TetraPack

FUNK.TAG 2024

Artöm DL5ABM

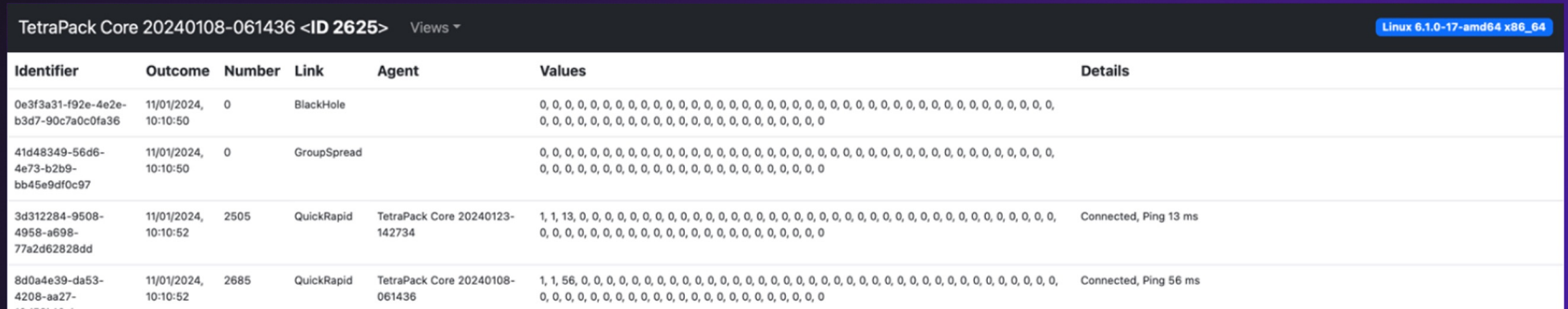
TetraPack.online

Summary

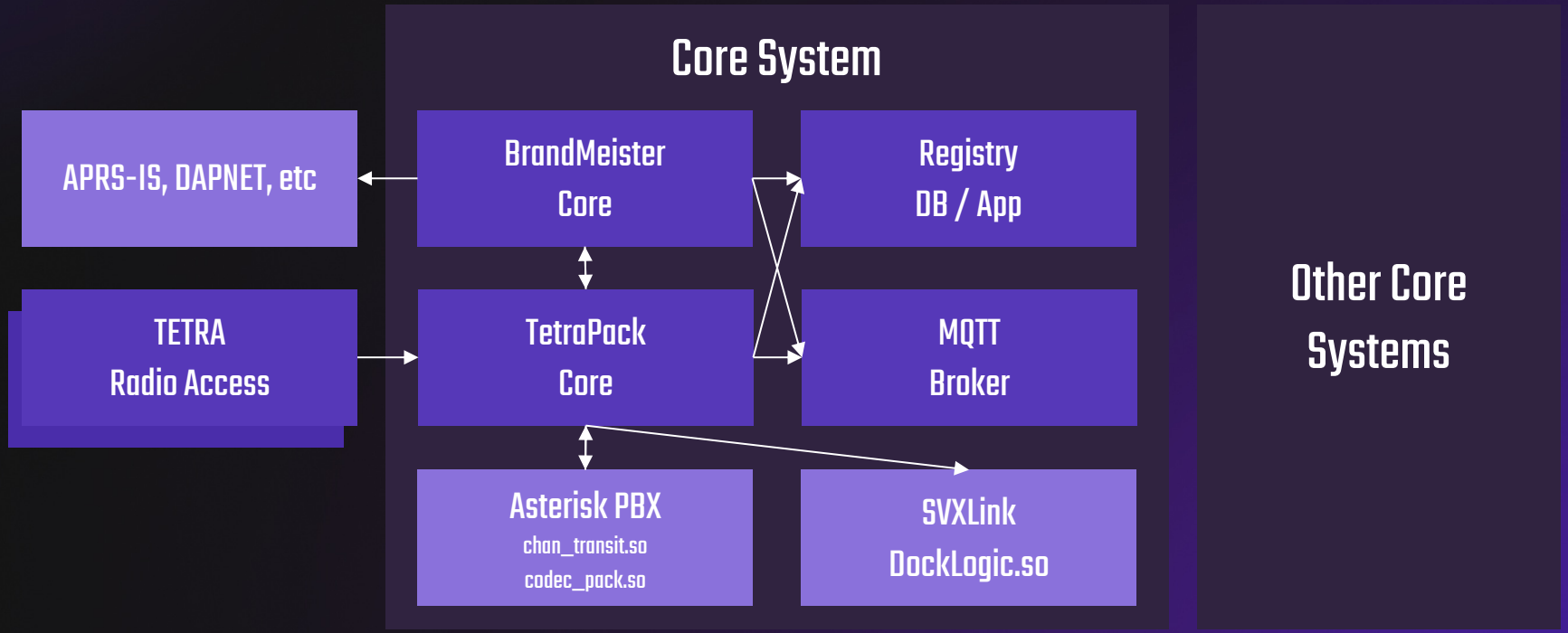
- Introduced at HamRadio 2023 in Friedrichshafen
- “multiple vendor’s TETRA TMO in one PACKage”
- The same goals like BrandMeister Network has:
- Support of different hardware
- Widely-available talk-groups
- Most of services and user-experience for TETRA TMO
- In most cases - connect network controllers (SwMI) instead of base stations
- Closed integration to BrandMeister Network:
- Seamless exchange of group calls, individual calls, SMS
- Almost all services available in BrandMeister Network: APRS, SMS services, etc.

