Module (Networks)

Network Services and Architectures in the Internet Age

e-Business Applications, Architectures, Integration

MODULE (APPLICATIONS): e-Business Strategies and Applications:

Chapter 1: e-Business - From Strategies to Applications

Chapter 2: e-Business Applications (CRMs, ERPs, eMarkets, SCM, ASPs, Portals)

Chapter 3: From Strategies to Solutions -- A Planning Methodology Chapter 4: IT Infrastructure -- Overview of Enabling Technologies

Chapter 4: IT Infrastructure -- Overview of Enabling Technologies Chapter 5: Applications State of the Practice, Market, and Art

MODULE (ARCHITECTURES): Solution Architectures Through Components

Chapter 1: Solution Architecture Overview

Chapter 2: Enterprise Application Architectures -- Component-based Approach

Chapter 3 Enterprise Data Architectures in Web-XML Environments

Chapter 4: Implementing Architectures -- Concepts and Examples Chapter 5: Architectures State of the Practice, Market, and Art

MODULE (INTEGRATION): Enterprise Application Integration and Migration

Chapter 1: Integration with Existing (Including Legacy) Applications -- An Overview

Chapter 2: Enterprise and Inter-Enterprise Application Integration (EAI/eAI)

Chapter 3: Data Warehouses and Data Mining for Integration

Chapter 4: Migration Strategies and Technologies

Chapter 5: Integration State of the Practice, Market, and Art

The Enabling IT Infrastructure

MODULE (PLATFORMS): Platforms for Mobile and EC/EB Applications

Chapter 1: Mobile Computing Platforms -- Mobile Application Servers

Chapter 2: e-Commerce Platforms for C2B Trade-- The Commerce Servers

Chapter 3: B2B Platforms and Standards -- The B2B Servers

Chapter 4: Platforms for Multimedia and Collaboration Chapter 5: Platforms State of the Practice, Market, and Art

MODULE (MIDDLEWARE) : Application Connectivity Through Middleware

Chapter 1: Middleware Principles and Basic Middleware Services

Chapter 2: Web, XML, Semantic Web, and Web Services

Chapter 3: Distributed Objects: CORBA, J2EE, .NET, SOAP, and EJBs

Chapter 4: Enterprise Data and Transaction Management

Chapter 5: Mi kiloware State of the Practice, Market, and Art

MODULE (NETWORKS): Network Services and Network Architecture

Chapter 1: Principles of Communication Networks Chapter 2: Network Architectures and Interconnectivity

Chapter 3: Wireless and Broadband Networks -- Next Generation Networks:

Chapter 4: IP-based Networks and the Next Generation Internet

Chap. 5: Networks State of the Practice, Market, and Art

Background and Management

MODULE (OVERVIEW); The Big Picture

Chapter 1: e-Business and 3G Distributed Systems

--From Strategies to Working Solutions

MODULE (EXAMPLES); Case Studies & Examples

Chapter 2: Case Studies and Examples

MODULE (MANAGEMENT): Management and Security

Chapter 1 e-Business Management in Practice

Chapter 2: Management Platforms for Network and Systems

Management

Chapter 3: Security Management - Approaches and Technologies

Chapter 4: Security Solutions -- Using Technologies to

Chapter 5: Management State of the Practice, Market, and

MODULE (TUTORIALS): Tutorials and Detailed Discussions on Special Topics

Chapter 1: Network Technologies -- A Tutorial

Chapter 2: Object-Orientation, Java, and UML -- A Tutorial

Chapter 3: Database Technologies and SQL -- A Tutorial Chapter 4: Web Engineering and XML Processing

A Closer LookChapter 5: CORBA -- A Closer Look

ATechnology Briefing Module from

"e-Business and Distributed Systems Handbook"

Amjad Umar, Ph.D. (www.amjadumar.com) January 2003

MODULE (Networks): Network Services and Architectures in the Internet Age

Module Overview

Simply stated, the Internet is a large collection of physical networks that operate under the IP (internet Protocol) -- a protocol developed by the ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) project around 1969. The adoption of World Wide Web (WWW), commonly referred to as the Web, in the early 1990s turned the Internet -- once an obscure tool -- into a household word. At present, we are living in a world where many of our business, educational, entertainment, and social activities are being conducted over the Internet.

