ITU-T standards development lifecycle in the context of the broader standards ecosystem

- A personal view from the trenches

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Outline

- A little history
- The Standards ecosystem
- The key tool in standards work
- An example of the problem
- Attempts at a solution in SG15
- Take aways





"The nice thing about standards is that there are so many of them to choose from." – Ken Olsen

The century old model for standards development is changing



Bock/Doolan (2019 slide)

Tiers in the ecosystem

| | Tier 1 (the l's) | Tier 2 (the <mark>F</mark> 's) | Tier 3 (the M' s) |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Characteristics | Global scope. Recognised by government. | The 'Forums' | MSAs |
| | regional and international bodies. Broad participation from government, academic, industrial and commercial | Second level standards – often referred to as implementation agreements - that reference or quote primary material from the | 'Clubs' of industry participants who create ad hoc specifications for systems or |
| | interests Primary standards development bodies. | Tier 1s | components. System level MSAs often reference Tier 1 & 2 SDOs |
| Applications | Broad | Use cases | Very specific |
| Time to develop | Long (~3,5 years) | Shorter(~2 years) | Shortest (can be months) |
| Driver | Whole industry | User community | Aligned vendors |
| Lifetime | Long | As long as use case persists | Medium |
| Examples | ITU, ISO, IEC, IETF, IEEE | OIF, MEF, BBF, ONF | OpenROAD <mark>M</mark> , Pluggables, Interface modules, ZR+ |

The fundamental model







Instantiations of the model.

Specifying the model



 $3.10^2 \times 7.10^3 = ?$



IEEE Std 802.3-2022, IEEE Standard for Ethernet SECTION NINE

Table 154A–5—1 channel example DWDM black link application with OSNR (TP3) \geq 35 dB (12.5 GHz)

| Description | Value | Unit |
|--|-------|------|
| Available loss budget TP2 to TP3 | 19 | dB |
| Allocation for loss of patch panels | 2 | dB |
| Remaining loss available for fiber plant | 17 | dB |
| Potential distance for 0.25 dB/km cabled fiber attenuation coefficient | 68 | km |



The Hardware/Software paradox



Emergence of SW in SG15 work

- Baby steps.....
- Spans multiple aspects and companies
 - FEC reference implementation (Acacia)
 - Design verification test vectors (Infinera)
 - Conformance Error Vector Magnitude as a conformance metric for optical transmitters (Keysight) – used in OIF & IEEE
 - System behavior Timing simulators (Huawei)
 - Q14 Mr Kam Lam's talk
- However.....
 - Provenance, licensing, accessibility, maintenance are all work in progress
 - No clear ownership
 - How do we make these intiatives influence the rest of the ecosystem ?
 - Etc etc
- Challenge and opportunity



Take aways

- There are too many organizations developing Standards
 - A vibrant ecosystem leads to local inefficiency
- Semiconductor and ASIC technology allows for staggering complexity
 - Huge development cost
 - Words fail us so we need something else
- Do we need a fundamental change in the way we do our work?
 - SW methods seem to offer a way forward

Thank you!