



## TECHNICAL LIBRARY

AS A SERVICE TO THE  
HYDROCARBON MEASUREMENT  
INDUSTRY, CRT-SERVICES  
CURATES THIS COLLECTION OF  
DIGITAL RESOURCES.



Various Experiences with Specifications of  
Different Customers and the Variety of

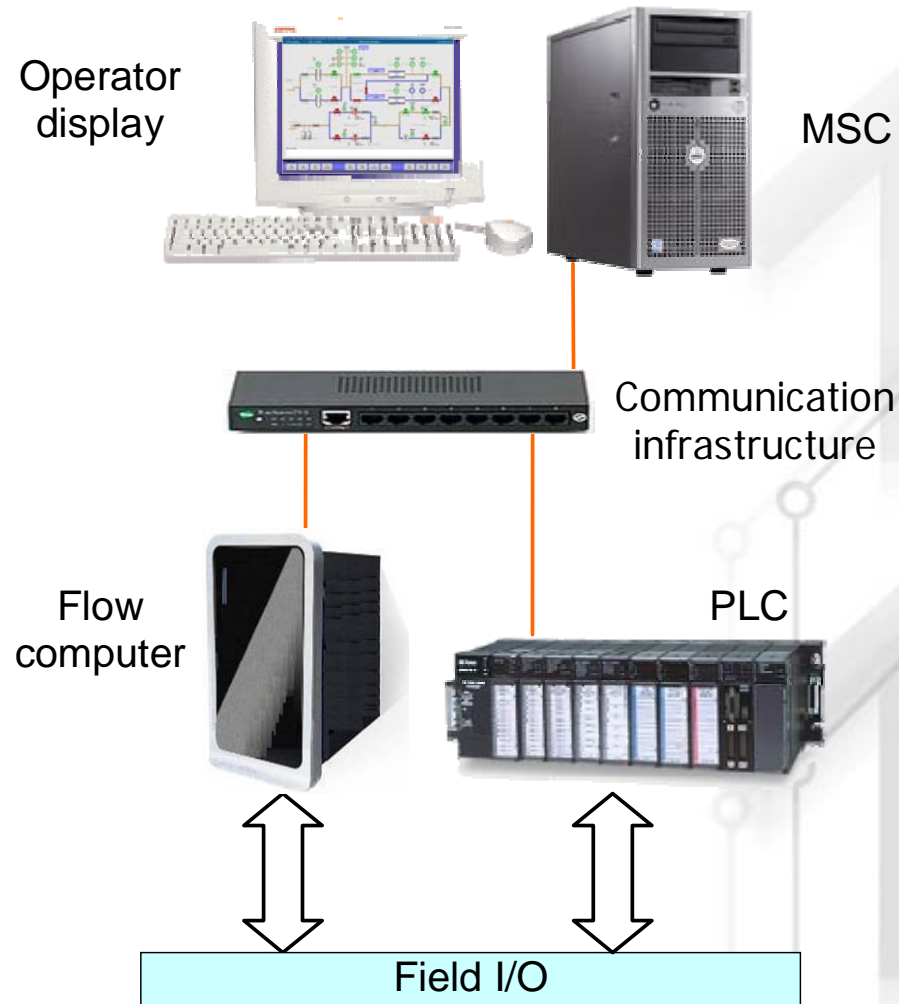
# Metering Control System Configurations

Han van Dal

[www.spiritit.nl](http://www.spiritit.nl)

