

# TECHNICAL REPORT



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





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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	14
INTRODUCTION.....	16
1 Scope.....	17
1.1 General.....	17
1.2 Namespace name and version.....	17
1.3 Code Component distribution.....	18
2 Normative references.....	19
3 Terms, definitions, abbreviated terms and conventions.....	22
3.1 Terms and definitions.....	22
3.2 Abbreviations.....	26
3.3 Conventions.....	28
3.3.1 Network diagram symbols.....	28
3.3.2 Port and link symbols.....	29
3.3.3 Bridges symbols.....	30
4 Overview of IEC 61850 networks.....	30
4.1 Logical allocation of functions and interfaces.....	30
4.2 IEC 61850 protocol stack.....	32
4.2.1 General.....	32
4.2.2 IEC 61850 traffic classes.....	32
4.2.3 MMS protocol.....	33
4.2.4 GOOSE protocol.....	34
4.2.5 SV protocol.....	36
4.2.6 R-GOOSE and R-SV.....	36
4.3 Station bus and process bus.....	37
5 Network design checklist.....	38
5.1 Design principles.....	38
5.2 Engineering flow.....	38
5.3 Checklist to be observed.....	39
5.3.1 Summary.....	39
5.3.2 Environmental issues.....	40
5.3.3 EMI immunity.....	40
5.3.4 Form factor.....	40
5.3.5 Physical media.....	40
5.3.6 Substation application and network topology.....	41
5.3.7 Redundancy.....	41
5.3.8 Reliability, availability, maintainability.....	41
5.3.9 Logical data flows and traffic patterns.....	41
5.3.10 Latency for different types of traffic.....	42
5.3.11 Performance.....	42
5.3.12 Network management.....	42
5.3.13 Network supervision.....	42
5.3.14 Time synchronization and accuracy.....	42
5.3.15 Remote connectivity.....	42
5.3.16 Cyber security.....	42
5.3.17 Scalability, upgradeability and future-proof.....	43
5.3.18 Testing.....	43

5.3.19	Cost.....	43
6	Ethernet technology for substations .....	43
6.1	Ethernet subset for substation automation .....	43
6.2	Topology.....	43
6.3	Physical layer .....	45
6.3.1	Data rate and medium .....	45
6.3.2	Full-duplex communication and auto-negotiation.....	45
6.3.3	Copper cabling at 100 Mbit/s .....	45
6.3.4	Optical cabling at 100 Mbit/s (100BASE-FX).....	47
6.3.5	Optical cabling at 1 Gbit/s (1000BASE-LX) .....	49
6.3.6	Copper cabling at 1 Gbit/s .....	49
6.4	Link layer .....	49
6.4.1	Unicast and multicast MAC addresses .....	49
6.4.2	Link layer and bridges .....	50
6.4.3	Bridging nodes .....	51
6.4.4	Loop prevention and RSTP .....	51
6.4.5	Traffic control in the bridges .....	53
6.4.6	Unicast MAC address filtering.....	53
6.4.7	Multicast MAC address filtering.....	54
6.4.8	Virtual LANs (VLANs) traffic control .....	55
6.4.9	Comparison VLAN versus multicast filtering.....	59
6.4.10	Layer 2 redundancy protocols.....	60
6.5	Network layer.....	64
6.5.1	Internet protocol .....	64
6.5.2	IP public and private addresses .....	65
6.5.3	Subnet masks.....	65
6.5.4	Network address translation .....	66
7	Network and substation topologies .....	66
7.1	General rule.....	66
7.2	Connection of the SCADA.....	67
7.3	Reference topologies and network redundancy .....	68
7.4	Reference topologies .....	71
7.4.1	Station bus topologies .....	71
7.4.2	Process bus and attachment of primary equipment.....	89
7.4.3	Station bus and process bus connection .....	106
8	Addressing in the substation.....	114
8.1	Network IP address plan for substations .....	114
8.1.1	General structure.....	114
8.1.2	IP address allocation of NET .....	114
8.1.3	IP address allocation of BAY .....	115
8.1.4	IP address allocation of device .....	115
8.1.5	IP address allocation of devices with PRP .....	116
8.2	Routers and GOOSE / SV traffic .....	116
8.3	Communication outside the substation .....	117
9	Application parameters .....	117
9.1	MMS parameters.....	117
9.2	GOOSE parameters .....	117
9.3	SV parameters .....	118

