



FAMU-FSU  
College of  
Engineering

# Ghost Controls Lock Mechanism **VDR1**

Senior Design Team 510

October 15, 2024

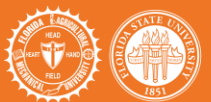
# Sponsor and Advisor



Engineering Mentor  
Darryl Beadle  
*Head Engineer Ghost Controls*



Academic Advisor  
Shayne McConomy, Ph.D.  
*Senior Design Professor*





# Team Introductions



**Kayla Boudreaux**  
Systems Engineer



**Jacob Brock**  
Hardware/Software  
Engineer



**Ernest Patton III**  
Quality Engineer



**Dior Reece**  
Test Engineer



**Olivia Walton**  
Design Engineer



**Bradley Wiles**  
Materials Engineer



# Objective

The objective of this project is to design an innovative gate latch mechanism that effectively addresses current issues with misalignment and improper latching, our goal is to develop a solution that ensures reliable engagement, enhanced durability, and ease of installation.



# About Ghost Controls

- Tallahassee Local Company
- Automatic Gate Openers
- Variety of applications





# Product Lineup

- Gate Arm
- Control Module
- Accessories
  - Solar Panels
  - Long Range Openers
  - Keypads
  - Bluetooth/Wireless additions
  - ZombieLock



# Current Design – Zombie Lock







# Current Design – Zombie Lock

- Latch Style
- Weather Resistant
- Easy to Install
- Resists Force



# User Issues

Failure to  
Close



Latch  
Misalignment



Poor Gate  
Installation



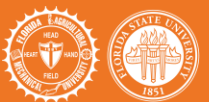
# Markets

## Primary

- Homeowners
- Farmworkers
- Other Property Owners
- Large Corporations

## Secondary

- Gate Installation Businesses
- Fence Contractors
- Retail Distributors






# Key Goals




Universal




DIY Friendly



Mechanical

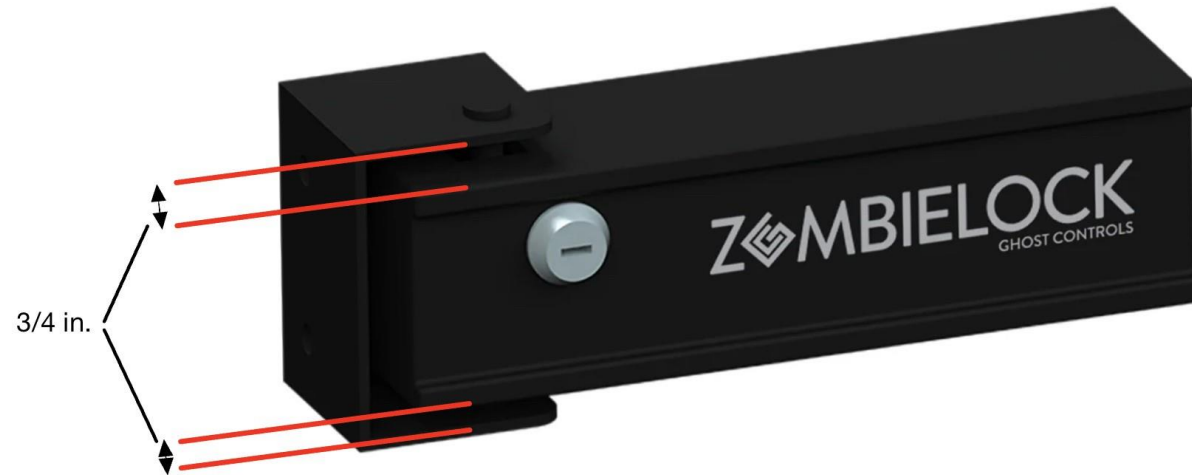
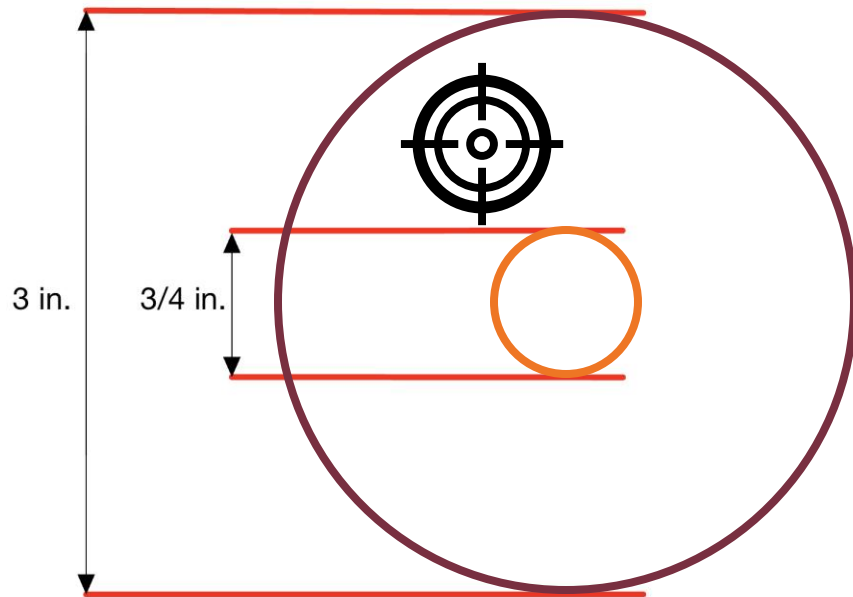


