Contents

Abstract iii

Kurzfassung v

Contents vii

List of Abbreviations xi

1 An Introduction to Critical Infrastructure Communications 1
- 1.1 Motivation . . . 1
- 1.2 Research Challenges, Methodology and Thesis Structure . . . 5
- 1.3 Overview of Key Contributions . . . 8

2 Applications and Communication Requirements of Critical Infrastructures 11
- 2.1 Smart Power Transmission and Distribution Grids . . . 11
  - 2.1.1 Use Cases and Requirements of Distributed Energy Infrastructures . . . 12
  - 2.1.2 Relevant Technologies and Protocols . . . 13
- 2.2 5G Communication Infrastructures . . . 16
  - 2.2.1 5G Communications - Use Cases and Requirements . . . 16
  - 2.2.2 Relevant Concepts and Technologies . . . 19

3 Software-Defined Networking based Critical Infrastructure Communications: Building Blocks and Performance Evaluation 23
- 3.1 Traditional Approaches to Critical Communication Infrastructures . . . 23
- 3.2 Software-Defined Networking driven Communication Systems . . . 25
  - 3.2.1 The Southbound Interface: Connecting Data and Control Plane . . . 27
  - 3.2.2 East- and Westbound Interfaces: Enabling Multi-Controller Interaction . . . 29
  - 3.2.3 The Northbound Interface: Exposing Network Control to Applications . . . 30
  - 3.2.4 The SUCCESS Software-Defined Networking Controller Framework . . . 30
- 3.3 Network Function Virtualization . . . 31

3.4 Approaches Employed for Performance Evaluation 33
3.4.1 Simulation-based Studies 33
3.4.2 Empirical Validation Approaches 37

4 Robust and Fault-Tolerant Hardened Critical Infrastructure Communications 41
4.1 Objectives for Hardening Smart Grid Communication Networks . . 41
4.2 Overview of Related Works 42
4.2.1 State of the Art in Data Plane Recovery 43
4.2.2 Contemporary Strategies for Control Plane Resilience 44
4.3 Solution Approaches to SDN-enabled Data Plane Resilience 46
4.3.1 Methodology and Reference Scenario 49
4.3.2 Evaluation Scenario: Mitigating Intra-Smart-Substation Communication Link Failures 51
4.3.3 Summary and Classification in Relation to the State of the Art 57
4.4 Proposed Control Plane Resilience Strategies 58
4.4.1 Evaluation Methodology and Reference Scenario 62
4.4.2 Approach A: Primary/Secondary Controller Failover 63
4.4.3 Approach B: A Novel, Broker-based Approach to Control Plane Resilience 66
4.4.4 Summary and Comparison to Existing Control Plane Recovery Mechanisms 68
4.5 Conclusion 70

5 Evaluation of Flexible Softwarized Communications for Sliced Critical Infrastructures 71
5.1 Motivation and Goals for Network Softwarization in Critical Communications 72
5.2 Survey of Related Works on Network Softwarization 73
5.2.1 Bare Metal and fully Virtualized Data Plane Paradigms . . . 73
5.2.2 Network Slicing in Wireline Networks 74
5.3 Empirical Comparison of Bare Metal and Fully Virtualized Data Plane Solutions 75
5.3.1 Evaluation Strategy and Reference Scenarios 77
5.3.2 Scenario A: Packet Forwarding Performance in Virtualized Infrastructures 80
5.3.3 Scenario B: Fast-Failover on Virtualized Data Planes 83
5.3.4 Summary of Results and Insights achieved 85
5.4 Proposed Solution for SDN and NFV-driven 5G Core Network Slicing 86
5.4.1 Evaluation Strategy and Reference Scenarios 88
5.4.2 Tiered Study of Key Performance Indicators 94
5.4.3 Conclusion 102
5.5 Summary of gained Insights 103

6 Analysis of Scalable, Software-Defined Networking driven Critical Infrastructure Communications **105**
6.1 Drivers for enabling Large-Scale Critical Infrastructure Communications 106
6.2 Related Work on Large-Scale Software-Defined Networking driven Critical Infrastructures 106
6.2.1 Simulation-based Studies 106
6.2.2 Edge Cloud enabled Communications 107
6.3 Simulation-based Evaluation of SDN-driven Large-Scale Smart Grids 109
6.3.1 Evaluation Strategy and Reference Scenario 109
6.3.2 Scenario-based Assessment: SDN-driven Large-Scale Smart Distribution Grid Deployment 114
6.3.3 Conclusion 115
6.4 Edge Cloud enabled Communication Services for Critical Infrastructures 116
6.4.1 Use Case: Edge Clouds for Intelligent Transportation Services - Smart Intersections . . 121
6.4.2 Overview of Key Results 130
6.5 Conclusion and Summary of Main Contributions 131

7 Conclusion and Future Work **133**
7.1 Closing Summary 133
7.2 Outlook on Future Research Directions 135
7.2.1 Fully Virtualized Self-Organizing Sliced Communication Infrastructures . . . 135
7.2.2 Software-Defined Networking Orchestrated Time-Sensitive Industrial Networks 135
7.2.3 Edge Cloud based 5G Radio Access Networks for Cellular Power Grids 136

Bibliography **139**

Scientific Activity Report **157**