

# Cyber Physical Systems Security Limitations, Issues and Future Trends

*American University of Beirut  
Cybersecurity Research Group*

# *Cybersecurity Research Group*

Professor Ali Chehab



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# Biography: Rouwaida Kanj

## **2012-present**

**American University of Beirut (Lebanon)**, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

***Research Interests and Projects:*** *Advanced algorithmic research and smart Analytics for Design for reliability and yield, Machine learning for VLSI, Smart Grid Security, and Medical Devices.*

## **2004-2012**

**IBM Austin Research Labs**, Research Staff Member

## **1998-2004**

**UIUC** (PhD 2004, MSc 2000)

SOI Circuit Design Styles and High-Level Circuit Modeling Techniques, *Adviser: Prof. Elyse Rosenbaum (recipient of 3 IBM PhD fellowships)*

High Level Design Exploration and Optimization, *Adviser: Prof. Farid Najm (now @ UToronto)*

## **1994-1998**

**American University of Beirut**, (BEng, 1998)

***Awards:*** *holder of 6 invention plateau awards, outstanding technical achievement award, 3 best paper awards*

# A Glimpse on Cyber Physical Systems

# Rapidly Changing World

- World's population is growing: 7 billion and counting
- Resource consumption is increasing dramatically: Annual per capita energy consumption at about 20 MWh/year
- At the same time, advances in the communication and computation infrastructures are happening at a fast rate
- **Need to leverage advances in science and technology to help us influence the world for better sustainability and growth**



<http://bit.ly/LNCPS-2014>  
ztrella.com/images/nnc.png

<https://grist.org/population/2011-05-03-world-population-projected-to-hit-7-billion-on-oct-31-says-un/>



# Cybernetics: Science for Military Purposes

- During WWII, Norbert Wiener pioneered technology for the “automatic aiming and firing of anti-aircraft guns”
- The term “**Cybernetics**” was coined by Wiener who had significant impact on control theory

***"cybernetics" = kybernetes (greek)= Pilot***



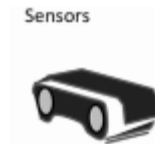
*Amazon.com*

- Although he had no computers, the principles involved are similar to those used today in a huge variety of computer-based feedback control systems
- Considered as the beginnings for Cyber Physical Systems

*Lee and Seshia, Introduction to Embedded Systems - A Cyber-Physical Systems Approach, [LeeSeshia.org](http://LeeSeshia.org), 2011*

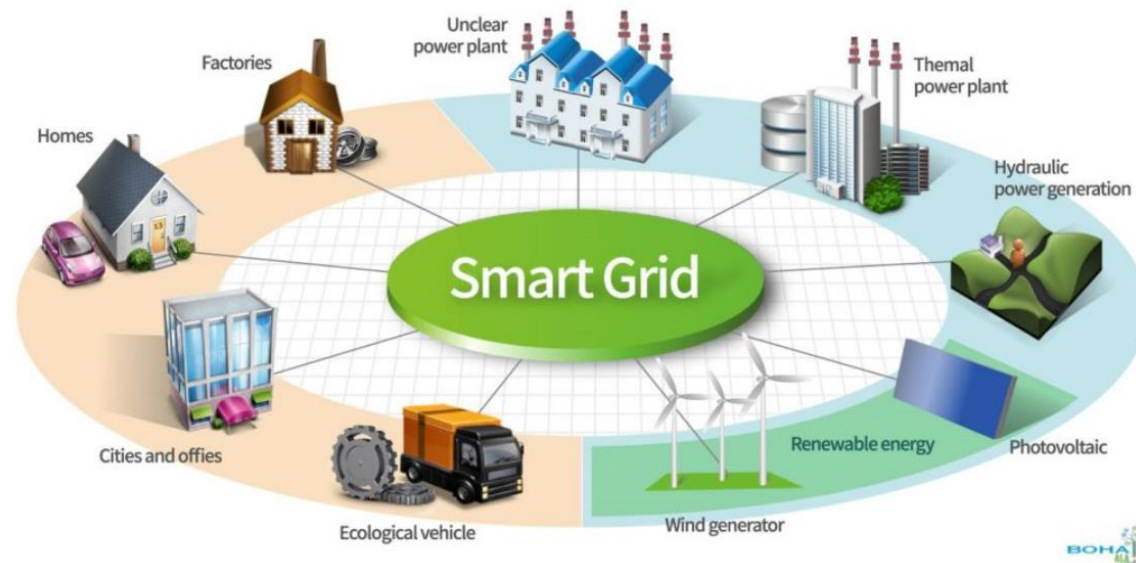
# Cyber Physical Systems

- Introduced in 2006 by Helen Gill at the National Science Foundation
- CPS is about the integration of **physical**  $\cap$  **cyber** for enhanced control and operation
  - **Cyber components** = computation and communication
  - **Physical components** = sensing and actuation
- It's all about understanding the **joint dynamics** of computers, software, networks, and physical processes

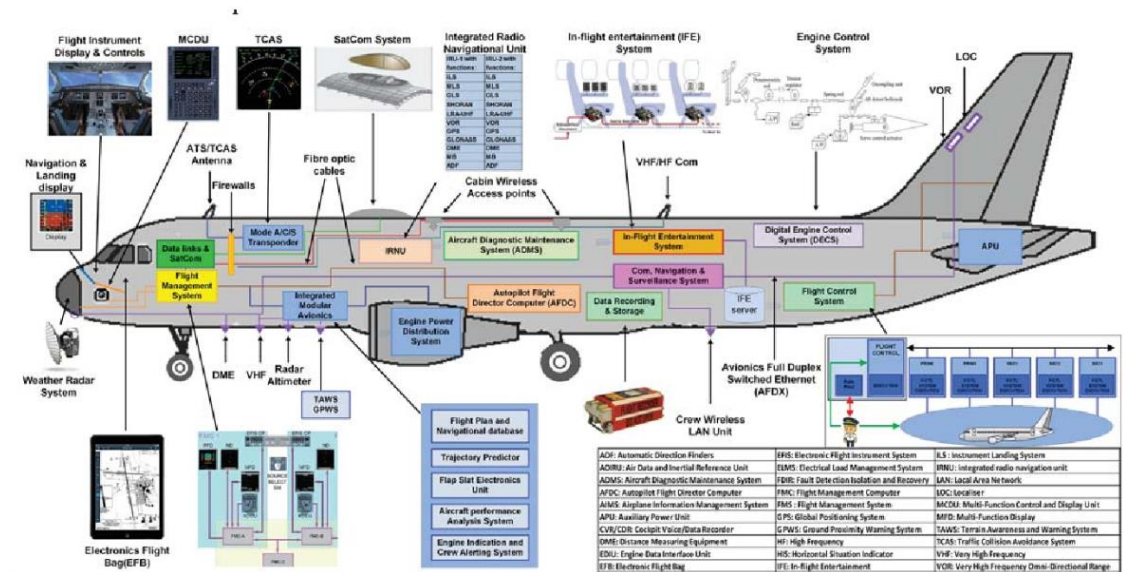
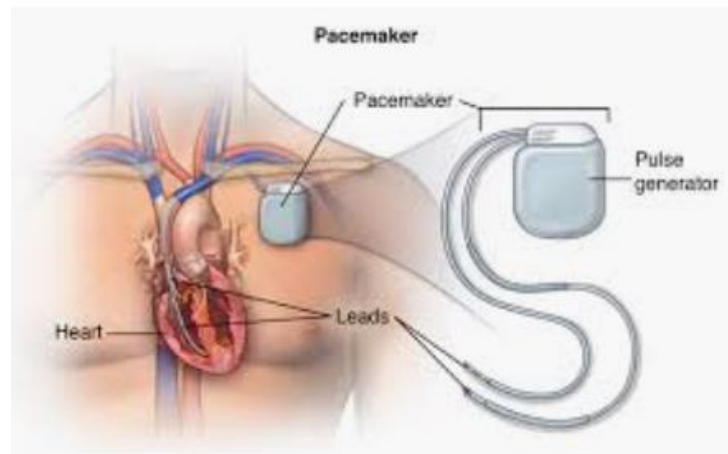


Lee and Seshia, *Introduction to Embedded Systems - A Cyber-Physical Systems Approach*, [LeeSeshia.org](http://LeeSeshia.org), 2011





<https://ecowarriorprincess.net/2019/11/smart-grid-technology-us-sustainability-social-justice/>



<http://bit.ly/LNCPS-2014>

<https://www.hackensackumc.org/wellness/health-information/article/adult-diseases-and-conditions-v0/overview-of-pacemakers-and-implantable-cardioverter-defibrillators-icds/>

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/A-Systems-Engineering-Approach-To-Appraise-Risks-Of-Bogoda-Mo/1e54a67a176a1cbcf62b6ff35f8699d817f58307>



# CPS applications

- CPS affects various aspects in people's way of life and enables a wider range of services and applications
- Cyber-physical systems
  - Industrial automation
  - Vehicular systems (e.g., autonomous driving),
  - Transportation systems (e.g., traffic management, etc.),
  - Medical systems (e.g., telemedicine, remote surgery)
  - Power systems (e.g., smart grids, demand response)
  - Smart cities, buildings (e.g., energy management, access)



**“Entire planet as a single, massive Cyber-Physical System”**

# Cyber Physical Systems (CPSs)

- Heterogeneous and require novel methods and tools to function
- Operate in a ***dynamic environment***
- ***Adaptation*** and ***self-learning*** are necessary features to ensure reliable and fault tolerant operation
- ***Control critical infrastructures***
- **Therefore, they entail incredibly *high security requirements***

<http://www.cerbero-h2020.eu/cpsweek2018-tutorial/>

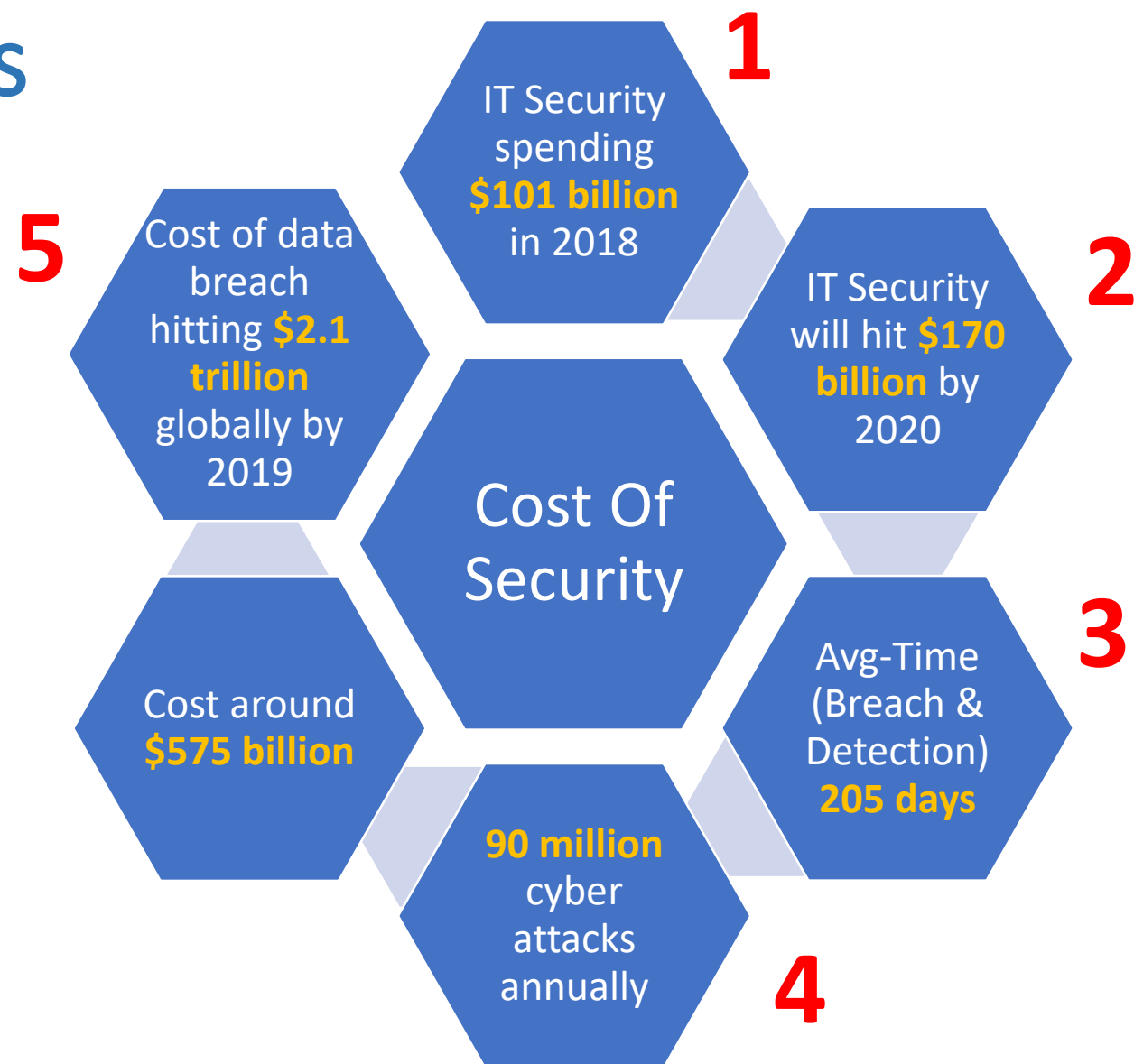
# Risks of Complex Cyber Physical Systems

