Fujitsu readies radical new optical networking platform equally suited for CSPs and ICPs
Ovum view

Summary

Fujitsu announced on August 17, 2015, a new packet optical networking platform, 1Finity, that physically disaggregates hardware and supports migration to software-centric networks, providing a radical new approach for architecting optical networks. This is a bold move from the historically conservative company that could forever change the competitive landscape.

Pendulum swings from convergence to disaggregation

For the past 15 years ON vendors and network operators have been driving the industry towards convergence of packet and optical functions over a single chassis-based platform. While convergence has improved network efficiency and reduced overall operator capex, the equipment is complex and requires long development and integration cycles, making provisioning of new services a complex and time-consuming task.

Fujitsu has attacked this problem by introducing a totally new platform, 1Finity, that separates optical networking functions into self-contained 1RU products providing transport, lambda, switching, and access functionality. Each product can be managed independently as a system-on-a-blade or can be logically aggregated with a software controller to deliver a broader networking solution and provide a northbound interface to next-gen OSS and SDN controllers. Capacity in each of the product segments is increased by deploying additional 1RU blades. The first products will begin rolling out at the end of 2015.

The industry trend is to disaggregate software from hardware and provide low-cost, generic hardware and open software. Several ON vendors have introduced next-gen products that fit a disaggregated model aimed exclusively at data center interconnect (DCI). However, Fujitsu is going one step further by disaggregating the entire platform, not just the transponder portion. That makes this a unique offering because the platform not only supports the DCI function required by Internet content providers (ICPs) but will also provide an accelerated path to SDN/NFV for traditional telcos and other communications service providers (CSPs).

This strategy is not without risk: because users can cherry-pick the most desirable parts, revenues may be lower than under the traditional model. But Fujitsu is clearly taking the long view that all operators will ultimately build SDN-enabled “open” networks, and the vendor is embracing that idea rather than trying to protect margins on traditional equipment. It will take a while for this to play out, but Ovum believes this will resonate with service providers and revolutionize how optical networks are constructed.

Appendix

Further reading

“The data center interconnect market is booming: adapt or die,” TE0006-001078 (June 2015)
Fujitsu readies radical new optical networking platform equally suited for CSPs and ICPs

Author

Ron Kline, Principal Analyst, Intelligent Networks
ron.kline@ovum.com

Ovum Consulting

We hope that this analysis will help you make informed and imaginative business decisions. If you have further requirements, Ovum’s consulting team may be able to help you. For more information about Ovum’s consulting capabilities, please contact us directly at consulting@ovum.com.

Copyright notice and disclaimer

The contents of this product are protected by international copyright laws, database rights and other intellectual property rights. The owner of these rights is Informa Telecoms and Media Limited, our affiliates or other third party licensors. All product and company names and logos contained within or appearing on this product are the trademarks, service marks or trading names of their respective owners, including Informa Telecoms and Media Limited. This product may not be copied, reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of Informa Telecoms and Media Limited.

Whilst reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information and content of this product was correct as at the date of first publication, neither Informa Telecoms and Media Limited nor any person engaged or employed by Informa Telecoms and Media Limited accepts any liability for any errors, omissions or other inaccuracies. Readers should independently verify any facts and figures as no liability can be accepted in this regard – readers assume full responsibility and risk accordingly for their use of such information and content.

Any views and/or opinions expressed in this product by individual authors or contributors are their personal views and/or opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views and/or opinions of Informa Telecoms and Media Limited.