

# Security areas and modular IDPS

architecture design elements protecting Automotive Ethernet Networks



Elektrobit

2019 IEEE-SA Ethernet & IP @ Automotive Technology Day – Detroit

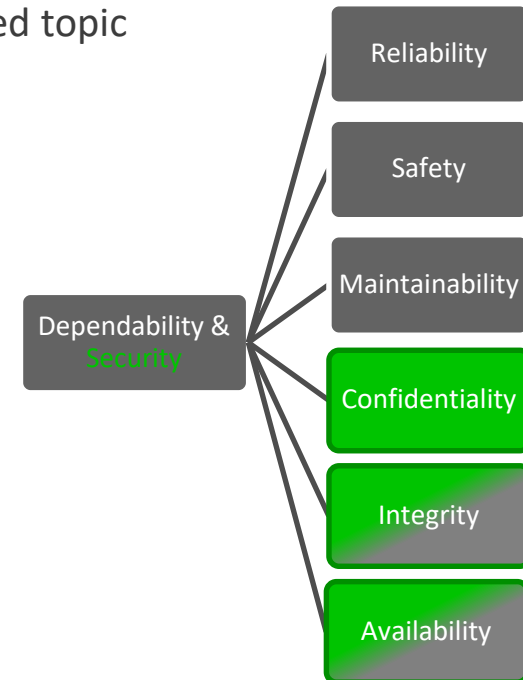
Dr. Georg Gaderer & Dr. Michael Ziehensack, Elektrobit



# Motivation

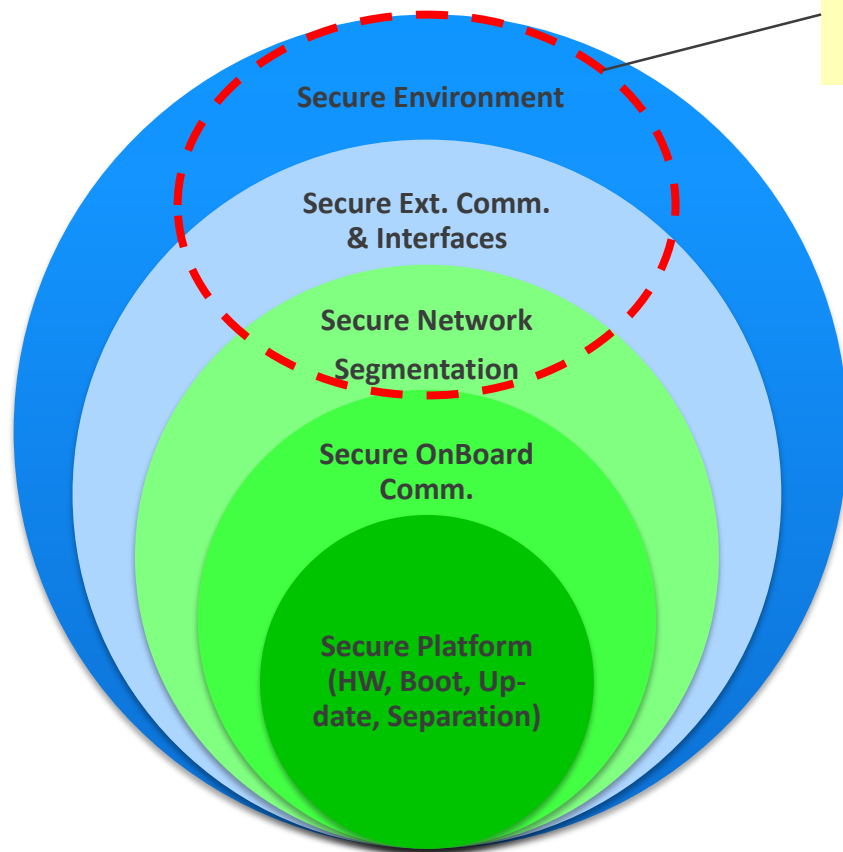
- Classical Dependability is a well known and throughout the automotive industry well mastered topic
- Nowadays we see several needs raising
  - Rasing data-rate of communication (CAN, LIN, FR vs. GBit Ethernet)
  - Raising computing effort (simple logic vs. High Performance, multicore computing)
  - Raising complexity (window control vs. Piloted driving)
  - Rase of connectivity to outside world ( simple OBD connector vs. Update over the air)

*This increases the focus on security, yet strengthening the safety aspect (Integrity, Availability)*



