

The background features a vibrant, multi-colored abstract design. On the left, there are overlapping, wavy, organic shapes in shades of red, orange, and yellow. On the right, a bright white light source emits a series of sharp, radiating lines in various colors, including blue, green, and yellow, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The overall color palette is a spectrum of rainbow colors.

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The bridge to possible

Automation-First Approach to Network Infrastructure Modernization for 5G & Beyond

Arghya Mukherjee, Principal Architect

BRKNWT-2203

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Agenda

- 5G - Automation imperatives
- 5G - Automation approaches
- 5G & Beyond - Automation use cases
- Takeaways

Automation imperatives for 5G



Challenges for Service Providers

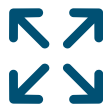
Bandwidth Continues to Grow 50% Year-over-Year

The world has gone mobile

Changing Customer Expectations
With AI, VR



3X Mobile Data Traffic Growth
(13-44 Mbps) From 2018-2023



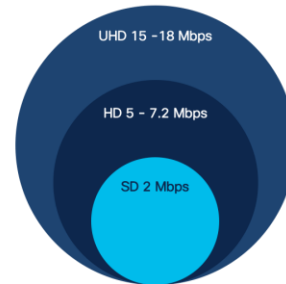
Ubiquitous Access
to Apps & Services

Massive IP traffic growth, driven by video

27% CAGR
2018-2023



Connected
4K TV Sets (M)



Rise of cloud computing

Changing SP
Architectures/
Service Delivery



Changing Enterprise
Business Models
Efficiency & Capacity

Digitization leading to IoT

Emergence of the Internet of Things



People



Process



Data



Things

OPEX pressures are driving SPs to take on automation & Orchestration initiatives

OPEX Pressures

- CSPs' network opex has been increasing since 2012.
- Opex as a percentage of revenue grew from 11% in 2012 to 15% in 2017
- Revenue declined by 13% during the same period.
- This is an unsustainable trend that will be exacerbated with the

Impact on Orchestration & Automation



Opex reduction is the main driver for network automation for 72% of CSPs



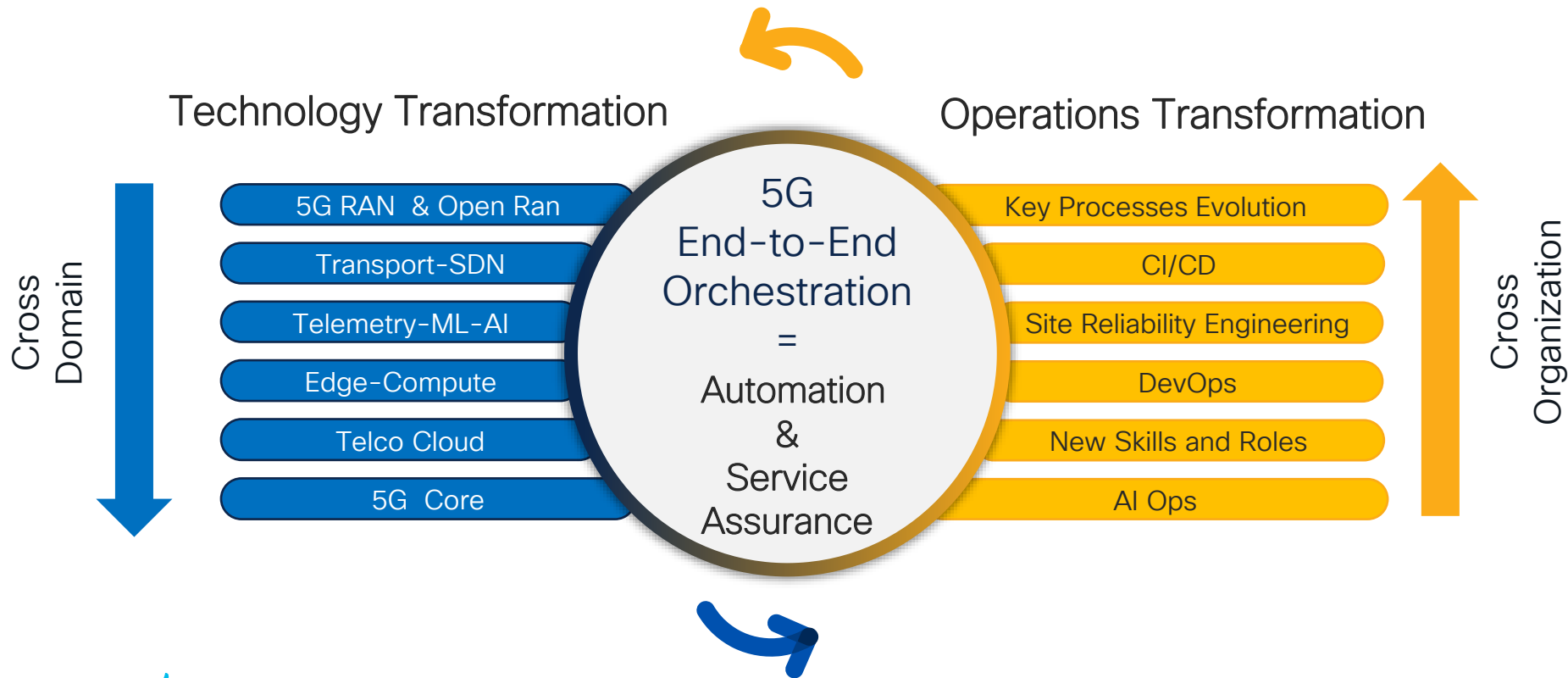
Source: Analysys Mason

Analysis Mason : Network automation: a solution framework for service agility and cost economics in cloud enabled 5G networks ; February 2020

Analysis Mason : Network automation survey: CSPs' automation initiatives ; MARCH 2020

