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Storage Life on the Edge: Security Challenges

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Today's Presenters



David McIntyre Director, Product Planning Samsung



Thomas Rivera CISSP, CIPP/US, CDPSE Strategic Success Manager at VMware Carbon Black



Eric Hibbard CISSP-ISSAP, ISSMP, ISSEP, CIPP/US, CIPT, CISA, CDPSE, CCSK Director, Product Planning – Storage Networking & Security, Samsung Semiconductor.



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Technologies We Cover

Storage Protocols (block, file, object)

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Securing Data



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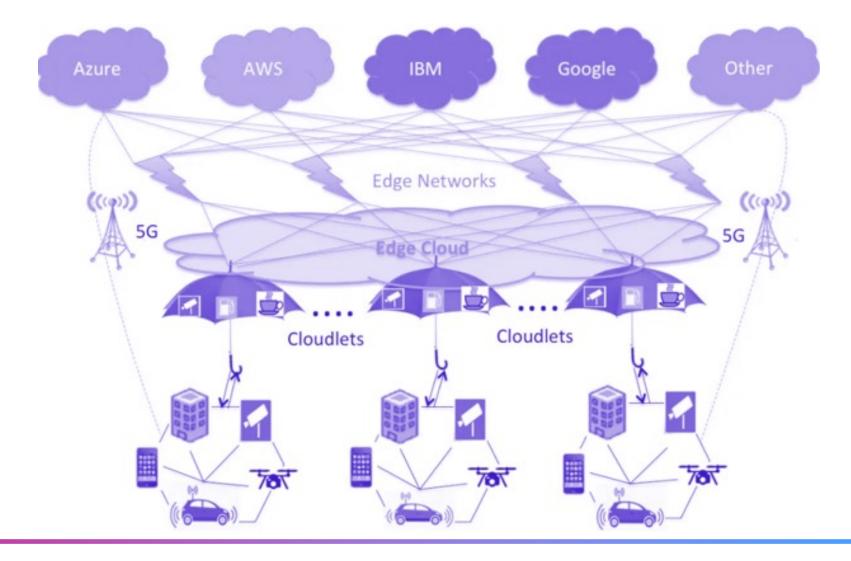


- Chaos at the Edge
- ISO Perspective on Edge Computing
- Security on the Edge
- Panel Discussion





Chaos at the Edge





Storage Life on the Edge is a Series!

Watch previous presentations at the SNIA Educational Library

- Storage Life on the Edge: Managing Data from the Edge to the Cloud and Back
- Storage Life on the Edge: Edge Use Cases







ISO Perspective on Edge



ISO TR 23188:2019 Perspective on Edge Computing

- Edge computing is distributed computing [networked systems] in which data processing and storage takes place on nodes which are near to the edge
- The edge is marked by the boundary between pertinent digital and physical entities, i.e., between the digital system and the physical world, delineated by networked sensors and actuators
- Pertinent digital entities means that the digital entities which need to be considered can vary depending on the system under consideration and the context in which those entities are used



Conceptual Model (containing physical elements)

Device Tier

Lightweight nodes - includes sensors, actuators, user interface devices







actuator

Edge Tier - intermediate nodes such as IoT gateways, control nodes and other nodes that need low latency / high bandwidth to device tier





sensor

Central Tier - nodes centrally located, often in a data center, potentially using cloud computing, with wide span of connectivity



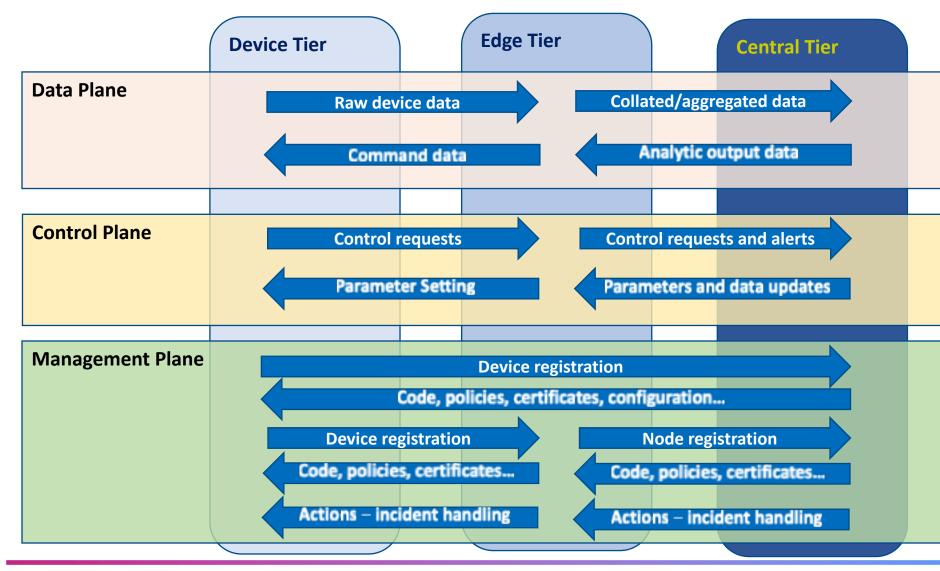
Source: ISO TR 23188:2019



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Networks connecting all nodes

