



Innovation in IP Video

# ATSC TELEVISION

## ATSC 3.0 Transition Architectures

## New Opportunities and Channel Sharing Options

Joel Wilhite - Sr. Systems Design Engr.

- ATSC 1.0 – Quick Overview**
- ATSC 3.0 – Core components**
- Consumer Landscape**
- Broadcast Infrastructure**
- Moving Between ATSC 1.0 and 3.0**
- 3.0 Options and Opportunities**
- System Architecture Scenarios**
- Summary**



# ATSC 1.0 Overview

The move from analog to digital...

# The Paradigm Shift

- ATSC broadcasters built systems based on the state of the art.
- Ushered in 4 distinct technologies which didn't exist before...
  - **Real Time Media Compression**
    - Video (MPEG 2)
    - Audio ( AC-3)
  - **Multiplexing (MPEG 2 TS)**
    - Metadata (PSIP)
  - **Digital STL (ASI / SMPTE 310M)**
  - **Digital Modulation (8VSB)**

# Compression

The ATSC  
Transport  
Stream

19.39  
Mbps

Video

Target Bitrates

~92%

Audio

~6%

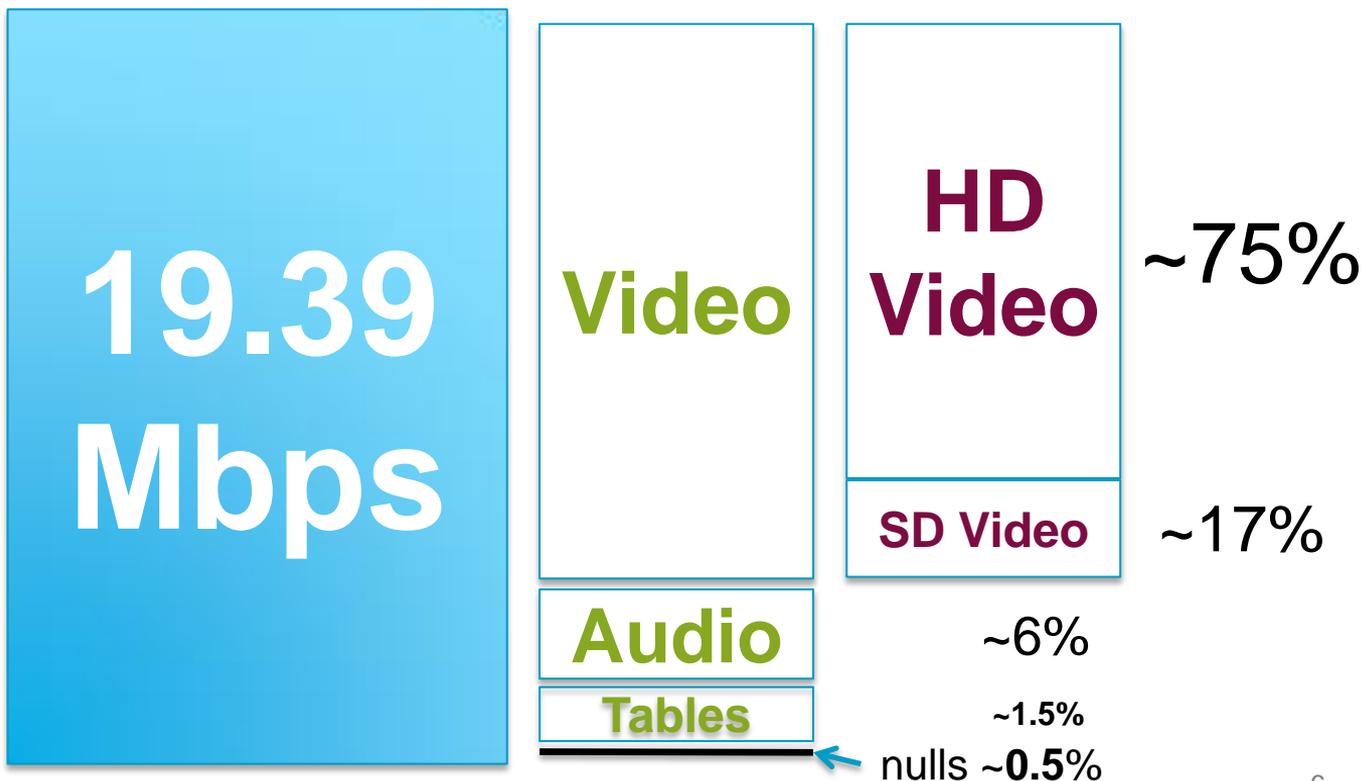
Tables

~1.5%

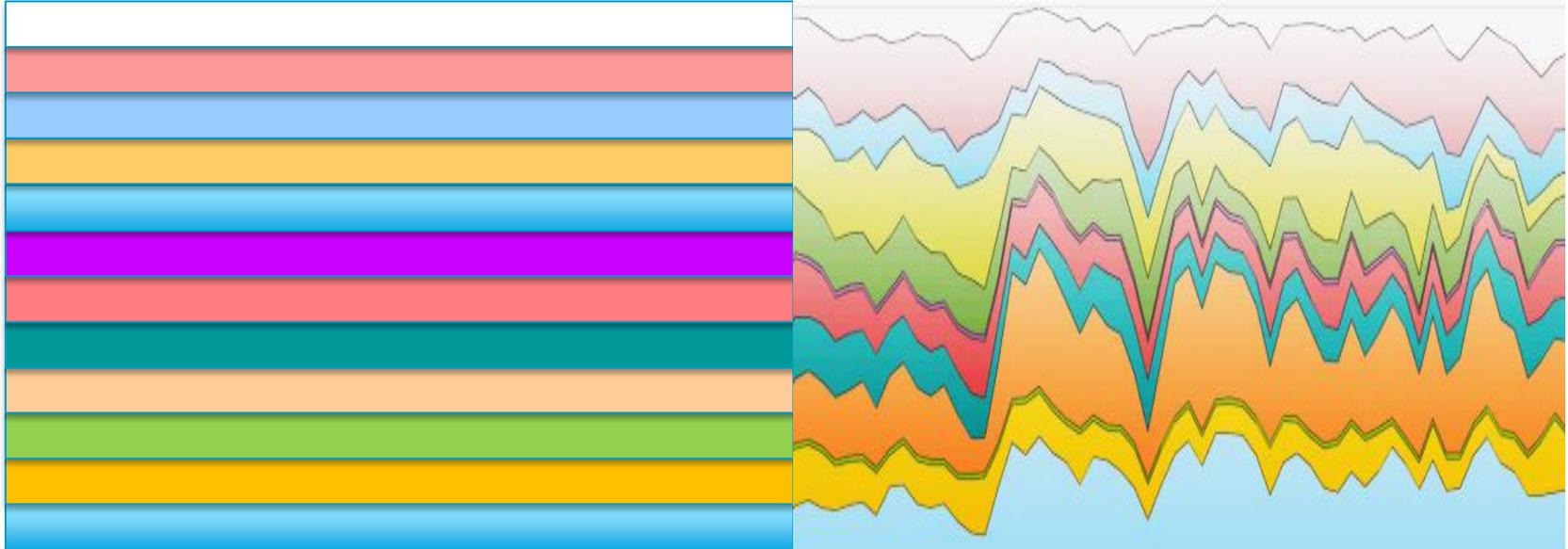
← nulls ~0.5%

# Multiplexing

The ATSC  
Transport  
Stream



# Constant vs. Variable Bitrate



CBR — Variable VQ (lower average)

VBR — Constant VQ (higher average)

**CBR = Less Efficiency when running multiple channels**

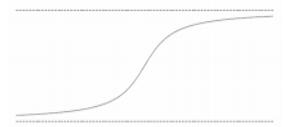
Look-ahead metrics are used to compensate faster than a eye can perceive.

