



# Building Distributed LVC Simulations with Data Distribution Service (DDS)

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# Agenda

- An Overview of DDS
  - DDS Principles
- Differences between DDS and HLA/DIS
- Using DDS in MS&T Systems
  - A DDS to HLA demo system
- Conclusions

# RTI in the Industrial IoT

- RTI is the largest connectivity middleware vendor
- 1350+ designs, many real-world programs across industries
- Full DDS, tools, services, support, secure and certified versions
- ~200 people



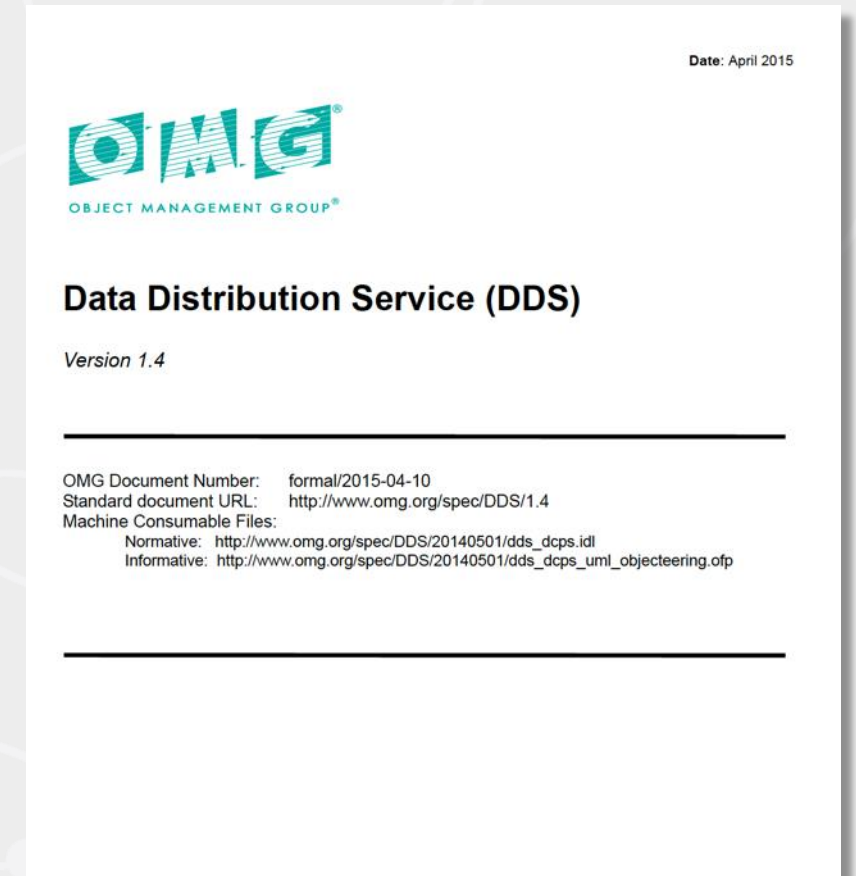
# An Overview of Data Distribution Service (DDS)

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# OMG Data Distribution Service

- First version of the DDS standard was released in 2004
- Most recent version (v1.4) was released in April 2015
- “Data-Centric Publish-Subscribe model for distributed application communication and integration”



# What is the Data Distribution Service ?

- DDS is an **open-standard** managed by the Object Management Group<sup>®</sup> (OMG)
- DDS is at the heart of many **OA** initiatives in A&D
- DDS is a connectivity framework technology for **real-time** systems that allows interoperability of **any CPU, language, and operating system**
- Operates a **Publish-Subscribe** paradigm, enables location transparency and is decentralized and dynamically scalable
- DDS takes a **Data-Centric** approach that simplifies connectivity management and improves scalability and code reuse while also reducing development cycle times

