



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES

**DATAWorks 2021:  
Operational Cybersecurity Test and Evaluation of  
Non-IP and Wireless Networks**

Peter M. Mancini, Project Leader

Vincent C. Bass  
Mark R. Herrera

April 2021

Approved for Public Release.  
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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES  
4850 Mark Center Drive  
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#### About This Publication

This work was conducted by the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) under contract HQ0034-19-D-0001, Task C9096, "Cyber Experimentation and Training Lab," for the Office of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation. The views, opinions, and findings should not be construed as representing the official position of either the Department of Defense or the sponsoring organization.

#### Acknowledgments

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## Executive Summary

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Nearly all land, air, and sea maneuver systems (e.g., vehicles, ships, aircraft, and missiles) are becoming more software-reliant and blending internal communication across both Internet Protocol (IP) and non-IP buses. IP communication is widely understood among the cybersecurity community, whereas expertise and available test tools for non-IP protocols such as Controller Area Network (CAN) and MIL-STD-1553 are not as commonplace. Although each protocol has unique qualities in how it communicates, the fundamental format and basic principles of each protocol remains the same regardless of implementation.

This presentation emphasizes the need to test non-IP communication in operational testing. It introduces a set of non-IP protocols that appear alongside IP in aircraft, ships, and land vehicles within private industry and the Department

of Defense. We provide a brief discussion on the physical implementation of a CAN bus as it might appear in a land vehicle. We then execute a fictitious operational test on a land vehicle, during which an adversarial cyber team causes effects on the vehicle's CAN bus. Using results from the fictional operational test, we use measurable effectiveness metrics and observations to determine whether the cyber aggression negatively impacted the mission.

The basic principles and formatting of common communication protocols do not change. Therefore, we, as a test community, must challenge ourselves to build within our organizations a fundamental understanding of each of these protocols (including Transmission Control Protocol/IP, or TCP/IP). Doing so will allow us to plan and conduct better operational tests and communicate more accurately in our writing and presentations.



The background of the slide is a faded, artistic photograph. It shows a sunset or sunrise over a cityscape. A large bridge with a truss structure spans across the middle ground. In the sky, several drones are visible, including a large quadcopter in the upper right and several smaller ones scattered across the sky. The overall color palette is warm, with oranges, yellows, and soft blues.

# Operational Cybersecurity Test and Evaluation of Non-IP and Wireless Networks

DATAWorks 2021

Vincent Bass

Mark Herrera

Peter Mancini (Project Leader)

**Institute for Defense Analyses**

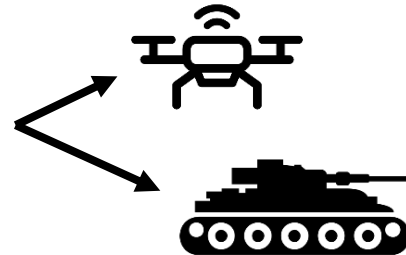
4850 Mark Center Drive • Alexandria, Virginia 22311-1882

# Roadmap for today's presentation

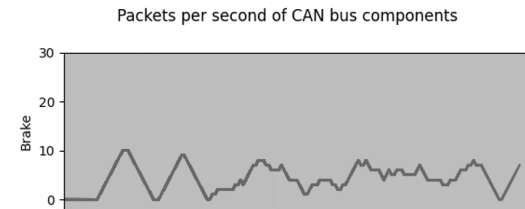
Introduction to non-standard communication protocols



Cyber attack demonstrations



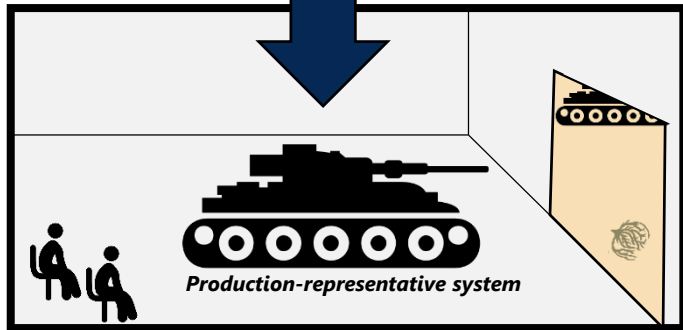
Capturing cyber effects and measuring mission effects



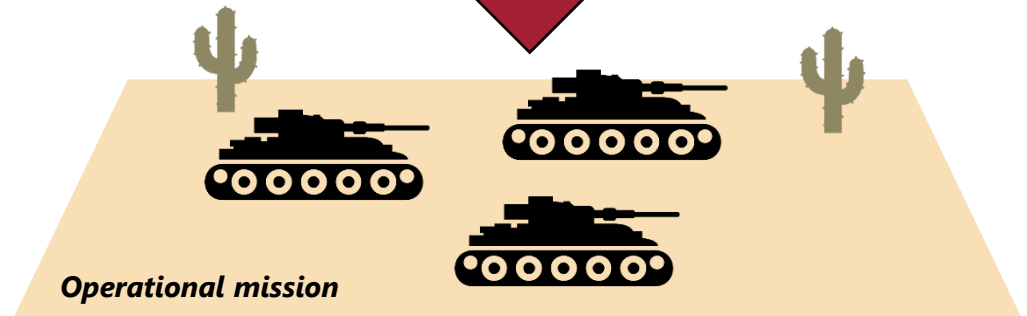


# Operational cyber testing supports cybersecurity evaluation

## Cooperative Vulnerability and Penetration Assessment



## Adversarial Assessment



## Operational cybersecurity assessment



# Many DoD systems contain Internet Protocol (IP) and non-IP networks

## Subsystems using non-IP communication methods include:

- Automotive controls
- Weapons system (e.g. firing, targeting)
- Radio communication
- Satellite communication
- Hull, Mechanical, and Electrical (HM&E)
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
- Industrial Control Systems (ICS)



# DOT&E guidance and memorandum have identified gaps in assessing cybersecurity of non-IP interfaces



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1700

2016

JUL 27 2016

OPERATIONAL TEST  
AND EVALUATION

SUBJECT: Cybersecurity Operational Test and Evaluation Priorities and Improvements

OTAs “should collaborate to develop methods to assess the cybersecurity of common **non Internet Protocol data transmission systems.**”

OTAs “must develop the means to conduct cyber attacks on systems using wireless, **Bluetooth, radar,** and other **radio frequency** means as well as via sonar systems.”

“At present, **the ability to test** against these threat vectors is **rudimentary.**”



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OTAs “should identify components such as cross-domain solutions, **industrial controls, non-internet data transfers,** and data transfers via alternate media such as **radio frequency** and **data links.**”

FY20 INTRODUCTION



FY 2020  
Annual Report

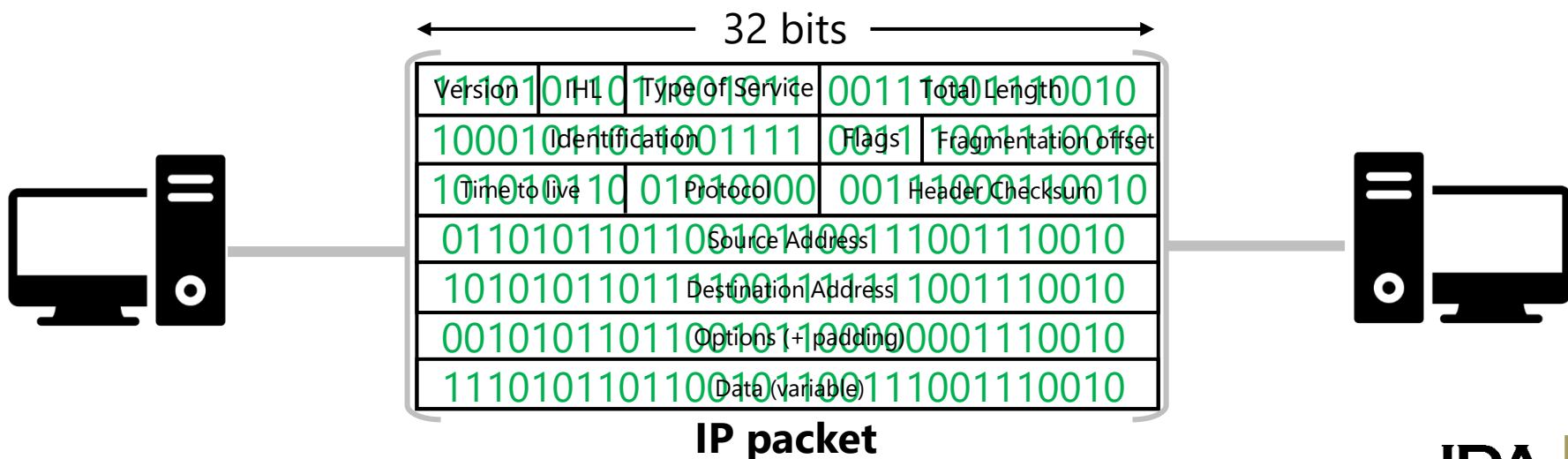
“**Tools and techniques** necessary to test specialized protocols, such as those in industrial control systems, tactical data links, and aircraft transponders, **are not adequate.**”

