

# Smart building controls

Smart building control platform

Xiaohui 'Joe' Zhou | Slipstream

2024

1

## Learning Objectives

- Explain the generic smart building control platform architecture
- Describe the major components in the system, integration, and application layers and their functionalities
- Describe how smart buildings communicate with external applications
- Compare open source and proprietary platforms

2

## Outline

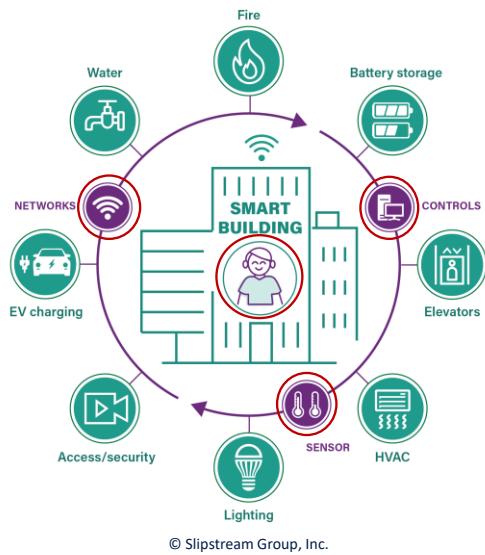
- Smart Building Elements
- Control Platform Architecture
- System Layer
  - Building automation system
  - Networked lighting
  - BESS control
  - Managed EV charging
  - IoT sensors and devices
  - Communication protocols
- Integration Layer
  - Approach 1
  - Approach 2
  - Data modeling
- Application Layer
- Smart Building Communication
- Open source vs. proprietary platforms

3

## Smart Building Elements

4

## Smart Building Elements



### 1) Building systems

- 1) Envelope
- 2) HVAC
- 3) Lighting
- 4) Water
- 5) Solar PV + battery energy storage
- 6) EV charging
- 7) Other (elevator, fire, access/security)

### 2) Sensors

### 3) Controls

- 1) Platform
- 2) Control methods

### 4) Networks

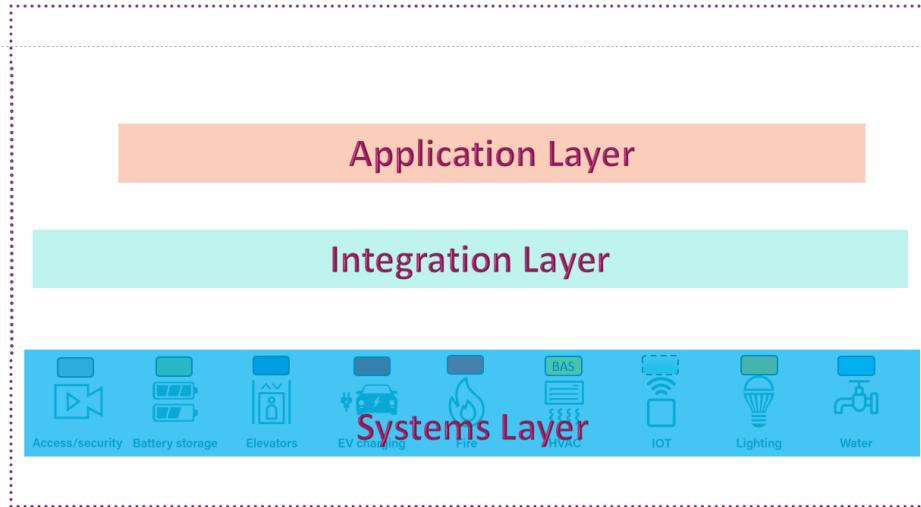
### 5) Occupants!

5

## Smart Building Control Platform Architecture

6

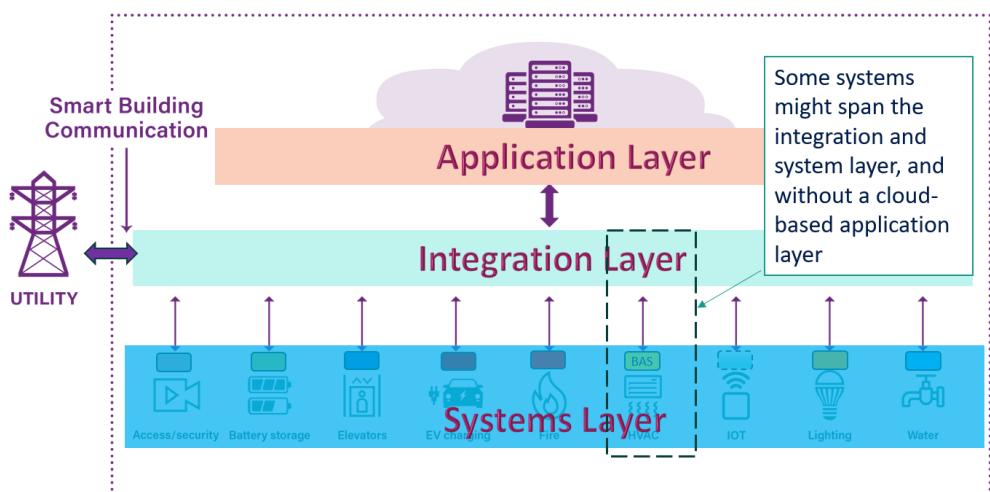
## A Generalized Smart Building Control Platform Architecture



© Slipstream Group, Inc.

7

## A Generalized Smart Building Control Platform Architecture



© Slipstream Group, Inc.

