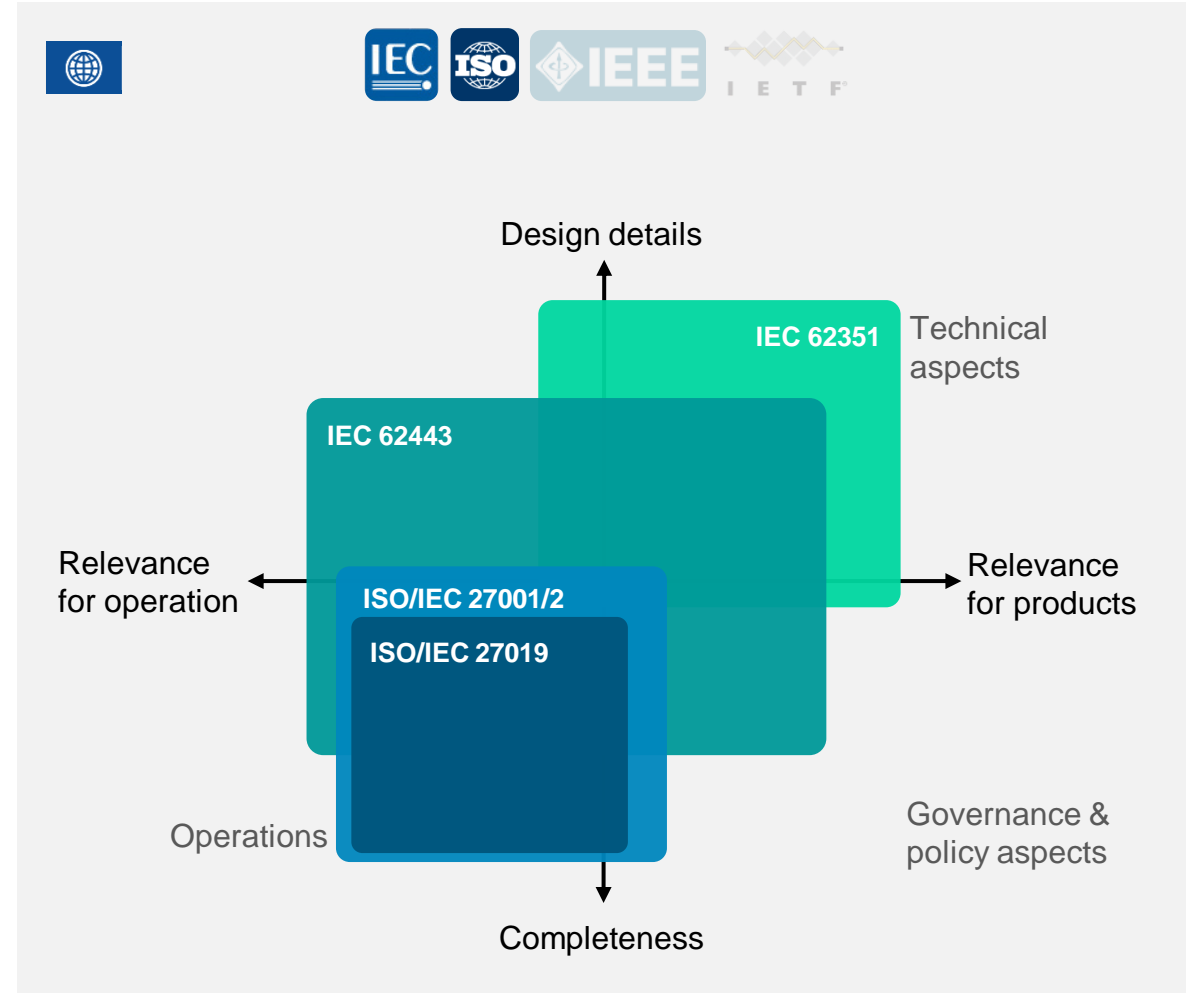
Cybersecurity strategy development and maintenance in the organizational context

Regulative Requirements stipulate Development of Standards to foster Interoperability and to enable Conformity Assessment of Security Features

Regulative Requirements

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) • Executive Order 13636: Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity • Executive Order 14028: Improving Nation's Cyber Security 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security Act (EU-CSA) • Network Information Security Directive (NIS2) • RED Delegated Act • Cyber Resilience Act (EU-CRA)
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Security Act • B3S Standards for dedicated critical infrastructure domain • BNetzA Security Catalogue • German Energy Act 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANSSI: Critical Infrastructure Protection • Certification and Key Measures <hr/>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Essential Scheme (NCSC) • Direct adaptation of European NIS Directive and GDPR

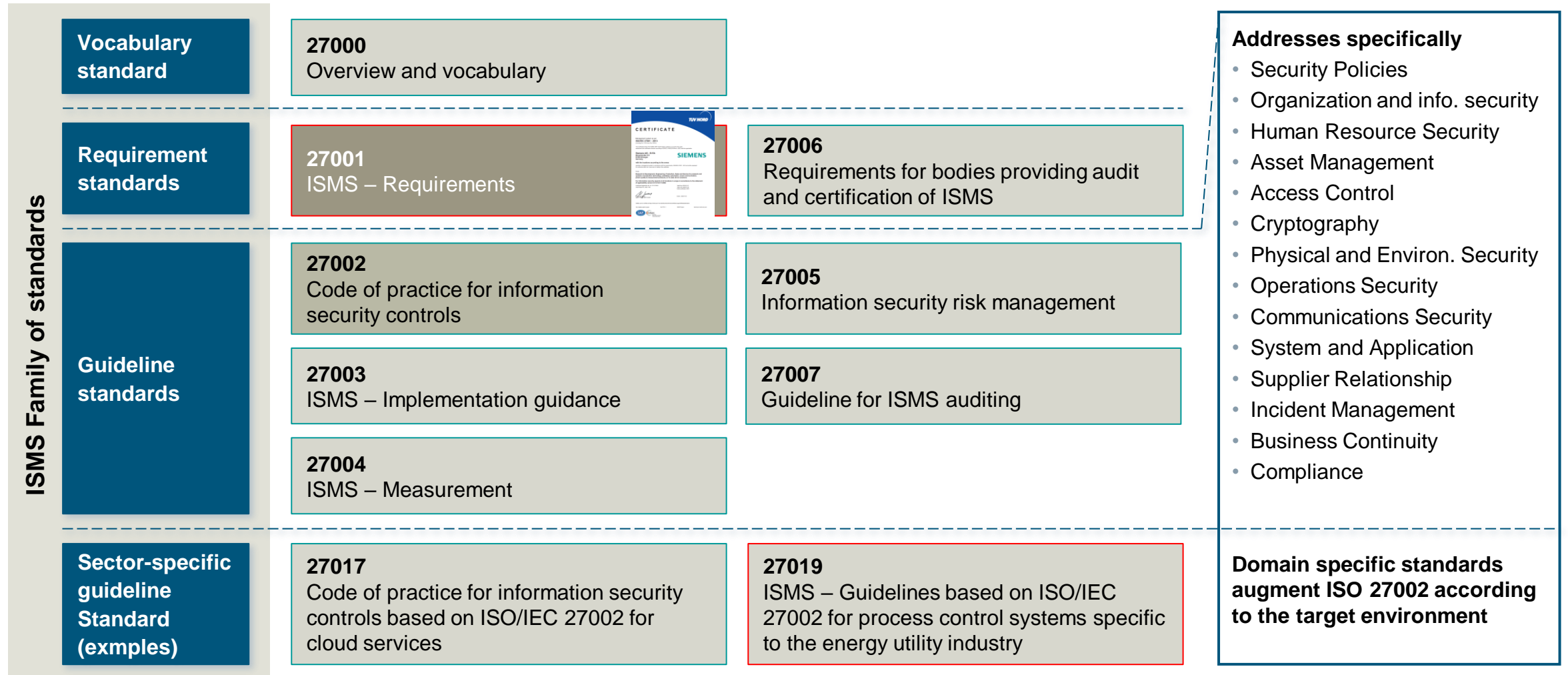
International Standards



Note: the stated organizations and standards are considered the most important for power system automation but are not complete

