

Distinguished Lecture Series

The Genesis of the August 14th 2003 Blackout: The Grid, Math, Humans, and Trees

Prof Thomas J. OverbyeUniversity of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Wednesday, 17 April 2013 3:00 pm 1 Fusionopolis Way, #17-01 Connexis SOUTH Tower Charles Babbage Room

Abstract:

The August 14th 2003 Blackout was a watershed moment for North American electric utilities. As the blackout moves further into history there is a danger that the new crop of engineers will miss out on many of the lessons learned from this event. Therefore this presentation takes us back to August 14th 2003, showing how a variety of events involving the grid, math, humans, and trees interacted to cause the largest blackout in North American history.

About the speaker:

Tom Overbye is the Fox Family Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983, 1988, and 1991 respectively. Prior to joining UIUC in 1991 he was employed with Madison Gas and Electric Company from 1983 to 1991. At UIUC he does research in power system operations, visualization, dynamics, and cyber security. He had the opportunity to serve as an on-site investigator for DOE during the August 14th 2003 Blackout Investigation