# TCP/IP is widely understood and can communicate over wired or wireless connections

TCP/IP should be familiar to *everyone* learning any form of computer science



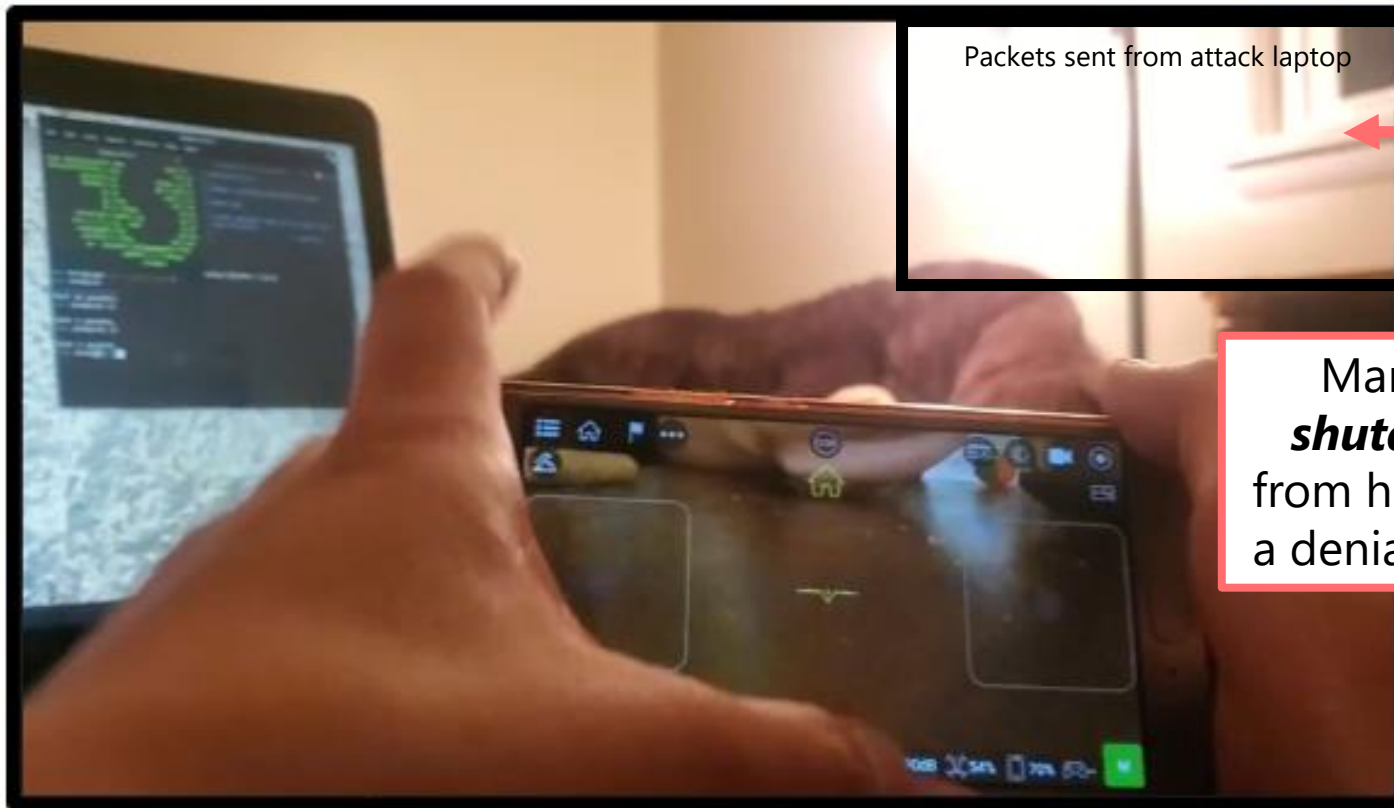
Wired and wireless TCP/IP traffic uses the same fixed format for packet structure



# Cyber attacks can occur over wired or wireless TCP/IP connections

## Attack methodology:

1. Crack weak password hash to access the wireless network
2. Spoof (impersonate) commands from attack laptop using the phone's network address and port



Packets sent from attack laptop

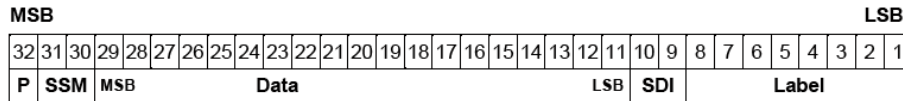
Mark replayed the **shutdown** command from his laptop to create a denial of service attack

# Non-IP protocols also have standardized formats

## ARINC 429

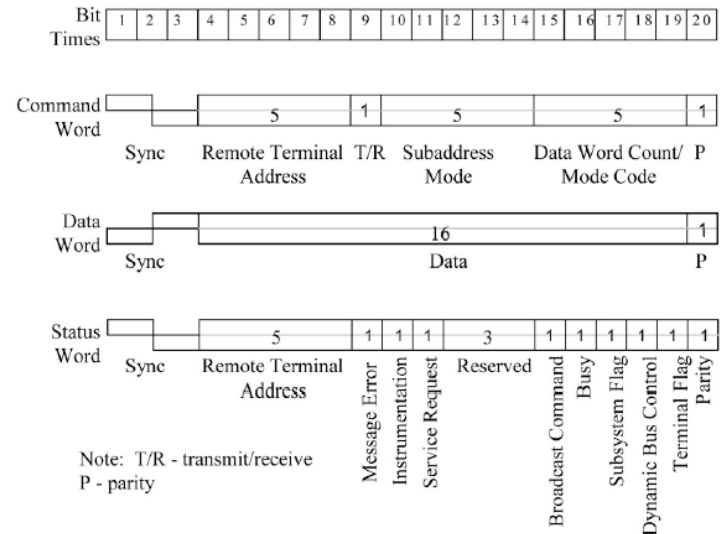
ARINC 429 data words are 32-bit words made up of five primary fields:

- Parity – 1-bit
- Sign/Status Matrix (SSM) – 2-bits
- Data – 19-bits
- Source/Destination Identifier (SDI) – 2-bits
- Label – 8-bits

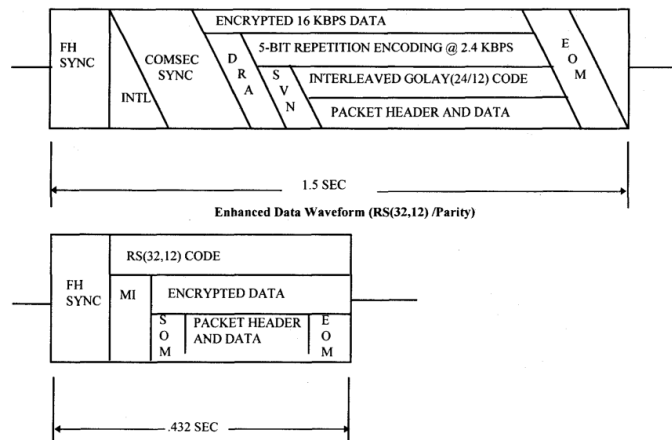


ARINC 429 32-bit Word Format

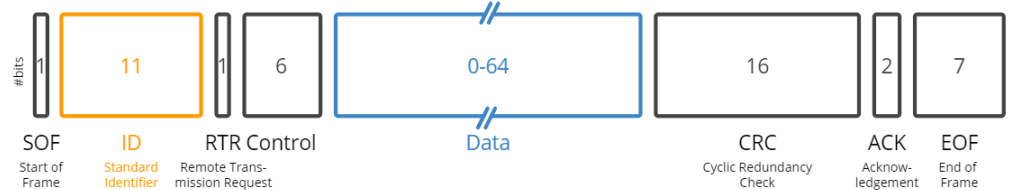
## MIL-STD-1553



## SINGARS Data Waveform

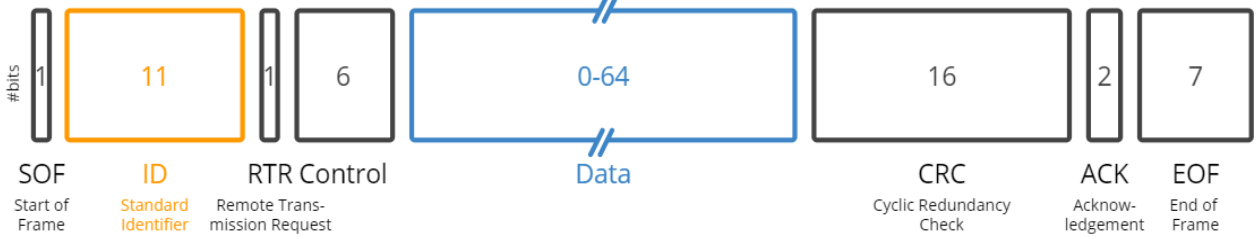


## Controller Area Network (CAN)

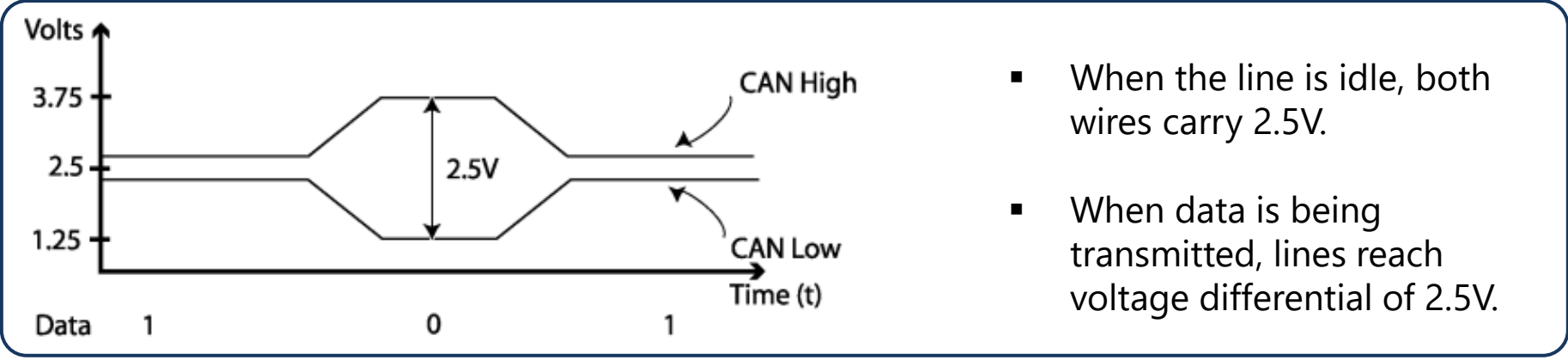


# Analyzing raw packets allows evaluator to visualize bus activity

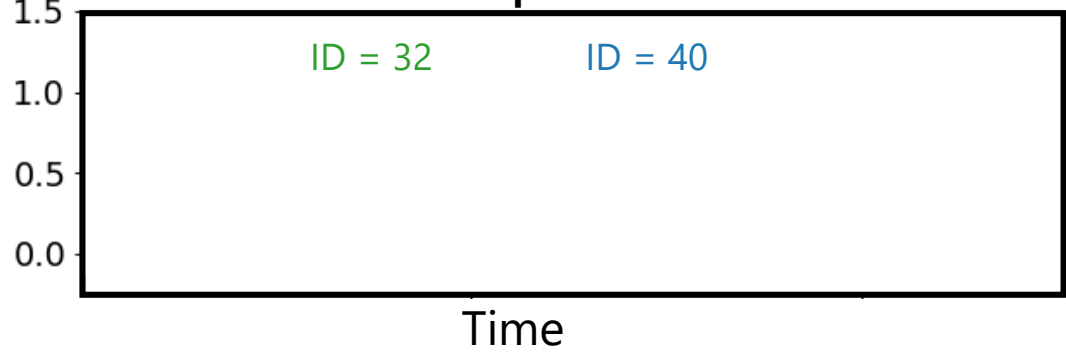
## Controller Area Network (CAN)



## How CAN bus modules communicates



## CAN bus packet traffic



# CAN bus attack demonstration



# Demo: Armored vehicle will undergo operational cyber testing

## Network design

- IP network for in-vehicle electronics
- **Controller Area Network** bus for automotive control
- MIL-STD-1553 network for target acquisition and weapon firing