# ATSC 1.0 Historical

HD was the attraction but struggled w/ 1080i HD at 18Mb/s

Statmux allowed systems to combine multiple SD to their multiplex

MPEG-2 performance improved asymptotically over time, slowly tapering off



Coding and filter techniques for AVC & HEVC trickled down to benefit MPEG-2 processing

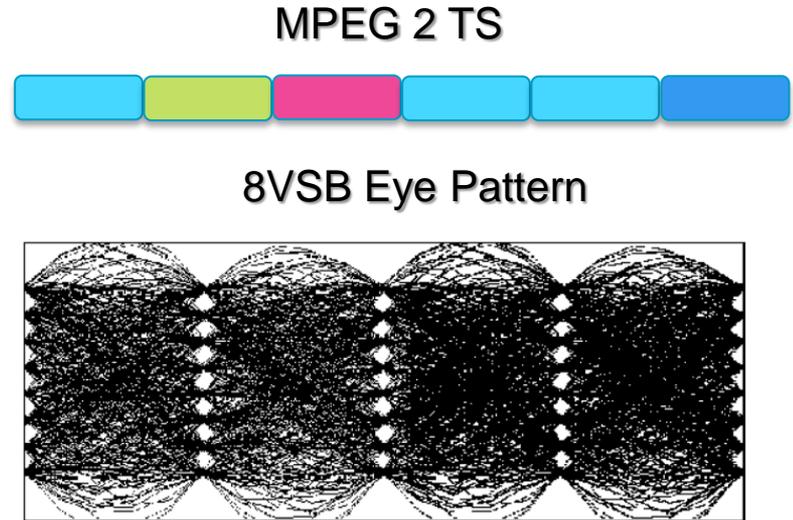
**Statmuxing**, along with filter tools & coding techniques supported MUCH higher channel densities

# ATSC 1.0 STL and Modulation (8VSB)

The digital STL was needed to move the MPEG 2 Transport Stream from the studio to the transmitter

The digital modulator is a form of digital to analog converter to allow the conversion of the bit stream to be converted into a waveform

**Receiver silicon evolved improving the lock and track performance**





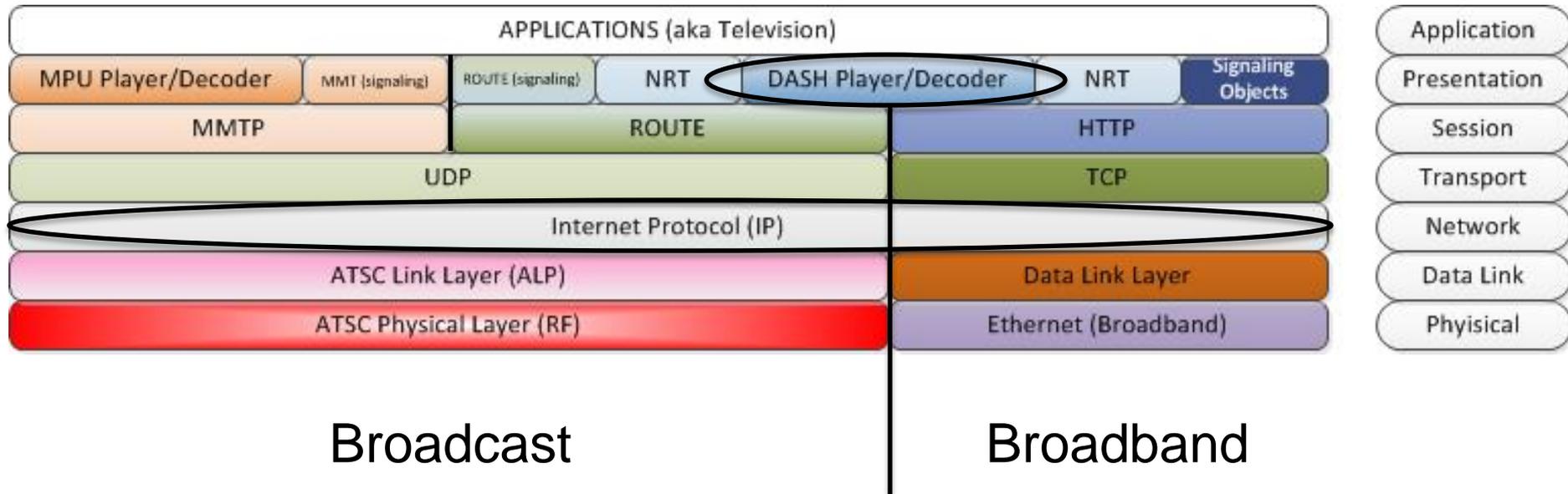
# ATSC 3.0

The Core Components  
...(including the kitchen sink)

# The Next Paradigm Shift

- The ATSC 3.0 system is the next level of state of the art...
- Ushers in 4 distinct technologies which didn't exist before...
  - **Real Time Media** Compression
    - Video (HEVC)
    - Audio ( AC-4)
  - **Packaging / Streaming** (DASH / MMT)
    - Metadata (ROUTE, MMTP)
  - **Digital STL** (IP)
  - **Digital Modulation** (A3P)

# The ATSC 3.0 Protocol Stack



# The ATSC 3.0 Documents

- A/321 SYSTEM DISCOVERY AND SIGNALLING (final)**
- A/322 PHYSICAL LAYER PROTOCOL
- A/330 LINK LAYER PROTOCOL
- A/331 SIGNALING, DELIVERY, SYNCHRONIZATION & ERROR PROTECTION
- A/332 SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
- A/333 SERVICE USAGE REPORTING
- A/334 AUDIO WATERMARK EMISSION
- A/335 VIDEO WATERMARK EMISSION
- A/336 CONTENT RECOVERY IN REDISTRIBUTION SCENARIOS
- A/338 COMPANION DEVICE
- A/341 VIDEO (H.265)
- A/342 AUDIO (AC-4 {US})
- A/343 CAPTIONS AND SUBTITLES

# ATSC 3.0 Physical Layer (A3P)

- Supported bit rate ranges in a 6MHz channel are ...
  - Minimum **0.83 Mb/s** using QPSK, coderate 2/15, 8K FFT, 300usec GI
  - Maximum **56 Mb/s** using 4096 QAM, coderate 13/15, 32K FFT, 28usec GI
- A ~28Mbps service in 6 MHz is considered a “comparable” use case to a 8VSB – **represents a 70% boost**
- Receivers must support as many as 4 PLP's