8

## Smart Building Control Platform Layers

### Systems Layer

- Individual building system controls
- May use different protocols and data formats

### Integration Layer

- Establish building-level communications among different building systems
- Unify data structures

### Application Layer

- Building-level global optimization and control

### External Communication

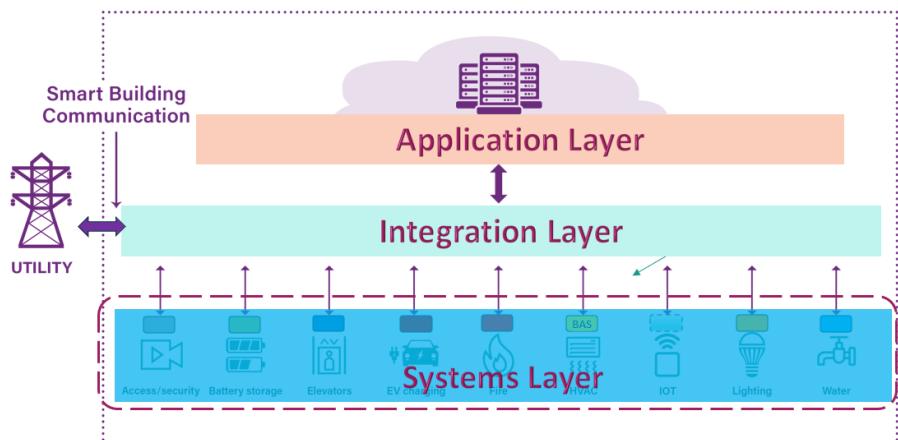
- Establish external two-way communications

9

### System Layer

10

## System Layer



© Slipstream Group, Inc.

11

## Building Automation System

### Application

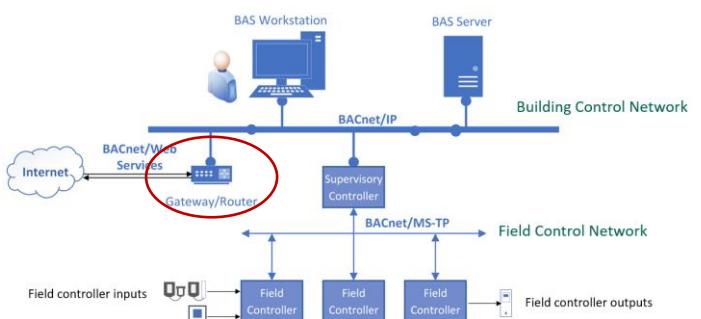
- Medium and large commercial buildings

### Networking

- Building control network
- Field control network

### Protocols

- BACnet/IP
- BACnet/SC
- LonWorks/IP
- BACnet MS/TP
- LonWorks TP/F
- Modbus
- KNX



Refer to Session #3 for more information on building automation systems

12

## Networked Lighting Controls

### Application

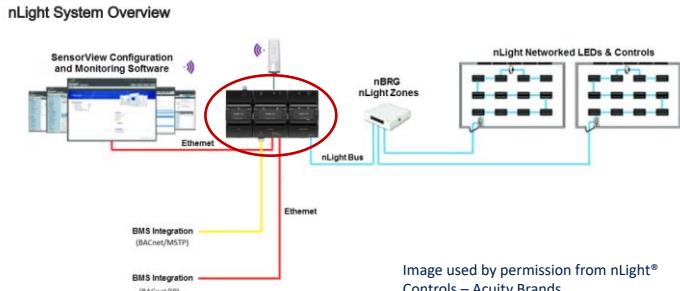
- Most commercial buildings with networked lighting systems installed

### Networking

- Ethernet
- Wired or wireless lighting control network

### Protocols

- DALI, DMX, BACnet, ZigBee, Bluetooth



Refer to Session #4 for more information on Networked Lighting Controls (NLC)

13

## Battery Storage Controls

### Application

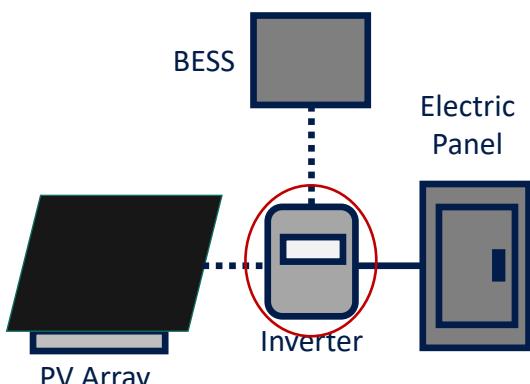
- Behind-the-meter battery energy storage
- Resilience, cost savings, and/or clean energy

### Networking

- Ethernet, RS-232, RS-485

### Protocols

- Sunspec Modbus, DNP3, IEEE 2030.5, OpenADR



Refer to Session #5 for more information on Battery storage controls

14

## Managed EV Charging

### Application

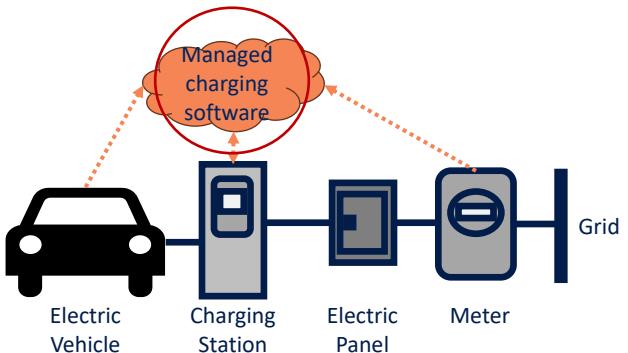
- Commercial buildings with EV charging stations