Why not BrandMeister?

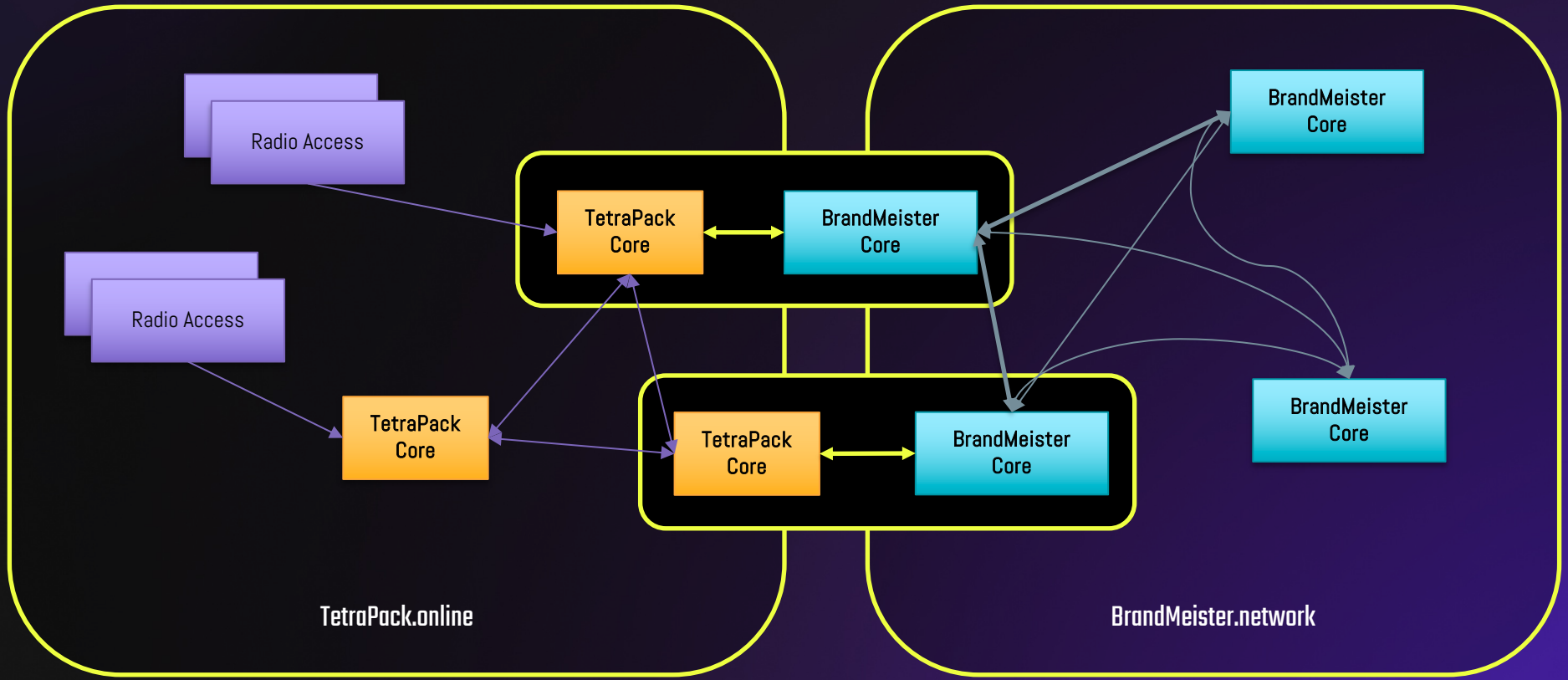
- TETRA TMO:
- Another user experience (trunking, duplex calls, OACSU)
- Another codec (ACELP vs. AMBE)
- Another signalling procedures (OACSU for individual calls)
- More powerful set of basic services
- Derived from GSM