ISO/IEC 270xx Series – Information Security Management System (ISMS)

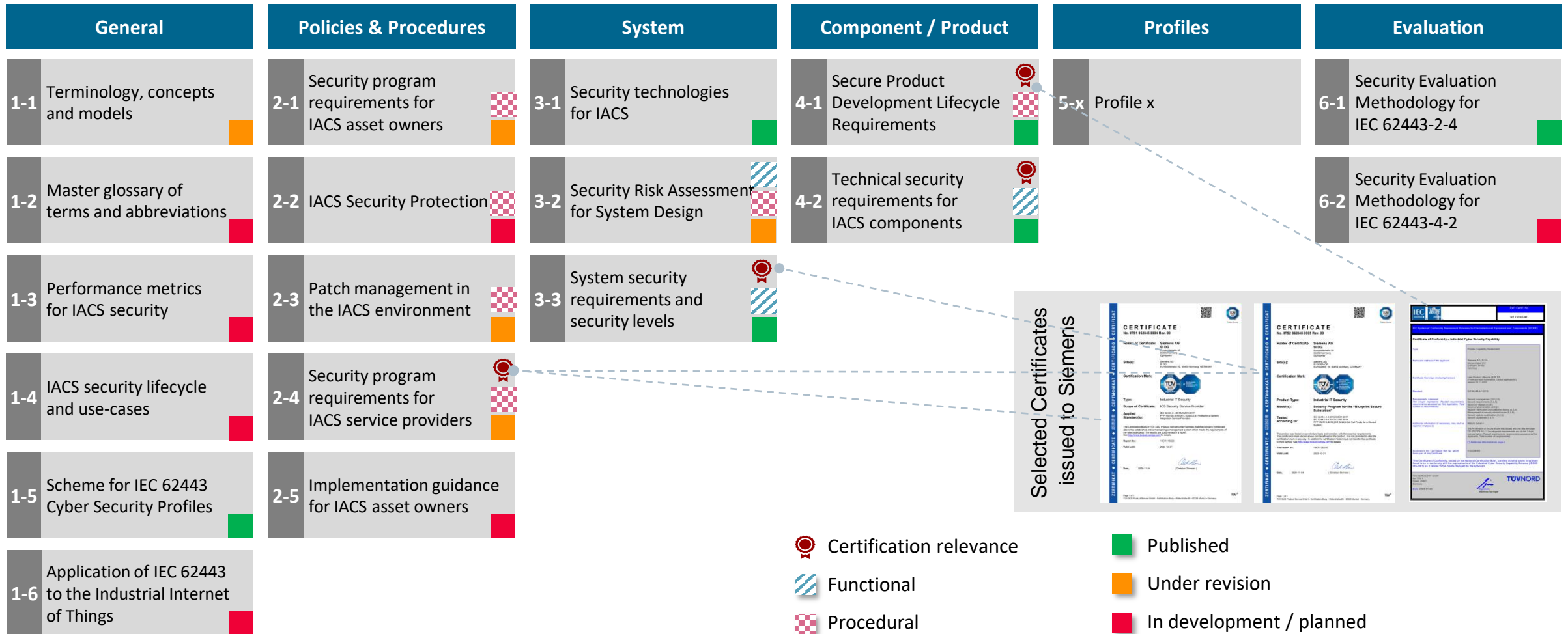
Specifies security management requirements for manufacturers, operators, ...



IEC 62443 – Security for Industrial Automation and Control Systems

Addresses the complete value chain from product manufacturing to operation

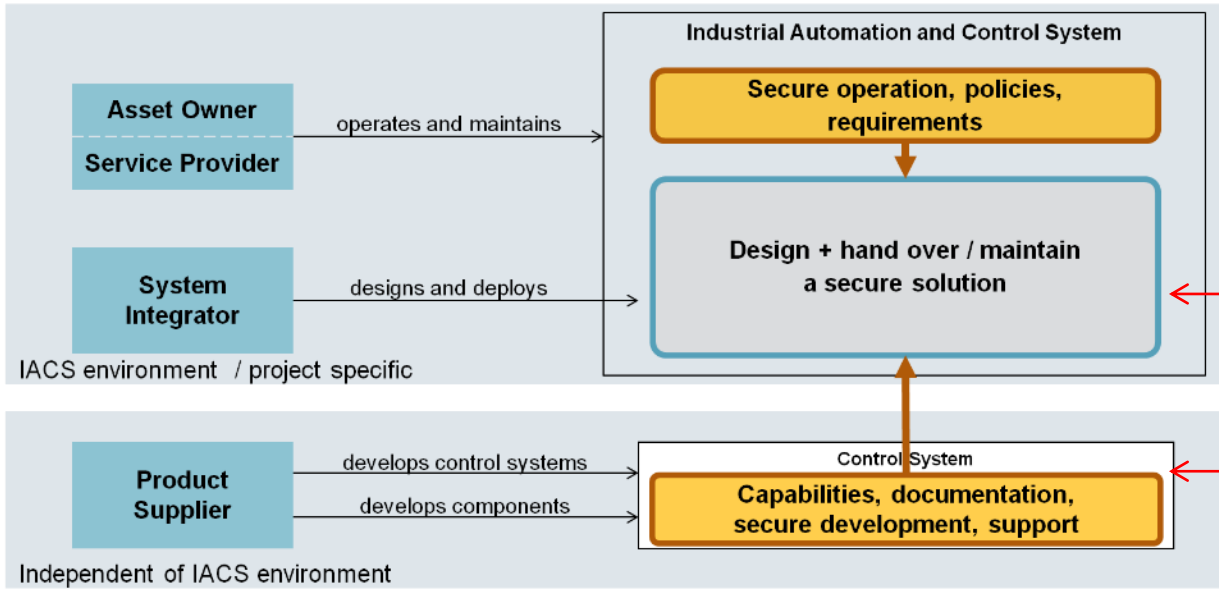
Targets operator, integrator, and product supplier in terms of processes and security capabilities and allows for certification



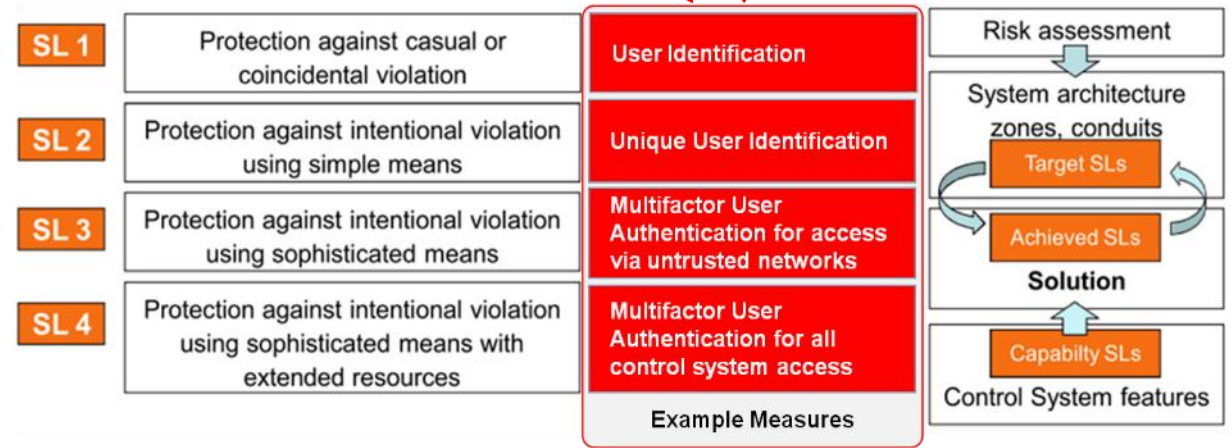
IEC 62443 – Security for Industrial Automation and Control Systems