### Networking

- Ethernet
- EV control network

### Protocols

- OCPP (Open Charge Point Protocol)
- OpenADR
- IEEE 2030.5
- Sunspec Modbus



Refer to Session #5 for more information on Managed EV charging

15

## IoT Sensors and IoT Devices

### Application

- Individual device sensing and control
- Can be shared with multiple systems

### Networking

- Ethernet

### Protocols

- Http/Https
- Wifi
- Bluetooth
- Bluetooth Low Energy
- (BLE)
- Zigbee
- MQTT
- LoRaWAN



Image used with permission from NCD

Refer to Session #7-#8 for more information on sensors and IoT devices

16

## Common Communication Protocols

### Common Communication Protocols

- BACnet: a public, open standard for building controls
- LonWorks: a proprietary, open standard for building controls
- Modbus: widely used in industrial automation and controls, sensor, instruments, and meters
- SunSpec Modbus: used in solar PVs and renewable energy industry
- KNX: an open protocol for building and home automation
- MQTT: a lightweight, publish-subscribe messaging protocol
- DALI: commonly used in digital lighting controls

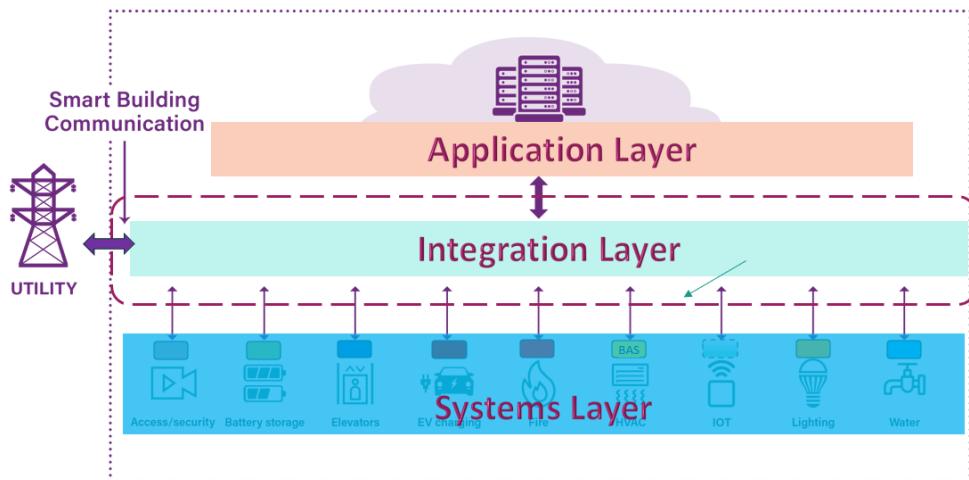
17



Integration Layer

18

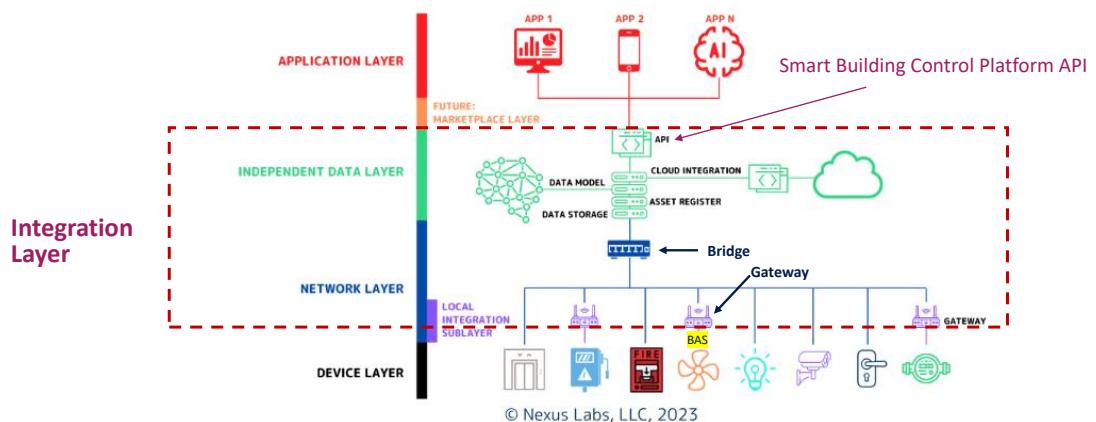
## Integration Layer



© Slipstream Group, Inc.

