







Digital Railway Operation CyberSecurity in Critical Infrastructures



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Operating Systems and Middleware group

Prof. Dr. Andreas Polze -- osm.hpi.de



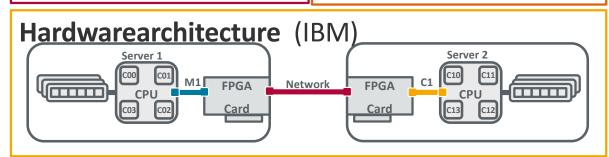
Forschung:

Digital Rail

- mFund Forschungsprojekte mit DB Systel, DB Netz: Rail2X, DiAK, RailChain, FlexiDug, SQuIRRL
- Verteiltes IoT-Lab für Testautomatisierung









Teaching:

- Operating Systems
- Parallel and Distributed Systems
- **■** Embedded Systems
- Digital Rail Summer School (2019-25)

Agenda



- EULYNX Digital Railway Operation
- ENISA report Security measures in the Railway Transport Sector
- RailSecurity
- Paradigm shift: from GIuV to permanent consistency checking
 ... "Using Simplicity to Control Complexity" (Lui Sha, IEEE Comp., 2001)
- Physical Security Digitalization weakens systems
- NIS2 The European CyberSecurity Act





SBB

Loewenberg training center



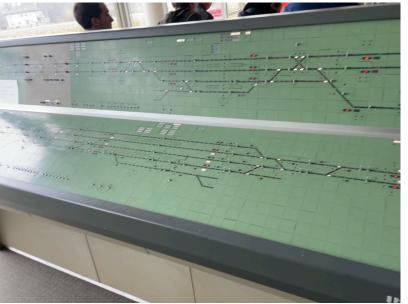


Aktiengesellschaft/Société Anonyme Wallisellen-Zürich





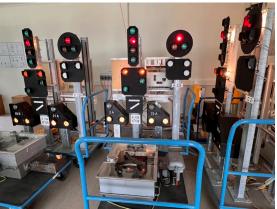


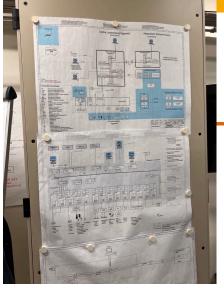




Loewenberg training center







THALES

- No de service fections
- Service fections







SBB

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What is EULYNX



- ✓ An initiative of European railway infrastructure managers
- Defining an internationally standardised signalling system
- √ Focus on modular signalling architecture with common standardised interfaces
- ✓ Standing organisation for continuous development, maintenance and change management of the standards
- Support the certification of products
- ✓ Support infrastructure managers in implementation of the standards

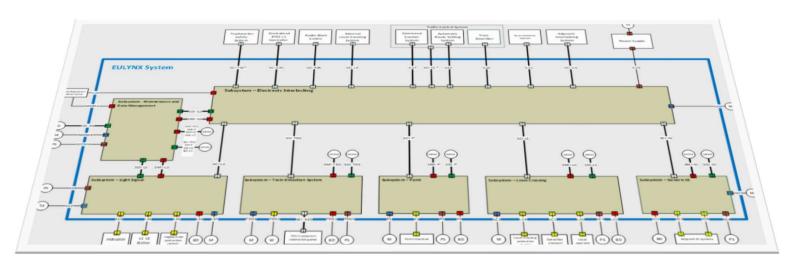
https://eulynx.eu/index.php/documents/presentations-given/252-20200305-dp-workshop-presentation/file



Modular architecture



- ✓ The reference architecture is a modular structure defining field elements as subsystems with controllers and standardized interfaces to command and control them
- ✓ Apply IP-based communication using closed and open networks
- System design that is based on components of the shelf (COTS) and mass industry solutions also used in other industries







Standardised interfaces

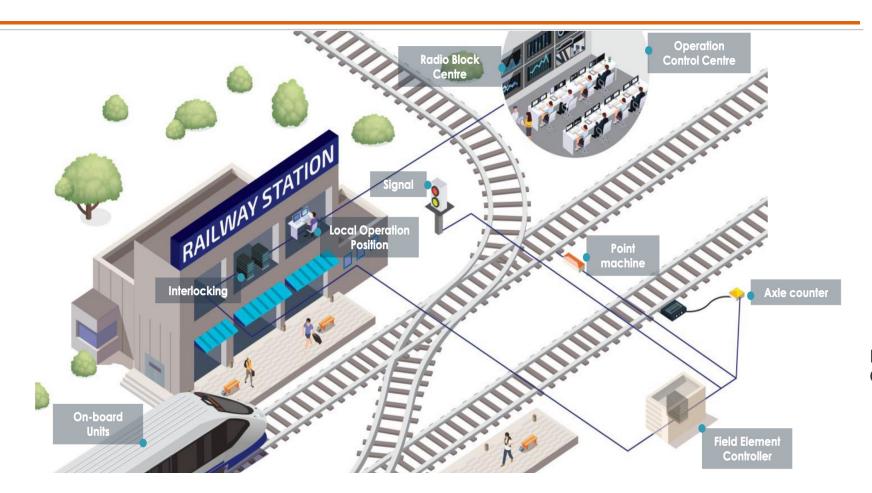
Core business of EULYNX are standardised interfaces:

- ✓ Functional interface (SCI): for signalling information
- ✓ Diagnostic interface (SDI): for monitoring and diagnostic information
- Maintenance interface (SMI): for engineering, configuration and software data of subsystems

RaSTA: Rail Safe Transport Application network protocol

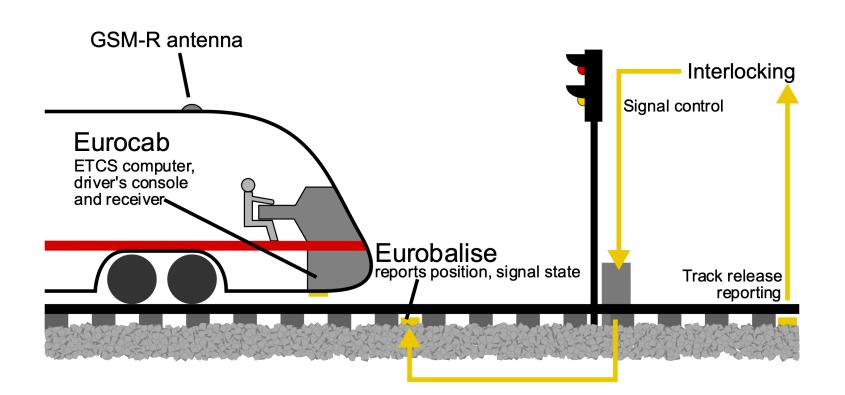
Railway: A Distributed Component-based System





Railway: A Distributed Component-based System

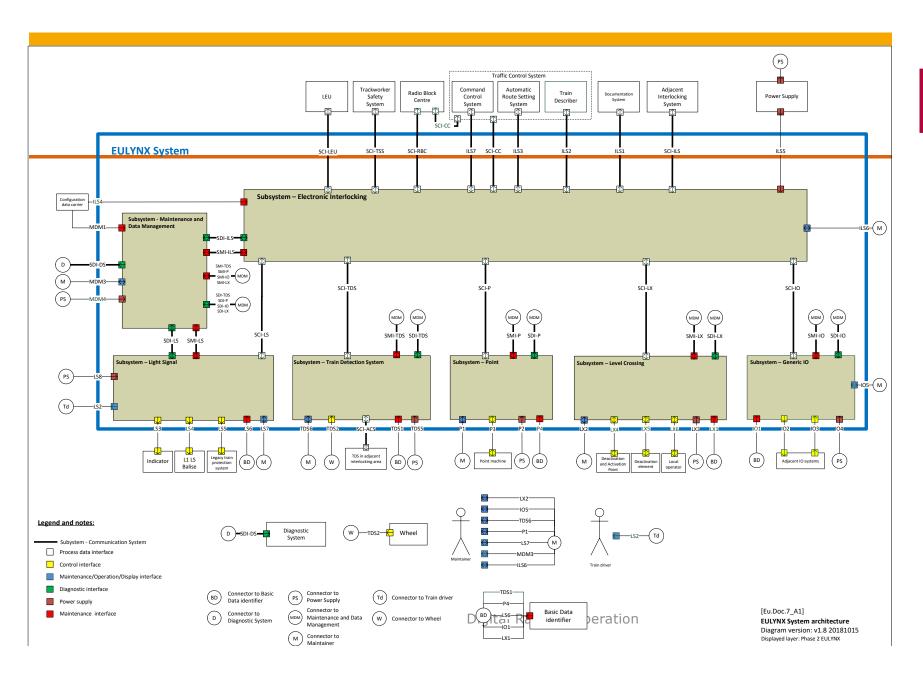




The EULYNX Initiative: European Rail Agencies are Pushing Interoperability and Standardization