Spirit **IT**, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

# Metering Control System

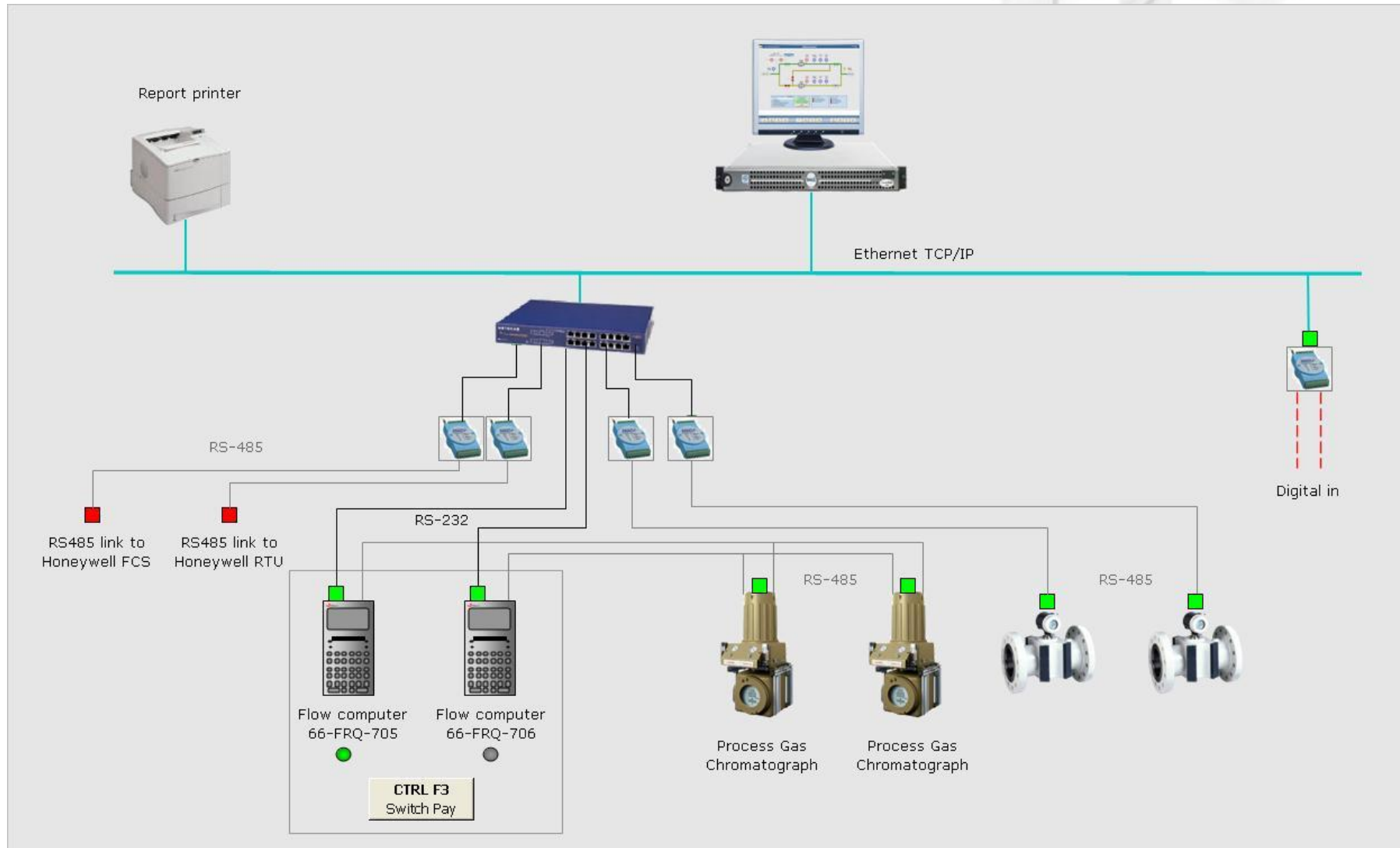


# Configuration?

- Standards and regulations?
- Single stream or multi-stream flow computer 'concept' ?
- Integrated or separate proving flow computer ?
- MSC ?
- PLC ?
- Number and location of operator screens ?
- Communication capabilities (serial <-> Ethernet) ?
- Redundancy concept ?