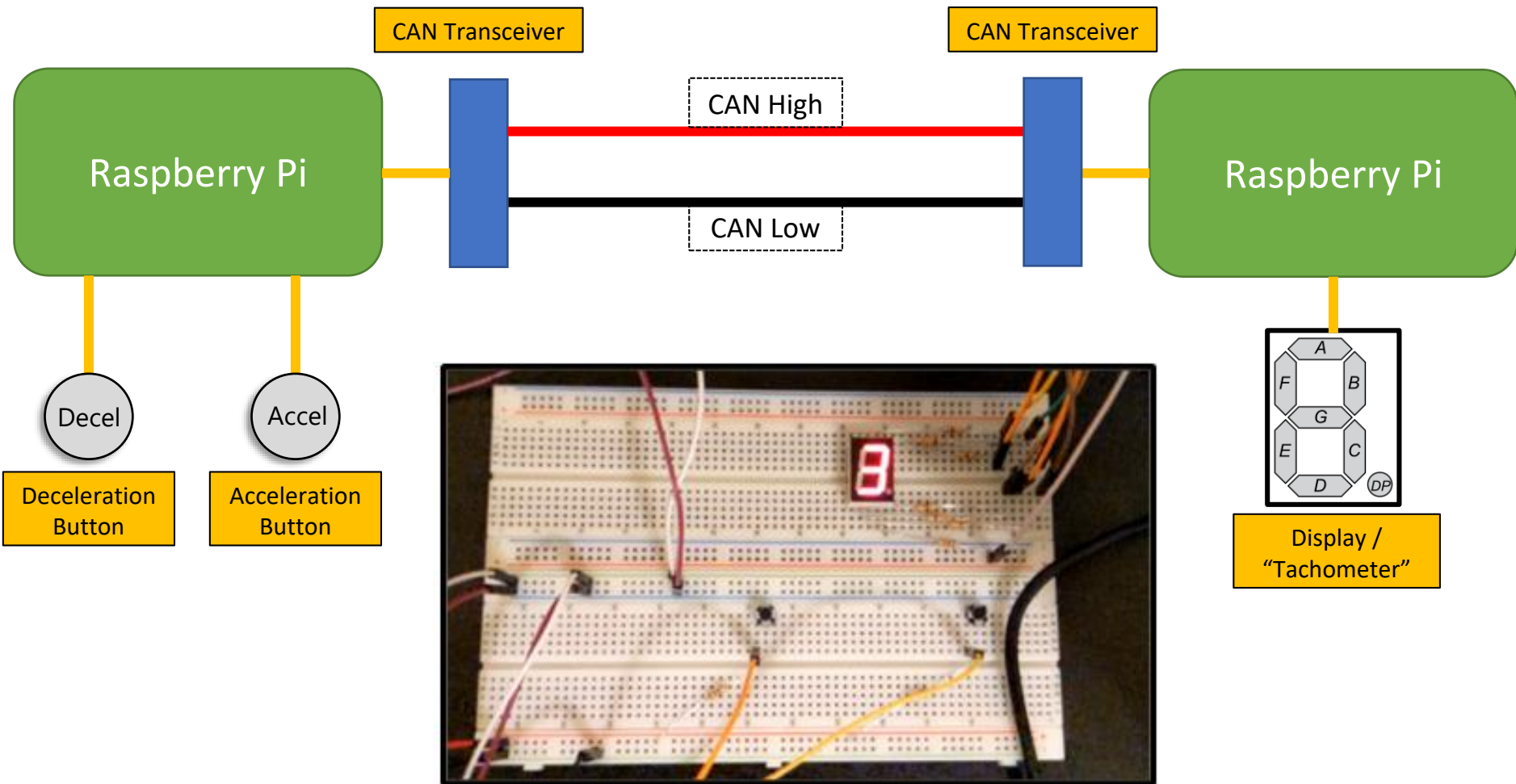
## List of mission essential functions

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Move            | Shoot       |
| Navigate        | Communicate |
| Acquire targets | Protect     |

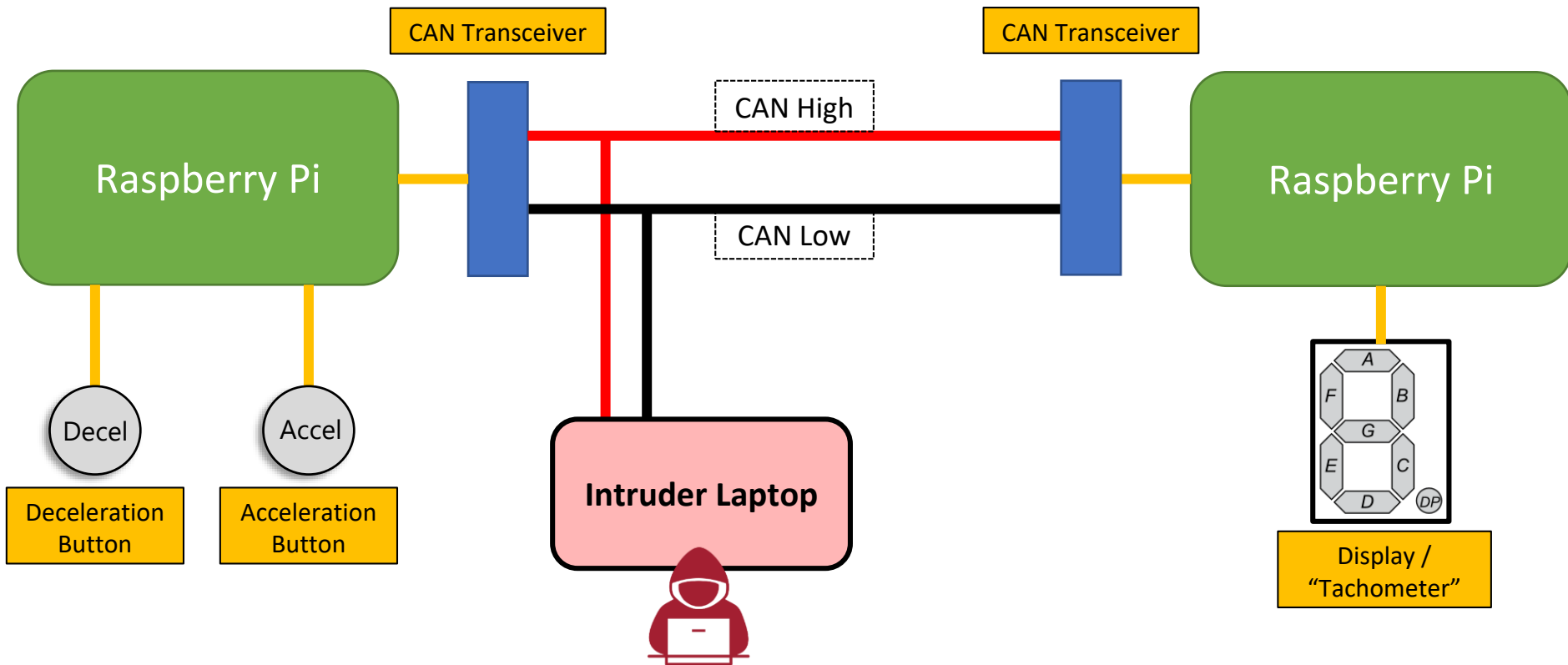
## Measures of effectiveness (MOE)

- Time to reach destination
- Time to acquire target
- Ballistic accuracy
- Securely communicate with other vehicles

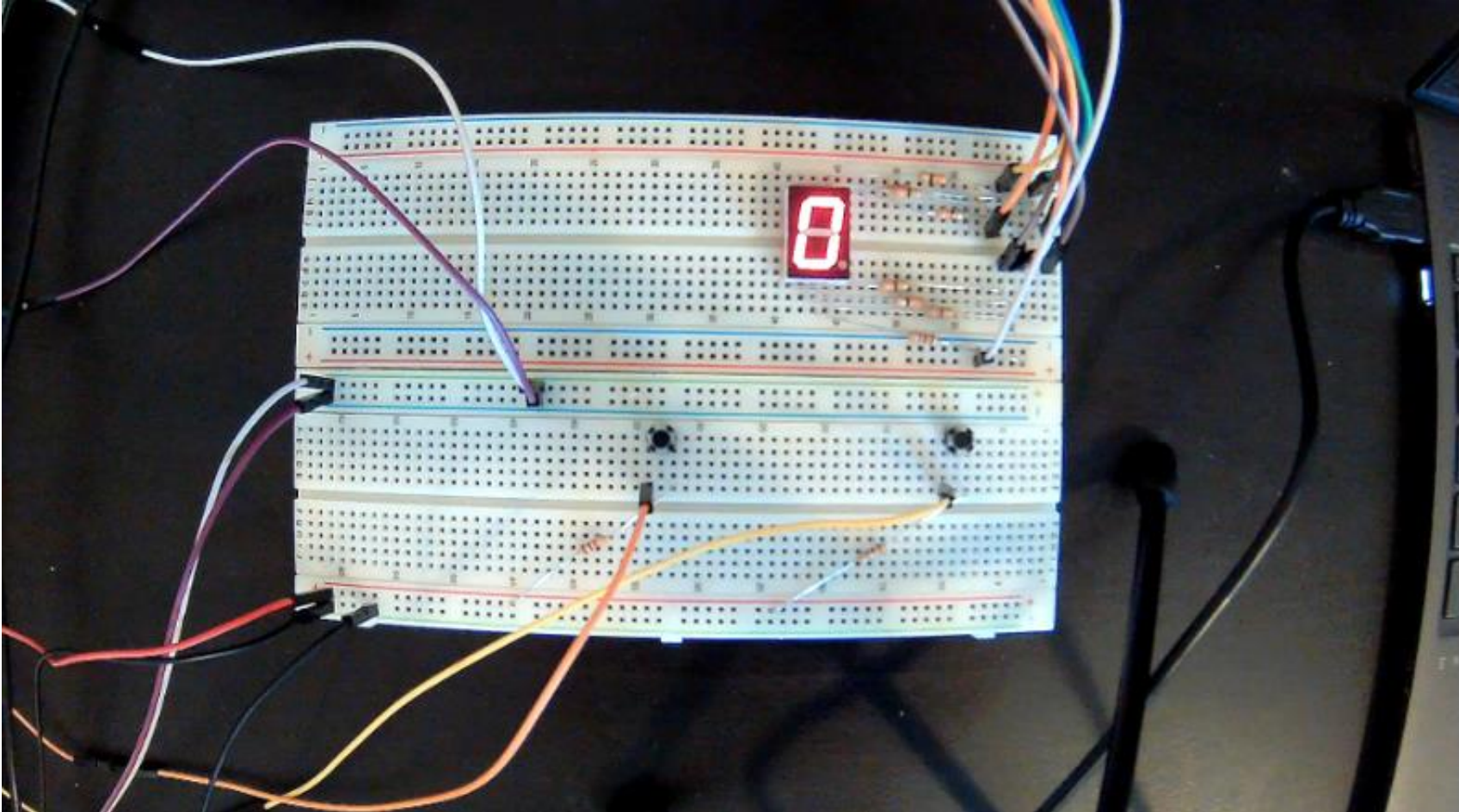
# Vehicle acceleration and deceleration are directly controlled via CAN Bus



