



ECI, Now Part of Ribbon

Optical Networking Demystified

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December 15, 2020

Ribbon for IP and Optical

- Ribbon acquired ECI Telecom in March, 2020
- Full line of Optical, Ethernet, and IP platforms
 - Pizza-boxes to multi-terabit, full-rack systems
 - Automated network management
- Help service providers and electric utilities
 - Residential broadband backhaul networks
 - Mobile broadband backhaul networks
 - Wavelength services and optical networks
 - Carrier Ethernet services networks

Big Carrier Capabilities
Small Carrier Packages



Headquartered in the US



Customers in over **140 countries**¹



Over **4,000** employees globally¹



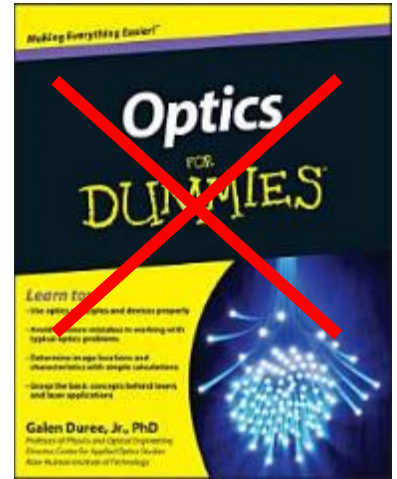
1000+ Patents Worldwide

¹Combined FYE 2018 data of Ribbon and ECI.

Nasdaq: [RBBN]

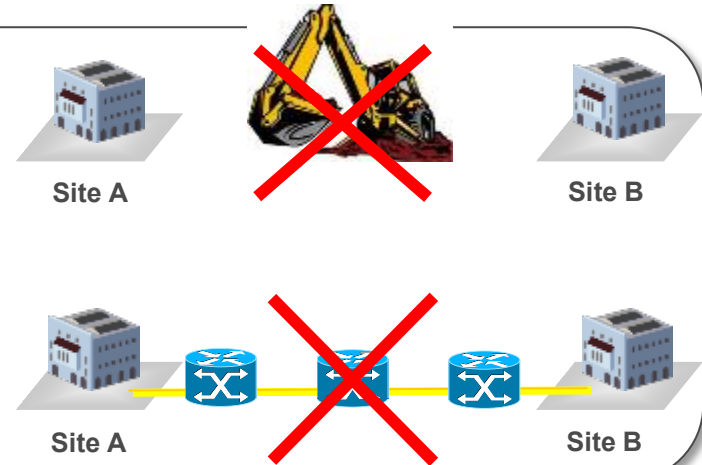
No one is dumb.... Just maybe unfamiliar...

- What can optical networks do for me?
- What are the major piece parts and vocabulary?
- What do I have to think about when I deploy?
- Any cool stuff on the market I should be aware of?



What Can an Optical Network Do for Me?

- Increase capacity without deploying more fiber cable
 - 100G large capacity to >10Tb/s huge capacity on one fiber pair
- Increase distance without deploying lots of electronics
 - > 80km to 100's of km's to 1000's of km's



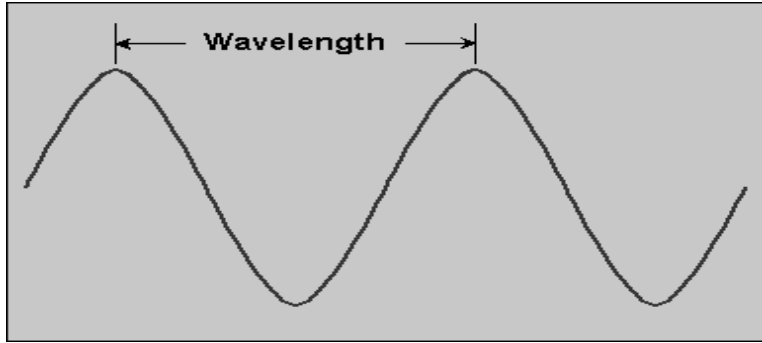
- Protect my traffic
- Encrypt my traffic
- Rearrange my traffic

Only optical does this

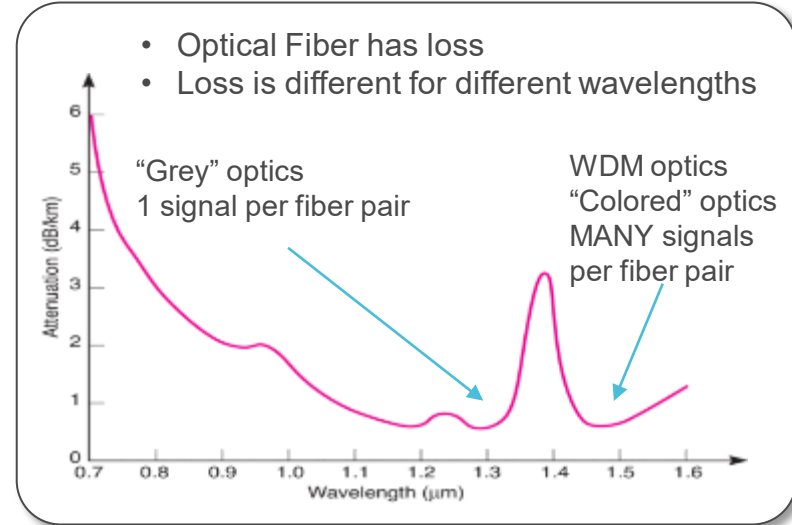
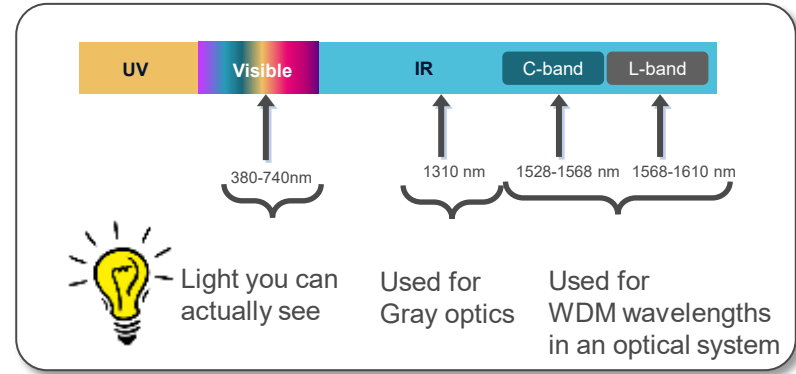
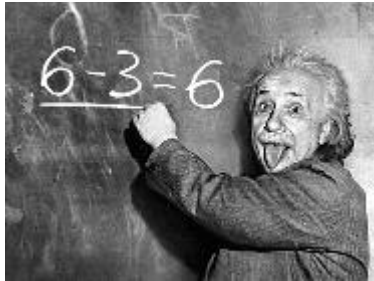
Optical does this in **uniquely** valuable ways

Only Optical Solves Capacity and Distance Challenges

A couple basics...

