Resilient Information Architecture Platform for Smart Grid

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Project Overview
Goal: To create an *open source software platform* to run Smart Grid applications and demonstrate it through selected applications. A software platform defines:

- Programming model (for distributed real-time software)
- Services (for application management, fault tolerance, security, time synchronization, coordination, etc.)
- Development toolkit (for building and deploying apps)

**Uniqueness:**

- Focus on *distributed applications* - not only on networking
- Focus on *resilience* – services for fault recovery
- Focus on *security* – maintain confidentiality, integrity, availability
Project Summary - Motivation

Example Power System: IEEE 30 bus system

Control Room
Project Summary - Motivation

Example Power System: IEEE 30 bus system

Communication Network

Control Room

RIAPS Node:
### RIAPS: Run-time Platform

#### Component Framework
- **Component Interactions**
  - Component Messaging
- **Component Scheduling**
  - Event/Time-triggered
- **Resource Management**
  - Resource Management Service
- **Fault Management**
  - Fault Management Service
- **Logging**
  - Logging Service
- **Lifecycle Management**
  - Initialize, Start, Stop, Checkpoint, Destroy
- **Language Run-time**
  - C/C++, etc.
- **Security**
  - Access Control
  - Secure Communications
  - Secure Information Flows
- **Persistence**
  - Persistence Service

#### Platform Managers
- **Application Manager**
  - Application Management and Deployment Service
- **Coordination Manager**
  - Distributed Coordination Service
- **Discovery Manager**
  - Broker Service
- **Time Manager**
  - Time Synchronization Service
- **Resource Manager**
  - Resource Management Service
- **Device Manager**
  - Device Interface Service
- **Fault Manager**
  - Fault Management Service
- **Security Manager**
  - Security Management Service
- **Log Manager**
  - Logging Service
- **Persistence Manager**
  - Persistence Service

#### OS Kernel

#### Hardware Platform
- **Device Interfaces**
  - Sensors/Actuators/Communications/GPS/...
- **Network Interface(s)**
- **Storage**

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**RIAPS Node:**
- **RIAPS Computing Platform**
- **Network I/F**
- **Sensors**
- **Actuators**
RIAPS Elements: Run-time Platform

- **Software Component Framework:**
  - Supports componentized, distributed, real-time apps
  - Core elements: messaging, scheduling, resource / fault management, logging, lifecycle, security, persistence

- **Software Platform Managers:**
  - Provide global services available to all apps
  - Core elements: discovery, app management, resource / fault management, logging, distributed coordination, time synchronization, security, device interface management, persistence
RIAPS Elements: Development tools

The MDE augments the IDE-based development process with a DSML that is used in verification and in generating infrastructure code for the applications.
Design: Overall Architecture

- Component Framework
  - Component Interactions
    - Component Messaging
  - Component Scheduling
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  - Resource Management
    - Resource Management Service
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- OS Kernel

- Hardware Platform
  - Device Interfaces
    - (Sensors/Actuators/Communications/GPS/...)
  - Network Interface(s)
  - Storage
Software Platform

- **Basic capability:**
  - Software component framework for distributed apps
  - Core platform services: deployment, discovery, devices
  - Domain-specific language for system modeling; generators
  - Example distributed app: microgrid controls, remedial action scheme

- **Enhanced capability:**
  - Distributed coordination
  - Time-sensitive messaging
  - Resource management
  - Fault management
  - Example distributed app: transactive energy
Anatomy of a component

Component can be:
- Event-triggered
- Time-triggered

Components interact via messages

Components have a single execution thread
Software Platform Details
Component-based development

- Anatomy of an application
Software Platform Details
Component-based development

- RIAPS Component Model - Rules
  - Each component runs in its own, *singleton* ‘executor’ thread
  - Component operations executed *one-by-one* by that thread
  - Components interact with each other using messages *only*

- Rationale
  - Multi-threaded code is complicated, tricky to write, and possibly dangerous
  - App developing power system engineers should not have to learn multithreading

