



GIK INSTITUTE
OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY
30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU
Institute of Computer
Science

Practical Exercise:

Building Digital Twins with Microsoft Azure Digital Twin

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About Me



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mubashariqbalbajwa/>



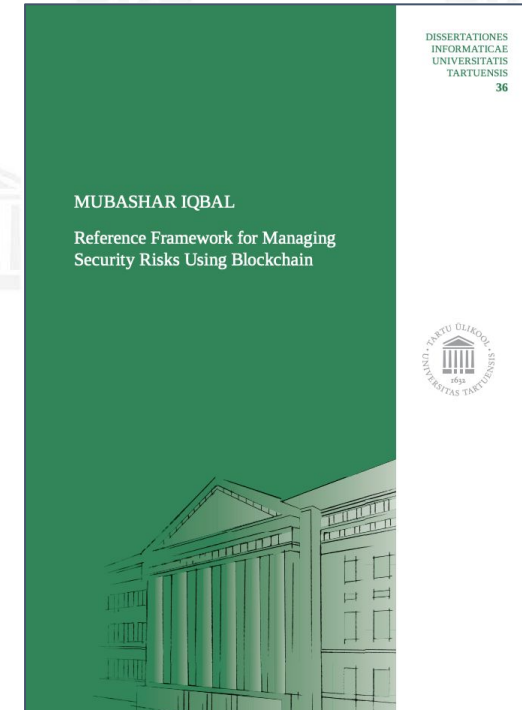
<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mubashar-Iqbal-2>

- Mubashar Iqbal

- PhD in Computer Science
 - **Topic:** Reference Framework For Managing Security Risks Using Blockchain
 - <https://dspace.ut.ee/handle/10062/83826>
- Lecturer in Information Security
- **Research areas:** Blockchain, Digital Twins, Metaverse, Information Security, Ontology, AI for Cybersecurity

- Information Security Research Group

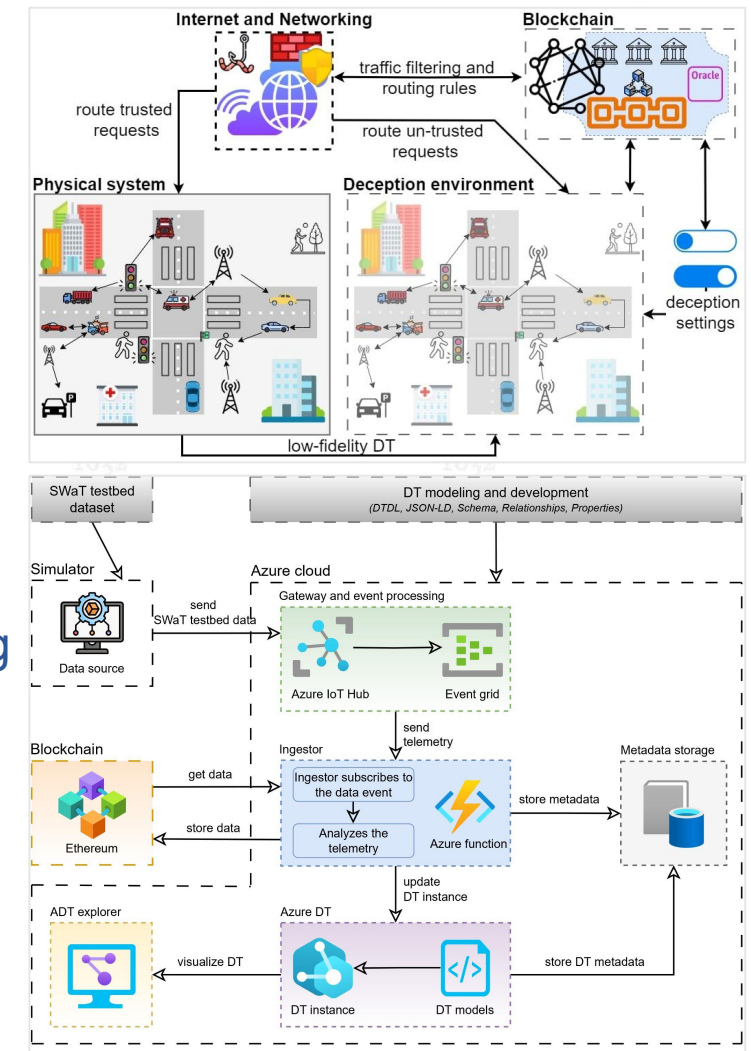
- <https://infosec.cs.ut.ee>



Research on DT

(published research papers)

- ENIGMA: An explainable digital twin security solution for cyber–physical systems
- DECEPTWIN: Proactive security approach for IoV by leveraging deception-based digital twins and blockchain
- TRIPLE: A blockchain-based digital twin framework for cyber–physical systems security
- A framework for enhancing cyber incident response with security-enhancing digital twins in cyber–physical systems



CHESS: CYBER-SECURITY EXCELLENCE HUB IN ESTONIA AND SOUTH MORAVIA

- Estonia (as an advanced digital society) and South Moravia (as a Czech ICT powerhouse) are teaming up to support the Europe's safe transition to a digital society
- Developing a joint cross-border cybersecurity research and innovation strategy
 - Focusing on six Challenge Areas (CA):
 - **CA1:** Internet of Secure Things
 - **CA2:** Security Certification
 - **CA3:** Verification of Trustworthy Software
 - **CA4: Security Preservation in Blockchain**
 - **CA5:** Post-Quantum Cryptography
 - **CA6:** Human-centric Aspects of Cybersecurity
- *Updates: <https://chess-eu.cs.ut.ee>*

Today's talk content



Microsoft Azure Digital Twin (DT)

Components of Azure DT

DT Definition Language

DTDLE-based DT models

Azure DT Explorer

Practical Exercise

Microsoft Azure

- Cloud Computing Platform developed by Microsoft
- Offers Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Software as a Service (SaaS)
- Hosts virtual machines, databases, DevOps Tools, IoT Service, etc.



