#### ciena

### Network Futures: Faster, Closer, Smarter, Greener

#### **Rod Wilson**

Chief Technologist, External Research Ciena Research Labs, Ottawa, Canada

September 2025

#### Ciena's R&D External Research Team

Investigate promising new technology
Look out, beyond product trajectories
Learn via experiment and be curious
Path find, explore, qualify, & engage experts

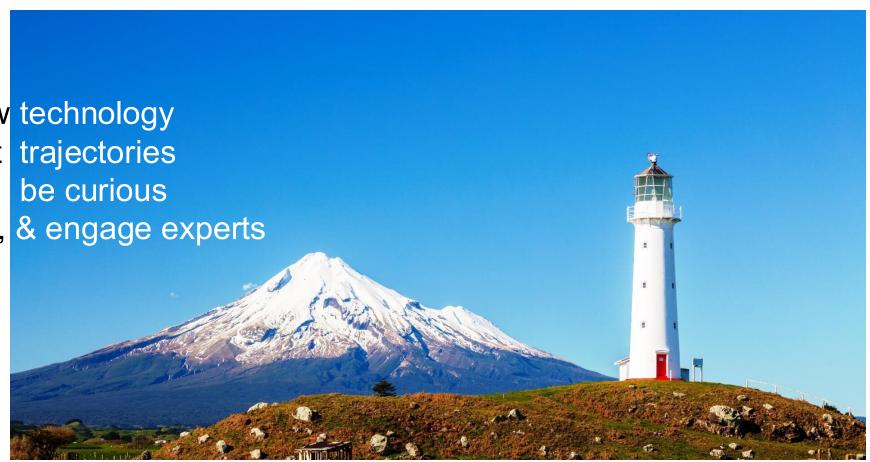


Image ©Tourism New Zealand, Cape Egmont Lighthouse

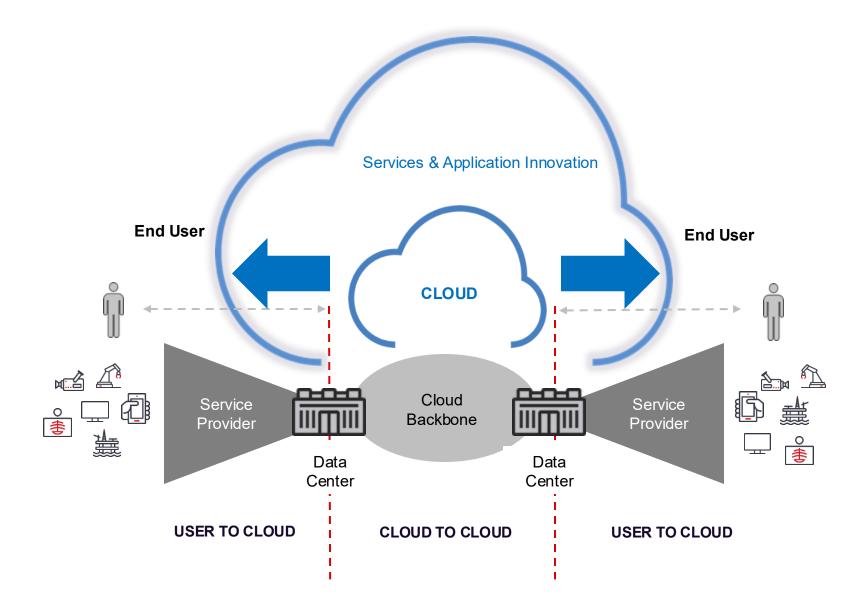
Rodney G. Wilson; Chief Technologist, External Research.