Automating 5G End-to-End

A Transformational Journey driven by New Technologies & Operational process



5G Automation

Principles & approaches



Automation Architecture Principles



Separation of concerns
in management



Advanced
Operations



Intent-based



Model-driven,
open interfaces



Closed-loop
management and automation



Service
composability



Designed for
automation

Automation and Service Assurance Functional Taxonomy

Customer Facing Services

Service Catalog

Service Administration

Service Monitoring

External API Gateway

Baseline Services

Design-Time Services

Service Design Center

Network Design

Service Catalog

Workflow Design

Resource Catalog

Capacity Planning

VNF Catalog

Simulation & Staging

Run-Time Services

Assurance

Inventory Management

Resource Management

Topology

VNF Management

Service Assurance

Container Management

Network Optimization

Capacity Management

Fault Management

Policy Management

SLA Management

Compliance Management

Orchestration

Service Implementation & Testing

Resource Onboarding

VNF Onboarding

Workflow Management

Analytics

Network Analytics

Service Analytics

Customer Experience Analytics

ML Service

Security

Data Protection

Firewalling

Security Analytics

Identity Management

Lawful Intercept

Intrusion Detection / Prevention

Access Control

Policy Enforcement

CI/CD & Test Automation

CI/CD Pipeline

Test Case Library

Version Management

RFS Check

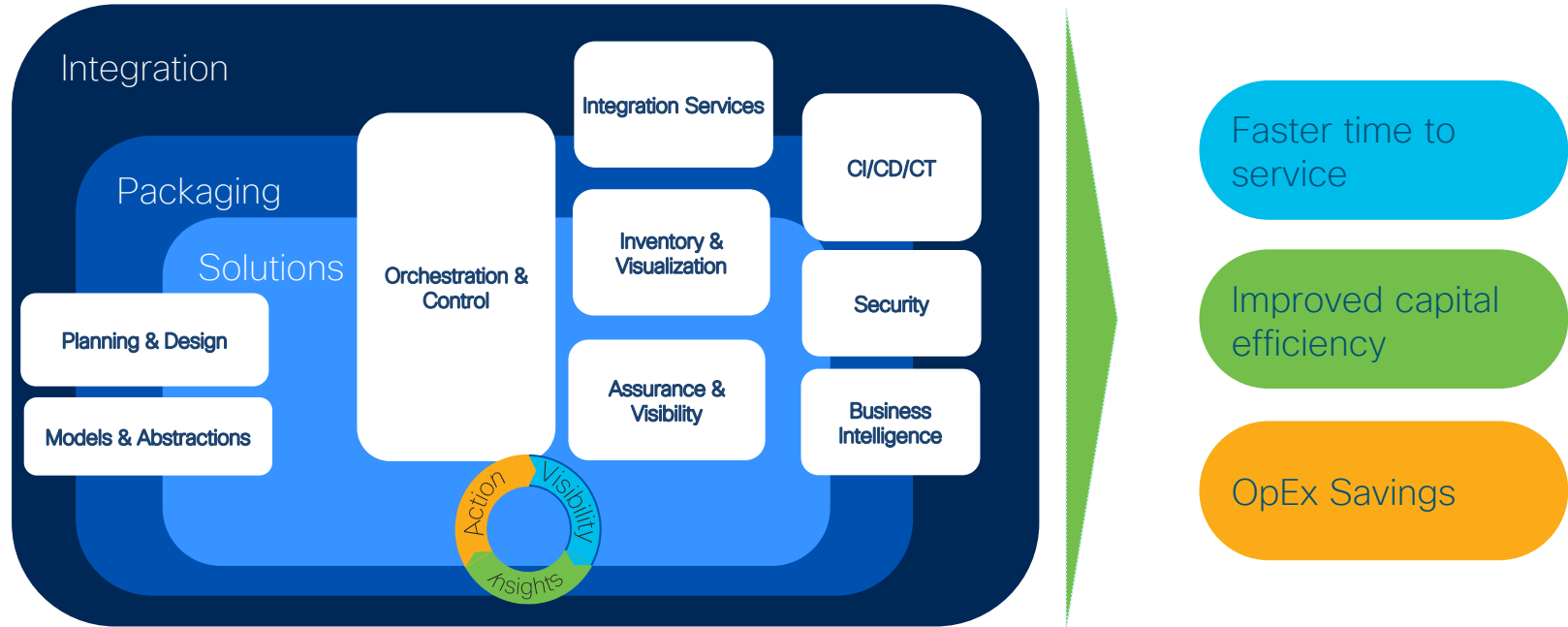
Test Regression Suite

Service Activation Test

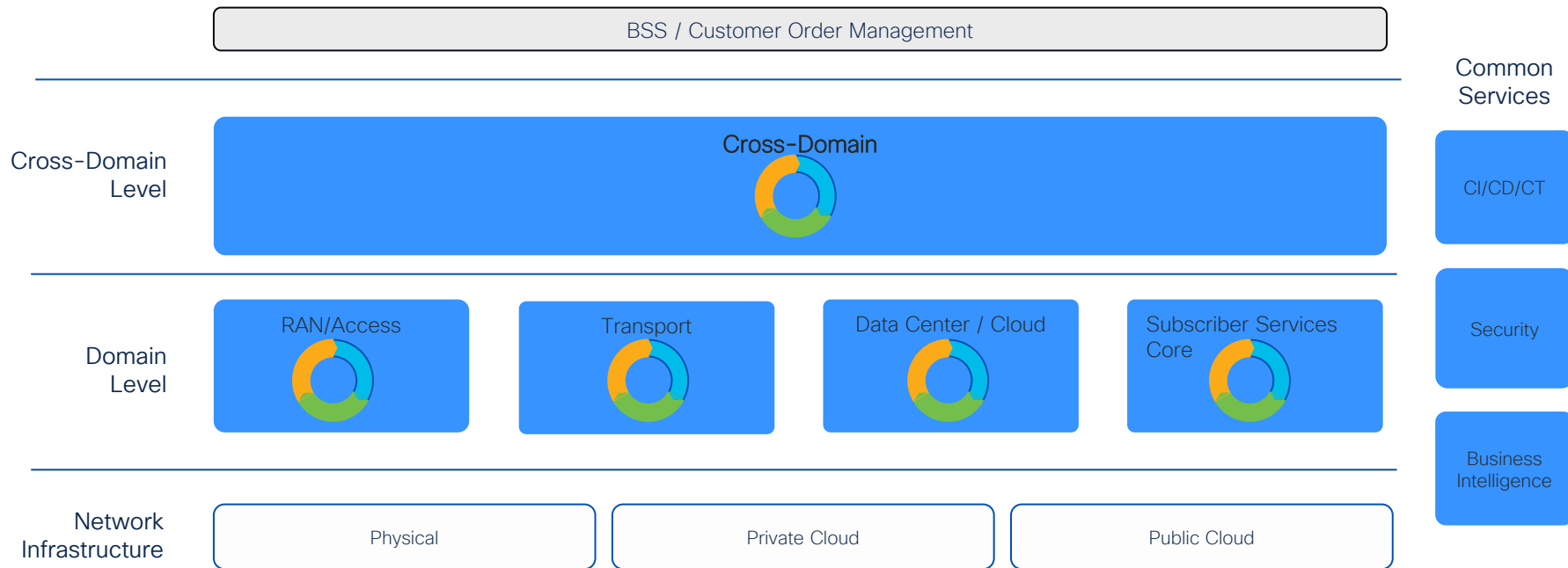
Deployment Automation

Test Automation Framework

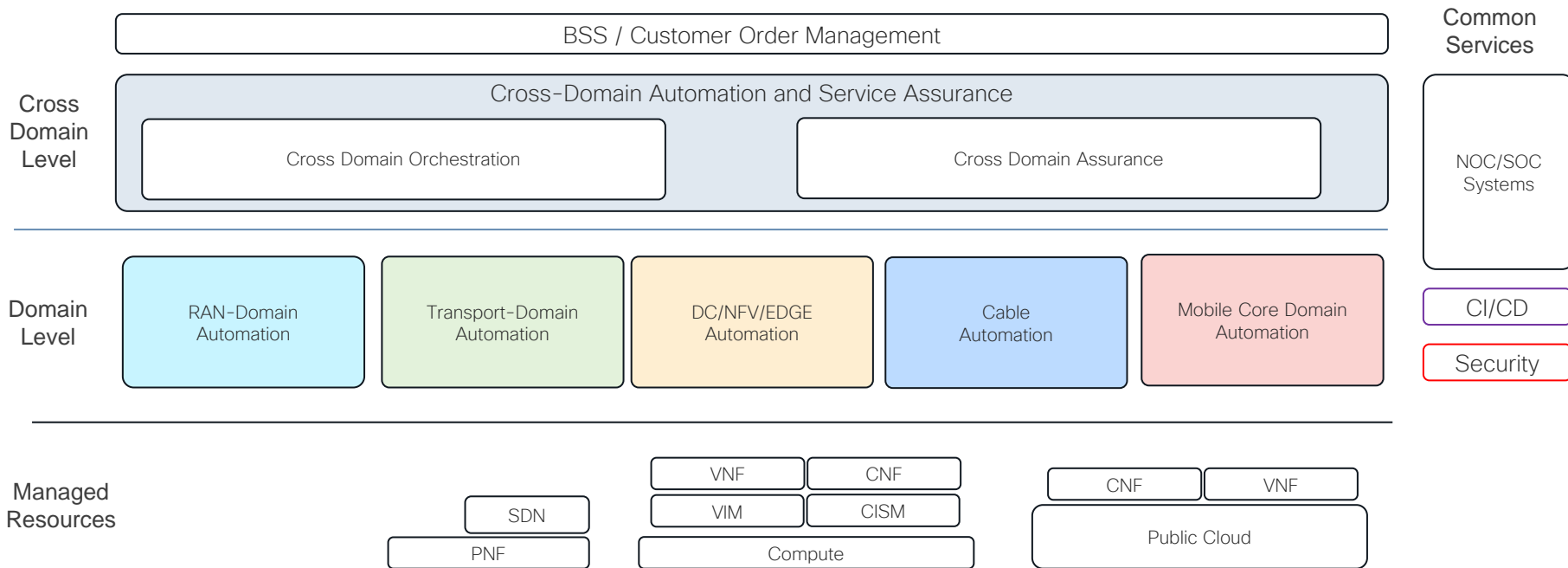
Automation building blocks – simplified



The automation journey – apply principles within and across domains



Automation and Service Assurance is Required in the Domain as Well as the Cross-Domain Levels