Commercially Profitable



Robust

# Misalignment Tolerance



Current Design -  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. diameter of misalignment

New Design – 3 in. diameter for misalignment

# Assumptions



A 12V DC power source is available



Installer will have the necessary tools to complete installation



The system will be exposed to a variety of environmental conditions



The gate will not be supported by wheels and will swing freely



The gates using this product will not exceed 20 feet in length or 30% covered surface area



# Stakeholders



**Shayne McConomy**  
Project Coordinator



**FAMU-FSU**  
College of Engineering



**Simone Hruda**  
Project Advisor

# Stakeholders

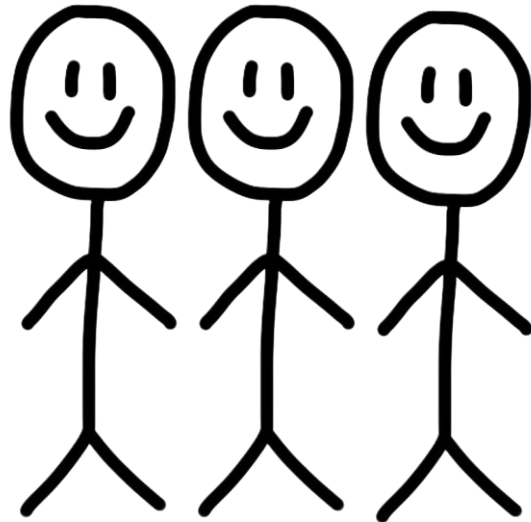


**Darryl Beadle**  
Sponsor



**Mickey Nguyen**  
Sponsor

# Stakeholders



Consumers



Compliance and  
Safety  
Organizations





# Customer Needs

Gate will stay locked  
in closed position

Gate can withstand  
50 lbf

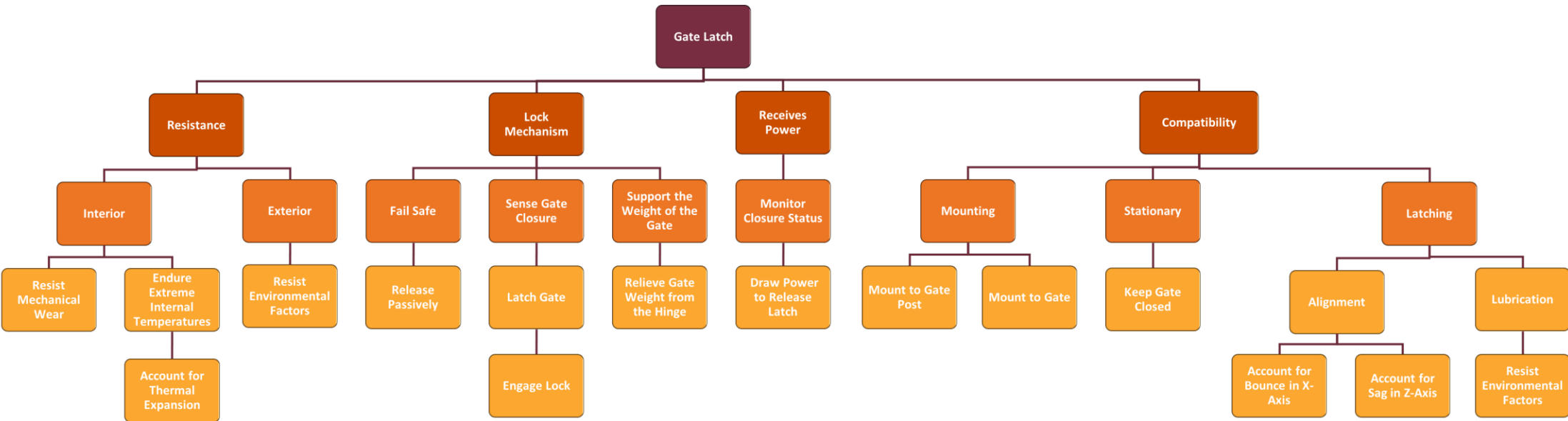
A design that can be  
marketed at a \$99  
price point

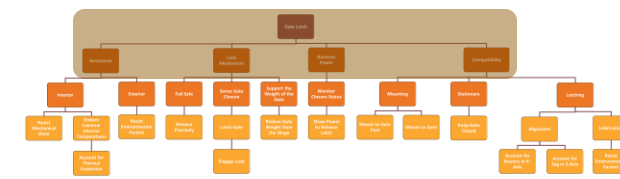
Gate performs in  
all environments

Mechanism works  
for gates up to 20 ft

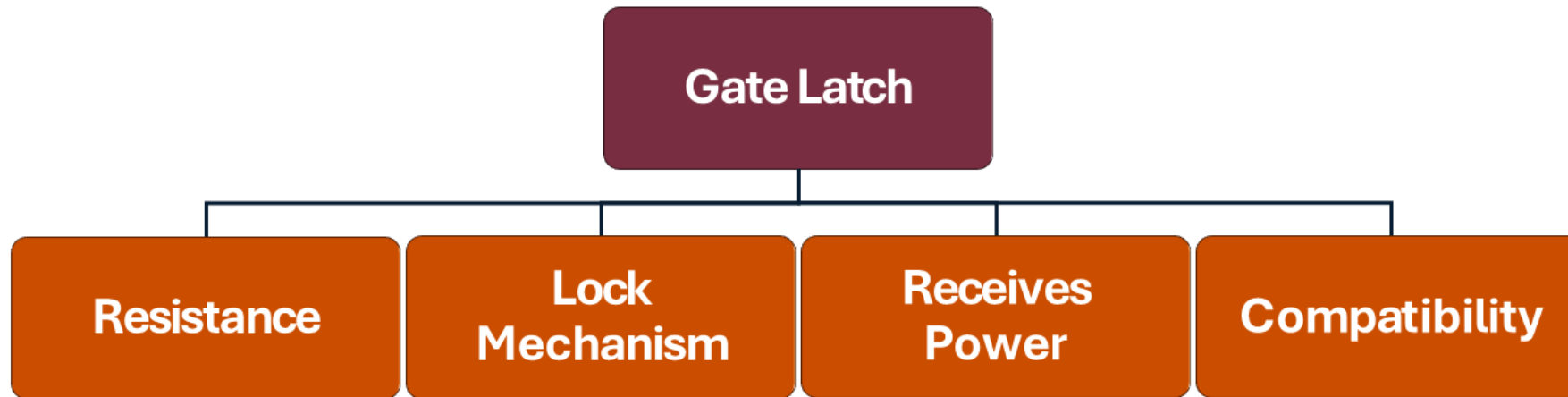
Mechanical fail-safe  
in case of failure

