



UNITED STATES  
NAVAL ACADEMY

Annapolis



# Lessons Learned from Teaching a Maritime Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Course

Brien Croteau, USNA, Cyber Science  
IEEE LCN - MarCaS, 05 Oct 2023



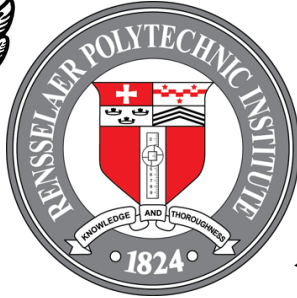
Link to materials:

[https://github.com/brienc23/  
MICS\\_Course\\_Materials](https://github.com/brienc23/MICS_Course_Materials)

# My Background

**Disclaimer: All my own opinions, not those of the DoD, US Navy, or USNA**

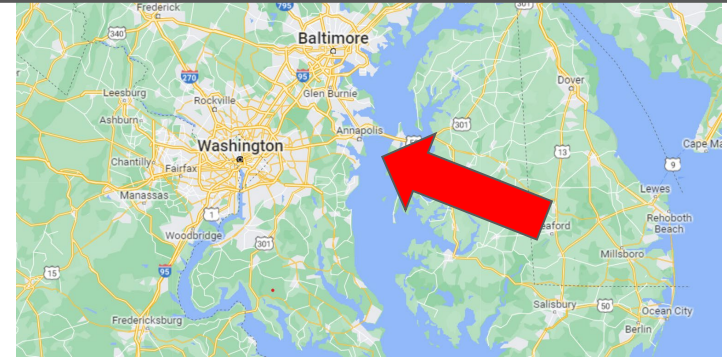
24-year Active Duty Naval Officer, EE Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, USNA Cyber Science Department  
Military Deputy for the Dean of Math and Science



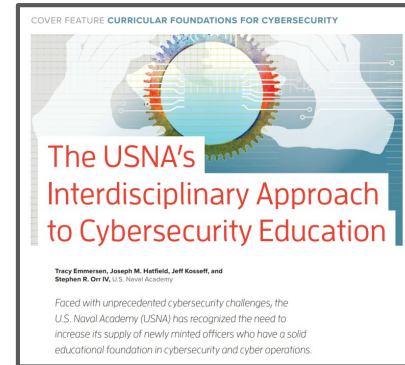
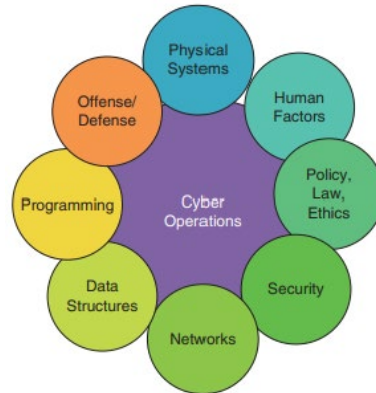
Research in Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Security: Detection of malicious sensors using side-channel power analysis, Alternate actuation paths, Actuation limits, Industrial Control Systems (ICS) security, Maritime Hull, Mechanical, & Electrical (HM&E) security

# About the U. S. Naval Academy

- Located in Annapolis, MD
- One of Five Federal Military Academies
  - feeding the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps
- Approx. 4500 students and 600 Faculty
  - 300 civilian, 300 military
- 26 Majors
  - 65% graduates must be STEM majors



Cyber Operations:  
Interdisciplinary  
Major

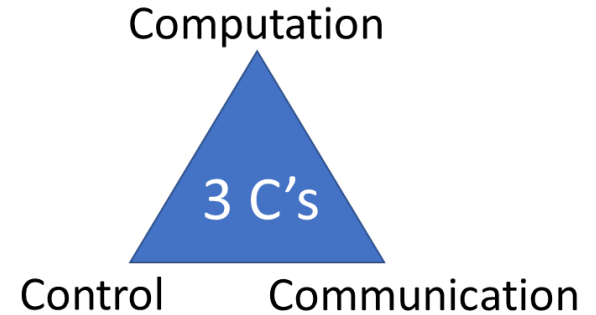


<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/8677342>



My umbrella term of choice = CPS

Cyber-Physical Systems



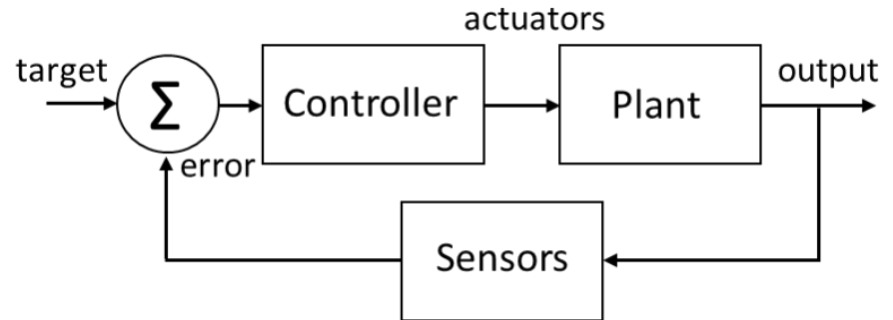
Other Monikers:

OT = Operational Technology

ICS = Industrial Control Systems

Industry 4.0, IIoT

SCADA



# Why should you care about this?

threat **post** Cloud Security / Malware / Vulnerabilities / InfoSec Insider

**Researcher: Not Hard for a Hacker to Capsize a Ship at Sea**

**Mashable** TECH ▼ SCIENCE ▼ SOCIAL GOOD ▼

Remotely hacking ships shouldn't be this easy, and yet ...

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**MARINE SAFETY ALERT**  
Inspections and Compliance Directorate

July 8, 2019  
Washington, D.C.

Safety Alert 06-19

*Cyber Incident Exposes Potential Vulnerabilities Onboard Commercial Vessels*



USS Fitzgerald 17 Jun 2017, 7 sailors



USS McCain 21 Aug 2017, 10 sailors

These were not caused by cyber attacks, but show the devastating potential consequences

# Course Motivation



To allow undergraduate students to learn and gain hands-on experience with Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) and then investigate the unique cybersecurity challenges in CPS.

To provide a relevant application focus, the subdomain of Maritime Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity was chosen since most of our graduates will go on to serve on ships and submarines.

