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Case Study: Orchestration of Hybrid Networks

Achieving End-To-End Service Orchestration across Hybrid Networks

Windstream

Residential, Small Business, Enterprise and Wholesale Business Segments

SDN Services

Windstream is a U.S. based FORTUNE 500 company and a leading provider of advanced network communications and technology solutions

- Optical Wave
- Carrier Ethernet
- SD-WAN
- Broadband Element Commissioning

Our Services:

- Data Networking
- Core Transport
- Security
- Unified Communications
- Managed Services
- SD-WAN
- Broadband
- Entertainment

Prodapt → Who We Are

Exclusive focus on the digital service provider (DSPs) vertical

 **Part of The Jhaver Group**

\$1.3 Billion
64 Locations
16,500 Employees

Key Clientele



Trusted partner to leaders in the communications industry, including Fortune 500 customers and 95% of clients have re-engaged

Right-Sized, Flexible Partner with multi-shore delivery model

Global Operations

Portfolio

- RPA/Telebots
- SDN/NFV
- AI/ML & IoT
- O/BSS and BPO
- DevOps & Microservices



35%+ YOY Growth



Business Drivers for Network Transformation

- ① Reduce service delivery time
- ② Revenue & margin growth
- ③ Seamless capacity management
- ④ OPEX and CAPEX reduction
- ⑤ Enhanced customer experience with self-service