# Hierarchy Chart



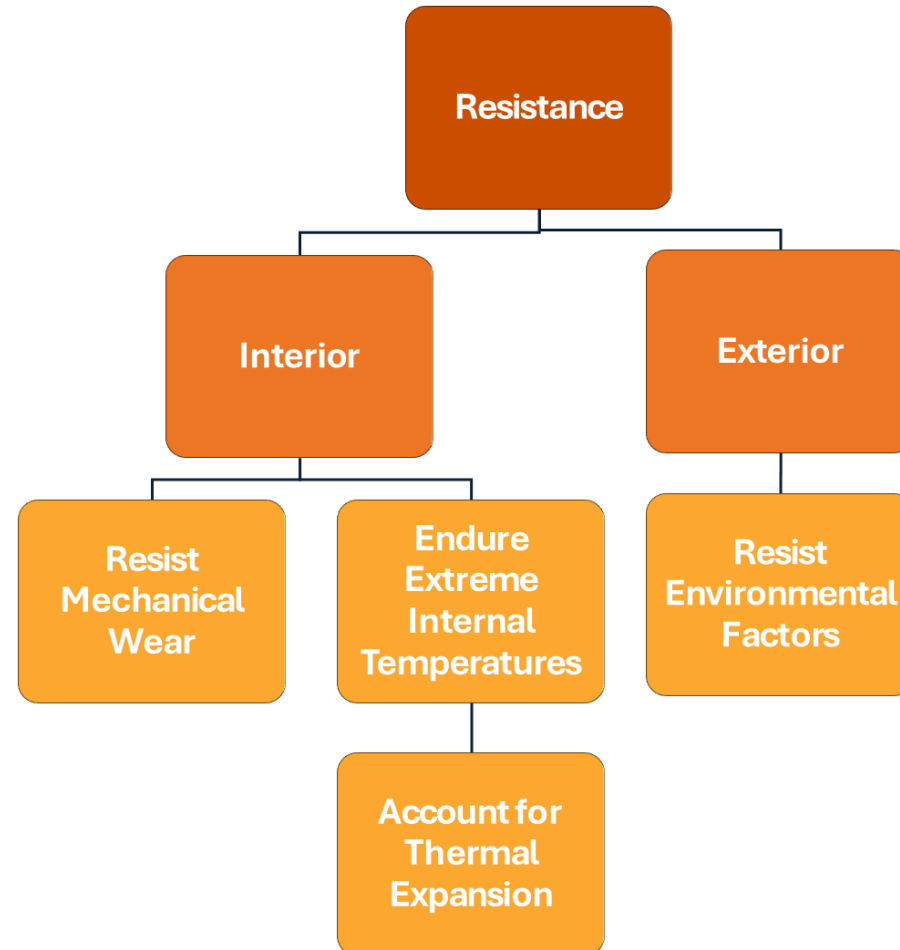


# Main Components



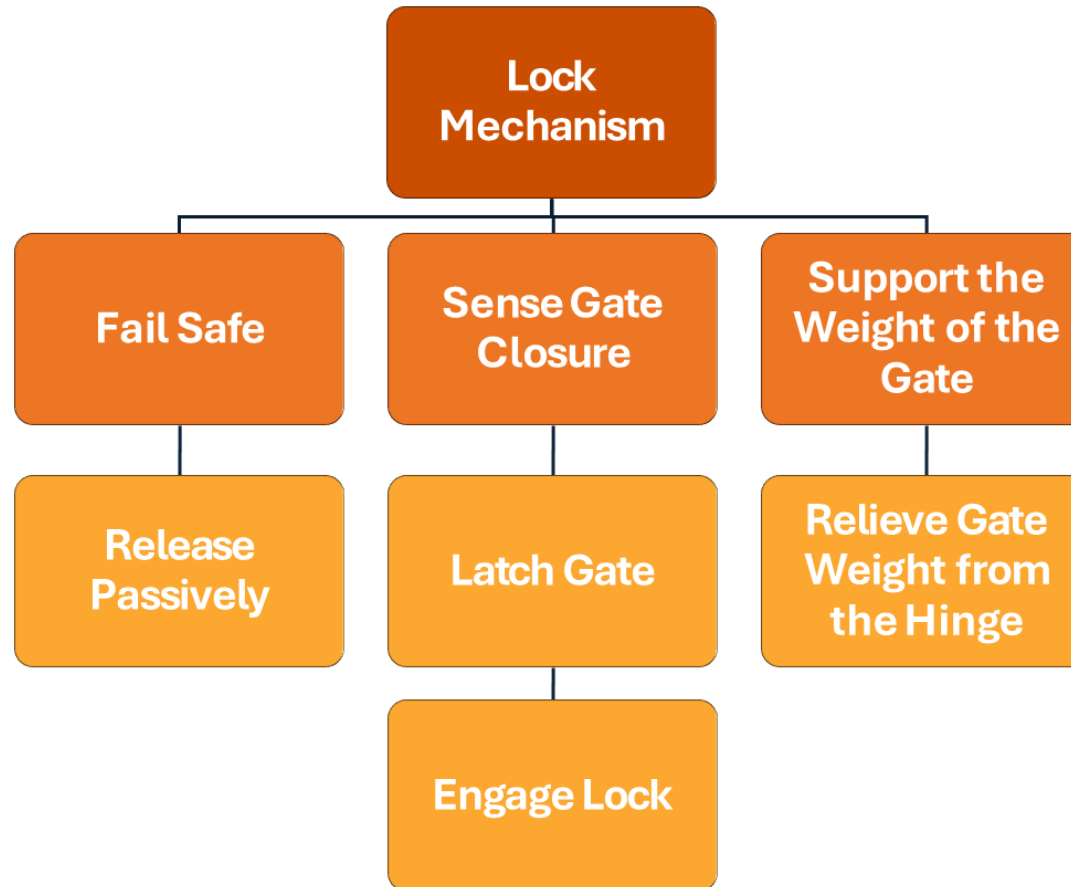


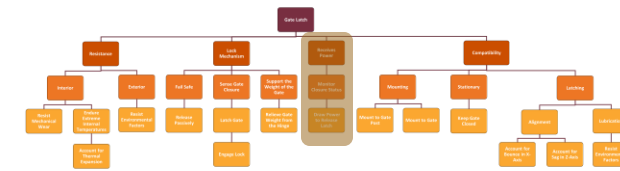
