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Future Development Trends of Optical Transport Network Infrastructure

**An Infrastructural Framework for Metropolitan-based Optical Transport Networks –
a field test of a Chinese ISP and a case study of a Chinese Electric Power Company**

**A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the
requirements for the award of the degree**

Master of Information and Communication Technology by Research

from

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

by

SHENG CHEN, MInfoTech *UOW*, B.E. *ECUST*

**School of Information Technology and Computer Science
2006**

Certification

I, Sheng Chen, declare that this thesis, submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Masters by Research, in the School of Information Technology and Computer Science, University of Wollongong, is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. The document has not been submitted for qualifications as any other academic institution.

Sheng Chen

18 December 2006

Dedication

Dedicated to

my family

and to the memory of my maternal grandfather

Pinxian, Wang (1924-2006)

Table of Contents

Certification.....	i
Dedication	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Figures and Tables	vi
Abstract	viii
Acknowledgements	ix
Publications	x
 Chapter 1: Introduction.....	 1
1.1 Next Generation Optical Networks	1
1.1.1 Historical Background	1
1.1.2 Current Situation.....	3
1.2 Previous Research	3
1.3 The Emerging Gap	4
1.4 Justification	5
1.5 Aims and Objectives	5
1.6 Research Methodology.....	6
1.7 Scope and Limitations.....	7
1.8 Outcomes and Contributions.....	8
1.9 Research Outline	9
 Chapter 2: Review of the Relevant Literature	 11
2.1 Introduction.....	11
2.2 OTN Standards.....	12
2.3 Optical Transport Components	14
2.3.1 Fibre Optics	14
2.3.2 Optical Amplifier (OA).....	15
2.3.3 Optical Cross-Connect (OXC).....	16
2.3.4 Optical Add/Drop Multiplexer (OADM)	17
2.4 Optical Transport Technologies: WDM and DWDM.....	19
2.4.1 Definition	19
2.4.2 Operation of WDM and DWDM	20
2.4.3 Advantages	21
2.4.4 Disadvantages	22
2.5 OTN Infrastructure Considerations and Requirements	22
2.6 The Evolution of Data Transmission Technologies in OTN.....	25
2.6.1 Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM)	25
2.6.2 Packet over SONET/SDH (POS).....	26
2.6.3 Resilient Packet Ring (RPR, IEEE802.17)	27
2.6.4 10-Gigabit Ethernet (10-GBE).....	28
2.7 Conclusion	29

Chapter 3: Research Methodology	30
3.1 Introduction.....	30
3.2 Purpose of the Study	31
3.3 Approach Taken.....	32
3.3.1 Overview of Research Strategy.....	33
3.3.2 Unit of Analysis	34
3.3.3 Time Horizon.....	35
3.4 Data Gathering Process	35
3.5 Data Analysis Techniques.....	39
3.6 Conclusion	40
Chapter 4: An Overview of the Development of the OTN Data Control Plane	41
4.1 Introduction.....	41
4.2 Background	41
4.3 Static IP Optical Overlay Control Plane.....	43
4.3.1 Evolution of IP-based Service Architecture in the OTN.....	43
4.3.2 The Two Layer “IP over WDM” Architecture	46
4.4 Dynamic IP Optical Overlay Control Plane	50
4.4.1 The Basic Principle of Wavelength Routing.....	50
4.4.2 The Development of Data Transport Protection in the OTN	52
4.5 Integrated IP Optical Peer Control Plane	53
4.5.1 The Integrated IP/MPLS Peer Control Model	53
4.5.2 Advanced Topics in QoS and Network Efficiency of the OTN.....	55
4.5.3 The Integration of IP/MPLS and the OTN.....	59
4.6 A Framework for OTN Infrastructure Development Trends.....	61
4.7 Conclusion	63
Chapter 5: The Evolution of Protection Technologies in Metro Core Optical Networks.....	65
5.1 Introduction.....	65
5.2 Background	65
5.3 Ring Protection Technologies in Modern SONET/SDH Systems	66
5.4 Resilient Packet Ring (IEEE 802.17)	68
5.5 Fast Reroute (FRR) Technology	69
5.6 Overall Considerations of Current Metro Core Optical Protection	75
5.7 Future Development Trends of Metro Core Optical Protection	76
5.7.1 WDM Protection.....	76
5.7.2 GMPLS-TE End-to-End Protection	77
5.7.3 Summary.....	79
5.8 An Evaluation of the Proposed Infrastructural Framework.....	80
5.9 Conclusion	82
Chapter 6: A Case Study Based on an OTN System Upgrade Engineering Project of SMEPC.....	84
6.1 Introduction.....	84
6.2 Background Information of SMEPC.....	85

