



**USAID**  
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# A smarter grid? Keep it safe!

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USAID / USEA Webcast  
June 18, 2020

# Who are these guys?



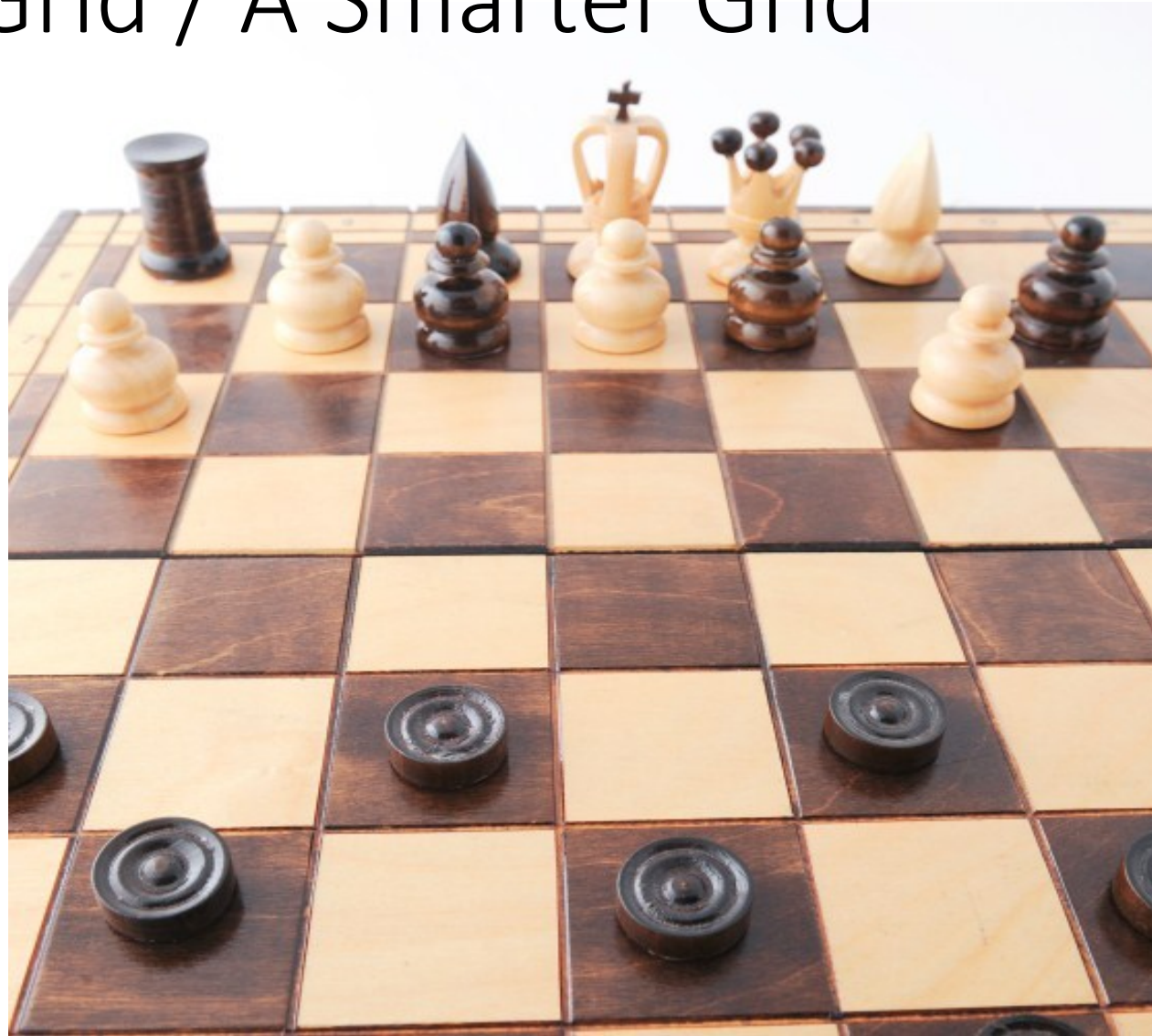
# Purpose and Objective of Our Conversation