Technical Solution Requirements

Intent-based, multi-domain service orchestration

Flow through automation

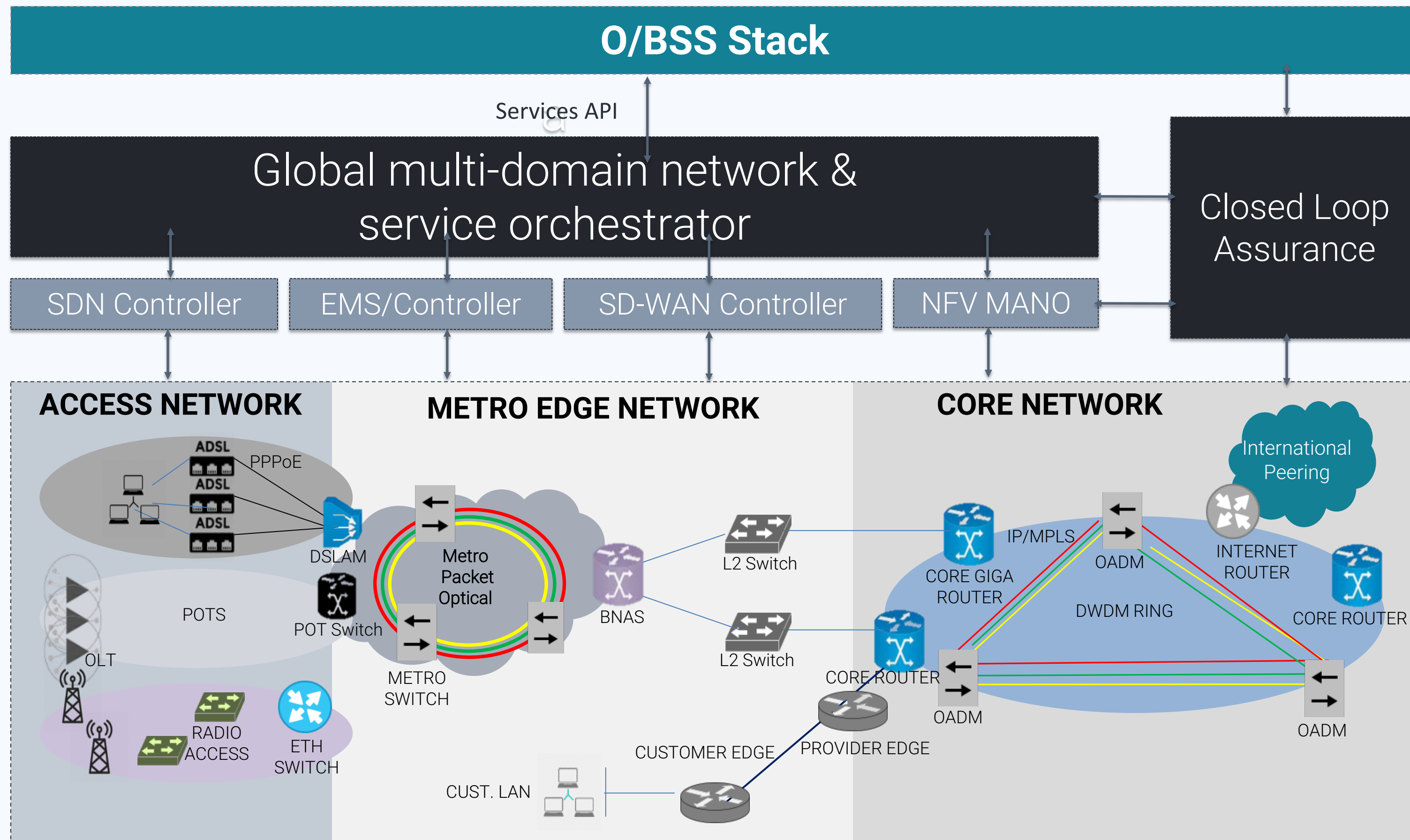
Network-based topology database

Interoperability between legacy and SDN-enabled network appliances

Avoid vendor lock-in

Microservices-based deployment architecture

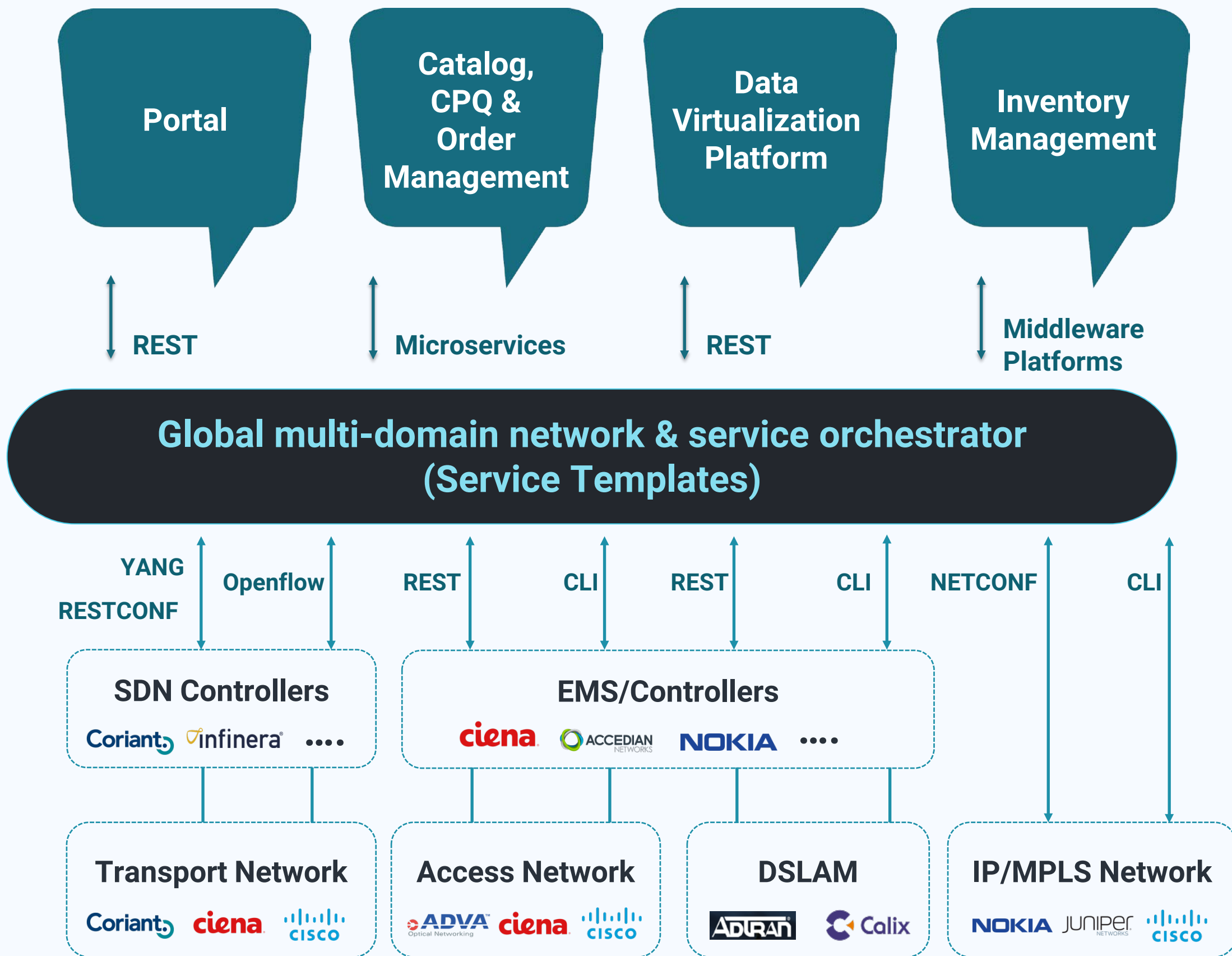
Architecture Vision for Based Multi-Domain Orchestration



