



# Unleash the Potential of Industrial IoT With Sparkplug

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# About Me



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B.Ed., B.Sc.A, MBA

Developer, Architect, Product Manager...

Oracle, Cisco, Pivotal...

Published author; Frequent Speaker

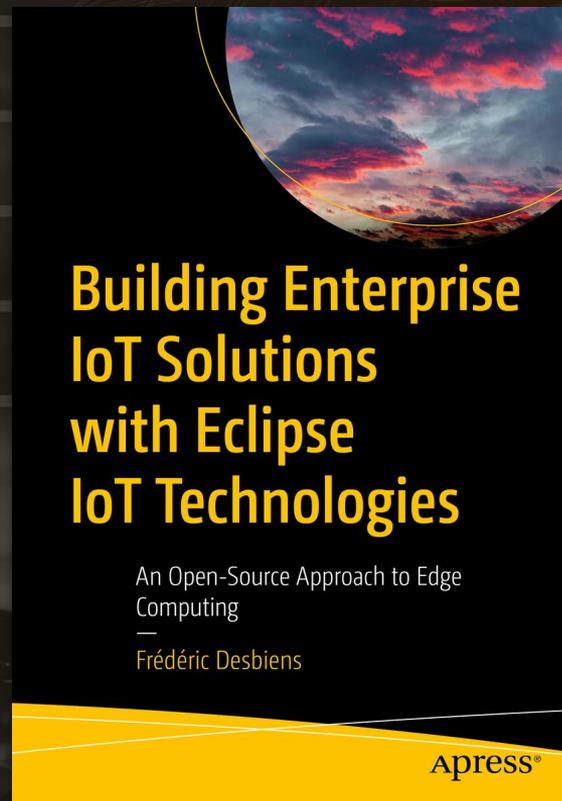
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# December 2022

A comprehensive overview of the open-source IoT and Edge Computing platforms available at the Eclipse Foundation

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# Agenda

- **The Eclipse Foundation**
- **Interoperability in IIoT**
- **Sparkplug Overview**
- **Real-World Deployment**

# The Community for Open Innovation and Collaboration

**Community driven.**

**Code first.**

**Commercial-friendly.**

# Strategic Focus Areas

## Cloud Native Java



We provide a collaborative environment for the world's leading Java ecosystem players to advance open source enterprise Java technologies for the cloud.

## IoT & Edge



We enable industry leaders to collaborate on an end-to-end IoT architecture that is secure, flexible, and fully based on open source and open standards.

## Automotive



We provide leading automotive OEMs, their suppliers, and partners with a sustainable, transparent, and vendor-neutral platform to collaborate on open technologies and standards.

## Tools



The Eclipse IDE is the critical development environment for more than 6 million active users. Our community is innovating on the next generation of cloud native developer tools.