- We'll explore:
  - The grid:  
yesterday, today,  
and your choices  
for tomorrow
  - Unique risks from  
grid intelligence
  - What kinds of tools  
help you manage  
those risks



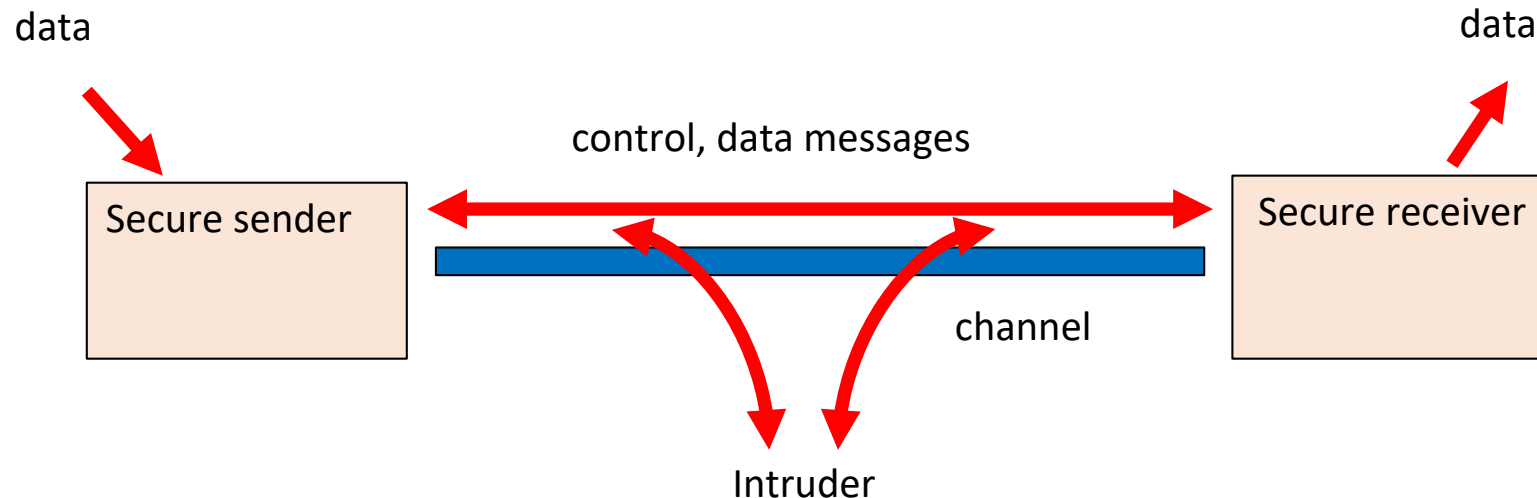


# Today's Grid / A Smarter Grid



# *“Cyber” just means “Connected”*

- “Cyber” connectivity occurs when devices generate, transmit, and receive data.
- Data becomes intelligence when someone or something takes action based on that data.

