

TECHNICAL REPORT



Communication networks and systems for power utility automation –
Part 90-12: Wide area network engineering guidelines
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IEC TR 61850-90-12:2015

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/afc1bdb0-b271-44f8-ade7-2ece9ecc902c/iec-tr-61850-90-12-2015>



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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 33.200

ISBN 978-2-8322-2806-7

Warning! Make sure that you obtained this publication from an authorized distributor.

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COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS
FOR POWER UTILITY AUTOMATION –

Part 90-12: Wide area network engineering guidelines

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

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
57/1536/DTR	57/1576/RVC

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.

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INTRODUCTION

Utilities use data networks to interconnect equipment between their premises, over distances from under a kilometer to thousands of kilometers, called a “Wide Area Network” of WAN.

WANs encompass communication means of different nature (optical, radio, power line carrier, copper, etc.), with a variety of topologies (rings, trees, meshes, etc.), using different protocols (SDH/SONET, Ethernet, IP, MPLS, etc.), medium sharing (packet switching, time division multiplex, etc.) and for different applications (teleprotection, SCADA, voice, video, etc.).

This contrasts with substation automation networks as described in the LAN Engineering Guidelines (IEC TR 61850-90-4), which are based on one technology (switched Ethernet), make extensive use of Layer 2 multicast (GOOSE, SMV, PTP, etc.) and use Layer 3 communication (MMS, FTP, etc.), typically without routers within the substation.

The IEC 61850 suite sets up numerous requirements on the network but does not state how to achieve them:

- IEC 61850-5 specifies the basic requirements for data networks used in Power Utility Automation networks;
- IEC 61850-7 focuses on data modelling, leaving out physical interconnection details;
- IEC 61850-8-1 and IEC 61850-9-2 specify interoperable communication within substations;
- IEC TR 61850-90-1 describes substation-to-substation traffic, specifies the requirements for communication, defines object models for substation-to-substation teleprotection, models the gateway and the tunneler, but leaves the WAN undefined;
- IEC TR 61850-90-2¹ provides substation to control centre network configuration for IEDs, proxies and applications;
- IEC TR 61850-90-5 (synchrophasor transmission) addresses the transport of synchrophasor data between PMUs and control centres and defines a tunneling protocol as well as a data security method;
- IEC TR 61850-90-4 provides guidelines for network engineering focused on Ethernet-based real-time and highly available networks in substations. Some of these guidelines are applicable to networks outside of the substation;
- IEC 60870-6 (TASE2), IEC 61968 and IEC 61970 (CIM) describe the information interchange at the application layer without specifying the network.

Each of these documents deals separately with application, transport or network layer mechanism. There exist no comprehensive engineering guides for wide-area and real-time networks for control and protection. The growing success of IEC 61850 calls for guidelines for engineering the WANs.

Complementing IEC TR 61850-90-4, this Technical Report proposes guidelines for wide-area and real-time networks for various IEC 61850-based applications including teleprotection, wide area measurement, protection and control (WAMPAC), power system monitoring (WASA, WAMS), operation SCADA, and condition monitoring and diagnosis (CMD) and non-operational traffic.

This Technical Report is based on existing standards for semantics, services, protocols, system configuration language and architecture. It is based on work done by various IEC working groups including:

- Power system IED communication and associated data models;

¹ To be published.