- CPSs are subject to serious risks
- The use of complex cyber-physical systems in today's airplanes has redefined "*the aerospace cybersecurity paradigm*"
- There is a need to
  - Mitigate or prevent cyber attacks on communication and navigation systems
  - Enhance passengers' safety

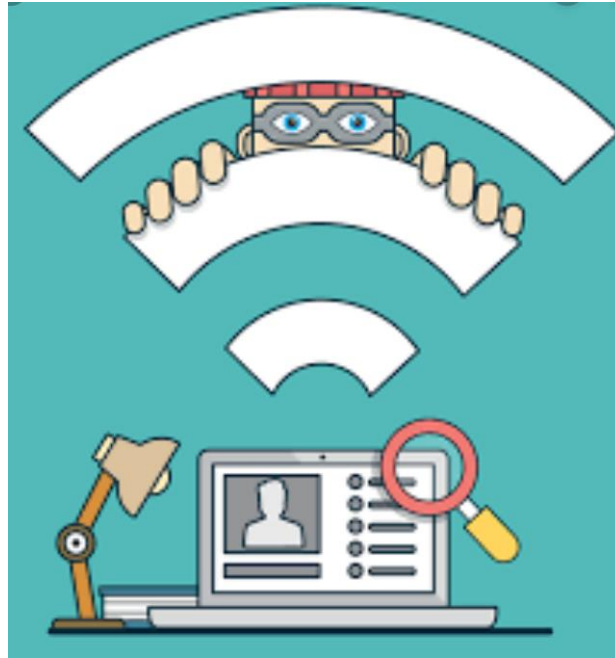


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# Security Costs



# Too much to Gain, Too much at stake!



<https://whatismyipaddress.com/wireless-hacking>

# Let's connect the dots...



<https://www.tap.io/app/2176>

# Outline



## 1. CPS – Background

CPS Layers

CPS Use & Classification

CPS Components



## 2. CPS Security Alert

CPS Threats

CPS Vulnerabilities

CPS Attacks

CPS Challenges



## 3. CPS Security Measures

CPS Risk Management

Cryptographic Solutions

Non-Cryptographic  
Solutions



## 4. Lessons Learnt



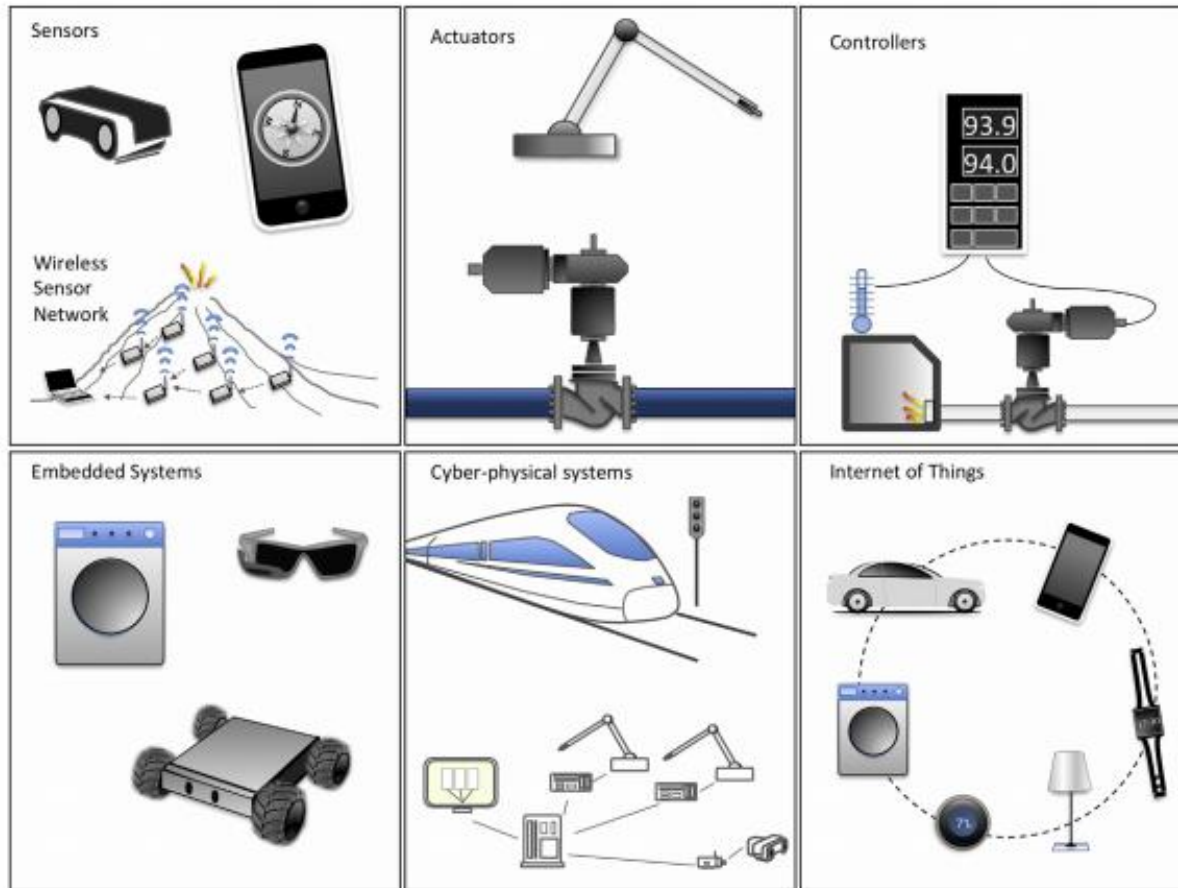
## 5. Trending: Cyber Security and AI



# Introduction

- Cyber-Physical Systems include:
  - Real-time, embedded and/or transactional services systems
  - Possible communication between system components
- Cyber and physical processes collaborate with each other to often form a distributed system
  - Increases the overall complexity of the resulting architecture over traditional real-time, embedded or services systems
- Cyber-physical systems include physical or virtual environments where people live, work and play that are instrumented and controlled by some form of computer system

# Cyber-physical systems vs Internet of Things



- **Sensors:** gather information
- **Actuators:** initiate a physical action
- **Controllers:** monitor and adjust operating conditions of dynamical systems
- **Embedded Systems:** small computers with dedicated functions
- **Cyber-physical system:** computation, communications and physical processes depend on each other
- **Internet of Things:** computing paradigm where objects are intelligent and networked

[1], Loukas, G., 2015. *Cyber-physical attacks: A growing invisible threat*. Butterworth-Heinemann.

# CPS-Background: CPS and the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution

“industry 4.0 is the trend towards automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies and processes” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industry\\_4.0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industry_4.0)

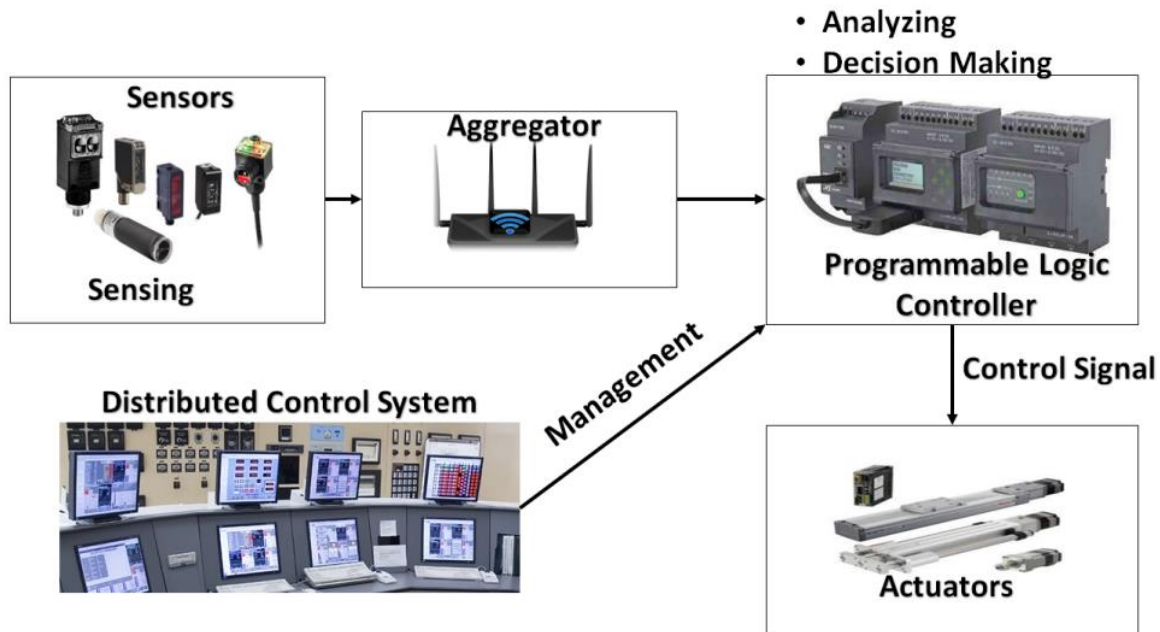
CPS supposed to play a key role in Industry v4.0.

CPS enables smart applications and services to operate accurately and in real-time.

CPS and Industry v4.0 offer a significant economic potential: the German gross value will be boosted by a cumulative of 267 billion euros by 2025

Cyber and physical systems are integrated: monitor, collect and exchange data and sensitive information in a real-time manner.

# CPS Central Components



CPS can **sense the surrounding environment**, with the ability to **adapt and control the physical world**.

This is mainly attributed to their flexibility and capability to change the operation of system(s) process(es) through the use of real-time computing.



**Sensors:** record real-world data and make them available to other network nodes.



**Aggregators:** receive and process the sensed data before issuing the corresponding decisions.



**Actuators:** make the decisions made visible to the surrounding environment.


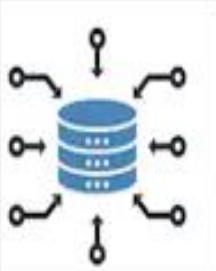



















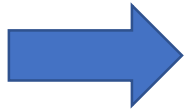
**Programmable Logic Controllers:** classified as industrial digital computers that control the manufacturing processes including robotic devices or fault diagnosis processes.



**Distributed Control Systems:** are computerized control systems that allow autonomous controllers to be distributed throughout the system with a central operator supervisory control.

