



Software Architecture

Overview

The software on the MGX 8250 is comprised of three major functional blocks:

- Platform control
- Configuration and monitoring services
- Node management

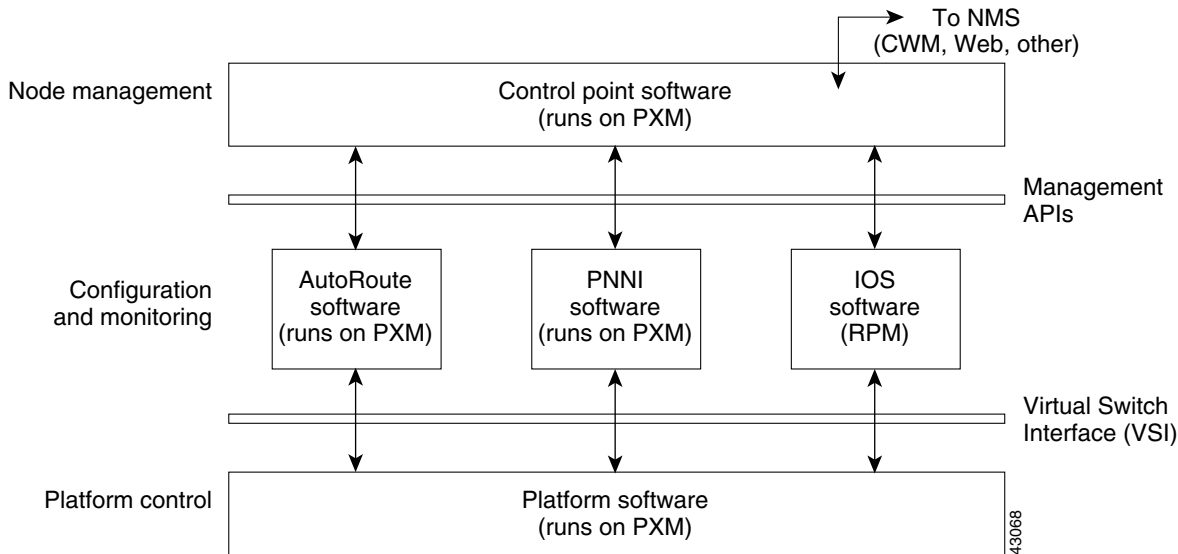
To deliver these services, the software is partitioned into four main software areas. They are

1. **Networking Software**—Software modules that deal with network topology, routing, and signaling. Networking software operates on abstract network objects (for example, logical interfaces, connections, and so on) and is not concerned with platform-specific operations. Individual software modules (Portable Autoroute, PNNI) may sometimes be referred to as Network Controllers.
2. **Platform Software**—Software package that manages and controls the switch platform directly. It is responsible for the low-level operation of the system (including resource management and physical redundancy control). This platform includes the PXM and SM software.
3. **Control Software**—Group of software that works as a centralized control point for integrated CLI, SNMP, Robust Trap Management, MIB, and Web management functions. It provides full switch and interface management for all hardware modules, service provisioning, and fault finding/diagnostic support for the complete chassis.
4. **Router Software**—RPM/IOS software.

In addition, the Virtual Switch Interface (VSI) provides a single controller implementation that can be used across different platforms for the same function; and management APIs provide an interface between the network control modules and node management software.

[Figure 5-1](#) provides an overview of the MGX 8250 software architecture and the relationships of the software modules to other components.

Figure 5-1 MGX 8250 Software Architecture



Platform Software

The platform software is responsible for the low-level operation of the system (including resource management and physical redundancy control). This layer provides a set of services to the remaining subsystems. These services are categorized as Generic Cross-Connection Service, Basic Platform-Specific Configuration and Monitoring Service, and Platform Infrastructure.

Generic Cross-Connection Service

The platform software contains the API to provide a generic set of cross-connect control services for setting up and tearing down single-hop cross-connects. The VSI service provides the means for network control subsystems to

- Add and delete single-hop cross-connects.
- Discover logical ports (when ports are brought up by the management layer).
- Monitor resource utilization (bandwidth and cross-connect availability).