# Open Source is Innovation at an Industrial Scale

Requirements  
& Use Cases



## Competition

**Commercial Adopters** focus resources on rapidly building differentiating features

Product-Ready  
Technologies

Value Line



## Collaboration

**Technology Producers** jointly define roadmap and build core capabilities



## Governance

**The Eclipse Foundation** provides an open, vendor-neutral environment to enable collaboration

**\$13+**  
**billion**

of shared  
investment  
to date



# Interoperability In IIoT

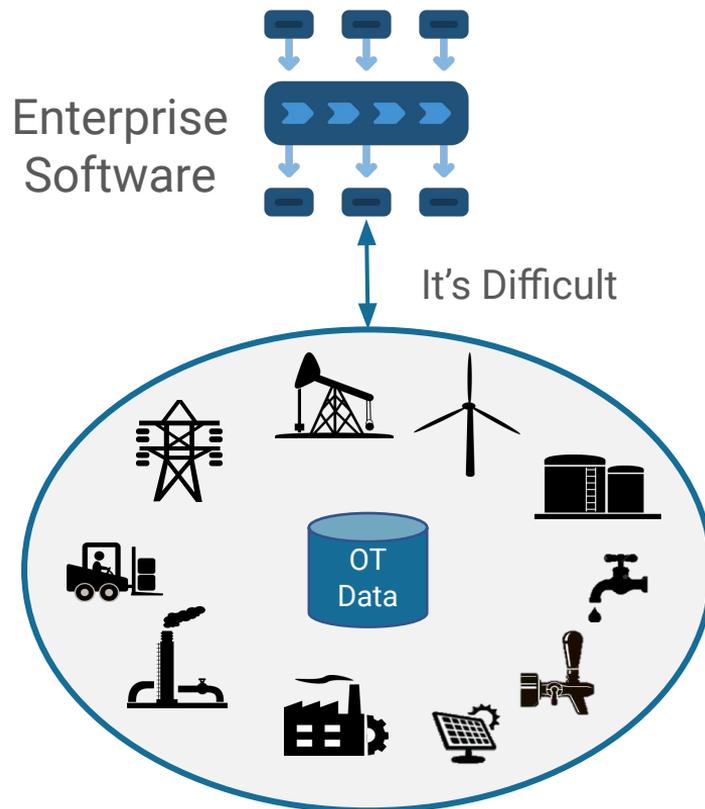
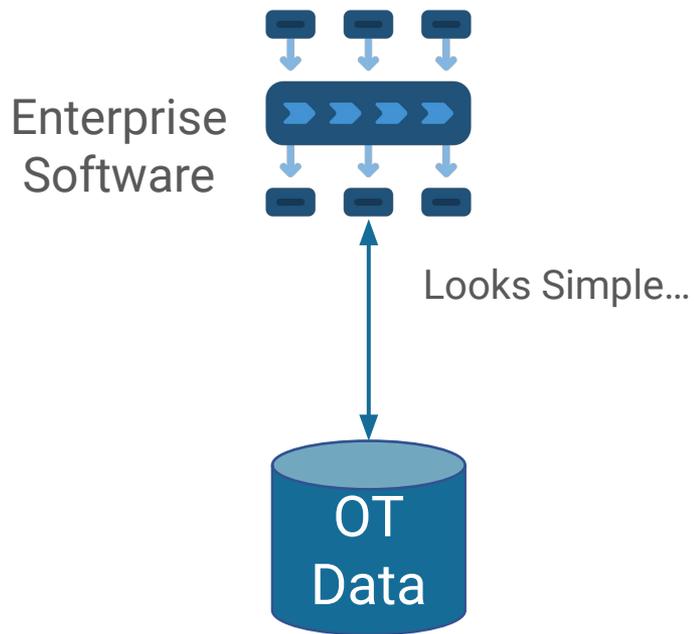


# Software is eating the world



Openness creates ecosystems

# Dream... and Reality



# Are We There Yet?

Traditional OT integration  
relies on polling/response

This wears your patience  
thin in the car...

...and wastes resources in  
the enterprise

# Operational Technology **Data Challenges**

- > Proprietary Protocols
- > Multiple Data Formats
- > No Contextual Information
- > Designed for Operations
- > Different Across Market Segments
- > Poll / Response Data Retrieval
- > Directly Coupled to Applications
- > Isolated Networks

# Information Technology **Data Requirements**

- > Data Objects/Modeling
- > Standard Data Formats
- > Contextual Information
- > Decoupled to Enterprise
- > Publish / Subscribe Methodology
- > Easy to Integrate
- > Secure

