

Interop Testing: Into the Thunderdome!

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What is the Annual EANTC Interop Event?

- Interop test hosted by vendor neutral third-party (EANTC)
 - Located in Berlin, DE
 - 2026 was my fifth year as a participant
- Alphabet Soup
 - EVPN, MPLS, VXLAN, SRv6, PTP, LMNOP
- Many things in one...
 - Technology test
 - Personality test
 - Stress test
- The *Thunderdome for networking*



So, a bunch of competing OEMs walk into a bar...

What could possibly go wrong?

- What are the tests?
- Who is participating?
- What gear is needed?
- Lab connectivity requirements?
- What counts as “passing”?



Wait...why do this?

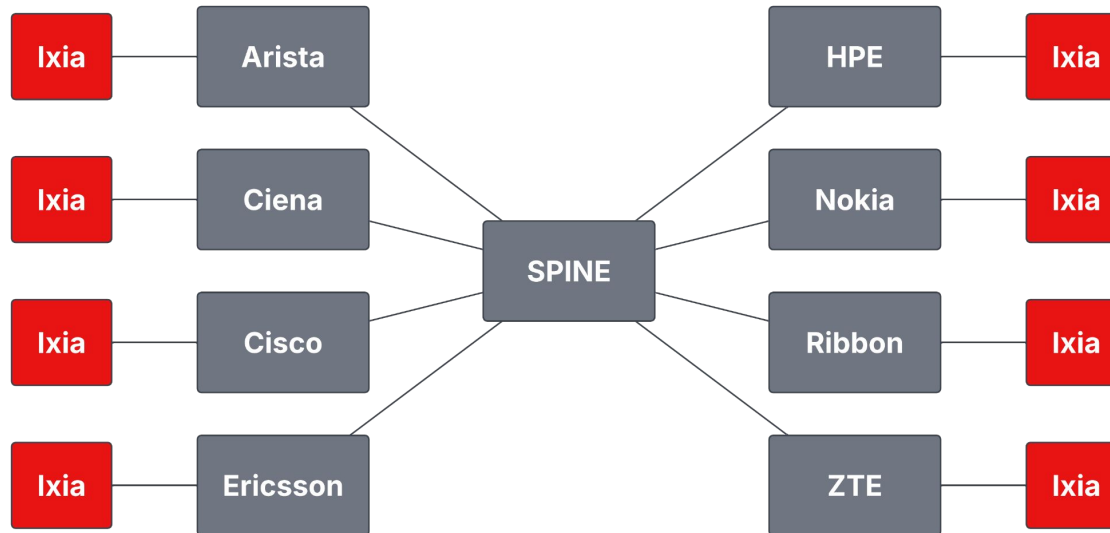
- Make the OEMs walk the walk!
 - 2026
 - » 12 Vendors
 - » 92 test cases
 - » 1,839 test results
- Tests must be:
 - Real-world use cases **based on IETF standards**
 - Focused on new/evolving standards in the market
- At the end of each event, EANTC publishes a report
 - Available to the public
 - No negativity (Pass or Did-Not-Participate)



[Full 2026 report online](#)

What is a “Test”? A Simplified Example...

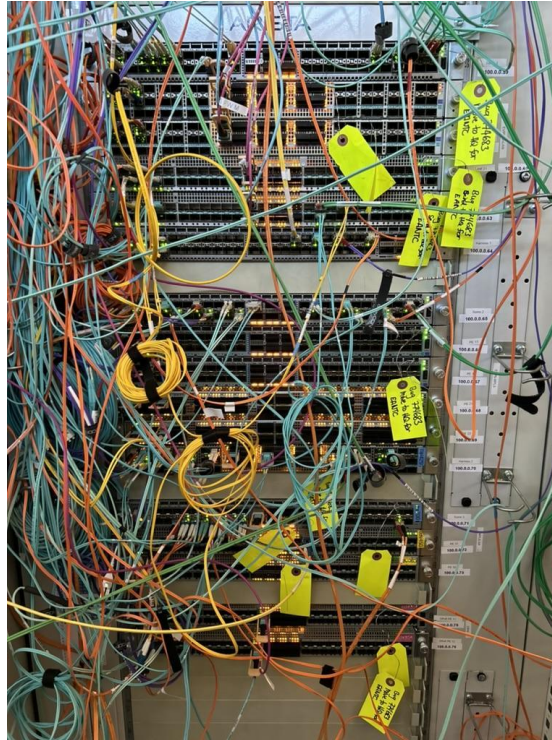
- Functionality, not performance
- Proctor validates results