Enables a graded security approach to achieve appropriate protection

example



IEC 62443 Security for Industrial Automation and Control Systems					
General	Policies & Procedures	System	Component / Product	Profiles	Evaluation
1-1 Terminology, concepts and models	2-1 Security program requirements for IACS asset owners	3-1 Security technologies for IACS	4-1 Secure Product Development Lifecycle Requirements	5-x Profile x	6-1 Security Evaluation Methodology for IEC 62443-2-4
1-2 Master glossary of terms and abbreviations	2-2 IACS Security Protection	3-2 Security Risk Assessment for System Design	4-2 Comp. Security Req.		6-2 Security Evaluation Methodology for IEC 62443-4-2
1-3 Performance metrics for IACS security	2-3 Patch management in the IACS environment	3-3 System Security Req.			
1-4 IACS security lifecycle and use-cases	2-4 Req. for IACS Service Provider				
1-5 Scheme for IEC 62443 Cyber Security Profiles	2-5 Implementation guidance for IACS asset owners				

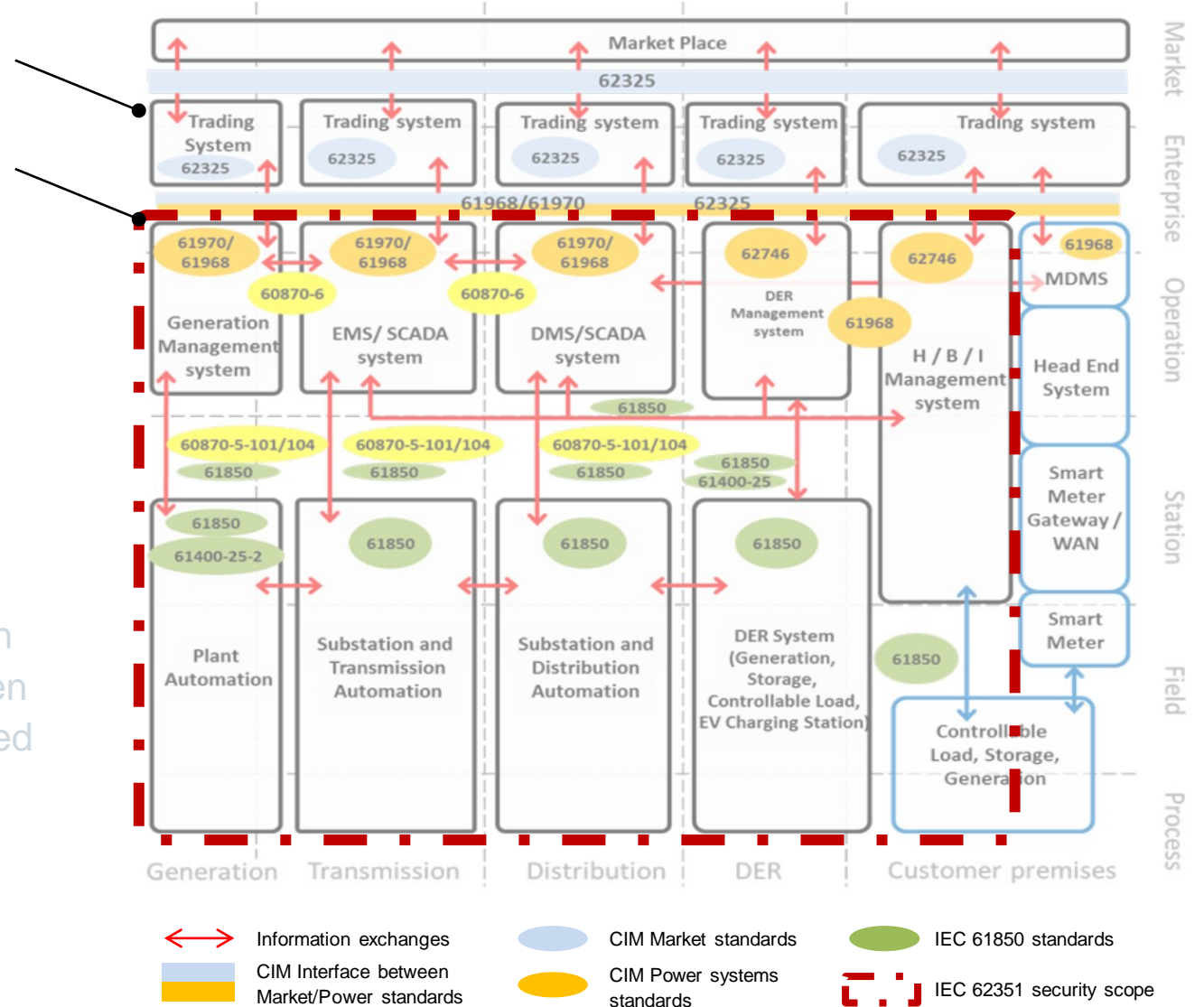


Core Communication Standards for Digital Grids

IEC TC57 defines the reference architecture including domain-specific cybersecurity