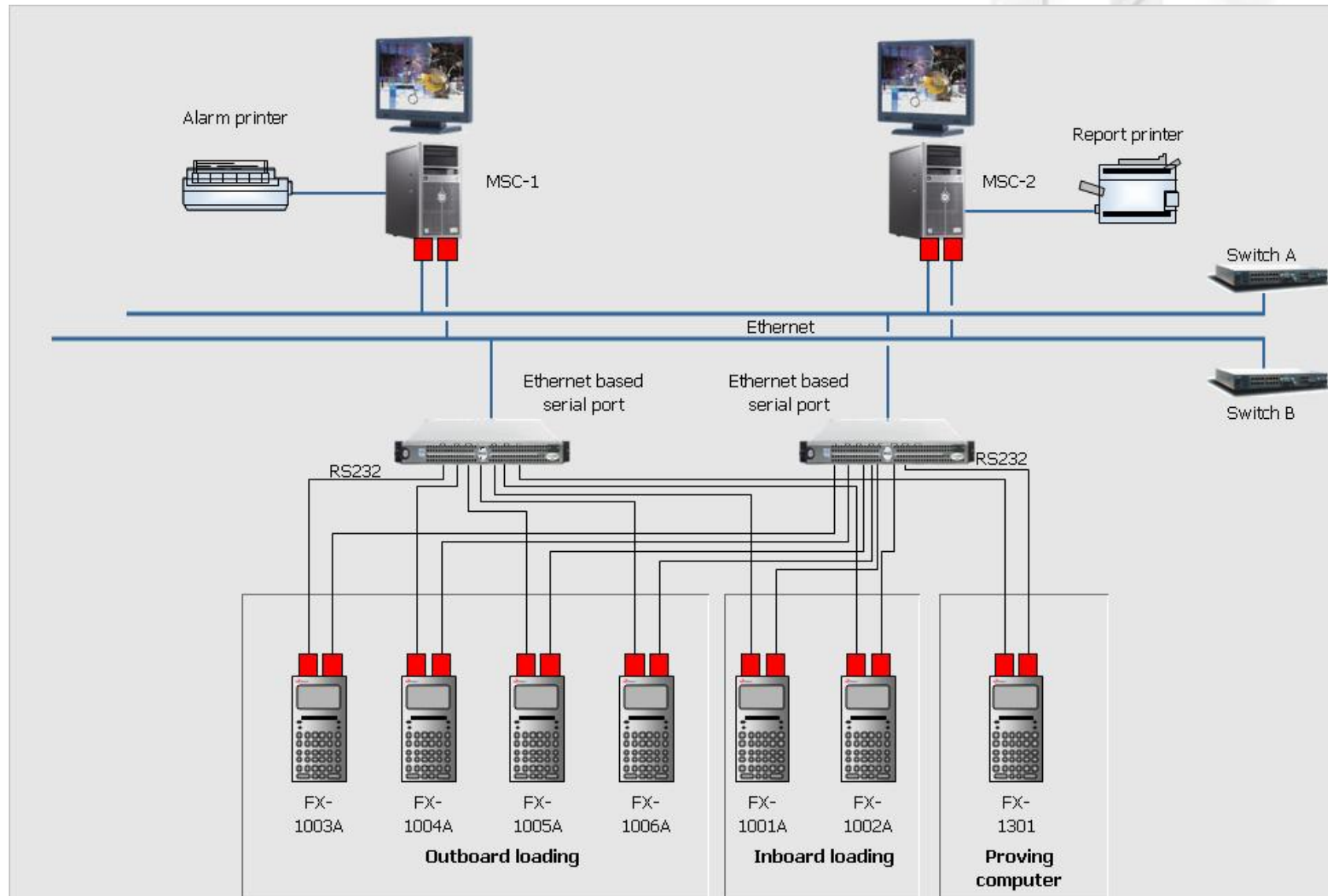
# 'Small' System

- Gas supply with 2 single stream FC's, single MSC and no PLC



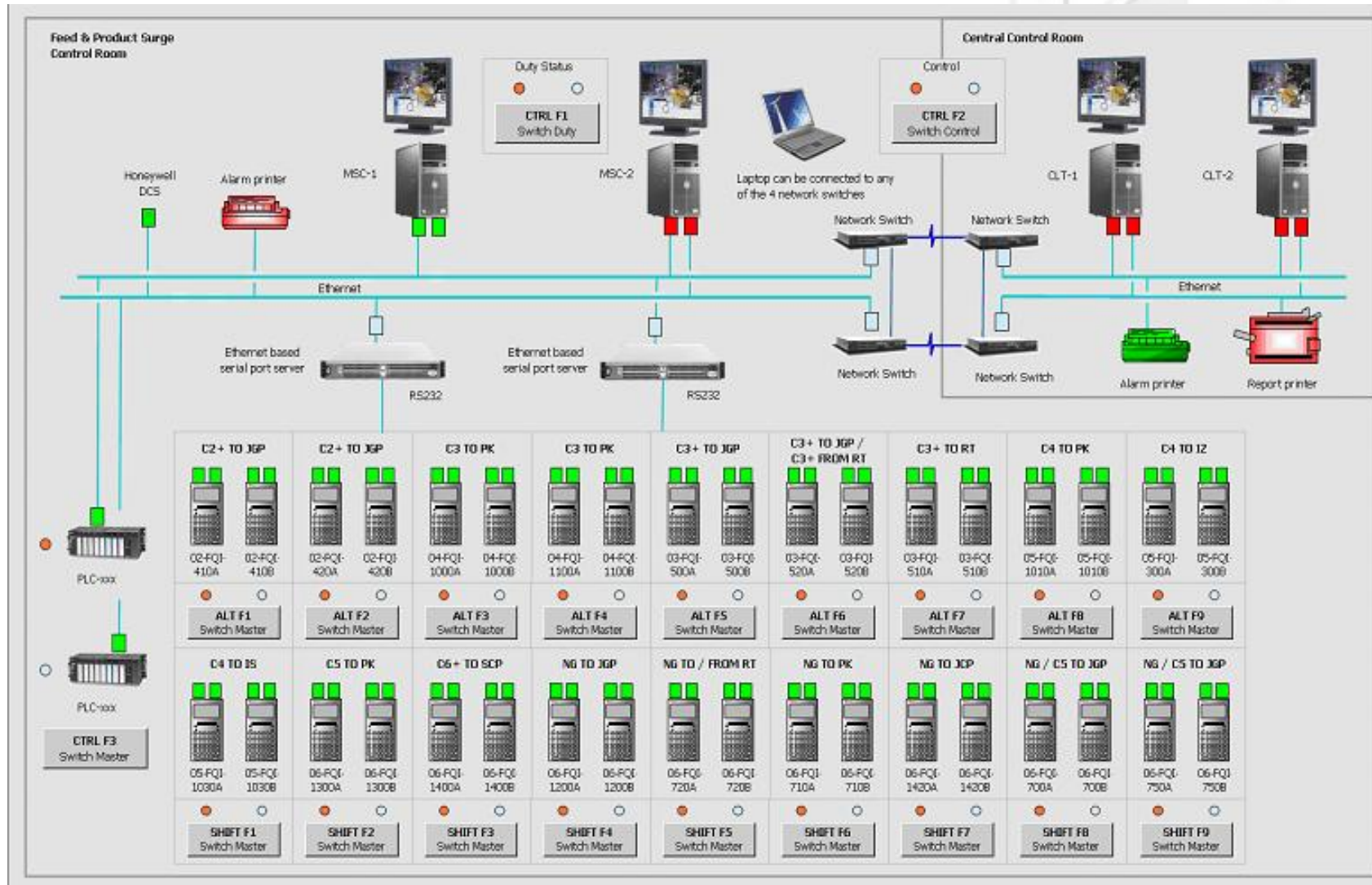
# 'N+1 Redundancy' System

- Oil export with single stream FC's, separate proving FC and no PLC



# 'Large' System

- Feed & Surge to and from Gas Plant with multi-stream FC's and full redundancy with remote control