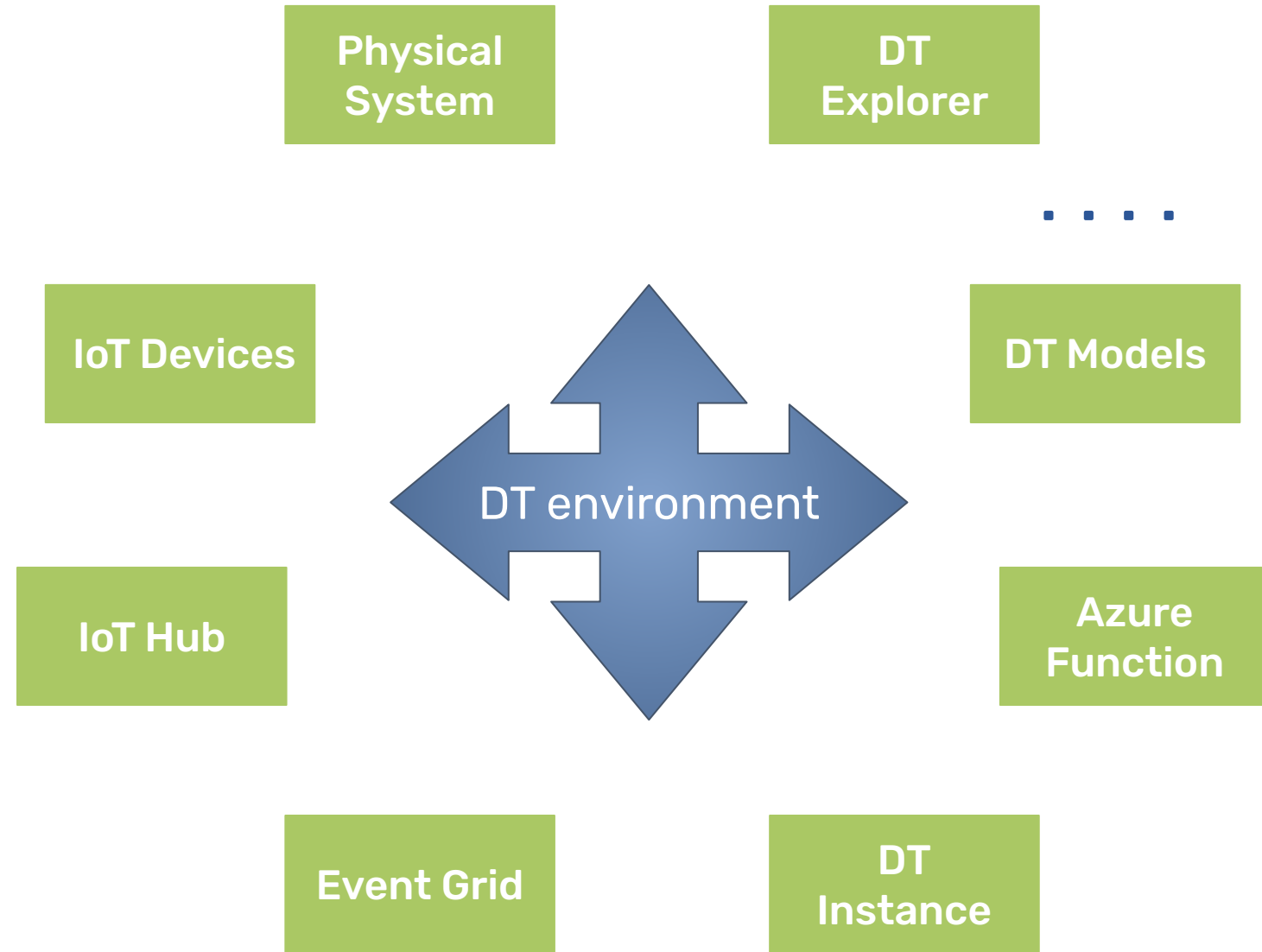
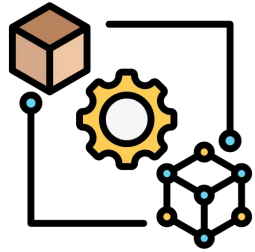
Microsoft Azure Digital Twin

- Create digital replicas of physical environments
- Enables real-time data syncing from IoT devices
- Built on open modeling language
 - Digital Twins Definition Language (DTDL)
- Integrates with Azure **IoT Hub, Event Grid, Functions**
- Supports event-driven architecture using Azure Event Grid