# Course Outline

- Course Introduction
- Maritime Systems
  - Propulsion
  - Electrical
  - Auxiliaries
  - Bridge
- Industrial Control Systems
  - PLCs
  - Ladder Logic
  - Modbus
  - Attacking (and Defending)
- Final Project
  - YP703 Alarms and Monitoring

Week	Lecture	Lab
1	Class Introduction	Intro Video
2	Ship Propulsion Systems	VER Install & Startup
3	Ship Electrical Systems	VER Power Plant
4	Ship Water Systems	VER Aux Systems
5	Ship Nav and Bridge Systems	Bridge Cmd Install
6	Intro to PLCs	Exam 1
7	Intro to Ladder Logic	CCW Instal, LL 1
8	Adv. Ladder Logic	More LL
9	ICS Protocols (part 1)	Modbus RS-232
10	ICS Protocols (part 2)	Modbus RS-485/TCP
11	Attacking ICS (part 1)	Attacking ICS
12	Attacking ICS (part 2)	Exam #2
13	YP703 Systems Overview	YP Field Trip
14	YP Project Intro	HILICS Install
15	YP Project work	YP Status Update
16	YP Project Work	Project Demo





# Marine Systems Lectures - Electrical

## ● Components

- Generators
- Switchboards
- Bus Bars
- Circuit Breakers
- Transformers
- Others
  - Switches
  - Fuses
  - Instrument
  - Motors, etc.

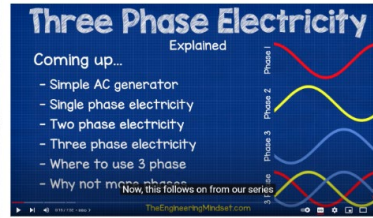
- Three-Phase Power
- Electrical Safety
- Inside Switch Boards
- Distribution

### Generators

Shipboard power is generated using a prime mover and an alternator working together. International maritime regulations (e.g. SOLAS), require at least two generators for a ship's main electrical power system. AC power is preferred over DC as it gives more power for the same size. Three phases is preferred over single phase as provides more overall power and in the event of failure of one phase, other 2 can still work.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnH\\_ifcRJa4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnH_ifcRJa4)



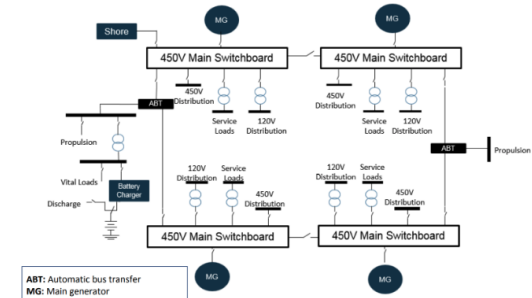
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oRT7PoXSSQ>

### Busbars (or Bus Bars)

In electric power distribution, a busbar is a metallic strip or bar, typically housed inside switchgear, panel boards, and busway enclosures for local high current power distribution. They are generally uninsulated, and have sufficient stiffness to be supported in air by insulated pillars. These features allow sufficient cooling of the conductors, and the ability to tap in at various points without creating a new joint.




### Electrical Distribution - Example 2



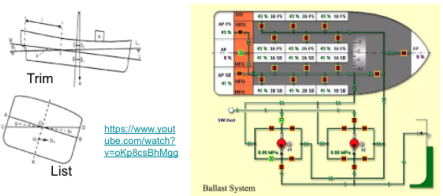
# Marine Systems Lectures - Auxiliary (Water Systems)

- Ballast
- Cooling
- Fire Mains
- Potable Water
  - Evaporator
  - Reverse Osmosis
- Wastewater
  - Greywater
  - Blackwater

### Ballast



Ballast is used in ships to provide moment to resist the lateral forces on the hull. Insufficiently ballasted boats tend to tip or heel excessively in high winds. Too much heel may result in the vessel capsizing. If a sailing vessel needs to voyage without cargo, then ballast of little or no value will be loaded to keep the vessel upright. Some or all of this ballast will then be discarded when cargo is loaded. The advantage of water ballast is that the tanks can be emptied, reducing draft or the weight of the boat (e.g. for transport on ground) and water added back in (in small boats, simply by opening up the valves and letting the water flow in) after the boat is launched or cargo unloaded.

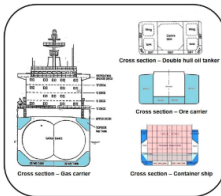


Trim

List

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oKp8c8BhMgq>

Ballast System



Cross section - Double hull oil tanker


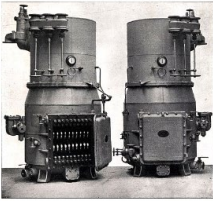
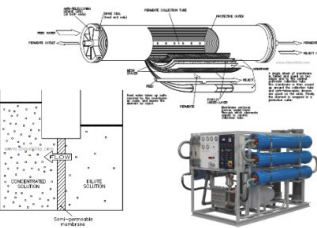
Cross section - Gas carrier

Cross section - Container ship

### Potable Water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k56fflNJ8M>

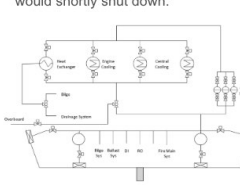
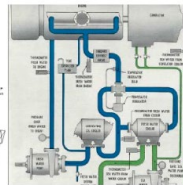

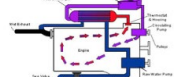
Freshwater may be obtained from shore mains supply or water barge. Alternatively, the majority of ships employ an **evaporator** system that uses distillation, or a pressurised filtering system which uses **reverse osmosis** to convert seawater into potable water.

### Cooling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii1V201oFI>

The main and auxiliary seawater cooling systems pull water off the vessel through hull valves to provide cooling water to heat exchangers. These valves are located sufficiently below the water line to prevent vapor locking the pumps. Key components to the main and auxiliary seawater systems are the main feed pumps, inductors, strainers, electro-hydraulic through hull valves, expansion tanks, piping, heat exchangers, and any subsystems used to prevent internal pipe biological growth. Without main and auxiliary seawater cooling systems such as propulsion, power generation, and compressed air, a vessel would shortly shut down.

### Wastewater

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z7bTmZVPTI>

**Greywater** refers to wastewater generated from streams without fecal contamination, i.e., all streams except for the wastewater from toilets.

**Blackwater** in a sanitation context denotes wastewater from toilets which likely contains pathogens that may spread by the fecal-oral route. Blackwater can contain feces, urine, water and toilet paper from flush toilets.

