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AUTOMATION.ORG

UAO & IEC 61499

Advancing open Automation

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Opening Message:

Power with Purpose

WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

Use the power of AI wisely—
understand its opportunities and challenges in depth,
and **act** with responsibility and foresight.



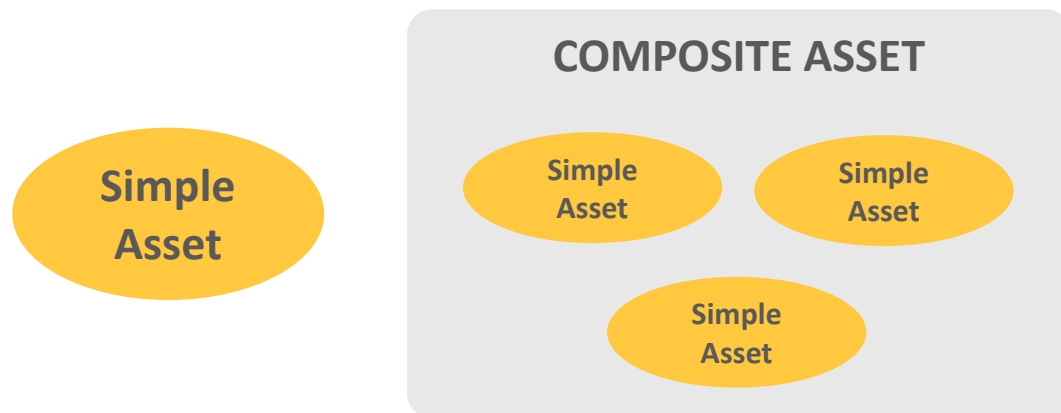
ASSET-BASED and ASSET-CENTRIC Industrial Automation

Introduction to Terminology

What is an ASSET?



A **physically or logically identifiable entity** that contributes to the operation, monitoring, or control of an industrial system



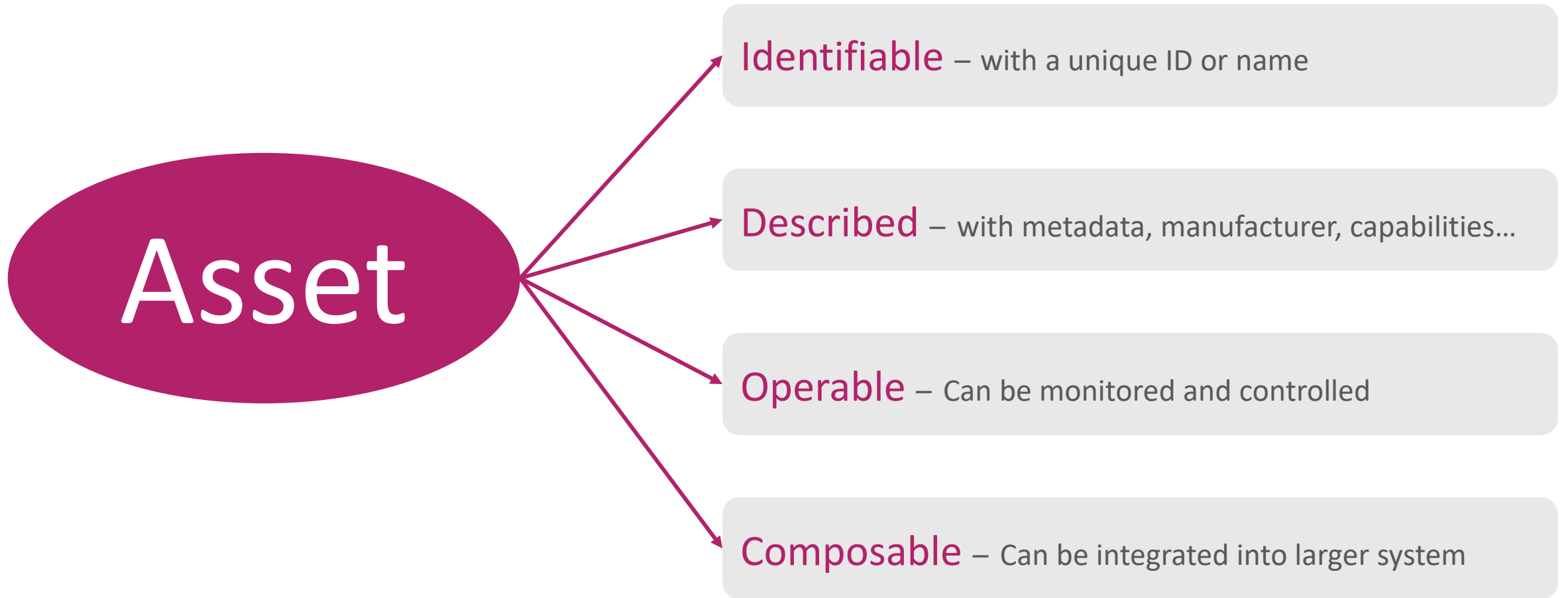
Physical Assets:

- **Machines** (e.g., CNC machines, robots)
- **Devices** (e.g., sensors, actuators, PLCs)
- **Infrastructure** (e.g., conveyors, tanks, valves)

Logical (Virtual) Assets:

- **Software modules** (e.g., control logic, analytics)
- **Digital twins**
- **Data models or services** (e.g., OPC UA nodes, REST APIs)

Asset Characterization



What is an Asset Facet?

An Asset Facet is a **logical partition** of an asset that **refers to a specific perspective** or aspect of an asset, that is of an interest to an actor interacting with the asset.

An Asset Facet is a **specific view of an asset** that **highlights information or functionality** relevant to a particular actor interacting with it.

Actor	Interacts With Facet(s)	Purpose
Operator	Control and Monitoring	Start/stop machines, view status, respond to alarms
Maintenance Technician	Diagnostics, Lifecycle, Configuration	Troubleshoot issues, perform maintenance
System Integrator	Communication, Configuration, Control	Set up network, configure parameters, deploy logic
Production Manager	Monitoring, Performance, Lifecycle	Monitor KPIs, plan maintenance, optimize throughput
Security Administrator	Security	Manage access rights, audit logs
Simulation	Digital Twin, Monitoring, Control	Simulate behavior, validate control logic
MES/ERP Systems	Identification, Lifecycle, Performance	Track asset usage, integrate with business processes

Asset-BASED vs Asset-CENTRIC control

Asset-BASED control is the **strategic development of control applications** that ensure reliable plant or process operations by actively monitoring and managing assets. Its goal is to optimize asset performance, reliability, and lifespan - minimizing downtime, reducing maintenance costs, and extending operational life.

Examples:

- Condition-based control of heat exchangers for energy efficiency.
- Lifecycle-aware control of manufacturing robots to extend operational life.
- Proactive control of pumps to avoid failures.

Asset-CENTRIC control is a **strategic approach where control decisions are centered around the asset** itself emphasizing operational ownership, lifecycle management, and value optimization by aligning control strategies with the asset's performance, condition, and business objectives.

Example:

Scheduling heat exchanger operations and prioritizing maintenance based on business impact and return on investment (ROI), while applying condition-based control to optimize asset performance without compromising production goals.