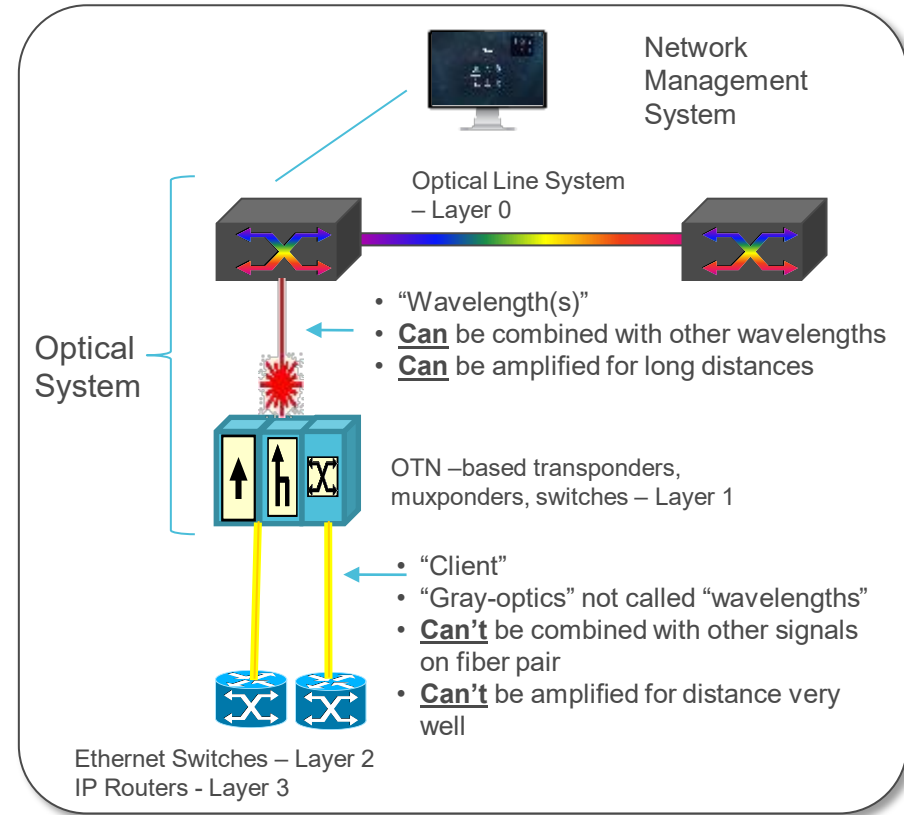


- Light exists as electromagnetic waves
- Different colors of light have different wavelengths
- The wavelengths have a distance measured in nanometers (nm)



What are the Key Pieces of an Optical System?

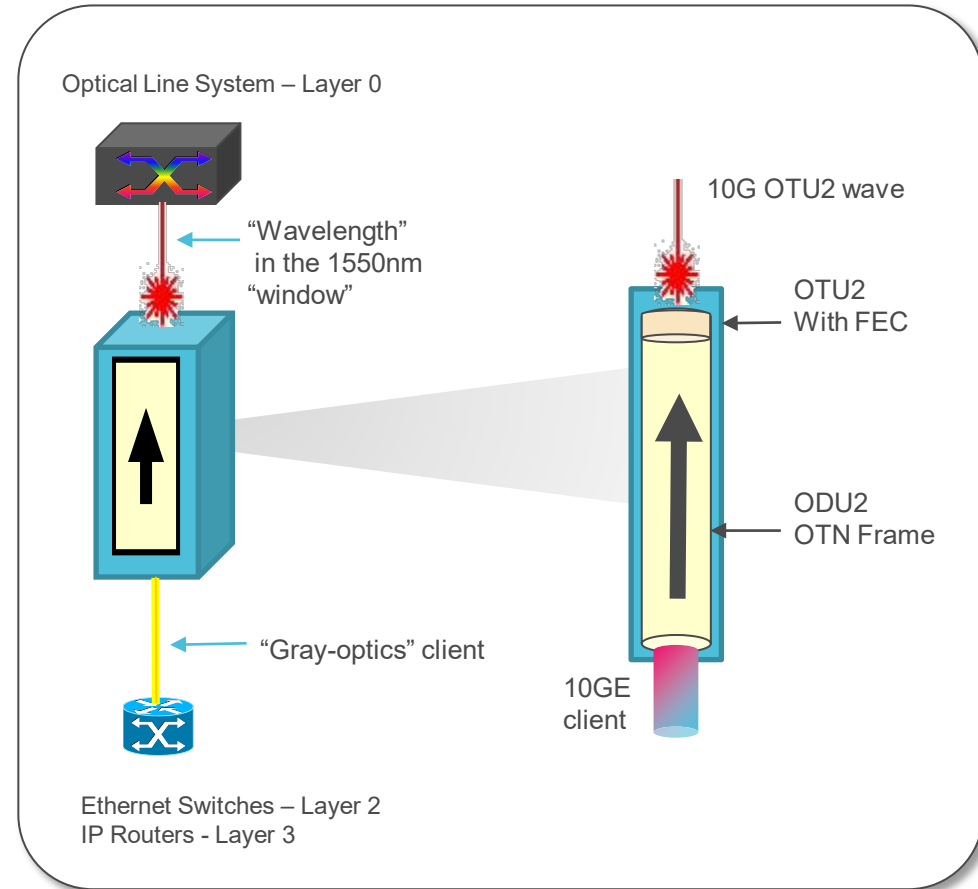
- Optical line system
 - Photonic (optical) – “colors” not “bits”
 - Manipulates “wavelengths” (optical channels)
 - Delivers capacity and distance
 - Analog
- Transponders/muxponders/OTN switches
 - Electronic – “bits”
 - Creates “wavelengths”
 - Adapts gray optics interfaces (like Ethernet)
 - Can mux/groom (or not) lower speed traffic into a wave
 - Manipulates OTN containers
 - Feeds the line system
 - Digital
- Management system
 - GUI, point and click
 - Helps you sleep at night...



Optical Line System, OTN Transponders/muxponders/switches, Management

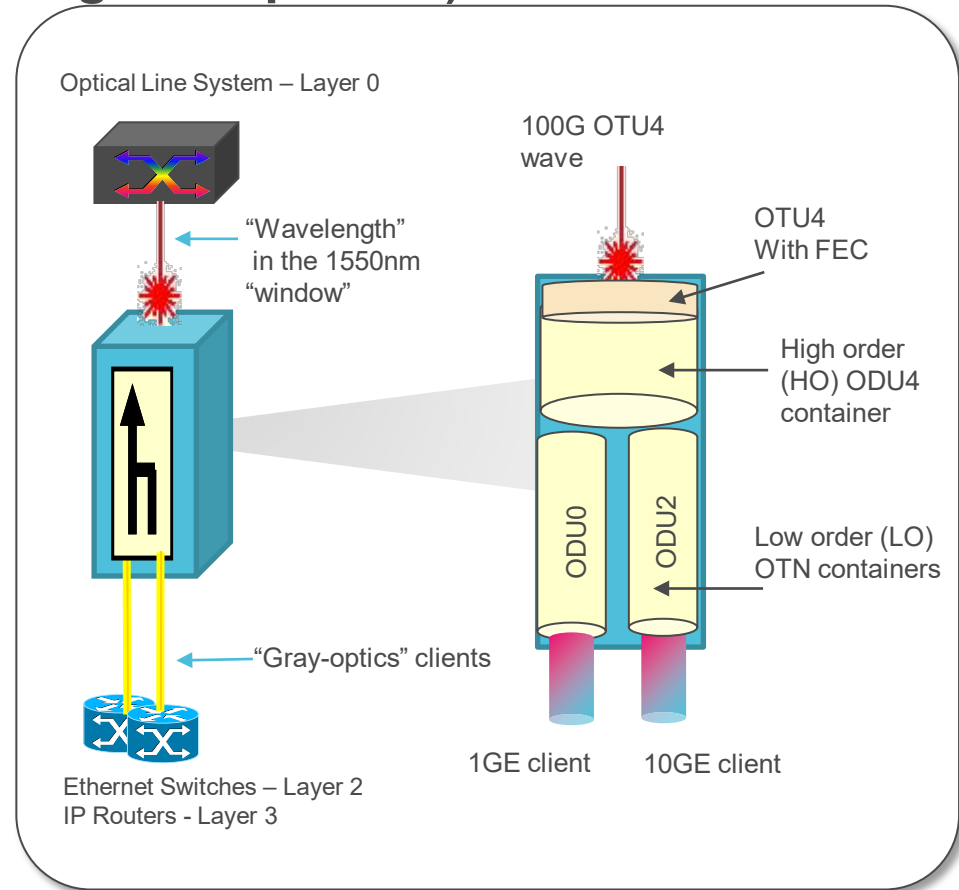
What is a Transponder?

