

Advances in Information Security

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Smart Micro-Grid Systems Security and Privacy



Springer

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*... To Scientists in the field of Cyber-Physical
Systems...*

Preface

People who work in the field of energy management have the pleasure of working on a topic whose results are visualisable and beneficial to society. There is also the payoff of knowing that economic growth, and perhaps even life as we know it, would be impossible without power or energy. Energy grid models play a crucial role in idealisations of real-world economies.

Until recently, however, energy grid management systems have largely remained the preserve of electrical engineers and researchers. Its concepts are not really esoteric or difficult, but they are relatively new to the computer science community, so it has taken a while to sort out the best ways of designing energy grids that can be controlled using a cyber system.

Now after more than 30 years of development, smart grids and micro-grid technologies have matured to the point where they are ready to take their place in discussions on computing that are centred on matters of security and privacy. This book is intended to provide an overview of some of the primary techniques that can be used to model adversarial scenarios in both smart grids and micro-grids. In designing energy systems to operate as a combination of a cyber (algorithms and software systems to control energy generation hardware) and physical system (energy generation components and grid), we now find ourselves having to handle aspects such as data manipulations to enable energy theft, masking adversarial behaviours as faulty behaviour, price signal manipulation, and inference of private user behaviours, to name but a few potential security and privacy vulnerabilities. The material covered, in terms of adversarial scenarios, draws from classical attacks centred on energy theft, misattribution, and grid destabilisation. The focus is on how these attacks, masked as system failures or component malfunctions, can be used to cause the breakdown of energy grids without drawing attention to the adversary.

We assume that the reader has some familiarity with basic concepts in computer science, security and privacy, and smart grid technologies. In a nutshell, the reader should be able to write programs and have some understanding of energy flow control manipulation. Otherwise, the book is intended to be self-contained.

This book is meant to be used as a reference manual for researchers and students, in need of concrete examples on how to model malicious scenarios in smart grids and micro-grids. The book can also be used to introduce graduate students to the field of security and privacy in smart grids and micro-grids. Supplemented by papers from the literature, the book can also serve as the basis for an introductory graduate course on cyber-physical systems, or as the basis for self-study by researchers in the fields of cyber-physical systems, resource constrained computing, and smart grids/micro-grids, who want access to the literature in this field.

Related Books Related texts include *Smart Grid Infrastructure and Networking* by Iniewski; *Distributed Algorithms* by Lynch; *Introduction to Algorithms* by Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest, and Stein; and *Fault Tolerance in Distributed Systems* by Jalote. This book could be considered as supplementary to each of these in studying smart grids/micro-grids particularly ones in which management is distributed.

How to Use This Book Since readers of this book are likely to come from different backgrounds, being aware of the implicit structure of this book might be helpful. With this in mind, Chap. 1 puts the material of the book into perspective and will help readers understand the basic objectives of the book as well as the role of the remaining chapters in meeting those objectives. Chapters 2 and 3 are focused on presenting attacks and countermeasures on state estimation, as well as an example of an authentication protocol in smart grids. Chapter 4 presents a survey of potential vulnerabilities in authentication protocols for smart grids highlighting the similarities with standard authentication systems. Chapters 5–7 discuss micro-grid architectures, focusing on the special case of resource constrained smart micro-grids. Resource constrained smart micro-grids are a special case of micro-grids designed to operate autonomously in rural/remote environments where connectivity to standard smart micro-grids is logistically or economically infeasible. Since such micro-grids are typically supported by a lossy communications network, adversarial scenarios must be modelled to account for unreliability, and special properties of flow control identified in order to differentiate benign faulty behaviours from malicious attempts at subversion.

We hope that you will find this book rewarding in many ways, and that it will serve as a basis for even more exciting discoveries on this topic.

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Anne V. D. M. Kayem
Christoph Meinel
Stephen D. Wolthusen

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