



{code & compliance}

FOSDEM EDITION

EV-CRA Charge with Compliance

Achim Friedland // GraphDefined GmbH

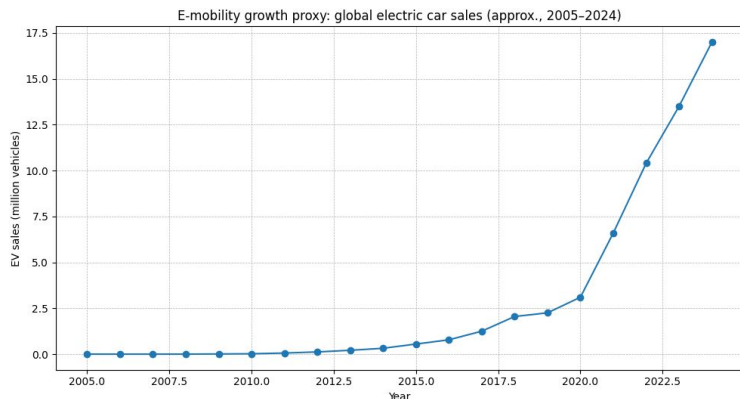
29. January 2026

EV-CRA Charge with Compliance



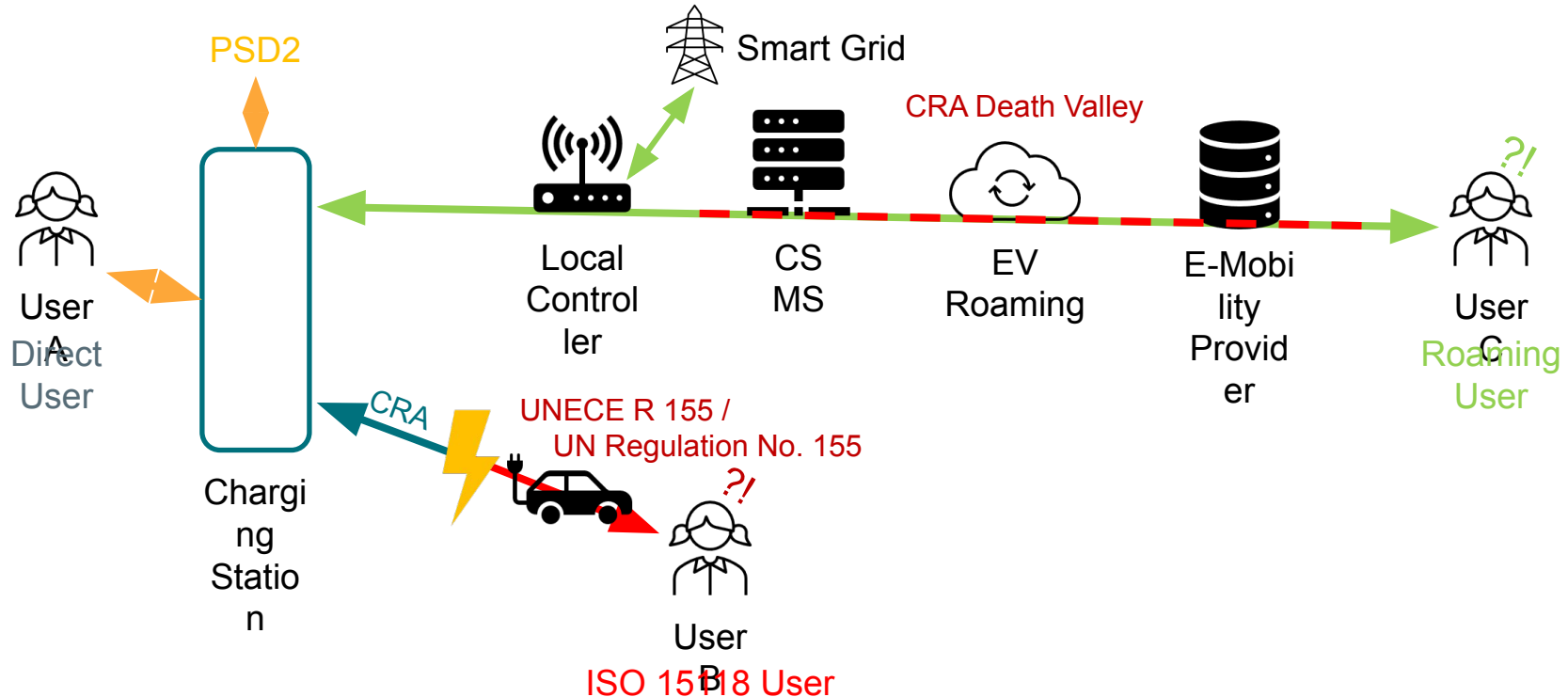
- EV Charging is no longer a niche **Internet-of-broken-Things** topic
- EV Charging is now **critical digital infrastructure**
- This talk is about **architecture**, not legal interpretation
- CRA and NIS2 are treated as **design constraints**, not paperwork

