

Revision History

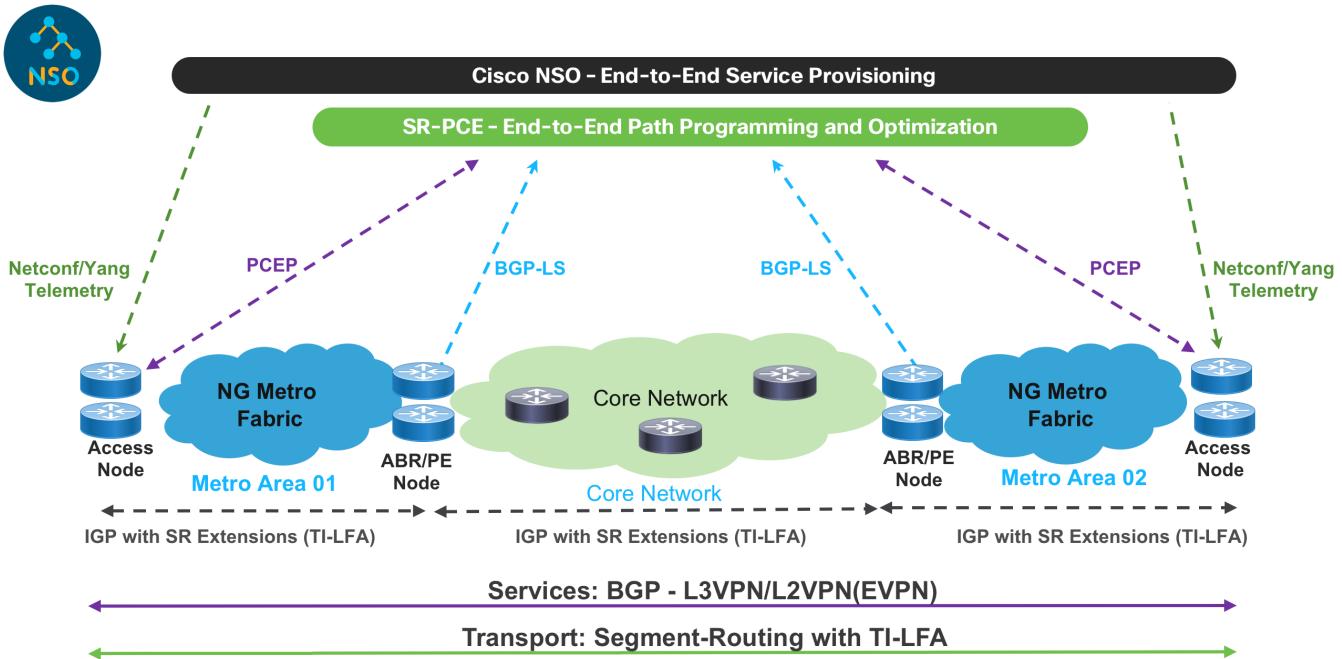
Version	Date	Comments
1.0	05/08/2018	Initial Converged SDN Transport publication
1.5	09/24/2018	NCS540 Access, ZTP, NSO Services
2.0	4/1/2019	Non-inline PE Topology, NCS-55A2-MOD, IPv4/IPv6/mLDP Multicast, LDP to SR Migration
3.0	1/1/2019	Converged Transport for Cable CIN, Multi-domain Multicast, Qos w/H-QoS access, MACSEC, Coherent Optic connectivity

Value Proposition

Service Providers are facing the challenge to provide next generation services that can quickly adapt to market needs. New paradigms such as 5G introduction, video traffic continuous growth, IoT proliferation and cloud services model require unprecedented flexibility, elasticity and scale from the network. Increasing bandwidth demands and decreasing ARPU put pressure on reducing network cost. At the same time, services need to be deployed faster and more cost effectively to stay competitive.

Metro Access and Aggregation solutions have evolved from native Ethernet/Layer 2 based, to Unified MPLS to address the above challenges. The Unified MPLS architecture provides a single converged network infrastructure with a common operational model. It has great advantages in terms of network convergence, high scalability, high availability, and optimized forwarding. However, that architectural model is still quite challenging to manage, especially on large-scale networks, because of the large number of distributed network protocols involved which increases operational complexity.

Converged SDN Transport design introduces an SDN-ready architecture which evolves traditional Metro network design towards an SDN enabled, programmable network capable of delivering all services (Residential, Business, 4G/5G Mobile Backhaul, Video, IoT) on the premise of simplicity, full programmability, and cloud integration, with guaranteed service level agreements (SLAs).



The Converged SDN Transport design brings tremendous value to Service Providers:

- **Fast service deployment** and **rapid time to market** through fully automated service provisioning and end-to-end network programmability
- **Operational simplicity** with less protocols to operate and manage
- **Smooth migration towards an SDN-ready architecture** thanks to backward-compatibility with existing network protocols and services
- **Next generation service** creation leveraging guaranteed SLAs
- **Enhanced and optimized operations** using telemetry/analytics in conjunction with automation tools

The Converged SDN Transport design is targeted at Service Provider customers who:

- Want to evolve their existing Unified MPLS Network
- Are looking for an SDN ready solution
- Need a simple, scalable design that can support future growth
- Want a future proof architecture built using industry-leading technology

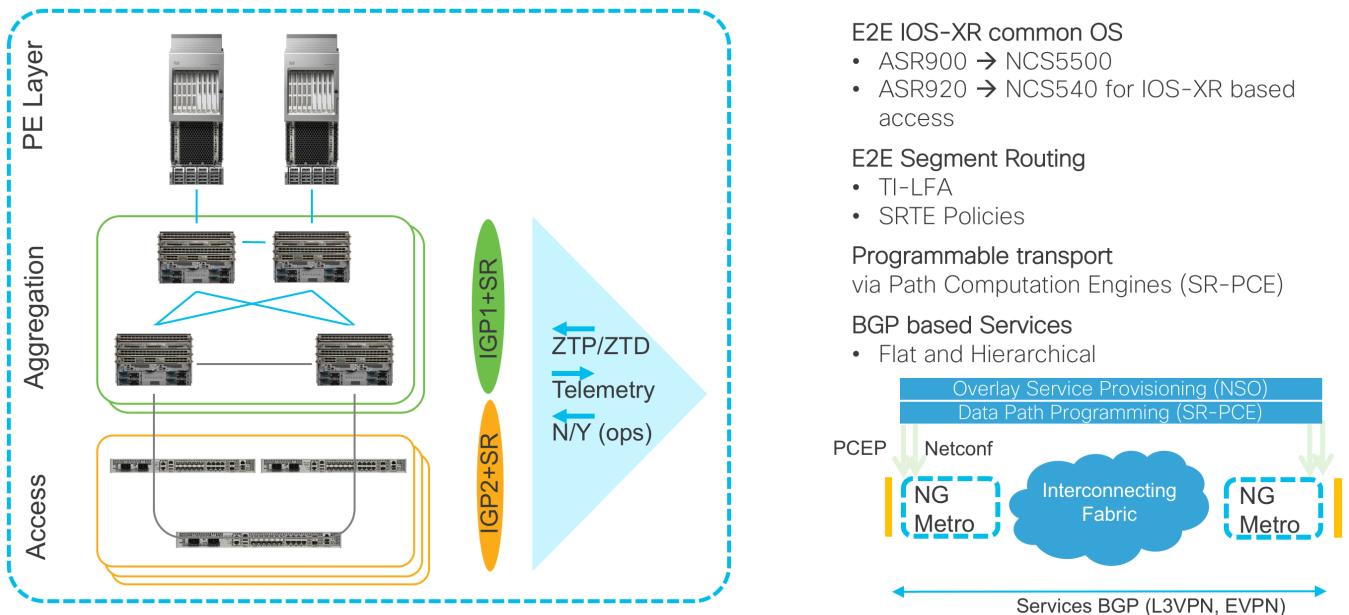
Summary

The Converged SDN Transport design satisfies the following criteria for scalable next-generation networks:

- **Simple:** based on Segment Routing as unified forwarding plane and EVPN and L3VPN as a common BGP based control plane
- **Programmable:** Using SR-PCE to program end-to-end multi-domain paths across the network with guaranteed SLAs

- **Automated** : Service provisioning is fully automated using NSO and YANG models; Analytics with model driven telemetry in conjunction with Crosswork Network Insights to enhance operations and network visibility
- **Repeatable**: The Converged SDN

Technical Overview



The Converged SDN Transport design evolves from the successful Cisco Evolved Programmable Network (EPN) 5.0 architecture framework, to bring greater programmability and automation.

In the Converged SDN Transport design, the transport and service are built on-demand when the customer service is requested. The end-to-end inter-domain network path is programmed through controllers and selected based on the customer SLA, such as the need for a low latency path.

The Converged SDN Transport is made of the following main building blocks:

- **IOS-XR as a common Operating System** proved in Service Provider Networks
- **Transport Layer** based on **Segment Routing** as Unified Forwarding Plane
- **SDN - Segment Routing Path Computation Element (SR-PCE)** as Cisco Path Computation Engine (PCE) coupled with Segment Routing to provide **simple** and **scalable** inter-domain transport connectivity and Traffic Engineering and Path control
- **Service Layer** for Layer 2 (EVPN) and Layer 3 VPN services based on **BGP as Unified Control Plane**
- **Automation and Analytics**
 - NSO for service provisioning
 - Netconf/YANG data models

- Telemetry to enhance and simplify operations
- Zero Touch Provisioning and Deployment (ZTP/ZTD)

Transport – Design Components

Network Domain Structure

To provide unlimited network scale, the Converged SDN Transport is structured into multiple IGP Domains: Access, Aggregation, and Core. Refer to the network topology in Figure 1.

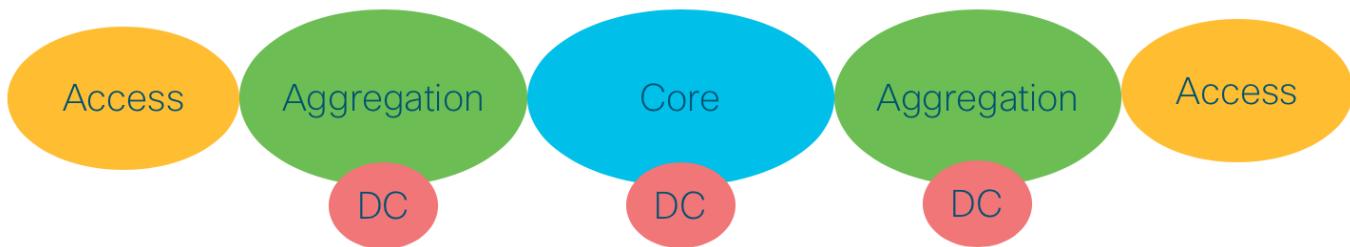


Figure 1: High scale fully distributed

The network diagram in Figure 2 shows how a Service Provider network can be simplified by decreasing the number of IGP domains. In this scenario the Core domain is extended over the Aggregation domain, thus increasing the number of nodes in the Core.

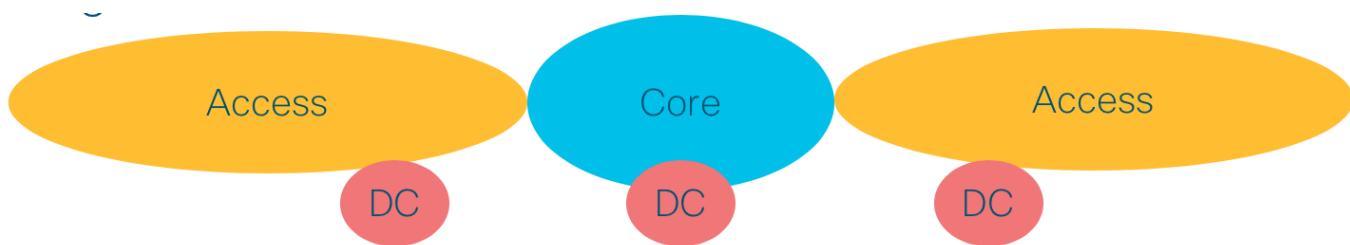


Figure 2: Distributed with expanded access

A similar approach is shown in Figure 3. In this scenario the Core domain remains unaltered and the Access domain is extended over the Aggregation domain, thus increasing the number of nodes in the Access domain.:%s/

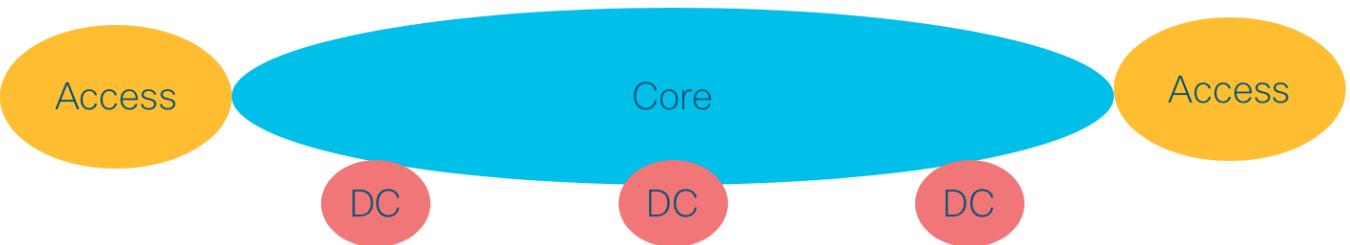


Figure 3: Distributed with expanded core

The Converged SDN Transport transport design supports all three network options, while remaining easily customizable.

The first phase of the Converged SDN Transport, discussed later in this document, will cover in depth the scenario described in Figure 3.

Topology options and PE placement - Inline and non-inline PE

The non-inline PE topology, shown in the figure below, moves the services edge PE device from the forwarding path between the access/aggregation networks and the core. There are several factors which can drive providers to this design vs. one with an in-line PE, some of which are outlined in the table below. The control-plane configuration of the Converged SDN Transport does not change, all existing ABR configuration remains the same, but the device no longer acts as a high-scale PE.

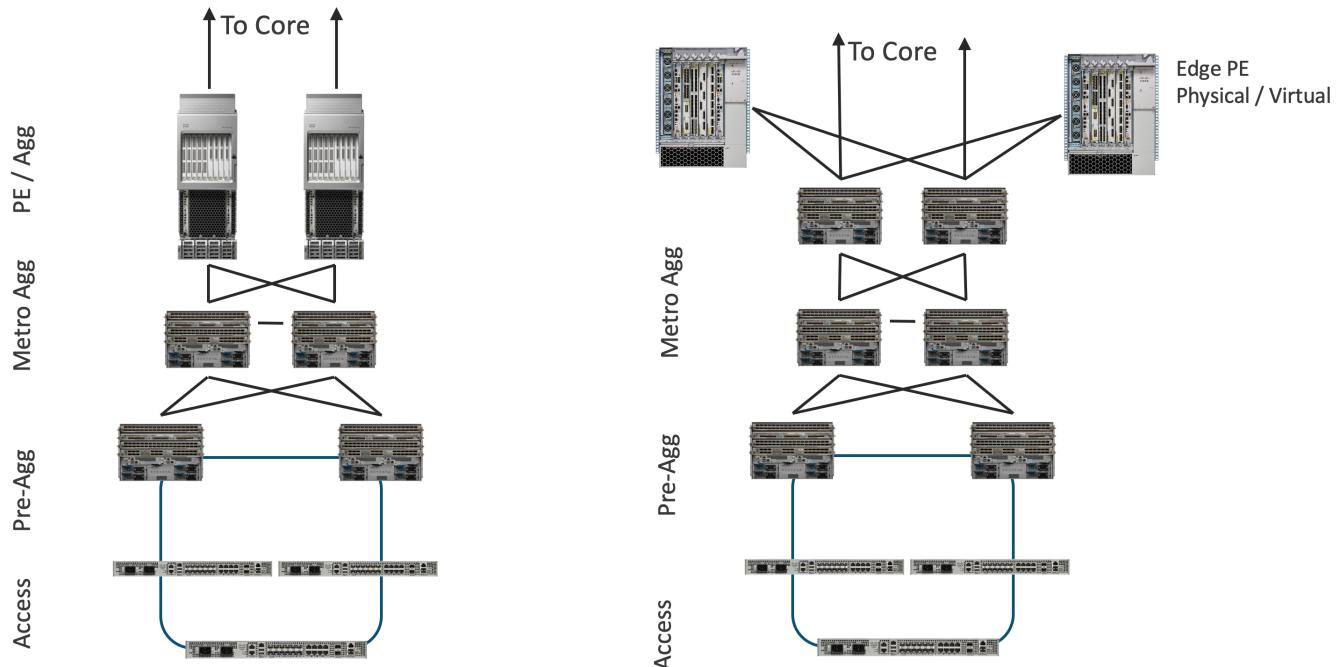


Figure: Non-Inline Aggregation Topology

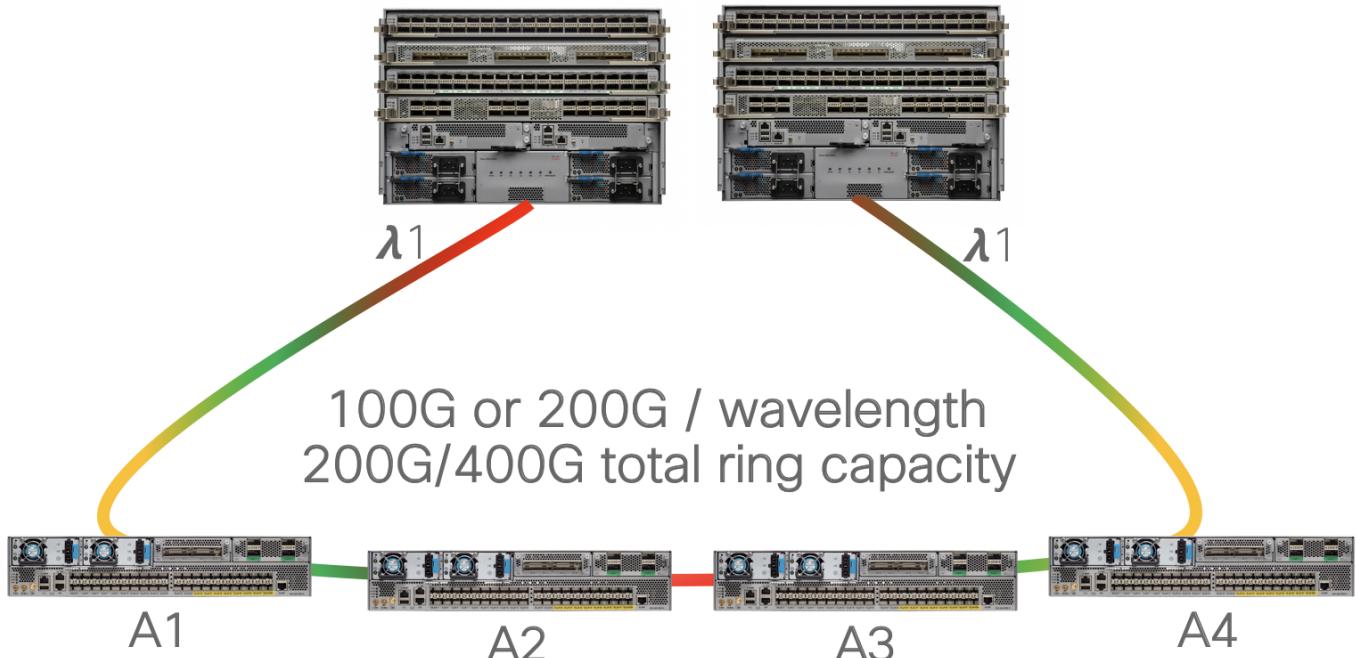
Connectivity using 100G/200G coherent optics w/MACSec

In Converged SDN Transport 3.0 we add support for the use of pluggable CFP2-DCO transceivers to enable high speed aggregation and access network infrastructure. As endpoint bandwidth increases due to technology innovation such as 5G and Remote PHY, access and aggregation networks must grow from 1G and 10G to 100G and beyond. Coherent router optics simplify this evolution by allowing an upgrade path to increase ring bandwidth up to 400Gbps without deploying costly DWDM optical line systems.

MACSec is an industry standard protocol running at L2 to provide encryption across Ethernet links. In CST 3.0 MACSec is enabled across CFP2-DCO access to aggregation links. MACSec support is hardware dependent, please consult individual hardware data sheets for MACSec support.