10	Performance	118
10.1	Station bus performance	118
10.1.1	Logical data flows and traffic patterns	118
10.1.2	GOOSE traffic estimation	120
10.1.3	MMS traffic estimation	120
10.1.4	station bus measurements	121
10.2	Process bus performance	122
11	Latency	123
11.1	Application requirements	123
11.2	Latency and determinism	123
11.3	Latency requirements for different types of traffic	125
11.3.1	Latency requirements in IEC 61850-5	125
11.3.2	Latencies of physical paths	125
11.3.3	Latencies of bridges	125
11.3.4	Latency and hop counts	126
11.3.5	Network latency budget	126
11.3.6	Example of traffic delays	127
11.3.7	Engineering a network for IEC 61850 protection	127
12	Network traffic control	128
12.1	Factors that affect performance	128
12.1.1	Influencing factors	128
12.1.2	Traffic reduction	128
12.1.3	Example of traffic reduction scheme	129
12.1.4	Multicast domains in a combined station bus and process bus network	130
12.2	Traffic control by VLANs	131
12.2.1	Trunk traffic reduction by VLANs	131
12.2.2	VLAN usage	132
12.2.3	VLAN handling at the IEDs	132
12.2.4	Example of correct VLAN configuration	132
12.2.5	Example of incorrect VLAN configuration	133
12.2.6	Retaining priority throughout the network	135
12.2.7	Traffic filtering with VLANs	135
12.3	Traffic control by multicast filtering	136
12.3.1	Trunk traffic reduction by multicast filtering	136
12.3.2	Multicast/VLAN management and redundancy protocol reconfiguration	137
12.3.3	Physical topologies and multicast management implications	137
12.3.4	Connecting two HSR RedBoxes over an RSTP network	140
12.4	Configuration support from tools and SCD files	140
13	Dependability	141
13.1	Resiliency requirements	141
13.2	Availability and reliability requirements	141
13.3	Recovery time requirements	142
13.4	Maintainability requirements	142
13.5	Dependability calculations	142
13.6	Risk analysis attached to "unwanted events"	143
14	Time services	143
14.1	Clocks	143
14.1.1	Relative and absolute clocks	143

14.1.2	Absolute time sources .....	144
14.1.3	Clock synchronization and accuracy requirements .....	144
14.1.4	Expressing the clock accuracy .....	145
14.2	Time Scales .....	146
14.2.1	Definition of the second .....	146
14.2.2	Time scales .....	147
14.2.3	Time representation .....	147
14.2.4	Leap second handling .....	148
14.3	Synchronization in IEC 61850 .....	152
14.3.1	Time synchronization requirements in IEC 61850-5 .....	152
14.3.2	Time representation objects in IEC 61850 objects .....	153
14.4	Clock synchronization protocols .....	155
14.4.1	1 PPS .....	155
14.4.2	IRIG-B .....	155
14.4.3	SNTP clock synchronization for IEC 61850-8-1 (station bus) .....	156
14.4.4	PTP (IEC 61588) synchronization .....	158
14.5	Merging units synchronization .....	172
14.6	Degraded situation upon loss of reference .....	172
14.7	Clock synchronization architecture and testing .....	173
15	Network security .....	174
16	Network management .....	174
16.1	Protocols for network management .....	174
16.2	Network management tool .....	175
16.3	Network diagnostic tool .....	175
17	Remote connectivity .....	176
18	Network testing .....	176
18.1	Introduction to testing .....	176
18.2	Environmental type testing .....	177
18.3	Conformance testing .....	178
18.3.1	Protocols subject to conformance testing .....	178
18.3.2	Integrator acceptance and verification testing .....	178
18.3.3	Basic verification test set-up .....	178
18.3.4	Basic VLAN handling test .....	179
18.3.5	Basic priority tagging test .....	180
18.3.6	Basic multicast handling test .....	180
18.3.7	Basic RSTP recovery test .....	180
18.3.8	Basic PRP test .....	181
18.3.9	Basic HSR test .....	182
18.3.10	Basic IEC/IEEE 61850-9-3 test .....	183
18.3.11	Basic PTP TC test .....	184
18.3.12	Basic PTP BC test .....	184
18.4	Factory and site acceptance testing .....	184
19	IEC 61850 bridge and port object model .....	185
19.1	Purpose .....	185
19.2	Bridge model .....	186
19.2.1	Simple model .....	186
19.2.2	Bridge Logical Node linking .....	188
19.3	Clock model .....	189