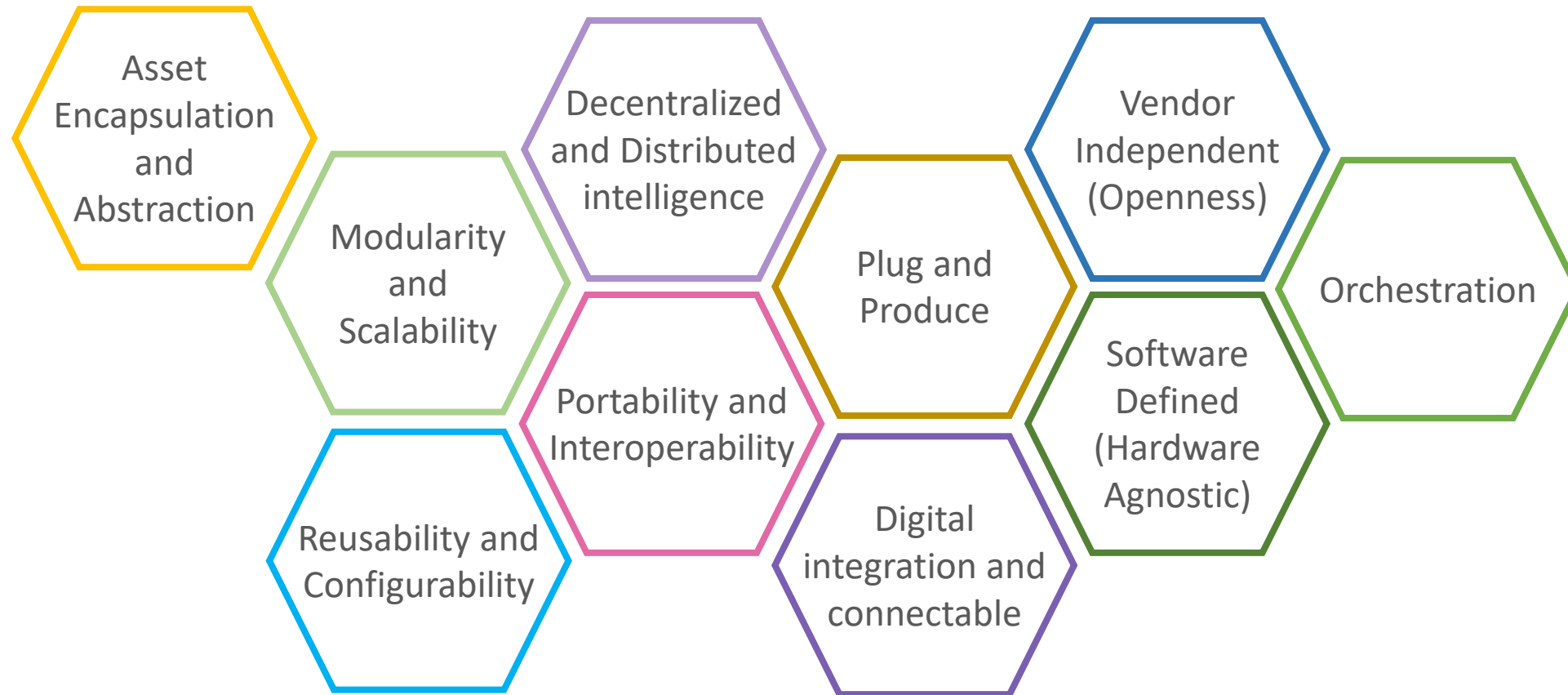
Asset-based vs Asset-centric control

Continued...

Feature	Asset-Based Control Engineering	Asset-Centric Control
Focus	Control logic tied to asset condition	Control logic orchestration centered on asset value optimization and business objective.
Scope	Engineering and automation systems	Strategic orchetsration of control
Data to Use	Real-time sensor data for control	Lifecycle and performance data for planning and scheduling
Responsibility	Engineers and control system designers	Production and operations planning and scheduling business unit
Goal	Optimize control performance and asset reliability	Maximize asset value and operational efficiency ensuring business objectives and production goals are met

