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TECHNICAL REPORT



Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 90-4: Network engineering guidelines

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	12
INTRODUCTION.....	14
1 Scope.....	15
2 Normative references	16
3 Terms, definitions, abbreviations and conventions	19
3.1 Terms and definitions	19
3.2 Abbreviations	22
3.3 Conventions	25
3.3.1 Network diagram symbols.....	25
3.3.2 Port and link symbols	26
3.3.3 Bridges symbols	26
4 Overview of IEC 61850 networks.....	27
4.1 Logical allocation of functions and interfaces.....	27
4.2 IEC 61850 protocol stack	29
4.2.1 General	29
4.2.2 IEC 61850 traffic classes	29
4.2.3 MMS protocol	30
4.2.4 GOOSE protocol.....	30
4.2.5 SV protocol.....	32
4.3 Station bus and process bus	32
5 Network design checklist	34
5.1 Design principles.....	34
5.2 Engineering flow.....	34
5.3 Checklist to be observed	35
5.3.1 Summary.....	35
5.3.2 Environmental issues	36
5.3.3 EMI immunity.....	36
5.3.4 Form factor.....	36
5.3.5 Physical media	36
5.3.6 Substation application and network topology	36
5.3.7 Redundancy	37
5.3.8 Reliability, availability, maintainability.....	37
5.3.9 Logical data flows and traffic patterns.....	37
5.3.10 Latency for different types of traffic	37
5.3.11 Performance.....	37
5.3.12 Network management.....	38
5.3.13 Network supervision	38
5.3.14 Time synchronization and accuracy	38
5.3.15 Remote connectivity	38
5.3.16 Cyber security	38
5.3.17 Scalability, upgradeability and future-proof	39
5.3.18 Testing	39
5.3.19 Cost	39
6 Ethernet technology for substations.....	39
6.1 Ethernet subset for substation automation.....	39
6.2 Topology	39

6.3	Physical layer	41
6.3.1	Data rate and medium	41
6.3.2	Full-duplex communication and auto-negotiation	41
6.3.3	Copper cabling at 100 Mbit/s	41
6.3.4	Optical cabling at 100 Mbit/s (100BASE-FX)	42
6.3.5	Optical cabling at 1 Gbit/s (1000BASE-LX)	44
6.3.6	Copper cabling at 1 Gbit/s	44
6.4	Link layer	44
6.4.1	Unicast and multicast MAC addresses	44
6.4.2	Link layer and bridges	45
6.4.3	Bridging nodes	45
6.4.4	Loop prevention and RSTP	45
6.4.5	Traffic control in the bridges	47
6.4.6	Unicast MAC address filtering	47
6.4.7	Multicast MAC address filtering	47
6.4.8	Virtual LANs (VLANs) traffic control	48
6.4.9	Comparison VLAN versus multicast filtering	53
6.4.10	Layer 2 redundancy protocols	53
6.5	Network layer	57
6.5.1	Internet protocol	57
6.5.2	IP public and private addresses	57
6.5.3	Subnet masks	58
6.5.4	Network address translation	59
7	Network and substation topologies	59
7.1	General rule	59
7.2	Reference topologies and network redundancy	60
7.3	Reference topologies	64
7.3.1	Station bus topologies	64
7.3.2	Process bus and attachment of primary equipment	77
7.3.3	Station bus and process bus connection	92
8	Addressing in the substation	98
8.1	Network IP address plan for substations	98
8.1.1	General structure	98
8.1.2	IP address allocation of NET	99
8.1.3	IP address allocation of BAY	100
8.1.4	IP address allocation of device	100
8.1.5	IP address allocation of devices with PRP	101
8.2	Routers and GOOSE / SV traffic	101
8.3	Communication outside the substation	101
9	Application parameters	102
9.1	MMS parameters	102
9.2	GOOSE parameters	102
9.3	SV parameters	102
10	Performance	103
10.1	Station bus performance	103
10.1.1	Logical data flows and traffic patterns	103
10.1.2	GOOSE traffic estimation	104
10.1.3	MMS traffic estimation	104