19.3.1	General clock model .....	189
19.3.2	Simple clock model .....	190
19.3.3	PTP datasets .....	192
19.3.4	PTP clock objects .....	192
19.3.5	Linking of clock objects .....	192
19.3.6	PTP TC objects .....	193
19.4	Autogenerated IEC 61850 objects .....	195
19.4.1	Conditions for element presence .....	195
19.4.2	Abbreviated terms used in data object names .....	198
19.4.3	Logical nodes .....	198
19.4.4	Data semantics .....	221
19.4.5	Enumerated data attribute types .....	225
19.5	Mapping of bridge objects to SNMP .....	227
19.5.1	Mapping of LLN0 and LPHD attributes to SNMP .....	227
19.5.2	Mapping of LBRI attributes to SNMP for bridges .....	228
19.5.3	Mapping of LPCP attributes to SNMP for bridges .....	228
19.5.4	Mapping of LPLD attributes to SNMP for bridges .....	229
19.5.5	Mapping of HSR/PRP link redundancy entity to SNMP .....	229
19.6	Mapping of clock objects to the IEC 61588 Datasets and IEC 62439-3 SNMP MIB .....	230
19.7	Machine-readable description of the bridge objects .....	232
19.7.1	Method and examples .....	232
19.7.2	Simple IED with PTP .....	233
19.7.3	Four-port bridge .....	234
19.7.4	RedBox wit HSR .....	235
19.7.5	Connected PRP and HSR networks .....	236
Annex A (informative)	Case study – Process bus configuration for busbar protection system .....	307
A.1	General .....	307
A.1.1	Process bus for busbar protection .....	307
A.1.2	Preconditions for case studies .....	307
A.1.3	Case studies .....	308
A.1.4	Calculation scheme for case 1-a .....	309
A.2	Solutions .....	310
A.2.1	Potential solutions .....	310
A.2.2	Reduction of sampling rate .....	310
A.2.3	Increasing the transmission speed .....	310
A.2.4	Controlling the traffic .....	310
A.2.5	Partitioning the network .....	310
A.2.6	Conclusions .....	310
Annex B (informative)	Case study – Simple Topologies (Transener/Transba, Argentina) .....	311
B.1	Transba architecture and topology – 132 kV substations .....	311
B.2	Transener architecture and topology – 500 kV substations .....	312
B.3	Transener SAS architectures – Esperanza .....	313
B.4	Transener SAS architectures – El Morejón .....	314
Annex C (informative)	Case study – An IEC 61850 station bus (Powerlink, Australia) .....	319
C.1	Normative aspects .....	319
C.2	Substation layout and topologies .....	319