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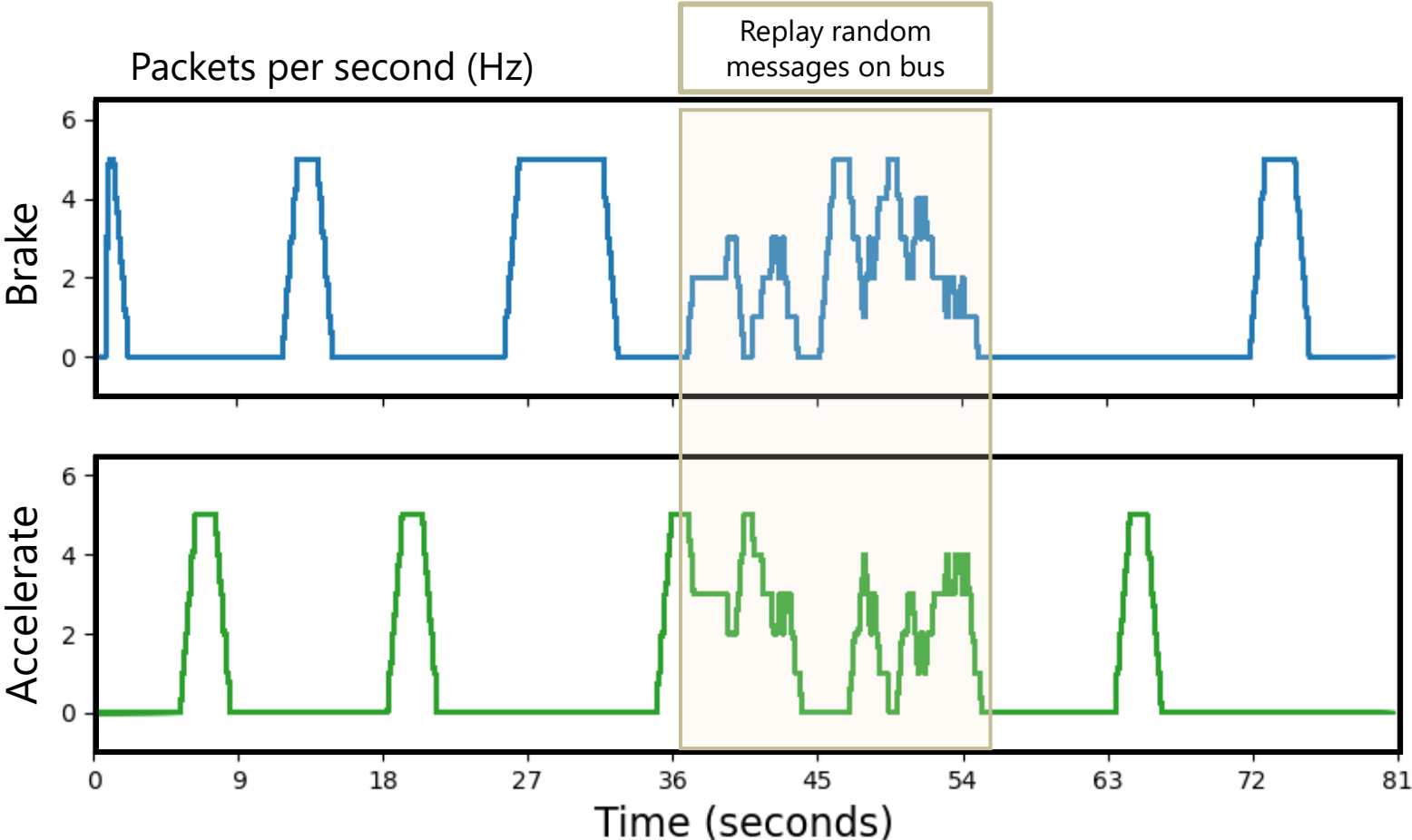


# Vehicle acceleration and deceleration are directly controlled via CAN Bus



# Capturing CAN traffic allows for data visualization of the cyber attack

## Attack #1: Manipulate accelerator input



# CAN Demo – Cyber effects leading to mission effects

Cyber Effect	Measure of Effectiveness		Mission Effect
	TTRD (<20 min)	TTAT (<5 min)	
<b>Manipulate accelerator input</b> (integrity attack)	27 minutes	4 minutes	Attack caused the crew to lose trust in the system. Unit reduced vehicle speed and refused to fire weapon due to distrust in system performance.
	15 minutes	3 minutes	Crew pressed onward through the attack, despite degraded movement capabilities, and completed the mission.
	12 minutes	3 minutes	Crew found the malicious device connected in-line to the CAN bus inside the vehicle. Soldiers disconnect the device and recovered full system capabilities.

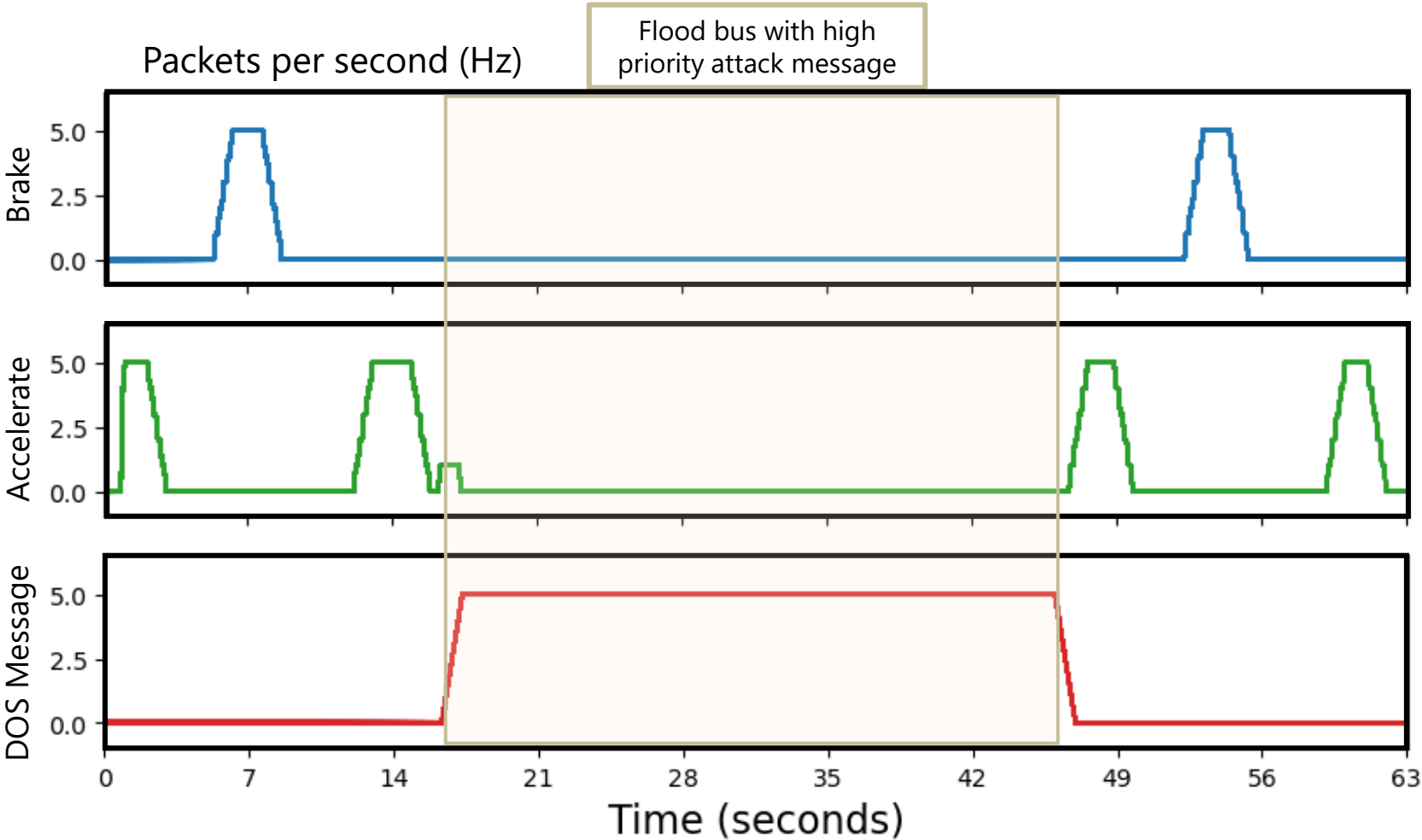
TTRD = Time to reach destination  
 TTAT = Time to acquire target

Mission failed  Mission complete

All effectiveness data, thresholds, and mission effects are fictional.

# Capturing CAN traffic allows for data visualization of the cyber attack

## Attack #2: Disable all bus components



# CAN Demo – Cyber effects leading to mission effects

Cyber Effect	Measure of Effectiveness		Mission Effect
	TTRD (<20 min)	TTAT (<5 min)	
<b>Manipulate accelerator input</b> (integrity attack)	27 minutes	4 minutes	Attack caused the crew to lose trust in the system. Unit reduced vehicle speed and refused to fire weapon due to distrust in system performance.
	15 minutes	3 minutes	Crew pressed onward through the attack, despite degraded movement capabilities, and completed the mission.
	12 minutes	3 minutes	Crew found the malicious device connected in-line to the CAN bus inside the vehicle. Soldiers disconnect the device and recovered full system capabilities.
<b>Disable brakes</b> (availability attack)	Did not complete	Did not complete	Attack prevented the unit from reaching target destination and acquiring target, thus, the unit could not complete their mission.

TTRD = Time to reach destination  
 TTAT = Time to acquire target

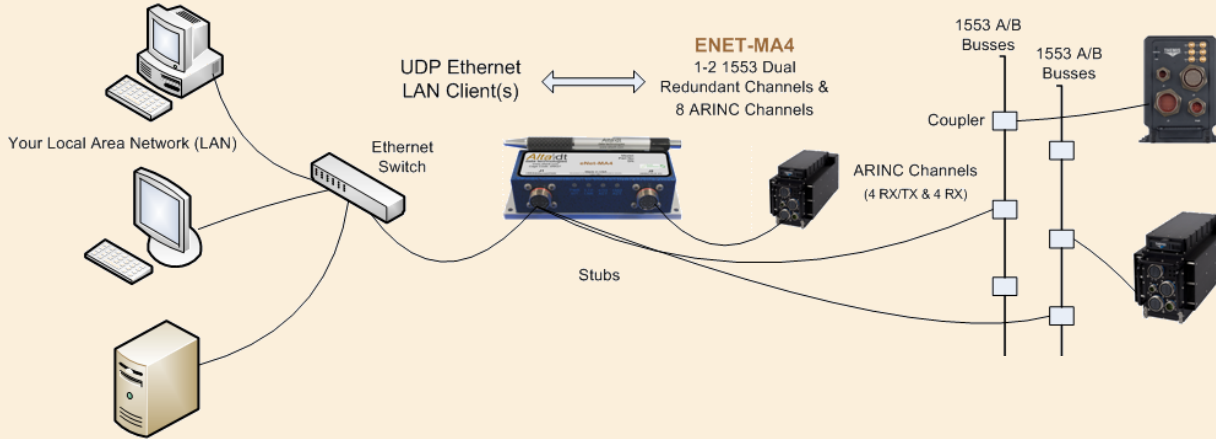
Mission failed  Mission complete

All effectiveness data, thresholds, and mission effects are fictional.



