

# NLR - Background

- National LambdaRail is a non-profit corporation created (2003) by a consortium of major regional US R&E networks in conjunction with CISCO Systems and Internet2. Today there are 14 members.
- Identified the need for experimental and research oriented network(s)
- Research networking AND network research
- Took advantage of dark fiber price trough (minimum?) to acquire national footprint 20yr IRU's
- Partnered with CISCO to deploy 40 lambda DWDM network
- Provides a range of services and networks to its members over this infrastructure
- Parallel effort by regional networks (RONS) has developed similar capability for regional connectivity and distribution (e.g. CENIC, LEARN, FLR, ...)

## **NLR Infrastructure**

- Over 11,000 route miles of fiber
- 20-yr IRUs on dark fiber
- Layer 1 Optics: Cisco 15808s and 15454s supporting up to 40 10 Gbps lambdas LANPHY
- Layer 2: Cisco 6509 switches for Gigabit Ethernet
- Layer 3: Cisco CRS-1 routers for IP
- Wavelengths available for experimental or production networks

## NLR – Footprint



# Suymmary of NLR Usage

- Three main network services offered:
  - Wavenet (layer 1 or 1.5) dedicated capacity true Lighptaths
  - Framenet (layer 2) VLAN over Ethernet structure. Also called lightpaths. (can be with or without bandwidth management)
  - Packetnet (layer 3) Traditional IP service

## WaveNet Overview

- ETE circuits consisting of wave segments
- Dedicated waves purchased by regionals or research projects
- Research waves, supported by CISCO, made available in support of approved research projects
- Quickstart waves (if available and preemptable for fail-over)

### Infrastructure Update - WaveNet

- Steady demand for WaveNet services
- NLR has allocated 199 WaveNet Circuits to date
- 126 Active Circuits
  - 75 Customer Circuits
  - 51 Backbone Circuits (L2, L3, Optical Switch)
- 32 Misc Circuits spare, unallocated, reserved, SC07
- 41 Decommissioned circuits
  - includes SC related circuits, circuits no long in use by customers, etc.



### **FrameNet Overview**

#### National Exchange Fabric Service

- NEF is a single VLAN and broadcast domain that extends to every member
- Allows members to arrange bi-lateral peerings
- Every member gets a single 1GigE interface on their local NLR FrameNet node for use of the NEF service

#### • Point-to-point, Dedicated Bandwidth Service

- Members may order private VLANs to connect 2 different locations together, with dedicated bandwidth, for a circuit-like service
- Bandwidth available from 100Mbps to 10Gbps

#### Point-to-multipoint, Best Effort Service

- Members may order private VLANs to multiple locations for a circuit-like service
- Traffic on these VLANs carried through the network on a best effort basis

#### **FrameNet**

- Demand continues to grow, 10 GE interfaces and non-dedicated bandwidth are popular
- 86 Active VLANs, both dedicated and non-dedicated
- Currently primary use of dedicated service is for Layer 3 backup connections
- Interest by research groups
  - Collaborative multi-point projects
  - Experiment on non-dedicated service, understand utilization, then migrate to dedicated service.
- New Services being Developed, in particular ondemand dedicated services
- Adding FrameNet connection to MANLAN switch to support layer2 connectivity to international networks

#### FrameNet - Dedicated Bandwidth



### FrameNet - VLAN Count



### FrameNet Traffic Map



#### **PacketNet Overview**

- "Production" 10G Layer 3 IP network, fully operational
- Potential for several packet networks on different lambdas (or VLANS) can use virtual routing capability of CRS-1 or multiple router instances
- "Experimental" for research use to be made available when needed

#### NLR Members' PacketNet Connection Status



#### **PacketNet Weather Map**



weathermap.grnoc.iu.edu/nlrmaps/layer3.html

## Summary

- Fairly extensive deployment of nationwide infrastructure in place
- Reasonable amount of experimentation with dedicated static lightpaths to date
- Some experimentation with dynamic lightpaths
- Need for extension of capabilities through the regional networks and onto campuses
- More development of dynamic lightpath capable exchange points (GOLES)
- Experimentation with Internet2 DCS services



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