



**HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES**  
ELECTRICITY • NATURAL GAS • WATER



# Using Data to Improve Business Processes

**KEITH HOGAN - HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES**

**JEREMY INDRIDASON - TRYNZIC**

# Session Agenda

- ❑AMI Journey
- ❑Opportunities and Challenges for Change
- ❑Tools & Concepts with Trynzic
- ❑Use Cases/Scenarios

# About Huntsville Utilities



Huntsville Utilities is a not-for-profit, public utility owned by the City of Huntsville, Alabama serving the residents of Huntsville and Madison County. We currently have approximately 213,000 electric, 105,000 water, and 62,000 natural gas customers.

Our mission is to strengthen trust in Huntsville Utilities, our vision is to deliver excellent customer experiences, and our values are to do what's right, build community, and get better every day

# About Trynzic



Our vision is simple. To bridge the gap between IoT data and smarter business processes, no matter the industry. Trynzic is the premier IoT platform for event-driven work.

Built on Microsoft Azure, Trynzic's software platform combines a scalable architecture and serverless computing to give Customers an affordable way to sense, triage, and act upon a myriad of issues in their grid.

# Bios



Keith Hogan is an Engineer II at Huntsville Utilities in Huntsville, AL. Keith is from Athens, AL about 30 minutes west of Huntsville, AL. He started with Huntsville Utilities as a summer hire right out of high school and continued working at Huntsville Utilities throughout college as a Co-Op student. After graduation, he took a job at Arab Electric, Inc in Arab, AL where he was promoted to the Assistant General Manager. Keith has been back with Huntsville Utilities for the past 6 years working as the Project Engineer on their AMI deployment project. Keith has 15 years of experience in the public power industry in both the municipal and member owned cooperative settings.

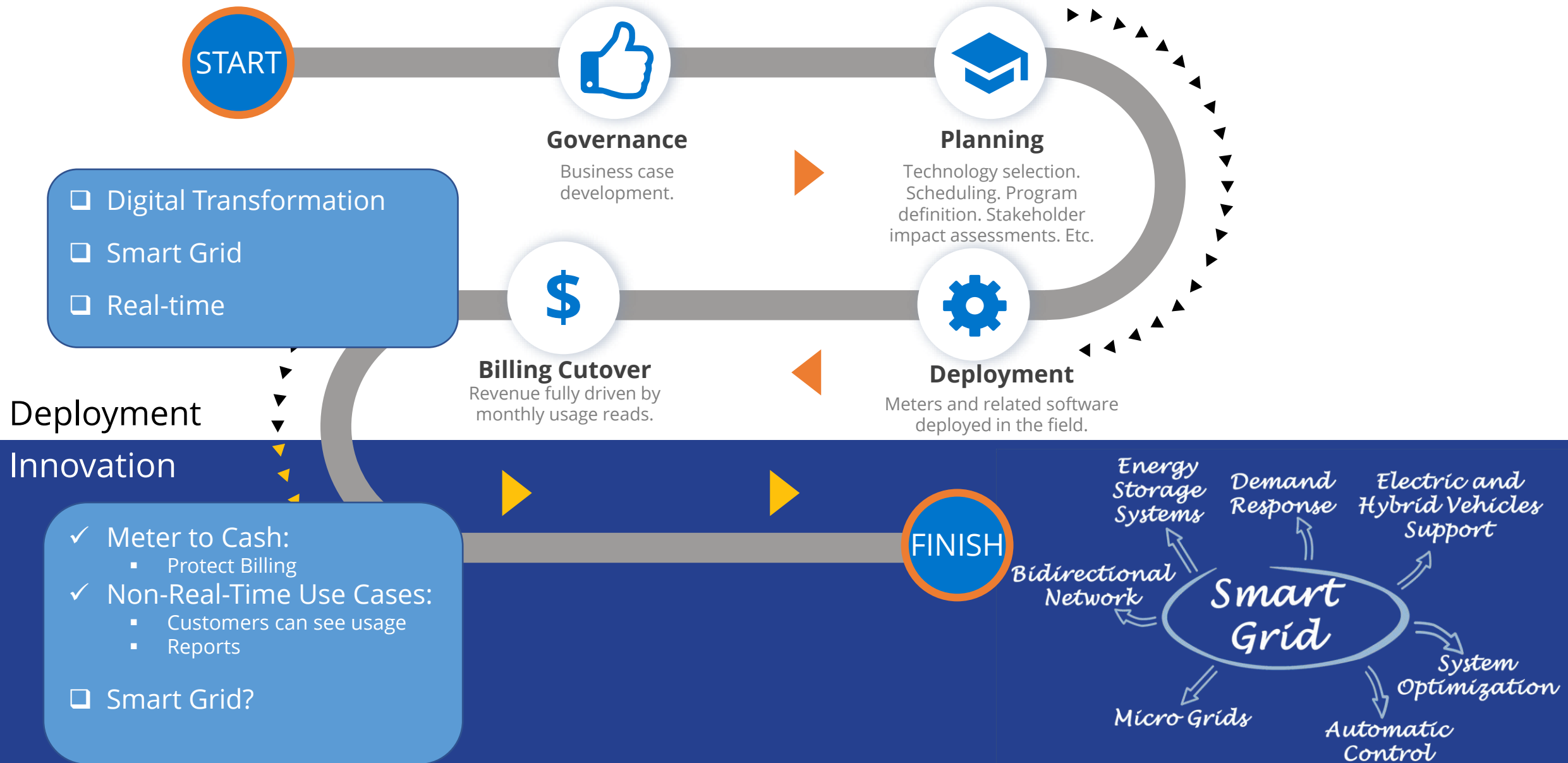


Jeremy Indridason is Vice President of Products & Services at Trynzic, which brings the serverless computing power of the cloud to use your data to identify and prioritize anomalous events, and execute business processes that enable meaningful digital transformation.