What I thought the test bed would look like

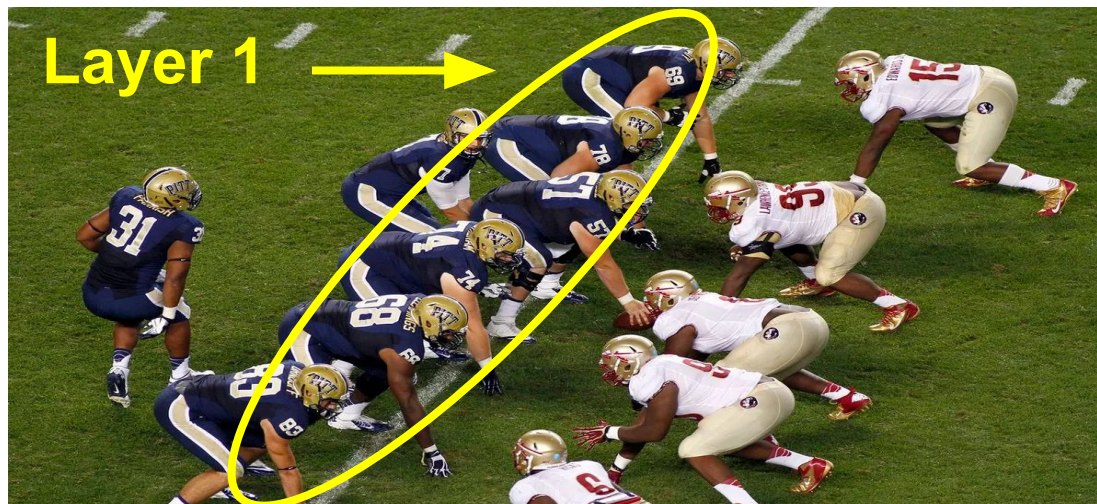


What the test bed actually looks like



Respect Layer 1

- There are **a lot** of cable changes needed on the fly
- SR, LR, MMF, SMF, SX, LX, MPO, LC, Breakouts, Couplers, etc.



It gets no glory, but nothing happens without it!

The Fundamentals Reign Supreme

What I envisioned would be the most frequently used terms at the event:

SRv6, TI-LFA, FRR, SR-TE, FlexAlgo, BIER, OISM, PEG, EVPN, A-A, PCEP, I-ESI, E-TREE, FXC, VPWS, E-LAN, E-LINE, aopiwmf9834nawpvwuh

The two most frequently heard terms?



That time I tried to teach MJ how to play Basketball

- Lots of smart folks at the event
- It can be humbling, in the best way!
- [RFC9625 \(EVPN OISM\)](#)

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
Request for Comments: [9625](#)
Category: Standards Track
Published: August 2024
ISSN: 2070-1721

W. Lin
Juniper Networks, Inc.
Z. Zhang
Juniper Networks, Inc.
J. Drake
Juniper Networks, Inc.
E. Rosen, Ed.
Juniper Networks, Inc.
J. Rabadan
Nokia
A. Sajassi
Cisco Systems



EVPN Optimized Inter-Subnet Multicast (OISM) Forwarding



Speaking of IETF Drafts and RFCs...