# Protecting Automotive Ethernet Networks

## Automotive System Security Layers



## Multi-Level Communication Security Architecture

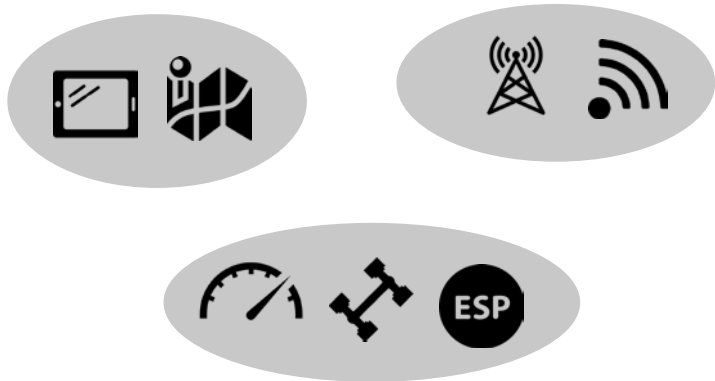
- Level 1:** restrict access to the network
- Level 2:** secure onboard communication
- Level 3:** apply data usage policies
- Level 4:** detect anomalies and defend



# Security Areas

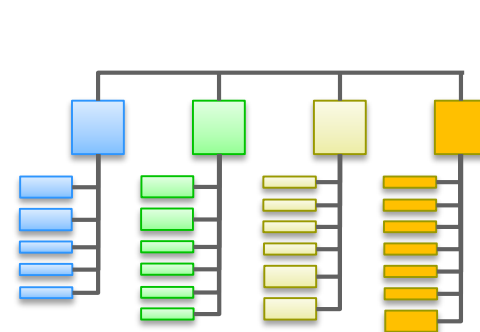
## What to separate?

- **Vehicle Functions according to criticality and trust level** grouped in security areas
- For example,
  - security area with highly critical functions (braking, steering, ...)
  - security areas with HMI functions ...
  - security area with functions that contain external interfaces (mobile connection, remote key, WLAN, V2G, ...)

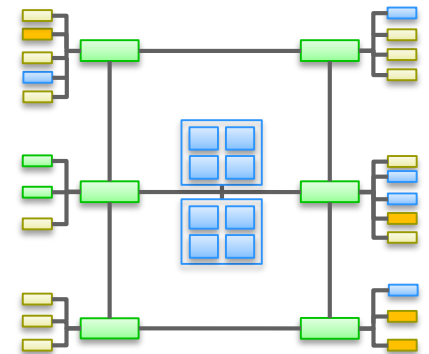


## How to separate?

- **Physical:** Domain E/E Architecture (physical)
- **Logical:** VLANs, IP Subnets for new E2E architectures with mixed topology (e.g., centralized architecture with no physical separation or zonal E/E arch.)



Domain E/E Architecture  
(physical separation via domains)



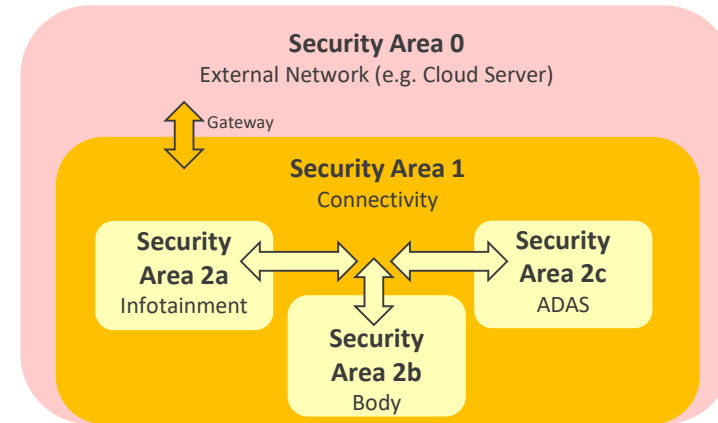
Zonal E/E Architecture  
(logic separation required)

- **Gateways:** Traffic between the security areas is only possible between adjacent areas via a gateway