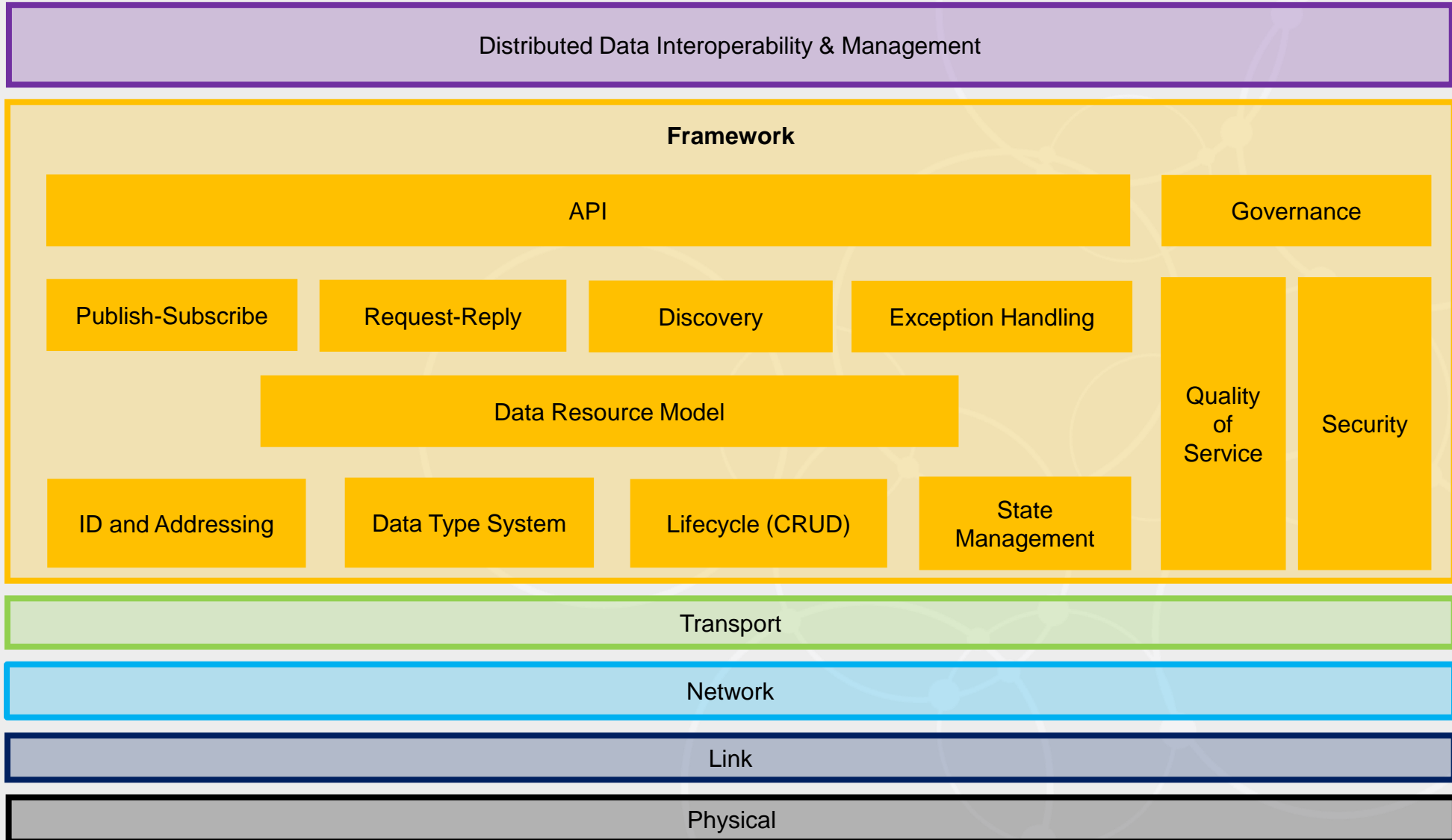
# What is the Data Distribution Service ?

- DDS is **TRL 9** technology used widely in the “L” parts of **LVC** systems
- DDS was originally designed for mission critical systems
- DDS is ideally suited to applications that are required to share large amounts of data in a fast, secure, scalable and reliable way
- Because it's an open standard it's been adopted in numerous defense related projects (especially for the MOD and DOD)
- It's widespread use in military systems has led to strong interest in the simulation and training market