I'd like to formally submit *draft-vaughan-strike-should-may-00*

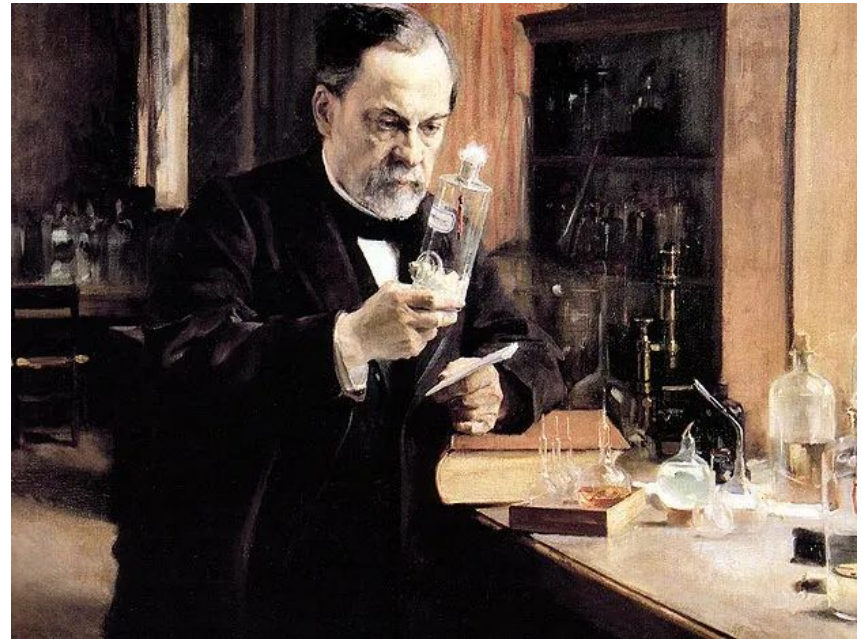
Propose to strike the following two words from all IETF Drafts and RFCs:

- SHOULD
- MAY



Chance Favors the Prepared Mind

- Deliver/Rack/Cable Gear
- Build Configs
- Testing
- Diagrams
- Reading, labbing, reading...



Herding the Cats

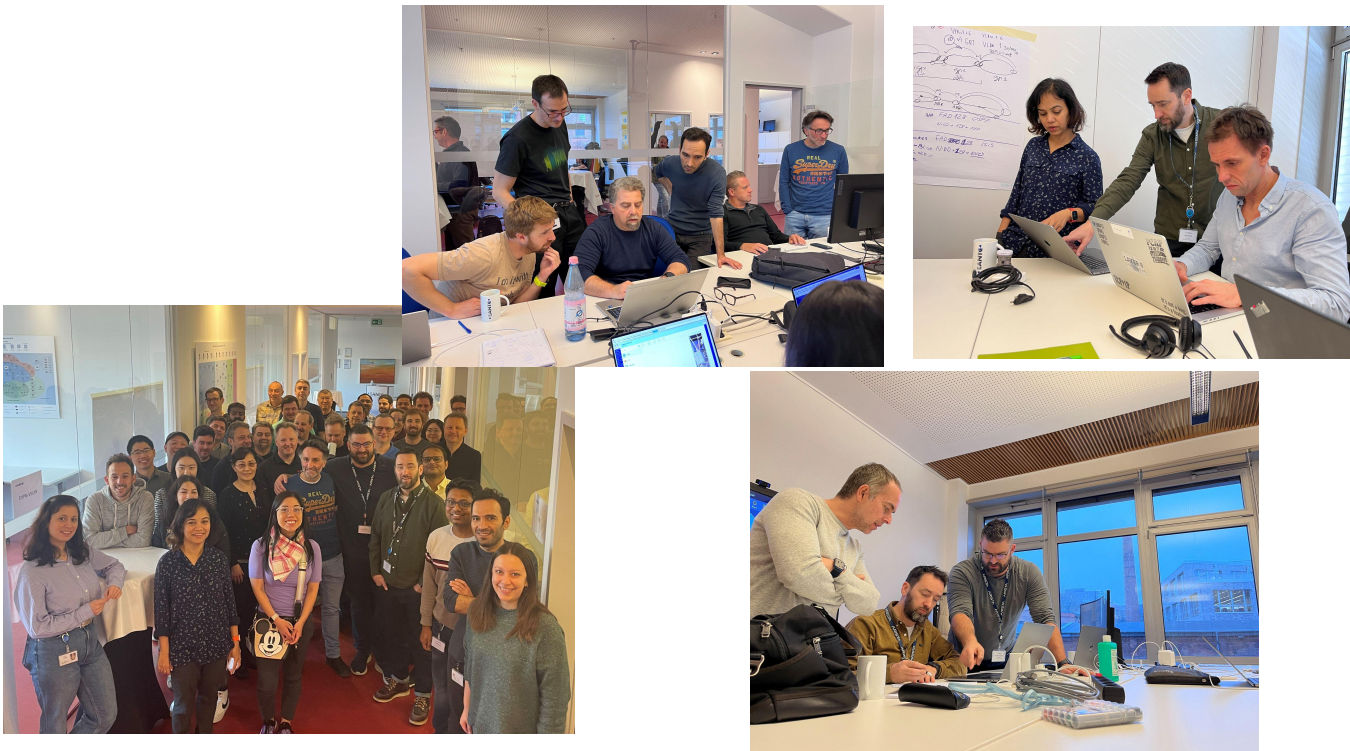
- Just knowing the tech isn't enough
- Chaos can quickly reign supreme
- Folks that know:
 - The technologies
 - How the tests should flow
 - Where the pitfalls are
 - How to herd cats
- These are the people that keep the tests moving