Automation System Objectives - Using 5G As an Example

- Use case A
- Use Case B
- Use case C

Operations

Design

Catalog

Initiate

Observe

Validate

Activate

Upgrade

Heal/Repair

Modify

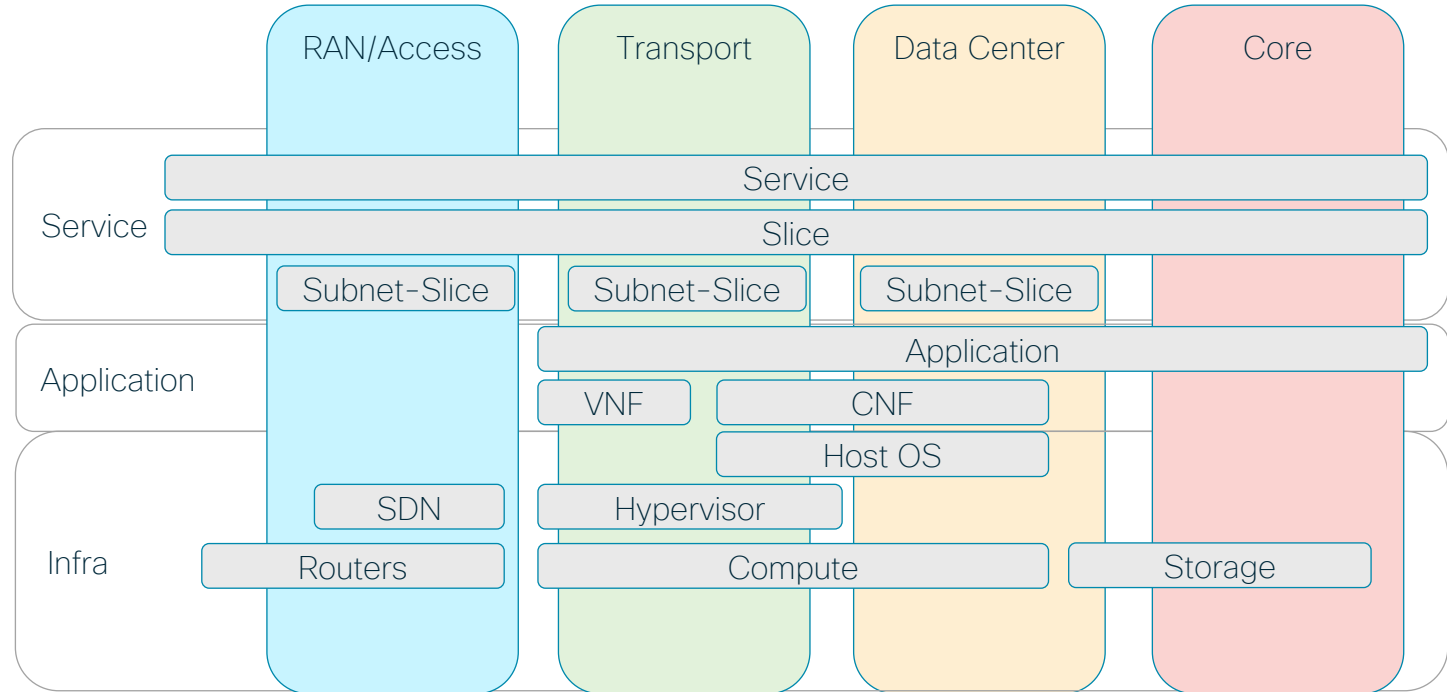
Scale-out

Scale-in

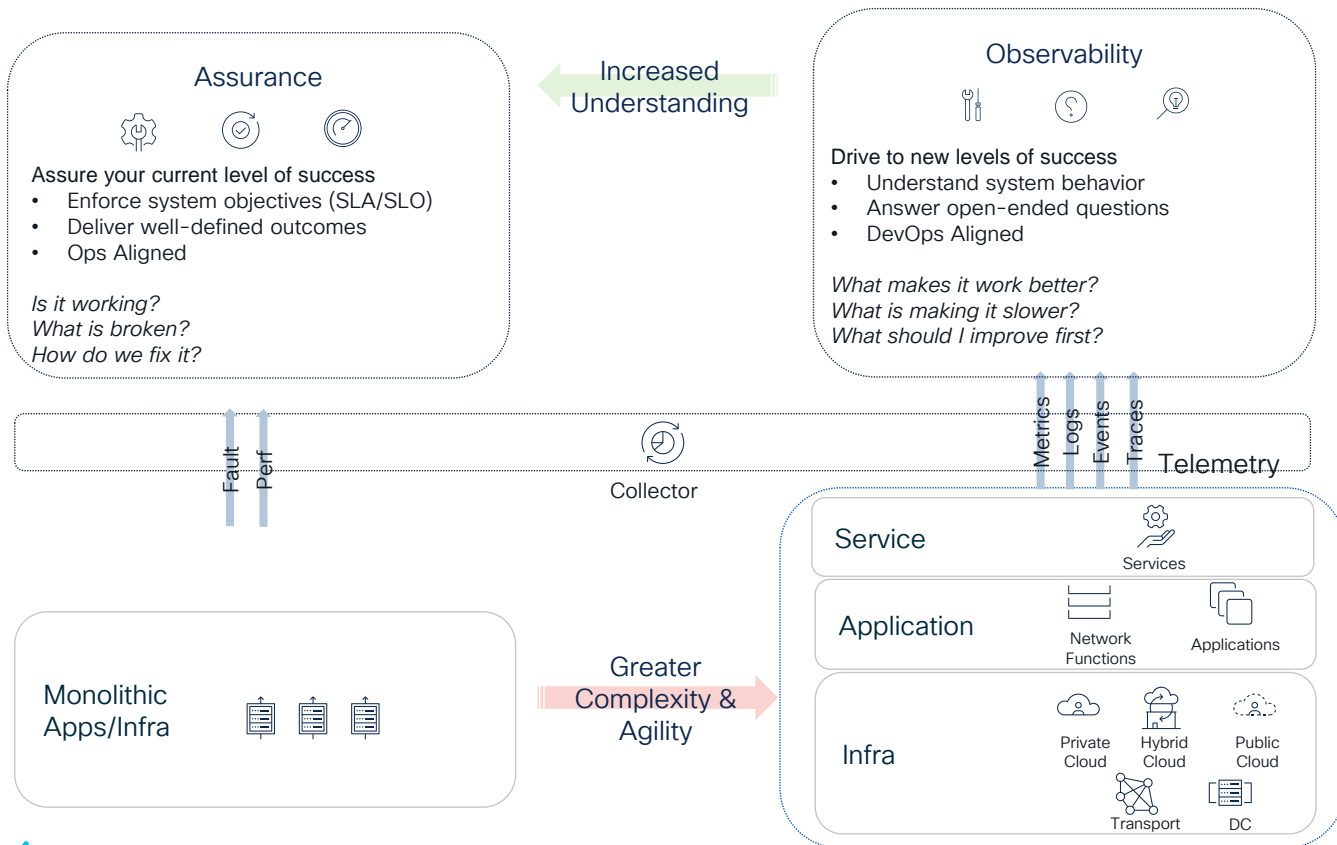
Backup

Restore

De-activate



Assurance and Observability



High Level Standards View – TMF/ETSI etc.

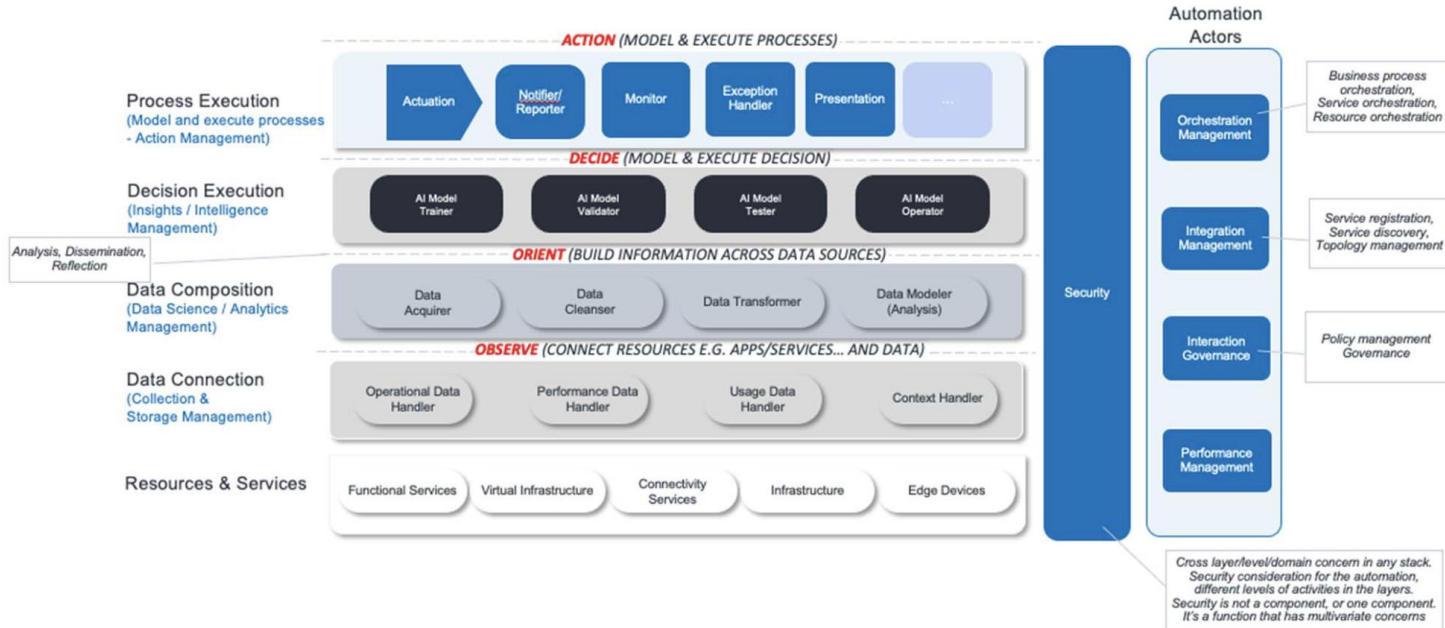


Figure 5.6.6-1: Logical Architecture of CLADRA
(Copyright © TM Forum 2020. All Rights Reserved.)

High Level Standards View – TMF/ETSI etc.

12

ETSI GS ZSM 009-1 V1.1.1 (2021-06)

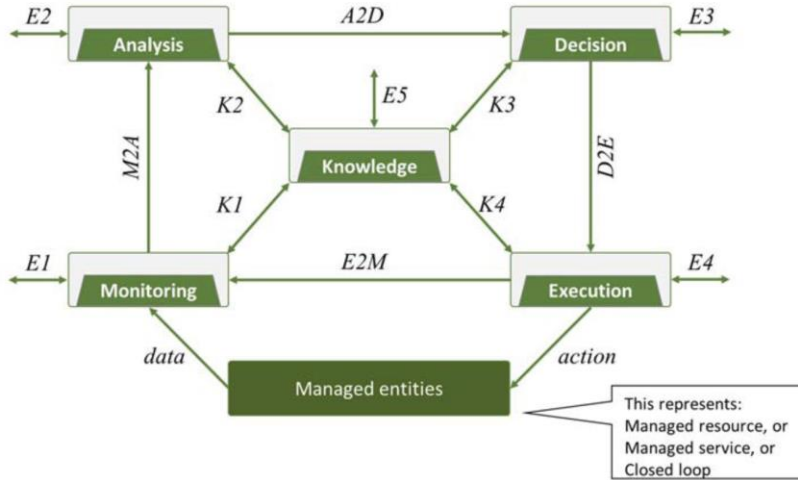


Figure 7.2.1-1: Functional view of a Closed Loop and its stages within the ZSM framework

Cross Domain Automation



Cross-Domain Level Opportunities / Challenges

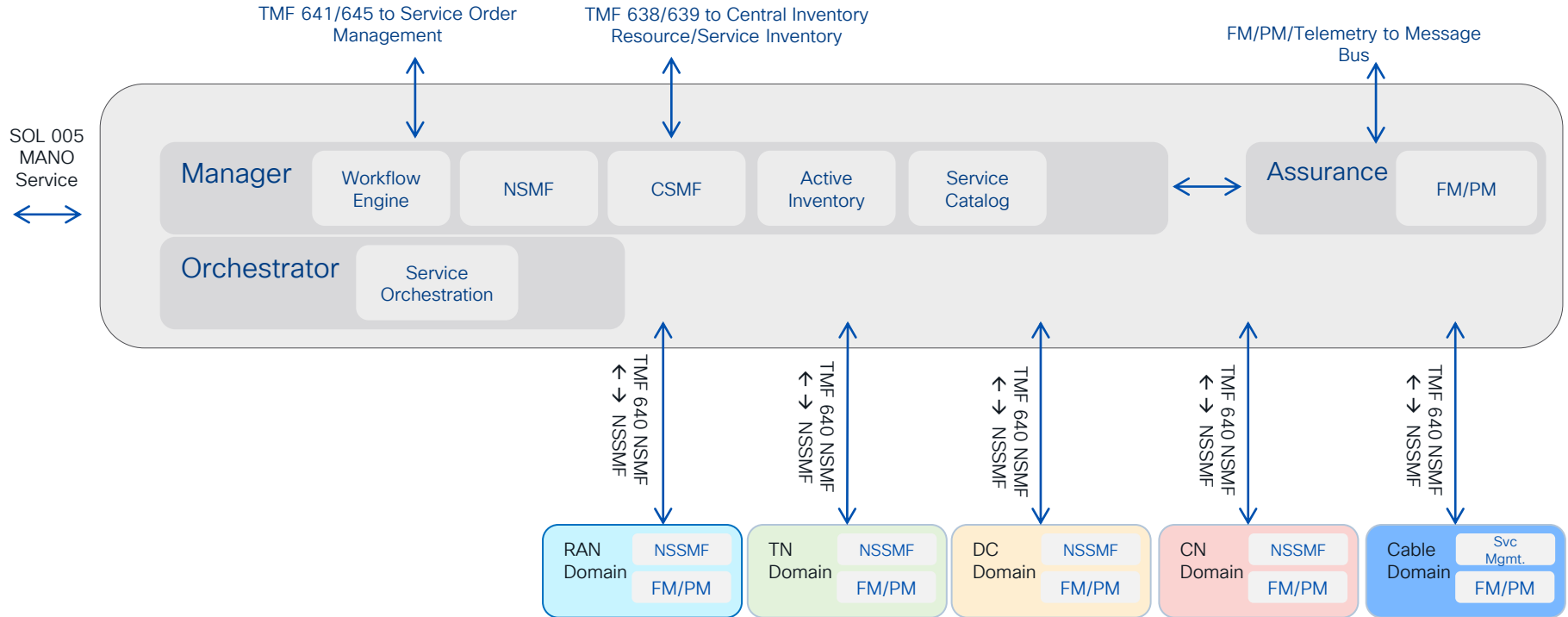
Opportunities

- Service and product agility
- Consolidated operations for all application platforms
- Reduced cost of operation
- New business models
- Opensource lowers s/w costs and potentially increases development velocity
- DevOps/CI-CD promise much higher feature velocity