This module presents network services that transport the traffic between consumers, businesses, suppliers, government agencies, and various other players in an Internet environment. The focus is on the networking concepts and architectures that are of key importance to e-business with particular emphasis on networks needed to support the next generation of real-time enterprises. Figure 1 guides the discussion in this module and illustrates the following aspects of networks in an Internet environment:

- Many physical networks that operate at local and wide area levels to interconnect users, applications, and databases. These networks include new high performance networks as well as old (legacy) networks commonly in use. Chapter 1 discusses these networks.
- Network architectures and interconnectivity devices that combine the physical networks into a large global network (the Internet) that can deliver messages from your office in Chicago to recipients in Detroit, London, Tokyo, and Singapore. Chapter 2 concentrates on the network architecture and interconnectivity concepts.
- Wireless and broadband (high data rate) networks that are being used increasingly to provide fast access from mobile devices. The wireless networks include cellular networks, wireless local area networks, and satellite communications. Broadband networks use fast packet switching systems between remote sites. In addition, Next Generation Networks (NGNs) are being developed to integrate broadband and wireless networks into a powerful delivery mechanism. Chapter 3 discusses the wireless and broadband networks.
- The Internet Protocol (IP) is at the core of the Internet and supports a wide range of applications over almost all types of physical networks. The most popular application of the Internet is Web because it is built on top of IP (Web browsers, servers and HTTP all work on top of IP). In addition to Web, the IP-based networks are being used for a wide range of applications such as Internet telephony, video conferencing, and corporate computing. Chapter 4 discusses IP in detail and describes evolution of the current Internet into Next Generation Internet.

Applications (Web and eBusiness Applications, Voice and Video Applications) Internet Protocol (IP) Physical Communication Networks • LANs, WANs, MANs •Interconnectivity Devices •Broadband and wireless networks

Figure 1: Conceptual View of the Internet

Module Case Studies

XYZCorp Case Study: Network Architecture in Internet Environments

The focus of the XYZCorp case study in this module is on building a network architecture for the corporation (see Figure 2). In particular, the company wants to evaluate the network hardware, software, and interconnectivity devices and develop a corporate "Intranet" that combines the wireless as well as wired networks in a seamless manner. We will develop this architecture by working through the following projects:

- A physical network design project that will develop an enterprise wide network configuration to support its EB applications and also for its future multimedia services. See Chapter 1 of this module
- A network architecture project that will support the e-business applications on top of the physical network developed in Chapter 1. The management is really interested in exploring the use of new and innovative applications in voice, data and images for participating in the modern EC/EB initiatives See Chapter 2 of this module.
- A broadband and wireless network selection project that will support the new and innovative applications in voice, data and images for office automation, factory floors and engineering design work. See Chapter 3 of this module.
- A futuristic IP architecture project that will present a vision of Next Generation Internet for the corporation (the company has bought into the "IP dialtone" notion): See Chapter 4 of this module.

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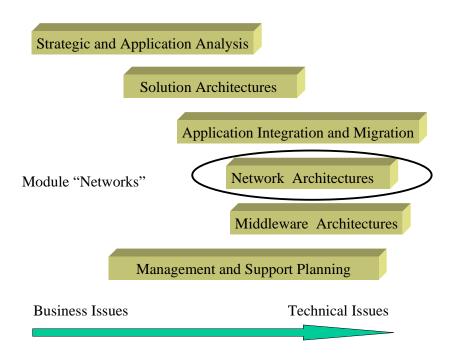


Figure 2: XYZCorp Networking Tasks

Additional Case Studies and Examples

Several additional case studies and examples are discussed in the chapters of this module. A number of case studies that are relevant to the topics discussed in this module appear regularly in trade magazines, vendor documents, web sites and books. Chapter 5 of this module gives a sample of relevant case studies and points to numerous sources for additional case studies and examples.