Core system architecture



Network topology



Roles of components

- **TetraPack Core**
  - User registration / TG affiliations
  - Calls and data switching
  - Radio access connectivity
  - Acts as a transit switching center
- **Registry**
  - HLR/VLR
  - Call routing
- **BrandMeister Core**
  - TETRA <--> DMR individual and group calls, SMS bridging
  - GPS and SMS apps handling (APRS, DAPNET, MQTT, HTTP API)
  - Any TG > 90 and registered personal IDs seamlessly available across both networks
- **Asterisk PBX / chan_transit.so**
  - Individual and phone calls bridging, IVR apps
  - SMS apps and bridging
- **SVXLink / DockLogic.so**
  - TETRA-DMO group calls bridging (+ passing of ISSI)

SVXLink

DockLogic.so

- **DockLogic.so – our own SVXLink Logic module, implements TetraPack's Dock IPC protocol (should run on the same host as TetraPack Core)**
  - Works on top of pure DL1HRC's SVXLink / tetra-contrib
  - Requires nodes to use the same CALLSIGN in [ReflectorLogic] and [TetraLogic] to make our bridges pass talker's ISSI correctly
- **Patches applied to SVXReflector and ReflectorLogic at DL1HRC's GitHub.com**
  - Pass originating ISSI over SVXReflector to TetraLogic / DockLogic
  - Reflector to Reflector links does not pass originating ISSI
- **Not recommended to use:**
  - Too many transcoding (ACELP <--> analog <--> OPUS <--> ACELP)
  - Poor quality of analog audio on many SVXLink nodes

Asterisk PBX

chan_transit.so

- **chan_transit.so – our own Asterisk module, implements TetraPack's Transit IPC protocol (should run on the same host as TetraPack Core)**
- **codec_pack.so – our own port of TETRA codecs to Asterisk (ACELP, ...)**
- **Possibilities**
  - Individual simplex calls with PTT control (RADIO_KEY/RADIO_UNKEY)
  - Duplex individual, PSTN or PBX calls
  - TETRA codec selection / DTMF pass
  - TETRA call priority management
  - Short messaging (out-of-band messaging)
- **Use-cases**
  - Ham telephony
  - Direct call to emergency services
  - AllStarLink access (in theory)

