

In-Vehicle Network - Automotive Zone Based Architecture with Time Sensitive Network

Maximilian Sokol

(Andreas Braun / Andreas Schuler)

About the Speaker

- **Friedrich Maximilian Sokol, M. Eng.**
 - "Full-Stack" Digital Hardware Engineer, Missing Link Electronics
 - Driving high-performance solutions from initial system architecture through to final hardware deployment.
- **Core Expertise: Protocols on Silicon**
 - Specialist in high-performance network stacks (TCP/IP) for FPGAs.
 - Expertise spans system architecture, PCB design, and low-level software.



MLE – Experts for Domain-Specific Compute Architectures

Our Mission: From Software to Silicon!

- Deliver HW and SW for High-Performance (Embedded) Compute Systems & Solutions
- Offering pre-validated subsystems with FPGA IP blocks and open-source software
- Support customer projects with deep expertise and hands-on design services

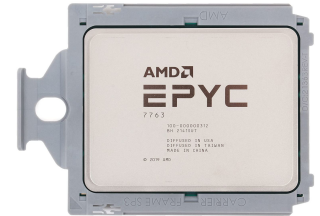
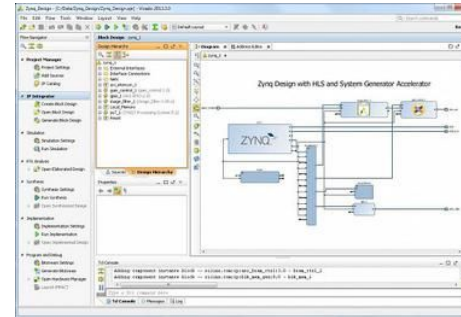
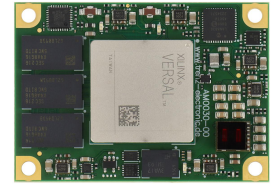
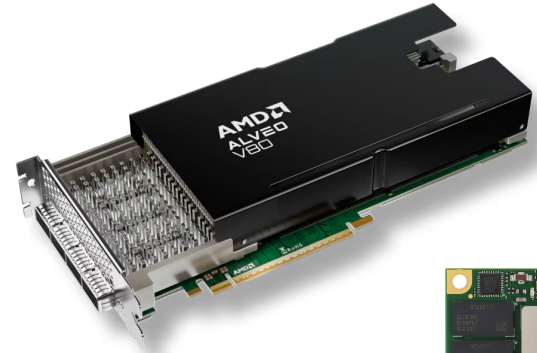
Head-quartered in Silicon Valley with Design Offices in Germany

- Founded 2010, employee owned
- 20+ Certified FPGA Designers
- Customers include technology leaders, US and European government agencies, Fortune 500 companies
- Partners to:



MLE Design Services Expertise – FPGA as a Computer

- RTL and High-Level Synthesis using FPGA design flows
- AMD Zynq-7000 SoC in designs since Q1/2012
- AMD Zynq Ultrascale+ MPSoC in designs since Q4/2015
- AMD Zynq UltraScale+ RFSoc in designs since Q2/2018
- AMD Versal since Q1/2019
- PetaLinux / Vanilla Linux and Yocto-based SW development
- Multigigabit transceiver configurations
 - PCIe Gen2/3/4/5, SATA 3/6G, SAS 6/12G, NVMe, CXL
 - SDI-3/6/12G, JESD204B, DP/HDMI 4k, MIPI CSI-2 D-PHY
 - 10/25/40/50/100G Ethernet, Low Latency Ethernet
- Radar & Lidar for civil, mil/aero, automotive, industrial
- Image processing for HDMI, Displayport, SDI
- Time Sensitive Networking, Detnet, Layer-2/3 Switching
- Functional Safety Design Flows ISO 26262 (ASIL), IEC 61508 (SIL)
- Security & Trust (PUF, Crypto Accelerators , eFuses)



Our Technology Achievements

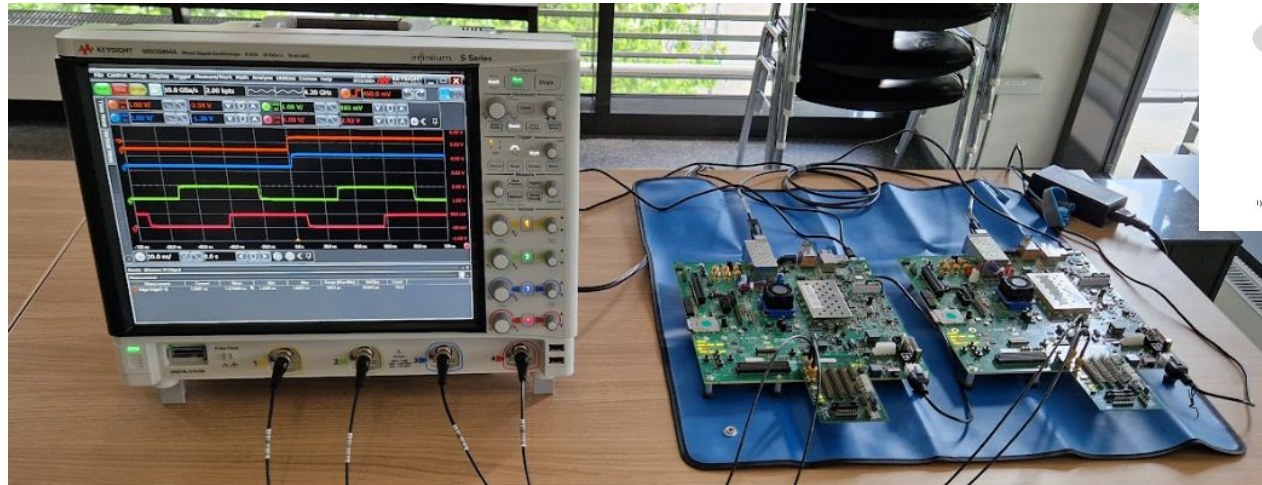
- Patented technology in the fields of acceleration, mixed-signal, functional safety
 - US Patent 9,209,828 – Configurable Mixed-Signal Systems
 - US Patent 10,140,049 – Partitioning Systems Operation in Multiple Domains
 - US Patent 10,509,880 – Automation for Configurable Mixed-Signal Systems
 - US Patent 10,708,199 – Heterogeneous Packet-Based Transport
 - US Patent 10,848,442 – Secure Heterogeneous Packet-Based Transport
 - US Patent 11,356,388 – Real-Time Multi-Protocol Heterogeneous Packet-Based Transport
- 60+ Presentations at Technology Conferences and in Technology Journals
 - Embedded World Conferences
 - PCI-SIG Developers Conferences
 - Flash Memory Summits, SmartNICs Summit
 - FPGA Conferences
 - IBM Open Power Summit
 - Automotive Ethernet Congress
 - XILINX Developer Forum and Security Workshops
 - SNIA Storage Developers Conferences



MLE Technology - Proudly Sourced Elsewhere

Example BMBF VERANO: Koherent digital Radar

MLE optimizes CERN OHL White Rabbit to
AMD/Xilinx FPGAs



White Rabbit

Sub-Nanosecond timing over Ethernet

"Oh dear! Oh dear!
I shall be too late!" ¹⁾

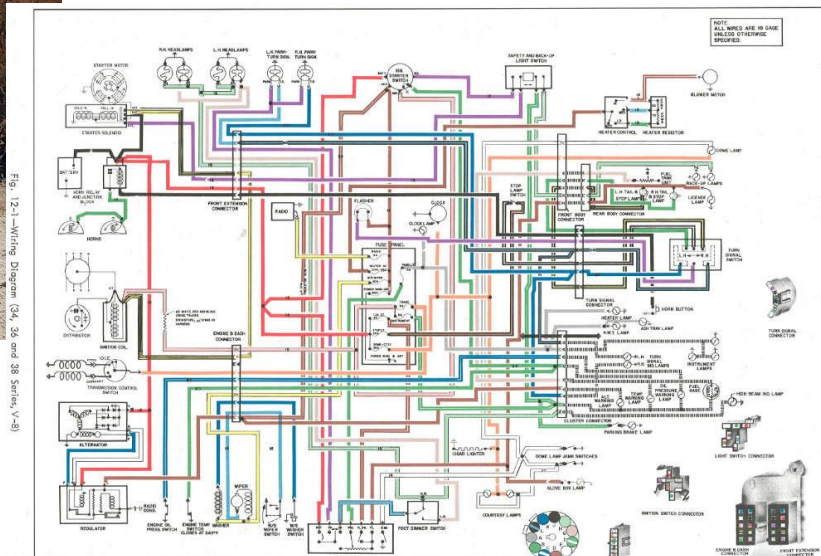


¹⁾ Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll (1865)

Automotive Network History (1967)



1966 Oldsmobile Cutlass Convertible

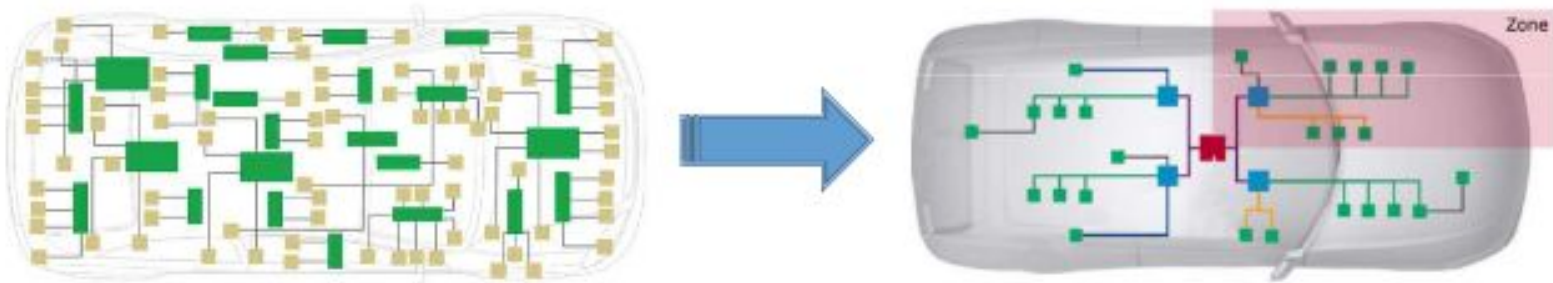


Today's Expensive Wiring Nightmare



Next: Zone-Based Architectures

- Network connectivity is not based on functional domains, but on *physical location and proximity* inside the vehicle, i.e. “Zones”
- Data aggregation and preprocessing in Zone Controllers: 
- High-bandwidth connectivity towards a central “High Performance Computer” HPC 



Next: Zone-Based Architectures

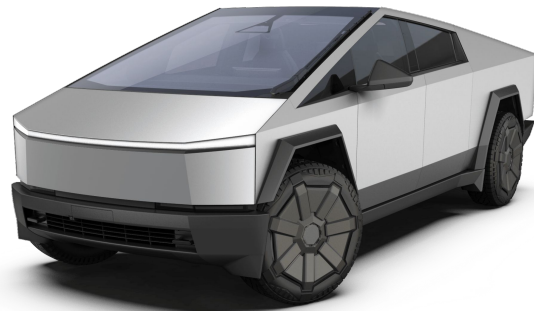
Example: **Tesla's “Etherloop”**¹

Model 3:

- Number of endpoints: 273
- Number of cables: 490

Cybertruck:

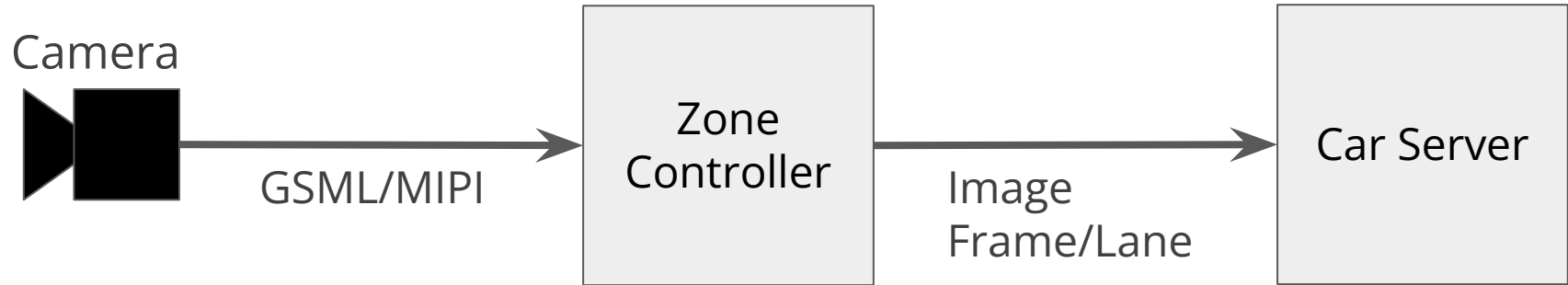
- Number of endpoints: 368
- Number of cables: 155



¹ <https://insidetesla.de/tesla-cybertruck-innovatives-etherloop-system/>

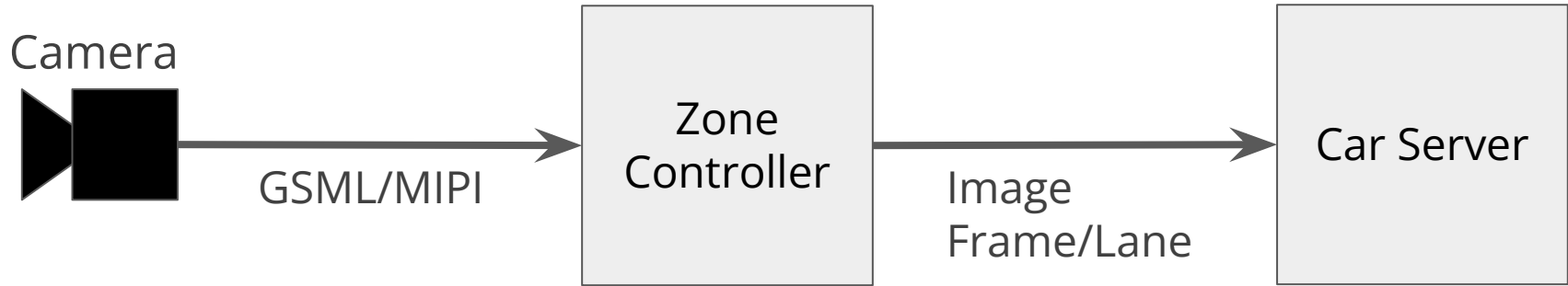
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Example: Camera



Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Example: Camera

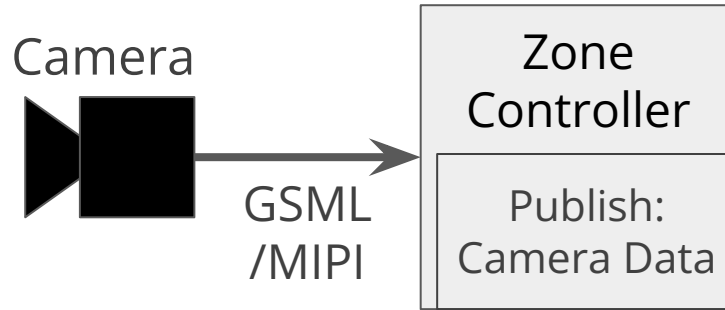


Zone can provide preprocessed data:

- Rescaled
- ROI
- etc.