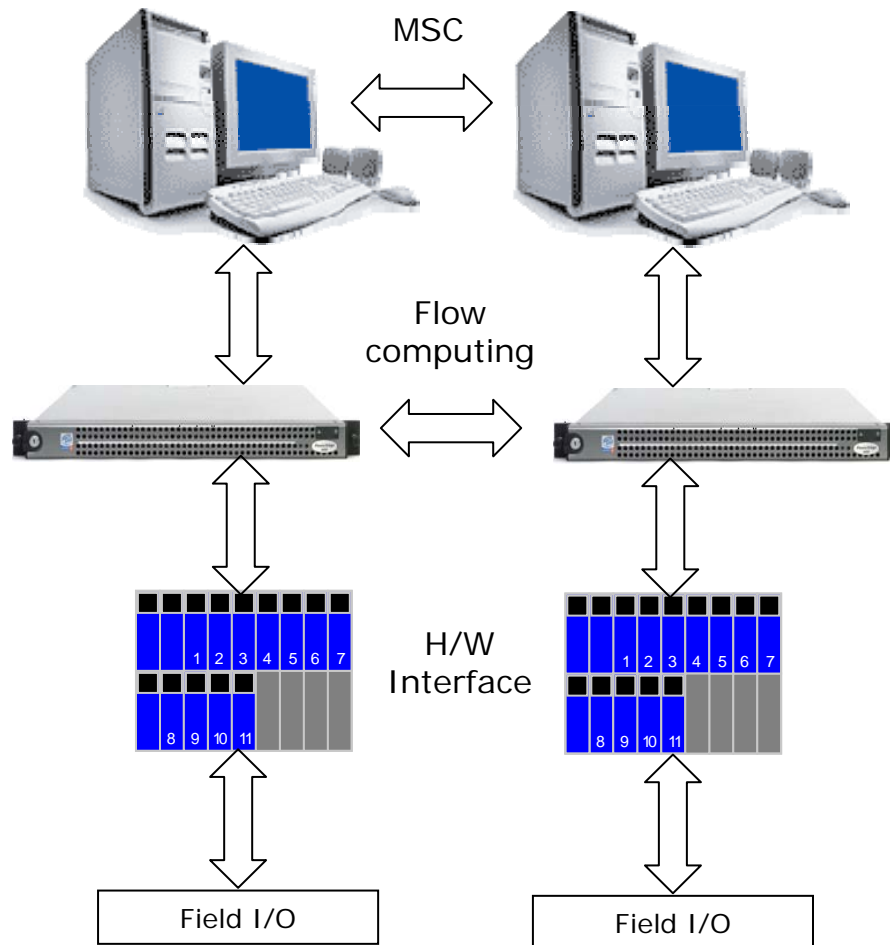


# 'Large' System



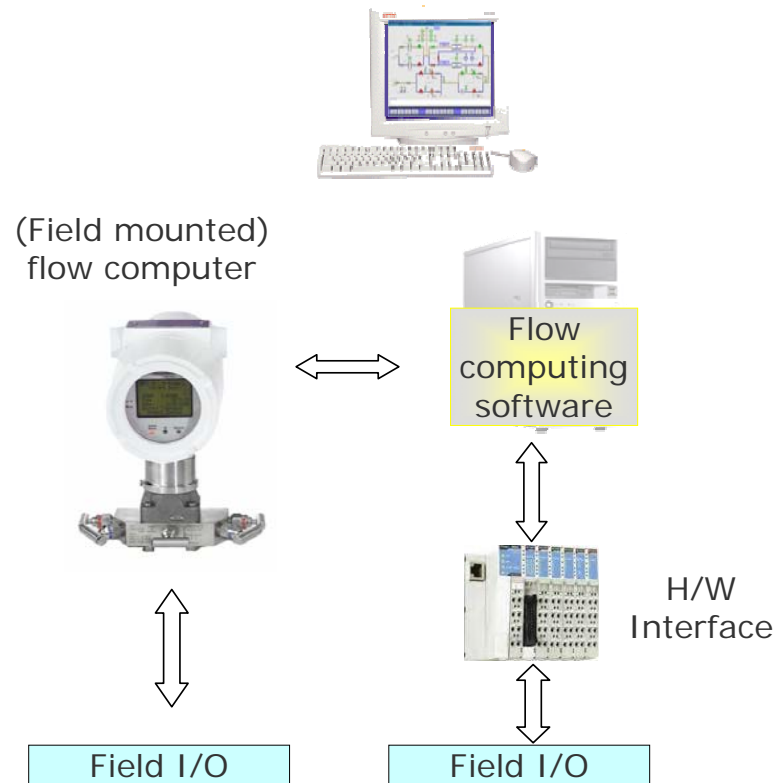


# Virtual flow computing systems



- Follows trend in industry (H/W->S/W)
- Standard hardware
- Common practice in UK and Norway
- Proven technology (> 5 years)

# Hybrid metering control systems



- Cost-effective redundancy
- On-line verification
- SPC prewarns for mismeasurements
- Condition-based maintenance



# Redundancy <-> Availability

●  $Availability = Uptime / (Downtime + Uptime) * 100\%$

●  $Availability = MTBF / (MTTR + MTBF) * 100\%$

MTBF            Mean Time Between Failures

MTTR            Mean Time To Repair

● Component <-> System

● Typical 5 Nines = 99.999% (5 minutes per year)

● To achieve high availability:

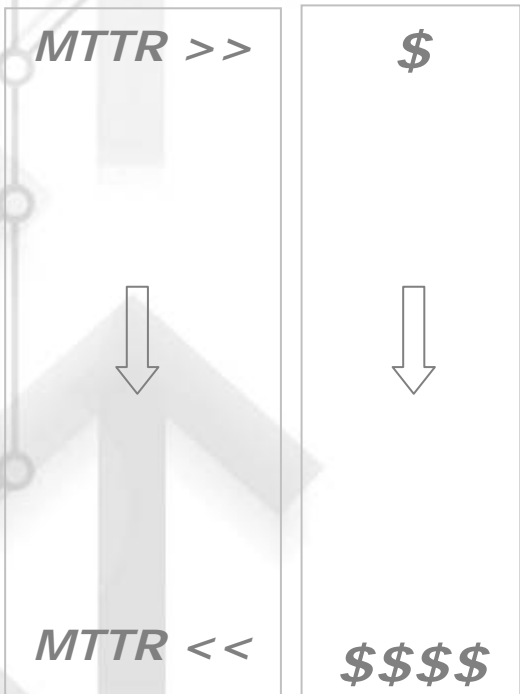
- 1<sup>st</sup>: High-quality components
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Redundant components

● Software uptime ?

99%  
99.9%  
99.99%  
99.999%  
99.9999%

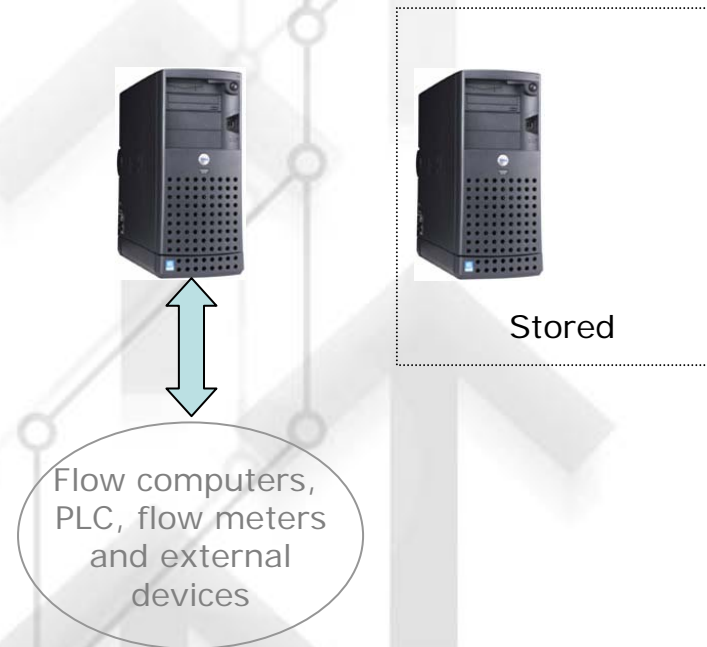
# Redundancy concepts

- No spare
- In-house spare
- Cold-standby redundancy
- Warm-standby redundancy
- Hardware-only redundancy
- Autonomous hot-standby redundancy (also called dual redundant)
- Synchronized hot-standby redundancy (also called duty / standby)



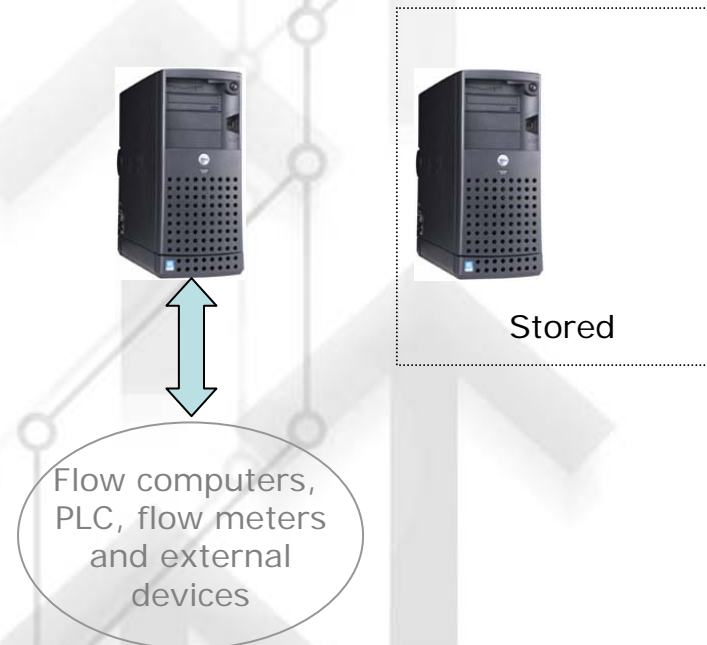
## In-house spare

- Just a partial spare (H/W only)
- Software not installed
- Not tested
- MTTR >>