# Commercial tools exist to provide non-IP traffic monitoring and injection capabilities

**Alta dt:** Real-time Ethernet connectivity to 1553 and ARINC 429 busses



## AIM

ARINC 429



MIL-STD-1553A/B databus



ARINC825/CAN bus systems



## Shift 5



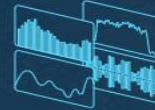
### Shift5 Intake

Shift5 Intake provides full-take embedded data bus capture through continuous collection.



### Shift5 Engine

Shift5 Engine is an advanced algorithm and rules engine that uses behavior heuristics to detect, log, and alert on anomalies.



### Shift5 Gauge Cluster

Shift5 Gauge Cluster tracks incident response using advanced analytics to detect intrusions and prevent cyberattacks on OT.

# Conclusions

Many systems on DoD oversight use non-IP buses to support mission-critical capabilities

- DOT&E guidance and memoranda emphasize the need to test non-IP buses and have identified gaps in test tools



Well-documented data collection of bus activity allows for quantitative confirmation of observed cyber effects



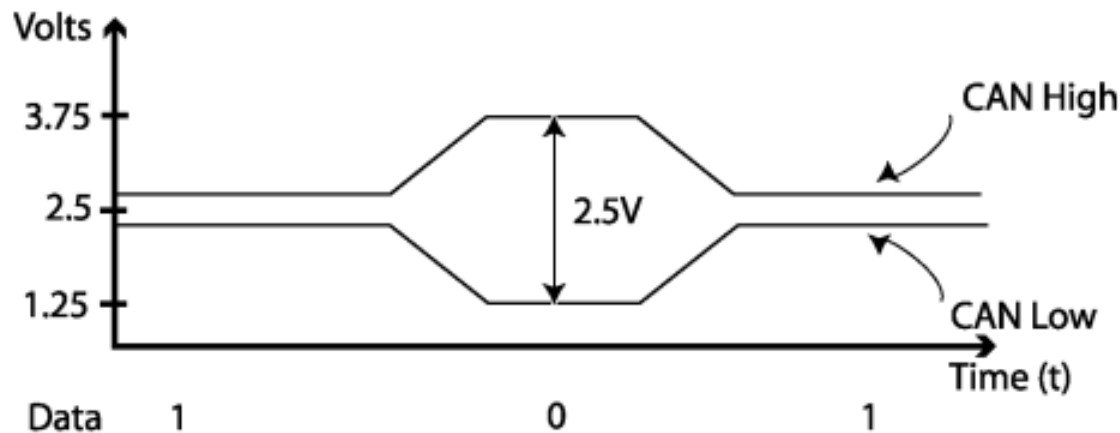
Improving our fundamental understanding of non-standard communication protocols will lead to better operational test planning, data collection, and reporting.



# Backup

## How do CAN bus modules communicate?

CAN bus uses two dedicated wires for communication. The wires are called CAN high and CAN low. When the CAN bus is in idle mode, both lines carry 2.5V. When data bits are being transmitted, the CAN high line goes to 3.75V and the CAN low drops to 1.25V, thereby generating a **2.5V differential** between the lines. Since communication relies on a voltage differential between the two bus lines, the CAN bus is NOT sensitive to inductive spikes, electrical fields or other noise. This makes CAN bus a reliable choice for networked communications on mobile equipment.



CAN power can be supplied through CAN bus. Or a power supply for the CAN bus modules can be arranged separately. The power supply wiring can be either totally separate from the CAN bus lines (using suitable gauge wiring for each module) resulting in two 2-wire cables being utilized for the network, or it can be integrated into the same cable as the CAN bus lines resulting in a single 4-wire cable. CAN bus cabling is available from multiple vendors.

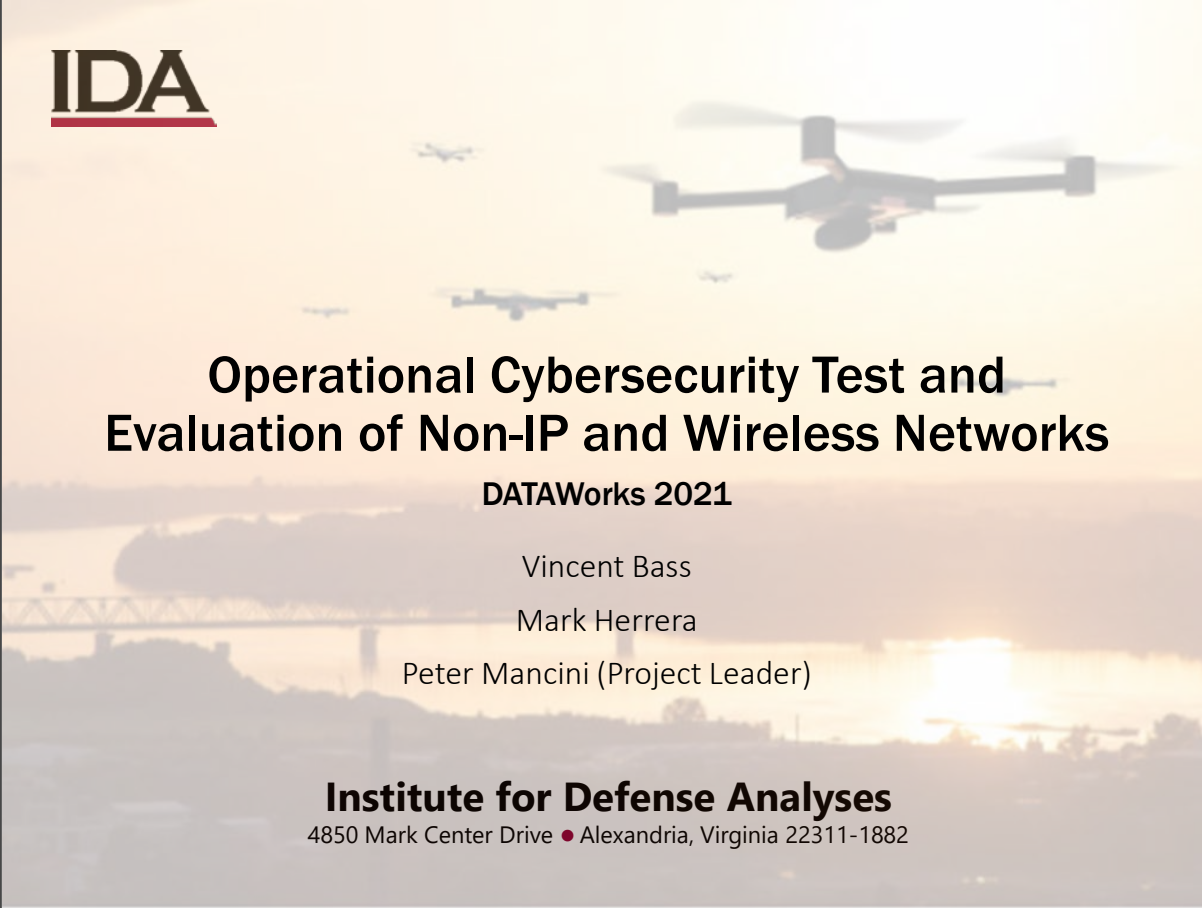

<https://www.axiomatic.com/whatiscan.pdf>

# Appendix A

## Slides with Notes

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Slide 1



**Operational Cybersecurity Test and  
Evaluation of Non-IP and Wireless Networks**

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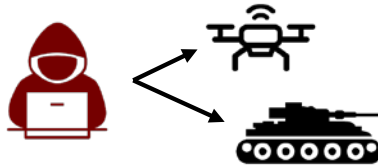
Image from: <https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/aerial-photographing-with-drone-gm1026580116-275288768>

## Roadmap for today's presentation

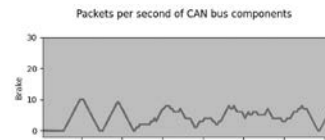
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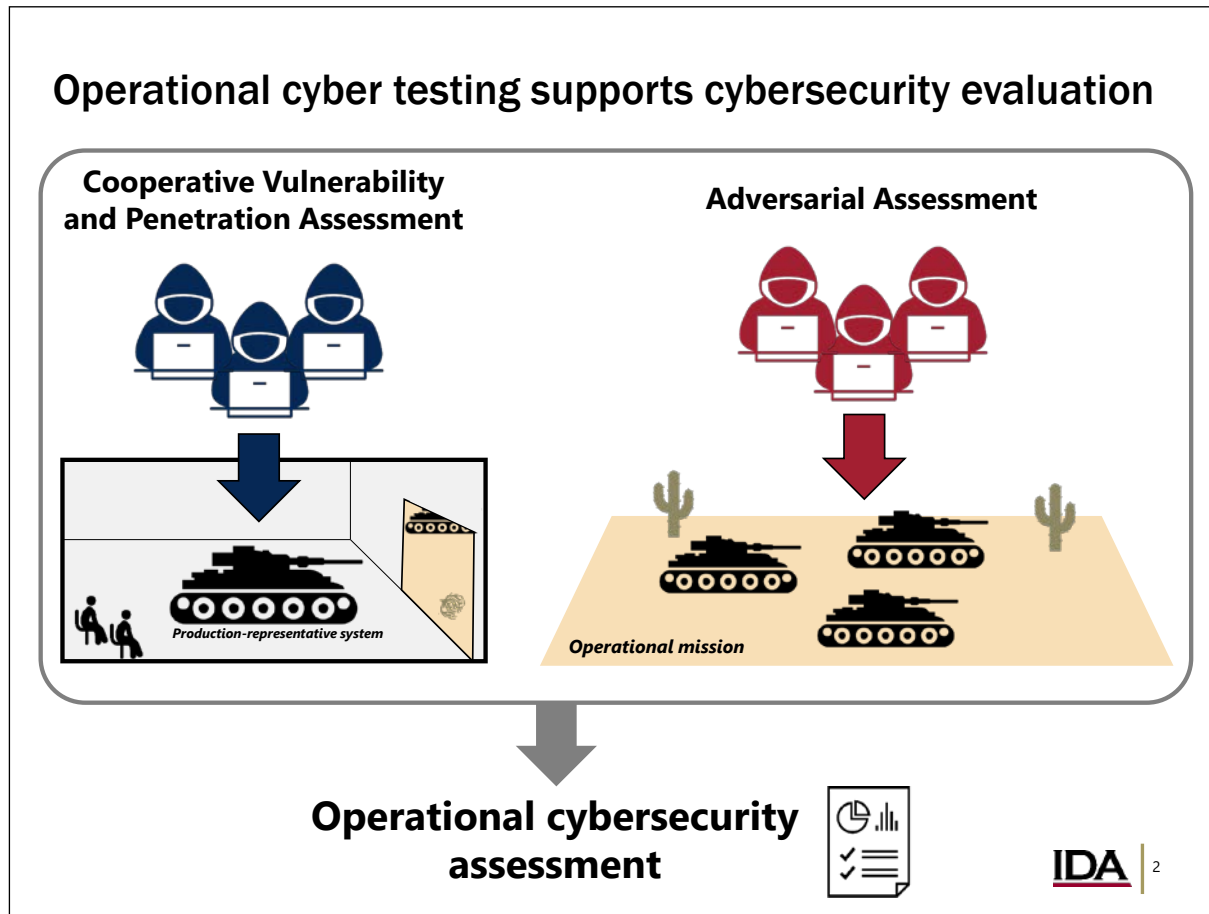


Purpose of operational cybersecurity assessments

Non-standard communication methods: Wi-Fi and non-IP protocols

System capabilities and mission functions typically related to those buses

Cyber effects and Mission effects



The general concept of cyber operational testing (OT) will be described here, but for a more detailed dive into Cyber OT, I recommend you check out our 90-minute presentation from last year's DATAWorks.