10.1.4	station bus measurements	105
10.2	Process bus performance	106
11	Latency	106
11.1	Application requirements	106
11.2	Latency requirements for different types of traffic	107
11.2.1	Latency requirements in IEC 61850-5	107
11.2.2	Latencies of physical paths.....	107
11.2.3	Latencies of bridges	107
11.2.4	Latency and hop counts.....	108
11.2.5	Network latency budget	108
11.2.6	Example of traffic delays	109
11.2.7	Engineering a network for IEC 61850 protection	109
12	Network traffic control	110
12.1	Factors that affect performance	110
12.1.1	Influencing factors	110
12.1.2	Traffic reduction	110
12.1.3	Example of traffic reduction scheme	111
12.1.4	Multicast domains in a combined station bus and process bus network	112
12.2	Traffic control by VLANs.....	113
12.2.1	Trunk traffic reduction by VLANs	113
12.2.2	VLAN usage	114
12.2.3	VLAN handling at the IEDs	114
12.2.4	Example of correct VLAN configuration.....	114
12.2.5	Example of incorrect VLAN configuration.....	115
12.2.6	Retaining priority throughout the network.....	117
12.2.7	Traffic filtering with VLANs	117
12.3	Traffic control by multicast filtering	118
12.3.1	Trunk traffic reduction by multicast filtering.....	118
12.3.2	Multicast/VLAN management and redundancy protocol reconfiguration	119
12.3.3	Physical topologies and multicast management implications.....	119
12.4	Configuration support from tools and SCD files	122
13	Dependability	122
13.1	Resiliency requirements	122
13.2	Availability and reliability requirements.....	123
13.3	Recovery time requirements	123
13.4	Maintainability requirements	123
13.5	Dependability calculations	124
13.6	Risk analysis attached to "unwanted events"	124
14	Time services	125
14.1	Clock synchronization and accuracy requirements.....	125
14.2	Global time sources.....	125
14.3	Time scales and leap seconds.....	126
14.4	Epoch.....	127
14.5	Time scales in IEC 61850.....	127
14.6	Synchronization mechanisms in IEC 61850	128
14.6.1	Clock synchronization protocols	128
14.6.2	1 PPS.....	130

14.6.3	IRIG-B	130
14.6.4	NTP/SNTP clock synchronization for IEC 61850-8-1 (station bus)	130
14.6.5	PTP (IEC 61588) synchronization	132
14.6.6	PTP clock synchronization and IEC 62439-3:2012	137
14.6.7	IEEE C37.238-2011 Power profile	140
14.7	PTP network engineering	141
14.7.1	PTP reference clock location	141
14.7.2	PTP connection of station bus and process bus	142
14.7.3	Merging units synchronization	143
15	Network security	143
16	Network management	143
16.1	Protocols for network management	143
16.2	Network management tool	144
16.3	Network diagnostic tool	144
17	Remote connectivity	145
18	Network testing	145
18.1	Introduction to testing	145
18.2	Environmental type testing	146
18.3	Conformance testing	146
18.3.1	Protocols subject to conformance testing	146
18.3.2	Integrator acceptance and verification testing	147
18.3.3	Simple verification test set-up	147
18.3.4	Simple VLAN handling test	148
18.3.5	Simple priority tagging test	148
18.3.6	Simple multicast handling test	149
18.3.7	Simple RSTP recovery test	149
18.3.8	Simple HSR test	150
18.3.9	Simple PRP test	150
18.3.10	Simple PTP test	150
18.4	Factory and site acceptance testing	150
19	IEC 61850 bridge and port object model	151
19.1	Purpose	151
19.2	Bridge model	152
19.2.1	Simple model	152
19.2.2	Bridge Logical Node linking	154
19.3	Clock model	154
19.3.1	IEC 61588 datasets	154
19.3.2	Clock objects	155
19.3.3	Simple clock model	155
19.3.4	Linking of clock objects	156
19.4	Autogenerated IEC 61850 objects	157
19.4.1	General	157
19.4.2	Abbreviated terms used in data object names	157
19.4.3	Logical nodes	158
19.4.4	Data semantics	171
19.4.5	Enumerated data attribute types	174
19.4.6	SCL enumerations	176
19.4.7	Common data class specifications	176