Marc Lyonnais: Director





#### Networks are Bringing the Cloud Edge Closer to the User





#### Global Content Providers are Building out their Edge for Ai





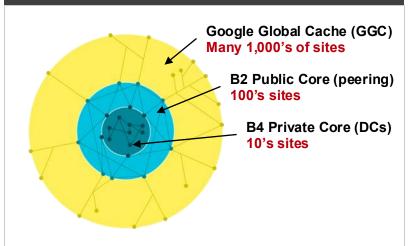


#### **Edge Computing**



Growth in adoption of AWS Outposts and AWS
Wavelength with edge compute
Announced 100G Direct Connect Service

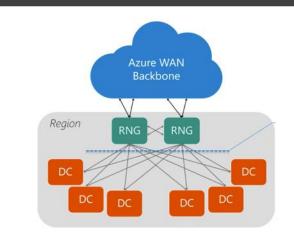
#### **Interconnection Edge Sites**



Expanding GGC locations

Opportunity for private interconnection

#### **Expanding Metro/Regions**



Microsoft expanding cloud connectivity fabric across multiple metros & regions

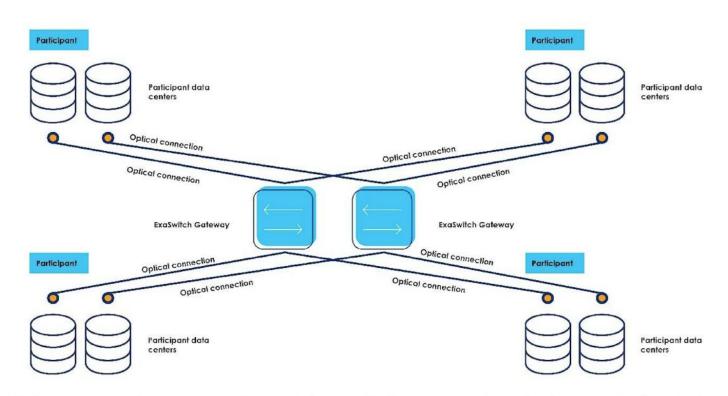
Cross-section capacity rapidly increasing

Purchased Lumenisity – Hollow-core fiber



# Lumen, Google and Microsoft develop Exaswitch optical interconnection ecosystem With Exaswitch:

June 2023 Claim: "1st Optical ecosystem to automate, scale and manage high-value interconnects"



ExaSwitch removes latency and provides real-time capacity deployment due to its distributed ecosystem design and automated interconnect provisioning.

https://exaswitch.net



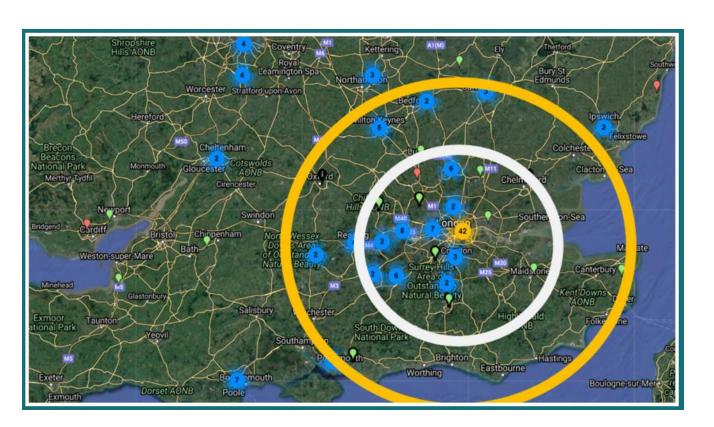
# Microsoft acquires Lumenisity®, an innovator in hollow core fiber (HCF) cable