Challenges

- Standardization for all domains is immature
- Service visibility and correlation is complex
- Require both application knowledge and infrastructure skills
- Each domain's requirements are different
- Complexity managing multi-domain services

Cross-Domain Automation

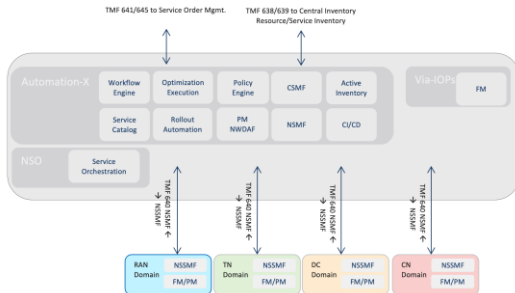


X-Domain Slice Management

Background

- Cross-Domain coordination
- Network slice management
- Performance guarantee and isolation
- Slicing resources and requirements

Solution Diagram



Components & Feature List

- **Manager**
 - Service Catalogue
 - Workflow Management
 - Integration and API management
- **Orchestrator**
 - Service Orchestration/Activation
 - Network Slice Template
 - Service Inventory

Value Added

- Consolidated Management of E2E service operation
- Delivered and Managed Network slices
- Enabled Zero touch operational model
- Optimize OPEX and TCO

Automation use cases



Tier 1 US SP: 5G Automation



Customer Needs

AWS Cloud greenfield deployment

Zero touch provisioning of 25,000+ CSRs, PE and vRouters using NSO

OS upgrade of 25,000 CSRs as part of ZTP

Golden configuration Audit of 25,000+ CSRs, PE and vRouters

Use Blue Planet Inventory (BPI) for querying transport data. IP address and VLAN management in Infoblox



Solution & Use Cases

NSO for pushing Day1 configuration to all CSRs along with configuring uplinks to PE devices

NSO for automatic OS upgrade of CSRs when not on target OS version.

Golden configuration audit and remediation using NSO

ZTP Orchestration across multi-vendor devices



Customer Outcomes

Provisioned 100+ sites per day with minimum user intervention. Reduced days and weeks of manual provisioning to few hours.

Reduced occurrences of devices going out of compliance by automatic and on demand golden config audits.

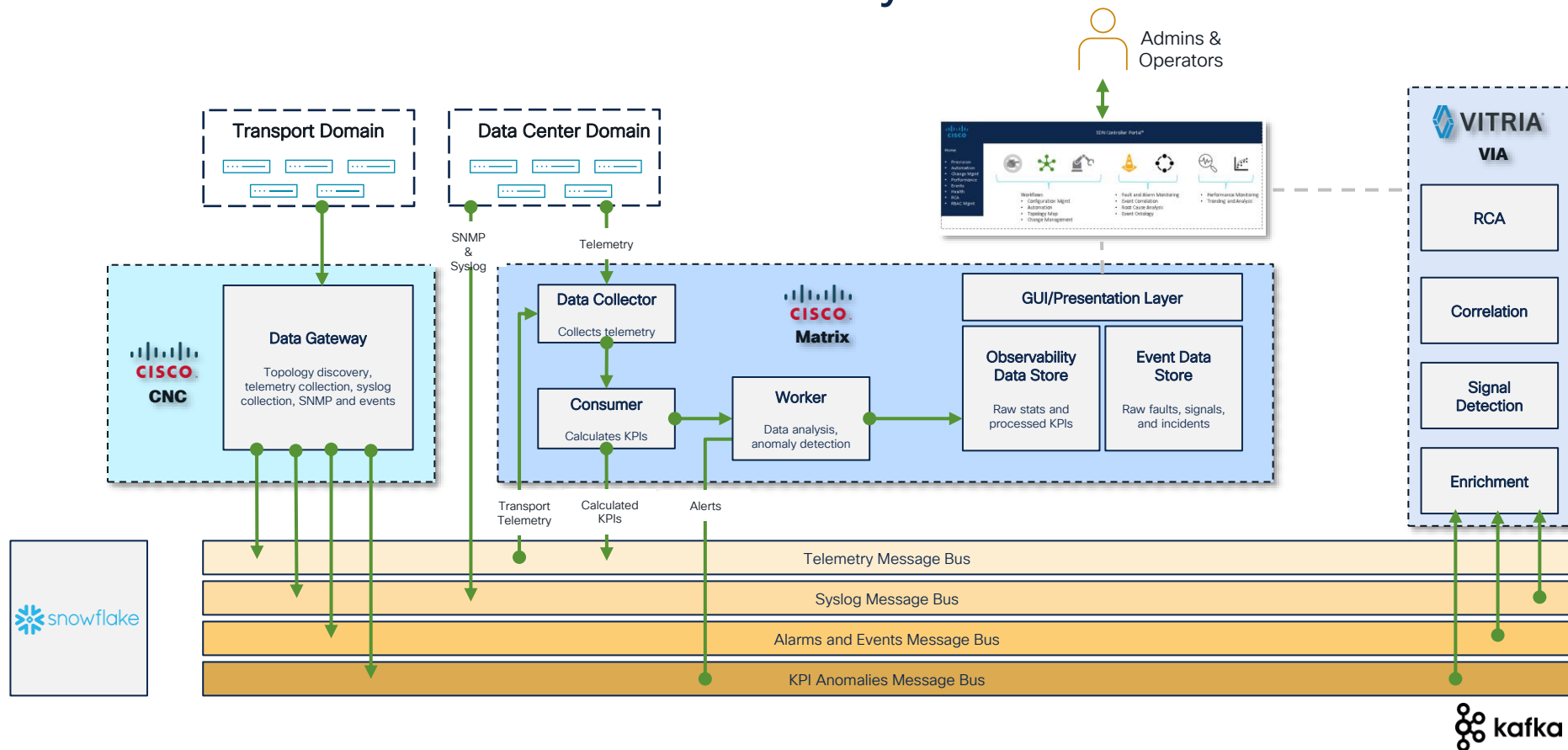
Automatic OS upgrade eliminated occurrences of devices getting provisioned with outdated OS on day1.



Deliver massive deployment and lifecycle scale through automation

Increase network stability and reliability through automation and observability

Tier 1 US SP – Observability & Assurance



Tier 1 US SP: 5G Automation

Software platform for automation, observability and assurance



AUTOMATION

ZERO TOUCH PROVISIONING



- Automated new device activation
- Configuration generation
- Mass scale deployment
- Pre/post operations

AUTOMATED TESTING



- Automated NRFU tests
- Consistent health checks
- On-demand latency/jitter reports

CONFIGURATION MGT



- Golden configurations
- Scan for drift
- Drift remediation

DEVICE LIFECYCLE MGT



- Automated change management
- Automated software upgrades
- Backup & recovery

ANALYTICS

OBSERVABILITY



- **Performance Management**
- Health scores
- Top-N dashboards
- Inventory dashboards
- Anomaly detection
- Threshold alarms
- Event generation
- National and individual market-level visualization

ASSURANCE



- **Fault Management**
- Event and log analysis
- Machine learning pattern recognition
- Event de-duplication
- Noise reduction
- Event correlation
- Root cause analysis
- Trend analysis

Tier 1 US SP – By the Numbers

Platform



14 on-time releases of SDN-C



4,200 user stories, enhancements and bug resolutions

Analytics



Capacity of more than 7k Zero Touch devices deployed per month



1,000 device configs audited and remediated per night



9,500 KPI thresholds calculated daily

Devices



8,000 under management as of January 2023



50,000 under management by end of 2023



900k SNMP traps and alarms received and correlated daily



9.5M logs collected and processed daily



254M telemetry data points collected and processed daily

Tier 1 EMEA Mobile SP: Telco Cloud Automated workload onboarding and LCM



Customer Needs

New Telco cloud infrastructure deployment under a single partner owning integration / operation over 5y

Automated infra management, certification and onboarding for 30+ telco workloads on 7+ datacenters

Adoption of DevOps practices in engineering and operations, to be scaled later throughout the entire organization



Solution & Use Cases

Workflow driven, CI/CD enabled workload certification and onboarding using 4 distinct pipelines from Dev to Production

Automated testing of workloads and infrastructure

Automated infrastructure deployment using Infra-as-Code principles

Advanced LCM use-cases including Auto-scaling and Self-healing



Customer Outcomes

30% improvement in infrastructure deployment time over legacy TC

50% improvement in workload certification time over the entire process (design to production ready)

12% improvement in TCO due to solution standardization and reduced operational burden