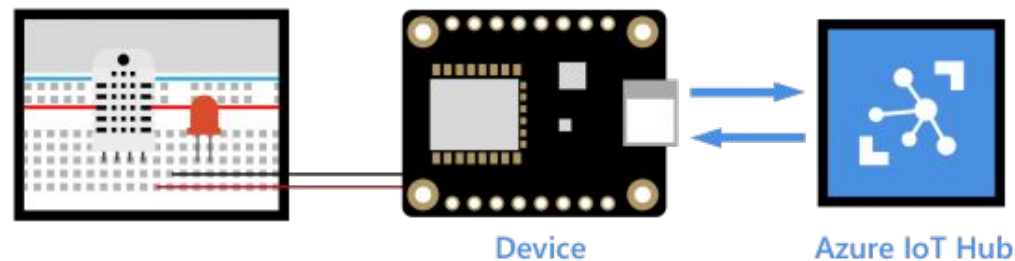
Enables what-if analysis, predictive maintenance, and performance optimization, and so on

Components of Azure DT

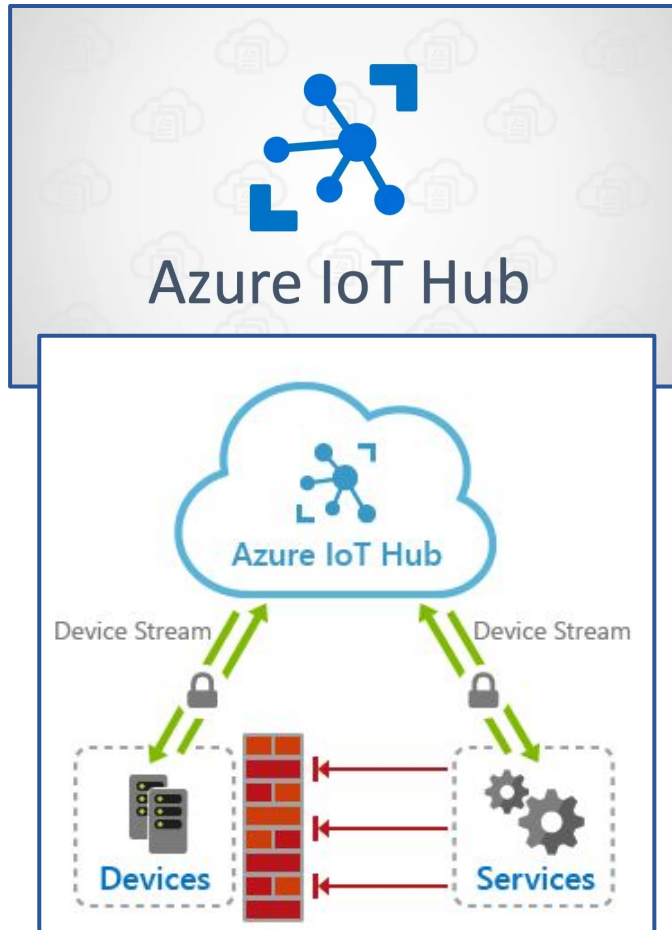


IoT Devices

- Physical hardware
 - Captures real-world data
 - Connect via Azure IoT Hub
- Send telemetry data to the DT
- Enables real-time monitoring, condition-based alerts, and automated actions



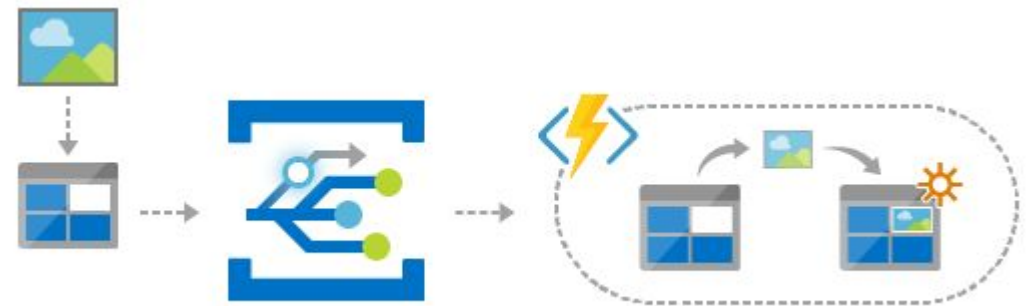
Azure IoT Hub



- Manage bi-directional communication between IoT devices and Azure services
 - e.g., device-to-cloud and cloud-to-device messaging
- Includes device identity, authentication, and status monitoring
- Acts as the bridge between real-world devices and digital models
- Ingests real-time telemetry
- Forwards data to Azure DTs via event routing
 - e.g., Event Grid

Event Grid

- Event routing service
 - Delivers real-time events to various Azure services
 - Messaging backbone for DT event flows
- Routes events from:
 - Sensor data via Azure IoT Hub
 - External systems (e.g., logic apps, functions)