Strategic control application

Design & Development principles



Critical programming constructs

Object-based and Object-oriented programming

Service Oriented Architecture and Development

Event driven modelling and programming

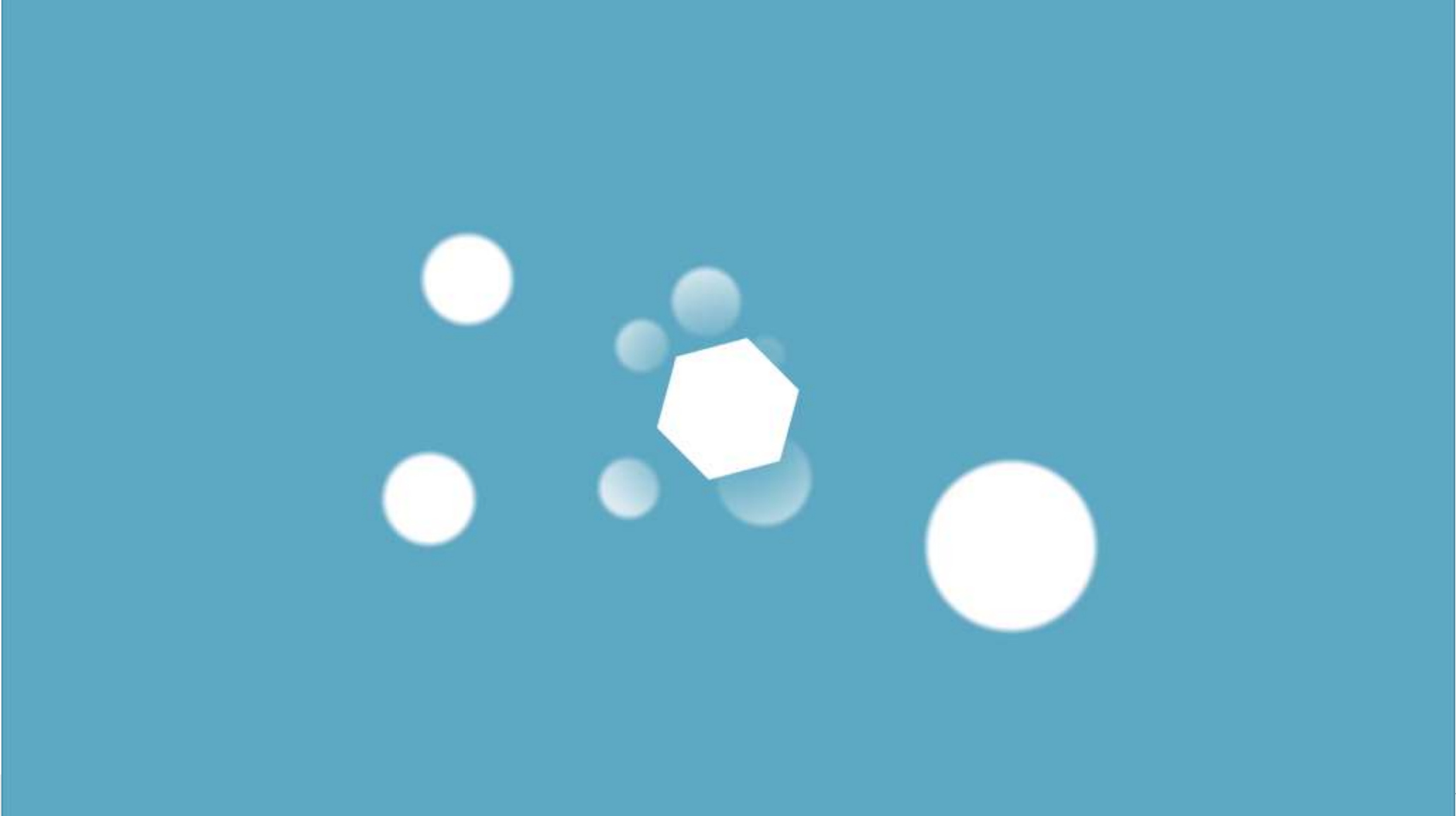
State machines and state-based control & operation