C.2.1	Reference substation: 275 kV / 132 kV .....	319
C.2.2	Substation sizes .....	319
C.2.3	Physical site layout considerations .....	320
C.2.4	Panel layout for a bay .....	320
C.2.5	HV building modules .....	321
C.3	Requirements put on the network .....	322
C.3.1	Requirement classes .....	322
C.3.2	Connectivity requirements .....	322
C.3.3	Redundancy requirements .....	322
C.3.4	Quality of Service requirements .....	323
C.3.5	Components (hardware and software) .....	323
C.4	Equipment Selection .....	323
C.4.1	Criteria .....	323
C.4.2	Physical links .....	323
C.4.3	Node connections .....	324
C.4.4	Core router firewall .....	324
C.4.5	Core bridge .....	324
C.5	Data network topologies .....	324
C.5.1	Separate and common data network .....	324
C.5.2	Station bus (station functions) or SCADA gateway / HMI .....	328
C.5.3	Station core .....	329
C.5.4	Transformer protection over the network .....	329
C.5.5	Automated voltage regulation (AVR) .....	330
C.5.6	External connections .....	330
C.5.7	Segmentation requirements .....	330
C.5.8	Station bus and bay domains .....	331
C.5.9	Multicast filtering .....	332
C.5.10	Use of VLANs .....	333
C.5.11	IP addressing .....	333
C.6	Estimation of the traffic flow .....	333
C.6.1	Types of traffic .....	333
C.6.2	GOOSE .....	333
C.6.3	MMS traffic estimate .....	333
C.6.4	Other services .....	333
C.7	Latencies .....	334
C.8	Conclusion .....	334
Annex D (informative)	Case study – Station bus with VLANs (Trans-Africa, South Africa) .....	335
D.1	General .....	335
D.1.1	Normative aspects .....	335
D.1.2	Background .....	335
D.1.3	Electrical network overview .....	335
D.1.4	Substation communication overview .....	336
D.1.5	Design and project objectives .....	336
D.2	Conceptual design .....	336
D.2.1	Substation automation networks .....	336
D.2.2	Design parameters .....	337
D.2.3	Network topology and redundancy .....	337
D.2.4	Interface standards .....	339

D.2.5	Inter-VLAN routing .....	341
D.2.6	Network quality of service policies .....	341
D.2.7	IP Traffic prioritization and differentiated services (DiffServ).....	341
D.2.8	Packet classification .....	342
D.2.9	Packet marking.....	342
D.2.10	Network IP addressing and device allocations .....	344
D.2.11	IP Address management.....	345
D.2.12	Network coupling .....	345
D.2.13	Routing requirements and WAN Interfacing .....	345
D.2.14	Network time synchronization .....	345
D.2.15	Network time protocol (SNTP) .....	345
D.2.16	Device management philosophy .....	345
D.3	Detailed design: solution specifications for substation-A .....	347
D.3.1	General .....	347
D.3.2	Physical environment.....	347
D.3.3	Local area network .....	349
	Bibliography.....	357
	Figure 1 – Network symbols.....	29
	Figure 2 – Port symbols .....	29
	Figure 3 – Bridge symbol as beam .....	30
	Figure 4 – Bridge symbol as bus.....	30
	Figure 5 – Levels and logical interfaces in grid automation (adapted from IEC 61850-5).....	31
	Figure 6 – IEC 61850 protocol stack .....	32
	Figure 7 – MMS protocol time/distance chart .....	33
	Figure 8 – GOOSE protocol time/space chart.....	35
	Figure 9 – GOOSE protocol time chart.....	35
	Figure 10 – Example of SV traffic (4 800 Hz) .....	36
	Figure 11 – Station bus, process bus and traffic example .....	38
	Figure 12 – Example of engineering flow .....	39
	Figure 13 – Ethernet LAN (with redundant links) .....	44
	Figure 14 – Bridge with copper (RJ45) ports .....	46
	Figure 15 – Shielded Cat5e cable .....	46
	Figure 16 – RJ45 connector .....	47
	Figure 17 – LC connector.....	48
	Figure 18 – Bridge with optical fibres (LC connectors) .....	49
	Figure 19 – RSTP principle .....	52
	Figure 20 – IEEE 802.3 frame format without and with VLAN tagging.....	56
	Figure 21 – PRP principle .....	61
	Figure 22 – HSR principle .....	63
	Figure 23 – HSR and PRP coupling (multicast) .....	64
	Figure 24 – Mapping of electrical grid to data network topology .....	67
	Figure 25 – Example of substation with separation of the station bus into two sections.....	68
	Figure 26 – Station bus as single bridge .....	72
	Figure 27 – Station bus as hierarchical star .....	73