[DATAWorks 2021 Introduction to Cyber Operational T&E](#)

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

Taking Down a Turret (dramatization)

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

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Additional information regarding the roles of DOT&E and IDA:

**DOT&E Responsibilities (<https://www.dote.osd.mil/About/Responsibilities/>)**

Prescribe DoD OT&E and LFT&E policy.  
Provide guidance on all OT&E and LFT&E matters.  
Monitor & review all OT&E and LFT&E in DoD.  
Report annually to Congress on OT&E and LFT&E.  
Member of Defense Acquisition Board and Info Tech Acquisition Board.  
Approve test plans for OT & LF oversight programs.  
Report on programs, before full-rate production decision:  
    Adequacy of OT&E & LFT&E.  
    Operational effectiveness & operational suitability.  
    Survivability and lethality.  
    To Secretary, OSD, Services, & four congressional committees.

**IDA Responsibilities (<https://www.ida.org/ida-ffrdcs/systems-and-analyses-center/oed>)**

OED researchers apply deep technical, analytical, and subject-matter expertise to support Department of Defense (DoD) operational testing and evaluation



## Many DoD systems contain Internet Protocol (IP) and non-IP networks

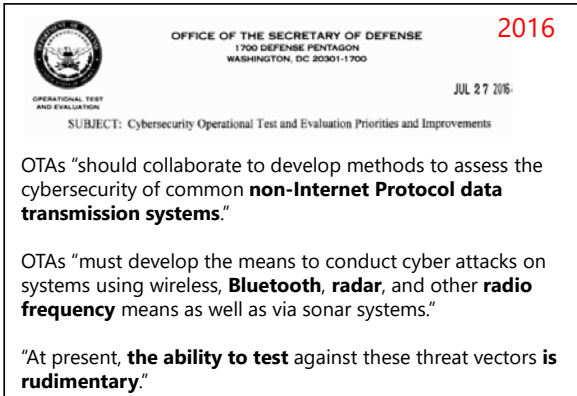
### Subsystems using non-IP communication methods include:

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Slide

## DOT&E guidance and memorandum have identified gaps in assessing cybersecurity of non-IP interfaces



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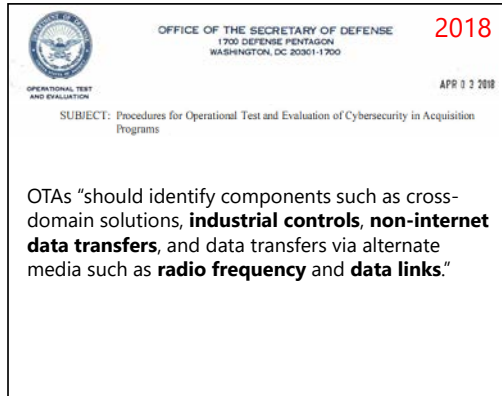
2016  
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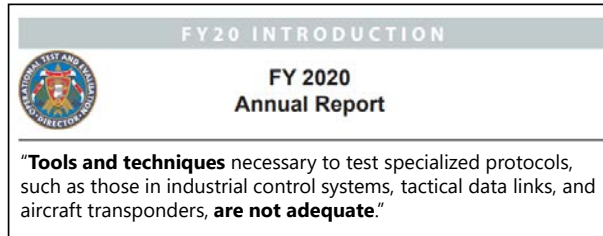


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"**Tools and techniques** necessary to test specialized protocols, such as those in industrial control systems, tactical data links, and aircraft transponders, **are not adequate**."

IDA | 4

0: A classified DOT&E memo provides guidance for testing industrial control systems and non-IP protocols. Message me your SIPR address if you would like me to send you a copy.

Most testing does *consider* testing all interfaces, but not all tests actually do test them. Variety of reasons we won't get into here, because we're not really interested in why they're not tested.

We want to emphasize that it's important you *do* test them, tools exist, and here's what you miss if you don't test them.

2016 Memo:

[https://www.dote.osd.mil/Portals/97/pub/policies/2016/20160727\\_Cybersec\\_OTE\\_Priorities\\_and\\_Improvements\(11093\).pdf?ver=2019-08-19-144201-123](https://www.dote.osd.mil/Portals/97/pub/policies/2016/20160727_Cybersec_OTE_Priorities_and_Improvements(11093).pdf?ver=2019-08-19-144201-123)

2018 Guidance:

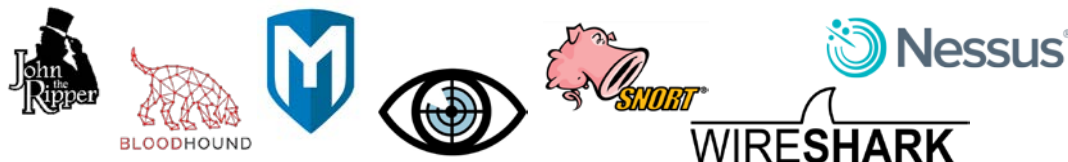
[https://www.dote.osd.mil/Portals/97/pub/policies/2018/20180403ProcsForOTEofCybersecurityInAcqProgs\(17092\).pdf?ver=2019-08-19-144104-027](https://www.dote.osd.mil/Portals/97/pub/policies/2018/20180403ProcsForOTEofCybersecurityInAcqProgs(17092).pdf?ver=2019-08-19-144104-027)

2020 Annual Report:

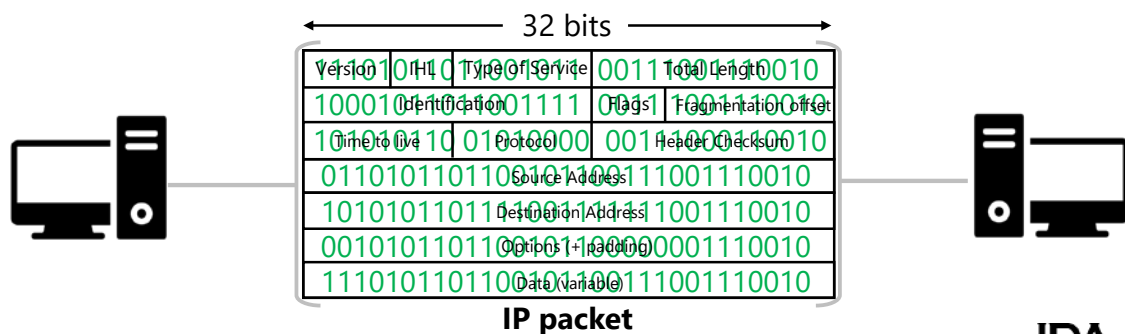
[https://www.dote.osd.mil/Portals/97/pub/reports/FY2020/other/2020DOTEAnnualReport.pdf?ver=rvLsaCQ\\_njLmPDrNIFJBWQ%3d%3d](https://www.dote.osd.mil/Portals/97/pub/reports/FY2020/other/2020DOTEAnnualReport.pdf?ver=rvLsaCQ_njLmPDrNIFJBWQ%3d%3d)

## TCP/IP is widely understood and can communicate over wired or wireless connections

TCP/IP should be familiar to *everyone* learning any form of computer science



Wired and wireless TCP/IP traffic use the same fixed format for packet structure



In our experience observing operational tests, we have noticed that teams are generally more comfortable dealing with IP networks and web applications, and better equipped with tools for IP networks than non-IP.

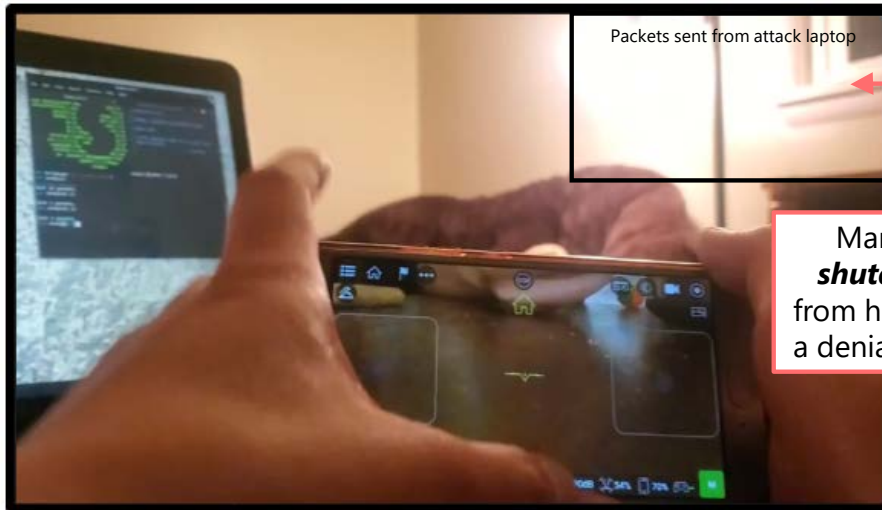
However, in order to perform comprehensive cyber tests on DoD systems, cyber teams must be familiar with several other protocol formats and their respective test and analysis tools.

TCP/IP should be familiar to *everyone* learning computer science and many open source and commercial tools exist to perform testing on IP networks.

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1. Crack weak password hash to access the wireless network
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Packets sent from attack laptop

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Video removed.