Asynchronous communications

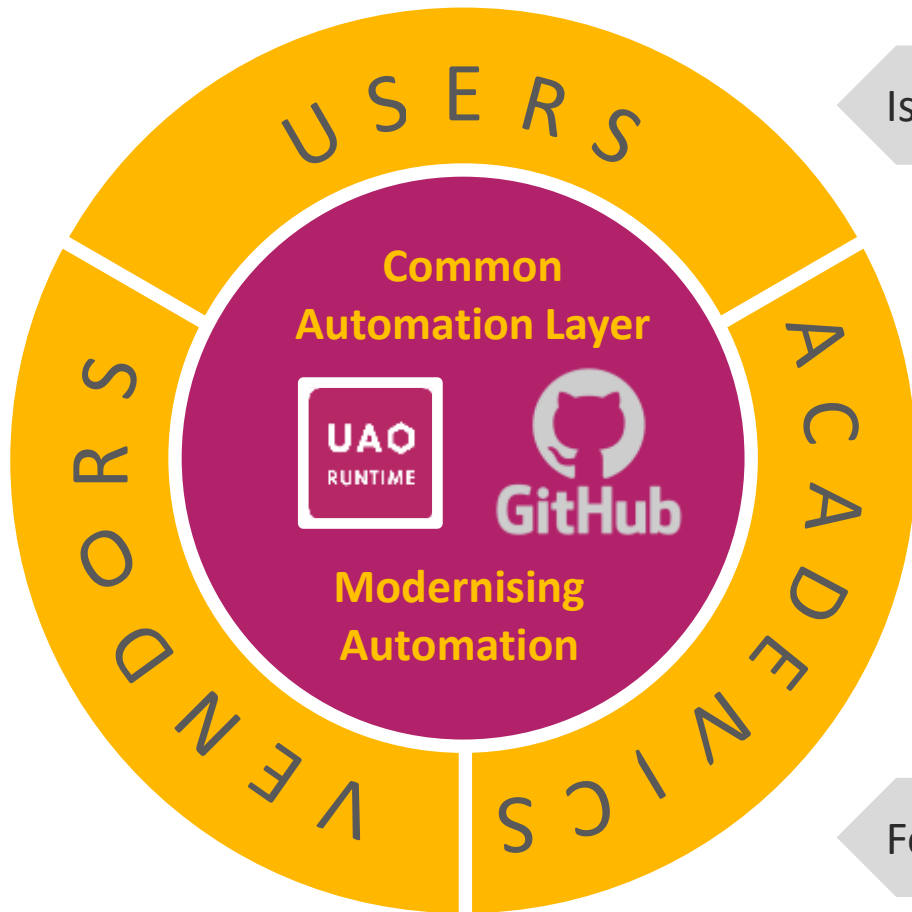
INTRODUCTION

Universal Automation Organization

Introduction



What is Universal Automation?