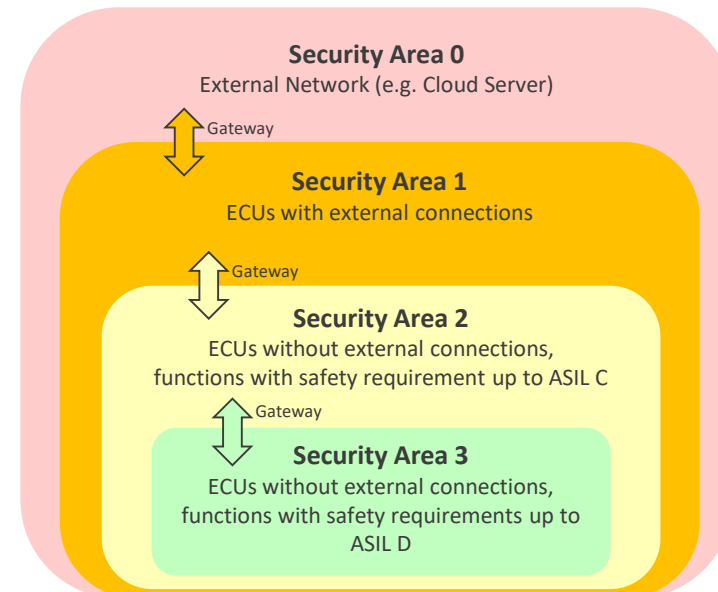
# Security Areas

## Level of Separation?

- **Goal:** increase the number of borders to cross between security areas
  - Like an onion skin, the **security areas are nested into each other**, with the innermost security area offering the highest level of protection, e.g., a frame from the cloud must never reach a breaking ECU directly.
  - End nodes can only be part of a single security area.
- **Gateways (Security Area Crossings)**
  - Communication between areas only via dedicated gateways such as, **VLAN Bridges, IP routers, Application Level Gateways**
  - Dedicated gateways shall provide a **Firewall with deep packet inspection** (e.g., check of VLAN, MAC/IP-addresses, port numbers, L5+ protocol type, ...)



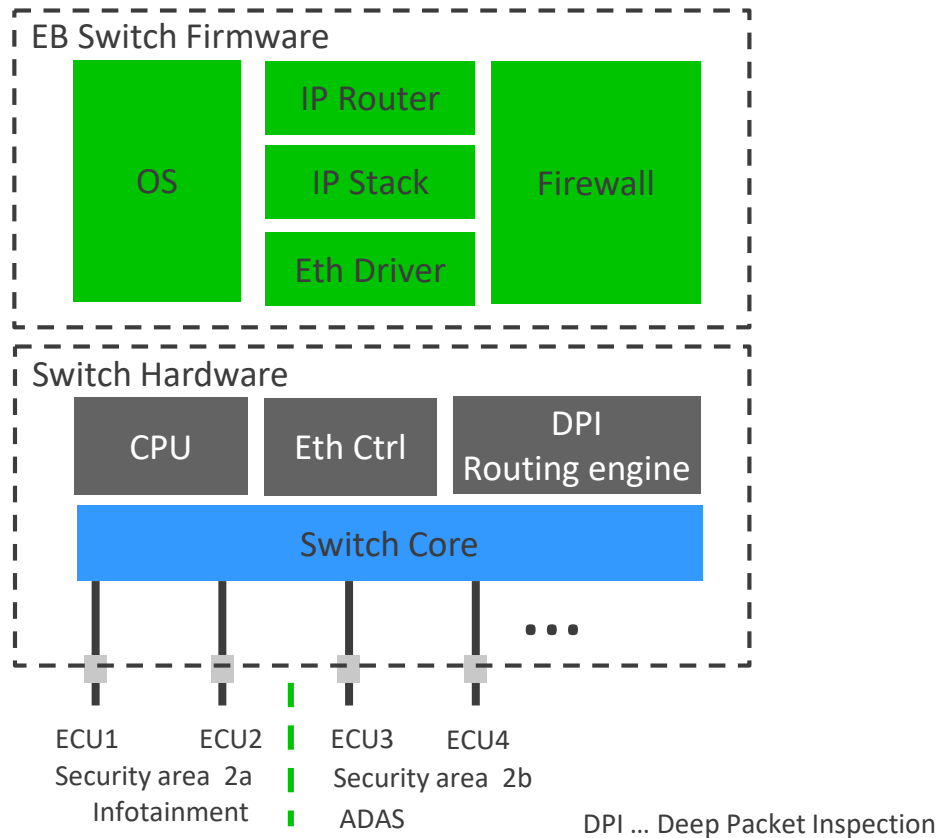
- Variant A:
- Separation based on domains
  - no hierarchy beside external connection
  - Max. 2 borders
  - Comparison with IT:  
 Sec Area 0 = public network  
 Sec Area 1 = DMZ  
 Sec Area 2 = private network