*The component model is lightweight – minimal overhead is imposed by the framework. Component/component communication is done by background threads.*
Software Platform Details
Component-based development

- **Consequences**
  - Component is single-threaded
    - No data is shared among components – everything is shared via messages
    - Component internal (state) data does not have to be protected with locks
    - Component developer does not have to (should not) write multi-threaded code
  - Component scheduling discipline (including prioritization of operations) can be controlled on a per-component basis
  - Components are executed concurrently (on the same node) or in parallel (on different nodes of the network)
    - There is concurrency and parallelism *among* components but not *within* components
  - **Where this approach does NOT work:** I/O, asynchronous ops
    - Asynchronous ops and I/O needs to ‘connect’ to the RIAPS component execution model
    - Solution: ‘Devices’ (instead of ‘components’) that *can* be multi-threaded – but for expert developers only!

A ‘*device component*’ can encapsulate a complex, multithreaded application/system
Software Platform Details

Discovery service

- Discovery service: To help components find each other

  - When a component *provides* a service it registers that with the discovery service

  - When a component *requires* a service it looks it up via the discovery service

**Architecture:**

- Each discovery service instance on the RIAPS network participates in a peer-to-peer, Distributed Hash Table (*opendht*)

- The DHT takes care of maintaining eventual consistency across the nodes of the network

**Advantages:**

- No centralized broker, changes eventually propagate to all participants

- Robust to node and network failures

**Disadvantages:**

- Content (i.e. registrations) need to be periodically refreshed
# Software Platform Details

## Development languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Python</td>
<td>Easy to learn and use Powerful libraries Interactive development tools</td>
<td>Performance penalty Dynamic typing makes code susceptible to latent flaws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C++</td>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>Hard to learn to use it well Code is more complex, hard to write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cython</td>
<td>Performance Access to powerful libraries</td>
<td>More complex than Python Requires learning – not widely used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Details:**
- Core framework in Python
- Compiled C++ components are loaded into the Python framework
- Other languages can be used for implementing components (e.g. rust)

**Recommendations:**
1. Prototype algorithms and apps in Python, use fast libraries if needed (e.g. numpy)
2. If better performance is needed, port app to Cython (if learning curve is not an issue)
3. If very high performance is needed, port app to C++

**Other implementation choice:** Simulink/Stateflow
- Uses the Matlab-generated C code
Assumptions:

- RIAPS nodes can join and leave the network at any time.
- RIAPS nodes are managed from a central place (control room).
Software Platform Details
Deployment process

Solution

RIAPS Control (the deployment control program running on the control node) maintains a dynamic list of RIAPS nodes.
- It can also query and track the state of individual nodes.
- When a RIAPS node joins the network, it registers itself with RIAPS Control, when the RIAPS node disconnects from the network, it is automatically dep-registered from the RIAPS Control.
- RIAPS Control downloads apps to the RIAPS nodes using secure FTP and instructs the node’s deployment manager to start the application.

Challenges:

- Fault management – detecting and recovering from RIAPS node faults at any time during this process.
- Fine-grain management of the deployed application - group control, visibility into the status of the nodes and applications.
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App model selected, 3 target nodes connected

App deployed, ready to launch
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Software Platform Details
Component-based development

- Example app:

  - Components: Sensor, Local Estimator, Global Estimator
    - Each runs in its own thread
    - Interact via messages only
  - Actors: Local Actor and Aggregator Actor
    - Local Actors are deployed on multiple nodes
    - Aggregator actor is deployed on a single node