- Single client port
- Single wave port
- Rate of client and network port are roughly the same
- No “grooming”
- 3 functions
 - Terminates client
 - Transparently wraps the client signal in an OTN frame (electronics)
 - Adds ‘forward error correction’ (FEC) to achieve distance
 - Does not touch Ethernet VLANs or IP packets
 - Transmits the OTN-wrapped client on the correct “wavelength”
- Wavelength is now ready to join its other wavelength friends on the line system



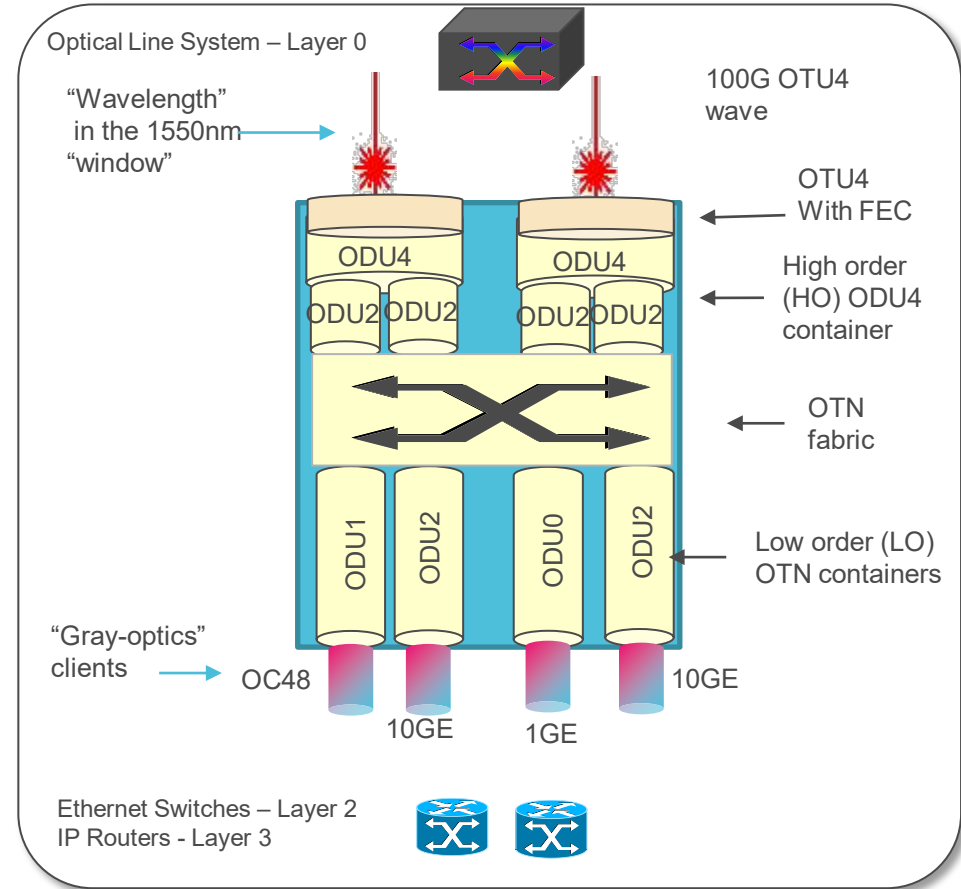
What is a Muxponder? (Multiplexing Transponder)

- Many lower-speed client ports
- Single higher-speed wave port
- Saves wavelengths
- 4 functions
 - Terminates client optics
 - Transparently wraps each client signal in its own OTN container (electronics)
 - Does not touch Ethernet VLANs or IP packets
 - Multiplexes many low-order OTN containers into one bigger high-order OTN container
 - Adds 'forward error correction' to achieve distance
 - Transmits the high-order OTN container on the correct "wavelength"
- Wavelength is now ready to join its other wavelength friends on the line system



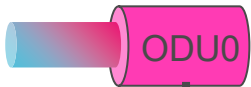



What is OTN Switching?

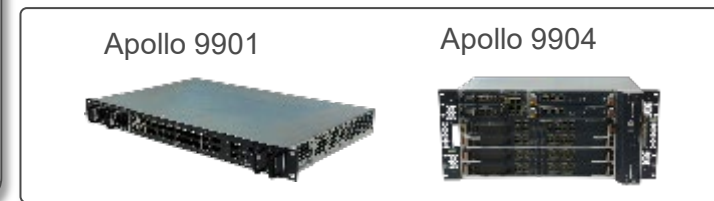
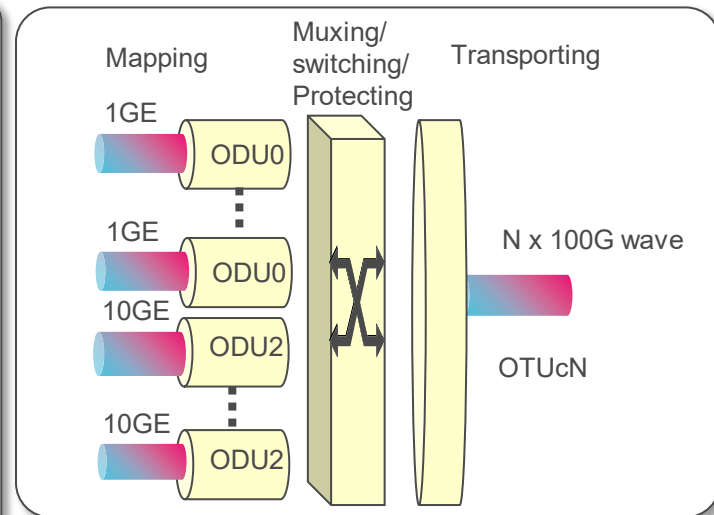
- Ability to groom across
 - Many lower-speed client ports
 - Many wavelength ports
- Save wavelengths – more protection options
- 5 functions
 - Terminates client optics
 - Transparently wraps each client signal in its own OTN container
 - Does not touch Ethernet VLANs or IP packets
 - Rearranges OTN containers “any to any”
 - ODU cross-connecting – hairpinning, passthrough, add/drop
 - Transmits the OTN containers on the correct “wavelength”
- Wavelengths are now filled with clients as you want them



OTN Containers

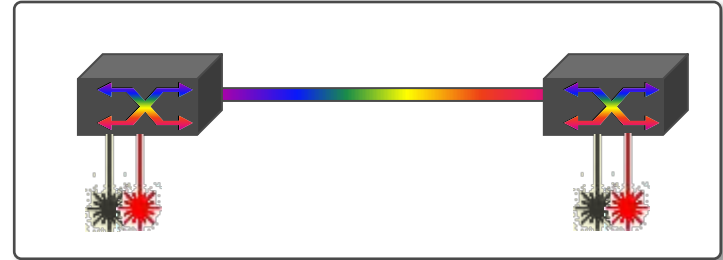
Any type of client signal: Ethernet, SONET, Fiber Channel, etc.

