Digital Age Networking
for Transportation
Transportation

The Transportation industry has many sub-segments, however, they all share similar challenges. Increasing safety and security, improving operational efficiency with the Internet of Things (IoT), and delivering a better passenger experience are all top of mind in the transportation industry today. Transportation operators know their networks need to become smarter to support the exponential increase in traffic and passenger volumes as populations grow.

Transportation industry systems are becoming smarter, with digital transformation at the forefront of the change. This transformation spans technology, the environment, as well as integration with the local community and across transportation systems.

The ultimate smart transport system will be fully automated with full visibility of all devices connected to the network. A smarter transportation future will require seamless interaction between machines, objects and people, using automation, IoT, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to bring these elements together. A holistic approach to a smarter transportation system is essential, and all forms of transport and sub-systems must be considered.

Transportation operations integrate a variety of infrastructures, both physical and virtual. These include network technologies such as radio, LAN, WAN and WLAN, RFID and geo-positioning technologies.

The effectiveness of the smart transportation environment lies in the technology and smart practices’ ability to work together to effectively share information for the benefit of transportation operators and for their customers.

Rail operators traditionally deploy multiple networks, one for mission-critical applications such as control, signaling, security and SCADA, and another for business applications such as ticketing, turnstiles, platform Wi-Fi, and retail. These networks have led to an increase in the number of connected IoT devices. The need to provide more services to improve the passenger experience, digitalise interactions, and increase safety, while supporting a growing passenger demand, is changing network requirements.

Airports require a multi-service, multi-tenant network to support many different applications and uses such as, check-in desks, security, baggage handling, operations, passenger Wi-Fi, and retail shops, to name a few. All of these clients require their own security, Quality of Service (QoS), and bandwidth requirements. With the exponential growth in connected IoT devices, the network must adapt more quickly than ever before. Airport operators also need to drive operational efficiencies while increasing safety and improving the passenger experience. This demand is increasing the adoption of IoT and new technologies such as asset tracking and contact tracing.

Technological developments present road administration organisations around the world with the opportunity to transform the way they manage and operate highway and road networks. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) provide a combination of leading-edge information and communication technologies required for transportation and traffic management. These technologies can improve the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of transportation networks. They can also reduce traffic congestion and enhance drivers’ experiences.

Modern ports have become multimodal distribution megahubs that link sea, river, canal, road, rail, and air transport routes, vital for international trade, and linchpins for the global economy. IoT is becoming a significant factor in ports as they move to more autonomous ships and systems to drive efficiencies, expected within the next ten years.
Digital Age Networking

Transportation industry challenges can only be addressed with digital age networks. Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise Digital Age Networking provides efficient, proven, end-to-end solutions for transportation businesses including airports, rail stations, intelligent roads, tunnels, ports and logistics.

Digital Age Networking is based on three pillars:

- An **Autonomous Network** provides the reliable infrastructure to ensure mission-critical applications run smoothly. It is designed to improve passenger safety and comfort, and increase system capacity while at the same time, reducing cost and risk.
- **IoT onboarding** enables transport operators to scale-up digitalisation through secure IoT provisioning and management. It can integrate, onboard, and connect a massive number of IoT devices at the foundation of new transportation digital business processes.
- **Business Innovation** helps accelerate digital transformation with new automated workflows, taking the effort out of labor-intensive or repetitive tasks.
A transportation data network is mission-critical and therefore must be highly resilient, and support many different types of applications, objects, and users, with high levels of security, making it extremely complex. With an Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise Autonomous Network, the network is simplified, tasks are automated, and IT teams can deliver a better level of service and improve SLA’s, to provide an enhanced traveler experience. All passenger, staff, applications, and IoT devices can automatically be connected, with the correct level of access, security, and QoS. Network provisioning can also be automated, simplifying the network and reducing human error to provide greater operational efficiency throughout the transportation systems and processes.

In addition, the Alcatel-Lucent OmniAccess® Stellar WLAN and Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® LAN equipment use the same onboarding principles. This creates a true end-to-end solution for all devices, applications and users, with support for indoor and outdoor ruggedised switches, and access points (APs) that can withstand harsh environmental conditions. Both portfolios are designed with security in mind. The OmniAccess Stellar Access Points are equipped with WPA3 security while the OmniSwitch products employ secure diversified code to ensure OS hardened switches.

Further, the OmniAccess Stellar WLAN can scale up to 4000 AP’s in a single cluster, without the need for centralised physical controllers, which is sufficient for most transportation deployments. The OmniAccess Stellar WLAN also allows new business models to be introduced to reduce costs.

An Autonomous Network is a key pillar in the mission-critical transportation network. It creates virtual connectivity among all the active physical links by choosing the best route for all the packets. It is resilient to physical damage and can manage the segmentation and automation for the connectivity of every user, device, and IoT. An Autonomous Network also enables transport operators to host multiple services and multiple tenants in a single physical network infrastructure.