Key Considerations:

- **Cloud infrastructure at core, edge & premises**
- **Public & private cloud tight coupling for service chaining**
- **Programmable optical network optimizing traffic flows**
- **Overarching service orchestration across physical & virtual network**

Sample multi-domain, multi-vendor ecosystem architecture



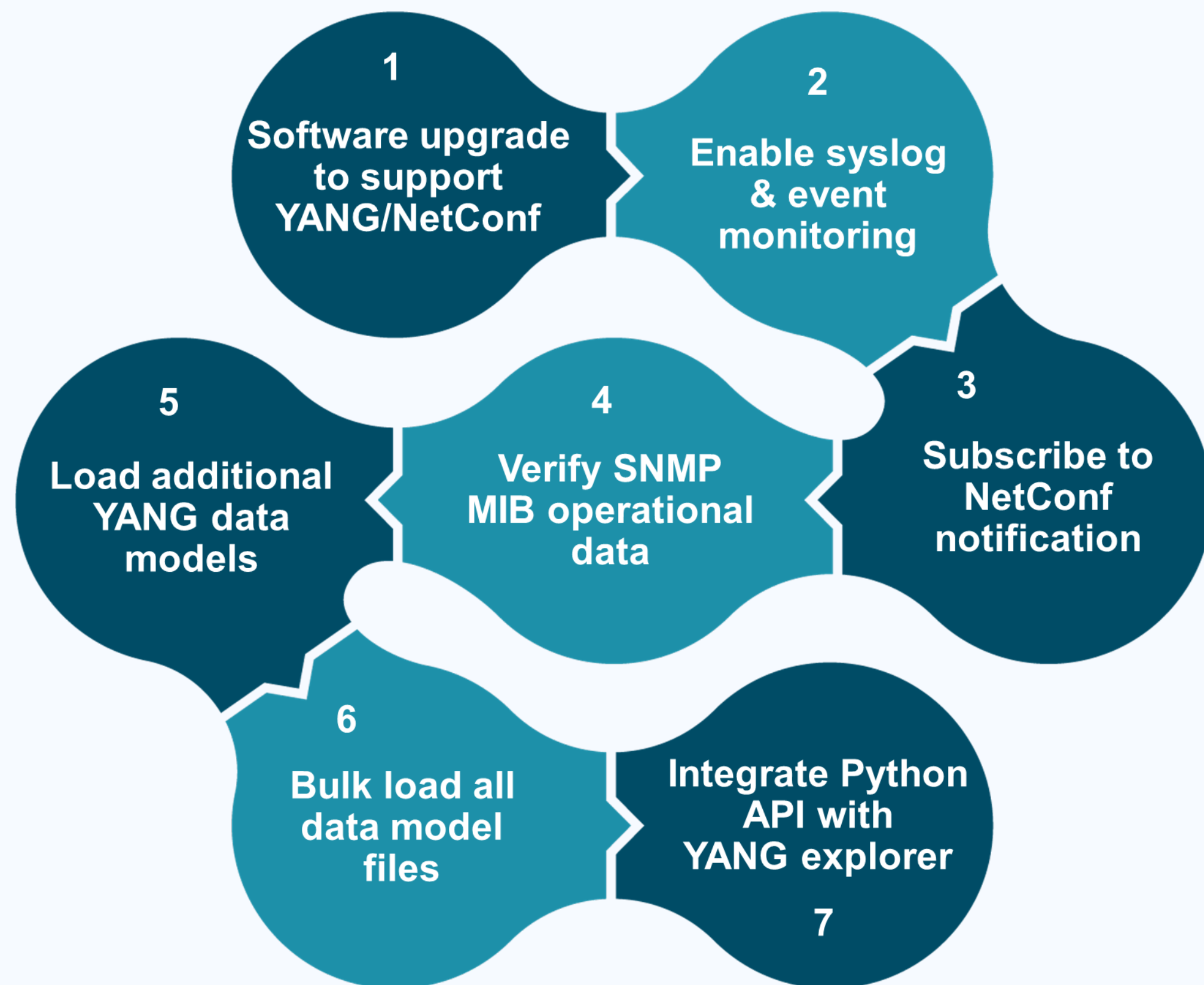
What we did?