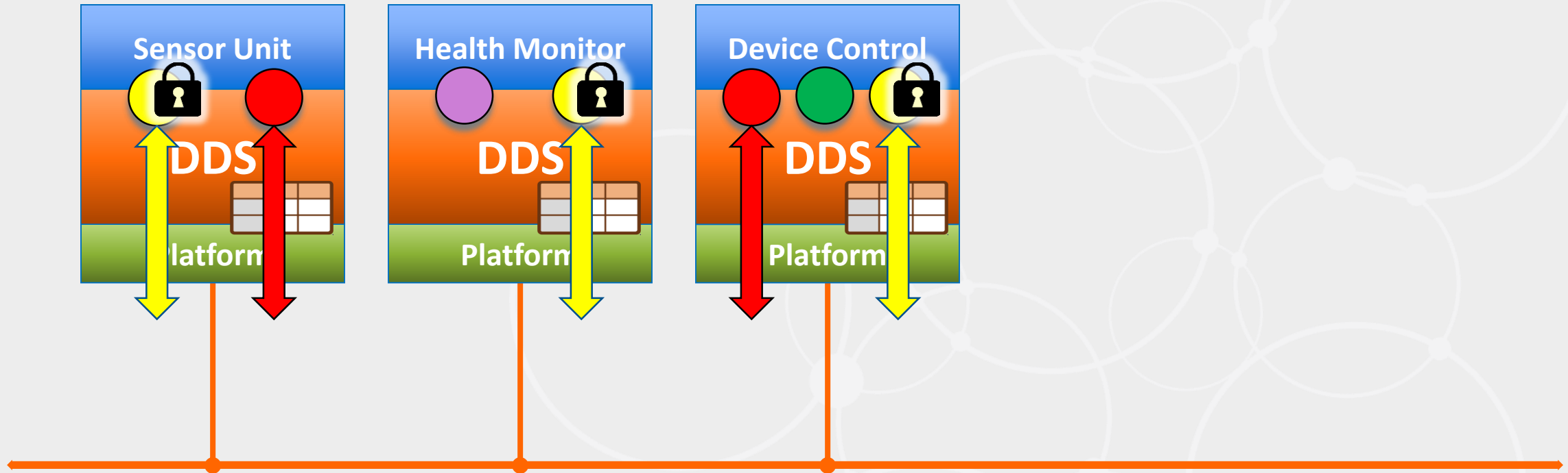
# Connectivity Framework Layer

Connectivity  
Framework  
Functions

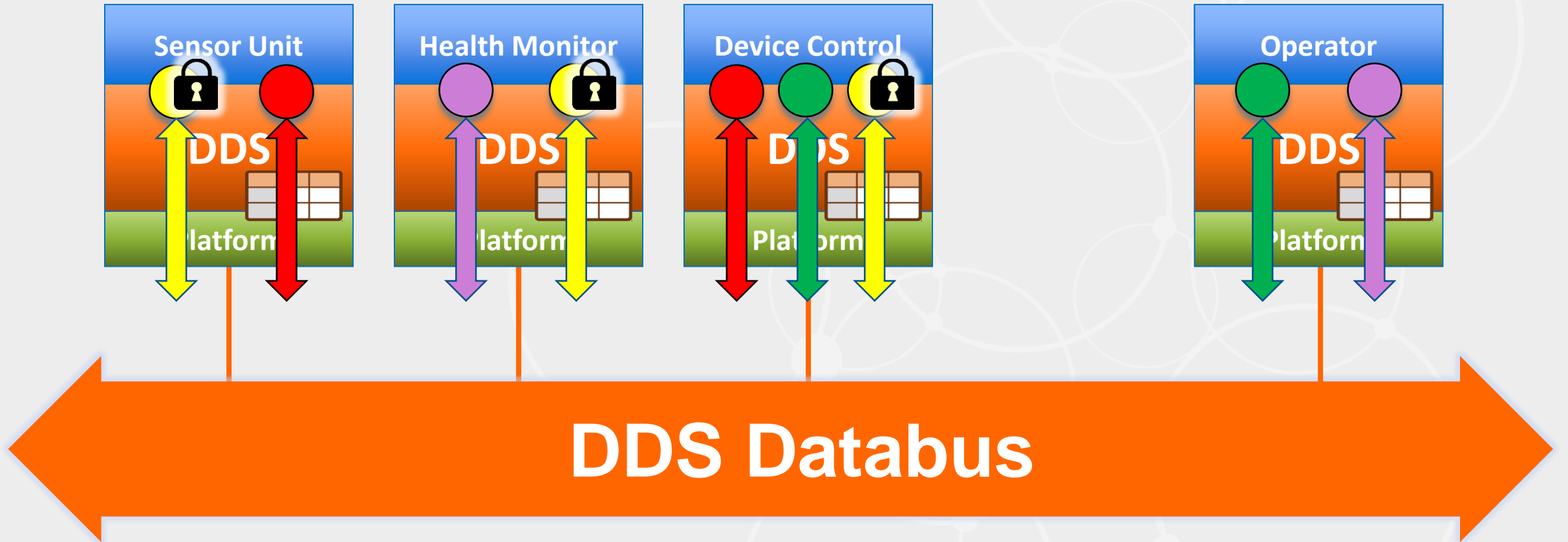




# Connection via the DDS Databus...



# Connection via the DDS Databus...



# Connection via the DDS Databus...

A **Data Model** (written in IDL) describes the data in the system and allows DDS to 'understand' and manage data in the system appropriately.

DDS provides an API to the programmer (which RTI wrap in language bindings) to enable data-centric access to your data

Data flows are configured via **Quality of Service** settings that define how data is delivered between nodes in the distributed system. In DDS terminology these data flows are called Topics.

DDS abstracts the application away from the Operating System making the application less complex, more portable and transport agnostic.

Data is cached at endpoints by DDS (based on the QoS settings); the application always has the data it requires when it requires it.

DDS optimises network usage by filtering data appropriately (at either source or destination) and only delivering data when and where it is needed.

# About Data Centricity

## Data Centricity Definition

- a) The interface *is* the data.
- b) The infrastructure understands that data.
- c) The system manages the data and imposes rules on how applications exchange data.



Database

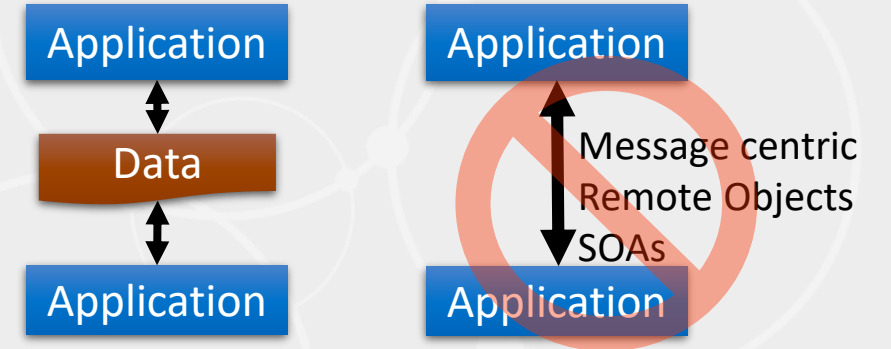
Data centric storage and searching of old data

```
SELECT * FROM ShapeData
WHERE color='RED' AND shapysize > 10;
```