Figure 28 – Station bus as dual star with PRP .....	74
Figure 29 – Station bus as ring of RSTP bridges .....	76
Figure 30 – Station bus as separated Main 1 (Bus 1) and Main 2 (Bus 2) LANs .....	77
Figure 31 – Station bus as ring of HSR bridging nodes .....	79
Figure 32 – Station bus as ring and subrings with RSTP .....	80
Figure 33 – Station bus as parallel rings with bridging nodes .....	82
Figure 34 – Station bus as parallel HSR rings .....	83
Figure 35 – Station bus as hierarchical rings with RSTP bridging nodes .....	84
Figure 36 – Station bus as hierarchical rings with HSR bridging nodes .....	86
Figure 37 – Station bus as ring and subrings with HSR .....	88
Figure 38 – Double busbar bay with directly attached sensors .....	90
Figure 39 – Double busbar bay with SAMUs and process bus .....	91
Figure 40 – Double busbar bay with ECT/EVTs and process bus .....	92
Figure 41 – 1 ½ CB diameter with conventional, non-redundant attachment .....	93
Figure 42 – 1 ½ CB diameter with SAMUs and process bus .....	94
Figure 43 – 1 ½ CB diameter with ECT/EVT and process bus .....	95
Figure 44 – Process bus as connection of PIA and PIB (non-redundant protection) .....	96
Figure 45 – Process bus as single star (not redundant protection) .....	98
Figure 46 – Process bus as dual star .....	100
Figure 47 – Process bus as a single bridge (no protection redundancy) .....	101
Figure 48 – Process bus as separated LANs for main 1 and main 2 .....	103
Figure 49 – Process bus as ring of HSR nodes .....	105
Figure 50 – Process bus as star to merging units and station bus as RSTP ring .....	108
Figure 51 – Station bus and process bus as rings connected by a router .....	110
Figure 52 – Station bus ring and process bus ring with HSR .....	111
Figure 53 – Station bus as dual PRP ring and process bus as HSR ring .....	113
Figure 54 – Station bus used for the measurements .....	121
Figure 55 – Typical traffic (packet/s) on the station bus .....	122
Figure 56 – Example of latency in function of traffic .....	124
Figure 57 – Generic multicast domains .....	128
Figure 58 – Traffic patterns .....	130
Figure 59 – Multicast domains for a combined process bus and station bus .....	131
Figure 60 – Bridges with correct VLAN configuration .....	133
Figure 61 – Bridges with poor VLAN configuration .....	134
Figure 62 – Bridges with traffic segmentation through VLAN configuration .....	136
Figure 63 – Station bus separated into multicast domains by voltage level .....	137
Figure 64 – Multicast traffic on an RSTP ring .....	138
Figure 65 – RSTP station bus and HSR ring .....	139
Figure 66 – RSTP station bus and HSR process bus .....	140
Figure 67 – Clock quality definitions .....	145
Figure 68 – Deviation between atomic day and Earth day (source: Wikipedia, modified) .....	146
Figure 69 – TAI, UTC and UT1 time scales .....	148
Figure 70 – Example of BIMP bulletin (Source: BIMP) .....	149