Is a non-profit organization

Is an Eco-System of Automation Users, Vendors & Academics

A Common Automation kernel based on IEC 61499

Shared source model → best portability and interoperability

Foster innovation and collaboration in automation industry

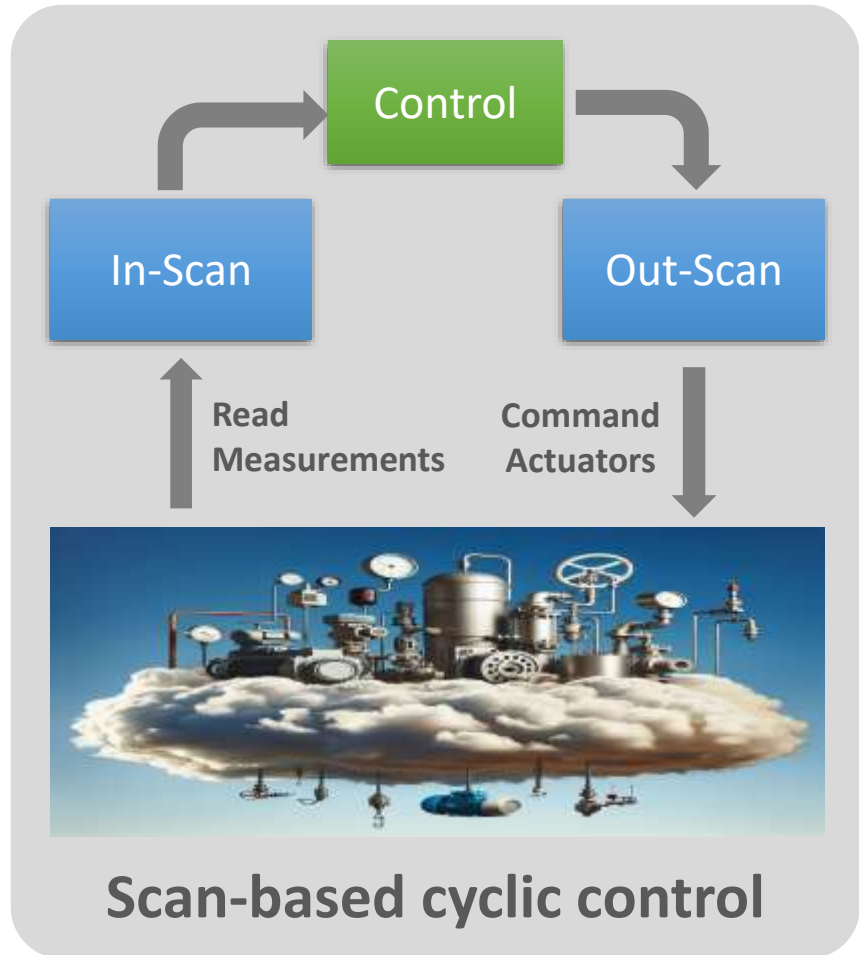
Ecosystem

HOW

Universal Automation Organization & IEC 61499

IEC 61499

The technology enabler of UAO



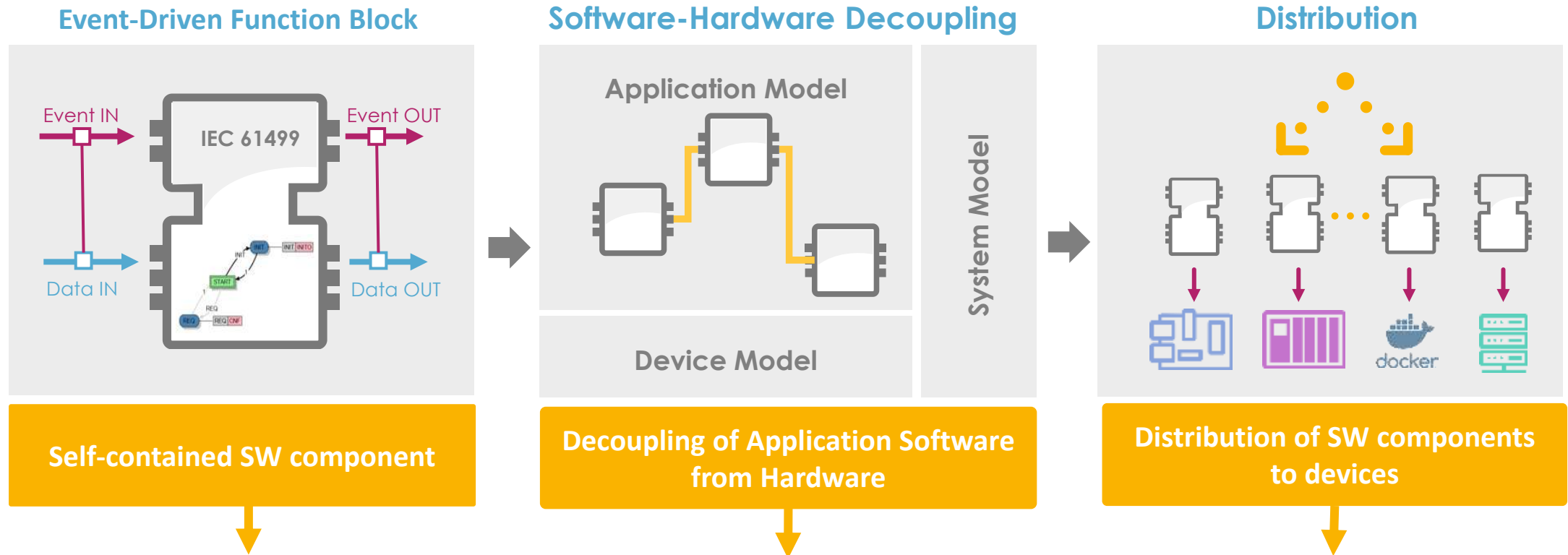
IEC 61499

The technology enabler of UAO



IEC 61499

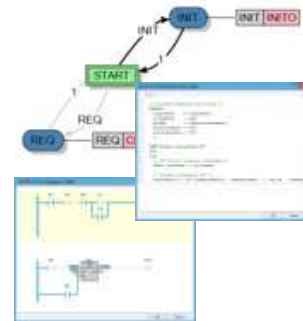
The technology enabler of UAO



“Plug & Produce programming using hardware-independent, proven-in-use libraries of software components”

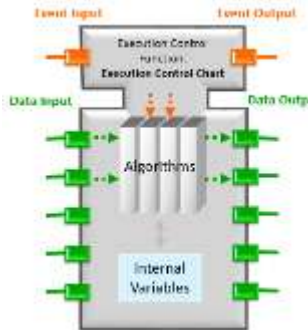
IEC 61499 – Event Driven Function Block

- Self-contained SW component providing functions *thru defined interface*
- Programmed in any language
- Real-time + Right-time
- SFB: FB interface to functionality beyond IEC 61499, like comms networks, device hardware, etc.



