

ATX plots path to DOCSIS 4.0



Boosting the capacity of the cable network to 1.8GHz is one possible choice cable operators have with DOCSIS 4.0, and it's that option that's been firmly planted on ATX Networks' roadmap.

The supplier expects to reveal more of the technical details this fall (possibly around the SCTE Cable-Tec Expo, set for October in Atlanta), but ATX

anticipates that its 1.8GHz portfolio will consist of a new line extender, multi-port amplifiers and, possibly, a booster amplifier that some operators might use to get a grip on the higher power requirements linked to cable networks built out to 1.8GHz.

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Comcast taps long-haul tech to monitor expanding fiber access network



Comcast is pushing fiber deeper into its network with a new distributed access architecture (DAA) and deploying fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) in a more targeted fashion. While the rollout will add critical capacity to Comcast's network as it pursues a broader "10G" initiative that will enable symmetrical speeds of 10 Gbit/s, it also presents the operator with some new challenges, namely in the area of fiber network monitoring.

"Speed's great, but how do we make sure it's really up to the reliability expectation of our customers?," explains Elad Nafshi, Comcast's SVP of next generation access networks. "If it gets cut, you need to find where it is, and you need to

fuse it together." The challenge therein, he said, was to achieve uniform, real-time visibility across all parts of Comcast's access network, including the coax and fiber elements. Up to now, pinpointing the location of a fiber cut has typically been a time-consuming exercise, on the order of two hours, according to Comcast's estimates. However, the operator has been able to reduce that time to about a minute-and-a-half using "XMF," a new monitoring platform for Comcast's fiber access network that was developed by Venk Mutalik, an engineer on Comcast's Next Generation Access Network team.

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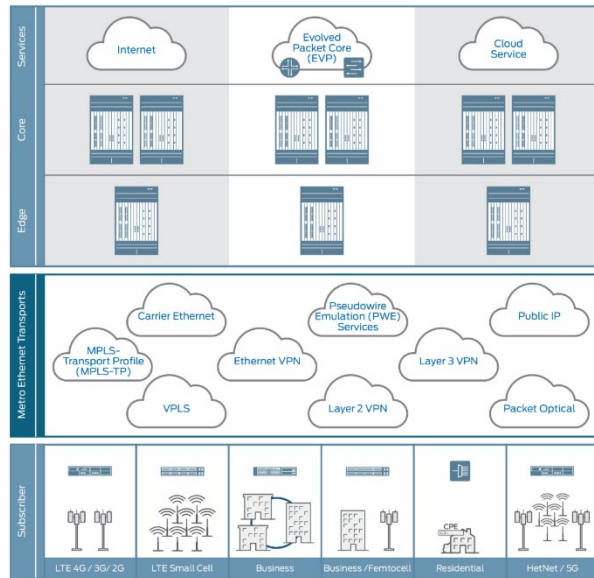
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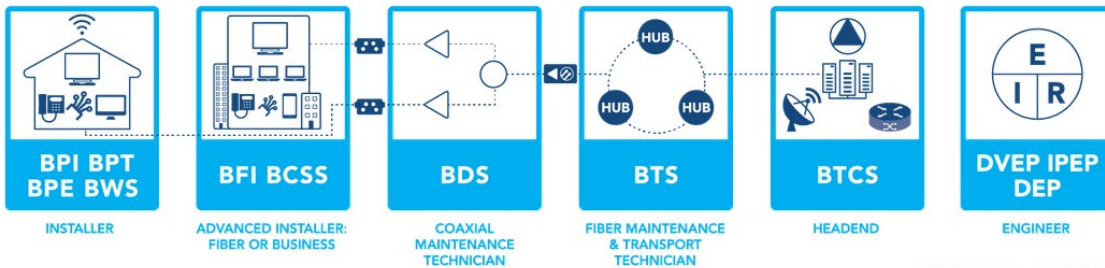
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