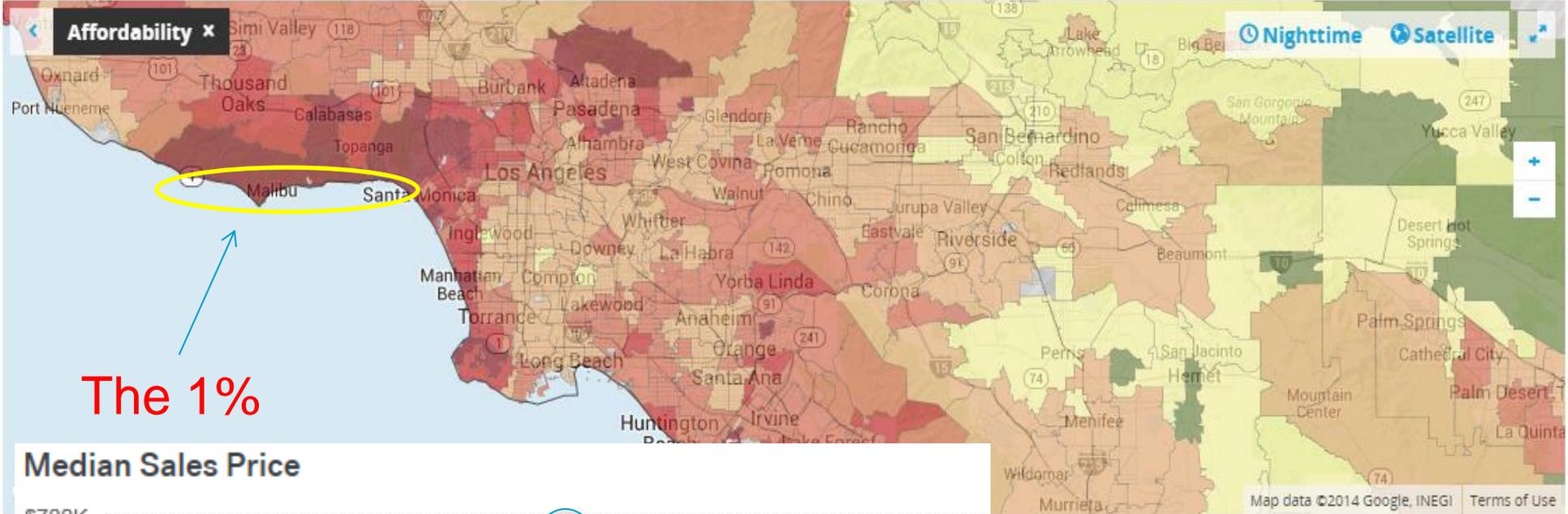
- **Service Types** – Enhanced linear services including multiple, alternative components and interactive application enhancements, pre-load application-based VoD services, audio-only services, push style data-only services
- **Hybrid Delivery** – Delivery of programs, program elements and triggers via broadcast to announce additional products or services available to those with broadband connectivity
  - 1) Main program delivered via broadcast and alternate components or interstitials delivered via broadband
  - 2) Trigger delivered in broadcast and preloaded content delivered via broadband
  - 3) Temporary “hand-off” from broadcast to broadband and back for brief fades in reception
- **Real-Time and Non-Real-Time Delivery** – Content can be streamed in real-time (i.e., linear or streaming on-demand content) via both broadcast and broadband. Content can also be delivered in non-real-time and cached locally via both broadcast and broadband.

- **Security** – Security-enabled business models such as subscription services, “freemium” services (i.e., if the user registers and then the content is provided free), subscription for alternate components, and pay-per-view programs.
- **Interactivity** – The interactive application environment for ATSC 3.0 will enable interoperability between the receiver runtime environment and apps that producers and broadcasters author, based on WC3 technologies. The goal is to align with the web as much as possible.

harmonic

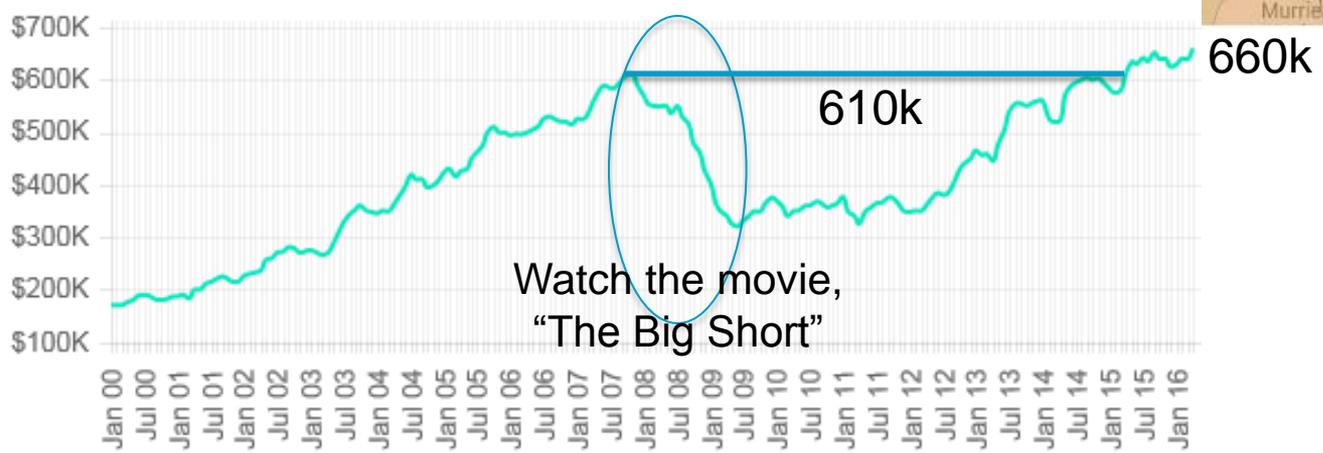


# Consumer Landscape



The 1%

### Median Sales Price



# Household Income (based on L.A. data)

The income status of residents was as follows...

- Median household income: \$48,610
- Mean household income: \$76,557
- Median family income: \$53,008
- Mean family income: \$83,965
- Median non-family income: \$38,227
- Mean non-family income: \$61,155

**Take-home pay for a typical household is ~\$2,250**

(Calculation based on a typical 26 pay periods, less typical withholding)

The racial/ethnic/cultural composition of [Los Angeles](#) as of the 2005-2009 American Community Survey:<sup>[2]</sup>

White: 41.3% (Non-Hispanic Whites: 29.4%)

Hispanic or Latino (of any race): **47.5%**

Black or African American: 9.8%

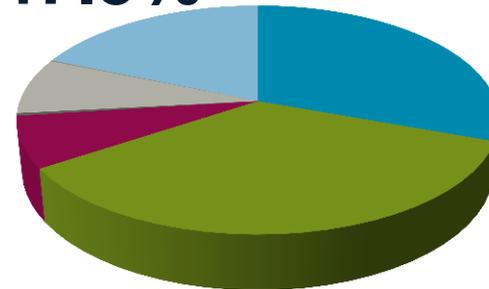
Native American: 0.5%

Asian: 10.7%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 0.2%

Other: 25.2%

Two or more races: 2.8%



- White: (Non-Hispanic Whites): 29.4%
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race):
- Black or African American:

- The linguistic composition of Los Angeles out of a population of 3,473,790 people over the age of 5 <sup>[4]</sup>
  - English only: 40.2% (1,397,555)
  - **Language other than English: 59.8% (2,076,235)**
    - Speak English less than "very well": 30.5% (1,058,358)
  - Spanish: **43.6% (1,513,106)**
    - Speak English less than "very well": 23.2% (806,252)
  - Other Indo-European languages: 7.0% (242,461)
    - Speak English less than "very well": 2.8% (98,907)
  - Asian languages and Pacific Islander languages: 7.9% (275,109)
    - Speak English less than "very well": 4.0% (140,058)
  - Other languages: 1.3% (45,559)
    - Speak English less than "very well": 0.4% (13,141)

- The US economy has slowly recovered in most sectors...
- Household income has not increased much for the middle class
- Cord cutting trends continue since disposable income is greatly affected because of fluctuation commodity costs (gas \$5/gal)
- Discretion says keep the 4G-LTE, but drop the pay TV
  - Cable TV prices went up 4x the rate of inflation in the last 3 years
  - DBS is still in high churn mode, and big DSL just bought big satellite
  - Second screen is growing rapidly as pay TV (ESPN, HBO) losses continue to erode

- The average TV screen size has increased (~150%) as the average sale price has decreased on the larger models
- 4K Screen prices range (45" – 65") **\$499 – \$7899**  
(based on a range of 6 manufacturers of 2 specific models available at 3 major stores)
- The motivation - the new displays have...
  - FOTA tuners – including the big 4k UHD TVs
  - Better processors/ up-scalers ASICs
  - Better display / backlight technology
  - Better power consumption, slim or curved profile, UI...
  - Built in AVC decoders – Thank you NetFlix, YouTube!

harmonic

# Broadcast Infrastructure



- Multi channel service per carrier is more common (12SD or 3HD)
- Viewers are more comfortable with picture artifacts (YouTube)
- By 2020 we see a number of significant changes ...
  - **OTA** – broadcaster will be sharing bandwidth
  - **OTT** – forcing trends in spending (a-la cart) and viewing habits (binge)
  - **MVPD** – will be chasing dwindling content contracts moving to all IP
- The number of ethnic channels will continue to increase ...
- More 2k (Full HD) & 4k delivery is already predicted ...
  - HEVC will be needed to make it survive