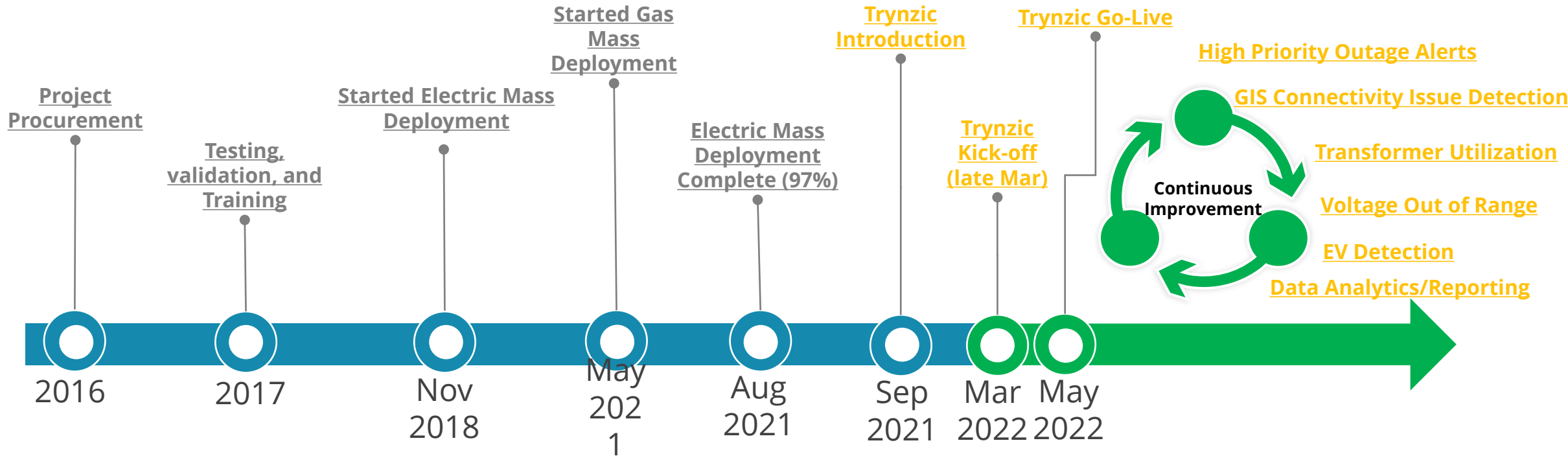
In his role at Trinzie, Jeremy leads the Product Management, Software Engineering and Services organizations, focusing on collaborating across the industry to get the best ideas to market and delighting customers with extraordinary customer experiences – closing the gap between AMI and ROI.

# AMI Journey

# Typical AMI Journey



# HU AMI Journey



## Assumptions

- Three-year deployment with Electric, Gas, and Water AMI endpoints being deployed together with Gas and Water lagging behind only one month.
- Requested bugs, hot fixes, etc. would be fixed each upgrade cycle
- New water pit module delivery
- Customer Service Entry Repair

## Promised Outcomes

- Access to granular customer usage data
- Reduced truck roll costs for disconnects for non-pay
- Usage insight prompting proactive alert notification to customers
- System performance and alert notifications

## Reality

- Rollout is 5 years on-going
- Data and business process is harder than you realize
- Ever changing business environment adds complexity (internal and external)
- Big data requires new skills and new tools

# Challenges & Opportunities

## Challenges

- ❑ Data Silos
- ❑ Unchecked meter events / noise / alert fatigue
- ❑ Difficulty integrating different systems that own the data
- ❑ Tracking and optimizing processes and workflows
- ❑ Identifying bottlenecks and inefficiencies in manual administration tasks
- ❑ IT required to generate reports for every analysis performed



## Opportunities

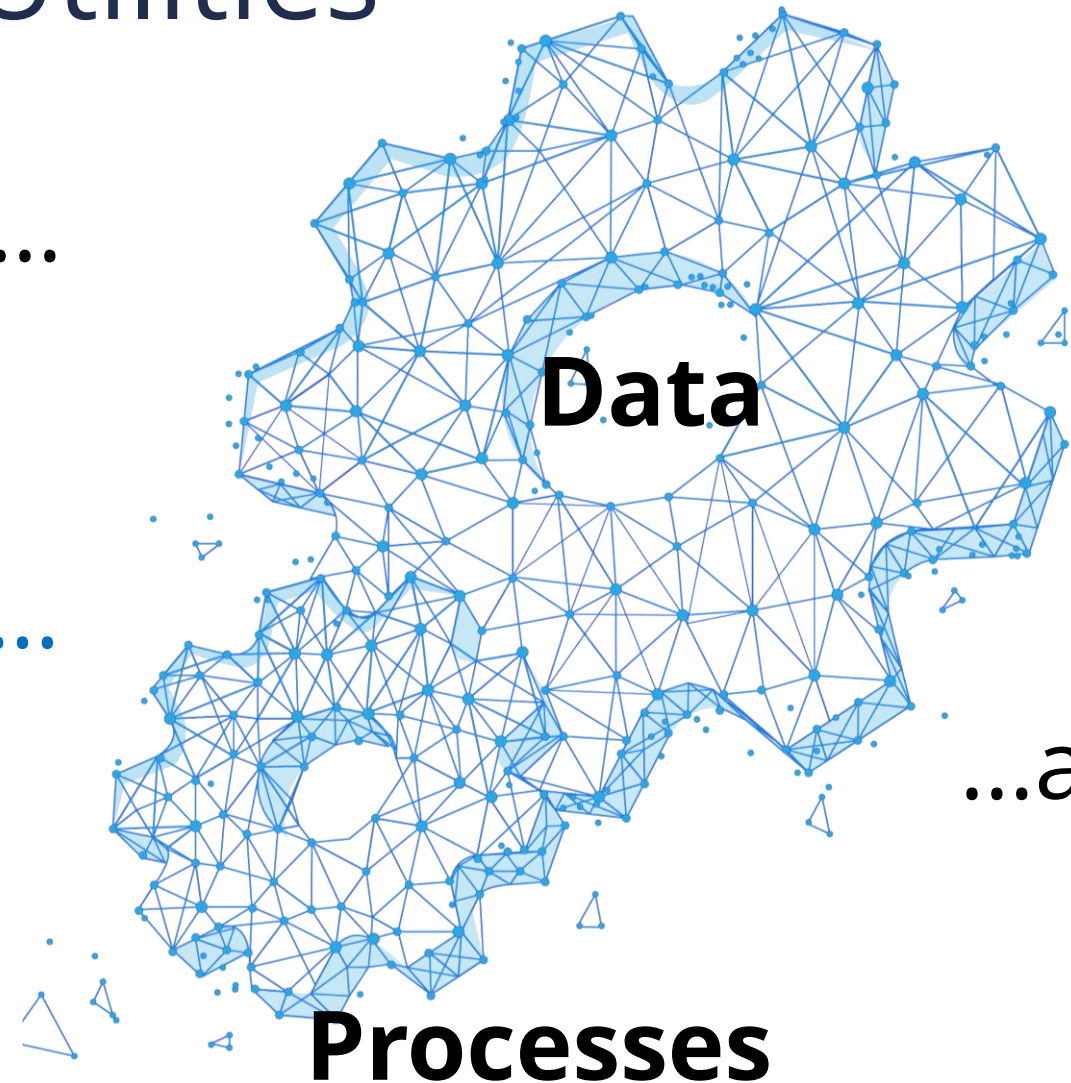
- ❑ Combine pertinent data from different systems into one place
- ❑ Clear the clutter and focus on the important alerts by tailoring alert parameters to utility specific desires
- ❑ Establish dynamic workflows across multiple departments to drive to the end goal without dropping items.
- ❑ Run analytics to identify the inefficiencies across all systems and departments based on completion times of action items in process workflows
- ❑ Give non-IT employees the tools to query and report on the data they need with relative ease

