

Cisco's Quantum Network

How Cisco is Building Tomorrow's Infrastructure, Today

Reza Nejabati

Head of Quantum Research and Quantum Labs

cisco Live !

Cisco Webex App

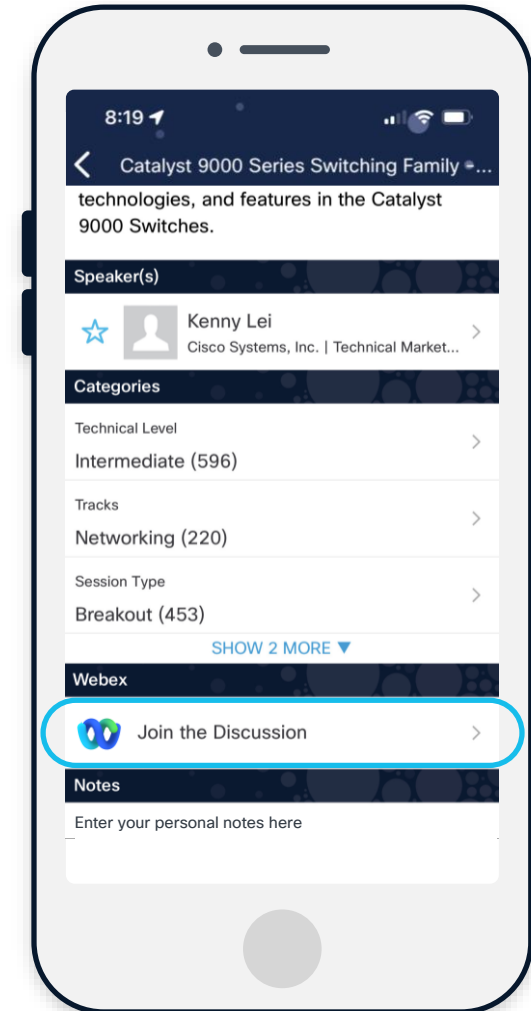
Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- 2 Click “Join the Discussion”
- 3 Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until June 13, 2025.



Agenda

- 01 Harnessing Power of Quantum**
- 02 Cisco Vision & Road Map**
- 03 Cisco Quantum Network Technology**
- 04 Demo**

Harnessing Power of Quantum

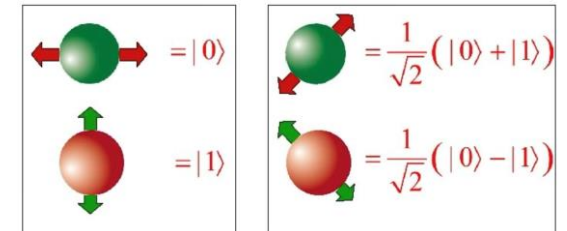
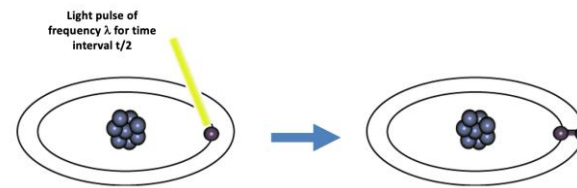
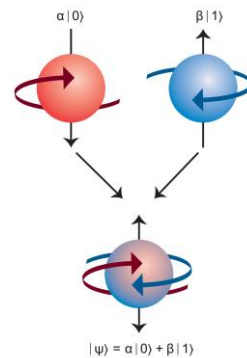
What is Quantum Bit (qubit)

- Classical bit : 1 or 0

- Quantum bit (qubit): $\alpha |1\rangle + \beta |0\rangle$, $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$

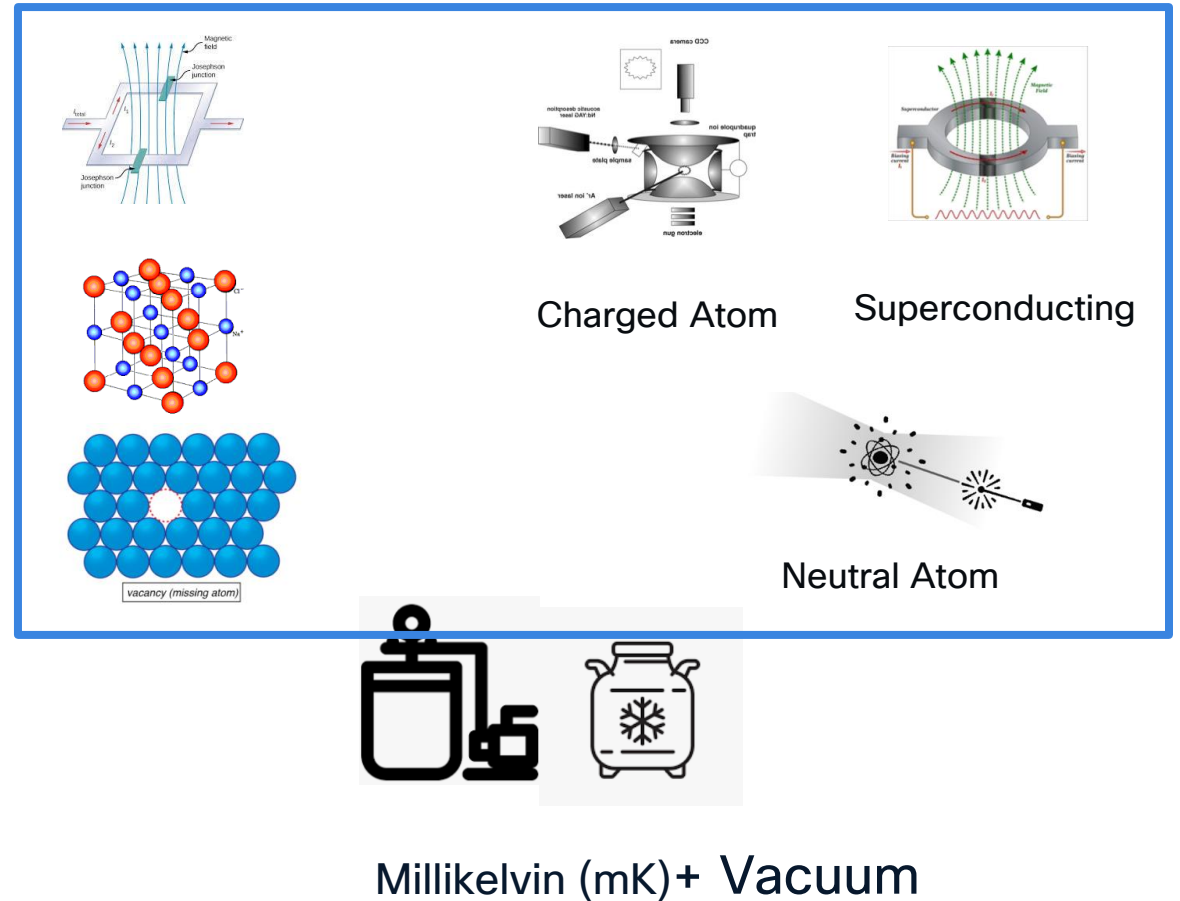
- Generating qubit:

- Nuclear spin
- Positive /Negative
- Electron state
- Ground/ Excited
- Polarization of photon
- Vertical / Horizontal/ Diagonal



Realizing a Quantum Bit (qubit)

- Matter qubits can reside in superconducting ring, atoms (ion), crystal defects (NV-center), atomic ensembles
- Flying qubits are transported on photon (visible or telecom wavelength)



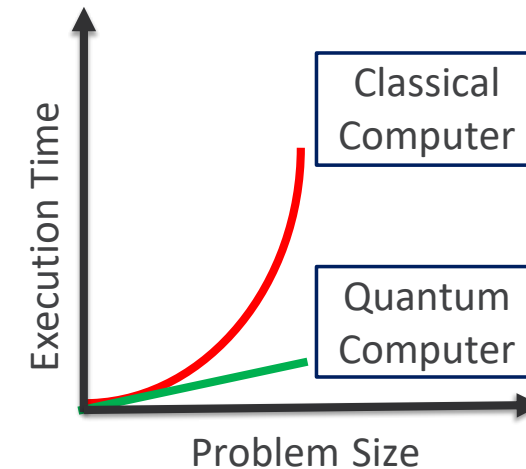
Quantum Computing

- Quantum Computing Supremacy:

- 2 qubits: superposition of 4 possible basis states
- 3 qubits: superposition of 8 possible basis states
- n qubits: superposition of 2^n possible basis states

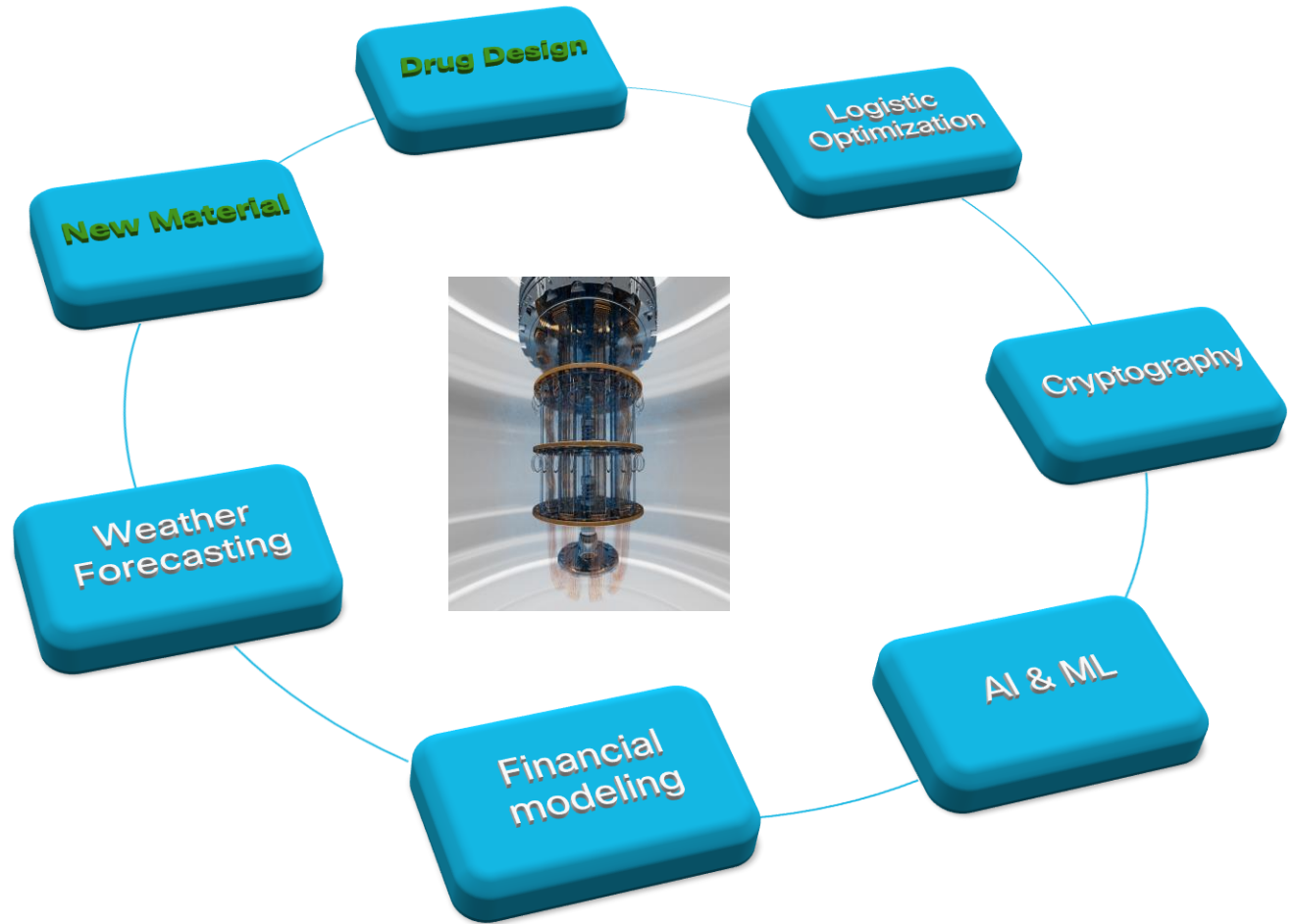
Superposition (of qubits)

classical	quantum
0100110101	p_0 0000000000
	$+p_1$ 0000000001
	$+p_2$ 0000000010
	\vdots
	$+p_{2^N}$ 1111111111



Quantum Computing Applications

- Quantum Computers are not universal
- They are good for specific applications



Quantum Sensing

- A quantum sensor utilizes properties of quantum mechanics and environmental effect
 - Quantum Sensor : Quantum sources + measurements
 - They exploit quantum states that are highly sensitive to disturbance
- They have optimized precision and beat current limits in sensor technology.
- Quantum technology has already impacted on existing sensing technology, with improvements by as much as 10,000 times



