



Extreme Connect 2025: Navigating the Future of Enterprise Networking with AI-Powered Platform ONE

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IDC'S QUICK TAKE

Extreme Connect 2025, held May 19–21, showcased the latest advancements in enterprise networking, with a particular focus on the upcoming general availability of Extreme Networks' Platform ONE. This event highlighted the challenges and opportunities facing enterprises as they manage increasingly complex campus and branch networks. Extreme Networks is positioning Platform ONE as a transformative solution that integrates AI-powered capabilities with human oversight, aiming to simplify network management while enhancing operational efficiency.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The star of the show at Extreme Connect 2025 was [Platform ONE](#) — a solution designed to simplify and streamline network management — from deployment to operations to optimization — through advanced AI-powered automation and analytics. It offers a customizable user interface that integrates workflows, services, and data across networking, security, and even FinOps domains. The platform's native AI capabilities leverage a common data lake to provide enhanced management functions, including anomaly detection, automated remediation, and license tracking and use. This approach allows enterprises to manage their networks more efficiently, reducing the time and resources required for network engineering and operations. It also serves to hasten deployments and enhancements while minimizing the risk and delays often accompanying changes to the network.

IDC'S POINT OF VIEW

The enterprise networking landscape is evolving rapidly, driven by the need for more integrated and automated solutions. As networks expand across campuses, branches, and datacenters, the criticality and complexity of managing these environments increase. All the while, business and IT demands on the network

infrastructure continue to rise, putting added pressure on networking solutions, budgets, and staff. Enterprises are seeking solutions that offer unified visibility and control across disparate networking domains, automated monitoring and management that improves network service integrity and capabilities, and ready and resilient adaptation and innovation. Extreme Networks' Platform ONE management solution, combined with its underlying fabric system, addresses these challenges by providing a comprehensive campus core and edge networking platform that integrates wired, wireless, and security tools into a single system.

Benefits for Enterprises

Platform ONE offers several benefits for enterprises managing complex campus core and edge networks. Its integrated approach simplifies network management, reducing the need for multiple tools and systems. The platform's AI capabilities enhance operational efficiency by automating routine tasks and providing real-time insights into network performance and security. In addition, Platform ONE's unified visibility across core and edge network domains allows enterprises to quickly identify and resolve campus and branch performance or security issues, minimizing downtime, improving overall network resiliency, and enhancing end-user experiences.

An interesting extension of network management offered by Platform ONE is license management targeting the network. With so many components forming the secure network infrastructure, effective license management — tracking expirations, usage, and life-cycle status — directs precise spending, simplified maintenance, and heightened resiliency across the network.

Business Impact of Platform ONE

The introduction of Platform ONE by Extreme Networks is poised to have a significant business impact on enterprises managing complex networking environments. By consolidating network management into a single, integrated platform, Platform ONE reduces the operational overhead associated with managing multiple disparate systems. This consolidation not only streamlines network operations but also leads to cost savings by minimizing the need for extensive IT resources and reducing the potential for human error.

The platform's AI-driven capabilities further enhance business operations by automating routine tasks and providing predictive insights that can preemptively address network issues before they impact business continuity. This proactive

approach to network management ensures greater resiliency and responsiveness, which are critical for maintaining and advancing business operations and customer satisfaction. In addition, the “human in the loop” AI approach allows organizations to maintain control over automated processes, ensuring that network management aligns with strategic business goals and compliance requirements.

Platform ONE’s ability to provide real-time analytics and insights into network performance also supports data-driven decision-making. By offering a comprehensive view of network health and performance, businesses can make informed decisions that optimize network resources and improve service delivery. This capability is particularly valuable for enterprises looking to leverage their network infrastructure as a competitive advantage in the digital economy.