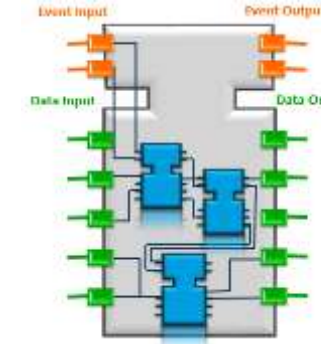
Basic FB

e.g. Motor
+ Execution Control Chart
+ Algorithms (ST)



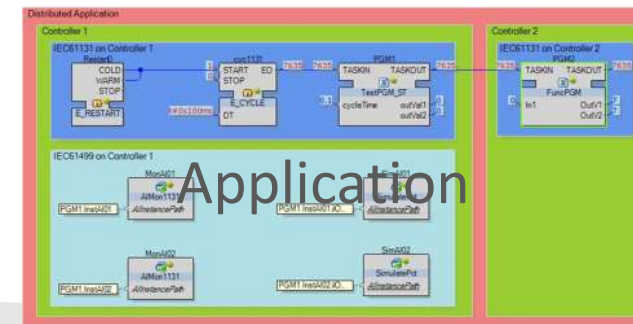
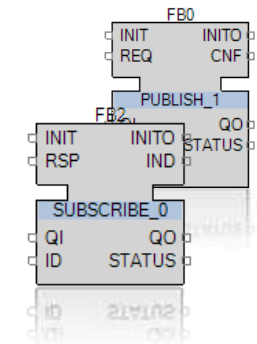
Composite FB

e.g. Conveyor line
Composed out of Basic FB,
Composite FB, Service FB



Service FB

e.g. I/O access (Data, HMI,
Communication ...)
Provided by the System



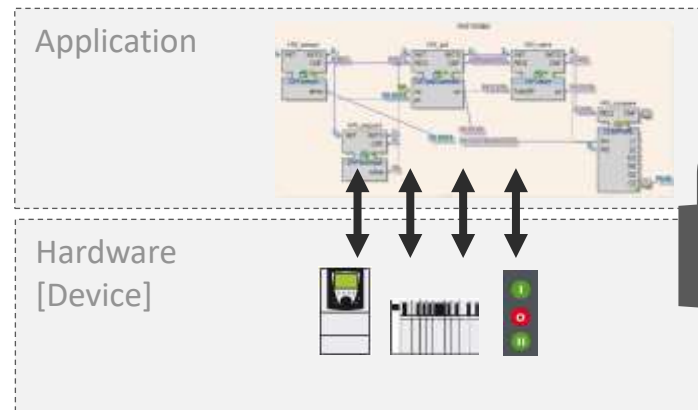
Application

IEC 61499 – Application and Device/Resource models

Decoupling of Application software from hardware

- **Application Model**
defines how to create
application using FB
networks
- **Device/Resource**
models define the
compute resources on
which the application
will execute

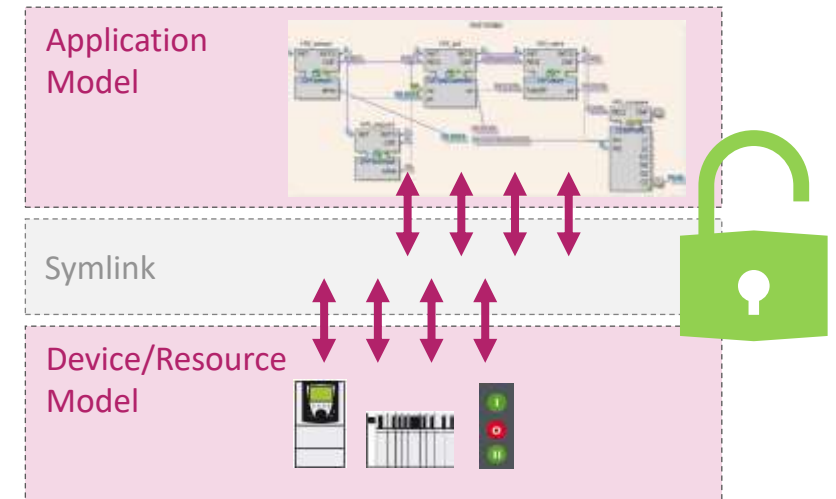
Today
Hardware & Application
is tightly linked