19.4.8	Enumerated types	182
19.4.9	SCL enumerations	183
19.5	Mapping of bridge objects to SNMP	183
19.5.1	Mapping of LLN0 and LPHD attributes to SNMP	183
19.5.2	Mapping of LBRI attributes to SNMP for bridges	184
19.5.3	Mapping of LPCP attributes to SNMP for bridges	184
19.5.4	Mapping of LPLD attributes to SNMP for bridges	184
19.5.5	Mapping of HSR/PRP link redundancy entity to SNMP	185
19.6	Mapping of clock objects to the C37.238 SNMP MIB	186
19.7	Machine-readable description of the bridge objects	189
19.7.1	Method and examples	189
19.7.2	Four-port bridge	189
19.7.3	Simple IED with PTP	199
19.7.4	RedBox wit HSR	206
Annex A (informative)	Case study – Process bus configuration for busbar protection system	214
Annex B (informative)	Case study – Simple Topologies (Transener/Transba, Argentina)	218
Annex C (informative)	Case study – An IEC 61850 station bus (Powerlink, Australia)	226
Annex D (informative)	Case study – Station bus with VLANs (Trans-Africa, South Africa)	242
	Bibliography	263
Figure 1	– Network symbols	26
Figure 2	– Port symbols	26
Figure 3	– Bridge symbol as beam	27
Figure 4	– Bridge symbol as bus	27
Figure 5	– Levels and logical interfaces in substation automation systems	28
Figure 6	– IEC 61850 protocol stack	29
Figure 7	– MMS protocol time/distance chart	30
Figure 8	– GOOSE protocol time/distance chart	31
Figure 9	– GOOSE protocol time chart	32
Figure 10	– Example of SV traffic (4 800 Hz)	32
Figure 11	– Station bus, process bus and traffic example	33
Figure 12	– Example of engineering flow	35
Figure 13	– Ethernet local area network (with redundant links)	40
Figure 14	– Switch with copper (RJ45) ports)	40
Figure 15	– RJ45 connector	42
Figure 16	– LC connector	43
Figure 17	– Switch with optical fibres (LC connectors)	44
Figure 18	– RSTP principle	46
Figure 19	– IEEE 802.3 frame format without and with VLAN tagging	49
Figure 20	– PRP principle	54
Figure 21	– HSR principle	56
Figure 22	– HSR and PRP coupling (multicast)	57
Figure 23	– Mapping of electrical grid to data network topology	60