- 1 Northbound Interfaces (NBI)
- 2 Service Templates (TOSCA/HEAT)
- 3 Southbound Interfaces (SBI)

E.g. Challenges mitigated

- Lack of open APIs for OSS
- Lack of single source of truth e.g. inventory data
- Lack of legacy network programmability
- IT & network skillset bridging

4 Switching & routing enhancements



What we did?

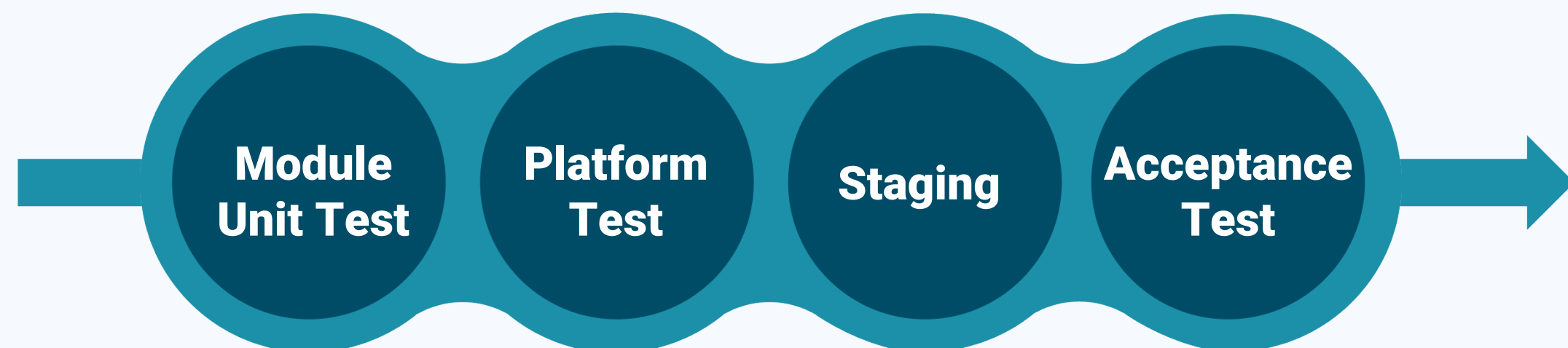
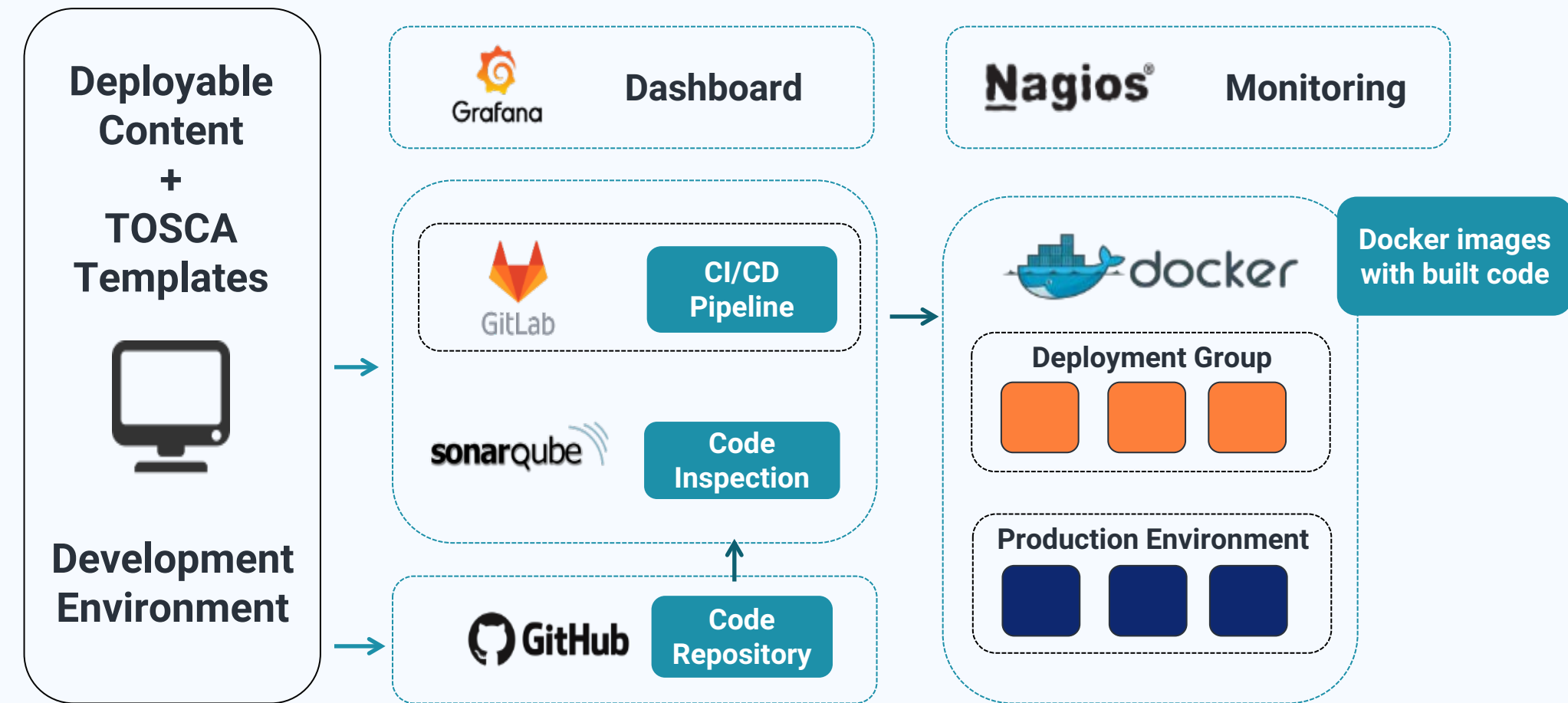
Enabling switches and routers to support centralized configuration