# Subsystem- Resistance



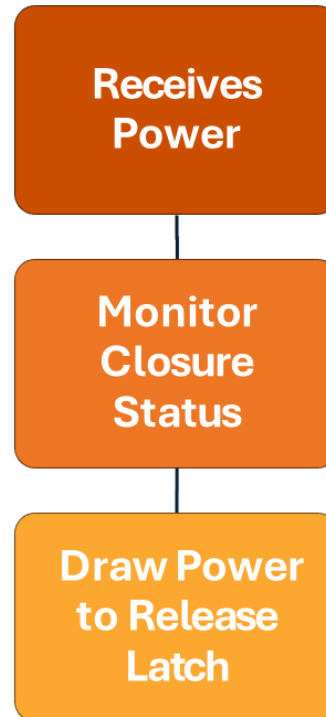


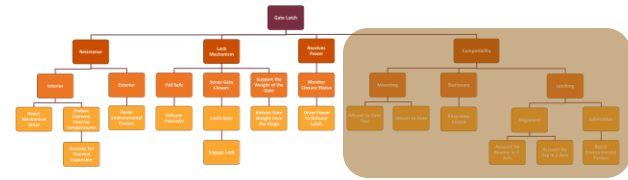
# Subsystem- Lock Mechanism



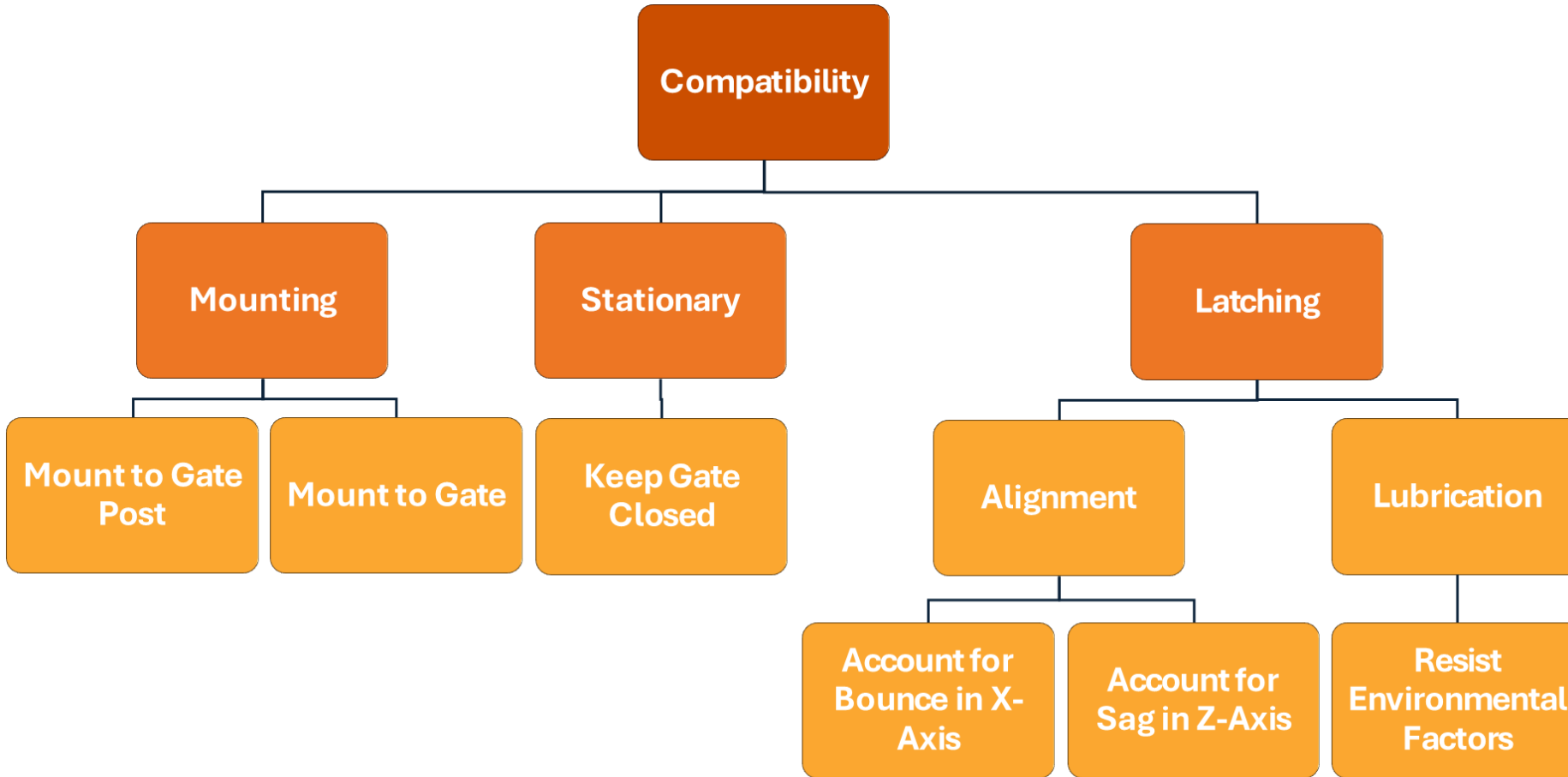