## Non-IP protocols also have standardized formats

### ARINC 429

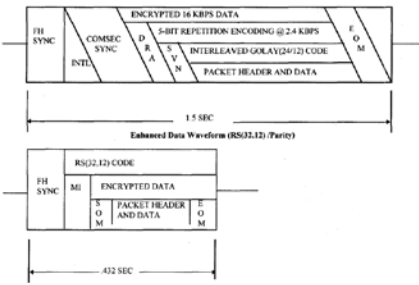
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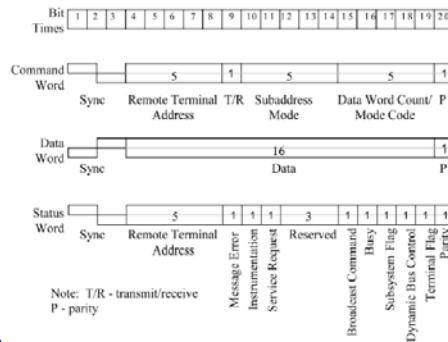


ARINC 429 32-bit Word Format

### SINGARS Data Waveform



### MIL-STD-1553



### Controller Area Network (CAN)

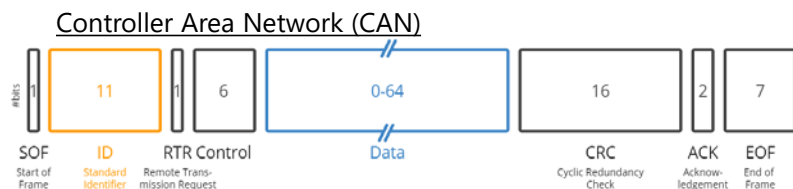


Just like TCP/IP has a fixed format for its packets, so do non-IP protocols. Although they each have unique qualities in how they communicate, the fundamental format and basic principles of each protocol remains the same regardless of implementation.

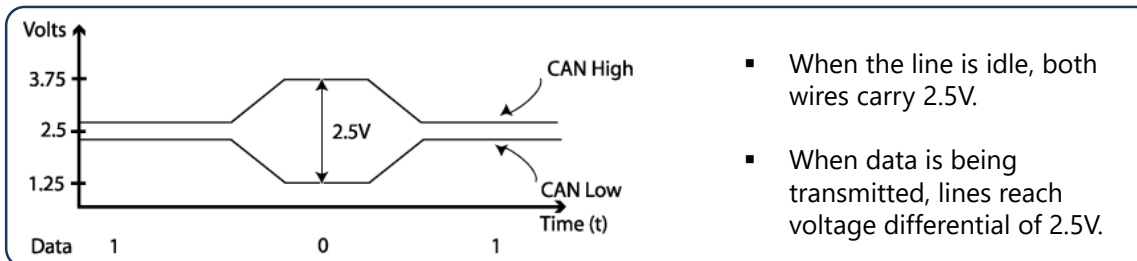
Because the basic principles do not change, we, as a test community, need to challenge ourselves to build within our organizations a fundamental understanding of each of these protocols (including TCP/IP). That way we can plan and conduct better tests, write more precise reports, and more effectively communicate findings.

SINGARS: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=561109>  
 1553: <https://www.milstd1553.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/MIL-STD-1553B.pdf>  
 ARINC 429  
<https://www.aim-online.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/aim-tutorial-oview429-190712-u.pdf>

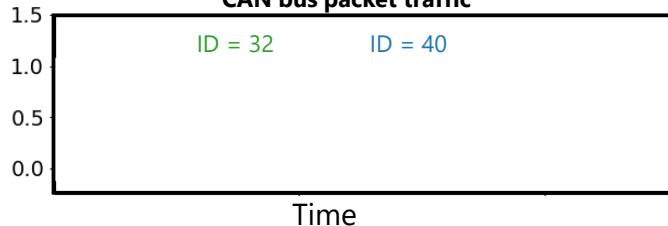
## Analyzing raw packets allows evaluator to visualize bus activity



### How CAN bus modules communicate



### CAN bus packet traffic



CAN is a very simple protocol. It is a broadcast type of message, meaning every component on the network receives every message sent. We will talk about the physical CAN setup we built for the demo in later slides, but I will introduce the core concepts here.

From an electrical perspective, CAN bus uses two wires, CAN high and CAN low. When the line is idle, both wires carry 2.5V. When data is being transmitted, the high and low lines reach a voltage differential of 2.5V. This results in an on/off type of signal.

Our attack today will manipulate the “ID” and “Data” fields of the CAN message. The ID indicates priority of the message on the bus, with “0” indicating highest priority. Lower the ID number, higher the priority. The Data field contains zero to eight bytes and contains the actual message content.

“How CAN bus modules communicate” image from <https://www.axiomatic.com/whatiscan.pdf>

# CAN bus attack demonstration



## Demo: Armored vehicle will undergo operational cyber testing

### Network design

- IP network for in-vehicle electronics
- **Controller Area Network** bus for automotive control
- MIL-STD-1553 network for target acquisition and weapon firing



### List of mission-essential functions

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>Move</b>     | Shoot       |
| Navigate        | Communicate |
| Acquire targets | Protect     |

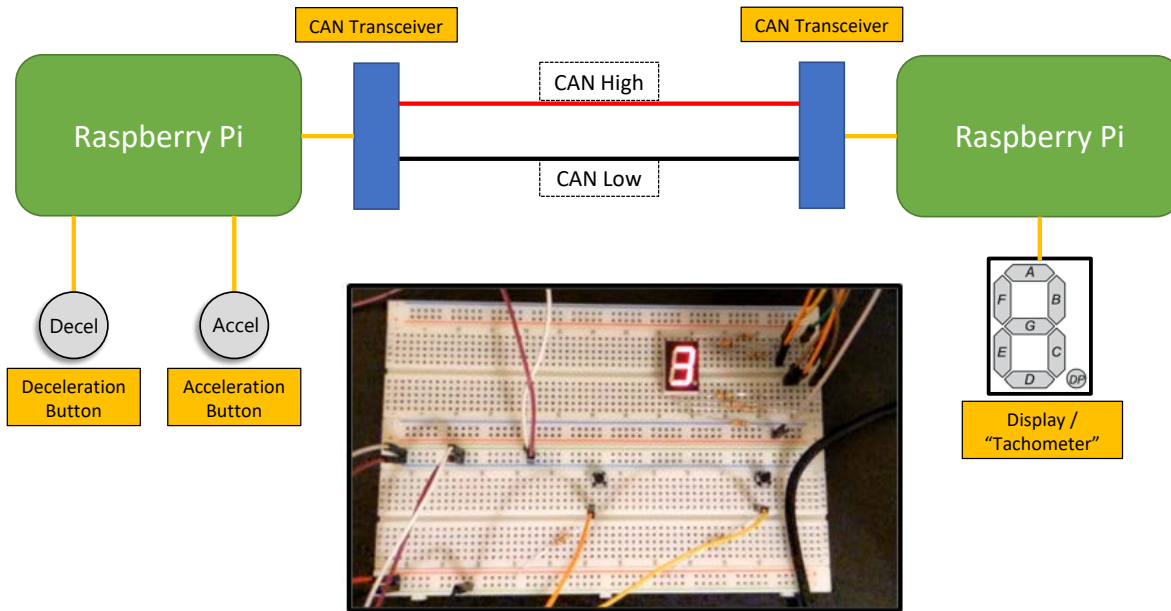
### Measures of effectiveness (MOE)

- Time to reach destination
- Time to acquire target
- Ballistic accuracy
- Securely communicate with other vehicles

Automotive subsystems that may reside on CAN:

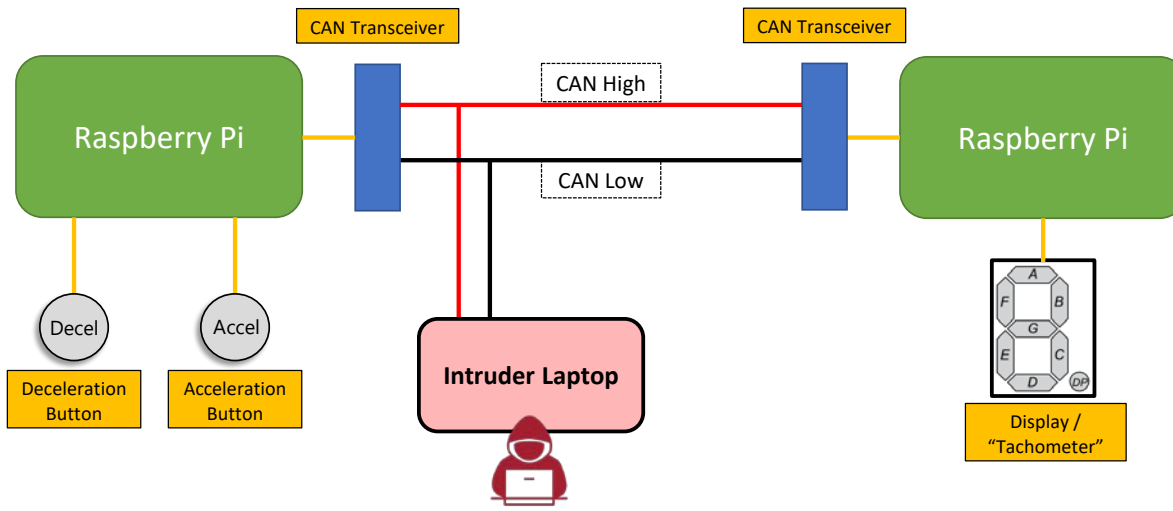
Engine control  
Transmission control  
Brakes  
Suspension  
Hydraulics

### Vehicle acceleration and deceleration are directly controlled via CAN Bus



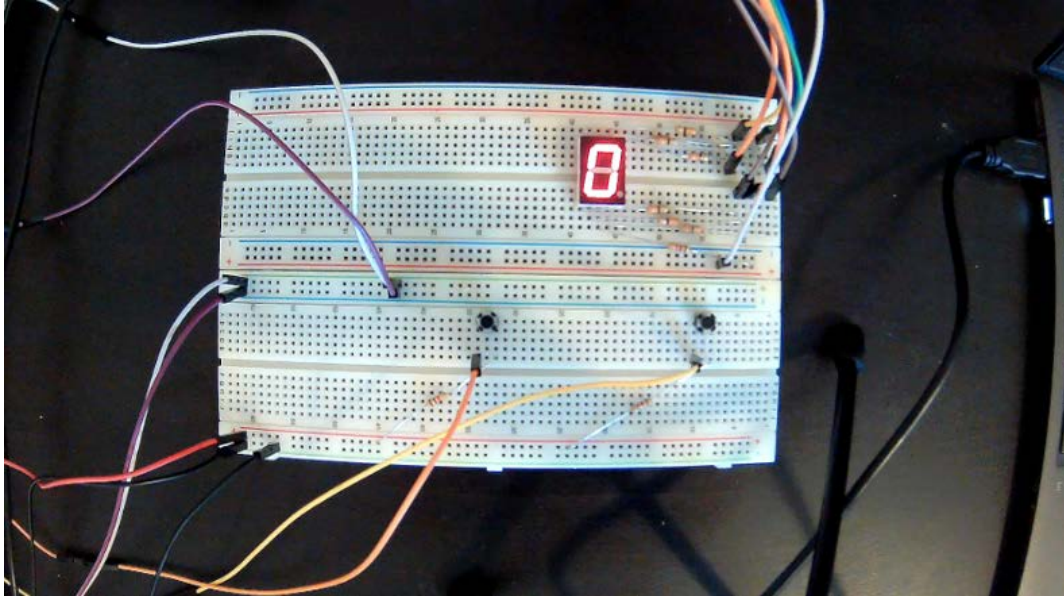
Video removed.