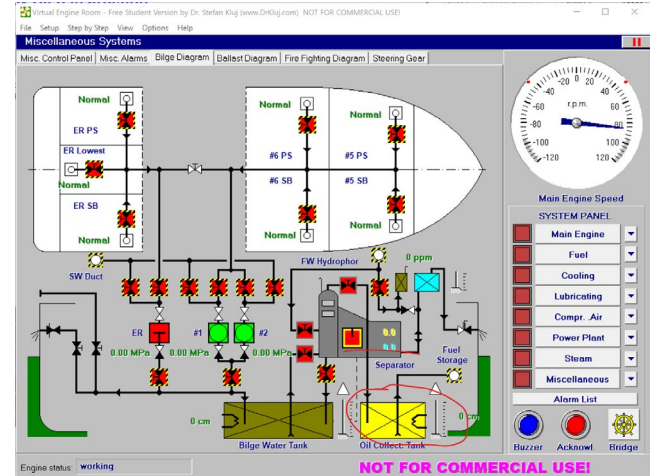
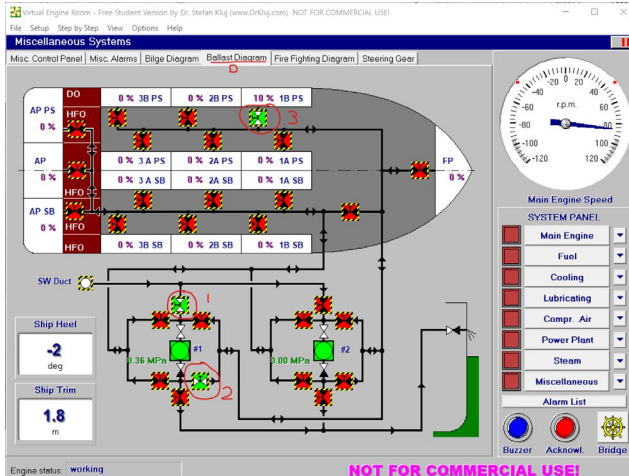
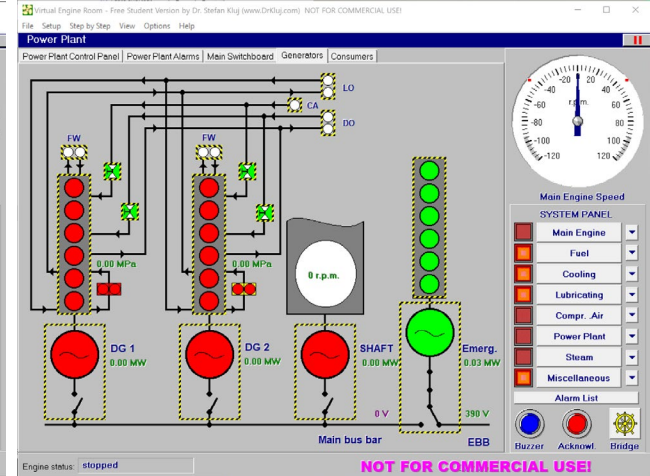
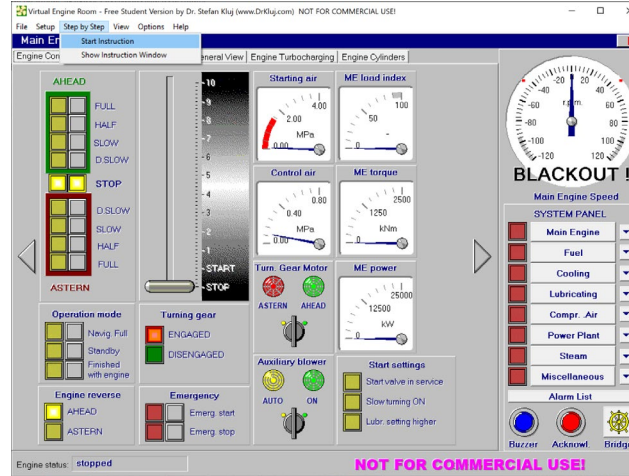




# Virtual Engine Room Labs (#1-3)

<https://drkluj.com/simulators/free-student-version/>

- SW Install
- Engine Startup
  - Checklists
  - Bunkering
  - Main Engine
- Electrical
  - Start/Stop
  - Failover
  - Synchronization
- Auxiliaries
  - Ballast
  - Fire Fighting
  - Bilge
  - Cooling





# Marine Systems Lectures - Bridge Systems

- Definitions
- Manning
- Components
  - ECDIS
  - AIS
  - Radar
  - Communications
  - Other Systems
- Automation

### Manning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xumcG8FvH7k>

There is a stark difference between the number of personnel required on civilian and military bridge watch crews. Changes have reduced USN footprint in recent years.

Service Rotation (USN Standard)	Watchstander			Day
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	
0000-0400	1	2	3	1
0400-0800	2	3	1	2
0800-1200	3	1	2	3
1200-1600	1	2	3	1
1600-2000	2	3	1	2
2000-2400	3	1	2	3
2400-0000	1	2	3	1
0000-0400	2	3	1	2
0400-0800	3	1	2	3
0800-1200	1	2	3	1
1200-1600	2	3	1	2
1600-2000	3	1	2	3
2000-2400	1	2	3	1
2400-0000	2	3	1	2




Table 11. MSC vs. U.S. Navy bridge watchstanders

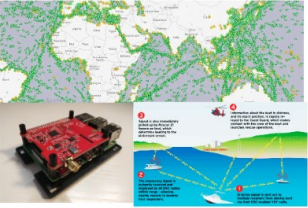
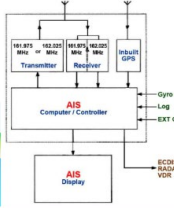
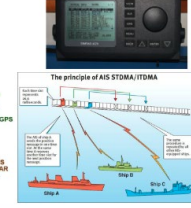
	MSC method	AS-3P (USN old method)	FIG (USN new method)	DDG-51P (USN new method)	CG-52P (USN new method)
Bridge Watch					
Master	OOD	OOD	OOD	OOD	OOD
Helmsman	OOD	OOD	OOD	OOD	OOD
Utilityman	OOD	OOD	OOD	OOD	OOD
	BMWV	BMWV	BMWV	BMWV	BMWV
	EDTIV (Talker)	EDTIV (Talker)	EDTIV (Talker)	EDTIV (Talker)	EDTIV (Talker)
	Messenger	Messenger	Messenger	Messenger	Messenger
	J. Talker	J. Talker	J. Talker	J. Talker	J. Talker
	Lookout Star	Lookout Star	Lookout Star	Lookout Star	Lookout Star
	Lookout Port	Lookout Port	Lookout Port	Lookout Port	Lookout Port
	Supervisor	Supervisor	Supervisor	Supervisor	Supervisor
Signal Bridge	Lookout Fwd	Lookout Fwd	Lookout Aft	Lookout Aft	Lookout Aft
	Recorder	Recorder	Recorder	Recorder	Recorder

a. Type I, Type II, and Type III.  
b. Smart Ship and Non-Smart Ship.

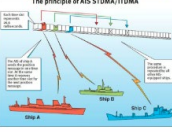
### AIS

<https://youtu.be/mRtBr-2Oqz0?t=30>

The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is an automatic tracking system that uses transceivers on ships and is used by vessel traffic services (VTS). **Information** provided by AIS equipment, such as unique identification, position, course, and speed, is intended to assist a vessel's watchstanding officers and allow maritime authorities to track and monitor vessel movements.

The principle of AIS STDA/IDMA



### ECDIS

An Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) is a geographic information system used for nautical navigation that complies with International Maritime Organization (IMO) [regulations](#) V/19 & V/27 of SOLAS convention as amended, by displaying selected information from a System Electronic Navigational Chart (SENC).