Platform-Specific Configuration and Monitoring Services

The platform software provides an API to the management layer (for example, Control Point software) to allow the configuration and monitoring of cards, ports, redundancy options, and any platform-specific features. It also enables the platform software to generate asynchronous events to the management layer. This API consists of a message passing request/response protocol running on the PXM.

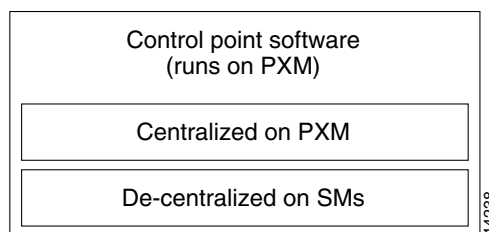
Basic Platform Infrastructure

The platform software provides the basic infrastructure for the following functions.

- Drivers for the PXM SAR.
- Intercard communications.
- File system support.
- Service module redundancy control.

As shown in the [Figure 5-2](#), the platform software has a centralized component running on the PXM, and distributed code running on the Service Modules.

Figure 5-2 Platform Software Components



Distributed Processing

The MGX 8250 platform software is based on a distributed processing model. The MGX 8250 Inter-Processor Communication, which is built upon Remote Procedure Call (RPC) and the Shelf Communication Module (SCM) paradigm, has been developed to allow clients to transparently make remote procedure calls through a local procedure call interface.

The MGX 8250 platform databases (MIBs) are also distributed among PXM, RPM, and the Service Modules. For example, the line, port, and channel databases are maintained by the individual Service Module and the connection database is maintained by PXM.

VSI

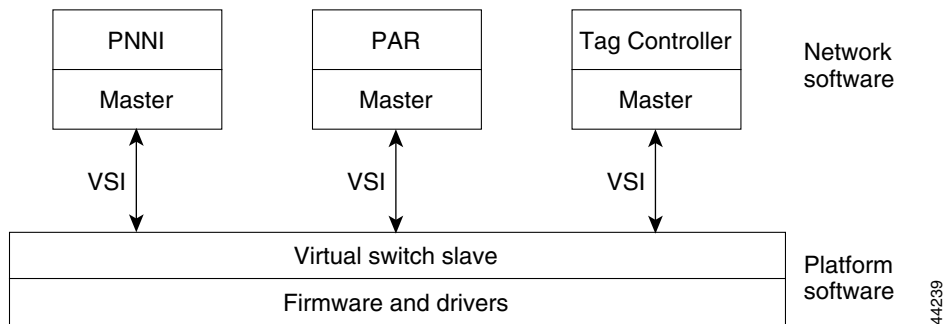
To interface with multiple Network software controller types, a standardized interface was created known as the Virtual Switch Interface (VSI) (see [Figure 5-3](#)). VSI defines the messages and associated functions that allow communication between the controller and the switch software.

Originally designed for PNNI portability between platforms, the VSI enables a single controller implementation that can be used across different platforms for the same function. For example, a single PNNI controller developed for the MGX 8250 could be used on BPX 8600.

Furthermore, by having a common messaging interface, the controllers do not have to reside on the same card or box. The Label Switch Controller on the MGX 8250 resides on the RPM card as opposed to Portable Autoroute Controller, which resides on the PXM. Similarly, the Label Switch Controller on Cisco 7500 and Cisco 7200 series routers communicates using VSI to an external BPX switch software.

Hence, VSI allows multiple services to run on the same platform. Each Network Software Controller is a VSI master that talks to the VSI slave residing on the platform software.

Figure 5-3 Virtual Switch Interface (VSI)



Networking Control

The Portable Autoroute Controller (PAR) is available on MGX 8250 to perform feeder connections and local connections (DAX) in feeder or stand-alone mode only. The MGX 8250 does not support Autoroute routing functionality with PAR in the current implementation.