E-Mobility in a nutshell

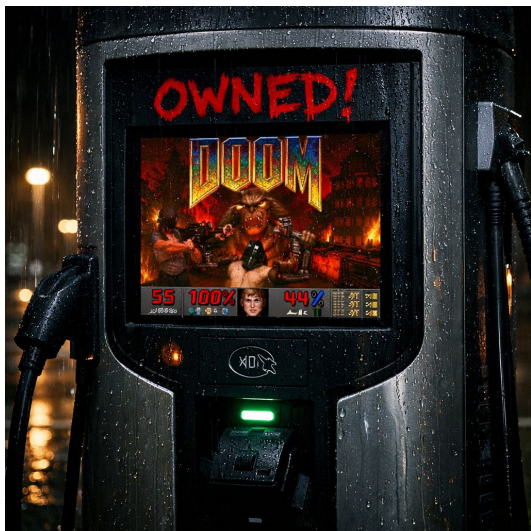


- Fast deployment, weak foundations, *“ship-and-forget”* mentality.
- Security, resilience, updateability, lifecycle and auditability are all *vendor-specific secondary concerns*.
- This created *long-term technical debt*.

EV Operational Environments



When specs fail to produce trust



- RFID/AutoCharge
 - ~Secure technology, insecure context/environment
- German Calibration Law (Eichrecht)
 - Formal compliance, no driver benefits
- ISO 15118
 - Cryptography on the charging cable... only
- EU Radio Equipment Directive (EU RED)
 - Manufacturers prefer to disable features, instead of securing them!

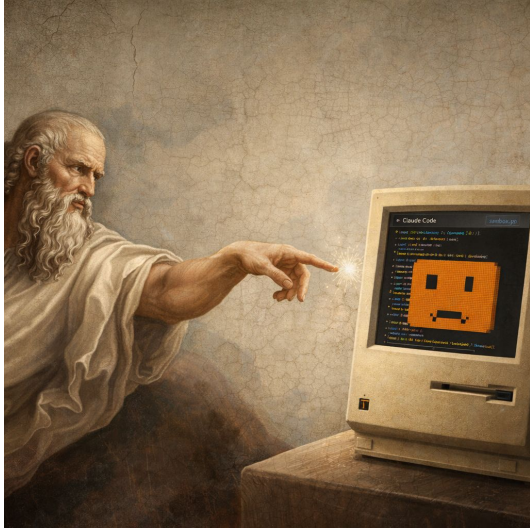
When specs fail to produce trust



- Security \neq Deployed Security
- Compliance \neq Trust
- Intent \neq Evidence

Once released, specs ossify asap and lame manufacturer excuses take over.

Regulation becomes design input



- Security & Resilience are no longer *“best effort”*.
- Both must be **designed in** and **provable**.
- Regulations now constrain **architecture**, **product lifecycle development** and **day-to-day operations**.

Uncomfortable questions for engineers



- What must be enabled/disabled by default?
- What must be observable?
- What must be provable years later?
- Ad-hoc answers don't scale!

The uncomfortable reality for regulators



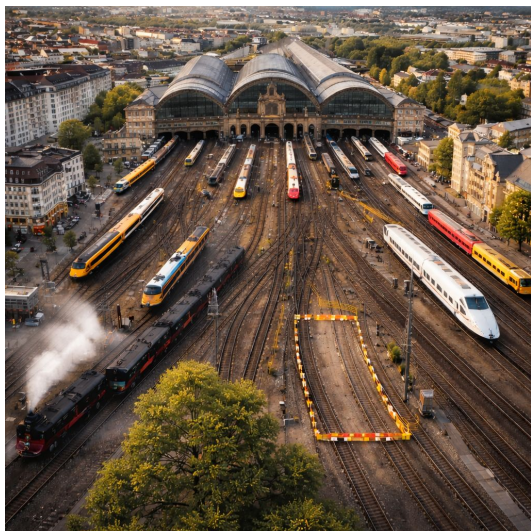
- Security & resilience are **cross-manufacturer obligations**, not single manufacturer concerns.
- CRA/NIS2 should be **interoperable** between manufacturers of the **same product type**, otherwise security & resilience often fails.
- Inconsistent deployments increase systemic risk under NIS2.