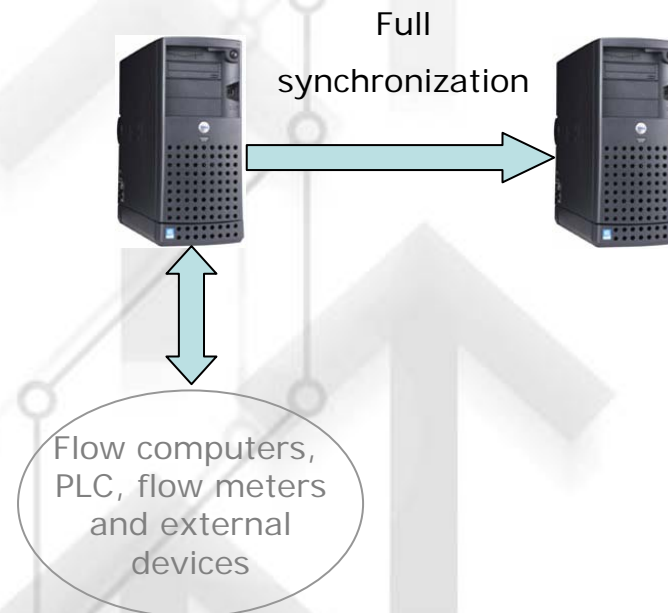
## Cold-standby redundancy

- Pre-installed AND Pre-tested
- Cost-effective
- Standby component does not wear out
- System will be out of operation during replacement
- History data is not retained after replacement
- MTTR >
- Not often used !



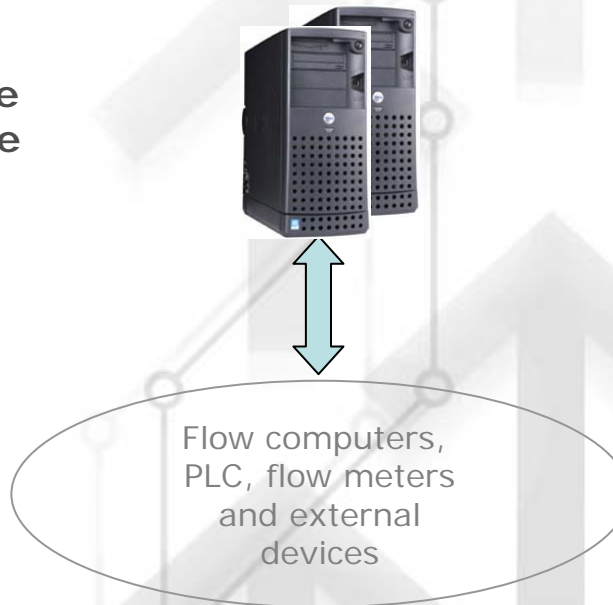
## Warm-standby redundancy

- No additional cabinet space required
- No complex redundancy software required
- Standby component wears out as well
- Also serves as a data backup
- Full data history is retained
- MTTR <
- Hardly ever used



## Hardware-only redundancy

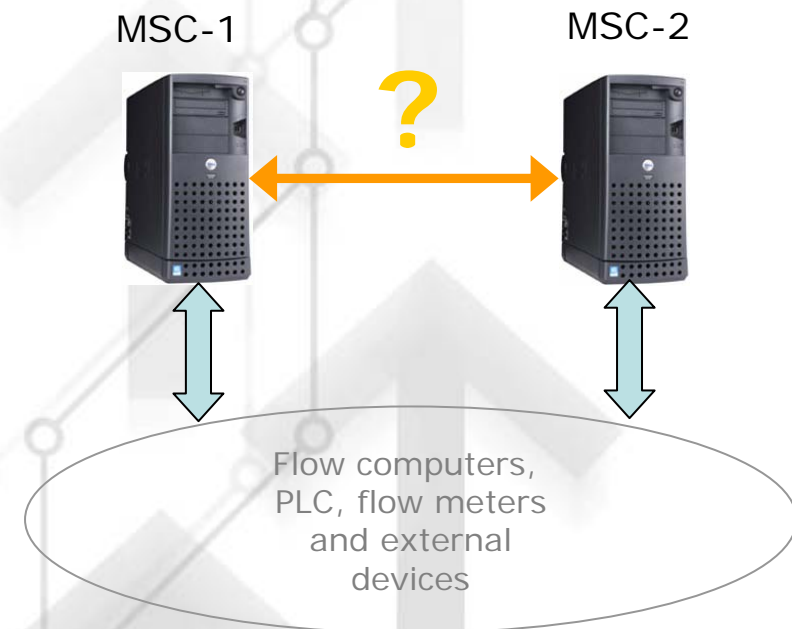
- Software is still a single point-of-failure
- Preferred by system integrators that use software products with no or inadequate redundancy functionality
- MTTR ???





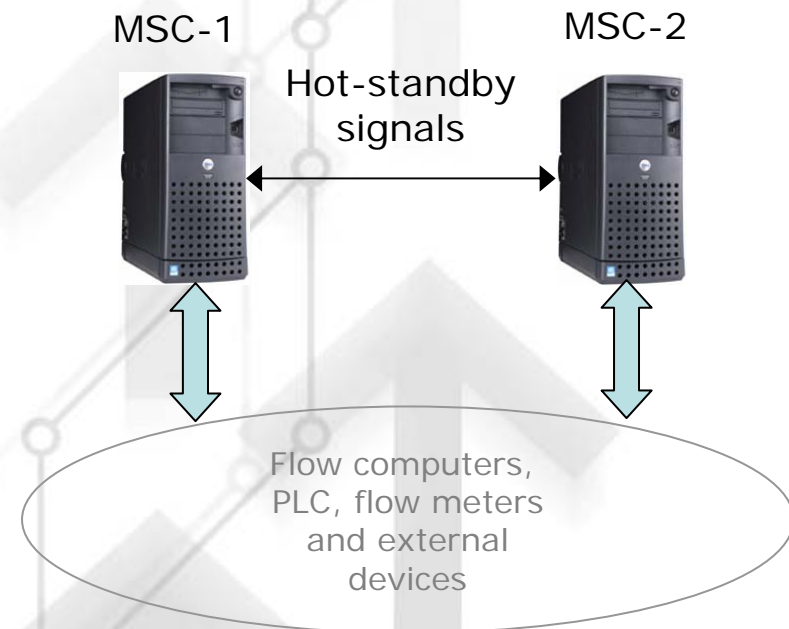
## Hot-standby redundancy

- No system down time
- No interruption in operations
- No manual intervention required
- Requires additional cabinet space
- Standby component wears out at equal rate
- MTTR <<