Timing



Acceleration



Magnetic Field



Imaging



Rotation



Temperature



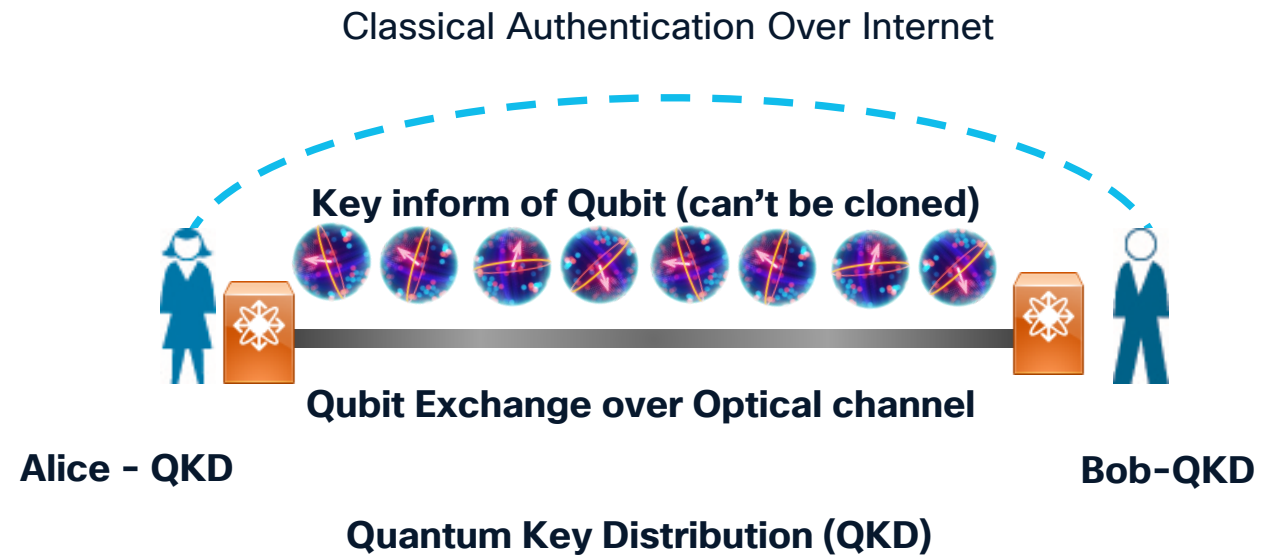
Electric Field



Detection

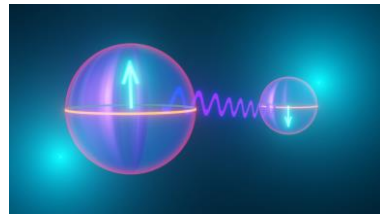
Quantum Security

- No cloning theorem
 - It is impossible to create an identical copy of an arbitrary unknown quantum state
 - There is no operation that copies an arbitrary state of a qubit



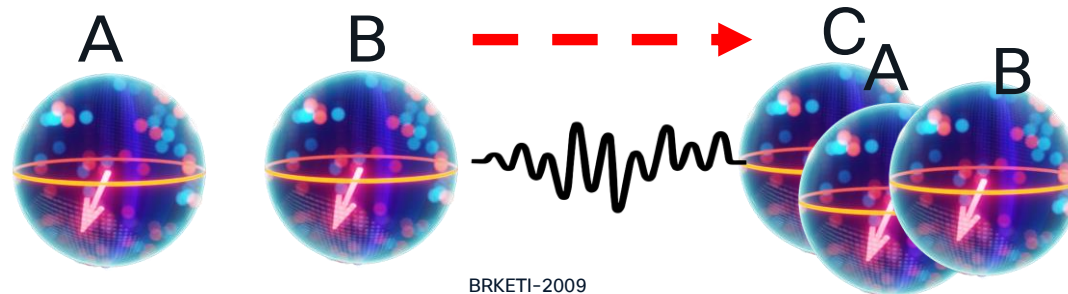
Quantum entanglement

- Two qubit can be entangled
 - An entangled pair is a single quantum system in a superposition of equally possible states.
- A measurement of one qubit will affect the state of another qubit at distance
- Even though classically there is no direct interaction

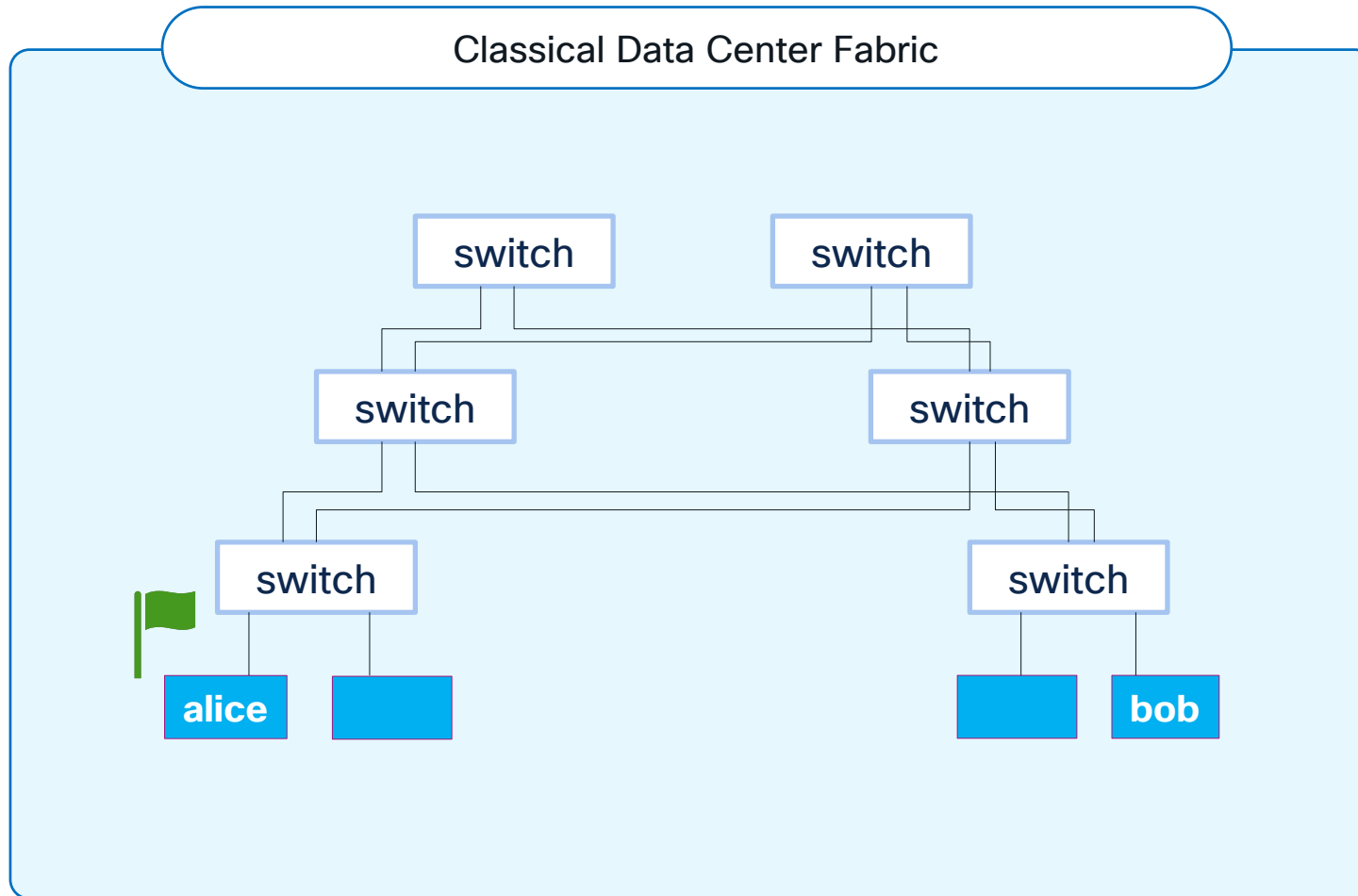


Quantum Teleportation

- **Quantum Teleportation** is the process by which quantum information (e.g. exact state of a photon) can be transmitted
 - Quantum Teleportation involves entangling two Photon
 - Qubit B & Qubit C are entangled and forming teleportation channel
 - Qubit A to be teleported is combined with Qubit B
 - This change instantly teleported to Qubit C
 - **However receiver can not reconstruct A without help of sender**



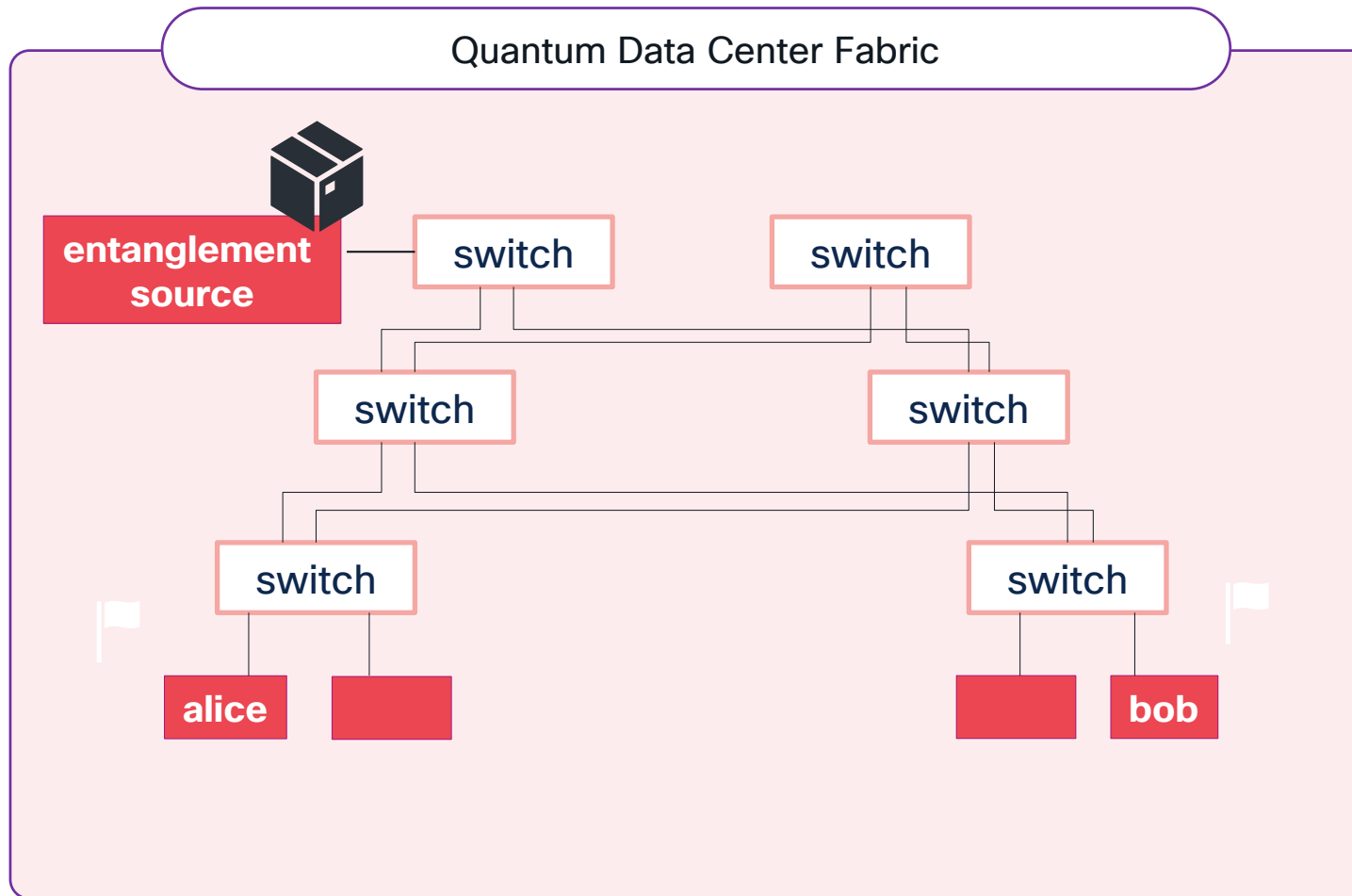
Classical Data Center Networking



Send information between Alice & Bob

- Alice creates Bit of information
- Sends bit hop-by-hop through network
- Bob receives Bit of information
- Network is used to send information