Portable AutoRoute

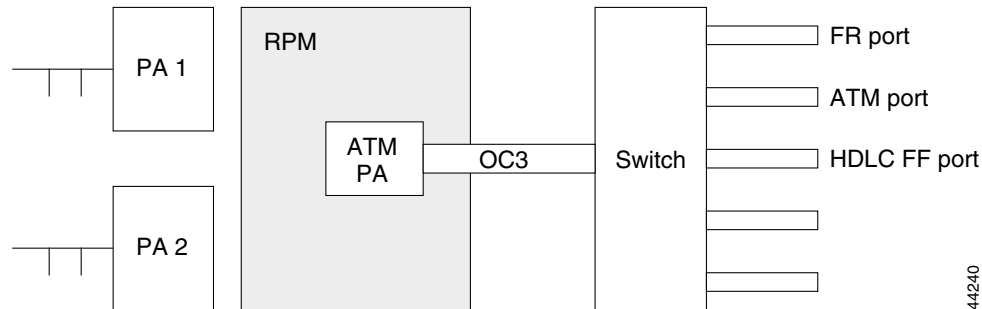
Portable AutoRoute (PAR) performs the following functions:

- **Connection Provisioning**—Receives messages from platform software. Interprets requests for adding and deleting connections and modifies connection database accordingly. Maintains synchronization of database contents with that of platform software.
- **Connection Alarm Management**—On receipt of a failure event, PAR sends messages to the Platform software to condition the connection. Also, connection databases are updated to reflect the current state of the connection.
- **Annex G Functionality**—Manages the Annex G LMI communication between the MGX 8250 and the routing node. The LMI signaling protocol allows the nodes to exchange information such as PVC status through status enquiries and status messages. This applies only to the MGX 8250 in feeder mode.
- **Clocking Control**—PAR handles the clocking selection for the switch. It will inform the standby controller card, along with the active card when clock configuration changes.

Cisco IOS Routing Subsystem

The Cisco IOS software, running on one or more RPMs, provides Layer 3 services for the shelf. The management software presents the MGX 8250 as a fully integrated component. The Cisco IOS subsystem also has two APIs as illustrated in [Figure 5-4](#).

Figure 5-4 RPM View of the PXM



Node Management (Control Point) Software

The node management software (or Control Point software) resides on the PXM. It provides a single, integrated point of control for managing the platform. It provides full shelf and interface management for all hardware modules, service provisioning, and fault finding/diagnostic support for the complete shelf.

The MGX 8250 components that are managed with the Control Point software include:

- Processor Switch Module (PXM)
- Router Processor Module (RPM)
- Service Modules (SMs)
- Portable AutoRoute Software

SNMP Support

The SNMP-based message interface is used between the front end and agents. The interface between the agents and the MIB functions is a direct function call or remote procedure calls depending upon the location of those two entities.

Command Line Interface

Control Point software presents a uniform management view of multiple products and technologies. The Command Line Interface (CLI) provides a single, integrated point of control for managing the MGX 8250 platform. It performs full-shelf and interface management for all hardware modules, service provisioning, and fault finding/diagnostic support for the complete shelf. It provides

- Port management
- Connection management, including collection and display of statistics
- Initialization management
- Card management

The MGX 8250 provides the following CLI features:

- CLI access through the serial console port on the PXM
- CLI access through the serial modem port on the PXM

- CLI access through the Ethernet port on the PXM
- Complete CLI support for PXM platform software including SRM-3T3 functions
- Complete set of CLI commands for Portable AutoRoute
- Complete set of CLI commands for all MGX 8250 Service Modules

Alarms and Traps

All alarms and events generate traps. MGX 8250 switches send traps to all registered trap managers when error events occur.

The Robust Trap Management (RTM) scheme is supported for PXM and all MGX 8250 Service Modules. RTM is a mechanism for keeping track of trap sequence numbers in traps so that the management system can provide complete trap information. Under this scheme, traps look like normal SNMP traps but have sequence numbers. If a missing sequence is detected, the network manager can request the missing trap.

Event Logging

Applications may log specific events and error conditions using the event mechanism provided by the Platform Software.

Statistics Registry

The MGX 8250 maintains a statistics subsystem primarily to monitor traffic conditions within the system. The TFTP daemon that handles configuration upload requests also services the statistics upload requests.

The statistics subsystem uses two levels of abstraction when gathering data: *Files* and *Buckets*. Each file contains one or more buckets. User activates the statistics manager on CWM, and may select the **bucket interval** (in minutes) and the **collection period** (in minutes).

The Statistics Task runs periodically, building a new output file at the end of each collection period. The output files are used in a round-robin scheme, meaning that the file with the oldest data is used next. The CWM system can request any of the files, using the time of day as a file index.

There is a fixed amount of memory reserved for statistics files. The number of files available depends on the file size.