

Automatic power metering – existing products and new functions

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 - *Date:* 1 Jun 2005 06:32:13 –0700
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My problem relates to automatic power metering (by electric power supplier to private homes) using existing off–the–shelf products. I am currently looking at enhancing existing automatic metering systems (e.g. with "residential gateway" solutions supplied by Echelon or Ericsson) with added functionality and better data security. The problem is interfacing the new equipment with existing equipment, because the existing equipment are of different makes and models, and the installation is done by technicians with very limited engineering skills.

Further, considering additional future needs (which have not been thought of yet), the way to go seems to be the design of an interface module that can handle all existing equipment and any new equipment to make the design of new equipment independent of varying existing equipment (only the interface protocol needs to be considered).

Further yet, in the case that another company (in the future) has developed new equipment that is useful for us, we would be inhibited if we cannot get the interface module to run with this new third party equipment, so we would rather need a flexible interface. In order to avoid inventing the wheel all over again, my question is:

Does a flexible interface system already exist (for this purpose)?? Can anyone point me in the direction of companies/products?

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- *Follow–Ups:*
 - ◆ ***Re: Automatic power metering – existing products and new functions***
◇ *From:* Mike Monett
 - ◆ ***Re: Automatic power metering – existing products and new functions***
◇ *From:* Paul Hovnanian P.E.
 - ◆ ***Re: Automatic power metering – existing products and new functions***
◇ *From:* Dan Hollands

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