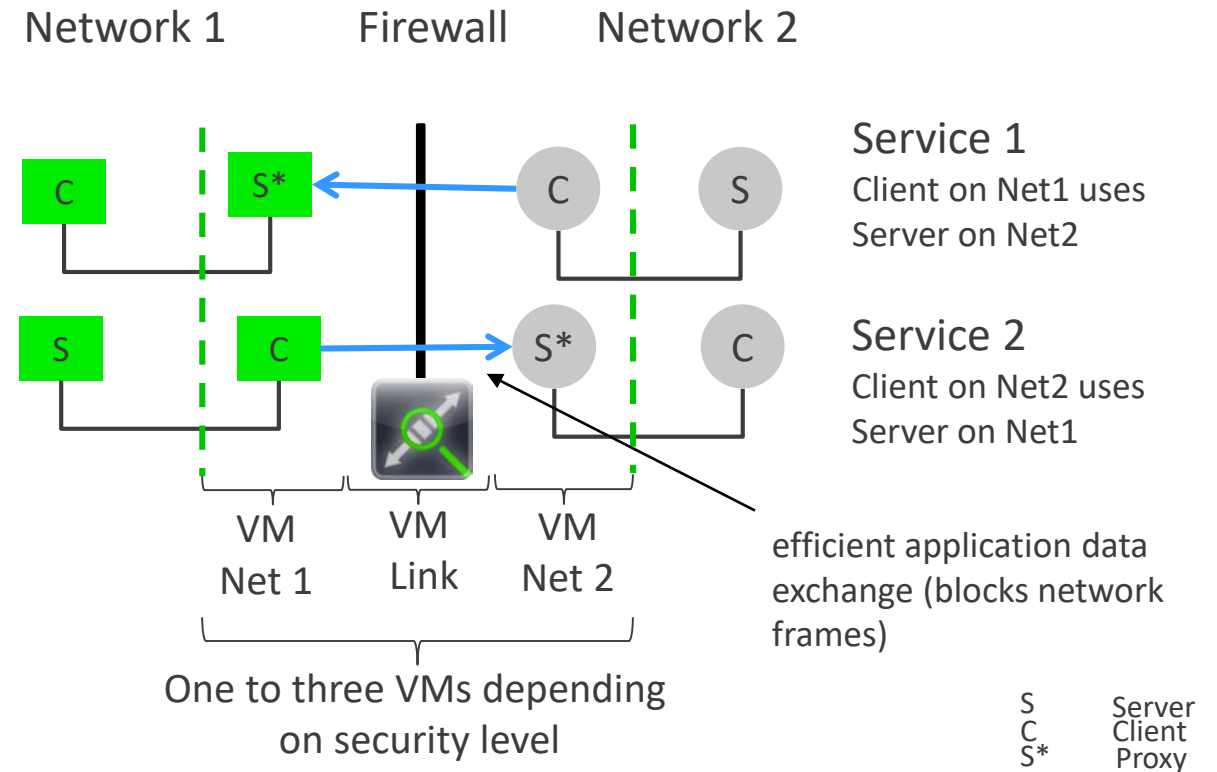
- Variant B:
- Separation based on criticality
  - multiple hierarchy levels
  - Max. 3 borders