# Tools & Concepts

# Smart Trynizic for Utilities

We are the bridge...

... between the  
smart meter...

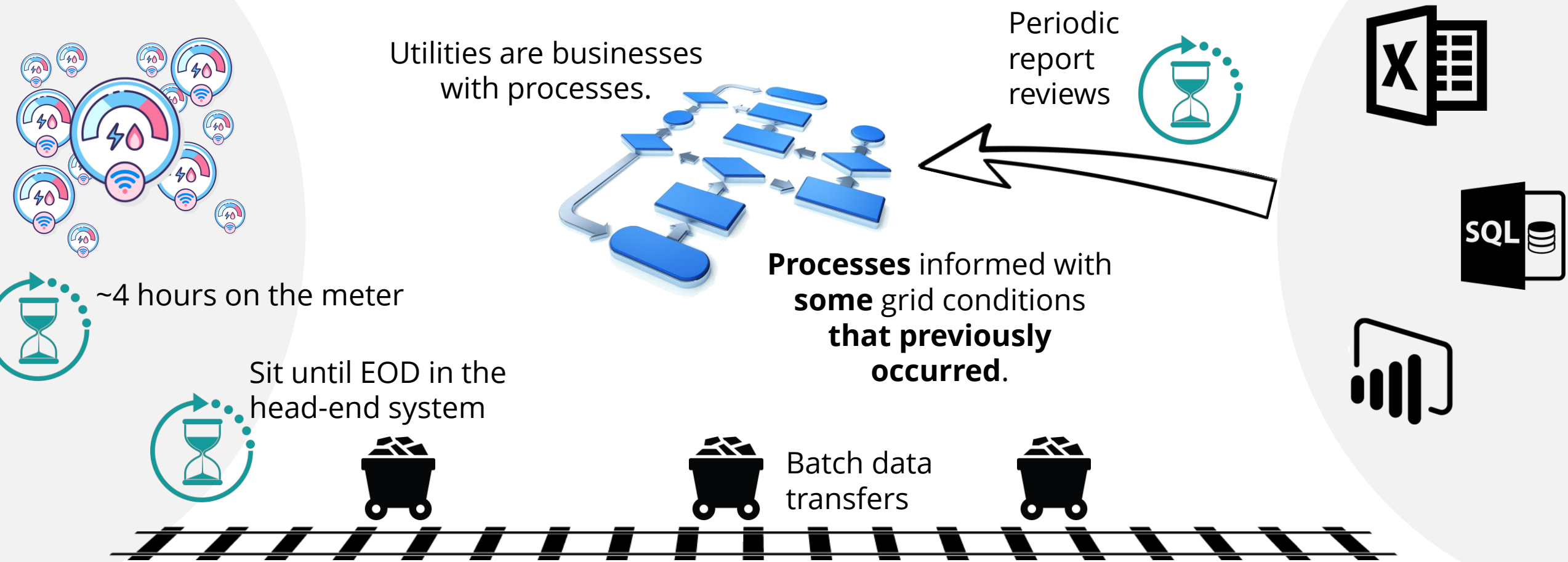


...and the  
smart grid

# Current State

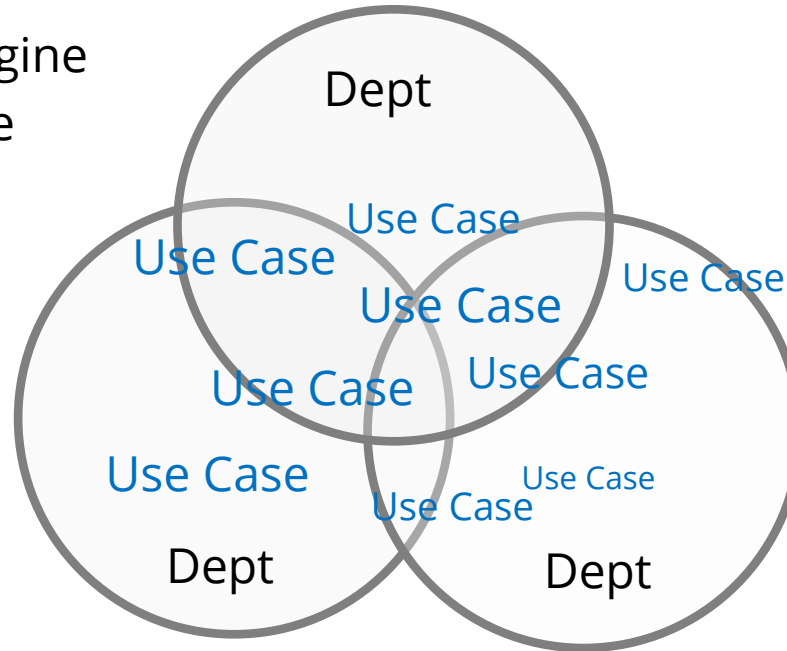
Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Traditional Data Analysis Tools

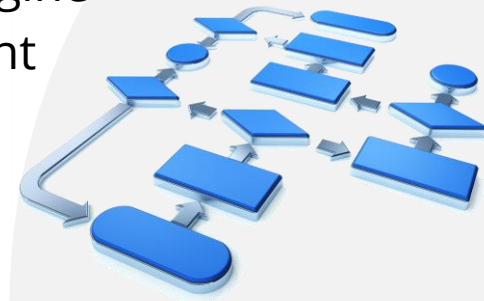


# Path to the Future

- Stream data analytics engine
- Rules engine



- Workflow engine w/ designer
- Orchestration engine
- Case management
- Collaboration