# IT vs OT

## Information Technology

**Off-the-shelf**

**Replaceable**

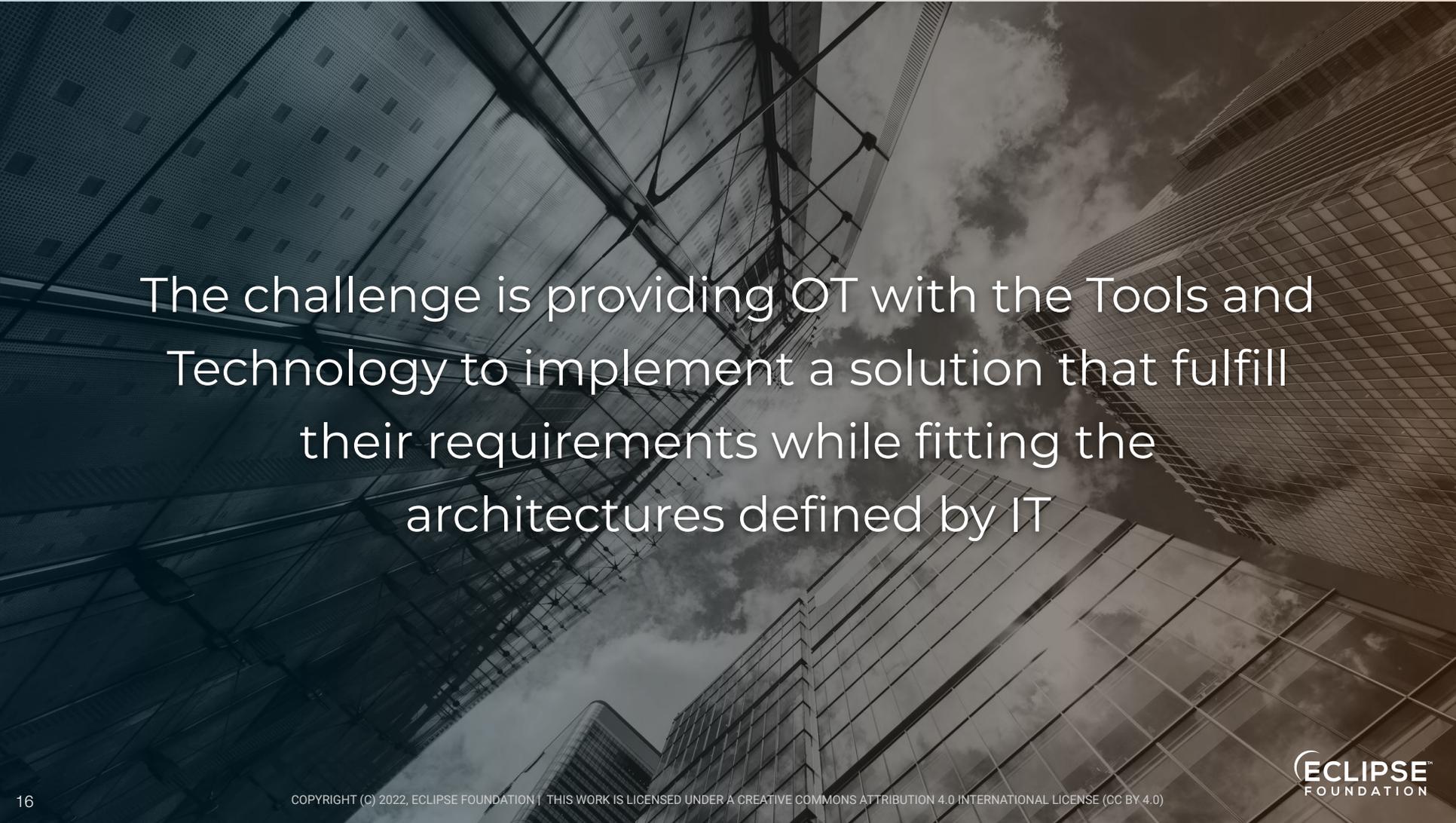
**Frequent updates**

## Operational Technology

**Purpose-built**

**Controls critical  
infrastructure**

**Infrequent updates**



The challenge is providing OT with the Tools and Technology to implement a solution that fulfill their requirements while fitting the architectures defined by IT

# What MQTT Offers

- > Message Oriented Middleware
- > Publish / subscribe infrastructure
- > Invented for a real-time, mission critical SCADA solution
  - Simple – Easy to implement on constrained devices
  - Efficient – Use as little bandwidth and resources as possible
  - Stateful – Method in which to save on bandwidth
  - Secure\* (leverages latest TCP/IP security technology)
  - Open – No vendor lock-in

# MQTT's Interoperability Problem

The payload can be anything

The message can be anywhere

Are my devices actually online?