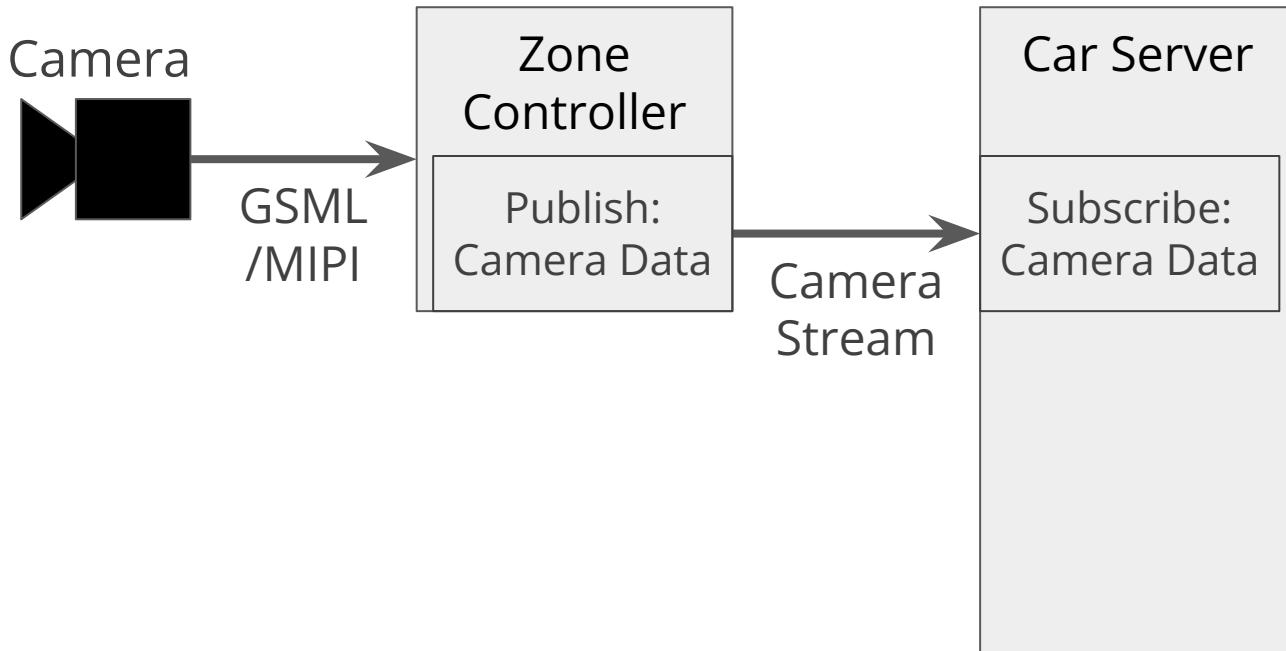
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture



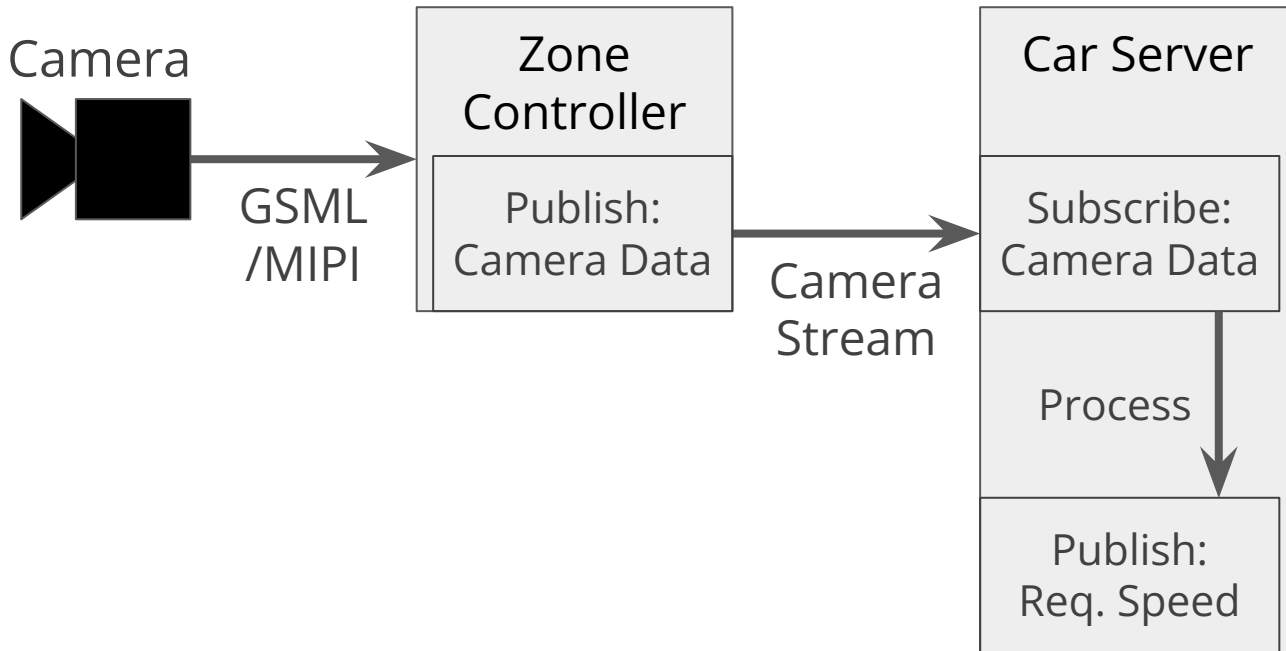
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture



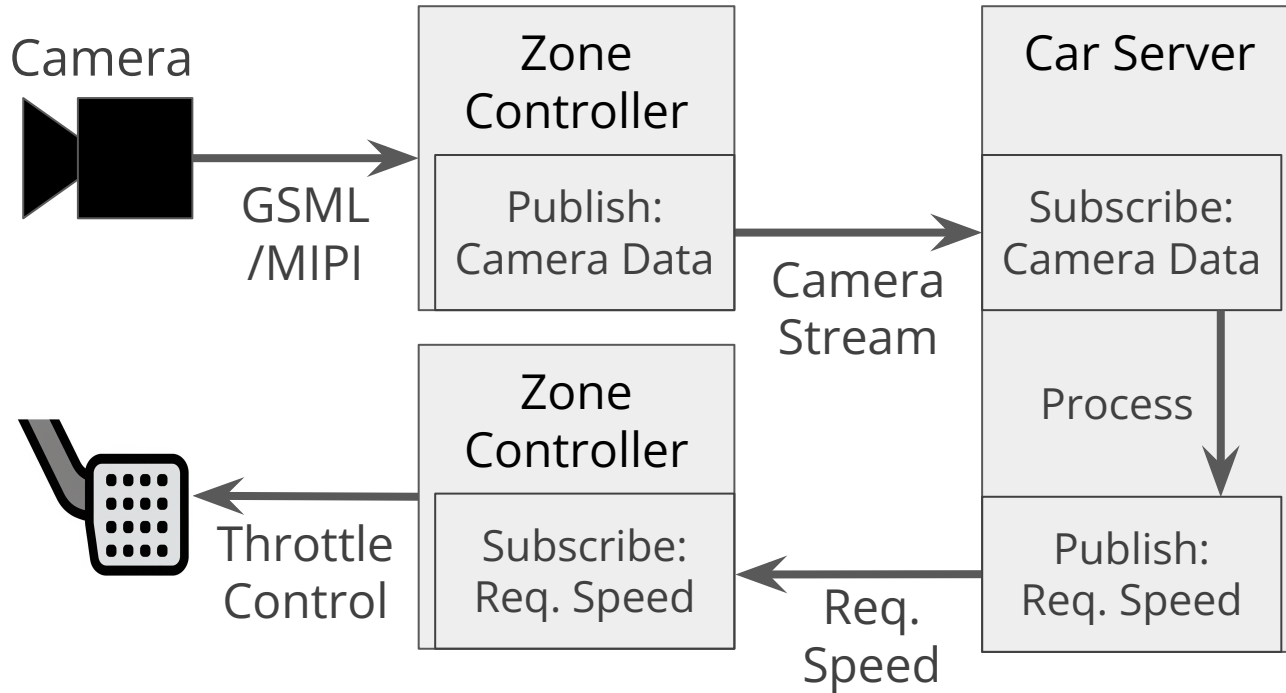
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture



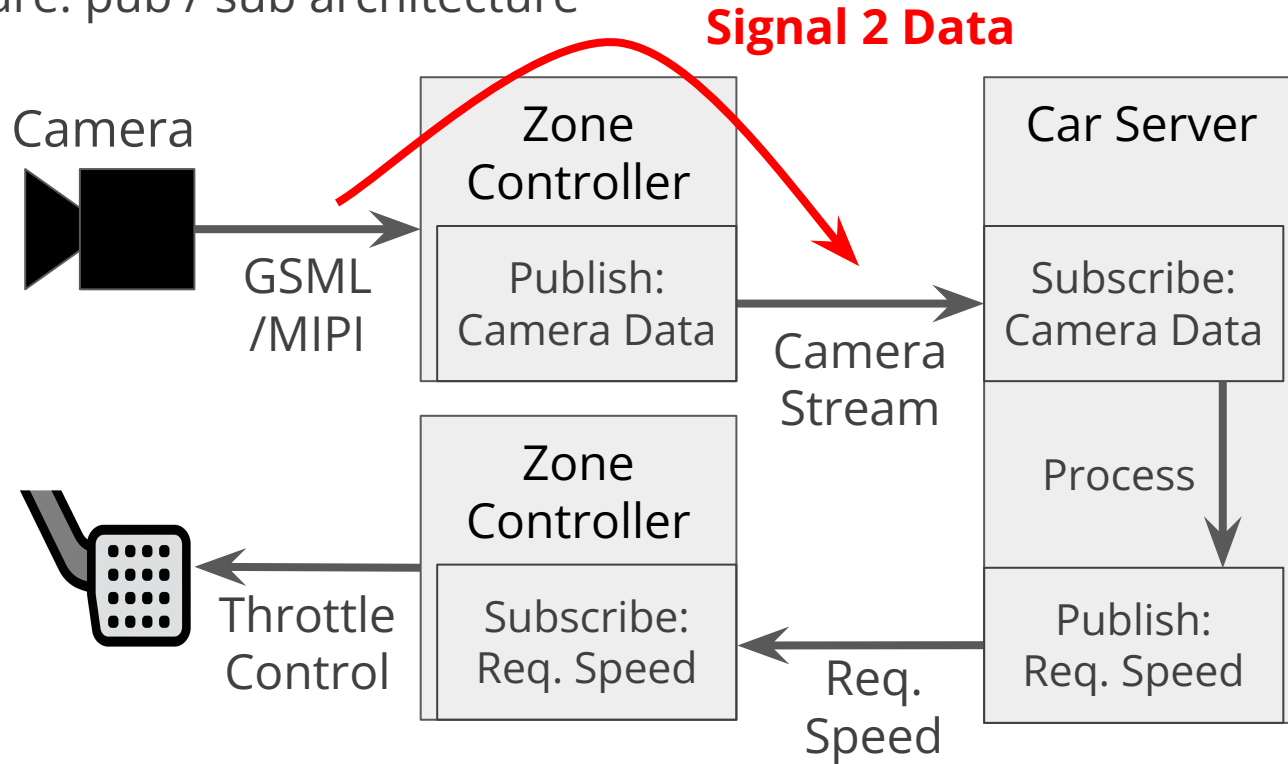
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture



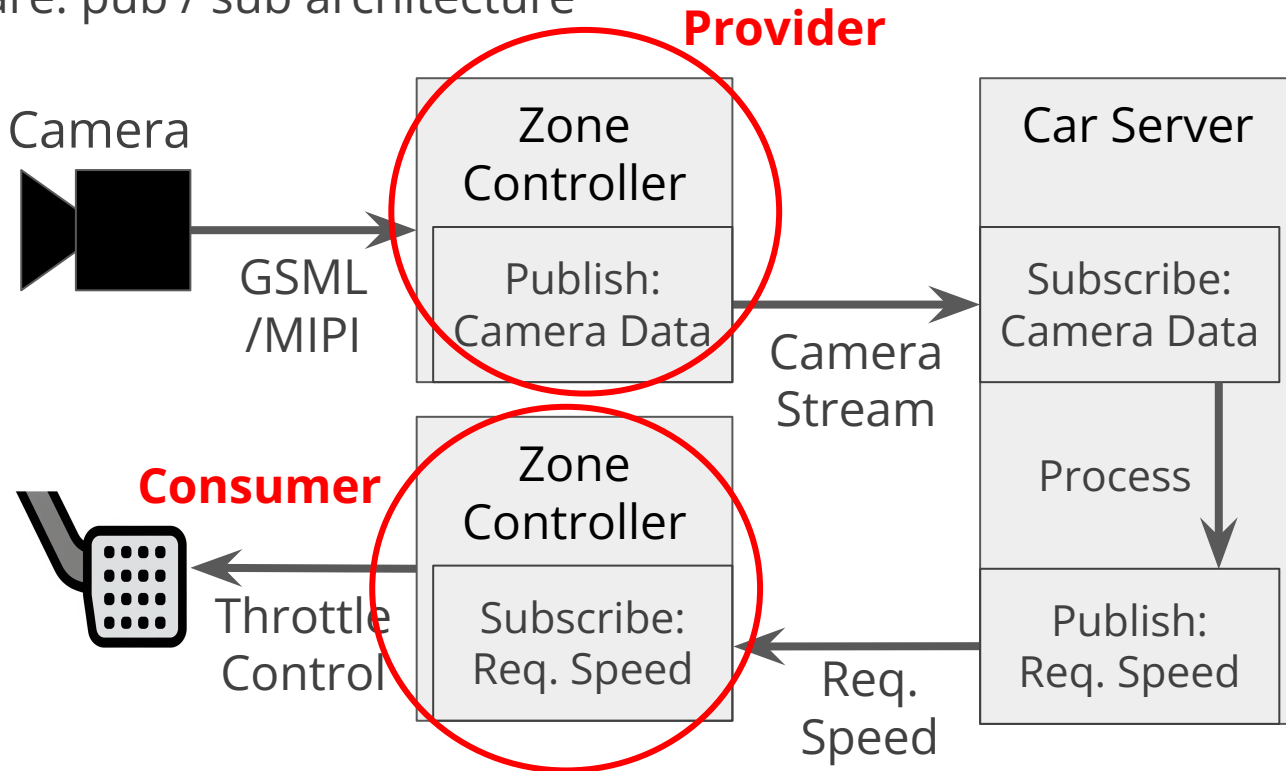
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture



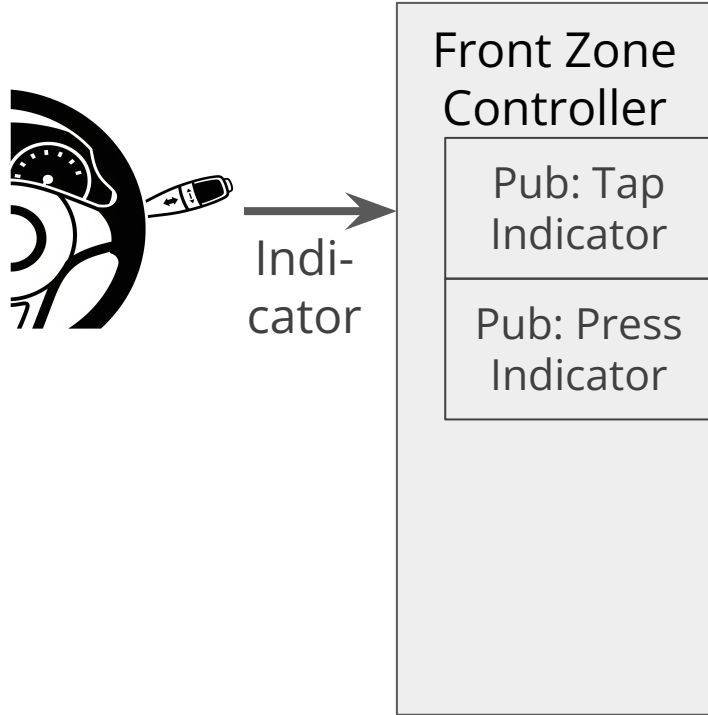
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture



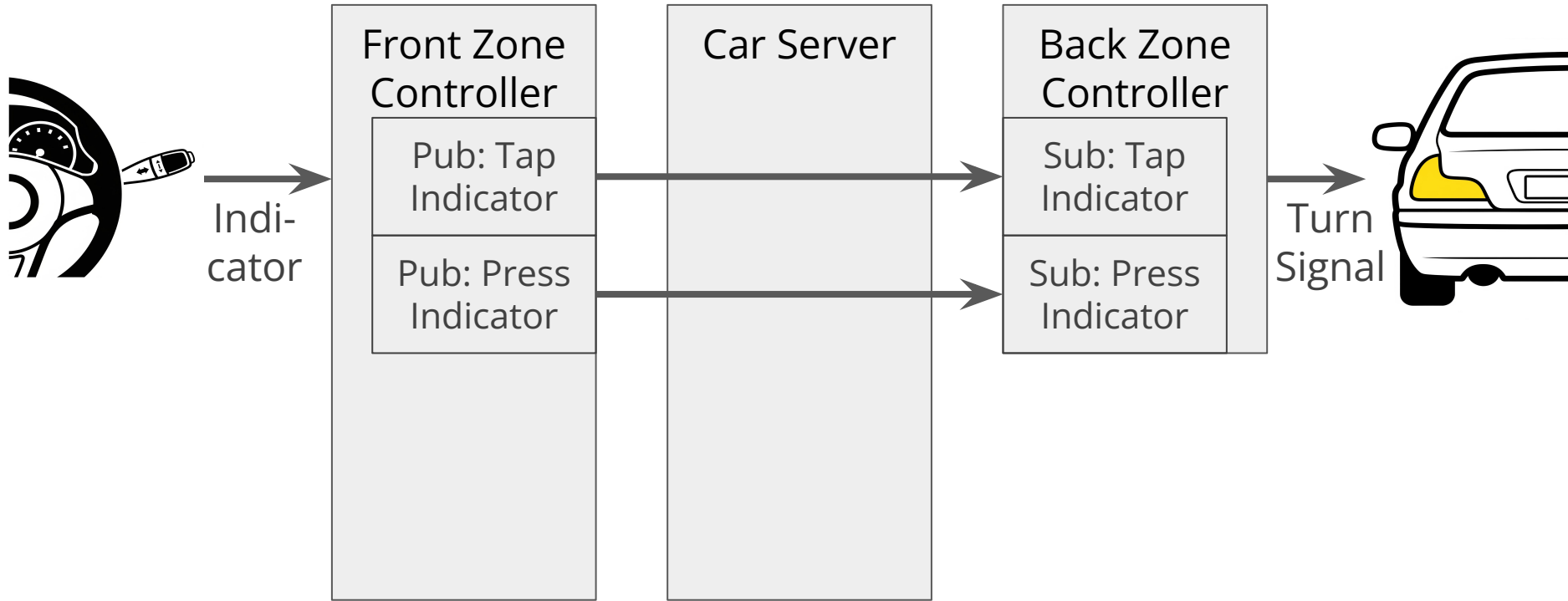
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture: Different example



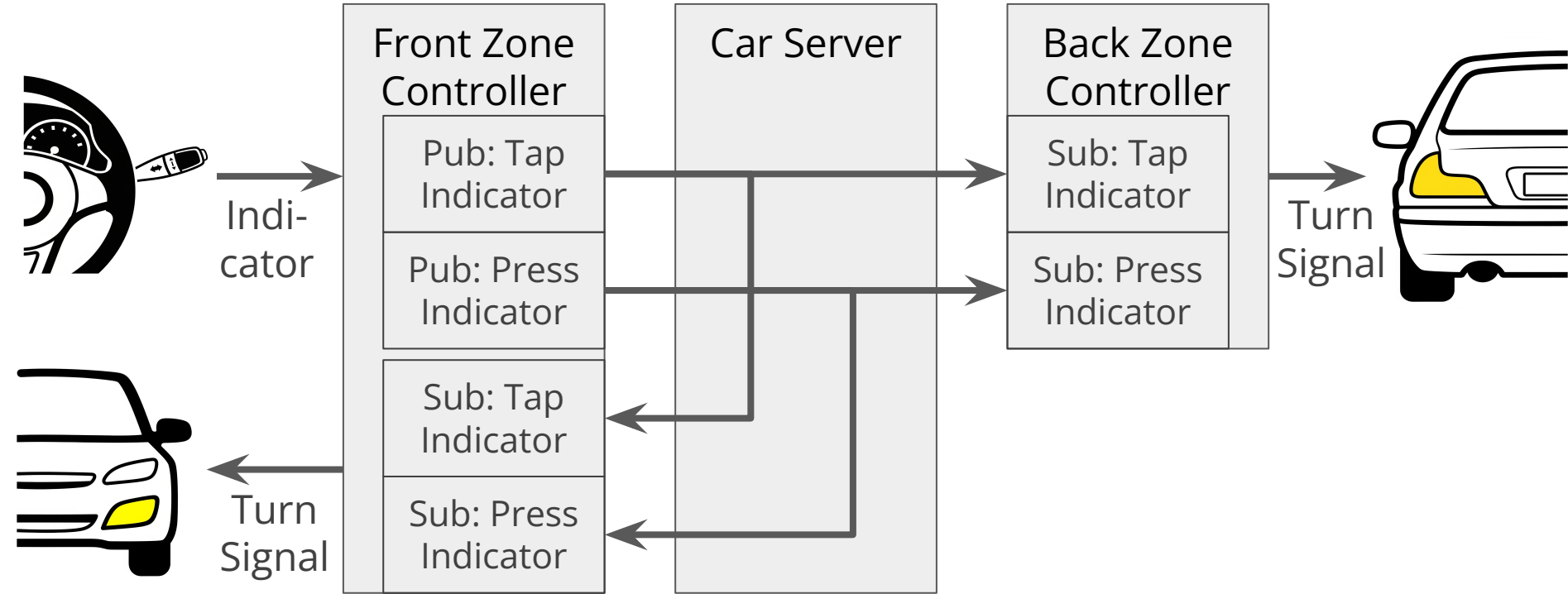
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture: Different example



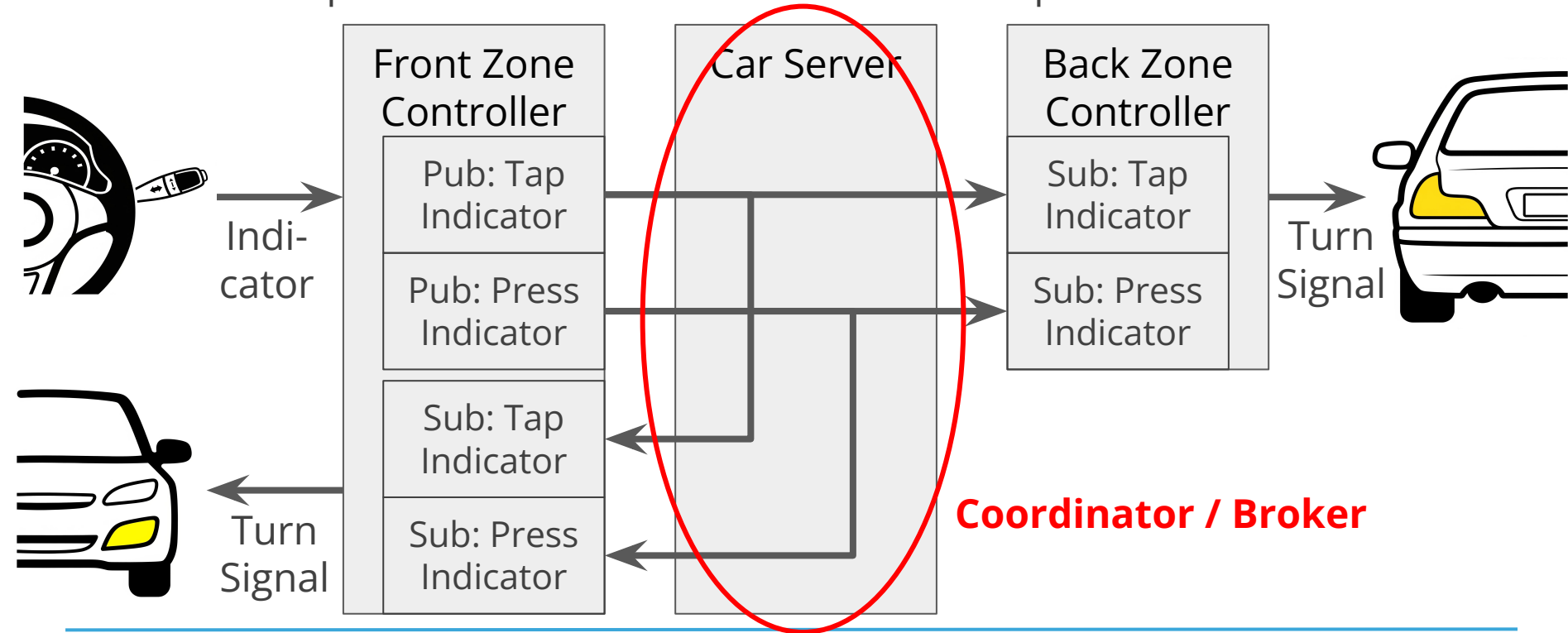
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture: Different example



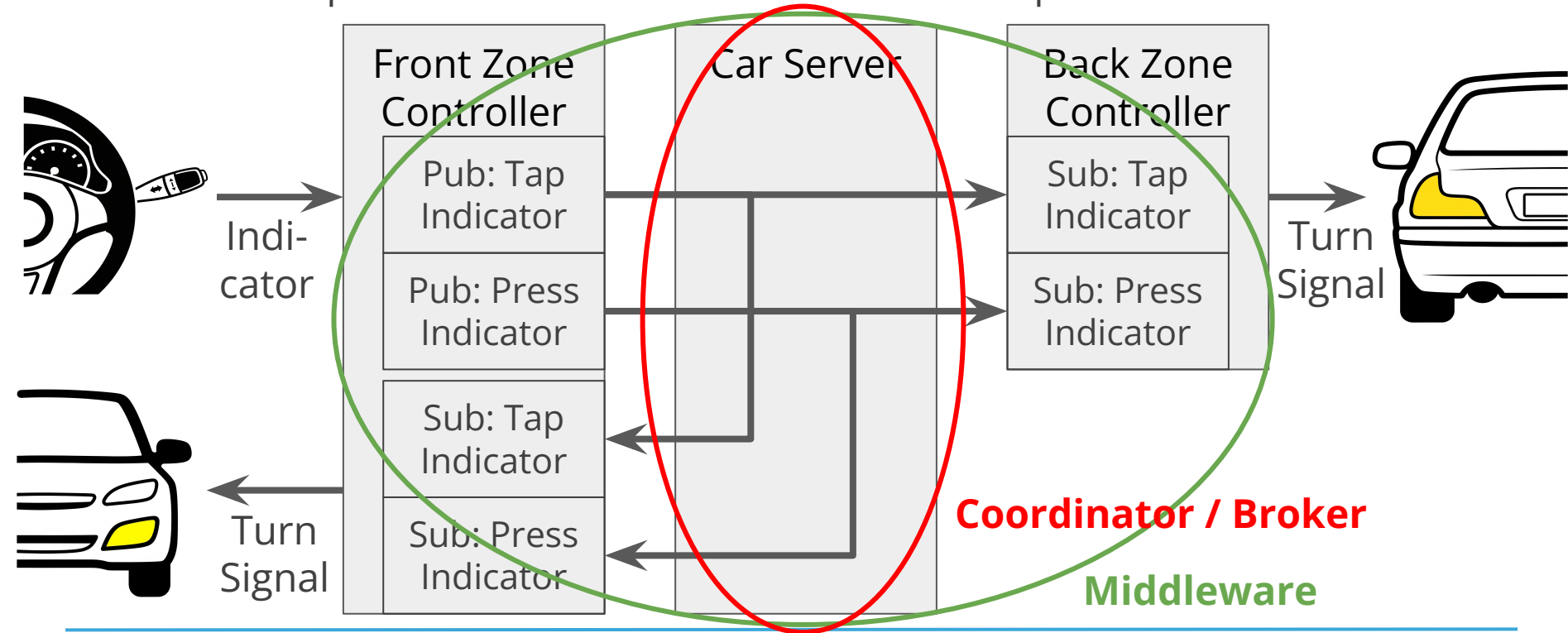
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture: Different example



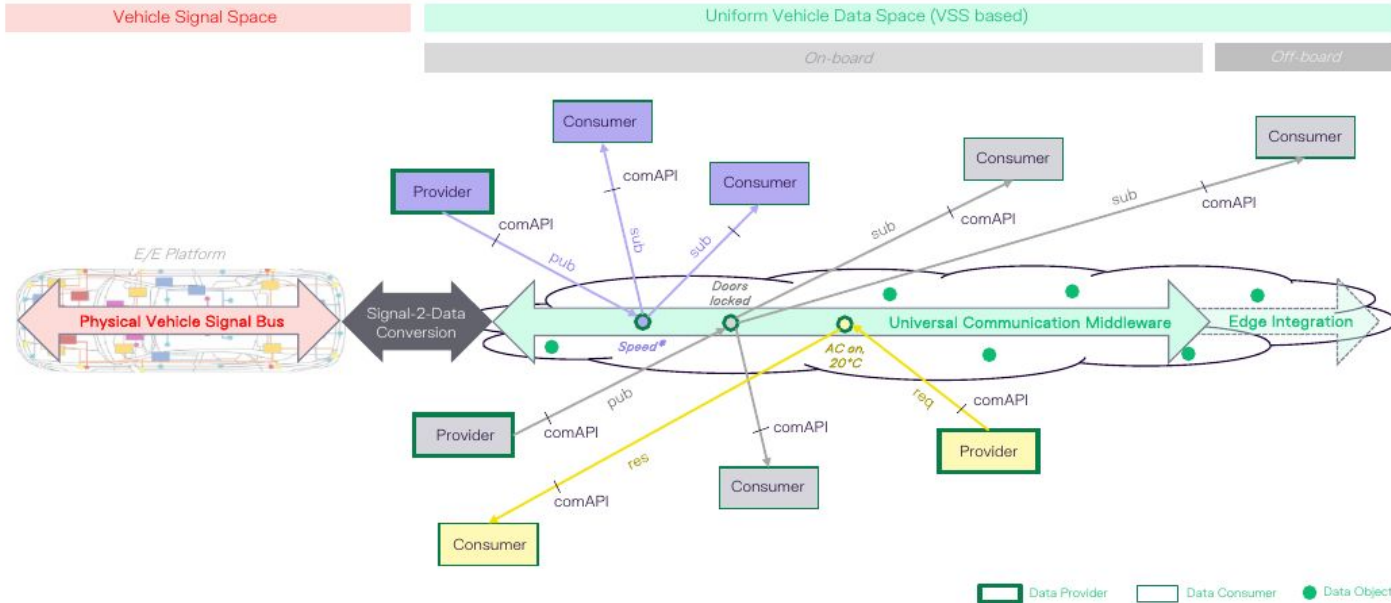
Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