Machine Capabilities Matched to Human Considerations

A key feature of Platform ONE is its “human in the loop” execution model, which ensures that automated network management actions can be reviewed and approved through human oversight. This approach builds trust in AI-powered management systems by allowing network engineers to control and validate AI-directed actions. By maintaining human oversight, Platform ONE addresses concerns about AI autonomy and ensures that network management decisions align with business objectives. For those organizations willing and wishing to accelerate network automation, Platform ONE can be instructed to execute management actions on its own and simply notify networking staff of action taken and subsequent results. According to IDC’s 2024 *AI in Networking Special Report Survey* of worldwide respondents, almost 50% of organizations prefer an AI-powered network management system to both determine and execute management actions without human involvement. Platform ONE’s ability to accommodate both a “human in the loop” approach and a fully autonomous approach can be a match for those organizations that are more trusting of AI and those that are looking to build their trust in AI.

With Platform ONE, Extreme Networks has also placed strong emphasis on usability and customer experience. As Leonardo DaVinci stated, “Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.” Make no mistake. Collecting and processing all available network intelligence and presenting the resulting insights in such a way as to make them readily understandable and fully useful represent a big engineering challenge. The Platform ONE demonstrations (all executed live at the event!) of a wide variety of network and security management scenarios indicate that Extreme Networks is

focused on leveraging sophisticated capabilities to simplify and solidify network engineering and operations tasks.

Extreme Networks' Market Impact

Extreme Connect 2025 highlighted the transformative potential of Platform ONE in enterprise networking. By integrating AI-powered capabilities, Extreme Networks is addressing the challenges of managing critical and complex campus networks. Platform ONE represents a significant step forward in the platform era of enterprise networking, offering a unified solution that simplifies network management and enhances operational efficiency. As enterprises are presented with more and more challenges, pressures, and expectations of modern networking environments, Platform ONE provides a compelling option for achieving greater control and visibility across their networks.

Announced in December of 2024, Platform ONE has proceeded along a methodical path to general availability. Initial testing in customer networks has been ongoing since 2024. This early testing has been extensive, with 130 customers participating. Owing to the advanced use of AI and automation, the tie-ins to Extreme Networks' fabric network model, and significant movement forward from Extreme Networks' existing management solutions, the more input the better. Company executives report that the 130 customers have provided a wealth of insights into solution integrity, ease of use, feature enhancements, and road map guidance. At Extreme Connect 2025, Platform ONE's delivery status was upgraded to Limited Availability, which was a welcome announcement by customers at the conference. The final delivery step for Platform ONE is general availability, which is promised for 3Q25.

Platform ONE is a significant milestone for the company, as Extreme Networks has built its enterprise networking portfolio out of a series of mergers and acquisitions over the past two decades. Notable examples include Aerohive's WLAN in 2019, Brocade's switching, routing, and analytics in 2017, and Avaya's networking business, also in 2017. Platform ONE is a fundamental unification of its portfolio, centered on AI-powered management capabilities, and will set the company's path forward for years to come.

IDC research shows that customers are keen to use more platform-based approaches to enterprise networking. IDC's worldwide AI in networking special report also found that 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I am moving to an AI-powered platform approach for networking." Platform-based approaches could have challenges for organizations as they look to

implement them in heterogeneous, multidomain environments, however. It will be key for vendors like Extreme Networks and others to ensure open APIs and extensibility of their platforms with customers' existing IT environments.

Extreme Networks has traditionally approached the market with a strong technical focus, catering primarily to IT professionals and network engineers. However, to achieve the ambitious growth goals the company has set, Extreme Networks will need to expand its reach to the C-suite. Engaging with business leaders and decision-makers will be crucial in demonstrating the strategic value of Platform ONE beyond its technical merits. By articulating how Platform ONE can drive strategic business outcomes, such as operational efficiency, worker productivity, customer experiences, and digital innovation, Extreme Networks can position itself as a key partner in the digital transformation journey of enterprises. This strategic shift will be essential for capturing a larger share of the enterprise networking market and sustaining long-term growth.

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