In addition, the following case studies in the "Case Studies and Examples" chapter of the "Overview" module can be used to illustrate different aspects of the material in this module:

- Section 2.3 Ecommerce/e-business Examples:. These examples can be used to develop network architectures for these cases.
- Section 2.5 A Financial Marketplace. After reviewing this case study, you can choose a network architecture for this marketplace. In particualr, what role financial networks such as SWIFT (www.swift.com) can play in this problem.
- Section 2.6 City of Seattle Public Utilities Go Wireless. This case study shows how the decisions were made in 1999. How would you develop a wireless network for it today?
- Section 2.8 An Integrated Manufacturing System. How would you design a network for this manufacturing system? Are there any special considerations?
- Section 2.9 A Customer Relationship Management Portal. What would the network architecture for this CRM look like?
- Section 2.11 Networking Examples. These examples should be reviewed.

Module Contents

1 - COMMUNICATION NETWORK PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 INTRODUCTION
- 1.2 PHYSICAL COMMUNICATION CHARACTERISTICS
- 1.3 DIGITAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS
- 1.4 COMMUNICATION MEDIA CHARACTERISTICS
- 1.5 TOPOLOGIES, COMPRESSION, AND ENCRYPTION
- 1.6 LOCAL AREA NETWORKS
- 1.7 WIDE AREA NETWORKS
- 1.8 METROPOLITAN AREA NETWORKS
- 1.9 ISDN AND BROADBAND ISDN
- 1.10 CHAPTER SUMMARY
- 1.11 REVIEW QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES
- 1.12 CASE STUDY: NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES AT XYZCORP
- 1.13 HINTS ABOUT THE CASE STUDY
- 1.14 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2 NETWORKS ARCHITECTURES AND CONNECTIVITY

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 OVERVIEW OF NETWORK ARCHITECTURE STANDARDS
- 2.3 THE OPEN SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION (OSI) REFERENCE MODEL
- 2.4 ENTERPRISE NETWORKS THE REALITY CHECK
- 2.5 NETWORK INTERCONNECTIVITY (ROUTERS, BRIDGES, GATEWAYS)
- 2.6 EXAMPLE OF A NETWORK: FORDHAM UNIVERSITY NETWORK
- 2.7 NETWORK PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW
- 2.8 THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS A QUICK SCAN
- 2.9 CASE STUDY: XYZCORP ESTABLISHES A NETWORK ARCHITECTURE FOR ITS INTRANET
- 2.10 SUMMARY
- 2.11 REVIEW OUESTIONS AND EXERCISES
- 2.12 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- 2.13 ATTACHMENT A: PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOLS
- 2.14 ATTACHMENT B: SNA APPC AND LU6.2

3 WIRELESS AND BROADBAND NETWORKS -- NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS (NGNS)
- 3.3 HIGH DATA RATE ACCESS FROM HOME -- THE RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND
- 3.4 FAST OPTICAL NETWORKS (SONET AND WDM)
- 3.5 FAST PACKET SWITCHING NETWORKS (ATM AND FRAME RELAY)
- 3.6 OVERVIEW OF WIRELESS NETWORKS
- 3.7 PAGING NETWORKS AND SATELLITES WIRELESS WIDE AREA NETWORKS
- 3.8 WIRELESS LOCAL LOOPS -- FIXED WIRELESS LANS
- 3.9 CELLULAR NETWORKS THE WIRELESS WIDE AREA NETWORKS
- 3.10 3G CELLULAR NETWORKS
- 3.11 WIRELESS LANS
- 3.12 SUMMARY
- 3.13 CASE STUDY: XYZCORP ESTABLISHES A NEXT GENERATION NETWORK STRATEGY
- 3.14 REVIEW QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES
- 3.15 ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