# Example for a Security Area Crossing

## IP Router with Firewall

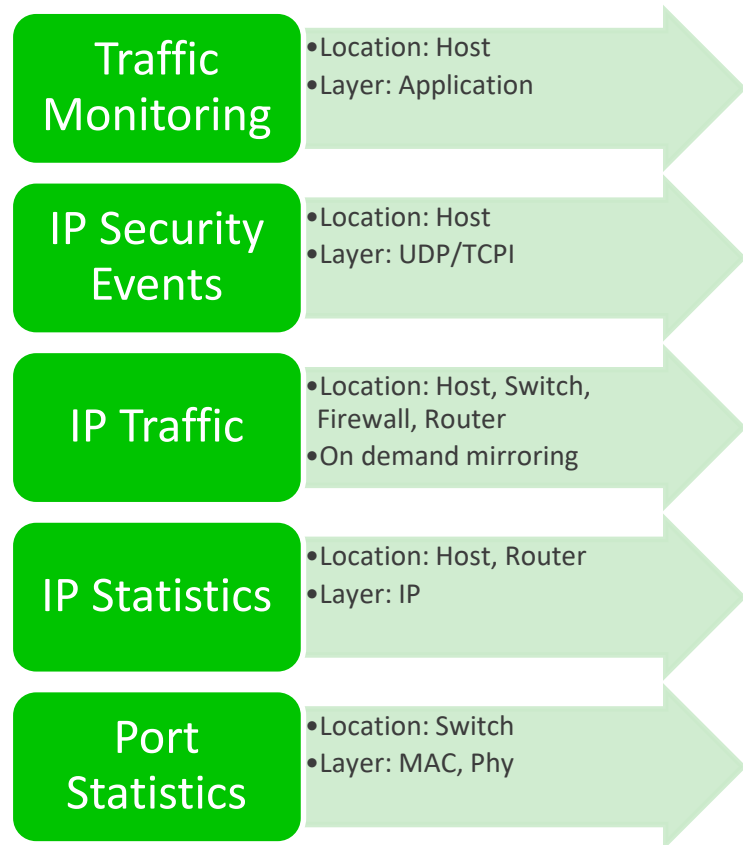


## Service Proxy (application level gateway)

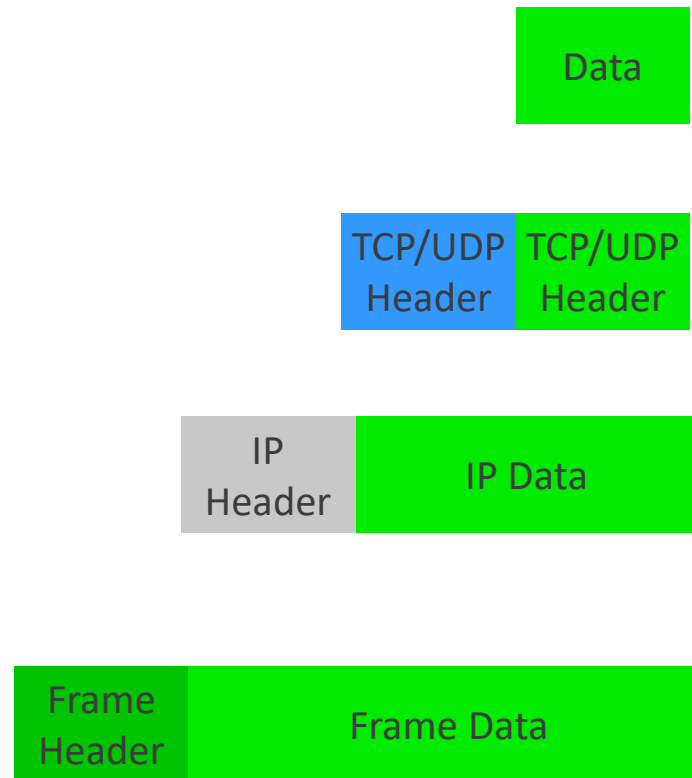


# Intrusion detection and prevention System (IDPS)

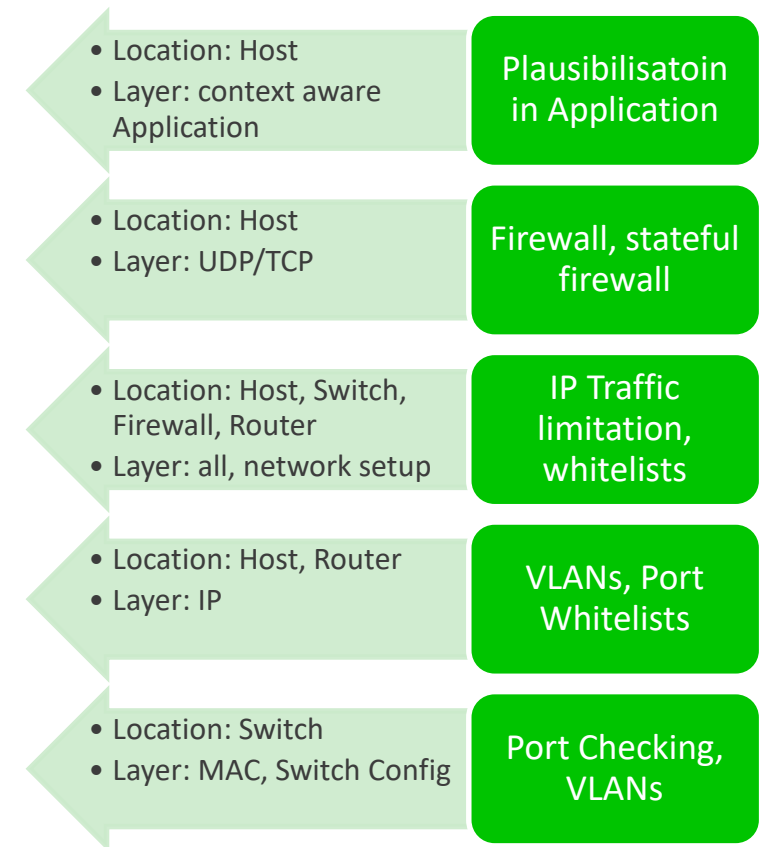
## Intrusion Detection



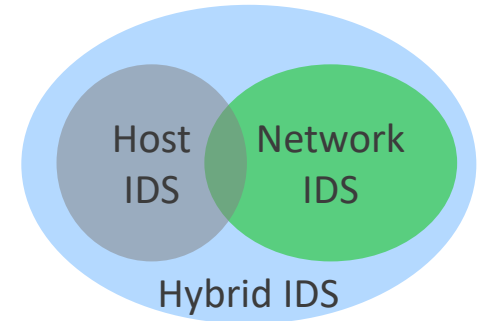
## Network Stack






## Intrusion prevention







# IDS types



	Host IDS	Network IDS	Hybrid IDS
Analyzes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>internals of a computing system and</li> <li>Host network interfaces on a ingress packet level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Packets in the network to detect suspicious activities</li> <li>Can be on a packet or packet statistics level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both, Host based sensor data and network sensor data</li> </ul>
Pros 	One can instrument on every layer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can monitor encrypted communication if directed to the host</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent from target system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of both principles</li> <li>Higher coverage</li> </ul>
Cons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depends on protocol stack of the host</li> <li>Cannot detect anomalies in the whole network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A full coverage would require mirroring of all packets</li> <li>Unefficient, thus usually not done</li> <li>Cannot monitor encrypted packets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs a management and data collection system (IDPS Vehicle Controller)</li> </ul>