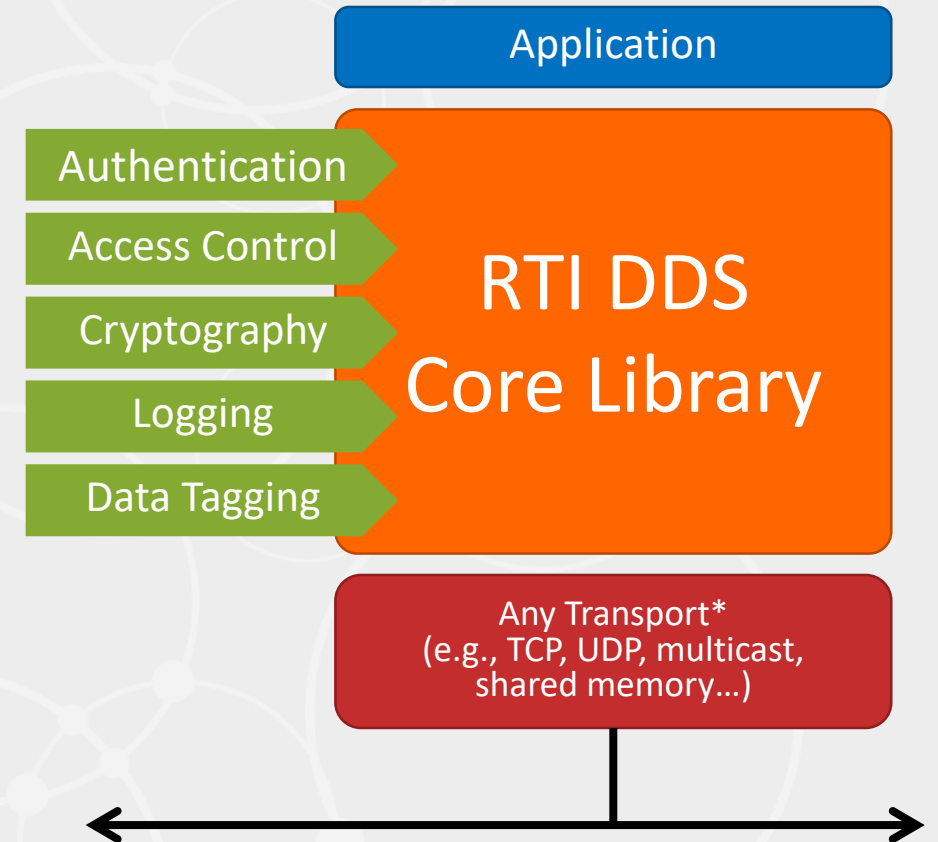
Data centric sharing and filtering of future data

```
cft = create_contentfilteredtopic_with_filter(
    "MyFiltered_topic", ShapeData_topic,
    "(color MATCH 'RED') AND (shapysize > 10)", ... );
```