Figure 71 – Leap second transition at UTC midnight according to BIMP.....	151
Figure 72 – 1 PPS synchronisation .....	155
Figure 73 – SNTP clock synchronization and delay measurement.....	157
Figure 74 – PTP elements.....	159
Figure 75 – PTP clock correction and peer delay measurement (one-step) .....	160
Figure 76 – PTP two-step clock correction and peer delay measurement.....	162
Figure 77 – Clock accuracy degradation in a chain of TCs .....	163
Figure 78 – Doubly attached clocks in a PRP network.....	167
Figure 79 – Clocks in a PRP network coupled by BCs with an HSR ring.....	169
Figure 80 – Hierarchy of clocks.....	171
Figure 81 – Clock synchronization distribution .....	174
Figure 82 – Quality assurance stages (copied from IEC 61850-4) .....	177
Figure 83 – Test set-up for verification test.....	179
Figure 84 – Test set-up for PRP and PUP.....	182
Figure 85 – Test set-up for HSR and PUP.....	183
Figure 86 – Multiport device model .....	187
Figure 87 – Linking of bridge objects .....	189
Figure 88 – General clock model in a device.....	190
Figure 89 – Clock model for OC and BC .....	191
Figure 90 – Ordinary Clock and Boundary Clock objects.....	193
Figure 91 – Transparent Clock objects.....	194
Figure 92 – Transparent Clock linking.....	195
Figure 93 – Class diagram LogicalNodes_90_4::LogicalNodes_90_4.....	199
Figure 94 – Class diagram LNGroupL::LNGroupLExt .....	200
Figure 95 – Class diagram LNGroupL::LNGroupLNew1.....	201
Figure 96 – Class diagram LNGroupL::LNGroupLNew2.....	202
Figure 97 – Usage of Multicast MAC Filtering .....	209
Figure 98 – Usage of VLAN filtering .....	211
Figure 99 – Simple IED with PTP but no LLDP support.....	233
Figure 100 – Four-port bridge .....	234
Figure 101 – RedBox with LLDP but no PTP .....	235
Figure 102 – Coupled PRP and HSR networks.....	236
Figure A.1 – Preconditions for the process bus configuration example.....	308
Figure B.1 – First Ethernet-based Transba substation automation network .....	311
Figure B.2 – Transba SAS architecture .....	312
Figure B.3 – Transener substation automation network.....	313
Figure B.4 – Transener SAS architecture – ET Esperanza .....	315
Figure B.5 – Transener 500 kV architecture – El Morejón .....	316
Figure B.6 – 500 kV kiosk topology .....	317
Figure B.7 – 33 kV kiosk topology.....	318
Figure C.1 – Example HV and LV single line diagram and IEDs .....	319
Figure C.2 – HV bay and cabinet module .....	321
Figure C.3 – Data network areas.....	325