# Sparkplug Overview



# Sparkplug<sup>®</sup>

## Interoperability for MQTT-based Industrial IoT solutions



Standard Payloads

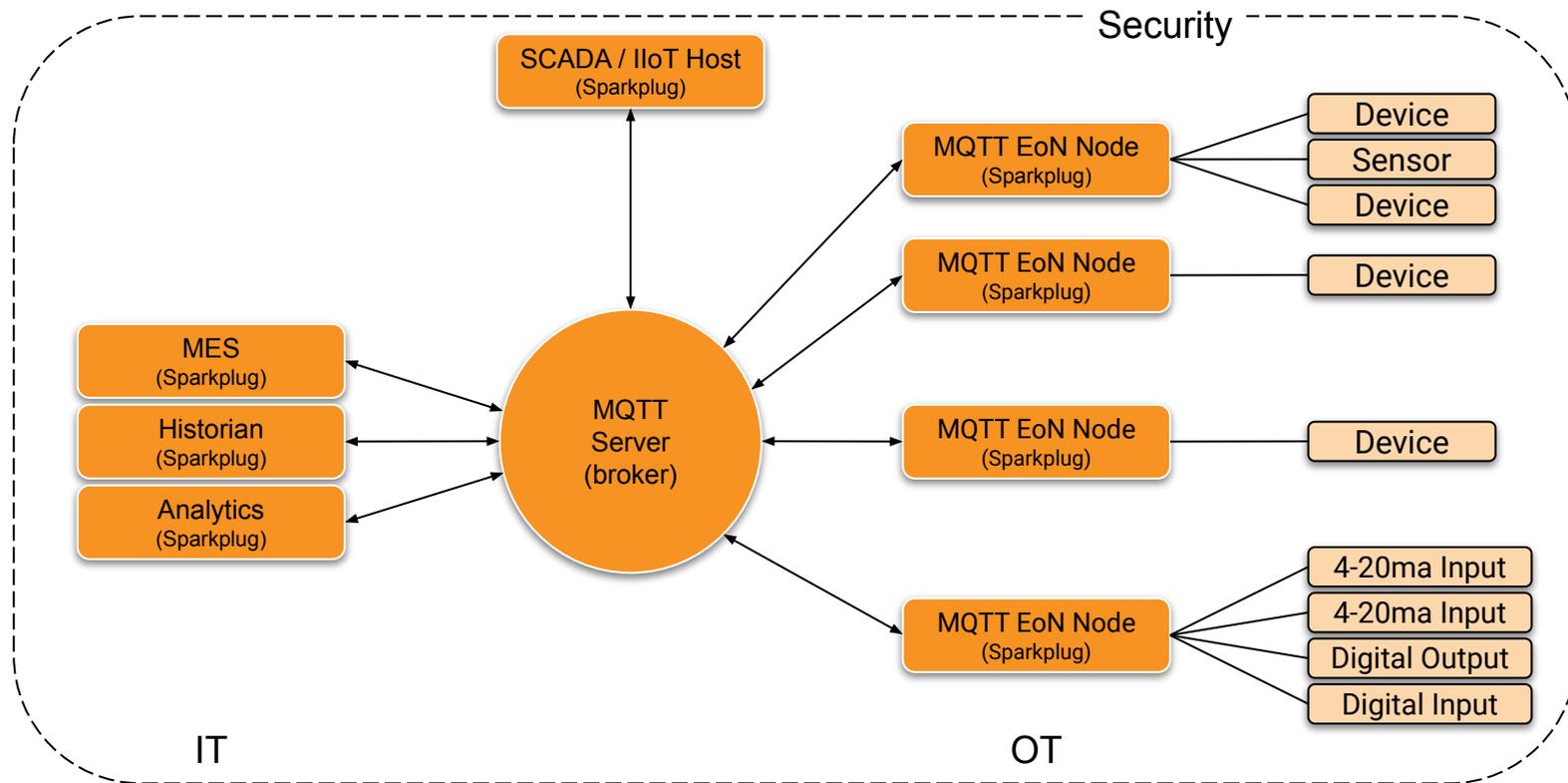


Standard  
Topic Structures



Session Management

# Sparkplug Architecture



# The Road to The Industrial Internet of Things



The “**Internet of People**” exploded due to two simple and open technologies:

## **Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)**

An open protocol that defines “how” data can be transferred over the Internet.

## **Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)**

An open specification that defines the structure of the data within HTTP messages.



For the “**Industrial Internet of Things**” to scale to its full potential the same type of open and simple technologies are needed:

## **MQTT**

The dominant IoT messaging transport that is open and simple.

## **Sparkplug**

An open specification that defines the structure and state of the data within MQTT messages.

# Sparkplug Basic Principles

- > **Publish/Subscribe approach**
  - Complete decoupling of devices and applications
- > **Report by exception**
  - Reduces power and bandwidth requirements
- > **Continuous session awareness**
  - Edge Nodes and Host applications advertise that they are now online or about to go offline
- > **Birth and death certificates**
  - Relies on Last-will-and-testament feature of MQTT
- > **Support for persistent and non-persistent connections**



# Topic Structure

Name to group nodes logically

namespace/group\_id/message\_type/edge\_node\_id/[device\_id]

spBv1.0

- > "sp"
- > [Payload encoding]
- > [Encoding version]

- > NBIRTH / NDEATH – Birth/death certificate for edge node. Birth: metric name, type, value for every metric. Death: all metrics marked as stale
- > NDATA – Edge node data message. One or several metrics
- > NCMD – Edge node command. Write metric on edge node.
- > DBIRTH / DDEATH – Birth/death certificate for device.
- > DDATA – Device data message. One or several metrics.
- > DCMD – Device command. Write metric on device.
- > STATE – Birth/death certificate of Host Application.

# Payload Definition

- > Payloads are always in binary
- > Encoding: [Google Protocol Buffers](#)
- > [Encoding definition in .proto format](#)
- > JSON representation (right)
  - Metrics: Array of typed node or device metrics
  - Body: Arbitrary content (images, files)

```
{  
  "timestamp": 1641948773752,  
  "metrics": [],  
  "seq": 1,  
  "uuid": "base64png",  
  "body": "an array of bytes"  
}
```

## Metrics

- > Defined as key/value/datatype
- > Can add optional metadata and properties to them
- > Sparkplug payloads can also contain DataSets and Templates.
  - DataSets: used to encode data matrices. You need to provide the number of columns, their names, and their types in addition to the data itself.
  - Templates: Allow you to define your custom data types

```
{  
  "name": "exterior_temperature",  
  "alias": 130870,  
  "timestamp": 1641950175801,  
  "datatype": "Int8",  
  "is_historical": false,  
  "is_transient": false,  
  "is_null": false,  
  "metadata": {},  
  "properties": {},  
  "value": 23  
}
```