Factor	Current situation	EULYNX		
Common Architecture	Not available		Standard architecture	
European Standards	Weak and incoherent	USB	Implemented and ready for Plug and play	
Formal Methods	In its infancy	易	Established	
Time to market	Not transparent and hardly predictable		Pilots successfully in operation, shortening time to market	
Lifecycle	System life time imposed by interlocking life time	000	Independent life times of modules	





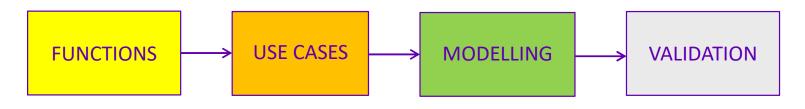
EULYNX System Architecture



Unambiguous specifications



- ✓ EULYNX applies the Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) methodology. This methodology is closely oriented on the life cycle phases defined in EN 50126.
- FULYNX delivers validated specifications in a modelled format. Modelled specifications are executable and can thus be tested to ensure that the behavior meets the users' needs.



Digital Nativaly Operation

EULYNX Object Controllers in our Lab





Frauscher Advanced Counter FAdC Axle Counting Object Controller



Thales AzLM Axle Counting Object Controller

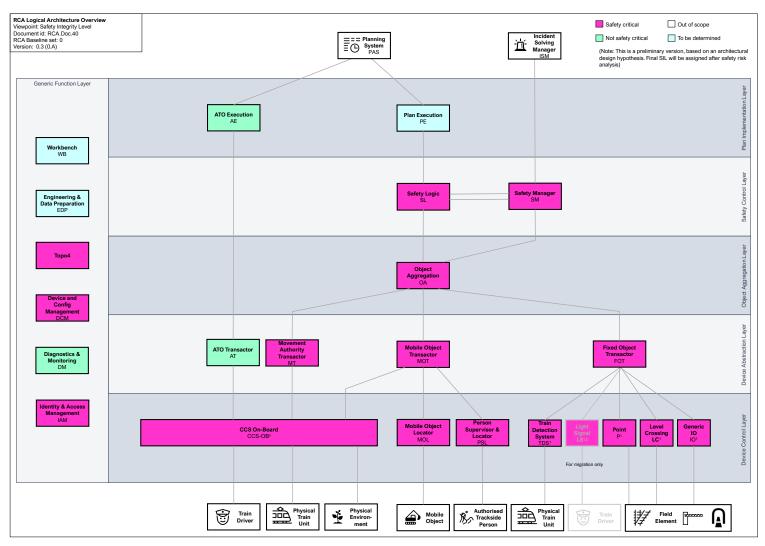
Digital Rail Lab



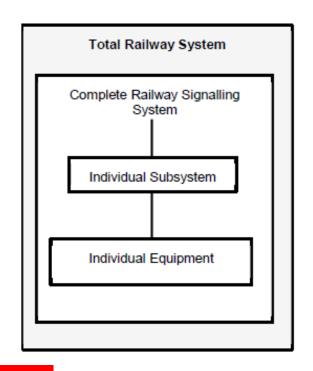


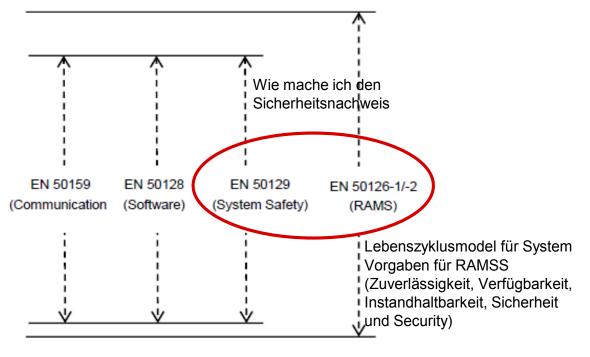
- Digital Rail Lab @ HPI
- Eisenbahninformatik.de

Reference Command, Control and Signalling Architecture (RCA)









Basisnorm: EN 61508 Funktionale Sicherheit

Figure 1 - Scope of the main CENELEC railway application standards

Source



Before software development, several phases have to be completed at system level.



These serve as input for software development.

- 1. Phase 1: System Concept
- 2. Phase 2: System Definition and Operational Context
- 3. Phase 3: Risk Analysis and Assessment
- 4. Phase 4: Defining System Requirements
- 5. Phase 5: Architecture and Partitioning of System Requirements

Digital Railway Operation

Source



Table 2 - SIL quantitative and qualitative measures

TFFR [h-1]	SIL attribution	SIL qualitative measures		
10 ⁻⁹ ≤ TFFR < 10 ⁻⁸	4			
10 ⁻⁸ ≤ TFFR < 10 ⁻⁷	3	Defined in sector-		
10 ⁻⁷ ≤ TFFR < 10 ⁻⁶	2	specific standards		
10 ⁻⁶ ≤ TFFR < 10 ⁻⁵	1			

THR: Tolerable Hazard Rate (tolerierbare Gefährdungsrate)

TFFR: Tolerable Functional Failure Rate

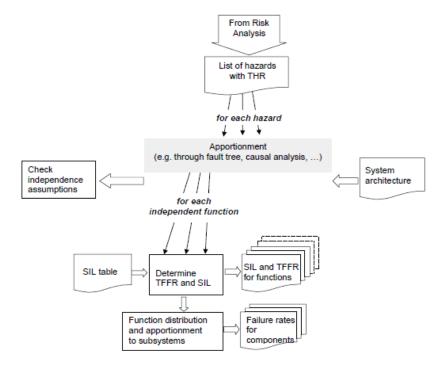
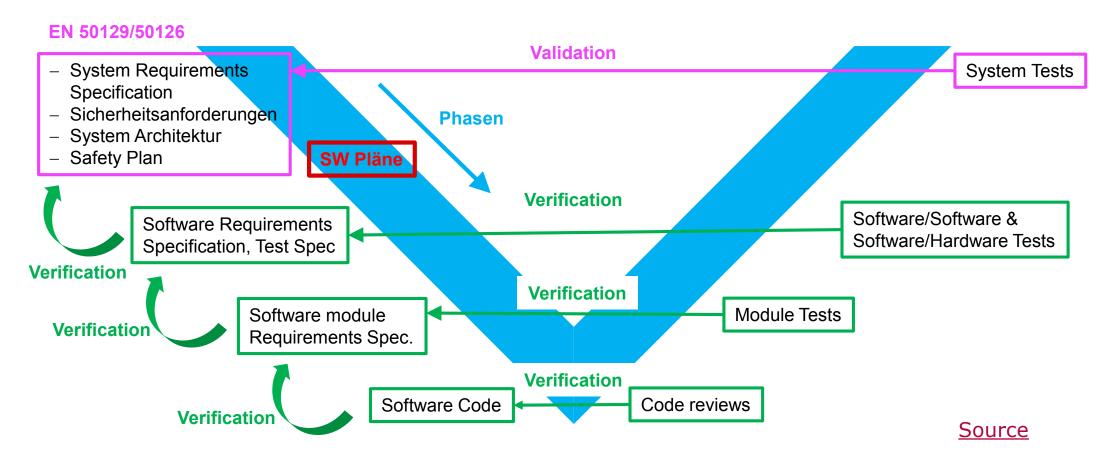


