

Resilient alerting networks

The use of communication networks is constantly growing, expanding and changing at a rapid pace. Megatrends are:

- Standardization and concentration of networks (e.g. all IP networks using one trunk infrastructure);
- Exponential growth of bandwidth (e.g. watching videos, remote working)
- Society becoming completely dependent on networks (e.g. vital infrastructures)

This is a giant step from how communication networks were organized in the not-so-distant past. It is only just over a decade ago that the iPhone was introduced in 2007, leading the way to smart phones that offer a very user friendly, integrated communication gateway to consumers. And it is only a few decades since we still used a range of separate networks that all came with their specific protocols, devices, needs and quirks.

The ever growing integration and consolidation of communication networks makes that data communication connections become more and more intertwined with daily life and the demands on these connections become higher and higher. This however is also reason for growing concerns. More and more critical business functions rely on these networks, with disruptions immediately resulting in loss of income. This applies to entertainment services for consumers too, where disruptions in the infrastructure means loss of income to the service providers from the indirect business model of advertising. Let alone areas where safety related functions are involved: loss of communication functions can easily lead to extensive damages or personal suffering.

Security, reliability and availability

The overall effect is that more and more demands are put onto the connections: these have to be secure and reliable. That these demands are not trivial we can clearly see: the Swiss national telephone network went down for a prolonged time due to a failing IP infrastructure.



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