Middleware: pub / sub architecture: Different example



Why Zone Based Architecture? Signal 2 Data

A data-centric SW architecture concept for the SDV

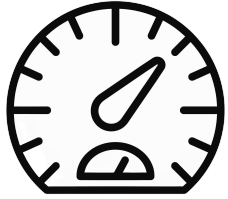


8

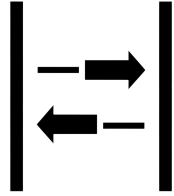
December 2024 |
PUBLIC

CARIAD
A VOLKSWAGEN GROUP COMPANY

A Big Technological Challenge



High Bandwidth



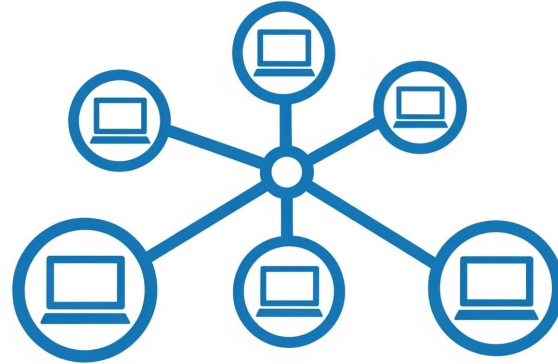
Low-Latency



Reliable

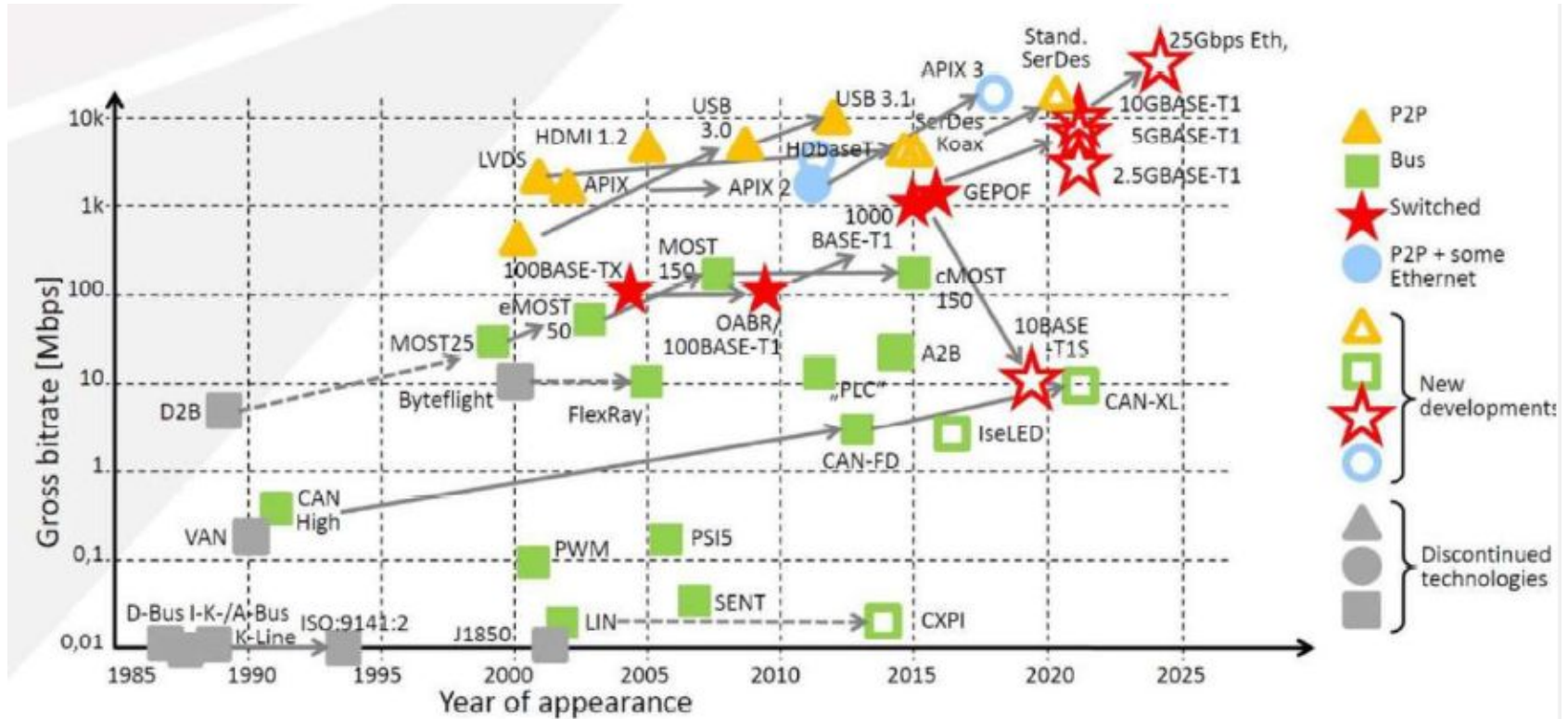


Time-Deterministic



Networking

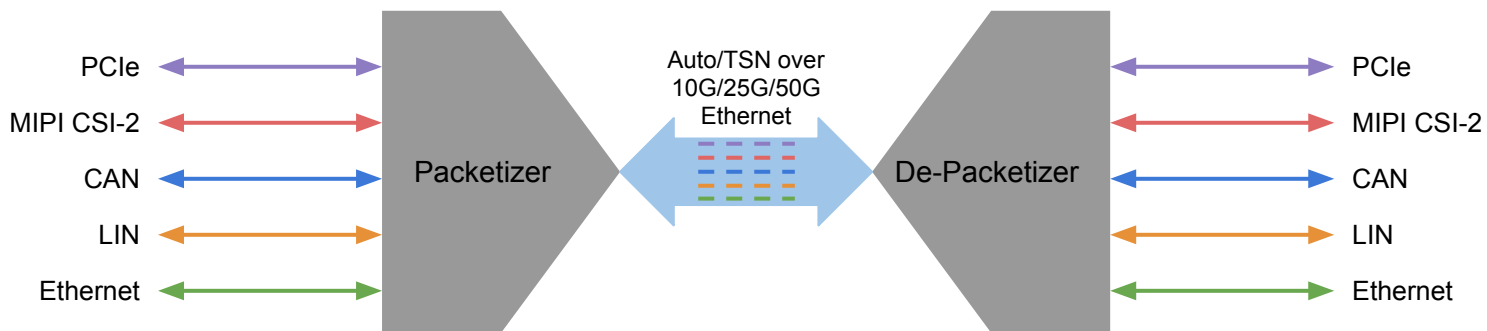
Evolution of Automotive Networks



Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network

Automotive data over Time-Sensitive Networks, based on open IEEE standards

- Virtualizes in-vehicle network infrastructure
- Full “legacy” connectivity plus enabling “new” high data rate interfaces (PCIe, GMSL, MIPI CSI2)
- Delivers bandwidth, scalability, security, Functional Safety



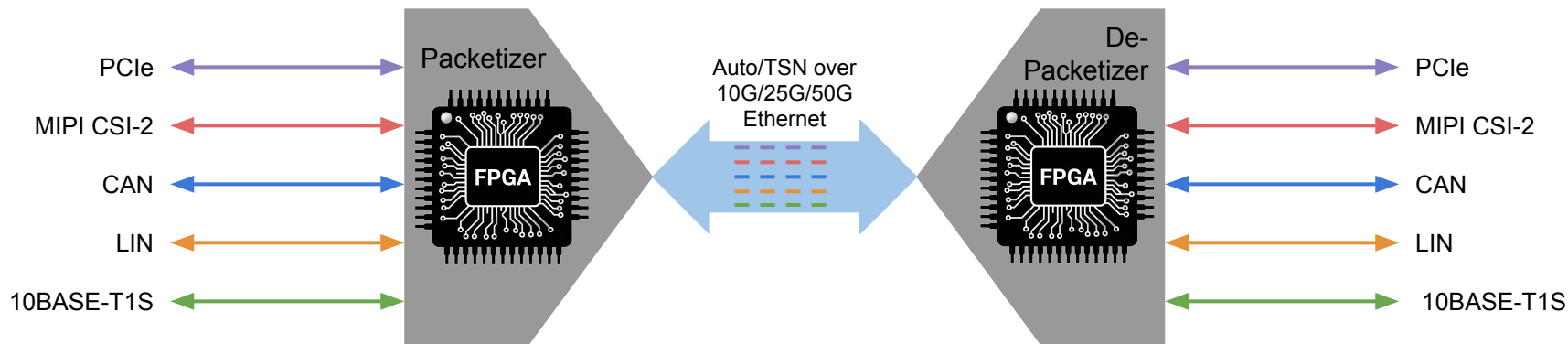
BOSCH

Multi-Gigabit Automotive Ethernet with AMD Kria KR260 Robotics FPGA Starter Kit

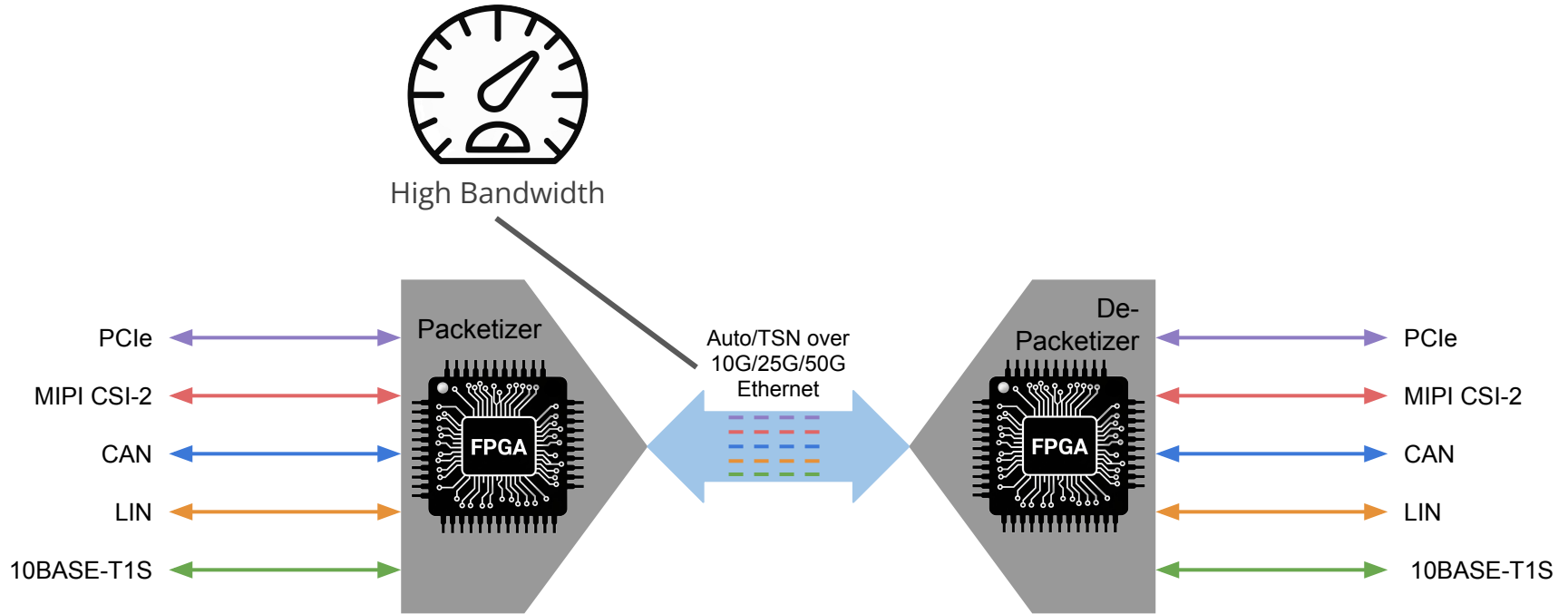
Nov 23, 2023 | 7 Months Ago

AMD's Kria KR260 Robotics Starter Kit builds on the success of AMD's Kria System-on-Modules (SoM) and is an ideal platform to test ideas for multi-Gigabit networking. Because Kria KR260 integrates...

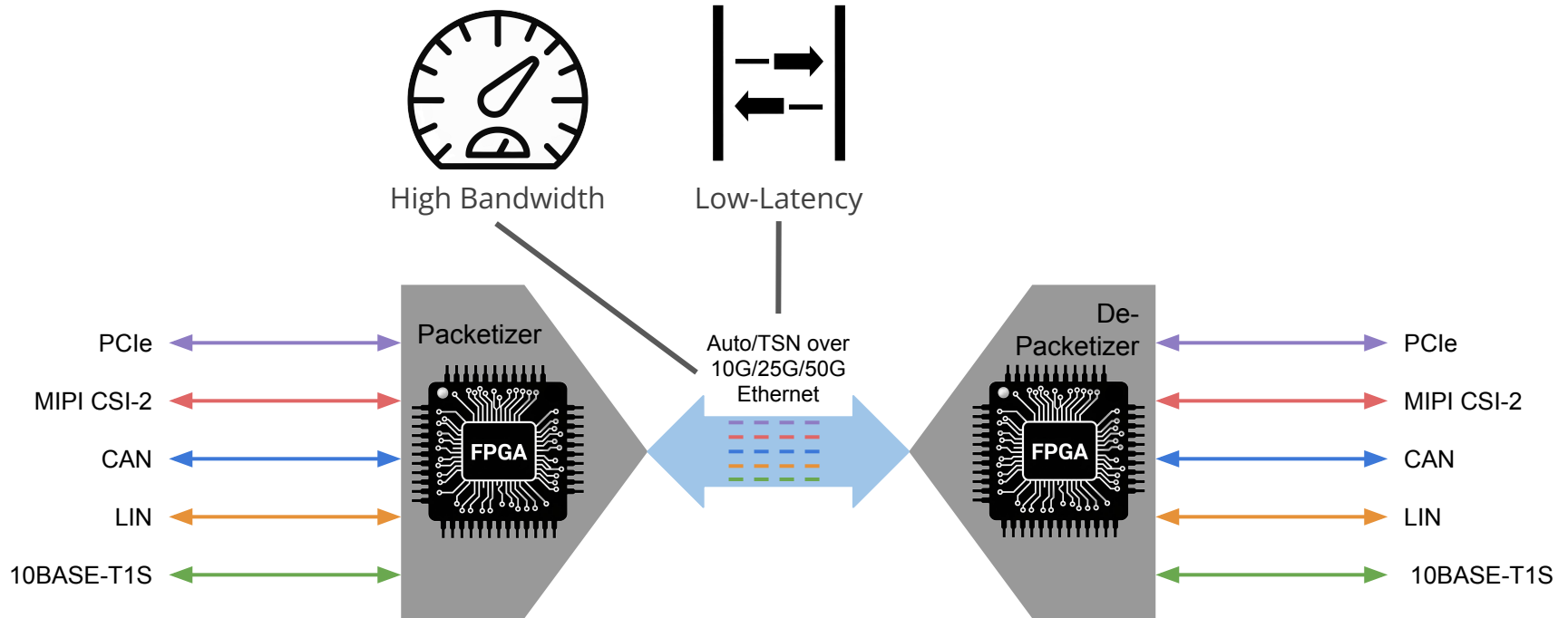
Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network



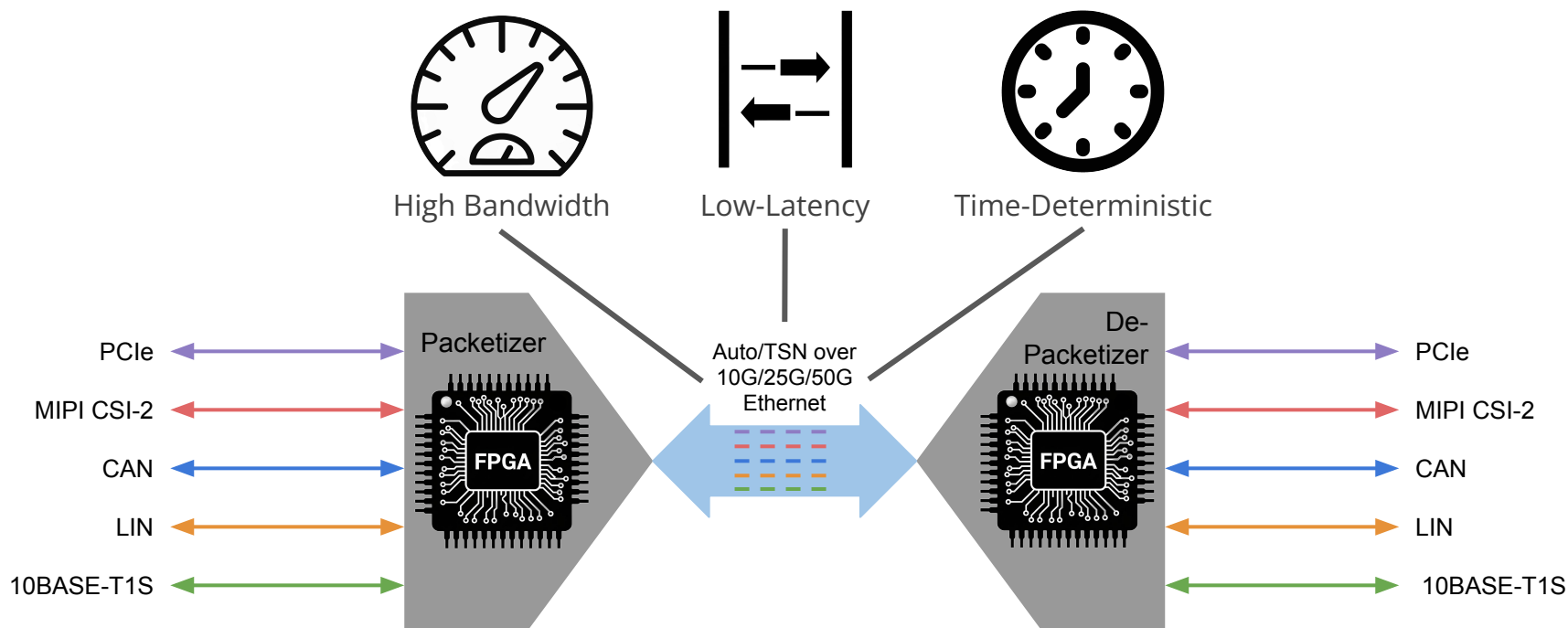
Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network