# HEVC versus H.264

## ▶ Both Codecs...

- Came to the market with a lot of buzz
- Promise better pictures at half the bandwidth when compared with the predecessor

## ▶ But H.264...

- Needed several years to deliver pictures at half the rate
- Took a very long time to become a “common” decoder
- Will never fully displace MPEG-2

# HEVC versus H.264

- ▶ Both timed with consumption shift
  - H.264 = HDTV
  - HEVC = Internet TV and 4k
- ▶ MPEG-2 limited HD's market penetration
  - High bandwidth “cost” meant fewer channels
  - Not viable for Internet delivery
- ▶ H.264 is limiting Internet TV via “compromises”
  - Reduced frame rates, 720p**30** vs 720p**60**
  - Video Quality vs. Accessibility, HD @ 1.5Mbps

## ▶ Early Silicon

- H.264 decode was hard to do, encoder was even harder
- Not enough devices to decode the video

## ▶ Device eco-system

- In 2004, computers lacked the horsepower to decode
- Set top boxes required a new generation of silicon

## ▶ Internet Connectivity

- No wireless data of any meaningful speed
- Home broadband was still anemic

# What changed in 10 years?

## ▶ Early Silicon

- H.264 decode was hard
- Not enough devices to decode the video



## ▶ Device ecosystem

- Inconsistent input
- Set top boxes required a new generation of silicon



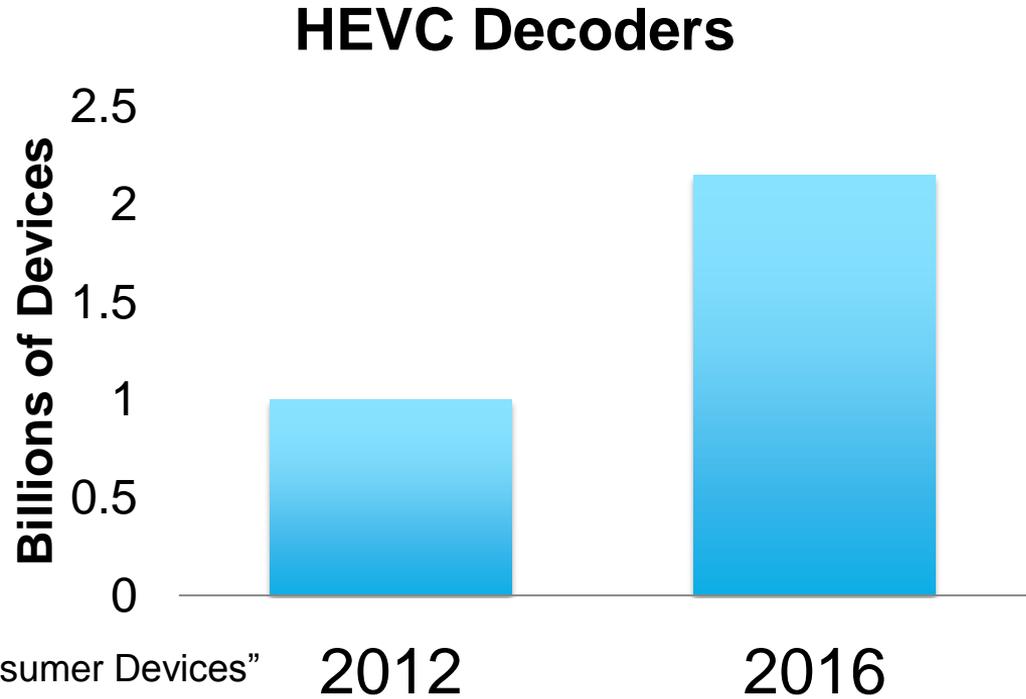
## ▶ Internet Connectivity

- Little bandwidth was available



# Is the World ready for HEVC?

For the 1st time a codec will launch with an installed base of capable consumption devices



Source: MRG 2012 "HEVC Decoding in Consumer Devices"

# Impact on video infrastructure

## Data Centers

- ▶ Unified infrastructure
- ▶ Efficient networking
- ▶ Elastic capabilities

## Opportunity?

- ▶ Is it possible to move the broadcast/playout facility to IT infrastructure?
- ▶ Can we really get the flexibility and reliability?



# Tracking the High End CPU Market

## PassMark - CPU Mark High End CPUs - Updated 26th of May 2016

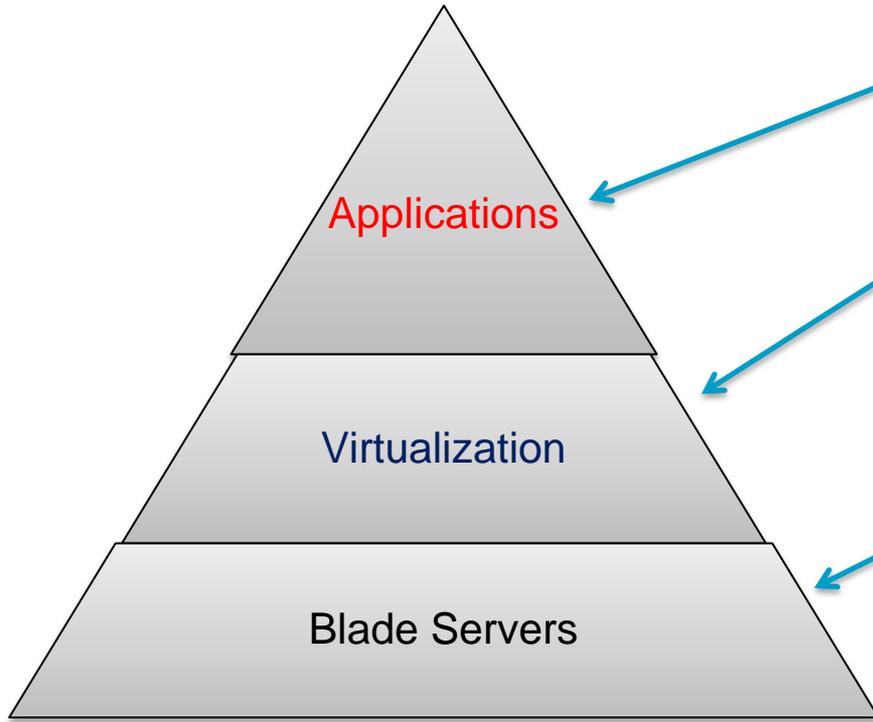


# COTS Blade Server Advantages



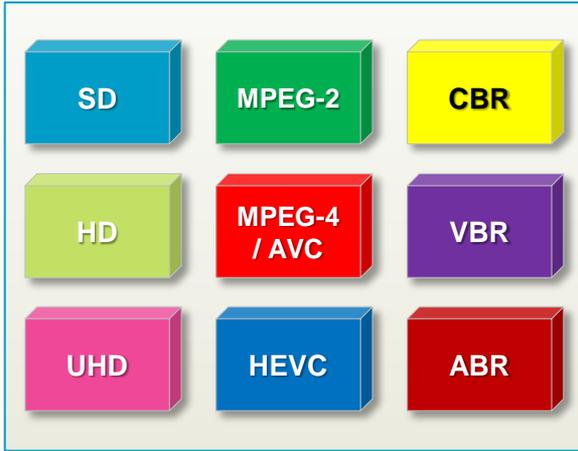
- ▶ 70-80% less networking
- ▶ Hardware de-coupled from encoding technology
- ▶ Common compute across all applications
- ▶ Simplified servicing