Dec 9, 2022 | Girish Bablani, Corporate Vice President, Azure Core

30% Reduction in Latency

Doubles the Useful Geography for DCI

Supports Higher Optical Powers



London



#### Key Drivers of Increased Cloud Adoption



Machine Learning (Artificial Intelligence



Multi-Cloud



Edge Computing



Internet of Things



per GB

Usage-based consumption



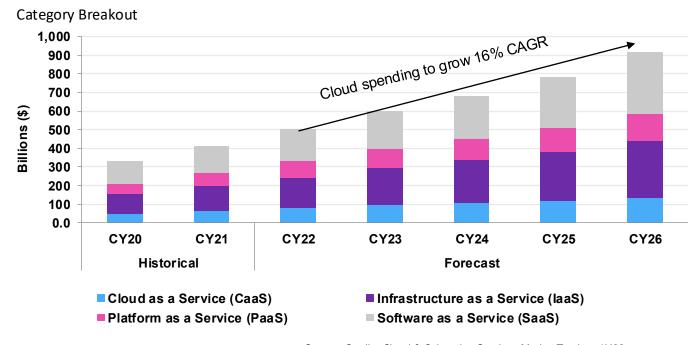
Cloud native applications



5G vRAN Telco Cloud



New data center construction



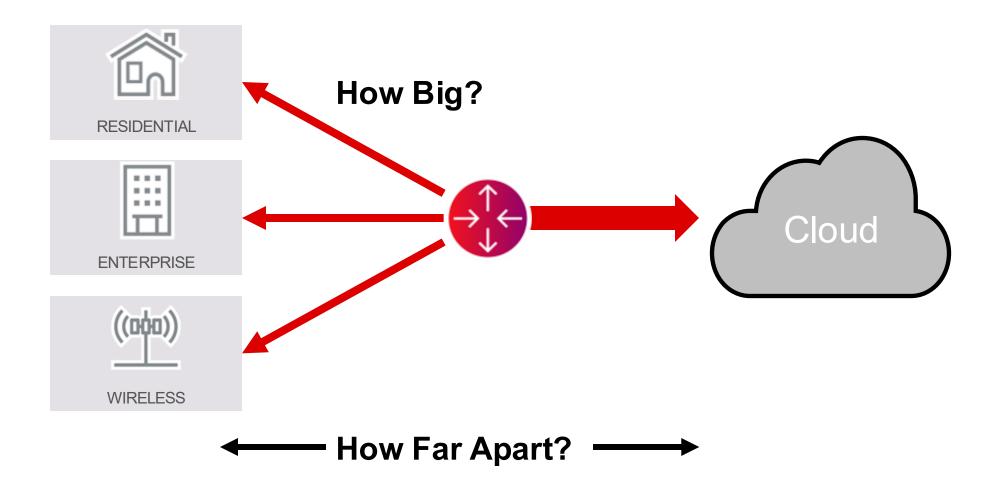
Source: Omdia, Cloud & Colocation Services Market Tracker, 1H22



#### A Multi-Service Multi-Cloud World EPC / 5GC **Mobility** aws CDN / HC SAP **Private Azure** Point of Sale Cloud IBM Cloud Retail u:::: . ORACLE! **Enterprise** Google Cloud CLOUD DC Smart City Government Internet SASE Big Data / Al **Enterprise**

