

Lowering Cost and Efficiency Barriers in Enterprise Network Monitoring



APCON, the industry leader in physical layer switches, offers network infrastructure managers the most significant strategic advancement in network monitoring and testing since the advent of the protocol analyzer. Lower network monitoring costs, increased efficiency, and simplified network management are more easily achievable than ever.

CLASSIC NETWORK MONITORING

The standard strategy for testing and monitoring enterprise networks is simple. Each segment on the network that is susceptible to performance degradation or failure must have a packet analyzer, or protocol analyzer, available for performance monitoring and troubleshooting.

The cost of network downtime and poor performance is well understood and appreciated by every network infrastructure manager. Rapid problem resolution is a priority. The most common strategy used to enable rapid resolution of network performance problems is to ensure that a packet analyzer is either permanently connected to network segments and switches, or at

least to ensure that a portable packet analyzer can be dispatched and connected to any network hot spot in as little time as possible. Failure to quickly address network performance problems or down time is not an option.

Of course, a medium or large enterprise network requires many dozen, perhaps even more than 100, packet analyzers to provide timely access. To provide this level of support, capital expenditures can easily exceed several hundred thousand dollars. Network infrastructure managers need a way to ensure full monitoring coverage, yet keep within tight budget constraints.

ENTER THE PHYSICAL LAYER SWITCH

The physical layer switch, also known as a layer-1 switch, matrix switch, or a cross-connect switch, can be thought of as an electronic patch panel. Physical layer switches enable protocol transparent, low-latency switching for digital signals flowing over copper and fiber media.

Physical layer switches enable non-blocking, protocol-independent, any-to-any switching at the physical layer, the foundation of the network. These switches allow connections between any and all media ports and support a wide array of protocols, including Ethernet, SONET/SDH, FDDI, Fibre Channel, FDDI, as well as many non-standard protocols. Physical layer switches support network applications with non-intrusive switching at data transmission rates up to 10 Gb/s.

Physical layer switches offer network managers a new paradigm for network monitoring and testing. Incorporating a layer-1 switch provides substantial savings in time and capital expenditures. In fact, incorporating physical layer switches into your network monitoring strategy can provide an immediate return on your investment.

A NEW LOOK AT NETWORK MONITORING

Physical layer switches allow you to electronically share your network monitoring and testing equipment from a central location, as opposed to requiring dedicated equipment to be either permanently placed at remote locations or to be dispatched to problem locations whenever a performance problem arises.

Configuration is straight forward. Connect your packet analyzer through the physical layer switch to the SPAN ports of multiple layer-2 or layer-3 switches. Not only have you enabled test and monitoring access to all network packet traffic traversing each upper layer switch, but you have accomplished this using only one packet analyzer, essentially eliminating the requirement to have a specifically dedicated analyzer for each switch.

By centralizing your network test and monitoring capabilities and electronically distributing your packet analyzer across multiple network segments, you enable immediate access anywhere on your network for monitoring and testing - even across hundreds of network segments.

The strategic advantages of electronic equipment sharing are many, and they offer significant value to your business. Expensive monitoring equipment, including packet analyzers, probes, and intrusion detection systems, can be electronically shared from a central location using a physical layer switch, reducing capital equipment requirements and maintenance costs. Electronic equipment sharing eliminates the need to purchase redundant dedicated equipment and the time-consuming process of physically moving analysis hardware to various parts of the network, campus, or data center. Connecting to remote segments via a physical layer switch takes only a few seconds. Efficient use of your monitoring and testing equipment increases by orders of magnitude by removing the need for redundant tools.

THE APCON INTELLAPATCH® SOLUTION – A SCALABLE LAYER-1 MATRIX SWITCH

Do More with Less

The APCON INTELLAPATCH is the industry-leading physical layer switch for solving your network connectivity challenges. The APCON INTELLAPATCH is ideal for network professionals who need efficient methods to manage difficult switching problems that would otherwise require labor-intensive and time-consuming manual processes. “Wire-once, technology,” built into every APCON INTELLAPATCH switch, assures fast and accurate reconfiguration any time a connection is needed to monitor or test any segment of the enterprise network.

APCON INTELLAPATCH is available in 1-, 2-, 4-, 9-, and 18-blade chassis. Each INTELLAPATCH supports multiple protocols and data rates in a single chassis. Each chassis accommodates APCON’S full line of INTELLAPATCH blades.