Figure 10 — Apportionment of functional safety requirements

Source

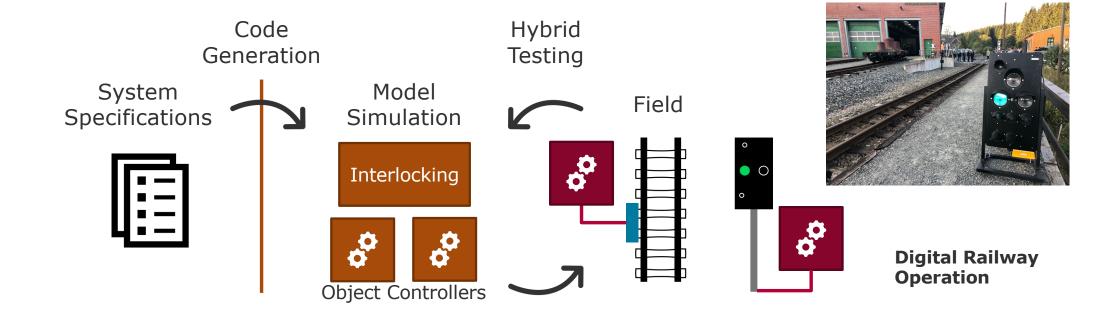
Quelle: EN 50126-2:2017





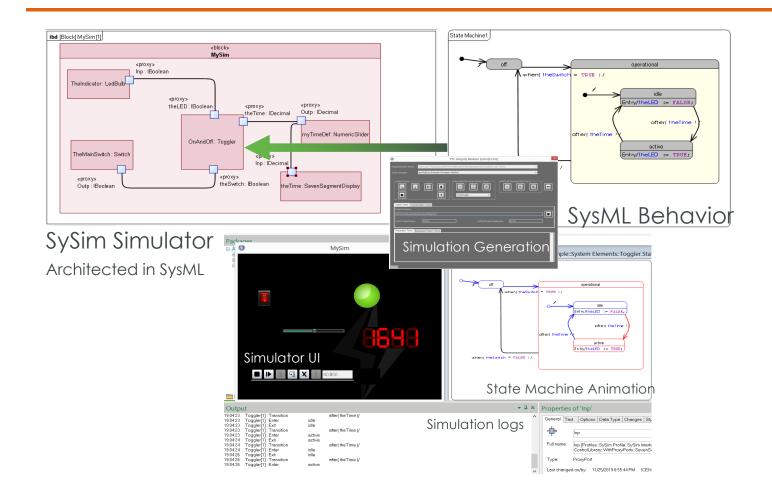
EULYNX Live: A Shortcut in the V-Model Development Process





EULYNX Live: MBSE Creating Executable Specifications from SysML Models





EULYNX: Protocol Stack and Communication Interfaces



Application Protocol: Subsystem Communication Interfaces (SCI)

- SCI-Point, SCI-Train Detection System, SCI-Light Signal, ...
- Event-based

Transport Protocol: Rail Safe Transport Application (RaSTA)

- Safe Transmission and Redundancy
- DIN VDE V 0831-200
- RaSTA over UDP
- RaSTA over TCP/TLS (since EULYNX Baseline 4.1)

SCI-*

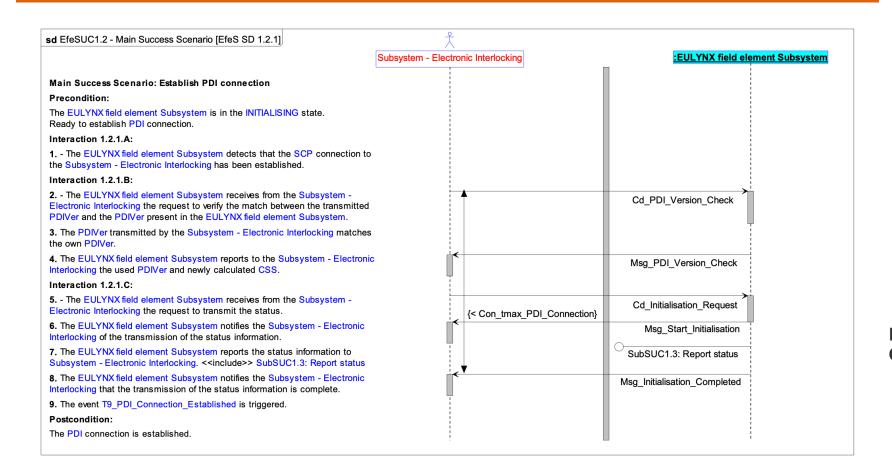
RaSTA

UDP or TCP/TLS

IP, **Ethernet**

Example: Establish Connection between Interlocking and Field Element Subsystem





Example: Command Point



Main Success Scenario: Moving of the Point [SubSP SD 2.1.1]

The Subsystem - Point is in the state OPERATIONAL.

The Subsystem - Point is in:

SubSUC2.1: Command Point

- an End position "Y",
- No end position, or

Precondition:

- a Trailed position. Interaction 2.1.1.A:

- 1. The Subsystem Electronic Interlocking sends a Command to the Subsystem Point to move the Point to an End position "X".
- 2. The Subsystem Point sends a Command to the Point machine to move the Point to an End position "X". At this moment the Subsystem Point starts the timer Con tmax Point Operation.

Interaction 2.1.1.B:

- alt [The Subsystem Point is in an End position or a Trailed position]
 - 3. The Point machine sends a Message to the Subsystem Point indicating that the Point is in No end position.
 - 4. The Subsystem Point sends a Message to the Subsystem Electronic Interlocking indicating that the Point is in No end position.

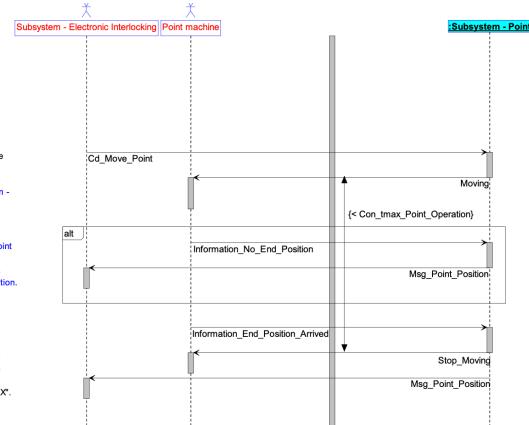
end alt

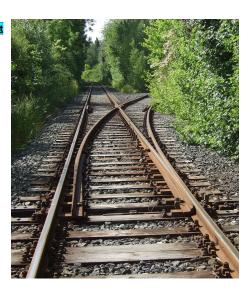
Interaction 2.1.1.C:

- 5. The Point machine sends a Message to the Subsystem Point indicating that the Point is in an End position "X".
- 6. The Subsystem Point sends a Command to the Point machine to stop moving the Point. The timer Con tmax Point Operation is reset.
- 7. The Subsystem Point sends a Message to the Subsystem Electronic Interlocking indicating that the Point is in an End position "X".

Postcondition:

The Subsystem - Point is in an End position "X".





Digital Railway Operation

Example: Command Point



■ Definition of SCI-P Protocol Messages

Telegram definition for command "Move Point"

Byte-Nr.	Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
00	Protocol Type: 0x40 (1 Byte binary)							
0102	Message Type: 0x0001 (2 Bytes binary)							
0322	Sender Identifier (20 Bytes ISO IEC 8859-1:1998)							
2342	Receiver Identifier (20 Bytes ISO IEC 8859-1:1998)							
43	Commanded Point Position (1 Byte binary)							

Telegram definition for message "Point Position"

Byte-Nr.	Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
00	Protocol Type: 0x40 (1 Byte binary)							
0102	Message Type: 0x000B (2 Bytes binary)							
0322	Sender Identifier (20 Bytes ISO IEC 8859-1:1998)							
2342	Receiver Identifier (20 Bytes ISO IEC 8859-1:1998)							
43	Reported Point Position (1 Byte binary)							

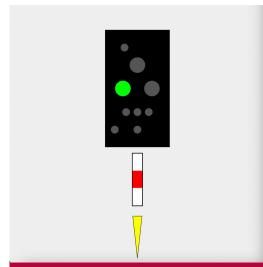


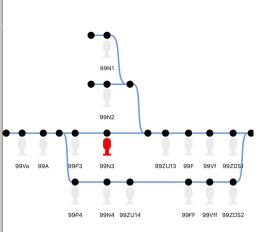
Digital Railway Operation

Project Hackathon

Technology Institute















DRSS - Hackathon: RaSTA

Jonas Bücker, Mario Freund, Leonhard Hennicke

EULYNX & IT Security: Protocol Stack and Communication Interfaces



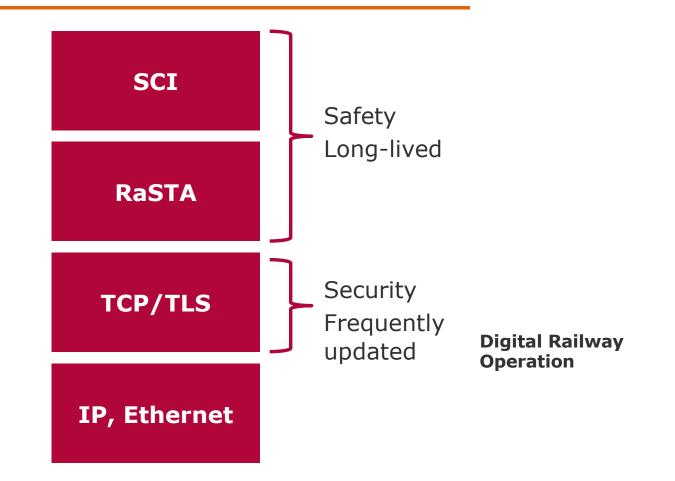
Event-based Protocols

Application Protocols: Subsystem Communication Interfaces (SCI)

SCI-Point, SCI-Train Detection System, SCI-Light Signal, ...