Open-Source Protocols as compliance surfaces



- Products & services implement some open-source **management protocol**, e.g. *Open Charge Point Protocol by the Open Charge Alliance (a CRA OSS Steward?)*
- Protocol encodes key assumptions, syntax, behavior, message formats, state machines, error semantics, ...
- **Defaults** matter more than options
- Missing primitives → **incompatible vendor hacks**

Technical specs break under regulation



- Same protocol, **too many roles.**
- Same protocol, **very different acceptable risks!**
- Regulations care about **what runs in production**, not **what's somehow "possible"**.
- Protocol \neq deployment
- Mechanics \neq responsibility

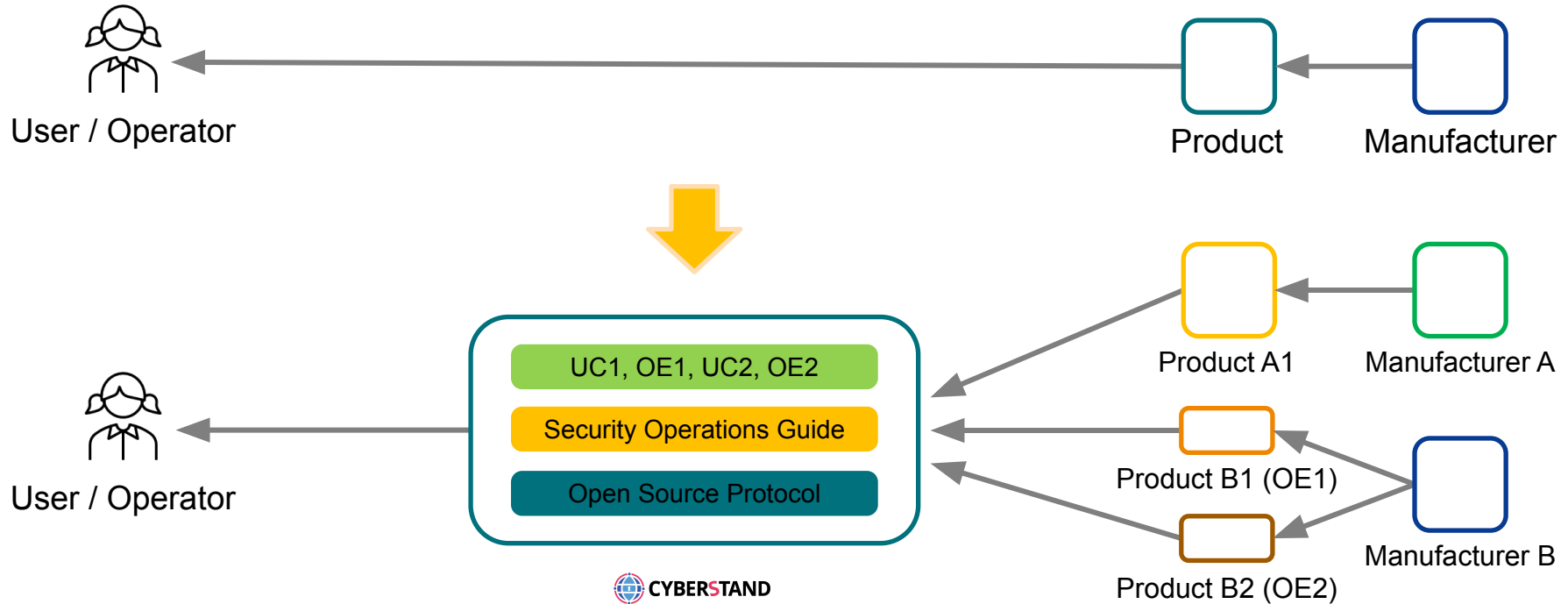
Security Operations Guide



<https://openchargealliance.org/ocpp-info-whitepapers/security-operations-guide/>