		Client Port Type	ODU Container	Bit Rate
1GE		GE	ODU0	1.25Gb/s
		OC48/STM-16	ODU1	2.5Gb/s
10GE		Various	ODUFlex	Nx 1.25Gb/s
10GE OC-192/ STM-64		10GE/OC-192/STM-64	ODU2/2e	10 Gb/s
		40GE	ODU3	40Gb/s
100GE		100GE	ODU4	105Gb/s
		200GE	ODUc2	210Gb/s
		400GE	ODUc4	421Gb/s



What are the Functions of a Line System?

- Combining many waves together onto a single fiber to achieve capacity
 - Wavelength division multiplexing
- Manipulating wavelengths
 - Added/dropped/passed through/switched
 - Optical ADM
 - ROADM (Reconfigurable Optical Add/Drop Multiplexer)
- Taming the wild, nasty effects of **analog** transmission to achieve distance
 - Amplification
 - Dispersion compensation

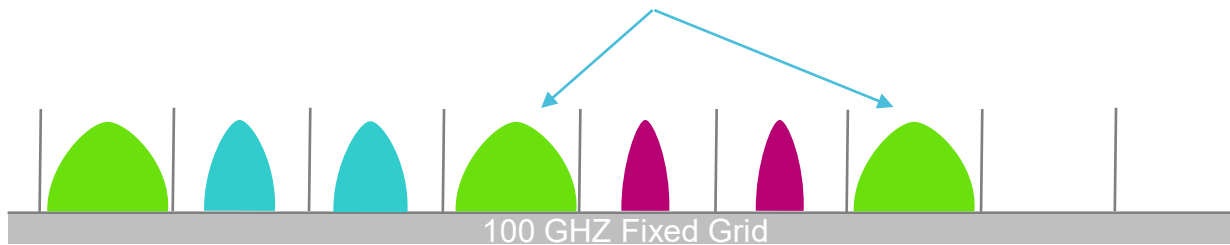


Combining Waves using Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM)

- DWDM – dense WDM
 - Up to 128 channels with 37.5GHz spacing of each channel
 - Channels can be up to 400G or greater
 - (may need wider spacing depending about how far you want to go)
 - Can be amplified for long distances
 - Started in long haul, penetrated metro, now in access
- CWDM – course WDM (“coarsewave”)
 - Up to 18 channels (usually only up to 8)
 - 20nm wide spacing (2500GHz spacing)
 - Best for 2.5Gb/s and below channels
 - Limitations for amplification - distance limited to ~60km
 - Helps with capacity, but not distance
 - Decreasing use...

DWDM “Grids”

Each wavelength consumes spectrum in the C-Band



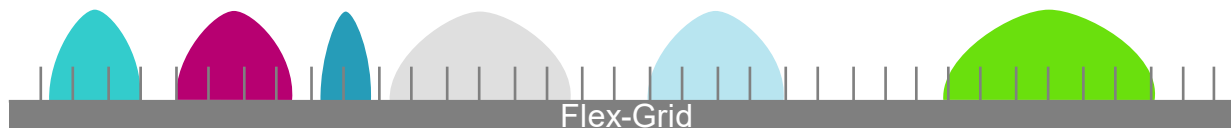
Fixed Grid

- 100GHz Spaced center-frequencies
- 100GHz wide channels
- 44 channels in C-band



Fixed Grid

- 50GHz Spaced center-frequencies
- 50GHz wide channels
- 88/96 channels in C-band



Flex-grid

- Center frequencies are at 6.25GHz increments
- Width of each channel is $N \times 12.5\text{GHz}$

What Determines How Much Spectrum I Use for Each Wavelength?

- 10G transponders/muxponders are simple
 - 10G waves typically use 50GHz or 100GHz spectral grid
 - Intensity modulation
 - Direct detection – presence of light = “1”; absence of light = “0”
- 100G+ transponders/muxponders are more flexible
 - “Multihaul” transponders/muxponders
 - Many “knobs” to turn
 - Tradeoffs for line rate and spectrum and distance
 - QAM modulation and coherent detection
- FlexGrid allows the line system to accommodate these trade-offs

Transponder Options

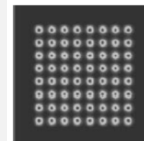
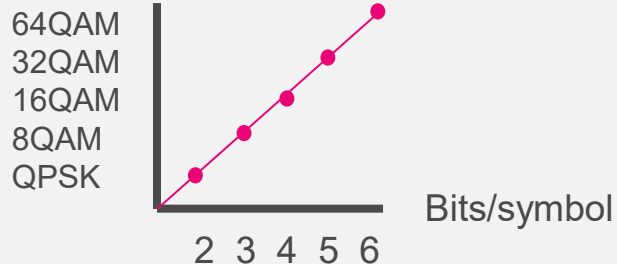
Baud Rate



Knobs to turn:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Baud rate (symbols/second)} \\ & \times \text{Modulation (bits/symbol)} \\ & \times 2 \text{ polarizations} \\ \hline & = \text{Line rate (bits/second)} \end{aligned}$$

Modulation

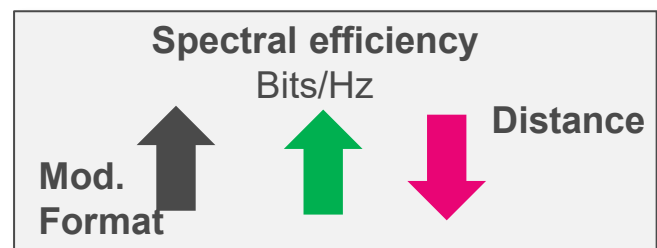
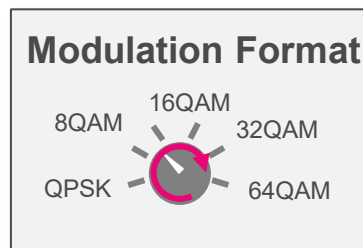
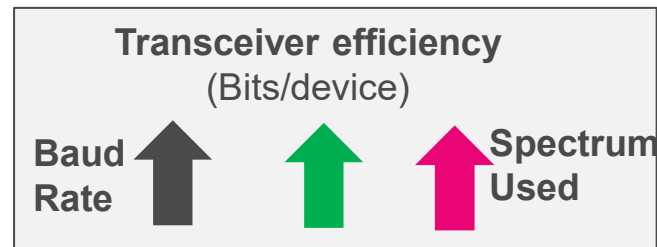
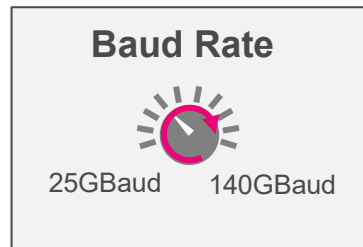


e.g., 64QAM constellation
= 6 bits/symbol

Example: “100”Gb/s line =
34GBaud x 2 bits / symbol x 2 polarizations

No Free Lunch...