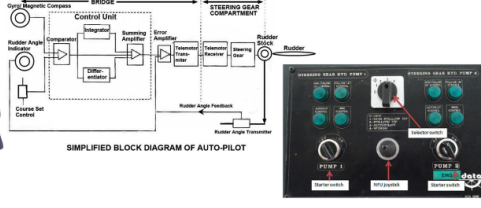




### Automatic Steering

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T-wFipm37U>

Innovation for hands-free steering for sailing vessels initially came from model ship competitions and was used during solo Transatlantic journeys in the 1930s. Modern autopilot systems use electronic gyro inputs and have several modes of operation and follow a course entered in the integrated ECDIS system.

SIMPLIFIED BLOCK DIAGRAM OF AUTO-PILOT

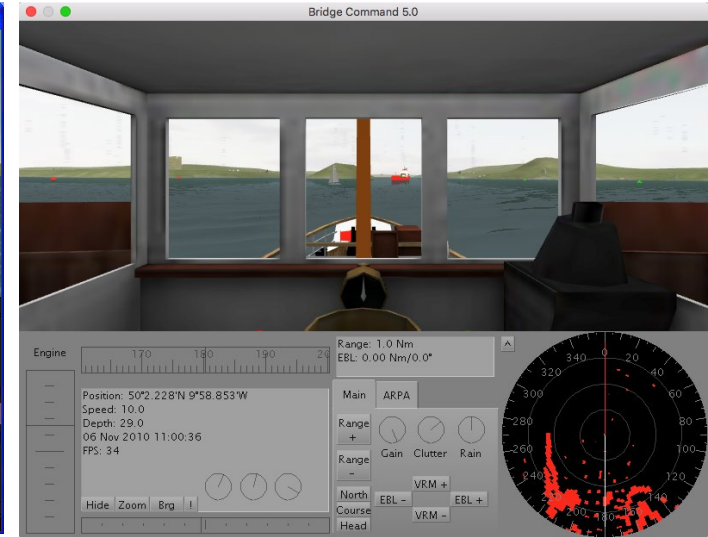
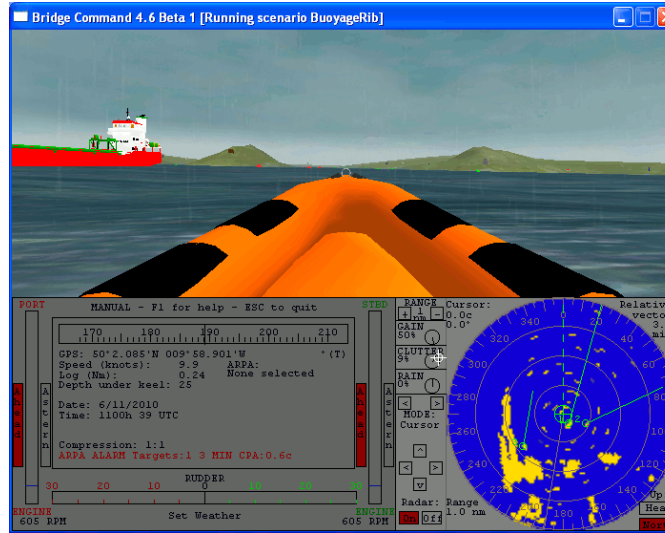
```

    graph LR
        Gyro[Gyro] --> Conv[Converts]
        Conv --> BRIDGE[BRIDGE]
        Conv --> CU[Control Unit]
        CU --> STERLING[STERLING GEAR COMPARTMENT]
        CU --> Rudder[Rudder]
        CU --> Error[Error Feedback]
        Error --> CU
        CU --> Trans[Transmitter]
        Trans --> Receiver[Receiver]
        Receiver --> CU
        CU --> Steering[Steering Gear]
        Steering --> Rudder
        Rudder --> Feedback[Feedback]
        Feedback --> CU
    
```

# Bridge Command Lab (#4)

<https://www.bridgecommand.co.uk/>

- SW Install
- Bouyage
  - RHIB
  - Basic Controls
- Leaving Harbor
  - Lifeboat
  - Radar
  - Man Overboard



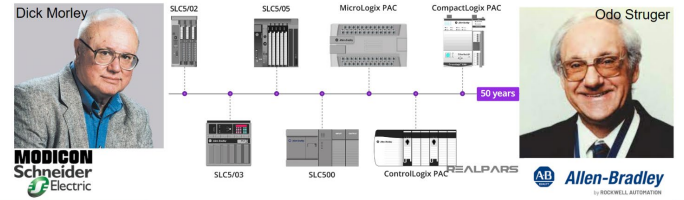
# PLC Lectures - Introduction to PLCs

- Overview
- History
- Components
- Applications
- SCADA
- Organization
- Programming

## History

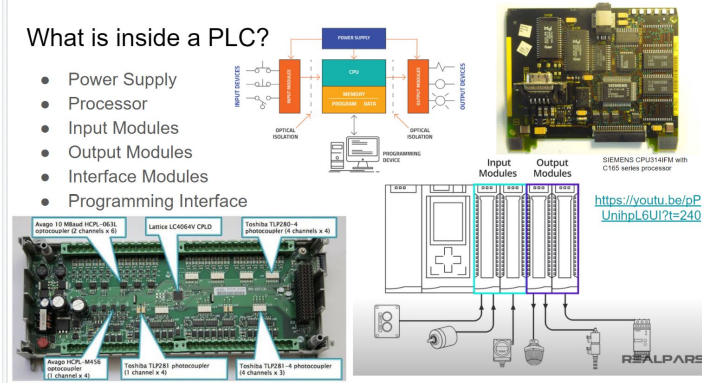
There are two men credited as being the "father" of the PLC.

- [Richard E. Morley](#) (1932-2017) was an American mechanical engineer who was involved with the production of the first PLC for General Motors, Modicon, and Bedford Associates in 1968.
- [Odo Josef Struger](#) (1931-1998) was involved in the invention of the Allen-Bradley programmable logic controller (PLC) and coined that term, during 1958 to 1960 based on a concept developed in his doctoral dissertation at the Vienna University of Technology.



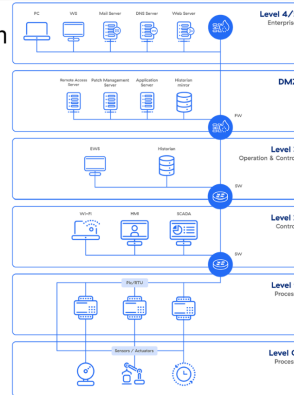
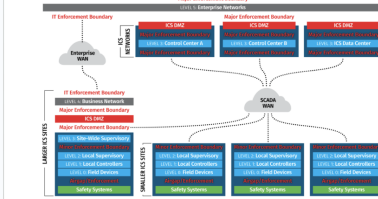
## What is inside a PLC?