Classical Data Center Networking



Send carrier of info to Alice & Bob

- Two particles (photons) at distance mirror each other without any physical connection

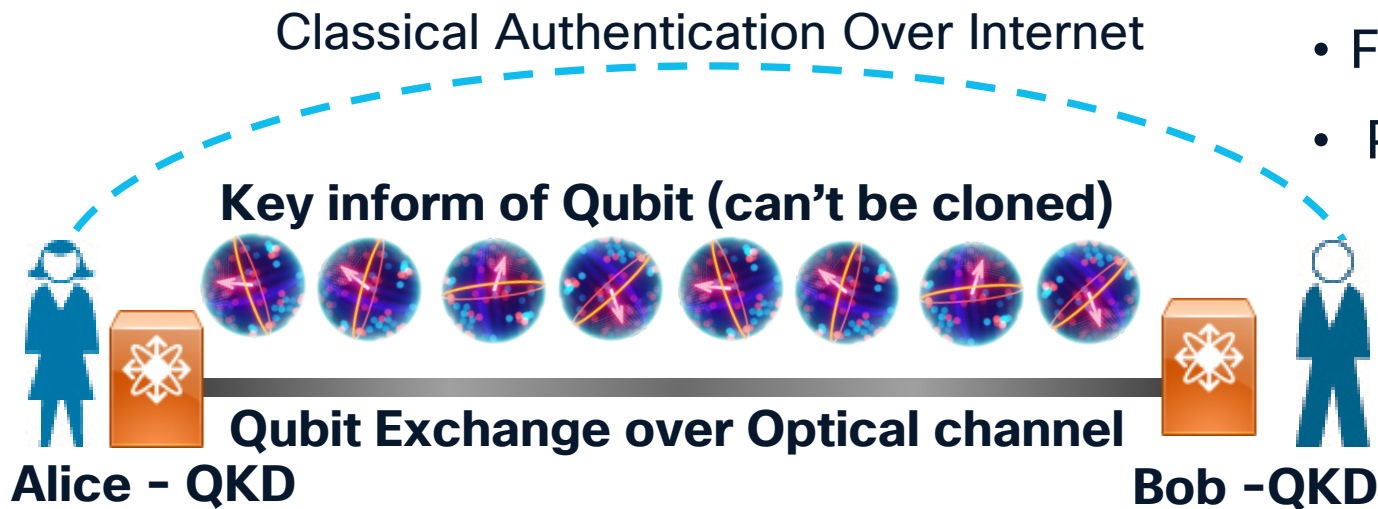
Send carrier of info to Alice & Bob

- Network is for out-of-band / control traffic
- Carrier for quantum property sent to Alice and Bob through the network
- This is using the **entanglement** property of photons
- As carrier decays, it is refreshed through the network

Today's Commercial Quantum Networks

State-of-the-Art

- Existing quantum networks
 - Point-to-Point
 - For security use-cases: quantum key distribution QKD
 - Dedicated fiber or frequency band (O-band)
- Major QKD Networks
 - China National Integrated QKD Network
 - Long distance Fiber + Satellite
 - Point to Point
 - London QKD Network by British Telecom (BT)
 - Fibre Ring in London City
 - Point to Point



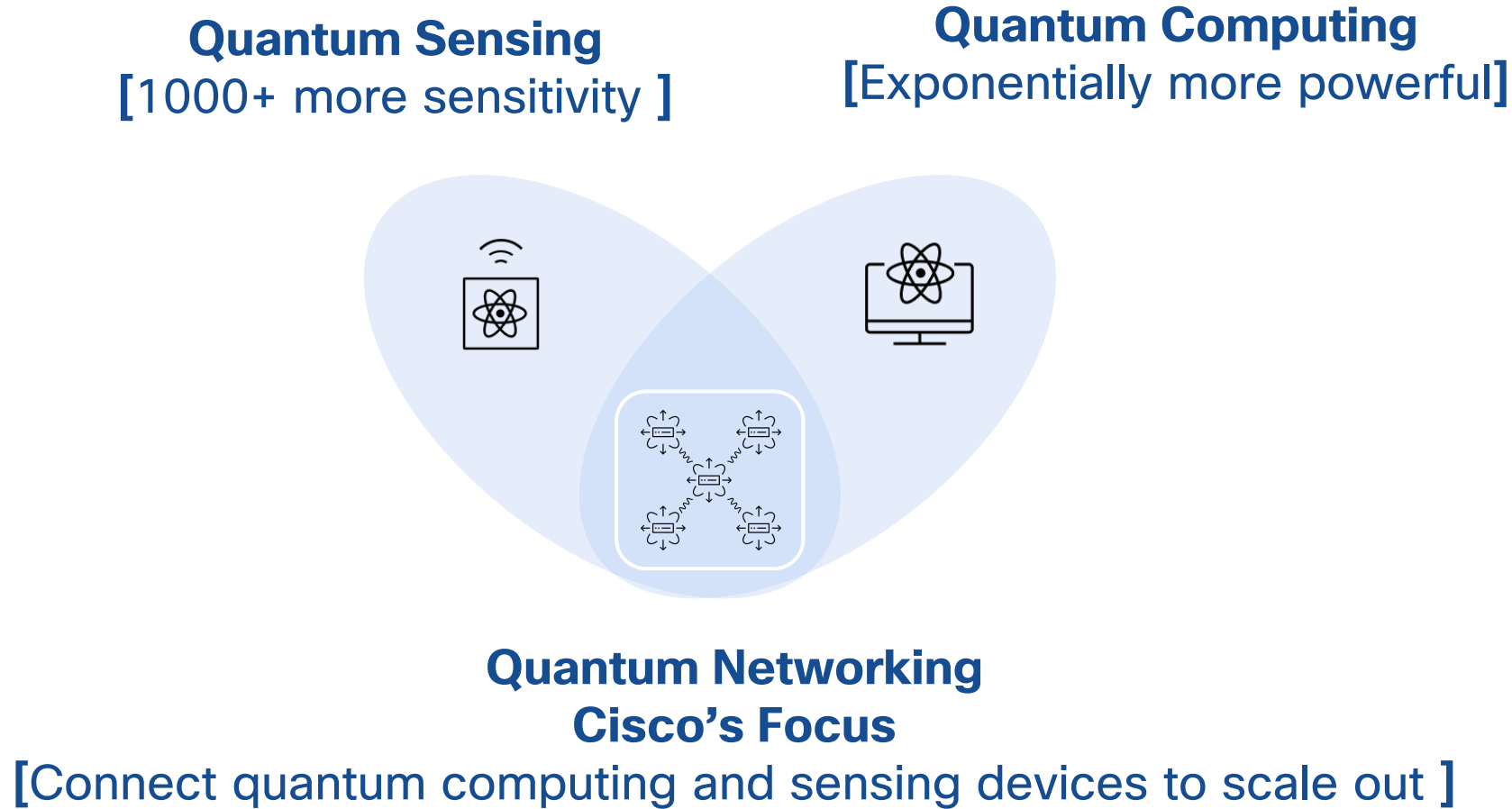
Today's Commercial Quantum Networks

The Problem

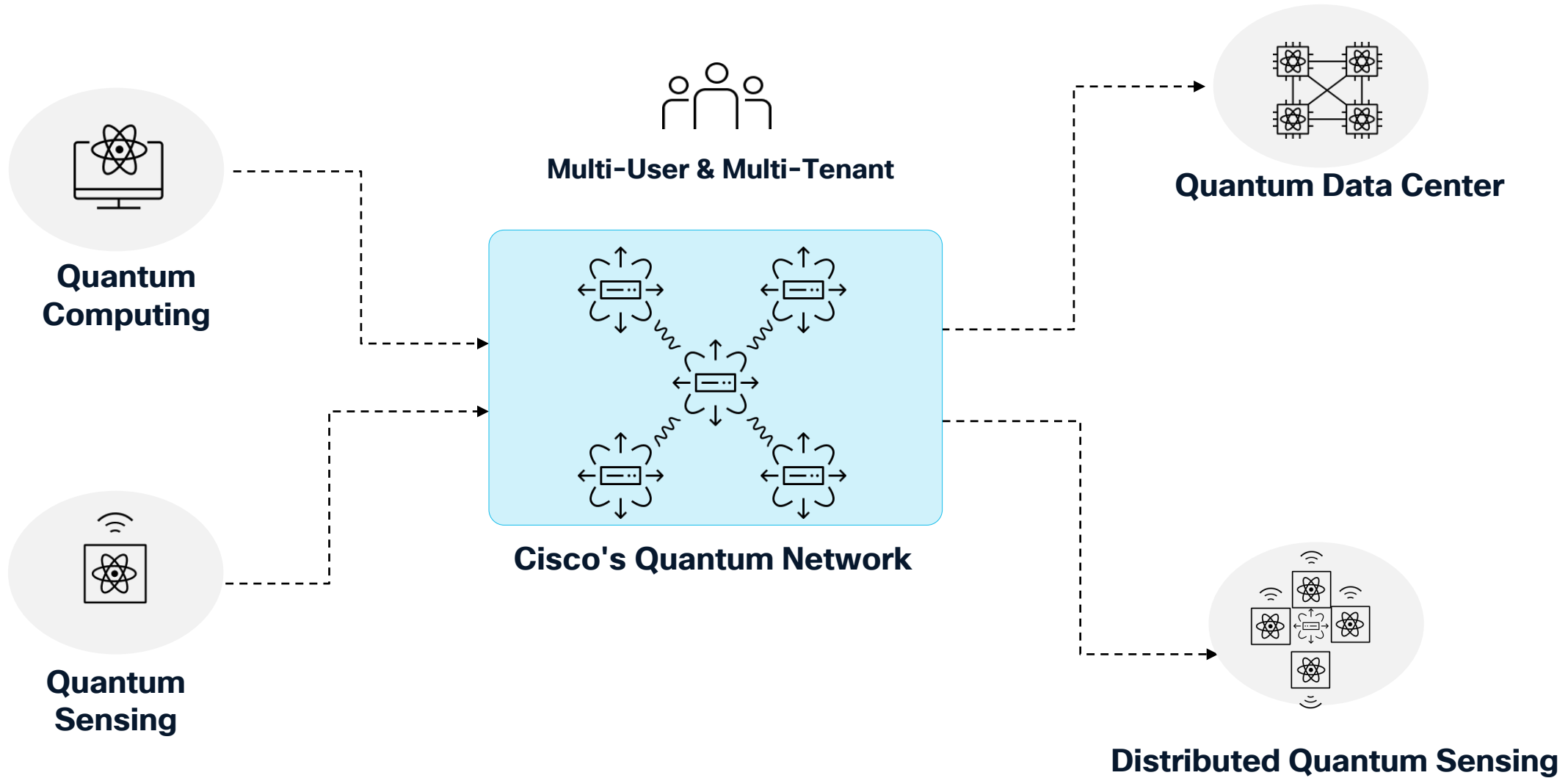
- Point-to-Point quantum connectivity
 - **Static, no dynamicity, no switching, no routing**
- Specific to security use cases
 - For quantum key distribution QKD
 - Not a full security solution : Securing only optical Link, not end nodes or wireless
- Needs dedicated HW, dictated fiber, dedicated frequency band or very large guard band
- **Costly and not scalable**
- **It is not efficient and robust enough to support applications beyond security**