# Subsystem- Receives Power





# Subsystem- Compatibility





# Future Work

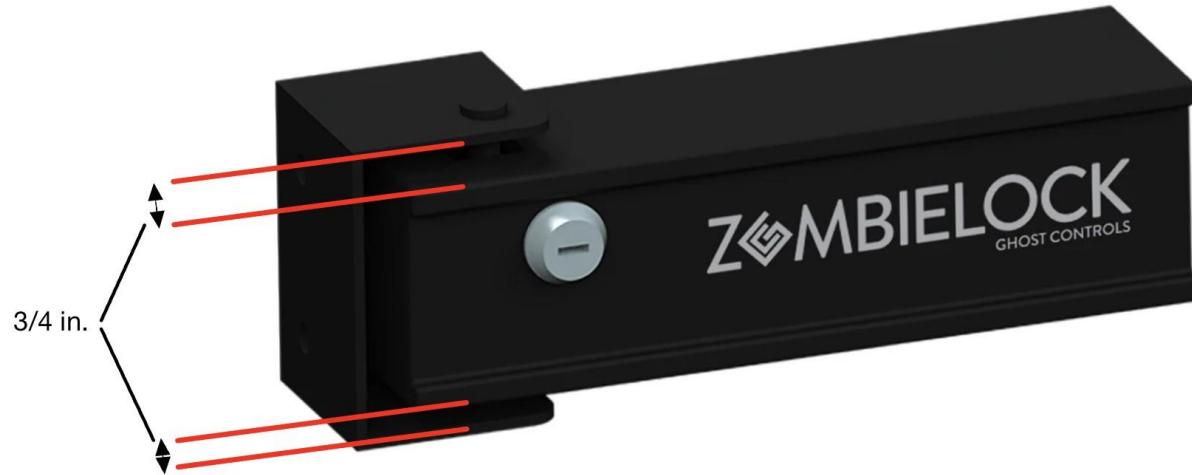
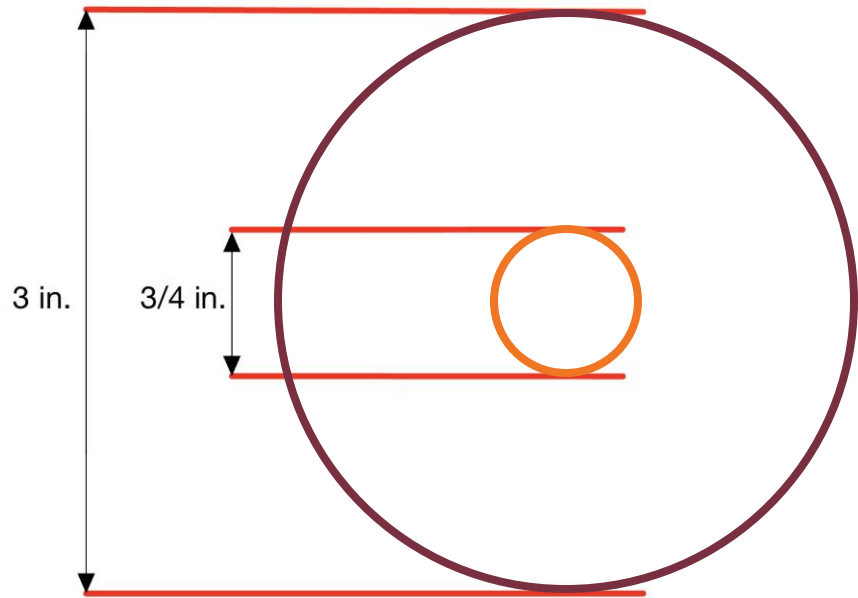
Identifying  
UL Safety  
Standards

Researching  
Pre-existing  
Latches

Ideating  
New  
Concepts

Looking at  
Mechanical  
Sag Sources

Getting  
Sponsor  
Feedback



# Questions?