# CPS Layers

Layers:						Objective:
<b>Perception Layer:</b>  Sensors  Aggregator  Actuators  RFID Tags  GPS						Data and Information Collection
<b>Transmission Layer:</b>  Cloud  Internet  Access Point  Wi-Fi  Routers  Switches  Zigbee						Data and Information Transmission
<b>Application Layer:</b>  Smart Waste Management  Smart Cars  Smart Transportation  Smart Traffic Control  Smart Infrastructure  Smart Street Lighting  Smart Water/Power Managements						Data and Information Analysis & Decision Making



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## 4. Lessons Learnt



## 5. Trending: Cyber Security and AI



# CPS Layers and Associated Attack Vectors

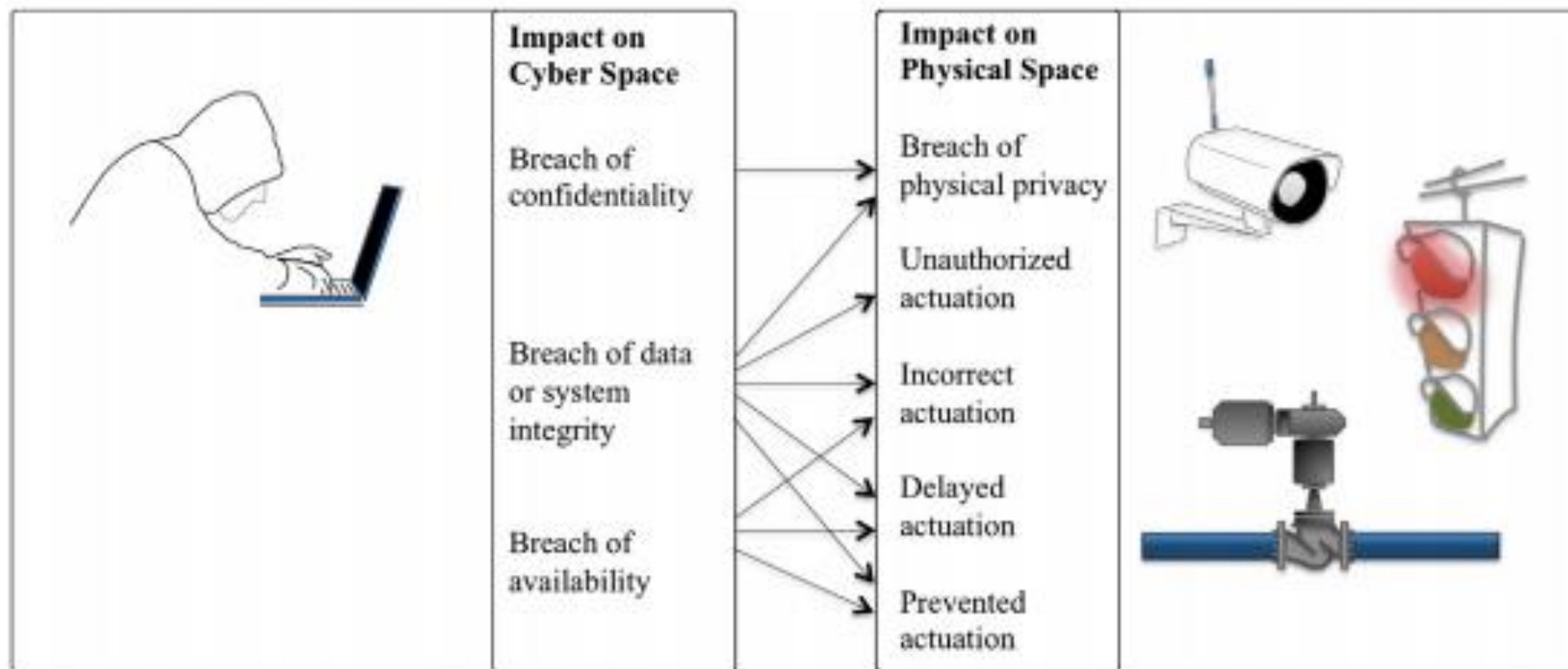
Layers:		Objective:	Threat/Attack:	Target:	Security Measure:
<b>Perception Layer:</b>  Sensors  Aggregator  Actuators  RFID Tags  GPS		Data and Information Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eavesdropping</li> <li>Port Scan</li> <li>Passive Replay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confidentiality</li> <li>Privacy</li> <li>Authentication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trust Management</li> <li>Source Authentication</li> <li>Secure Data/Systems</li> <li>Data Protection</li> </ul>
<b>Transmission Layer:</b>  Cloud  Internet  Access Point  Wi-Fi  Routers  Switches  ZigBee		Data and Information Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Man-in-the-Middle</li> <li>Meet-in-the-Middle</li> <li>DoS/ D-DoS</li> <li>Repudiation</li> <li>Replay –</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confidentiality</li> <li>Integrity</li> <li>Availability</li> <li>Authentication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong Password Policy</li> <li>Strong Authentication</li> <li>Lightweight Dynamic Symmetric Encryption</li> <li>Secure Tunnelling</li> </ul>
<b>Application Layer:</b>  Smart Waste Management  Smart Cars  Smart Transportation  Smart Traffic Control  Smart Infrastructure  Smart Street Lighting  Smart Water/Power Managements		Data and Information Analysis & Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malicious Code Injection</li> <li>Botnets - malware</li> <li>Trojans</li> <li>Worms</li> <li>Buffer Overflow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Privacy</li> <li>Security</li> <li>Safety</li> <li>Authentication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IDS/IPS</li> <li>Firewalls</li> <li>Strong Authentication</li> <li>Strong Authorisation</li> <li>Trust Management</li> </ul>



# Cyber-physical attacks

- Cyber-physical attacks can be characterized by their impact in cyberspace and the corresponding impact in physical space.

[1], Loukas, G., 2015. *Cyber-physical attacks: A growing invisible threat*. Butterworth-Heinemann.



# Cyber-physical attacks

- **Breach of physical privacy**
  - Confidentiality of people's real-time blood sugar level
  - The number of occupants in a house
  - Other private information collected from sensors
- **Unauthorized actuation**
  - Unauthorized user initiates actuation by breaching the integrity of a computer system that controls an actuator
- **Incorrect actuation**
  - The adversary aims to affect an actuator's operation by breaching the integrity or availability of the instructions sent to it, the sensor data on which it relies, or its controller's operation
  - Example: an attack that would consistently lower the speed values reported by a car's sensors, so as to cause its cruise control system to keep accelerating.

# Cyber-physical attacks

- **Delayed actuation**

- The adversary delays actuation by breaching the integrity or availability of the data and systems involved. Suppression of warnings can also be included in this category
- Example: denial of service attack to delay measurements on dangerous pressures to be reported to a gas pipeline's safety valve controllers

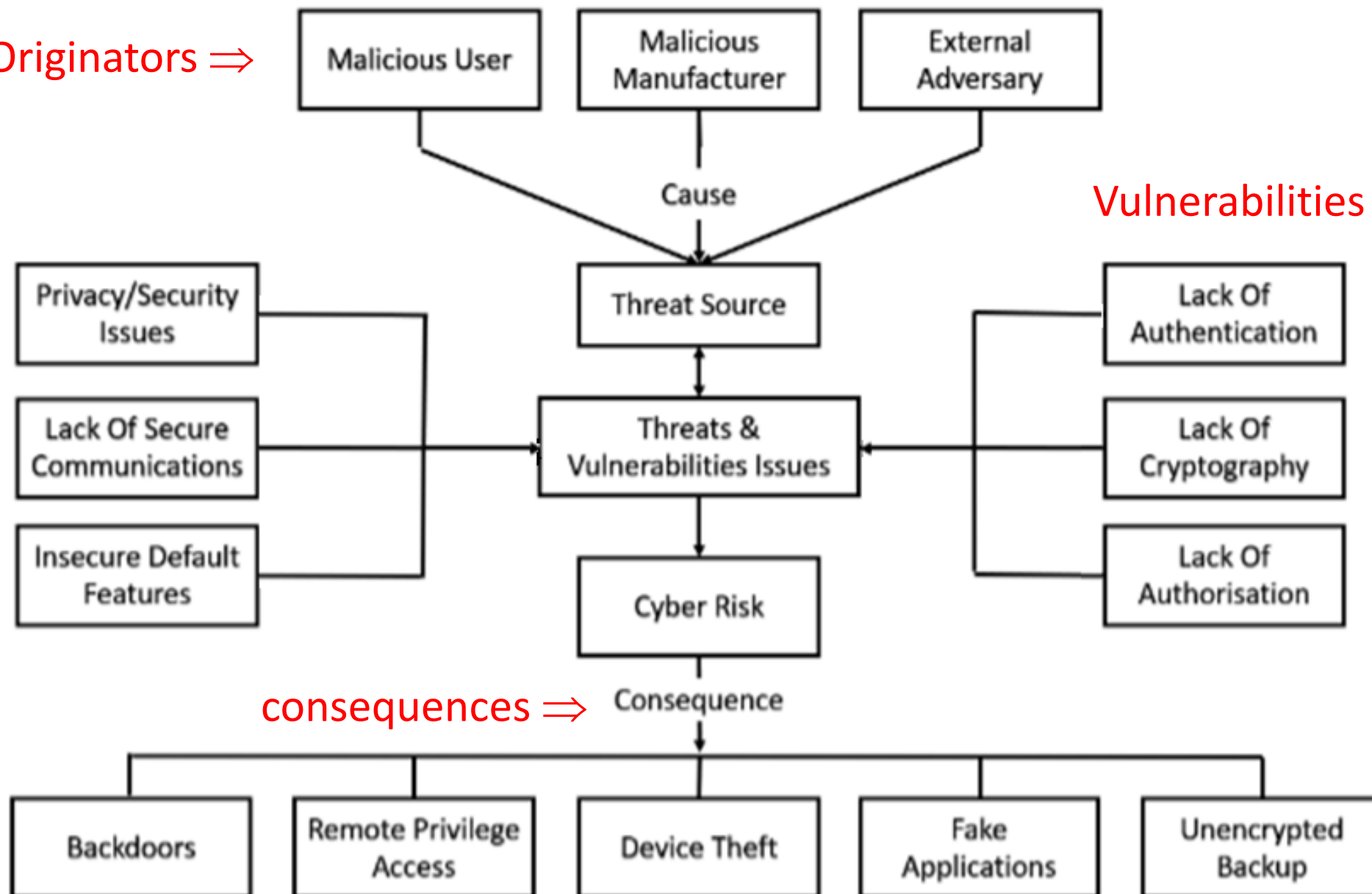
- **Prevented actuation**

- The adversary blocks actuation altogether by breaching the integrity or availability of the data and systems involved
- **EX-1:** Sleep deprivation attack that exhausts the battery of a surveillance robot or a medical implant until it can no longer function
- **EX-2:** Malware infection that suppresses the operation of a car window by injecting a “close” command every time an “open” command is received.

Originators ⇒

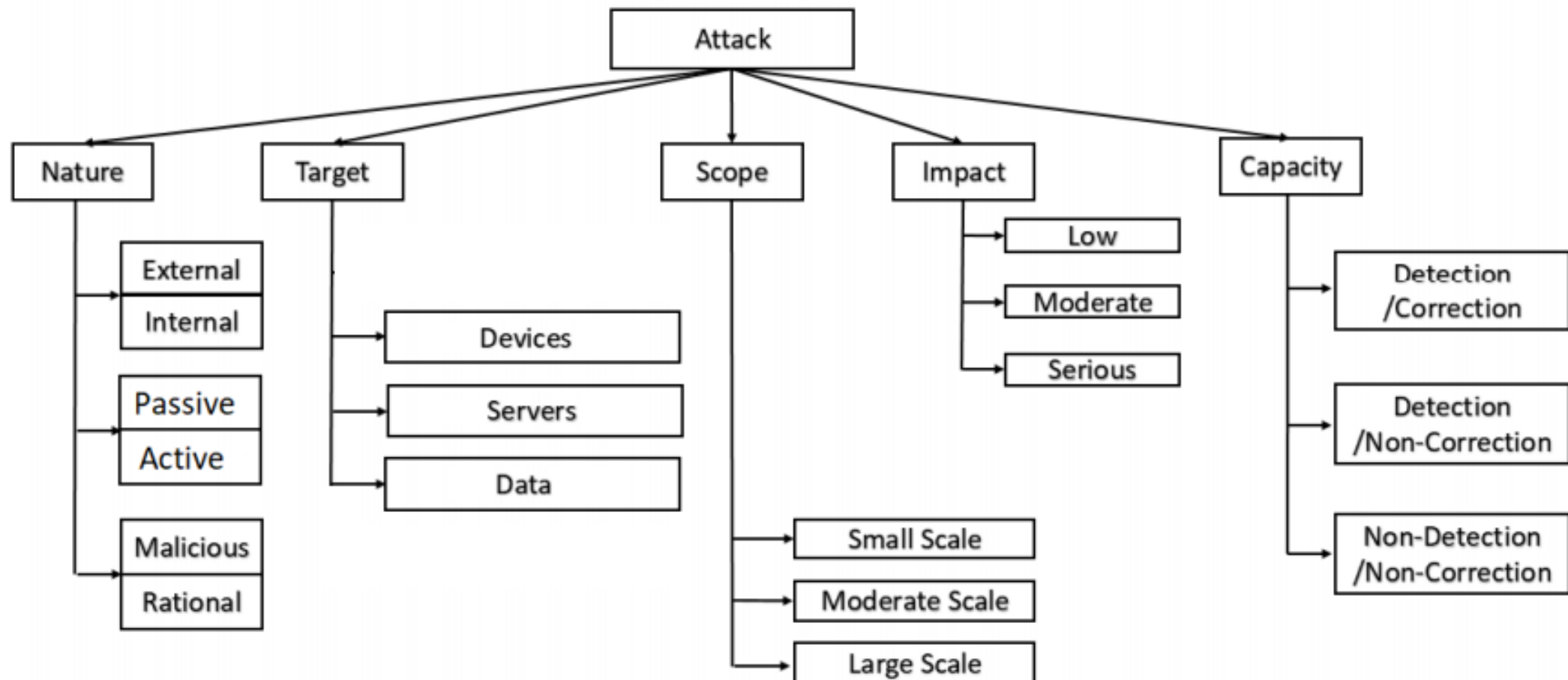
Vulnerabilities ⇒

# CPS Risks



# Attackers Profile

A cyber-physical attack is a security breach in cyberspace that adversely affects physical space





