

Highly available KNX networks



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#### **Problem and Motivation**

- KNX: Home- and Building Automation System used for services considered 'uncritical' like heating, ventilation, ...
- Critical applications like elevation control, access control or burglar alarms are based on dedicated systems
- Idea: unify critical and uncritical systems into one system to reduce maintenance costs
- Problem: no unified concept for providing the full CIA triad
   AND high availability at disposal

## **Design Goals**

- Provide high-availability by utilizing independent communication lines and independent bus interfaces
- Also provide confidentiality and integrity by implementing strong cryptographic mechanisms
- Keep interoperatbility in mind by using 'plug-and-play' functionality
- Keep protocol overhead as small as possible
- Provide a prototype as proof-of-concept

## **Computational Security - the 'CIA Triad' System Availability** System Availability To increase availability: UP **System State** Achieve high reliability Keep 'mean-time-to-repair' low Protect network from DOS attacks Guard against transient hardware faults **DOWN** Time Time **Availability** Keep passive attackers out Keep active attackers out by by utilizing strong encryption using message authentication to ide exact topology from attacker codes to detect injection of and make traffic analysis difficult arbitrary or replayed packages

### **Protocol Overview**

Syncronization Service for distributing global counter to assure data freshness

Sync Request

Sync Response

Discovery Service to achieve end-to-end encryption with perfect forward secrecy

Discovery Request

Discovery Response

Data Service for secure communication

# **Operational Overview**

2. Gateway determines responsible remote gateways and establishes independent asymmetric point-to-point session keys for both communication lines

3. Gateway encrypts and

1. Standard KNX device

3. Gateway encrypts and wraps original package into two independent KNX packages, destined for the responsible remote gateway

5. E

4. The two packages are sent

independently from each other

5. Based on a counter, the receiving gateway discards the duplicate, and forwards the decrypted original message to the intendted final destination

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