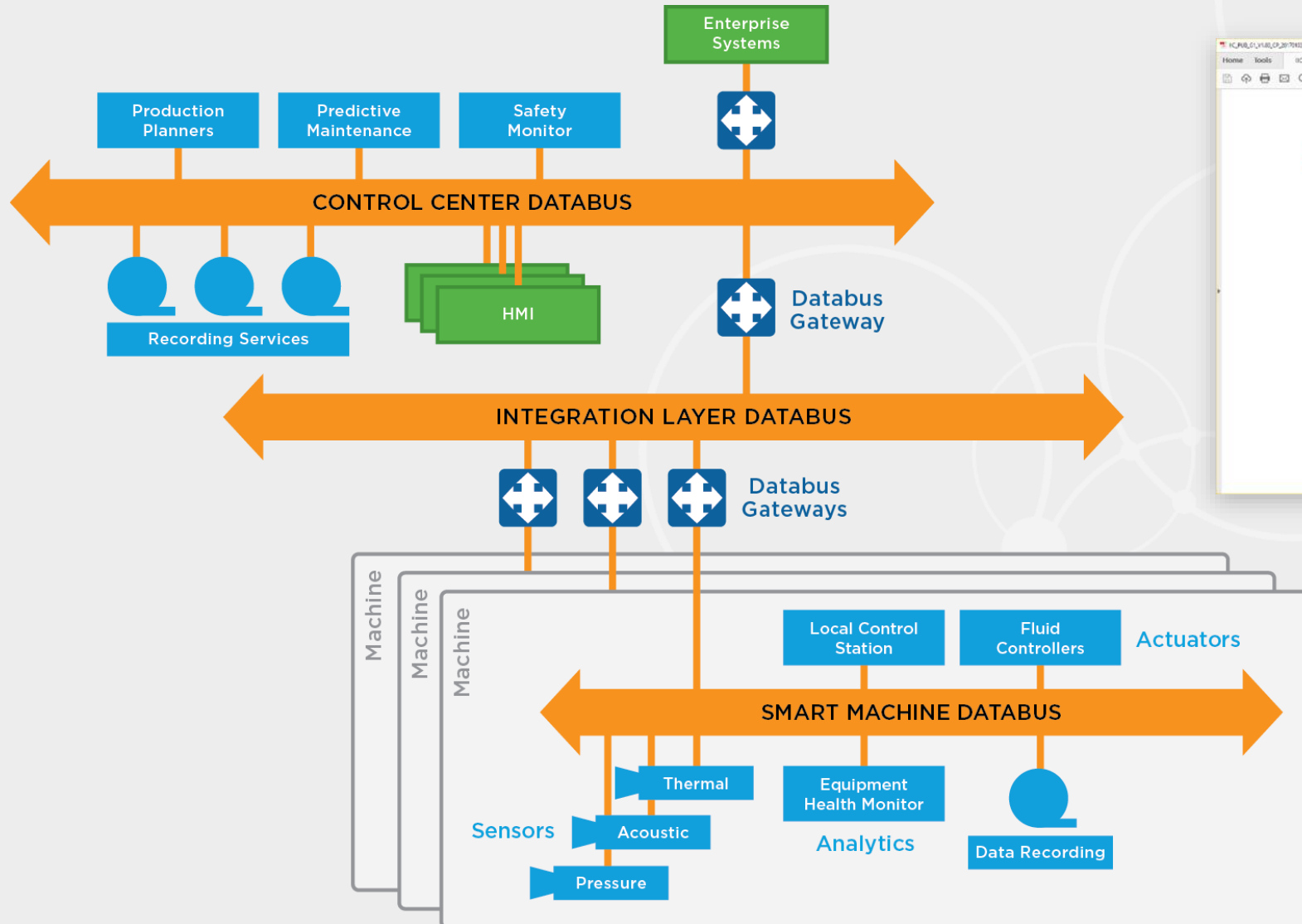


# DDS Security Plugins

- Based on OMG DDS Security spec
- Built-In Plugins
  - Little to no change required to DDS applications
- Optional SDK available to customize plugin behavior
- Runs over any transport
  - Does not require TCP or IP
  - Secure Multicast for scalability, low latency
- Completely decentralized
  - High performance and scalability
  - No single point-of-failure



# The IIC Layered Databus Architecture Pattern



# Why DDS ?

Data-centric

Naturally modular

Naturally scalable

Resiliency

High reliability

Maximum up-time

Performance

Minimum latency

Maximum throughput

Faster development

SOA-like architecture

Code re-use

Standards based

No vendor lock-in

Future proof

# Differences between DDS and HLA/DIS

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# DDS & HLA/DIS Differences

- Interoperability Wire Protocol
  - DDS has a standard Interoperability protocol (RTPS)
  - DIS has a standard wire protocol (IEEE-1278)
  - HLA has no wire protocol
- API
  - DDS has standard APIs (DDS-DCPS)
  - DIS has no standard for consistent APIs
  - HLA has a “Run-Time Infrastructure” API
- Real-Time Quality of Service
  - DDS has comprehensive support for more than 20 QoS policies
  - HLA/DIS have no real support for QoS (only area of interest, some reliability and rate-reduction)