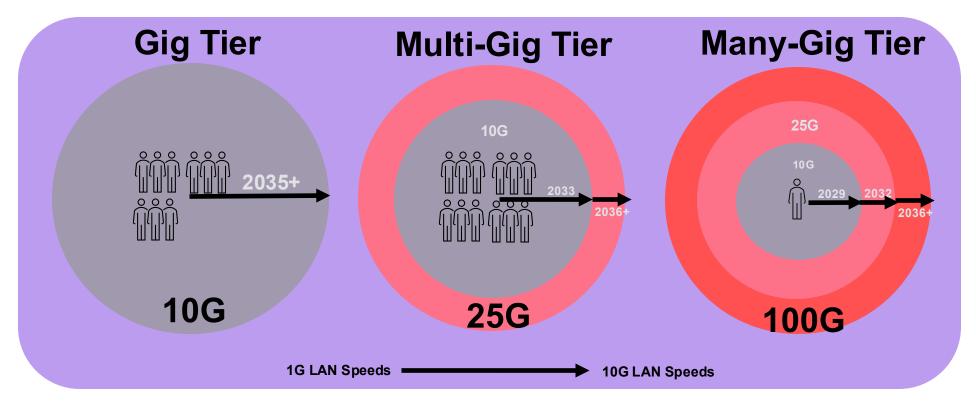


#### **A Simple Construct**





#### **How Big? - Broadband Access**



Low Bandwidth Tier

**30% CAGR** 

10G until 2040

25G until 2045

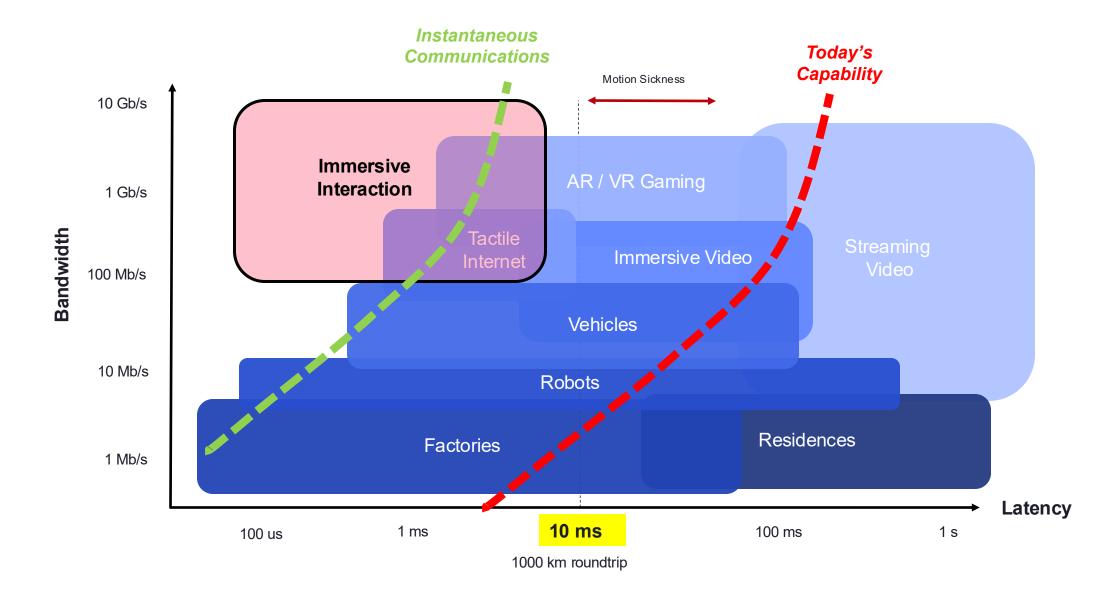
- Mid Bandwidth Tier
- 35% CAGR
- 25G until 2036+

