INTRODUCTION TO BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEMS



National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Center



Building Efficiency for a Sustainable Tomorrow BEST Center

MODERN BUILDINGS ARE COMPLEX

Systems Commonly Found in Buildings

- HVAC Systems
- Lighting Systems
- Security Systems
- Access Control Systems
- Fire Alarm / Life Safety Systems
- Energy Monitoring Systems
- Renewable Energy Systems





BUILDINGS CONSUME ENERGY



Share of Energy Consumed by Major

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BUILDINGS CONSUME ENERGY

Commercial Facility Primary Energy Use Splits



HVAC-related systems consume highest %



BUILDING HVAC SYSTEMS

- Provide heating, cooling, ventilation, air filtration, and humidity control to building spaces
- Respond to varying ambient environmental conditions to maintain building occupant comfort
- Often have complex sequences of operation
- Typically highest energy consumer in building
- Modern building control systems had their roots in controlling HVAC systems



Pneumatics

- Pneumatics is the application of pressurized gases to create mechanical motion of some sort
- Prior to electrical and digital control, pneumatics were the primary means for controlling building HVAC systems
- Very reliable systems if routinely calibrated and if air supply maintained properly
- Difficult to maintain tight control
- Limited system access / Difficult to modify control sequences
- Many existing buildings still have at least some pneumatics



Pneumatic Control Panel





Electric Controls

- Electric controls utilize relays, time delays, clocks, thermostats, actuators, and various other basic electrical devices to maintain building space comfort
- Electric control systems gained popularity in the 1970s and 1980s and began replacing pneumatic control components in buildings
- Less component calibration required
- Tighter control possible
- Easier to modify control sequences



Electric Control Panel





Direct Digital Controls

- Direct Digital Controls is the application of microprocessorbased, networked distributed controllers to make control responses to changing systems parameters
- Less moving parts within the control system
- More accurate control
- Better access to system information / trending capabilities
- Easier to modify control sequences
- Ability to route alarm conditions to multiple locations
- Simple to make scheduling changes



Direct Digital Control Panels





Direct Digital Controls

- The first digital control systems for commercial buildings were developed in the 1960s
- The Honeywell 16 Series was one of the first (pdf packet) http://www.building-automation-consultants.com/direct-digital-control-history.html
- In the late 1980s, DDC systems began gaining wide acceptance in commercial buildings
- The 1990s saw the emergence of standard industry protocols for communication (BACnet / LonWorks)
- In the last 10 years, integration between various manufacturers has intensified (Tridium)



Modern Building Automation Systems

- HVAC / Lighting / Access / Energy Tracking Often Combined
- Integration with fire alarm, security, renewable energy systems
- Integration between equipment manufacturers
- Modern BAS systems serve as the central point of control and monitoring of the facilities' most important and complex systems









PIEDMONT

BAS INDUSTRY & EMPLOYMENT



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BAS INDUSTRY

• **Kele** - Leading supplier to BAS industry

http://www.kele.com/home.aspx

- Industry Outlook Green Jobs? Yes!
- Internal Estimates
 - U.S. Market \$5 Billion 2012
 - World Market \$15 Billion 2012
- Recession Resistant
 - 2002 Recession Plus 1 % vs. Construction Down 15%
 - 2008 Recession Down 5% vs. Construction Down 23%
 - Forward Double-Digit Annual Growth, Starting Now



Building Automation Market Growth Versus Non-Residential Construction Growth







BAS INDUSTRY

Drivers

- Energy Costs
- Environmental Awareness
 - LEED / Energy Star / Others
- Building Codes
 - International Energy Code
 - ASHRAE 90.1-2010 / ASHRAE 189.1-2011



BAS INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Employment

- Demand Matches Industry
- Specialized Construction
- No Labor Economies of Scale
- Too Few Trained People to Hire...