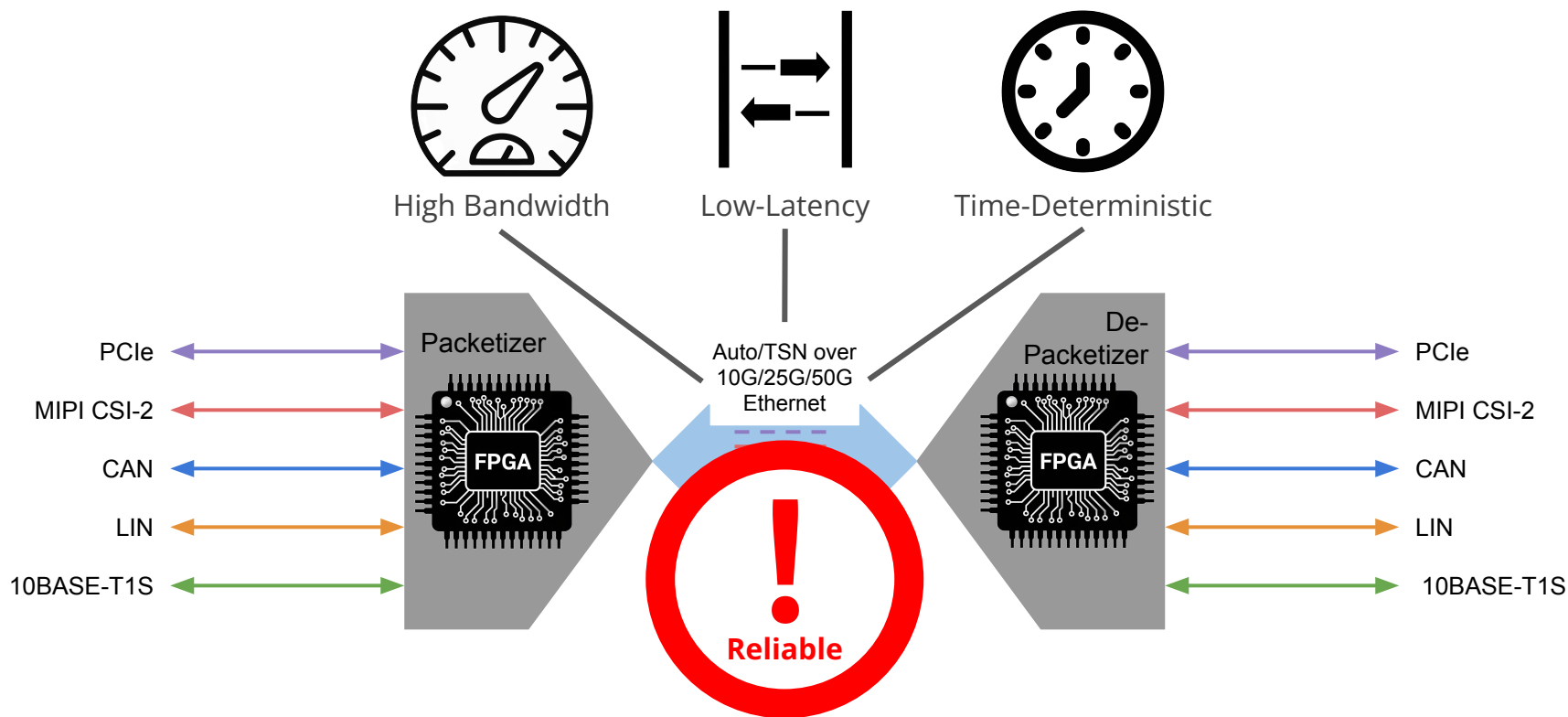
Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network



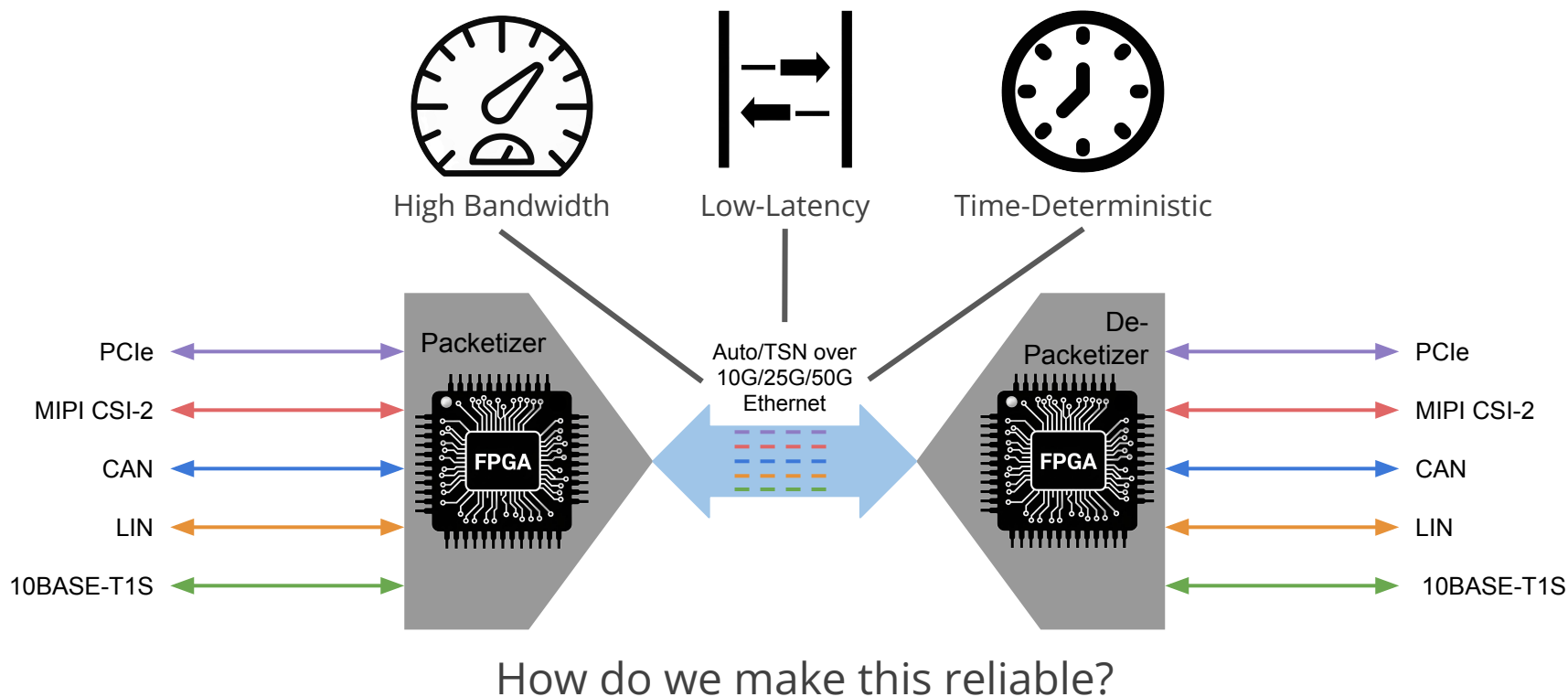
Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network



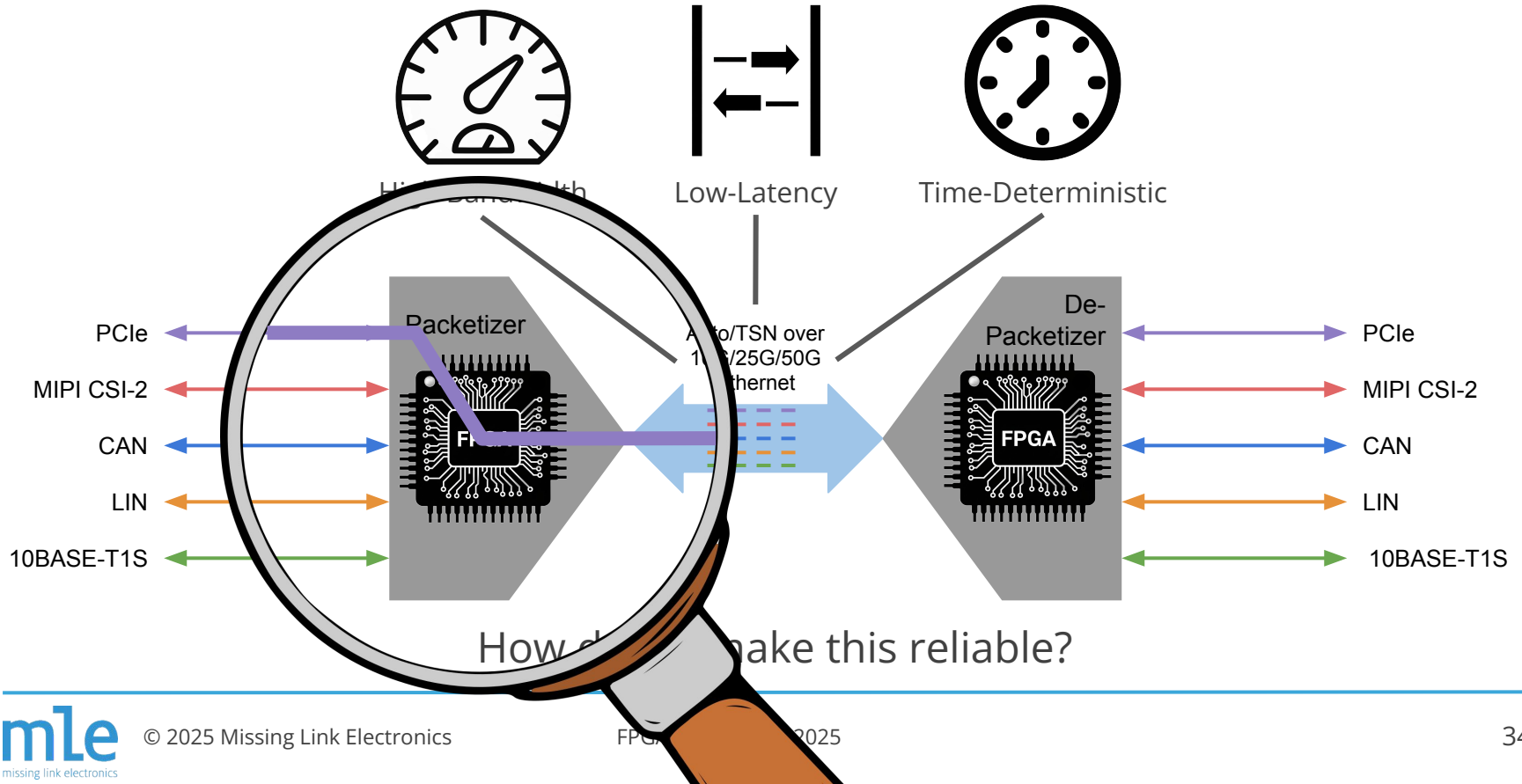
Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network



Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network



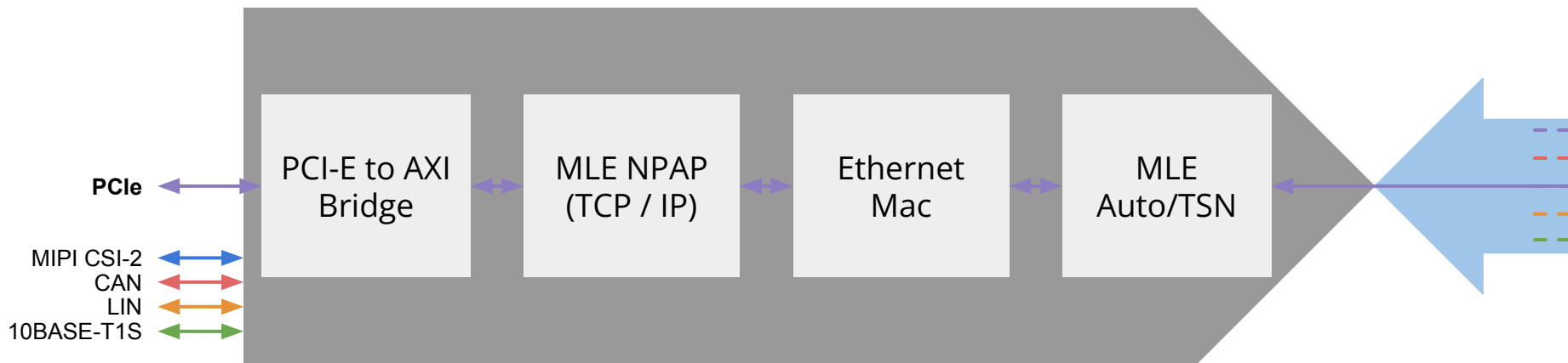
Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network



Building a High Bandwidth, Reliable TSN

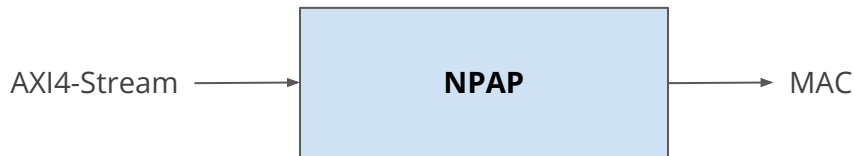
- Tunnel any Protocol reliably over a Network
- Using proven protocols, fully implemented in Hardware

Packetizer, fully in FPGA, no Software involved!