- Power Supply
- Processor
- Input Modules
- Output Modules
- Interface Modules
- Programming Interface



## Where they fit into a SCADA system

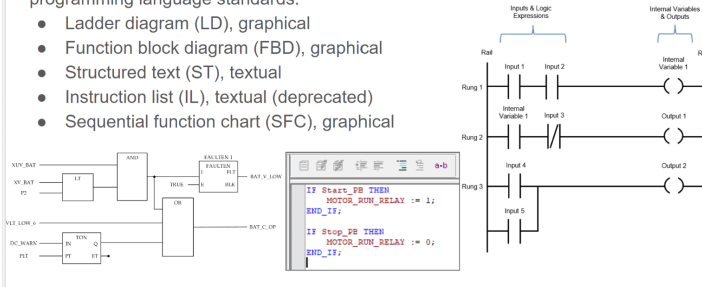
The Purdue model, part of the Purdue Enterprise Reference Architecture (PERA), was designed as a reference model for data flows in computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM), where a plant's processes are completely automated. It came to define the standard for building an ICS network architecture in a way that supports OT security, separating the layers of the network to maintain a hierarchical flow of data between them.



## PLC Programming

Standardized with [IEC 61131-3](#) which defines three graphical and two textual programming language standards:

- Ladder diagram (LD), graphical
- Function block diagram (FBD), graphical
- Structured text (ST), textual
- Instruction list (IL), textual (deprecated)
- Sequential function chart (SFC), graphical

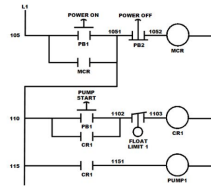
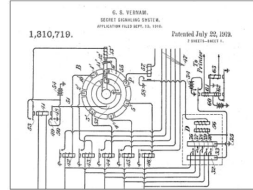
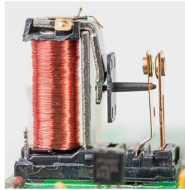


# PLC Lectures - Ladder Logic

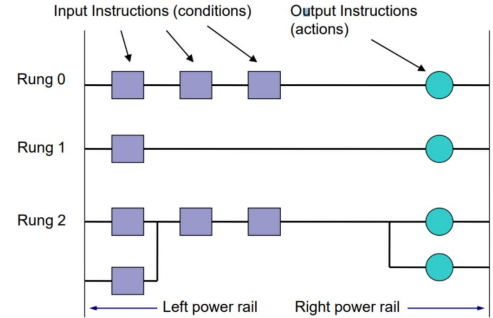
- History
- Conventions
  - L to R, top to bot.
- Symbols
  - Contacts
  - Coils
- Function Blocks
  - Modbus Message
  - Timer
  - Num. Conversion
  - User Defined
- Examples

Where does LL come from?

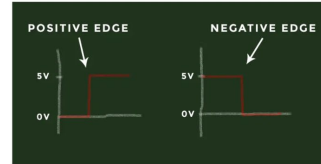
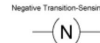
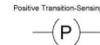
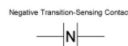
[Ladder logic](#) was originally a written method to document the design and construction of [relay racks](#) as used in manufacturing and [process control](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Each device in the [relay rack](#) would be represented by a symbol on the ladder diagram with connections between those devices shown. In addition, other items external to the relay rack such as pumps, heaters, and so forth would also be shown on the ladder diagram.



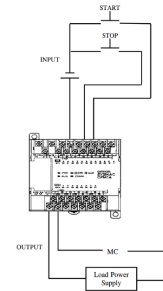
## Anatomy of a Ladder Program



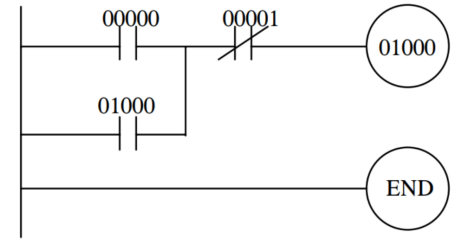
## Typical Symbols



## Latch / Self Holding Circuit



## Ladder Diagram









# PLC Lectures - Attacking and Defending PLC Networks

## Industrial Control System Cyber Attacks

Thomas H. Morris<sup>1</sup>, Wei Gao  
Mississippi State University  
Mississippi State, MS, USA  
<sup>1</sup>*morris@ece.msstate.edu*

This paper presents a set of attacks against SCADA control systems. The attacks are grouped into 4 classes; reconnaissance, response and measurement injection, command injection and denial of service. The 4 classes are defined and each attack is described in detail. The response and measurement injection and command injection classes are subdivided into sub-classes based on attack complexity. Each attack described in this paper has been exercised against industrial control systems in a laboratory setting.

*Industrial Control System. Threat Model. Taxonomy.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems are computer-based industrial control

functional SCADA control systems which model a gas pipeline and a water storage tank using commercial control system hardware and software.

<https://www.scienceopen.com/hosted-document?doi=10.14236/ewic/ICSCSR2013.3>

*Table 1: List of Attacks against MODBUS Industrial Control Systems*

Attack Index	Name	Classification
1	Address Scan	Reconnaissance
2	Function Code Scan	Reconnaissance
3	Device Identification	Reconnaissance
4	Naïve Read Payload Injection	NMRI
5	Invalid Read Payload Size	NMRI
6	Naïve False Error Response	NMRI
7	Sporadic Sensor Measurement Injection Attack	NMRI
8	Slope Sensor Measurement Injection	CMRI
9	High Slope Measurement Injection	CMRI
10	High Frequency Measurement Injection	CMRI
11	Altered System Control Scheme	MSCI
12	Altered Actuator State	MSCI
13	Altered Control Set Point	MPCI
14	Force Listen Only Mode	MFCI
15	Restart Communication	MFCI
16	Invalid Cyclic Redundancy Code (CRC)	DOS
17	MODBUS Slave Traffic Jamming	DOS

# Exams

Three exams, primarily short answer having the students recall material introduced in lectures. Example Questions:

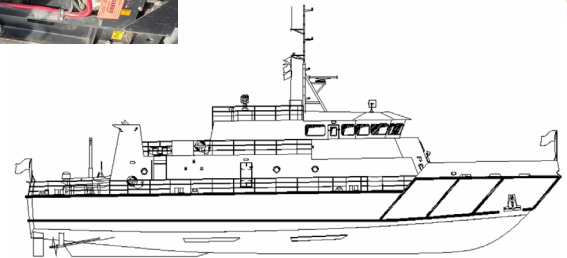
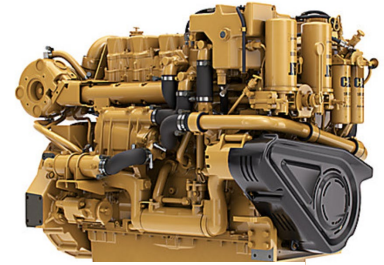
1. What are some reasons why a ballast system is required on a ship?
2. What is an ECDIS and what is it used for on a ship?
3. Describe how the HART protocol can encode both digital and analog data on the same legacy wire.
4. Decode the following Modbus message and describe in plain english what it means: 0x13 0x06 0x00 0x04 0x00 0x06 0x4B 0x7B
5. Think about two different attacks that a knowledgeable cyber attacker could launch on a typical ship. Describe the method of ingress, systems affected, and consequences to the vessel.