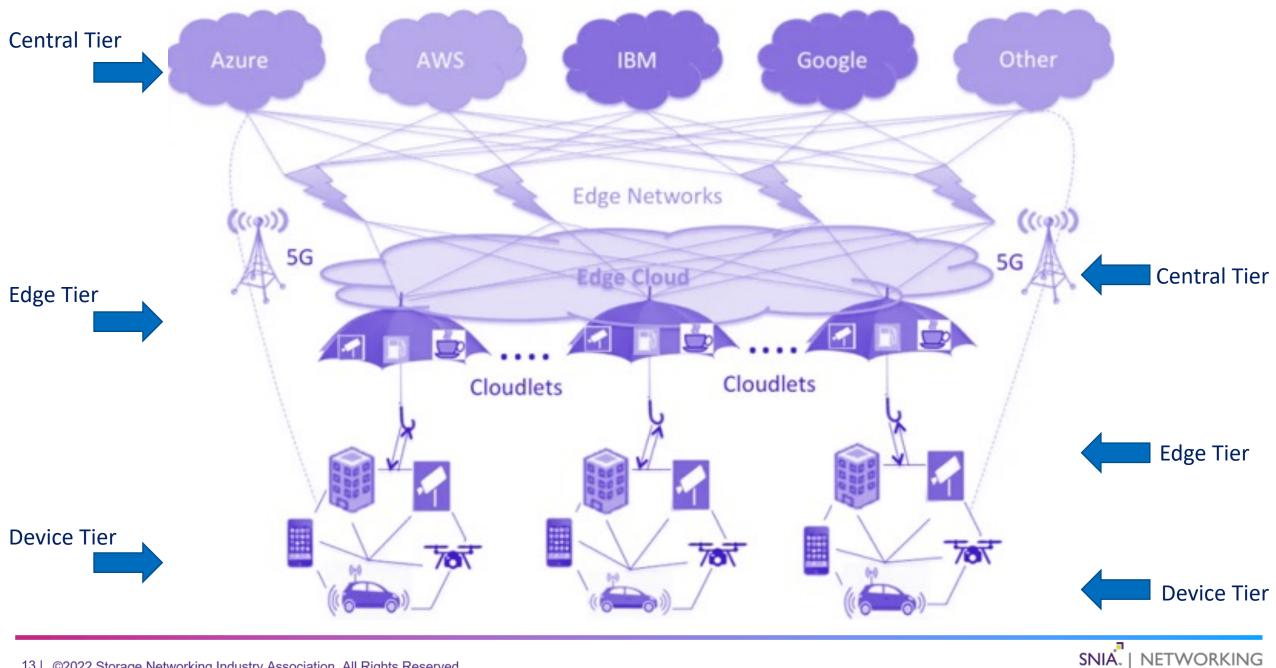
Relationship of Capability Planes to Edge Computing Tiers



- The arrows within the planes represent possible abstract information flows within the distributed computing system
- The data, control and management planes need to be isolated from each other, in networking terms