6.3 Current Situation and Problems in the ShPTnet.....	85
6.4 The Importance of Increasing Efficiency of ShPTnet.....	86
6.4.1 Data Service Considerations in the Current Business Environment	86
6.4.2 Towards Advanced Optical Transport Technologies.....	87
6.5 Systems Analysis of the Upgrade Project	88
6.5.1 Technical Requirements of the OTN Project of SMEPC.....	88
6.5.2 Next Generation SDH Transport Platform.....	89
6.6 The System Construction of the Next Generation ShPTnet.....	92
6.6.1 ShPTnet Network Deployment	92
6.6.2 ShPTnet Network Construction and Topology	94
6.6.3 ShPTnet Network Management Platform	95
6.6.4 ShPTnet Network Protection and Security Mechanism.....	97
6.6.5 ShPTnet Network Bandwidth Expansibility	98
6.6.6 ShPTnet Data Service Deployment.....	99
6.7 Future Development and Layout of the ShPTnet.....	100
6.8 A Roadmap of the Development Trends of ShPTnet.....	102
6.9 Conclusion	104
 Chapter 7: Conclusion	 105
7.1 Principal Conclusion	105
7.1.1 Major Contributions.....	105
7.1.2 Minor Contributions	105
7.2 Major Implications.....	106
7.3 Links to Earlier Findings.....	106
7.4 Recommendations	107
7.4.1 CWDM or DWDM?	107
7.4.2 GMPLS or ASON?	108
7.4.3 Future Research	110
7.5 Conclusion	111
 References	 112
Acronyms	122

List of Figures and Tables

Figures

Figure 2.1: Tiered Literature Review Layout.....	11
Figure 2.2: A Comparison of Electrical OXC and Optical OXC	17
Figure 2.3: (a) A Typical OADM Model; (b) OADM Deployed in a WDM Ring Topology.....	18
Figure 2.4: Basic operations of WDM/DWDM system	20
Figure 2.5: A Comparison between TDM and WDM transmission system.....	21
Figure 2.6: ATM-PON Architecture	26
Figure 2.7: Layer Model of The RPR Standard	27
Figure 3.1: Overall Research Design	31
Figure 4.1: IP/Optical Overlay Model and IP/Optical Peer Model	43
Figure 4.2: TDM-based (deployed with ADM) and WDM-based (deployed with OADM) Data Transport Infrastructures	44
Figure 4.3: A Complex “IP over ATM over SONET/SDH over WDM” Architecture	46
Figure 4.4: Protocol Stacks for Achieving “IP over WDM”	46
Figure 4.5: Next Generation “IP over WDM” Service Backbone Network.....	48
Figure 4.6: A Scalable and Flexible Optical Service Deployment of Static Overlay Model	49
Figure 4.7: IP Optical Dynamic Overlay Model	50
Figure 4.8: Basic Operations of Wavelength Routing Mechanisms.....	51
Figure 4.9: Standard IP Routing Causes Wastage of Network Link Resources.....	54
Figure 4.10: MPLS Optimises Network Utilisation with Specific QoS Guaranteed.....	55
Figure 4.11: Internal Processes of MPLS with Traffic Engineering (MPLS-TE).....	58
Figure 4.12: TE Implementation from the IP to the Optical Domain.....	58
Figure 4.13: GMPLS Domain on an Integrated Peer Model.....	60
Figure 4.14: A Framework for the OTN Infrastructure Development Orientation	62
Figure 5.1: “2-fibre” UPSR with “1+1” Path Protection.....	66
Figure 5.2: “2-fibre” MS-SPRing with “1:1” Line Protection	67
Figure 5.3: Spatial Reuse Algorithm and Intelligent Protection Switching	69
Figure 5.4: The Restoration Time Gap between IP and Optical.....	70
Figure 5.5: FRR Implementation in MPLS-TE Domain	71
Figure 5.6: Simulations of FRR on Two Common Network Failures.....	73
Figure 5.7: Results of the Network Link Recovery Test.....	74
Figure 5.8: Results of the Network Node Recovery Test.....	74
Figure 5.9: Current Metro Optical Protection Solutions	75
Figure 5.10: GMPLS-TE Extension End-to-End Protection	78
Figure 5.11: Future Metro Optical Protection Solutions	80
Figure 5.12: A Comparison between the Research Results and the Proposed Framework	81
Figure 6.1: A VCAT Example	90
Figure 6.2: A Comparison of VCAT and Standard Concatenations in Bandwidth Utilisation	91
Figure 6.3: Delivering Data Services over Next Generation SDH Transport Platform.....	92
Figure 6.4: System Structure of the Cisco ONS 15454 MSTP	93