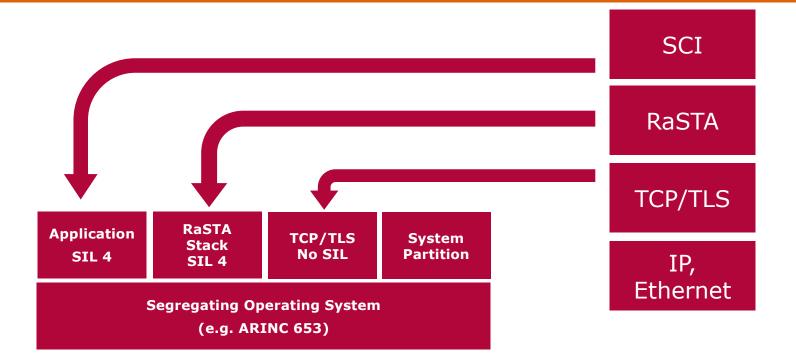
Transport Protocol: RaSTA (Safe Transmission and Redundancy)

- DIN VDE V 0831-200
- RaSTA over UDP
- RaSTA over TCP/TLS (since EULYNX Baseline 4.1)



Running SIL and non-SIL Components Side by Side: Software-based Segregation





Hardware

Agenda



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Hasso

Plattner Institut



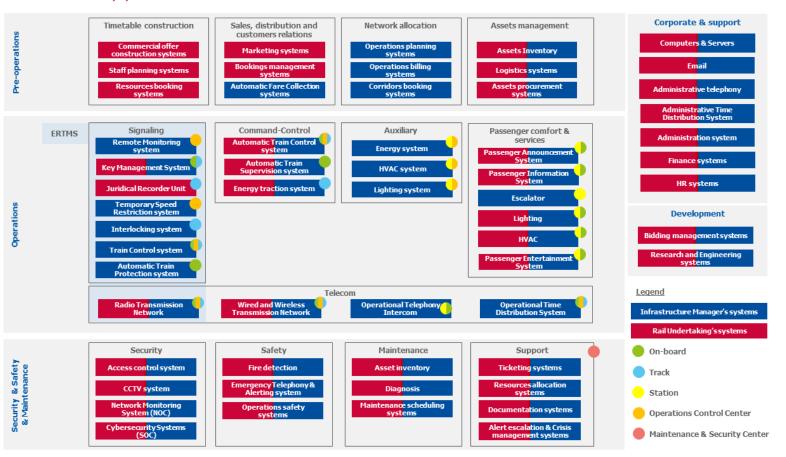


Figure Note: Background colours indicate the actor who is usually in charge of the system (this could vary according to the organisation or project). A coloured pastille shows the most likely location of the system; some systems have assets in several locations. ERTMS is considered as it is the ATC that is harmonised for EU. The scope of the ERTMS is depicted with a light blue colour, covering Signalling and Radio systems

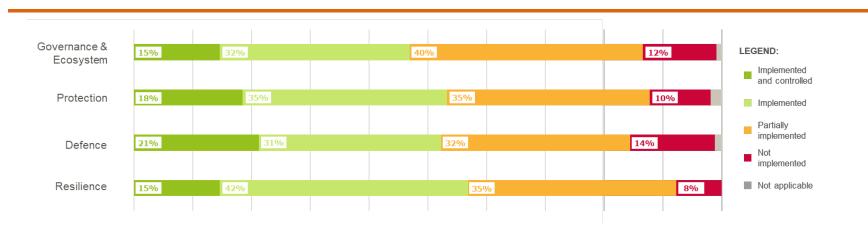
Cybersecurity Challenges



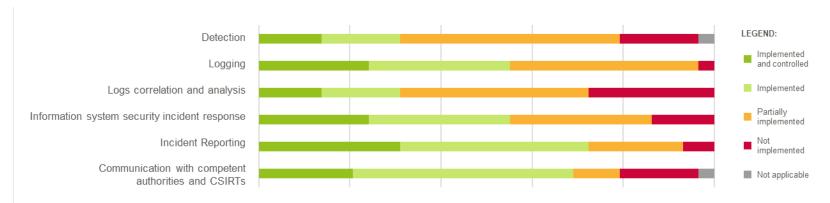
- Low digital and cybersecurity awareness in the railway sector.
- Difficulty in reconciling safety and cybersecurity worlds.
- Digital transformation of railway core business.
- Dependence on the supply chain for cybersecurity.
- Geographic spread of railway infrastructure and the existence of legacy systems.
- The need to balance security, competiveness and operational efficiency.
- Complexity of regulations for cybersecurity.

Implementation level of CyberSecurity Measures





Implementation Level of "Defence" Security Measures



ERTMS



The European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) is a single European signalling and speed control system that ensures interoperability of the railway systems, with the aim of reducing the purchasing and, possibly, maintenance costs of the signalling systems.

- European Train Control System (ETCS), i.e. a cab-signalling system that incorporates automatic train protection,
- Global System for Mobile communications for Railways (GSM-R) and operating rules.

ETCS (European Train Control System).



- The signalling element of the system
- Includes the control of movement authorities, automatic train protection and the interface to interlocking in a harmonised way.
- Reduction of complexity for train drivers (automation of control activities)
 - brings trackside signalling into the driver's cabin
 - provides information to the on-board display
 - allows for permanent train control
 - train driver concentrates on core tasks.

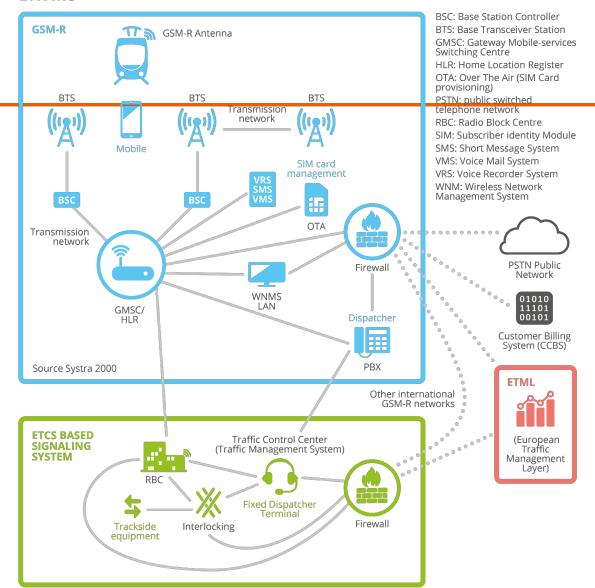
GSM-R (Global System for Mobiles - Railway)



A voice communication service between driving vehicles and line controllers and a bearer path for ETCS data.

- based on the public standard GSM with specific railway features for operation e.g. Priority and Pre-emption (eMLPP)
- Functional Addressing Location Dependent Addressing
- Voice Broadcast Service (VBS)
- Voice Group Call (VGC)
- Shunting Mode
- Emergency Calls
- Fast call set-up.
- General Packet Radio Service (GPRS option) can also be used in GSM-R networks to offer more data possibilities.