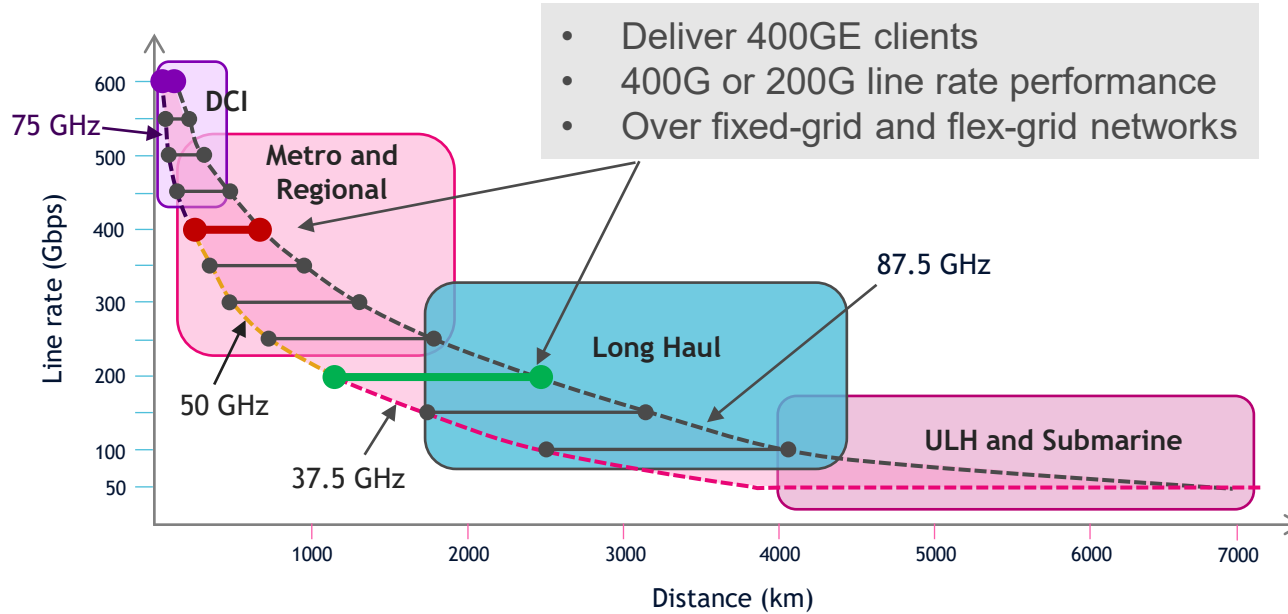
- Increasing **baud rate**
 - Improves transceiver efficiency (bits/device)
 - Increases spectrum required
- Increasing **modulation**
 - Improves spectral efficiency (bits/Hz)
 - Decreases distance



Fixed Baud Rate
X Fixed Modulations
= Limitations

Service Provider World -
Needs Better Knobs and More Knobs

Performance Optimized Transport – 3 better knobs



Adaptive Baud Rate

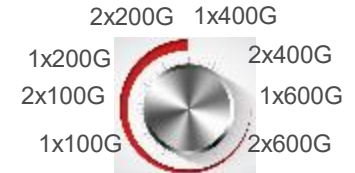


Low High

Fractional QAM Mod. (bits/symbol)



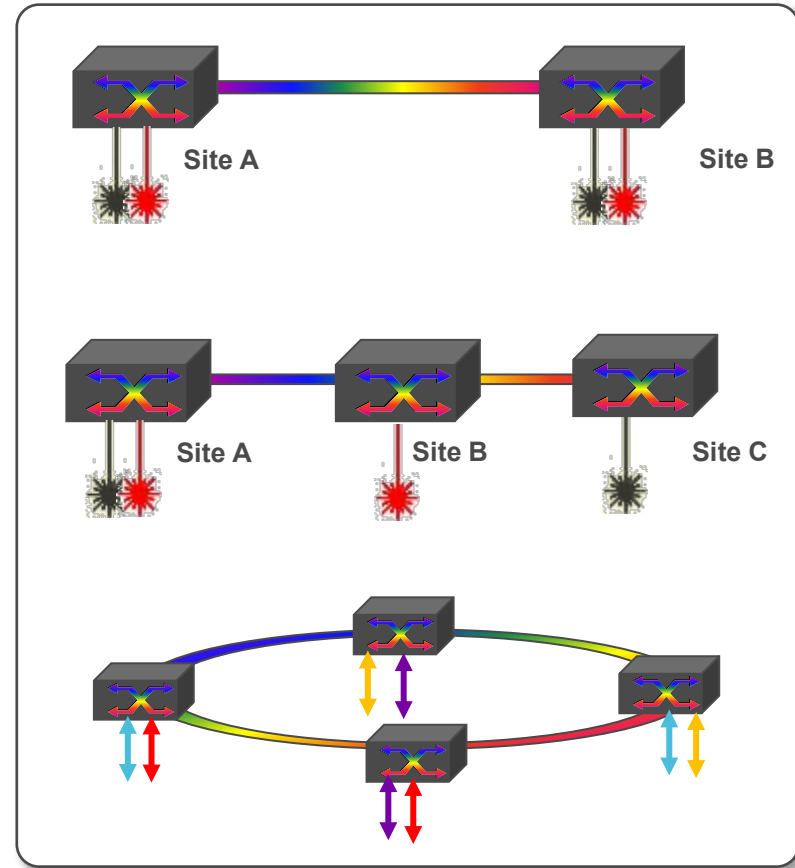
Line Rate Combo



Satisfy Customer Demand in the Real World

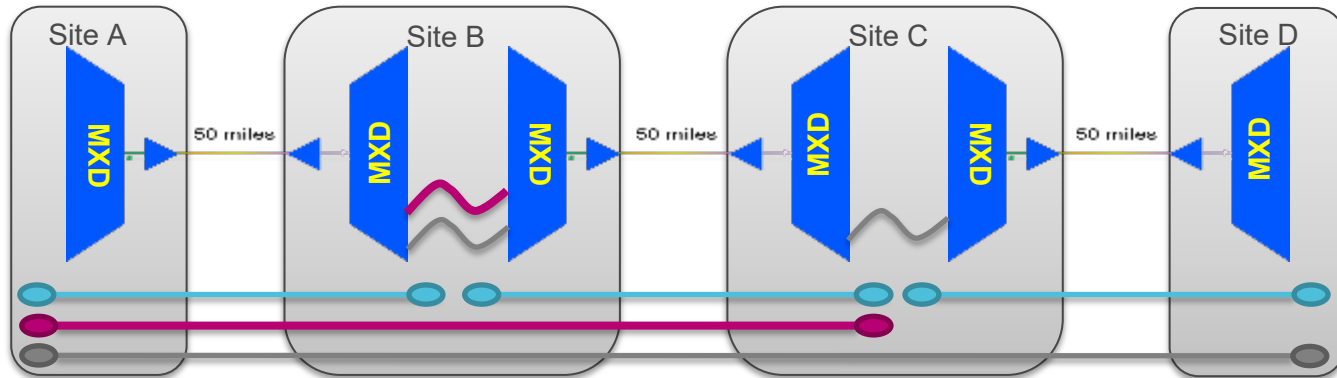
Manipulating Wavelengths...