Configure YANG/network configuration models

E.g. Challenges mitigated

- Many vendor specific features still not available as YANG models
- Standard configuration not available across all vendors
- Developed CLI-based adapters and Python based APIs

5 DevOps/Agile and testing framework



DevOps/Agile Framework

- Automating planning → Deployment CI/CD pipeline

Testing Automation Framework

- Automating system, Interoperability and integration, Simulation testing across domains
- For CE 2.0 (E-Line, E-Access), L2/L3 VPN, Wave, SD-WAN, vCPE.

E.g. Challenges Mitigated

- Change requests approval
- Policy constraints for code change in production

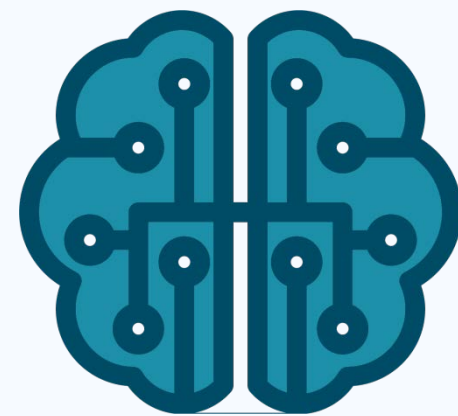
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Enabling closed loop assurance leveraging AI/ML

E.g. Performance Management (PM) Data

validity	tmSampleSe	TomTxBChn	TomTxBChx	TomTxBChv
5/2017/05/20/02:45:00	8	900	27.85	28.15
5/2017/05/20/03:00:00	8	900	28	28.13
5/2017/05/20/03:00:00	8	900	28.61	28.77
5/2017/05/20/03:45:00	8	900	28.42	28.57
5/2017/05/20/04:00:00	8	900	28.58	28.72
5/2017/05/20/04:00:00	8	900	28.57	28.5
5/2017/05/20/04:00:00	8	900	28.4	28.58
5/2017/05/20/04:00:00	8	900	28.4	28.55
5/2017/05/20/04:00:00	8	900	28.63	28.18
5/2017/05/20/04:00:00	8	900	28.64	28.18
5/2017/05/20/04:00:00	8	900	28.58	28.12
5/2017/05/20/05:00:00	8	900	28	28.12
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.43	28.57
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.58	28.13
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.42	28.56
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.42	28.26
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.45	28.58
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.43	28.58
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.47	28.58
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.48	28.63
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.43	28.55
5/2017/05/20/06:00:00	8	900	28.43	28.55

Machine Learning Algorithm



Predicts events of different severities based on the intelligence built



What we did?