# DBIRTH and DDATA example

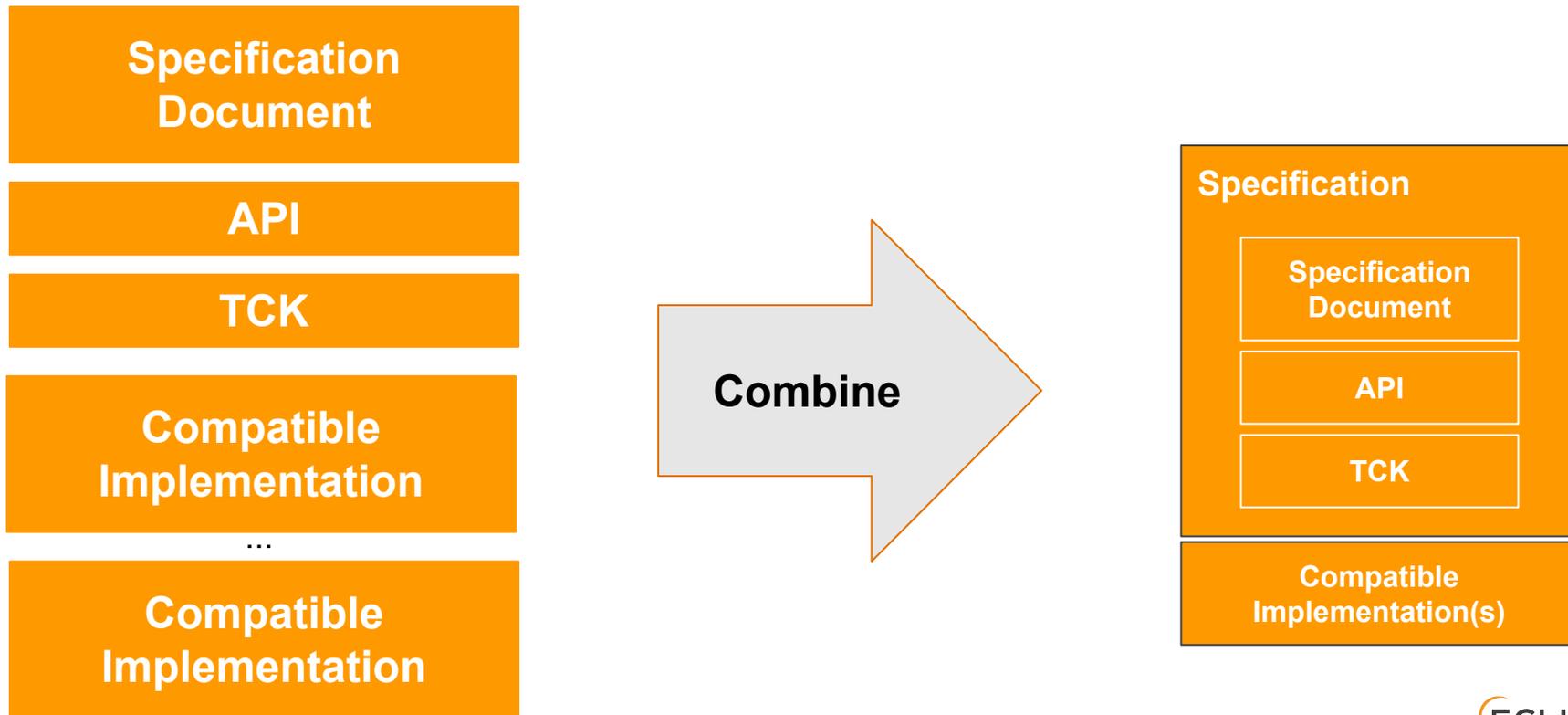
```
{
  "timestamp": 1641940113424,
  "metrics": [ {
    "name": "temp-value",
    "alias": 1,
    "timestamp": 1641940113424,
    "dataType": "Int8",
    "value": -24,
    "transient": false,
    "null": false,
    "historical": false
  } ],
  "seq" : 1,
  "metricCount" : 1
}
```

**DBIRTH**

```
{
  "timestamp": 1641940114576,
  "metrics": [{
    "name": "",
    "alias": 1,
    "timestamp": 1641940024394,
    "dataType": "Int8",
    "value": -25
  } ],
  "seq": 1
}
```

**DDATA**

# What Is an Eclipse Specification?



# Built in the Open



Specification document  
Technology Compatibility Kit (TCK)

<https://github.com/eclipse/sparkplug>



Open Source  
Compatible Implementation

<https://github.com/eclipse/tahu>

# Implement Sparkplug

Anyone can implement Sparkplug free of charge, no membership required

Anyone can use the Sparkplug Technology Compatibility Kit (TCK) to validate conformance

“Sparkplug”, “Sparkplug Compatible” and the logos are trademarks of the Eclipse Foundation

