

## **The Need for Standards**

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The Interoperability Context-Setting Framework Draft is an excellent overview of the challenges of interoperability from all aspects and does an incredible job of classifying and organizing those challenges into clearly identified categories that make it much easier to approach such a large systems engineering problem. I dare say it is by far the best paper of its type I have ever read.

While this paper clearly states “the Framework does not prescribe solutions”, which I believe is correct given its context-setting scope, I am concerned that GridWise™ has no intention of ever going any further to prescribe any solutions or to see that other organizations prescribe solutions. The problem with not going any further to standardize solutions is that each vendor, end-user and system integrator will use whatever favorite method they have to create point to point solutions with each of the other communicating parties. This is hugely expensive for all concerned and will stymie the rate and breadth of adoption of the GridWise™ vision. Instead, GridWise™ must either prescribe or at least limit the number of solution choices, or must find other standards organizations to do so. In factory automation, the OPC Foundation standards in the past 10 years have all but eliminated the need for custom, point-to-point, and vendor specific communication integration providing a huge cost savings and a substantial increase in the number of connected systems.