4 IP NETWORKS AND THE NEXT GENERATION INTERNET

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 INTERNET, INTRANET AND EXTRANETS
- 4.3 SCAN OF THE INTERNET BUSINESS: ISPS, NSPS, AND VPNS
- 4.4 THE INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) SUITE A QUICK TOUR
- 4.5 INTERNET PROTOCOL (IPv4) -- A CLOSER LOOK
- 4.6 TRANSMISSION CONTROL PROTOCOL (TCP) -- A CLOSER LOOK
- 4.7 APPLICATION LAYER PROTOCOLS IN TCP/IP
- 4.8 NEXT GENERATION IP (IPV6) A CLOSER LOOK
- 4.9 NEXT GENERATION INTERNET (NGI)
- 4.10 INTERNET2 ANOTHER INITIATIVE ON INTERNET
- 4.11 CASE STUDY: CORPORATE WIDE IP SERVICES FOR XYZCORP
- 4.12 SUMMARY AND TRENDS
- 4.13 ATTACHMENT A: BASIC APPLICATION LAYER PROTOCOLS A CLOSER LOOK
- 4.14 REVIEW QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

4.15 REFERENCES

5 NETWORK STATE OF THE PRACTICE, MARKET, AND ART

- 5.1 INTRODUCTION
- 5.2 STATE OF THE PRACTICE: EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES
- 5.3 STATE OF THE MARKET: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
- 5.4 STATE OF THE ART NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS AND NEXT GENERATION INTERNET
- 5.5 ATTACHMENT A: OVERVIEW OF TELEPHONY (SS7) NETWORKS
- 5.6 EXERCISES

MODULE CONTENTS -- DETAILED

1 - COMMUNICATION NETWORK PRINCIPLES

1 1	Tarmon and a composit
	INTRODUCTION

- 1.2 PHYSICAL COMMUNICATION CHARACTERISTICS
 - 1.2.1 Basic Terms and Definitions
 - 1.2.2 Digital to Analog Conversion: Modems and Interfacing Devices
- 1.3 DIGITAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS
 - 1.3.1 Analog Versus Digital Communications
 - 1.3.2 Digitizing Techniques and Codecs
 - 1.3.3 T Carriers (T1, T2, T3, T4 Lines)
- 1.4 COMMUNICATION MEDIA CHARACTERISTICS
- 1.5 TOPOLOGIES, COMPRESSION, AND ENCRYPTION
- 1.5.1 Network Layout and Topologies
 - 1.5.2 Asynchronous Versus Synchronous Transmission and Full/Half Duplex
- 1.5.3 Data Encryption and Compression Techniques

1.6 LOCAL AREA NETWORKS

- 1.6.1 Overview
- 1.6.2 Link Control Protocols for LANS (Ethernet and Token Passing)
- 1.6.3 LAN Standards -- The IEEE 802 Family
- 1.6.4 Shared Versus Switched LANs
- 1.6.5 Virtual LANs (VLANs)
- 1.6.6 Examples of LANs
- 1.6.7 Gigabit Ethernet LANs
- 1.6.8 Issues in LAN Selection and Design

1.7 WIDE AREA NETWORKS

- 1.7.1 Telecommunications Overview
- 1.7.2 WAN Components
- 1.7.3 Switching Systems (Circuit and Packet Switching)
- 1.7.4 WAN Design Issues

1.8 METROPOLITAN AREA NETWORKS

- 1.8.1 Overview
- 1.8.2 Fiber Optic MANs/LANs and FDDI

1.9 ISDN AND BROADBAND ISDN

- 1.9.1 ISDN Overview
- 1.9.2 ISDN Applications
- 1.9.3 ISDN Architecture
- 1.10 CHAPTER SUMMARY
- 1.11 REVIEW QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES
- 1.12 CASE STUDY: NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES AT XYZCORP
 - 1.12.1 Project A: Wide Area Network Design