19

## Integrate Layer – Approach 1

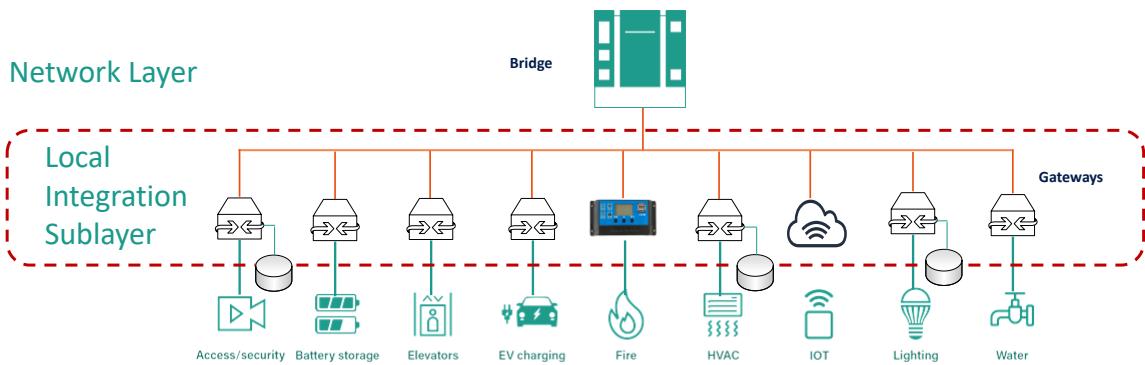


© Nexus Labs, LLC, 2023

Image used with permission from Nexus Labs

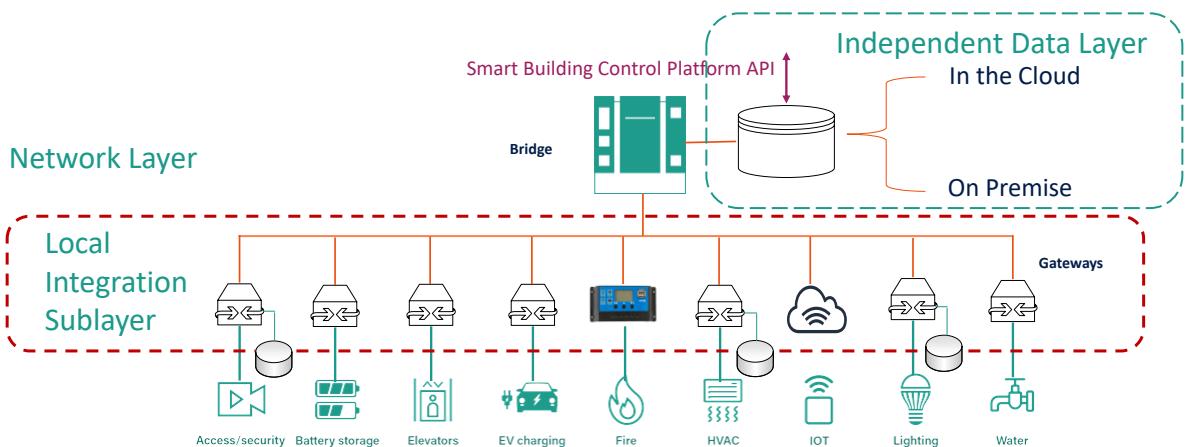
20

## Integrate Layer – Approach 1



21

## Integrate Layer – Approach 1



22

## Integrate Layer – Approach 1

### Benefits of IDL

- Unify data format across all building systems for smart building applications
- Enable modeling the data in an open and interchangeable way. Promote interoperability.
- Applications are easily added on top of the unified data model in the future

### Challenges of IDL

- Potentially mass amount of data in the database/dataset
- Maybe difficult to implement if some building systems are not “open”
- Increased initial system complexity

