



# Top 10 Network Management Takeaways from Extreme Connect 2025

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## IDC'S QUICK TAKE

Extreme Connect 2025 (held May 19–21 in Paris, France) showcased the latest advancements in enterprise networking, with a particular focus on the upcoming general availability of Extreme Networks' Platform ONE. While many new hardware devices (e.g., WLAN access points, LAN switches) were announced at the event, the central focus was on Platform ONE — Extreme Network's AI-powered network management solution offering advanced data, analytics, automation, and security capabilities. Undoubtedly, the movement of management to the forefront in networking is now complete. Device speeds and feeds, while still very important for performance and capacity reasons, are more table stakes in networking now. Fall short and a supplier doesn't get in the game. To win the game, however, the focus is increasingly on how network devices and services are configured, deployed, operated, repaired, optimized, protected, and enhanced.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

[Platform ONE](#) — a management solution designed to advance network management through advanced AI-powered automation and analytics — was the primary focus of Extreme Connect 2025 and certainly the premier attraction for customer and analyst attendees. Native AI capabilities leverage a common data lake serving critical management functions such as root cause analysis, anomaly detection, predictive analytics, and services monitoring and management. Network intelligence and insights are offered via a customizable user interface that can be tailored to serve multiple IT functions such as NetOps, SecOps, and AIOps. Even FinOps teams are well served by the enhanced license management capabilities of Platform ONE. While Platform ONE has already been announced to the industry (December 2024), the event served as the start of limited availability for Platform ONE. From the reaction of customers, this was a welcome announcement. It should also be mentioned that general availability of Platform ONE is slated for 3Q25.

## IDC'S POINT OF VIEW

At the event, one learned of Platform ONE's capabilities and benefits from different angles. Live demonstrations offered a chance to see Platform ONE perform across a real network and respond to specific situations driven by developing conditions and particular scenarios suggested by event attendees. Customer panels offered insights into not only active Platform ONE deployments but also the progression of Platform ONE throughout its extensive testing phase (130 beta customers). Finally, technical presentations by Extreme Network's development team offered insights into Platform ONE's present and planned capabilities. What follows are the top 10 takeaways from all these demos, panels, and presentations.

### **10 — Network Unification via Platform ONE and Fabric**

Underlying systems and overarching management must combine to deliver the best in networking. Unified management must take advantage of the capabilities of managed. Management solutions that simply act as a singular operator interface for multiple networking domains, devices, or functions offer rudimentary integration — not unification. In Extreme Network's case, wireless and wired networking solutions leverage a unifying fabric approach that simplifies and solidifies network engineering and operations. Platform ONE then further enhances this fabric approach by unifying the management of components and services across the fabric.  $1 + 1 = 4!$

### **9 — Platform ONE Extensive Testing**

Initial testing of the Platform ONE solution started in 2024. A total of 130 customers have taken part in the beta testing phase of Platform ONE. Why so many participants? Well, AI-powered network management solutions advance as they learn. The more input, the greater precision and value of the output (e.g., insights, actions). The more scenarios and situations experienced, the more accurate and all-encompassing the feature testing and tuning.

### **8 — Automation: Blending Human and Machine**

In IDC's 2024 special report focused on AI in networking, almost 50% of worldwide respondents prefer AI-powered network management systems to both determine and execute corrective actions without human involvement. This level of trust in network automation has been accelerating as organizations have seen AI deliver increasingly effective results across both business and IT fronts. While impressive, half of the study's respondents still want staff actively involved in executing network management actions. Platform ONE offers organizations the option to have the

system take needed actions automatically (and notify staff) or simply determine problems and recommend actions to involved staff. As trust builds, staff transfer more and more actions to Platform ONE for execution — with notification, of course. It should be noted that Platform ONE provides visibility into its reasoning behind its analysis and actions. Transparency certainly hastens and heightens trust.

## **7 — Network Healthcare: The Five Ps!**

Proactive. Predictive. Prescriptive. Preventive. Protective. With AI-powered network management solutions, much of the emphasis is on improved problem identification and remediation. React quickly to failures and slowdowns. Reduce MTTR metrics. Bolster service levels. Leverage less experienced staff. While resolving problems faster is of benefit to all, avoiding problems altogether and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the network on an ongoing basis is paramount with the must-always-be-connected digital business model. AI-powered network management solutions that ensure the network stays ahead of problems, threats, trending conditions, and onrushing demands are critical to both IT and business success.