A single Network Management System (NMS) provides an additional level of integration between wired and wireless networks. This reduces the IT manager workload as they no longer need to handle two management systems with two sets of policies and configuration rules (one for the LAN, and another for the WLAN). The ALE NMS provides unified service management and network-wide visibility, which can improve IT efficiency and business agility.
Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT is driving efficiencies across all transportation segments. It can increase safety, improve the passenger experience, as well as drive down operational costs. However, with the exponential increase in IoTs, transport operators may struggle to cope with the demand to connect and manage potentially hundreds of thousands of IoTs.

The limited processing power of connected objects prevents devices from having embedded, sophisticated security capabilities. This creates two major problems; devices are hard to configure, and they are easy to hack. The highest security risk is not the objects themselves, but rather the doors they open to other network segments. Once the object is compromised the whole enterprise network becomes vulnerable to attack vectors such as a Trojan horse or other viruses. When you consider the fact that transportation operations connect thousands, if not millions of these objects, the challenge becomes clear; configuration and management of individual devices is totally unrealistic, and the security risks are enormous.

Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise’s IoT containment approach is designed to provide an automated solution to efficiently and securely onboard IoT devices while protecting the transport operators’ network.

Three major steps to connect, manage, and properly control any IoT device must be followed:

- **Discover and classify**: Each object connected to the network must be discovered and classified. Digital Age Networking provides the ability to access a very large (29+ million) device database to immediately identify the object connected to the network and automatically provision a configuration associated with a specific device.

- **Virtual segmentation**: It is critical to segment a single physical network infrastructure into separate virtual networks or containers, to ensure that each service or application, has its own dedicated segment, ensuring proper function and secure operations.

- **Continuous monitoring**: The network monitors behaviour to ensure that the IoT devices and applications are functioning as desired. Each authorised object is stored in an inventory. This enables IT to know exactly and instantly, how many devices are connected on the network. It is important to continuously monitor a connected object on the network to take immediate action in the event that there is a deviation from usual behaviour. In the event of unusual activity, the network can take actions such as, disconnecting the faulty device, sending a notification to the network administrator, or changing the destination of the dedicated IoT container for further verification.
Business Innovation

New business processes are optimised when they leverage user, application, and IoT metrics in real-time. Digital Age Networking can help transport operators optimise processes and services. This is the key to innovation, improved productivity, workflow optimisation, and an enhanced user experience.

Technology innovations including IoT, location services, and collaboration platforms are at the forefront of business process and services automation. Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise is leading the way by integrating these components to help operators reap the benefits of their technology investments.

Alcatel-Lucent OmniAccess Stellar Asset Tracking provides real-time and historical location of users or objects, in indoor facilities, using Bluetooth technologies. This information allows transport operators to better understand workflows, increase utilisation of equipment, significantly reduce the time it takes to find someone or something, avoid lost or stolen assets, and increase productivity, while enhancing passenger experiences. From an operations perspective, misplaced or lost equipment incurs heavy costs to operators every year. Knowing where assets are in a real-time, or where they are stored, can help keep equipment costs under control.

Real-time and historical data with a geolocation context enable the development of new innovative digital business processes and services. Integrating data from the OmniAccess Stellar Location Services with a business collaboration tool like Rainbow™ by Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise enables automation of simple or repetitive tasks. It also enables the development of workflows that can be automated using triggers, rules, and actions, as shown in the diagram below.
Summary

Digital Age Networking is the Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise blueprint that enables transport operators to digitally transform their business, reduce risk, increase capacity, safety, security and operational efficiency, and also improve the passenger experience.

The ALE digital transformation blueprint is based on three pillars:

- **An Autonomous Network that easily, automatically, and securely connects people, processes, applications, and objects:** The Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise Autonomous Network is based on a streamlined portfolio with a true unified management platform, delivering common security policies across the LAN and WLAN. The Autonomous Network also provides deployment flexibility indoors, outdoors, and in industrial environments. Network management can be delivered on-premises, in the cloud, or in a hybrid deployment depending on operator preference.

- **Secure and efficient onboarding of IoT devices:** Segmentation keeps devices in their dedicated containers and minimizes the risk of having the device and network compromised. IoT containment can help operators easily and automatically understand if the device is behaving properly, or not, and help to keep the network safe.

- **Business innovation through workflow automation:** Integrating user, applications, and IoT metrics in real-time, with geolocation data, into Rainbow workflow, simplifies the creation and roll-out of new automated digital business processes. This is the key to operational innovation, enhanced productivity, and enabling new revenue streams.

Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise is committed to developing networking technology and solutions that help transport operators realize their business potential through digital transformation.