- High Bandwidth Tier
- 40% CAGR



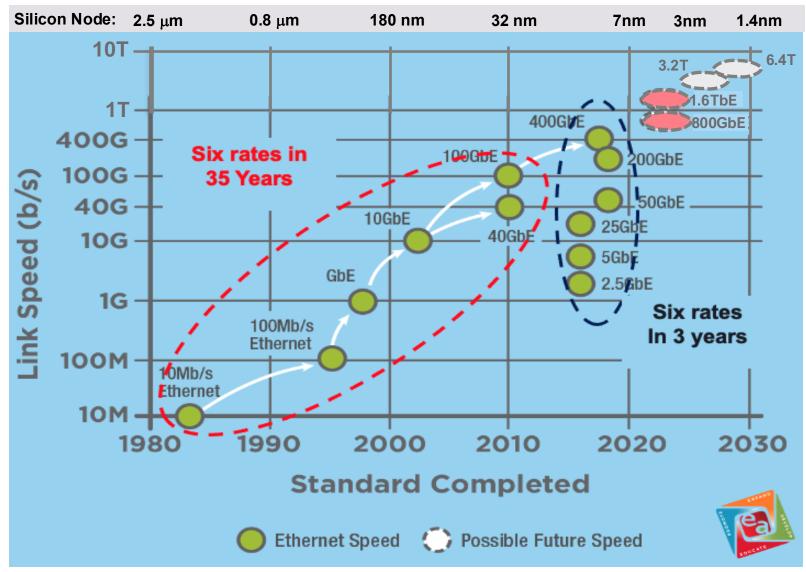


#### How Far? - "Mean-Time-to-Cloud"





#### **Network Edge - Speed & Acceleration**



Source: Ethernet Alliance & Ciena



#### **FASTER**

#### **Driving Dramatic Reductions in Space & Power**







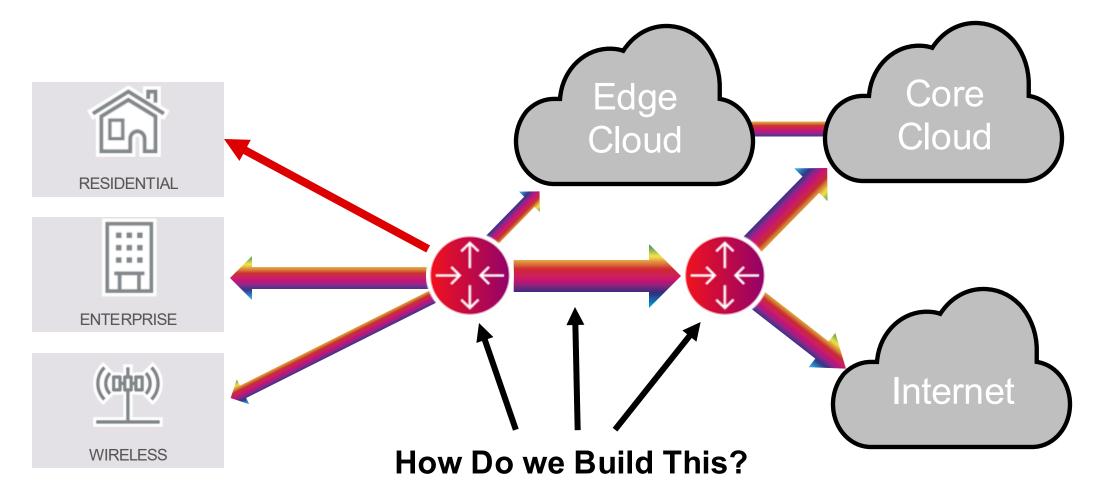
2022: OIF 400ZR 400G in your palm

2024: OIF 800ZR 800G in your palm

1995: 40G is 16 wavelengths of 2.5G Occupied 1 Telco Bay, 400G requires 10 Bays

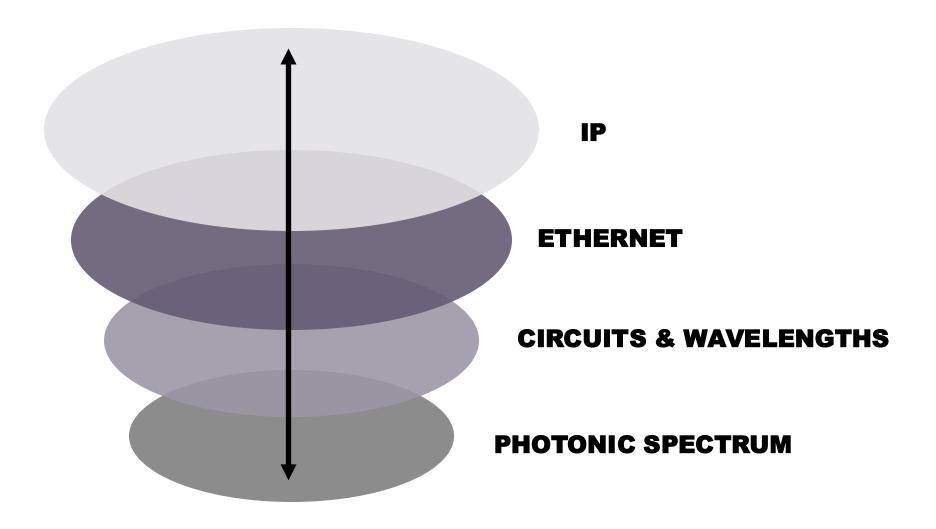


