Optical Transport Network Design and Implementation Training Course



21 - 25 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #TEL7266_285360

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of Optical Transport Network (OTN) technology, from fundamental principles to advanced design and implementation strategies. In an era where data demand is exploding, OTN stands as the critical digital wrapper technology for high-capacity networks, including DWDM systems, ensuring transparent and efficient transport of diverse client signals. This program is meticulously designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, empowering participants to plan, design, and manage robust and scalable optical networks. We will delve into the intricacies of the ITU-T G.709 standard, exploring OTN framing, multiplexing hierarchies, and advanced functionalities like Forward Error Correction (FEC). As discussed by leading experts like Rajiv Ramaswami in his seminal work, "Optical Networks: A Practical Perspective," a deep understanding of the underlying transport layer is paramount for network architects and engineers. BIG BEN Training Center has structured this course to provide that deep understanding, focusing on real-world scenarios, performance optimization, and troubleshooting techniques that are essential for maintaining next-generation telecommunications infrastructure and data center interconnects. This is the definitive training for professionals seeking to master the backbone of modern digital communication.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Telecommunications Engineers.
- Network Architects and Designers.
- Optical Network Planners.
- Network Operations Center (NOC) Staff.
- Systems Engineers involved in network infrastructure.
- Technical Project Managers overseeing network deployments.
- IP Engineers seeking to understand the transport layer.
- Data Center Network Professionals.
- Field Technicians and Implementation Specialists.
- R&D Professionals in the optical networking field.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Telecommunication Service Providers.
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs).
- Data Center and Cloud Service Providers.
- Large Enterprise Corporations.
- Government Agencies and Public Sector Telecommunications.
- Military and Defense Communication Sectors.
- Utility Companies (Power, Gas, Water) with private fiber networks.
- Broadcast and Media Companies.
- Financial Institutions requiring high-capacity networks.
- Research and Education Networks.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Network Engineering and Planning.
- Network Operations and Management.
- Infrastructure and Technology.
- Research and Development (R&D).
- Technical Support and Field Operations.
- Data Center Operations.
- Transmission and Transport Network Departments.
- Core Network Strategy and Architecture.
- IT and Information Systems.
- Project Management Office (PMO).

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Comprehend the fundamental principles of OTN and its role in modern optical networks.
- Analyze the OTN hierarchy, including OPU, ODU, and OTU frames, as defined by G.709.
- Design a resilient and scalable OTN architecture for metro and long-haul applications.
- Map various client signals, such as Ethernet and SDH, into the OTN structure.
- Implement effective OTN protection and restoration schemes to ensure network reliability.
- Evaluate the impact of Forward Error Correction (FEC) on system performance and reach.
- Develop comprehensive test plans for commissioning and verifying OTN links and services.
- Troubleshoot common OTN faults and performance degradation issues effectively.
- Plan for the evolution of OTN to support higher data rates like 400G and beyond.
- Integrate OTN with other technologies like DWDM and GMPLS for a unified transport solution.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants not only learn the theory but can also apply it confidently in their professional roles. This course moves beyond traditional lectures by incorporating a blended learning approach. Theoretical sessions will establish a strong foundation in OTN standards, architecture, and design principles. These are immediately reinforced through practical case studies derived from real-world network deployment challenges. Participants will work in teams on design exercises, simulating the process of planning an OTN network to meet specific bandwidth and resilience requirements. Interactive workshops and group discussions will encourage knowledge sharing and collaborative problem-solving. Our expert instructors facilitate these sessions, providing continuous feedback and guiding participants through complex topics. The curriculum emphasizes hands-on analysis of network scenarios, performance data, and troubleshooting logs. This immersive learning environment ensures that every professional leaves with a deep, applicable mastery of OTN design and implementation, fully prepared to tackle the demands of modern high-capacity optical networks.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Fundamentals of Optical Networking and OTN

- Introduction to fiber optic communication principles.
- Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH/SONET) limitations.
- The evolution towards Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) and DWDM.
- The business and technical drivers for Optical Transport Network (OTN).
- Overview of the ITU-T G.709 OTN standard.
- Comparing OTN with other transport technologies.
- Key benefits of OTN including transparency and enhanced OAM.

Unit Two: OTN Architecture, Framing, and Hierarchy

- Detailed exploration of the OTN layered architecture.
- Understanding the Optical Payload Unit (OPU).
- Analyzing the Optical Data Unit (ODU) and its various rates.
- Deconstructing the Optical Transport Unit (OTU) frame structure.
- The role of the OTN frame alignment signal and overhead bytes.
- Forward Error Correction (FEC) types and their performance gains.
- Client signal mapping and de-mapping procedures.

Unit Three: OTN Network Design and Planning Principles

- Key considerations for designing OTN networks.
- Topology design for core, metro, and access networks.
- Capacity planning and traffic forecasting techniques.
- Designing for latency, jitter, and other performance metrics.
- OTN protection and restoration mechanisms (1+1, 1: N, ring).
- Wavelength planning and assignment in OTN over DWDM systems.
- Interworking between different OTN domains and vendors.

Unit Four: Implementation, Testing, and Troubleshooting OTN

- Steps for commissioning an OTN network element.
- Service provisioning and end-to-end circuit activation.
- Essential OTN test and measurement procedures.
- Using test equipment to verify OTN signal integrity and performance.
- Common OTN alarms and fault indicators.
- A systematic approach to troubleshooting OTN network issues.
- Performance monitoring and preventative maintenance strategies.

Unit Five: Advanced OTN Services and Future Evolution

- Carrier Ethernet services over OTN.
- Multiprotocol Label Switching-Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) and OTN.
- The role of OTN in Data Center Interconnect (DCI).
- Generalized Multi-Protocol Label Switching (GMPLS) control plane for OTN.
- The evolution to higher speed OTN rates (400G, 800G, and beyond).
- The impact of coherent optics on OTN systems.
- Future trends and the convergence of IP and optical layers.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As OTN evolves to handle 400G, 800G, and beyond, how will the traditional paradigms of network protection and restoration need to adapt to manage the immense 'blast radius' of a single fiber cut?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical recitation of the G.709 standard to focus on the practical, real-world challenges of OTN network design and implementation. While other programs may concentrate solely on frame structures, our curriculum emphasizes the "why" behind the "what," exploring how design choices in protection schemes, FEC selection, and client mapping directly impact network performance, resilience, and cost. We utilize a case-study-driven approach where participants analyze and solve complex network planning scenarios, such as designing a multi-vendor metro ring or planning a long-haul DCI link. This fosters critical thinking and decision-making skills that are immediately applicable in the workplace. Furthermore, the course content is forward-looking, dedicating significant time to the evolution of OTN, the integration with GMPLS control planes, and the challenges of deploying next-generation coherent optics. The focus is not just on understanding current technology but on preparing professionals for the future of optical transport, ensuring they can build networks that are not only robust today but also scalable for the demands of tomorrow.