23

## Integrate Layer – Approach 2

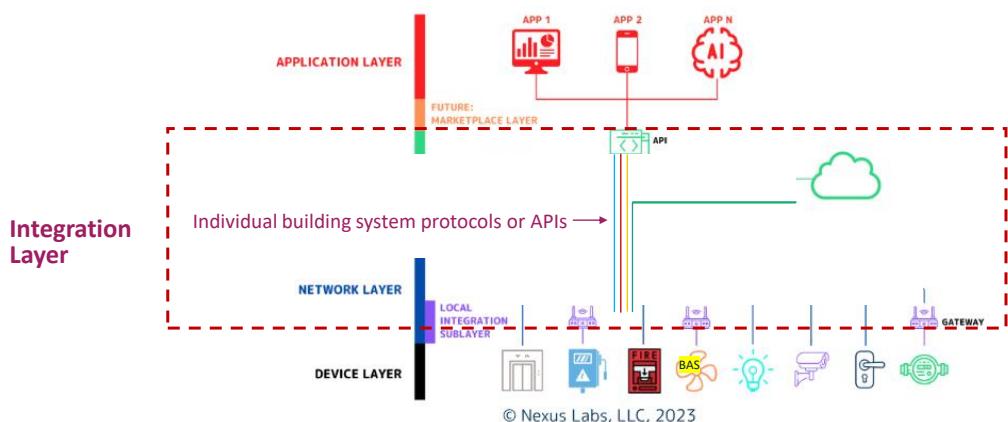


Image used with permission from Nexus Labs, revised by Slipstream

24

## Integrate Layer – Approach 2

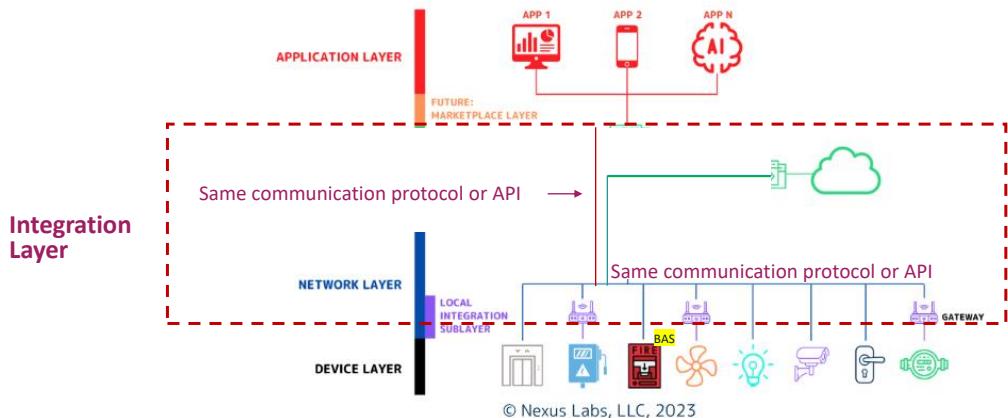


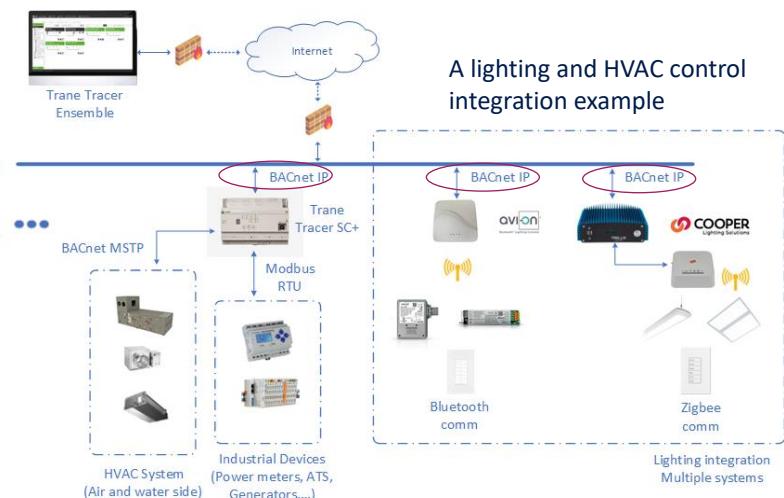
Image used with permission from Nexus Labs, revised by Slipstream

25

## Integrate Layer – Approach 2

All building systems have to use the same communication protocol.

A lighting and HVAC control integration example



Used by permission from Trane Technologies

26

## Building System Data

### A BAS Data Example

- Name
- Description
- Value – including unit
- Trend
- Alarm
- Address

Name	Description	Value	Enabled	Trend	Alarm	Totalization	Point Type	Address
BLDG-P	Present Value 0.022 in/wc [ok]	✓	✓				NumericPoint	analogInput:1003
CLG-O	Present Value 0.0 % [ok] @ def	✓	✓				NumericWritable	analogOutput:2033
CLGUN/OCG-CP	Present Value 78.0 °F [ok] @ def	✓					NumericWritable	analogValue:49
DA-H	Present Value 22.1%RH [ok]	✓					NumericPoint	analogInput:1014
DA-T	Present Value 69.3°F [ok]	✓	✓				NumericPoint	analogInput:1019
DA1-P	Present Value 1.00 in/wc [ok]	✓	✓				NumericPoint	analogInput:1017
DAP-SP	Present Value 1.00 in/wc [ok] @ def	✓					NumericWritable	analogValue:19
DAPH-A	Present Value Normal [ok]	✓		✓			BooleanPoint	binaryInput:1044
DAT-SP	Present Value 70.0°F [ok] @ 16	✓					NumericWritable	analogValue:18
ECON-C	Present Value True [ok] @ 16	✓					BooleanWritable	binaryValue:20
EFS-C	Present Value On [ok] @ def	✓					BooleanWritable	binaryOutput:2420
LT-A	Present Value Normal [ok]	✓		✓			BooleanPoint	binaryInput:1053
MA-T	Present Value 66.4°F [ok]	✓	✓				NumericPoint	analogInput:1060
DPR-O	Present Value 18.6% [ok] @ def	✓	✓				NumericWritable	analogOutput:2083
OA-T	Present Value 38.0°F [ok] @ 16	✓					NumericWritable	analogValue:2
MINPOS-CP	Present Value 0.0 % [ok] @ def	✓					NumericWritable	analogValue:53

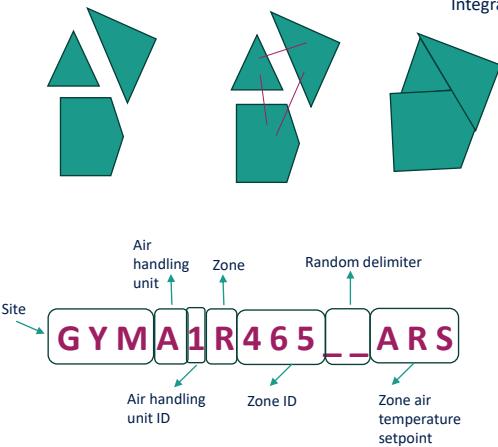
27

## Data Modeling

### What is a Data Model

- Conceptual representation or abstraction of how data is structured and organized
- Can include standardizing on an ontology, a common understanding that provides specific meaning to terms used to describe the data

Data Pieces → Adding Semantics → Smooth Data Integration



28

## Data Modeling

## equip **Alpha Airside AHU-2**

tags	<b>id</b> @a-0001 "Alpha Airside AHU-2"
	<b>ahu</b>
	<b>chilledWaterCooling</b>
	<b>chilledWaterRef</b> @a-07b8 "Alpha Waterside Chilled Water Plant"
	<b>dis</b> "Alpha Airside AHU-2"
	<b>elec</b>
	<b>equip</b>
	<b>hotWaterHeating</b>
	<b>hotWaterRef</b> @a-07da "Alpha Waterside Hot Water Plant"
	<b>hvac</b>
	<b>singleDuct</b>
	<b>siteRef</b> @a-0000 "Alpha"
	<b>vavZone</b>
equips	Alpha Airside AHU-2 RF VFD
	Alpha Airside AHU-2 SF VFD
	Alpha Airside VAV 1-2-1

# Haystack

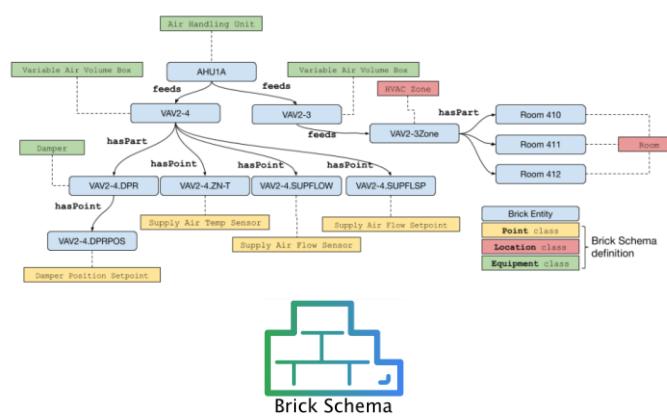
- Provides a framework to tag and describe data points, equipment, and systems in commercial buildings.
- Built for flexibility and ease of deployment
- Enables easy end-user data querying and manipulation



## Data Modeling

## Brick Schema

- A tagging and data modeling methodology that allows building data to be categorized and organized in a consistent way
- Pre-defined modeling components for the vast majority of equipment
- Focus on machine-readable interchange that allows compatibility with other modeling frameworks and ontologies and enables scalable software development and smart building project implementations.