#### **The Service Provider Metro**





#### From Independent Layers to Cooperative Layers



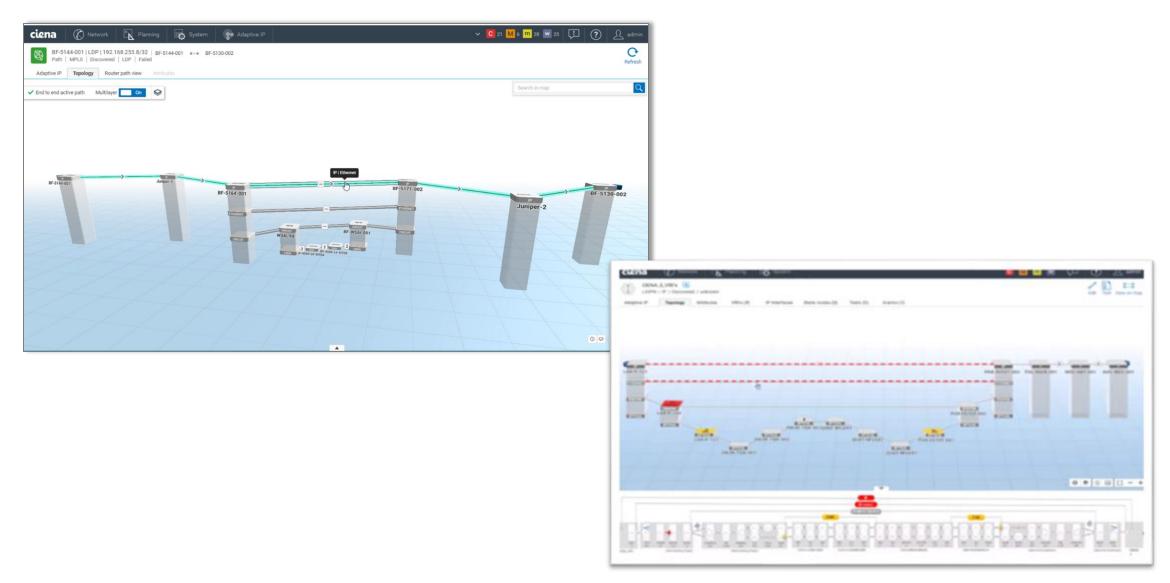


#### You Can't Automate What you Can't See

## Visibility from Analog Photonics to Digital Services L3 IP/MPLS services (VPN) Traffic Engineering (TE) Tunnel between nodes IP Link between ports Ethernet connection between ports L1 transport client service L0 transport client service L0 photonic service



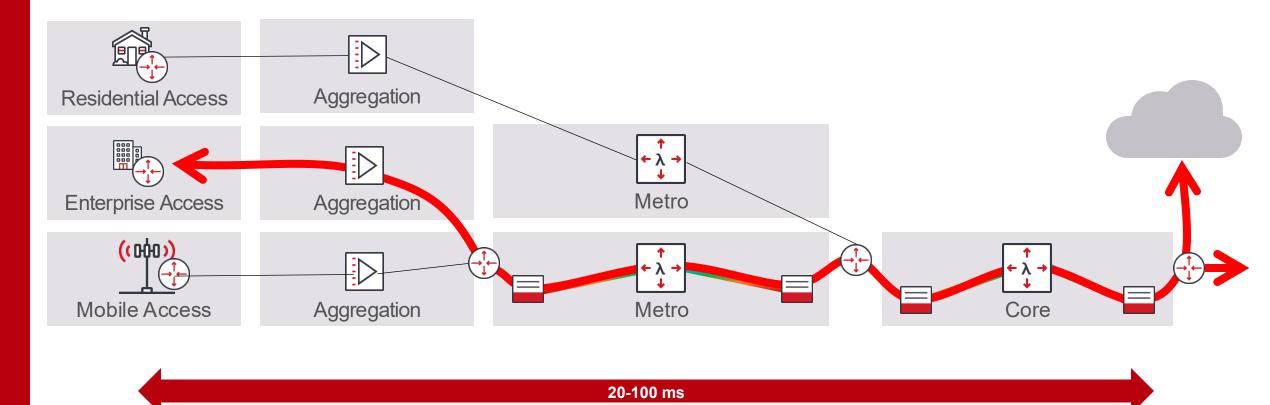
#### **Multilayer Visibility & Correlation**