Big data lake implementation

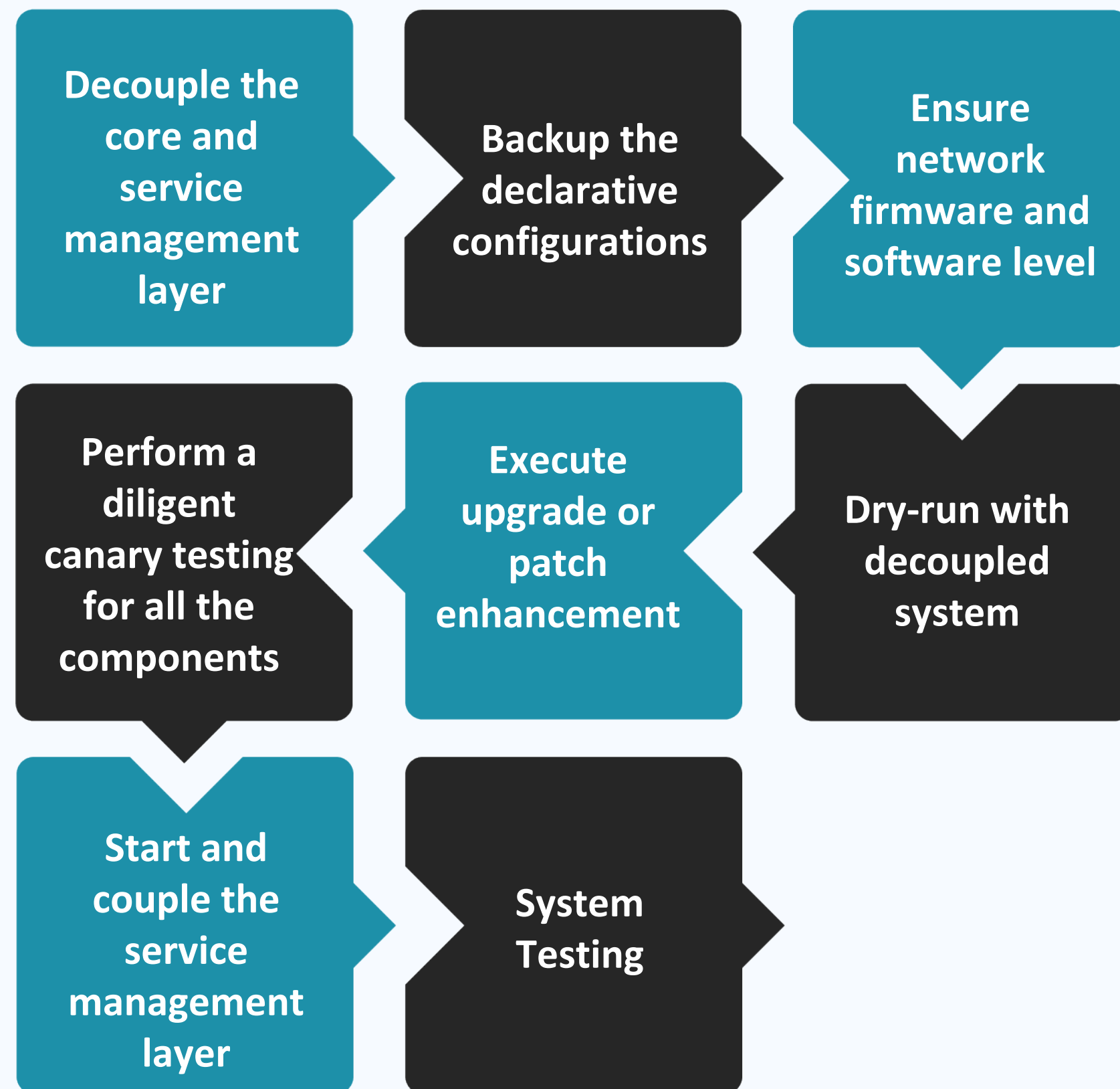
Custom graph visualization

Data prediction PoC & porting into production

E.g. Challenges mitigated

- Skills pivot for big data lakes, analytics, AI and ML
- Custom ingestion code i.e. integration various data sources such as alerts, performance, ticket
- Visualization tool development & mail integration
- Model selection & training

7 Applications Operation and Maintenance



What we did?