Cisco Vision & Road Map

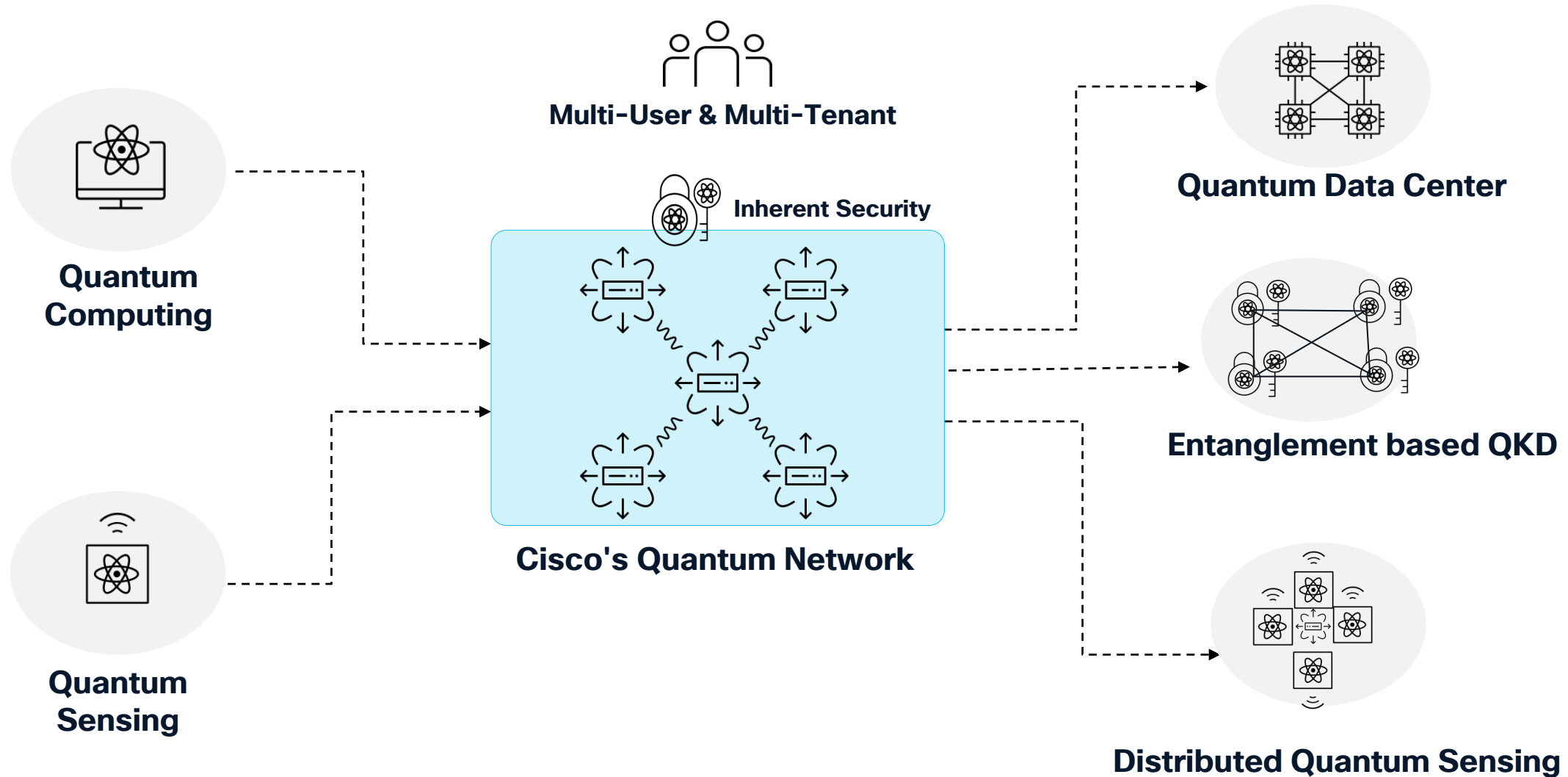
Quantum Technology Ecosystem & Cisco Focus



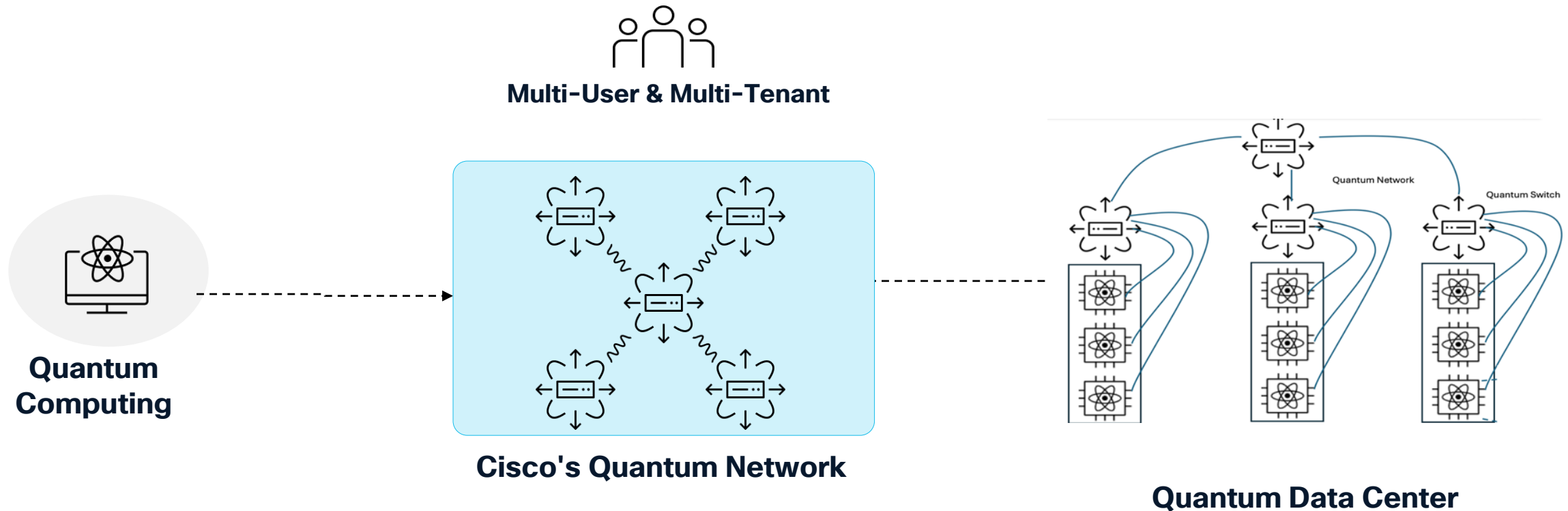
Cisco Quantum Network Vision



Cisco Quantum Network Vision



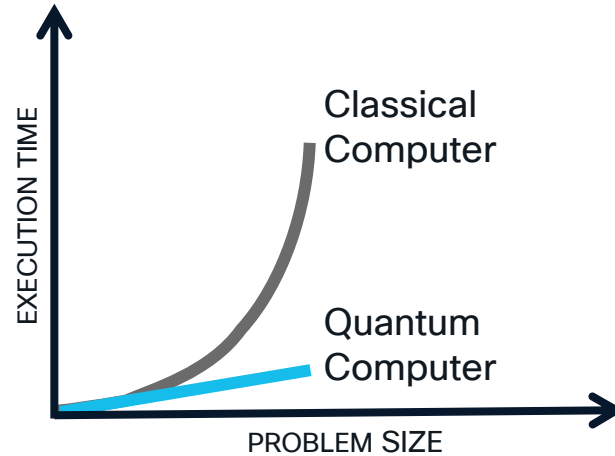
Cisco's Final Goal in Quantum Computing



Cisco's Final Goal in Quantum Computing

Use Cases Today:

- Financial forecasting
- Drug discovery
- Logistics optimization
- Cryptography
- New Material
- Weather forecasting



At-scale (fault tolerant) quantum computing will require 1M+ physical qubits

We focus on

- distributed quantum computing
- quantum networking

- What is a Quantum Data Center
 - Warehouse scale distributed quantum computing
 - Hyper scalers' approach
 - Create a scalable quantum computing by networking large number of small processor
- Why a quantum data center
 - Controlled environment
 - Short distance
 - Practical to create an entanglement distribution network at scale for quantum computing interconnect
- Cisco's focus on key innovations to build a useful and practical quantum network of quantum computers interconnect in data center

Cisco's Quantum Network Use Cases

Quantum for the Quantum World

Ultra-precise Sensing

- Distributed quantum sensing to improve the sensing precision by 10-1000x
- **App:** biological imaging
- **Sector:** Medical, defense, metrology

Quantum Data Centers

- Distributed quantum computing via quantum network interconnects
- **App:** Molecular simulations, AI/ML, Optimization
- **Sector:** pharma, hyper-scalers, logistics

Quantum for the Classical World

Decision Coordination

- Instantaneous decision coordination between remote parties with quantum telepathy
- **App:** high-frequency trading (HFT)
- **Sector:** fintech

Secure Position Verification

- Secure authentication of geographic location of a party using quantum verifiers
- **App:** financial transactions, tracking soldiers/spies
- **Sector:** fintech, defense, security

Ultra-precise Time Synchronization

- Pico second clock sync between remote parties using quantum teleportation
- **App:** consensus protocols, HFT, robotic
- **Sector:** fintech, defense, manufacturing

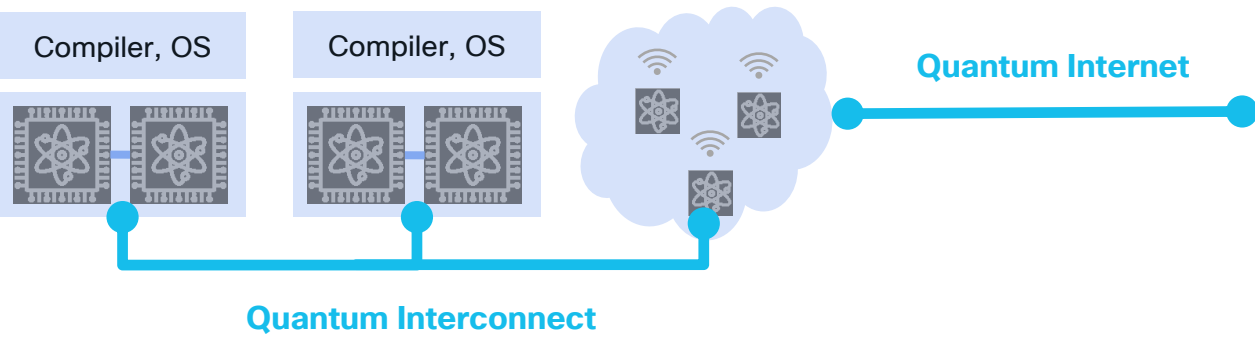
Eavesdropper-Proof Security

- Using single-photon quantum signals to detect eavesdroppers on optical fibers
- **App:** Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)
- **Sector:** fintech, telecom, government

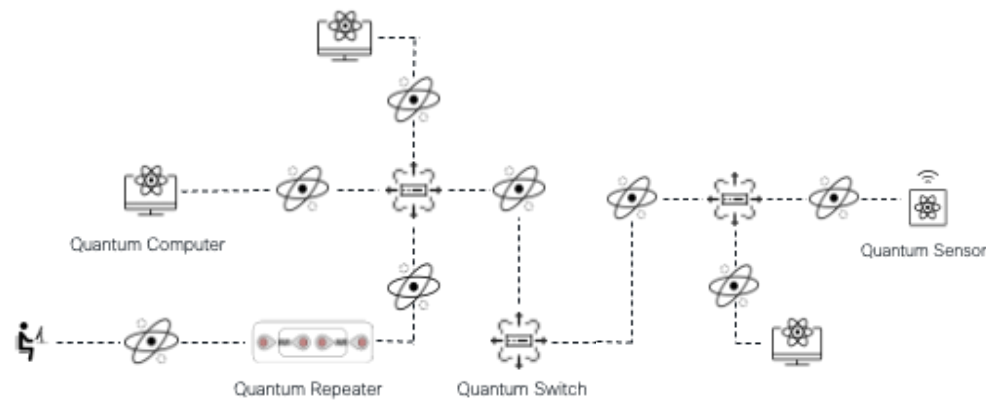
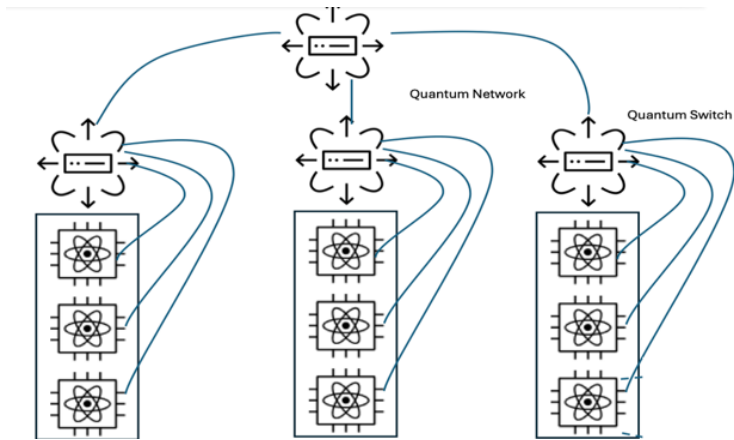
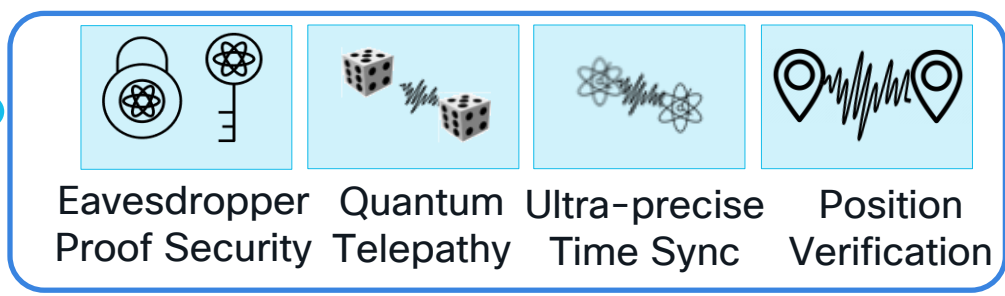
Cisco's Focus in Quantum Technology