# DDS & HLA/DIS Differences

- Presence & Discovery Services
  - DDS supports full presence, discovery and introspection of all participants, entities, types, QoS
  - HLA has limited support: Declaration Management and Disconnect notifications
- Simulation Services
  - DDS does not offer services specific to simulation
    - Although Time and Federation can be modeled in DDS
  - HLA supports simulation services:
    - Federation, Time, and Ownership Management

# DDS & HLA (non-functional) Differences

- Performance
  - DDS implementations have been benchmarked to have 40 usec one-way latency in standard Gbit Ethernet and throughput (for 256 B messages) close to the theoretical maximum of 1 Gbit/sec
  - HLA one-way latencies range from 300 usec to 30 msec and throughputs (for 256 B messages) on the order of 60 Mbit/sec
- Scalability
  - DDS implementations have benchmarked scalability up to 4000 participants (processes) with minimal degradation in throughput
- Applicability & Adoption
  - DDS is broadly applicable to real-time systems and is in use in many markets beyond simulation and A&D
  - HLA has more limited applicability limited to the simulation domain

# Using DDS in Modeling, Simulation & Training Systems

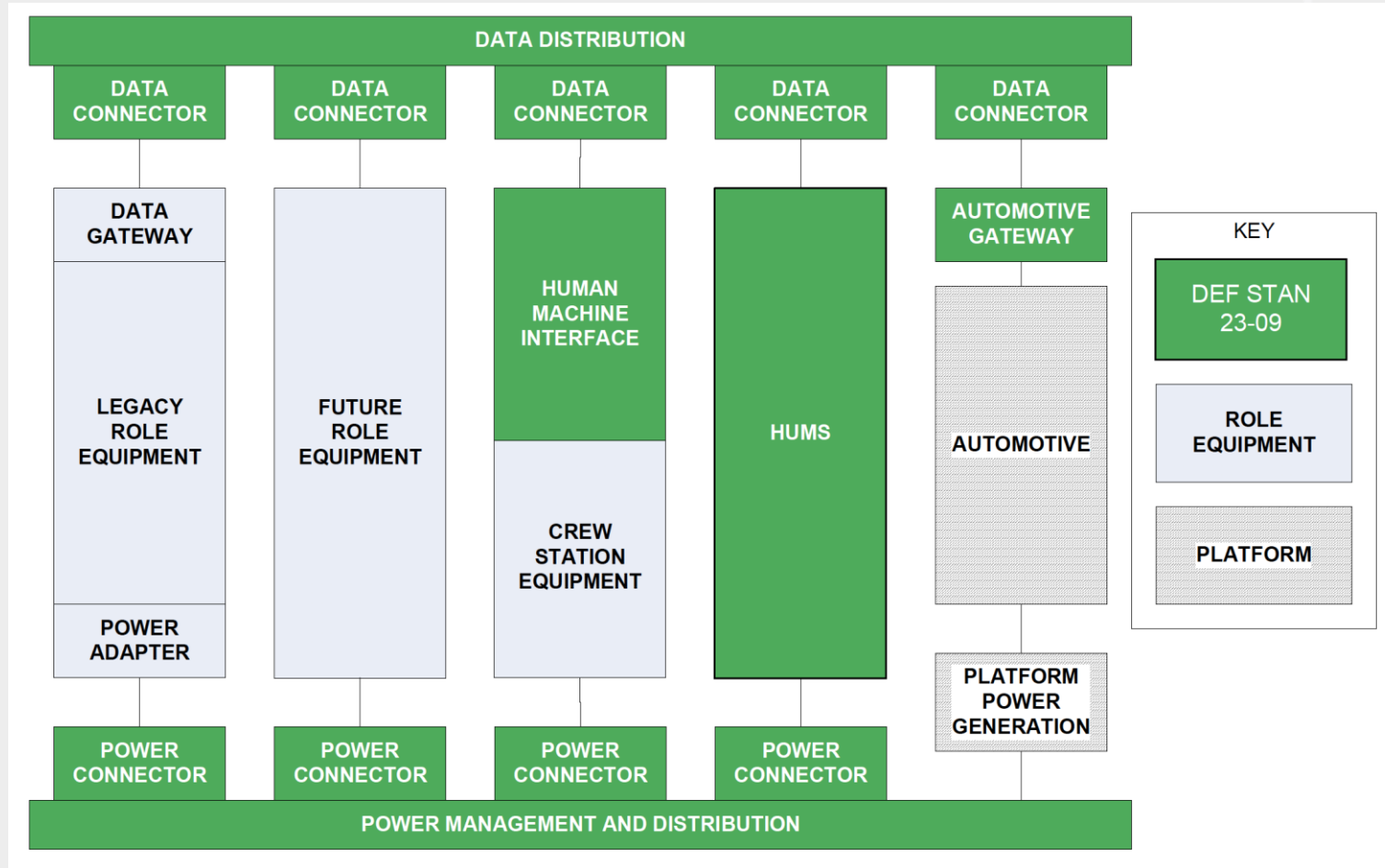
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# Why use DDS within distributed LVC simulations?