# Attack Patterns and detection mechanisms

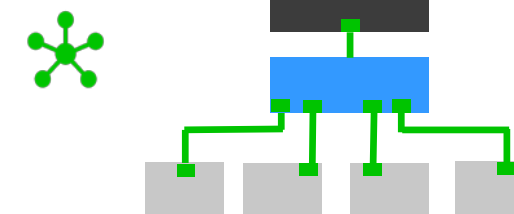
Attack Pattern 	Host IDS 	Network IDS 	Hybrid IDS 
Port Scan from one host	Most cases detectable	Difficult to detect but possible	Additional data from Network IDS may improve Host IDS
Distributed port scan	Difficult to detect	Many cases detectable	Additional data from Host IDS may improve Network IDS
Buffer overflow attack	Many techniques for detection exist	undetectable	Same as Host IDS
Denial of service attack (non distributed)	Detectable	Detectable and easy to isolate	Additional Data from Host IDS may improve Network IDS
Denial of service attack (distributed, e.g., gateway)	Detectable, difficult to isolate	Difficult to detect	Detectable, difficult to isolate
Man in the middle	Difficult to detect	May be detected	May be detected

# IDS Sensor Examples

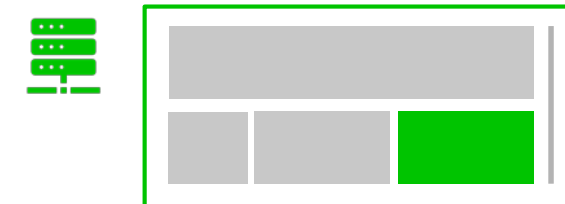
## Where, what and How

Location	Data	Type*	Implementation	Remark
 Network IDS (Switch)	Port Statistics	(M)	Traffic statistics per port	Hardware supported ingress sampling needed
 Host IDS (Host Ethernet Interface, Switch firmware, router)	IP Statistics	(M)	Table statistics per flow (Layer 4) Sampling of configuration interface data	Hardware supported ingress sampling needed
 Network IDS( Switch, Switch Firmware, Router)	IP Traffic duplication	(D)	Duplicate matching packets acc. To a filter	Layer 2 filtering support needed
 Host IDS (Host Ethernet Interface, Firewall)	IP security Events	(D)	Forward dropped frames (or metadata)	e.g., frames out of spec (comm. Matrix)