Fully Scalable

The APCON INTELLAPATCH is a fully scalable Layer-1 matrix switch that meets your needs for port count, protocols, and data rates not only for today, but into the future, as well. The product is built on a platform consisting of physical layer switch chassis, protocol specific blades, and application software.

Centralize Network Management

Four customizable levels of encrypted password Centralized electronic equipment sharing is made simple using APCON Monitor software, which enables remote configuration, management, and automation. You can easily configure and connect monitoring and test equipment to any network segment in just seconds, without leaving your desk or central monitoring location.



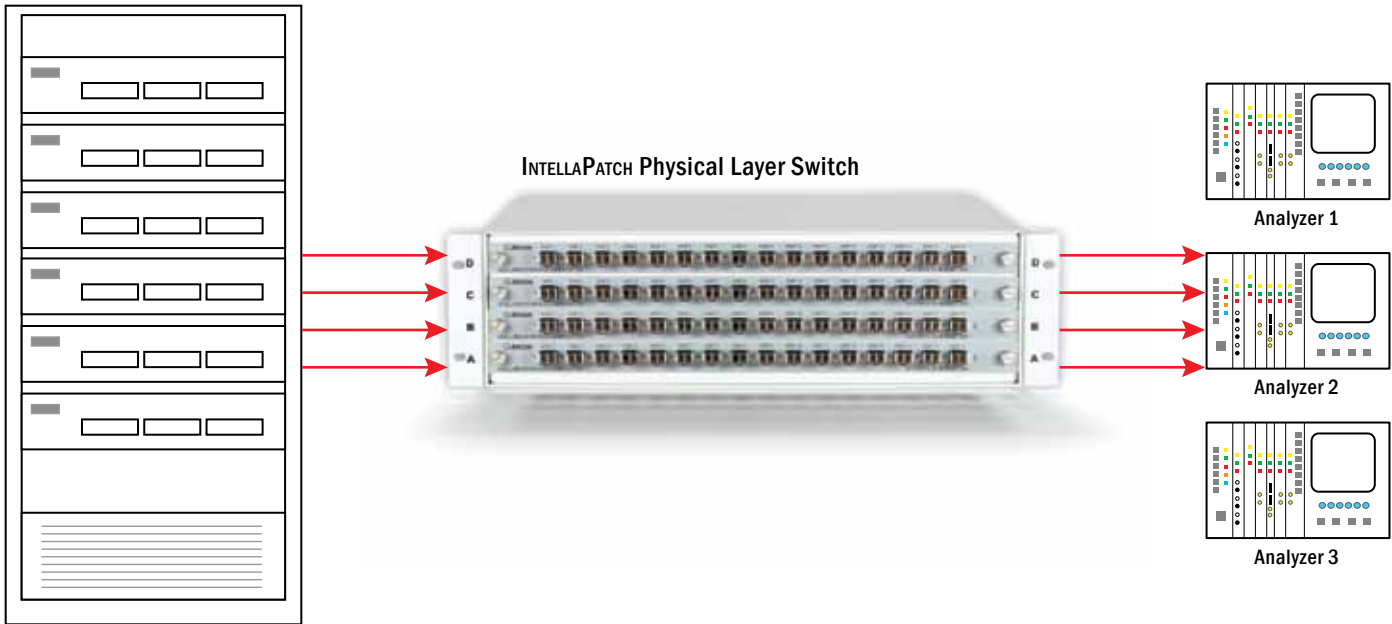
Series 2000

Reduce Costs

The APCON INTELLAPATCH physical layer switch has been incorporated into enterprise networks of major corporations in the financial, communications, and medical equipment markets, and many more. These organizations have invested in APCON INTELLAPATCH physical layer switches because electronic equipment sharing offers network infrastructure managers a compelling return on investment.

In fact, a major U.S. commercial bank reduced its network test equipment costs by 77 percent during an infrastructure redesign, lowering its capital equipment outlay from \$885,000 to \$200,000. Describing the APCON INTELLAPATCH, the bank's chief network engineer stated, "The solution has been bullet proof. I have all the (packet analyzer) tools I need, 24/7, at a much lower cost."

APCON INTELLAPATCH is the premier physical layer switch for increasing your efficiency, lowering your costs, and simplifying your network monitoring efforts.



Reduce capital expenditures, share and support network equipment with APCON INTELLAPATCH Physical Layer Switching solutions.