Figure 24 – Station bus as single bridge	64
Figure 25 – Station bus as hierarchical star	65
Figure 26 – Station bus as dual star with PRP	66
Figure 27 – Station bus as ring of RSTP bridges.....	67
Figure 28 – Station bus as separated Main 1 (Bus 1) and Main 2 (Bus 2) LANs	68
Figure 29 – Station bus as ring of HSR bridging nodes	70
Figure 30 – Station bus as ring and subrings with RSTP	71
Figure 31 – Station bus as parallel rings with bridging nodes	72
Figure 32 – Station bus as parallel HSR rings	73
Figure 33 – Station bus as hierarchical rings with RSTP bridging nodes	74
Figure 34 – Station bus as hierarchical rings with HSR bridging nodes	76
Figure 35 – Station bus as ring and subrings with HSR.....	77
Figure 36 – Double busbar bay with directly attached sensors	78
Figure 37 – Double busbar bay with SAMUs and process bus	79
Figure 38 – Double busbar bay with ECT/EVTs and process bus	80
Figure 39 – 1 ½ CB diameter with conventional, non-redundant attachment.....	81
Figure 40 – 1 ½ CB diameter with SAMUs and process bus	82
Figure 41 – 1 ½ CB diameter with ECT/EVT and process bus	83
Figure 42 – Process bus as connection of PIA and PIB (non-redundant protection).....	84
Figure 43 – Process bus as single star (not redundant protection)	85
Figure 44 – Process bus as dual star	87
Figure 45 – Process bus as a single bridge (no protection redundancy)	88
Figure 46 – Process bus as separated LANs for main 1 and main 2.....	90
Figure 47 – Process bus as ring of HSR nodes	91
Figure 48 – Process bus as star to merging units and station bus as RSTP ring	93
Figure 49 – Station bus and process bus as rings connected by a router	95
Figure 50 – Station bus ring and process bus ring with HSR	96
Figure 51 – Station bus as dual PRP ring and process bus as HSR ring	98
Figure 52 – Station bus used for the measurements	105
Figure 53 – Typical traffic (packet/s) on the station bus	105
Figure 54 – Generic multicast domains	110
Figure 55 – Traffic patterns.....	112
Figure 56 – Multicast domains for a combined process bus and station bus	113
Figure 57 – Bridges with correct VLAN configuration.....	115
Figure 58 – Bridges with poor VLAN configuration	116
Figure 59 – Bridges with traffic segmentation through VLAN configuration	118
Figure 60 – Station bus separated into multicast domains by voltage level.....	119
Figure 61 – Multicast traffic on an RSTP ring	120
Figure 62 – RSTP station bus and HSR ring	121
Figure 63 – RSTP station bus and HSR process bus	121
Figure 64 – Clock synchronization channels	129
Figure 65 – 1 PPS synchronisation	130
Figure 66 – SNTP clock synchronization and delay measurement.....	131

Figure 67 – PTP elements	133
Figure 68 – PTP one-step clock synchronization and delay measurement	134
Figure 69 – PTP two-step clock synchronization and delay measurement	136
Figure 70 – Clocks in a PRP network coupled by BCs with an HSR ring.....	139
Figure 71 – C37.238-specific TLV	141
Figure 72 – Hierarchy of clocks.....	142
Figure 73 – Quality assurance stages (copied from IEC 61850-4)	145
Figure 74 – Test set-up for verification test	147
Figure 75 – Multiport device model	153
Figure 76 – Linking of bridge objects	154
Figure 77 – Clock model	156
Figure 78 – Linking of clock objects	157
Figure 79 – Class diagram LogicalNodes_90_4::LogicalNodes_90_4	158
Figure 80 – Class diagram LNGroupL::LNGroupLExt	159
Figure 81 – Class diagram LNGroupL::LNGroupLNew	160
Figure 82 – Usage of VLAN filtering	163
Figure 83 – Usage of clock references	169
Figure 84 – Class diagram DetailedDiagram::DOEnums_90_4	175
Figure 85 – Class diagram CommonDataClasses_90_4::CommonDataClasses_90_4	176
Figure 86 – Class diagram CDCStatusInfo::CDCStatusInfo	177
Figure 87 – Class diagram CDCStatusSet::CDCStatusSet	180
Figure 88 – Four-port bridge	189
Figure 89 – Simple IED with PTP but no LLDP support	199
Figure 90 – RedBox with LLDP but no PTP	207
Figure A.1 – Preconditions for the process bus configuration example	215
Figure B.1 – First Ethernet-based Transba substation automation network	218
Figure B.2 – Transba SAS architecture	219
Figure B.3 – Transener substation automation network	220
Figure B.4 – Transener SAS architecture – ET Esperanza	222
Figure B.5 – Transener 500 kV architecture – El Morejón	223
Figure B.6 – 500 kV kiosk topology	224
Figure B.7 – 33 kV kiosk topology	225
Figure C.1 – Example HV and LV single line diagram and IEDs	226
Figure C.2 – HV bay and cabinet module	228
Figure C.3 – Data network areas	232
Figure C.4 – Substation LAN topology	234
Figure C.5 – SAS Gen1 High level traffic flows	235
Figure C.6 – SCADA & gateway connection	236
Figure C.7 – Station Core	236
Figure C.8 – Overall VLANs	238
Figure C.9 – Three domains.....	238
Figure C.10 – One domain per diameter, bus zone and transformer protection	239
Figure D.1 – Conceptual topology of substation LAN network with redundancy	245