MLE Network Protocol Accelerator Platform (NPAP)

- Network Protocol Accelerator Platform
- TCP / UDP / IP Stack Fully in Hardware



+

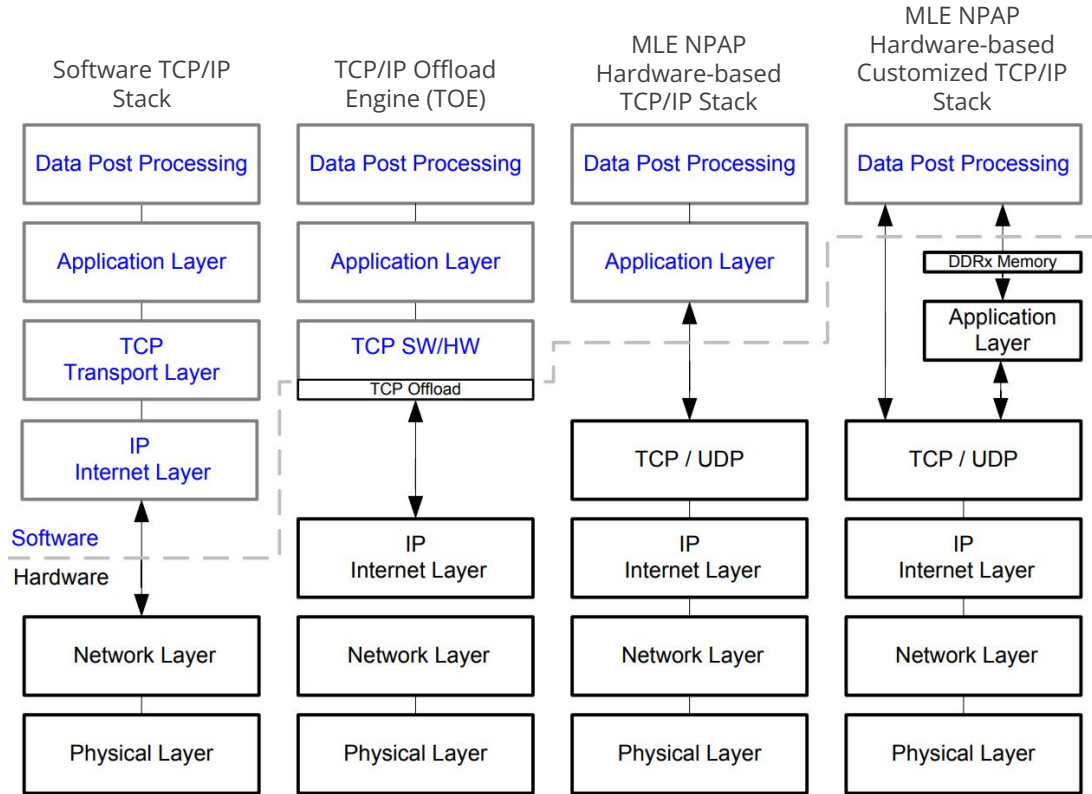


Fraunhofer

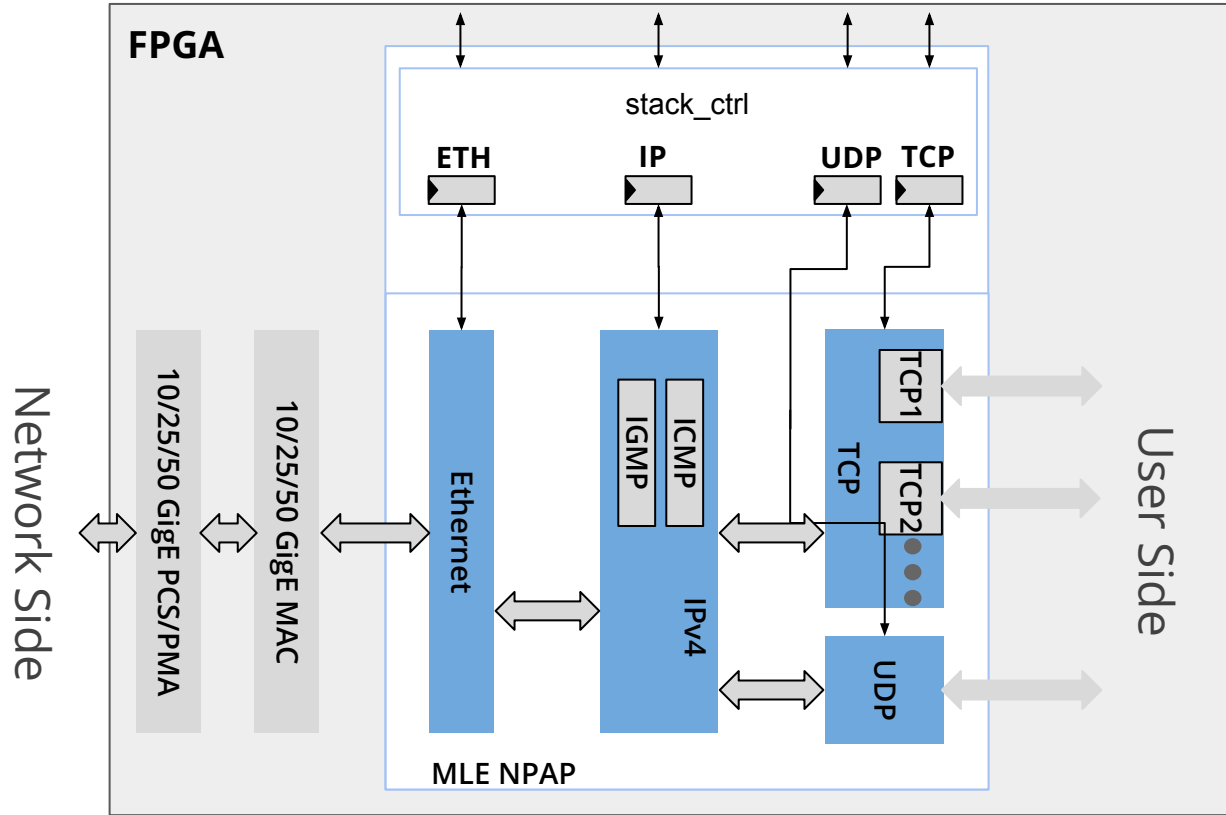
Heinrich Hertz Institute

Why NPAP? No Software Involved!

Comparison of software
and hardware-based
TCP/IP stacks

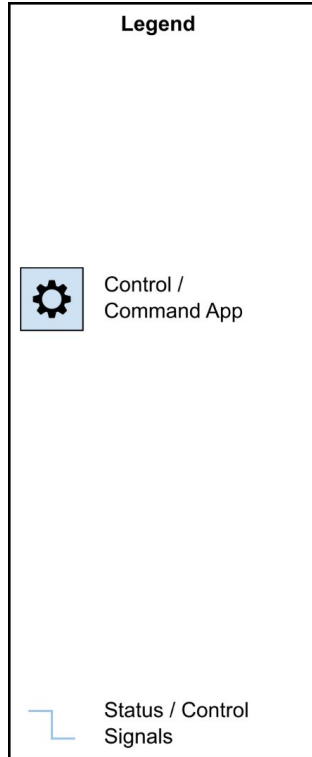


Why NPAP? No Software Involved!



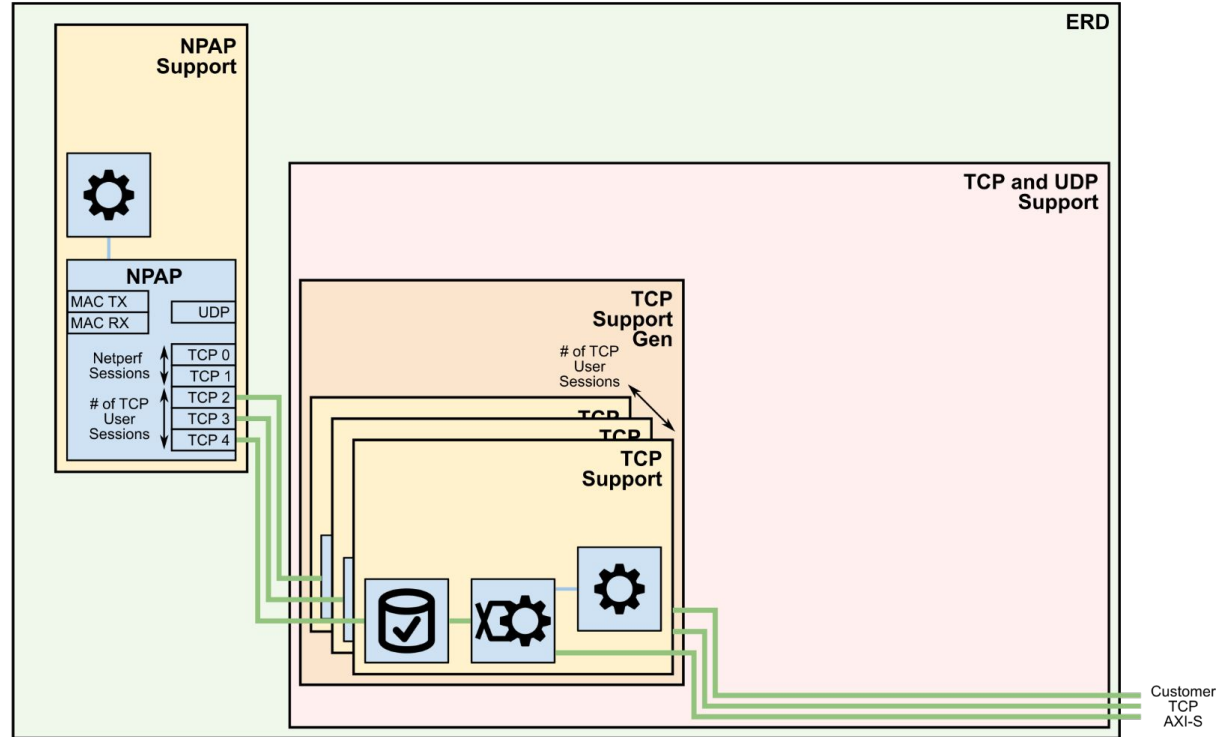
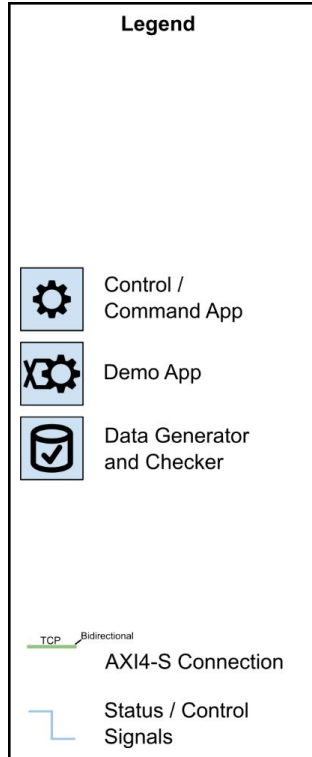
Why NPAP? Well Tested!

Evaluation
Reference
Design



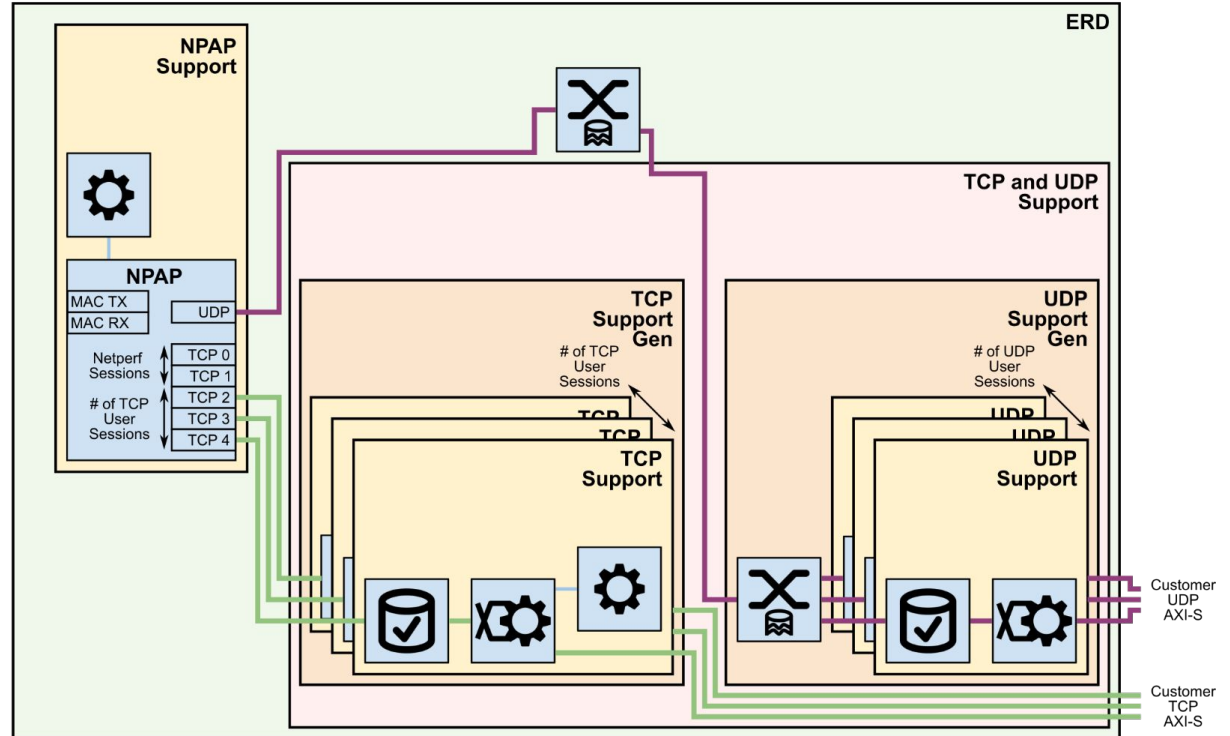
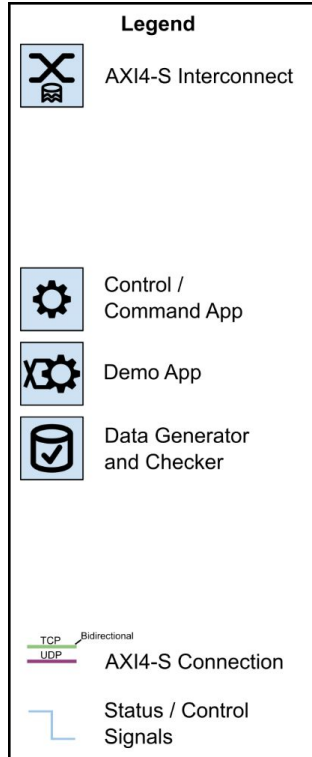
Why NPAP? Well Tested!

Evaluation Reference Design



Why NPAP? Well Tested!