## Business Processes

- CIS
- MDMS
- Field Mobile
- OMS
- GIS
- Analytics (BI)

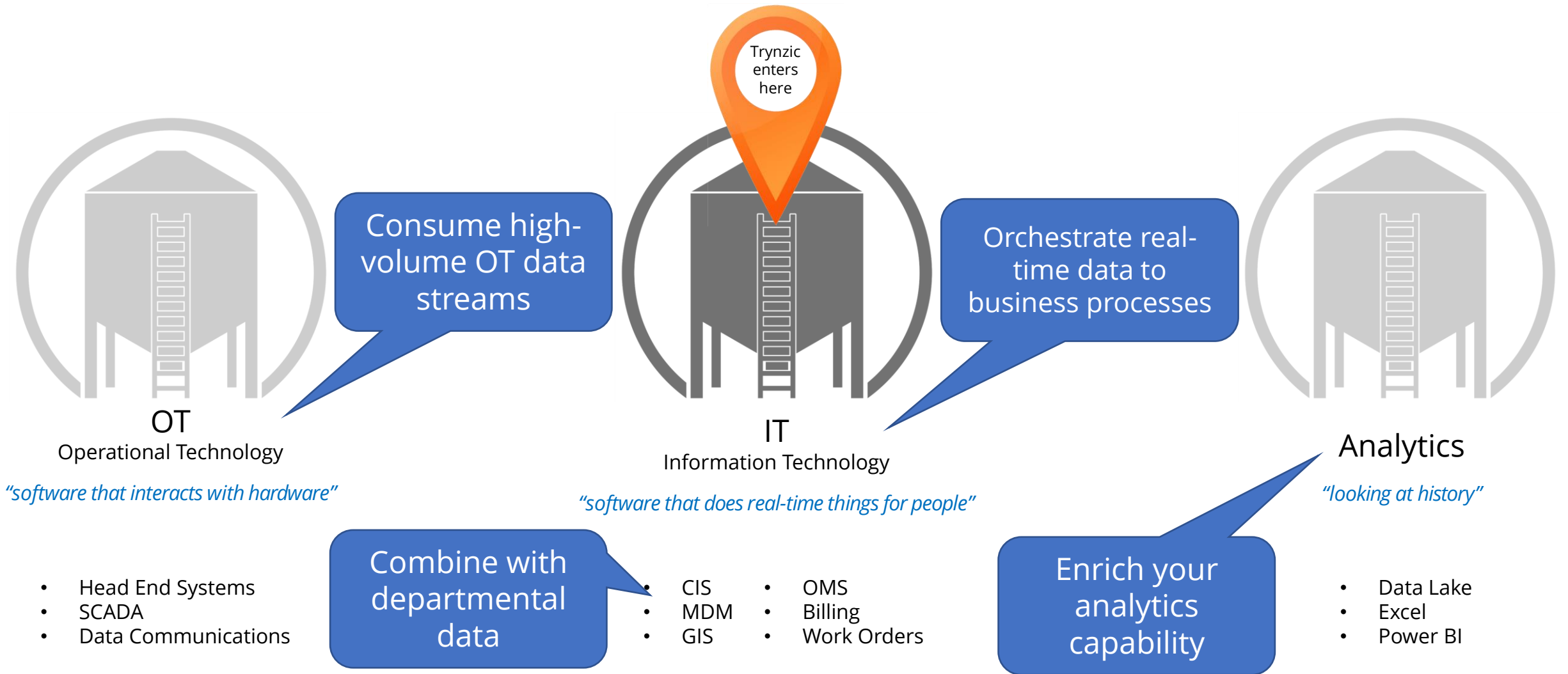
- Integration engine
- Canonical enterprise data model
- Scalability
- Compute & Storage Cost control

Advanced Metering

- AMI Meters
- Backhaul
- Software (head end, etc.)

This block contains a cluster of colorful icons representing smart meters and communication signals, with a larger central icon featuring a lightning bolt and a Wi-Fi symbol.