Supported radio access technologies

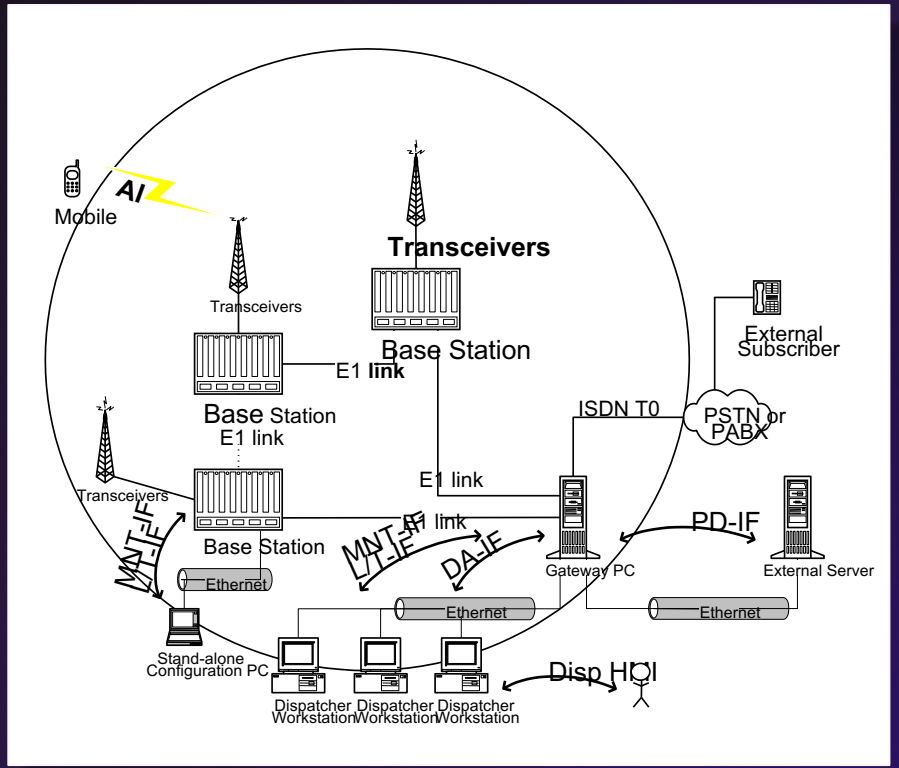
- **motorola compactTETRA (CTS)**
  - Designed by DAMM and Frequentis, labeled by Motorola
  - Built-in network controller (BSC)
  - **NOT compatible** with Motorola Dimetra
  - Supported since 2023 with the first release of TetraPack
- **motorola dimetra**
  - Designed and produced by Motorola
  - Support in TetraPack - new for this year
  - Development and testing based on Dimetra R5 and R9
  - **Uses dedicated Dimetra Core system**!


motorola compactTETRA

motorola compactTETRA

In details

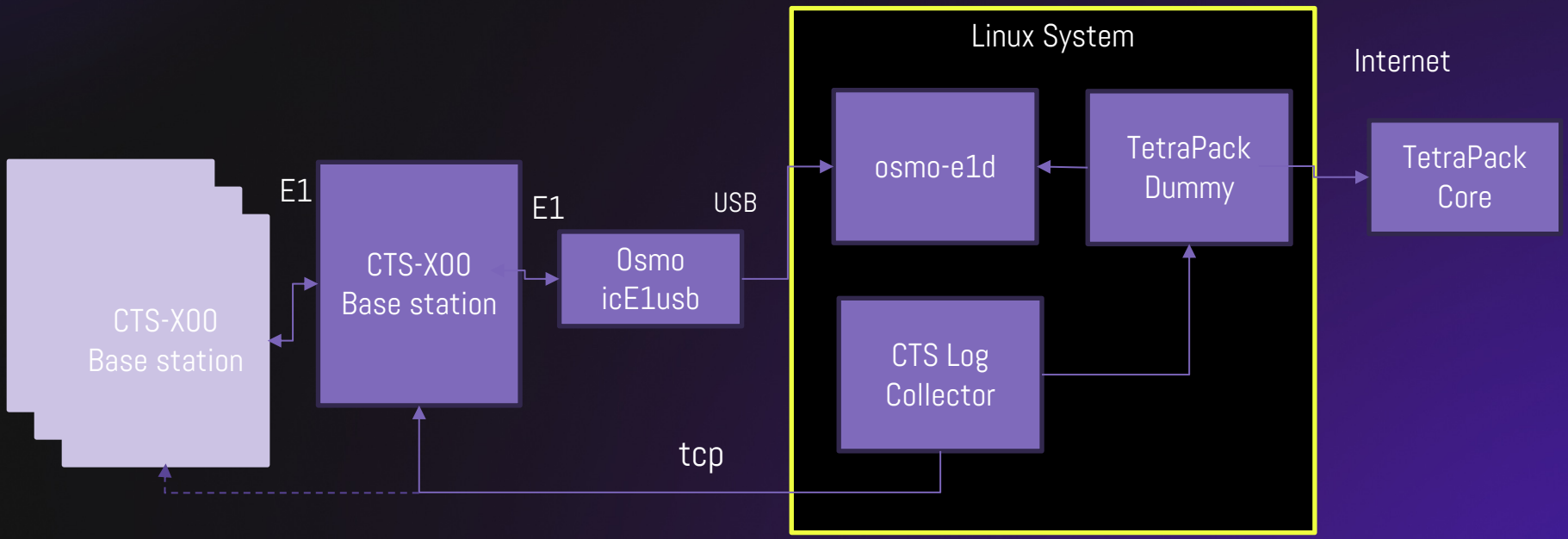
- Designed by DAMM and Frequentis, labeled by Motorola
- Uses E1 closed-ring topology
- Up to 8 base-stations
- No need for dedicated network core
- Voice and signaling only over E1
- Proprietary <Inter-site Connect>
- Not compatible to ISI/E1 (TETRA Interconnection standard)
- Base-station controller (BSC411) runs on Windows NT 4.0 Embedded