ERTMS





ERTMS systems

Communication subsystems and functions, that require protection:



Balise interfaces

- programming of balises
- balise infrastructure interface (train, interlocking, LEU, and/or field elements)

On-board unit (OBU) interfaces

- OBU RBC via GSM-R or in future further data circuits according to the Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS)
- OBU vehicle bus system(s) (not ETCS-specific)

Radio block centre (RBC) interfaces

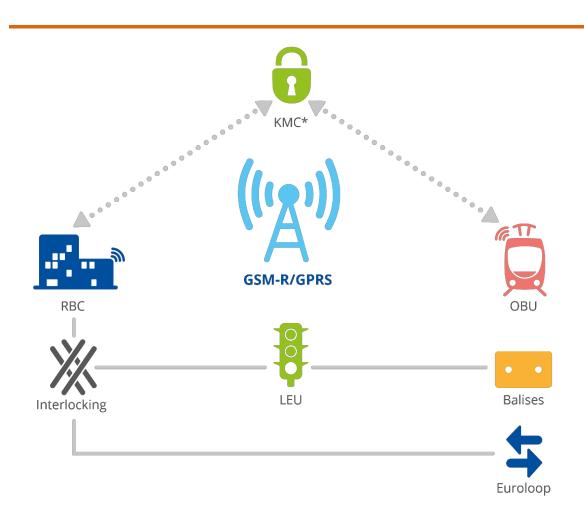
- RBC OBU via GSM-R or in future further data circuits
- RBC operator interface
- RBC interlocking

Key management centre (KMC) for the ETCS46

- operator interfaces, i.e. set-up keys and access authorisation
- transmission of the keys to the operative subsystems, i.e. OBU and RBC o KMC-ETCS entities via GSM-R
- KMC-KMC via different networks

Communication in the ERTMS





Agenda

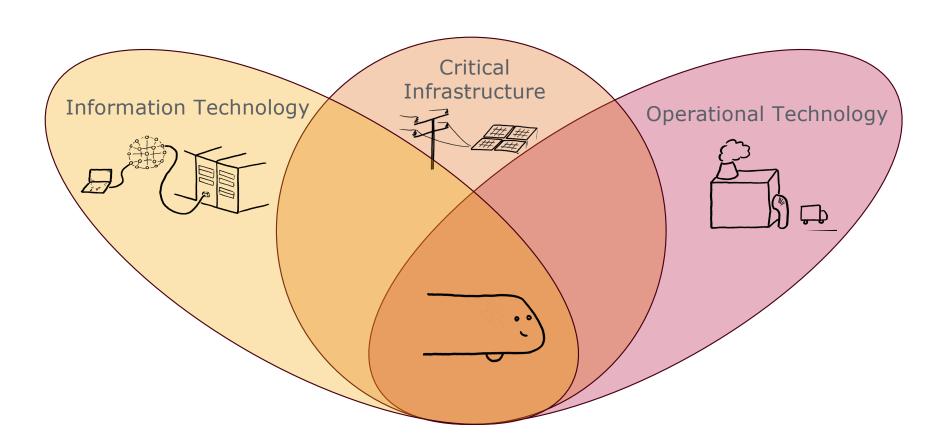


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Railway – A System of Systems











Why is railway not secure?

Identifying Challenges in Railsecurity Katja Assaf and Andreas Polze Planned for RSSRail 2025

What we See

Missing emergency plan





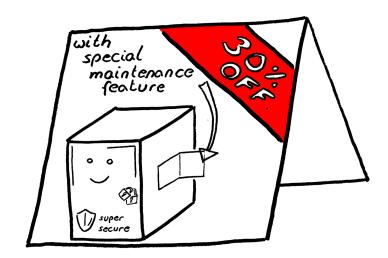




Old hardware



Backdoors



Digital Railway Operation

Awareness & Recovery Process

Missing emergency plan







Why do we See it



AHH... DO YOU HAVE THE NUMBER OF THE CYBERPOLICE?





Certified & Standardised Software

Old software

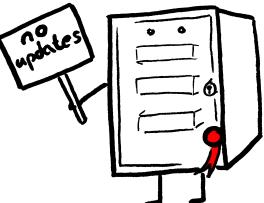


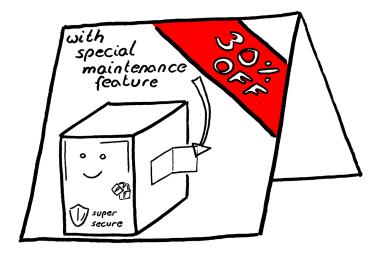
Commercial Off-The-Shelf & **Missing Technical Know-How**

Backdoors



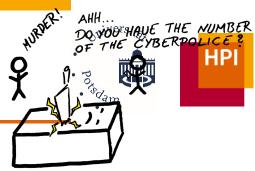
Legacy & Long Lifecycles





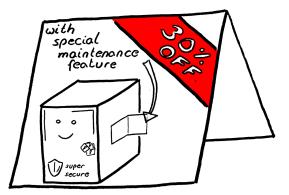
What is the greatest challenge?

- Enough Resources: money and humans
- Skilled Personnel with Awareness
- Establishing Basic Security,
 such as Asset Management, especially for Legacy Systems
- Network availability
- Remote Access (Digitalization)
- Vulnerability Management (Updates)
- Safety-critical Impact













Is safety a security goal?

Defining Safety and Security Interaction Through A Multi-Level Attack-Fault-Graph
Katja Assaf, Christina Kolb, Simon Unger
Submitted to ESORICS 2025

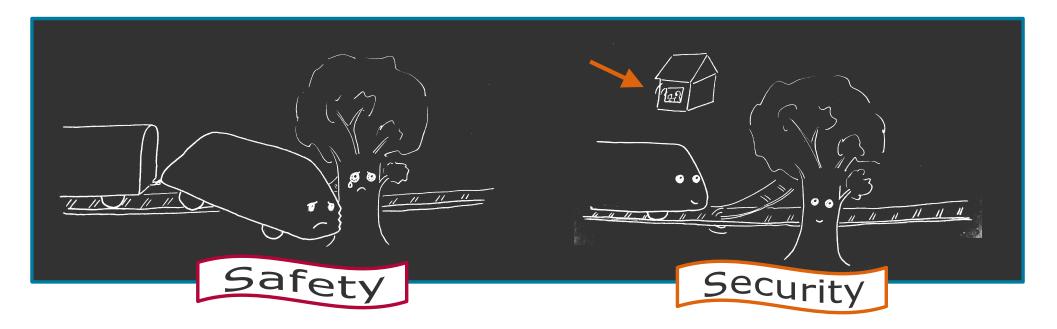
What is Safety? What is Security?





Safety protects against unintentional failures, Security protects against malicious intent.

Safety protects the environment from the system, Security protects the system from the environment.



What is Safety? What is Security?

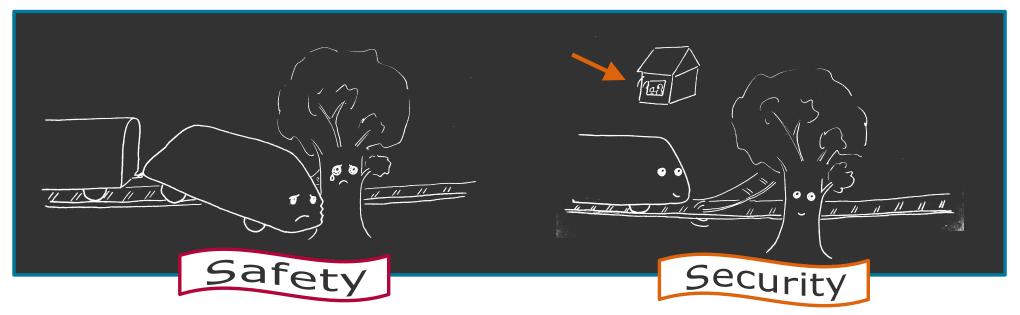




Security protects against malicious intent.

Safety protects the environment/humans from the system

> Safety and Security are not disjoint concepts!







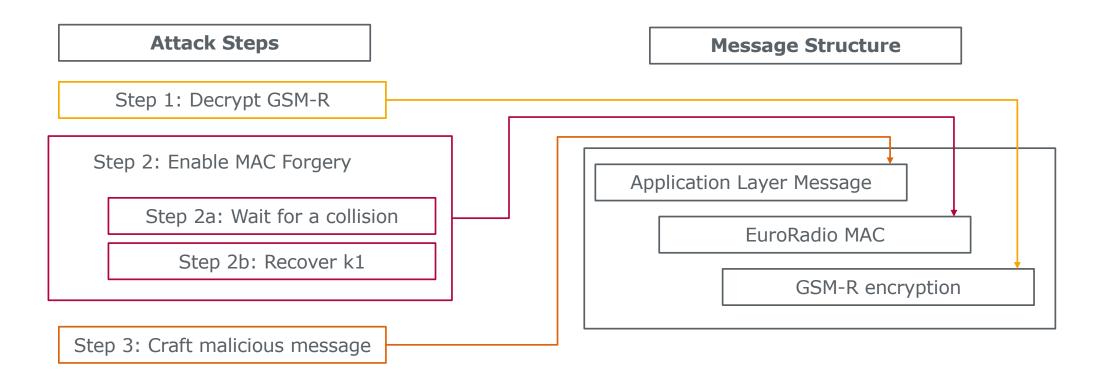
Let's steal a train!