	1.13.	l Project A: WAN Design	
	1.13.		
1.	14	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
2	NET	WORKS ARCHITECTURES AND CONNECTIV	/ITY
2.	1	INTRODUCTION	
2.		OVERVIEW OF NETWORK ARCHITECTURE STANDARDS	
	2.2.1		
	2.2.2		ds
	2.2.3	· ·	
2		THE OPEN SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION (OSI) REFEREN	NCE MODEL
	2.3.1	Overview and Terminology	
	2.3.2	= :	
	2.3.3	•	ıple
	2.3.4	Protocol Overview	F
2.4	4	ENTERPRISE NETWORKS – THE REALITY CHECK	
	2.4.1	Overview	
	2.4.2	Transmission Control Program/Internet Prote	ocol (TCP/IP) Stack
	2.4.3	IBM's System Network Architecture (SNA)	
	2.4.4	•	Systems
	2.4.5	Telephony (SS7) Networks	
	2.4.6	Analysis and Comparison of Network Stacks	
2.:	5	NETWORK INTERCONNECTIVITY (ROUTERS, BRIDGES,	GATEWAYS)
	2.5.1	Repeaters	
	2.5.2		
	2.5.3	Routers and Firewalls	
	2.5.4	Network Gateways	
2.	6	EXAMPLE OF A NETWORK: FORDHAM UNIVERSITY NE	TWORK
2.	7	NETWORK PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW	
	2.7.1	Response Time Performance	
	2.7.2	Network Availability	
2.	8	THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS - A QUICK SCA	AN
	2.8.1	Overview	
	2.8.2	Physical Network Element Providers	
	2.8.3	Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) I	Providers
	2.8.4	Telephony Applications and Operations Busin	nesses
	2.8.5	Data Network Routing Businesses	
	2.8.6	Consulting and Engineering Businesses	
	2.8.7	Network Management Businesses	
2.5	9	CASE STUDY: XYZCORP ESTABLISHES A NETWORK A	ARCHITECTURE FOR ITS INTRANET
	2.9.1	Problem Overview	
	2.9.2	Hints about the Case Study	
2.	10	SUMMARY	
	11	REVIEW QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES	
	12	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
2.	13	ATTACHMENT A: PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNICATIONS P	PROTOCOLS
	2.13.	3 3	
	2.13.		
	2.13.		cols
	2.13.	4 Protocol Efficiency	

PROJECT B: Local Network Selection

1.12.2

1.13 HINTS ABOUT THE CASE STUDY

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3 WIRELESS AND BROADBAND NETWORKS -- NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS

	TRODUCTION
	EXT GENERATION NETWORKS (NGNS)
3.3 HI	GH DATA RATE ACCESS FROM HOME THE RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND
3.3.1	Foundations of Broadband How Are Networks Getting Faster?
3.3.2	Network Access from Home The choices
3.3.3	DSL (Digital Subscriber Line)
3.3.4	Cable Modems
3.4 FA	ST OPTICAL NETWORKS (SONET AND WDM)
3.4.1	SONET (Synchronous Optical Network)
3.4.2	WDM (Wavelength Division Multiplexing)
3.5 FA	ST PACKET SWITCHING NETWORKS (ATM AND FRAME RELAY)
3.5.1	Overview
3.5.2	Frame Relay
3.5.3	ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode)
3.6 Ov	VERVIEW OF WIRELESS NETWORKS
3.6.1	Classification of Wireless Networks
3.6.2	Technical Foundations of Wireless Networks
3.7 PA	GING NETWORKS AND SATELLITES - WIRELESS WIDE AREA NETWORKS
3.7.1	Paging Networks
3.7.2	Satellite Systems
3.8 W	IRELESS LOCAL LOOPS FIXED WIRELESS LANS
3.9 CE	LLULAR NETWORKS - THE WIRELESS WIDE AREA NETWORKS
3.9.1	Overview
3.9.2	Location Services and Roaming Support
3.9.3	Cordless Phones
3.9.4	Analog Cellular and CDPD
3.9.5	Digital Cellular and GSM
3.9.6	PCS (Personal communication services)
3.9.7	Closer Look at GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications)
3.9.8	Summary of Wireless WANS - The Cellular Networks
3.10 3G	CELLULAR NETWORKS
3.10.1	Evolution to 3G Cellular Networks
3.10.2	Highlights of 3G Networks
3.10.3	3G Summary
3.11 W	IRELESS LANS
3.11.1	Wireless LAN Overview
3.11.2	Wireless LAN Technologies and Configurations
3.11.3	IEEE 802.11 Ethernet Standard for Wireless LANs
3.11.4	Bluetooth Wireless LANs
3.11.5	Summary of Wireless LANs
3.12 Su	MMARY
3.13 CA	SE STUDY: XYZCORP ESTABLISHES A NEXT GENERATION NETWORK STRATEGY
2 12 1	Ou ami au