Ring deployment without multiplexers

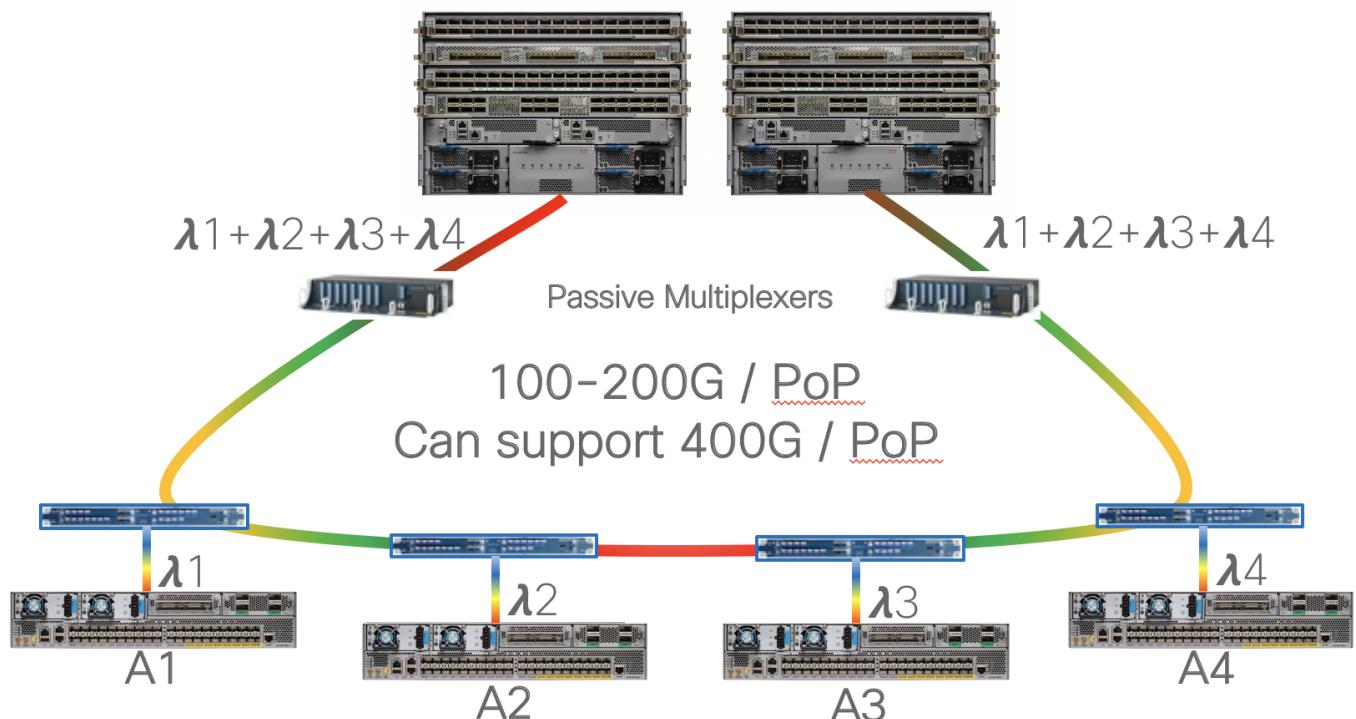
In the simplest deployment access rings are deployed over dark fiber, enabling plug and play operation up to 80km without amplification.



CFP2-DCO DWDM ring deployment

Ring deployment with multiplexer

In this option the nodes are deployed with active or passive multiplexers to maximize fiber utilization rings needing more bandwidth per ring site. While this example shows each site on the ring having direct DWDM links back to the aggregation nodes, a hybrid approach could also be supported targeting only high-bandwidth locations with direct links while leaving other sites on a an aggregation ring.



CFP2-DCO DWDM hub and spoke or partial mesh deployment

The Cisco NCS 55A2-MOD and 55A2-MOD-SE hardened modular platform has a mix of fixed SFP+ and SFP28 ports along with two MPA slots. The coherent aggregation and access solution can utilize either the 2xCFP2-

DCO MPA or 2xQSFP28+1xCFP2-DCO MPA. The same MPA modules can be used in the 5504, 5508, and 5516 chassis using the NC55-MOD-A-S and NC55-MODD-A-SE line cards, with 12xSFP+ and 2xQSFP+ ports.



Cisco 55A2 modular hardened router



Cisco NCS 5500 chassis modular line card

Intra-Domain

Intra-Domain Routing and Forwarding

The Converged SDN Transport is based on a fully programmable transport that satisfies the requirements described earlier. The foundation technology used in the transport design is Segment Routing (SR) with a MPLS based Data Plane in Phase 1 and a IPv6 based Data Plane (SRv6) in future.

Segment Routing dramatically reduces the amount of protocols needed in a Service Provider Network. Simple extensions to traditional IGP protocols like ISIS or OSPF provide full Intra-Domain Routing and Forwarding Information over a label switched infrastructure, along with High Availability (HA) and Fast Re-Route (FRR) capabilities.

Segment Routing defines the following routing related concepts:

- Prefix-SID – A node identifier that must be unique for each node in a IGP Domain. Prefix-SID is statically allocated by the network operator.
- Adjacency-SID – A node's link identifier that must be unique for each link belonging to the same node. Adjacency-SID is typically dynamically allocated by the node, but can also be statically allocated.

In the case of Segment Routing with a MPLS Data Plane, both Prefix-SID and Adjacency-SID are represented by the MPLS label and both are advertised by the IGP protocol. This IGP extension eliminates the need to use LDP or RSVP protocol to exchange MPLS labels.

The Converged SDN Transport design uses ISIS as the IGP protocol.

Intra-Domain Forwarding - Fast Re-Route

Segment-Routing embeds a simple Fast Re-Route (FRR) mechanism known as Topology Independent Loop Free Alternate (TI-LFA).

TI-LFA provides sub 50ms convergence for link and node protection. TI-LFA is completely stateless and does not require any additional signaling mechanism as each node in the IGP Domain calculates a primary and a backup path automatically and independently based on the IGP topology. After the TI-LFA feature is enabled, no further

care is expected from the network operator to ensure fast network recovery from failures. This is in stark contrast with traditional MPLS-FRR, which requires RSVP and RSVP-TE and therefore adds complexity in the transport design.

Please refer also to the Area Border Router Fast Re-Route covered in Section: "Inter-Domain Forwarding - High Availability and Fast Re-Route" for additional details.

Inter-Domain

Inter-Domain Forwarding

The Converged SDN Transport achieves network scale by IGP domain separation. Each IGP domain is represented by separate IGP process on the Area Border Routers (ABRs).

Section: "Intra-Domain Routing and Forwarding" described basic Segment Routing concepts: Prefix-SID and Adjacency-SID. This section introduces the concept of Anycast SID. Segment Routing allows multiple nodes to share the same Prefix-SID, which is then called a "Anycast" Prefix-SID or Anycast-SID. Additional signaling protocols are not required, as the network operator simply allocates the same Prefix SID (thus a Anycast-SID) to a pair of nodes typically acting as ABRs.

Figure 4 shows two sets of ABRs:

- Aggregation ABRs – AG
- Provider Edge ABRs – PE

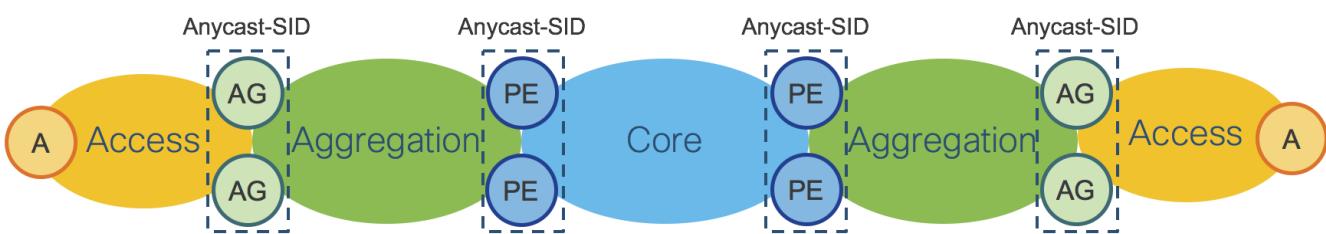


Figure 4: IGP Domains - ABRs Anycast-SID

Figure 5 shows the End-To-End Stack of SIDs for packets traveling from left to right through the network.

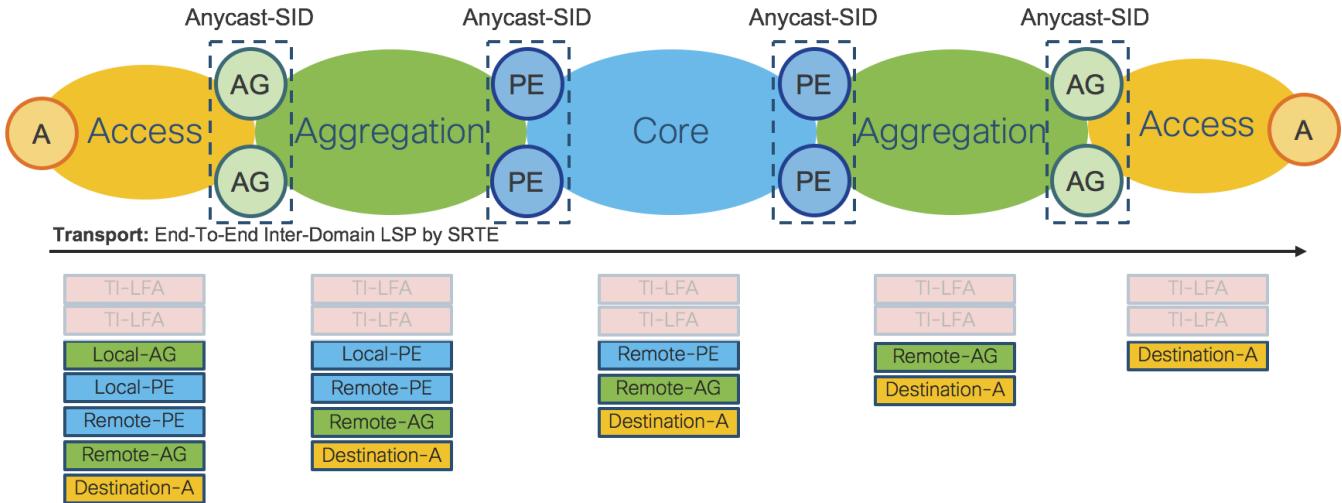


Figure 5: Inter-Domain LSP – SR-TE Policy

The End-To-End Inter-Domain Label Switched Path (LSP) was computed via Segment Routing Traffic Engineering (SR-TE) Policies.

On the Access router “A” the SR-TE Policy imposes:

- Local Aggregation Area Border Routers Anycast-SID: Local-AG Anycast-SID
- Local Provider Edge Area Border Routers Anycast-SID: Local-PE Anycast SID
- Remote Provider Edge Area Border Routers Anycast-SID: Remote-PE Anycast-SID
- Remote Aggregation Area Border Routers Anycast-SID: Remote-AG Anycast-SID
- Remote/Destination Access Router: Destination-A Prefix-SID: Destination-A Prefix-SID

The SR-TE Policy is programmed on the Access device on-demand by an external Controller and does not require any state to be signaled throughout the rest of the network. The SR-TE Policy provides, by simple SID stacking (SID-List), an elegant and robust way to program Inter-Domain LSPs without requiring additional protocols such as BGP-LU (RFC3107).

Please refer to Section: "Transport Programmability" for additional details.

V### Area Border Routers – Prefix-SID vs Anycast-SID

Section: "Inter-Domain Forwarding" showed the use of Anycast-SID at the ABRs for the provisioning of an Access to Access End-To-End LSP. When the LSP is set up between the Access Router and the AG/PE ABRs, there are two options:

1. ABRs are represented by Anycast-SID; or
2. Each ABR is represented by a unique Prefix-SID.

Choosing between Anycast-SID or Prefix-SID depends on the requested service. Please refer to Section: "Services - Design".

Note that both options can be combined on the same network.

Inter-Domain Forwarding - High Availability and Fast Re-Route

AG/PE ABRs redundancy enables high availability for Inter-Domain Forwarding.

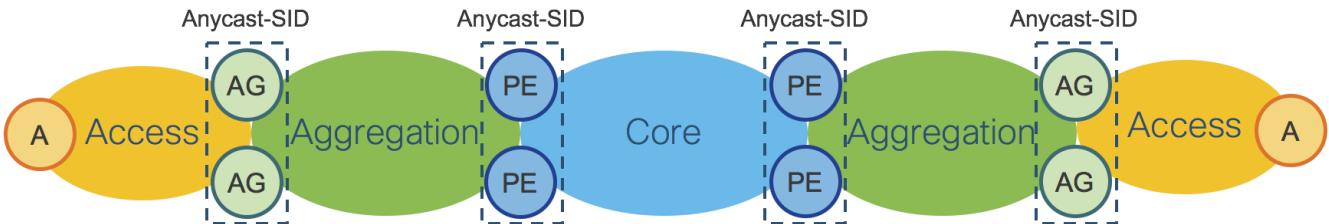


Figure 7: IGP Domains - ABRs Anycast-SID

When Anycast-SID is used to represent AG or PE ABRs, no other mechanism is needed for Fast Re-Route (FRR). Each IGP Domain provides FRR independently by TI-LFA as described in Section: "Intra-Domain Forwarding - Fast Re-Route".

Figure 8 shows how FRR is achieved for a Inter-Domain LSP.

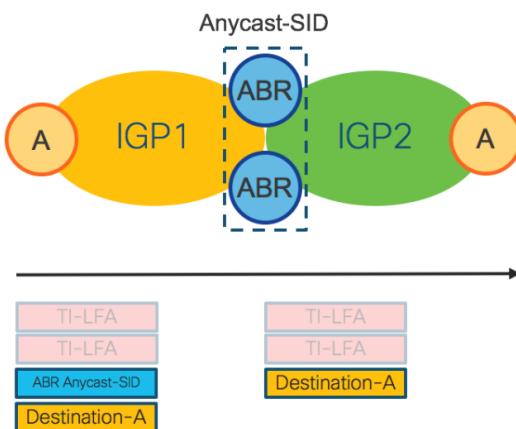


Figure 8: Inter-Domain - FRR

The access router on the left imposes the Anycast-SID of the ABRs and the Prefix-SID of the destination access router. For FRR, any router in IGP1, including the Access router, looks at the top label: "ABR Anycast-SID". For this label, each device maintains a primary and backup path preprogrammed in the HW. In IGP2, the top label is "Destination-A". For this label, each node in IGP2 has primary and backup paths preprogrammed in the HW. The backup paths are computed by TI-LFA.

As Inter-Domain forwarding is achieved via SR-TE Policies, FRR is completely self-contained and does not require any additional protocol.

Note that when traditional BGP-LU is used for Inter-Domain forwarding, BGP-PIC is also required for FRR.

Inter-Domain LSPs provisioned by SR-TE Policy are protected by FRR also in case of ABR failure (because of Anycast-SID). This is not possible with BGP-LU/BGP-PIC, since BGP-LU/BGP-PIC have to wait for the IGP to converge first.

Transport Programmability

Figure 9 and Figure 10 show the design of Route-Reflectors (RR), Segment Routing Path Computation Element (SR-PCE) and WAN Automation Engines (WAE). High-Availability is achieved by device redundancy in the Aggregation and Core networks.

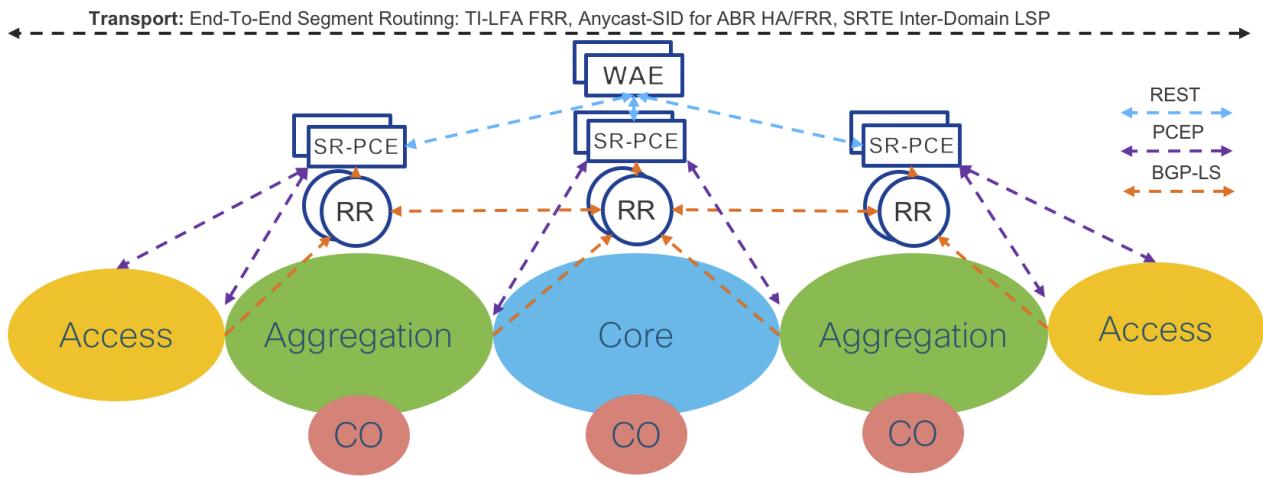


Figure 9: Transport Programmability – PCEP

Transport RRs collect network topology from ABRs through BGP Link State (BGP-LS). Each Transport ABR has a BGP-LS session with the two Domain RRs. Each domain is represented by a different BGP-LS instance ID.

Aggregation Domain RRs collect network topology information from the Access and the Aggregation IGP Domain (Aggregation ABRs are part of the Access and the Aggregation IGP Domain). Core Domain RRs collect network topology information from the Core IGP Domain.

Aggregation Domain RRs have BGP-LS sessions with Core RRs.

Through the Core RRs, the Aggregation Domains RRs advertise local Aggregation and Access IGP topologies and receive the network topologies of the remote Access and Aggregation IGP Domains as well as the network topology of the Core IGP Domain. Hence, each RR maintains the overall network topology in BGP-LS.

Redundant Domain SR-PCEs have BGP-LS sessions with the local Domain RRs through which they receive the overall network topology. Refer to Section: "Segment Routing Path Computation Element (SR-PCE)" for more details about SR-PCE.

SR-PCE is then capable of computing the Inter-Domain LSP path on-demand. The computed path (Segment Routing SID List) is communicated to the Service End Points via a Path Computation Element Protocol (PCEP) response

as shown in Figure 9, or BGP-SR-TE, as shown in Figure 10. In the case of PCEP, SR-PCEs and Service End Points communicate directly, while for BGP-SR-TE, they communicate via RRs. Phase 1 uses PCEP only.

The Service End Points create a SR-TE Policy and use the SID list returned by SR-PCE as the primary path.

Service End Points can be located on the Access Routers for Flat Services or at both the Access and ABR routers for Hierarchical Services. The SR-TE Policy Data Plane in the case of Service End Point co-located with the Access router was described in Figure 5.

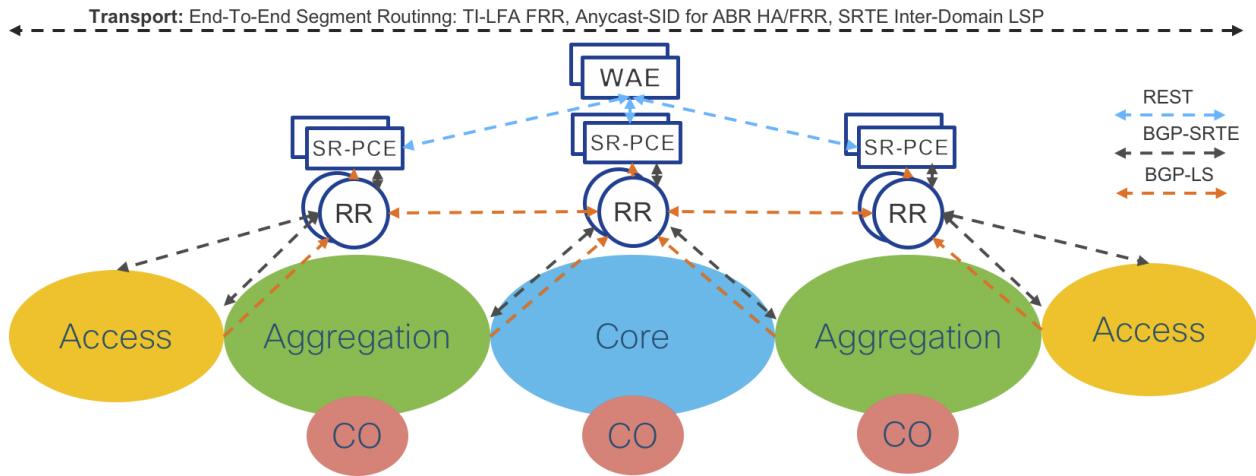


Figure 10: Transport Programmability – BGP-SR-TE

The proposed design is very scalable and can be easily extended to support even higher numbers of BGP-SR-TE/PCEP sessions by adding additional RRs and SR-PCE elements into the Access Domain.

Figure 11 shows the Converged SDN Transport physical topology with examples of product placement.

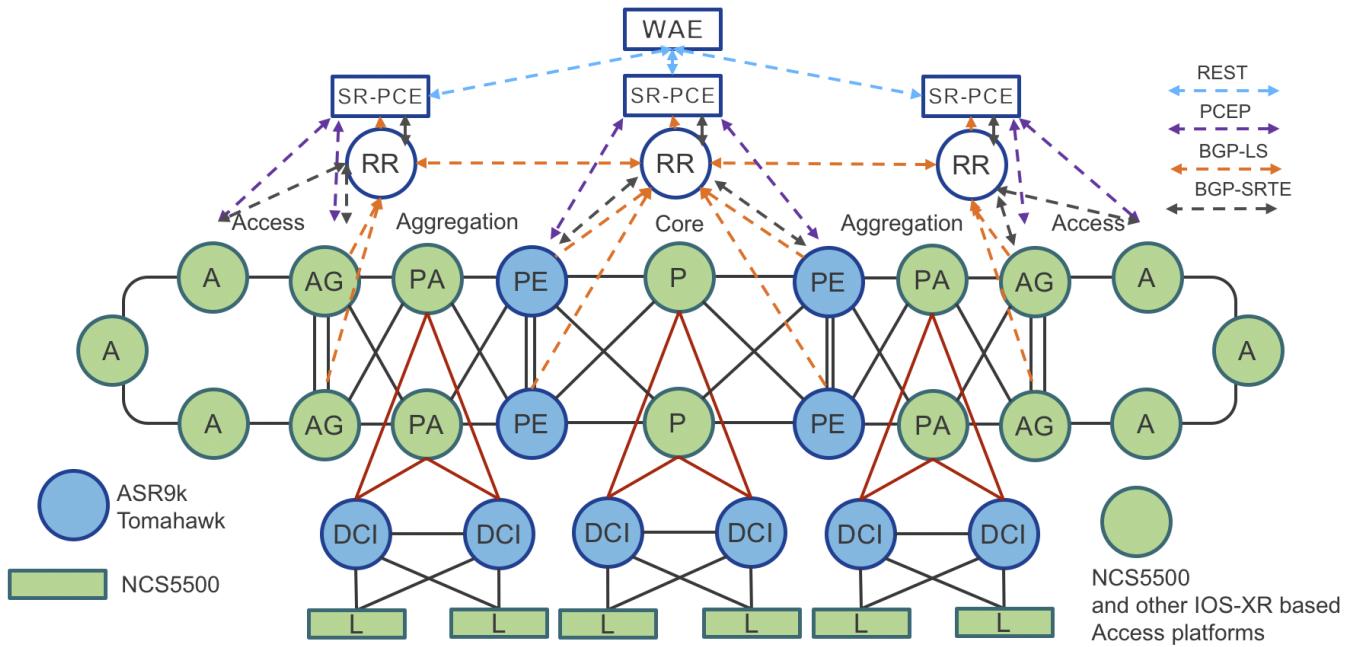


Figure 11: Converged SDN Transport – Physical Topology with transport programmability

Traffic Engineering (Tactical Steering) – SR-TE Policy

Operators want to fully monetize their network infrastructure by offering differentiated services. Traffic engineering is used to provide different paths (optimized based on diverse constraints, such as low-latency or disjoined paths) for different applications. The traditional RSVP-TE mechanism requires signaling along the path for tunnel setup or tear down, and all nodes in the path need to maintain states. This approach doesn't work well for cloud applications, which have hyper scale and elasticity requirements.