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Non-Cryptographic  
Solutions



## 4. Lessons Learnt



## 5. Trending: Cyber Security and AI

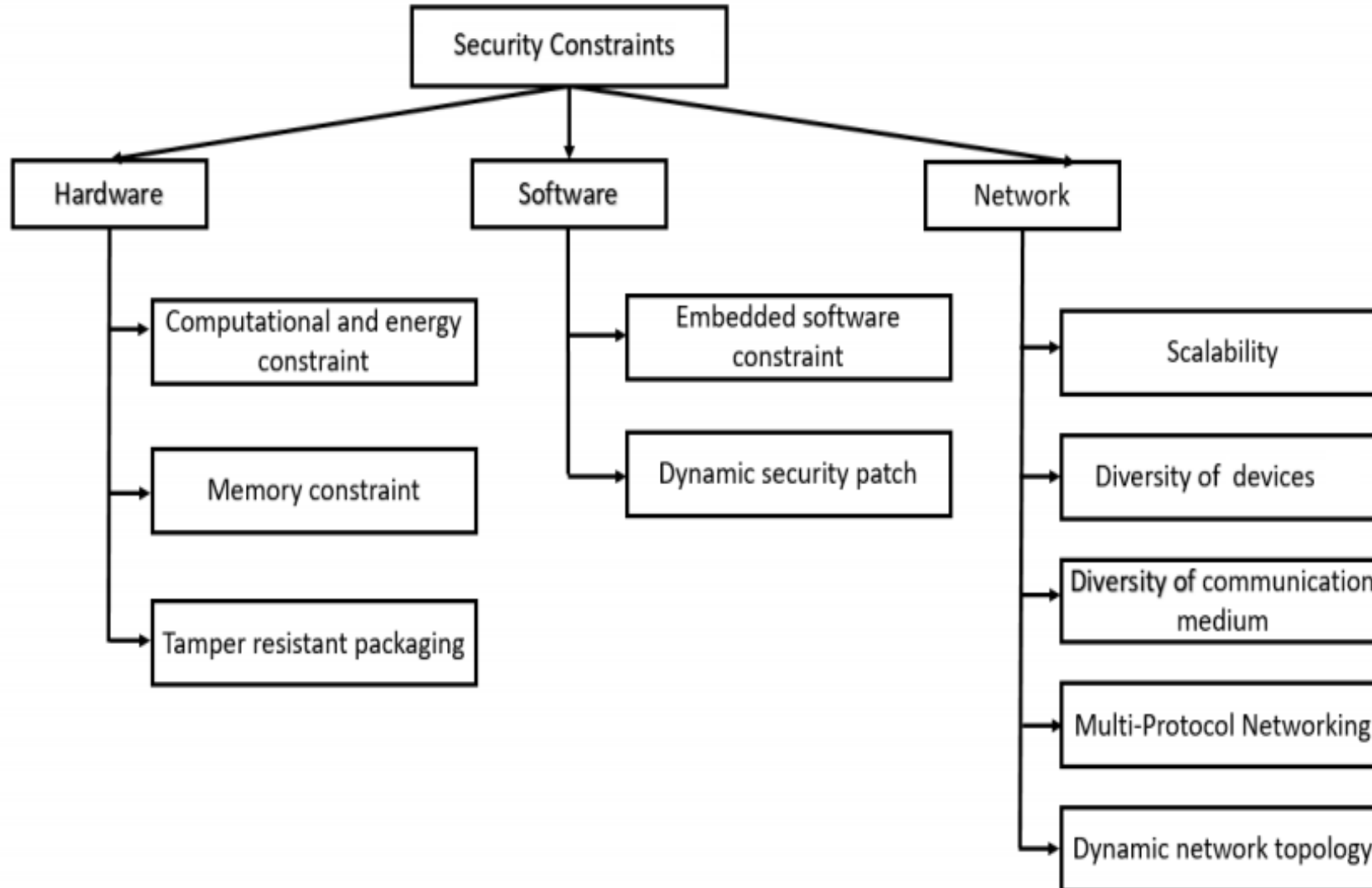
# CPS Risk Management





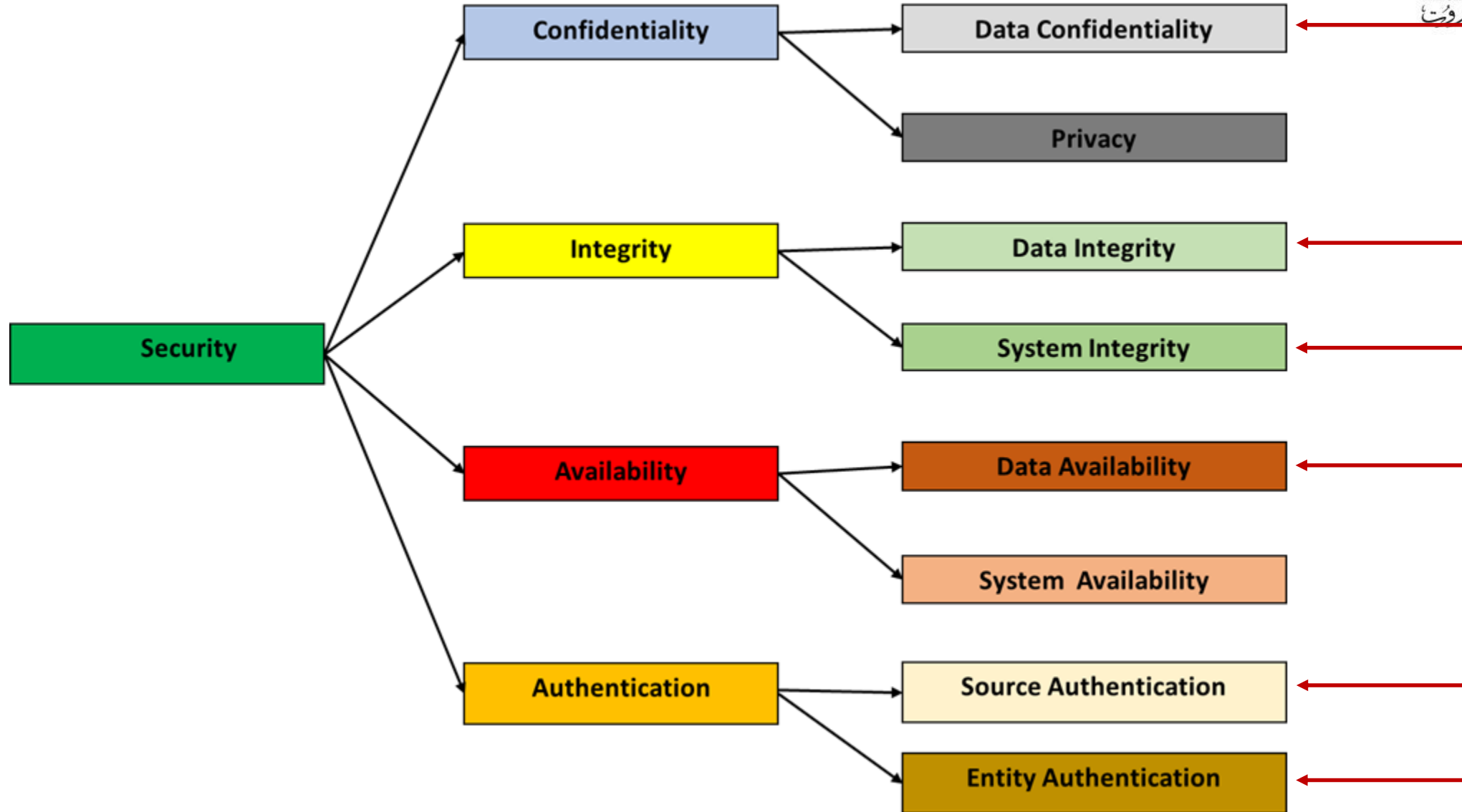
# CPS Security Constraints and Challenges

There constraints that limit secure operations, and solutions must take these constraints into consideration



- **Authentication Challenges**
  - Weak Authentication Practices
  - Single/Two Factor Authentication
  - Lack of Biometric Use
- **Big Data Challenges**
  - Huge Data Amount
  - Lack of Real-Time Processing
  - Lack of Accountability
  - Lack of Real-Time Data Protection
  - Privacy Breaches
  - Trade-Off Issues
- **Access Control Challenges**
  - Single Sign On
  - Abuse of Privileges
  - Lack of Employee Screening
  - Access Control Issues
- **Supply Chains Challenges**
  - Real-Time Management Issues
  - Traffic Issues
  - Scheduling Issues

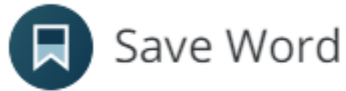
# Research Goals



The secret: is in how to generate secrets!