- 1) Take advantage of increased DDS performance
  - Superior DDS performance (e.g. versus HLA) translates into better simulation performance
- 2) Take advantage of DDS Security in new distributed simulations
  - Secure training and simulations over WAN and Cloud
  - Role based access allows for joint exercises between Coalition forces
- 3) Enables leveraging/integration of existing system software
  - Hundreds of A&D systems (Land, Sea and Air) are already being built using DDS
- 4) Enables leveraging of recorded mission data
  - Recorded data from actual mission execution could be combined with simulation data and be used for training

# UK MOD General Vehicle Architecture



GVA Interfaces and Boundaries (taken from Def-Stan 23-09)

- GVA mandates standards for common interfaces
  - Electronic
  - Power
  - Mechanical

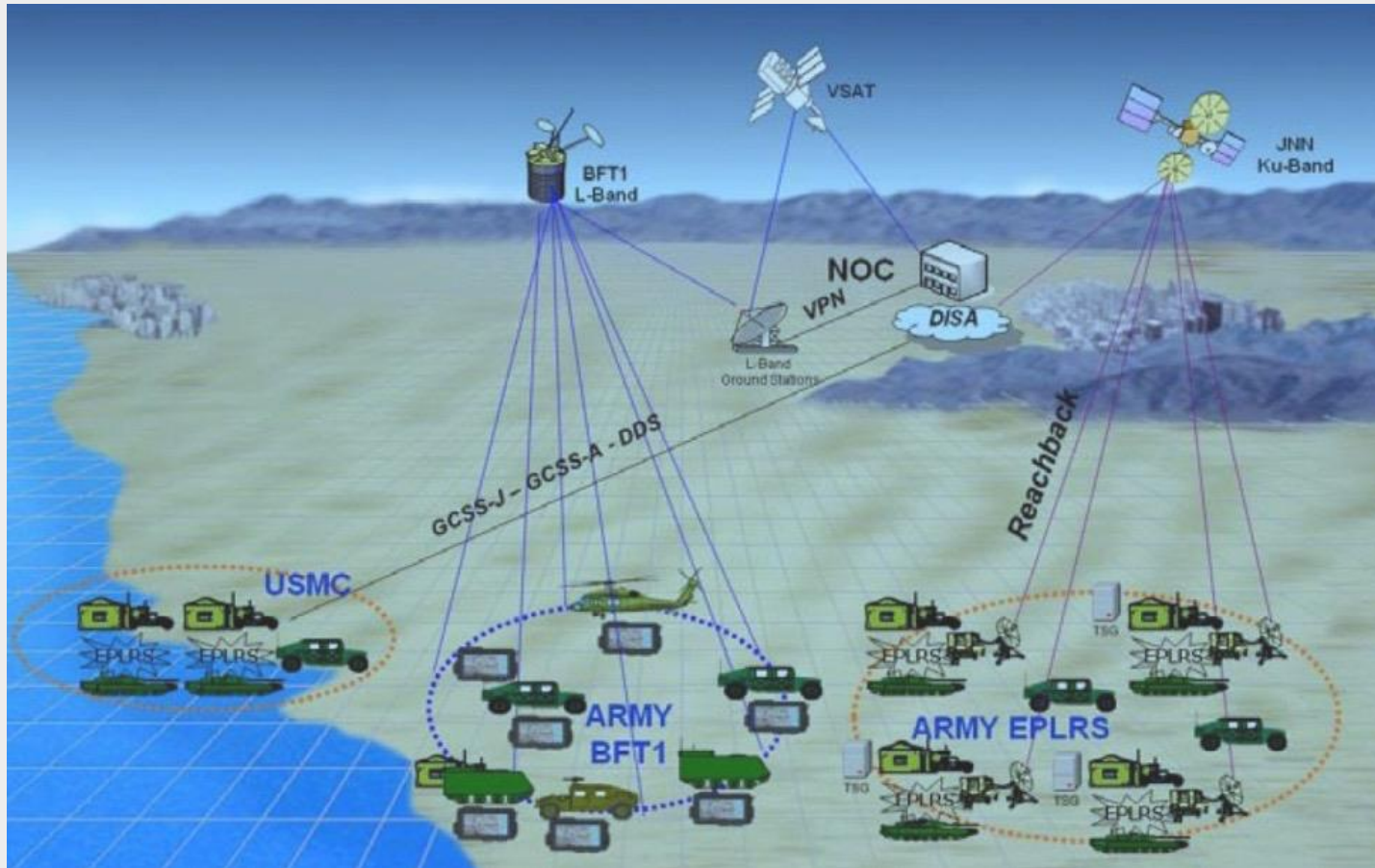


# US Navy Zumwalt DDG-1000



- Raytheon uses RTI middleware to control the Zumwalt Class Destroyer (DDG-1000)
- RTI DDS coordinates and manages complex, diverse onboard hardware and software systems
- RTI connects hundreds of computers, thousands of applications, and more than 10 million publish-subscribe pairs

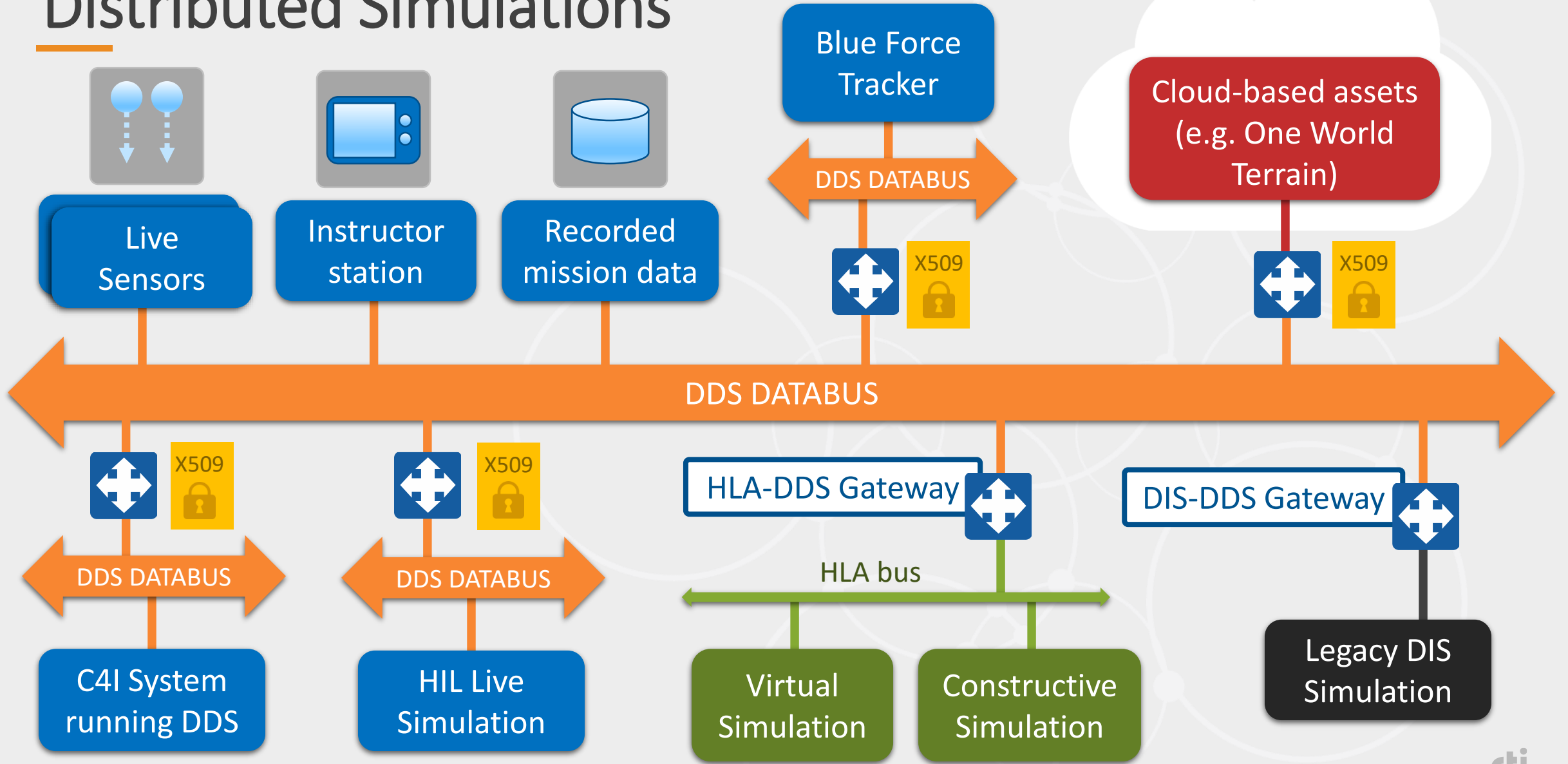
# Blue Force Tracker (JBC-P)



- The US Army's “Blue Force Tracker” collects tracking information vehicles and other assets over a wide area.
  - Able to track 250,000+ assets in real-time
  - Created to replace a less performant, proprietary system
- The DDS-based system analyzes all the tracks in a private cloud.



