

Transient and Power Flow Study during Cyberattack on Distributed Power System

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Overview

- Cyber-Attack on Distribution Energy Sources
 - Attack on Reactive Power Control Set-point
- Cyber-Attack on Smart Meter
- Participation of Switched Capacitor Banks
- Results and Discussions



Need of Reactive Power Control & IEEE Standard (U.S.)

Standard	Description
IEEE 1547 - 2003	Renewable Energy Sources shall not allow to regulate the grid voltage
IEEE 1547a - 2014	Renewable Energy Sources may help to regulate the grid voltage
IEEE 1547 - 2018	Renewable Energy Sources should provide grid voltage support *

- Grid voltage level varies with power generation (wind, solar, etc.) and customer loading
- Static voltage regulators (switched capacitors, on load tap changers, etc.) are not efficient.
- Renewable energy sources can provide dynamic voltage support through smart inverters.

* grid voltage support – dynamic volt/var control



Control System for Distributed Energy Sources



Fig. Active and reactive power control

Cyber-Attack on Reactive Power Control in Distribution Energy Sources





Possible Attack Scenarios on Reactive Power Control

Case 1: Change the inductive reactive power from minimum to maximum (i.e. from 0.95 lag to 0.1 lag)

- Grid voltage at nearby feeders are significantly reduced.
- Can reduce the active power generation ; activate the voltage regulators (On Load Tap Changer (OLTC)), switch-in capacitors (SC)
- Produce the voltage transients, could activate other electrical components (i.e. switchgears)

Case 2: Change the minimum inductive reactive power to maximum capacitive reactive power (i.e. from 0.95 lag to 0.1 lead)

- Grid voltage increased beyond the limit (i.e. 1.05 Vg)
- Can reduce the active power generation of its own and nearby sources; activate the voltage regulators (OLTC)

Case 3: Repeatedly change the reactive power control value

- Repeatedly changes the reactive power set-point to maximum inductive/capacitive reactive power.
- It troubles the OLTC in view of voltage transients, arcing current and wear & tear.
- OLTC can be isolated from the DPS and lead to blackout
- It may lead to cascaded failures in the power grid.



Test Unit (Modified IEEE 33- distributed bus)



- Total load of the system is 3745 kW + 2300 kVAr
- Total power losses is 32. 4 kW and 68.4 kVAr



Simulation Results...

Case 1 : maximum inductive reactive power supply to the grid (Coordinated attack)

- Sources connected with the nearby buses are (i.e. bus-32 and bus 17) are highly affected
- It produces the voltage transients that could influence the other electrical components (i.e. switch gear)



B – Absorbing reactive power from grid

Note: OLTC is deliberately not operated

Simulation Results...

Case 2 : Tripping a renewable energy source (bus-14)

- 17% of total power generation is tripped
- Causes a voltage violation (i.e. < 0.95 Vg p.u.) from bus 10 – bus 17.

	Regular Operation (650 kW + 236 kVAr)	RES-2 tripped off from grid			
Grid Voltage (Bus-17)	1.004 p.u.	0.938 p.u.			
Power Losses	32.4 kW + 68.4 kVAr	74.3 kW + 82.3 kVAr			



Note: OLTC is deliberately not operated

Cyber-Attack on Reactive Power Control in Distribution Energy Sources

Simulation Results...

Case 3 : Repeatedly changes the reactive power control value

- OLTC is not operated during the transient period and repeatedly switch ON/OFF with respect to grid voltage.
- Blackout may occur.



A – Regular operation

B – Fault triggered (i.e. absorbing reactive power from grid) C – OLTC Operation

Note: OLTC is operated when grid voltage (Bus-17) reduces to 0.95 p.u.

Cyber-Attack on Smart Meter

Smart Meter Architecture

Communication Protocols

- Modbus/TCP
- Distributed Network Protocol (DNP3)
- Zigbee/Wi-Fi
- Smart meters can control the electrical appliances regarding energy demand management.



Fig. Connection of smart homes to grid

Cyber-Attack on Smart Meter

Disconnection of Loads (Bus 26 – Bus 32)

- Grid voltage is increased.
- Could result to shutdown the renewable energy sources.
- Activate the voltage regulators (i.e. OLTC).





Note: OLTC is deliberately not operated

Cyber-Attack on Switched Capacitor

Switched Capacitor Activation (Bus-14)

- Grid voltage is increased.
- Voltage transients
- Could result to shutdown the renewable energy sources.



A – Regular operation; B – Capacitor switch-in



Result and Discussions

Cyber-Attack on Reactive Power Control

- Highly capacitive reactive power lead to reduce the active power feed-in and could trip off the RES from DPS.
- High Inductive reactive power lead to voltage reduction/large voltage transients in buses and could affect the electrical devices connected in it.
- Coordinated and repeated attack on reactive power control may result in blackout. **Cyber-Attack on Smart Meter**
 - Could lead to increase/decrease the grid voltage.

Participation of Switched Capacitor Banks

• Could lead to increase the grid voltage and affect the renewable energy sources and voltage regulators; cascaded failure could happen



Table: Impact of Cyber-Attack to the Distributed Power System Components

Electrical Power Systems/Equipment's	Distribution Energy Sources	Reactive Power Controller	Energy Storage Devices	Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Micro Phase Measurement Unit	Smart Meters	Connected Loads	Switchgears	Transformer	
Distribution Energy Sources ¹	Medium	Very High	Very High***	Medium	High	Medium	Low*	High	High	
Reactive Power Controller ²	Very High	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	
Energy Storage Devices ³	Very High***	High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Electric Vehicle Charging Station	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Low*	Medium	Medium	
Micro Phase Measurement Unit	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	
Smart Meters	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low	Low*	Medium	Medium	
Connected Loads ⁴	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	High	Low	Low*	Medium	Medium	
Switchgears ⁵	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Transformer ⁶	High	High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	
 ¹ Wind power generation, Solar power generation, etc. ³ Batteries, Flywheel Energy Storage, Micro Pumped Storage Power Plant, etc. ⁵ Relays, Circuit Breakers, etc. * depends on percentage of load disconnection (e.g. more than 50% of withdrawal extension) ** distribution power system fully or more than 75% depend on renewable power generation 										
Low- Affect the group of users connect to the same network (e.g. blackout the single apartment)Medium- Affect the group of users (e.g. blackout the group of apartments)High- Affect the entire housing community of the town (e.g. blackout the entire town)Very High- Affect the utility of the power grid (e.g. blackout the entire city)										

UC-Lab Center for Electricity Distribution Cybersecurity

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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