Figure C.4 – Substation LAN topology .....	327
Figure C.5 – SAS Gen1 High level traffic flows .....	328
Figure C.6 – SCADA & gateway connection .....	329
Figure C.7 – Station Core .....	329
Figure C.8 – Overall VLANs .....	331
Figure C.9 – Three domains.....	331
Figure C.10 – One domain per diameter, bus zone and transformer protection .....	332
Figure D.1 – Conceptual topology of substation LAN network with redundancy .....	338
Figure D.2 – Detailed topology of substation LAN with redundancy .....	339
Figure D.3 – Original IPv4 Type of Service (ToS) octet .....	342
Figure D.4 – Differentiated Services (DiffServ) codepoint field .....	343
Table 1 – Attributes of (Tr)IEC 61850-90-4:2018A namespace.....	18
Table 2 – IEC 61850-5 interface definitions.....	31
Table 3 – Example of port ingress setting table.....	58
Table 4 – Example of port egress settings .....	58
Table 5 – Advantages and drawbacks of VLAN versus multicast filtering .....	59
Table 6 – IANA private IP address blocks (copied from RFC 1918) .....	65
Table 7 – IP address and mask example.....	66
Table 8 – Summary of reference topologies .....	69
Table 9 – Reference topologies and redundancy protocols used .....	70
Table 10 – Station bus as single bridge .....	72
Table 11 – Station bus as hierarchical star .....	73
Table 12 – Station bus as dual star .....	75
Table 13 – Station bus as ring .....	76
Table 14 – Station bus as separated Main 1 and Main 2 protection .....	78
Table 15 – Station bus as ring of bridging nodes.....	79
Table 16 – Station bus as ring and subrings.....	81
Table 17 – Station bus as parallel rings .....	82
Table 18 – Station bus as parallel HSR rings .....	83
Table 19 – Station bus as ring of rings with RSTP.....	85
Table 20 – Station bus as ring of rings with HSR .....	87
Table 21 – Station bus as ring and subrings with HSR .....	88
Table 22 – Process bus as connection of PIA and PIB .....	97
Table 23 – Process bus as single star.....	99
Table 24 – Process bus as dual star .....	100
Table 25 – Process bus as single bridge.....	102
Table 26 – Process bus as separated LANs .....	104
Table 27 – Process bus as simple ring.....	106
Table 28 – Advantages and drawbacks of physical separation .....	106
Table 29 – Advantages and drawbacks of logical separation.....	107
Table 30 – Process bus as star to merging units .....	108
Table 31 – Connection of station bus to process bus by routers.....	110

Table 32 – Connection of station bus to process bus by RedBoxes .....	112
Table 33 – Connection of duplicated station bus to process bus by RedBoxes .....	113
Table 34 – Example IP address allocation of NET .....	115
Table 35 – Example IP address allocation of BAY .....	115
Table 36 – Example IP address allocation of device.....	116
Table 37 – Example IP address allocation of switches in PRP.....	116
Table 38 – IEC 61850-5 interface traffic.....	119
Table 39 – Message types and addresses .....	120
Table 40 – Latency requirements of IEC 61850-5.....	125
Table 41 – Elapsed time for an IEEE 802.3 frame to traverse the physical medium.....	125
Table 42 – Delay for an IEEE 802.3 frame to ingress or to egress a port.....	126
Table 43 – Latencies caused by waiting for a lower-priority frame to egress a port .....	127
Table 44 – Two representations of a positive leap second .....	150
Table 45 – Synchronization classes (taken from IEC 61850-5).....	152
Table 46 – Network time synchronization classes .....	153
Table 47 – Time representations in IEC 61850.....	154
Table 48 – Standards applicable to network elements.....	178
Table 49 – Conditions for presence of elements within a context .....	196
Table 50 – Normative abbreviations for data object names .....	198
Table 51 – Data objects of ClockPortLN.....	203
Table 52 – Data objects of PortBindingLN.....	204
Table 53 – Data objects of PTPClockLN .....	204
Table 54 – Data objects of LCCHExt.....	205
Table 55 – Data objects of LPHDExt.....	206
Table 56 – Data objects of LTIMEExt .....	207
Table 57 – Data objects of LBRI .....	208
Table 58 – Data objects of LCMF .....	210
Table 59 – Data objects of LCVF .....	211
Table 60 – Data objects of LPCP .....	212
Table 61 – Data objects of LPMS.....	213
Table 62 – Data objects of LTPC .....	214
Table 63 – Data objects of LTTC.....	216
Table 64 – Data objects of LTPP.....	217
Table 65 – Data objects of LTTTP .....	218
Table 66 – Data objects of LBSP .....	219
Table 67 – Data objects of LPLD.....	220
Table 68 – Attributes defined on classes of LogicalNodes_90_4 package .....	221
Table 69 – Literals of RstpStateKind .....	225
Table 70 – Literals of VlanTagKind .....	225
Table 71 – Literals of PortStKind .....	226
Table 72 – Literals of ChannelRedundancyKind .....	226
Table 73 – Literals of LdpPortCfgKind.....	227
Table 74 – Mapping of LLN0 and LPHD attributes to SNMP .....	227