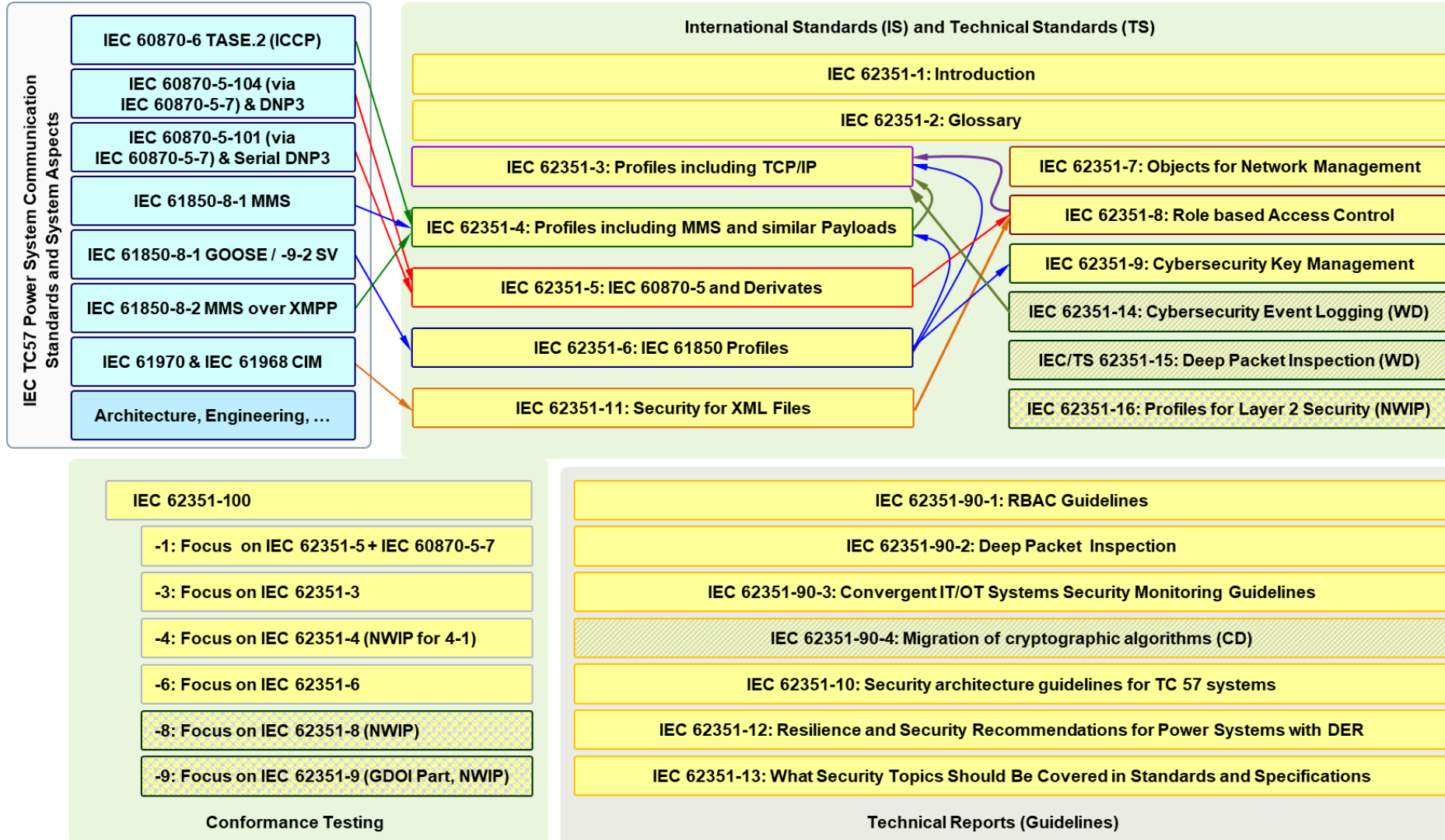
- IEC 62357 defines power system management reference architecture
- Incorporates security to protect communication protocols defined by IEC TC 57, specifically
 - IEC 60870-5 and IEC 60870-6 series,
 - IEC 61850 series,
 - IEC 61968 & IEC 61970 series.
- Undertake the development of standards and/or technical reports on end-to-end security issues.

End-to-End Security = a set of security policies, procedures, and technologies that provides a high degree of assurance that data exchanged between a source (sender) and a sink (receiver) is protected from unauthorized access and/or modifications, while being transferred from one end to the other through intermediate nodes.



Cybersecurity in Digital Grids is defined in IEC 62351 (IEC TC57 WG15)

Specification of technical security measures / guidelines to cope with given security requirements



Security means defined for

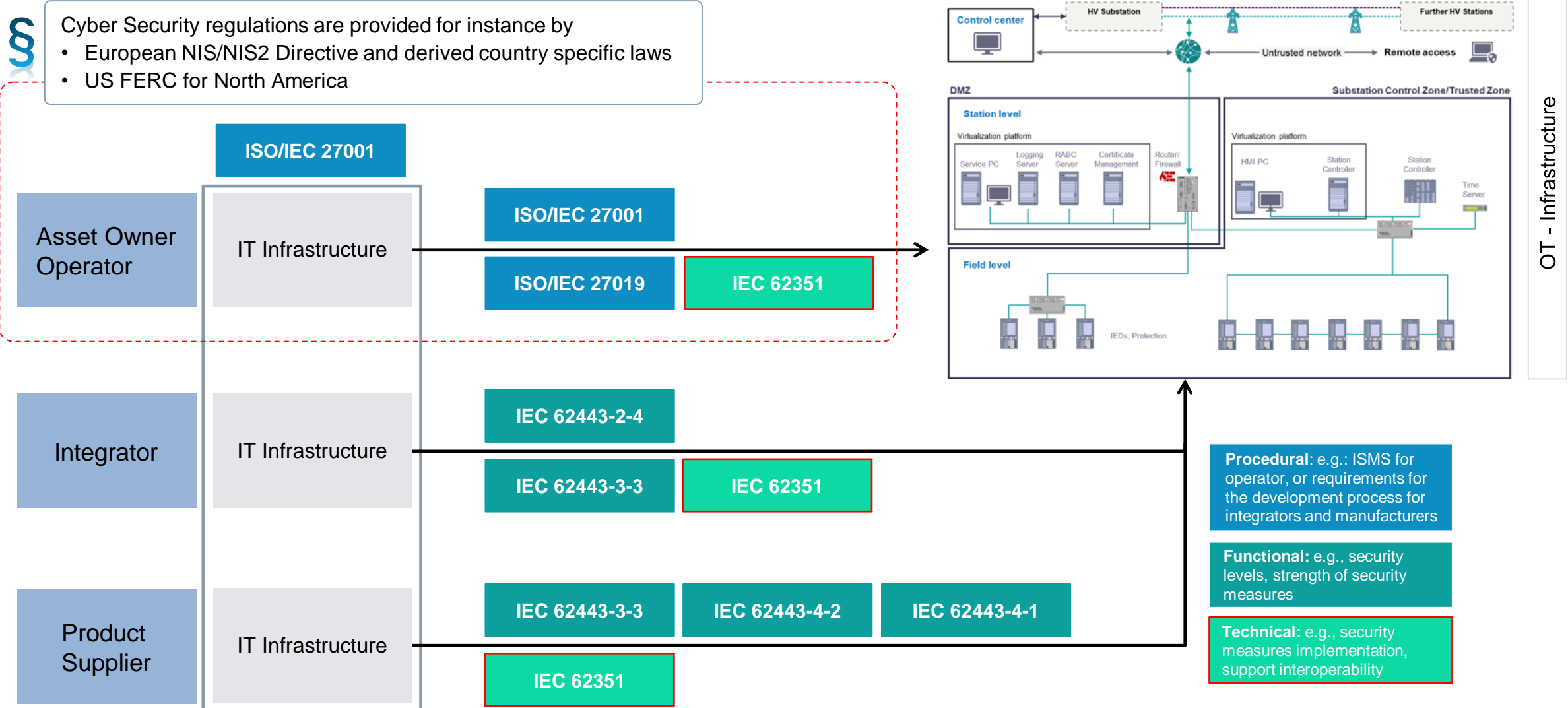
- Authentication and authorization (RBAC)
- Secure IP- based and serial communication
- Secure application level exchanges
- Security monitoring and event logging
- Test case definition
- Guidelines for applying specific security measures

by utilizing or profiling

- existing standards and recommendations

Cybersecurity for Power System Automation

Interplay of ISO/IEC 27k / IEC 62443 / IEC 62351



Cybersecurity is addressed in power system automation through IEC 62351

Several parts of the series are likely applicable also in other domains

A

Authorization of Users/Devices

- ❖ Application of X.509 framework with enhancements
- ❖ Usage of deployed technologies like RADIUS, LDAP, and OAUTH

B

Secure communication

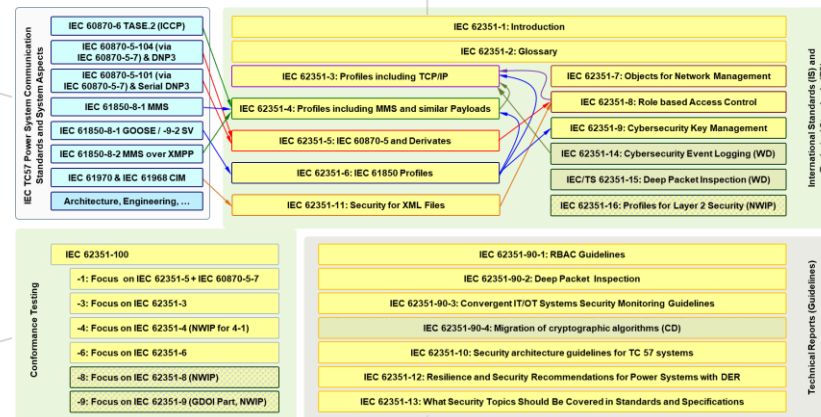
(Ethernet, IP, serial, application)

- ❖ Profiling existing standards (e.g., TLS)
- ❖ Definition of specific security enhancements if necessary

C

Key management (asym/sym)

- ❖ Application / profiling of established certificate management (EST, SCEP)
- ❖ Application and enhancement of key management (GDOI) functions



D

Monitor and audit of relevant events

- ❖ Definition of power system specific events and counters
- ❖ Usage of established standards like syslog and SNMP

- **Guidance and support** for securing power system architectures
- ❖ Examples for network design, and key management, role-based access control (RBAC), monitoring, ...