Network IDS



Host IDS



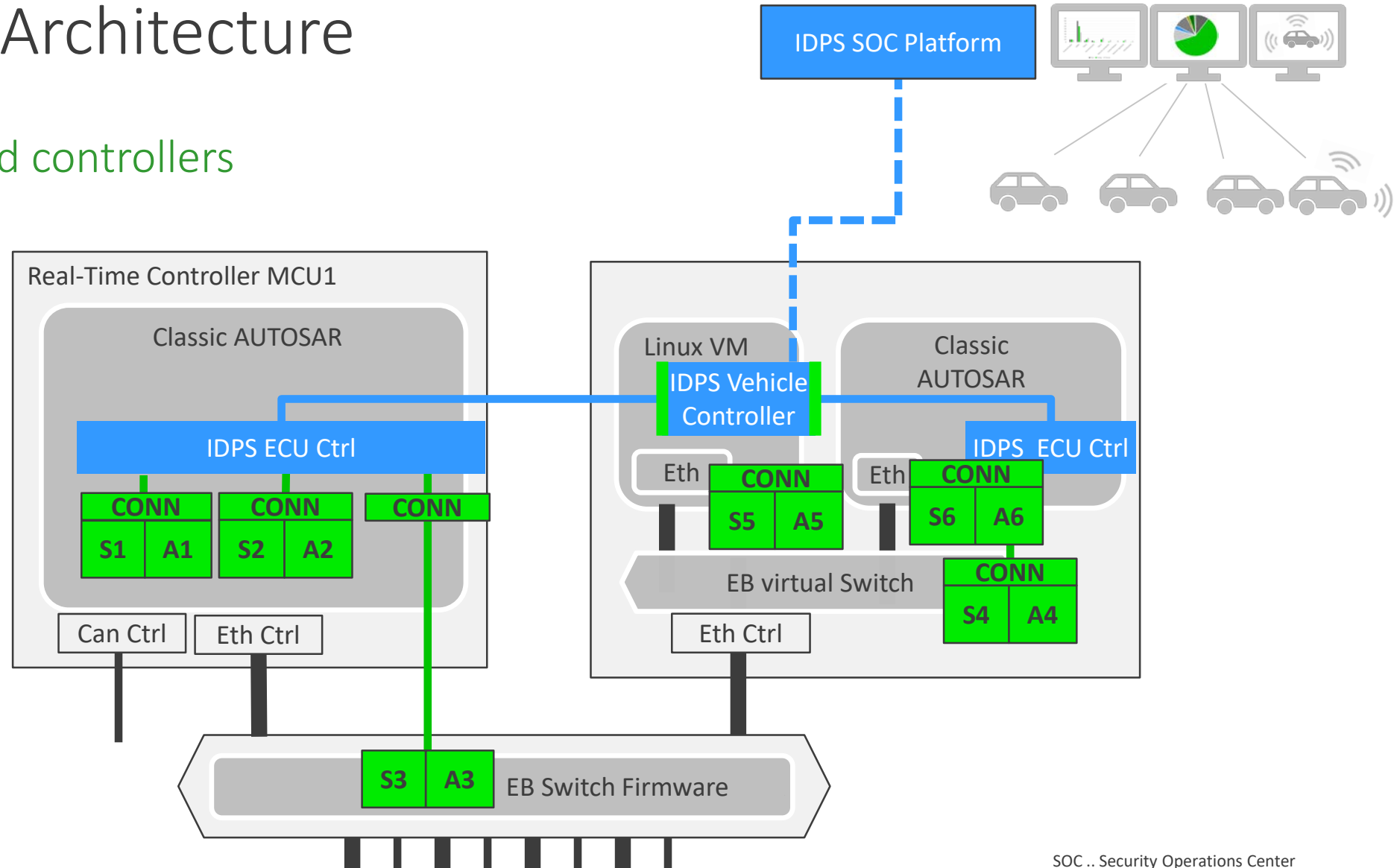
\*Sensor Type:

- (M)etadata (Port, protocol statistics)
- (D)eep Packet Inspection (Frame by frame inspection, flow analysis)

# Modular IDPS Architecture

## Sensors, actuators and controllers

- Sensors and actuators are usually paired
- Each sensor/actuator needs unified interface (CONN)
- Sensors and actuators for VM internal parts are not shown
- SOC\* Platform is connected via gateway
- Controller do an anomaly detection based on sensor data