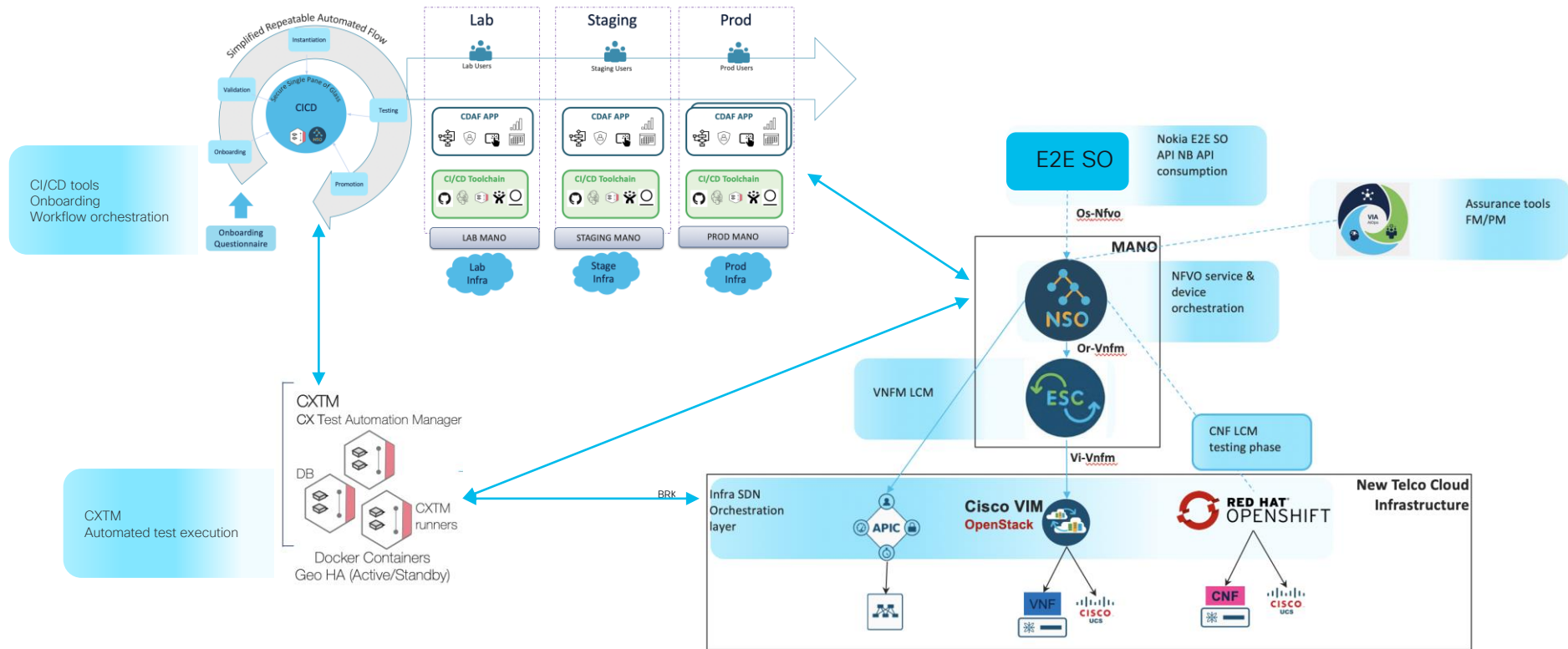


Automated infrastructure deployment and workload certification by leveraging CI/CD / NSO / Infra-as-Code and Test Automation leading to significant improvement in service TTM and TCO.

*"As a leading digital operator in the region, we have achieved a lot of transformative change in a short time. We have an opportunity with our cloud-first approach to improve the economics of 5G & Cloud stacks to transform the way we are dealing with our network to create faster and more compelling experiences at scale. We work together with Cisco seeking new ways to drive market differentiation and deliver business outcomes through agile, secure infrastructure, at every stage of the technology journey." - **Customer Executive***

Tier 1 EMEA Mobile SP: Automation Architecture

#2





Customer Needs

Complete overhaul of existing networks to cater high bandwidth requirement by delivering high-speed Mobile and IP services and modernise network operations to achieve fully autonomous network.



Solution & Use Cases

Introduced and integrated ASR920/NCS540 as (CSG) and NCS57C3 as (SCSG's) to provide higher resilience and service availability.

Fully Automated Enterprise Services on Transport network

Fully Automated GPON Subscriber Based AAA customers.

Several Closed Loop Self-healing and automated Provisioning Use Cases .

Automating with NSO for Accuracy, Speed Standardization, and simplification.

Achieved using Scaled Agile Framework (SaFe) and DevOps



Customer Outcomes

7500+ Cell Site automation

Bulk Speed Upgrade- 3months to 9 hrs.

BGP Optimization and Activation – 4hrs to 5 mins

Mobile service migration -20min to 5 mins

ACL rules Provisioning 5 min-2 sec

Along with more than 40 use cases, helped du achieve outstanding business results across various domains.



Significant improvement of Operations and Time to Market Metrics

Use Cases Progress Summary



Enterprise Services	Mobile Service	IGW	Residential Broadband Management (AAA)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EBB 2. IPTV 3. Voice 4. L3VPN L2VPN 5. Bulk Speed Upgrade 6. Orchestrated Assurance 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provisioning and Migration For: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2G,3G,4G,5G • EKMS,FTTA 2. DF File Generation 3. Cell Site Rollout 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BGP Public Peering Optimization 2. BGP Private Peering Optimization 3. BGP Transit Optimization 4. BGP Links Reconciliation 5. BGP Links Activation 6. Backhaul Links Optimization 7. BGP DDOs Attach Resolution 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internet Package Management 2. Bulk Migration 3. Subscriber Management
GPON Services	Data Center	Infrastructure	MISC
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OLT Management 2. CPE Management 3. Free IPTV 4. Residential Voice (HCS) 5. Residential Internet 6. Voice M-TRIX 7. V4CPE 8. CPE Management 9. OLT Migration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Firewall Policy Intent Automation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASR • FW • LB 2. ACI Automation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ZTP 2. Port/Lag Migration 3. Network Visualization 4. OS Upgrade 5. Backup/Restore 6. Port Cleanup/Reservation 7. Automated Capacity Management 8. APN Reporting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DPI 2. SDWAN 3. ODR 4. ACL 5. MOP Automation 6. Executive Mobile App 7. Webex ChatBot 8. Field Engineer Support App 9. Dashboards

< 50%

50%-75%

75%-100%

Business Value Realization

Use Case	Before Automation Baseline		After Automation Improvement
ACL Rules Provisioning	5 min		2 sec
Mobile Service Provisioning	15 min		5 min
Mobile Service Migration	20 min		10 min
Zero Touch Provisioning	90 min		20 min
BGP Optimization and Activation	4 Hours		5 min
ODR Reporting	3 Weeks		30 Min
Bulk Speed Upgrade	3 Months		9 Hours

Tier 1 US Mobile SP: 4G/5G NSO Automation



Customer Needs

New technology and deployment for 10000+ Mobile Core Gateways

Config Management for 10000+ Mobile Core Gateways, including CIQ Data Base to NSO Integration

Upgrade Management for 10000+ Mobile Core Gateways



Solution & Use Cases

UAS/UAME for Day-0 deployment across the Largest Mobile Core Customer Install Base

NSO for LTE, CUPS, UPF and SMF Config Management. Automated Config Management

NSO for StarOS BIN, VNF & CNF Upgrade. Automated Upgrade Management



Customer Outcomes

Recorded Deployment Time for the largest Ultra-M, VNFs & CNFs Across U.S.

Reduced Gateway's Config Management time from 2-3 Days per POD (~38 GWs) to 1-2 Hrs per Multiple PODs

Reduced Gateway's Upgrade Management time from 1-2 Days to 2-3 Hrs Per POD (~38 GWs)

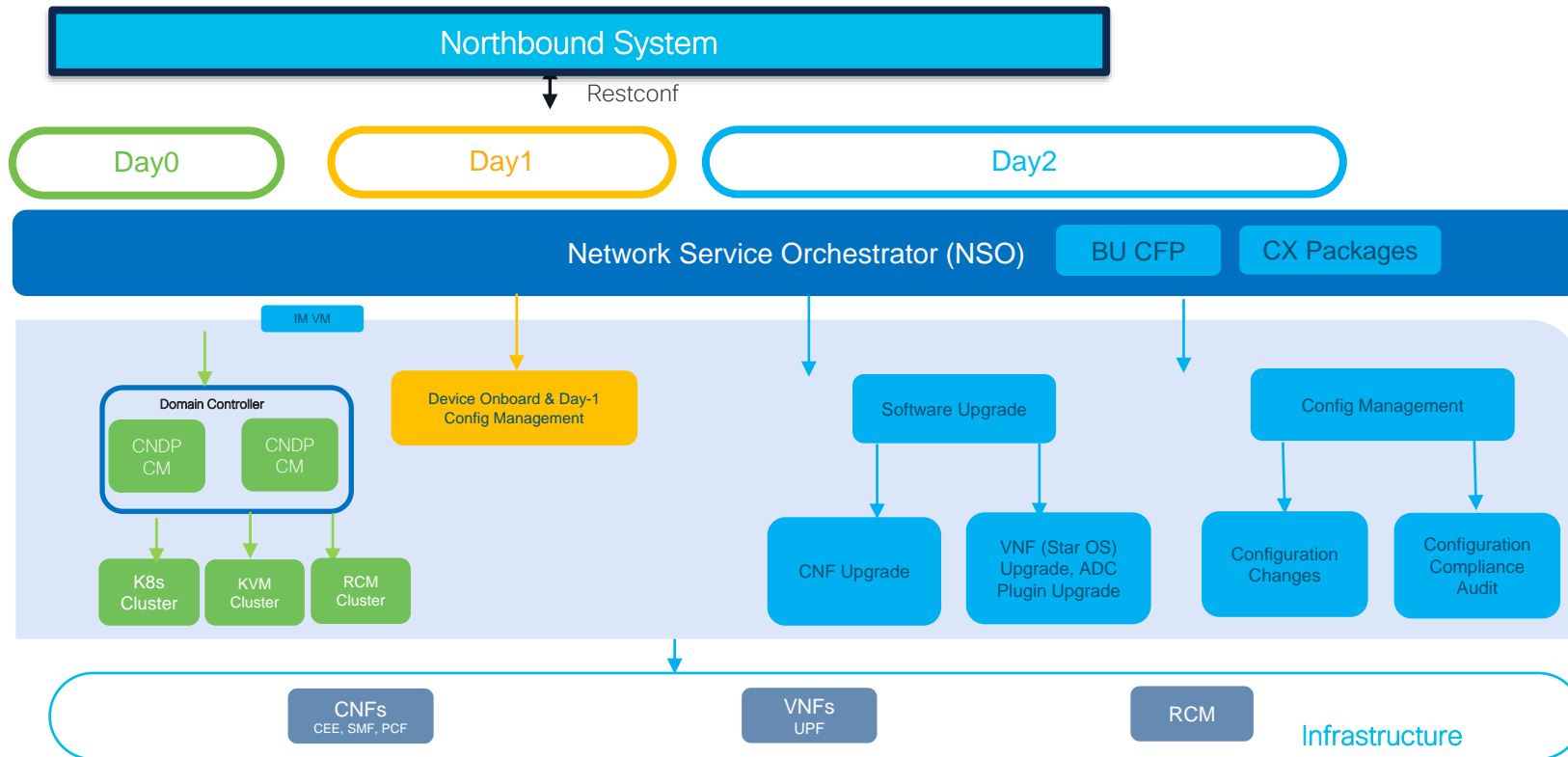
Callouts



Fully Automated Cisco solution that uses a broad mix of Cisco's flagship networking solutions, including Cisco 8k Series routers, 5G & 4G packet core GWs, Cisco (UCS), Nexus 9k Series Switches with NSO