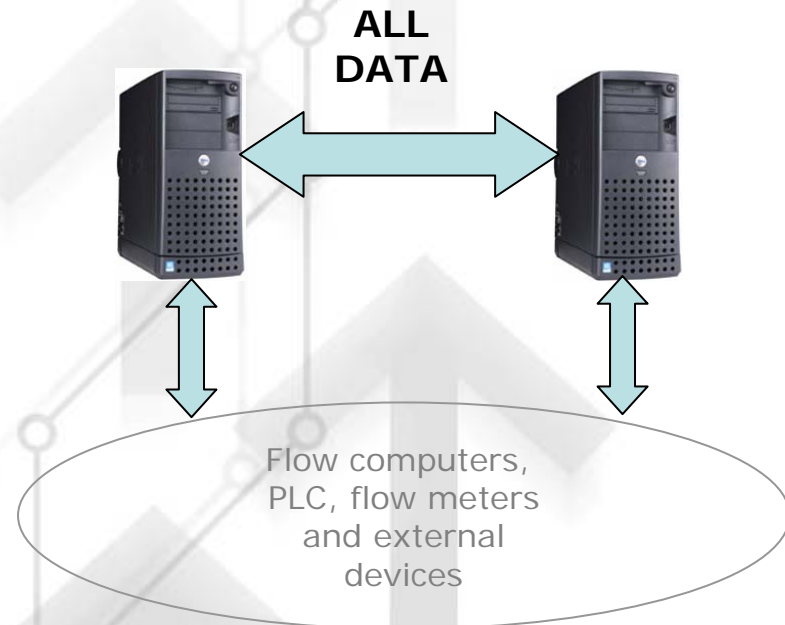
# Autonomous hot-standby

- **Independent components**  
Virtually no chance that failing component infects healthy component
- **No complex data synchronization software required**
- **Only very limited exchange of data**
- **Autonomous = Not synchronized**
  - Two different operator interfaces
  - Two different sets of historical data
  - Incomplete report and data history



# Synchronized hot-standby

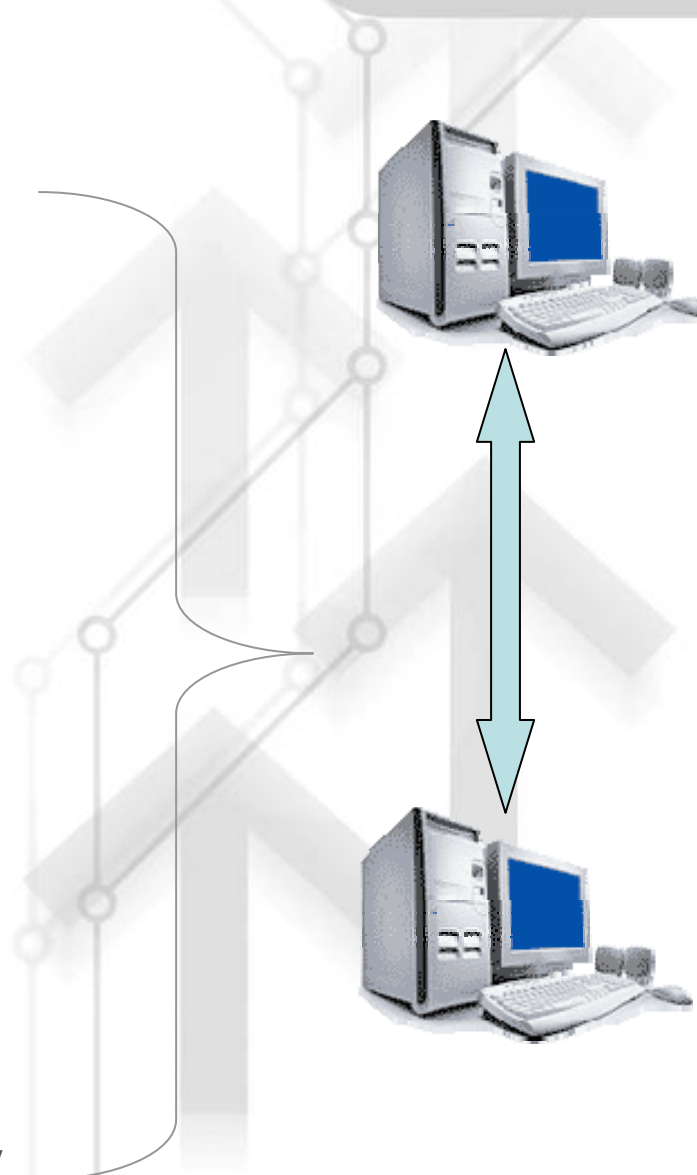
- Single transparent operator interface
- Uniform and complete set of reports
- Uniform and complete historical data
- Several scenarios:
  - Only at startup
  - On manual command
  - Continuous
- Requires sophisticated bi-directional data synchronization software
- In case of poor software the failing component might infect healthy component



# MSC Data Synchronization

- I/O from & to hardware devices
- Parameters and settings
- Relational database
- Alarm summary and history
- Reports
- Trended data
- Operator commands
- Supervisory control logic