- **Test case description** for specified security measures in system context
- ❖ Specification of conformity test cases

IEC 62351-8 Role-based access control (RBAC) for power system management

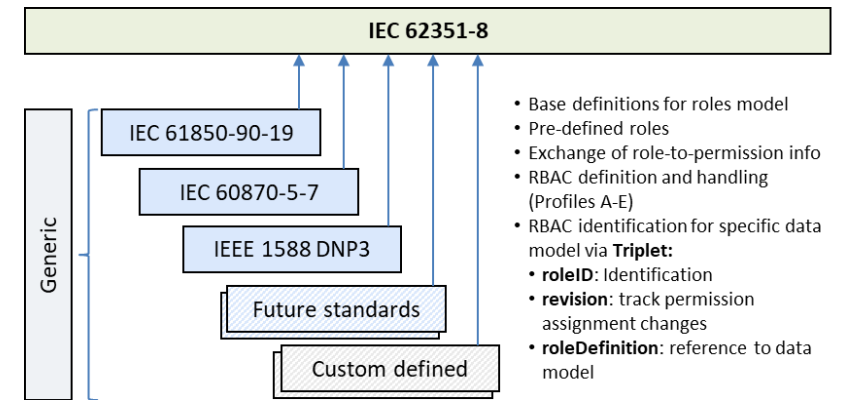
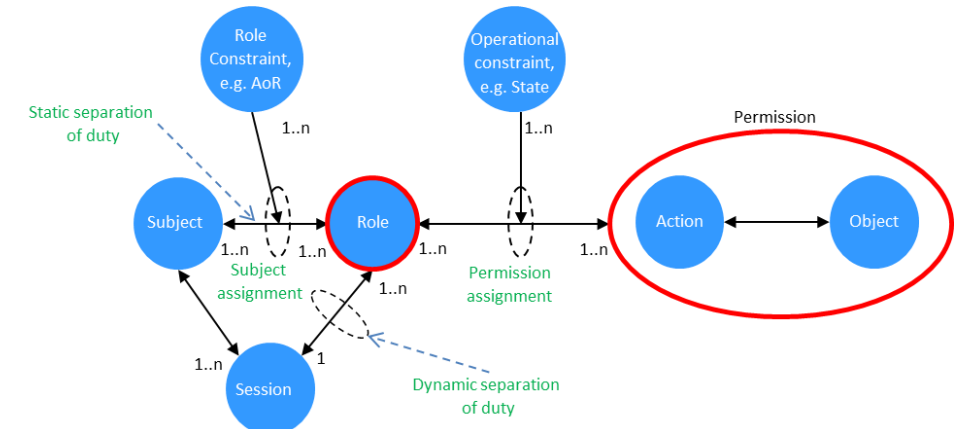
Support of fine-grained authorization

deep dive

A

- **RBAC:** ease access control configuration and decisions based on distinction of
 - subjects and roles; subjects = {humans; devices; SW processes}
 - roles and associated permissions (action on object, e.g., read/write of files)

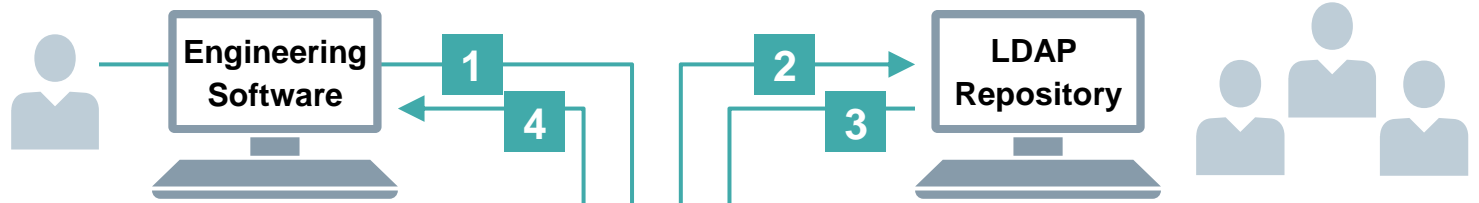
- IEC 62351-8 adds and defines
 - Pre-defined roles and mechanisms for defining custom based roles (XACML)
 - **Handling of constraints** to restrict the applicability of a role (based on geographical or organizational constraints) using “area of responsibility”
 - Common approach for binding RBAC information to a **target data model**
 - Interaction with repositories for RBAC information, either as **PULL or PUSH**
 - Different profiles to provide RBAC information using
 - **New extensions in X.509 public key and attribute certificates**
 - **JSON Web Tokens** in OAUTH environments
 - **RADIUS** via vendor specific attributes
 - **LDAP** via an own schema or group mapping



IEC 62351 Application Examples

Role-based access control to power systems and services

deep dive



Roles ↔ Users	Role
User 1	Engineer
User 2	Admin
...	

LDAP repository is used to store IEC 62531-8 access tokens containing RBAC information as

- PK-Certificate with extension
- Attribute-Certificate with extension
- JWS Token
- LDAP attributes

Note, IEC 62351-8 also allows to use RADIUS



- 1 User requests access to IED with username and password
- 2 Authentication request with username, password via LDAP
- 3 Users access token as response from LDAP repository after successful authentication
- 4 Success/Fail Response from device to user
- 5 Role-based user session initiated/denied

Role to Permission mapping	Operation A	Operation B	Operation C	Operation ...
Engineer	X	X		
Admin		X	X	
...				

IEC 62351-3 Profiles including TCP/IP

Profiling of TLS to utilize state-of-the-art TCP/IP security measures

deep dive

B

- Power system protocols like IEC 61850 MMS, IEC 60870-5-104, or IEEE 1815 (DNP3) rely on TCP/IP using **Transport Layer Security (TLS)** for protection.
- TLS = very feature rich → requires profiling to limit misconfiguration, ease interoperability and keep the security on a desired level.
- IEC 62351-3 defines a **profile for TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3** addressing specifically
 - Mutual authentication** using X.509 certificates
 - Certificate verification** (specifically for long lasting connections)
 - Selection of cipher suites** (mandatory, optional). Also considers integrity-only (non-encrypting) cipher suites to allow traffic monitoring.
 - Session security parameter handling** (key update strategies using session resumption / session renegotiation / post handshake key update)
 - Security event definition** to enable identification of potential error situations.
- IEC 62351-3 Edition 2 published 06/2023 is a self-contained document and is likely applicable also in other domains.

