

A simple guide to Next Generation Networks

Next Generation Networks (NGN) are intelligent, future-proofed solutions capable of delivering communications services that will meet customer requirements in the coming decades. BT is one of the many Communication Providers making the transition.

There has been some confusion in the Security Industry about the impact of NGN and how it will affect signalling products. To help cut through the confusion, this short guide summarises the various components included in BT's NGN strategy and outlines potential impact to the Security Industry.

What is 21CN?

21CN, or 21st Century Network, is BT's next generation network, designed to replace BT's legacy infrastructure and services and provide a single, multi-service core network to support both current and next generation services.

The entire BT Redcare portfolio is compliant with 21CN.

Communications services generally fall into three categories: voice, broadband and data connectivity. 21CN supports all these services including BT's superfast broadband which is based on Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) and Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC).

What is the current status of 21CN?

BT is currently upgrading its voice and broadband lines to 21CN, with ISDN services to follow. The services are being migrated at different times and through separate activities. BT is currently migrating customer's voice services in the South Wales test area. 75,000 lines have been successfully completed and 275,000 more are planned for summer 2010.

The migration is taking a slower pace than originally specified due to changing industry priorities. However, following the completion in South Wales, BT and other Communication Providers are then primed to start further migrations throughout the UK.

A candidate list of exchanges is available and with the exception of planned trials, 2 years notice will be given prior to any further exchange migration.

What is the impact of 21CN to the Security Industry?

There are potential issues for some PSTN connected security equipment that has not been designed to work with the full range of standards defined in the UK National Transmission Plan and the BT Supplier Information Notes. So far, **only four per cent** of the security alarm equipment combinations tested (eight out of 220) have been affected.

For a full list of tested equipment please go to: <http://www.switchedonuk.org/home/how/compatibility/>

Risk assessment and informed action is key. Installers can check for compatibility on new provides along with regular 6-12 month health checks.



FTTC

Fibre will be deployed from the exchange to the street cabinet in parallel to existing copper. FTTC will be used to provide advanced IP based service such as very high speed broadband.

The existing copper will remain to support existing copper based services such as PSTN, ISDN and traditional BT Redcare products.

Testing of all BT Redcare products in a live environment, including the new BT Redcare Secure portfolio was completed successfully in August 2009 at the Muswell Hill FTTC facility. We are carrying out a live beta test through to June 2010 with Woodside Security Systems, an external supplier of security alarms, to confirm the resilience of our products.

FTTP

FTTP is an all fibre solution which will be rolled out primarily in Greenfield sites and where customers have high bandwidth requirements.

In areas where a current copper network is unavailable, the BT Redcare Secure portfolio can be used as it does not rely on a copper path.

BT Redcare Secure has been extensively tested and conforms to all applicable standards. Further compliance testing will continue to ensure the highest standard of service is maintained.

More information

Switched-on UK is the independent public information website covering 21CN and the progress with migration: www.switchedonuk.org

General information on BT's 21CN programme: www.btplc.com/21CN

If you have any other questions, please contact your BT Redcare Sales Manager who will be able to provide you with the latest and most accurate information on any of the current NGN activities.

Alternatively, please call 0800 800 628 or e-mail redcare@bt.com.



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