



Pacific Northwest
NATIONAL LABORATORY

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VOLTTRON™: 1.0 – 4.0 and Beyond

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VOLTTRON™ 2016

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Overview



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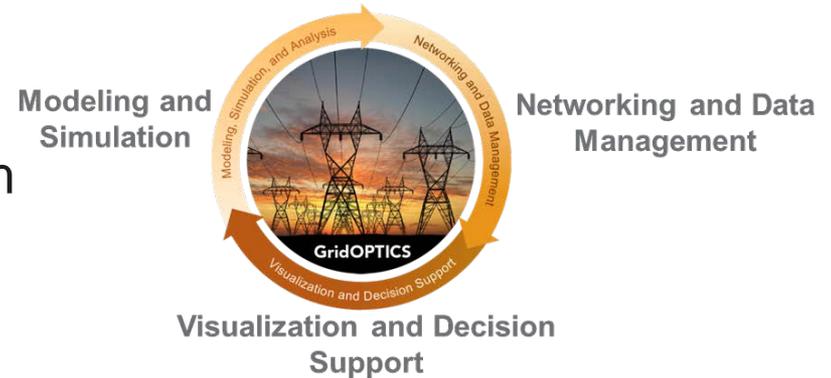
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- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ Internal Development
- ▶ DOE Development
- ▶ Future



PNNL Internal Development

- ▶ 2010 Future Power Grid Initiative
- ▶ Proposed to deploy intelligence into the Smart Grid using an agent platform
- ▶ No existing platforms met the needs
 - Security
 - Resource management
- ▶ Create a design document laying out platform and use cases
- ▶ Developed proof-of-concept simulations
- ▶ Develop prototype platform
- ▶ Deploy in instrumented home





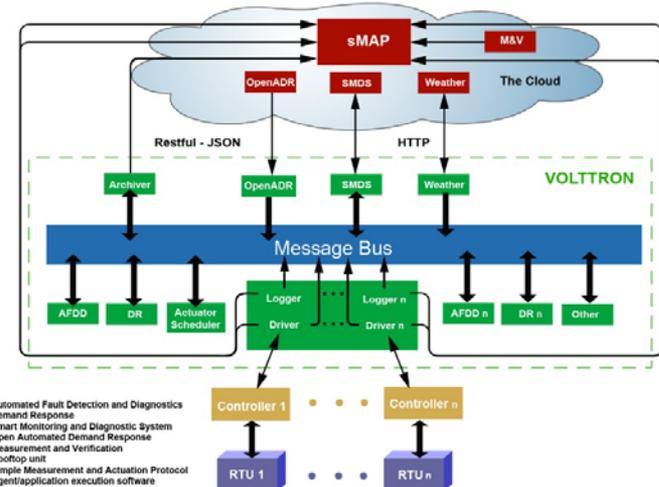
RTU Network Project

▶ Integrating platform for RTU Network Project

- Coordinate behavior of rooftop HVAC units
- Deploy researcher control algorithms
- Provide single point of contact for
 - Appliances
 - Data historian
 - External resources

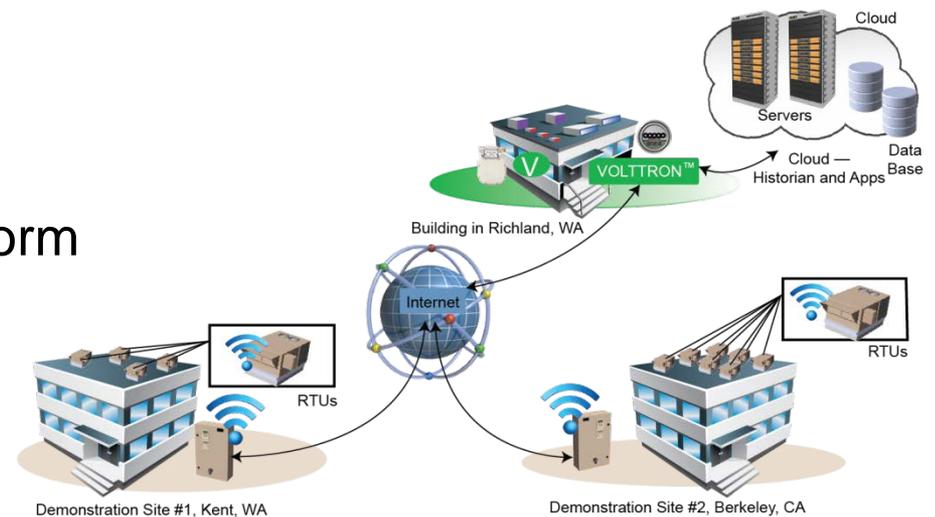
▶ Platform supported applications developed by