## Data Modeling

### ASHRAE Standard 223P

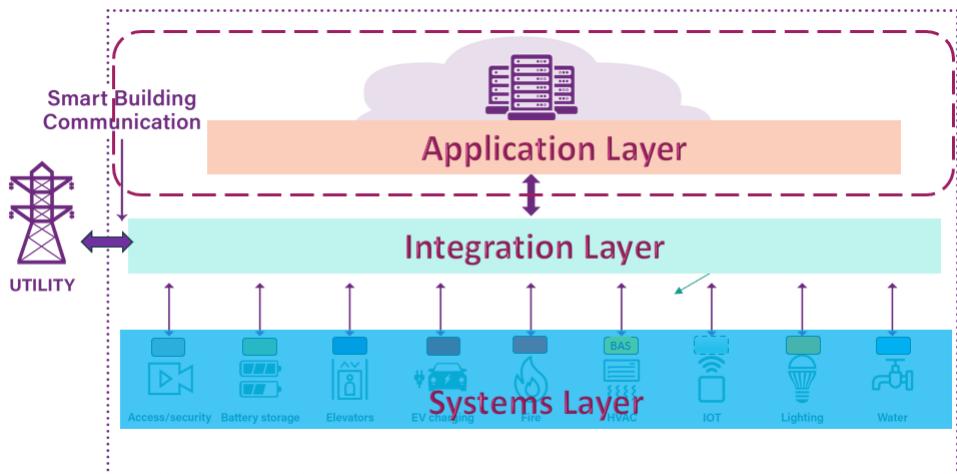
- “Semantic Data Model for Analytics and Automation Applications in Buildings”
- Integrate Haystack tagging and Brick Schema data modeling concepts
- Being developed by ASHRAE Standing Standard Project Committee(SSPC) 135 (BACnet)
- Provide a unified, structured framework that different players can use to communicate and interpret building data consistently.
- Intended for buildings and applications that benefit from accurate modeling of building HVAC equipment and energy flow
- Enables automated verification of semantic models, and configuration of smart building applications

31

## Application Layer

32

## Application Layer



© Slipstream Group, Inc.