Azure DT Instance

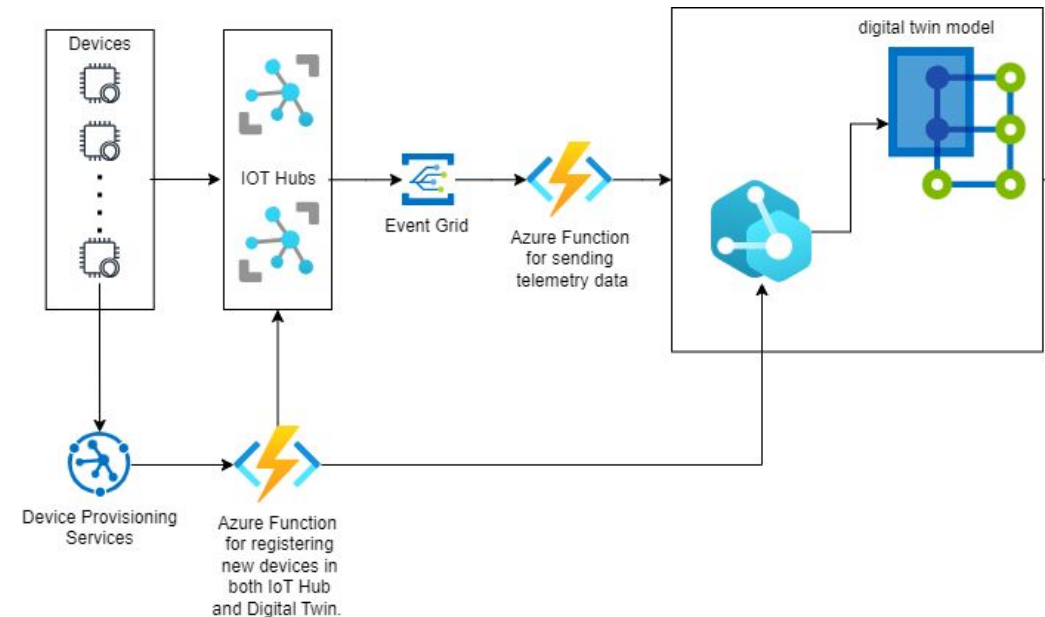
- Azure DTs resource in Azure subscription
- Runtime space where
 - Models are created using DTDL
 - DTs are instantiated and their relationships are defined
- Manages real-time state of each twin



Azure DT instance URL: <https://gikidigitaltwin.api.eus.digitaltwins.azure.net/>
(Only accessible via ADT explorer)

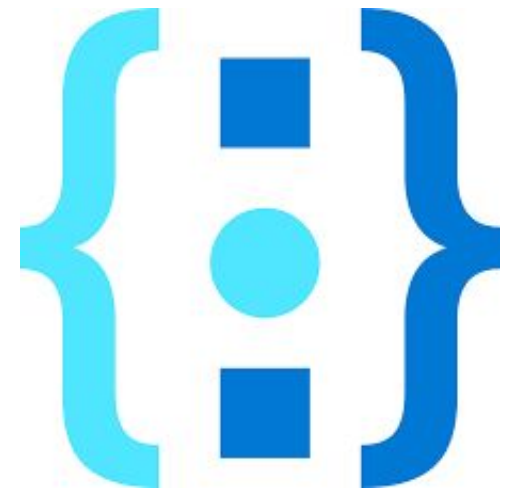
Azure Function

- Serverless compute service
 - Trigger-based execution
 - Automates responses to changes or events in the DT
- Triggered via Azure Event Grid events
 - e.g., updates DT when receive telemetry data from the Azure IoT Hub



DT Definition Language

- JSON-based modeling language
 - Defines DT models in Azure DTs
 - Describes the structure, behavior, and relationships of physical entities
- Standardized for interoperability across IoT ecosystems



DTDL-based DT Models

- DT models are semantic definitions that describe the structure, behavior, and relationships of real-world entities in Azure DTs
 - Schema/blueprint for twins of their physical counterpart
- Mandatory properties *(red box)*
 - Main definition block of the DT model
- Optional properties *(yellow box)*
 - Defines real-time data streams from devices
 - Defines relationships

```
1 {
2   "@context": "dtmi:dtidl:context;2",
3   "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor;1",
4   "@type": "Interface",
5   "displayName": "Speedometer Sensor Interface Model",
6   "contents": [
7     {
8       "@type": "Property",
9       "name": "Id",
10      "schema": "string",
11      "description": "Speedometer Sensor Id",
12      "writable": true
13    },
14    {
15      "@type": "Property",
16      "name": "SensorState",
17      "schema": "string",
18      "description": "Functional and Non-Functional State of Speedometer Sensor",
19      "writable": true
20    },
21    {
22      "@type": "Property",
23      "name": "CanBusPayload",
24      "description": "Speedometer Sensor Can Bus Payload",
25      "schema": {
26        "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload;1",
27        "@type": "Object",
28        "fields": [
29          {
30            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:timestamp;1",
31            "name": "TS",
32            "schema": "integer"
33          },
34          {
35            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:id;1",
36            "name": "ID_MF",
37            "schema": "integer"
38          },
39          {
40            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:bytes;1",
41            "name": "CAN_PL_DATA_BYTES",
42            "description": "CAN_PL_0 is the first byte, and CAN_PL_7 is the last byte of the payload from CAN bus",
43            "schema": "string"
44          },
45          {
46            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:timestamp_difference_mf;1",
47            "name": "TD_TS_MF",
48            "schema": "integer"
49          },
50          {
51            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:timestamp_difference_id;1",
52            "name": "TD_ID_MF",
53            "schema": "integer"
54          },
55          {
56            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:dlc;1",
57            "name": "DLC",
58            "schema": "integer"
59          }
60        ]
61      }
62    },
63    {
64      "@type": "Property",
65      "name": "Classification",
66      "schema": "boolean",
67      "description": "The classification tells about the request is Attack or Non-Attack",
68      "writable": true
69    }
70  ]
71 }
```