- ORNL
- LBNL
- PNNL



VOLTTRON™ 1.0 – 1.2

- ▶ VOLTTRON™ platform based on PNNL research and needs of the RTU Network project
 - Open Source Reimplementation excluding patented features
 - Integrates researcher applications, devices, and cloud applications and resources
- ▶ 1.0 Focused on building up the framework
 - Agent execution environment
 - Basic platform services
 - Modbus driver
- ▶ 1.2 Expanded capabilities of platform
 - BACnet support
 - Multi-node communication
 - Released on GitHub



- ▶ 2.0 Incorporated PNNL IP from the original research
 - Different license: Free for buildings domain (we refer to this as “restricted” code)
- ▶ Resource monitoring
 - Agents must present an execution contract to the platform stating their resource requirements
 - Platform rejects agents which it cannot support
 - Expandable framework for specify additional resources
- ▶ Agent signing and verification
- ▶ Agent Mobility
 - Admin can send an agent to another platform for deployment/updating
 - Agent can request to move
 - Agent can bring along working files as part of ‘mutable luggage’
 - Receiving platform verifies agent package and examines resource contract before executing agent

- ▶ Improve the modularity, flexibility and manageability of the VOLTTRON™ platform
 - Lets people use whatever technology they want
 - Makes it easier to contribute back new drivers, storage/historian strategies, other services
- ▶ Message Bus Refactor – VOLTTRON Interconnect Protocol
 - Increase Security
 - Simplify multi-node communication
- ▶ Bring VOLTTRON™ closer to acceptance by vendor community and for commercial deployments
 - Need to gain visibility into system
 - Upgrade remotely
 - Easy way of seeing the status/resources of the platform especially when managing multiple systems
 - Address feedback from FY14 User and Vendor engagements

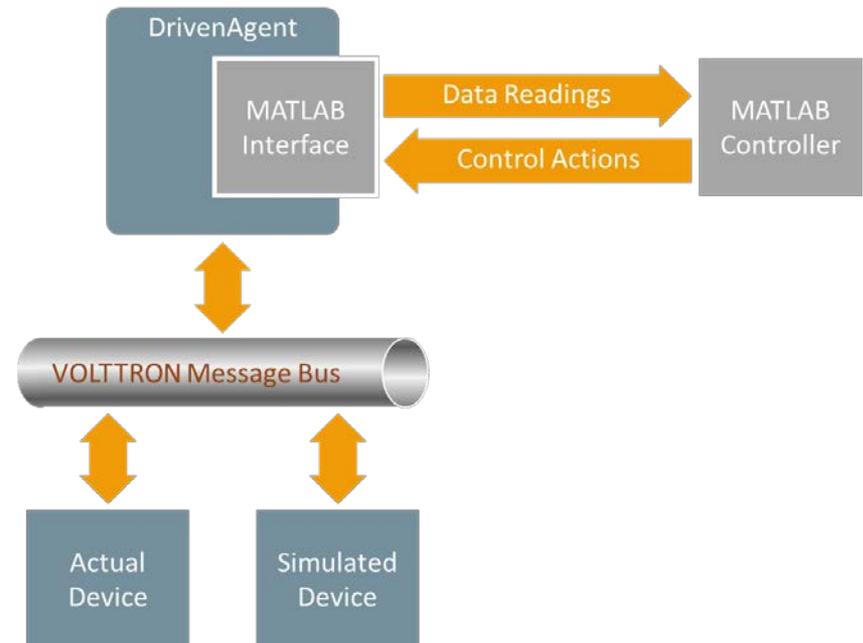
VOLTTRON™ 4.0

- ▶ VOLTTRON™ 3.5 released as a preview of VOLTTRON™ 4.0
- ▶ VOLTTRON™ Management Central enhancement
 - Web API to enable visualizations
 - Simplify UI for managing instances
- ▶ Continue to enhance VOLTTRON™ security
 - Authorize agents' access to capabilities
 - Containerization
- ▶ Utilize VOLTTRON™ as a way to increase security of underlying platform
 - Cyber Operations
- ▶ Community priorities
 - Common capability needs expressed by community



Integration with Simulations

- ▶ Allow for development and validations of algorithms working against simulated buildings
- ▶ Allow applications to work against real buildings with no code changes
- ▶ Some researchers more familiar with MATLAB
 - Develop and test application before paying cost to move to another language (Python)