# Final Project

# USNA Yard Patrol vessels (YP703)

- Builder: C&G Boat Works Inc. (YP703-2010 to YP708-2014)
- Propulsion: 2x715 bhp (2x448kw) Cat C-18 diesel engines at 2,100 RPM
- Electrical: 2x CAT Diesel Generators 480V, 99 KW, 3-phase AC
- Length: Overall: 119 feet (36.3 meters)
- Beam: 27.9 feet (8.51 meters)
- Displacement: 227.6 Metric Tonnes (223.9 long tons)
- Draft: 7.5 feet (2.27 meters)
- Speed: 12.6 knots (23.3 kilometers per hour)

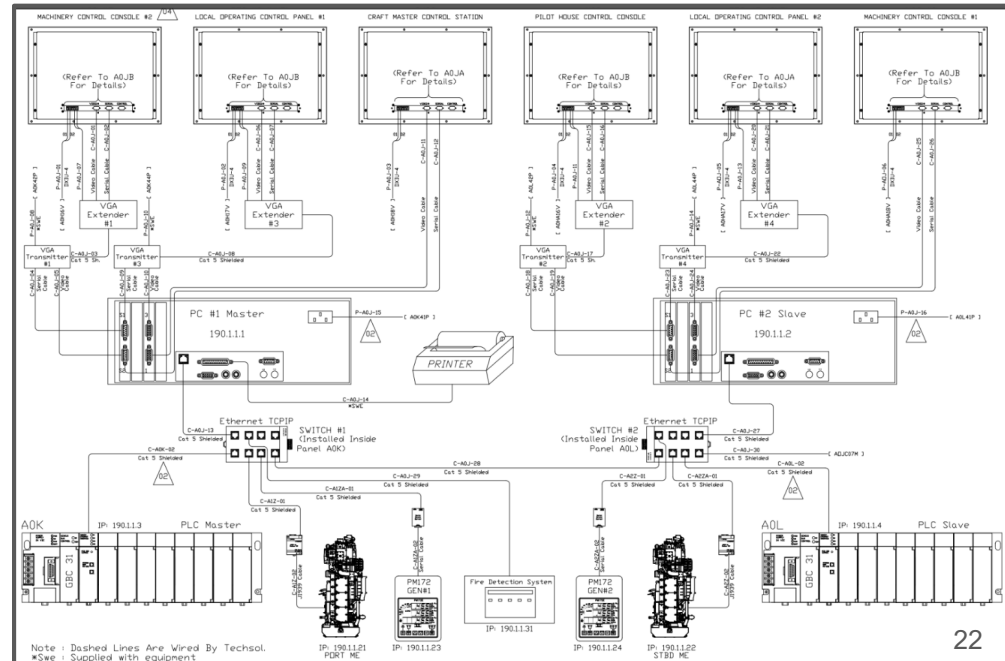
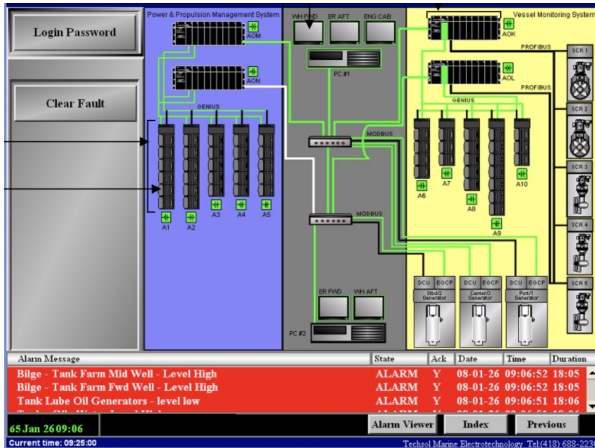
Used for local ship-handling training operations and summer cruises on the eastern seaboard



# MAX II Alarms and Monitoring System on the YP703 class

GE Fanuc based custom install

- 2x PC to drive 6x touchscreen Human Machine Interface (HMI)
- 2x Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs)
- Dual redundant IP/serial communications
- Interfaces with:
  - Engines
  - Generators
  - Tanks
  - Fire Detection



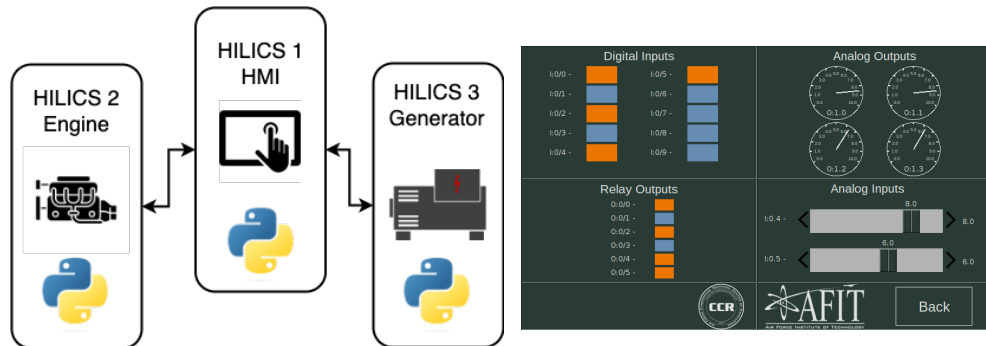
# Project Results

<https://github.com/sdunlap-afit/hilics>

Students successfully connected three PLC kits together to replicate a portion of the YP alarms system.

Modified the HILICS IO\_Test program to share discrete and analog values and trigger alarms.

Produced a 9-page Interface Control Document (ICD) that recorded the message format and context for the information displayed and the displays.



## 2. Interface Description

### 2.1 System Overview

This system is meant to simulate a Yard Patrol Craft alarm apparatus and messaging system between a Control Panel, Engine, and a Generator. The system is made up of three separate PLCs and, via ladder logic, is coded on the RSLogix program. The simulated Generator and Engine are very similar in functionality; each have two analog inputs and three discrete inputs

# Conclusion

An overview of the new Maritime ICS Course taught at USNA.

I look forward to hearing your **questions** and suggestions you might have about ideas for future offerings.