*"This cloud native core gateway takes our network to new heights, allowing us to push 5G forward by delivering next-level performance for consumers and businesses nationwide while setting the stage for new applications enabled by next-gen networks" - **Customer Executive***

Tier 1 US Mobile SP: 4G/5G NSO Automation



Tier 1 Cable Service Provider in US



Customer Needs

Multivendor device management

Cisco/Vecima/Teleste RPHY lifecycle management across multiple SmartPHY instances

Calix PON lifecycle management across multiple Calix SMx instances

Automated OS Upgrade

Wifi Router/Switch config backups



Solution & Use Cases

Cisco-staffed Agile Team joins customer's Scaled Agile group for network automation

BPA/NSO Automated OSUpgrade of 550 CBR8, 450 Hubrouters

RPHY Password Change for California Compliance Law

Pre/Post checks for 7000 adTran Voice Devices

Backup of 1600 wifi devices to bitbucket using NSO



Customer Outcomes

OS Upgrade process time reduction from 10 days to 2 hrs /device

ZTP time reduction from 5 days to 1 hr

Allows accelerate deployment time for CBR8 and Hubrouter OSUpgrades

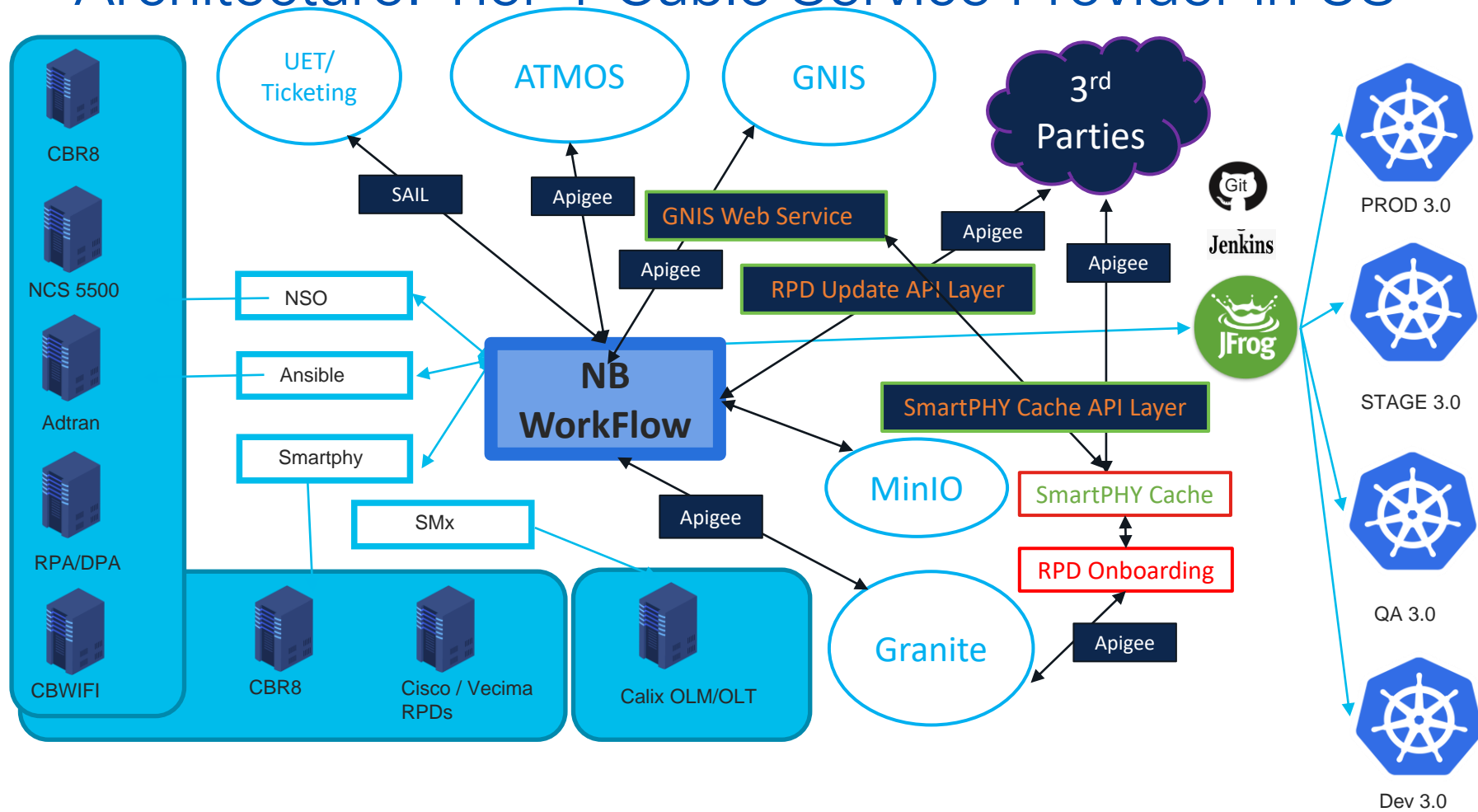
Backup of configs into bitbucket provides historical record of changes

Agile best practices implemented to ensure quality of feature development



Co-development with Customer

Continued Expansion & Adoption over years



Tier 1 SP, APJ - Massive Scale Automation for heterogeneous brown field network

#6

Customer Needs

- Automation of VPN services
- Automation across heterogeneous multi vendor network
- 88k devices| 650k services
- Continuous detection of out of band changes
- Zero tolerance to outages
- Low automation failure rates
- Observability
- Adapt to increasing load
- 24/7 system availability
- 2G/3G/4G/5G



Solution & Use Cases

- First Time complete network reconciliation
- On-demand reconciliation for every modify use case to detect out of band changes in the network
- Robust prechecks
- Detection of neighbor and aggregator devices
- Interactive Dashboards for insights
- Workflows that meet scale
- Agile | CI/CD/CT
- Automated regression testing
- Performance testing



Customer Outcomes

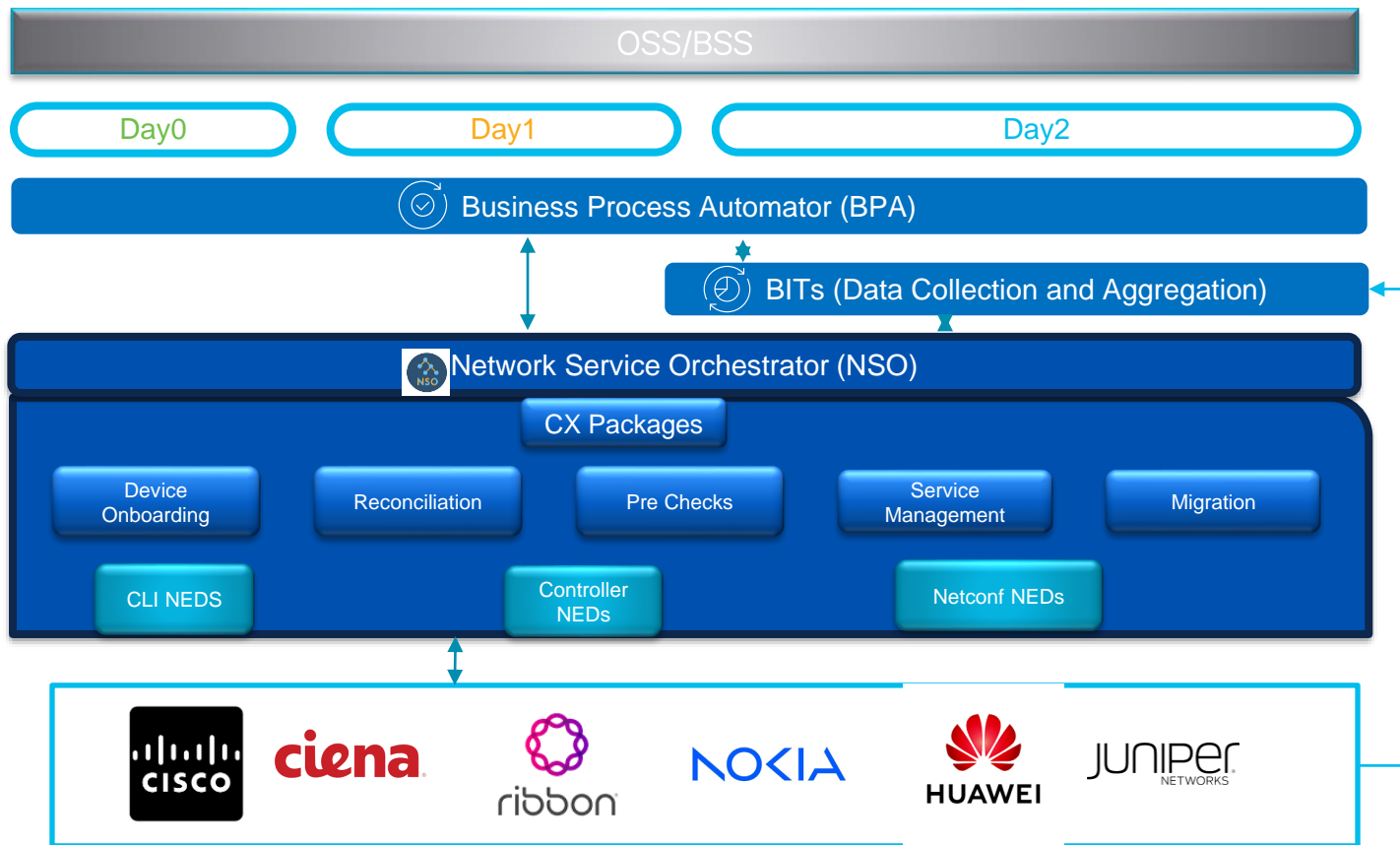
- ~ 90% adoption of provisioning
- ~ 1500 orders per day
- Service Reconciliation into NSO managed mode
- Day 2 Automation on Cisco and 3rd party devices
- Automated/Standardised Operations
- Seamless Service Migration
- Dashboards, reports, automated failure categorisation and analysis
- Manual processing decreased by 70%