Quantum Applications

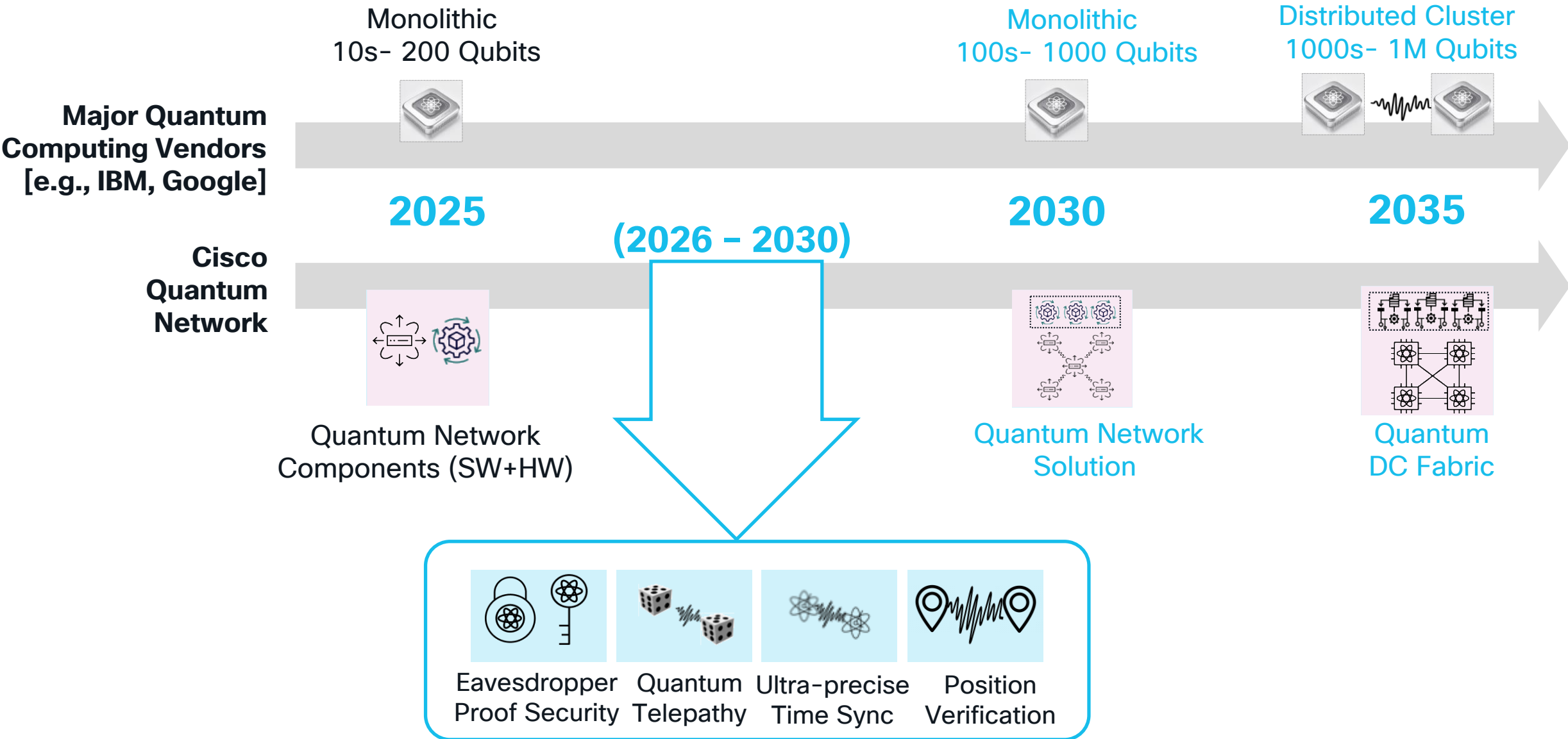
Quantum Network for Quantum Computing & Sensing



Quantum Network for Classical Application



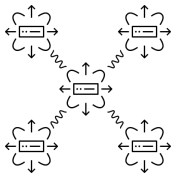
Road Map



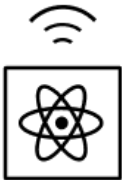
The total internal market size



Quantum Computing



Quantum Networking



Quantum Sensing

	Conservative	Optimistic	Conservative	Optimistic	Conservative	Optimistic
2035	\$28B	\$72B	\$11B	\$15B	\$0.5B	\$2.7B
2040	\$40B	\$131B	\$24B	\$36B	\$1B	\$6B

Source McKinsey

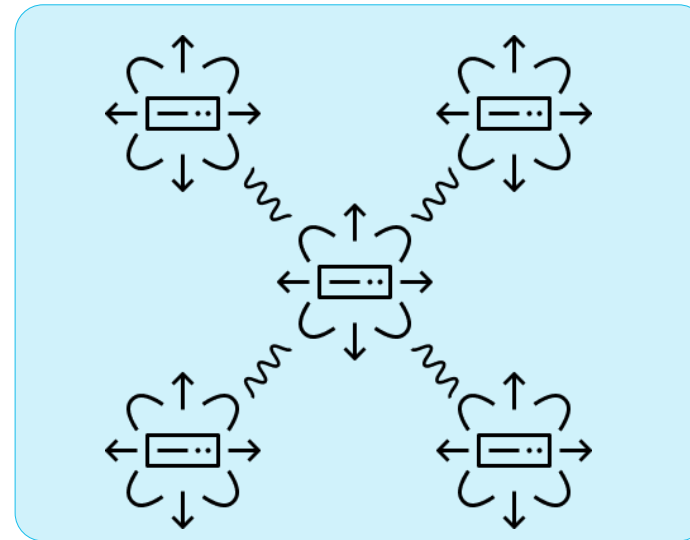
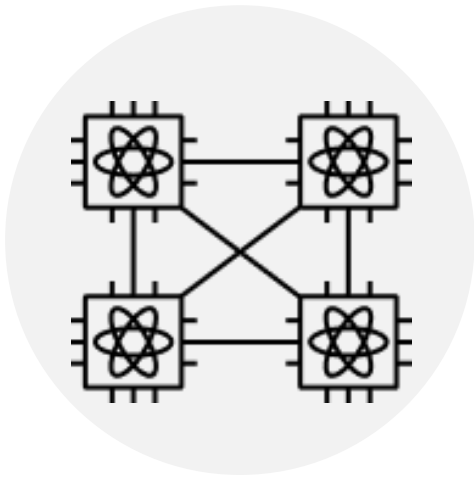
Cisco Quantum Network Technology

Cisco Quantum Network Design for the Data Center

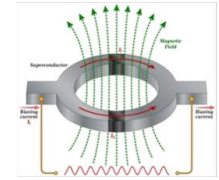
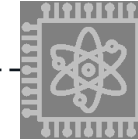
Cisco's Quantum Network

- High Fidelity Entanglement Distribution Network
- Quantum Computing Technology Agnostic
- Multi-User & Multi-Tenant, Workload-aware

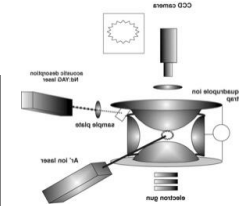
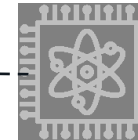
Quantum Data Center



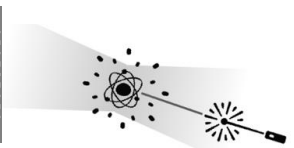
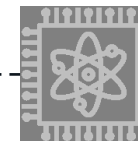
- 1 Cisco's QN-Fabric (Hardware)
- 2 Cisco's QN-Orchestra (Software)



Superconducting



Charged Atom



Neutral Atom

Cisco's Quantum Network Stack

Quantum Network Control Plane (QN-Orchestra)

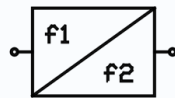
Distributed Quantum Computing **Compiler** (Network-Aware, Multi-Tenant)
Network **Protocols** and Software for **Entanglement Distribution**

Quantum Entanglement Network Fabric (QN-Fabric)

Quantum
Entanglement Source



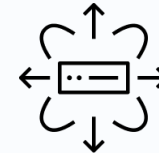
Quantum
NIC



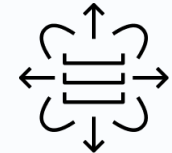
Quantum
Measurement



Quantum
Switch



Quantum
Memory



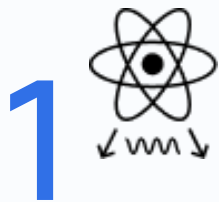
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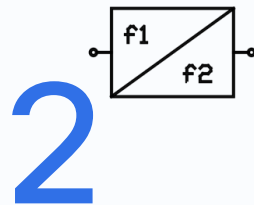
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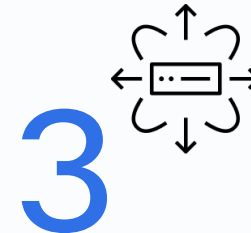
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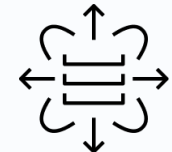
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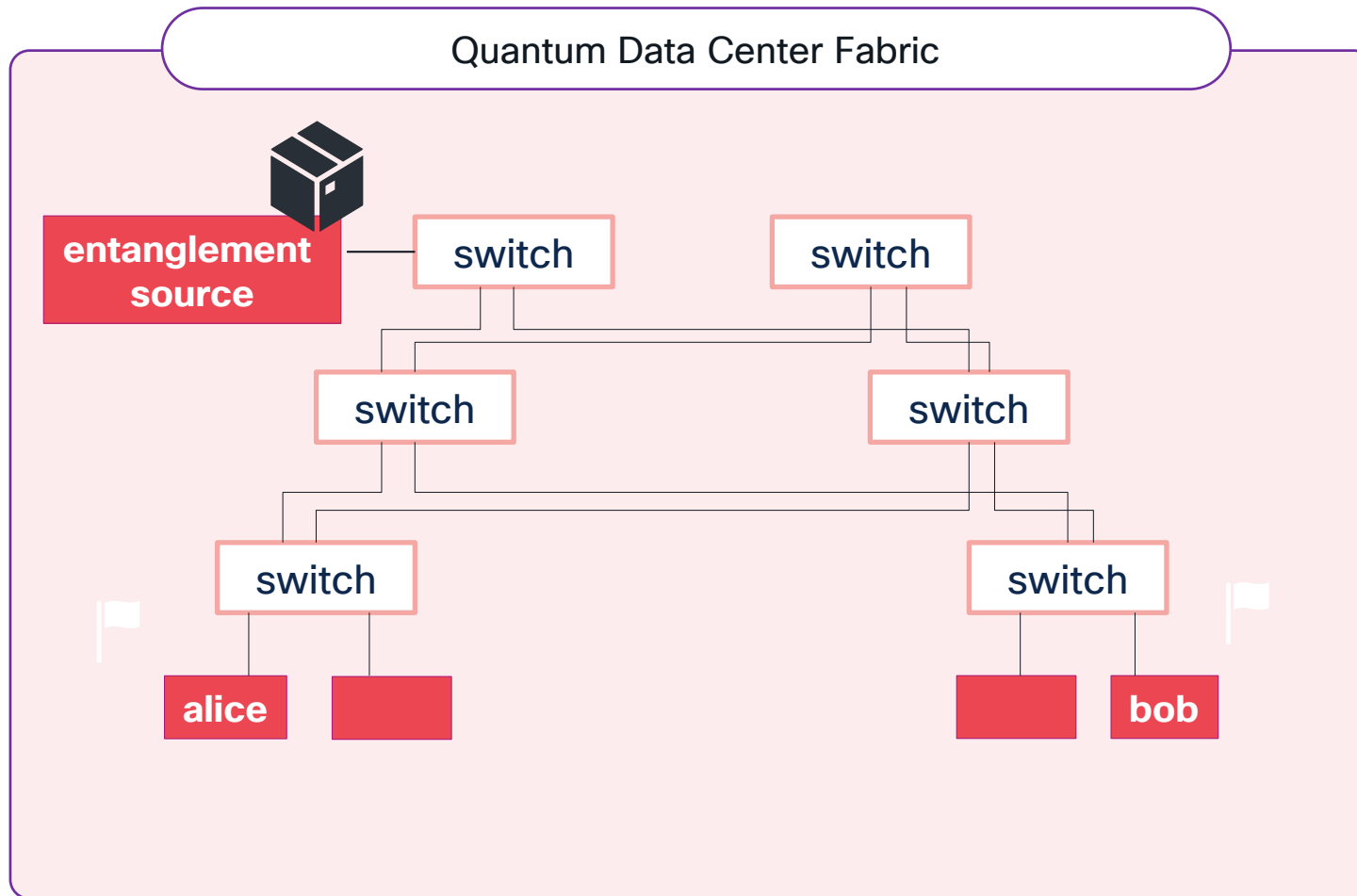
Quantum
Switch