Example profiling items

Table 7 – Conformance to TLS versions

TLS Version	Client		Server		Value/Comment
	F/S	Declared	F/S	Declared	
Prior 1.0	x		x		
1.0	c		c		Weaknesses known, only for backward compatibility
1.1	c		c		Weaknesses known, only for backward compatibility
1.2	m		m		
1.3	o		o		

c – the use of TLS versions prior to version 1.2 is deprecated.

Table 8 – Conformance to certificate support

	Client		Server		Value/Comment	Reference
	F/S	Declared	F/S	Declared		
Support of multiple CA (root certificates)	m		m		Minimum to support 5 root CA certificates.	6.4.1
Support of certificates handling up to a maximum certificate size of 8 192 octets.	m		m			6.4.2
Follow certificate validation rules according to RFC 5280 (validity, CA signature, revocation state, etc.)	m		m			6.4.4
Certificate revocation state validation using CRL	m		m		Evaluation period at least every 24 hours	6.4.4.4.2
Certificate revocation state validation using OCSP response messages	o1		o1		Caching period at most 24 hours	6.4.4.4.3
Certificate authorization lists according to IEC 62351-9	o		o			9

o1: An implementation shall be able to validate OCSP responses.

Table 9 – Conformance to TLSv1.2 usable cipher suites

Cipher suite	Client		Server		Value/Comment
	F/S	Declared	F/S	Declared	
TLS_NULL_WITH_NULL_NULL	x		x		disallowed
TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_MD5	x		x		disallowed
TLS_*_*_MD5	x		x		disallowed
TLS_*_DES_*	x		x		disallowed
TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_SHA256	c		c		
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	m		m		
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	m		m		
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384	o		o		
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	m		m		
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384	o		o		
TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	m		m		
TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384	o		o		

c: may be supported if integrity only protection is desired. These cipher suites shall be disabled by default and require distinct enabling authorized by an organization's security policy.
The usage of cipher suites containing SHA-1 as hash function is deprecated and requires explicit authorization by an organization's security policy.

IEC 62351-9 – Cyber security key management for power system equipment

Handling the prerequisite: symmetric and asymmetric keys

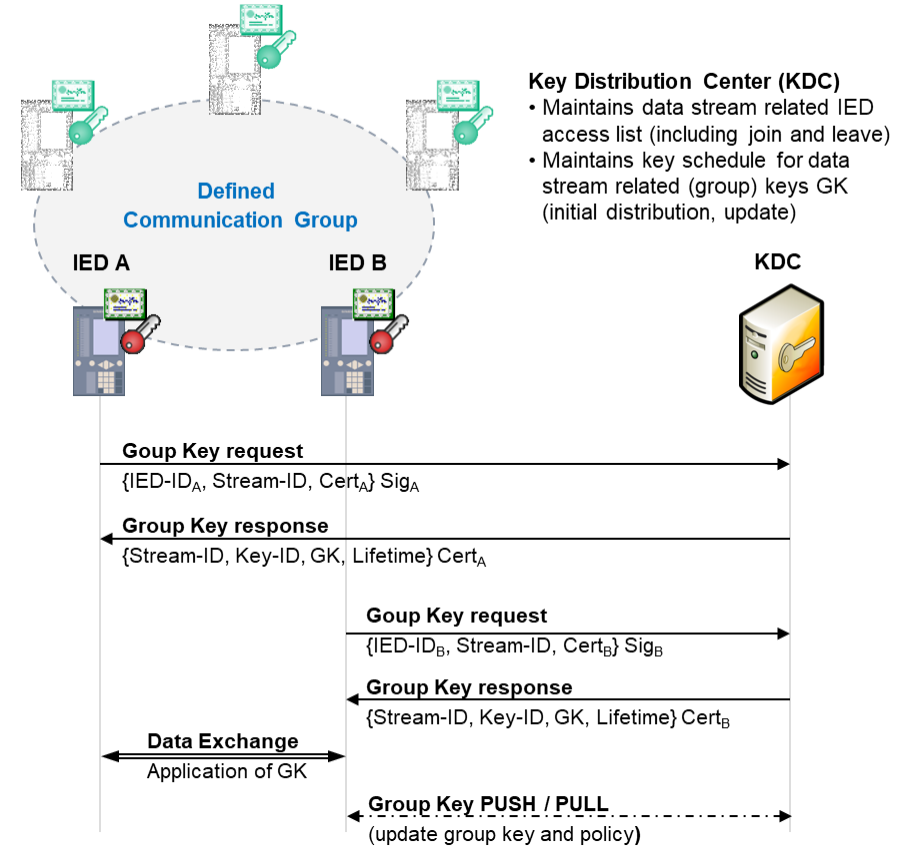
deep dive

C

- IEC 62351-9 defines management of X.509 credentials as well as group keys and associated security policies, specifically:
 - Management of X.509 certificates (PKI)**
 - Selection of standardized **enrollment protocols**: EST (RFC 7030), SCEP (RFC 8894)
 - X.509 certificate profiles** to support operation
 - Certificate verification** of public-key and attribute certificates, including revocation status checking using CRLs and OCSP
 - Optional support of trust anchor management: TAMP (RFC 5934)
 - Management of symmetric group keys**
 - Group key management** applying GDOI (RFC 6407) utilizing certificate based group member authentication and support of pull/push for group-key update
 - Enhancements** to distribute group keys and group security policy for different protocols, i.e., GOOSE, SV, and PTP

PKI – Public Key Infrastructure SCEP – Simple Certificate Enrollment Protocol EST – Enrollment over Secure Transport CRL – Certificate Revocation List
OCSP – Online Certificate Status Protocol TAMP – Trust Anchor Management Protocol GDOI – Group Domain of Interpretation

Group based key management (centralized approach)



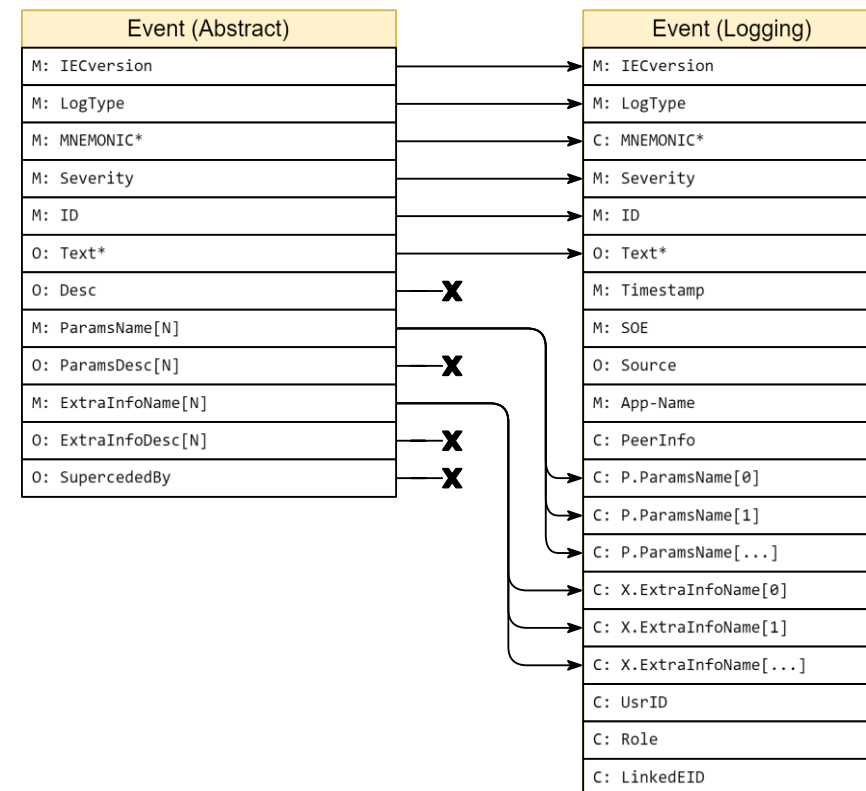
IEC 62351-14 – Cyber security event logging