# Software Versatility

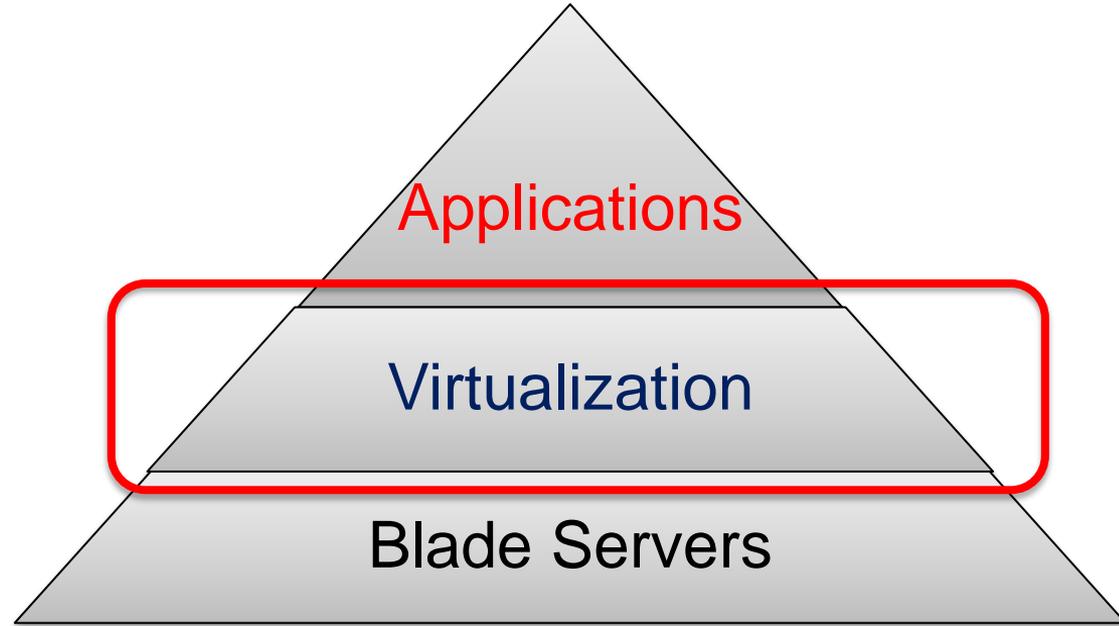


- ▶ Faster rate of innovation
- ▶ Dynamically balance efficiency and resource utilization
- ▶ Application investment outlives underlying infrastructure

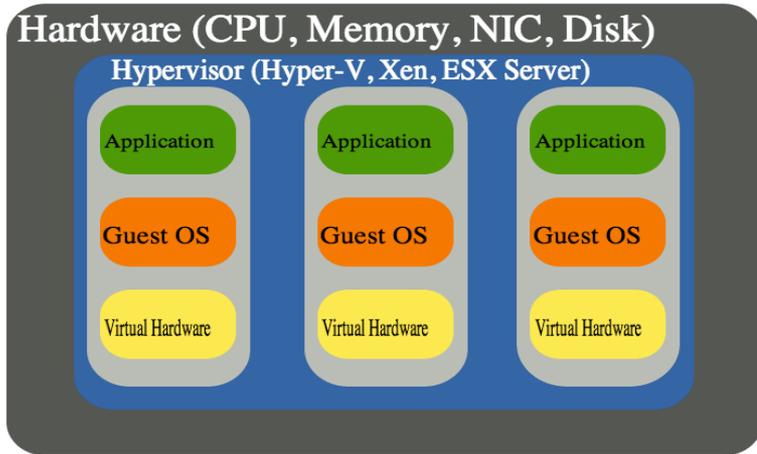
# Virtualized Video Infrastructure



?