Segment Routing provides a simple and scalable way of defining an end-to-end application-aware traffic engineering path computed once again through SR-TE Policy.

In the Converged SDN Transport design, the Service End Point uses PCEP or along with Segment Routing On-Demand Next-hop (SR-ODN) capability, to request from the controller a path that satisfies specific constraints (such as low latency). This is done by associating an SLA tag/attribute to the path request. Upon receiving the request, the SR-PCE controller calculates the path based on the requested SLA, and uses PCEP to dynamically program the ingress node with a specific SR-TE Policy.

Transport Controller Path Computation Engine (PCE)

Segment Routing Path Computation Element (SR-PCE)

Segment Routing Path Computation Element, or SR-PCE, is a Cisco Path Computation Engine (PCE) and is implemented as a feature included as part of Cisco IOS-XR operating system. The function is typically deployed on a Cisco IOS-XR cloud appliance XRv-9000, as it involves control plane operations only. The SR-PCE gains network topology awareness from BGP-LS advertisements received from the underlying network. Such knowledge is leveraged by the embedded multi-domain computation engine to provide optimal path information to Path Computation Element Clients (PCCs) using the Path Computation Element Protocol (PCEP).

The PCC is the device where the service originates (PE) and therefore it requires end-to-end connectivity over the segment routing enabled multi-domain network.

The SR-PCE provides a path based on constraints such as:

- Shortest path (IGP metrics).
- Traffic-Engineering metrics.
- Disjoint paths starting on one or two nodes.

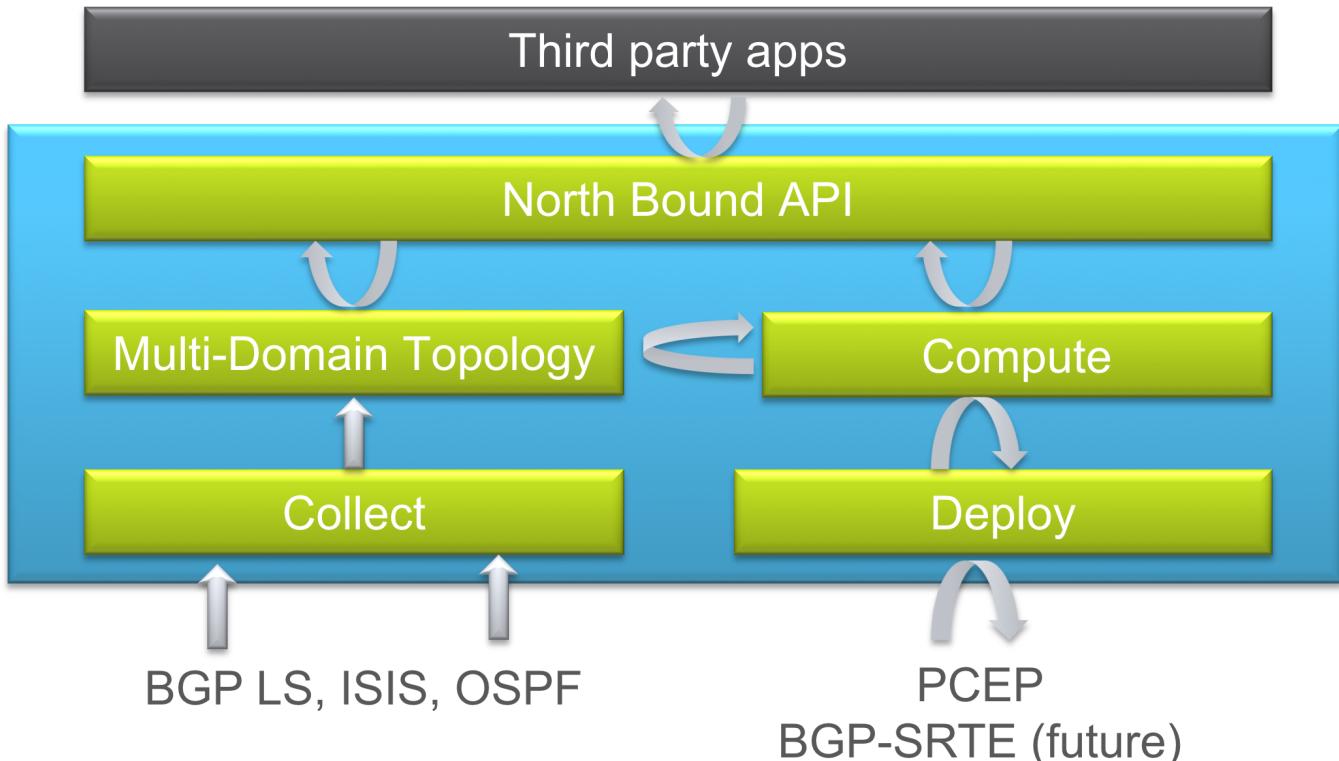


Figure 12: XR Transport Controller – Components

PCE Controller Summary – SR-PCE

Segment Routing Path Computation Element (SR-PCE):

- Runs as a feature on a physical or virtual IOS-XR node
- Collects topology from BGP using BGP-LS, ISIS, or OSPF
- Deploys SR Policies based on client requests
- Computes Shortest, Disjoint, Low Latency, and Avoidance paths
- North Bound interface with applications via REST API

Path Computation Engine – Workflow

There are three models available to program transport LSPs:

- Delegated Computation to SR-PCE

All models assume SR-PCE has acquired full network topology through BGP-LS.

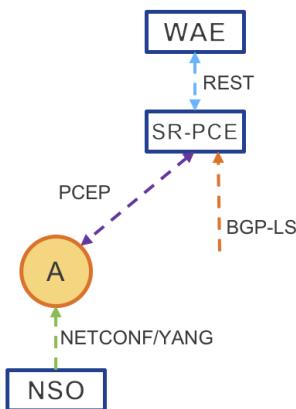


Figure 13: PCE Path Computation

Delegated Computation to SR-PCE

1. NSO provisions the service. Alternatively, the service can be provisioned via CLI
2. Access Router requests a path
3. SR-PCE computes the path
4. SR-PCE provides the path to Access Router
5. Access Router acknowledges

Segment Routing and Unified MPLS (BGP-LU) Co-existence

Summary

In the Converged SDN Transport 3.0 design we introduce validation for the co-existence of services using BGP Labeled Unicast transport for inter-domain forwarding and those using SR-TE. Many networks deployed today have an existing BGP-LU design which may not be easily migrated to SR, so graceful introduction between the two transport methods is required. In the case of a multipoint service such as EVPN ELAN or L3VPN, an endpoint may utilize BGP-LU to one endpoint and SR-TE to another.

ABR BGP-LU design

In a BGP-LU design each IGP domain or ASBR boundary node will exchange BGP labeled prefixes between domains while resetting the BGP next-hop to its own loopback address. The labeled unicast label will change at each domain boundary across the end to end network. Within each IGP domain, a label distribution protocol is used to supply MPLS connectivity between the domain boundary and interior nodes. In the Converged SDN Transport design, IS-IS with SR-MPLS extensions is used to provide intra-domain MPLS transport. This ensures within each domain BGP-LU prefixes are protected using TI-LFA.

The BGP-LU design utilized in the Converged SDN Transport validation is based on Cisco's Unified MPLS design used in EPN 4.0. More information can be found at

https://www.cisco.com/c/dam/en/us/td/docs/solutions/Enterprise/Mobility/EPN/4_0/EPN_4_Transport_Infrastructure_DIG.pdf

Quality of Service and Assurance

Overview

Quality of Service is of utmost importance in today's multi-service converged networks. The Converged SDN Transport design has the ability to enforce end to end traffic path SLAs using Segment Routing Traffic Engineering. In addition to satisfying those path constraints, traditional QoS is used to make sure the PHB (Per-Hop Behavior) of each packet is enforced at each node across the converged network.

NCS 540, 560, and 5500 QoS Primer

Full details of the NCS 540 and 5500 QoS capabilities and configuration can be found at:

The NCS platforms utilize the same MQC configuration for QoS as other IOS-XR platforms but based on their hardware architecture use different elements for implementing end to end QoS. On these platforms ingress traffic is:

1. Matched using flexible criteria via Class Maps
2. Assigned to a specific **Traffic Class (TC)** and/or **QoS Group** for further treatment on egress
3. Has its header marked with a specific IPP, DSCP, or MPLS EXP value

Traffic Classes are used internally for determining fabric priority and as the match condition for egress queuing.

QoS Groups are used internally as the match criteria for egress CoS header re-marking. IPP/DSCP marking and re-marking of ingress MPLS traffic is done using *ingress* QoS policies. MPLS EXP for imposed labels can be done on ingress or egress, but if you wish to rewrite both the IPP/DSCP and set an explicit EXP for imposed labels, the MPLS EXP must be set on egress.

The **priority-level** command used in an egress QoS policy specifies the egress transmit priority of the traffic vs. other priority traffic. Priority levels can be configured as 1-7 with 1 being the highest priority. Priority level 0 is reserved for best-effort traffic.

Note: Multicast traffic does not follow the same constructs as unicast traffic for prioritization. All multicast traffic assigned to Traffic Classes 1-4 are treated as Low Priority and traffic assigned to 5-6 treated as high priority.

Hierarchical Edge QoS

Hierarchical QoS enables a provider to set an overall traffic rate across all services, and then configure parameters per-service via a child QoS policy where the percentages of guaranteed bandwidth are derived from the parent rate

H-QoS platform support

NCS platforms support 2-level and 3-level H-QoS. 3-level H-QoS applies a policer (ingress) or shaper (egress) to a physical interface, with each sub-interface having a 2-level H-QoS policy applied. Hierarchical QoS is not enabled by default on the NCS 540 and 5500 platforms. H-QoS is enabled using the **hw-module profile qos hqos-enable** command. Once H-QoS is enabled, the number of priority levels which can be assigned is reduced from 1-7 to 1-4. Additionally, any hierarchical QoS policy assigned to a L3 sub-interface using priority levels must include a "shape" command.

The ASR9000 supports multi-level H-QoS at high scale for edge aggregation function. In the case of hierarchical services, H-QoS can be applied to PWHE L3 interfaces.

CST Core QoS mapping with five classes

QoS designs are typically tailored for each provider, but we introduce a 5-level QoS design which can fit most provider needs. The design covers transport of both unicast and multicast traffic.

Traffic Type	Core Marking	Core Priority	Comments
Network Control	EXP 6	Highest	Underlay network control plane
Low latency		EXP 5	Highest
High Priority 1	EXP 3	Medium-High	High priority service traffic
Medium Priority / Multicast	EXP 2	Medium priority and multicast	
Best Effort	EXP 0	General user traffic	

Example Core QoS Class and Policy Maps

These are presented for reference only, please see the implementation guide for the full QoS configuration

Class maps for ingress header matching

```
class-map match-any match-ef-exp5
description High priority, EF
match dscp 46
end-class-map
!
class-map match-any match-cs5-exp4
description Second highest priority
match dscp 40
end-class-map
```

Ingress QoS policy

```
policy-map ingress-classifier
class match-ef-exp5
set traffic-class 2
set qos-group 2
!
class match-cs5-exp4
set traffic-class 3
set qos-group 3
!
class class-default
set traffic-class 0
set dscp 0
set qos-group 0
!
end-policy-map
```

Class maps for egress queuing and marking policies

```
class-map match-any match-traffic-class-2
description "Match highest priority traffic-class 2"
match traffic-class 2
end-class-map
!
class-map match-any match-traffic-class-3
description "Match high priority traffic-class 3"
match traffic-class 3
end-class-map
!
class-map match-any match-qos-group-2
match qos-group 2
end-class-map
!
class-map match-any match-qos-group-3
match qos-group 3
end-class-map
```

Egress QoS queuing policy

```
policy-map egress-queuing
  class match-traffic-class-2
    priority level 2
  !
  class match-traffic-class-3
    priority level 3
  !
  class class-default
  !
end-policy-map
```

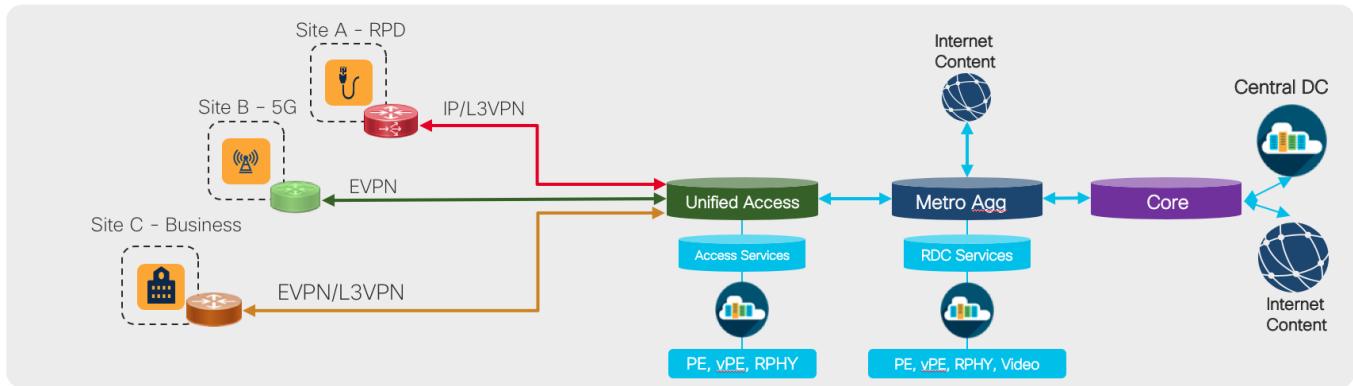
Egress QoS marking policy

```
policy-map core-egress-exp-marking
  class match-qos-group-2
    set mpls experimental imposition 5
  !
  class match-qos-group-3
    set mpls experimental imposition 4
  class class-default
    set mpls experimental imposition 0
  !
end-policy-map
```

Converged SDN Transport Use Cases

Service Provider networks must adopt a very flexible design that satisfy any to any connectivity requirements, without compromising in stability and availability. Moreover, transport programmability is essential to bring SLA awareness into the network.

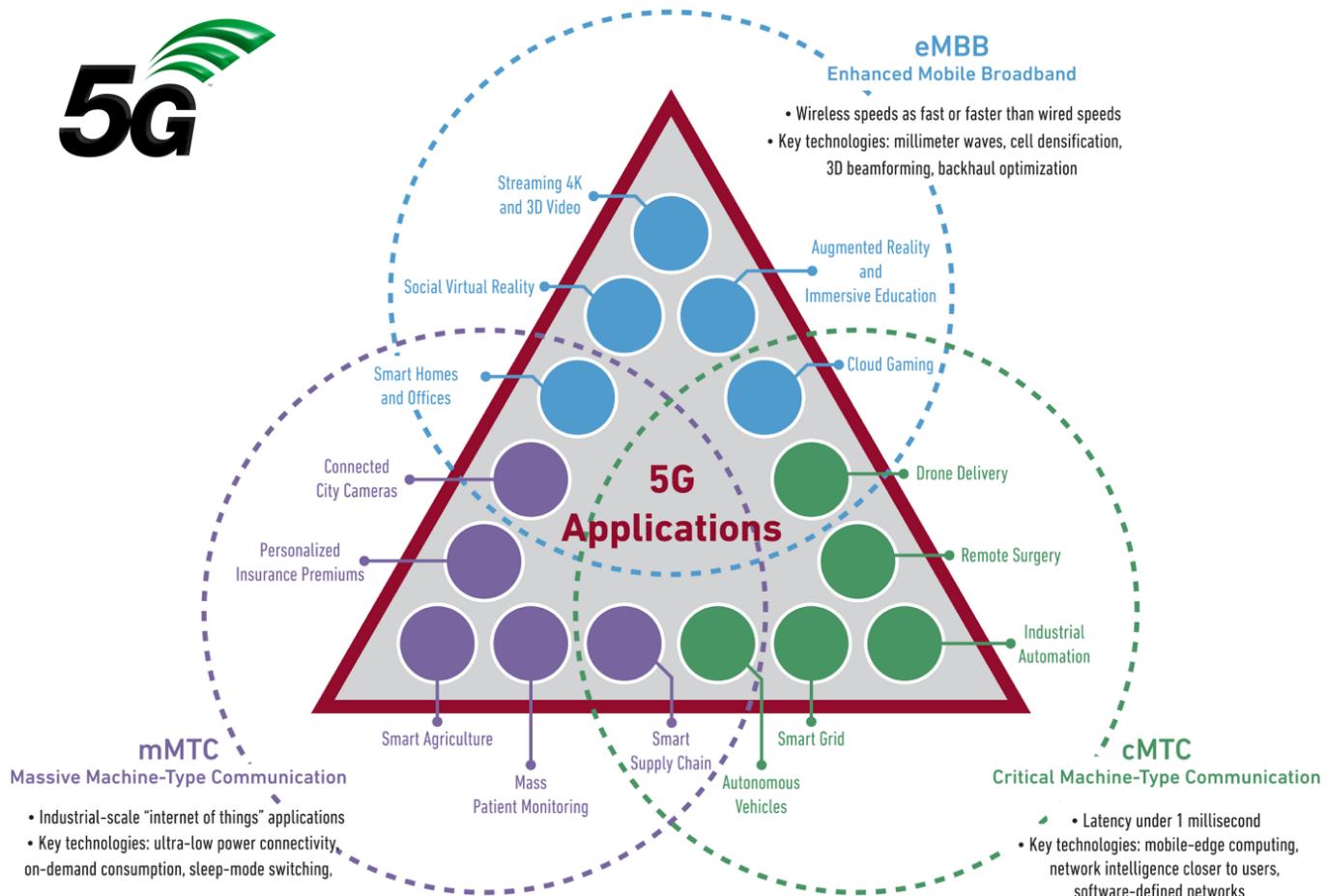
The goal of the Converged SDN Transport is to provide a flexible network blueprint that can be easily customized to meet customer specific requirements. This blueprint must adapt to carry any service type, for example cable access, mobile, and business services over the same converged network infrastructure.



5G Mobile Networks

Summary and 5G Service Types

The Converged SDN Transport design introduces initial support for 5G networks and 5G services. There are a variety of new service use cases being defined by 3GPP for use on 5G networks, illustrated by the figure below. Networks must now be built to support the stringent SLA requirements of Ultra-Reliable Low-Latency services while also being able to cope with the massive bandwidth introduced by Enhanced Mobile Broadband services. The initial support for 5G in the Converged SDN Transport design focuses on the backhaul and midhaul portions of the network utilizing end to end Segment Routing. The design introduces no new service types, the existing scalable L3VPN and EVPN based services using BGP are sufficient for carrying 5G control-plane and user-plane traffic.



Key Validated Components

The following key features have been added to the CST validated design to support initial 5G deployments

Low latency SR-TE path computation

In this release of the CST design, we introduce a new validated constraint type for SR-TE paths used for carrying services across the network. The "latency" constraint used either with a configured SR Policy or ODN SR Policy specifies the computation engine to look for the lowest latency path across the network. The latency computation algorithm can use different mechanisms for computing the end to end path. The first and preferred mechanism is to use the realtime measured per-link one-way delay across the network. This measured information is distributed via IGP extensions across the IGP domain and then onto external PCEs using BGP-LS extensions for use in both intra-domain and inter-domain calculations. In version 3.0 of the CST this is supported on ASR9000 links using the Performance Measurement link delay feature. More detail on the configuration can be found at https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/routers/asr9000/software/asr9k-r7-0/segment-routing/configuration/guide/b-segment-routing-cg-asr9000-70x/b-segment-routing-cg-asr9000-70x_chapter_010000.html#id_118505. In release 6.6.3 NCS 540 and NCS 5500 nodes support the configuration of static link-delay values which are distributed using the same method as the dynamic values. Two other metric types can also be utilized as part of the "latency" path computation. The TE metric, which can be defined on all SR IS-IS links and the regular IGP metric can be used in the absence of the link-delay metric.