4 IP NETWORKS AND THE NEXT GENERATION INTERNET

Hints about the Case Study

3.14 REVIEW QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES 3.15 ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

3.13.1 Overview

3.13.2

4.2	INTERNET, INTRANET AND EXTRANETS
4.2.1	
4.2.2	What are Intranets and Extranets?
4.2.3	User View of Internet
4.2.4	
4.2.5	y .
4.2.6	
	SCAN OF THE INTERNET BUSINESS: ISPS, NSPS, AND VPNS
4.3.1	
4.3.2	
	THE IP PROTOCOL SUITE – A QUICK TOUR
4.4.1	
4.4.2	The Internet Protocol (IP)
4.4.3	
4.4.4	
4.4.5	
4.4.6	
4.4.7	
	Internet Protocol (IPv4) A Closer Look
4.5.1	
4.5.2	
4.5.3	
	TRANSMISSION CONTROL PROTOCOL (TCP) A CLOSER LOOK
	APPLICATION LAYER PROTOCOLS IN TCP/IP
4.7.1	
4.7.2	
	NEXT GENERATION IP (IPv6) - A CLOSER LOOK
4.8.1	
4.8.2	
4.8.3	
4.8.4	
	NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS – CONVERGENCE OF IP WITH VOICE
4.9.1	
4.9.1	
4.9.2 4.9.3	
4.9.3 4.9.4	
4.9.5	y ,
4.9.6	1 0 0
	NEXT GENERATION INTERNET (NGI)
4.10.	
4.10.	O
4.10.	V 11
4.10.	
	INTERNET2 - ANOTHER INITIATIVE ON INTERNET
	CASE STUDY: CORPORATE WIDE IP SERVICES FOR XYZCORP
4.12.	
4.12.	
	SUMMARY AND TRENDS
	ATTACHMENT A: BASIC APPLICATION LAYER PROTOCOLS – A CLOSER LOOK
4.14.	3.,
4.14.	3
4.14.	
4.14.	·
4.14.	**
4.15	REVIEW QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

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4.16 REFERENCES

5 NETWORK STATE OF THE PRACTICE, MARKET, AND ART

5.1	INTRODUCTION
5.2	STATE OF THE PRACTICE: EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES
5.2.1	Overview
5.2.2	A Generic Enterprise Network Example
5.2.3	UPS Parcel Delivery Tracking Application Through Wireless Networks
5.2.4	
5.2.5	Child Health Network Connects Remote Healthcare Workers
5.2.6	Widener University Transforms its Network Infrastructure
5.2.7	DowNET The Dow Chemical Network
5.2.8	Short Snippets of Networks
5.3	STATE OF THE MARKET: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
5.3.1	Overview
5.3.2	Physical Communication Network State of the Market
5.3.3	Network Architectures and Interconnectivity State of the Market
5.3.4	Broadband and Wireless Networks State of the Market
5.3.5	Internet State of the Market
5.4	STATE OF THE ART – NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS AND NEXT GENERATION INTERNET
5.4.1	Overview
5.4.2	What is a Next Generation Network
5.4.3	Conceptual View of NGN
5.4.4	Voice Over IP (VOIP) – The Internet Telephony
5.4.5	NGN Architecture and APIs
5.4.6	Standard APIs for NGN – JAIN and Parlay
5.4.7	Examples: Using NGN for eBusiness
5.4.8	Next Generation Internet (NGI)
5.5	ATTACHMENT A: OVERVIEW OF TELEPHONY (SS7) NETWORKS
5.6	FXERCISES