Dummy

- Client software to connect Motorola CompactTETRA (CTS-X00) zones
- Emulates Base Station and Gateway PC
- Up to 31 mobile and 32 “fixed” calls (maximum capacity of emulated nodes)
- Debian Linux 11+, x86-64 or arm64 (Raspberry Pi 4+)
- Osmocom icE1usb interface for E1
- Extra software – CTS log collector

Motorola CTS-X00 Site



Dummy

In details

- Transmits application-level messages between CTS E1 and TetraPack Core server
- Decodes/encodes full signaling stack:
  - **E1 handler **
  - **HDLC FSM -- (normally done by IC on BSC411 board)**
  - **Q.921 FSM /**
- Inter-site Connect transport including priority management (normally done by ISCD2.EXE)
- Decodes/encodes E1 and pre-buffers carrier streams (normally done by BSC411/TR412 boards)
- Partially emulates BSS.EXE/GWS.EXE (presence / status updates)
- VTUN over E1 between CTS and host (does not forward to the server)
- Uses the same bssparams.txt configuration file as a base station
- Typical IP bandwith 4-100 Kbits/sec
  (that's nothing in comparison to TDMoIP – 2x 2 Mbits/Sec, 2x 8000 PPS constantly)

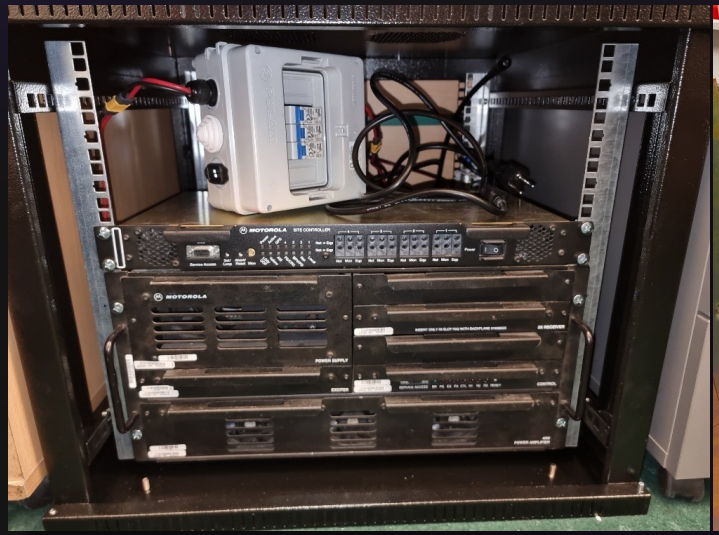
Osmocom icE1usb

- Available for ordering, not expensive
- USB to connect to PC
- Role (NE/NT) can be selected by jumpers, can be used with a regular network cable
- User-space Linux driver, no need to change kernel
- Supports required work mode (SUPERCHANNEL)