Different metric types can be used in a single path computation, with the following order used:

1. Unidirectional link delay metric either computed or statically defined
2. Statically defined TE metric
3. IGP metric

SR Policy latency constraint configuration on configured policy

```
segment-routing
  traffic-eng
    policy LATENCY-POLICY
      color 20 end-point ipv4 1.1.1.3
      candidate-paths
        preference 100
        dynamic mpls
        metric
          type latency
```

SR Policy latency constraint configuration for ODN policies

```
segment-routing
  traffic-eng
    on-demand color 100
```

```
dynamic
pcep
!
metric
  type latency
```

Static defined link delay metric

```
performance-measurement
  interface TenGigE0/0/0/10
    delay-measurement
      advertise-delay 15000
  interface TenGigE0/0/0/20
    delay-measurement
      advertise-delay 10000
```

TE metric definition

```
segment-routing
  traffic-eng
    interface TenGigE0/0/0/10
      metric 15
    !
    interface TenGigE0/0/0/20
      metric 10
```

Note: The link-delay metrics are quantified in the unit of microseconds. On most networks this can be quite large and may be out of range from normal IGP metrics, so care must be taken to ensure proper compatibility when mixing metric types. The largest possible IS-IS metric is 16777214 which is equivalent to 16.77 seconds.

End to end network QoS with H-QoS on Access PE

QoS is of utmost importance for ensuring the mobile control plane and critical user plane traffic meets SLA requirements. Overall network QoS is covered in the QoS section in this document, this section will focus on basic Hierarchical QoS to support 5G services.

H-QoS enables a provider to set an overall traffic rate across all services, and then configure parameters per-service via a child QoS policy where the percentages of guaranteed bandwidth are derived from the parent rate. NCS platforms support 2-level and 3-level H-QoS. 3-level H-QoS applies a policer (ingress) or shaper (egress) to a physical interface, with each sub-interface having a 2-level H-QoS policy applied.

CST QoS mapping with 5 classes

Traffic Type	Ingress Marking	Core Marking	Comments
Low latency	IPP 5	EXP 5	URLLC, consistent delay, small buffer
5G Control Plane	IPP 4	EXP 4	Mobile control and billing
High Priority Service	IPP 3 (in contract), 1 (out of contract)	EXP 1,3	Business service
Best Effort	IPP 0	EXP 0	General user traffic
Network Control	IPP 6	EXP 6	Underlay network control plane

Cable Converged Interconnect Network (CIN)

Summary

The Converged SDN Transport Design enables a multi-service CIN by adding support for the features and functions required to build a scalable next-generation Ethernet/IP cable access network. Differentiated from simple switch or L3 aggregation designs is the ability to support NG cable transport over the same common infrastructure already supporting other services like mobile backhaul and business VPN services. Cable Remote PHY is simply another service overlayed onto the existing Converged SDN Transport network architecture. We will cover all aspects of connectivity between the Cisco cBR-8 and the RPD device.

Distributed Access Architecture

The cable Converged Interconnect Network is part of a next-generation Distributed Access Architecture (DAA), an architecture unlocking higher subscriber bandwidth by moving traditional cable functions deeper into the network closer to end users. R-PHY or Remote PHY, places the analog to digital conversion much closer to users, reducing the cable distance and thus enabling denser and higher order modulation used to achieve Gbps speeds over existing cable infrastructure. This reference design will cover the CIN design to support Remote PHY deployments.

Remote PHY Components and Requirements

This section will list some of the components of an R-PHY network and the network requirements driven by those components. It is not considered to be an exhaustive list of all R-PHY components, please see the CableLabs specification document, the latest which can be accessed via the following URL: <https://specification-search.cablelabs.com/CM-SP-R-PHY>

Remote PHY Device (RPD)

The RPD unlocks the benefits of DAA by integrating the physical analog to digital conversions in a device deployed either in the field or located in a shelf in a facility. The uplink side of the RPD or RPHY shelf is simply IP/Ethernet, allowing transport across widely deployed IP infrastructure. The RPD-enabled node puts the PHY function much closer to an end user, allowing higher end-user speeds. The shelf allows cable operators to

terminate only the PHY function in a hub and place the CMTS/MAC function in a more centralized facility, driving efficiency in the hub and overall network. The following diagram shows various options for how RPDs or an RPD shelf can be deployed. Since the PHY function is split from the MAC it allows independent placement of those functions.

RPD Network Connections

Each RPD is typically deployed with a single 10GE uplink connection. The compact RPD shelf uses a single 10GE uplink for each RPD.

Cisco cBR-8 and cnBR

The Cisco Converged Broadband Router performs many functions as part of a Remote PHY solution. The cBR-8 provisions RPDs, originates L2TPv3 tunnels to RPDs, provisions cable modems, performs cable subscriber aggregation functions, and acts as the uplink L3 router to the rest of the service provider network. In the Remote PHY architecture the cBR-8 acts as the DOCSIS core and can also serve as a GCP server and video core. The cBR-8 runs IOS-XE. The cnBR, cloud native Broadband Router, provides DOCSIS core functionality in a server-based software platform deployable anywhere in the SP network. CST 3.0 has been validated using the cBR-8, the cnBR will be validated in an upcoming release.

cBR-8 Network Connections

The cBR-8 is best represented as having "upstream" and "downstream" connectivity.

The upstream connections are from the cBR8 Supervisor module to the SP network. Subscriber data traffic and video ingress these uplink connections for delivery to the cable access network. The cBR-8 SUP-160 has 8x10GE SFP+ physical connections, the SUP-250 has 2xQSFP28/QSFP+ interfaces for 40G/100G upstream connections.

In a remote PHY deployment the downstream connections to the CIN are via the Digital PIC (DPIC-8X10G) providing 40G of R-PHY throughput with 8 SFP+ network interfaces.

cBR-8 Redundancy

The cBR-8 supports both upstream and downstream redundancy. Supervisor redundancy uses active/standby connections to the SP network. Downstream redundancy can be configured at both the line card and port level. Line card redundancy uses an active/active mechanism where each RPD connects to the DOCSIS core function on both the active and hot standby Digital PIC line card. Port redundancy uses the concept of "port pairs" on each Digital PIC, with ports 0/1, 2/3, 4/6, and 6/7 using either an active/active (L2) or active/standby (L3) mechanism. In the CST design we utilize a L3 design with the active/standby mechanism. The mechanism uses the same IP address on both ports, with the standby port kept in a physical down state until switchover occurs.

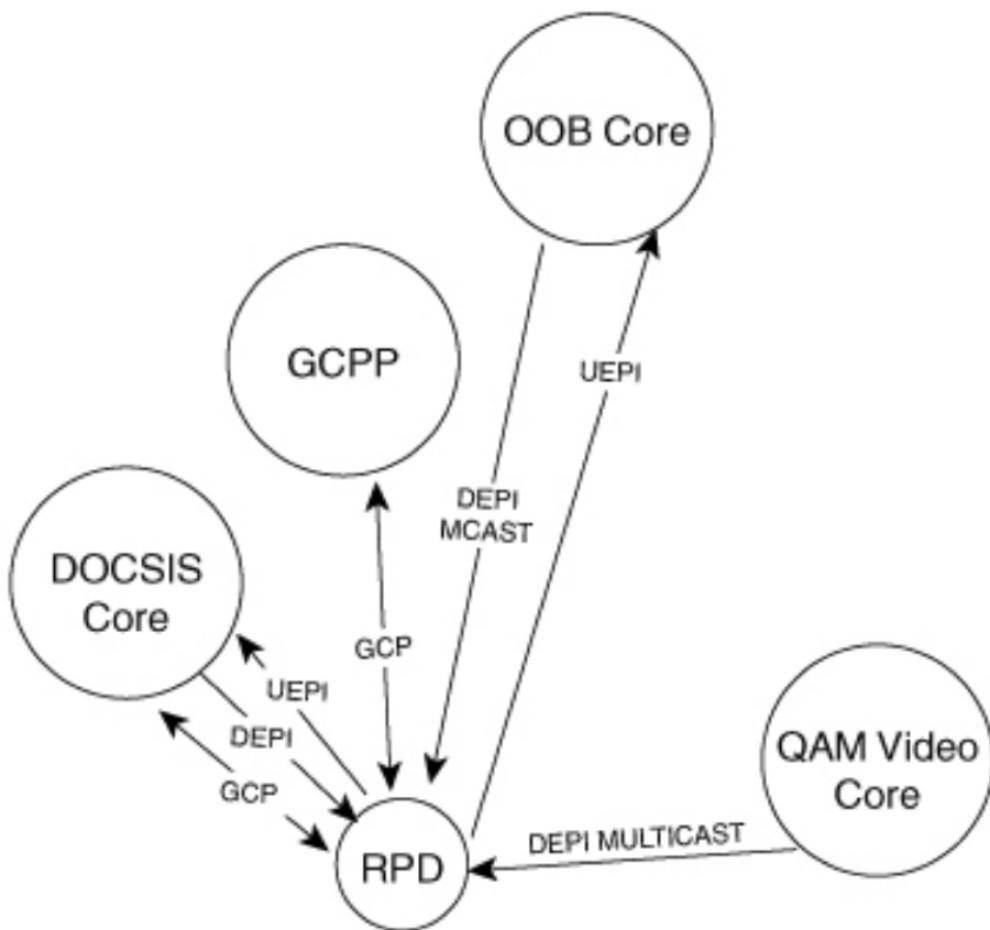
Remote PHY Communication

DHCP

The RPD is provisioned using ZTP (Zero Touch Provisioning). DHCPv4 and DHCPv6 are used along with CableLabs DHCP options in order to attach the RPD to the correct GCP server for further provisioning.

Remote PHY Standard Flows

The following diagram shows the different core functions of a Remote PHY solution and the communication between those elements.



GCP

Generic Communications Protocol is used for the initial provisioning of the RPD. When the RPD boots and receives its configuration via DHCP, one of the DHCP options will direct the RPD to a GCP server which can be the cBR-8 or Cisco Smart PHY. GCP runs over TCP typically on port 8190.

UEPI and DEPI L2TPv3 Tunnels

The upstream output from an RPD is IP/Ethernet, enabling the simplification of the cable access network. Tunnels are used between the RPD PHY functions and DOCSIS core components to transport signals from the RPD to the core elements, whether it be a hardware device like the Cisco cBR-8 or a virtual network function provided by the Cisco cnBR (cloud native Broadband Router).

DEPI (Downstream External PHY Interface) comes from the M-CMTS architecture, where a distributed architecture was used to scale CMTS functions. In the Remote PHY architecture DEPI represents a tunnel used to encapsulate and transport from the DOCSIS MAC function to the RPD. UEPI (Upstream External PHY Interface) is new to Remote PHY, and is used to encode and transport analog signals from the RPD to the MAC function.

In Remote PHY both DEPI and UEPI tunnels use L2TPv3, defined in RFC 3931, to transport frames over an IP infrastructure. Please see the following Cisco white paper for more information on how tunnels are created specific to upstream/downstream channels and how data is encoded in the specific tunnel sessions.
<https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/collateral/service-provider/converged-cable-access-platform-ccap-solution/white-paper-c11-732260.html>. In general there will be one or two (standby configuration) UEPI and DEPI L2TPv3 tunnels to each RPD, with each tunnel having many L2TPv3 sessions for individual RF channels identified by a unique session ID in the L2TPv3 header. Since L2TPv3 is its own protocol, no port number is used between endpoints, the endpoint IP addresses are used to identify each tunnel. Unicast DOCSIS data traffic can utilize either or multicast L2TPv3 tunnels. Multicast tunnels are used with downstream virtual splitting configurations. Multicast video is encoded and delivered using DEPI tunnels as well, using a multipoint L2TPv3 tunnel to multiple RPDs to optimize video delivery.

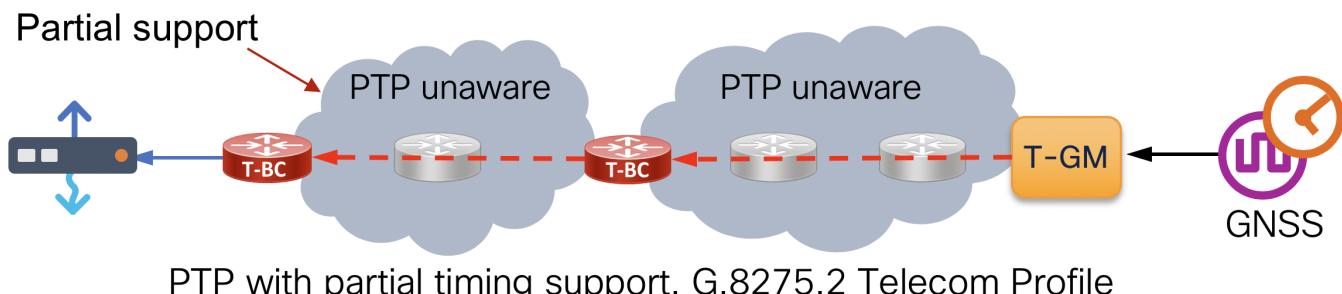
CIN Network Requirements

IPv4/IPv6 Unicast and Multicast

Due to the large number of elements and generally greenfield network builds, the CIN network must support all functions using both IPv4 and IPv6. IPv6 may be carried natively across the network or within an IPv6 VPN across an IPv4 MPLS underlay network. Similarly the network must support multicast traffic delivery for both IPv4 and IPv6 delivered via the global routing table or Multicast VPN. Scalable dynamic multicast requires the use of PIMv4, PIMv6, IGMPv3, and MLDv2 so these protocols are validated as part of the overall network design. IGMPv2 and MLDv2 snooping are also required for designs using access bridge domains and BVI interfaces for aggregation.

Network Timing

Frequency and phase synchronization is required between the cBR-8 and RPD to properly handle upstream scheduling and downstream transmission. Remote PHY uses PTP (Precision Timing Protocol) for timing synchronization with the ITU-T G.8275.2 timing profile. This profile carries PTP traffic over IP/UDP and supports a network with partial timing support, meaning multi-hop sessions between Grandmaster, Boundary Clocks, and clients as shown in the diagram below. The cBR-8 and its client RPD require timing alignment to the same Primary Reference Clock (PRC). In order to scale, the network itself must support PTP G.8275.2 as a T-BC (Boundary Clock). Synchronous Ethernet (SyncE) is also recommended across the CIN network to maintain stability when timing to the PRC.



QoS

Control plane functions of Remote PHY are critical to achieving proper operation and subscriber traffic throughput. QoS is required on all RPD-facing ports, the cBR-8 DPIC ports, and all core interfaces in between.

Additional QoS may be necessary between the cBR-8, RPD, and any PTP timing elements. See the design section for further details on QoS components.

DHCPv4 and DHCPv6 Relay

As a critical component of the initial boot and provisioning of RPDs, the network must support DHCP relay functionality on all RPD-facing interfaces, for both IPv4 and IPv6.

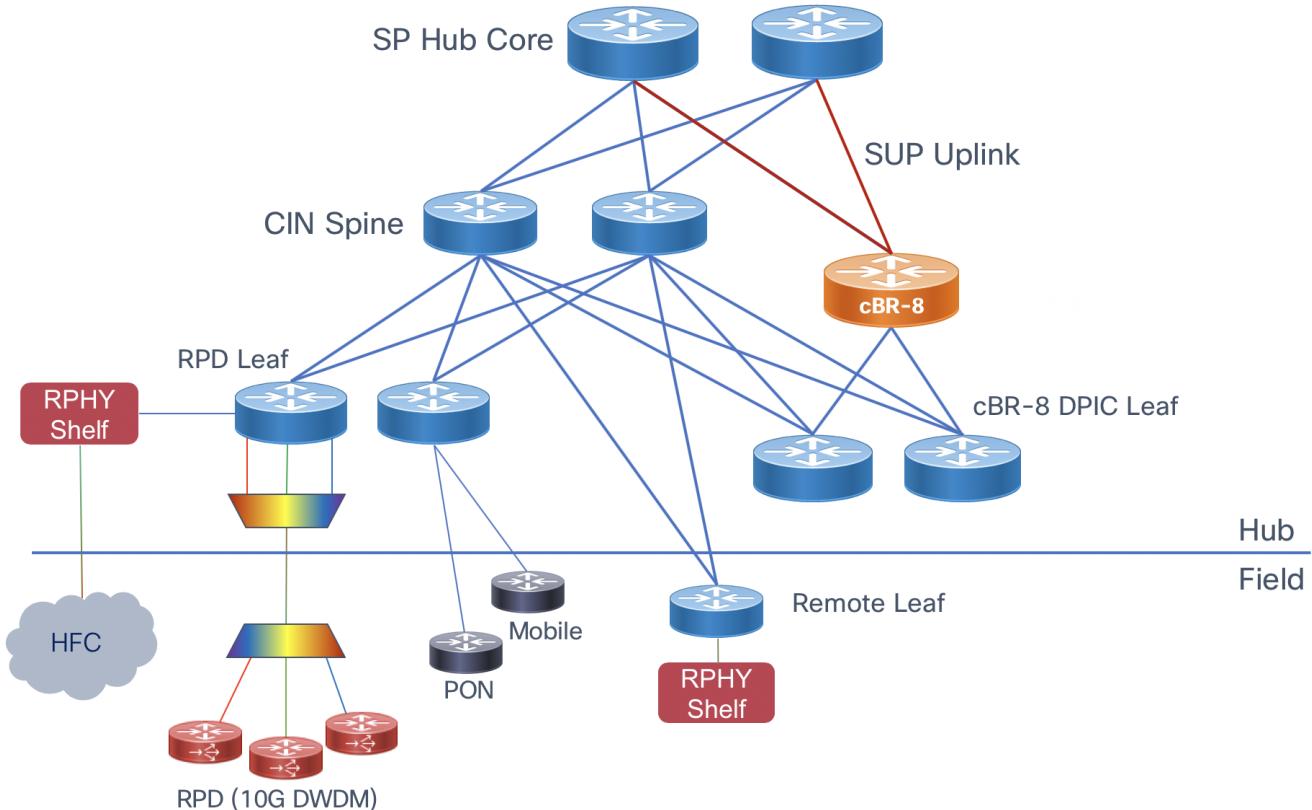
Converged SDN Transport CIN Design

Deployment Topology Options

The Converged SDN Transport design is extremely flexible in how Remote PHY components are deployed. Depending on the size of the deployment, components can be deployed in a scalable leaf-spine fabric with dedicated routers for RPD and cBR-8 DPIC connections or collapsed into a single pair of routers for smaller deployments. If a smaller deployment needs to be expanded, the flexible L3 routed design makes it very easy to simply interconnect new devices and scale the design to a fabric supporting thousands of RPD and other access network connections.

High Scale Design (Recommended)

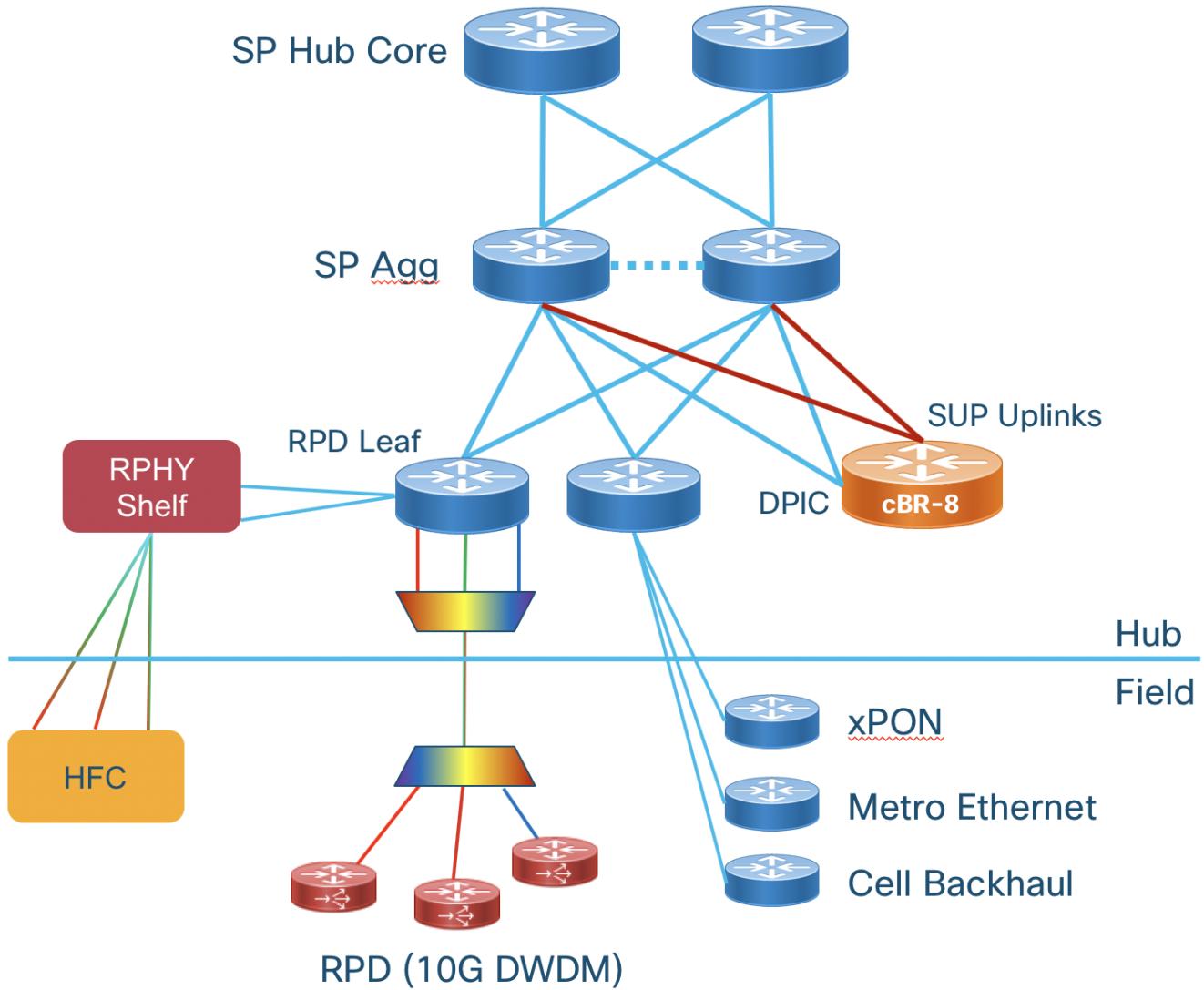
This option maximizes statistical multiplexing by aggregating Digital PIC downstream connections on a separate leaf device, allowing one to connect a number of cBR-8 interfaces to a fabric with minimal 100GE uplink capacity. The topology also supports the connectivity of remote shelves for hub consolidation. Another benefit is the fabric has optimal HA and the ability to easily scale with more leaf and spine nodes.