DTDL-based DT Models:

Mandatory properties

- @context
- @id
- @type
 - Unique identifiers for semantic consistency
- Display name

```
1 {
2   "@context": "dtmi:dtidl:context;2",
3   "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor;1",
4   "@type": "Interface",
5   "displayName": "Speedometer Sensor Interface Model",
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35            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:id;1",
36            "name": "ID_MF",
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40            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:bytes;1",
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50          {
51            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:timestamp_difference_id;1",
52            "name": "TD_ID_MF",
53            "schema": "integer"
54          },
55          {
56            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:dlc;1",
57            "name": "DLC",
58            "schema": "integer"
59          }
60        ]
61      }
62    },
63    {
64      "@type": "Property",
65      "name": "Classification",
66      "schema": "boolean",
67      "description": "The classification tells about the request is Attack or Non-Attack",
68      "writable": true
69    }
70  ]
71 }
```

DTDL-based DT Models:

Optional properties

- Contents
- Properties
 - Store data/state (e.g., temperature = 24°C)
- Name
- Schema
- Relationships
 - Links between twin models (e.g., room contains sensor)

```
1 {
2   "@context": "dtmi:dtdl:context;2",
3   "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor;1",
4   "@type": "Interface",
5   "displayName": "Speedometer Sensor Interface Model",
6   "contents": [
7     {
8       "@type": "Property",
9       "name": "Id",
10      "schema": "string",
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52            "name": "TD_ID_MF",
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54          },
55          {
56            "@id": "dtmi:vehicle:speedometer_sensor:payload:dlc;1",
57            "name": "DLC",
58            "schema": "integer"
59          }
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65      "name": "Classification",
66      "schema": "boolean",
67      "description": "The classification tells about the request is Attack or Non-Attack",
68      "writable": true
69    }
70  ]
71 }
```

DTDL Models Validator

- Checks models are syntactically and semantically correct
- Checks for:
 - JSON syntax errors
 - Schema compliance with DTDL versions (v2.0+)
 - Duplicate IDs, circular relationships, invalid data types
- Supports bulk validation for DT model libraries

Azure-Samples/**DTDL-Validator**



A code sample that uses the DTDL parser library to validate DTDL model code for data description in IoT.