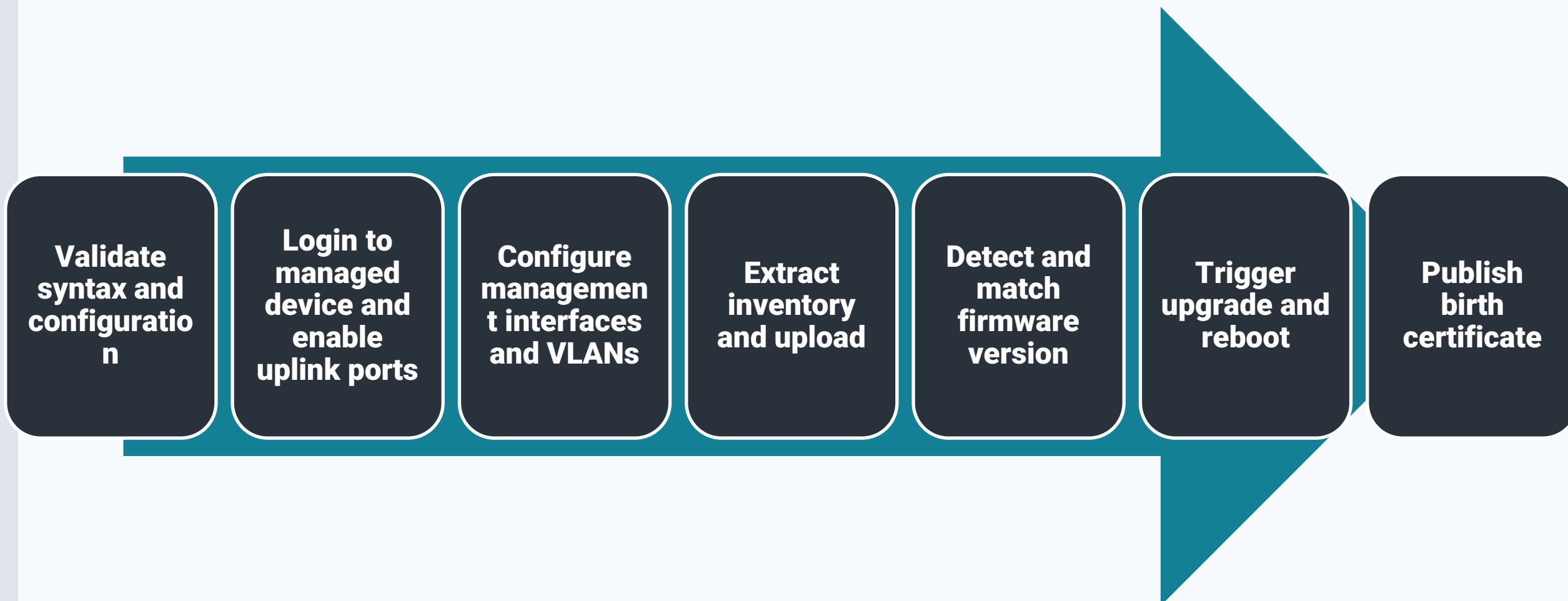
- Proactive operation and maintenance ensuring application availability
- Proactive application upgrade and enhancement based on product rollout

E.g. Challenges Mitigated

- Seamless multi-vendor, multi-domain production environment upgrade
- Network traffic and application load balancing

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Managed Network Upgrade – Enabling SDN Features



What we did?

- Automated bulk firmware and software upgrade, enabling SDN features
- CLI-based automated bulk configuration across managed routers via orchestrator

E.g. Challenges mitigated

- Heterogenous network elements and software levels
- Multiple legacy NMS and EMS systems

To enable E2E Service
Orchestration in Hybrid
Networks

What We Did

Southbound
Interfaces (SBI)

1

Service
Templates
(TOSCA/HEAT)

2

Northbound
Interfaces (NBI)

3

Routing and
Switching
Enhancements

4

DevOps and
Testing
Automation

5

Closed Loop
Assurance with
AI/ML

6

Applications
Operation and
Maintenance

7

Managed
Network
Upgrade

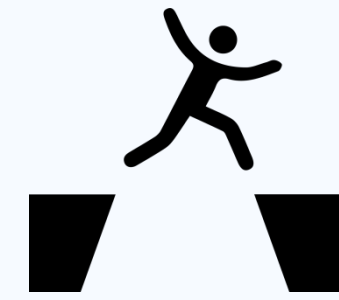
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Open Source
Solution PoCs

9

Solution Platform Advisory

Key Challenges



- **IT and network skillset combination**
- **Legacy network programmability**
- **Moving to agile and DevOps**
- **Virtualization adoption**
- **Network automation**
- **Business and architecture ongoing involvement**

...Mitigated



- **Partnerships (Prodapt, OEM vendors), Skills pivot & Cross-trainings**
- **Plan-prioritize relevant user stories**
- **Automated key aspects of CI/CD/CT**
- **Early wins on agility and TTM for service delivery**
- **Vision alignment and management sponsorship**