33

## Application Layer – Approach 1

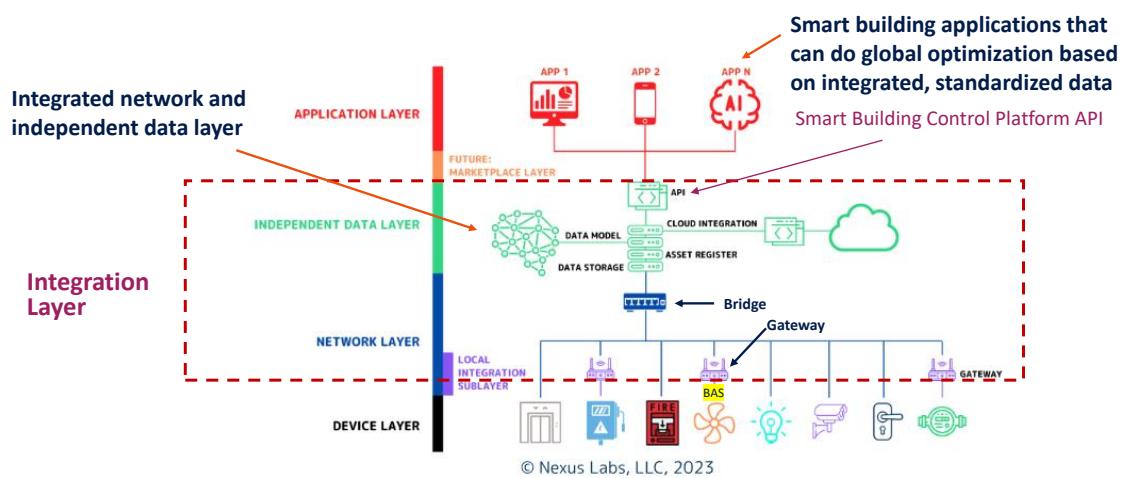


Image used with permission from Nexus Labs

34

## Application Layer – Approach 2

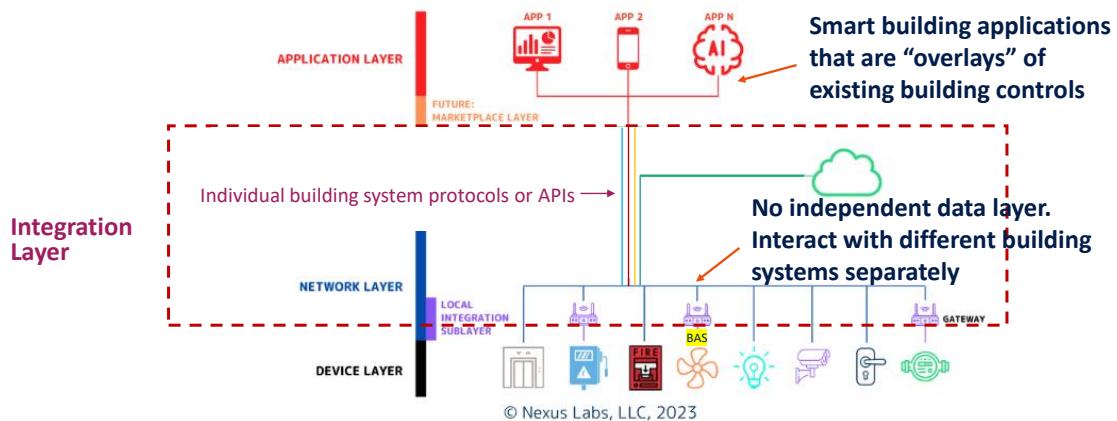


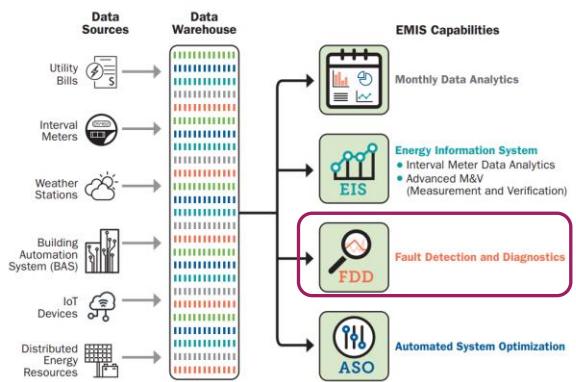
Image used with permission from Nexus Labs, revised by Slipstream

35

## Common Smart Building Applications

### EMIS - AFDD

- Automated HVAC Fault Detection and Diagnostics
- Fault diagnostics (limited)
- O&M optimization - prioritize faults based on economic impact (\$)
- Workflow integration to enable automatic dispatch of facilities staff to issues
- Assist in M&V and commissioning



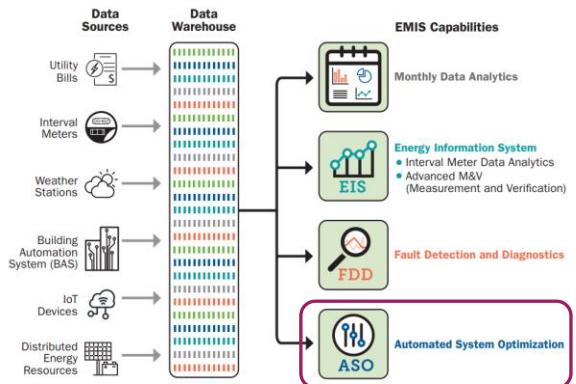
Images used by permission from LBNL. Source: LBNL, 2020, Proving the Business Case for Building Analytics

36

## Common Smart Building Applications

### EMIS - ASO

- Automated System Optimization
- Utilizes various data sources to continuously analyze and adjust HVAC system setpoints or other control parameters
- Attempts to optimize for efficient operations, performance, cost, demand reduction, and/or occupant comfort
- Can be rule-based, data-driven, machine learning, etc.
- Can run in the cloud or on-premise



Images used by permission from LBNL. Source: LBNL, 2020, Proving the Business Case for Building Analytics

37

## Common Smart Building Applications

### Smart Room Control

- Integrate HVAC, lights, and shades controls
- Aggregate systems reporting into a single dashboard
- Optimize operational costs
- Better space utilization with historical data and analytics

#### SMART ROOM CONTROL SOLUTION

The control of HVAC room terminal equipment, Lighting, and Shades/Sunblind.



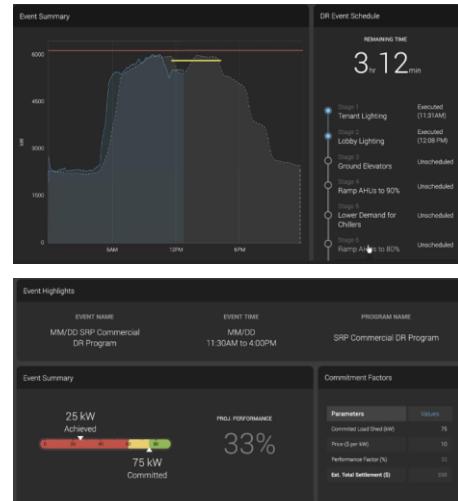
Image used by permission from Distech Controls

38

## An Emerging Smart Building Application

### GEB

- GEB – smart buildings using DERs (controls, solar PV, battery, EV charging, etc.) to provide grid services ... in a continuous and integrated way.
- Integrate multiple DERs and apply more dynamic, adaptive strategies to maximize building load flexibility
- Allow buildings to play a significant role in the electric grid's operation and planning



Images used with permission from Nantum AI

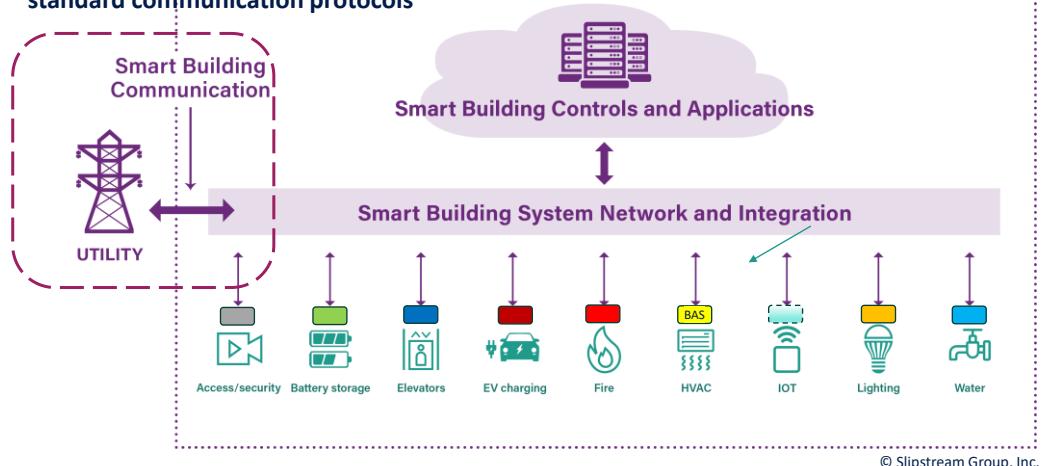
39

## Smart Building Communication

40

## Application Layer

Two-way communication using standard communication protocols



© Slipstream Group, Inc.