- Concurrency:
  - Sensor and Local Estimator run in separate threads but concurrently (possibly on different cores) - pipelining
  - Local Aggregator Actors and run on different nodes, in parallel
  - Aggregator Actor (and its Global Estimator component) runs on a separate node, in parallel with everything else
Software Platform Details
Models and code in applications - Example

```java
// RIAPS Sample

app DistributedEstimator {
    // Message types used in the app
    message SensorReady;
    message SensorQuery;
    message SensorValue;
    message Estimate;

    // Sensor component
    component Sensor {
        timer clock 1000;  // Periodic timer trigger to trigger sensor every 1 sec
        pub ready : SensorReady ;  // Publish port for SensorReady messages
        rep request : ( SensorQuery , SensorValue ) ;  // Reply port to query the sensor and retrieve its value
    }

    // Local estimator component
    component LocalEstimator (iArg,fArg,sArg,bArg) {
        sub ready : SensorReady ;  // Subscriber port to trigger component with SensorReady messages
        req query : (SensorQuery , SensorValue ) ;  // Request port to query the sensor and retrieve its value
        pub estimate : Estimate ;  // Publish port to publish estimated value messages
    }

    // Global estimator
    component GlobalEstimator (iArg=123,fArg=4.56,sArg="string",bArg=true) {
        sub estimate : Estimate ;  // Subscriber port to receive the local estimates
        timer wakeup 3000;  // Periodic timer to wake up estimator every 3 sec
    }

    // Estimator actor
    actor Estimator {
        local SensorReady, SensorQuery, SensorValue ;  // Local message types
        // Sensor component
        sensor : Sensor;
        // Local estimator, publishes global message 'Estimate'
        filter : LocalEstimator(iArg=789,fArg=0.12,sArg="text",bArg=false);
        filter.query = sensor.request;  // Sensor and local estimator are connected
    }

    actor Aggregator (posArg,optArg="optString") {
        // Global estimator, subscribes to 'Estimate' messages
        aggr : GlobalEstimator(iArg=posArg,sArg=optArg,bArg=true);
    }
}
```
Software Platform Details
Models and code in applications

- **Application Model** specifies:
  - Message types (with data fields)
  - Component types (with ports)
    - Each ‘input’ port requires an associated message handler – i.e. the component operation
    - Publish/subscribe ports have single message types
    - Request/reply and client/server ports have pairs of message types (for request -> reply types)
  - Actors (with components)
    - List components
  - Message flows between components and actors are inferred from the message types
    - Connections are automatically established at deployment time
  - Components and actors can have parameters
    - Formal and actual, incl. default values

- **Generated from the model:**
  - Python/C++ code skeleton for component(s) + JSON file to configure run-time system

- **Application code (by developer):**
  - C++: Extend skeleton code with ‘business logic’ for the code
  - Python: Implement the component class and its operation

- **Deployment Model:** Specifies how to deploy actors on the RIAPS nodes
  - On all / selected nodes, with concrete parameter values
Software Platform

- **Basic capability:**
  - Software component framework for distributed apps
  - Core platform services: deployment, discovery, devices
  - Domain-specific language for system modeling; generators
  - Example distributed app: microgrid control

- **Enhanced capability:**
  - Distributed coordination
  - Time-sensitive messaging
  - Resource management
  - Fault management
  - Example distributed app: transactive energy
Distributed coordination services

- **Motivation:**
  - Need for precisely defined and verified services to support apps consisting of activities interacting via a network

- **Group membership:**
  - An app component can dynamically create/join/leave a group of entities of the same app. It can also send/receive messages within the group, and be informed about changes in the group membership

- **Leader election:**
  - A group can have a leader: an ‘elected’ component that makes global decisions. Leaders are elected through an automated process, and communication to/from the leader is possible.

- **Consensus:**
  - Group members can get participate in a consensus process that reaches agreement over a value via a special protocol.

- **Time-coordinated control action:**
  - Group members can use a combination of the above three features to agree on a control action that is executed at a scheduled point in time in the future
Distributed coordination services

- Test example – Synchronized action
  - 3 nodes form a group – *Group formation*
  - Group elects a ‘leader’ node – *Leader election*
  - Every 5 second nodes propose a future time value for control action that the group votes on – *Consensus*
  - Agreed-upon time value is used to schedule a control action in the future that is executed on all nodes when the time arrives – *Time-coordinated control action*

Accuracy of time-coordination is better than 5 microseconds (given the time-synchronization)