### Vehicle acceleration and deceleration are directly controlled via CAN bus



Although our demonstration includes a physical connection to the CAN high/low, identical attacks can be injected via the supply chain through malicious software updates or compromised line replaceable units.

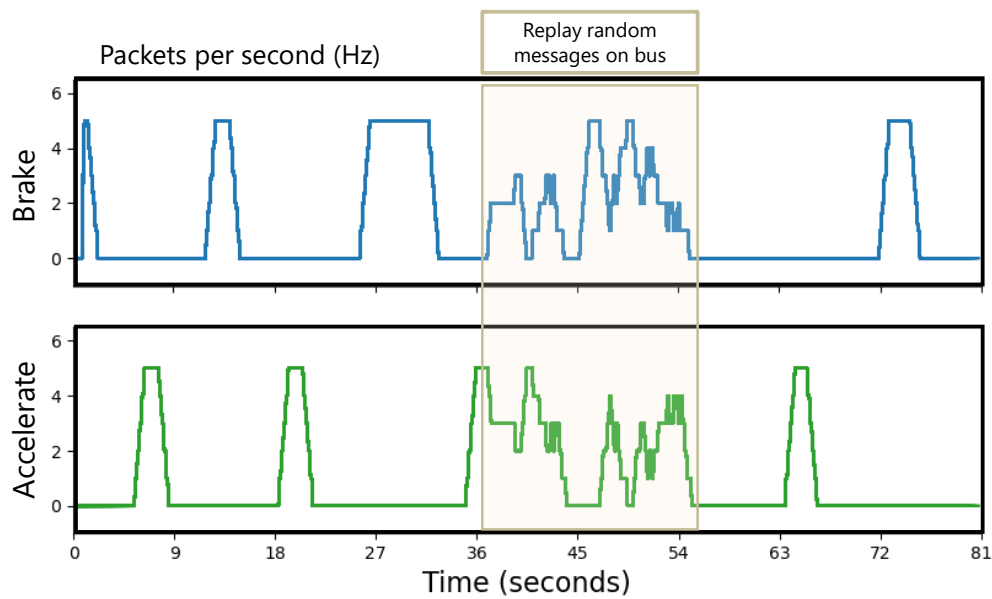
Vehicle acceleration and deceleration are directly controlled via CAN bus



Video removed.

### Capturing CAN traffic allows for data visualization of the cyber attack

#### Attack #1: Manipulate accelerator input



These plots present a sliding sum (window size of 5) of the CAN traffic. In this example, messages are sent at 5 Hz, thus a window of size of 5 data points provides the number of packets from each CAN ID per second.

Brake - CAN ID: 40  
Accelerate - CAN ID: 32

### CAN Demo – Cyber effects leading to mission effects

Cyber Effect	Measure of Effectiveness		Mission Effect
	TTRD (<20 min)	TTAT (<5 min)	
<b>Manipulate accelerator input</b> (integrity attack)	27 minutes	4 minutes	Attack caused the crew to lose trust in the system. Unit reduced vehicle speed and refused to fire weapon due to distrust in system performance.
	15 minutes	3 minutes	Crew pressed onward through the attack, despite degraded movement capabilities, and completed the mission.
	12 minutes	3 minutes	Crew found the malicious device connected in-line to the CAN bus inside the vehicle. Soldiers disconnected the device and recovered full system capabilities.

TTRD = Time to reach destination  
 TTAT = Time to acquire target

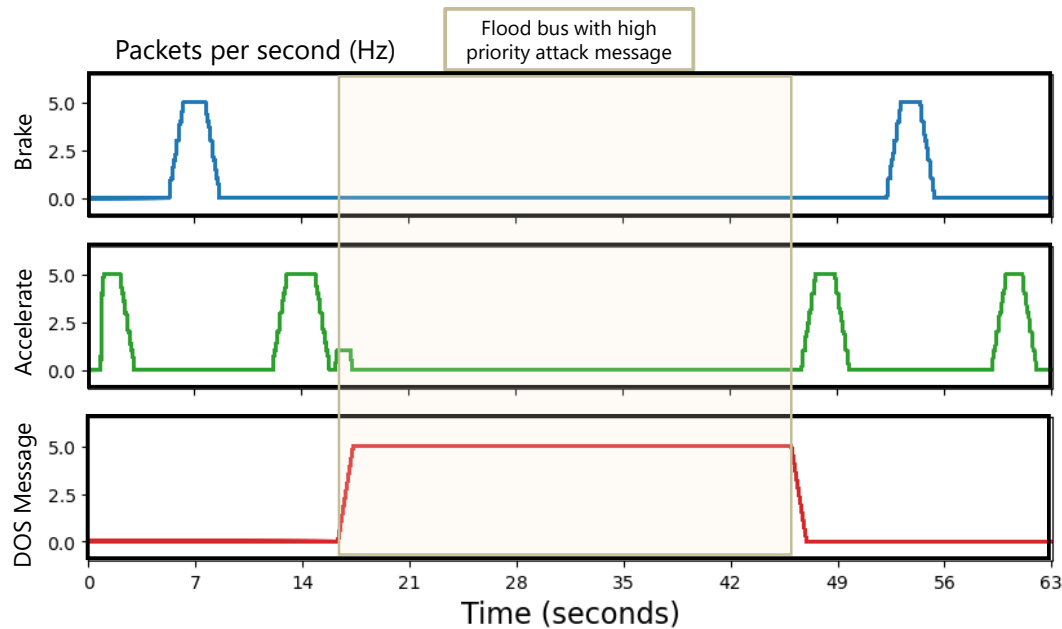
Mission failed  Mission complete

All effectiveness data, thresholds, and mission effects are fictional.



### Capturing CAN traffic allows for data visualization of the cyber attack

#### Attack #2: Disable all bus components



These plots present a sliding sum (window size of 5) of the CAN traffic. In this example, messages are sent at 5 Hz, thus a window of size of 5 data points provides the number of packets from each CAN ID per second.

Brake - CAN ID: 40  
Accelerate - CAN ID: 32  
DOS Message - CAN ID: 00

### CAN Demo – Cyber effects leading to mission effects

Cyber Effect	Measure of Effectiveness		Mission Effect
	TTRD (<20 min)	TTAT (<5 min)	
<b>Manipulate accelerator input</b> (integrity attack)	27 minutes	4 minutes	Attack caused the crew to lose trust in the system. Unit reduced vehicle speed and refused to fire weapon due to distrust in system performance.
	15 minutes	3 minutes	Crew pressed onward through the attack, despite degraded movement capabilities, and completed the mission.
	12 minutes	3 minutes	Crew found the malicious device connected in-line to the CAN bus inside the vehicle. Soldiers disconnected the device and recovered full system capabilities.
<b>Disable brakes</b> (availability attack)	Did not complete	Did not complete	Attack prevented the unit from reaching target destination and acquiring target. Thus, the unit could not complete their mission.

TTRD = Time to reach destination  
 TTAT = Time to acquire target

Mission failed  Mission complete

All effectiveness data, thresholds, and mission effects are fictional.



## Commercial tools exist to provide non-IP traffic monitoring and injection capabilities

**Alta dt:** Real-time Ethernet connectivity to 1553 and ARINC 429 busses

**AIM**

ARINC 429

MIL-STD-1553A/B databus

ARINC825/CAN bus systems

**Shift 5**

**Shift5 Intake**  
Shift5 Intake provides full-take embedded data bus capture through continuous collection.

**Shift5 Engine**  
Shift5 Engine is an advanced algorithm and rules engine that uses behavior heuristics to detect, log, and alert on anomalies.

**Shift5 Gauge Cluster**  
Shift5 Gauge Cluster tracks incident response using advanced analytics to detect intrusions and prevent cyberattacks on OT.

These products cost O(\$10k)

But the many tests they support are each on the order of O(\$1M)

Alta DT:  
<https://www.altadt.com/product/enet-ma4-1553-arinc-ethernet-converter/>

AIM:  
 - CAN: <https://www.aim-online.com/products/apu825/>  
 - 1553: <https://www.aim-online.com/products/anet1553-x/>  
 - ARINC429: <https://www.aim-online.com/products/asc429-x/>

Shift 5: <https://www.shift5.io/>

## Conclusions

Many systems on DoD oversight use non-IP buses to support mission-critical capabilities

- DOT&E guidance and memoranda emphasize the need to test non-IP buses and have identified gaps in test tools



Well-documented data collection of bus activity allows for quantitative confirmation of observed cyber effects



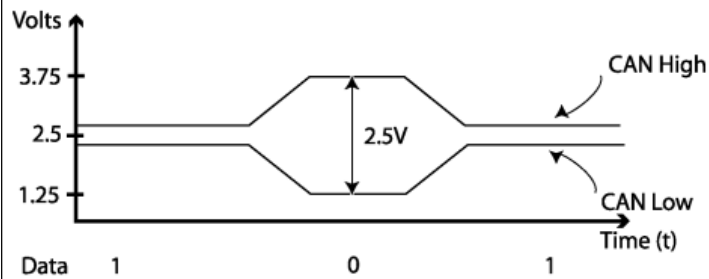
Improving our fundamental understanding of non-standard communication protocols will lead to better operational test planning, data collection, and reporting.



**Backup**

**How do CAN bus modules communicate?**

CAN bus uses two dedicated wires for communication. The wires are called CAN high and CAN low. When the CAN bus is in idle mode, both lines carry 2.5V. When data bits are being transmitted, the CAN high line goes to 3.75V and the CAN low drops to 1.25V, thereby generating a **2.5V differential** between the lines. Since communication relies on a voltage differential between the two bus lines, the CAN bus is NOT sensitive to inductive spikes, electrical fields or other noise. This makes CAN bus a reliable choice for networked communications on mobile equipment.



CAN power can be supplied through CAN bus. Or a power supply for the CAN bus modules can be arranged separately. The power supply wiring can be either totally separate from the CAN bus lines (using suitable gauge wiring for each module) resulting in two 2-wire cables being utilized for the network, or it can be integrated into the same cable as the CAN bus lines resulting in a single 4-wire cable. CAN bus cabling is available from multiple vendors.

<https://www.axiomatic.com/whatiscan.pdf>

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