Quantum
Memory



Classical Data Center Networking



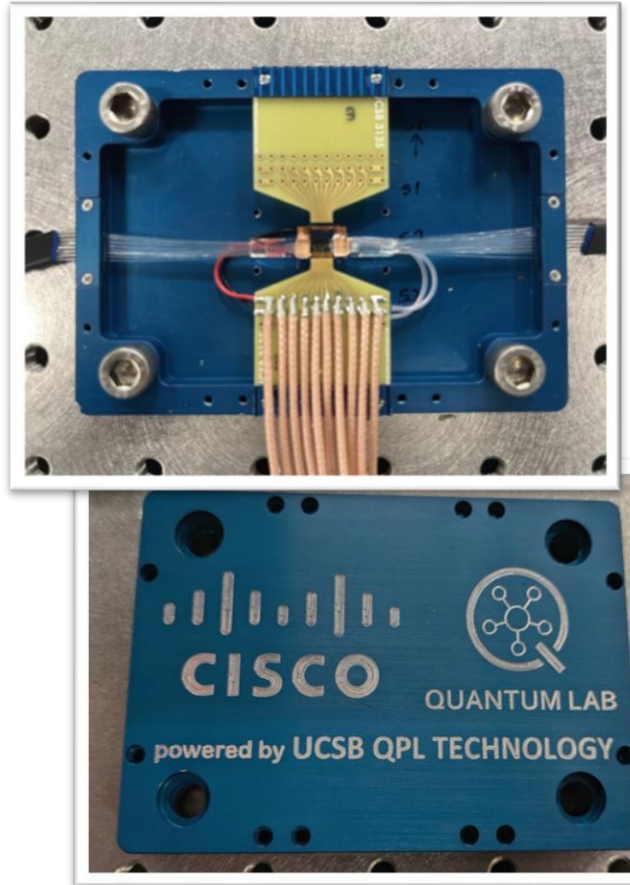
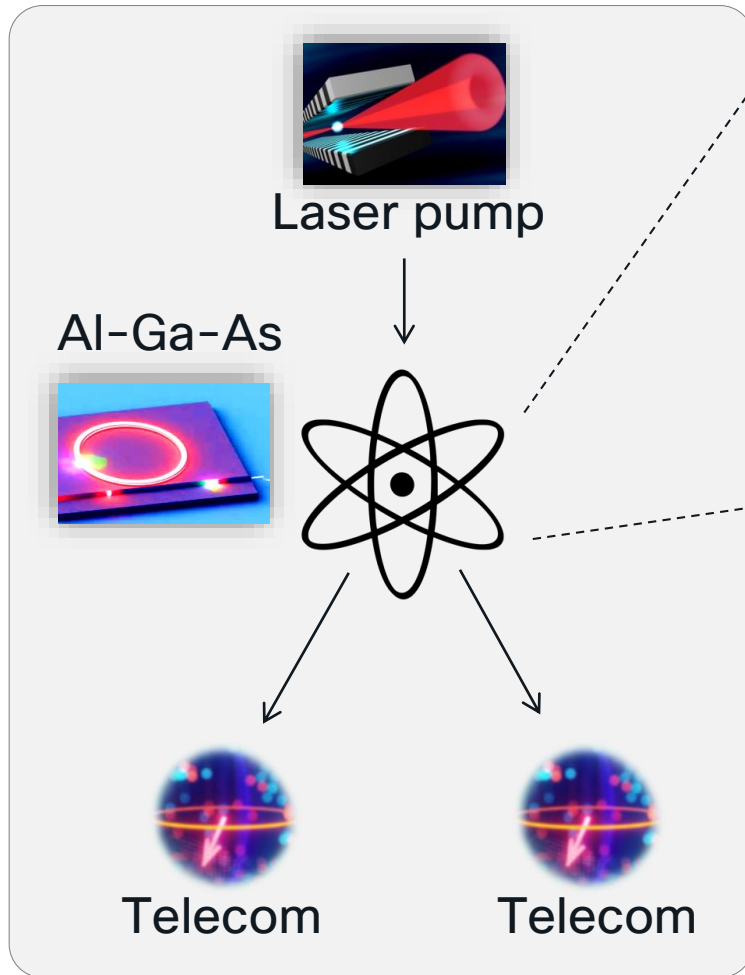
Send carrier of info to Alice & Bob

- Two particles (photons) at distance mirror each other without any physical connection

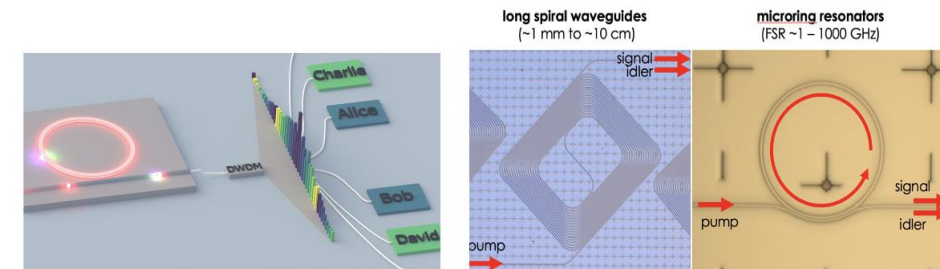
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1 Quantum Entanglement Sources

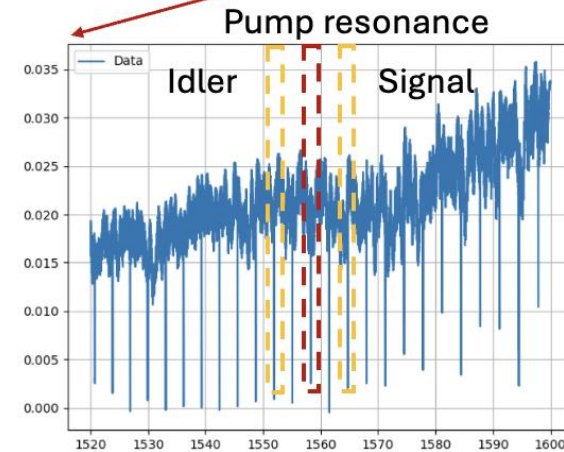
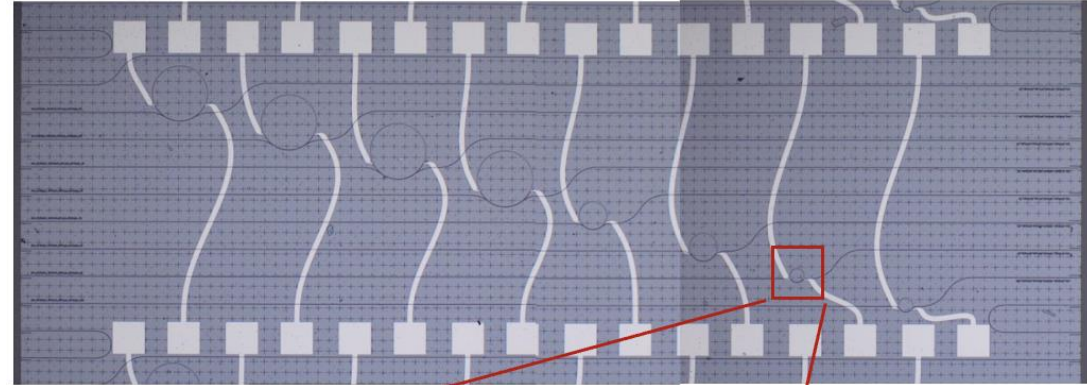
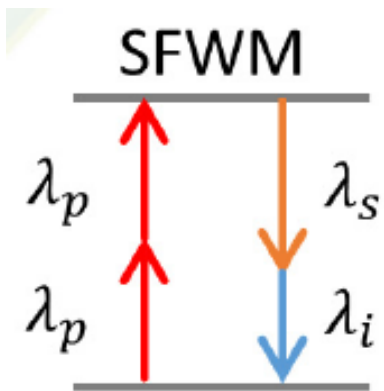
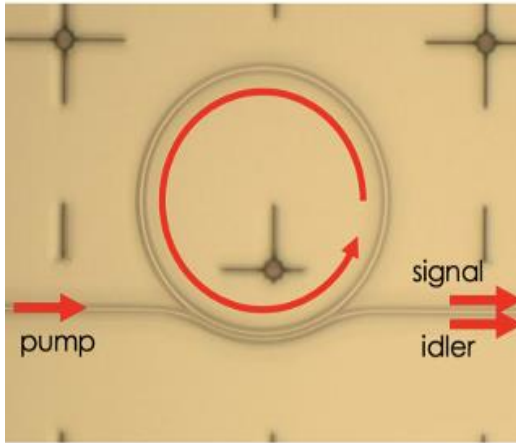


- **High rate:** >1M pair/s per-channel, 200M pair/s inchip
- **High fidelity:** > 99%
- **Low power:** < 1mW
- **Small form factor:** 100 μ m on photonic integrated chip



1 Quantum Entanglement Sources

microring resonators
(FSR $\sim 1 - 1000$ GHz)



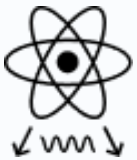
Cisco's Quantum Network Stack

Quantum Network Control Plane (QN-Orchestra)

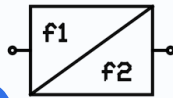
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Entanglement Source



Quantum
NIC

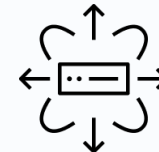


2

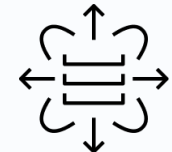
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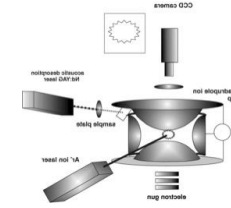


Quantum
Memory

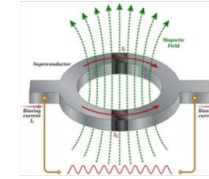


Realizing a Quantum Bit (qubit)

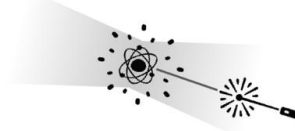
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Charged Atom



Superconducting



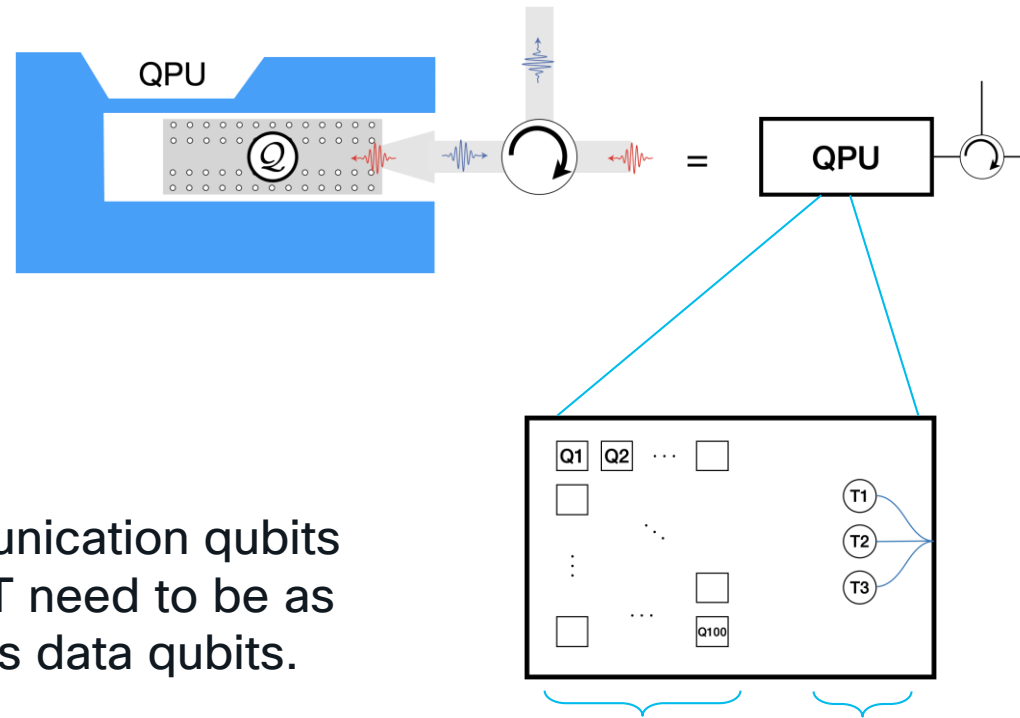
Neutral Atom

Frequency Mismatch

- Flying qubits are transported on photon (visible or telecom wavelength)