- Point to point only
 - All waves going in Site A come out at Site B
 - Just mux many waves onto one fiber
- Fixed Optical Add/drop Multiplexers (FOADMs)
 - Cheap hardware, but requires truck roll and manual configuration at site B
- Reconfiguration Optical Add/drop Multiplexers (ROADMs)
 - “Static”
 - “Colorless” (C)
 - “Colorless-directionless” (CD)
 - “Colorless-directionless-contentionless” (CDC)
 - Automates wave manipulation to create larger networks



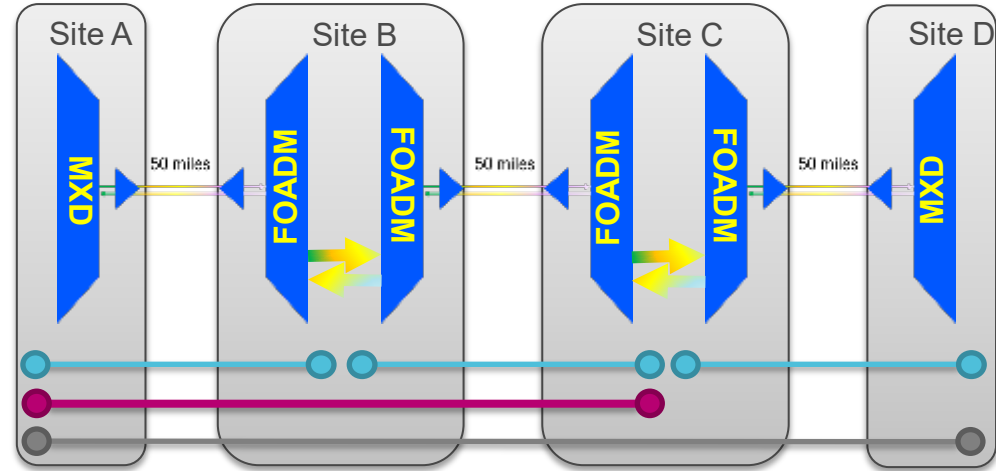
Brute Force Networking

- Multiplex and demultiplex all waves at each site
- Use patch panel to manually patch through or add/drop at each site - flexible
- Heavy loss at each site for through waves



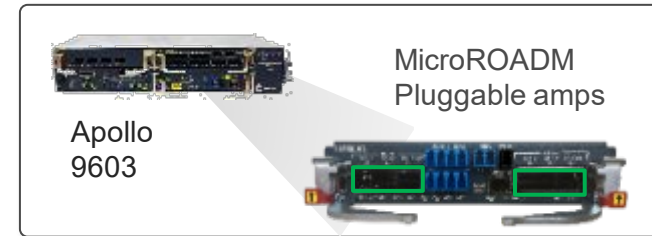
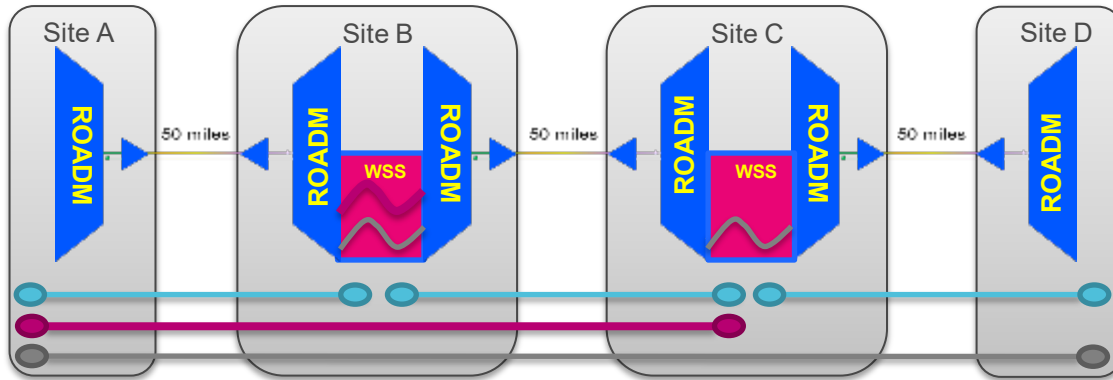
A Little Better – Fixed OADM units

- Add/drop pre-determined channels at intermediate sites
- Pass remaining channels through without demultiplexing - simpler
- Better performance (less loss) for through channels
- Less flexibility



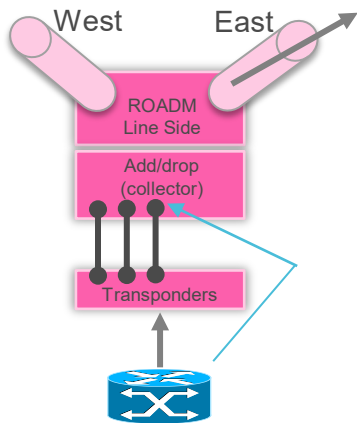
ROADM Networking – Where Networks are Trending

- Wavelength selective switch (WSS) devices at each ROADM node
- Add/drop/passthrough wavelengths via remote provisioning
- WSS devices offer many other benefits
 - Dynamically balance the power between all wavelengths sharing a fiber
 - Dynamically control the input power of incoming waves
 - Automated multi-degree sites – north/south/east/west
 - Reconfigure wavelength paths to avoid cable maintenance or to perform restoration



Different Types of ROADMs (different types of add/drop hardware)

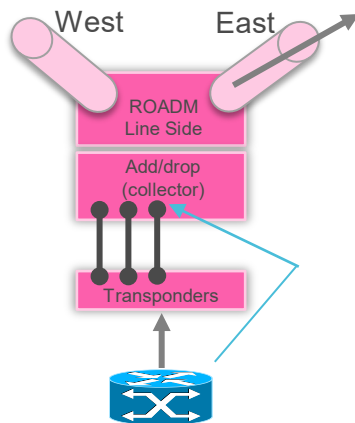
“Static” / “AWG”



Port is tied to:

- Direction
- Color (wave #)

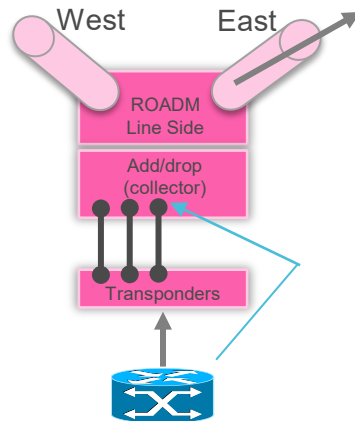
“Colorless” (C)



Port is tied to:

- Direction **only**
- **Pick any color**

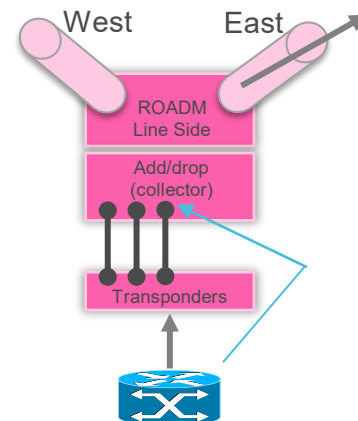
Colorless /
Directionless (CD)



Port is tied to:

- Any direction
- Any color
- Only one drop port can occupy a color (drop side contention)

Colorless /
Directionless /
Contentionless (CDC)



Port is tied to:

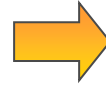
- Any direction
- Any color
- Many ports can occupy a color (eliminates drop side contention)

It's Analog - What Can Possibly Go Wrong???