Source: ISO TR 23188:2019



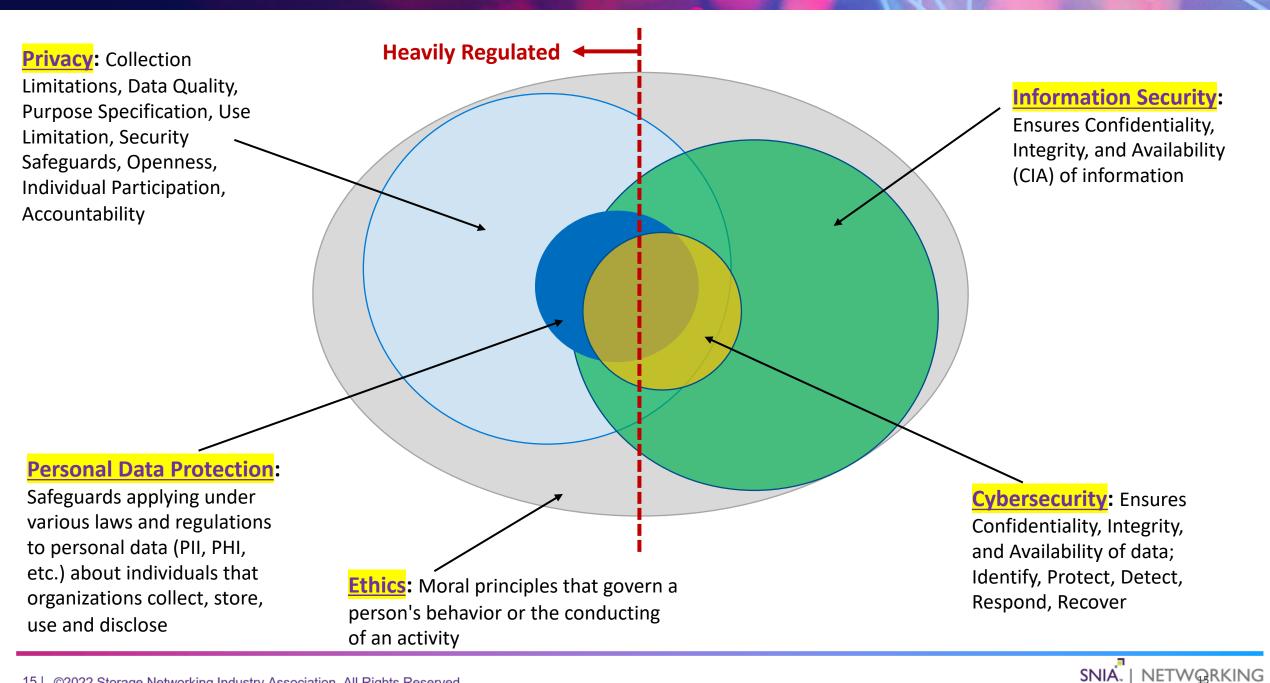


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Security on the Edge





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Many Challenges From Its Characteristics

Characteristics

- Massive number of nodes
- Proximity networks often use specialized protocols to interconnect nodes
- First entrance of data; large amounts of real-time and unfiltered data
- Harsh environments
- Hardware and software constraints
- High latencies and low reliabilities
- Localized compute, storage, and management
- Heterogenous and diverse features sets

Challenges

- Non-traditional cloud interactions
- Traditional firewalls and IDS/IPS do not apply
- Different kinds of nodes diminish automation options
- Insufficient access control policy and enforcement
- Insecure interfaces and protocols
- DDoS susceptibility
- Expanded attack surface due to vulnerabilities



Rudimentary Risk Analysis



Node Threats

- Poor physical security
- Limited/no security capabilities
- Unmanaged configurations
- Misconfigurations
- Software vulnerabilities
- Limited/no patching
- Malware

Network Threats

- Insecure protocols
- Denial of service
- Eavesdropping
- Spoofing
- Network
 misconfiguration

Data Threats

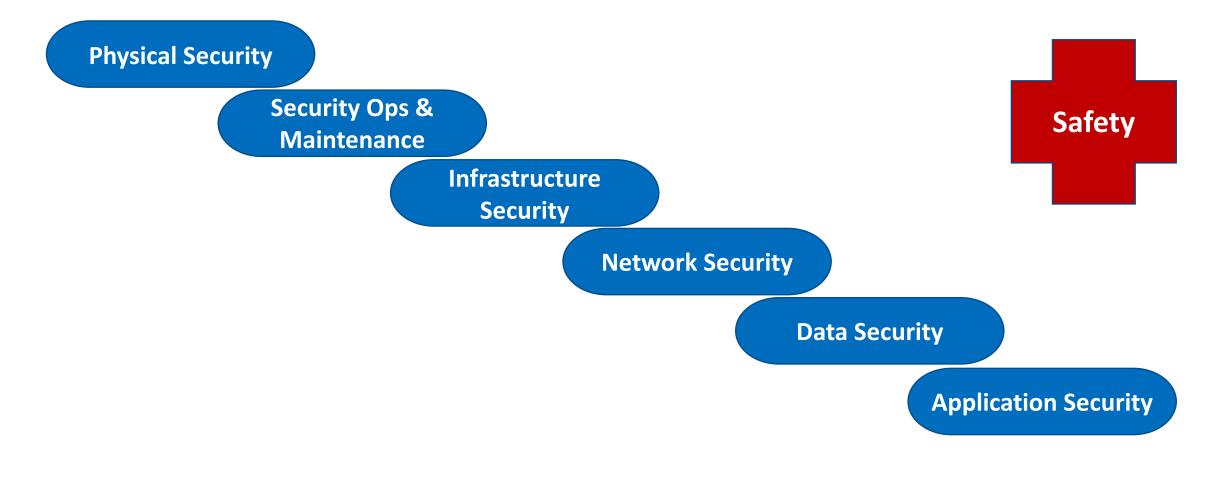
- Data disclosure
- Data corruption
- Data destruction
- Data availability

Application Threats

- Application vulnerabilities
- Limited/no patching
- Unauthorized access



Example Edge Computing Security Framework







Panel Discussion



Summary and Q&A

- Security issues permeate edge ecosystems
- Heterogeneity complicates security
- There is no once-size-fits-all, so security needs to reflect the risks, organizational risk tolerance, value of assets, etc.
- Privacy implications need to be addressed
- In some scenarios, safety can dominate the security priorities



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Learn More on May 11, 2022



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