Figure D.2 – Detailed topology of substation LAN with redundancy	246
Figure D.3 – Original IPv4 Type of Service (ToS) octet	249
Figure D.4 – Differentiated Services (DiffServ) codepoint field	249
Table 1 – IEC 61850-5 interface definitions	28
Table 2 – Example of port ingress setting table.....	51
Table 3 – Example of port egress settings	52
Table 4 – Advantages and drawbacks of VLAN versus multicast filtering	53
Table 5 – IANA private IP address blocks (copied from RFC 1918)	58
Table 6 – IP address and mask example.....	58
Table 7 – Summary of reference topologies	62
Table 8 – Reference topologies and redundancy protocols used	63
Table 9 – Station bus as single bridge	64
Table 10 – Station bus as hierarchical star	65
Table 11 – Station bus as dual star	66
Table 12 – Station bus as ring	67
Table 13 – Station bus as separated Main 1 and Main 2 protection	69
Table 14 – Station bus as ring of bridging nodes.....	70
Table 15 – Station bus as ring and subrings	71
Table 16 – Station bus as parallel rings	73
Table 17 – Station bus as parallel HSR rings	74
Table 18 – Station bus as ring of rings with RSTP.....	75
Table 19 – Station bus as ring of rings with HSR	76
Table 20 – Station bus as ring and subrings with HSR	77
Table 21 – Process bus as connection of PIA and PIB	84
Table 22 – Process bus as single star.....	86
Table 23 – Process bus as dual star	87
Table 24 – Process bus as single bridge.....	89
Table 25 – Process bus as separated LANs.....	90
Table 26 – Process bus as simple ring.....	91
Table 27 – Advantages and drawbacks of physical separation	92
Table 28 – Advantages and drawbacks of logical separation.....	92
Table 29 – Process bus as star to merging units	93
Table 30 – Connection of station bus to process bus by routers	95
Table 31 – Connection of station bus to process bus by RedBoxes.....	97
Table 32 – Connection of duplicated station bus to process bus by RedBoxes	98
Table 33 – Example IP address allocation of NET	99
Table 34 – Example IP address allocation of BAY	100
Table 35 – Example IP address allocation of device.....	100
Table 36 – Example IP address allocation of switches in PRP	101
Table 37 – IEC 61850-5 interface traffic.....	103
Table 38 – Message types and addresses	104
Table 39 – Transfer time requirements of IEC 61850-5	107

Table 40 – Elapsed time for an IEEE 802.3 frame to traverse the physical medium.....	107
Table 41 – Delay for an IEEE 802.3 frame to ingress or to egress a port	108
Table 42 – Latencies caused by waiting for a lower-priority frame to egress a port	109
Table 43 – Synchronization classes of IEC 61850-5.....	125
Table 44 – Time representations.....	128
Table 45 – Standards applicable to network elements.....	146
Table 46 – Normative abbreviations for data object names	157
Table 47 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LPHDExt	161
Table 48 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LBRI.....	162
Table 49 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LCCF	163
Table 50 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LCCHEExt	164
Table 51 – Data objects of LNGroupL::PortBindingLN.....	165
Table 52 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LPCP	165
Table 53 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LPLD.....	166
Table 54 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LBSP	168
Table 55 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LTIMEExt	168
Table 56 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LTMSEExt	170
Table 57 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LTPC	170
Table 58 – Data objects of LNGroupL::LTPP.....	171
Table 59 – Attributes defined on classes of LogicalNodes_90_4 package	171
Table 60 – Literals of DOEnums_90_4::ChannelRedundancyKind.....	174
Table 61 – Literals of DOEnums_90_4::LeapSecondKind.....	175
Table 62 – Literals of DOEnums_90_4::RstpStateKind.....	175
Table 63 – Clock grandmaster status common data class definition	177
Table 64 – Clock port status common data class definition	178
Table 65 – Clock ordinary settings common data class definition	180
Table 66 – VLAN filters common data class definition	182
Table 67 – Literals of DAEnums_90_4::VlanTagKind	182
Table 68 – Mapping of LLN0 and LPHD attributes to SNMP	183
Table 69 – Mapping of LBRI and LBSP attributes to SNMP for bridges	184
Table 70 – Mapping of LPCP attributes to SNMP for bridges.....	184
Table 71 – Mapping of LPLD attributes to SNMP for bridges.....	185
Table 72 – Mapping of LCCH attributes for SNMP for HSR/PRP LREs.....	186
Table 73 – Mapping of clock objects in IEC 61850, IEC 61588 and IEEE C37.238	186
Table A.1 – Summary of expected latencies.....	215
Table C.1 – Site categories HV.....	227
Table C.2 – Site categories MV.....	227
Table C.3 – Building modules	228
Table C.4 – Network modules	233
Table C.5 – Domain assignment for three domains	239
Table C.6 – Domain assignment for one domain per diameter.....	239
Table C.7 – Summary of expected latencies	241
Table C.8 – Traffic types and estimated network load	241