Time synchronization:
• Master clock GPS (fallback NTP)
• Clock distribution: IEEE 1588
• Node clock deviation < 10 usec (on LAN)
Time-Sensitive Messaging

Modeling language extension:

```
// Sensor component
cOMPONENT Sensor {
    ...
    PUB ready : SensorReady timed; // Publisher of SensorReady messages
    REP request : (SensorQuery, SensorValue) timed; // To query the sensor
}
// Filter component
COMPONENT Filter () {
    SUB ready : SensorReady timed; // Subscriber of SensorReady messages
    REQ query : (SensorQuery, SensorValue) timed; // To issue queries for the sensor
    ...
}
```

**Motivation**: App needs to know how long it took to transfer a message in the network.

**Sender-side**:  
- Timestamping is automatic

**Receiver-side**:  
- `get_sendtime()`: when message was sent  
- `get_recvtime()`: when message was received
Resource management - Approach

- Resource: memory, CPU cycles, file space, network bandwidth, (access to) I/O devices
- Goal: to protect the ‘system’ from the over-utilization of resources by faulty (or malevolent) applications
- Use case:
  - Runaway, less important application monopolizes the CPU and prevents critical applications from doing their work
- Solution: model-based quota system, enforced by framework
  - Quota for application file space, CPU, network, and memory + access rights to I/O devices + response to quota violation – captured in the application model.
  - Run-time framework sets and enforces the quotas (relying on Linux capabilities)
  - When quota violation is detected, application actor can (1) ignore it, (2) restart, (3) react to by freeing resources.
    - Detection happens on the level of actors
    - App developer can provide a ‘quota violation handler’
    - If actor ignores violation, it will be eventually terminated
## Resource Management Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Detection</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPU Utilization</td>
<td>Soft limit</td>
<td>cgroups</td>
<td>cgroups automatically adjusts priority of actor as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hard limit</td>
<td>Process monitor</td>
<td>Monitor signals process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory footprint</td>
<td>Soft limit</td>
<td>Process monitor</td>
<td>Monitor signals process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disk space</td>
<td>Hard limit</td>
<td>Quota system for files</td>
<td>Quota system for files; monitor signals process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network utilization</td>
<td>Hard limit</td>
<td>Network ‘tc’</td>
<td>‘tc’ caps the network bandwidth a process can use; monitor signals process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation deadlines</td>
<td>Soft limit</td>
<td>Track time spent in op</td>
<td>Monitor signals process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpected termination of operation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Exception handler</td>
<td>Exception handler signals component</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- ‘cgroups’ (for ‘control groups’) is an advanced Linux feature that is widely used to control resource usage of programs (CPU, memory, network, etc.)
- ‘tc’ (for ‘traffic cop’) is an advanced Linux feature to control the network packet handling in the OS. One can limit the rate (number of bytes sent over a time interval) and ‘tc’ will delay or drop packets of the limit is exceeded.
Fault Management

- **Assumption**
  - Faults can happen anywhere: application, software framework, hardware, network

- **Goal**
  - RIAPS developers shall be able to develop apps that can recover from faults anywhere in the system.

- **Use case**
  - An application component hosted on a remote host stops permanently, the rest of the application detects this and ‘fails over’ to another, healthy component instead.

- **Philosophy:**
  - The platform provides the mechanics, but app-specific behavior must be supplied by the app.
Fault management

Principles:

