CLAIMS

1. An electricity distribution system, comprising:

a first meter connected to a first transformer, wherein the first meter comprises:

a first processor;

a first memory device; and

agent software defined on the first memory device and executed by the first processor, wherein execution of the agent software is configured to perform actions comprising:

relaying a first message from a first application of a first type of application operating on the first meter; and

a second meter connected to the first transformer, wherein the second meter comprises:

a second processor;

a second memory device; and

manager software defined on the second memory device and executed by the second processor, wherein execution of the manager software is configured to perform actions comprising:

relaying the first message from the first application of the first type of application operating on the first meter;

selecting the first meter to execute manager software;

ceasing to execute the manager software on the second meter; and

executing agent software on the second meter.

2. The electricity distribution system of claim 1, wherein execution of the agent software on the second meter is configured to perform actions comprising:

relaying a second message, comprising a response to the first message.

3. The electricity distribution system of claim 2, additionally comprising:

a third meter connected to the first transformer, wherein the third meter comprises:

a third processor;

a third memory device; and

agent software, defined on the third memory device and executed by the third processor, wherein execution of the agent software is configured to perform actions comprising:

receiving a third message from the first application of the first type of application operating on the first meter, wherein the third message was relayed by the agent software of the first meter and the agent software of the second meter; and

receiving a fourth message from a first application of a second type of application operating on the first meter, wherein the fourth message was relayed by the agent software of the first meter and the agent software of the second meter.

4. The electricity distribution system of claim 3, additionally comprising:

a fourth meter connected to a second transformer, wherein the fourth meter comprises:

a fourth processor;

a fourth memory device; and

agent software, defined on the fourth memory device and executed by the fourth processor;

wherein execution of the agent software relays the third message and the fourth message.

5. The electricity distribution system of claim 3, wherein execution of the manager software of the first meter is configured to perform additional actions comprising:

sending a fifth message, comprising data obtained from the third message and the fourth message, to a server.

6. The electricity distribution system of claim 5, wherein:

the first message relayed by the first meter comprises a first networking score;

the second message relayed by the second meter comprises a second networking score;

the fifth message sent by the manager software of the first meter comprises a third networking score; and

execution of software within the electricity distribution system performs actions comprising:

assigning a meter to run manager software based at least in part on:

the first networking score;

the second networking score; and

the third networking score.

7. The electricity distribution system of claim 3, wherein execution of the manager software is configured to perform additional actions comprising:

comparing networking scores of meters connected to the first transformer to determine a best score from among scores of meters connected to the first transformer;

wherein networking scores of meters are used to select a meter to be instructed to execute manager software.

8. The electricity distribution system of claim 3, wherein:

execution of the manager software is configured to perform additional actions comprising:

deactivating the manager software on the first meter; and

operating agent software on the first meter.

9. A metering device, comprising:

a processor;

a memory device;

agent software defined on the memory device and executed by the processor, wherein execution of the agent software performs actions comprising:

relaying a first message from a first application of a first type of application operating on the metering device; and

relaying a second message from a second application of a second type of application operating on the metering device; and

manager software, defined on the memory device and executed by the processor, wherein the manager software is executed when the agent software is not being executed, and wherein execution of the manager software is configured to perform actions comprising:

receiving a third message from a third application of the first type of application operating on a second meter; and

receiving a fourth message from a fourth application of the second type of application operating on the second meter.

10. The metering device as recited in claim 9, wherein execution of the agent software performs additional actions comprising:

relaying a fifth message from a fifth application of the first type of application operating on a remote metering device; and

relaying a sixth message from a sixth application of the second type of application operating on the remote metering device.

11. The metering device as recited in claim 9, wherein execution of the agent software performs additional actions comprising:

adding a networking score of the metering device to the first message.

12. The metering device as recited in claim 9, wherein execution of the agent software performs additional actions comprising:

calculating a networking score based at least in part on a likelihood of a packet sent by the agent software to arrive at an indicated destination.