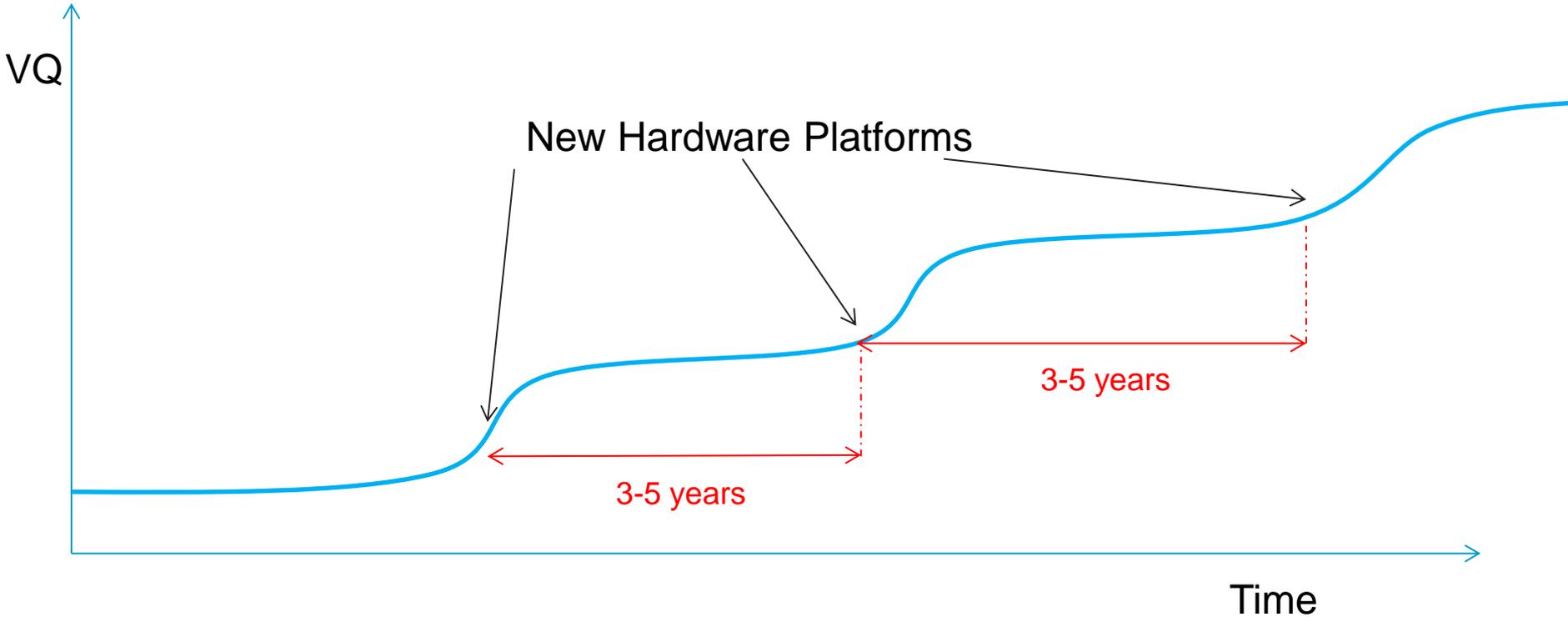


# Virtualization Advantages

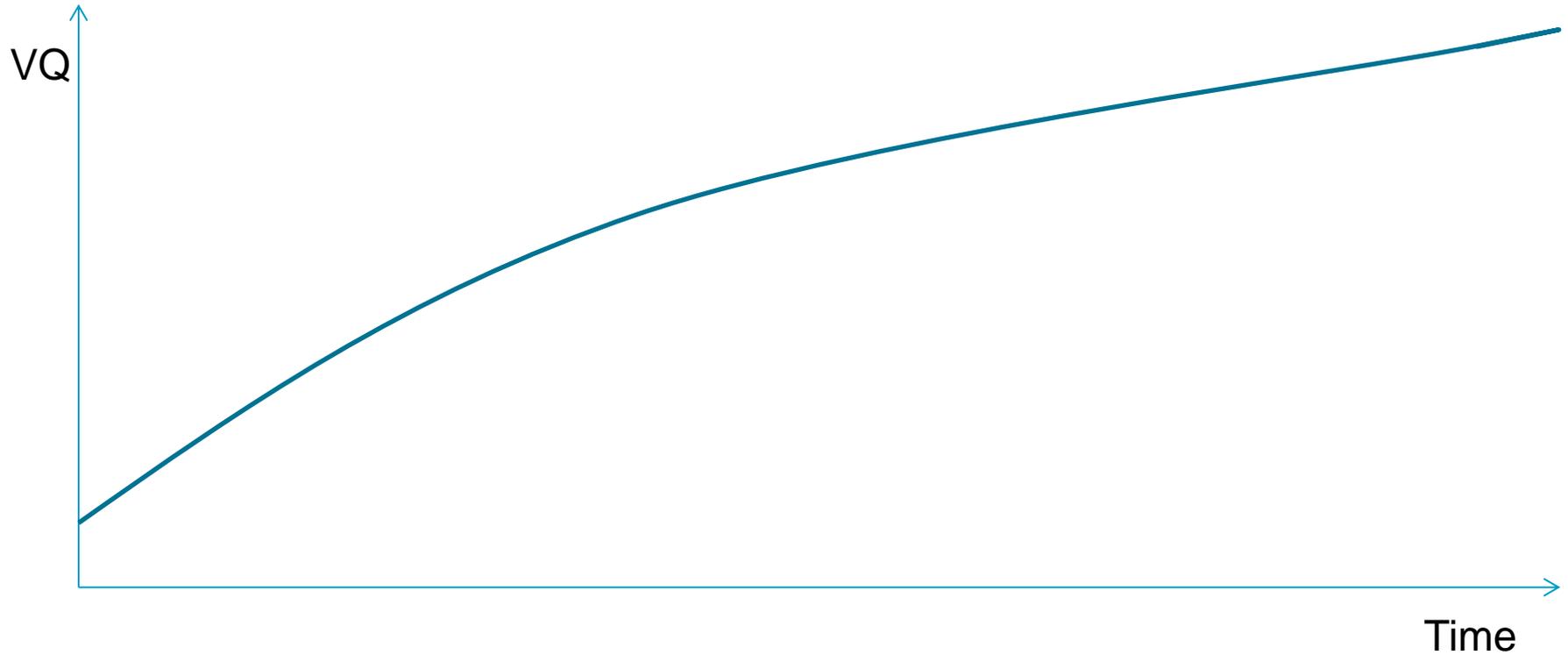


- ▶ Easily upgrade underlying hardware
- ▶ Rapid deployment and scalability
- ▶ Applications can share compute cycles
- ▶ Enables expanded commercial terms for encoding technology

# Typical H/W VQ Improvement Rate



# Typical SW VQ Improvement Rate



# Virtualized Video Infrastructure

FROM:  
Discrete proprietary video appliances

Device specific software

Hardware defined architecture

Bespoke processors / ASICs

Fixed functional devices

Custom video technologies



TO: Integrated & virtualized  
video services infrastructure

Common software platforms

Software defined architecture

Common processors

Functional collapse

IP & standardization



# Moving Between ATSC 1.0 to 3.0

1.0 – Was Analog to Digital...

3.0 – Is Broadcasting + Streaming...

- Come September...
  - We will know more about the broadcast landscape
    - Who stays and who moves
    - **In Los Angeles** – somebody is likely to loose
  - The petition from the consortium has gone out to the FCC
    - “We are ready to move on with 3.0, let’s go...”
    - DA-16-451 “... Authorize Permissive Use of the Next Gen TV”
  - Standards work will continue to progress
    - HDR momentum will come to a head
    - Lab and Pilot systems are already been built

# Optimizing MPEG-2 Statmux Density



## 4x HD (720p) CHANNELS

Good results for secondary content like S@H, movies, legacy programming; limited sports

## 3x HD CHANNELS (MIXED)

Mainstream video quality and not going to get much better without severe softening or compromise

## 10-12x SD CHANNELS

- Good video quality for any “dot-two” channels of multiple stations

## WITH 3 RF CHANNELS

- Can off-load 5 to 6 stations...
- 6x HD (mixed) in 2 pools and a single pool of 10 SD in the 3rd

# Rearranging the channels...

Company A	
6.1	1080i
6.2	SD
6.3	SD

Company B	
8.1	720p
8.2	720p
8.3	SD

Company C	
3.1	SD
3.2	SD
3.3	SD
3.4	SD
3.5	SD
3.6	SD

Company D	
10.1	1080i
10.2	SD

In a typical ATSC market, each station will have deployed their channels in a mixed profile statmux

Company A
ATSC 3.0

Company B	
6.1	720p
8.1	720p
8.2	720p
10.1	720p

Company C	
3.1	SD
3.2	SD
3.3	SD
3.4	SD
3.5	SD
3.6	SD
6.2	SD
6.3	SD
8.3	SD
10.2	SD

Company D
ATSC 3.0

By setting all the HD profiles to 720p, the statmux pools can be reorganized into similar profiles and liberate two carriers

# A Whole ATSC Market in 15 Carriers

RF 1	RF 2	RF 3	RF 4	RF 5	RF 6	RF 7	RF 8	RF 9	RF 10	RF 11	RF 12	RF 13	RF 14	RF 15
1080i	SD	720p	SD	1080i	SD	720p	SD	1080i	720p	1080i	SD	720p	SD	1080i
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	
1080i	SD	720p	SD	1080i	SD	720p	SD	1080i	720p	1080i	SD	720p	SD	1080i
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	
	SD		SD		SD		SD				SD		SD	