- Application actor termination will be detected by the deployment manager, and the actor will be restarted per the application model.
- Application resource violation and operation deadline violation will be logged, and application notified.
- RIAPS services will be automatically restarted if they crash.
- The RIAPS node’s core operating system will be configured in an automatic restart mode.
- Network connection health will be monitored via heartbeat messages and application notified.
- Failed application deployment will be detected at the control node.
- Loss of connectivity to the control node will be detected, logged, and re-establishment of connection attempted.
# System-level Fault Management Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Error</th>
<th>Detection</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>App flaw</td>
<td>actor termination</td>
<td>deplo detects via netlink socket</td>
<td>(warm) restart actor</td>
<td>call term handler; notify peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>unhandled exception</td>
<td>framework catches all exceptions</td>
<td>if repeated, (warm) restart</td>
<td>call component fault handler; notify peers about restart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>resource violation</td>
<td>framework detects</td>
<td>if restarted</td>
<td>call app resource handler notify peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- CPU utilization</td>
<td>soft: cgroups cpu hard: process monitor</td>
<td>if repeated, restart</td>
<td>tune scheduler notify actor/ call handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Memory utilization</td>
<td>soft: cgroups memory (low) hard: cgroups memory (critical)</td>
<td>terminate, restart</td>
<td>call termination handler notify actor/ call handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Space utilization</td>
<td>soft: notification via netlink hard: notification via netlink</td>
<td>terminate, restart</td>
<td>notify actor/ call handler call termination handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Network utilization</td>
<td>via packet stats</td>
<td>if repeated, (warm) restart</td>
<td>notify actor/ call handler notify peers about restart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Deadline violation</td>
<td>timed method calls</td>
<td>if repeated, restart</td>
<td>notify component / call handler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>app freeze</td>
<td>check for thread stopped</td>
<td></td>
<td>terminate, restart actor</td>
<td>notify component; call cleanup handler; notify peers restart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>app runaway</td>
<td>check for method non-terminating</td>
<td></td>
<td>terminate, restart actor</td>
<td>notify component; call cleanup handler; notify peers about restart</td>
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<td>internal actor exception</td>
<td>framework catches all exception</td>
<td>terminate with error; warm restart</td>
<td>call term handler;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disco stop / exception</td>
<td>deplo detects</td>
<td>deplo (warm) restarts disco</td>
<td>if services OK, upon restart restore local service registrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>deplo stop</td>
<td>systemd detects</td>
<td>restart deplo</td>
<td>(cold) restart disco ; restart local apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>deplo loses ctrl contact</td>
<td>deplo detects</td>
<td>NIC down -&gt; wait for NIC up; keep trying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System (OS)</td>
<td>service stop</td>
<td>systemd detects</td>
<td>systemd restarts</td>
<td>clean (cold) state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>kernel panic</td>
<td>kernel watchdog</td>
<td>reboot/restart</td>
<td>deplo restarts last active actors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External I/O</td>
<td>I/O freeze</td>
<td>device actor detects</td>
<td>reset/start HW; device specific</td>
<td>inform client component</td>
</tr>
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<td>HW</td>
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<td>reset/reboot</td>
<td>systemd → deplo</td>
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<td>SSD fault</td>
<td>filesystem error</td>
<td>reboot/fsck</td>
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<td>Network</td>
<td>NIC disconnect</td>
<td>NIC down</td>
<td>reboot/fsck</td>
<td>notify actors/call handler</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RIAPS disconnect</td>
<td>framework detects RIAPS p2p loss</td>
<td>keep trying to reconnect</td>
<td>notify actors/call handler ; recv ops should err with timeout, to be handled by app</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DDoS</td>
<td>deplo monitors p2p network performance</td>
<td></td>
<td>notify actors/call handler</td>
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</table>
Some implementation details for fault management

- **Application restart:**
  - When application actors are started, they are registered in a fault-tolerant local database. Upon crash of the actor, RIAPS services, and the RIAPS node itself, the deployment automatically manages to restart all application actors that were running previously (i.e., they are in the database).

- **Detection of loss of network connectivity:**
  - The Network Interface Card (NIC) is continuously monitored -- if the ‘carrier’ is lost and/or restored, the running applications are informed.