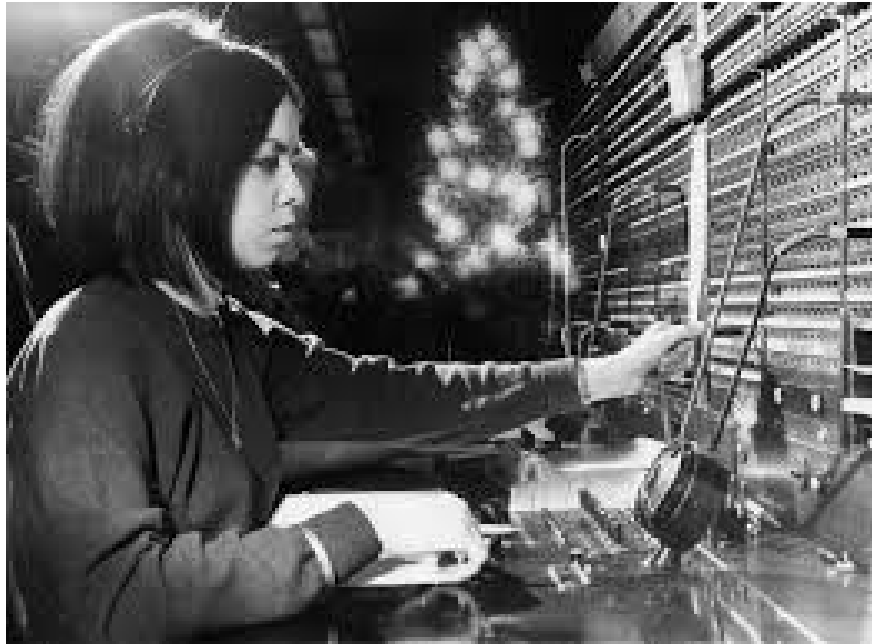


The diagram illustrates the flow of electricity from a power plant to a house. It shows a power plant on the left, followed by a transmission tower in the center, and a distribution pole on the right. Wires connect the power plant to the transmission tower, and the transmission tower to the distribution pole. A house is shown connected to the distribution pole. Labels indicate the following:

- power plant generates electricity
- transmission lines carry electricity long distances
- distribution lines carry electricity to houses
- transformers on poles step down electricity



# How has digitalization affected other sectors?



- Telecom
- Airlines

- Banking
- Entertainment





# What values does digitalization serve?

- Before:

- Reliability... for an analog economy
- Affordability... for growing consumption
- Dispatchable generation... for a top-down system

- After:

- Energy independence by reducing reliance on imported energy resources
- Sustainability to balance economy and environment
- Operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness through system visualization
- Reliability for a *digital* economy
- Power quality for modern industries
- Non-dispatchable energy resources
- Demand response & storage
- New opportunities and benefits for customers



## What makes grid security different?

## Protect

+

## Protect

+

## Protect

==

## Protect

## Conventional IT Systems

+

## Control Systems

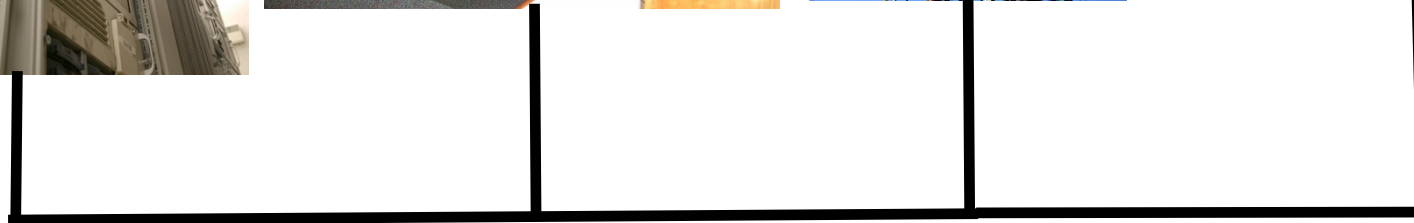
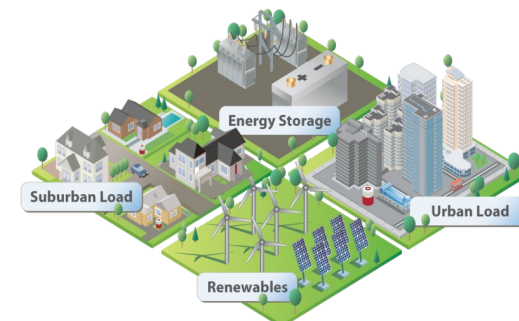
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## Electrical Infrastructure