Breaking GSM-RKatja Assaf, Jörn Sobotta, Andreas Polze amongst others
Ongoing

COT17 attack







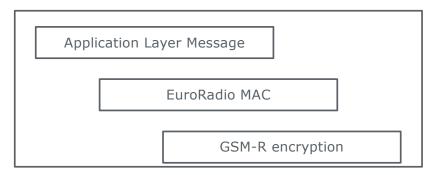
Chothia, T., Ordean, M., De Ruiter, J., & Thomas, R. J. (2017, April). An attack against message authentication in the ERTMS train to trackside communication protocols. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM on Asia Conference on Computer and Communications Security* (pp. 743-756).

Railsecurity Taking ETCS based on GSM-R as an Example





- GSM-R is a railway specific protocol based on GSM
- GSM A5/1 encryption is known to be broken (realtime)
- GSM A5/3 is vulnerable
- Vulnerability of GSM-R unproven for legal reasons
- ETCS uses a message authentication code (MAC) for integrity protection
- For safety-critical messages, such as emergency stop, the MAC is not checked
- Security significantly weakened for safety concerns
- MAC based on broken DES standard
- Proprietary protocols are a game of chance Here: we got lucky so far



Goal:

Stealing a Train



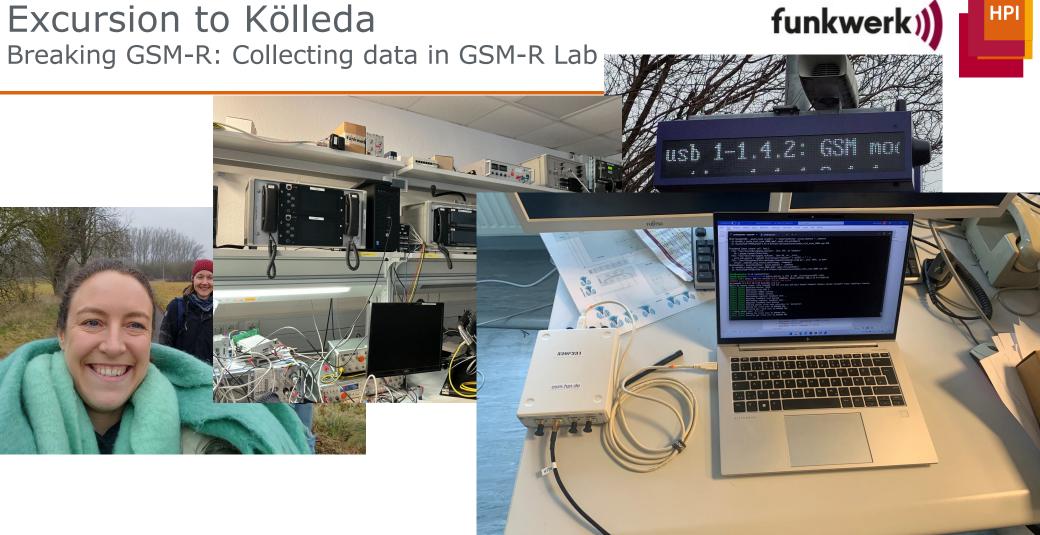


- Understand theoretical attack
- 2. Find legal test environment
- 3. Read GSM-R traffic with a Software Defined Radio
- Understand practical implementation
- Use known Rainbow Table attack
- 6. Send Emergency Stop
- 7. Stop the Train
- 8. Collect enough data
- 9. Brute-force remaining key used for MAC
- 10. Forge Movement Authority
- 11. Steal the Train

We are here!







At Funkwerk

Breaking GSM-R: Collecting data in GSM-R lab



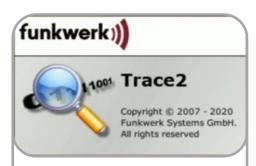
Huawei Netz

- A5/1 Encryption
- A5/3 Encryption

Nokia Netz

• A5/0 Encryption

13 GB of recorded data traffic



- Networktraces
- Analysis via Trace2 tool

Digital Railway Operation

Agenda

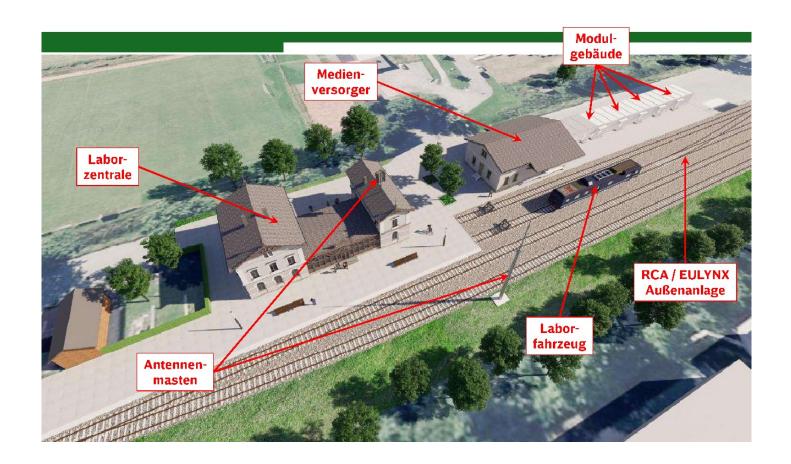




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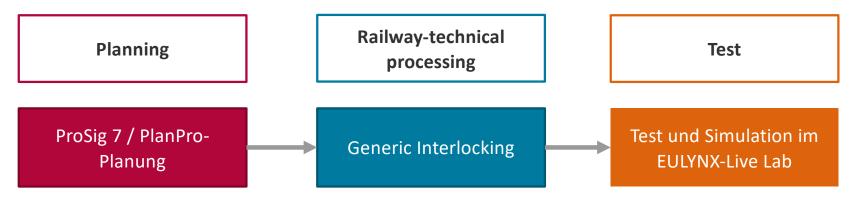
Projekt EULYNX-Live (2021/2022) A new (old) Scheibenberg station under construction





A new (old) Scheibenberg station under construction from digital planning to field test





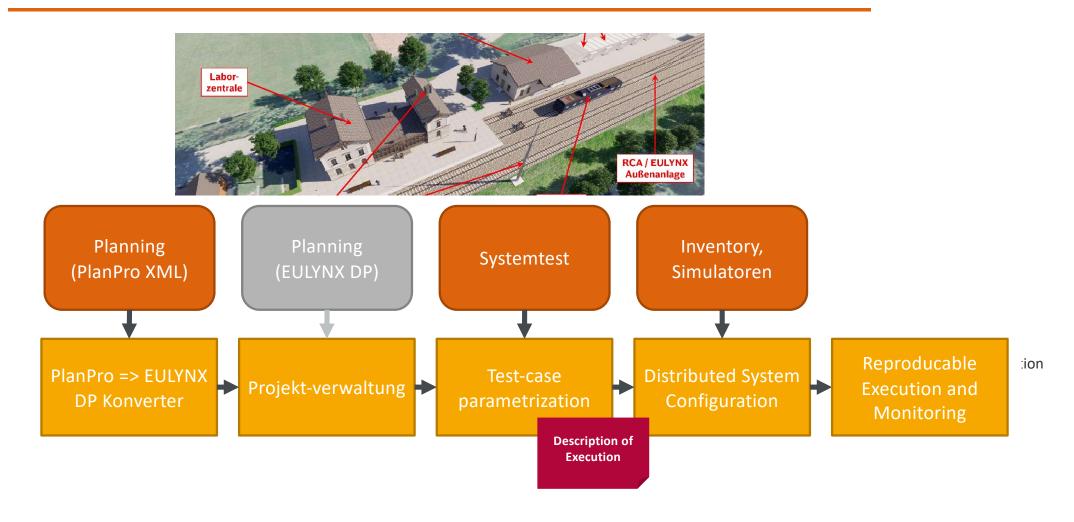
- Trassierungsdaten
- LST-Planung:
 Gisela v. Arnim,
 Christoph Klaus, DB
 Netz