**MPEG 2**

**1080i – 10**

**720p – 12**

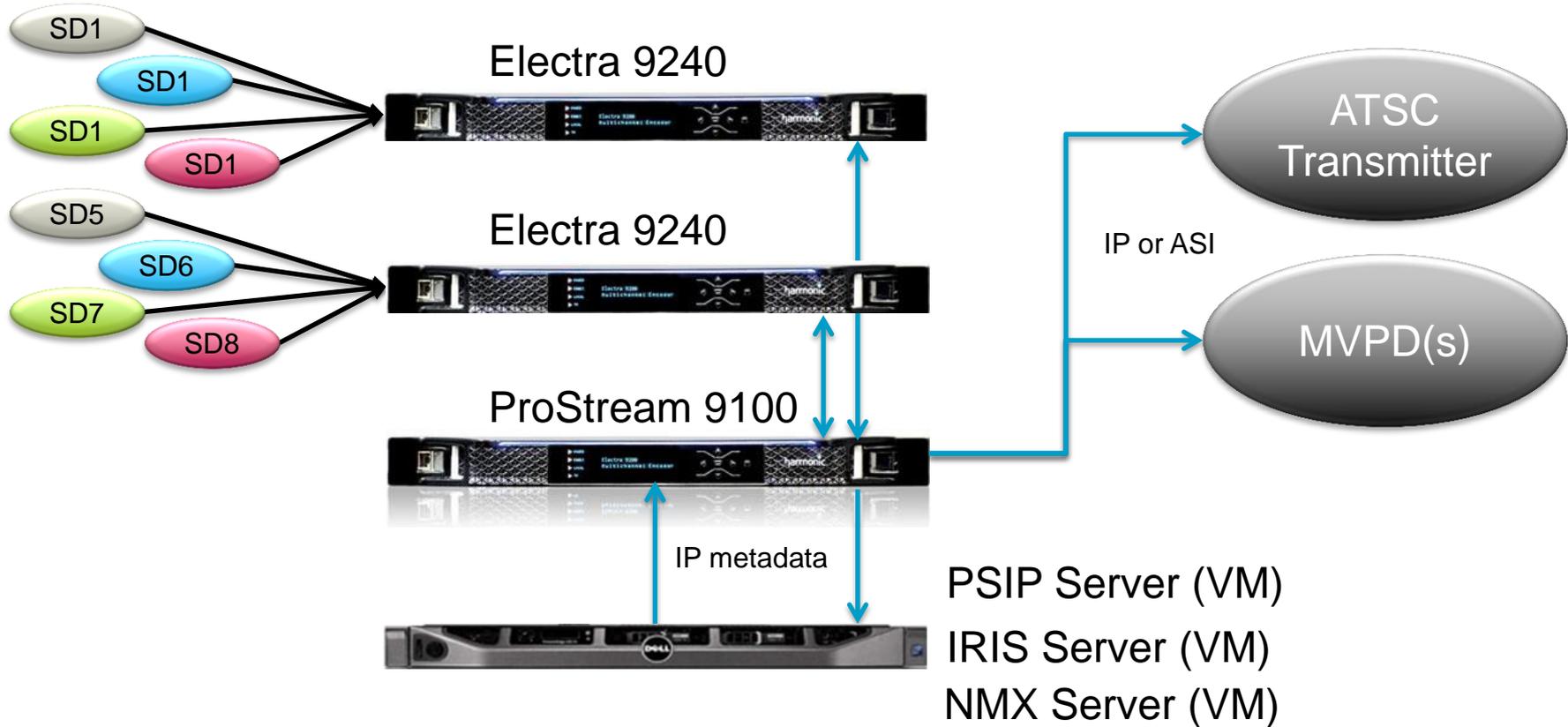
**480i – 60**



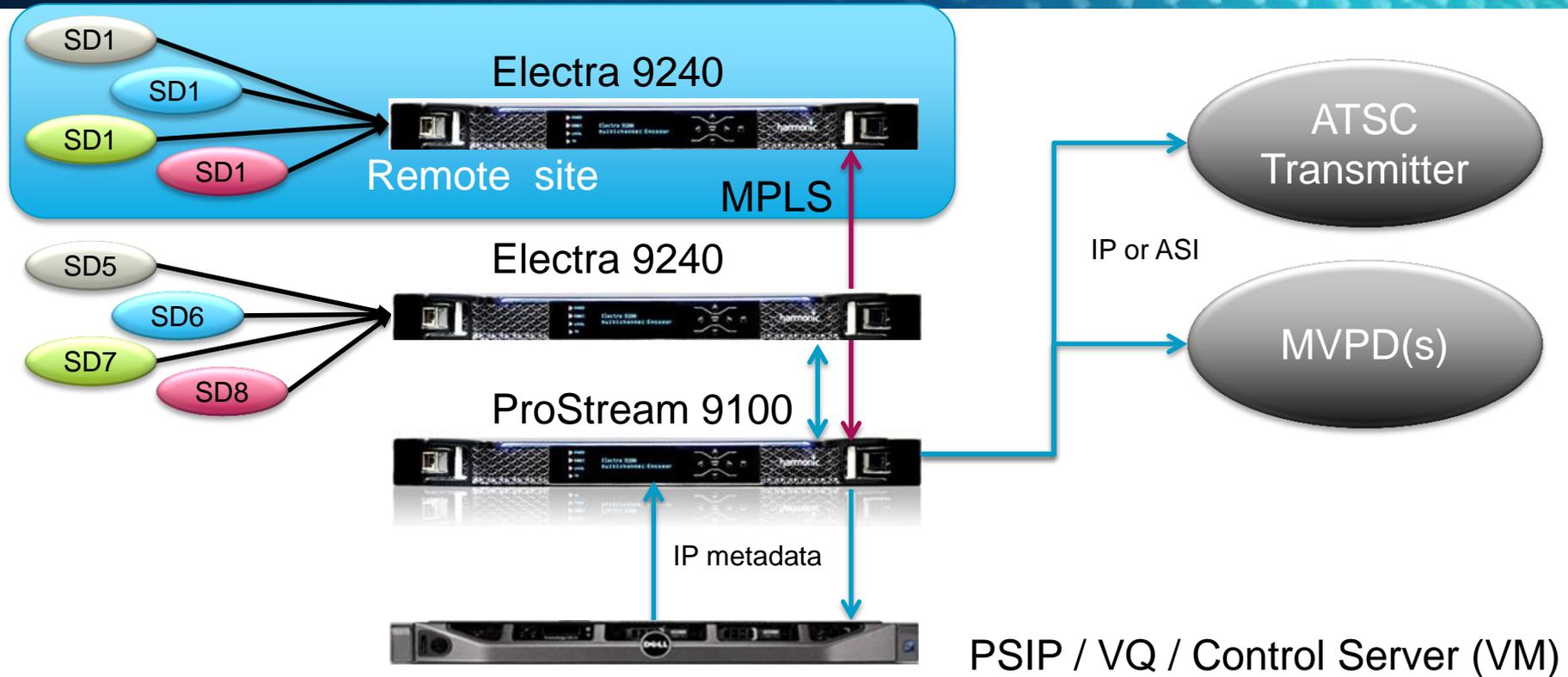
# System Solutions

From ATSC 1.0

# TYPICAL SOLUTION



# STATMUX over WAN - SOLUTION



- Make the case to be a single profile operator to maximize the density
  - Mixed pools work but are biased to create a balance
  - Some stations are ALREADY aligned
- Transition **AIR** services to lower profiles 1080i->720p->480p (16:9)
- BUT!!! Maintain the MVPD profiles and channel characteristics as is
- **A/72 (ATSC 2.0)**
  - Is now a reality – but controversial (field of dreams)
    - Start a simulcast a channel today – promote it – market push
    - No way to know the market penetration of capable receivers



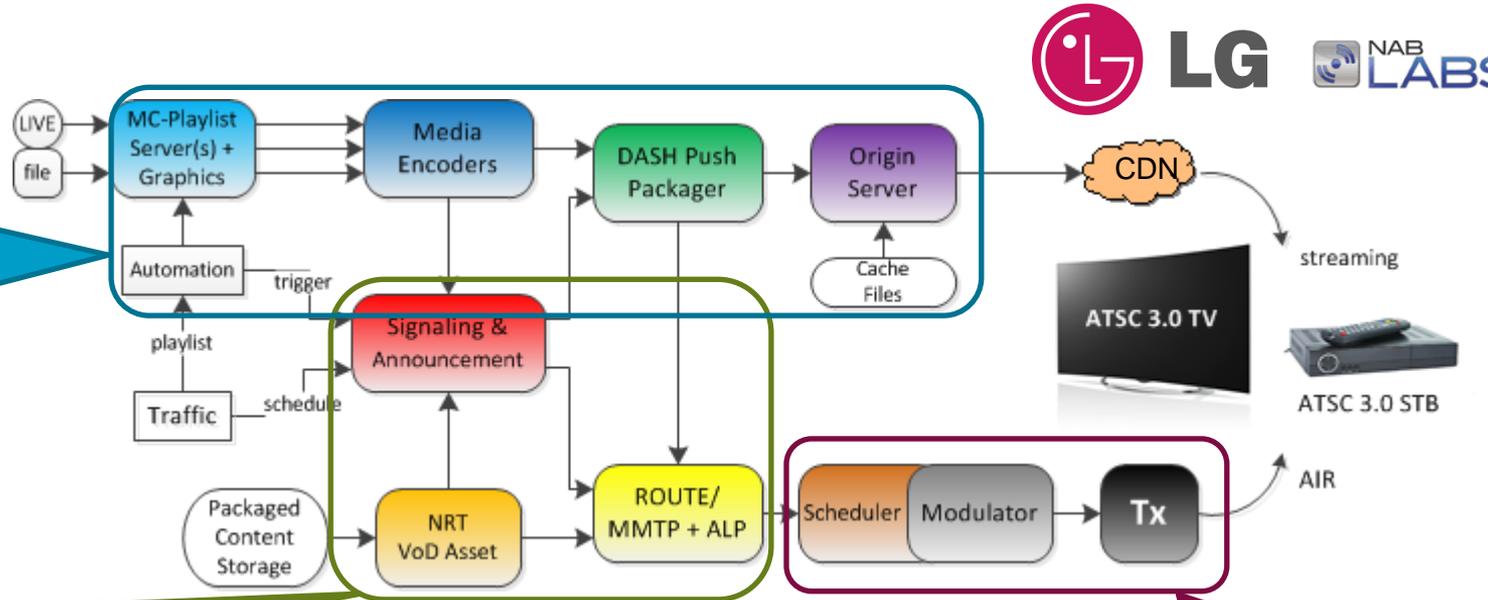
# System Solutions

For ATSC 3.0

# ATSC 3.0 E/E Solution

harmonic

Playout  
Encoder  
Packager  
Origin



LG NAB LABS

triveni  
DIGITAL

Signaling  
NRT Data  
Scheduler  
Router

GATESAIR

PLP Scheduler  
Modulation  
HPA

- The ATSC 3.0 station output is ...
  - UDP – user datagram protocol
  - MULTICAST (broadcast)
  - IP – internet protocol
  - PACKETS – payload for bits

- The business opportunities built into ATSC 3.0 are based on both broadcast and streaming capabilities...
- The definition of TV delivery is about to get blurry
  - Turn the tables, streaming delivery for broadcast
  - Broadband file delivery offload fail back to broadcast
  - Application delivery services, s/w upgrades!!!
  - Triggered NVoD delivery service
  - And many more...