Brien Croteau, USNA, [croteau@usna.edu](mailto:croteau@usna.edu)



Link to these slides:

[https://github.com/brienc23/  
MICS Course Materials](https://github.com/brienc23/MICS_Course_Materials)



# Backup Slides



UNITED STATES  
NAVAL ACADEMY

Annapolis



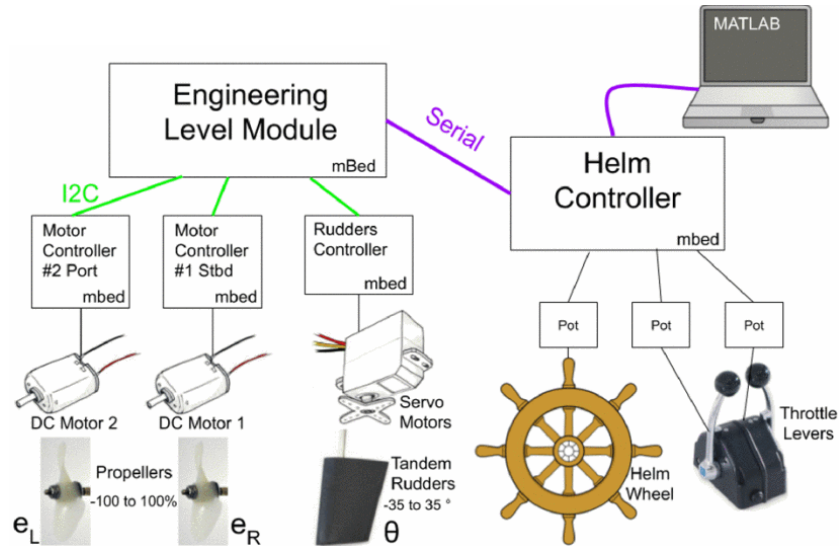
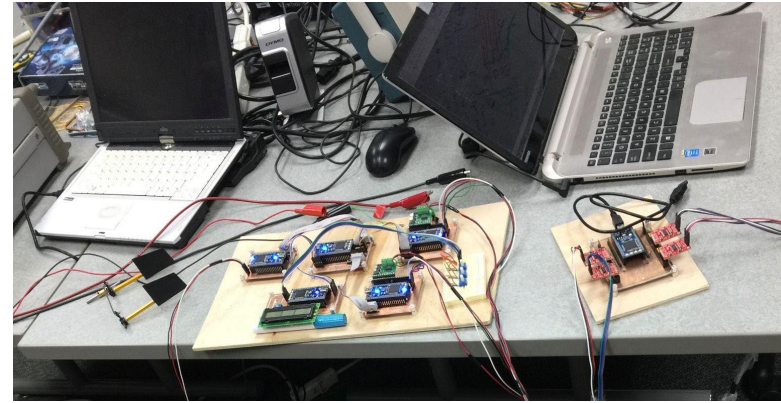
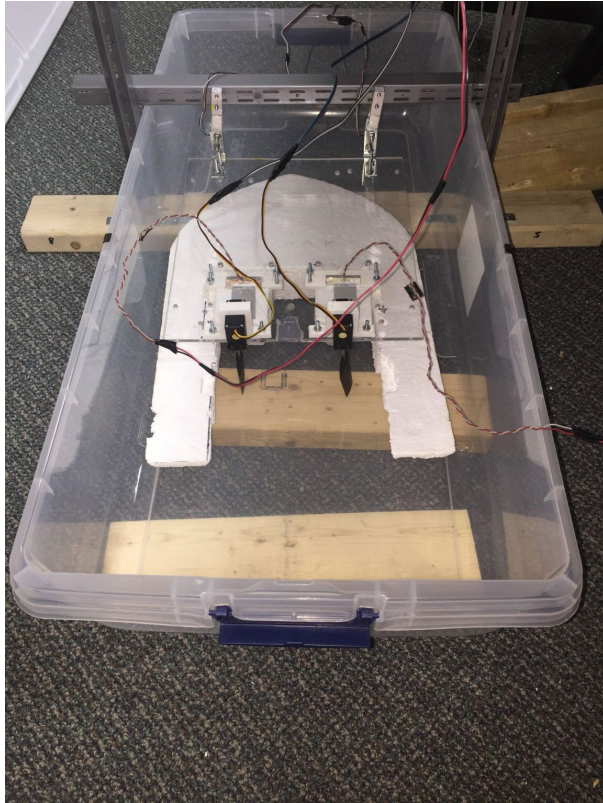
# Lessons Learned when building a Maritime Systems Security Laboratory Testbench

Brien Croteau, USNA, Cyber Science  
DefCon 31- ICS Village, 12 Aug 2023



Link to these slides:  
[https://github.com/brienc23/Defcon31\\_workshop\\_materials](https://github.com/brienc23/Defcon31_workshop_materials)

# v0.1 UMBC Ship System Testbed



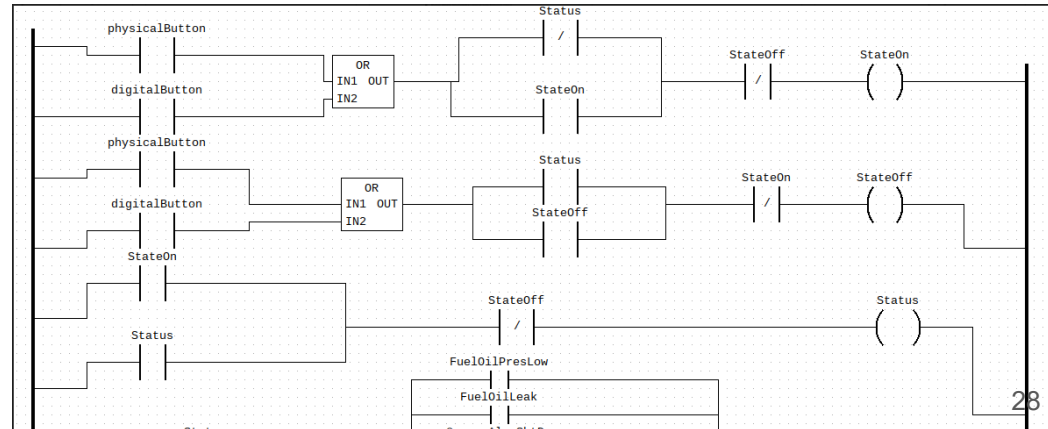
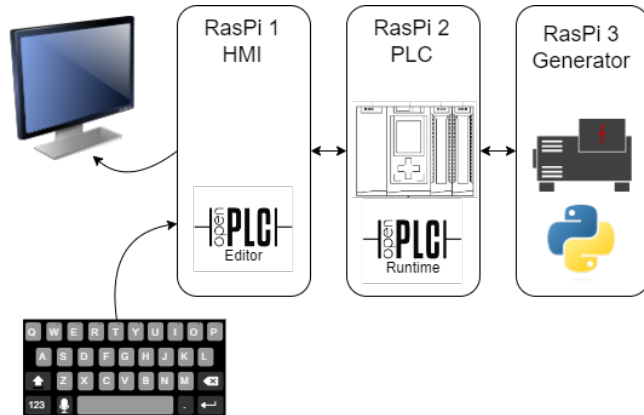
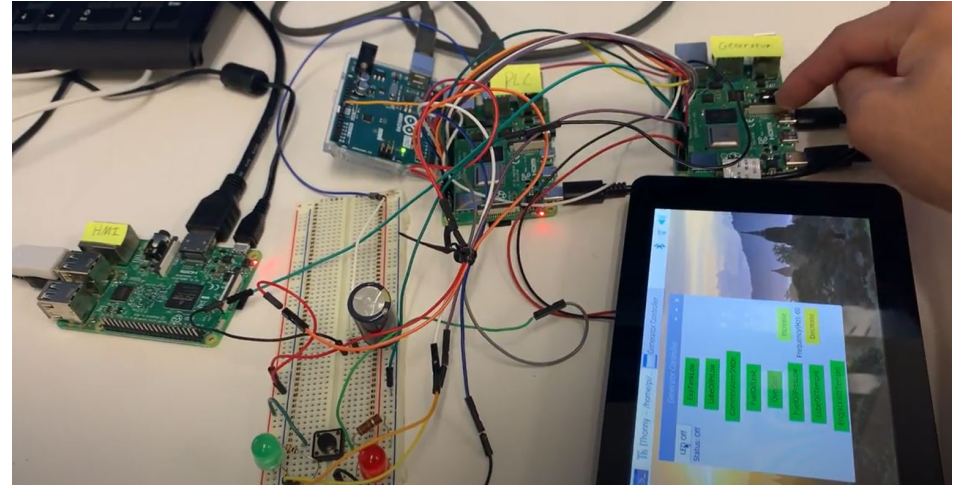
2019 R Week Paper  
[Alternative Actuation Paths for Ship Applications in the Presence of Cyber-Attacks](#)