- **Handling remote application crashes:**
  - When a RIAPS node starts, its deployment manager attempts to join a peer-to-peer network of RIAPS nodes.
  - When an application is deployed and an application actor starts, its peers within the RIAPS network will be informed.
  - If an application actor has crashed and/or restarted, its peer application actors are informed about the loss and reappearance of the actor.
  - The above mechanism allows implementing apps that are aware of status changes of their actors.
## Software Platform
### Basic Security: Threat model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of threat</th>
<th>Possible harm</th>
<th>Protection is needed for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malicious network devices</td>
<td>Observe, possibly modify or disrupt network traffic</td>
<td>Availability of resources; confidentiality and integrity of communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malicious applications</td>
<td>Interfere with operations, exhaust resources, or physically damage the node or the connected power system</td>
<td>Confidentiality and integrity of communications, availability of and control over physical resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack</td>
<td>Core applications of the platform are unable to operate</td>
<td>Platform services and remotely deployed and controlled applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malicious application actors</td>
<td>Unauthorized access to configuration and operational data of another application</td>
<td>Confidentiality of data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Secure deployment:
- All RIAPS nodes on the network can be accessed only through secure communication links: encryption + authentication via asymmetric (public/private key) cryptography. Each node has a unique, hardware-encapsulated key.

Secure communications:
- RIAPS nodes use secure, encrypted communications (SSL)
- Each app has a dynamically generated secure key for encrypting communications
- RIAPS-internal message traffic is similarly encrypted
Software Platform
Basic Security: Design

How are security concerns addressed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Secure deployment</th>
<th>Secure communications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Confidentiality</strong></td>
<td>SSL: Encrypted, secure communications between control room and nodes</td>
<td>SSL: Encrypted, secure communications between control room and RIAPS nodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integrity</strong></td>
<td>Cryptographically signed apps</td>
<td>Each app has a generated crypto key for encrypting all communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authenticity</strong></td>
<td>Detection of network impairments</td>
<td>Informing apps about impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple network links (fallback)</td>
<td>Autonomous operation of nodes and apps is expected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Management:**
- Node-local security manager to keep and manage security keys
- Deployment manager cryptographically validates apps during deployment, assigns keys to app actors
- Discovery service uses system-specific keys for inter-node communications

![Diagram](image-url)
Advanced app-level security

- **Isolation:** Apps are to be isolated from each other using standard Linux access control facilities: a unique, new user id is generated at deployment time and the app runs under this id – with restricted privileges.

- **Access control:** Uses **AppArmor** – a lightweight Mandatory Access Control (MAC) service in Linux that provides resource protection including: file access (read, write, link, lock), library loading, execution of applications, coarse-grained network (protocol, type, domain), Linux capabilities, coarse owner checks (task must have the same euid/fsuid as the object being checked), file system mounting, named sockets, abstract and anonymous sockets, DBus API (path, interface, method), signals, ptrace services. Configuration of these protections will be done using the application model.

  - Security configuration will be enforced by the deployment manager when the application is deployed and launched.
Secure information flow enforcement:

- **Messages:** All actor-actor communication is encrypted using ZeroMQ’s Elliptic Curve (EC) encryption mechanism that uses dynamically generated security keys.

- **Files (and other resources):** Applications are ‘firewalled’ from each other using Linux’s AppArmor Security Module. The riaps_actor instances are not permitted to access any files except the ones in their home and in the /tmp folder.
Software Platform
Advanced Security: Implementation

- **Support for Advanced Capability**: supporting security features for application.

Deployment model constrains what network resources an app actor can access.

These rules are strictly enforced by the Linux firewall system.

```plaintext
app DistributedEstimator {
host 192.168.57.1 {
    network any; // Actors on this host may connect to any Internet node
}
host all {
    network dns; // all hosts may connect to the domain name service
}
host 192.168.57.3 {
    network 192.168.1.1; // ... may connect to 192.168.1.1
}
on all Estimator; // Estimator actor deployed on all nodes
on (192.168.57.1) Aggregator(posArg=123); // Aggregator on
    // 192.168.57.1 only
}
```
Support for engineering, commissioning, and maintenance of applications

- Envisioned app development process
  - Developers use a state-of-the-art IDE for development
  - The development process is model-driven – code skeletons and configuration artifacts are automatically generated from models
    - See RIAPS DSML for applications and deployment
  - Developers use a source code management system:
    - All files are version controlled, all versions are preserved
    - SCM allows ‘tagging’ the file versions such that a unique configuration can always be retrieved from the database