Cybersecurity events are supporting forensic analysis and auditing

D

- IEC 62351-14 defines
 - an **abstract security event format** to be used for reporting success and failure cases locally and to a SIEM system
 - mapping of the abstract events to **structured syslog** messages
 - allowing use of unstructured syslog message, e.g., for vendor specific use
 - protection of syslog is by relying on **syslog over TLS**. For this the TLS profile specified in IEC 62351-3:2023 has to be used, which is also aligned with an ongoing [update of the ciphersuites](#) in IETF RFC 5424).
- IEC 62351-14 currently defines security events for IEC 62351 parts, which have not be recently updated and involve an own definition. The events will be incorporated into the respective parts during the next maintenance cycle and will take precedence.
- Current approach is incorporate already into
 - IEC 62351-3:2023
 - IEC 62351-5:2023
 - IEC 62351-9:2023
 - IEC 62351-8:Ed.2 (currently being done)

Abstract security events are mapped to syslog



Different Security Standards meet in the Operational Environment

Application of IEC 62351 in a digital substation

Specification of technical solutions for an infrastructure supporting certificate based authentication and authorization (PKI, RBAC)

IEC 62351-8/9

Monitoring & Audit Adaptation and enhancement of existing infrastructures and technologies for network management using SNMP and syslog

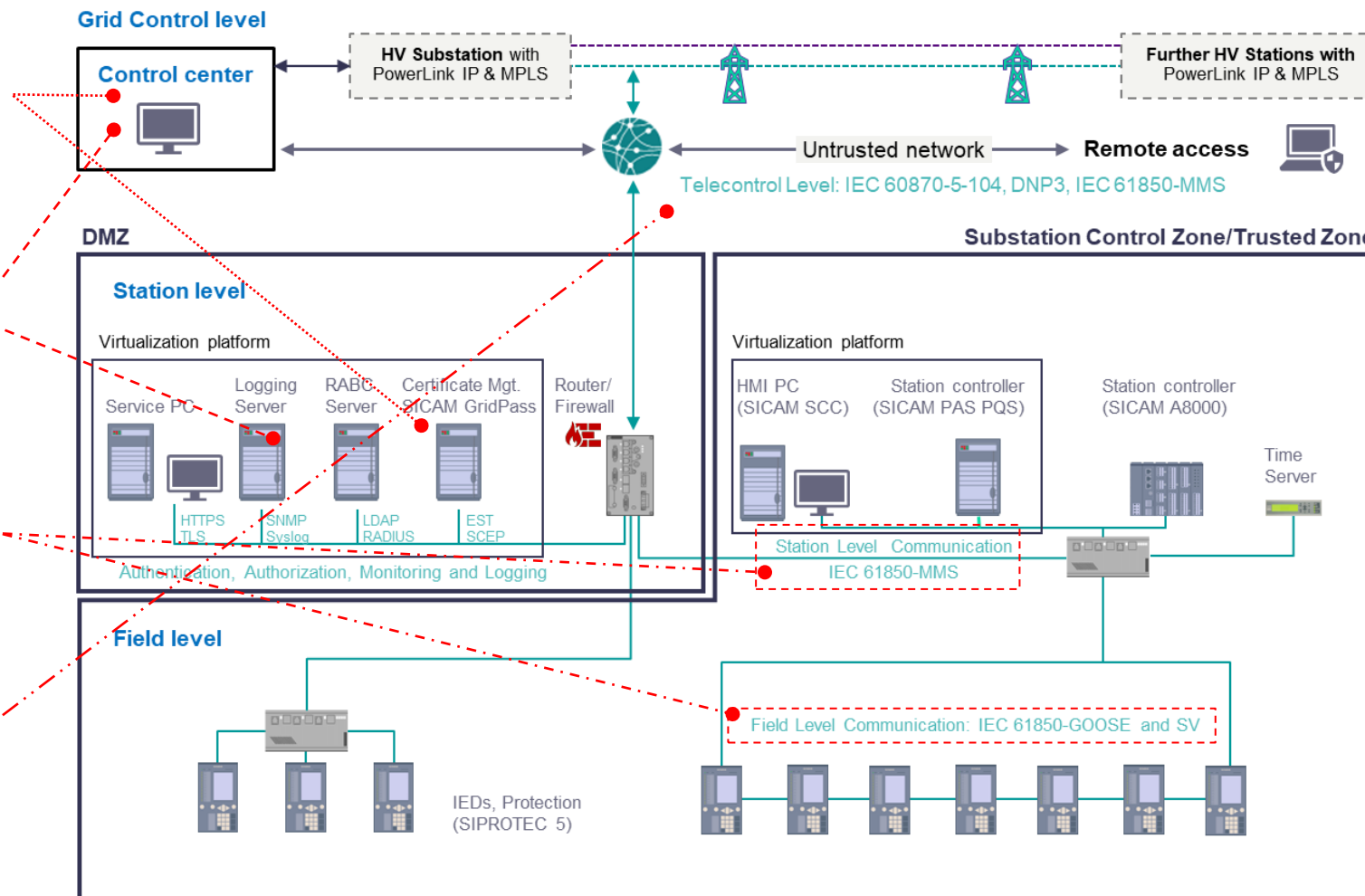
IEC 62351-7/14

Protection of process level and field level communication with real-time constraints using appropriate security measures

IEC 62351-3/4/5/6/9

Securing telecontrol and control center communication using TLS and / or security measures on application level

IEC 62351-3/4/5/9



Additionally, certification of security functionalities is possible to underline a security aware development and integration process as well as support of technical security means (e.g., using IEC 62351).

Certification possible according to IEC 62443

CERTIFICATE
No. IITS2 062845 0005 Rev. 00

Holder of Certificate: Siemens AG
SI DO
Humboldtstraße 59
80339 Nürnberg
GERMANY

Site(s): Siemens AG
SI DO EA-OP
Humboldtstr. 59, 90450 Nürnberg, GERMANY

Certification Mark:

Product Type: Industrial IT Security

Model(s): Security Program for the "Blueprint Secure Substation"

Tested according to: IEC 62443-2-4:2016/AMD1:2017
IEC 62443-3-3:2013/COR1:2014
PPF 150114:2018 (IEC 62443-2-4, Full Profile for a Control System)

The product was tested on a voluntary basis and complies with the essential requirements. The certification mark shown above can be affixed on the product. It is not permitted to alter the certification mark in any way. In addition, the certification holder must not transfer the certificate to third parties. See <https://www.tuv.com> for details.

Test report no.: 19CR120200

Valid until: 2023-10-31

Date: 2020-11-04

Page 1 of 1
TUV SUD Product Service GmbH - Certification Body - Ritterstraße 85 - 80338 Munich - Germany

Security Requirement Consideration

Development and feature set definition on the example of a protection device

Technical Measures according to IEC 62351

Mutually authenticated and encrypted communication line for operational protocols and engineering

Device-side support for role-based access control including central user management and emergency access

Recording of security-relevant events and alarms over Syslog and in non-volatile security log in device

Confirmation codes for safety-critical operations

SIPROTEC 5

Bay level



Device uses key stored in crypto-chip to allow only firmware signed by Siemens to load

Separation of process- and management communication



Secured access for HMI interactions and web-based device monitoring



Secure development
Patch management
Virus protection

Product hardening
Independent testing

Crypto-chip for secure information storage and transmission

 X.509 Certificates applied

Measures for product lifecycle supported by requirements from IEC 62443

Cybersecurity in the Power Grid

Security by Design in Products

Signed software/firmware

Protection against firmware/
software manipulation

Firewall & VLAN

Separation of Ethernet traffic
over integrated firewall &
VLAN

Security Logging

Non-volatile persistence of
security audit trail and
transfer over TLS Syslog
(as of IEC 62351-14)

RBAC for engineering and operation

Centrally manage users and
assign roles for authorization
(based on IEC 62351-8)

BDEW Whitepaper and IEC 62443 conformity

Fulfills recommendations for
control and communication
systems security

Certificate Management

X.509 certificate
management with SICAM
GridPass (IEC 62351-9)

Communication Security

- TLS security (based on IEC 62351-3)
- Application layer security for IEC 80670-5-104, IEC 61850, DNP3i according to IEC 62351-5
- Intrusion Detection



All good?