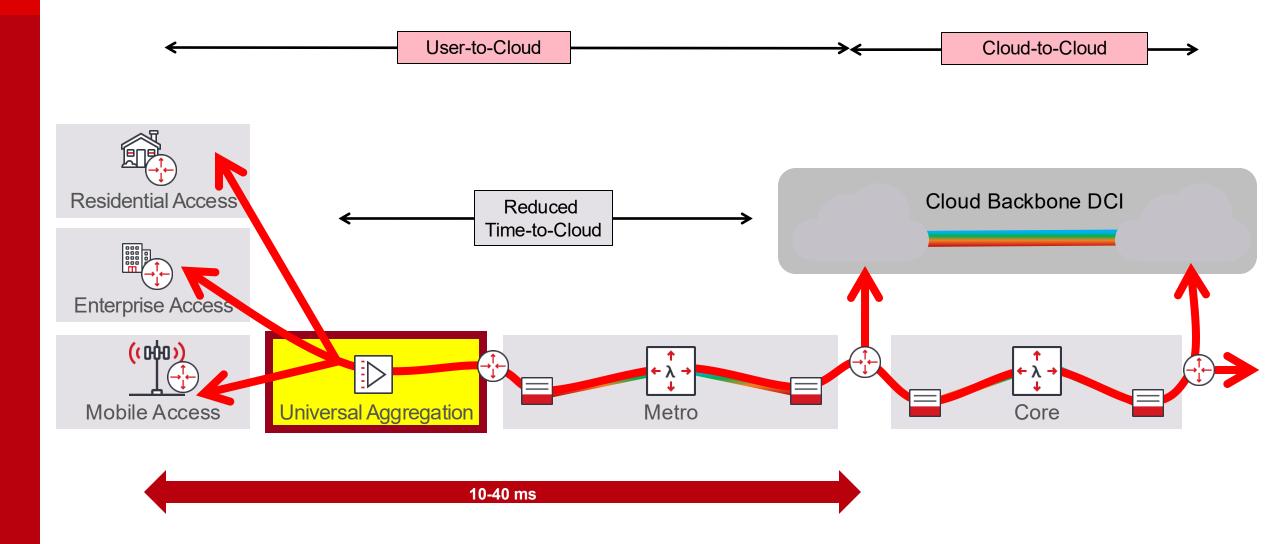
#### **Traditional Network**

#### Lots of OEO, buffers, opportunities for delay



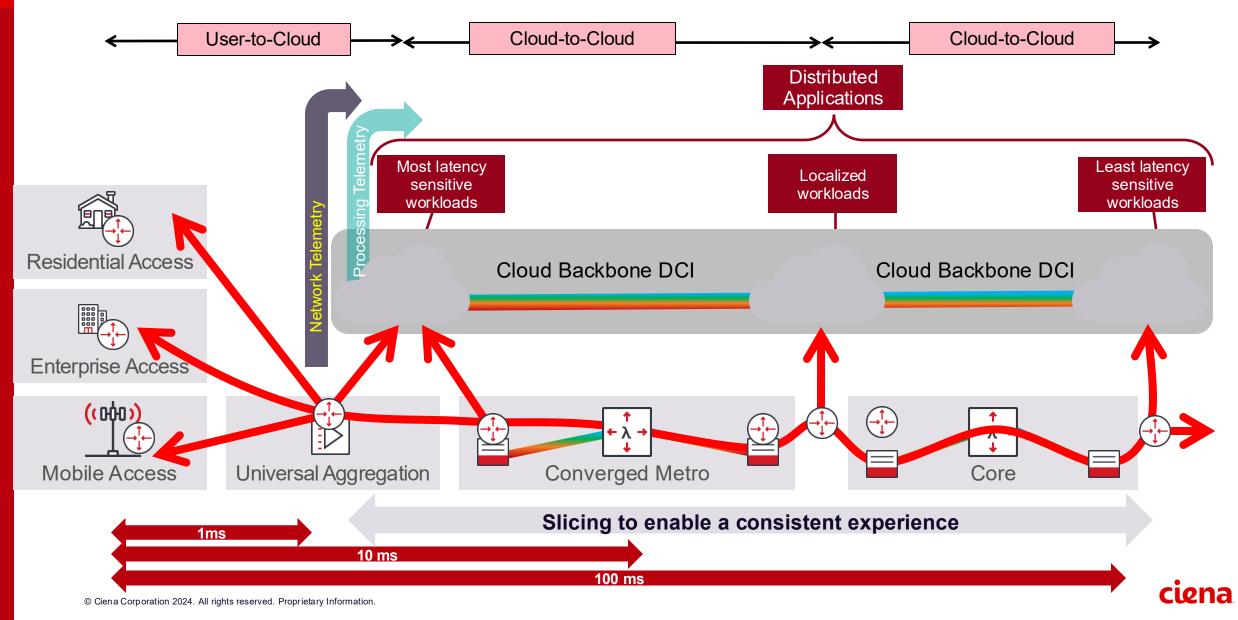


#### **Better Cloud Experience**



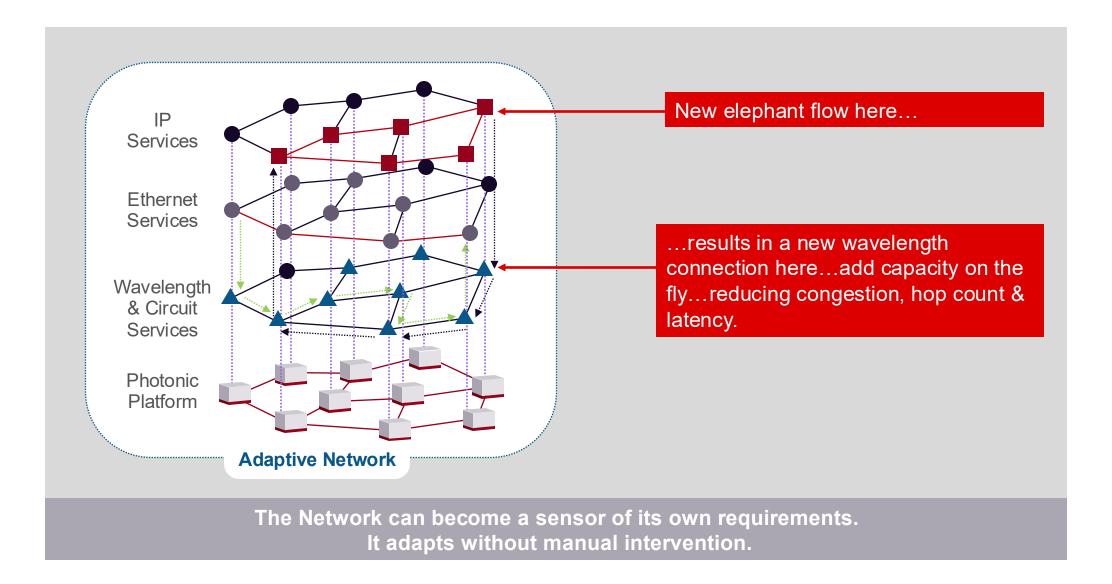


#### **Evolved Network**



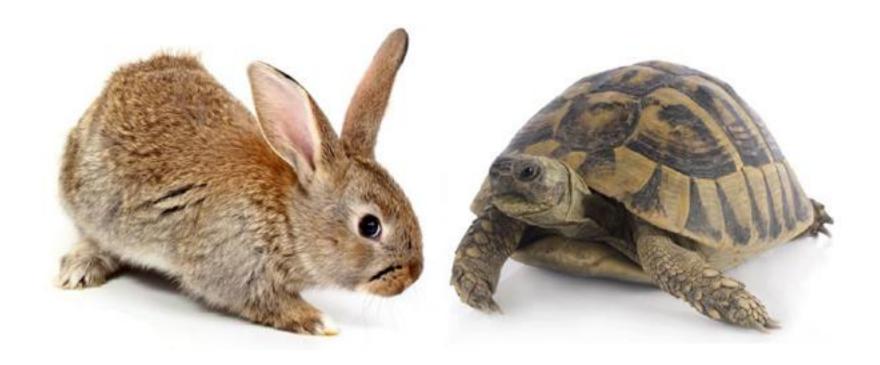


#### Visibility + Intelligence + Automation = Simplicity





#### Remember Bit-Heads vs. Bell-Heads



Cloud Service Velocity vs Telecom Operator Service Velocity



**Key Take-Aways** 

	PRESENT	FUTURE
Faster	400G Everywhere	800G Everywhere 1.6T per Wavelength
Closer	10's to 100's of ms	Workloads optimally placed 10 μs – 10 ms
Smarter	Automation of Manual Workflows	Al & ML Enable Networks to Adapt and Operate at Cloud-Speed
All considered in a self-to-se		

All underpinned by power reduction, energy conservation and optimized carbon foot-print architectures



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Thank You rgwilson@ciena.com