# What is Cryptography (www.m-w.com)

## cryptography **noun**

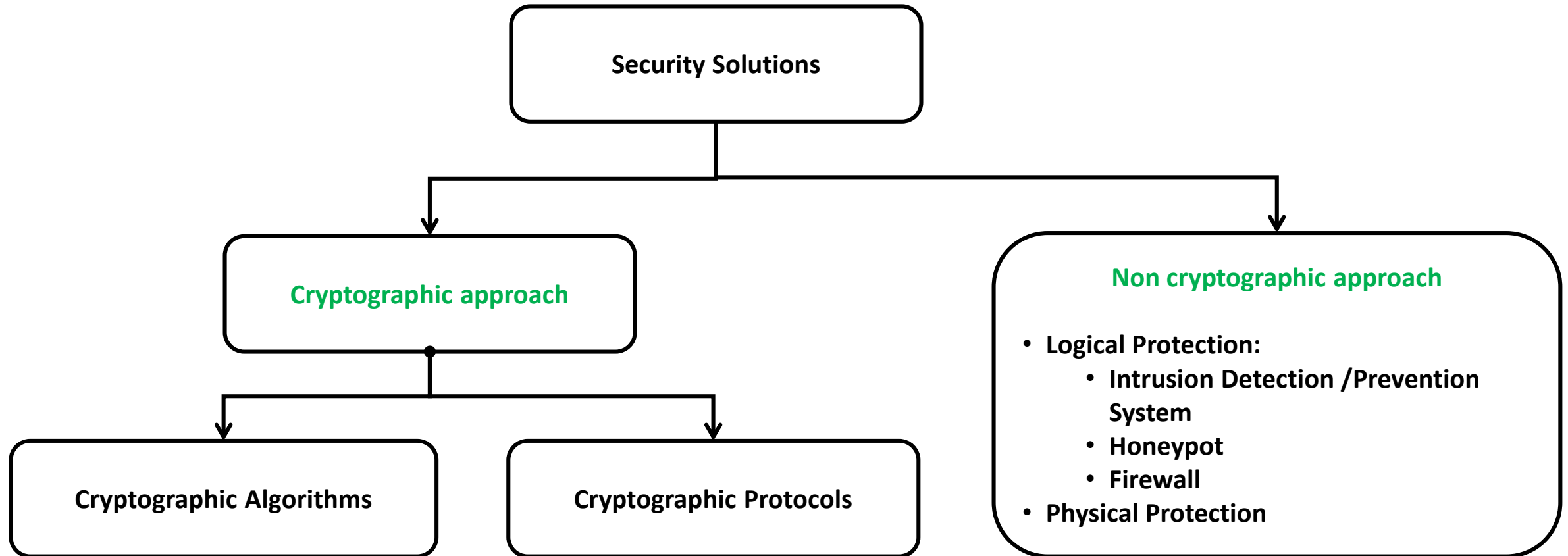


crypt·tog·ra·phy | \ krip-'tä-grə-fē  \

### **Definition of *cryptography***

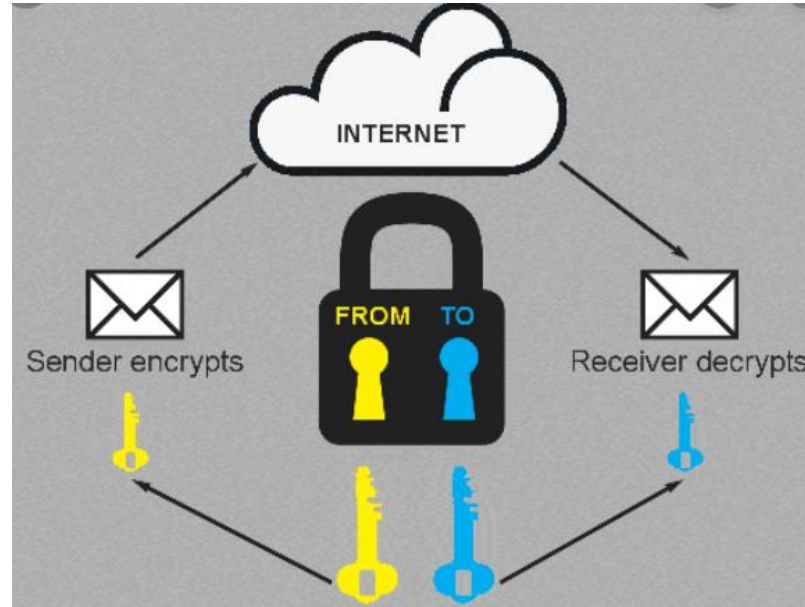
- 1** : secret writing
- 2** : the enciphering and deciphering of messages in secret code or cipher  
*also* : the computerized encoding and decoding of information
- 3** : [CRYPTANALYSIS](#)

# Security Solutions: A bit more Technical



# Cryptographic Solutions (mainly data protection)

Encrypt = lock



Decrypt = unlock

Key = password

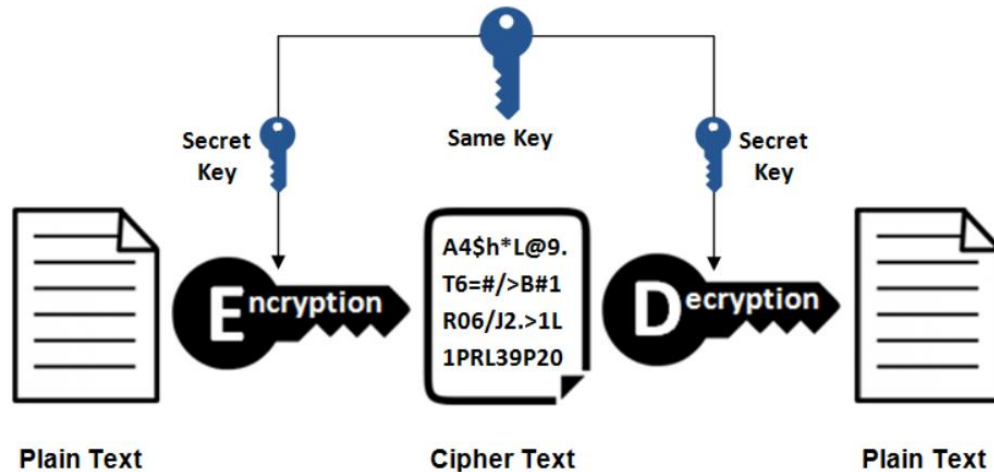
Encryption = Algorithm + Key

**Algorithm:** Known to all

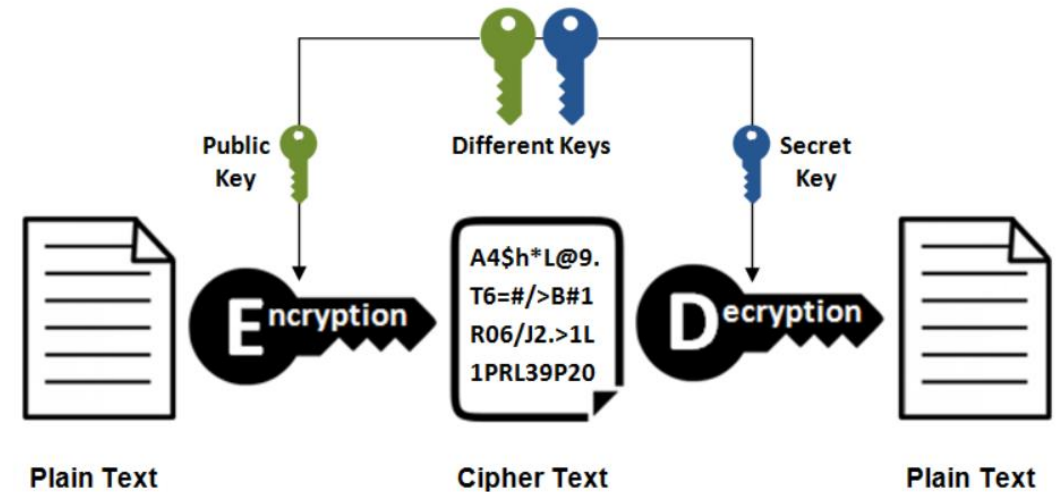
**Key:** Secret

# Cryptographic Solutions (mainly data protection)

## Symmetric Encryption



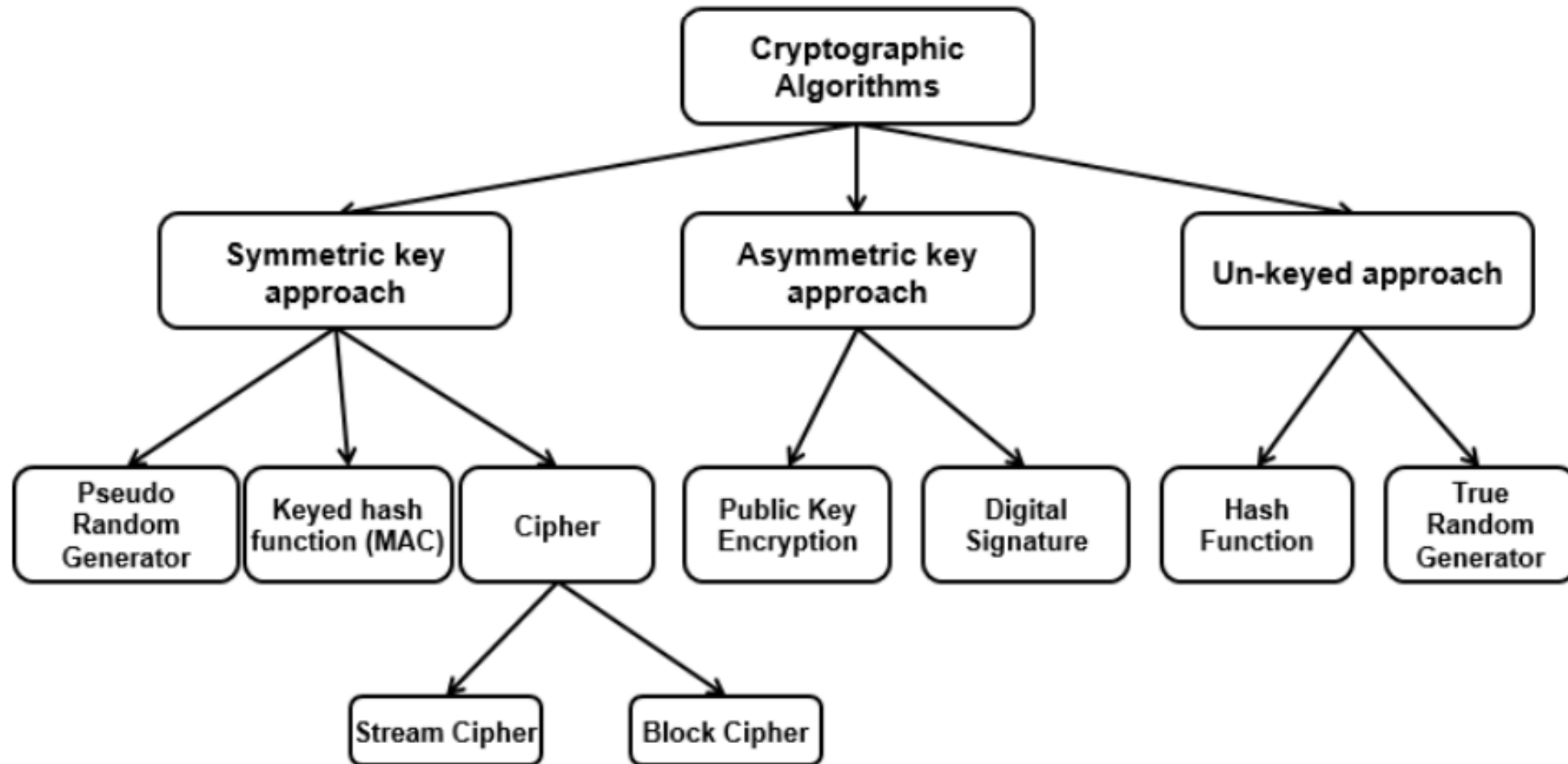
## Asymmetric Encryption



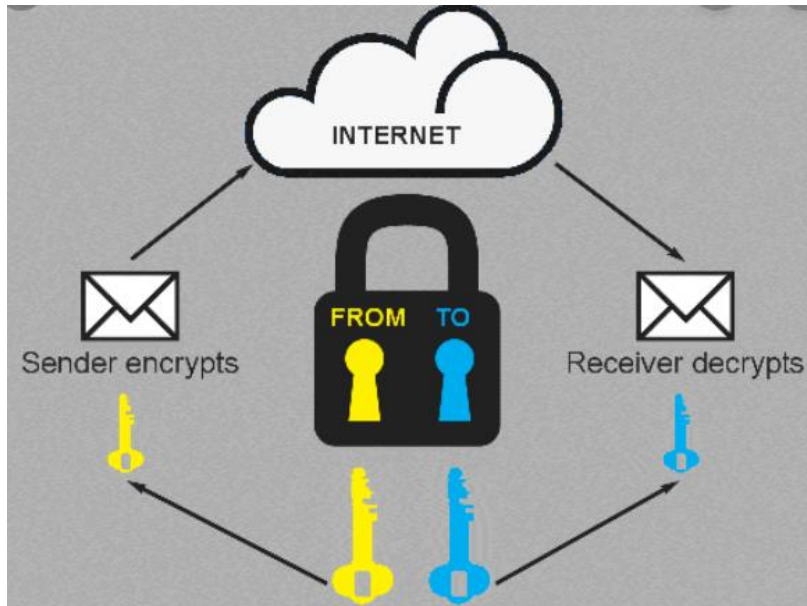
cipher: secret or disguised way of writing a code



# Cryptographic Solutions (mainly data protection)



# Cryptographic Solutions (mainly data protection)



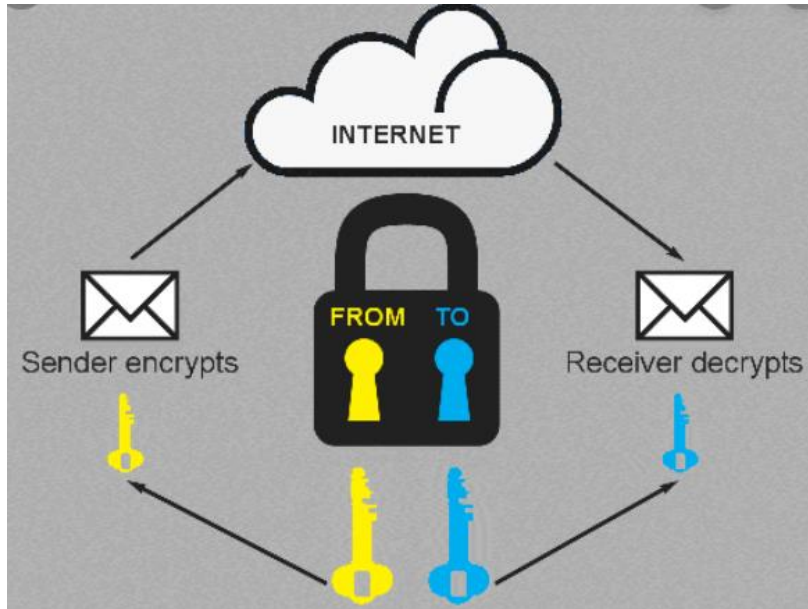
## Attackers Objectives:

1. Decrypt the message
2. Recover Key

Simpler

Tougher

# Cryptographic Solutions (mainly data protection)



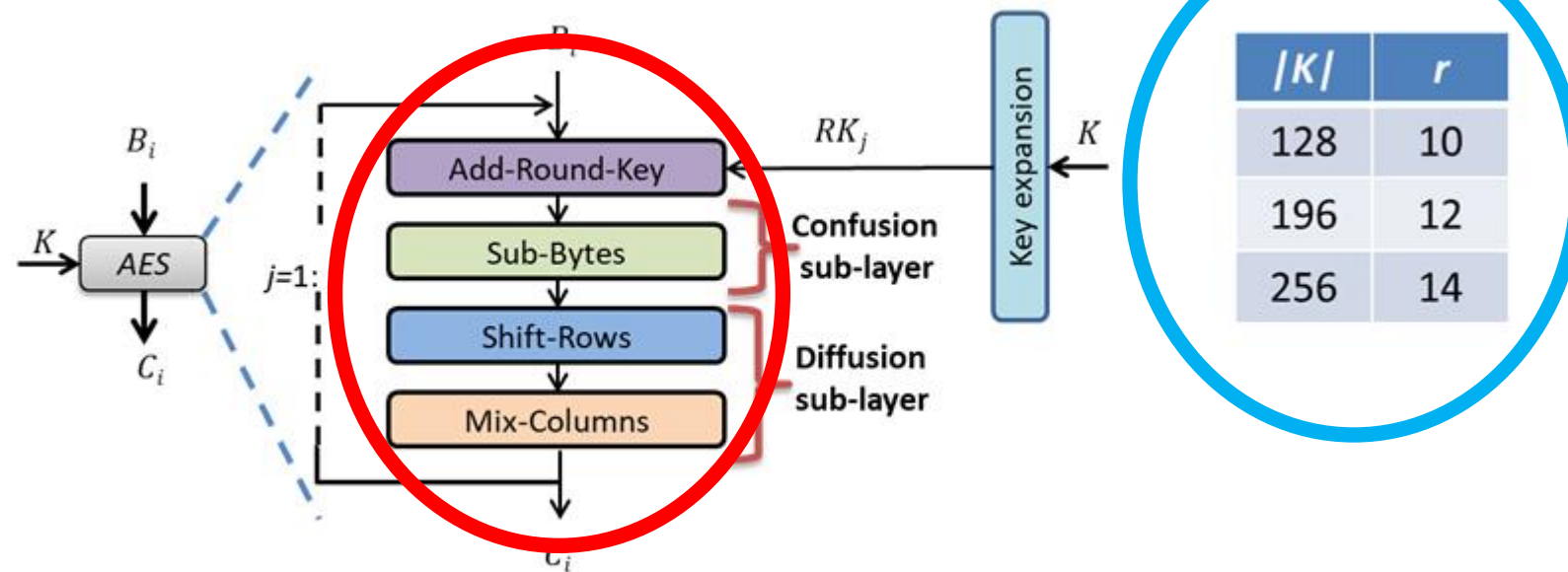
## Attackers Objectives:

1. Decrypt the message
2. Recover Key

- Advanced technologies: attackers can break more codes
- Therefore we need
  1. Complex yet efficient encryption algorithms and
  2. Key generation and management systems

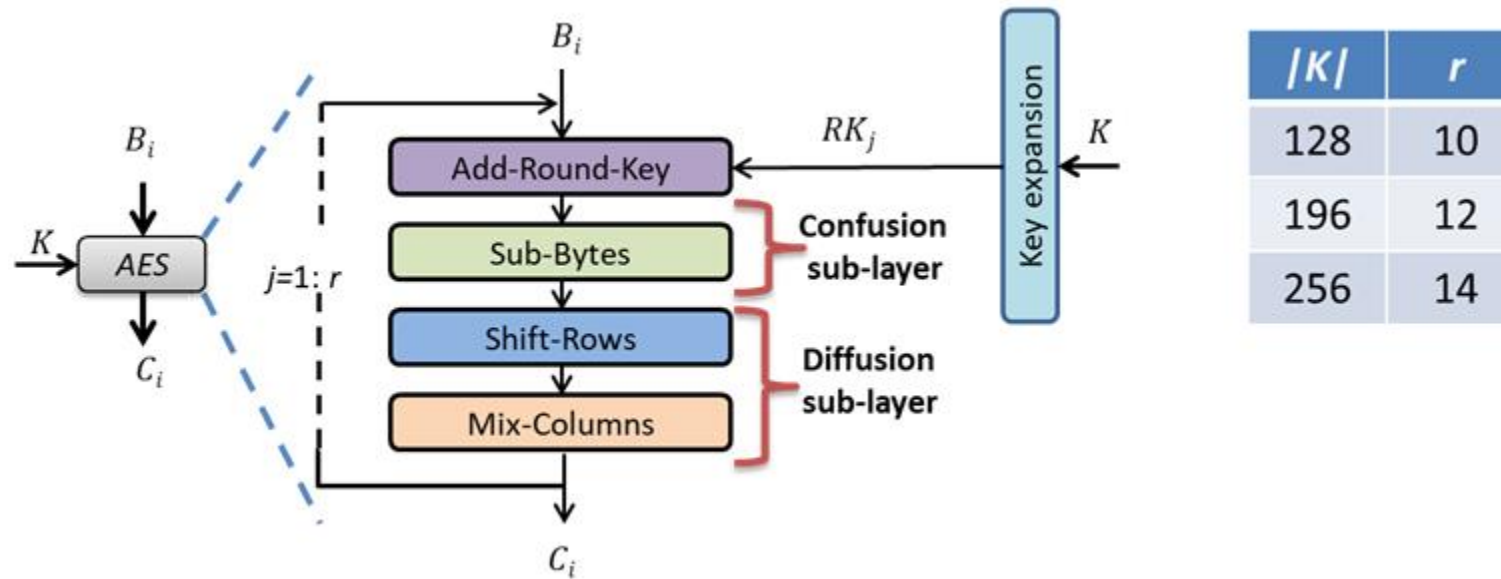
# Security Solutions

- Typically, data confidentiality, data integrity, and data origin authentication are ensured by using symmetric cryptographic algorithms (require **r rounds**).
- AES for example
  - **4 primitives per round**
  - **Multiple rounds**



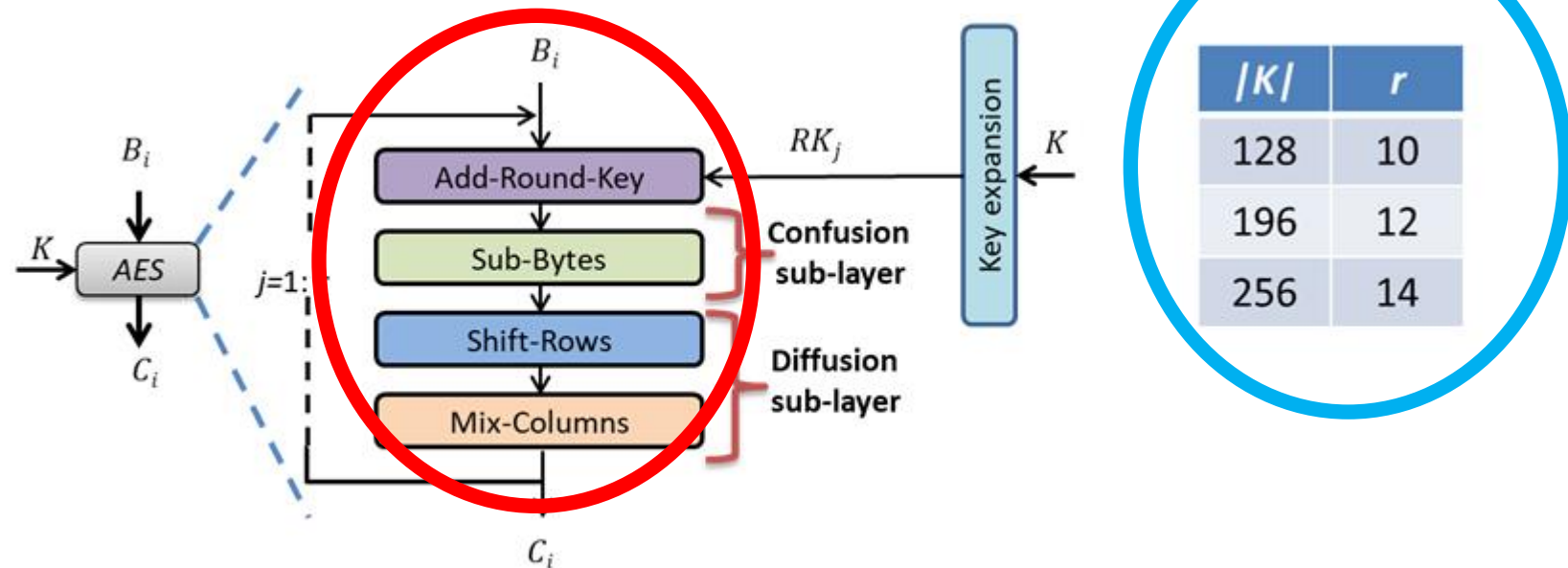
# Security Solutions

- Traditional solutions might have a **negative impact** on the CPS system performance:
  - Delay-sensitive and stringent QoS requirements
  - Devices with limited battery lifetime and limited computation



# Security Solutions

- **Solution:** New **lightweight** symmetric cryptographic algorithms and protocols that use **dynamic key-dependent** cipher structure
- Introduce savings
  - **Round level**
  - **Number of Rounds**



# Future Work: Non-Cryptographic Solutions

- Cryptographic solutions need to be complemented with **non-cryptographic solutions**
- The latter **leverage AI to enable behavioral analysis of the network**
- The research group is currently **advancing the research** in the following areas