- Summer-School-Project
- Understanding PlanPro
- Prolog rules for interlock logics

- Integration test with EULYNX hardware
- Test Labs in HPI Potsdam, Bf. Scheibenberg, SCS Zürich, Brunel Hildesheim

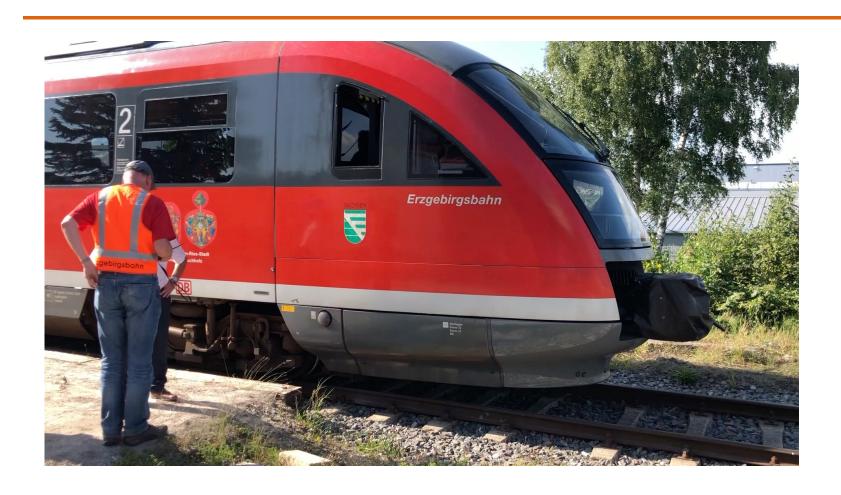
EULYNX-Live Lab Demo Simulation of Scheibenberg station





EULYNX-Live Interlocking signals movement authority at vehicle parade in '2021

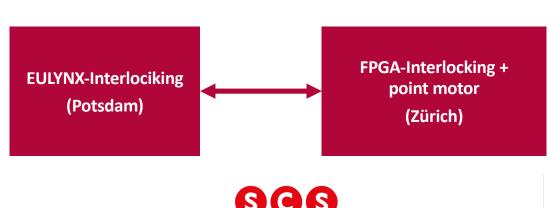




EULYNX-Live Lab Showcase SCS FPGA-Interlocking acting as Point-*Object Controller*



- Implementation of EULYNX-SCI-P-Interface for SCS FPGA-Interlocking
- Samuel Kälin, ETH Zürich
- Interoperability demo RaSTA and EULYNX SCI-P

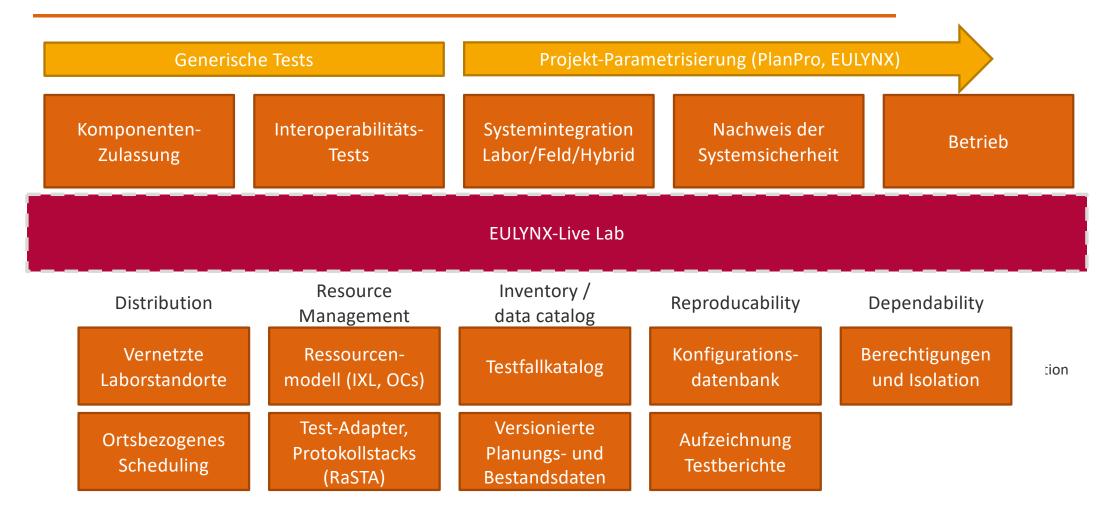


super computing systems



"Breadboard" as generic test stand for DLST in geographically distributed test centers

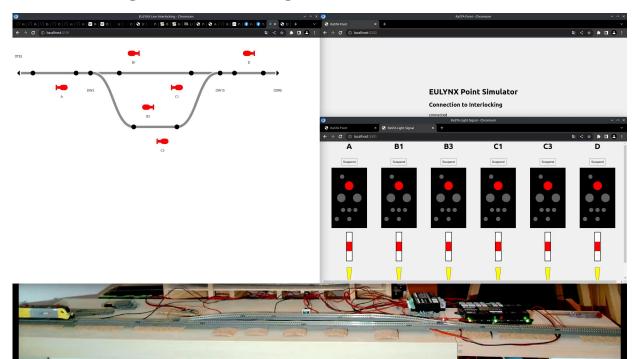




Connection to Eisenbahnbetriebsfeld (EBuEf) atTU Berlin



- Niels Geist, Heiko Herholz, TU Berlin
- Entwicklung eines RaSTA-fähigen Multi-OC mit LocoNet-Backend



EULYNX Live Lab Implementation of SCI-LX-Interface for Pintsch Protego





Software-based Command-Control-Systems for Railway need to be certifyable and updateable at low cost



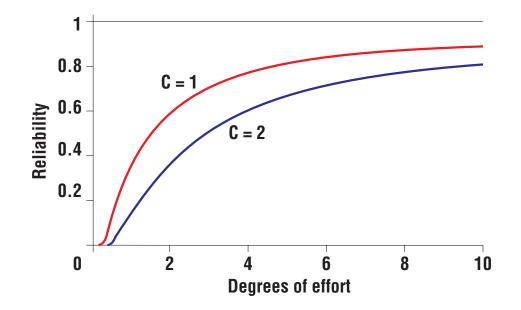
- Ergebnis des ersten Zulassungsworkshops am 19.04.2023
- Beispiel aus der Praxis (S-Bahn Hamburg): Änderung an der GoA 2-ATO-Software ohne Auswirkung auf Safety erforderte mehrwöchige Dokumentations- und Freigabeprozesse
- Nationale Umsetzung der EU Richtlinie 2016/797 (DE: EIGV, VV GluV, VV Bau-STE)
 - ☐ Gutachterrolle seitens des EBAs, hier muss technische Kompetenz vorhanden sein
 - Hello World:Genehmigung einesWeichen-OCs



Correctness of Software



- Software contains errors
- Test may demonstrate presence of errors... but cannot prove correctness



Reliability of software in relation to complexity

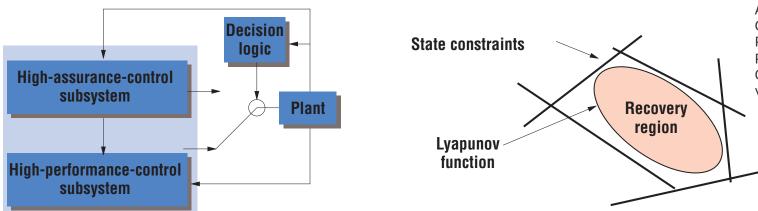
Using Simplicity to Control Complexity Analytic Redundancy

IEEE Software Juli/August 2001



We can exploit the features and performance of complex software even if we cannot verify them, provided we can guarantee the critical requirements with simple software.

L. Sha, "Dependable System Upgrade," Proc. IEEE Real-Time Systems Symp. (RTSS 98), IEEE CS Press, Los Alamitos, Calif., 1998, pp. 440–449.



Andreas Polze and Lui Sha. Composite Objects: Real-time Programming with CORBA.In Proceedings. 24th EUROMICRO Conference (Cat. No. 98EX204), volume 2, 997–1004. IEEE, 1998.

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The Simplex architecture.