motorola dimetra

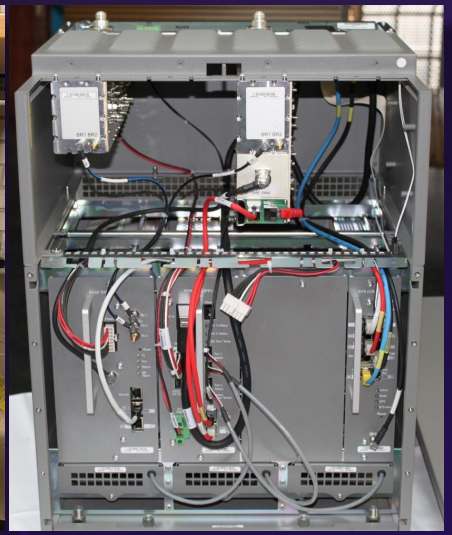
Dimetra hardware

Base stations



EBTS (gen1, gen2)

MBTS

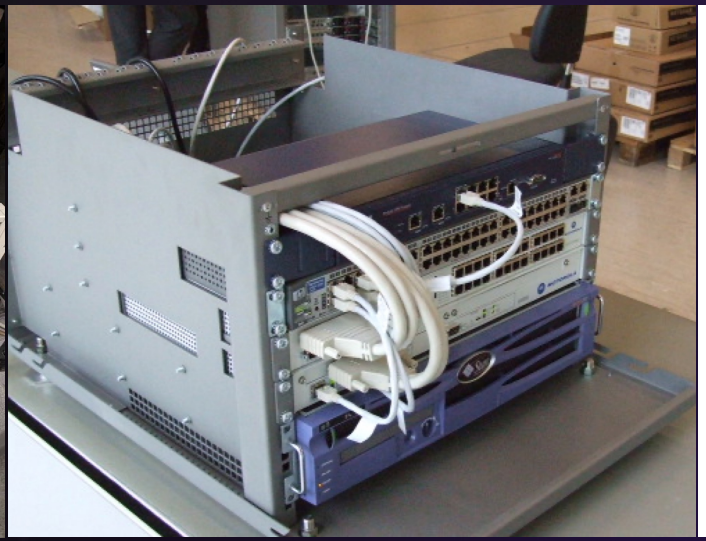


MTS2/4

Dimetra hardware

Core systems

CP1500 (gen1)



Sun Netra + IBM Power (gen2)

Core X (HP ProLiant)

Dimetra hardware

Core systems

- **Sun CP1500-based**
  - Can run Dimetra up to R6.2
  - Fully hardware
  - Motorola-proprietary cPCI boxes, ZNYX redundant ethernet blades
- **Sun Netra + IBM Power**
  - Standard 19" equipment
  - Solaris 9+ containers
  - Multiple support boxes based on PowerPC / x86 / Linux / Windows
  - Dimetra R6-R8 (?)
- **Core X**
  - HP Proliant DL-series
  - Linux / Linux KVM or VMware / Windows
  - Many virtual machines running on a single box