👤 5
Contributors

🕒 8
Issues

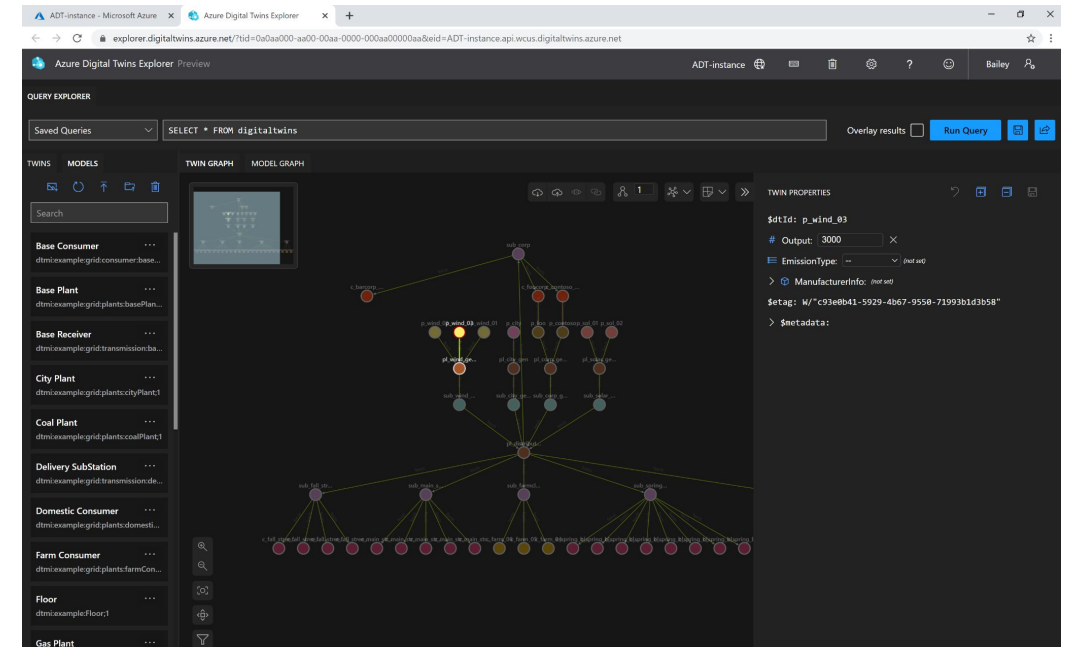
★ 16
Stars

🔗 15
Forks



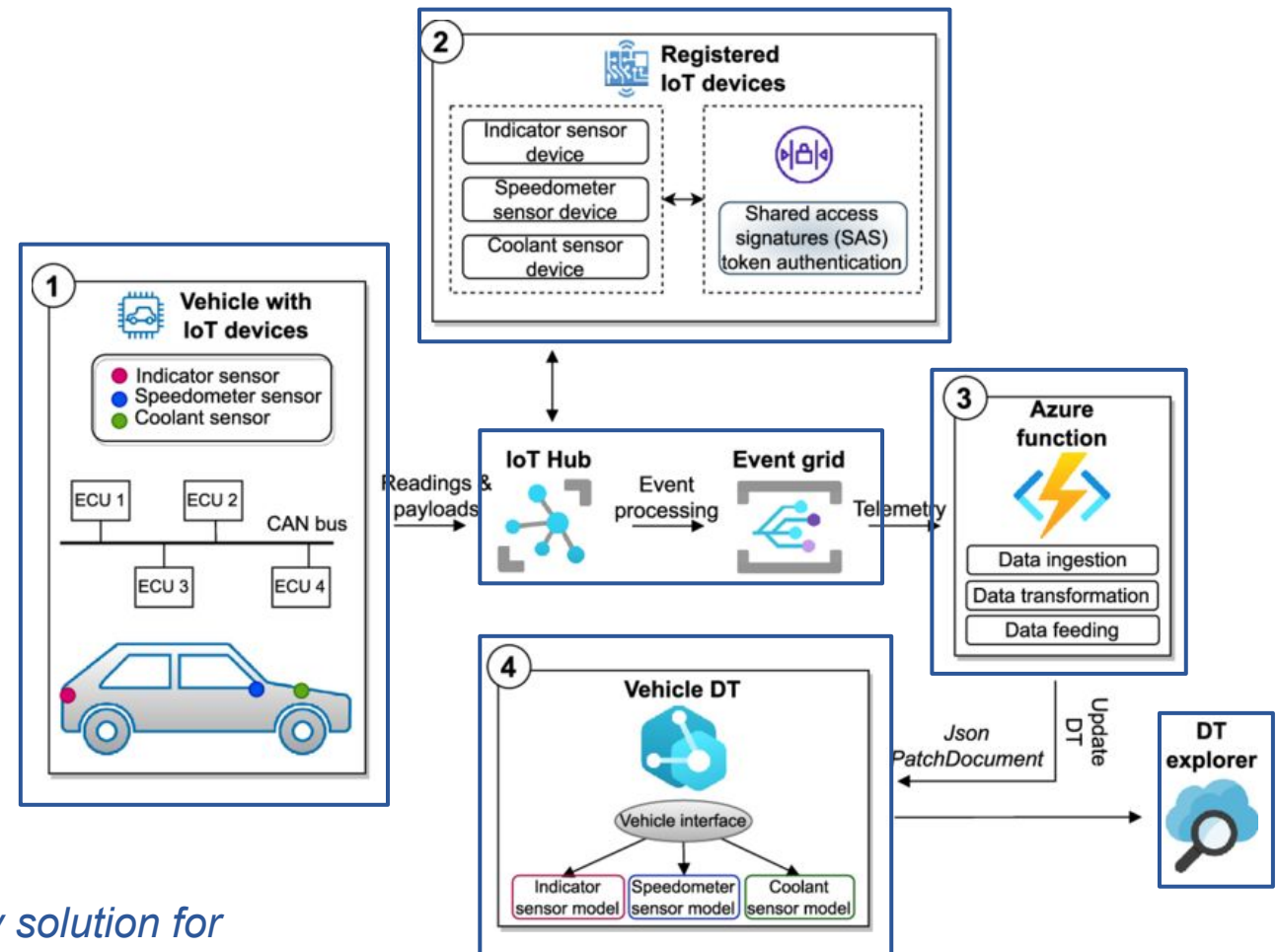
Azure DT Explorer

- Web-based interface
 - Explore, visualize, and interact with Azure DTs models
- Displays live data from IoT devices mapped to the DT
- Allows users to view and manage DTDL models
- Supports running queries to filter and analyze DT data



Architecture of Azure DT: *Instantiation*

- Physical system
- IoT Devices
- IoT Hub
- Event Grid
- Azure Function
- DT Instance and Models
- DT Explorer



ENIGMA: An explainable digital twin security solution for cyber-physical systems

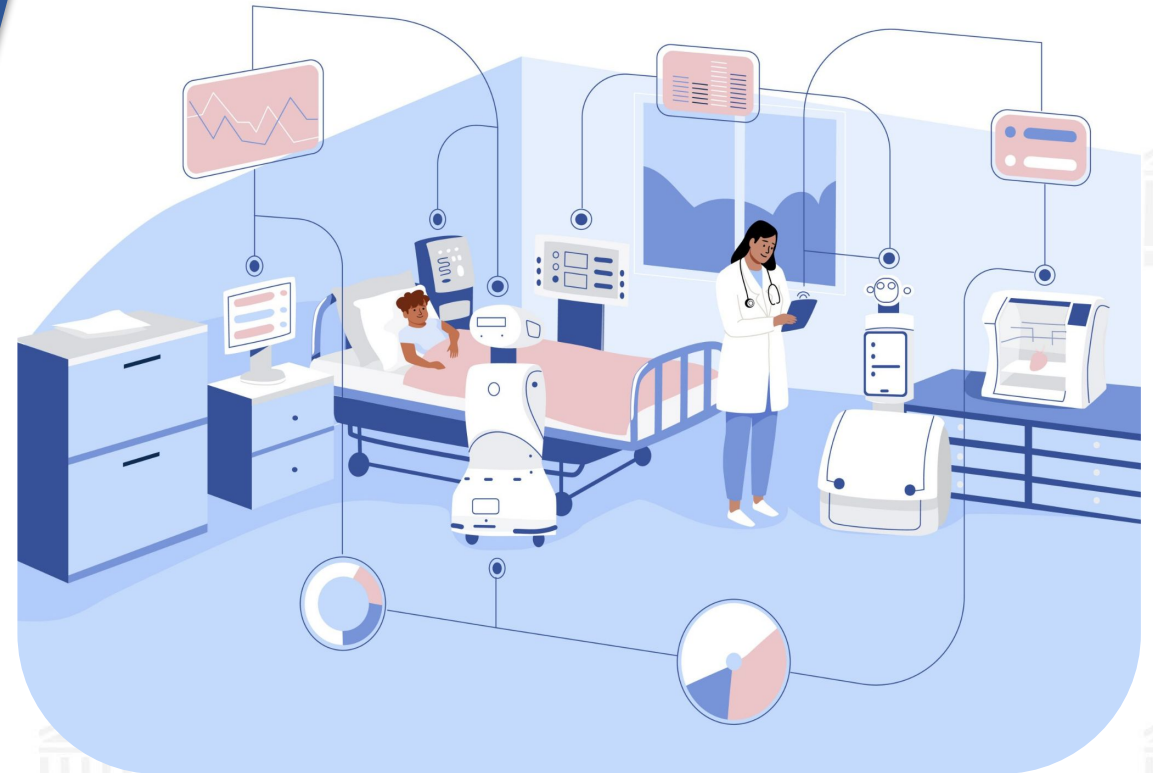
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compind.2023.103961>