Figure 6.5: Engineering Topology of the MSTP-based OTN of SMEPC	95
Figure 6.6: Cisco Transport Manager (CTM)	96
Figure 6.7: Network Management Platform of the SMEPC OTN Project	96
Figure 6.8: A Screenshot of the Cisco Transport Controller (CTC).....	97
Figure 6.9: Configure MSTP Network as a Backup Route of Legacy ATM Network	99
Figure 6.10: Migrate Services from Legacy ATM network onto the Unitive MSTP network.....	101
Figure 6.11: A Landscape of the Future ShPTnet Network Infrastructure.....	102
Figure 6.12: A Roadmap of the Development Trends of ShPTnet.....	103
Figure 7.1: The Major Role (Achievements) of each OTN Standards Organisation.....	109

Tables

Table 2.1: Weaknesses in Current OTN Infrastructure Development.....	23
Table 3.1: Research Approach	33
Table 3.2: Secondary Data Gathered from a Variety of Online/Offline Literature Sources	36
Table 5.1: Simulated Network Traffic	72
Table 5.2: Summary of the Test Results	75

Abstract

Optical Transport Networks (OTNs) play a foundational role in current and future telecommunication infrastructure. However, the development and implementation of OTNs have been restrained since the bursting of the dot-com bubble. Many service providers and large companies are confused in the development directions of future OTN infrastructure, as there are several standards organisations with differing positions. On the other hand, there is a lack of large scale testing, as well as practical implementation cases due to the emerging nature of the OTN. Therefore, this thesis develops a framework demonstrating a landscape of current and future development steps of OTN infrastructure from both theoretical and commercial standpoints. The key concept of the framework is the integration of the IP-oriented data transmission layer and the WDM-based optical transport layer. Traditional telecommunication infrastructure focuses on long-haul, point-to-point optical transmission with ultra broadband carrier capacity. Nevertheless, the next generation OTN systems will emphasis the delivery of IP-oriented multifunctional data services, instead of legacy simplex TDM-based services across a metropolitan span with sufficient reliability and efficiency. Thus, this thesis gives a systematic validation of the proposed framework from two angles. Firstly, it provides in-depth research on the evolution of protection technologies in metro core optical networks, along with a MPLS-based network fast recovery field test to validate the framework from the network reliability aspect. The field test was conducted using a large Chinese ISP test bed and demonstrated the practical performance of the advanced OTN protection technology from the perspective of a service provider. Secondly, this research presents a comprehensive case study based on a large commercial metro OTN upgrade project of Shanghai Municipal Electric Power Company (SMEPC). The outcome of the case study is an evolutionary roadmap, which illustrates the infrastructural development trends of this ongoing project. The roadmap can be considered as another evaluation of the framework in terms of network efficiency from an industrial-based dimension. The outcome of this research is to clarify future development trends in OTN infrastructure for the purpose of informing the design and implementation of commercial OTN applications.

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Publications

The following papers were published during my candidature at the University of Wollongong. The conferences where these papers appeared were IEEE/IEE sponsored.

1. Sheng Chen, “Evolution of protection technologies in metro core optical networks”, *International Conference on Networking and Services (ICNS 06)*, IEEE Computer Society Press, July 16~19, 2006, Silicon Valley, USA.
2. Sheng Chen, “An Overview on the integrated IP Optical data control plane in the Optical Transport Network”, *International Conference on Communications, Circuits and Systems (ICCCAS 06)*, IEEE Press, June 25~28, 2006, Guilin, China.
3. Sheng Chen, “A case study based on an optical communication engineering project of the system upgrade for Shanghai Power Telecommunication Network (ShPTnet)”, *Advances in Power System Control, Operation and Management (APSCOM 2006)*, Power and Energy section of IEE , 31 Oct~ 2 Nov, Hong Kong, China.

I have also been invited to be a member of the technical committee of *The Third International Conference on Networking and Services (ICNS 07)*.