Dimetra concept

General information

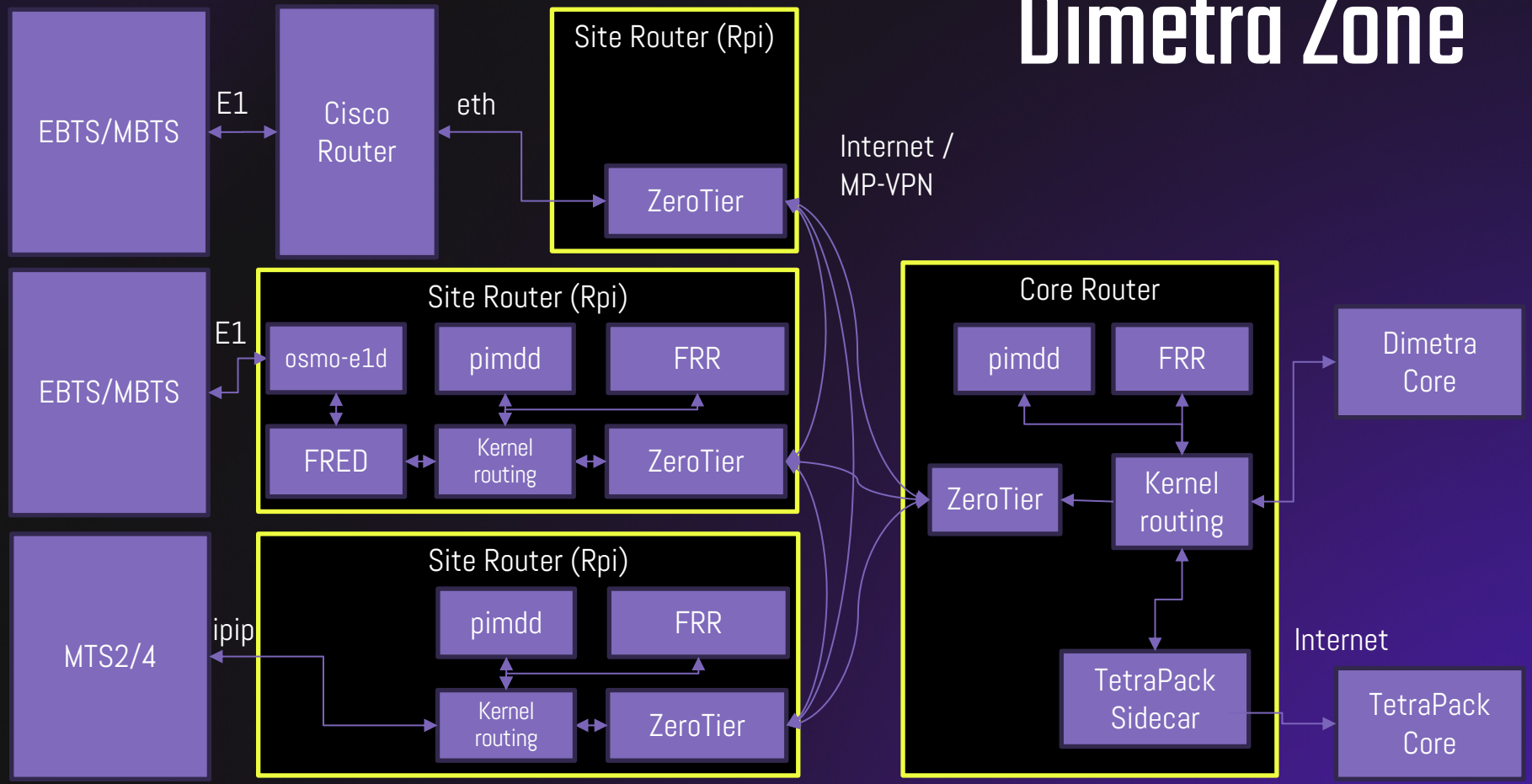
- Centralized switching and network management
- Redundant configuration of core components
- Shares many core components with SmartZone, Astro P25, MOTOTRBO Capacity Max
  - **Pure IPv4-based private (RFC1918) packet-switched transport**
  - **EBTS/MBTS base stations use IP over FrameRelay (E1 or X.25)**
  - **MTS2/4 base stations use IP over IP VPN**
- Predefined fixed IP plan
- Media and signaling use mostly IP multicast

Our Dimetra Core approach

Base concept

- ZeroTier MP-VPN to connect sites and core
- OSPF for unicast routing, PIM dense-mode for multicast routing
- Two options to connect EBTS/MBTS base stations
  - **Cisco router with E1 card + any box (Linux/OpenWRT/Mikrotik) for ZT**
  - **Osmocom icE1usb + any Linux box for osmo-e1d + fred + FRR + pimdd + ZT**
- One option to connect MTS2/4 base stations
  - **Any Linux box + FRR + pimdd + ZT**