Table 75 – Mapping of LBRI and LBSP attributes to SNMP for bridges .....	228
Table 76 – Mapping of LPCP attributes to SNMP for bridges.....	228
Table 77 – Mapping of LPLD attributes to SNMP for bridges .....	229
Table 78 – Mapping of LCCH attributes for SNMP for HSR/PRP LREs.....	230
Table 79 – Mapping of clock objects in IEC 61850, IEC 61588 and IEC 62439-3 Annex E... 230	
Table A.1 – Summary of expected latencies.....	309
Table C.1 – Site categories HV .....	320
Table C.2 – Site categories MV.....	320
Table C.3 – Building modules .....	321
Table C.4 – Network modules .....	326
Table C.5 – Domain assignment for three domains .....	332
Table C.6 – Domain assignment for one domain per diameter.....	332
Table C.7 – Summary of expected latencies .....	334
Table C.8 – Traffic types and estimated network load .....	334
Table D.1 – VLAN numbering and allocation .....	340
Table D.2 – Prioritization selection for various applications.....	341
Table D.3 – Mapping of applications to service levels .....	342
Table D.4 – List of DiffServ codepoint field values .....	343
Table D.5 – Example of DSCP to class of service mapping.....	344
Table D.6 – Example of DSCP mappings .....	344
Table D.7 – Typical substation IP Address map (IP range: 10.0.16.0/21) .....	344
Table D.8 – SNMP MIBs applicable to substation devices.....	347
Table D.9 – Example of device naming .....	348
Table D.10 – Example of interface addressing and allocation.....	349
Table D.11 – Example of device access and SNMP assignment.....	349
Table D.12 – Example of hardware identification.....	350
Table D.13 – Example of device name table .....	351
Table D.14 – Example of firmware and software table.....	351
Table D.15 – Example of interface addressing and allocation.....	352
Table D.16 – Example of network switch details.....	352
Table D.17 – Example of VLAN definitions.....	352
Table D.18 – Example of IP routing.....	353
Table D.19 – Example of QoS mapping.....	353
Table D.20 – Example of trunk and link aggregation table (void).....	354
Table D.21 – LAN switch port speed and duplex configuration .....	354
Table D.22 – LAN switch port security settings .....	355
Table D.23 – Example of DHCP snooping .....	356
Table D.24 – Example of storm control table.....	356

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**COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND  
SYSTEMS FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –**
**Part 90-4: Network engineering guidelines****FOREWORD**

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IEC TR 61850-90-4, which is a technical report, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 57: Power systems management and associated information exchange.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2013. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- New object model for bridges and clocks based on UML autogeneration.
- An example of SCL configuration with a topology
- Extensions to the time distribution and clock
- Extension of the testing

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
57/2088/DTR	57/2159/RVDTR

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.

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.

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This publication contains attached.nsd files which compose the Code Component of this part. These files are intended to be used as a complement and do not form an integral part of this standard.

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.

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## 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. Indeed, 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 interoperability.

This Technical Report provides definitions, guidelines and specifications for the engineering of IEC 61850-based substation networks, which consists of one or several local area networks. It is also applicable to local area networks outside of the substation, e.g. substation-to-substation links or differential protection links, to which IEDs are directly connected. Data communication over Wide Area Networks is treated in IEC TR 61850-90-12.

This Technical Report addresses issues such as Ethernet technology, network topology, redundancy, traffic latency and quality of service, traffic management by multicast and VLAN filtering, network-based clock synchronization and testing of the network.

This Technical Report is based on existing standards for semantics, services, protocols, system configuration language and architecture. It relies 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 SC65C WG15 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, the IEEE Power System Relaying Committee (PSRC) and on contributions by different companies.