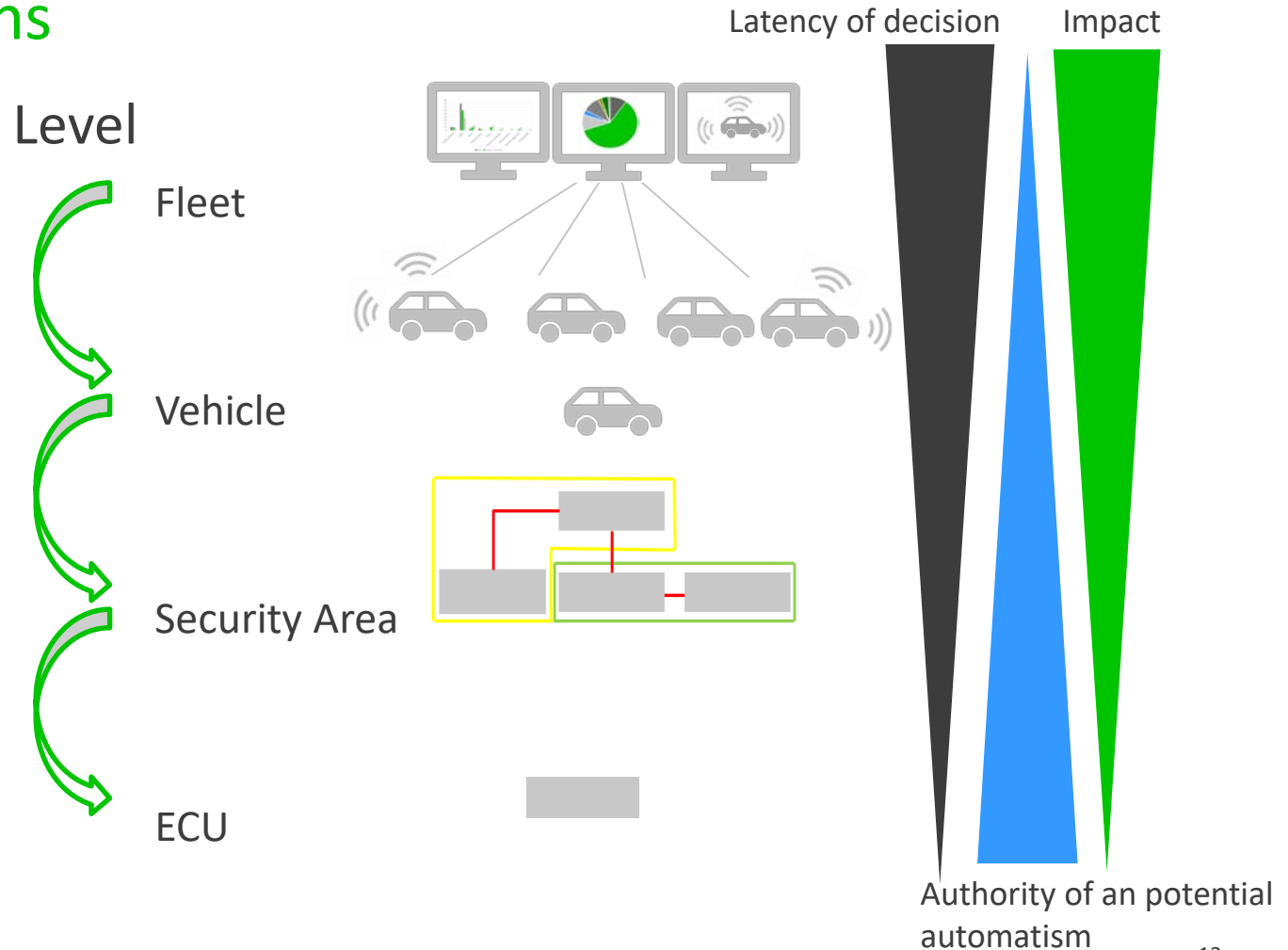


# The Impact-Automatism-Latency tradeoff

## Influencing factors of IDSPs reactions

Intrusion detection might end up in extensive decisions. Those are dependent on level

- The **Latency** of decision: from a certain level on one might want to have human in the loop (e.g., grounding of a whole fleet)
- The **Authority** of an automatism: on a low level decisions can be taken easier (e.g., discard packets with security violation)
- The **Impact**: on a higher level decisions influence a bigger portion of the system



# Summary

- Protect automotive networks is important, because of safety, legal and commercial requirements
- Security areas have been defined to restrict the attack surface
- Crossing Security areas are limited to gateways with firewalls and deep packet inspection
- EB's modular IDPS consists of sensors, actuators and controllers for efficient intrusion detection
- Anomaly detection is done on different levels considering latency, automation level and impact



# Thank you for your attention!

## Author information

Dr. Georg Gaderer, Elektrobit  
Senior Manager, Car Infrastructure Software  
[georg.gaderer@elektrobit.com](mailto:georg.gaderer@elektrobit.com)

Dr. Michael Ziehensack, Elektrobit  
VP, Car Infrastructure Software  
[michael.ziehensack@elektrobit.com](mailto:michael.ziehensack@elektrobit.com)

# Get in touch!

[sales@elektrobit.com](mailto:sales@elektrobit.com)  
[www.elektrobit.com](http://www.elektrobit.com)



Elektrobit



**Restricted Network Access**

**Secure Onboard Communication**

**Data Usage Policies**

**Detection & Defense**