# Distributed Simulations



# Connecting HLA and DDS

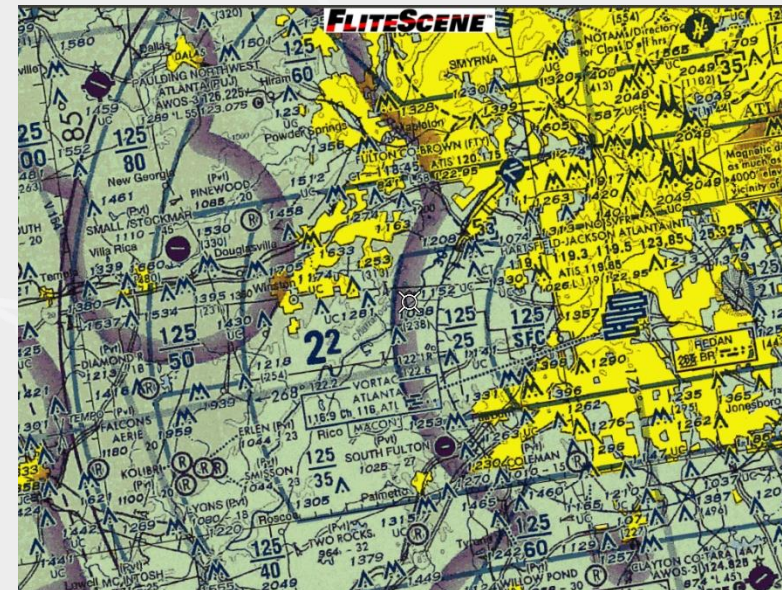


F18 HLA  
Federate

VR-Vantage  
Stealth

HLA Federation

Simulated F18 data to  
Harris FliteScene FACE  
UoC through RTI's DDS  
and FACE TSS



VR-Exchange

HLA – DDS  
gateway



This Routing Service serves as a gateway that:

- Bridges between two domains
- Converts between cartesian and lat-long coordinates

FACE  
Future Airborne Capability Environment

FACE TSS

DDS Databus

DDS Databus



# simpleBaseEntity visualization

RTI Administration Console

File View Visualization Help

DDS Logical View

type filter text

- FACE\_DM\_CHANGEVIEW
- FACE\_DM\_DISABLEOVERLAY
- FACE\_DM\_ENABLEOVERLAY
- FACE\_DM\_SETMAPSTATE
- FACE\_DM\_SETUNDERLAY
- FACE\_DM\_UPDATEOWNSHIPLOCA
- FACE\_DM\_UPDATEOWNSHIPMOVI
- Domain 1
  - simpleBaseEntity\_topic
  - simpleDetonationInteraction\_topic
  - simpleFireInteraction\_topic
- Domain 2

1: simpleBaseEntity\_topic

Unsubscribe Pause Subscription Select Fields...

type filter text

entityId	entityType	markingText	deadReckoningAlgorithm	instance_state	publication_han
1:2648:1	1:2:225:1...	MAK-VRLink-	DRAAlgorithm_DRM_RV...	ALIVE	c0a80191.0000189c.0c

Total Instances: 1. Throughput: 1 samples/second. Lost samples: 0

Match Graph Topic Data Endpoints Table Datatypes

Physical View

type filter text

- System
  - face-id
    - FliteScene : -557797922
    - FliteScene Test : Test : 9176
  - nova
    - RTI Connex Broker for VR-Link : 6300
    - VTMak\_to\_FliteScene : 13664
  - nova.rti.com

Time Chart 2

Value

Time

In live mode

Sample Inspector

DDS Data Type DDS QoS

type filter text on field names

Field	Value	Type
SampleData		simpleOM::simp...
entityId (Key)	1:2648:1	string<255>
entityType	1:2:225:1:9:0:0	string<255>
markingText	MAK-VRLink-	string<255>
location		simpleOM::Spati...
x	647822.8516334814	double
y	-5233965.358012241	double
z	3577207.6591899665	double
velocity		simpleOM::Spati...
x	918.935546875	double
y	292.24334716796875	double
z	255.73509216308594	double
acceleration		simpleOM::Spati...
x	37.20393371582031	double
y	-49.25521469116211	double
z	-78.67522430419922	double
rotationalVelocity		simpleOM::Spati...
x	0.0	double
y	0.04472136124968529	double
z	0.08944272249937057	double
orientation		simpleOM::TaitB...
psi	-2.7055406440173373	double
theta	-0.20812503593233878	double
phi	0.8810260131785002	double
deadReckoningAlgori	DRAAlgorithm_DRM_RVW (4)	simpleOM::DRAI...
damageState	DamageNone (0)	simpleOM::Dam...
forceld	ForceFriendly (1)	simpleOM::Forc...
frozen	false	boolean
SampleInfo		SampleInfo

Inspecting instance from Domain 1: simpleBaseEntity\_topic

# Conclusions

- DDS is a mature standard from OMG
  - Focuses on efficient data-distribution for real-time and high-performance systems
  - Mandated and Deployed worldwide in Military systems and other Demanding real-time applications
  - Platform neutral, with a Portable API and Interoperable Wire Protocol
  - Deployed DDS Security Specification
- DDS is an ideal platform for integration of training systems
  - Superior performance
  - Granular data security with pluggable architecture for customized protocols
  - Flexible & Evolvable Type System
  - Highly Tunable via Quality of Service (QoS)
  - Can easily integrate and reuse system software and mission data
- DDS could be used in combination with HLA/DIS types as a data-dictionary
  - Would leverage existing simulation object models plus DDS benefits



# Thank You

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