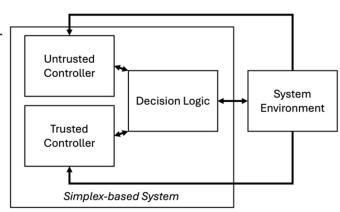
The circle represents the switch thatthe decision logic controls.

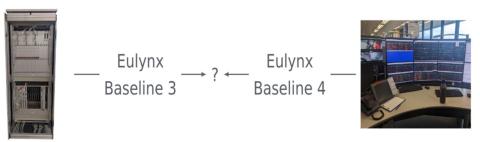
State constraints and the switching rule (Lyapunov function).



Interface Upgrades using the Simplex Architecture

- Safety-critical components require recertification after updates
- Most interface updates do not affect core safety functionality
- Simplex Architecture (introduced by Sha et al.) uses
 trusted controller to supervise untrusted controller
- Untrusted controller can be updated without affecting dependability of system as a whole
- Prototypical implementation for axle counter







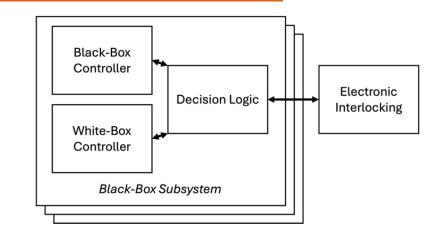


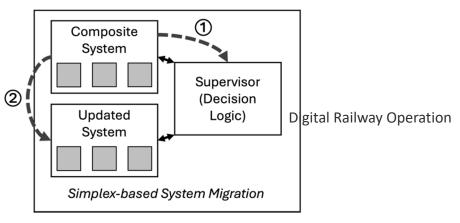
Simplex for System Integration

- Problem: Difficult to enforce non-functional requirements on black-box object controller implementation
- Approach: Use white-box controller (e.g. generated from Eulynx specification) as trusted controller to supervise black-box implementation

Simplex for System Migration

- Problem: No full system specification exists, safety is shown via equivalence to old systems
- Approach: After an update, existing system is kept to supervise safety-critical behavior of updated system





Agenda



- EULYNX
- ENISA report
- RailSecurity
- Paradigmenwechsel: von der GIuV zur permanenten Konsistensprüfung
 ... "Using Simplicity to Control Complexity" (Lui Sha, IEEE Comp., 2001)
- Physical Security Digitalization weakens systems
- NIS2 European CyberSecurity act



Digitalization is open...

Many potential threat vectors can be derived from publicly available infrastructure data...

Confidential information is available online

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Informationen zu GSM-R und zur Glasfaserinfrastruktur sind öffentlich.

DB Netze versorgt nicht nur die Bahn-eigenen Tochterunternehmen mit Infrastruktur, sondern auch andere Eisenbahngesellschaften.

- Baufirmen und am Bahnbetrieb beteiligte Partner brauchen genaue Informationen.
- Das Infrastrukturregister, eine Online-Plattform mit interaktiver Kartenansicht, gestattet ausführliche Recherchen zum Schienennetz und seiner Ausstattung.

Der Aufbau von GSM-R inklusive Rückfallkonzept bei Ausfällen wird ausführlich erklärt

weil das Mobilfunknetz von DB Netze an private Bahnbetreiber vermietet wird.

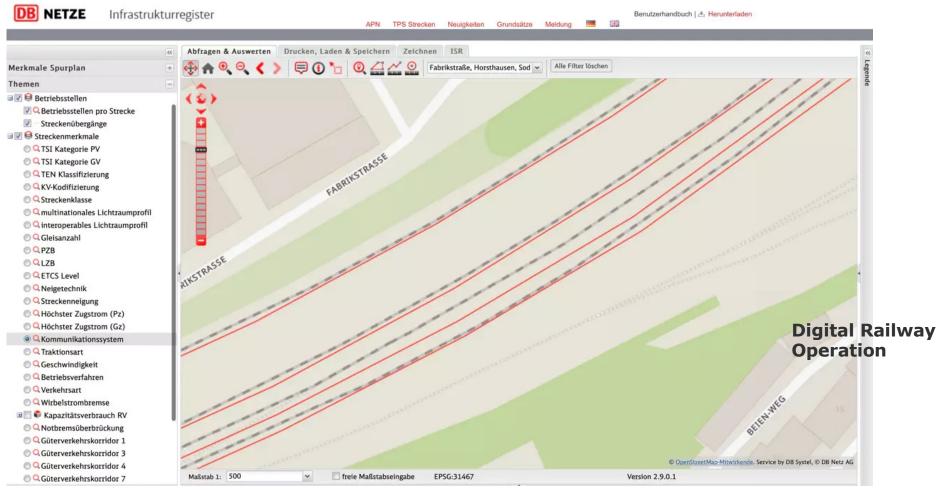
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broadband.dbnetze.com

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DB NETZE

broadband

Dark Fiber

Referenzen

Unternehmen

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Aktuelles

Downloads



Unser Netz verläuft entlang der Schienenwege und damit auch teilweise durch bislang noch unterversorgte oder gar unversorgte Regionen. Diese und viele weitere Regionen können mit uns einfach und effizient erschlossen werden. Dafür halten wir ein optimales Dark Fiber Angebot bereit.

Erfahren Sie mehr zu unserem Angebot: Dark Fiber



Glasfaserkabel überall dort wo Schienen liegen.

Bis 2026/2027 bauen wir unser Glasfasernetz weiter aus. Ziel ist es, das gesamte Schienennetz von 33.400 km mit Glasfaser zu erschließen. Die künftigen Freikapazitäten kann man sich schon jetzt sichern.

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Attacks on Rail Infrastructure





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Das Potenzial für Angriffe auf die Glasfaserleitungen der Bahn ist groß.

- Kabel verlegt die Bahn entlang der Trassen oft in Betonkabelkanälen mit Betondeckel.
- Ganz ohne Bagger und Spaten kann sich jeder Zugriff verschaffen.
- Saboteure die Kabel, an denen die norddeutsche GSM-R-Infrastruktur samt Backup hängt.

Die Reparatur gelang vergleichsweise schnell, nach knapp drei Stunden war die Leitung gespleißt.

Wichtige Infrastruktur hätte noch redundanter angebunden werden müssen

- In der Planungsphase scheint Sabotage mit so viel Hintergrundwissen noch nicht das beherrschende Thema gewesen zu sein.

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- Gegen andere Probleme wie Hochwasser, Brand und lokale Stromausfälle ist die Wahl der Standerene und Berlin sehr geeignet.
- Fraglich ist auch, ob mehr Anbindungen pro Standort geholfen hätten: Wer so genau Bescheid weiß, welche Standorte er abschalten muss, schreckt auch vor drei oder fünf Kabeln nicht zurück.

Kabelbrand Ostkreuz

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Kabelbrand Ostkreuz (22.02.2013)

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Innovative technologies are prone to attacks...

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Hydrogen filling station at NEB







temporarily removed



Fence segment



1826 4-digit key-code





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KRITIS-Dachgesetz regelt Verantwortlichkeiten

European NIS2 Directive KRITIS-Dachgesetz (openkritis.de)

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- The updated NIS2 Directive, focuses on enhancing the resilience of critical sectors across the EU by tightening cybersecurity requirements to ensure the security and continuity of essential services in the face of escalating digital threats.
- The NIS2 Directive has a broadened scope to additional sectors and entities vital to the EU's economy and society. Organisations are classified according to factors such as size, sector and criticality. They fall into two categories: essential and important entities.

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Resiliency in NIS2

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Highly critical sectors in scope are:

- Digital infrastructures (electronic communications, trust services, domain name services, top level domain registries, cloud services, data centers, internet exchange points, content delivery networks);
- Energy (electricity, district heating, oil, gas and hydrogen);
- Transport (air, rail, water, road);
- Banking and Financial market infrastructures;
- Health (healthcare providers, EU reference labs, research and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and medical devices);
- Drinking water and waste water;
- Public administrations;
- Space.

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Conclusion

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- Digitalization is going to weaken CCS systems
- Need to cope with long system lifetime (...multiple decades)
 - Certification processes need to be adapted
 - Fail-stop vs fail-operational: trading off safety and availability
- Problem case: system update / construction / fallback states...
 - Resiliency need to be considered separately
 - Redundancy concept not working / applicable
 - Insider knowledge among attackers

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Physiscal Security of digital CCS today of much bigger concern than CyberSecurity