# System of Systems



# Huntsville Utilities – Trynzcic Implementation

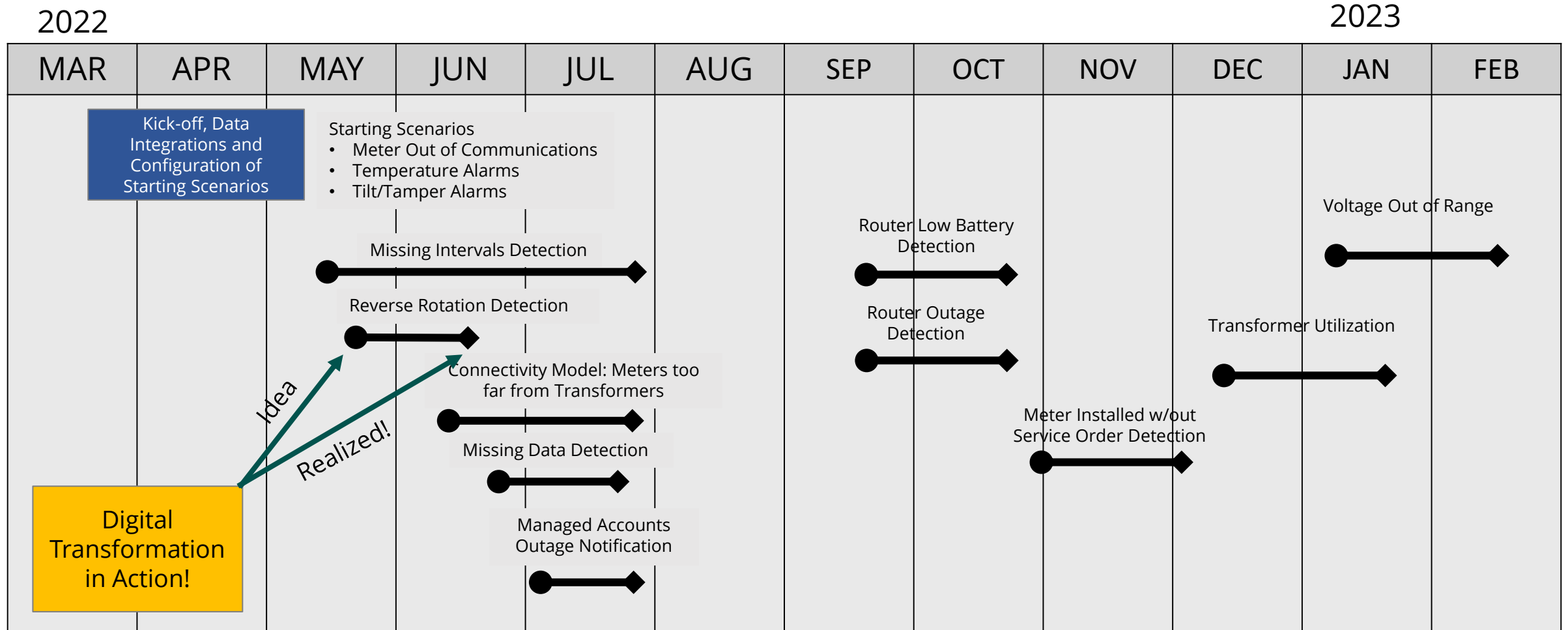
**SIMPLE · RAPID · EXTEND VALUE**

*Together with Trynzcic, rapidly configure and validate real-time events and business processes to quickly realize value from your AMI Data*



*Go Live is just the beginning - with Trynzcic your team is in full control. Continue to improve your operations and grow your AMI investment as fast as you need!*

# Iterative Approach in Reality



# Data Volume Challenges

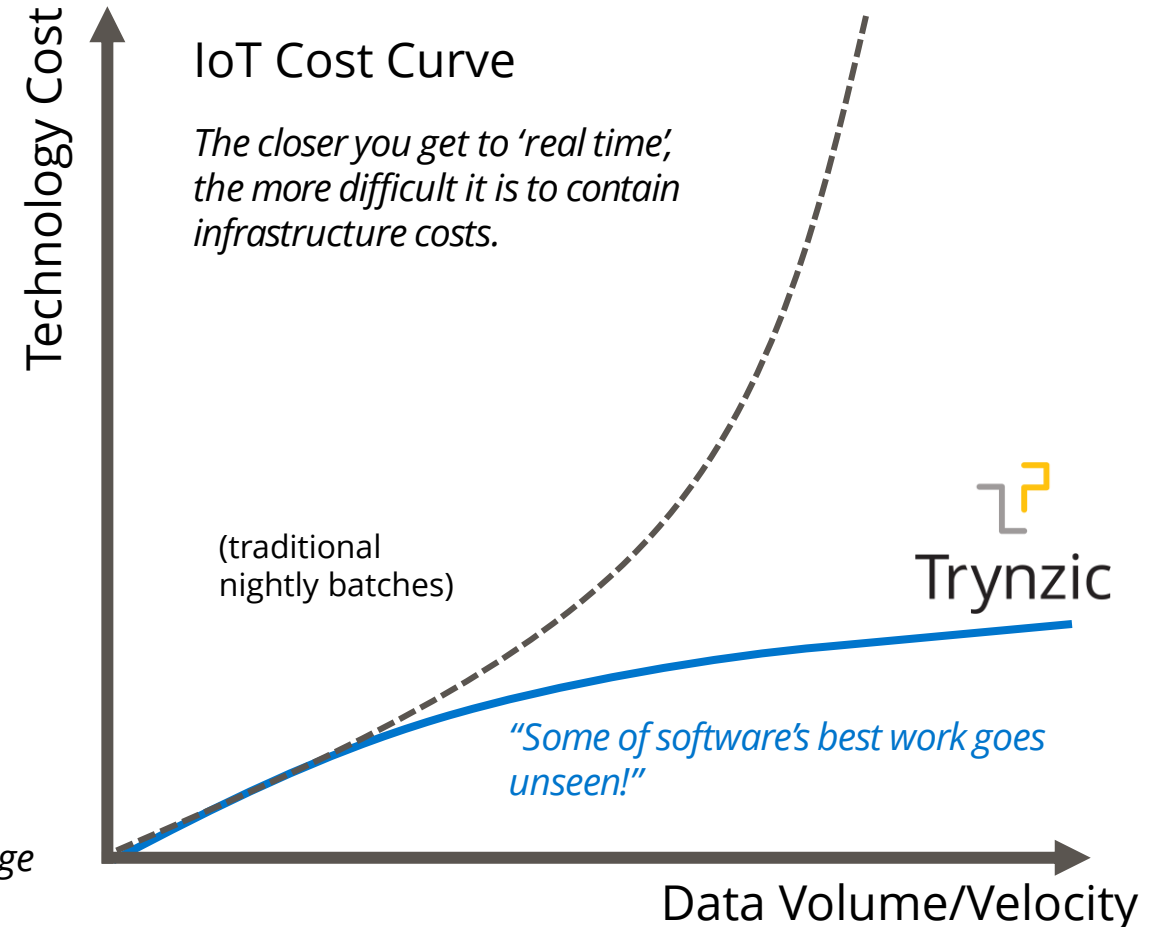
250,000 electric meters

- ✓ Hourly usage reads  
→ 6M data points / day  
*(beyond Excel, you are in relational)*
- ✓ Hourly voltage (min/max/avg)  
→ 24M data points / day  
*('real work' for relational)*
- ✓ Keep data for 2 months  
→ 1.4B data points  
*(now you are in non-relational, aka big data)*

+ Now apply the data to dozens of detection rules combined with other data from departmental systems.



Now you have an impressive IT challenge



# Trynzie's BI Strategy



Your Azure  
Subscription

## Ingest

Bring **your data from Trynzie** to an Azure subscription you control



Azure Data Factory

## Store

Saved in a **cost effective**, long-term data store



Azure Data Lake

## Prep & Stage

Aligned to Trynzie **data standards**



Azure Synapse



Azure SQL



Azure Data Bricks

## Self-Service

Made available to **your reporting tools** and existing investment



Tableau



Power BI

Your Enterprise  
Data (H/E, CIS, etc.)

Trynzie's Data  
(Events, Actions  
& Case)

# Analytics Pilot



## Problem Statement

The difficulty of being able to access critical business data in a consistent, centralized manner is creating barriers to innovation and productivity across multiple areas of the business.



## Scope

The focus of this project proposes to do a pilot of data aggregation that leverages existing efforts already accomplished with the vendor Trynzic and it's software platform.