Case Study:

Smart patient room DT

Objectives:

- Real time monitoring of room conditions
- Maintain optimal room conditions for patient recovery



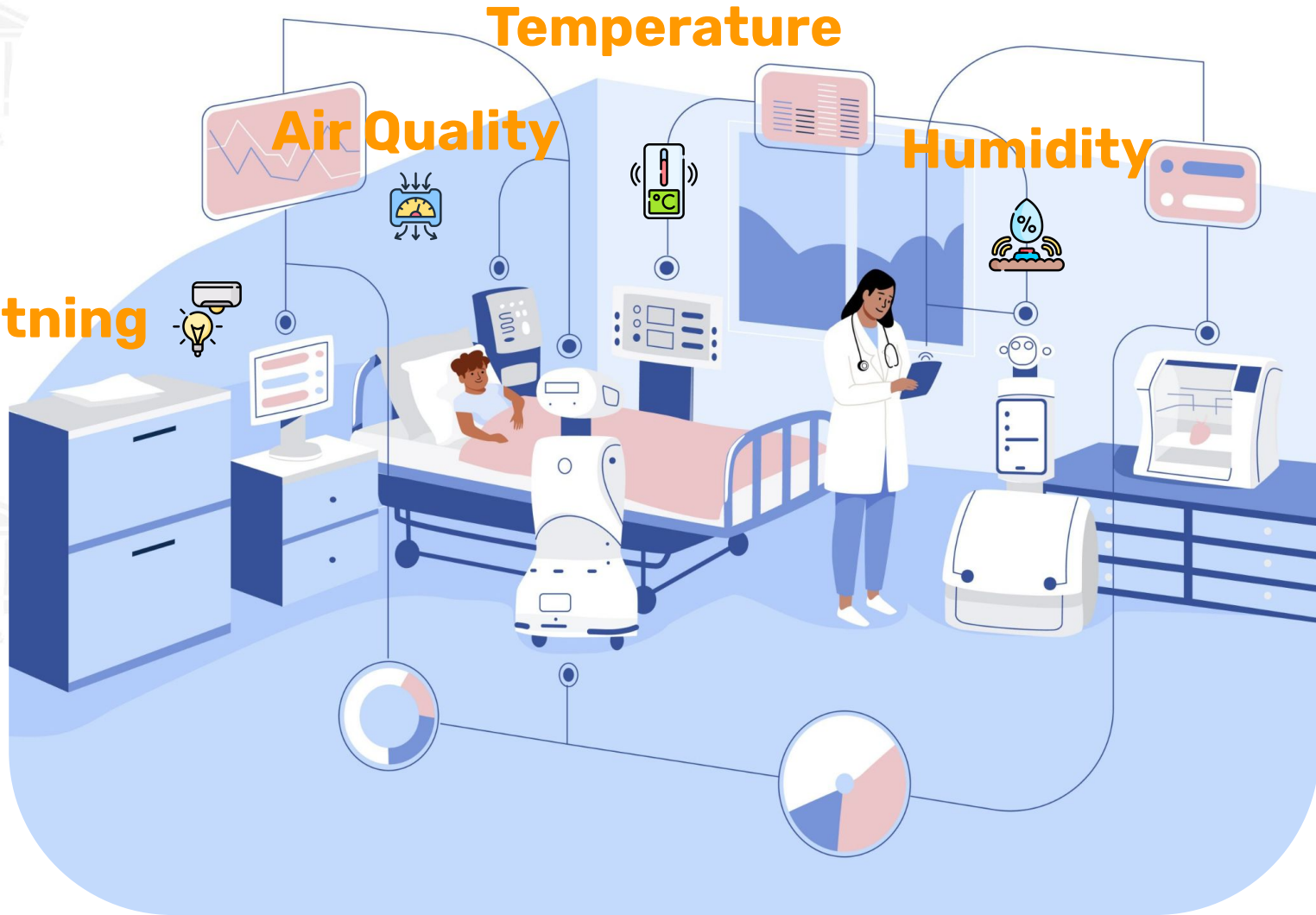
WHAT?