Callouts



Fully Automated Cisco solution that uses a broad mix of Cisco's flagship network automation solutions to drive a mass scaled complex automation on Cisco, Nokia, Huawei, Juniper, ECI(Ribbon), Ciena devices over L2, L3, ISP services

Tier 1 SP – APJ – Brownfield Automation



Telco Cloud Solution – Tier1 SP ASEAN



Customer Needs

- Common Infrastructure using the NFVI
- Network/Telco and IT workloads
- Platform to allow automated onboarding of VNFs with common Physical and Virtual Infrastructure.
- Deliver the best quality service in Mobile and Fixed Network.
- Carrier Grade Platforms across all Technology Groups
- Close integration with multiple VNF vendors



Solution & Use Cases

- Open, Secure and Distributed Carrier Grade Horizontal NFVI Platform for Hosting Multi Vendor VNF's
- VNF Management and Network Orchestration with Automation
- Cisco CVIM NFVi | UCS-C Compute layer| APIC + ACI TOR Switches and catalyst 9300 (OOB) network Layer
- Onboarding & Validation testing of Cisco & 3rd Party VNF's (42 Unique VNFs)
- MANO Layer (BPA|NSO|ESC) for automation and orchestration
- 3rd Party VNF onboarding and validation in Testbed, Staging environments and supporting production roll-out.



Customer Outcomes

- Successfully deployed NFVi and Unified Management solution in 9 sites within stipulated timeframe
- (3 x Main DC, 2 x Regional DC and 2 x Edge DC sites including 1 x staging and 1 x testbed environments)
- Cisco MANO (BPA/NSO/ESC) deployed across 2 x Main DC sites (Geo-redundant)
- Automated onboarding over 20 VNFs (Nokia, Huawei, Ericsson, and others) in Staging and testbed environment and some VNFs already live in Production
- Proposal for multiple other automation & orchestration solutions

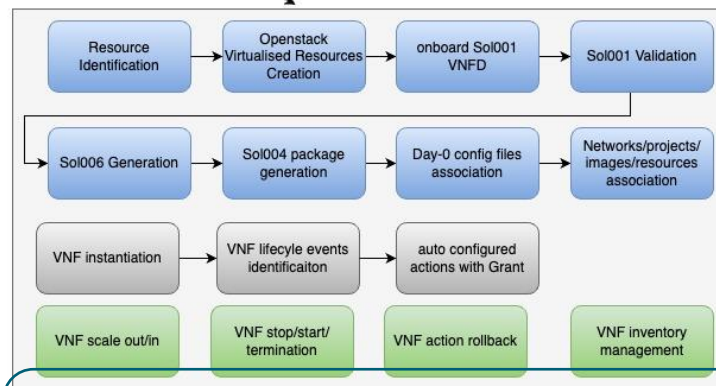
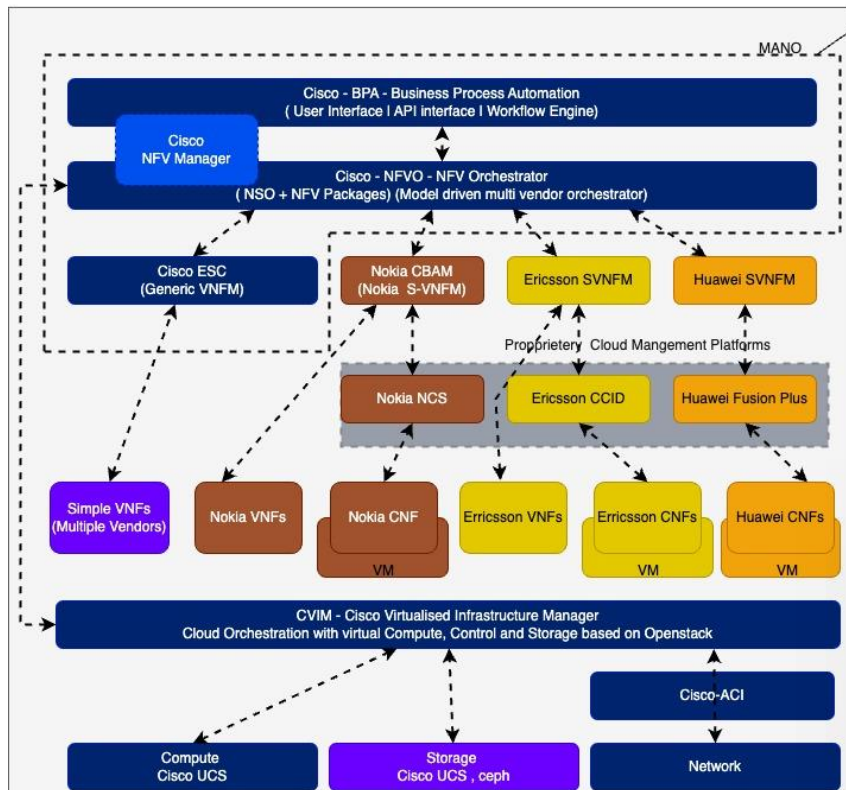
Callouts



- Automated onboarding over 20 VNFs, expected to reach 142
- Proposal for automating Infra provisioning including SDN ACI Fabric and CE Routers (Part of VNF onboard)
- Proposal for Automated FM (with AIOps), Performance Management and CI/CD Framework and Automated Testing
- Customer evaluating Cisco lead solution for Telco Cloud container Network Function (cNF) platform.

Telco Cloud Solution – Tier-1 SP ASEAN

#7



MANO

- The MANO layer is instrumental in orchestrating the following for VNFs:
 - user friendly interface to onboard VNFD (VNF Definitions)
 - interface to identify and assign resources for VNFs
 - options for VNFD Validation and onboarding and packaging
 - VNF instantiation and termination operations
 - VNF LCM operations
 - dashboards for monitoring and viewing the VNF inventory
 - Integrate with Cisco ESC / 3rd party

• 11 x Sites
• 3 x Main DC

• 3 x Regional DCs
• 5 x Edge DCs

• Network Function Virtualization Infrastructure (NFVI)
• NFV Management and Network Orchestration (MANO)

• NFVI Integration with ACI
• 3rd Party VNF onboarding & Validation

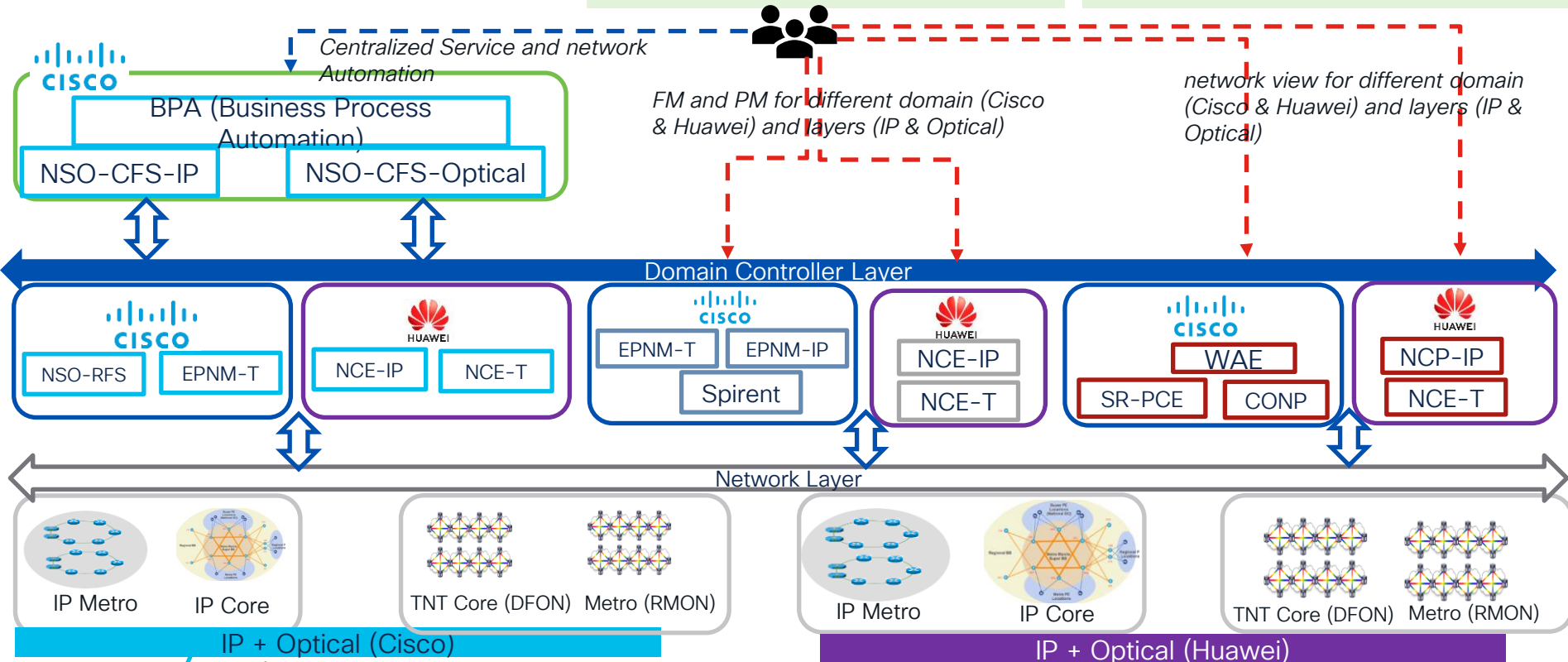
Transport Network Automation - Tier-1 SP ASEAN