VOLTRON™ Timeline Highlights

2014

VOLTRON™ developed
(9-2012)

Deployed in PNNL electric vehicle demo
(1-2014)

Deployed in DOE Transactive Network Project with participation from LBNL and ORNL
(3-2014)

Released as open source software
(4-2014)

Implemented in BEMOSS building operating system
(Spring 2014)

First DOE-sponsored VOLTRON™ user forum
(7-2014)

Release of Version 2.0
(9-2014)

VOLTRON™ workshop hosted by Consortium for Building Energy Innovation
(10-2014)

2015

2016

Spring

Summer

Used by QualityLogic to implement transactive node
(Spring 2015)

Second DOE-sponsored VOLTRON™ user forum
(7-2015)

Release of Version 3.0
(9-2015)

Deployed by NREL in Energy Systems Integration Facility
(12-2015)

Deployment by Transformative Wave in Northwest buildings

Application in DOE Transactive Campus Project

Deployment by Intellimation in two D.C. buildings

Use as central technology in DOE BIRD-IP program

Use in 10 DOE Grid Mod Laboratory Consortium projects

Launch of Portland State University course

Use in first DOE-funded Connected Buildings Challenge

Third DOE-sponsored VOLTRON™ user forum
(8-2016)

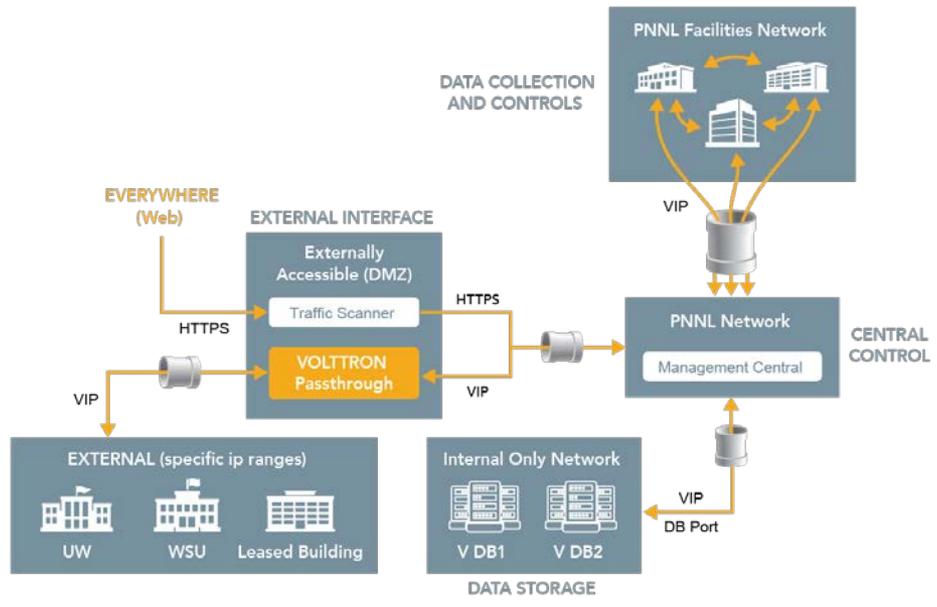
Planned release of Version 4.0
(9-2016)

- Development/Technical Milestones
- Releases
- Forums/Meetings



VOLTTRON™ in Use

- ▶ Clean Energy Transactive Campus
 - Collecting data from multiple buildings on campus
 - Making data available to external partners
- ▶ BIRD-IP
 - 14 student teams using VOLTTRON in research projects
- ▶ Commercial Companies deploying VOLTTRON™
- ▶ Grid Modernization Lab Consortium
- ▶ Connected Buildings Challenge
- ▶ Portland State University Course



- ▶ Focus on increasing readiness for campus wide and commercial deployments
 - Data Assurance
- ▶ Increase ease of managing VOLTTRON™ deployment
- ▶ Implementation of Data Model
 - Reference topics by meta data to enable dynamic discovery
- ▶ Continued IoT integration (Azure and AWS)
- ▶ Technical Support and Outreach
 - Office Hours
 - Library of tutorial videos

VOLTTRON™ Resources



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- ▶ GitHub
 - <https://github.com/VOLTTRON/volttron.git>
- ▶ Email: volttron@pnnl.gov
- ▶ Bi-weekly office hours, email to be added
 - <http://bgintegration.pnnl.gov/volttronofficehours.asp>