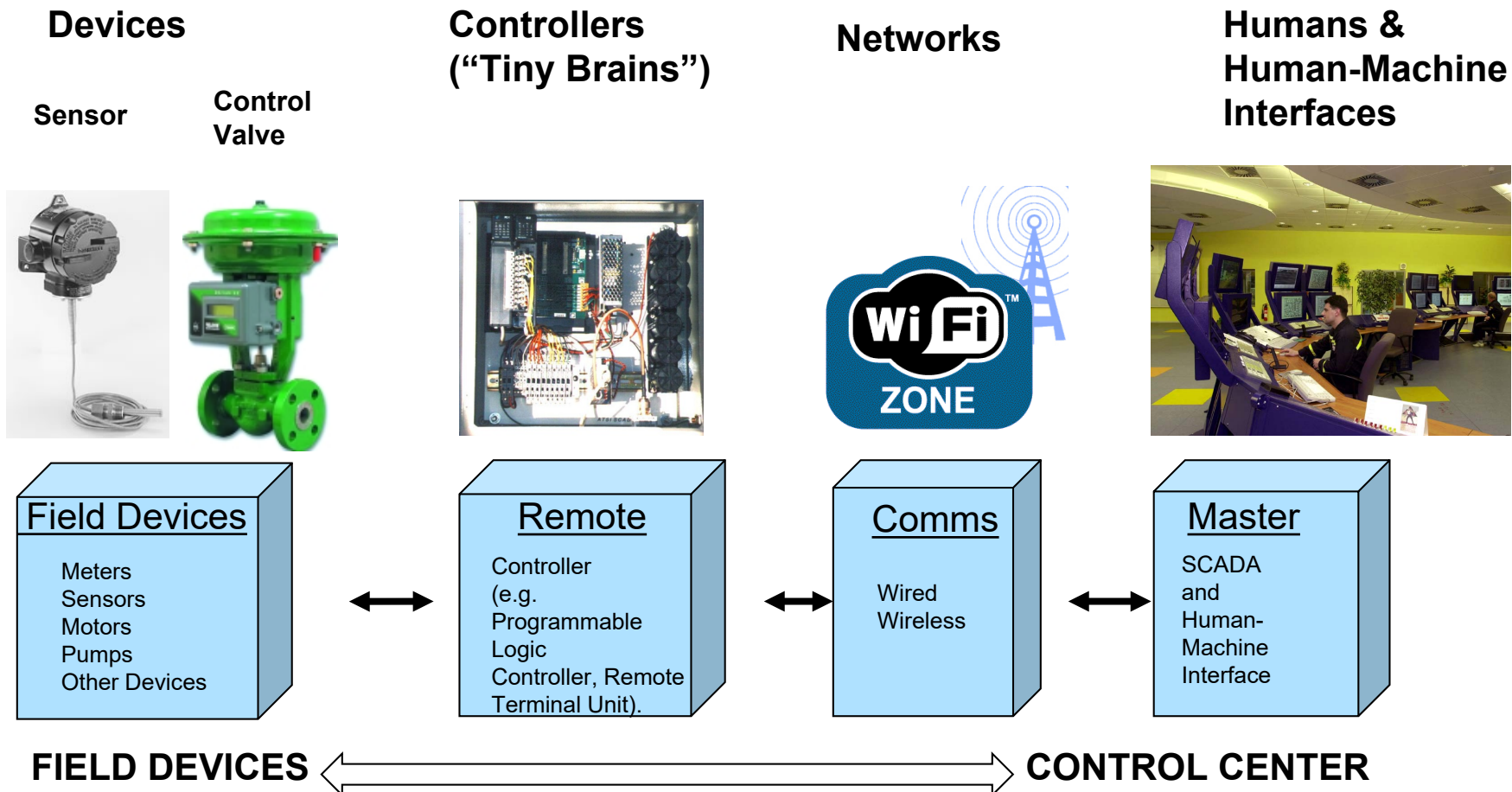
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## “Smart Grid”



# *What is a control system?*



# Control systems Vs. IT systems



# IT Security vs. Control System Security

|                                    | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY    | CONTROL SYSTEMS                      |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Anti-virus/Mobile Code</b>      | Common/widely used        | <i>Uncommon/impossible to deploy</i> |
| <b>Support Technology Lifetime</b> | 3-5 years                 | <i>Up to 20 years</i>                |
| <b>Application of Patches</b>      | Regular/scheduled         | <i>Slow (vendor specific)</i>        |
| <b>Time Critical Content</b>       | Generally delays accepted | <i>Critical due to safety</i>        |
| <b>Availability</b>                | Generally delays accepted | <i>24 x 7 x 365 x forever</i>        |
| <b>Physical Security</b>           | Secure                    | <i>Remote and unmanned</i>           |



# Integrating Intelligence into Generation

- System visualization improves load following
- Better integrate market actions
- More accurate for market, reliability, and environmental performance
- Integrate variable resources
- Integrate demand response and load-side resources
- Generation may not remain centralized – may become more distributed
  - This may raise the need for a more intelligent system