- **Single Carrier**
  - Single PLP - just like ATSC 1.0 is one level of robustness
  - Multiple PLP – Allows various size pipes
    - Each PLP is a set to carry a collection of specific parts
- **Multiple Carrier**
  - Multiple PLP are bonded across two or more carriers to make an aggregate pipe for multi tuner operation
  - The carriers don't need to be concurrent in spectrum
    - One carrier can be a LoV with very robust coding to deliver the smaller circuits, Audio, ESG, triggers, etc. (lower data rates)
    - Other carrier can be HiV or U and run higher data rate (lower robustness) to carry the videos

## ■ **Single Carrier – SFN**

- Same model but with a distributed transmission system to operate from multiple low power, low tower locations to raise the signal level with tightly coupled synchronous transmitters, a Low VHF stands a better chance of surviving in the noise

## ■ **Multiple Carrier – SFN**

- The data rate possible running on one or more carriers is approaching the rate available on small CABLE systems
  - Assume ATSC 3.0 rates of 28 - 50 Mb/s each...
  - QAM 256 ~ 38.7 Mb/s

- Broadcast services must announce the products available in the streaming services (geo fencing)
- Streaming services can provide... (but not stand alone)
  - Diverse, Unlimited, Extra/Bonus and bidirectional
  - Alternate content, Alternate endings, Continued interviews
  - Off load VoD materials,
    - previous season
    - older episodes
    - Ad split



# Summary

- Broadcasters *must* change, since 2009 many things have changed ...
- The motivations to change are very simple to understand



# Forced Flash-Cut

- ATSC 3.0 currently does not have US government support
- There is no new spectrum available for a transition



# Scalable Transition Plan Options

- ATSC 3.0 is a scalable standard unlike ATSC 1.0
- A range of selectable options are built into the layers...

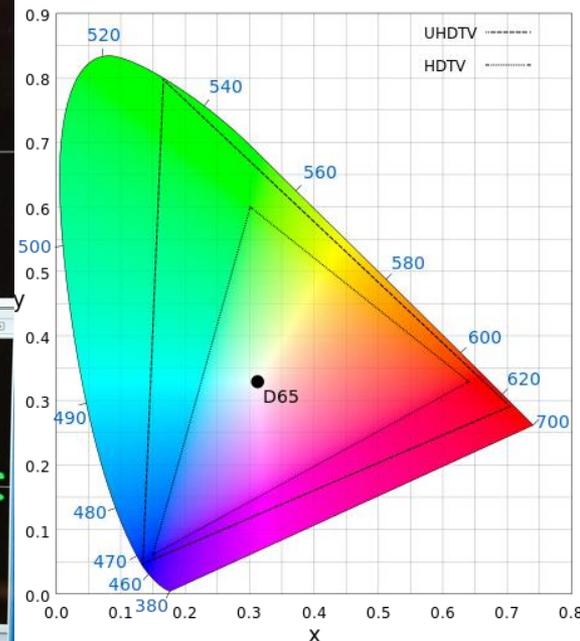
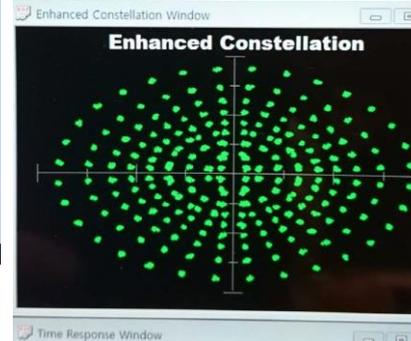
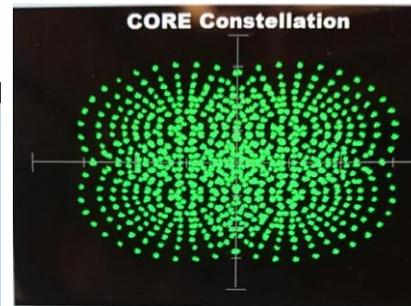
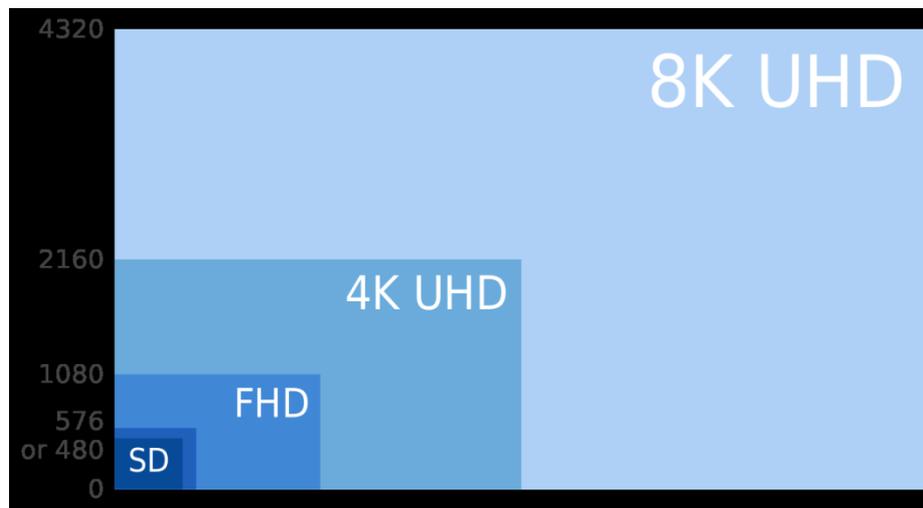


- ***The principles of cooperation, sharing and creating the strongest business case for broadcasting are universal around the world but the applications are hyper-local since no two markets are alike. Broadcasters must quickly recognize their real competition is NOT the other broadcasters in their market.***
- Groups/consortiums will form to actively participate to manage changes where they have historically not cooperated in the past
- These groups will decide best how to share the spectrum, facilities and infrastructure associated with this transition

- The next transition will most likely happen market-by-market with the broadcaster engineers in each market determining how best to manage those changes
- Some stations will continue operation in ATSC 1.0 mode for many years (2021) while others move and change
- Other stations will offer MPEG 2 and AVC in 8VSB for channel sharing or to improve channel density/coverage

# How Big is This?

- ATSC 3.0 has the potential to expand into markets outside of the US
- **Receivers** will support a wide range of capability not just UHD
- **Receivers WILL** leverage home IP



1. *The number of broadcast channels available post auction? - **Aug-Sept?***
2. *The number of transmission facilities capable of upgrading to 3.0? – **Most***  
***The Real question is when and where first/next ...***
3. *The number of stations in a market ...*
  - I. *...staying in 1.0 operation – **depends on consumer adoption rate***
  - II. *...shifting to 3.0 operation – **depends on the production house sched***
4. *The number of stations which can be moved into a cloud plant?*
  1. ***Will depend on the available connectivity (uW/ Fiber/ MPLS/ etc.)***
  2. ***Links between studios and transmitters over IP is a key tenant of the 3.0 standard – IP has a habit of being networked***
  3. ***Uncompressed or mezzanine compressed (<5 frames) links over IP will be more common place as the shift to move some production and operations elements into the cloud take shape***



**Questions?**

Thank you.

[www.harmonicinc.com](http://www.harmonicinc.com)



#VideoInnovation