Lightning

Air Quality

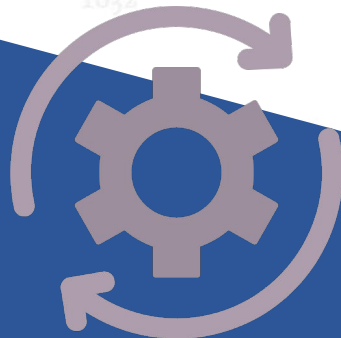
Temperature

Humidity



Environment setup

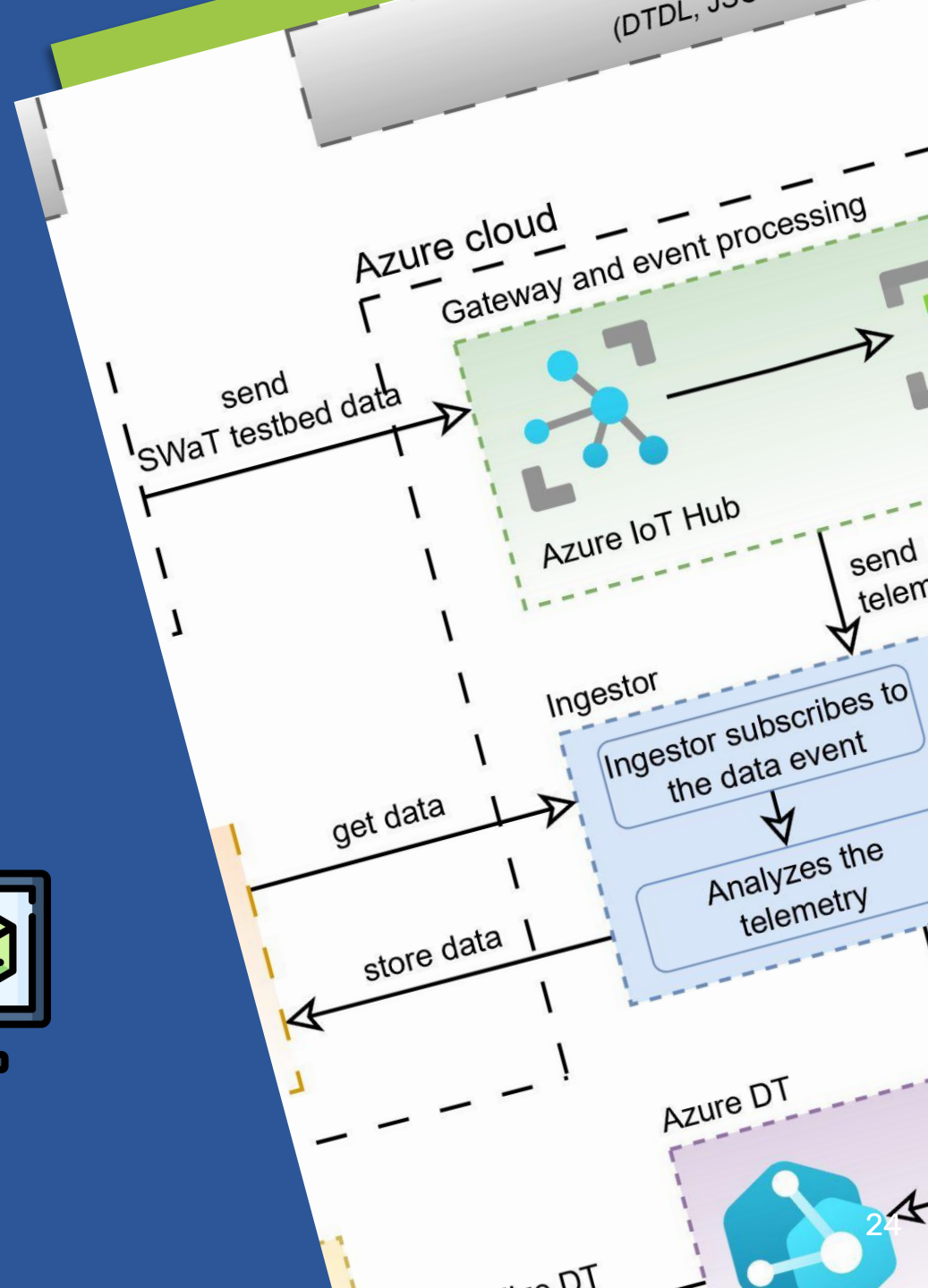
- Create Azure free subscription account
 - <https://azure.microsoft.com/>
- Install Python3
 - <https://www.python.org/downloads/>
- Install Azure-CLI
 - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cli/azure/install-azure-cli?view=azure-cli-latest>
- Install Azure Identity Module
 - `pip install azure-identity`
- Install Azure IoT explorer *(optional, only available for windows)*
 - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/iot/howto-use-iot-explorer>



2 minutes

Practical Exercise

- Create IoT Hub
 - Add IoT devices
 - Create IoT Devices Simulator
- Create Azure Function
- Create Azure DT Instance
- Create Event Grid
 - Assign to Azure Function
- Create DT Models
 - Use DTDL
 - Validate models
- Deploy Models using DT Explorer
- Create Twins and their Relationships
- Run DT
- Query DT





Thank You!

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