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Table D.1 – VLAN numbering and allocation	247
Table D.2 – Prioritization selection for various applications.....	248
Table D.3 – Mapping of applications to service levels	249
Table D.4 – List of DiffServ codepoint field values	250
Table D.5 – Example of DSCP to class of service mapping.....	250
Table D.6 – Example of DSCP mappings	251
Table D.7 – Typical substation IP Address map (IP range: 10.0.16.0/21)	251
Table D.8 – SNMP MIBs applicable to substation devices.....	253
Table D.9 – Example of device naming	255
Table D.10 – Example of interface addressing and allocation.....	255
Table D.11 – Example of device access and SNMP assignment.....	256
Table D.12 – Example of hardware identification.....	257
Table D.13 – Example of device name table	257
Table D.14 – Example of firmware and software table.....	257
Table D.15 – Example of interface addressing and allocation.....	258
Table D.16 – Example of network switch details.....	258
Table D.17 – Example of VLAN definitions	259
Table D.18 – Example of IP routing.....	259
Table D.19 – Example of QoS mapping.....	259
Table D.20 – Example of trunk and link aggregation table (void).....	260
Table D.21 – LAN switch port speed and duplex configuration	260
Table D.22 – LAN switch port security settings	261
Table D.23 – Example of DHCP snooping	262
Table D.24 – Example of storm control table.....	262

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND
SYSTEMS FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –**

Part 90-4: Network engineering guidelines

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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IEC 61850-90-4, which is a technical report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 57: Power systems management and associated information exchange.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
57/1238/DTR	57/1330/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61850 series, published under the general title *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

The growing success of the IEC 61850 series calls for guidelines for engineering Ethernet networks. The IEC 61850 series specifies the basic requirements for the networks but not how to achieve them. Instead, the IEC 61850 series of standards focuses on data modelling and the interchange of that data, leaving out physical interconnection details that are nevertheless needed for full interoperability.

This Technical Report provides definitions, guidelines and specifications for the network engineering of IEC 61850-based substation automation.

This Technical Report addresses issues such as Ethernet technology, network topology, redundancy, traffic latency and quality of service, traffic management by multicast and VLAN, network-based clock synchronization and testing of the network. It does not address network-based security.

The Technical Report is based on existing standards for semantics, services, protocols, system configuration language and architecture. It is based on work done by IEC TC 57 WG 10 (Power system IED communication and associated data models) and IEC TC 57 WG 15 (Data and communications security), on IEC 61918 (*Industrial communication networks – Installation of communication networks in industrial premises*), IEC 62439 (*Industrial communication networks – High-availability automation networks*) and IEC 61588 (*Precision clock synchronization protocol for networked measurement and control systems*), on the work of the IEEE 802.1 Working Group, the UCA International Users Group 9-2LE and the IEEE Power System Relaying Committee (PSRC), and on contributions by different companies.

The contents of this Technical Report have been coordinated with the Working Groups producing IEC 62439, IEC 62351 and with the IEEE PSRC.

COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –

Part 90-4: Network engineering guidelines

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61850, which is a Technical Report, is intended for an audience familiar with network communication and/or IEC 61850-based systems and particularly for substation protection and control equipment vendors, network equipment vendors and system integrators.

This Technical Report focuses on engineering a local area network limited to the requirements of IEC 61850-based substation automation. It outlines the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to network topology, redundancy, clock synchronization, etc. so that the network designer can make educated decisions. In addition, this report outlines possible improvements to both substation automation and networking equipment.

This Technical Report addresses the most critical aspects of IEC 61850, such as protection related to tripping over the network. This Technical Report addresses in particular the multicast data transfer of large volumes of sampled values (SV) from merging units (MUs). It also considers the high precision clock synchronization and “seamless” guaranteed transport of data across the network under failure conditions that is central to the process bus concept.

This Technical Report is not a tutorial on networking or on IEC 61850. Rather, it references and summarizes standards and publications to assist the engineers. Many publications discuss the Ethernet technology but do not address the networks in terms of substation automation. Therefore, many technologies and options have been ignored, since they were not considered relevant for a future-proof substation automation network design.

This Technical Report does not address network security.

This Technical Report does not address substation-to-substation communication, or substation to control centre communication. Inter-substation communication involves WAN technologies other than Ethernet, but when it uses Ethernet on layer 2, parts of this report can be applied. For inter-substation communication which uses exclusively the routable Internet Protocol, more adapted guidelines are in discussion within IEC TC 57, especially in documents IEC/TR 61850-90-1, IEC 61850-90-2¹, and IEC/TR 61850-90-5, which will be addressed in the WAN engineering guidelines, IEC 61850-90-12².

This Technical Report does not dispense the responsible system integrator from an analysis of the actual application configuration, which is the base for a dependable system.

¹ Under consideration.

² Under consideration.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050 (all parts), *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary* (<available at: <http://www.electropedia.org/>>)

IEC 60834-1, *Teleprotection equipment of power systems – Performance and testing – Part 1: Command systems*

IEC 60870-2-2, *Telecontrol equipment and systems – Part 2: Operating conditions – Section 2: Environmental conditions (climatic, mechanical and other non-electrical influences)*

IEC 61000-4-4, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-4: Testing and measurement techniques – Electrical fast transient/burst immunity test*

IEC 61000-4-5, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-5: Testing and measurement techniques – Surge immunity test*

IEC 61000-6-2, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 6-2: Generic standards – Immunity for industrial environments*

IEC 61508-4, *Functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems – Part 4: Definitions and abbreviations*

IEC 61588:2009, *Precision clock synchronization protocol for networked measurement and control systems*

IEC 61754-2, *Fibre optic connector interfaces – Part 2: Type BFOC/2,5 connector family*

IEC 61754-20, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Fibre optic connector interfaces – Part 20: Type LC connector family*

IEC 61800-3, *Adjustable speed electrical power drive systems – Part 3: EMC requirements and specific test methods*

IEC 61850-3, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 3: General requirements*

IEC 61850-4, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 4: System and project management*

IEC 61850-5:2013, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 5: Communication requirements for functions and device models*

IEC 61850-6:2009, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 6: Configuration description language for communication in electrical substations related to IEDs*

IEC 61850-7-1:2011, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 7-1: Basic communication structure – Principles and models*

This is a preview of "IEC/TR 61850-90-4 Ed...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

IEC 61850-7-2:2010, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 7-2: Basic information and communication structure – Abstract communication service interface (ACSI)*

IEC 61850-7-3, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 7-3: Basic communication structure – Common data classes*

IEC 61850-7-4:2010, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 7-4: Basic communication structure – Compatible logical node classes and data object classes*

IEC 61850-8-1:2011, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 8-1: Specific communication service mapping (SCSM) – Mappings to MMS (ISO 9506-1 and ISO 9506-2) and to ISO/IEC 8802-3*

IEC 61850-9-2:2011, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 9-2: Specific communication service mapping (SCSM) – Sampled values over ISO/IEC 8802-3*