- Current RIAPS IDE and tooling
  - Eclipse IDE with RIAPS plugin (DSML generator)
  - git version control system
    - Examples hosted on https://github.com/RIAPS
Support for engineering, commissioning, and maintenance of applications

**Solution**

- When application is deployed, the SCM is tagged with a dynamically generated ‘tag’ - a special code that identifies a specific state of the source code base, i.e. the versions that were used in the deployment (*)
- The application files are packed into a compressed package that includes metadata: the code base tag, and other information about the deployment (*)
- The package is cryptographically signed and encrypted (*)
- The package is transferred to the target nodes
- The received package is validated, decompressed, metadata is stored (*)
- The application is started, operated etc.

**Why?**

Application code actually deployed can be traced back to the source code in the SCM

Metadata shows the provenance of the code

Encryption protects from tampering with the code

If validation fails, package was modified
RIAPS Data Models
RIAPS and Data (1)

- RIAPS is not a ‘program’ (a software application), rather a complete software platform to build applications
- RIAPS has many internal data models, not exposed to the applications
  - Architecture Modeling Language
    - Describes the components and the ‘wiring’ of a distributed app
    - Textual syntax, parsed and converted into JSON
  - Deployment Modeling Language
    - Describes the deployment aspects: hosts (with firewall permissions) and actor/process deployment on a network
    - Textual syntax, parsed and converted into JSON
  - Deployment manager/Actor messages
    - For all interactions between the ‘deplo’ and app ‘actors’
    - Defined in capnproto IDL, compiled into marshaling code for C++/used in Python
  - Discovery service/Actor messages
    - For all interactions between the ‘disco’ and app ‘actors’
    - Defined in capnproto IDL, compiled into marshaling code for C++/used in Python
RIAPS and Data (2)

- RIAPS internal data models, not exposed to the applications
  - App-internal messages
    - ZMQ wrapper over raw bytes of app payload (with opt. timestamp)
    - ZMQ wrapper dynamic group/coordination messages (RAFT, etc.)
  - App deployment package
    - .tgz file, cryptographically signed/encrypted
    - Content:
      - Component code (.so or .py), support libraries, data files
      - App architecture model and deployment model (in .JSON)
      - Firewall configuration, source traceability information
      - EC security keys to encrypt in-app network comms
  - Deployment manager package
    - Public/private keys for protecting ‘ctrl’/’deplo’ comms
    - EC security keys to encrypt in-deplo network comms
    - Cert for authenticating logins to ‘ctrl’
RIAPS and Data (3)

- RIAPS apps define their own data model
  - App message data models:
    - Python: any object (c-pickled)
      - Sender and receiver must agree on data model
    - C++ and Python: Defined in capnproto IDL
      - IDL is translated into C++ classes and marshaling/unmarshaling code
      - IDL can be directly loaded into Python (the component) and used via a dynamically instantiated API
  
- RIAPS apps can use a configurable logger
  - Based on spdlog, usable from Python or C++
  - Log format is customizable by the app developer

- RIAPS apps can connect to external services
  - Typical approach: RIAPS device component to manage interactions
  - Examples: C37.117, Modbus, ChargePoint (OCPP),
  - Same applies to any other network-accessible resource (e.g. Influxdb)
Summary
Summary

- RIAPS is a *platform* for building distributed apps for Smart Grids.
- It has been demonstrated with:
  - Microgrid control app
    - Islanding/reconnection, distributed control
  - Remedial action scheme app
    - Generation curtailment and under-frequency load-shedding
  - Transactive energy app
    - Prosumer ‘traders’ buy and sell energy, use a blockchain to record trades
  - Priority-based load shedding
    - Loads controlled by their own RIAPS nodes that receive ‘grid load’ information and disconnect/reconnect their nodes according to a pre-defined priority scheme

https://riaps.isis.vanderbilt.edu/
https://riaps.github.io/
https://github.com/RIAPS
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwfT8KeF-8M7GKhHS0muawg

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