## Goals

### Big Data in the Cloud

*Leverage the scale of cloud technologies to build common repository of data*

### Start the Community

*Identify a small community of power users for learning and experimentation*

### Show what we can do

*Target 3 references reports or dashboards to be built*

### Build Plan for Next Steps

*Leverage pilot learning to build a program roadmap for change*



## Benefits

- ☐ Enables data access across multiple siloes/systems that is not cost effective today
- ☐ Begins common standards and understanding of data
- ☐ Limited pilot proves the concept before broader investment



## Key Risks

- ☐ New technology and assoc'd learning curve
- ☐ Technology aspects of data governance could get ahead of organization and culture changes and result in re-work



## Critical Milestones



### Setup Cloud Resources

*Storage, compute, and ETL for cloud data*

### Build the Experiments

*Identify the small group of SMEs build time-bound experiments*

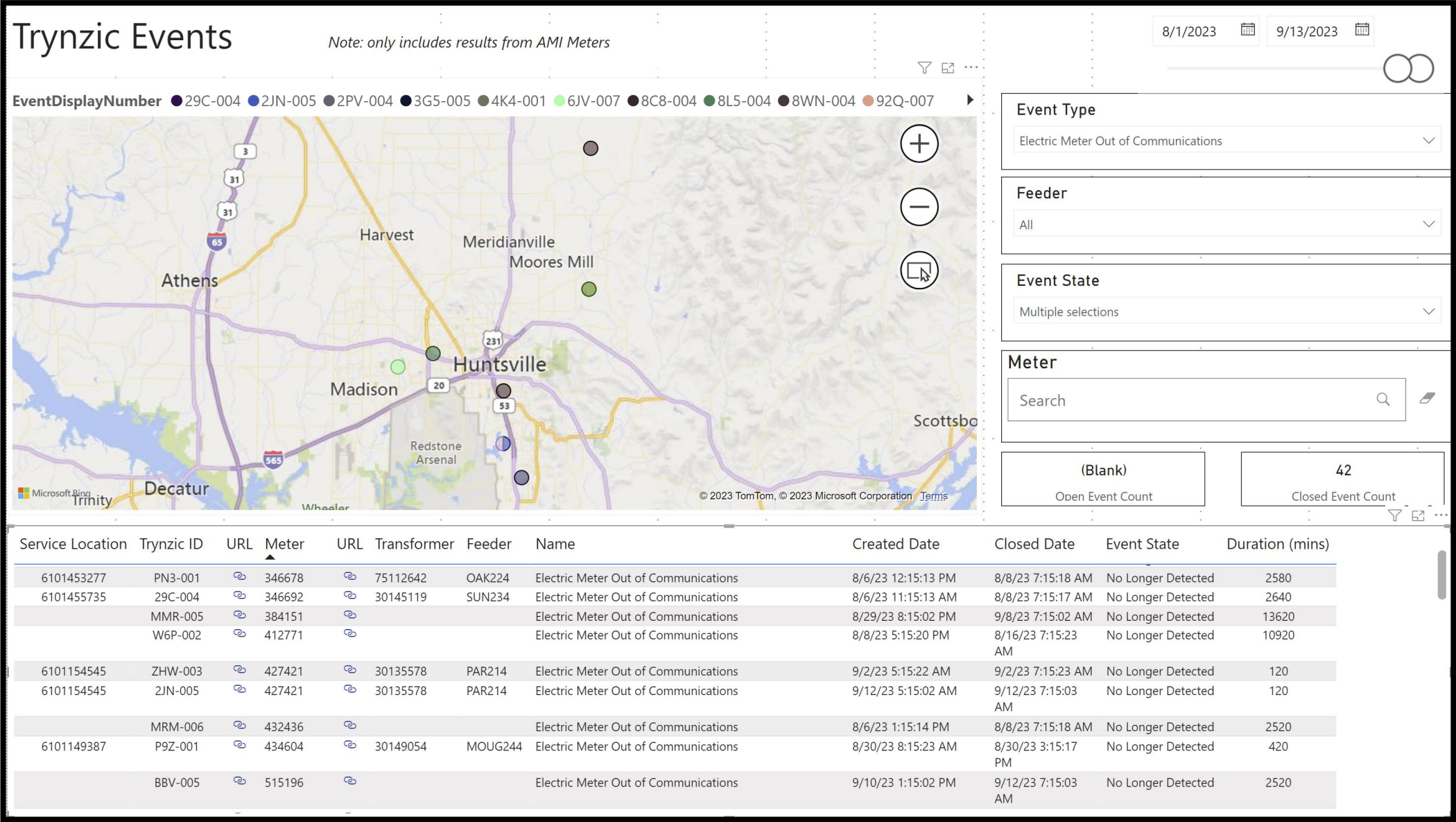
### Review & Assess

*Review experiments and build plan on go forward plans*

### Future State Roadmap & Roll-out

*Build the roadmap of next steps and incorporate into planning cycle*

# Dashboard Example



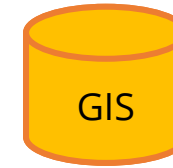
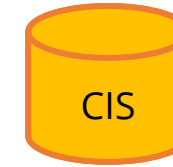
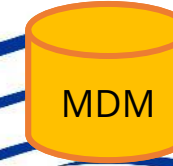
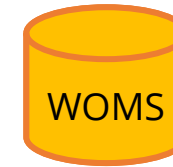
# Think about your situation

AMI Meters



Can you detect anomalies in near real-time?  
Can quickly leverage your departmental data?  
Is your diagnostic data accessible, organized, & current?

Department  
Applications



People  
&  
Processes

Can you envision, design, roll-out and update  
business processes quickly?  
Can you orchestrate processes across multiple  
systems?  
Can you do all this without custom code and  
dependence on vendors?



# Scenarios at Huntsville

# Huntsville Utilities Realized Scenarios

- ❑ Reverse Rotation
- ❑ Transformer Utilization
- ❑ Connectivity Model Issue
- ❑ Voltage Out of Range

# Reverse Rotation

## Problem

- Identifying & resolving reverse energy flow with different meter forms and programs across multiple departments

## Challenges

- Difficult to identify the important instances of the event
- Difficult to document resolution steps
- Difficult to track and be cognizant of repeat offenders

## Direct Benefits

- We were able to identify and resolve certain reverse rotation events that were generated due to bottom fed meter bases. Resolving these allows us to focus on actual reverse rotation events.