#7

Service Orchestration & Process Automation

NMS/EMS, Network Visualization & Assurance

Network Planning (Visualization, optimization, Path Computation)



Service Orchestration and Process Automation

Transport Service Orchestration for Infra, Mobile and



35+ UCs

#7

Service Provisioning (IP)

L3VPN (H&S, FM), Multicast, L2VPN EVPN (ELINE, ELAN, ETREE), L2VPN Legacy (ELINE, ELAN, ETREE), SR-TE (Static, Dynamic, ODN), L3VPN (Hybrid), L2L3VPN (Distributed Multisite, Single Site), Standard QoS, DHCP Relay & Server, Bulk Provisioning, Standard RPL, Network Infra (Port-aggregation)

Service Provisioning (optical)

DFON (OTN + DWDM*) (With or Without Protection) – 10G, 100G, OTU4, OTU2, STM-64
PIIBL (OTN + DWDM*)(with or without Protection) – 10G, 100G, OTU4, OTU2, STM-64
RMON (with or without Protection) – 10G, 100G, OTU4, OTU2, STM-64

[*Only for cisco domain]

Visualization (service specific)

Service topology, Custom built vendor agnostic inventory, Search page or dashboard

Process Automation

Business Catalog designer, RBAC over Catalogs, Port Reservation, Bandwidth Calendaring, Bandwidth on Demand

Resource Management

Auto resource Allocation app
Global or local service resource management (Cisco & Huawei)
Global Pools – running no. (RD&RT), AC, PWs, Local Pools (Per device) – EVI-Ids, evpl-ids BD-Ids



Optical & IP – Multivendor

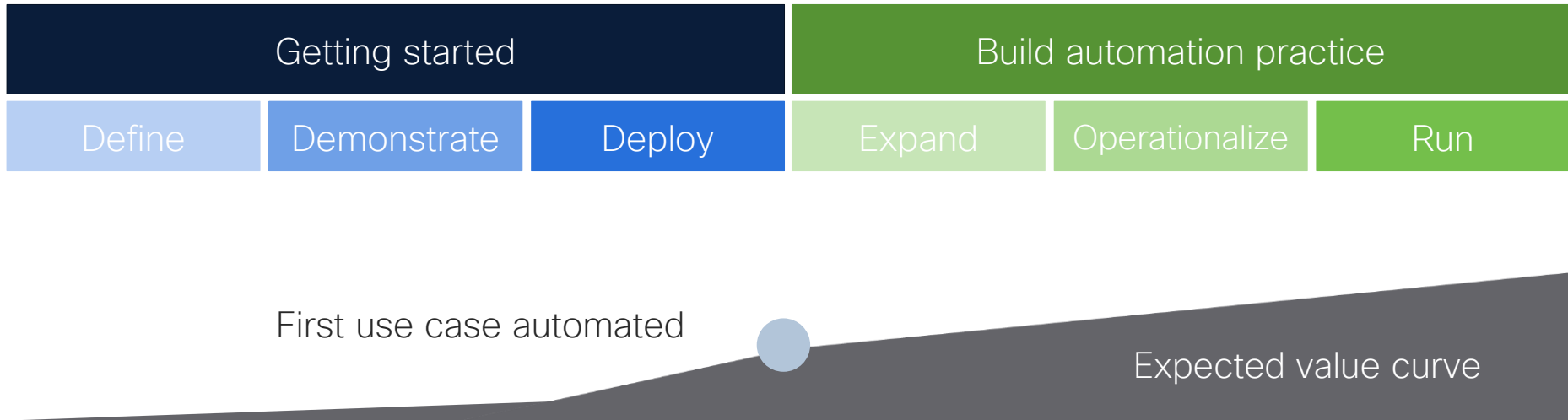


Master Controller – BPA, NSO CFS IP, NSO CFS Optical
Domain Controller – NSO RFS IP, EPNM Optical, NCE-IP, NCE-T

Key takeaways



Automation Value Curve



Automation Value Proposition per Step

Getting started

Define

General automation knowledge increased

Demonstrate

Stakeholder awareness created

Mindshift towards automation begun

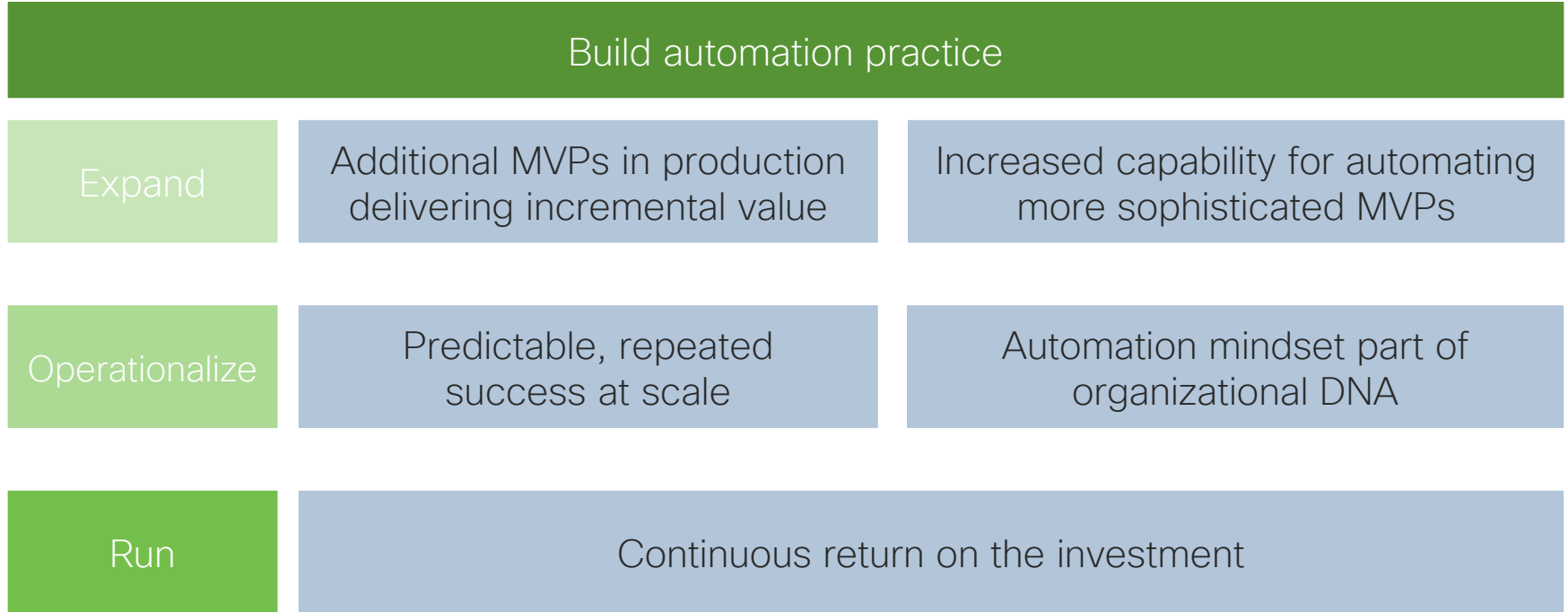
Increased organizational readiness for automation

Deploy

Positive momentum built

First small MVP use case in production

Automation Value Proposition per Step



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Attendees will also earn 100 points in the **Cisco Live Challenge** for every survey completed.



These points help you get on the leaderboard and increase your chances of winning daily and grand prizes

Continue your education



- Visit the Cisco Showcase for related demos
- Book your one-on-one Meet the Engineer meeting
- Attend the interactive education with DevNet, Capture the Flag, and Walk-in Labs
- Visit the On-Demand Library for more sessions at www.CiscoLive.com/on-demand



The bridge to possible

Thank you

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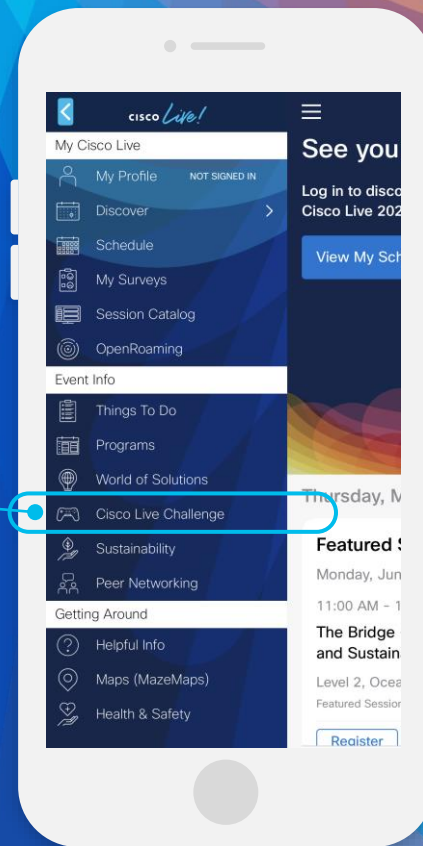
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How:

- 1 Open the Cisco Events App.
- 2 Click on 'Cisco Live Challenge' in the side menu.
- 3 Click on View Your Badges at the top.
- 4 Click the + at the bottom of the screen and scan the QR code:



The background is a vibrant, abstract graphic. It features a central bright white light source from which numerous colorful rays emanate, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The rays transition through a spectrum of colors including yellow, orange, red, and various shades of blue and green. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, wavy shapes in similar colors, giving the overall impression of energy, movement, and a digital or network theme.

cisco *Live!*

Let's go

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