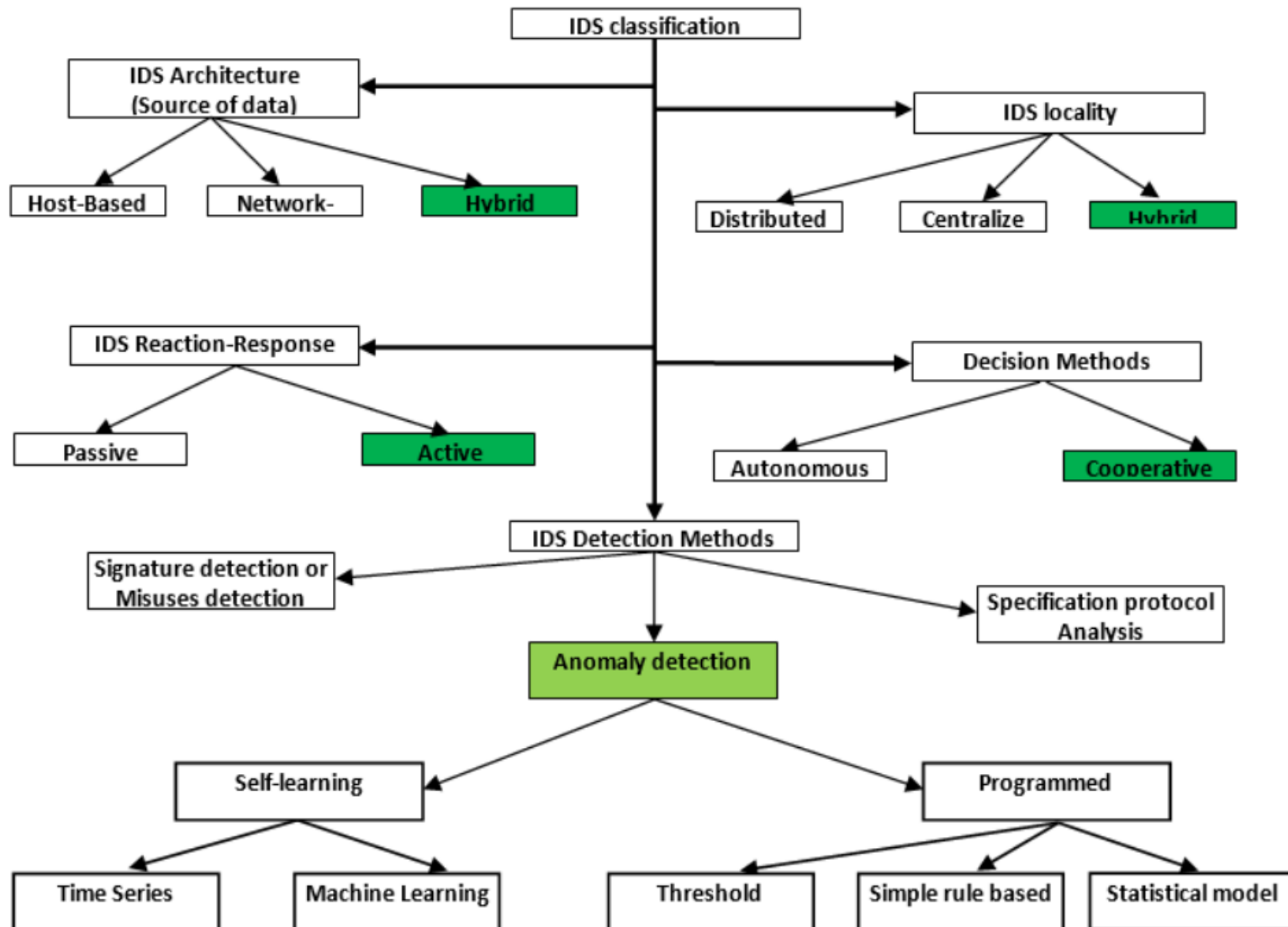
## 1. IDS/IPS Systems, based on either

- Signature
- Specification
- **Anomaly detection**
- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems

## 2. Honeypots and Deception techniques

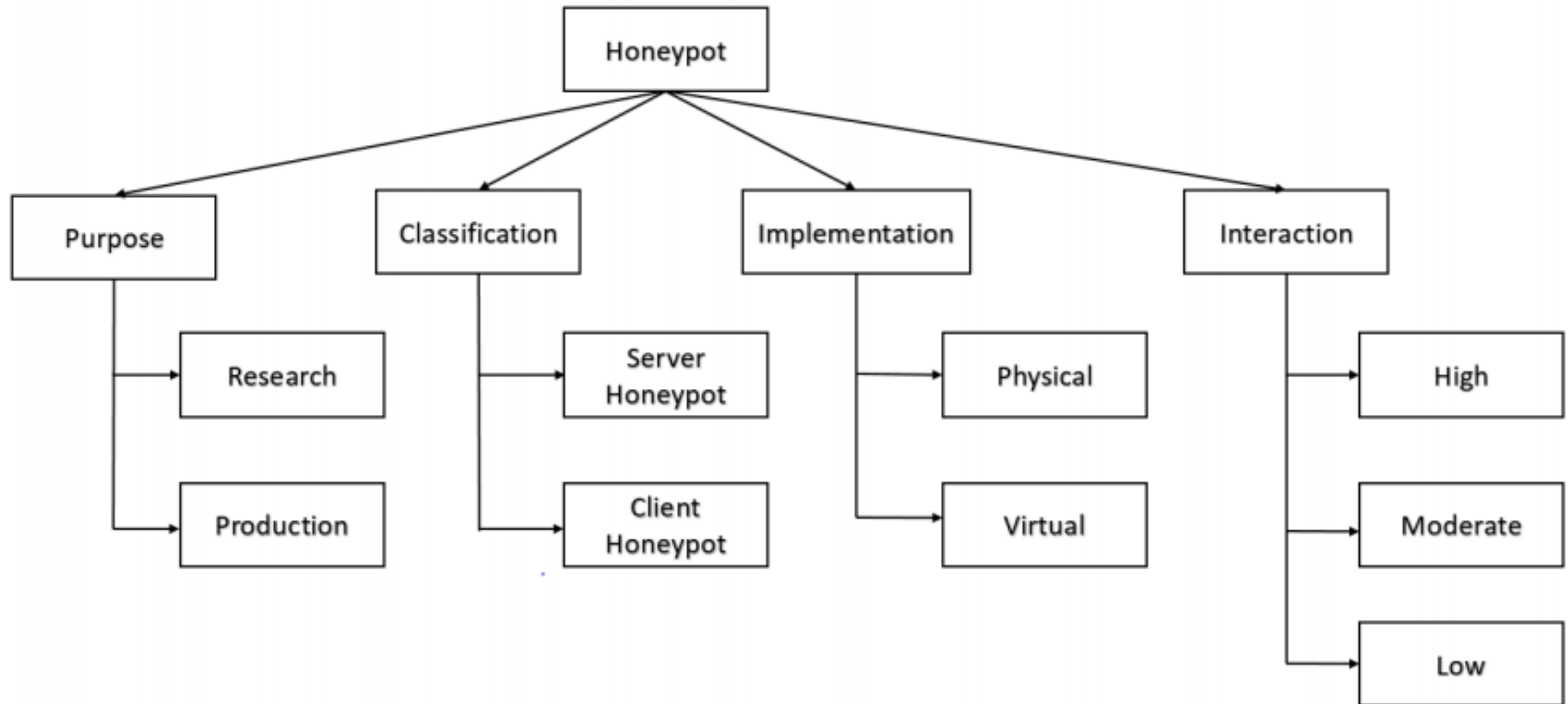


# IDS Classification



# Honeypot Classification

“a **decoy** system set up with deliberate weaknesses and a high profile to **attract attacks** for the purpose of analysis”





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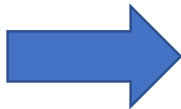


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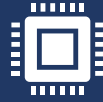


## **4. Lessons Learnt**



## **5. Trending: CyberSecurity and AI**

# Lessons learned



**Maintaining Security Services:** new lightweight cryptographic solutions to secure Cyber-Physical systems and IoCPT in real-time operations with minimum computational complexity.



**Confidentiality:** a new class of lightweight block or stream cipher algorithms to secure CPS resource-constrained real-time communications.



**Protecting Digital Evidences:** to overcome eliminating sources of evidence that trace back to the attack source, such as the case of Shamoon, Duqu, Flame and Stuxnet malware types.



**Enforcing Compliance:** respecting users' privacy by ensuring data access regulatory compliance, especially when stored by utility providers

# Suggestions & Recommendations

Prevention Layer	
Authentication Sub-layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User/Device Authentication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-factor Authentication</li> <li>Physical Protection</li> <li>Strong and Variable Password</li> </ul> </li> <li>Source Authentication and Message Integrity</li> <li>Access Control</li> </ul>
Privacy Sub-layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients Privacy</li> <li>Anonymity (Pseudonymity)</li> <li>Proxies VPN</li> <li>Preserving Privacy at Cloud (Differential Privacy, Secret Sharing, Homomorphic Encryption)</li> </ul>
Data Confidentiality Sub-layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encryption Algorithm</li> </ul>
Defensive Layer	
Detection Sub-layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intrusion Detection Systems (Anti-malware)</li> <li>SIEM</li> <li>Honeypots</li> <li>Data System Integrity</li> </ul>
Correction Sub-layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intrusion Prevention Systems</li> <li>Firewalls</li> <li>Data Backup</li> <li>Alternative Devices and Configuration</li> </ul>



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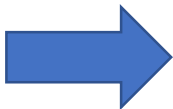
Non-Cryptographic  
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## **4. Lessons Learnt**



## **5. Trending: Cyber Security and AI**

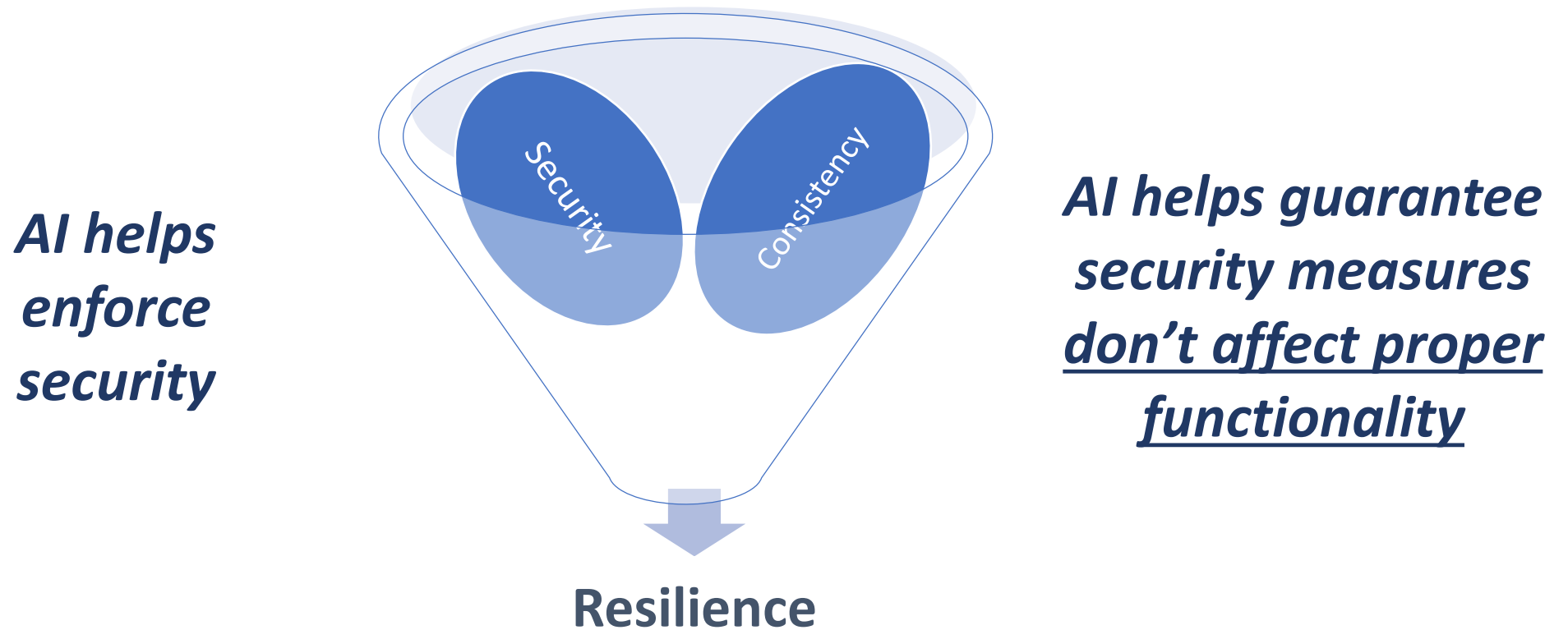


# Cybersecurity and AI

1. AI for Network Resilience
2. IoT Device Identification
3. Abnormal Traffic Detection
4. Guarding against Traffic Analysis

# 1. AI for Network Resilience: Motivation

- There is no security without verifying network consistency





# Proposed Architecture

- **Solution:** we propose a Neural Network overlay on top of Software Defined Networks (SDN)

## **Distributed Extraction + Distributed Processing + Centralized Management**

- **Key Contributions:**
  - Edge Feature extraction
  - AI based overlay network over the data plane
  - Distributed processing over different nodes
  - Decision making at the data plane level
  - SDN Controller optimizes and monitors the distribution process