# Integrating Intelligence into Transmission

- System sensors improve system optimization, performance
  - “get more from the grid you have”
- Bigger balancing areas; better seams management
- Enables phasor measurement, synchronization, protective islanding, “self-healing”
- Reduces restart time
- Creates opportunities that enable markets

# Making Distribution Intelligent

- Outage detection and management
- Energy theft
- Energy efficiency
- Peak reduction
- Distributed energy resource hosting capacity
- Electric vehicle integration
- Dynamic pricing
- Customer engagement

# Adding Intelligence to Business Operations

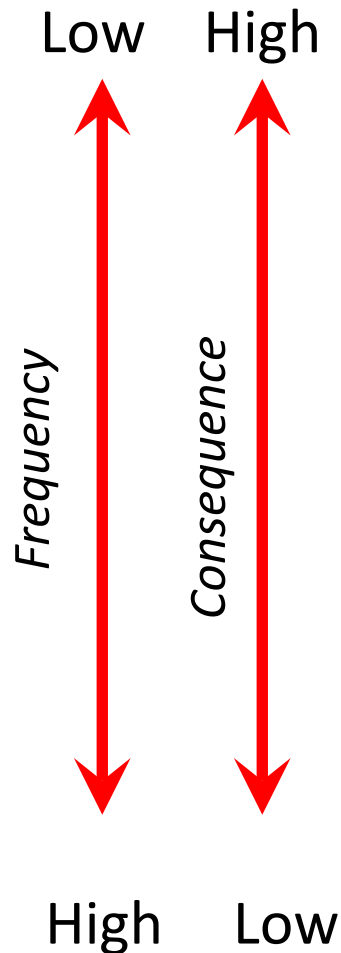
- Online billing
- Customer management
- Reducing friction between G/T/D by creating opportunities for benefitting from cross-silo cooperation
  - Example: Using peak demand response (D) to reduce transmission capacity needs (T) and defer/avoid new power plant costs (G)
- We've known how to deal with these risks since the 70's
  - Techniques like blacklists/whitelists, antivirus, segmentation, access control



# Adding Intelligence to End-Use

- A mix of control systems and information technology systems
- But customer experience is still mostly flipping a light switch
- Transactive energy
  - A: Using less/getting off the grid
  - B: Selling back to the grid
  - C: Dynamic pricing
  - A+B+C: Buying low and selling high
- EVs – reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports and improve human health through air quality improvement (e.g., blue skies during COVID)

# Types Of Cyber Intrusions



- Overt attacks – Objective: to disrupt, destroy, frighten. Terrorists, Nation States, Disgruntled current or former employees.
- Gain System Control – Remotely modify and operate the system as a vehicle for attack.
- Extortion – Criminal motivation to make money.
- Theft – Objective: make money and not be discovered (stealth). Organized crime, US, International and individuals.
- Intrusion – Unauthorized access to information and the potential to use information to do harm.

# Simple attacks can still be devastating

- Easy to do / easy to defend against ----- > difficult to do / hard to defeat
- Most entry points are still the “click the link”, because it works
- Denial of service, “man in the middle”, encryption attacks, remote access attacks, data corruption attacks (SQL injection), “social engineering” – all old tricks, still most-often used
- Trojans, viruses, worms, root kits – all are “malware”
- Ransomware shows that nation-state capabilities get out for use by criminals in 2-3 years
- Visualization means an attack doesn't need to affect operations, just what you think you see



# Are the risks manageable? How?

- It works better if you manage risks from the start!
- Tools to manage risk:
  - Planning frameworks (e.g., [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#))
  - Risk assessment tools (e.g., [ESC2M2](#))
  - Standards for compliance (e.g., [NERC Cyber Standards](#))
  - Best practices (e.g., [SCADA procurement standard language](#))



# Questions To Guide Your Choices

- How will you manage Risk?
  - What risks would this investment decrease? What risks would increase? Are those risks manageable?
- What investments are worth the money?
  - $P < D < A$ : cost of **Protection** should be less than value of the **Data**, which should be less expensive than the price of a successful **Attack**
    - Protect paperclips like paperclips and diamonds like diamonds
  - Defense in depth / redundancy
- You're in the right place at the right time!



# Any Questions?

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