

Smallworld Bearer Management

Control Your Network – Control Your Future

GE's Smallworld Network Inventory™ offers leading network service providers intelligent inventory to control the deployment of their network. The combination of spatially accurate inventory, integrated design intelligence and strategic decision support is critical to business survival.

Smallworld Network Inventory supports an impressive list of world-class communications customers, streamlining their network planning and engineering, service fulfillment and service assurance business processes. Smallworld Network Inventory is a highly scalable portfolio of products that provide an end-to-end view of multi-vendor, multi-technology networks.

Part of the Smallworld Network Inventory product portfolio, Smallworld Bearer Management™ (SBM) provides the capability to allow Smallworld Physical Network Inventory (PNI) to be integrated with logical inventory systems such as Cramer® OSS Suite, MetaSolv® M6 Solution or existing legacy provisioning systems. The Smallworld Bearer Management product builds on the PNI application to provide for the management of physical network bearers and to support business process integration with the logical inventory. Smallworld Bearer Management from GE provides the “missing link” in OSS inventory management.

Background

Efficient operation and design of network build and service rollout requires a comprehensive, up-to-date view of both outside/inside plant infrastructure and logical network and service inventory. Without this combined view, network configuration is based on assumptions that often cause errors, implementation rework, delays and additional cost. Without integration between the planning and engineering system and the provisioning system, operators must either manage information in multiple systems or swivel-chair between the applications to perform day-to-day functions.

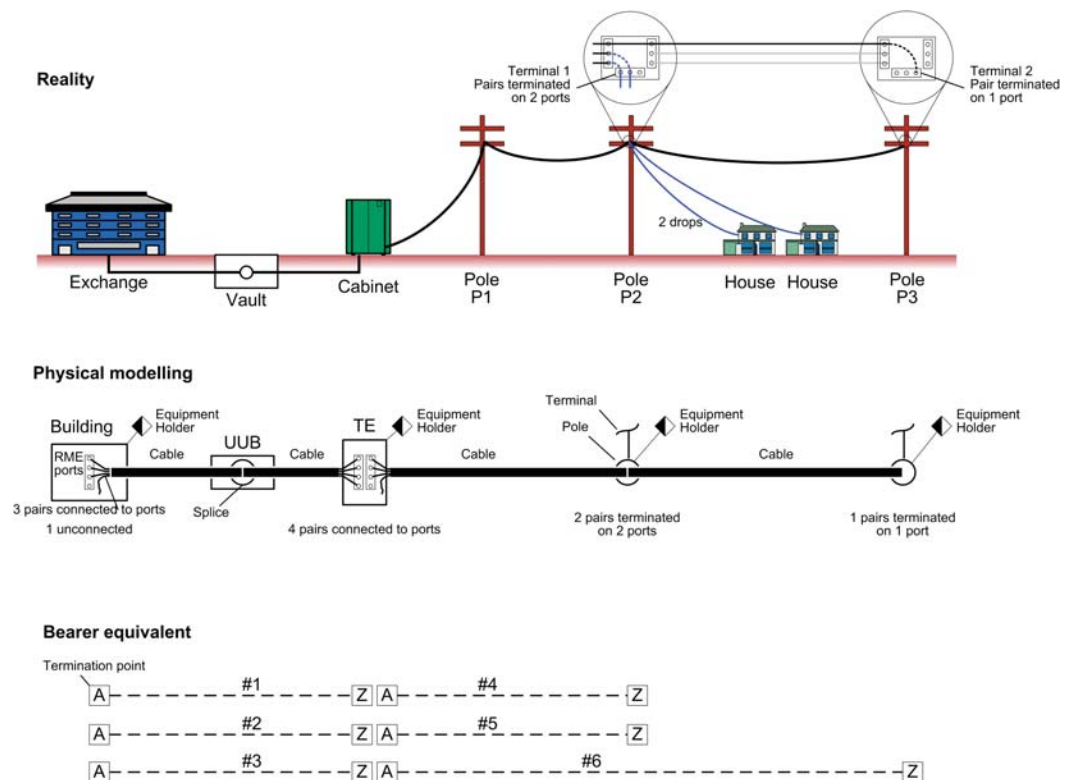


Figure 1



The SBM product is designed to perform the integration of PNI with other logical inventory solutions, thus providing a comprehensive network inventory solution for network operators and service providers. The combined physical and logical network inventory is central to the critical business processes of network planning and engineering and network and service provisioning. Within this broad process the integration of Smallworld and logical inventory supports the following key business processes:

- *Strategic network planning and design* – the coordinated, strategic planning of both physical and logical resources for the access and core networks
- *Service delivery* – planning of new or extended physical resources to meet the immediate needs of network design or service provisioning
- *Service qualification* – qualification of the physical characteristics of the network in order to determine service availability or level of physical diversity when provisioning services

The aim of the SBM product is to provide a standard, product-based interface for logical inventories, which removes the high cost of ownership of custom interfaces typically built on projects. This also accelerates the time to deployment and return on investment of these systems. Later releases of SBM will provide specific support for different logical inventory systems.

What is a bearer?

In SBM, a bearer is a fully connected physical path between two points in the network. Typically this is referred to as a facility, link or path in a logical inventory. However, in a logical inventory all that is known about this link is that there is a connection between the start and end port. In the SBM application the full details of the actual physical path between these two ports is known.

This is easiest explained in reference to a diagram. Figure 1 shows the real-world situation, how this is modeled within PNI, and finally how this model translates into Bearers.

Value Proposition

The SBM integrated approach offers the following benefits:

- A complete network inventory solution – exploit best-in-class strengths that support key processes, simplifying operation and planning processes.
- More consistent and up-to-date physical and logical inventory, improved by sharing data between planning/engineering and operations, stopping manual duplicate data entry, errors and rework due to poor information.
- Reduced provisioning time – the ability to control/automate the complete provisioning process (including physical engineering) in an integrated solution, and accelerate revenue collection for new services.
- Reduced costly rework through integrated processes and accurate shared inventory.
- Increase the speed of network build and rollout through greater automation.
- Low cost of ownership as systems evolve to support new practices/services/technologies through configuration and customization.

For more information visit www.gedigitalenergy.com