Only very few SCADA packages support it fully



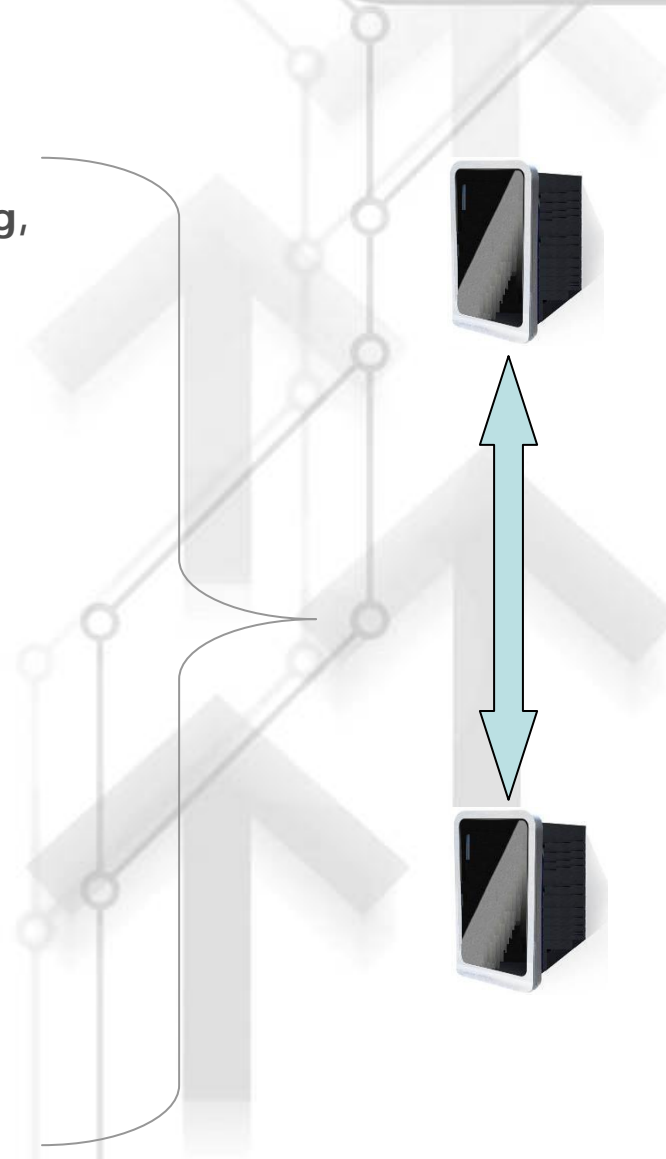
# FC Data Synchronization

- Control data (flow control, MOV's, sampling, proving)
- Parameters and settings
- Alarms
- Operator commands

and even ...

- Totals and averages
- Meter tickets and prove reports
- Event log and audit trail

Very limited support by current FC's



# Non-synchronized data - MSC

- Operator acknowledges alarm on MSC-1 only

MSC-1

Timestamp	Name	Location	Type	Description	Limit	Units
24/10/07 14:50:42	FT-205-4B Connection Lost	FlowComputer	Status Alarm	Connection lost with FT-205	1	
24/10/07 14:50:42	MOV-1 Fault	Stream 1	Status Alarm	MOV-1 reports Fault	1	
24/10/07 14:54:55	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	High Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	14.9	bar
24/10/07 14:54:55	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	HiHi Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	14.99	bar
24/10/07 14:54:55	FT-205-2A Temperature	FT_205_4A	High Alarm	Temperature value of Stream 1	24.9	°C
24/10/07 14:54:55	FT-205-2A Temperature	FT_205_4A	HiHi Alarm	Temperature value of Stream 1	24.99	°C
24/10/07 14:54:55	FT-205-2B Temperature	FT_205_4B	Low Alarm	Temperature value of Stream 2	17.1	°C
24/10/07 14:50:42	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	LoLo Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	10.02	bar
24/10/07 14:50:42	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	Low Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	10.1	bar



MSC-2

Timestamp	Name	Location	Type	Description	Limit	Units
24/10/07 14:52:32	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	High Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	14.9	bar
24/10/07 14:52:32	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	HiHi Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	14.99	bar
24/10/07 14:52:30	FT-205-2A Temperature	FT_205_4A	High Alarm	Temperature value of Stream 1	24.9	°C
24/10/07 14:52:30	FT-205-2A Temperature	FT_205_4A	HiHi Alarm	Temperature value of Stream 1	24.99	°C
24/10/07 14:50:42	FT-205-4B Connection Lost	FlowComputer	Status Alarm	Connection lost with FT-205	1	
24/10/07 14:50:42	MOV-1 Fault	Stream 1	Status Alarm	MOV-1 reports Fault	1	
24/10/07 14:51:15	FT-205-2B Temperature	FT_205_4B	Low Alarm	Temperature value of Stream 2	17.1	°C
24/10/07 14:50:42	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	LoLo Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	10.02	bar
24/10/07 14:50:42	FT-205-3A Pressure	FT_205_4A	Low Alarm	Pressure value of Stream 1	10.1	bar

# Non-synchronized data - MSC

- **Different reports**

## 1. Original report from MSC-1

Final Loading Report

<b>14-Dec-06 12:15</b>	<b>14-Dec-06 18:43</b>	<b>FM-073</b>
14-Dec-06 12:32	15-Dec-06 00:56	FM-074
14-Dec-06 20:21	15-Dec-06 00:58	FM-073
Total		

Nomination: 008643

<b>Sm3</b>	<b>12223</b>
Sm3	87564
Sm3	45682
Sm3	145469

## 2. Reprinted report from MSC-2 (MSC-2 was down for a short time at 14-Dec)

Final Loading Report

14-Dec-06 12:32	14-Dec-06 00:56	FM-074
14-Dec-06 20:21	15-Dec-06 00:58	FM-073
Total		

Nomination: 008643

Sm3	87564
Sm3	45682
Sm3	133246



# Non-synchronized data - MSC

## ● Gap in audit trail

```

26/08/2007 06:04:51.342 - Operator FGH has changed Butane SG from 0.520 to 0.524
26/08/2007 06:04:51.342 - Operator FGH has issued the Start Loading command for Berth 51
26/08/2007 06:06:54.816 - FM073_FLOWRATE_LOALM - FM073 -Flow Rate - Low Alarm - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:06:57.831 - FM073_FLOWRATE_LOALM - FM073 -Flow Rate - Low Alarm - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 06:08:22.817 - FM074_PLC_ALARM_4 - PLC FM-074 Valves not in auto mode - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 06:09:24.286 - S1_XI_029D - MOV-029 Travel time-out, C3 To L-607 - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:11:26.848 - S1_XI_029G - MOV-029 Valve interlock, C3 To L-607 - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:13:46.800 - S1_XS_608 - Interlock Violation AT L-608 - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:20:18.598 - LOAD52_WARNING1_C4 - Berth 52 loading of butane 90 perc completed - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:24:14.020 - S1_XS_608 - Interlock Violation AT L-608 - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 06:24:50.816 - FM073_FLOWRATE_LOALM - FM073 -Flow Rate - Low Alarm - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:25:52.863 - FM062_PRESPROC_DEV - FM062 - FC deviation pressure Alarm - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 06:26:02.847 - S1_XI_101D - MOV-101 Travel time-out, FM074 To Berth 52 - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:26:05.848 - FM074_PLC_ALARM_4 - PLC FM-074 Valves not in auto mode - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:26:12.832 - FM073_FLOWRATE_LOALM - FM073 -Flow Rate - Low Alarm - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 06:57:30.864 - FM073_TEMPPROC_DEV - FM073 - FC deviation temperature Alarm - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 07:00:22.113 - Operator FGH has issued the Open Valve command for MOV-022 L-608 To Vapour