Evaluation Reference Design

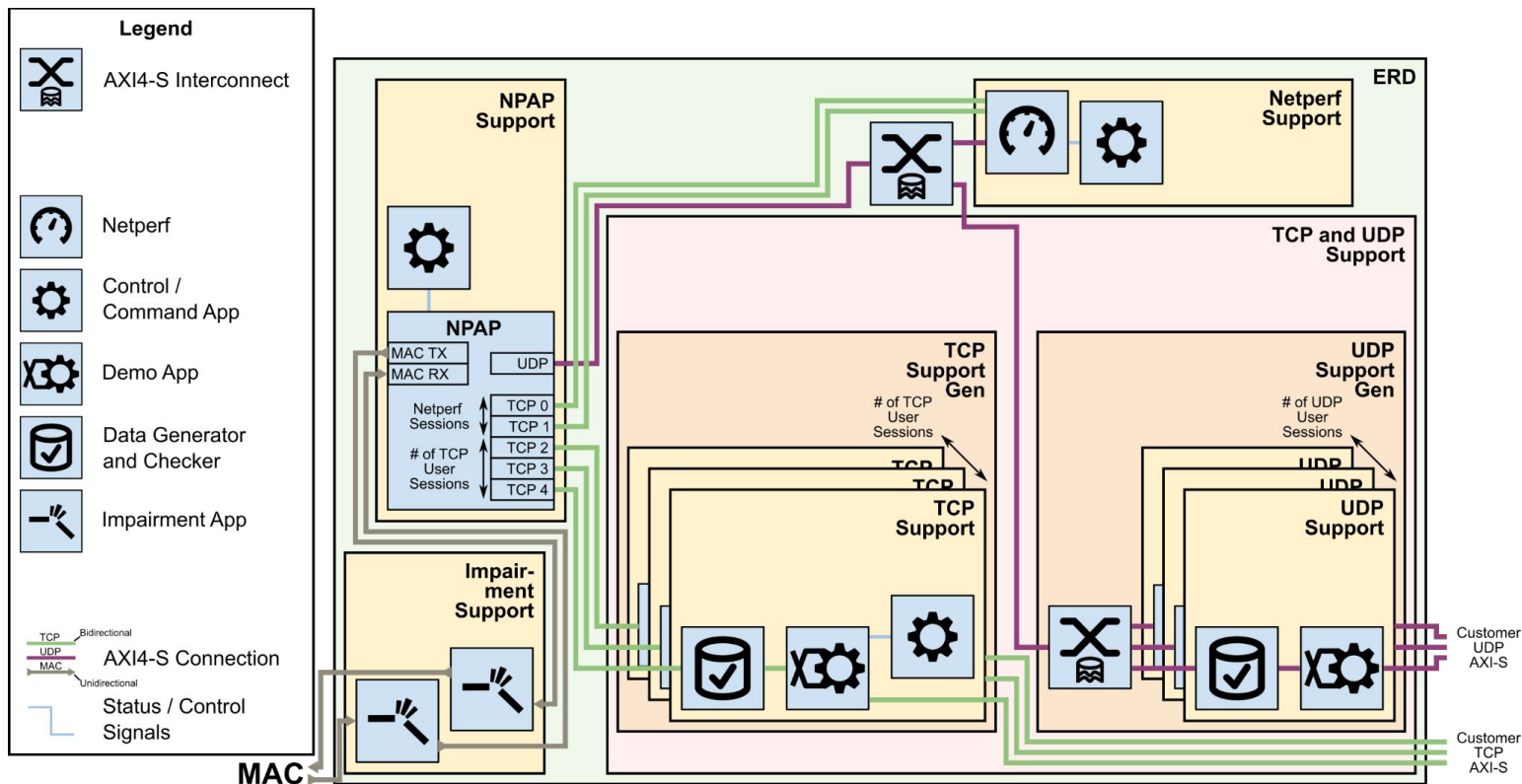


Evaluation Reference Design



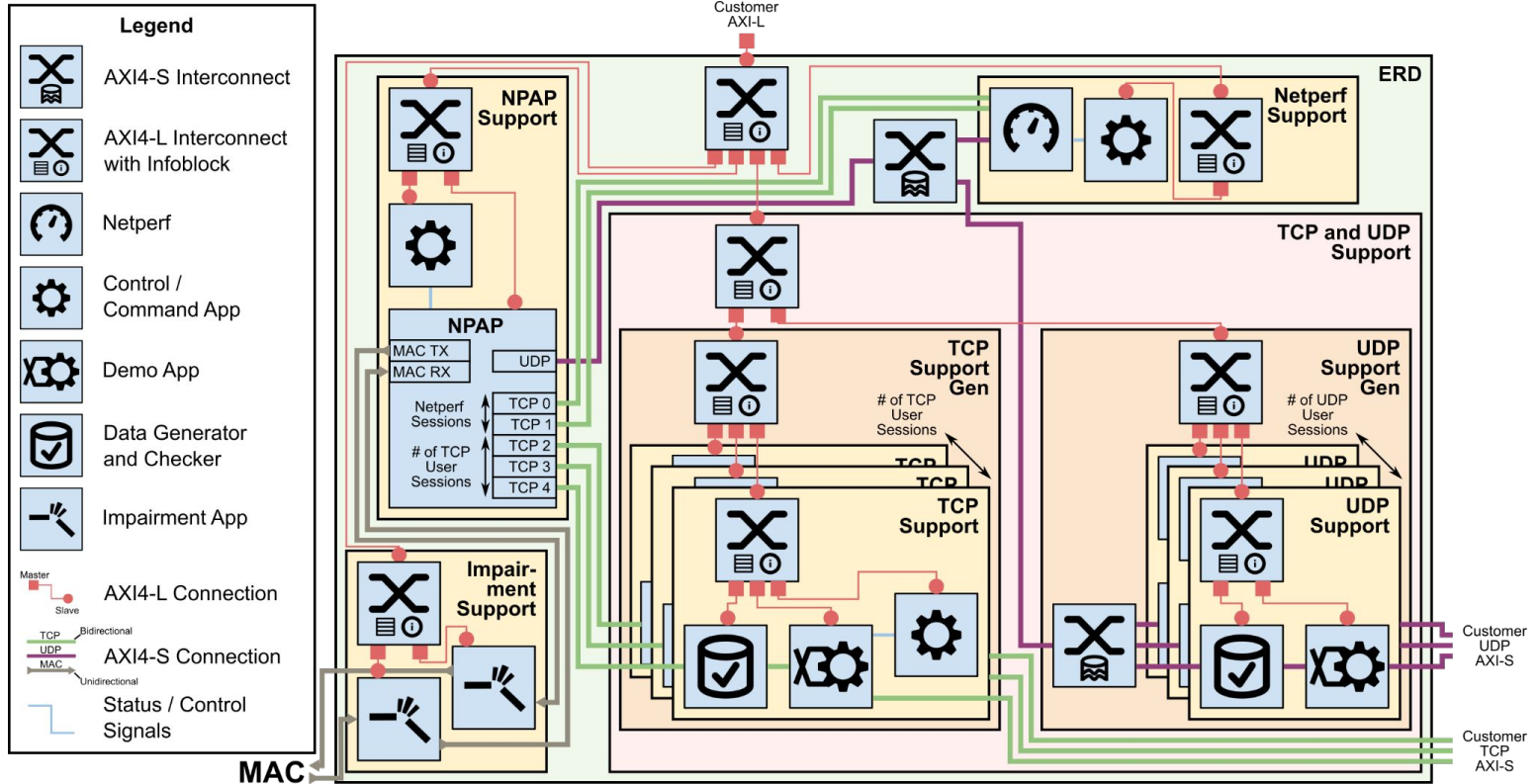
Why NPAP? Well Tested!

Evaluation Reference Design



Why NPAP? Well Tested!

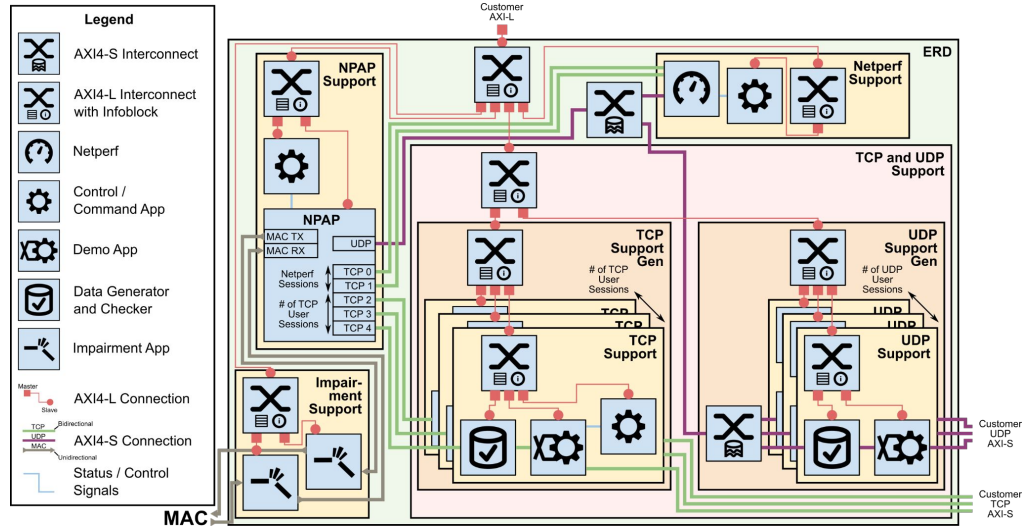
Evaluation Reference Design



Why NPAP? Well Tested!

Generic Source Code running on

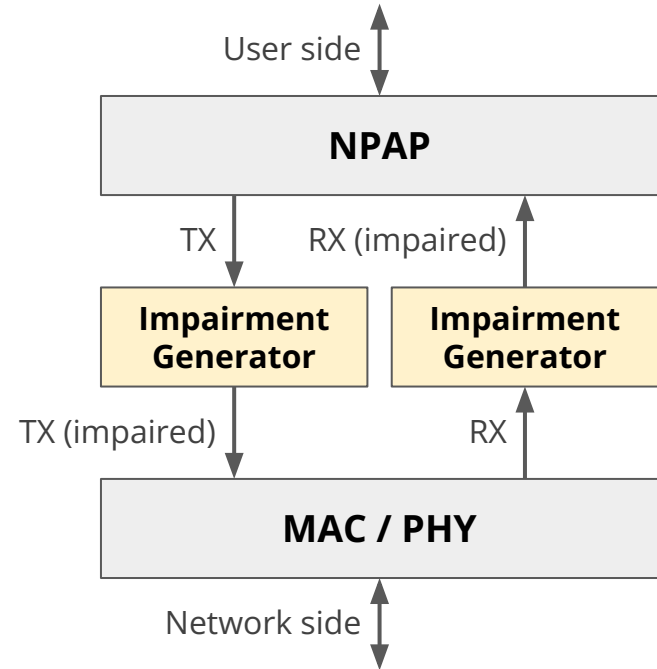
- AMD
 - Virtex 4 to Virtex UltraScale+
 - Kintex to Kintex UltraScale+
 - Artix UltraScale+
 - Zynq-7000
 - Zynq UltraScale+ MPSoC
 - Zynq UltraScale+ RFSoc
 - Versal ACAP Series
- Microchip
 - Polarfire and PolarFire SoC
- Lattice
 - Avant-G
- Altera
 - Cyclone IV series
 - Cyclone 10 GX series
 - Stratix V
 - Stratix 10 GX series
 - Agilex 5 D, E Series
 - Agilex 7 F, I, M Series



Why NPAP? Well Tested!

Impairment Generator

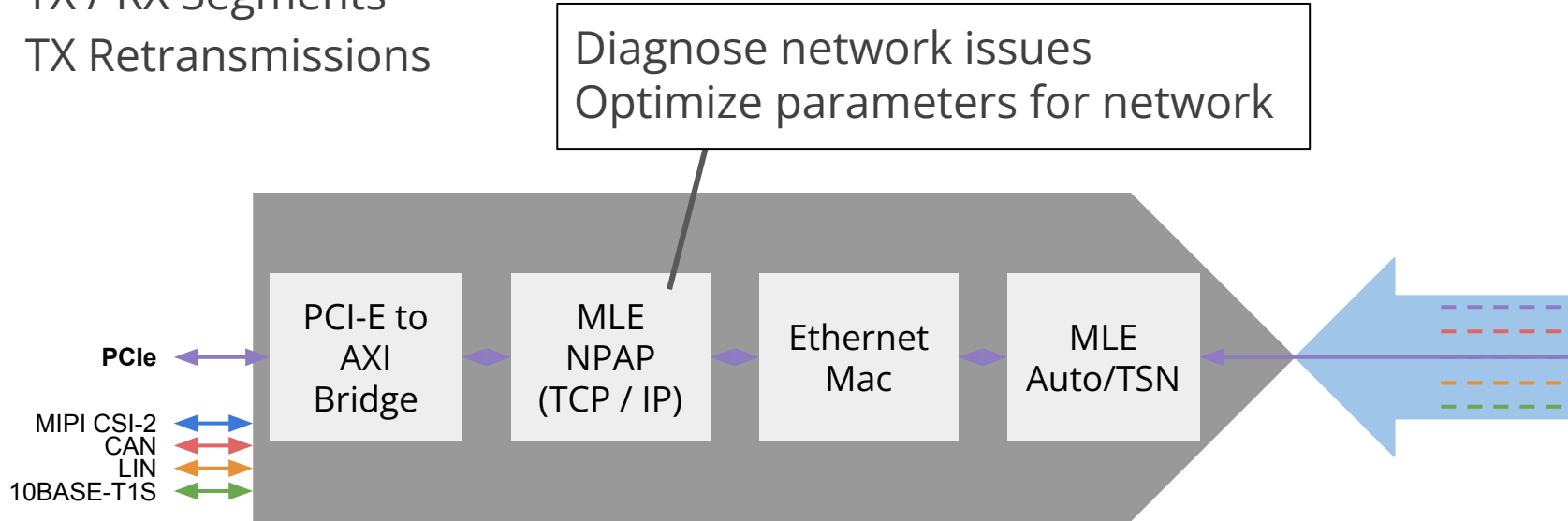
- Designed to emulate packet-level impairments in real-time.
- Injects emulated errors into MAC AXI4-Stream datapaths
- Ideal for verifying the resilience and error-handling capabilities of downstream components



Why NPAP? Well Tested!

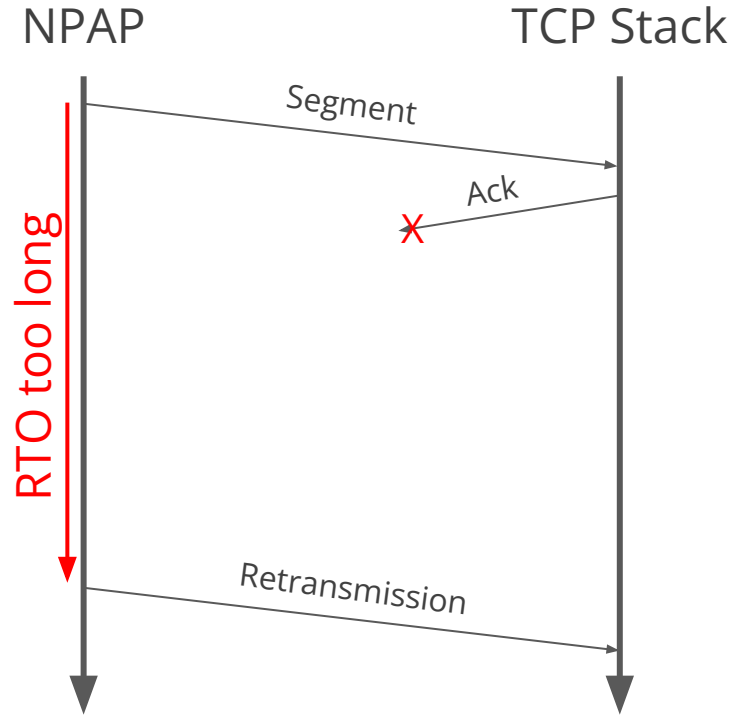
Diagnostics

- Lots of counters accessible via register space, e.g.:
 - TX / RX Segments
 - TX Retransmissions



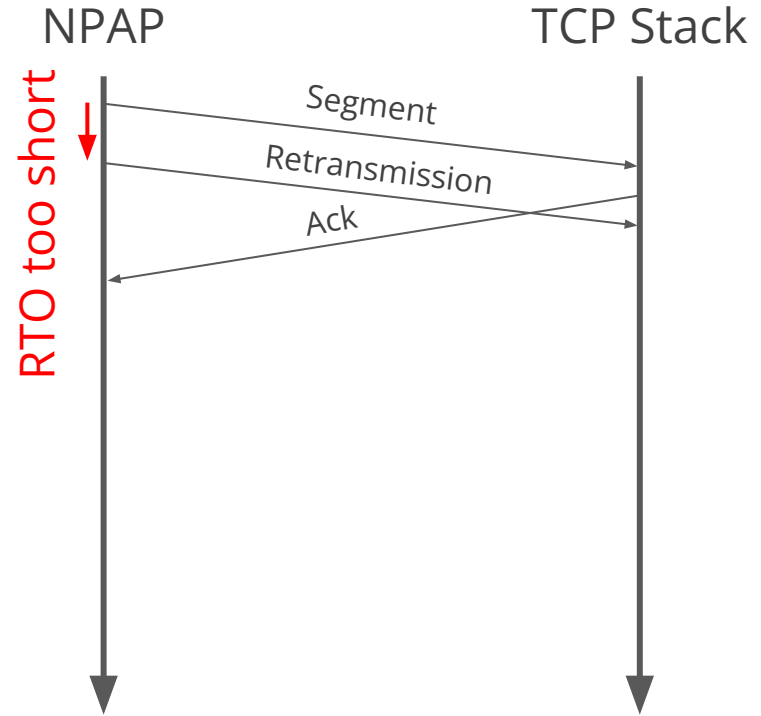
Why NPAP? Optimization!