01

Model-driven Configuration Templates

Network abstraction based on YANG Model for templated configuration

02

API-driven Automated CRUD

Automated service creation based on user configurations via APIs

Only specify CREATE operations, REDEPLOY, UPDATE, DELETE auto-generate

03

Transactional Guarantees

Reduced manual intervention with templates configuration and automated CRUD

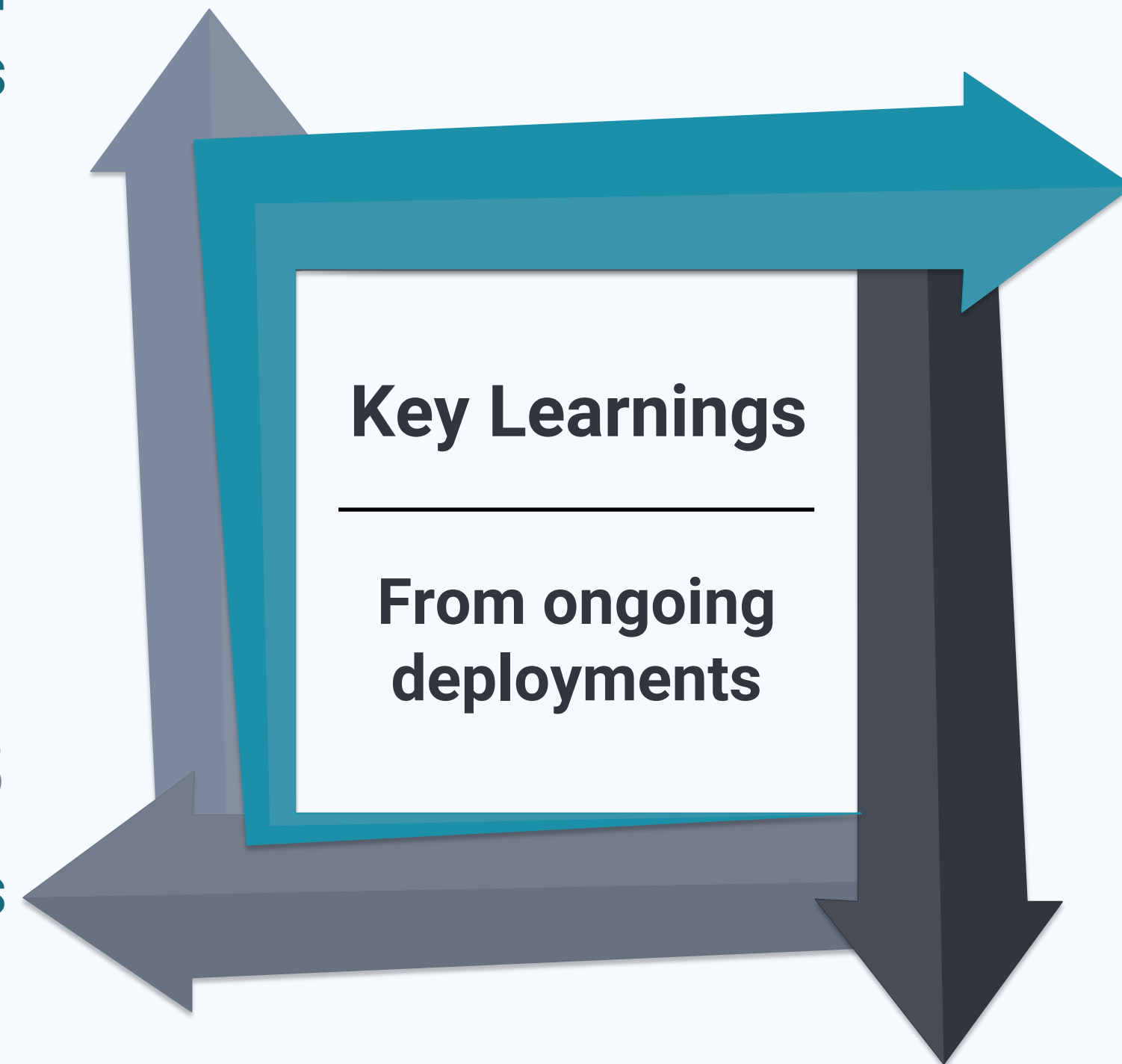
Ensure fail-safe operations

04

Enabling Self-healing Network

Data Analytics systems and DSP Data Lakes can be integrated for telemetry forecasting and analysis

Enables error forecasting and demand patterns



Benefits to our customers

Via an automated provisioning in multi-vendor, multi-domain ecosystem
in conjunction with our customer ecosystem

**Reduced time
to rollout new
services**

**Faster revenue &
New revenue**

**CAPEX/OPEX
reduction**

**Better customer
experience**

THANK YOU



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