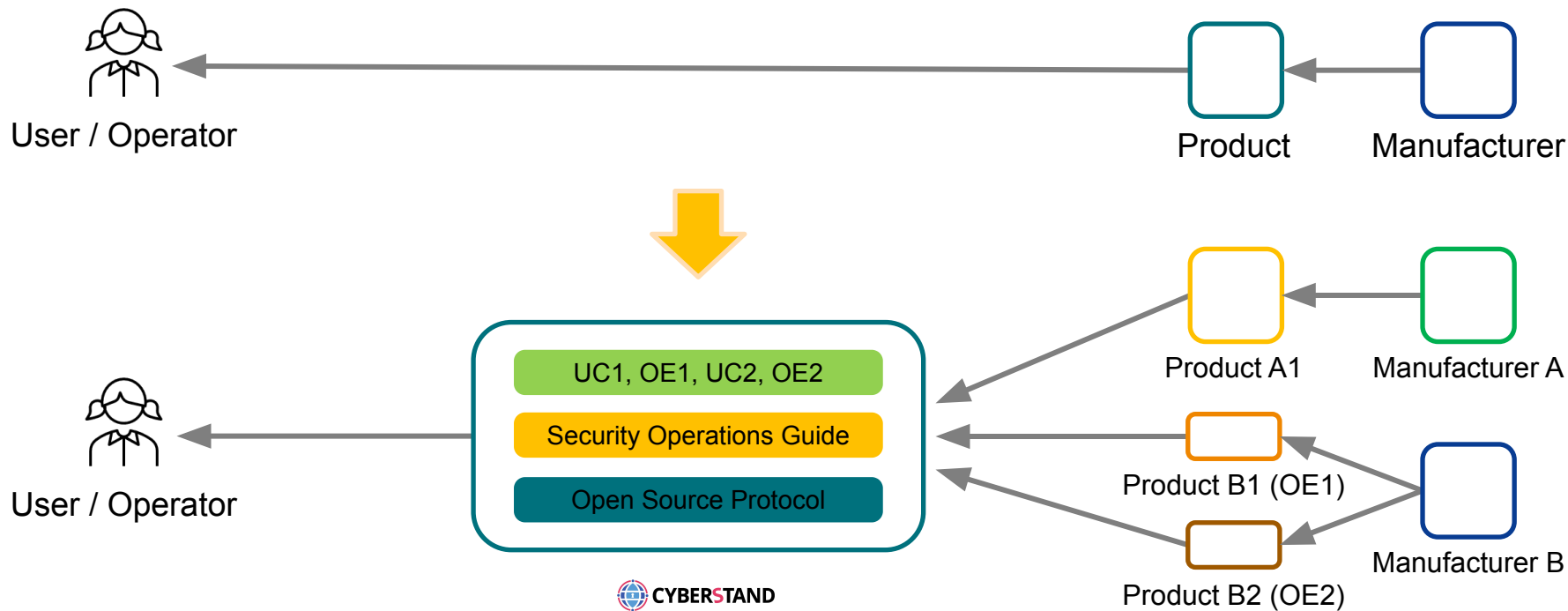
- Narrows down the protocol specification for the given **use case** in the given **operational environment**.
- Anchors **operational duties**.
- Describes **risks, mitigations, defaults, observable controls, evidence expectations** (~90% of obligations).
- Keeps **interoperability stable**, while **allowing security and resilience to evolve**.

A horizontal blueprint for vertical standards

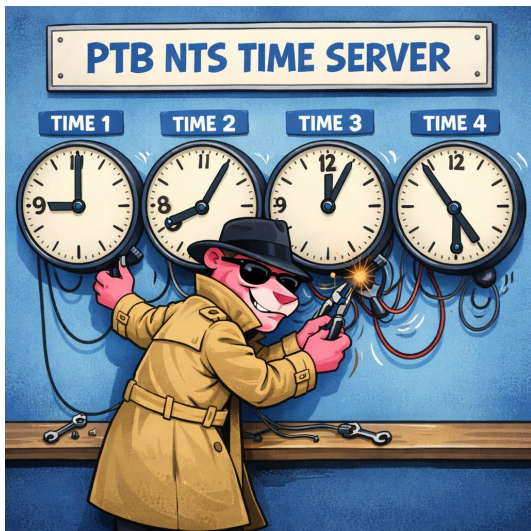


A horizontal blueprint for ~~vertical~~ standards

a CRA Article 25 “Voluntary Security Attestation Framework”?



CRA / NIS2 lives outside our protocol stacks!



- When we consume a *product* or a *service* our tooling, automation, and trust assumptions usually start on the TCP/IP networking layer: <https://charging.station>
- *Governance, security, resilience, vulnerabilities, ...* remain *out-of-band, non-machine-readable* scattered across documentation, if mentioned at all.
- Is this still acceptable for *state-of-the-art* digital infrastructure?

**THE 8TH
LAYER!**

CRA
delegates
acts

Physical

Data Link

Network

Transport

Session

Transport Security

Session

Presentation

Application

1 Layer 1



PROVABLE
SECURITY

EVIDENCE
NOT CLAIMS

LAYER 8.

TRUST & GOVERNANCE

- Lifecycle Responsibility
- Evidence Over Claims
- Vulnerability Handling
- Secure Defaults & Updates

ISO
15118
actes



ISO
Modbus

**THE 8TH
LAYER!**

CRA
delegates
acts

Physical

Data Link

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ISO
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THE 8TH
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Physical

Data Link

Netw

CRA
delegates
acts

to be continued...



FOSDEM

CRA in practice Devroom

Saturday 15:30

- Lifecycle Responsibility
- Evidence Over Claims
- Vulnerability Handling
- Secure Defaults & Updates

BLE
ITY
NCE
IMS

ISO
modbus