# v1.0 Proof of Concept

3x Ras Pi: HMI, PLC, "Generator"

- OpenPLC v1.0
- 8 discrete faults
- 1 "analog" frequency
- toggle on/off status

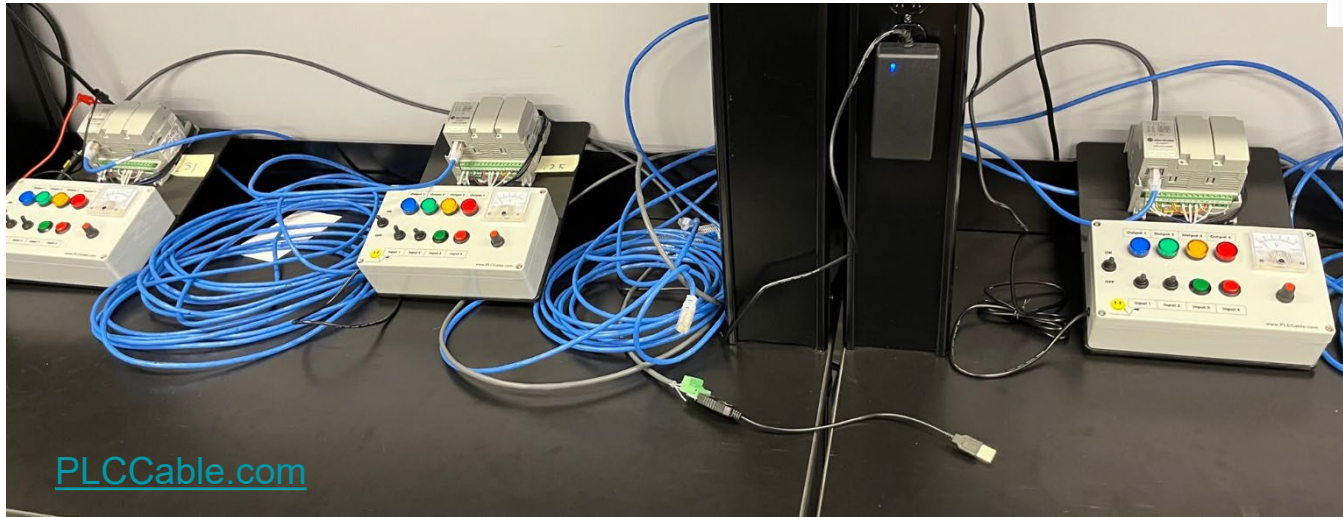


# v2.0 Classroom Trainers

Allen-Bradley (AB) micro820 PLC based

Individual Ladder Logic Programming

Modbus Communication (RS-232, RS-485, and TCP)



**Rockwell  
Automation**

**Connected  
Components  
Workbench™  
Software**



# v2.5 Hardware-in-the-Loop ICS (HILICS)

On loan from Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT)

AB microLogix 1100+RasPi

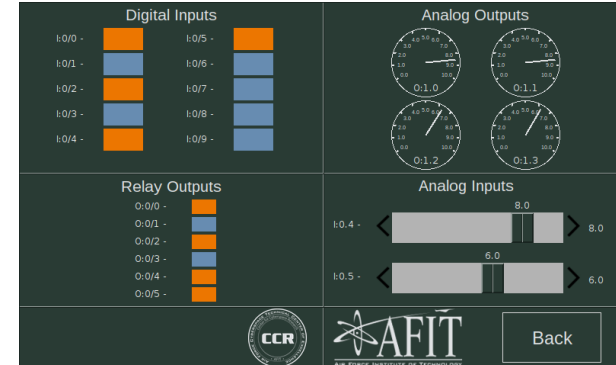
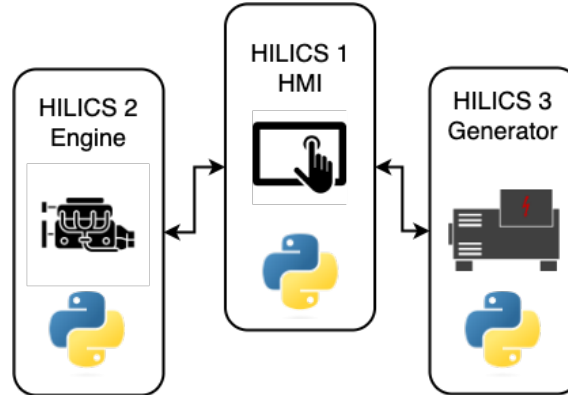
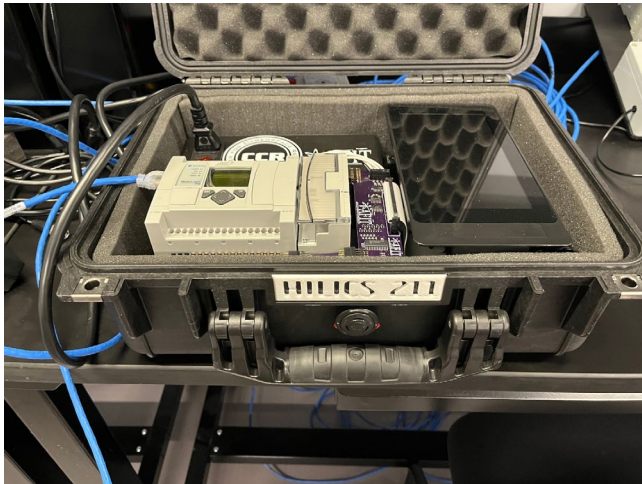
Students made a 3-node network replicating a portion of the YP703 system:

- 1x HMI
- 1x Diesel Engine
- 1x Generator

Captured their work in an Interface Control Document



<https://github.com/sdunlap-afit/hilics>



# Other Maritime Testbenches



<https://www.fathom5.co/systems>