High scale topology

Collapsed Digital PIC and SUP Uplink Connectivity

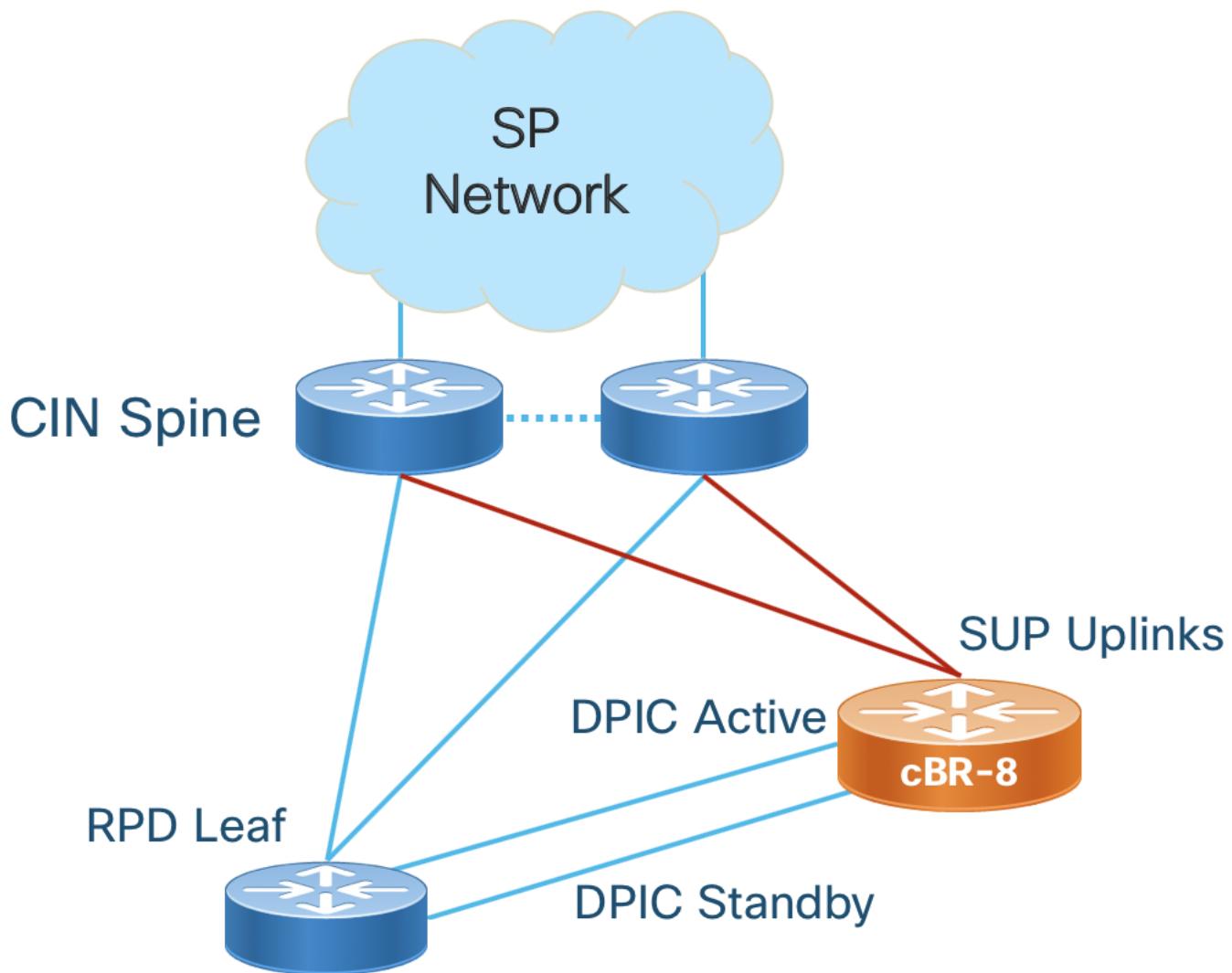
This design for smaller deployments connects both the downstream Digital PIC connections and uplinks on the same CIN core device. If there is enough physical port availability and future growth does not dictate capacity beyond these nodes this design can be used. This design still provides full redundancy and the ability to connect RPDs to any cBR-8. Care should be taken to ensure traffic between the DPIC and RPD does not traverse the SUP uplink interfaces.



Collapsed cBR-8 uplink and Digital PIC connectivity

Collapsed RPD and cBR-8 DPIC Connectivity

This design connects each cBR-8 Digital PIC connection to the RPD leaf connected to the RPDs it will serve. This design can also be considered a "pod" design where cBR-8 and RPD connectivity is pre-planned. Careful planning is needed since the number of ports on a single device may not scale efficiently with bandwidth in this configuration.



Collapsed or Pod cBR-8 Digital PIC and RPD connectivity

In the collapsed designs care must be taken to ensure traffic between each RPD can reach the appropriate DPIC interface. If a leaf is single-homed to the aggregation router its DPIC interface is on, RPDs may not be able to reach their DPIC IP. The options with the shortest convergence time are: Adding interconnects between the agg devices or multiple uplinks from the leaf to agg devices.

Cisco Hardware

The following table highlights the Cisco hardware utilized within the Converged SDN Transport design for Remote PHY. This table is non-exhaustive. One highlight is all NCS platforms listed are built using the same NPU family and share most features across all platforms. See specific platforms for supported scale and feature support.

Product	Role	10GE SFP+	25G SFP28	100G QSFP28	Timing	Comments
NCS-55A1-24Q6H-S	RPD leaf	48	24	6	Class B	
N540-24Z8Q2C	RPD leaf	24	8	2	Class B	Smaller deployments

Product	Role	10GE SFP+	25G SFP28	100G QSFP28	Timing	Comments
NCS-55A1-48Q6H-S	DPIC leaf	48	48	6	Class B	
NCS-55A2-MOD	Remote agg	40	24	upto 8	Class B	CFP2-DCO support
NCS-55A1-36H-S	Spine	144 (breakout)	0	36	Class B	
NCS-5502	Spine	192 (breakout)	0	48	None	
NCS-5504	Multi	Upto 576	x	Upto 144	Class B	4-slot modular platform

Scalable L3 Routed Design

The Cisco validated design for cable CIN utilizes a L3 design with or without Segment Routing. Pure L2 networks are no longer used for most networks due to their inability to scale, troubleshooting difficulty, poor network efficiency, and poor resiliency. L2 bridging can be utilized on RPD aggregation routers to simplify RPD connectivity.

L3 IP Routing

Like the overall CST design, we utilize IS-IS for IPv4 and IPv6 underlay routing and BGP to carry endpoint information across the network. The following diagram illustrates routing between network elements using a reference deployment. The table below describes the routing between different functions and interfaces. See the implementation guide for specific configuration.

Interface	Routing	Comments
cBR-8 Uplink	IS-IS	Used for BGP next-hop reachability to SP Core
cBR-8 Uplink	BGP	Advertise subscriber and cable-modem routes to SP Core
cBR-8 DPIC	Static default in VRF	Each DPIC interface should be in its own VRF on the cBR-8 so it has a single routing path to its connected RPDs
RPD Leaf Main	IS-IS	Used for BGP next-hop reachability
RPD Leaf Main	BGP	Advertise RPD L3 interfaces to CIN for cBR-8 to RPD connectivity
RPD Leaf Timing	BGP	Advertise RPD upstream timing interface IP to rest of network
DPIC Leaf	IS-IS	Used for BGP next-hop reachability

Interface	Routing	Comments
DPIC Leaf	BGP	Advertise cBR-8 DPIC L3 interfaces to CIN for cBR-8 to RPD connectivity
CIN Spine	IS-IS	Used for reachability between BGP endpoints, the CIN Spine does not participate in BGP in a SR-enabled network
CIN Spine RPD Timing	IS-IS	Used to advertise RPD timing interface BGP next-hop information and advertise default
CIN Spine	BGP (optional)	In a native IP design the spine must learn BGP routes for proper forwarding

CIN Router to Router Interconnection

It is recommended to use multiple L3 links when interconnecting adjacent routers, as opposed to using LAG, if possible. Bundles increase the possibility for timing inaccuracy due to asymmetric timing traffic flow between slave and master. If bundle interfaces are utilized, care should be taken to ensure the difference in paths between two member links is kept to a minimum. All router links will be configured according to the global CST design. Leaf devices will be considered CST access PE devices and utilize BGP for all services routing.

Leaf Transit Traffic

In a single IGP network with equal IGP metrics, certain link failures may cause a leaf to become a transit node. Several options are available to keep transit traffic from transiting a leaf and potentially causing congestion. Using high metrics on all leaf to agg uplinks will prohibit this and is recommended in all configurations.

cBR-8 DPIC to CIN Interconnection

The cBR-8 supports two mechanisms for DPIC high availability outlined in the overview section. DPIC line card and link redundancy is recommended but not a requirement. In the CST reference design, if link redundancy is being used each port pair on the active and standby line cards is connected to a different router and the default active ports (even port number) is connected to a different router. In the example figure, port 0 from active DPIC card 0 is connected to R1 and port 0 from standby DPIC card 1 is connected to R2. DPIC link redundancy MUST be configured using the "cold" method since the design is using L3 to each DPIC interface and no intermediate L2 switching. This is done with the `cable rphy link redundancy cold` global command and will keep the standby link in a down/down state until switchover occurs.

DPIC Interface Configuration

Each DPIC interface should be configured in its own L3 VRF. This ensures traffic from an RPD assigned to a specific DPIC interface takes the traffic path via the specific interface and does not traverse the SUP interface for either ingress or egress traffic. It's recommended to use a static default route within each DPIC VRF towards the CIN network. Dynamic routing protocols could be utilized, however it will slow convergence during redundancy switchover.

Router Interface Configuration

If no link redundancy is utilized each DPIC interface will connect to the router using a point to point L3 interface.

If using cBR-8 link HA, failover time is reduced by utilizing the same gateway MAC address on each router. Link HA uses the same IP and MAC address on each port pair on the cBR-8, and retains routing and ARP information for the L3 gateway. If a different MAC address is used on each router, traffic will be dropped until an ARP occurs to populate the GW MAC address on the router after failover. On the NCS platforms, a static MAC address cannot be set on a physical L3 interface. The method used to set a static MAC address is to use a BVI (Bridged Virtual Interface), which allows one to set a static MAC address. In the case of DPIC interface connectivity, each DPIC interface should be placed into its own bridge domain with an associated BVI interface. Since each DPIC port is directly connected to the router interface, the same MAC address can be utilized on each BVI.

If using IS-IS to distribute routes across the CIN, each DPIC physical interface or BVI should be configured as a passive IS-IS interface in the topology. If using BGP to distribute routing information the "redistribute connected" command should be used with an appropriate route policy to restrict connected routes to only DPIC interface. The BGP configuration is the same whether using L3VPN or the global routing table.

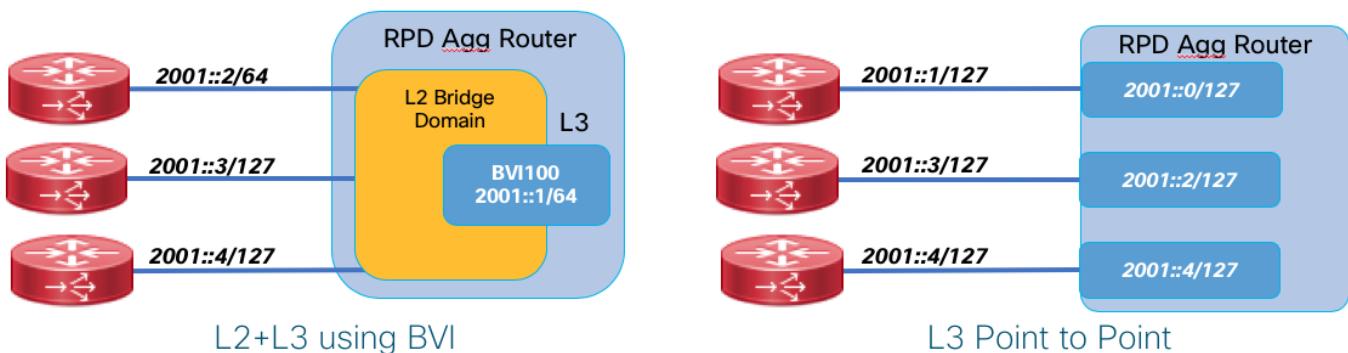
DPIC line card and link HA

RPD to Router Interconnection

The Converged SDN Transport design supports both P2P L3 interfaces for RPD and DPIC aggregation as well as using Bridge Virtual Interfaces. A BVI is a logical L3 interface within a L2 bridge domain. In the BVI deployment the DPIC and RPD physical interfaces connected to a single leaf device share a common IP subnet with the gateway residing on the leaf router.

It is recommended to configure the RPD leaf using bridge-domains and BVI interfaces. This eases configuration on the leaf device as well as the DHCP configuration used for RPD provisioning.

Note: It is recommended to connect each cBR-8 DPIC interface using P2P L3 interfaces, using a /31 for IPv4 and /127 for IPv6 addresses. The following shows the two potential deployment options.



Native IP or L3VPN/mVPN Deployment

Two options are available and validated to carry Remote PHY traffic between the RPD and MAC function.

- Native IP means the end to end communication occurs as part of the global routing table. In a network with SR-MPLS deployed such as the CST design, unicast IP traffic is still carried across the network using an MPLS header. This allows for fast reconvergence in the network by using SR and enabled the network to carry other VPN services on the network even if they are not used to carry Remote PHY traffic. In the

native IP deployment, multicast traffic uses either PIM signaling with IP multicast forwarding or mLDP in-band signaling for label-switched multicast. The multicast profile used is profile 7 (Global mLDP in-band signaling).

- L3VPN and mVPN can also be utilized to carry Remote PHY traffic within a VPN service end to end. This has the benefit of separating Remote PHY traffic from the network underlay, improving security and treating Remote PHY as another service on a converged access network. Multicast traffic in this use case uses mVPN profile 14. mLDP is used for label-switched multicast, and the NG-MVPN BGP control plane is used for all multicast discovery and signaling.

SR-TE

Segment Routing Traffic Engineering may be utilized to carry traffic end to end across the CIN network. Using On-Demand Networking simplifies the deployment of SR-TE Policies from ingress to egress by using specific color BGP communities to instruct head-end nodes to create policies satisfying specific user constraints. As an example, if RPD aggregation prefixes are advertised using BGP to the DPIC aggregation device, SR-TE tunnels following a user constraint can be built dynamically between those endpoints.

CIN Quality of Service (QoS)

QoS is a requirement for delivering trouble-free Remote PHY. This design uses sample QoS configurations for concept illustration, but QoS should be tailored for specific network deployments. New CIN builds can utilize the configurations in the implementation guide verbatim if no other services are being carried across the network. Please see the section in this document on QoS for general NCS QoS information and the implementation guide for specific details.

CST Network Traffic Classification

The following lists specific traffic types which should be treated with specific priority, default markings, and network classification points.

Traffic Type	Ingress Interface	Priority	Default Marking	Comments
BGP	Routers, cBR-8	Highest	CS6 (DSCP 48)	None
IS-IS	Routers, cBR-8	Highest	CS6	IS-IS is single-hop and uses highest priority queue by default
BFD	Routers	Highest	CS6	BFD is single-hop and uses highest priority queue by default
DHCP	RPD	High	CS5	DHCP COS is set explicitly
PTP	All	High	DSCP 46	Default on all routers, cBR-8, and RPD
DOCSIS MAP/UCD	RPD, cBR-8 DPIC	High	DSCP 46	

Traffic Type	Ingress Interface	Priority	Default Marking	Comments
DOCSIS BWR	RPD, cBR-8 DPIC	High	DSCP 46	
GCP	RPD, cBR-8 DPIC	Low	DSCP 0	
DOCSIS Data	RPD, cBR-8 DPIC	Low	DSCP 0	
Video	cBR-8	Medium	DSCP 32	Video within multicast L2TPv3 tunnel when cBR-8 is video core
MDD	RPD, cBR-8	Medium	DSCP 40	

CST and Remote-PHY Load Balancing

Unicast network traffic is load balanced based on MPLS labels and IP header criteria. The devices used in the CST design are capable of load balancing traffic based on MPLS labels used in the SR underlay and IP headers underneath any MPLS labels. In the higher bandwidth downstream direction, where a series of L2TP3 tunnels are created from the cBR-8 to the RPD, traffic is hashed based on the source and destination IP addresses of those tunnels. Downstream L2TPv3 tunnels from a single Digital PIC interface to a set of RPDs will be distributed across the fabric based on RPD destination IP address. The following illustrates unicast load balancing across the network.

Multicast traffic is not load balanced across the network. Whether the network is utilizing PIMv4, PIMv6, or mVPN, a multicast flow with two equal cost downstream paths will utilize only a single path, and only a single member link will be utilized in a link bundle. If using multicast, ensure sufficient bandwidth is available on a single link between two adjacencies.

4G Transport and Services Modernization

While talk about deploying 5G services has reached a fever pitch, many providers are continuing to build and evolve their 4G networks. New services require more agile and scalable networks, satisfied by Cisco's Converged SDN Transport. The services modernization found in Converged SDN Transport 2.0 follows work done in EPN 4.0 located here:

https://www.cisco.com/c/dam/en/us/td/docs/solutions/Enterprise/Mobility/EPN/4_0/EPN_4_Transport_Infrastructure_DIG.pdf. Transport modernization requires simplification and new abilities. We evolve the EPN 4.0 design based on LDP and hierarchical BGP-LU to one using Segment Routing with an MPLS data plane and the SR-PCE to add inter-domain path computation, scale, and programmability. L3VPN based 4G services remain, but are modernized to utilize SR-TE On-Demand Next-Hop, reducing provisioning complexity, increasing scale, and adding advanced path computation constraints. 4G services utilizing L3VPN remain the same, but those utilizing L2VPN such as VPWS and VPLS transition to EVPN services. EVPN is the modern replacement for legacy LDP signalled L2VPN services, reducing complexity and adding advanced multi-homing functionality. The following table highlights the legacy and new way of delivering services for 4G.

Element	EPN 4.0	Converged SDN Transport
Intra-domain MPLS Transport	LDP	IS-IS w/Segment Routing
Inter-domain MPLS Transport	BGP Labeled Unicast	SR using SR-PCE for Computation
MPLS L3VPN (LTE S1,X2)	MPLS L3VPN	MPLS L3VPN w/ODN
L2VPN VPWS	LDP Pseudowire	EVPN VPWS w/ODN
eMBMS Multicast	Native / mLDP	Native / mLDP

The CST 4G Transport modernization covers only MPLS-based access and not L2 access scenarios.

L3 IP Multicast and mVPN

IP multicast continues to be an optimization method for delivering content traffic to many endpoints, especially traditional broadcast video. Unicast content dominates the traffic patterns of most networks today, but multicast carries critical high value services, so proper design and implementation is required. In Converged SDN Transport 2.0 we introduced multicast edge and core validation for native IPv4/IPv6 multicast using PIM, global multicast using in-band mLDP (profile 7), and mVPN using mLDP with in-band signaling (profile 6). Converged SDN Transport 3.0 extends this functionality by adding support for mLDP LSM with the NG-MVPN BGP control plane (profile 14). Using BGP signaling adds additional scale to the network over in-band mLDP signaling and fits with the overall design goals of CST. More information about deployment of profile 14 can be found in the Converged SDN Transport implementation guide. Converged SDN Transport 3.0 supports mLDP-based label switched multicast within a single domain and across IGP domain boundaries. In the case of the Converged SDN Transport design multicast has been tested with the source and receivers on both access and ABR PE devices.

Supported Multicast Profiles	Description
Profile 6	mLDP VRF using in-band signaling
Profile 7	mLDP global routing table using in-band signaling
Profile 14	Partitioned MDT using BGP-AD and BGP c-multicast signaling

LDP Auto-configuration

LDP can automatically be enabled on all IS-IS interfaces with the following configuration in the IS-IS configuration

```
router isis ACCESS
address-family ipv4 unicast
  mpls ldp auto-config
```

LDP mLDP-only Session Capability (RFC 7473)

In Converged SDN Transport 3.0 we introduce the ability to only advertise mLDP state on each router adjacency, eliminating the need to filter LDP unicast FECs from advertisement into the network. This is done using the SAC (State Advertisement Control) TLV in the LDP initialization messages to advertise which LDP FEC classes to

receive from an adjacent peer. We can restrict the capabilities to mLDP only using the following configuration. Please see the implementation guide and configurations for the full LDP configuration.

```
mpls ldp
capabilities sac mldp-only
```

LDP Unicast FEC Filtering for SR Unicast with mLDP Multicast

The following is for historical context, please see the above section regarding disabling LDP unicast FECs using session capability advertisements.