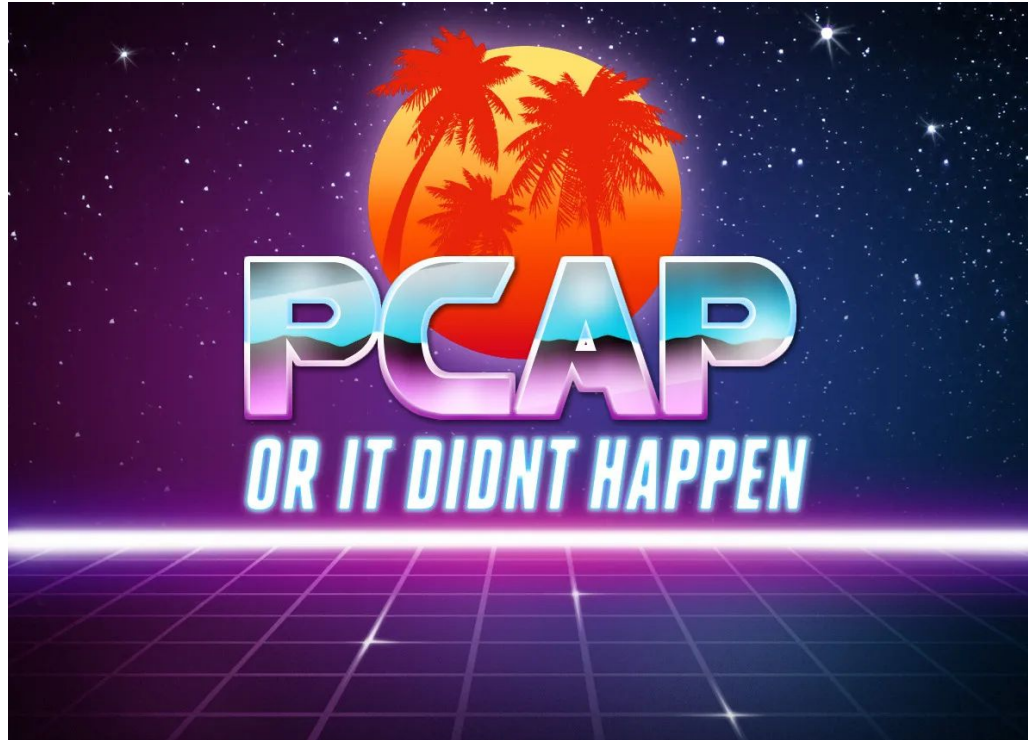
Days are long...

- Breakfast ~7:30 AM
- Get to test center ~8:30
- Test, tshoot, log, wait, test, tshoot, log, test, tshoot, wait, log, test.....
- Leave ~7:30 PM
- Dinner / Drinks / Bed
- Repeat.....

But they're fun!



The truth is out there...on the wire.



Some closing thoughts...

EANTC 2026 Showcase Demos



EANTC 2026 InterOp Report



Building a mixed-vendor fabric? Someone already made these boxes fight in Berlin. :)

Read the report first!