## **6 — Simplicity and Networking: It Is Possible?**

Networks are growing more critical, complex, and costly. Complexity is the enemy in networking. Complexity increases risks. Complexity increases costs. Complexity increases staff burden. The management of networks has grown more complex over time as connections, technologies, devices, exchanges, services, protection mechanisms, and so forth have grown exponentially in this digital age. Simplifying the network represents a huge engineering challenge for solution providers and IT organizations. Driven by comprehensive network intelligence and in-depth analysis, AI-powered networking solutions stand to reduce network complexity. Platform ONE design and development takes a direct aim at simplifying network management. Straightforward and user-tailored displays, a focus on two or three clicks for any task, and automated management aim to simplify network engineering and operations.

## **5 — AI Requires More from Suppliers and IT Organizations at Present**

Into the future, AI will heighten network resiliency and responsiveness, while also providing much-needed relief for IT organizations and networking suppliers. Before the industry arrives at this network nirvana, however, AI-related responsibilities for both suppliers and buyers are accelerating upward. For suppliers, building, training, governing, and delivering AI-powered solutions require advanced engineering,

integration, and support efforts. For buyers, staff education, use case prioritization, technology evaluations, solution deployment, and ongoing operations and use all require full commitment — technical, financial, and practical. Investment and innovation now heighten rewards in the future.

#### **4 — Migration to Platform ONE**

Extreme Networks wants its customers to move to Platform ONE. While offering existing and effective management solutions, Platform ONE is the future of network management for Extreme Networks and its customers. Select features in its traditional solutions have been carried over to Platform ONE. And to further ease migration, select new features of Platform ONE will be applied to existing Extreme Network management solutions. The former simplifies the move to Platform ONE. The latter “sells” the customer on the move to Platform ONE. One customer, who recently migrated to Platform ONE from ExtremeCloud IQ (XIQ) for their “good sized” network, validated the ease of migration by citing their movement of network data and activation of Platform ONE took 47 minutes in total. Apparently, this rather rapid conversion is common when migrating from XIQ to Platform ONE.

#### **3 — License Management: FinOps Comes to the Network**

Noteworthy is the license management capabilities of Platform ONE. With so many components contained by and connected to the network, license management is a difficult challenge — especially considering the networking staff is already stretched thin keeping the network up and running and FinOps teams tend to have little knowledge of the network and its multitude of piece parts. Knowing license life-cycle status, usage levels, compliance and impact analysis, and cost outlook is vital to network resiliency and efficiency.

#### **2 — AI Is the First Top-Down Movement in Networking**

The adoption of AI-powered network management solutions such as Platform ONE requires a shift in thinking for network engineers and operators. For their entire careers, their worth has been driven by their expertise, experience, education, and execution speed and accuracy. While some are embracing AI, others still perceive AI as a threat and untrustworthy. IT and networking executives see only opportunities to boost network integrity, operational efficiency, service levels and capabilities, and staff productivity and value. While AI-powered network management solutions stand to deliver welcome benefits to the technical staff, it is the network executive and the more forward-looking staff members who will drive adoption. Here,

incremental gains and improvements to specific tasks build staff trust and lead to increased network autonomy.

## **1 — Platform ONE Customer Reactions and Returns**

In talking with customers in attendance at Extreme Connect 2025, it was clear they are looking for management solutions that improve their networks' resiliency, relieve their teams of lower-value tasks, and provide for a more dynamic network infrastructure. Reaction to Platform ONE demonstrations was very positive, with many drawing comparisons with what they use and need to do now without Platform ONE. The differences seemed to readily jump off the screen at them. While some express doubt with respect to the accuracy and precision of insights and guidance and automation of management actions, there was no doubt that Platform ONE offers hope for better networking — for their end users and for themselves.

### **The Impact and Impression of Extreme Network's Platform ONE**

AI-powered network management solutions are to accelerate away from less intelligent solutions. Of course, with every networking vendor telling their AI story to the industry these days, even the AI-powered networking solutions will need to differentiate themselves from all the others and, more importantly, break through all the noise created by all the AI talk in networking. Extreme Networks has targeted simplicity as its differentiation for Platform ONE. Given the pressures in networking these days, simplicity delivers on multiple business and IT fronts: network deployment and operations, digital design and innovation, service levels and capabilities, staff productivity and value, security postures and practices ... The list is lengthy and long overdue attention.

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