The Converged SDN Transport design utilized Segment Routing with the MPLS dataplane for all unicast traffic. The first phase of multicast support in Converged SDN Transport 2.0 will use mLDP for use with existing mLDP based networks and new networks wishing to utilize label switched multicast across the core. LDP is enabled on an interface for both unicast and multicast by default. Since SR is being used for unicast, one must filter out all LDP unicast FECs to ensure they are not distributed across the network. SR is used for all unicast traffic in the presence of an LDP FEC for the same prefix, but filtering them reduces control-plane activity, may aid in re-convergence, and simplifies troubleshooting. The following should be applied to all interfaces which have mLDP enabled:

```
ipv4 access-list no-unicast-ldp
10 deny ipv4 any any
!
RP/0/RSP0/CPU0:Node-6#show run mpls ldp
mpls ldp
log
neighbor
address-family ipv4
label
local
allocate for no-unicast-ldp
```

EVPN Multicast

Multicast within a L2VPN EVPN has been supported since Converged SDN Transport 1.0. Multicast traffic within an EVPN is replicated to the endpoints interested in a specific group via EVPN signaling. EVPN utilizes ingress replication for all multicast traffic, meaning multicast is encapsulated with a specific EVPN label and unicasted to each PE router with interested listeners for each multicast group. Ingress replication may add additional traffic to the network, but simplifies the core and data plane by eliminating multicast signaling, state, and hardware replication. EVPN multicast is also not subject to domain boundary restrictions.

LDP to Converged SDN Transport Migration

Very few networks today are built as greenfield networks, most new designs are migrated from existing ones and must support some level of interop during migration. In the Converged SDN Transport design we tackle one of

the most common migration scenarios, LDP to the Converged SDN Transport design. The following sections explain the configuration and best practices for performing the migration. The design is applicable to transport and services originating and terminating in the same LDP domain.

Towards Converged SDN Transport Design

The Converged SDN Transport design utilizes isolated IGP domains in different parts of the network, with each domain separated at a logical boundary by an ASBR router. SR-PCE is used to provide end to end paths across the inter-domain network. LDP does not support inter-domain transport, only between LDP FECs in the same IGP domain. It is recommended to plan logical boundaries if necessary when doing a flat LDP migration to the Converged SDN Transport design, so that when migration is complete the future scale benefits can be realized.

Segment Routing Enablement

One must define the global Segment Routing Block (SRGB) to be used across the network on every node participating in SR. There is a default block enabled by default but it may not be large enough to support an entire network, so it's advised to right-size this value for your deployment. The current maximum SRGB size for SR-MPLS is 256K entries.

Enabling SR in IS-IS requires only issuing the command "segment-routing mpls" under the IPv4 address-family and assigning a prefix-sid value to any loopback interfaces you require the node be addressed towards as a service destination. Enabling TI-LFA is done on a per-interface basis in the IS-IS configuration for each interface.

Enabling SR-Prefer within IS-IS aids in migration by preferring a SR prefix-sid to a prefix over an LDP prefix, allowing a seamless migration to SR without needing to enable SR completely within a domain.

Segment Routing Mapping Server Design

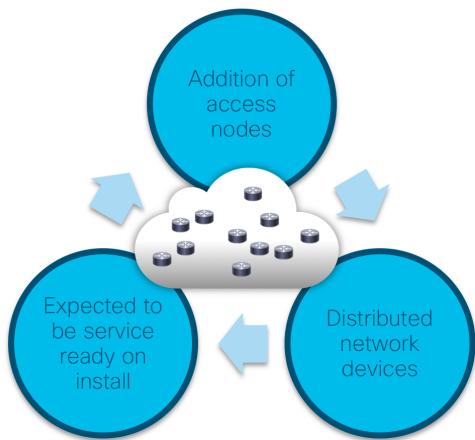
One component introduced with Segment Routing is the SR Mapping Server (SRMS), a control-plane element converting unicast LDP FECs to Segment Routing prefix-SIDs for advertisement throughout the Segment Routing domain. Each separate IGP domain requires a pair of SRMS nodes until full migration to SR is complete.

Automation

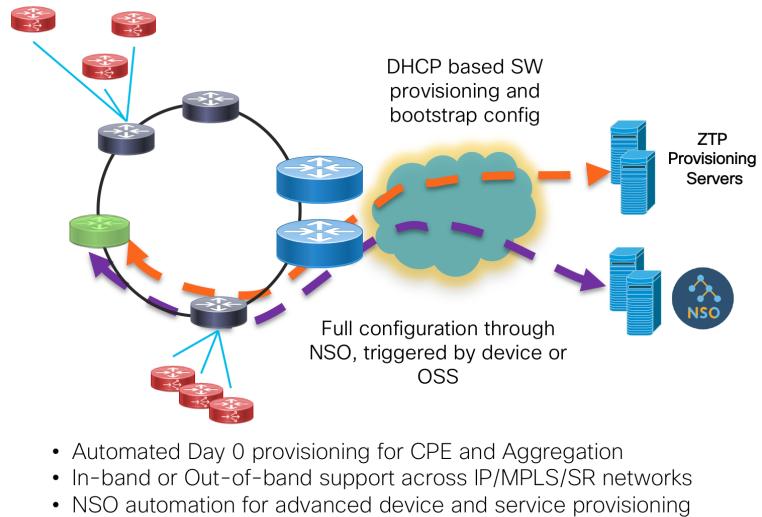
Zero Touch Provisioning

In addition to model-driven configuration and operation, Converged SDN Transport 1.5 supports ZTP operation for automated device provisioning. ZTP is useful both in production as well as staging environments to automate initial device software installation, deploy an initial bootstrap configuration, as well as advanced functionality triggered by ZTP scripts. ZTP is supported on both out of band management interfaces as well as in-band data interfaces. When a device first boots, the IOS-XR ZTP process begins on the management interface of the device and if no response is received, or the interface is not active, the ZTP process will begin the process on data ports. IOS-XR can be part of an ecosystem of automated device and service provisioning via Cisco NSO.

Network Deployment Challenges



IOS-XR ZTP Operation



Model-Driven Telemetry

In the 3.0 release the implementation guide includes a table of model-driven telemetry paths applicable to different components within the design. More information on Cisco model-driven telemetry can be found at <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/iosxr/ncs5500/telemetry/66x/b-telemetry-cg-ncs5500-66x.html>. Additional information about how to consume and visualize telemetry data can be found at <https://xrdocs.io/telemetry>. We also introduce integration with Cisco Crosswork Health Insights, a telemetry and automated remediation platform, and sensor packs corresponding to Converged SDN Transport components. More information on Crosswork Health Insights can be found at <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/cloud-systems-management/crosswork-health-insights/model.html>.

Network Services Orchestrator (NSO)

The NSO is a management and orchestration (MANO) solution for network services and Network Functions Virtualization (NFV). The NSO includes capabilities for describing, deploying, configuring, and managing network services and VNFs, as well as configuring the multi-vendor physical underlay network elements with the help of standard open APIs such as NETCONF/YANG or a vendor-specific CLI using Network Element Drivers (NED).

In the Converged SDN Transport design, the NSO is used for Services Management, Service Provisioning, and Service Orchestration.

The NSO provides several options for service designing as shown in Figure 32

- Service model with service template
- Service model with mapping logic
- Service model with mapping logic and service templates

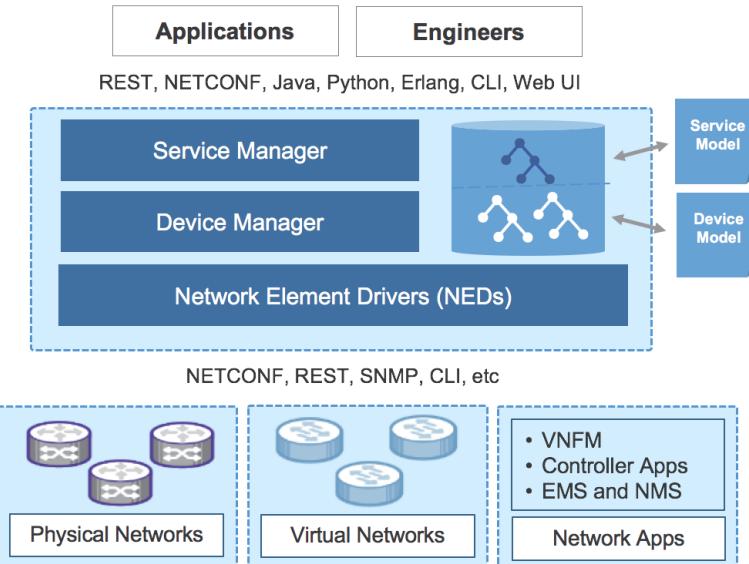


Figure 32: NSO – Components

A service model is a way of defining a service in a template format. Once the service is defined, the service model accepts user inputs for the actual provisioning of the service. For example, a E-Line service requires two endpoints and a unique virtual circuit ID to enable the service. The end devices, attachment circuit UNI interfaces, and a circuit ID are required parameters that should be provided by the user to bring up the E-Line service. The service model uses the YANG modeling language (RFC 6020) inside NSO to define a service.

Once the service characteristics are defined based on the requirements, the next step is to build the mapping logic in NSO to extract the user inputs. The mapping logic can be implemented using Python or Java. The purpose of the mapping logic is to transform the service models to device models. It includes mechanisms of how service related operations are reflected on the actual devices. This involves mapping a service operation to available operations on the devices.

Finally, service templates need to be created in XML for each device type. In NSO, the service templates are required to translate the service logic into final device configuration through CLI NED. The NSO can also directly use the device YANG models using NETCONF for device configuration. These service templates enable NSO to operate in a multi-vendor environment.

Converged SDN Transport Supported Service Models

Converged SDN Transport 1.5 and later supports the following NSO service models for provisioning both hierarchical and flat services across the fabric. All NSO service modules in 1.5 utilize the IOS-XR and IOS-XE CLI NEDs for configuration.

Category	Use Case	Service Edge Nodes/Interface
Provisioning: End to End Flat Services	L3VPN – VPNv4 ODN	<p>Service End Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASR920 (1.0) • NCS540 (2.0 roadmap) • NCS5500 (2.0 roadmap) <p>Service Attachment on End Point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port/Sub-interface/Service-Instance
	L2VPN – Static PW	<p>Service End Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASR920 • NCS540 • NCS5500 <p>Service Attachment on End Point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port • Port/Vlan
	EVPN – L2 – VPWS – ODN	<p>Service End Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCS5500 • NCS540 <p>Service Attachment on End Point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port • Port/Vlan

Figure 33: Automation – Flat Service Models

Category	Use Cases	Access Technology	Access Node Redundancy	Access Nodes	Service Edge Nodes/Interface
Provisioning Hierarchical Services	L3VPN – VPNv4 over PWHE- with EVPN-VPWS access (Single-Homed)	EVPN-VPWS	Single Homing	Service Access Nodes:	ASR9000s (XR) over PWHE
	L3VPN – VPNv6 over PWHE- with EVPN-VPWS access (Single-Homed)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASR920 • NCS5500 • NCS540 <p>Attachment Circuit on Access Node:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port • Port/Vlan 	ASR9000s (XR) over PWHE
	L3VPN – VPNv4 over PWHE- with Static Access PW	Static Anycast Access PW	Multi Homing	Service Access Nodes:	Pairs of ASR9000s (XR) over BVI
	L3VPN – VPNv6 over PWHE- with Static Access PW			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASR920 • NCS5500 • NCS540 <p>Attachment Circuit on Access Node:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port • Port/Vlan 	Pairs of ASR9000s (XR) over BVI
	EVPN – L2				Pairs of ASR9000s (XR)
	EVPN – L2/L3				Pairs of ASR9000s (XR) over BVI

Services – Design

Overview

The Converged SDN Transport Design aims to enable simplification across all layers of a Service Provider network. Thus, the Converged SDN Transport services layer focuses on a converged Control Plane based on BGP.

BGP based Services include EVPNs and Traditional L3VPNs (VPNv4/VPNv6).

EVPN is a technology initially designed for Ethernet multipoint services to provide advanced multi-homing capabilities. By using BGP for distributing MAC address reachability information over the MPLS network, EVPN brought the same operational and scale characteristics of IP based VPNs to L2VPNs. Today, beyond DCI and E-LAN applications, the EVPN solution family provides a common foundation for all Ethernet service types; including E-LINE, E-TREE, as well as data center routing and bridging scenarios. EVPN also provides options to combine L2 and L3 services into the same instance.

To simplify service deployment, provisioning of all services is fully automated using Cisco Network Services Orchestrator (NSO) using (YANG) models and NETCONF. Refer to Section: "Network Services Orchestrator (NSO)".

There are two types of services: End-To-End and Hierarchical. The next two sections describe these two types of services in more detail.

Ethernet VPN (EVPN)

EVPNs solve two long standing limitations for Ethernet Services in Service Provider Networks:

- Multi-Homed & All-Active Ethernet Access
- Service Provider Network - Integration with Central Office or with Data Center

Multi-Homed & All-Active Ethernet Access

Figure 21 demonstrates the greatest limitation of traditional L2 Multipoint solutions like VPLS.

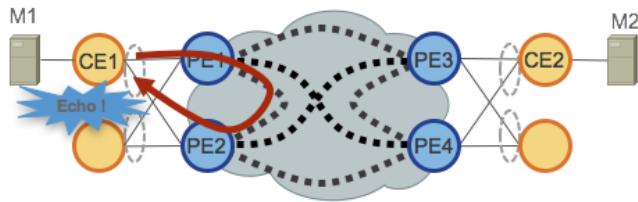


Figure 21: EVPN All-Active Access

When VPLS runs in the core, loop avoidance requires that PE1/PE2 and PE3/PE4 only provide Single-Active redundancy toward their respective CEs. Traditionally, techniques such as mLACP or Legacy L2 protocols like MST, REP, G.8032, etc. were used to provide Single-Active access redundancy.

The same situation occurs with Hierarchical-VPLS (H-VPLS), where the access node is responsible for providing Single-Active H-VPLS access by active and backup spoke pseudowire (PW).

All-Active access redundancy models are not deployable as VPLS technology lacks the capability of preventing L2 loops that derive from the forwarding mechanisms employed in the Core for certain categories of traffic. Broadcast, Unknown-Unicast and Multicast (BUM) traffic sourced from the CE is flooded throughout the VPLS Core and is received by all PEs, which in turn flood it to all attached CEs. In our example PE1 would flood BUM traffic from CE1 to the Core, and PE2 would send it back toward CE1 upon receiving it.

EVPN uses BGP-based Control Plane techniques to address this issue and enables Active-Active access redundancy models for either Ethernet or H-EVPN access.

Figure 22 shows another issue related to BUM traffic addressed by EVPN.

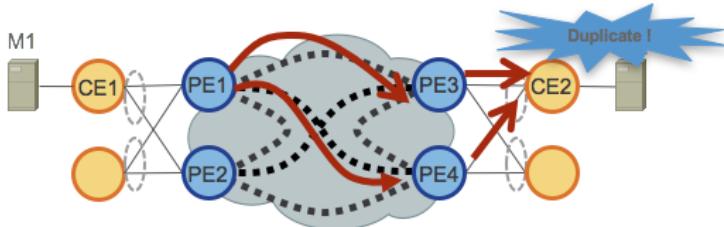


Figure 22: EVPN BUM Duplication

In the previous example, we described how BUM is flooded by PEs over the VPLS Core causing local L2 loops for traffic returning from the core.

Another issue is related to BUM flooding over VPLS Core on remote PEs. In our example either PE3 or PE4 receive and send the BUM traffic to their attached CEs, causing CE2 to receive duplicated BUM traffic.

EVPN also addresses this second issue, since the BGP Control Plane allows just one PE to send BUM traffic to an All-Active EVPN access.

Figure 23 describes the last important EVPN enhancement.

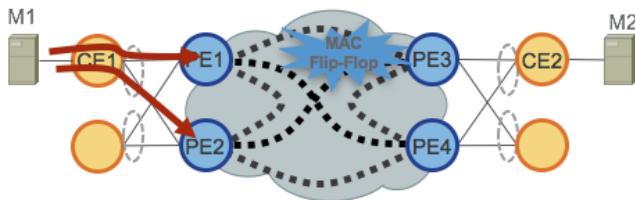


Figure 23: EVPN MAC Flip-Flopping

In the case of All-Active access, traffic is load-balanced (per-flow) over the access PEs (CE uses LACP to bundle multiple physical ethernet ports and uses hash algorithm to achieve per flow load-balancing). Remote PEs, PE3 and PE4, receive the same flow from different neighbors. With a VPLS core, PE3 and PE4 would rewrite the MAC address table continuously, each time the same mac address is seen from a different neighbor.

EVPN solves this by mean of “Aliasing”, which is also signaled via the BGP Control Plane.

Service Provider Network - Integration with Central Office or with Data Center

Another very important EVPN benefit is the simple integration with Central Office (CO) or with Data Center (DC). Note that Metro Central Office design is not covered by this document.

The adoption of EVPNs provides huge benefits on how L2 Multipoint technologies can be deployed in CO/DC. One such benefit is the converged Control Plane (BGP) and converged data plane (SR MPLS/SRv6) over SP WAN and CO/DC network.

Moreover, EVPNs can replace existing proprietary Ethernet Multi-Homed/All-Active solutions with a standard BGP-based Control Plane.

End-To-End (Flat) – Services

The End-To-End Services use cases are summarized in the table in Figure 24 and shown in the network diagram in Figure 25.

Service	Technology
L3VPN	MP-BGP VPv4/6
L2 P2P	EVPN-VPWS • Multi/Single-Homed • All/Single-Active Legacy EoMPLS (Static PW)
L2 Multipoint	EVPN • Multi/Single-Homed • All/Single-Active
L2/L3 Multipoint	EVPN • Multi/Single-Homed • All/Single-Active Anycast-IRB

Figure 24: End-To-End – Services table

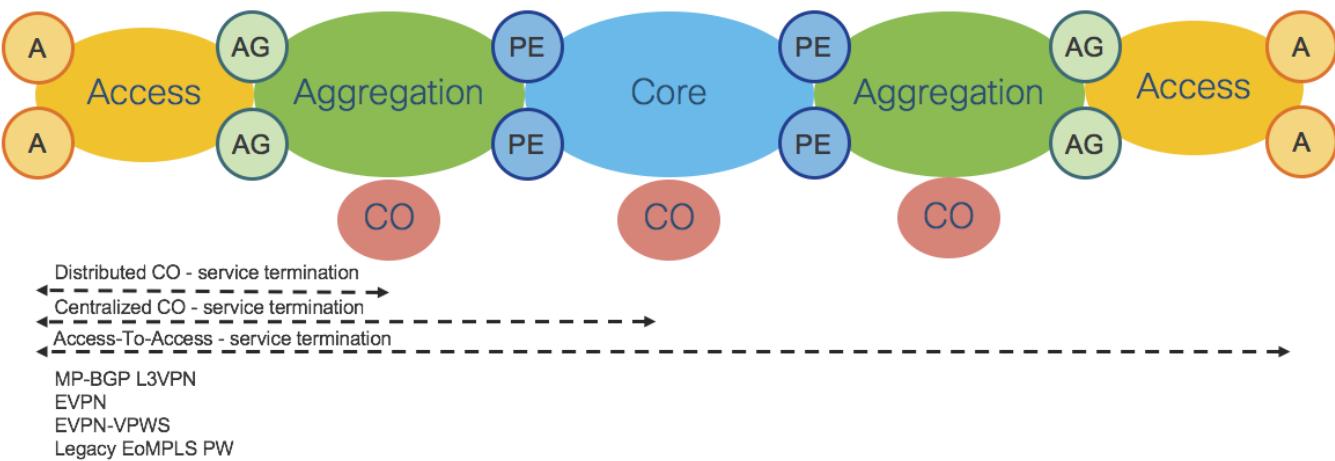


Figure 25: End-To-End – Services

All services use cases are based on BGP Control Plane.

Refer also to Section: "Transport and Services Integration".

Hierarchical – Services

Hierarchical Services Use Cases are summarized in the table of Figure 26 and shown in the network diagram of Figure 27.

Figure 26: Hierarchical – Services table

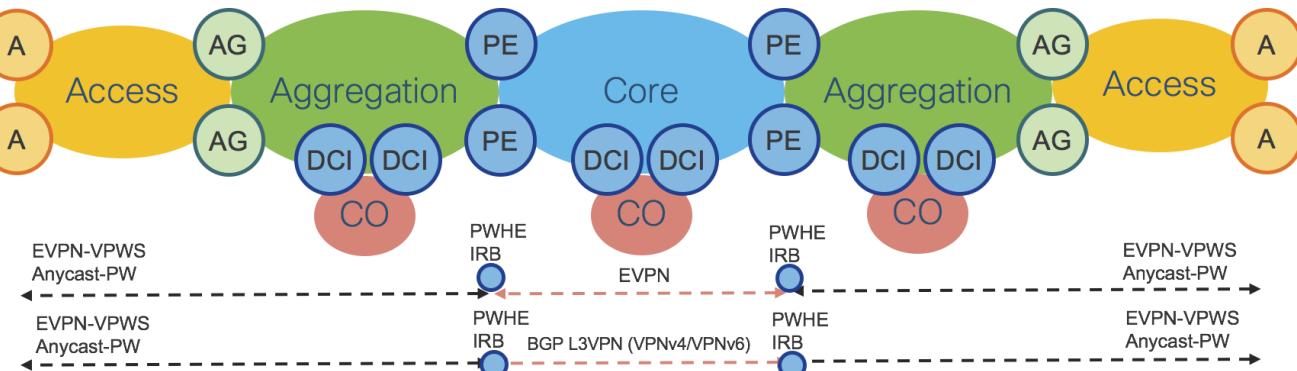


Figure 27: Hierarchical - Services

Hierarchical services designs are critical for Service Providers looking for limiting requirements on the access platforms and deploying more centralized provisioning models that leverage very rich features sets on a limited number of touch points.

Hierarchical Services can also be required by Service Providers who want to integrate their SP-WAN with the Central Office/Data Center network using well-established designs based on Data Central Interconnect (DCI).

Figure 27 shows hierarchical services deployed on PE routers, but the same design applies when services are deployed on AG or DCI routers.