- Optical attenuation (loss)

- Wavelengths lose power
- Receiver can't determine a "one" from a "zero"
- OSNR (optical signal to noise ratio) becomes too low



Fix this with amplifiers

- Dispersion

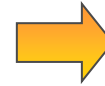
- Pulses of light spread out as they travel
- Receiver cannot determine a one pulse from another



Fix this with
- Dispersion compensation 10G

- Non-linear effects

- Wavelengths can trample on other wavelengths



Overcome this with
- Optical network design

- The fiber itself is damaged

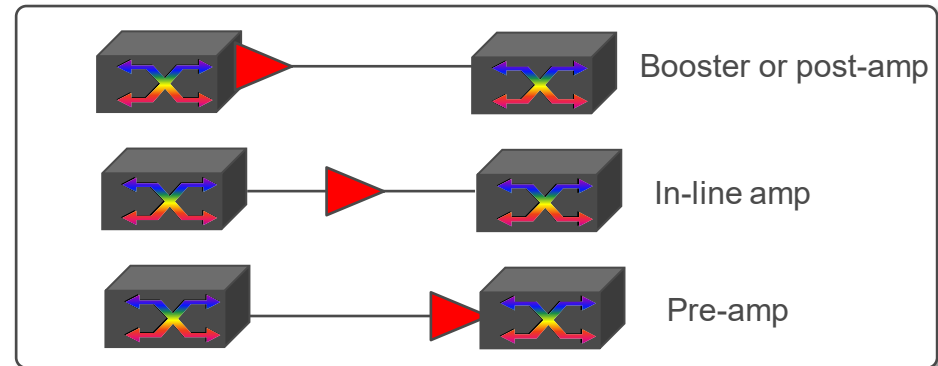
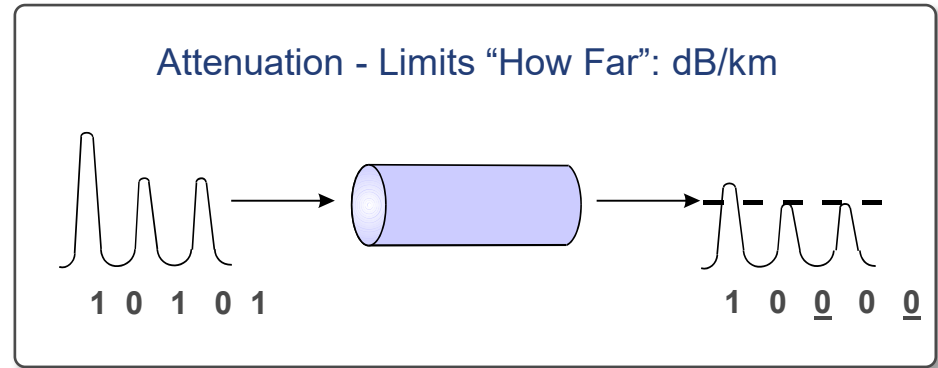
- Or a connector is broken...



Fix this with
- Armed guards and eternal vigilance
React quickly or proactively with
- Automated, network OTDR

Attenuation (loss) Reduces Optical Power

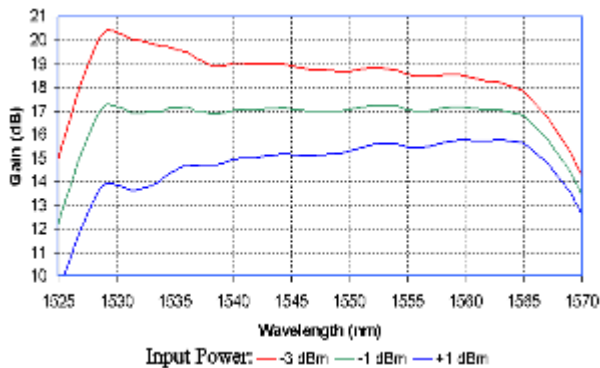
- Losses from
 - fiber
 - WSS devices
 - mux/demux and filters
- Amplifiers (EDFAs*) boost the power
 - Of ALL** waves on the fiber!
 - Without terminating ANY of them!
 - Without electronically repeating each signal!
 - **Key to optical networking economics!**
 - Amps do not understand bits or wavelengths
 - Amps only understand optical power.
- Amps create noise
 - Only so many amplifiers in the chain before the signal/noise ratio is ruined



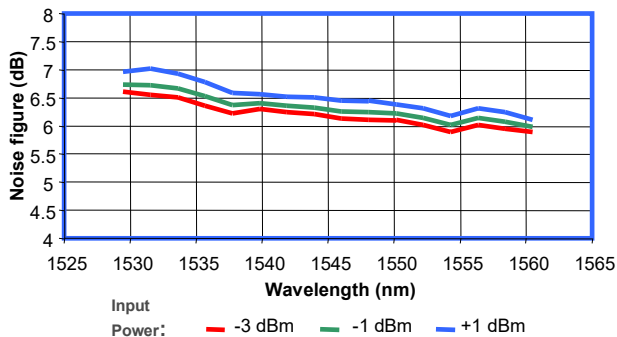
**all waves together on fiber is called a "composite" signal

*EDFA = Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier

No Free Lunch in the Analog World

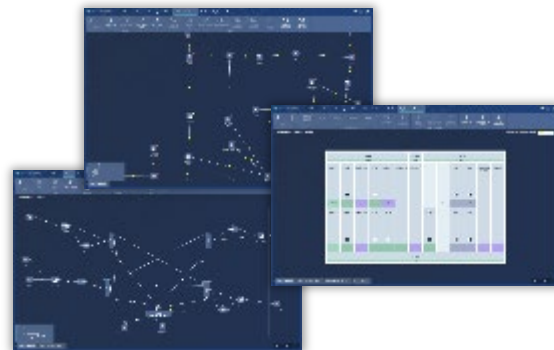


Amplifier **gain** changes with input power and frequency of each wavelength



Amplifier **noise** changes with input power and frequency of each wavelength

Network Planner™

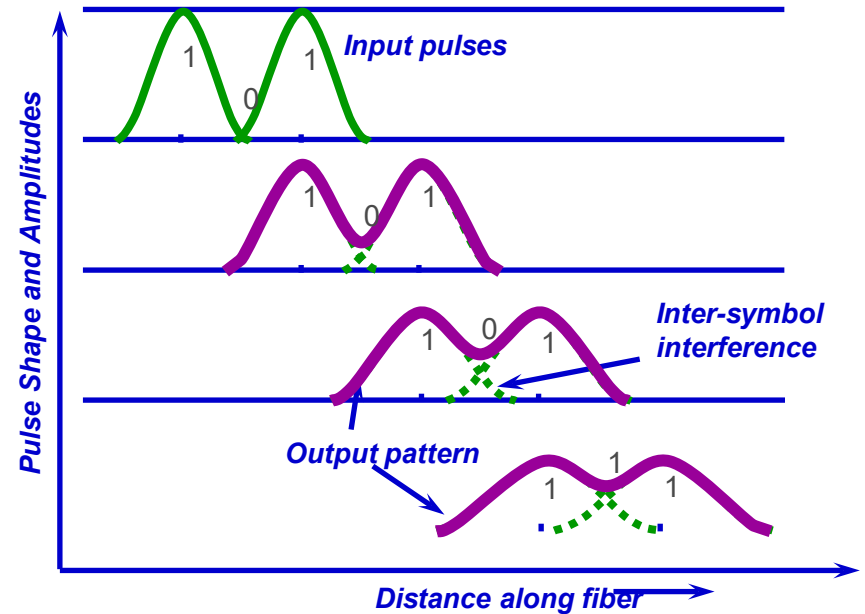


Requires great network planning software

- Off-line while synchronized with the production network
- Optical design based-on traffic demands
 - What kind of amplifier?
 - Can my wavelengths reach the distance without electronics?