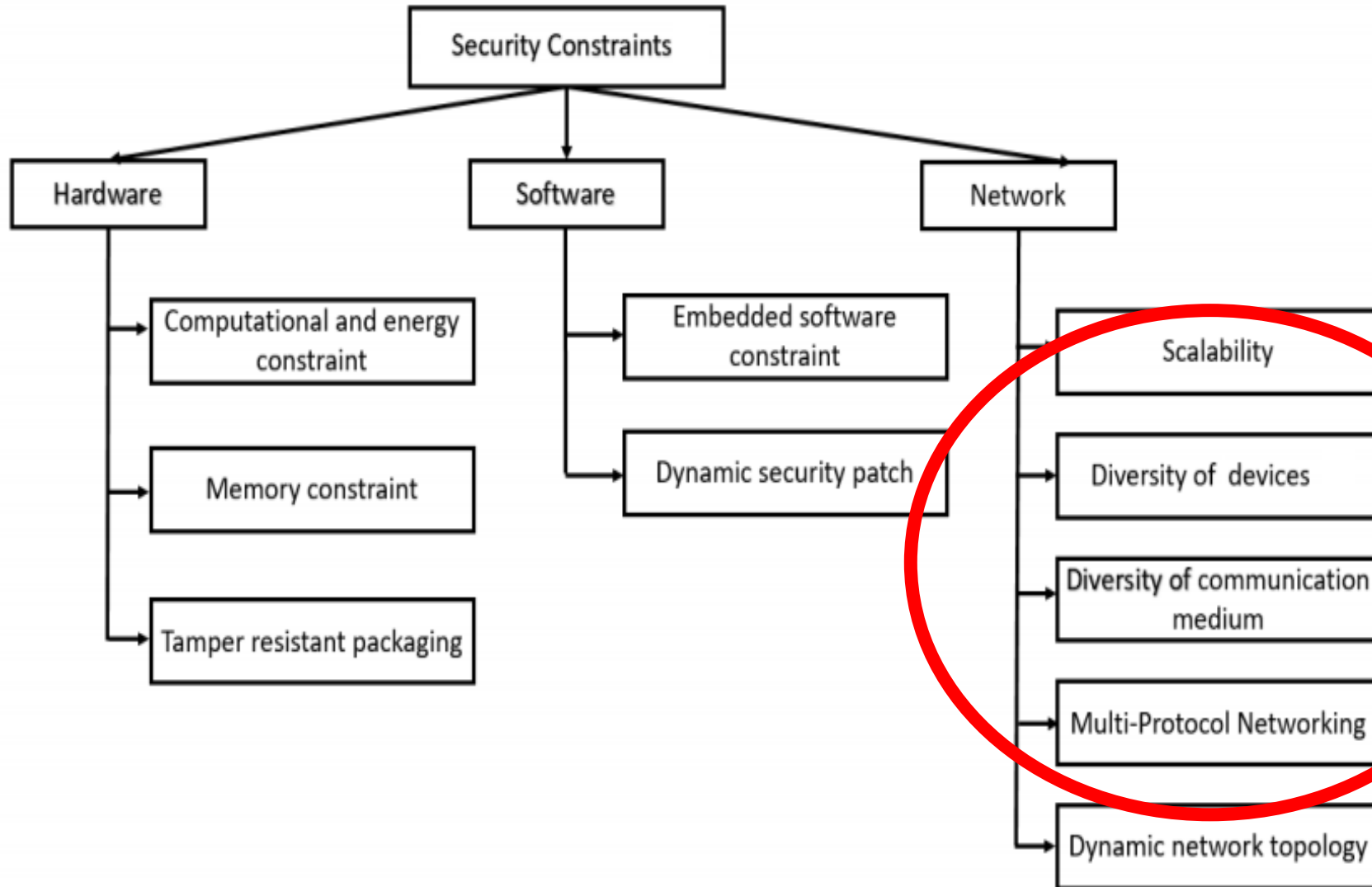
# SDN: Security Results

Technique	Anomaly Detection (Balanced Data)	Anomaly Detection (Unbalanced Data)	Attack Identification (Balanced Data)	Attack Identification (Unbalanced Data)
Random Forest	99.2%	99.3%	98.3%	99.61%
SVM	96.74%	96.93%	90.64%	93.6%
KNN	94.5%	96.4%	90.19%	90.5%
DT	95.76%	96.4%	89.5%	90.89%
MLP	97.5%	97.0%	94.3%	92.73%
BPNN	98.7%	98.6%	77.2%	75.8%
DNN	96.11%	96.13%	95.03%	93.67%

# SDN: Consistency Results

Technique	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score
ConvNet	96%	96%	93%	90%
RNN	96%	83.4%	78.3%	78.5%
DNN	95.5%	93%	81.6%	77.5%

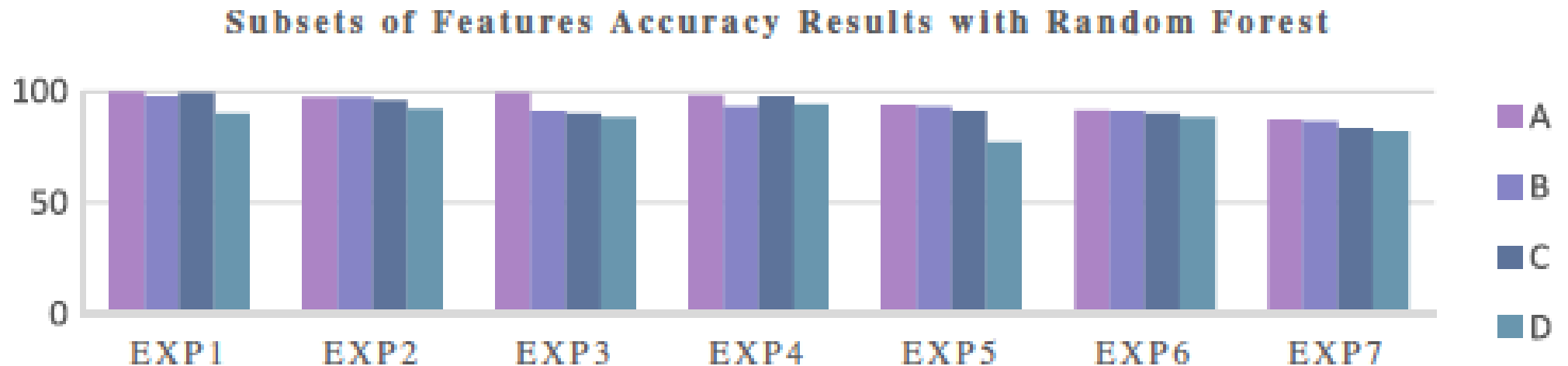
# Flashback: CPS challenges



*With IoT and IoCPS:  
Rely on AI to classify malicious traffic  
for the variety of devices onboard*

## 2. AI for IoT Traffic Classification (IoT Device Identification)

### Model– Accuracy



# AI for IoT Traffic Classification

## Random Forest - Accuracy

	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score
RF	99.93%	0.999	0.999	0.9985
DT	99.85%	0.9977	0.9977	0.9977
RNN	99.77%	0.9965	0.9966	0.9965
ConvNet	99.78%	0.9971	0.9962	0.9966
ResNet	0.9978	0.997	0.9965	0.9967

### 3. AI for IoT Traffic Classification

#### Normal vs Attack Traffic - Accuracy

	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score
RF	97.14%	0.8581	0.8628	0.8601
DT	96.28%	0.8299	0.8034	0.8157
RNN	95.35%	0.7925	0.9459	0.8469
ConvNet	95.16%	0.7872	0.9394	0.8410
ResNet	94.77%	0.7777	0.9533	0.8363

This covered few of the interesting topics the group is tackling

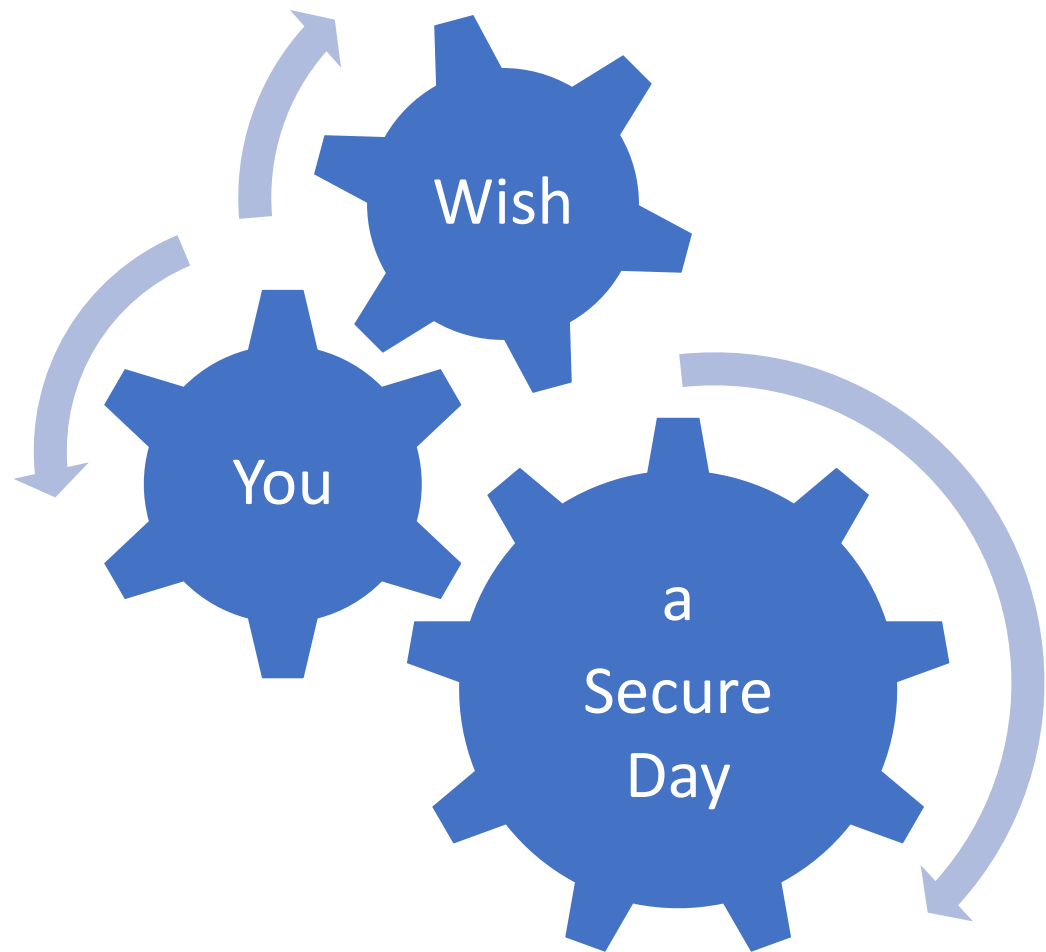


# Selected Contributions

- New **lightweight** symmetric cryptographic algorithms and protocols that use **dynamic key-dependent** cipher structure
  - Achieving required cryptographic performance with reduced latency and resources
  - Efficiency, flexibility and robustness make the proposed solutions good candidates IoT systems
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- Noura, H.N., Chehab, A. and Couturier, R., "Efficient & secure cipher scheme with dynamic key-dependent mode of operation". *Signal Processing: Image Communication*, 78, 2019.
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- Yaacoub, J.P.A., Noura, M., Noura, H.N., Salman, O., Yaacoub, E., Couturier, R. and Chehab, A.,. Securing internet of medical things systems: Limitations, issues and recommendations. *Future Generation Computer Systems*, 2019.
- **Physical Unclonable functions and ID-based key distribution framework for smart grid security**
  - Seferian, V., Kanj, R., Chehab, A. and Kayssi, A., 2017. Identity Based Key Distribution Framework for Link Layer Security of AMI Networks. *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*.
  - Seferian, V., Kanj, R., Chehab, A. and Kayssi, A., 2014, November. PUF and ID-based key distribution security framework for advanced metering infrastructures. In *Smart grid communications (smartgridcomm)*, 2014 IEEE international conference on (pp. 933-938). IEEE.
- **AI for reliability, modeling and statistical analysis of systems designs**
  - Shaer, Lama, R. Kanj, A. Chehab, R. Joshi "Regularized logistic regression for fast importance sampling based SRAM yield analysis." *Quality Electronic Design (ISQED)*, 2017 18th International Symposium on. IEEE, 2017.
  - Shaer, L., Kanj, R., & Joshi, R. (2019, May). Data Imbalance Handling Approaches for Accurate Statistical Modeling and Yield Analysis of Memory Designs. In *2019 IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS)* (pp. 1-5). IEEE.
  - Kanj, R., Joshi, R., & Nassif, S. (2006, July). Mixture importance sampling and its application to the analysis of SRAM designs in the presence of rare failure events. In *2006 43rd ACM/IEEE Design Automation Conference* (pp. 69-72). IEEE.

# Conclusions

- CPS part of 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution
- Privacy and Security key functional requirements
- Lightweight cryptography and non-cryptographic defensive/preventive measures are needed
- AI plays key role in cybersecurity of CPS



# Thank You