13. The metering device as recited in claim 9, wherein execution of the agent software performs additional actions comprising:

calculating a networking score based at least in part on power or energy used to send or receive a message.

14. The metering device as recited in claim 9, wherein execution of the agent software performs additional actions comprising:

receiving signal strength information calculated by a remote meter; and

calculating a networking score based at least in part on the signal strength information.

15. The metering device as recited in claim 9, wherein execution of the manager software performs additional actions comprising executing the manager software when:

a networking score of the metering device exceeds networking scores of all other metering devices connected to a common transformer; and

the networking score of the metering device is greater than a threshold value more than a networking score of a current manager metering device connected to the common transformer.

16. A method, comprising:

calculating a networking score for each of a first network device and a second network device, wherein the first network device and the second network device are connected to a common transformer;

selecting the first network device to execute manager software, wherein the first network device is selected based on the networking score of the first network device being higher than the networking score of the second network device;

selecting the second network device to execute agent software;

relaying, by operation of the agent software operating on the second network device, a first message generated by a first application of a first type of application to the manager software operating on the first network device; and

relaying, by operation of the manager software operating on the first network device, the first message to a data collector.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein:

the first network device and the second network device are a first electricity meter and a second electricity meter, respectively; and

the agent software relays a second message of a second type of application to one or more of a plurality of electricity meters connected to the common transformer with instructions to relay the second message to applications of the second type of application respectively located on utility meters connected to the common transformer.

18. The method of claim 17, additionally comprising:

relaying, by operation of agent software operating on a third electricity meter, a third message to the agent software operating on the second electricity meter.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein:

instances of agent software operating on one or more of the plurality of electricity meters connected to the common transformer relay a response to the first message, from a respective application of the first type of application.

20. The method of claim 17, additionally comprising:

including the networking score of each electricity meter in messages sent by that electricity meter.

21. An electricity distribution system, comprising:

a first meter connected to a first transformer, wherein the first meter comprises:

a first processor;

a first memory device; and

agent software defined on the first memory device and executed by the first processor, wherein execution of the agent software is configured to perform actions comprising:

relaying a first message from a first application of a first type of application operating on the first meter; and

a second meter connected to the first transformer, wherein the second meter comprises:

a second processor;

a second memory device; and

second agent software defined on the second memory device and executed by the second processor, wherein execution of the second agent software is configured to perform actions comprising:

receiving the first message; and

relaying the first message to a second application of the first type of application operating on the second meter;

wherein execution of the agent software on the second meter is configured to perform actions comprising:

relaying a second message, comprising a response to the first message, from the second application to the agent software of the first meter;

a third meter connected to the first transformer, wherein the third meter comprises:

a third processor;

a third memory device; and

manager software, defined on the third memory device and executed by the third processor, wherein execution of the manager software is configured to perform actions comprising:

receiving a third message from the first application of the first type of application operating on the first meter, wherein the third message was relayed by the agent software of the first meter and the agent software of the second meter; and

receiving a fourth message from a first application of a second type of application operating on the first meter, wherein the fourth message was relayed by the agent software of the first meter and the agent software of the second meter.

22. A method, comprising:

relaying, by operation of a first agent software operating on a first network device, a first message generated by a first application of a first type of application to second agent software operating on a second network device, wherein generating the first message comprises:

calculating a networking score; and

including the networking score with the first message;

relaying, by operation of the second agent software operating on the second network device, the first message to a second application of the first type of application.

wherein:

the first network device and the second network device are a first electricity meter and a second electricity meter, respectively;

the first agent software relays the first message to instances of agent software operating on each of a plurality of electricity meters connected to a common transformer, wherein the first message comprises instructions to relay the first message to applications

of the first type of application respectively located on utility meters connected to the common transformer; and

the first agent software relays a second message of a second type of application to one or more of the plurality of electricity meters connected to the common transformer with instructions to relay the second message to applications of the second type of application respectively located on utility meters connected to the common transformer.