

# Future Network Architecture Vision



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# The change: the future is very different from the past

|                  | Past                               | Future  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Solutions        | Technology-driven                  | Human/Business need driven                                |
| Driver           | Consumer<br>(BW)                   | Industry & Consumer<br>(Latency & SLA)                    |
| Architecture     | Heavily Centralized                | <b>Massively Distributed</b>                              |
| Partnership      | Monoliths w/Limited APIs           | Modular w/Co-design & Open specs                          |
| Standards        | Definitive                         | Iterative   |
| Investment       | <b>Singular</b> (Operator only)    | Multiple & Cooperative<br>(Many contributors/new players) |
| Flexibility      | <b>Limited</b><br>(Provisioned)    | Large<br>(Software definable)                             |
| Sharing          | Static and Limited<br>(HW VPNs )   | Dynamic and Infinite<br>(SW Slices)                       |
| Innovation Speed | Per annum/decade<br>(new services) | Per hour/day<br>(new apps)                                |

# Fundamental digital needs for new human & business value creation



# Imperceptible latency – New applications redefine network requirements



## Low latency drivers

- Virtualized cloud access
- Interactively-intense AR/VR applications
  - virtual remote control
  - real time cloud rendering
  - haptic interaction
- Critical control systems
  - industrial/utility
  - vehicular automation

Shift to highly distributed cloud architecture required to realize new business value

# The future network is a new digital infrastructure for the "automation of everything"





# Estimated value creation potential by 2025 of the Internet of Things



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# Seemingly infinite capacity - Networks are reaching physical limits



Radical shift in network architecture needed to deliver required access capacity

# Imperceptible latency – Shift to 'human' control changes everything



Radical shift in network architecture needed to deliver required latency

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# Terascale things – Expanding lifetime and throughput for IoT



New radio architecture required for terascale machine type communications



## Human cognitive operation – Networks must anticipate & act at human speed

Increasing digital complexity requires cognitive control and automation

# Personalized protection - Value of personal data vs. unsecured IoT world

Increasing number of data breaches triggered by the increasing value of digital data.

Low risk and high potential gain from 'ransomware' attacks.

Expanding threat surface due to a move from billions of smart devices to trillions of simple things that will be connected to the internet.

Future potential for disrupting industrial and infrastructure systems via network-based automation and cognitive operation systems. Devices Exposed to Security Threats Worldwide



"Information is (only) secure when it costs more to get it than it's worth." *Kevin Poulsen (hacking pioneer, editor of Wired magazine)* 

New approach required for scalable (trusted) data protection

# High level architecture: The Future Network Architecture



## Future network: cognitive + converged + cloud-optimized network (r)evolution

# The 8 technology/architecture domains for a new digital reality

## Massive Scale Access



The creation of ultra-small and ultra-close access nodes

## **Programmable Network OS**



The emergence of the network OS to enable programmability and network federation

## **Converged Edge Cloud**

The emergence of the edge cloud for low latency and high performance



## **Augmented Cognition Systems**

Pervasive cognitive capabilities for operating networks & systems



## **Smart Network Fabric**



Creating dynamically reconfigurable IP + optical metro and core networks

## **Digital Value Platforms**



Digital value platforms augmented by advanced network capabilities

## **Universal Adaptive Core**

Access-agnostic core for seamless user experience



## **Dynamic Data Security**

The emergence of new trust models & security architectures





Future success defined by leadership in multiple domains



# Massive scale access – Enabled by spatial multiplexing and new spectrum



cm/mm-wave & massive antenna arrays essential enablers of ultra-capacity RAN

# Converged edge cloud – driven by low latency and high performance

Core architecture : Cloud Centralized data centers co-located with **Distribution** of key edge/core functions & IP/optical PoPs Core control plane Core control plan 10 – 50ms latency traffic and reduce latency Converged • Emerging metro **Edge Cloud** data centers close to the access Virtualized Content • ~50k-250k subscribers CPE & BNG Delivery (multiple/large metro) Mobile Core Virtualized • 1-5ms latency User Plane Access Functions Access Ultra-capacity long-reach and reduced TCO fiber access Highly distributed remote nodes cellular fixed enterprise

# applications to edge cloud to localize

Unavoidable shifts in network

## Low-latency applications

applications and user plane functions

## **Massive network capacity**

• scaling delivery for UHD video, VR/AR and personalized content consumption

> Virtualization of SW-defined access functions in edge cloud for better agility

> **Distribution** of ultra-small remote units to achieve higher data rates

# 3 Smart network fabric - reconfigurable IP/optical fabric for dynamic digital delivery



Scale, flexibility, and programmability for new distributed cloud driven delivery

# 3 Smart network fabric – underpinned by flexible ultra-scale optical capacity







Superchannels aggregate spectrum for efficient very high rate interface rates

## **Flexible Optics Empower Programmability**

- Assignable pools of optical interfaces and spectrum
- Adjust capacity vs. distance (via symbol rate, modulation order, or spectrum width), optimized at network level

## **Superchannels Essential to Advancing Scale**

- Spectral superchannels enable Tb+ interface rates
- Spatial superchannels and component integration required for future orders of magnitude scaling

## Advanced optical networking technologies fundamental to efficiently scaling the network

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# 4 Universal adaptive core

# Extended packet core versus future network architecture

Evolved Packet Core (4G)

Unified Data Repository MMF Mobility PDN Serving Gateway Mgt Gateway Access & Mobility Mgt Management Control Control ୍ଭ **Wireless** User Plane User Plane User Plane Access Multi-Access

Next-Generation (5G) Core

• *Radical simplification* by separating orthogonal functions — session management, access/mobility management and user plane are independent network functions to enable distributed user plane deployments for latency-critical applications hosted in edge clouds

• A *service-based architecture* allows for rapid creation of new services. Network functions will expose their capabilities as 'services' that can be consumed by any other network or application function, enabling flexible per-service software deployment.

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# 5 Programmable Network OS – enabling multi-operator federation

## **Multi-Operator Federation**

- Common service composition & APIs spanning multiple networks
- Unified network state & policy framework
- Enables global dynamic connectivity and network slicing services
- Via federated brokers and/or consortiums



## Federation of network OS drives E2E network programmability in new global-local paradigm

# 5 Network slicing

Example of network slices for different services



# 6 Augmented cognition systems

Cognitive cloud as analytics- and machine-learning-based autonomics engine



# 7 Digital value platforms

# Types of existing and future digital value platforms





# 8 Dynamic data security

Dynamic data security based on digital trust and automated security



# Major research challenges

- Exploration and exploitation of centimeter and millimeter wave frequency bands
- Massive antenna arrays and use of carrier aggregation techniques across available frequency bands
- Means for spectrum sharing and co-existence
- Low latency requires: New network architecture with edge clouds close to the end user and centralised clouds with flexible function split, optimisation of radio interface, RAN and core processing
- Use of network analytics, big data and artificial intelligence/machine-learning, neural networks and quantum computing to enable complex network management and automation
- Optimisation of network protocols beyond the today's Internet protocol to meet new requirements
- New security mechanisms as part of the overall system design from the start
- Software technology for efficient and secure implementation
- Optical communication:
  - Scalability and programmable flexibility of optical links
  - Tunable wavelength
  - Variable modulation schemes
  - Approaching limits in optical transmission by exploiting all dimensions amplitude, phase, polarisation of light, frequency and space
- Energy efficient devices, systems and protocols
- Chip architecture design and implementation for high processing power