IEC/TR 61850-90-1, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 90-1: Use of IEC 61850 for the communication between substations*

IEC/TR 61850-90-5, *Communication networks and systems for power utility automation – Part 90-5: Use of IEC 61850 to transmit synchrophasor information according to IEEE C37.118*

IEC 61869-9:___³, *Instrument transformers – Part 9: Digital interface for instrument transformers*

IEC 62351 (all parts), *Power systems management and associated information exchange – Data and communications security*

IEC/TS 62351-6, *Power systems management and associated information exchange – Data and communications security – Part 6: Security for IEC 61850*

IEC 62439-1:2010, *Industrial communication networks – High availability automation networks – Part 1: General concepts and calculation methods*
Amendment 1:2012

IEC 62439-3:2012, *Industrial communication networks – High availability automation networks – Part 3: Parallel Redundancy Protocol (PRP) and High availability Seamless Redundancy (HSR)*

IEC 81346 (all parts), *Industrial systems, installations and equipment and industrial products – Structuring principles and reference designations*

ISO/IEC 8326:1996, *Information processing system – Open Systems Interconnection – Session service definition*

ISO/IEC 8649, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Service definition for the Association Control Service Element⁴*

³ To be published.

⁴ Withdrawn.

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ISO/IEC 8802-2, *Information technology – Telecommunications and information exchange between systems – Local and metropolitan area networks – Specific requirements – Part 2: Logical link control*

ISO/IEC 8824-1, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Specification of basic notation*

ISO 9506-1:2003, *Industrial automation systems – Manufacturing Message Specification – Part 1: Service definition*

ISO 9506-2:2003, *Industrial automation systems – Manufacturing Message Specification – Part 2: Protocol specification*

IEEE 802.1AB-2005, *IEEE standard for Local and metropolitan area networks – Station and Media Access Control Connectivity Discovery*

IEEE 802.1D-2004, *IEEE standard for Local and metropolitan area networks – Common specifications – Media Access Control (MAC) Bridges*

IEEE 802.1Q-2011, *IEEE standard for Local and metropolitan area networks – Media Access Control (MAC) Bridges and Virtual Bridge Local Area Networks*

IEEE 802.3, *Local Area Network (LAN) protocols*

IEEE 1344, *IEEE Standard for Synchrophasors for Power Systems* (replaced by IEEE C37.118)

IEEE 1613-2009, *IEEE Standard – Environmental and Testing Requirements for Communications Networking Devices Installed in Electric Power Substations*

IEEE C37.118.1-2011, *IEEE Standard for Synchrophasor Measurements for Power Systems*

IEEE C37.118.2-2011, *IEEE Standard for Synchrophasor Data Transfer for Power Systems*

IEEE C37.238-2011, *IEEE Standard Profile for Use of IEEE 1588 Precision Time Protocol in Power System Applications*

RFC 793: 1981, *DARPA Internet Program, Transmission Control Protocol, Protocol Specification, 1981*

RFC 1006: 1987, *Network Working Group, ISO Transport Service on top of the TCP Version:3*

RFC 1305: 1992, *Network Working Group, Network Time Protocol (Version 3)*

RFC 2328: 1998, *The Internet Society, OSPF Version 2*

RFC 2661: 1999, *The Internet Society, Layer Two Tunneling Protocol "L2TP"*

RFC 3416: 2002, *The Internet Society, Version 2 of the Protocol Operations for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)*

RFC 4330: 2006, *The Internet Society, Simple Network Time Protocol (SNTP) Version 4 for IPv4, IPv6 and OSI*

RFC 4836: 2007, *IETF Trust, Definitions of Managed Objects for IEEE 802.3 Medium Attachment Units (MAUs)*

This is a preview of "IEC/TR 61850-90-4 Ed...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

TIA/EIA 568A, *Commercial building telecommunications cabling standard set (contains: TIA-568-C.0, TIA-568-C.1, TIA-568-C.2, TIA-568-C.3 AND TIA-568-C.4 – with addendums and erratas)*