Well, there are still Security Challenges!

- **Operational challenge** to migrate existing systems to utilize specified security standards and BCPs
- Observation of **System Integrity** to identify unauthorized (and also unintended) changes in system configuration. This may be connected with response handling upon detection.
- Ensuring **Resilience** to allow a system to stay operational with a degraded performance or functionality even when it has been attacked successfully.
- Performing **Monitoring** of industrial communication to ensure reliance with the intended operational environment even if the communication is encrypted. Influences on network design and privacy to be obeyed.
- Address **Supply Chain Security** requirements to enable verification of the system integrity along the product value chain and also after commissioning during operation.
- Support of **Crypto Agility** to enable migration to stronger cryptographic algorithms. Advances in quantum computing endangers specifically asymmetric cryptographic algorithms like RSA or Elliptic Curve Cryptosystems (ECC) used for authentication, authorization, and key agreement in devices and infrastructure.

Crypto Agility: Transition to PQC must be prepared to meet upcoming requirements and customer demands for long lived critical infrastructures

- US administration is pushing for the transition to post-quantum cryptography
- Initial focus on US NSS systems starting by 2025, e.g., armed forces, intelligence
- Private sector expected to follow soon afterwards
- Similar recommendations seen also in other regions, e.g., Europe, China, ...



Related activities for standards and guidelines are ongoing

Examples: ISO/IEC, IETF, ETSI, NIST, German BSI, EU Commission



- ❖ [ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC27](#) engaged in PQC standardization of PQC algorithms (FrodoKEM, Kyber, and Classic McEliece)
- ❖ IEC TC57 WG15 ongoing work on migration to stronger cryptographic algorithms in IEC 62351-90-4



- ❖ Several working groups at IETF (CFRG, [LAMPS](#), [SUIT](#), [PQUIP](#), ...) started specifying the usage of post-quantum algorithms in cryptographic protocols and data formats
- ❖ Stateful Hash-based signatures standardized ([XMSS](#), [HSS-LMS](#))



- ❖ ETSI Quantum Safe WG provides [recommendations](#) and guidelines for the application of post-quantum algorithms in different use cases ([TR 103 619](#), 2020).



- ❖ [NIST SP1800-38B](#): Migration to Post Quantum Cryptography
- ❖ Standardization of PQC algorithms ongoing (CRYSTALS-Kyber (ML-KEM, [FIPS 203](#)), CRYSTALS-Dilithium (ML-DSA, [FIPS 204](#)), SPHINCS+ (SLH-DSA, [FIPS 205](#)), FALCON)



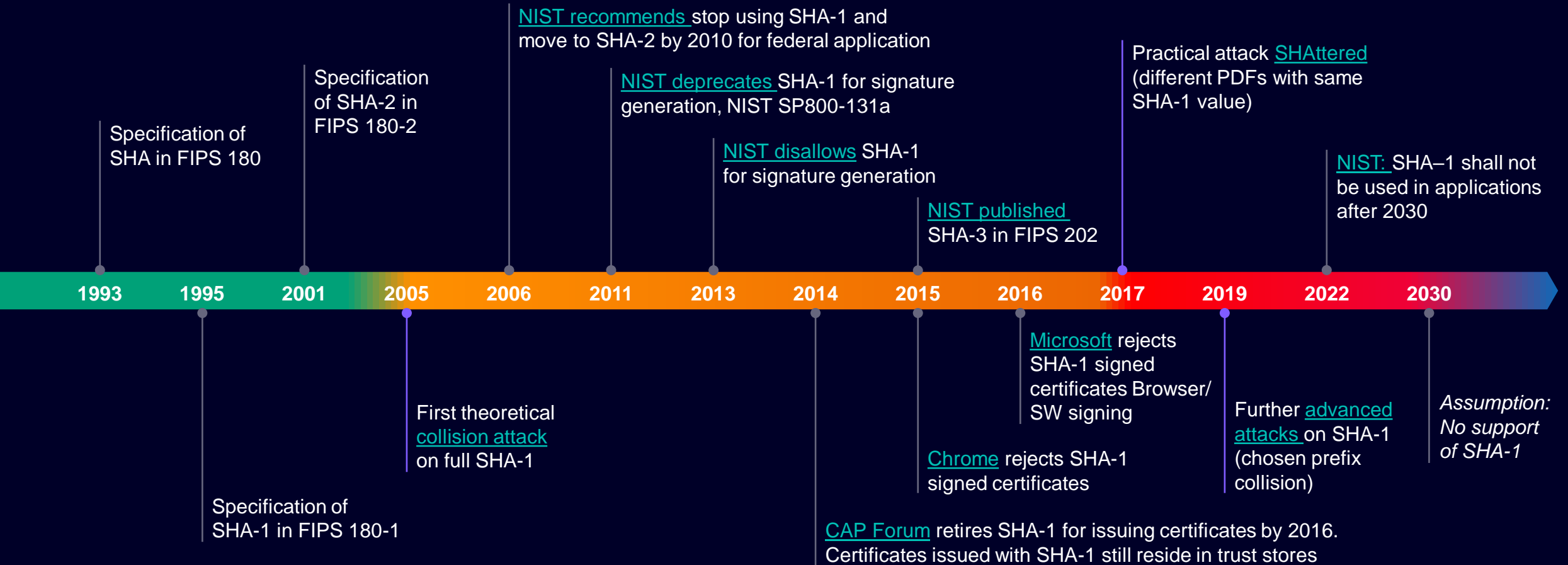
- ❖ German BSI provides recommendations and key length also for PQC algorithms in [TR 02102-1](#) (yearly updated) as well as general [guidelines](#) for the migration.



- ❖ European Commission: [Recommendation](#) on a Coordinated Implementation Roadmap for the transition to Post-Quantum Cryptography (April 2024)

Experiences from ongoing cryptographic algorithm migration

The rise and fall of SHA-1



Migration towards new cryptographic algorithm support takes its time. Disallowing application of outdated cryptographic algorithm takes even longer.

Summary & Outlook

- Cybersecurity has been acknowledged as prerequisite for limiting risks in critical infrastructures.
 - Cyber security needs a holistic approach – collaboration between vendors, integrators and operators; taking into account people, processes, and products in the specific domain.
 - Regulation increasingly requires to address technical and organizational cybersecurity measures to ensure reliable operation of critical infrastructures and beyond.
 - Security-by-Design using a risk-based approach is essential to provide appropriate security features from the ground and addresses functional and procedural security requirements during product manufacturing and operation.
 - Standardization and guideline activities support the alignment of approaches and interoperability of different vendor's products and need to adopt upcoming new requirements.
-
- Still, some challenges as shown remain and are already addressed, e.g., in the related standardization groups ... and provide further food for thoughts.

Contact

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Information

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