

2.2.1 Shaping the Future: Mobile Network Evolution to NGN (John Visser, Nortel)

Change is necessary. As we manage our lives by making more and more use of telecommunications, we continually increase the complexity and reduce the satisfaction of the end user's experience. Today, we have different networks for different services, different networks for different enterprises. We have boundaries within service providers that cause different services to be provided by different platforms without something ensuring the overall consistency of the user experience. Network transformation and convergence are essential for enhancing the user experience, and are driven by user demand. At many levels, the transformed network needs to eliminate these boundaries.

Mobility is a key dimension of Next Generation Networks. The ITU-T Special Study Group on "IMT-2000 and Beyond" from 2000 through 2004, and now its successor, Study Group 19 "Mobile Telecommunication Networks", are looking at the requirements for future mobility services and at the convergence of mobile and fixed networks. Convergence is happening in more ways than this: Telecoms, Data, Broadcasting (voice, data and entertainment) are increasingly becoming available and are being provided over a common infrastructure. Seamless mobility will be an essential element for positive user experience. The evolution of today's mobile network infrastructure and, in particular, the IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) will be a key part of the transformation of networks, and will support the blending of user devices and the realization of the vision of seamless mobility in Next Generation Networks.