# Reverse Rotation

Reverse Rotation (K base) <span>SAVE AS</span>							
Event ID	Event Type (1) Reverse Rotation (K For...		Created	<span>+ Filters</span> <span>APPLY FILTERS</span>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Event ID	Created ↑	Event Type	Meter	Meter Form	Meter Status	AMI Meter Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">PI7-000</a>	▲ Wed, May 18, 2022, 1:00 AM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">9053077</a>	16k/15k/14k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">6FV-000</a>	▲ Wed, May 18, 2022, 1:00 AM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">9031606</a>	16k/15k/14k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">6V8-000</a>	▲ Fri, Oct 14, 2022, 10:30 AM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">9051744</a>	16k/15k/14k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">B18-000</a>	▲ Fri, Oct 14, 2022, 12:30 PM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">319530</a>	2k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">NLP-000</a>	▲ Fri, Oct 14, 2022, 12:30 PM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">436025</a>	2k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">9M3-000</a>	▲ Tue, Oct 18, 2022, 3:30 PM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">9036759</a>	16k/15k/14k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">GTT-000</a>	▲ Tue, Nov 8, 2022, 8:30 AM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">564526</a>	2k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">W1Y-002</a>	▲ Tue, Jan 31, 2023, 5:30 AM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">9032040</a>	16k/15k/14k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Z8H-002</a>	▲ Mon, Feb 27, 2023, 8:30 PM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">564516</a>	2k	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">2JG-002</a>	▲ Wed, Mar 8, 2023, 3:30 PM	Reverse Rotation (K Forms)	<a href="#">374695</a>	2k	InService	Normal

Reverse Rotation (S form) <span>SAVE AS</span>							
Event ID	Event Type (1) Reverse Rotation (S Forms)		Created	<span>+ Filters</span> <span>APPLY FILTERS</span>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Event ID	Created ↑	Event Type	Meter	Meter Form	Meter Status	AMI Meter Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">5LG-000</a>	Sat, May 7, 2022, 7:00 PM	Reverse Rotation (S Forms)	<a href="#">374311</a>	2se	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">JRZ-000</a>	Sat, May 7, 2022, 7:00 PM	Reverse Rotation (S Forms)	<a href="#">321400</a>	2s	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">92T-000</a>	Sat, May 7, 2022, 7:00 PM	Reverse Rotation (S Forms)	<a href="#">437643</a>	2s	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">N7Q-000</a>	Sat, May 7, 2022, 7:00 PM	Reverse Rotation (S Forms)	<a href="#">544233</a>	2s	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">L89-000</a>	Sat, May 7, 2022, 7:00 PM	Reverse Rotation (S Forms)	<a href="#">9035334</a>	16s	InService	Normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">224-000</a>	Sat, May 7, 2022, 7:00 PM	Reverse Rotation (S Forms)	<a href="#">324954</a>	2s	InService	Normal



# Transformer Utilization

## **Problem**

- We had no visibility into the health and utilization of our distribution transformers.
- With Trynzic we were able to combine our GIS connectivity model with our AMI data to sum up children meter interval data to calculate transformer utilization.

## **Challenges**

- Dialing in the appropriate parameters to detect over/under utilization on transformers. – Season, Power Rating, KW thresholds, etc.

## **Direct Benefits**

- Monitor all distribution transformers based purely on data already available.
- Detect/alert proper teams when AMI usage data + GIS model indicates overloaded transformers to proactively address
- This ability combined with known customers to have electric vehicles (EV) can be powerful

# Transformer Utilization

## Ratings

Power Rating  
10

Primary Voltage Low  
7.2

Primary Voltage High  
7.2

Secondary Voltage Low  
120

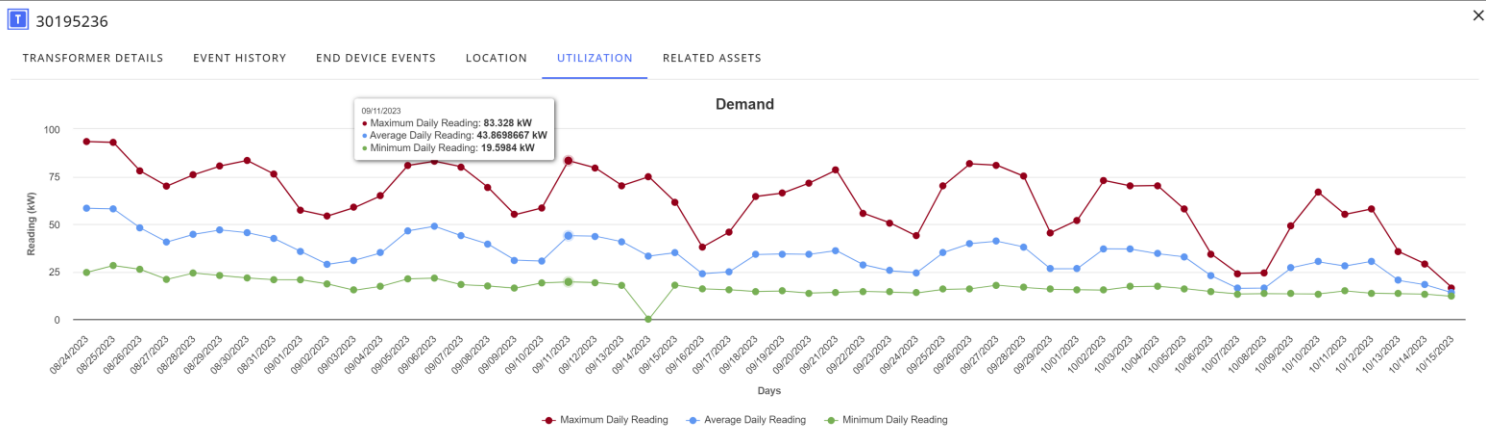
Secondary Voltage High  
240

Tertiary Voltage  
--

## Name

 [341761](#)

 [9034519](#)