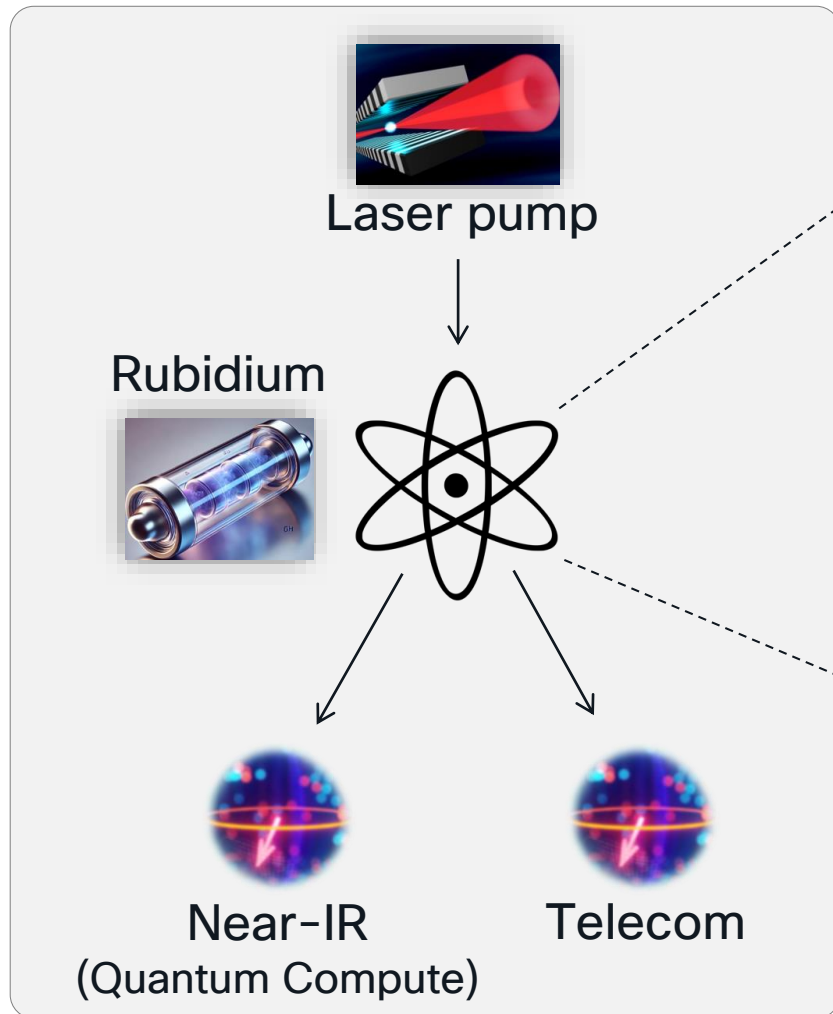


2 Comm Qubits vs. Data Qubits

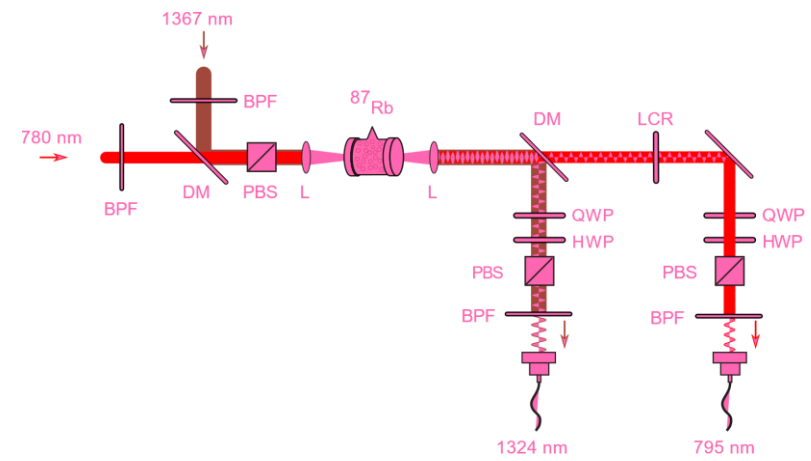


Communication qubits
do NOT need to be as
good as data qubits.

2 Entanglement Source for Frequency Conversion



- **High rate:** >10M pair/s
- **High fidelity:** > 99%
- **Dual frequencies:** Telecom and NIR
- **Rack mountable:** 2U form factor



Cisco's Quantum Network Stack

Quantum Network Control Plane (QN-Orchestra)

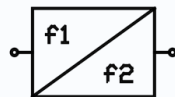
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Entanglement Source



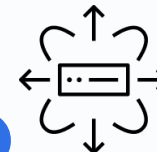
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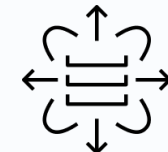
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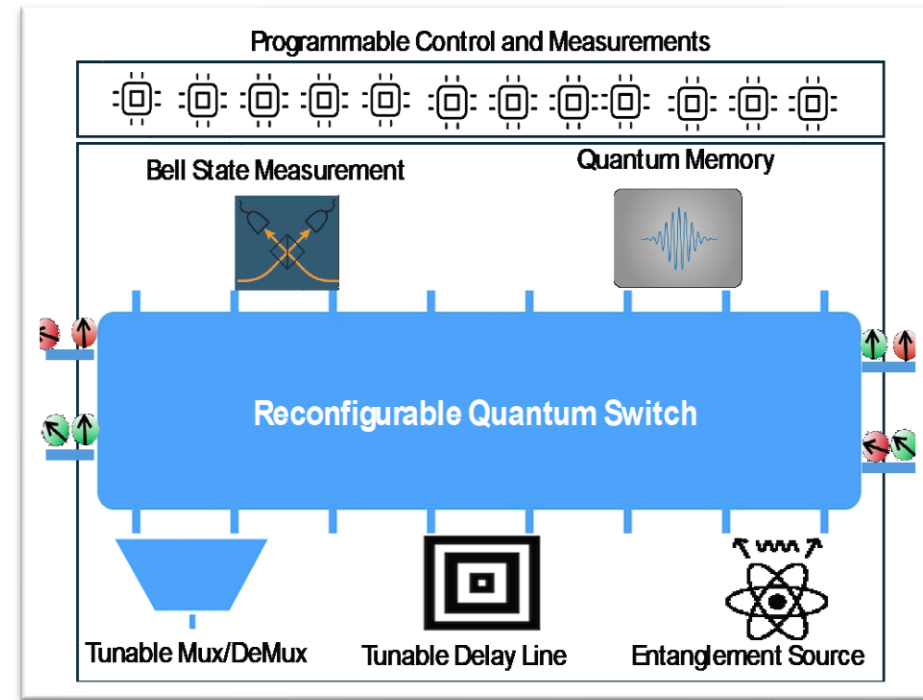
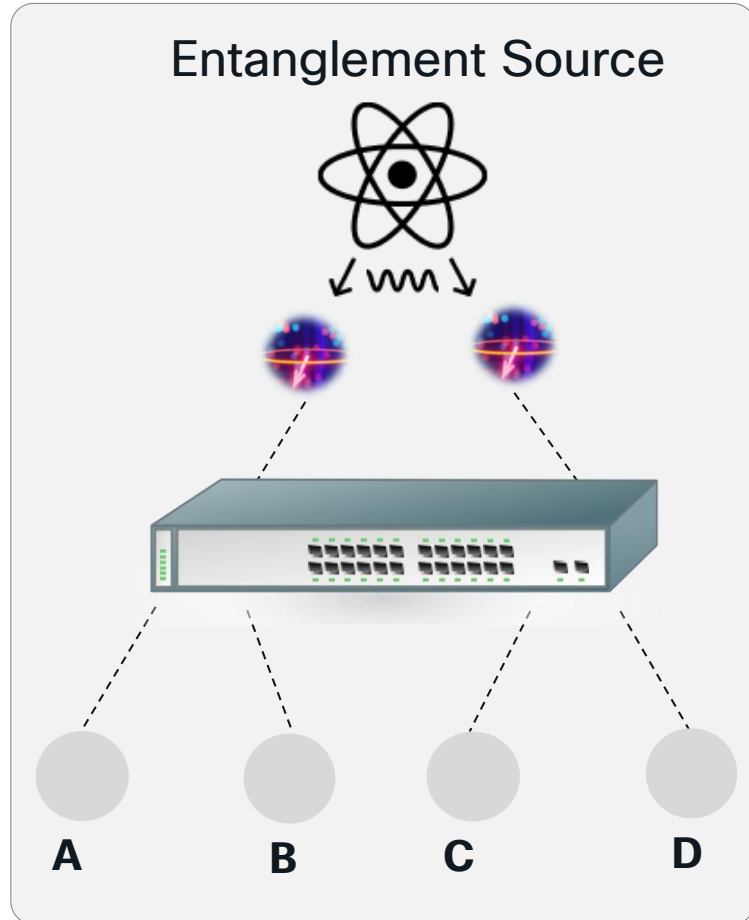