ADR: Automated Demand Response

41

## Standard Communication Protocols

### OpenADR

- A standard to receive ADR signals from the grid
- Can provide description of available load to grid for proper dispatch
- Timescale of minutes
- Profile specifications
  - OpenADR 2.0 a & b
  - OpenADR 3.0 (latest)

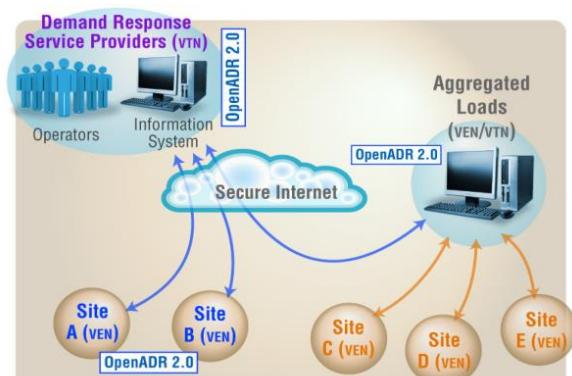


Image used with permission from OpenADR Alliance

42

## Standard Communication Protocols

### IEEE 2030.5 Standard for Smart Energy Profile Application Protocol

- Started as a data model for types of loads and sources participating in a grid
- Later versions added standardized interfaces that define communications protocols
- Timescale of milliseconds to seconds
- Enables more advanced use cases like frequency support, voltage support, voltage sag/swell management from distributed assets

43

## Open Source vs. Proprietary Platforms

44

## Open Source vs. Proprietary Platforms

### Proprietary

- Owned by a specific company. Could be Interoperable or Closed Ecosystem
- More expensive (potentially)
- May be able to offload implementation to vendor, requiring less technical expertise on the user side.
- Better technical support (potentially)

### Open Source

- Promote interoperability. Codes are disclosed and can be modified. No future dependence on any one contractor or vendor. "Choice"
- Lower cost (potentially)
- Need more technical expertise
- Support by the community
- Product conformance testing to applicable standards is important

45

## An Open-Source Platform Example - VOLTTRON

An **open** source, **distributed** sensing and control platform

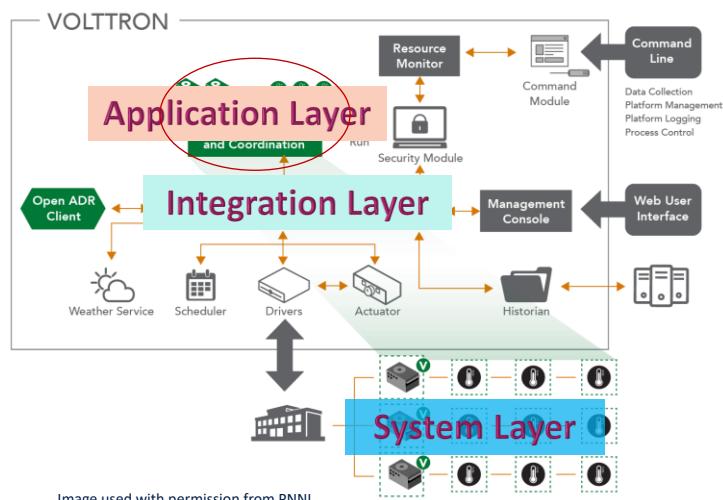


Image used with permission from PNNL

46

## A Proprietary Platform Example - SkySpark® Everywhere™

SkySpark offers a variety of architectural choices: on prem, in the cloud or a hybrid.

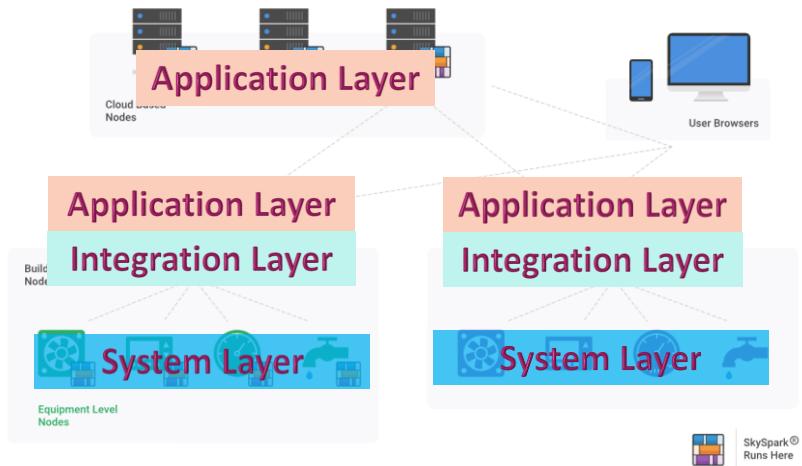


Image used by permission from SkyFoundry

47

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Building Technologies Office (BTO) Award Number DE-EE0009703.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Energy or the United States Government.

This presentation is for educational purposes only. Any materials shown herein are exhibited solely for the furtherance of the public good.

**Thank you!**

48