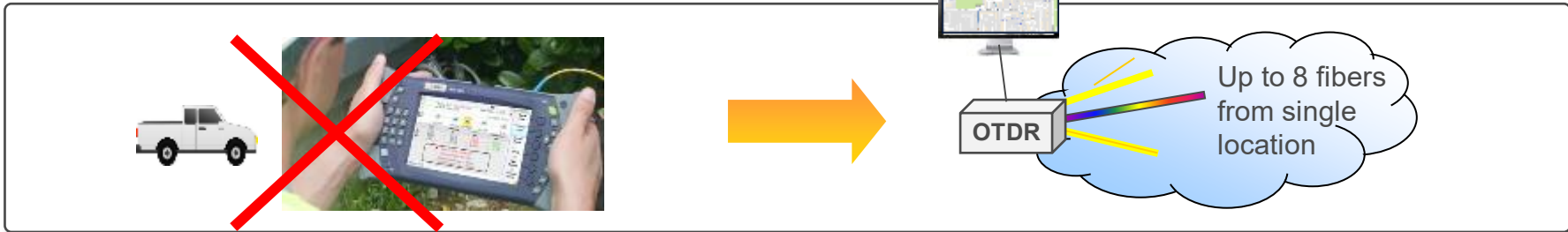
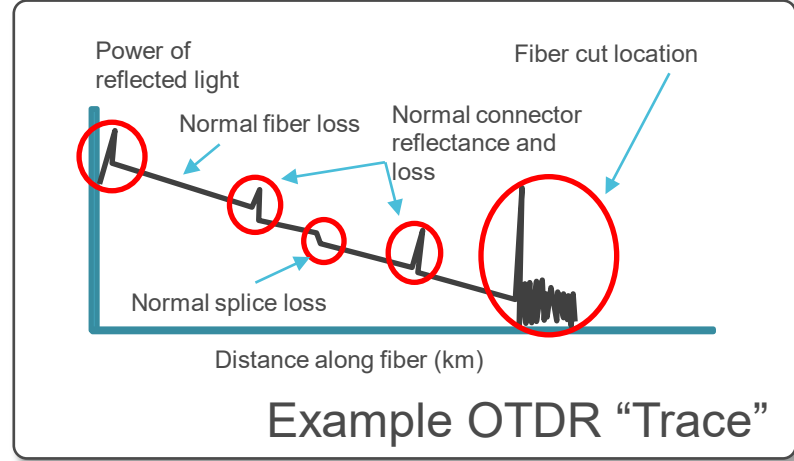
Dispersion – When Pulses Spread out Down the Fiber – 10G waves and below

- Leading edge of pulse travels faster than trailing edge
- Pulses bleed together - causes bit errors
- Applicable in ‘direct detected’ systems
 - 10G waves and below
- Largely eliminated in “coherent” systems
 - 100G and above
- Fix with Dispersion Compensating Fiber
 - In a dispersion compensation module (DCM)
 - Special fiber in the data path
 - Deployed at the receiver
 - That “undoes” the pulse spreading
 - Causes loss
- DCMs will worsen the performance of >100G waves that may come later



Network OTDR Helps you Predict and React to Fiber Failures

- Optical Time Domain Reflectometer is test equipment that finds fiber defects
- “Network OTDR” is an OTDR deployed in the existing fiber plant
- In-service alongside other equipment (from any vendor)
- Scans automatically multiple fibers at once for defects or cuts and raises alarms
- Enables fault location to within meters
- Dramatically reduces repair time and opex costs

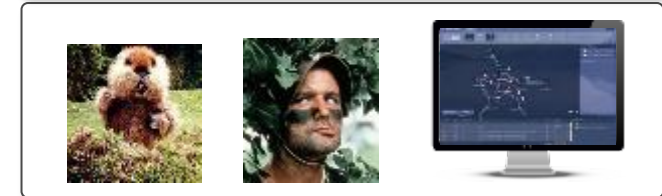
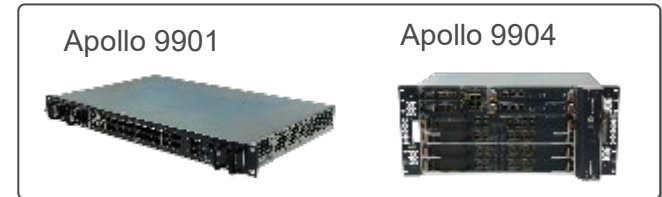
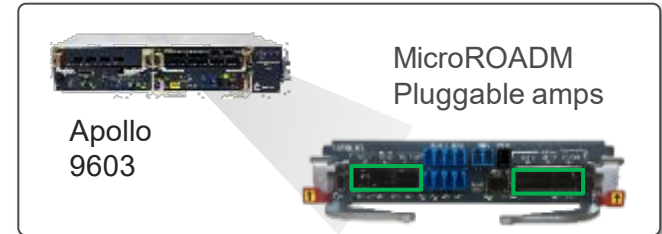
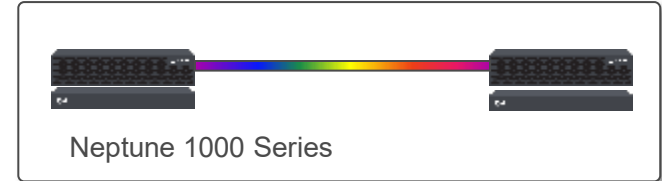


Technology, Design, and Deployment Considerations

- Things that impact distance...
 - Will I need to add sites and grow my network geographically?
- Things that impact capacity...
 - Will I be rolling out higher speed residential broadband?
 - Will I be offering mobile backhaul services for 5G?
- Things that impact operations...
 - Am I reducing my operational staff?
 - Am I trying to cover a larger geographical footprint?

What are Things that Help Me with Smaller Optical Networks

- Neptune™ Ethernet/IP platforms with “just right” optical additions
 - Amplifiers + WDM to extend capacity and distance for a low cost
- Apollo™ Micro-ROADM
 - Future-proofing benefits of FlexGrid
 - Automation benefits of ROADM
 - Pluggable amplifiers
 - Industry’s smallest package
- Apollo 9901 and 9904 OTN Appliances
 - Switching for the price of muxing
- LightSOFT™ Network Management
 - Point and click GUI for Optical, Ethernet, and IP
 - Runs Network Planner™ software
- LightPULSE™ Network OTDR
 - Automatically find degradations before failures occur
 - Identify the location of failures to within minutes instantaneously



Here to help...

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ribbon



ECI, Now Part of Ribbon

Thank you!!