

# Building an Ecosystem of Interoperable Digital Twins: **Challenges & Experiences**

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October 19, 2023 - October 20, 2023, Rome, Italy





## Digital Twin's Pillars (and questions)

### • Software:

- How can we **design** and structure DT's code ?
- How can we **deploy** DTs ?
- How can we **monitor** DTs ?

### Physical & Digital Communications:

• How a DT can **interact** with the **physical** and the **digital** layers ?

### Data Processing & Model:

- How can we **define**, **update** and **execute** the DT's **model** ?
- Cyber-Physical Life Cycle:
  - How the DT **evolve over time** and with respect to the physical and the digital worlds ?

### Description Language:

 How can we describe a DT through a uniform, and interoperable representation ?



### Digital Twins as a <u>Massive</u> Trending Topic



Almost "Everyone" is talking and building Digital Twin in their own way, with independent platforms and fragmented modelling ...





## Digital Twin as a Trending Topic



## The Current Digital Twin Ecosystem

- IMPORTANT: Existing Digital Twin platforms and solutions represent amazing contributions to the domain and a tremendous
  effort toward a widespread experimentation and adoption -> But they are just the starting point ©
- (Some of) Existing Issues:
  - Mainly centralised/monolithic approaches where all DTs are aggregated and deployed in the same point (the Cloud)
  - Digital Twins are mainly **passive entities** co-located at the same architectural layer of the platform itself and **subordinated to external modules** to control their properties, data and behaviours
  - Digital Twins are often **"just" data structures** that can be used to represent an application scenario **without a model** and any active behaviour
  - Platform Specific Digital Twin Description
  - Proprietary vertical technology stacks which are built around a central point of control and which don't always talk to each other -> when they do talk to each other it requires per-vendor integrations to connect those systems together

Digital Twins represent a <u>"new"</u> technology that needs a lot of work to be effective without fragmentation and the definition of a unified conceptual framework

### Building an Ecosystem of Interoperable Digital Twins



### **Digital Twin's Abstraction**



Alessandro Ricci, Angelo Croatti, Stefano Mariani, Sara Montagna, and Marco Picone. 2021. **Web of Digital Twins**. ACM Trans. Internet Technol. Just Accepted (December 2021). https://doi.org/10.1145/3507909

## Digital Twin's Life Cycle



Alessandro Ricci, Angelo Croatti, Stefano Mariani, Sara Montagna, and Marco Picone. 2021. **Web of Digital Twins**. ACM Trans. Internet Technol. Just Accepted (December 2021). https://doi.org/10.1145/3507909

## **Digital Twin Software Architecture**



Marco Picone, Marco Mamei, Franco Zambonelli, WLDT: A general purpose library to build IoT digital twins, SoftwareX, Volume 13, 2021, 100661, ISSN 2352-7110, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2021.100661.

Paolo Bellavista, Nicola Bicocchi, Mattia Fogli, Carlo Giannelli, Marco Mamei, Marco Picone, **Requirements and design patterns for adaptive, autonomous, and context-aware digital twins in industry 4.0 digital factories**, Computers in Industry, Volume 149, 2023, 103918, ISSN 0166-3615

### **Digital Twin & Distributed Software Environment**



## **Digital Twin & Distributed Software Environment**



## **Digital Twin & Distributed Software Environment**

Istio Kubernetes Monitoring Addons Applications [ 1000 750 500 250 0 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 Memory [GBytes] 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 Experiment Time [s]

System Resource Consumption

Introduced overhead in terms of CPU and Memory consumption with respect to a basic Kubernetes deployment during the phases of migration and rollback.

System Network Consumption

Received and transmitted KB by Kubernetes, Istio, Monitoring addons and DT applications during the phases of migration and rollback.



Paolo Bellavista, Nicola Bicocchi, Mattia Fogli, Carlo Giannelli, Marco Mamei, Marco Picone, **Requirements and design patterns for adaptive, autonomous, and context-aware digital twins in industry 4.0 digital factories**, Computers in Industry, Volume 149, 2023, 103918, ISSN 0166-3615

## Digital Twins on the Edge ?



Marco Picone, Marco Mamei, and Franco Zambonelli. 2023. A Flexible and Modular Architecture for Edge Digital Twin: Implementation and Evaluation. ACM Transaction of Internet of Things 4, 1, Article 8 (February 2023), 32 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3573206

## Digital Twins on the Edge ?



Timeline End to End Delay Analysis - Azure Cloud Digital Twin vs Edge Digital Twin - 10 msg/sec - Payload 200 Bytes



Marco Picone, Marco Mamei, and Franco Zambonelli. 2023. A Flexible and Modular Architecture for Edge Digital Twin: Implementation and Evaluation. ACM Transaction of Internet of Things 4, 1, Article 8 (February 2023), 32 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3573206

## Can we rely on Digital Twins?



Can we rely on traditional network metrics?

Do we need something more related to the cyber-physical relationship between the DT and the PO?

#### Example

#### **Context:** Network Delay = 1 Sec

Question: Is it a problem for an application observing and interacting with the DT?