Dimetra Zone



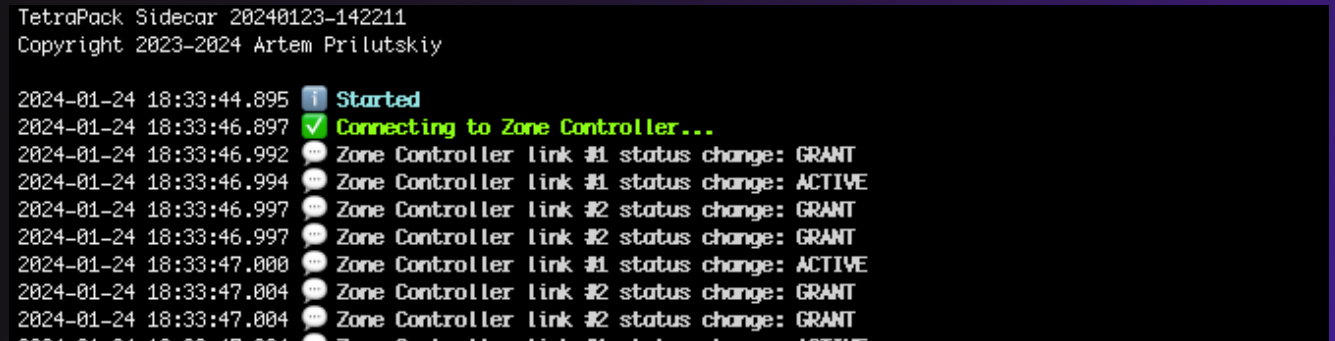
Option 2: FRED

FrameRelay-over-E1

- Our own gateway software to run on on-site E1 connection
- Bridges IPv4/IPv6/Ethernet packets between Linux kernel and FrameRelay over E1 (RFC 2427, RFC 2590)
- Supports FRF.12 (inner and outer) fragmentation for incoming traffic
- Implements basic DCE-PVC LMI with support of ITU-T Q.933-A, ANSI T1.617-D, GOF (automatic detection)
- Acts via TUN/TAP network interfaces (one per DLCI) on Linux side
- Can share icE1usb interface with another FRED / dummy / etc
- Debian 12 arm64 or amd64, tested on Raspberry Pi CM4, Raspberry Pi 5

TetraPack Sidecar

- Agent software to connect Dimetra Core (on per-zone basis) with TetraPack Core (like TetraPack Dummy for CompactTETRA)
- Should run close to Dimetra Core in the same private network
- Single TCP connection to TetraPack Core over Internet
- Emulates EBTS TSC to register users and to pass calls
- Watches for signaling between TSCs of real base stations and Zone Controller to grab registrations, group affiliations and group calls



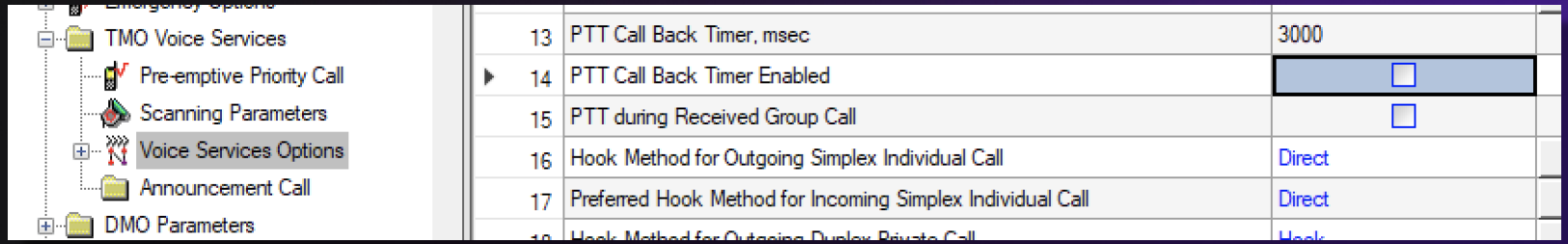
TETRAPACK

User Experience

DMR <-> TETRA

Individual calls

- TETRA -> DMR: DOUBLE PTT (TO SETUP A CALL AND THEN TO TRANSMIT)
- Recommended settings:
  - PTT Call Back Timer – Disabled
    (respond for initial delay on call DMR->TETRA)
  - Hook Method for Outgoing Simplex Individual Call – Direct
    (respond only for transmitted call capabilities, the bridge is tolerant to this setting)
  - Preferred Hook Method for Incoming Simplex Individual Call – Direct
    (allows TETRA radio to hook a call automatically - DMR side doesn't know about when the call hooked)



Links

- https://tetrapack.online/
- https://t.me/TetraPackGeneralSupport