The Converged SDN Transport Design offers scalable hierarchical services with simplified provisioning. The three most important use cases are described in the following sections:

- Hierarchical L2 Multipoint Multi-Homed/All-Active
- Hierarchical L2/L3 Multi/Single-Home, All/Single-Active Service (H-EVPN) and Anycast-IRB
- Hierarchical L2/L3 Multipoint Multi-Homed/Single-Active (H-EVPN) and PWHE

Hierarchical L2 Multipoint Multi-Homed/All-Active

Figure 28 shows a very elegant way to take advantage of the benefits of Segment-Routing Anycast-SID and EVPN. This use case provides Hierarchical L2 Multipoint Multi-Homed/All-Active (Single-Homed Ethernet access) service with traditional access router integration.

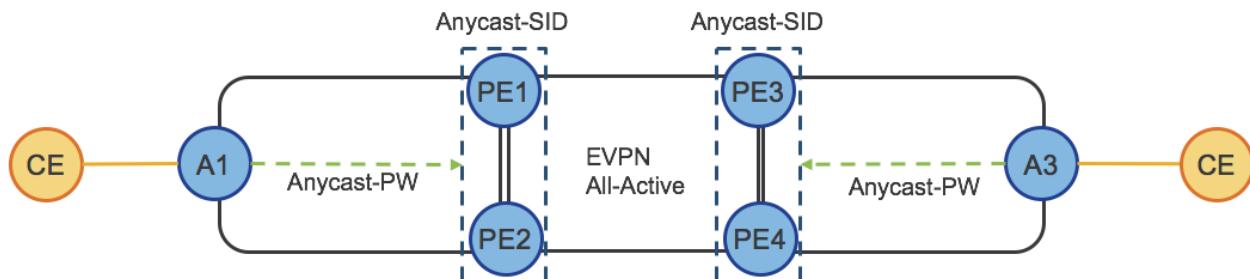


Figure 28: Hierarchical – Services (Anycast-PW)

Access Router A1 establishes a Single-Active static pseudowire (Anycast-Static-PW) to the Anycast IP address of PE1/PE2. PEs anycast IP address is represented by Anycast-SID.

Access Router A1 doesn't need to establish active/backup PWs as in a traditional H-VPLS design and doesn't need any enhancement on top of the established spoke pseudowire design.

PE1 and PE2 use BGP EVPN Control Plane to provide Multi-Homed/All-Active access, protecting from L2 loop, and providing efficient per-flow load-balancing (with aliasing) toward the remote PEs (PE3/PE4).

A3, PE3 and PE4 do the same, respectively.

Hierarchical L2/L3 Multi/Single-Home, All/Single-Active Service (H-EVPN) and Anycast-IRB

Figure 29 shows how EVPNs can completely replace the traditional H-VPLS solution. This use case provides the greatest flexibility as Hierarchical L2 Multi/Single-Home, All/Single-Active modes are available at each layer of the service hierarchy.

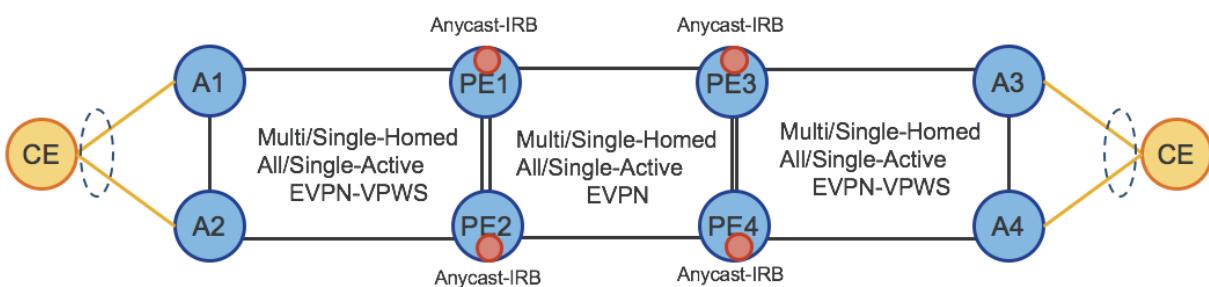


Figure 29: Hierarchical – Services (H-EVPN)

Optionally, Anycast-IRB can be used to enable Hierarchical L2/L3 Multi/Single-Home, All/Single-Active service and to provide optimal L3 routing.

Hierarchical L2/L3 Multipoint Multi-Homed/Single-Active (H-EVPN) and PWHE

Figure 30 shows how the previous H-EVPN can be extended by taking advantage of Pseudowire Headend (PWHE). PWHE with the combination of Multi-Homed, Single-Active EVPN provides an Hierarchical L2/L3 Multi-Homed/Single-Active (H-EVPN) solution that supports QoS.

It completely replaces traditional H-VPLS based solutions. This use case provides Hierarchical L2 Multi/Single-Home, All/Single-Active service.

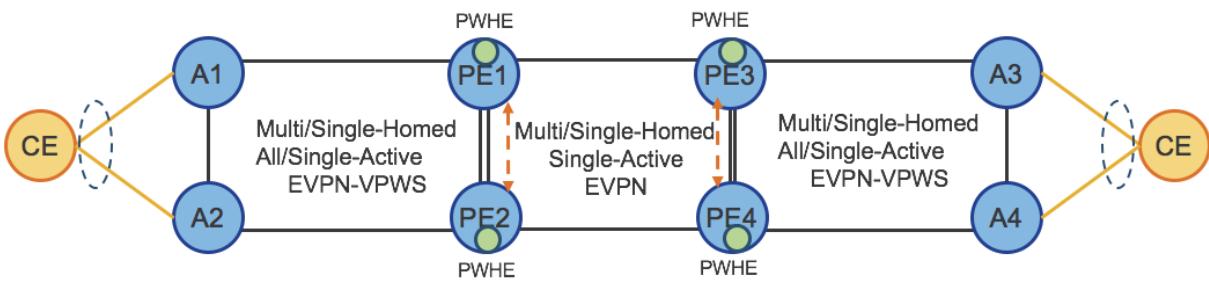


Figure 30: Hierarchical – Services (H-EVPN and PWHE)

Refer also to the section: “Transport and Services Integration”.

Services – Route-Reflector (S-RR)

Figure 31 shows the design of Services Router-Reflectors (S-RRs).

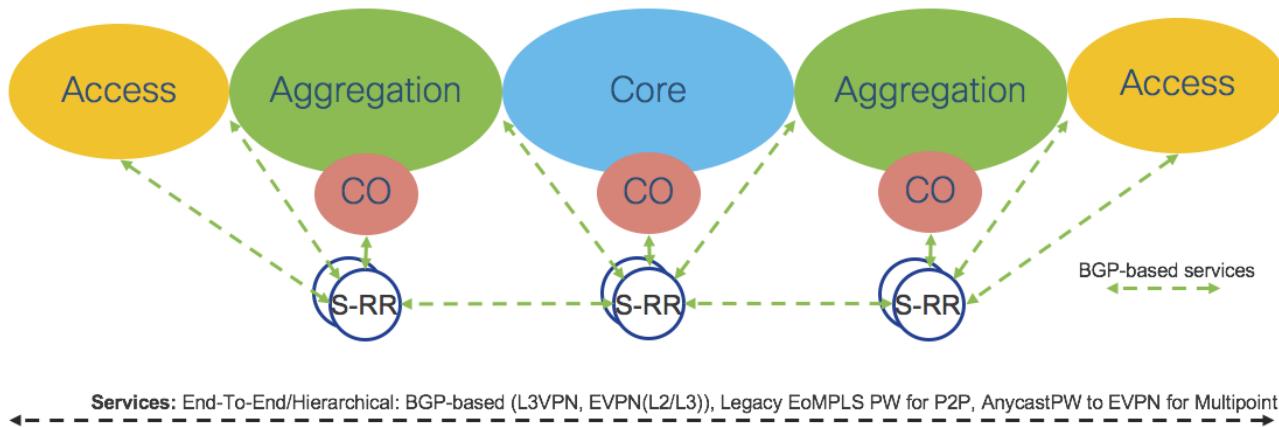


Figure 31: Services – Route-Reflectors

The Converged SDN Transport Design focuses mainly on BGP-based services, therefore it is important to provide a robust and scalable Services Route-Reflector (S-RR) design.

For Redundancy reasons, there are at least 2 S-RRs in any given IGP Domain, although Access and Aggregation are supported by the same pair of S-RRs.

Each node participating in BGP-based service termination has two BGP sessions with Domain Specific S-RRs and supports multiple address-Families: VPNv4, VPNv6, EVPN.

Core Domain S-RRs cover the core Domain. Aggregation Domain S-RRs cover Access and Aggregation Domains. Aggregation Domain S-RRs and Core S-RRs have BGP sessions among each other.

The described solution is very scalable and can be easily extended to scale to higher numbers of BGP sessions by adding another pair of S-RRs in the Access Domain.

Ethernet Services OAM using Ethernet CFM

Ethernet CFM using 802.1ag/Y.1731 has been added in the CST 3.0 design. Ethernet CFM provides end-to-end continuity monitoring and alerting on a per-service basis. Maintenance End Points (MEPs) are configured on PE-CE interfaces with periodic Continuity Check Messages (CCMs) sent between them utilizing the same forwarding path as service traffic. Ethernet CFM also enables the transmission of Alarm Indication Signal (AIS) messages to alert remote endpoints of local faults. Additional information on Ethernet CFM can be found in the CST Implementation Guide at <https://xrdocs.io/design/blogs/latest-converged-sdn-transport-implementation-guide>

Transport and Services Integration

Section: "Transport - Design" described how Segment Routing provides flexible End-To-End and Any-To-Any Highly-Available transport together with Fast Re-Route. A converged BGP Control Plane provides a scalable and flexible solution also at the services layer.

Figure 35 shows a consolidated view of the Converged SDN Transport network from a Control-Plane standpoint. Note that while network operators could use both PCEP and BGR-SR-TE at the same time, it is not typical.

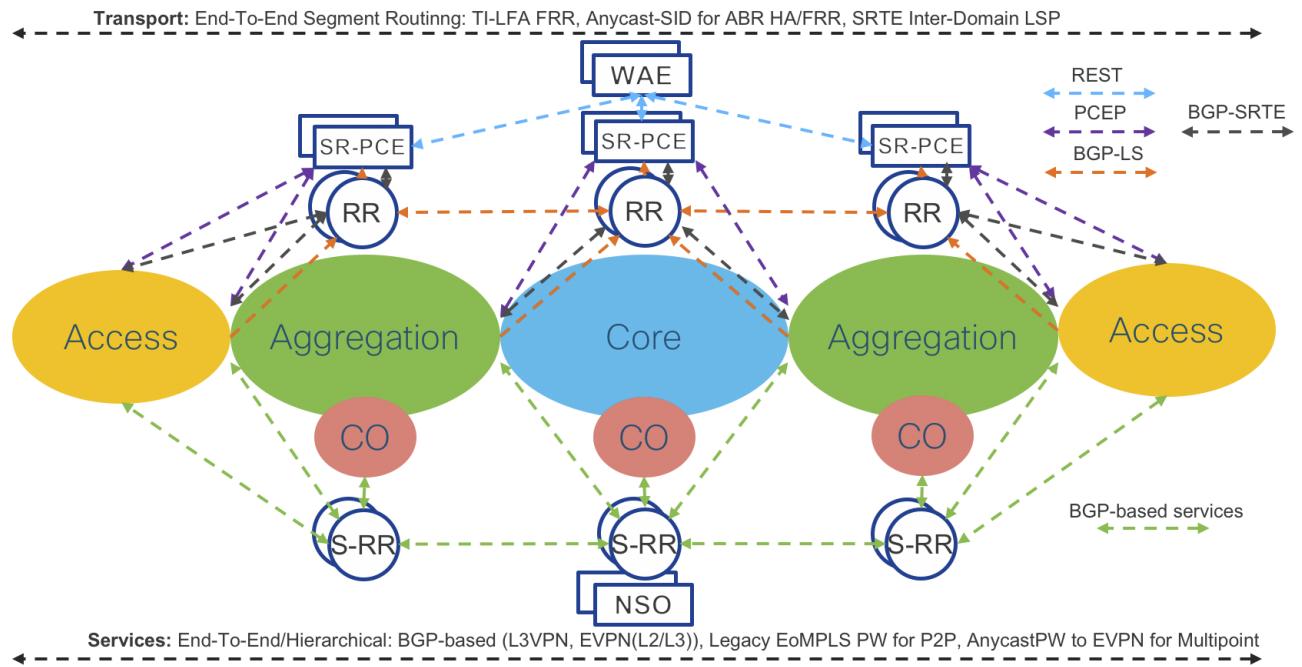


Figure 35: Converged SDN Transport – Control-Plane

As mentioned, service provisioning is independent of the transport layer. However, transport is responsible for providing the path based on service requirements (SLA). The component that enables such integration is On-Demand Next Hop (ODN). ODN is the capability of requesting to a controller a path that satisfies specific constraints (such as low latency). This is achieved by associating an SLA tag/attribute to the path request. Upon receiving the request, the SR-PCE controller calculates the path based on the requested SLA and use PCEP or BGP-SR-TE to dynamically program the Service End Point with a specific SR-TE Policy.

The Converged SDN Transport design also use MPLS Performance Management to monitor link delay/jitter/drop (RFC6374) to be able to create a Low Latency topology dynamically.

Figure 36 shows a consolidated view of the Converged SDN Transport network from a Data Plane standpoint.

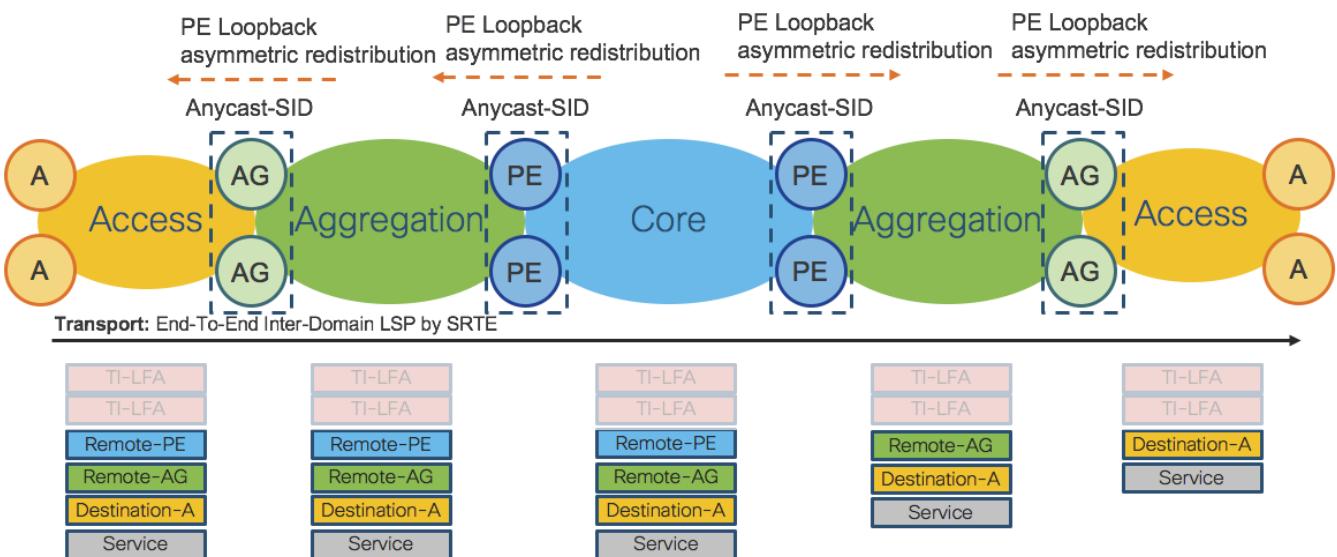


Figure 36: Converged SDN Transport – Data-Plane

The Converged SDN Transport Design

Transport

This section describes in detail the Converged SDN Transport design. This Converged SDN Transport design focuses on transport programmability using Segment Routing and BGP-based services adoption.

Figure 35 and Figure 36 show the network topology and transport Data Plane details for Phase 1. Refer also to the Access domain extension use case in Section: "Use Cases".

The network is split into Access and Core IGP domains. Each IGP domain is represented by separate IGP processes. The Converged SDN Transport design uses ISIS IGP protocol for validation.

Validation will be done on two types of access platforms, IOS-XR and IOS-XE, to prove interoperability.

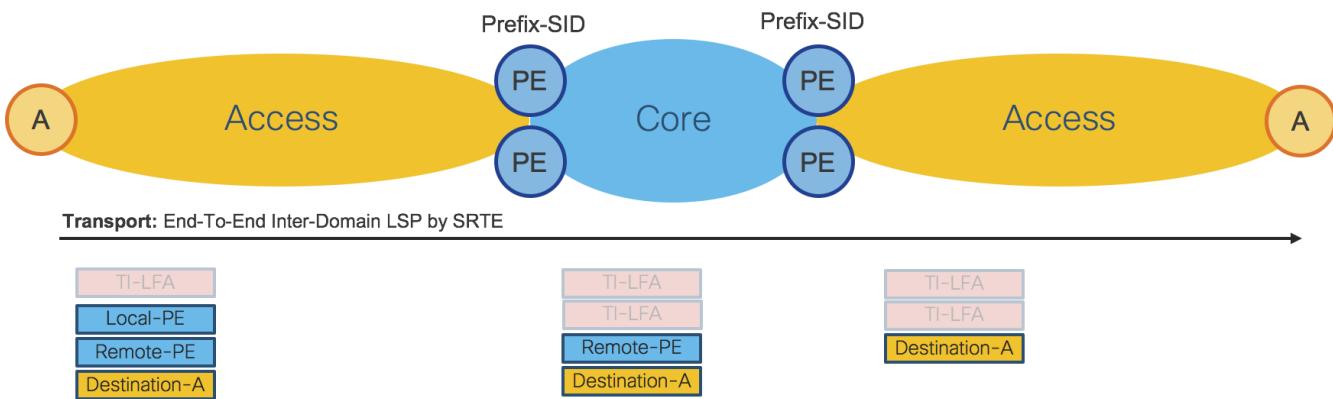


Figure 37: Access Domain Extension – End-To-End Transport

For the End-To-End LSP shown in Figure 35, the Access Router imposes 3 transport labels (SID-list). An additional label, the TI-LFA label, can be also added for FRR (node and link protection). In the Core and in the remote Access IGP Domain, 2 additional TI-LFA labels can be used for FRR (node and link protection). In Phase 1 PE ABRs are represented by Prefix-SID. Refer also to Section: "Transport Programmability - Phase 1".

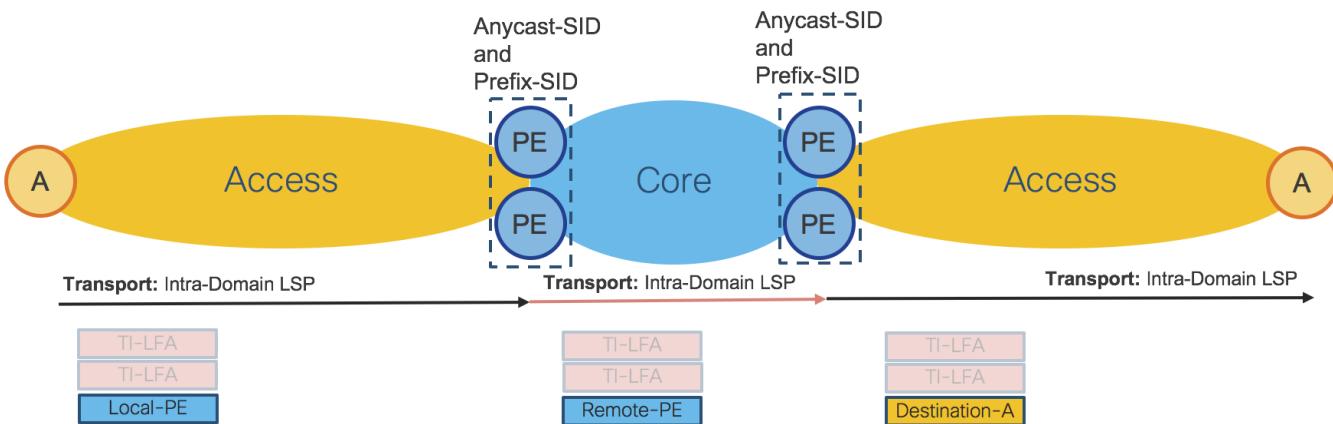


Figure 38: Access Domain Extension – Hierarchical Transport

Figure 38 shows how the Access Router imposes a single transport label to reach local PE ABRs, where the hierarchical service is terminated. Similarly, in the Core and in the remote Access IGP domain, the transport LSP is contained within the same IGP domain (Intra-Domain LSP). Routers in each IGP domain can also impose two additional TI-LFA labels for FRR (to provide node and link protection).

In the Hierarchical transport use case, PE ABRs are represented by Anycast-SID or Prefix-SID. Depending on the type of service, Anycast-SID or Prefix-SID is used for the transport LSP.

Transport Programmability

The Converged SDN Transport employs a distributed and highly available SR-PCE design as described in Section: "Transport Programmability". Transport programmability is based on PCEP. Figure 39 shows the design when SR-PCE uses PCEP.