# Certify Your Products

- 1 Download, run and pass the TCK
- 2 Become a Foundation and Sparkplug Working Group member
- 3 Execute the Sparkplug Compatibility Trademark License Agreement
- 4 File a "Get Listed" request
- 5 Promote your product

# Sparkplug Compatibility Program



**Customer  
Confidence**



**Collaboration**



**Marketing  
Initiatives**



**Brand  
Development**



**Community  
Support**



# Real-World Deployment

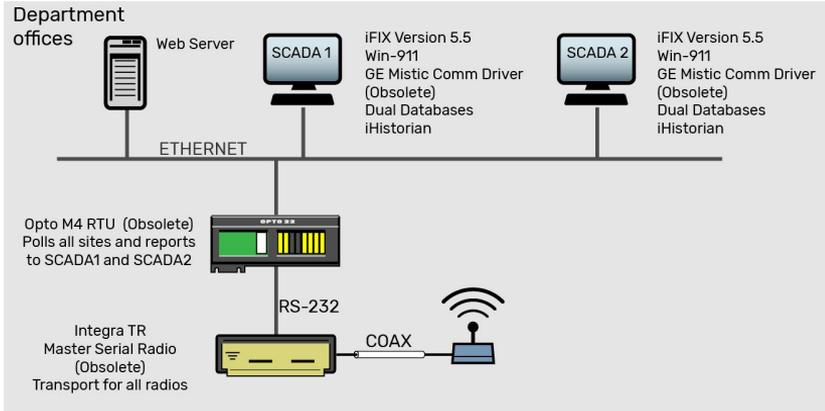
# Client: Waterford Township DPW

- > **Serves 72,000 residents**
  - 360 miles (579 km) of water main and appurtenances
  - 355 (571 km) miles of sanitary sewer
- > **System Consists of:**
  - 63 sewer lift stations
  - 19 production wells
  - 11 iron filtration plants
  - 2 elevated and 1 ground storage tanks
  - 1 high service pumping station



# Legacy System

## Previous Configuration



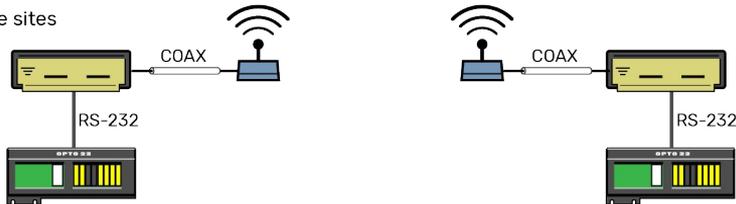
## > Legacy system issues

- Limited bandwidth
- Serial polling scheme
- Infrequent field activity

## > Problems needing a solution

- Data from each site only updated every 3-4 minutes, resulting in data loss and missed notifications
- Scaling up the system to more sites increased latency

## Remote sites



# Why Sparkplug?

## > **Single source-of-truth**

- Tags at edge are defined, and available throughout entire system

## > **No re-entry of tags in SCADA**

- All edge tags automatically available to subscribing software applications

## > **State management**

- Status of all edge devices known

## > **Device originating**

- Outbound comms, no device ports opened

## > **Bi-directional**

- Devices able to receive messages from SCADA

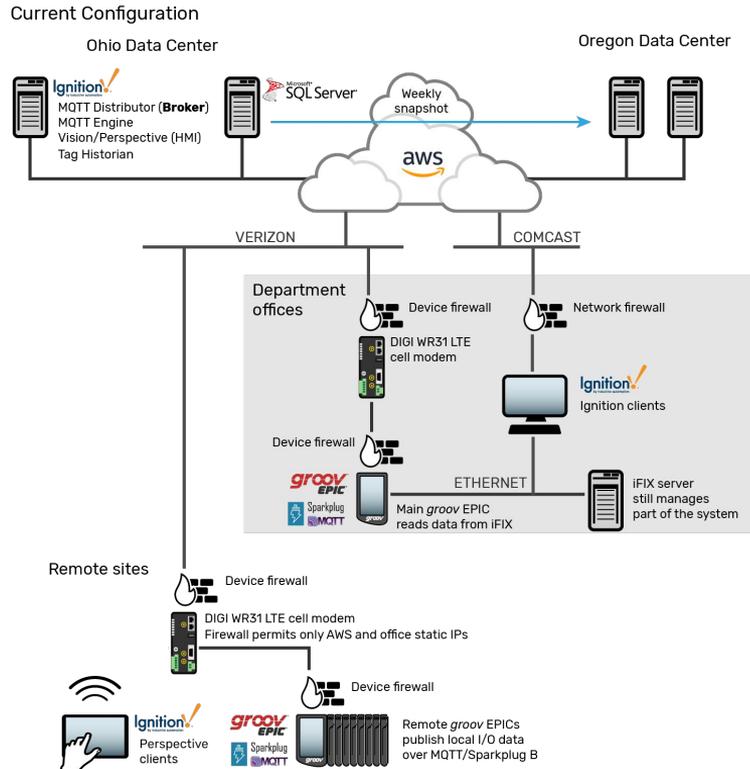
## > **Store & forward**

- In event of comms failure, edge storage of process data stored, and forward upon comms restoration