- Reusability is difficult
- Late modifications are challenging and costly

Tomorrow
Hardware & Application

is completely independent due to Abstraction



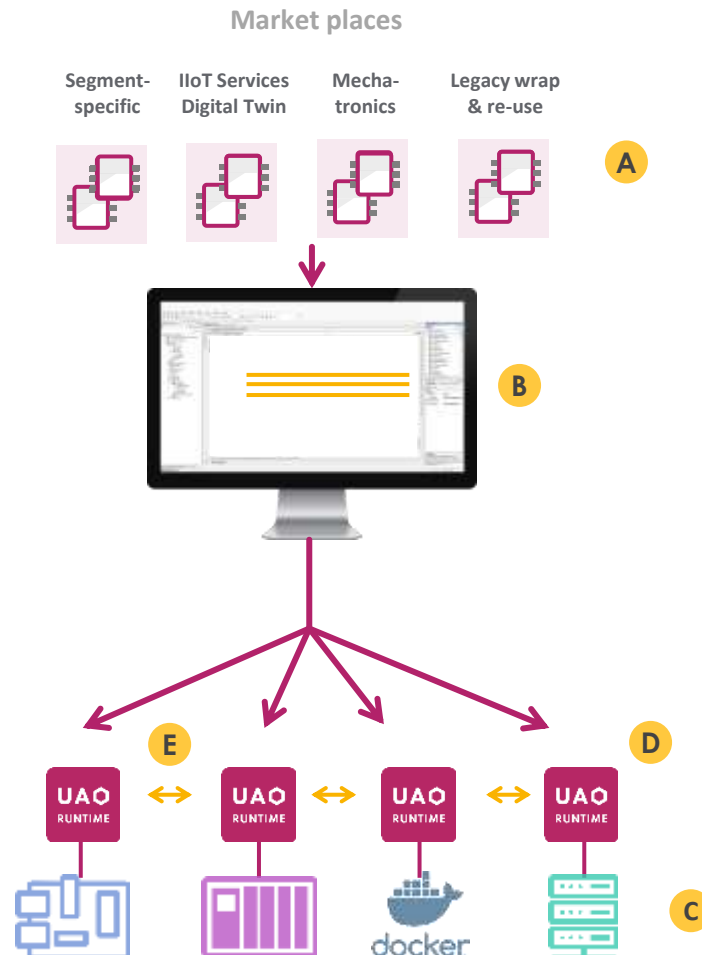
- Create applications without considering the HW where it will be deployed
- Link application and hardware at the latest possible time in the project schedule

IEC 61499 Libraries - Plug & Produce SW Components

Proven-in-use software
components (automation
apps)

Integrated Development
Environment for IEC61499
application
“BuildTime”

Distributed control HW with
embedded “RunTime”



- A Instantiate from library
- B Program whole application
- C Select hardware topology
- D Deploy application to controllers
- E Inter controller communications generated automatically

“Write once, distribute across universal automation devices”

Today

Low value proprietary applications

Costs	
Time to Market	
Flexibility	
Quality	

Tomorrow

High value portable apps

Costs	
Time to market	
Flexibility	
Quality	

How UAO helps you improve your KPI's

		Traditional objectives			Emerging objectives			
		Productivity	Lower TCO	Reliability	Employee Experience	Resiliency	Flexibility	Sustainability
Rewriting the rules of automation	Plug & Produce SW Components	Low code/ no code		Proven-in-use application SW components		SW re-usability		Accelerate open standards (OPAF, MTP,..)
	Software/Hardware Decoupling		BIC hardware- SW re-usability		Only one automation tool to learn	Easier supply chain & obsolescence mgt		
	Asset Centric Design (Object-Oriented)	Lower downtime/ MTTR			Attractive to new gen of SW engineers		Modular process/ machines	
	Event/Data-Driven	Automation + IT (Digital Twin, analytics, ...)						Automation + IT (Digital Twin, analytics, ...)

Degree of impact: Low



High

UAO on the Web



WEB



eLEARNING



Community
of Practice



Frequently
Asked
Questions



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- [UniversalAutomation.org](#) (12)
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- [Testimonials](#) (10)
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