## Ratings

Power Rating  
50

Primary Voltage Low  
7.2

Primary Voltage High  
7.2

Secondary Voltage Low  
120

Secondary Voltage High  
240

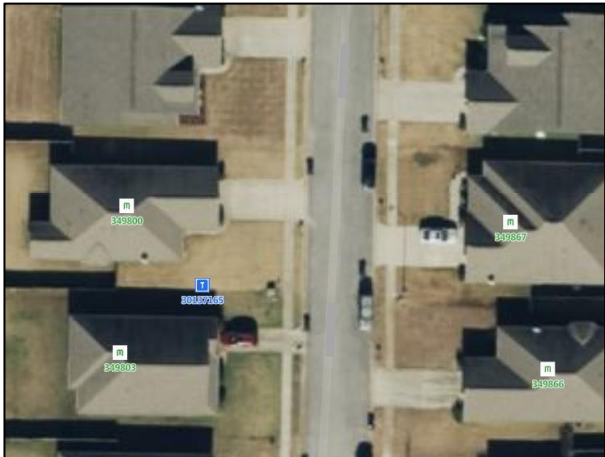
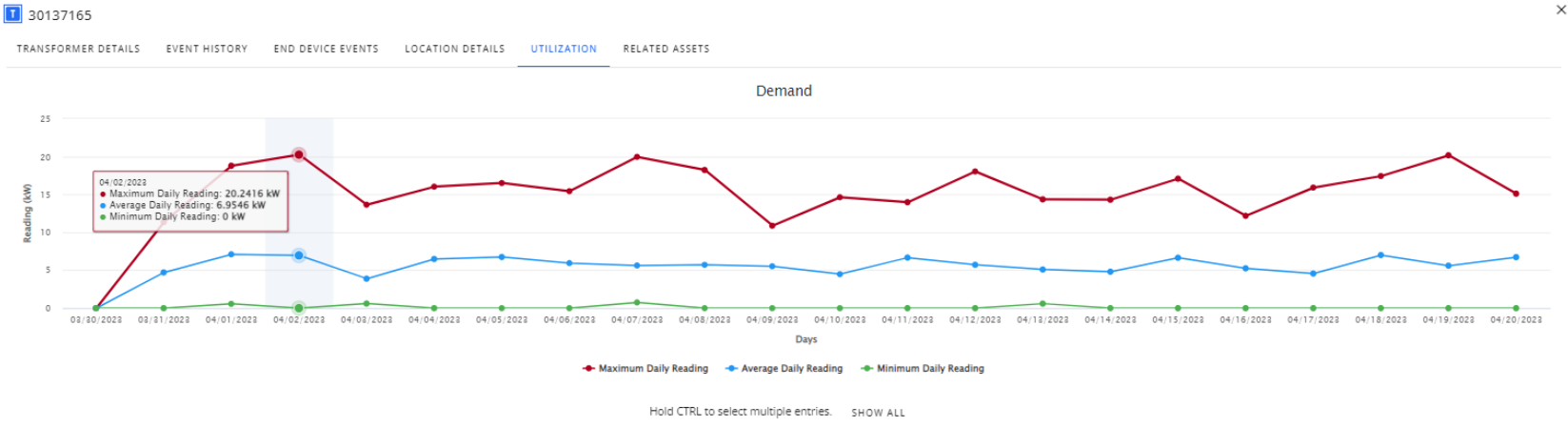
## Children

 [349800](#)

 [349803](#)

 [349866](#)

 [349867](#)



# Connectivity Model Issues

## **Problem**

Many meters are connected to the incorrect transformer in the GIS data base. This needs to be resolved for our new OMS, Mapping, and Trynzic event definitions to work correctly.

## **Challenges**

It is hard to identify the issues, and more difficult to catch the errors as they happen.

## **Direct Benefits**

- Quickly identify issues with the transformer and meter relationship in the connectivity model.
- Allows for quicker discovery and resolution to minimize bad data for other systems it rely on the data.

# Connectivity Model Issues

MLB-000 - Transformers with all Service Points more than 80m away  
Flags transformers whereby all of their service points are greater than 80 meters (~263 ft) away.

GENERAL DETECTION ASSET DETAILS WORKFLOW HISTORY LOCATION VOLTAGE

Next Event Processing Time: Sat, Apr 22, 2023, 4:45 AM  
Last Completed Event Processing Time: Fri, Apr 21, 2023, 4:45 AM

Parameter: Power Grid Configuration - Service Point Distance

Setting	Operator	Value
Service Point Distance	>	80

This setting is required.

✓ AT DETECTION

Distance from Transformer: 261.57 meters (or 858 Feet)



The transformer is in blue and the meter is in green and white. This meter is five spans away from the transformer it is paired with in the GIS database.

# Voltage out of Range

## **Problem**

Our AMI headend has little visibility into voltage measurements in a meaningful way. Voltage values are individually based per meter with no tie to what transformer or circuit feeds the meter. This can overwhelm operators and can be labor intensive to drill into each event to determine the proper voltage. Configuring tiered voltage ranged events is impractical in our AMI headend.

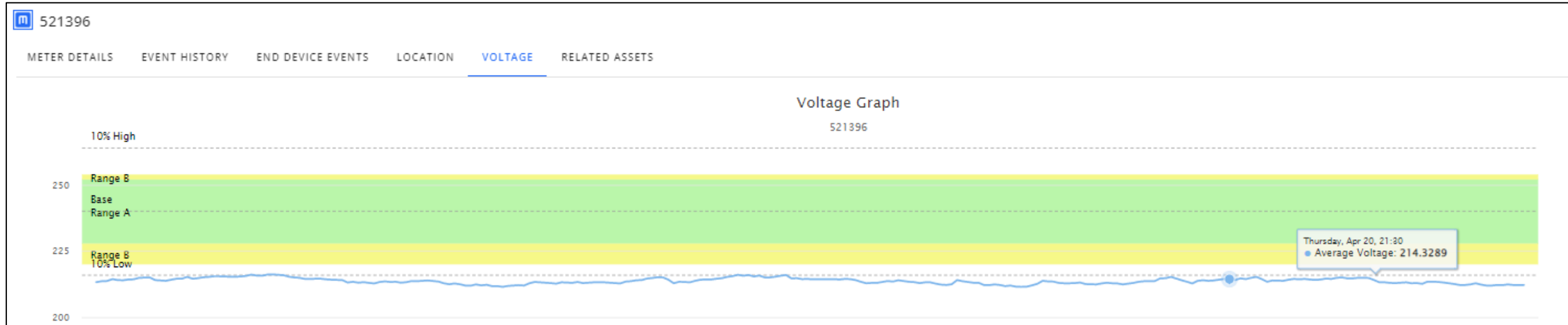
## **Challenges**

- Data is spread across multiple systems – AMI Headend, MDM, GIS, etc.
- Determining the appropriate thresholds of voltage out of range boundaries
- New tools for monitoring the grid creates learning curve and change

## **Direct Benefits**

- Detecting transformer issues with the AMI data already available
- Continuously monitoring/alerting based on near-real time interval meter data
- End-to-end tracking from identification to resolution

# Voltage out of Range



# Thank you!

## Questions?

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