## > **Efficient payloads**

- Binary encapsulated messages save bandwidth

# Sparkplug Infrastructure



- > Replaced old RTU/radio combo with groovy EPIC/cellular modem
- > Deployed over a private Verizon cellular network
- > Hosted an Ignition MQTT broker on AWS cloud instance
- > Encrypted all communications for MQTT/SpB messages with TLS
- > Closed all incoming ports on EPIC except to trusted IPs

# Results of Implementation

- > Sub-second latency across entire system
- > Decreased bandwidth consumption
- > Never miss a system action or an alarm notification
- > Timely operations, edge status, and diagnostics data
- > More processing power at the edge
- > Better fault-tolerance and disaster recovery

# Implementation Partner

**OPTO 22**  
Your Edge in Automation.™



**PC-based I/O**  
(1980s)

**Co-developer &  
Founding Member**  
(1996)



**Ethernet I/O**  
(1990s)



**M2M**  
(2000s)

**PACs**  
(2000s)



**EPICs & RIOs**  
(today)

# Join Us!

**Follow us!**

[sparkplug.eclipse.org](https://sparkplug.eclipse.org)

**Implement  
Sparkplug**

**Join the  
Sparkplug  
Working Group**



## Making IIoT Open and Interoperable, Together



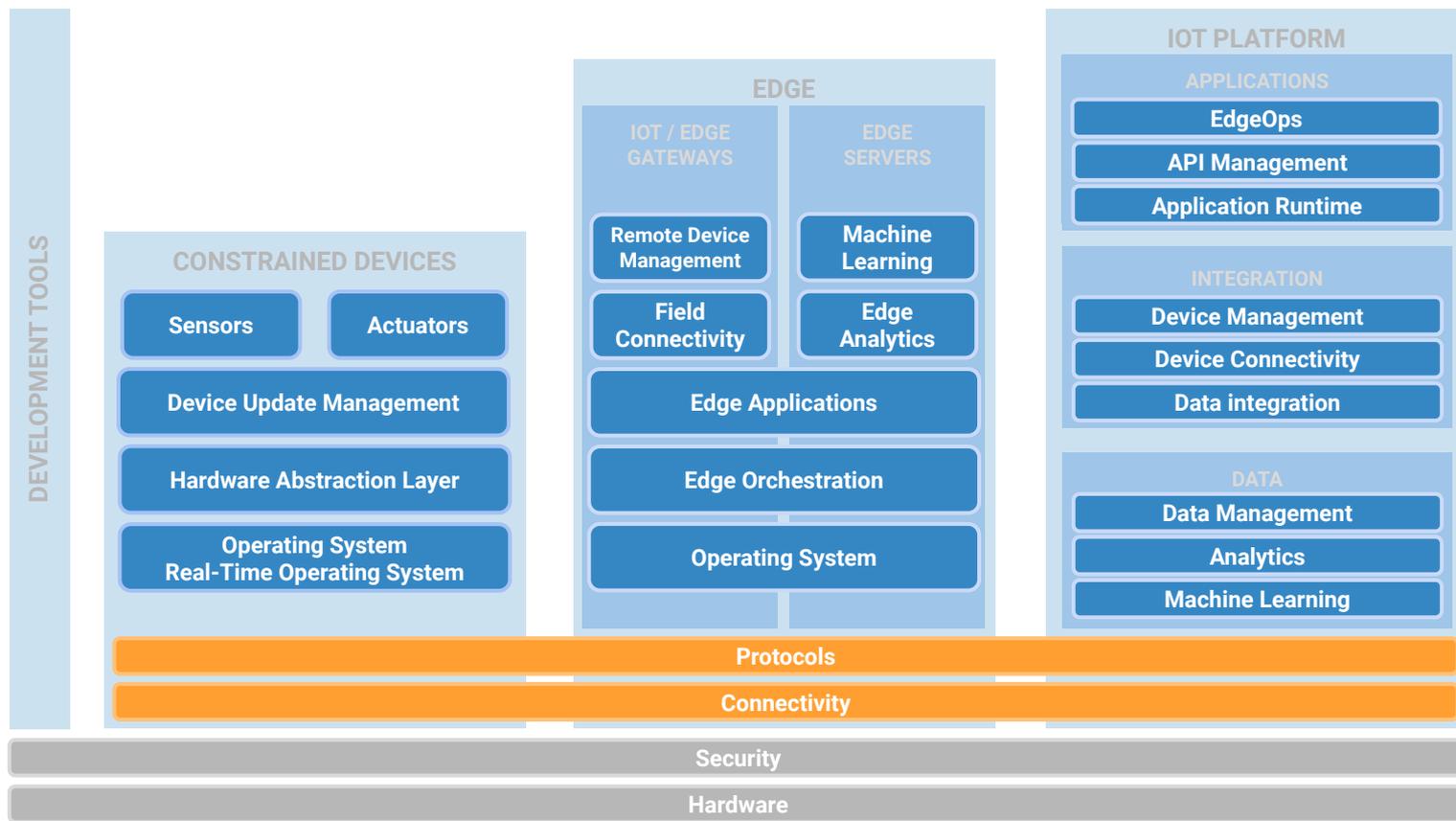
OPTO 22



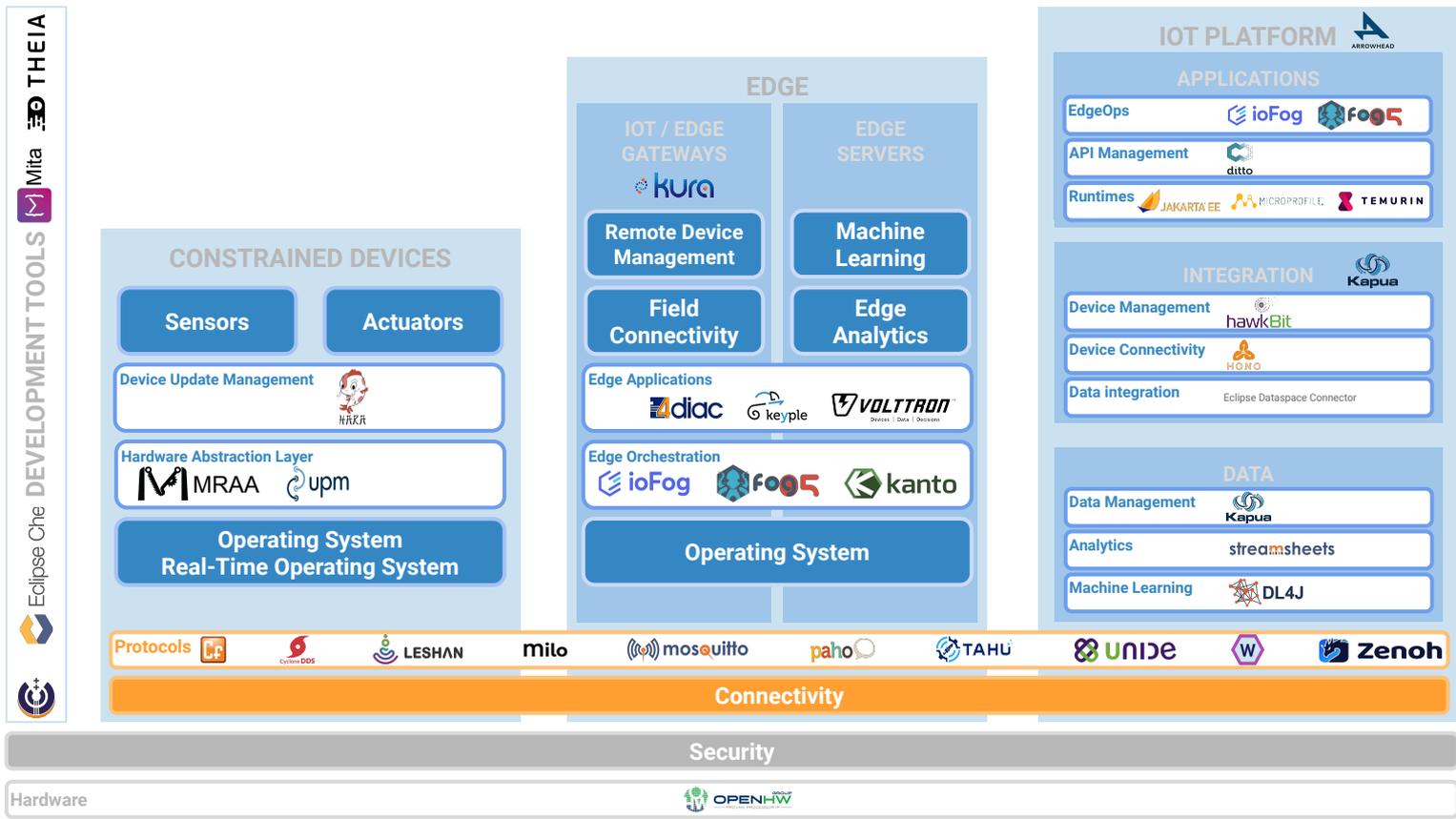
The University of Sheffield.



# IoT Architecture



# Where Eclipse Projects Fit



# Thank You

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