P. Bellavista, M. Fogli, C. Giannelli, M. Mamei, M. Picone, **Measuring Digital Twin Entanglement in Industrial Internet of Things**, IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC), 28 May - 01 June 2023, Rome, Italy

### How can we measure the Entanglement?

### Timeliness

How fresh the collected data are

### Reliability

The ratio of the received status updates to the expected ones

### Availability

The expected up-time of the PO from the perspective of the DT T(100 ms, now - 5 m, O) = 0.99

$$R(now - 5 m, O) = 0.8$$

A(now - 5 m) = 0.5

### Putting it all together: **Overall Digital Twin Entanglement** (ODTE)

### *ODTE* = *Timeliness* × *Reliability* × *Availability*

P. Bellavista, M. Fogli, C. Giannelli, M. Mamei, M. Picone, **Measuring Digital Twin Entanglement in Industrial Internet of Things**, IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC), 28 May – 01 June 2023, Rome, Italy

### **Entanglement Measurement & Target Scenarios**



P. Bellavista, M. Fogli, C. Giannelli, M. Mamei, M. Picone, **Measuring Digital Twin Entanglement in Industrial Internet of Things**, IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC), 28 May - 01 June 2023, Rome, Italy

### **Standardization Trend**

	Projects Portal Login					
- Back Description Who we are What we do	SAREF Digital Twins Ref. Body: SmartM2M - Project No: 641 From 2022-12-01 to 2024-09-30					
Why we do it     How we do it       SAREF Digital Twins - 101099626       Terms of Reference       Technical Description (Part B)						
2023-06-23 Work Programme Version 2.3.3						
Simple Search   Advanced Search   Pre-Defined Reports   Help						
ETSI         Work Item Reference         ETSI Doc. Number         STF         Technical Body in Charge         Download Standard					tandard	
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	Current Status (Click to View Full Schedule)	Latest Version	Cover Date	Standstill	Creation Da	te
	Publication (2022-12-21)	1.1.1	2022-12-21	View Standstill Information	2020-05-07	
	Rapporteur	Technical Of	fficer	Harmonised Standard		
	Franck Le Gall	Fatrick Guin				
Title	Context Information Management	ent (CIM); Fea	sibility of NGS	SI-LD for Digital Twins		
This document identifies the various (historical) definitions and types and characteristics of Digital Twins (e.g. in areas of representing human actions, in health/biological areas, for smart manufacturing, etc) and considers the usage of the NGSI-LD information model and API for realising such systems. Special concern should be given to issues of privacy and leakage of data, depending on the use case and including the area of monitoring for handling pandemics.  Scope and Field The purpose of the document is to show to what extent various Digital Twin types can be realized or facilitated					s (e.g. in iders Id be phitoring	
or Application	by NGSI-LD and to identify new features for NGSI-LD which would make it more useful for such areas of usage. The document will identify from the SDO and research landscape a number of groups to contact for exchange					
Supporting	Orange, NEC Europe Ltd, CNIT, University of Murcia, Fiware Foundation, EGM, Ubiwhere Lda (UW)					

O/IEC JTC 1		Our Working Groups collaborate to	
SO/IEC JTC 1/SC 41 ternet of things and digital twin out cretariat: KATS mmittee Manager: Ms Jooran Lee airperson (until end 2025): Dr François Coallier D Technical Programme Manager [TPM]: Mr Stephen Dutnall D Editorial Manager [EM]: Mme Christine Lacroix eation date: 2017	Internet Research Task Force Internet-Draft Internet-Draft Internet-Draft Intended status: Informational Expires: 6 September 2022 Digital Twin Network: Concepts and Reference Architecture draft-zhou-nmrg-digitaltwin-network-concepts-07 Abstract Digital Twin technology has been seen as a rapid adoption technology in Industry 4.0. The application of Digital Twin technology in networking field is meant to develop various rich network applications and realize efficient and cost effective data driven applications and application of blight and cost effective data driven applications and cost efficient and cost efficient an		
All information related to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 41 is available the IEC web site Standardization in the area of Internet of thes and related technologies.	This document presents an overview of the Network, provides the basic definitions a lists a set of application scenarios, and key challenges of such technology.	e concepts of Digital Twin and a reference architecture, d discusses the benefits and	
erve as the focus and proponent for JTC 1's standardization rogramme on the Internet of Things and Digital Twin, cluding their related technologies.	Status of This Memo This Internet-Draft is submitted in full provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.	conformance with the	Privacy - T
	Internet-Drafts are working documents of Task Force (IETF). Note that other group	the Internet Engineering os may also distribute	

The need for interoperability and standardization of Digital Twins through crossdomain applications is becoming a fundamental enabler

### Specialist Task Force Proposal - STF 628 (Ref. Body TC SmartM2M) DIGITAL TWINS

#### ETSI Members Support

ETSI	Projects Portal		
<ul> <li>← Back</li> <li>Description</li> <li>Who we are</li> <li>What we do</li> <li>Why we do it</li> <li>How we do it</li> <li>Terms of Reference</li> <li>Deliverables</li> <li>Milestones</li> <li>Useful links</li> </ul>	<image/>		1
	Terms of Reference –Specialist Task Force Proposal STF 628 (Ref. Body TC SmartM2M) DIGITAL TWINS		
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### https://portal.etsi.org/XTFs/#/xTF/628

#	ETSI Member	Supporting delegate
1	TELECOM ITALIA S.p.A.	Enrico Scarrone
2	HUAWEI Technologies Sweden AB	Francisco da Silva
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8	Deutsche Telekom AG	Thomas Kessler
9	CNRS	Samir Medjiah
10	JK Consulting and Projects	Joachim Koss (ETSI Applicant member)
11	FBConsulting S.A.R.L.	Michelle Wetterwald

#### **Experts Team**

AI4 People European DIGITAL SME Alliance Exacta GlobalSMart Solution University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Gabriele Casalini (Project Leader) Marco Picone (Expert) Massimo Vanetti (Expert) Mauro Dragoni (Expert) William R. Flynn, IV (Expert)

## Build (Together) a Digital Twin Ecosystem

Envision a **pervasive softwarisation of the physical world** in terms of highly dynamic ecosystems of **connected** and **interoperable DTs**, across **different** application **domains** and different **network levels** (from cloud to edge).



To make DTs a real opportunity we need a structured **cross-field fertilization and collaboration** (e.g., Software Engineering, Networking, Standardization Bodies, Companies, Universities ... )



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