```

\*\*\* FROM THE AUDIT TRAIL IT IS UNKNOWN WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN 07:00:22 and 08:27:12 \*\*\*



```

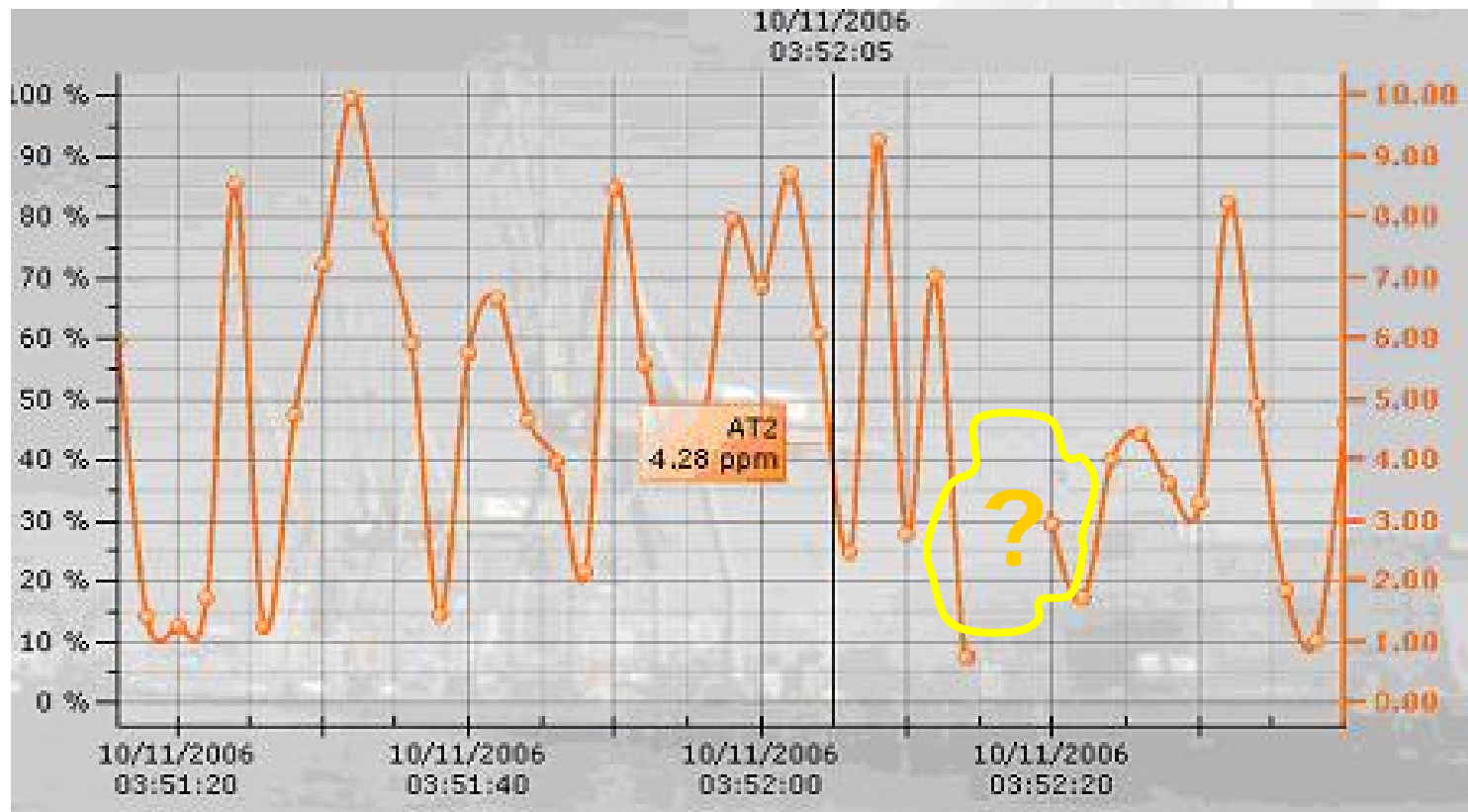
26/08/2007 08:27:12.848 - FM053_PLC_ALARM_4 - PLC FM-053 Valves not in auto mode - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 08:28:10.894 - FM053_PLC_ALARM_4 - PLC FM-053 Valves not in auto mode - changed from Alarm to Normal
26/08/2007 08:29:37.848 - S1_XI_105C - MOV-105 Local operation, FM052 To 16 inch Prover - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 08:30:35.847 - S1_XI_060D - MOV-060 Travel time-out, C4 To FM053 - changed from Normal to Alarm
26/08/2007 08:33:23.848 - S1_XI_105C - MOV-105 Local operation, FM052 To 16 inch Prover - changed from Alarm to Normal

```



## Non-synchronized data - MSC

- Missing trending data



# Non-synchronized data - FC

- **Flow computer master / slave switch-over**

**1. Primary flow computer is used for reporting**

Flow meter		FM-098
Meter ticket		000459
Batch Opening Total	m3	007573332
Batch Closing Total	m3	007585435
Batch Volume	m3	000012103

**2. Primary flow computer fails, secondary flow computer takes over control**

Flow meter		FM-098
Meter ticket		000320
Batch Opening Total	m3	000048563
Batch Closing Total	m3	000051787
Batch Volume	m3	000003224



## Non-synchronized data - FC

- **Parameter values need to be entered twice**

Primary flow computer	Meter K-factor	:	1143.591
Secondary flow computer	Meter K-factor	:	1143.519

## Conclusions

- Use high-quality components (with industrial specs)
- Data transparency is crucial to plant operations
- Avoid custom-made software for 'standard' functionality
- Make data synchronization part of the FAT
- Make software installation part of the FAT
- Use 'cold-standby' spares
- Be aware of common mode failures (e.g Ethernet switch)

*QUESTIONS ?*