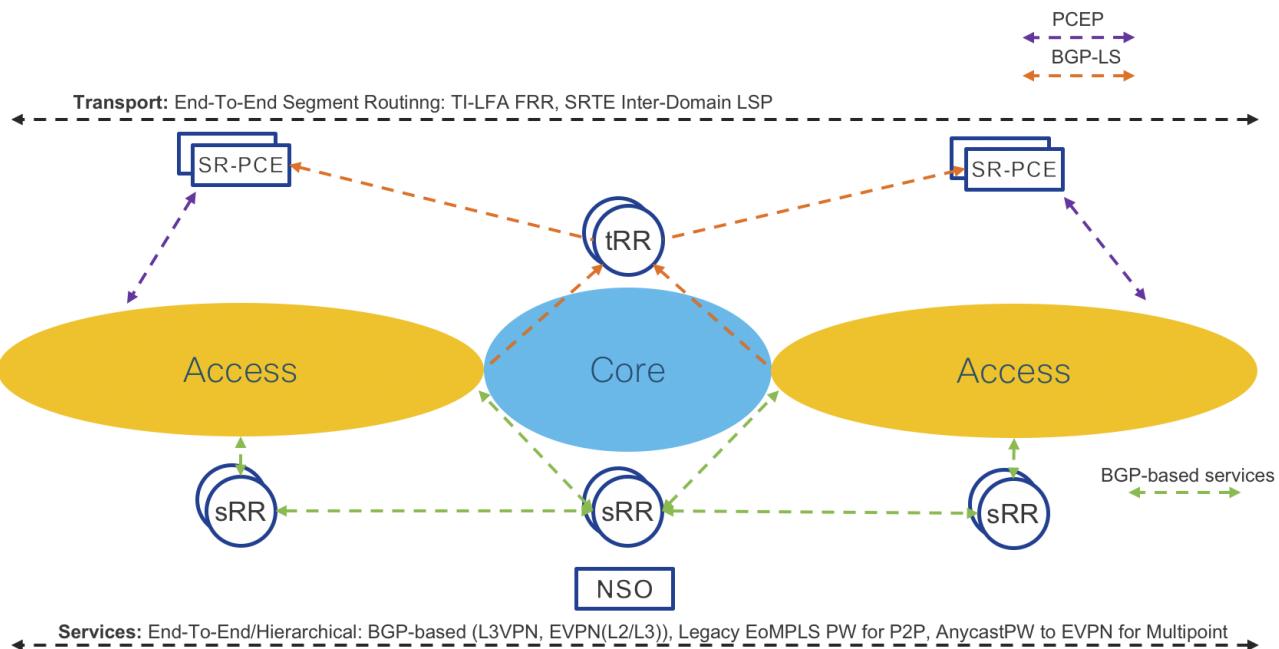


Figure 39: SR-PCE – PCEP

SR-PCE in the Access domain is responsible for Inter-Domain LSPs and provides the SID-list. PE ABRs are represented by Prefix-SID.

SR-PCE in the Core domain is responsible for On-Demand Nexthop (ODN) for hierarchical services. Refer to the table in Figure 41 to see what services use ODN. Refer to Section: "Transport Controller - Path Computation Engine (PCE)" to see more details about XR Transport Controller (SR-PCE). Note that Phase 1 uses the "Delegated Computation to SR-PCE" mode described in Section: "Path Computation Engine - Workflow" without WAE as shown in Figure 38.

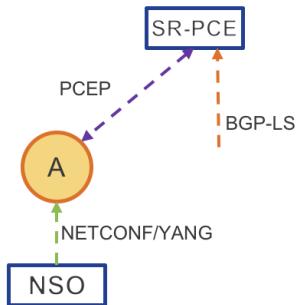


Figure 40: PCE Path Computation – Phase 1

Delegated Computation to SR-PCE

1. NSO provisions the service – Service can also be provisioned via CLI
2. Access Router requests a path
3. SR-PCE computes the path
4. SR-PCE provides the path to Access Router
5. Access Router confirms

Services

This section describes the Services used in the Converged SDN Transport Phase 1.

The table in Figure 41 describes the End-To-End services, while the network diagram in Figure 40 shows how services are deployed in the network. Refer also to Section: "Services - Design" of this document.

Service	Technology	Access Platform
L3VPN	MP-BGP VPNv4 ODN	ASR920
L2VPN P2P	EVPN-VPWS ODN • Single-Homed	NCS5501-SE
	Legacy EoMPLS (StaticPW) Preferred Path	NCS5501-SE ASR920

Figure 41: End-To-End Services table

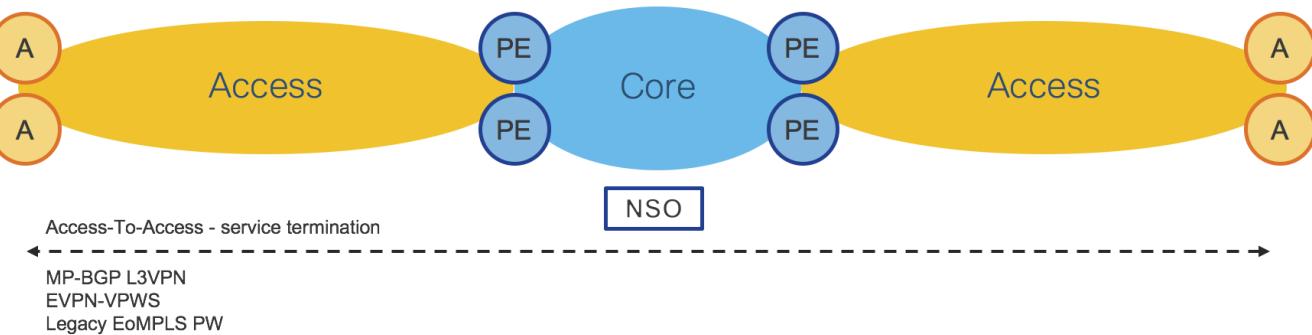


Figure 42: End-To-End Services

The table in Figure 42 describes the hierarchical services, while the network diagram in Figure 43 shows how services are deployed in the network. Refer also to Section: "Services - Design" of this document.

In addition, the table in Figure 44 shows where PE ABRs Anycast-SID is required and where ODN in the Core IGP domain is used.

Service	Technology in Access	Technology in Core	Access Platform
L3VPN	EVNP-VPWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-Homed 	MP-BGP VPNv4/6 PWHE	NCS5501-SE ASR920
	Anycast StaticPW PE ABRs Anycast-SID required	MP-BGP VPNv4 Anycast IRB EVPN multichassis CP required	NCS5501-SE ASR920
L2/L3VPN Multipoint	Anycast-Static-PW PE ABRs Anycast-SID required	EVPN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-Homed All-Active Anycast IRB (optional)	NCS5501-SE ASR920

Figure 41: Hierarchical Services table

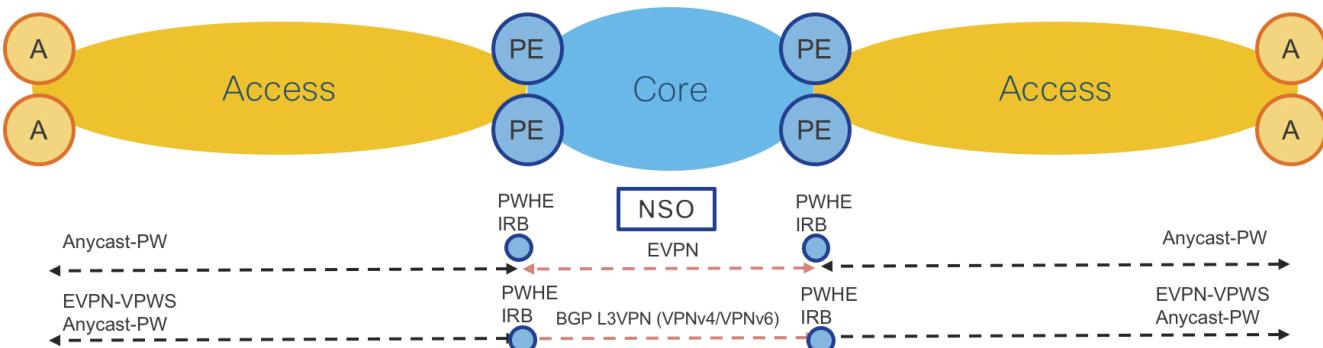


Figure 42: Hierarchical Services

The Converged SDN Transport uses the hierarchical Services Route-Reflectors (S-RRs) design described in Section: "Services - Route-Reflector (S-RR)". Figure 43 shows in detail the S-RRs design used for Phase 1.

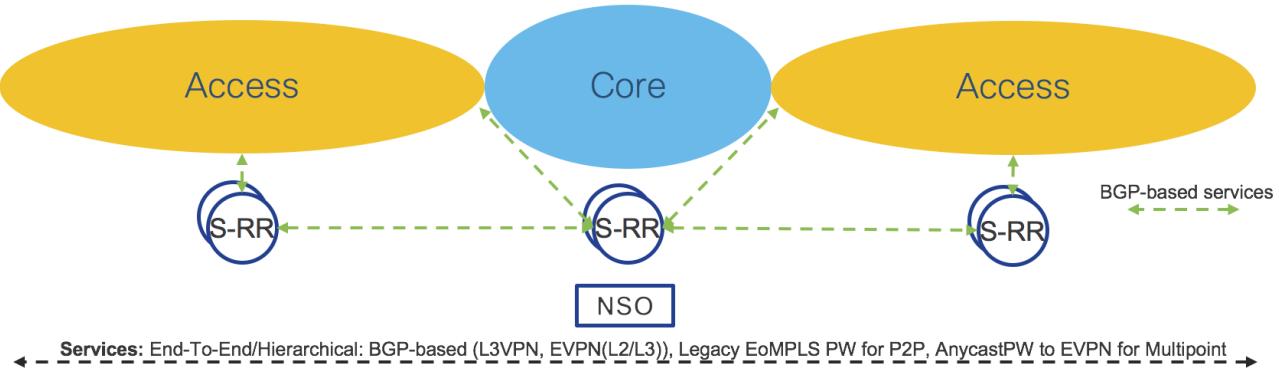


Figure 43: Services Route-Reflectors (S-RRs)

Network Services Orchestrator (NSO) is used for service provisioning. Refer to Section: "Network Services Orchestrator (NSO)".

Transport and Services Integration

Transport and Services integration is described in Section: "Transport and Services Integration" of this document. Figure 44 shows an example of End-To-End LSP and services integration in Phase 1.

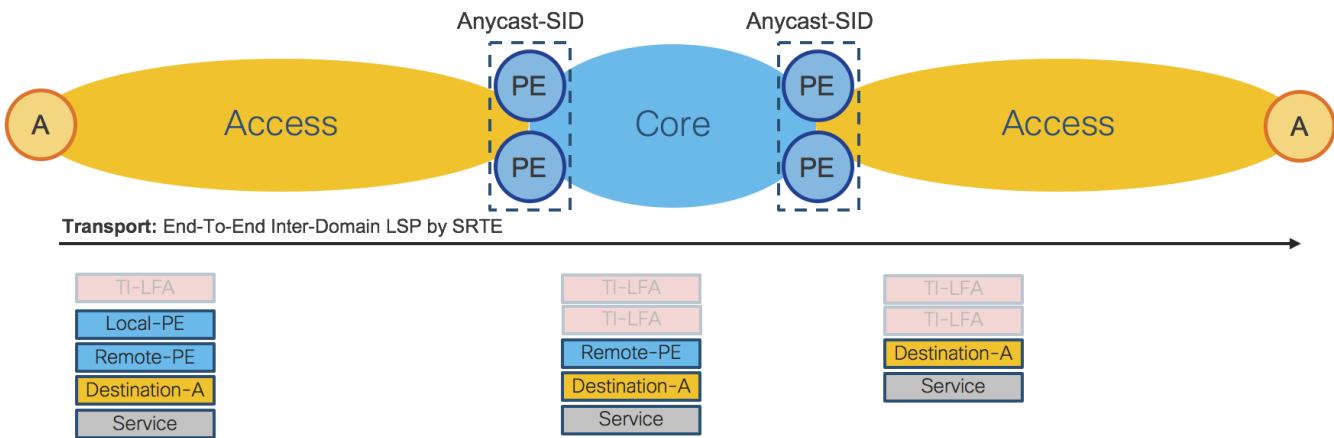


Figure 44: Transport and Services Data-Plane

Figure 45 shows a consolidated view of the Transport and Services Control-Plane.

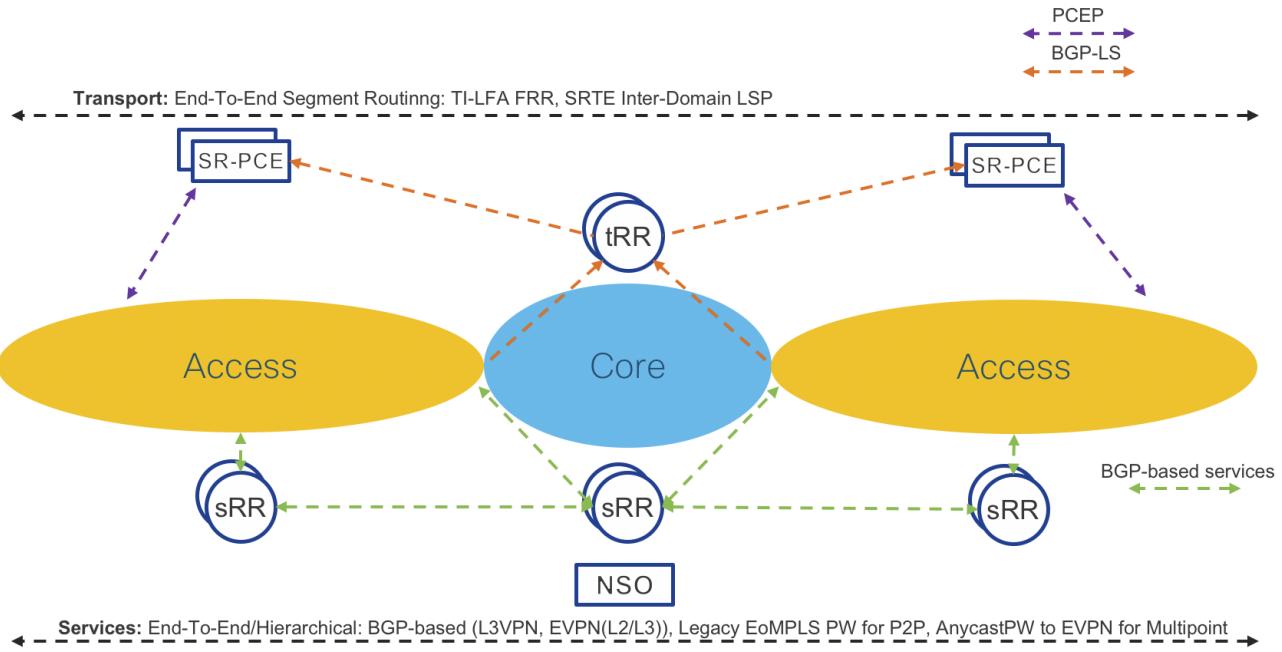


Figure 45: Transport and Services Control-Plane

Figure 46 shows the physical topology of the testbed used for Phase 1 validation.

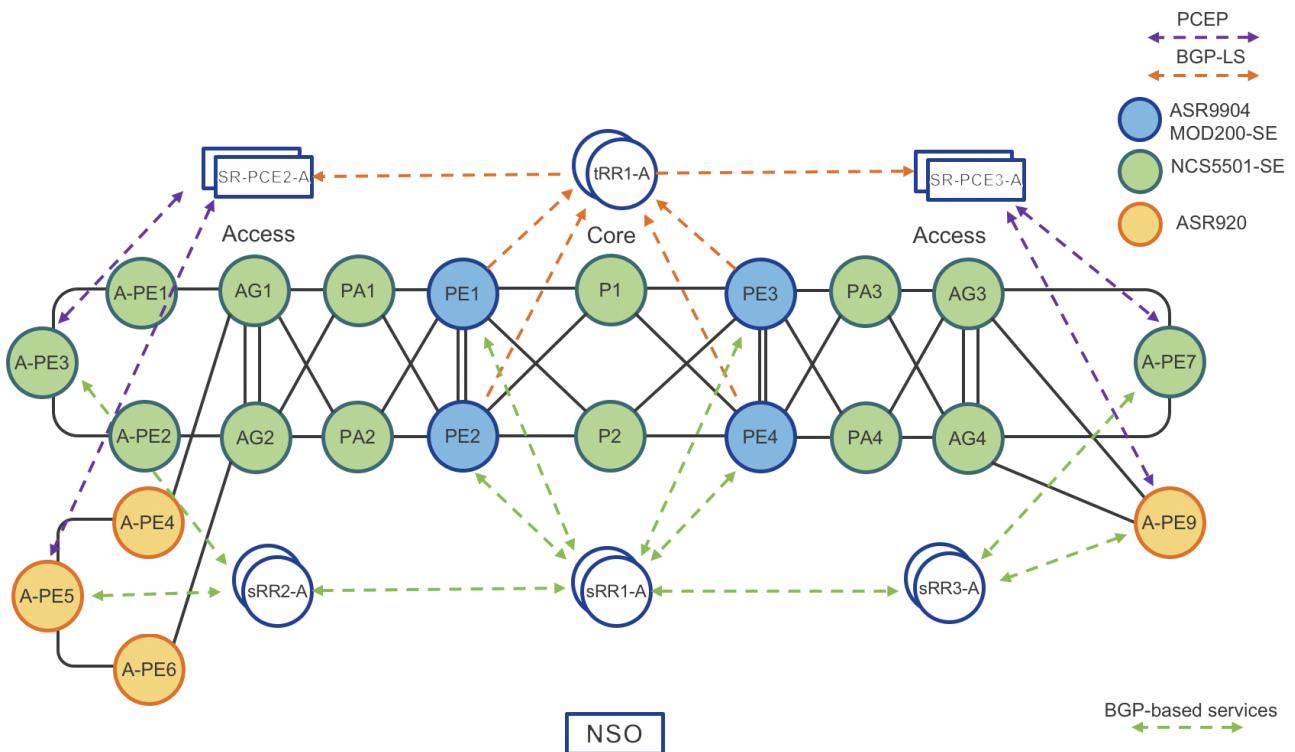


Figure 46: Testbed – Phase 1

The Converged SDN Transport Design - Summary

The Converged SDN Transport brings huge simplification at the Transport as well as at the Services layers of a Service Provider network. Simplification is a key factor for real Software Defined Networking (SDN). Cisco continuously improves Service Provider network designs to satisfy market needs for scalability and flexibility.

From a very well established and robust Unified MPLS design, Cisco has embarked on a journey toward transport simplification and programmability, which started with the Transport Control Plane unification in Evolved Programmable Network 5.0 (EPN5.0). The Cisco Converged SDN Transport provides another huge leap forward in simplification and programmability adding Services Control Plane unification and centralized path computation.

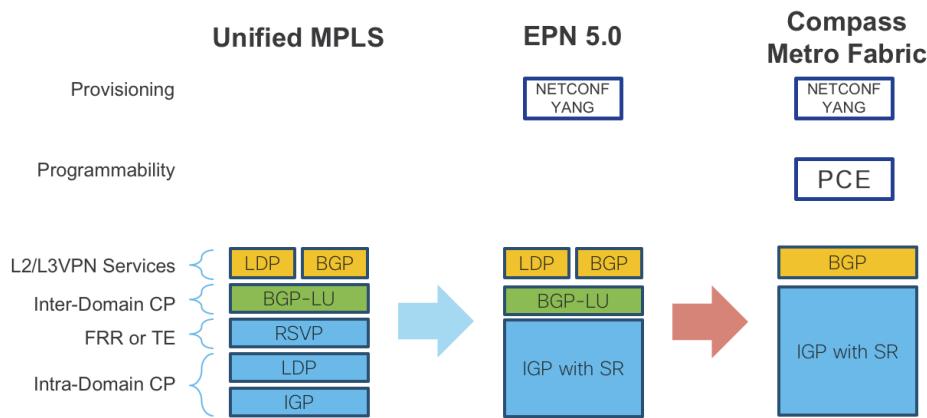


Figure 47: Converged SDN Transport – Evolution

The transport layer requires only IGP protocols with Segment Routing extensions for Intra and Inter Domain forwarding. Fast recovery for node and link failures leverages Fast Re-Route (FRR) by Topology Independent Loop Free Alternate (TI-LFA), which is a built-in function of Segment Routing. End to End LSPs are built using Traffic Engineering by Segment Routing, which does not require additional signaling protocols. Instead it solely relies on SDN controllers, thus increasing overall network scalability. The controller layer is based on standard industry protocols like BGP-LS, PCEP, BGP-SR-TE, etc., for path computation and NETCONF/YANG for service provisioning, thus providing a on open standards based solution.

For all those reasons, the Cisco Converged SDN Transport design really brings an exciting evolution in Service Provider Networking.

Hardware Validation

NCS-55A2-MOD

The Converged SDN Transport design now supports the NCS-55A2-MOD access and aggregation router. The 55A2-MOD is a modular 2RU router with 24 1G/10G SFP+, 16 1G/10G/25G SFP28 onboard interfaces, and two modular slots capable of 400G of throughput per slot using Cisco NCS Modular Port Adapters or MPAs. MPAs add additional 1G/10G SFP+, 100G QSFP28, or 100G/200G CFP2 interfaces. The 55A2-MOD is available in an extended temperature version with a conformal coating as well as a high scale configuration (NCS-55A2-MOD-SE-S) scaling to millions of IPv4 and IPv6 routes.

NCS-5501, NCS-5501-SE, and N540-24Z8Q2C-M

The NCS 5501, 5501-SE, and 540 hardware is validated in both an access and aggregation role in the Converged SDN Transport. The 5501 has 48x1G/10G SFP+ and 6x100G QSFP28 interfaces, the SE adds higher route scale via an external TCAM. The N540-24Z8Q2C-M is a next-generation access node with 24x10G

SFP+, 8x25G SFP28, and 2x100G QSFP28 interfaces. The NCS540 is available in extended temperature with a conformal coating for deployment deep into access networks.

ASR-920

The IOS-XE based ASR 920 is tested within the Converged SDN Transport as an access node. All services and the Segment Routing dataplane are validated on the ASR 920.

ASR 9000

The ASR 9000 is the router of choice for high scale edge services. The Converged SDN Transport utilizes the ASR 9000 in a PE function role, performing high scale L2VPN, L3VPN, and Pseudowire headend termination. All testing up to 2.0 has been performed using Tomahawk series line cards on the ASR 9000.