- **Reduce unnecessary Latency:**
 - Decrease Retransmission Timeout (RTO)
 - **Check TX Retransmissions**
 - Repeat until TX Retransmissions rise



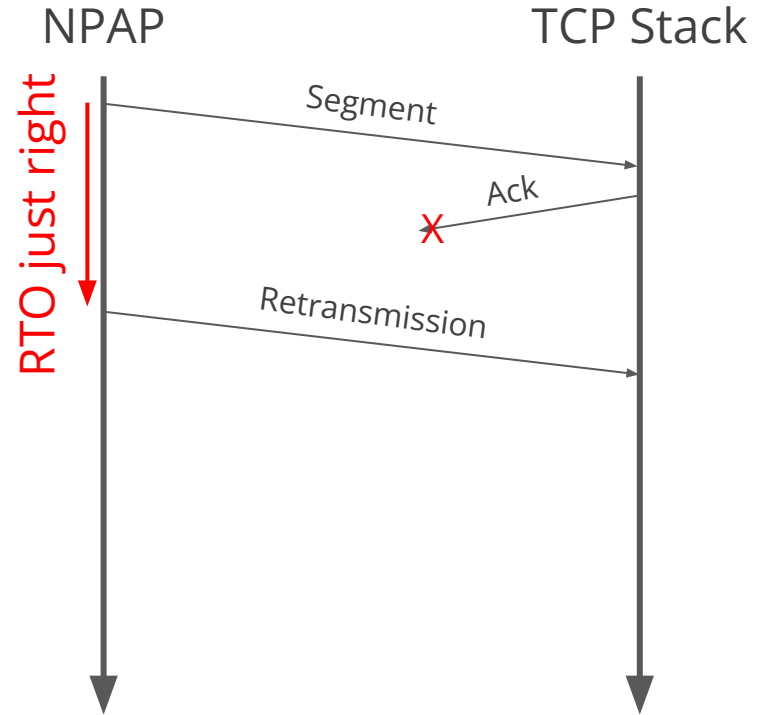
Why NPAP? Optimization!

- **Reduce unnecessary Latency:**
 - Decrease Retransmission Timeout (RTO)
 - **Check TX Retransmissions**
 - Repeat until TX Retransmissions rise



Why NPAP? Optimization!

- **Reduce unnecessary Latency:**
 - Decrease Retransmission Timeout (RTO)
 - **Check TX Retransmissions**
 - Repeat until TX Retransmissions rise

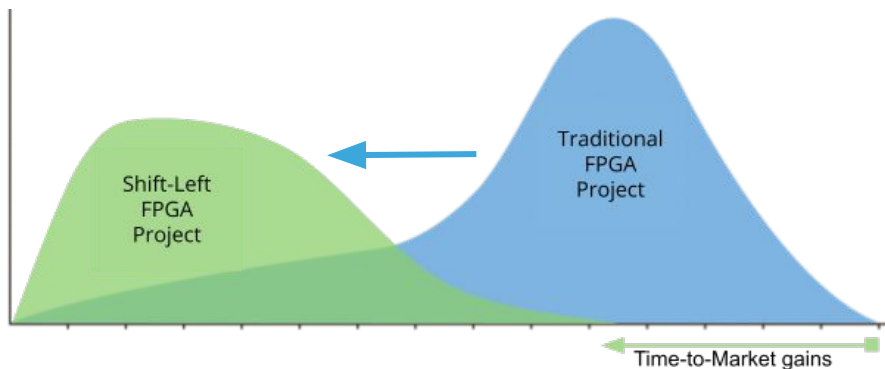


Tackling Technical Challenges: Accelerate FPGA Design

Together with Trenz Electronic we
provide Rapid FPGA Prototyping



+



Software
development

+

Use off-the-shelf
SoM

+

Design
Carrier Board



MLE Auto/RPS

Application is for SDV / Zonal Architectures:

- Data-centricity shifts SW development focus from signal to data
- API-first to de-couple and abstract based on vehicle data model
- Modularity & autonomy to enable flexible, scalable SW with high re-use

⇒ Focus on Software Engineers

⇒ Full FPGA System Stack, Ready-to-Run

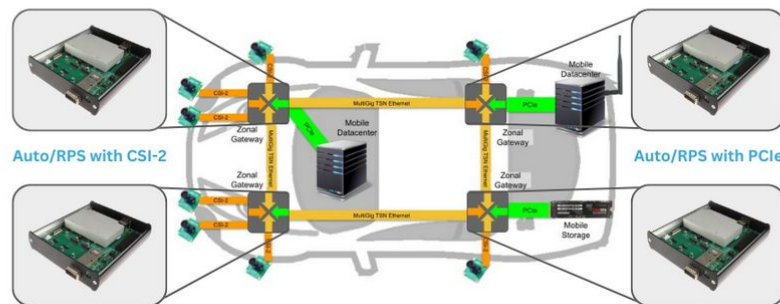
⇒ FPGA is fully transparent (don't have to touch, unless you want to)

Automotive Rapid Prototyping System (Auto/RPS)

MLE provides an FPGA-based Rapid Prototyping System (RPS) catering to the specific needs of automotive engineers designing [next-generation Zone Based Architectures](#).

MLE Auto/RPS enables automotive system engineers to design and to validate software-defined vehicle (SDV) functions along with MLE Auto/TSN in-vehicle networking.

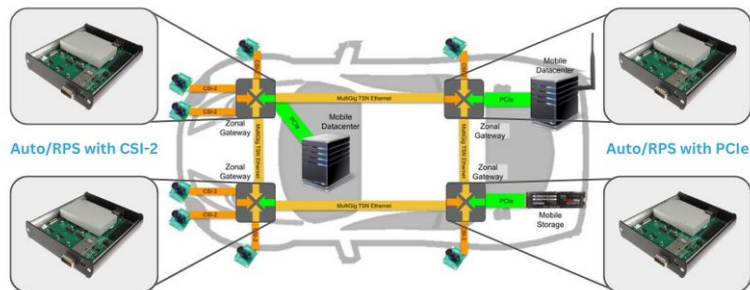
MLE Auto/RPS was designed as a shortcut into A-sample hardware development of Zonal Gateways / ECUs and implements an FPGA Full System Stack based on the [Trenz Electronic TE0950-02](#) SoC-FPGA Development Kit featuring the [AMD Versal AI Edge FPGA](#), and an automotive FPGA subsystem from MLE.



MLE Auto/RPS

Auto/RPS supports connectivity for (almost) all relevant I/O interfaces:

- 1 Gig Ethernet (for example for remote access and housekeeping)
- USB 2.0 for JTAG and console (supports even keyboard and mouse)
- 2x ports for 25G Ethernet (up to 4 ports optional)
- MIPI CSI-2 x2 Camera Input (optional)
- Up to 2x CAN-FD (via CRUVI HS) (optional)
- Up to 2x CAN 2.0B (via CRUVI HS) (optional)
- NVMe M.2 SSD (optional via Opsero FMC M.2 adapter)
- PCIe 4.0 x4 via 4x GTYP (optional, for high-speed debugging etc)

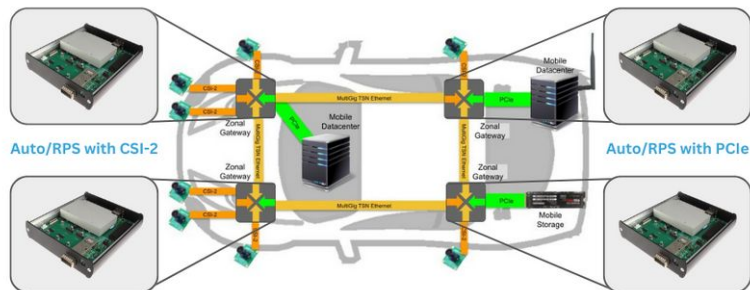


MLE Auto/RPS

Auto/RPS supports connectivity for (almost) all relevant I/O interfaces:

- 1 Gig Ethernet (for example for remote access and housekeeping)
- USB 2.0 for JTAG and console (supports even keyboard and mouse)
- 2x ports for 25G Ethernet (up to 4 ports optional)
- MIPI CSI-2 x2 Camera Input (optional)
- Up to 2x CAN-FD (via CRUVI HS) (optional)
- Up to 2x CAN 2.0B (via CRUVI HS) (optional)
- NVMe M.2 SSD (optional via Opsero FMC M.2 adapter)
- PCIe 4.0 x4 via 4x GTYP (optional, for high-speed debugging etc)

Working on a V2 together with Trenz to support even more I/O interfaces



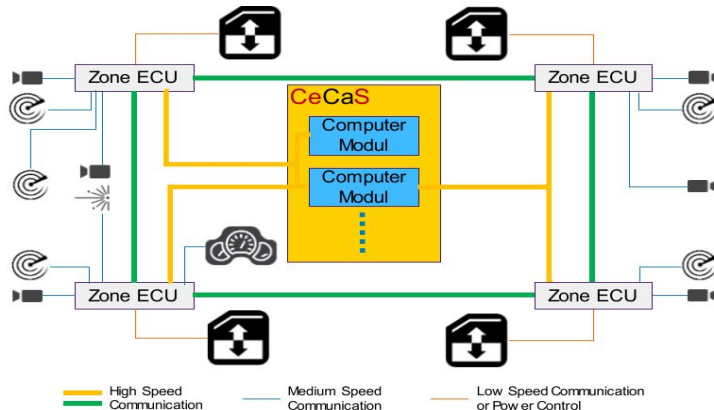
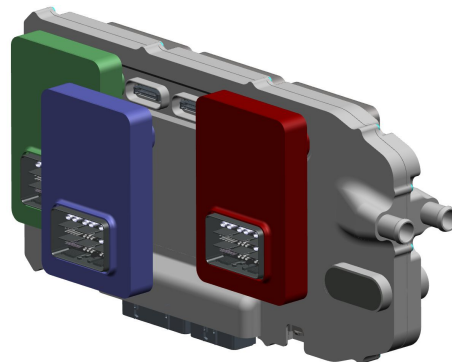
Auto/TSN for Zone Architectures / in-vehicle network

BMBF CeCaS

Budget: 88 Mio EUR

Key Objectives:

- Zone-base architecture
- Auto SoC / Chiplets
- Mechanical / thermal



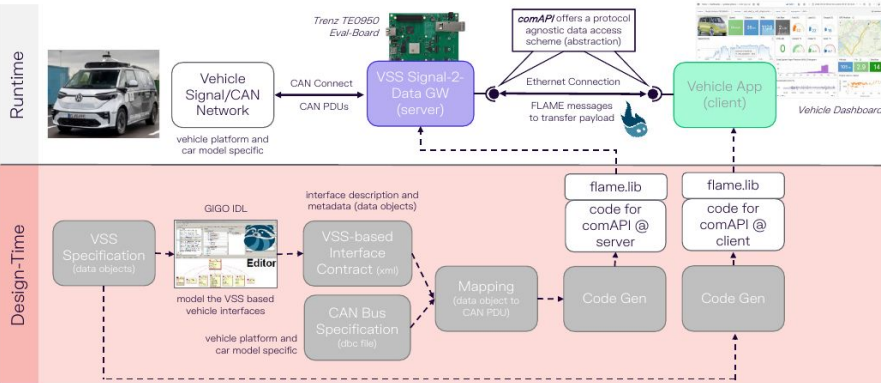
- AMD Versal VM1802 for “emulating” ADAS compute and connectivity
- AMD Versal VE2303 for “emulating” Zone ECUs / gateways



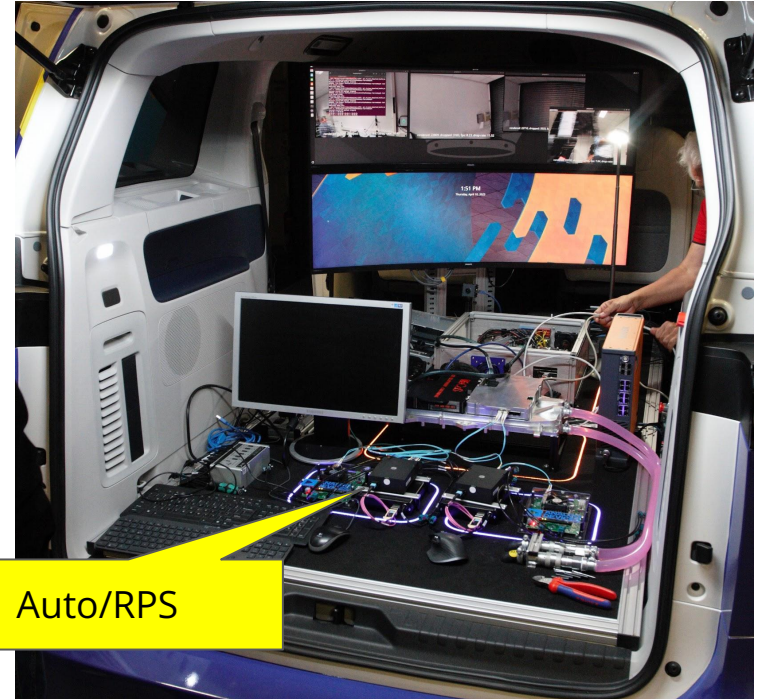
MLE Auto/RPS in Action as Zone Controller

Auto/RPS

A model-based approach to develop vehicle software



Auto/RPS

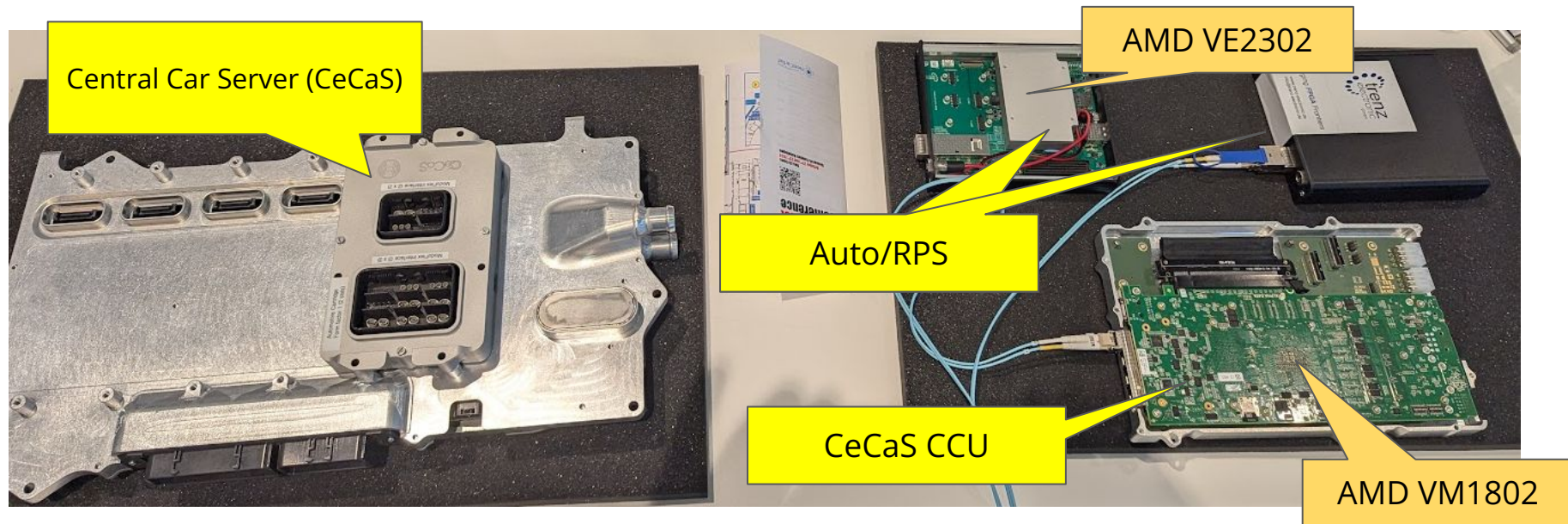


Auto/RPS in Action



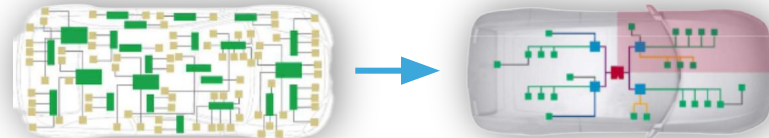
BOSCH

Presented at BOSCH Automotive Ethernet Conference, Oct 2024, Renningen



Conclusion

Turning today's automotive wiring mess into tomorrow's automotive architecture is doable by using a Zone Based Architecture.



However:

1. Zonal architectures require fast networks and rapid development.
2. We provide the technology: Reliable Networking using ultra-fast TSN.
3. We provide the methodology: Auto/RPS for rapid FPGA prototyping.

Thank you

Any questions?

Contact:

Maximilian Sokol

max.sokol@missinglinkelectronics.com

Andreas Schuler

Andreas.schuler@missinglinkelectronics.com



Missing Link Electronics

Industriestraße 10
89231 Neu-Ulm

www.missinglinkelectronics.com