Quantum
Memory

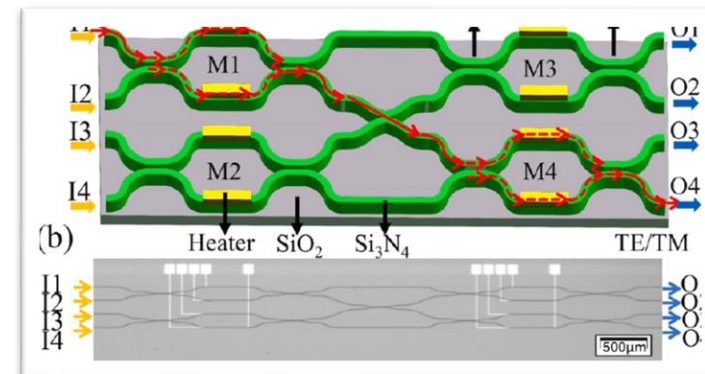


3

3 Quantum Switch

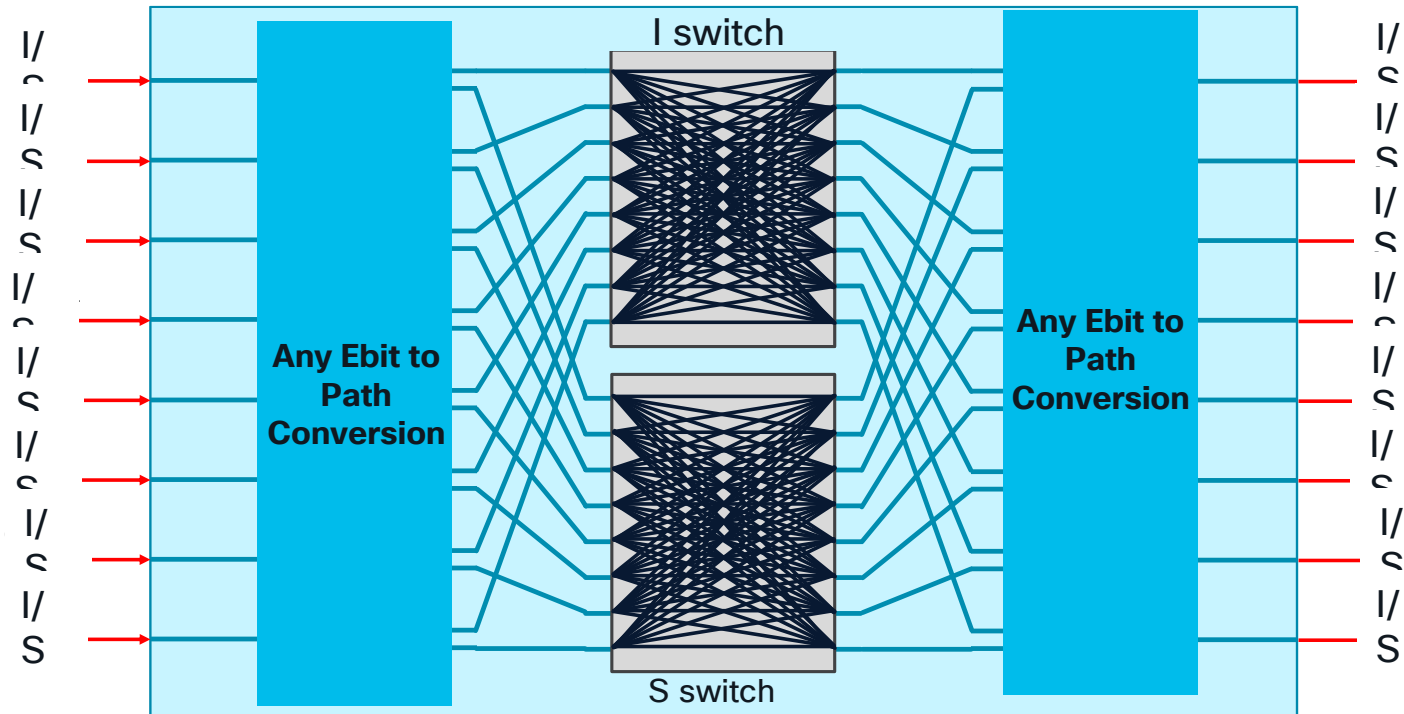


Chip (PIC) Design

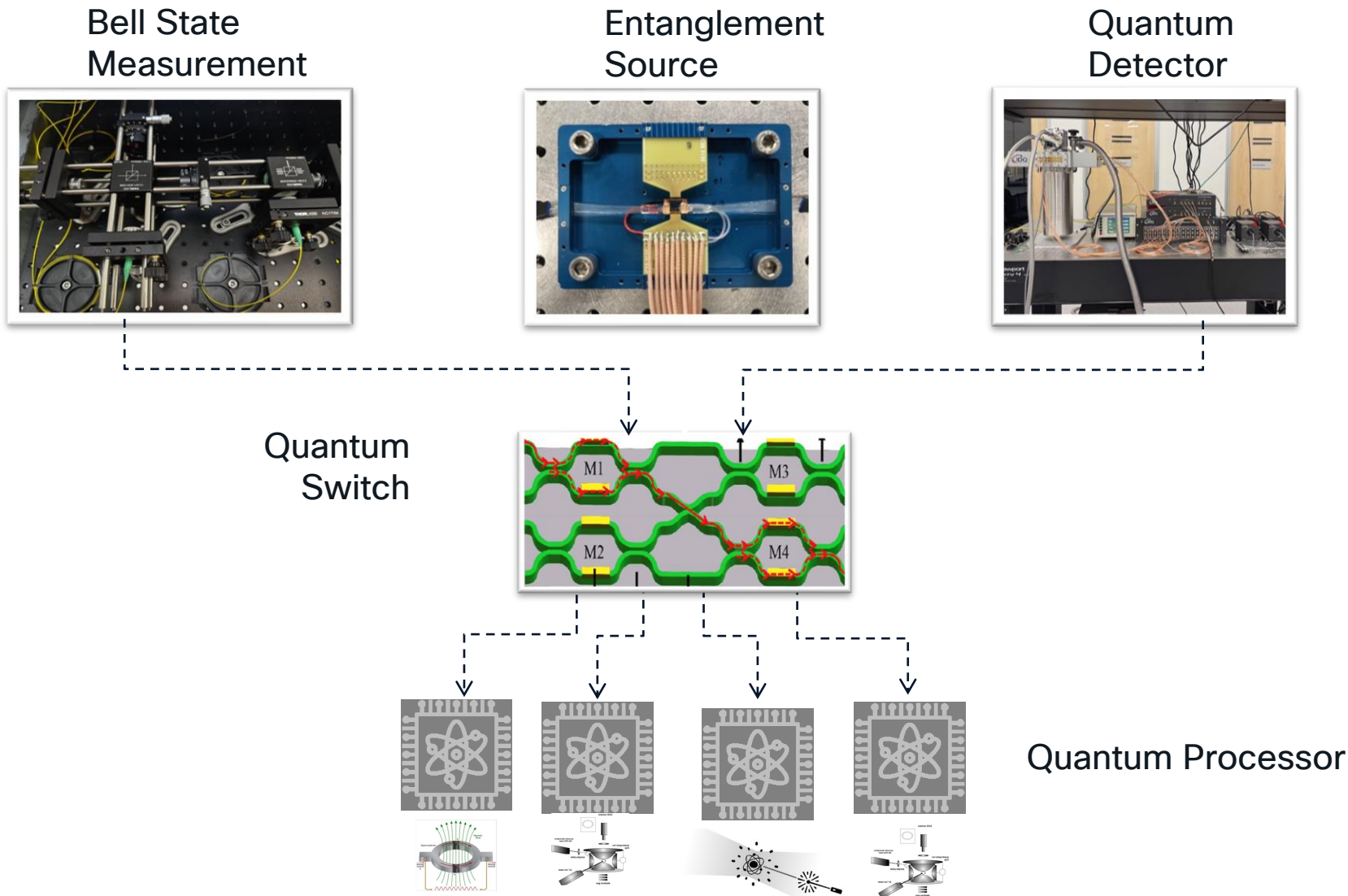


3 Quantum Switch

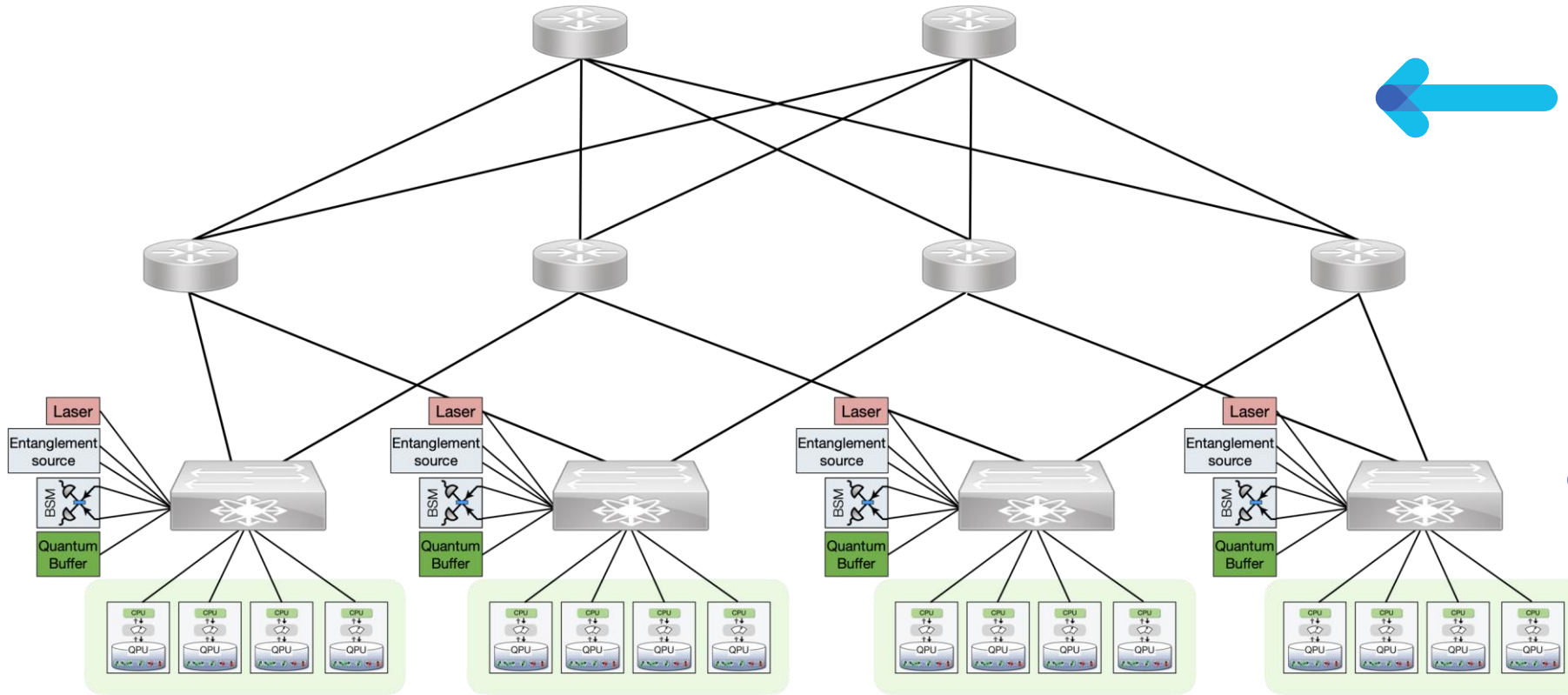
World First Quantum Switch



A Quantum Network to Share Resources



Cisco Quantum Data Center Architectures



Network Type 2:
Inter-rack network

Network Type 1:
Short-distance
intra-rack network

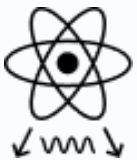
Cisco's Quantum Network Stack

Quantum Network Control Plane (QN-Orchestra)

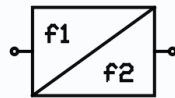
4 Distributed Quantum Computing **Compiler** (Network-Aware, Multi-Tenant)
Network **Protocols** and Software for **Entanglement Distribution**

Quantum Entanglement Network Fabric (QN-Fabric)

Quantum
Entanglement Source



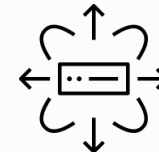
Quantum
NIC



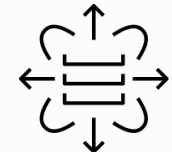
Quantum
Measurement



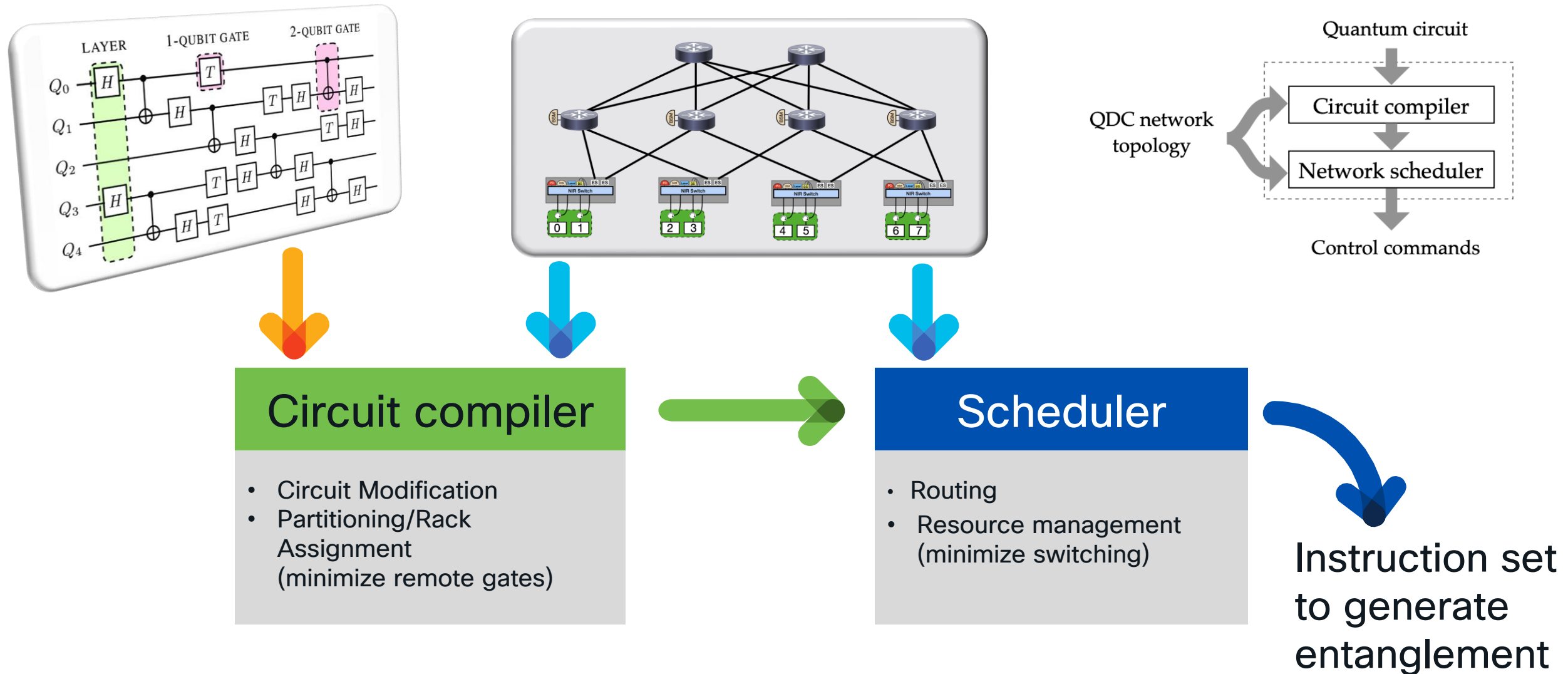
Quantum
Switch



Quantum
Memory



4 Cisco Quantum Data Center Orchestrator (Automation)



4 Cisco's Quantum Network Development Kit (QNDK)

Goal

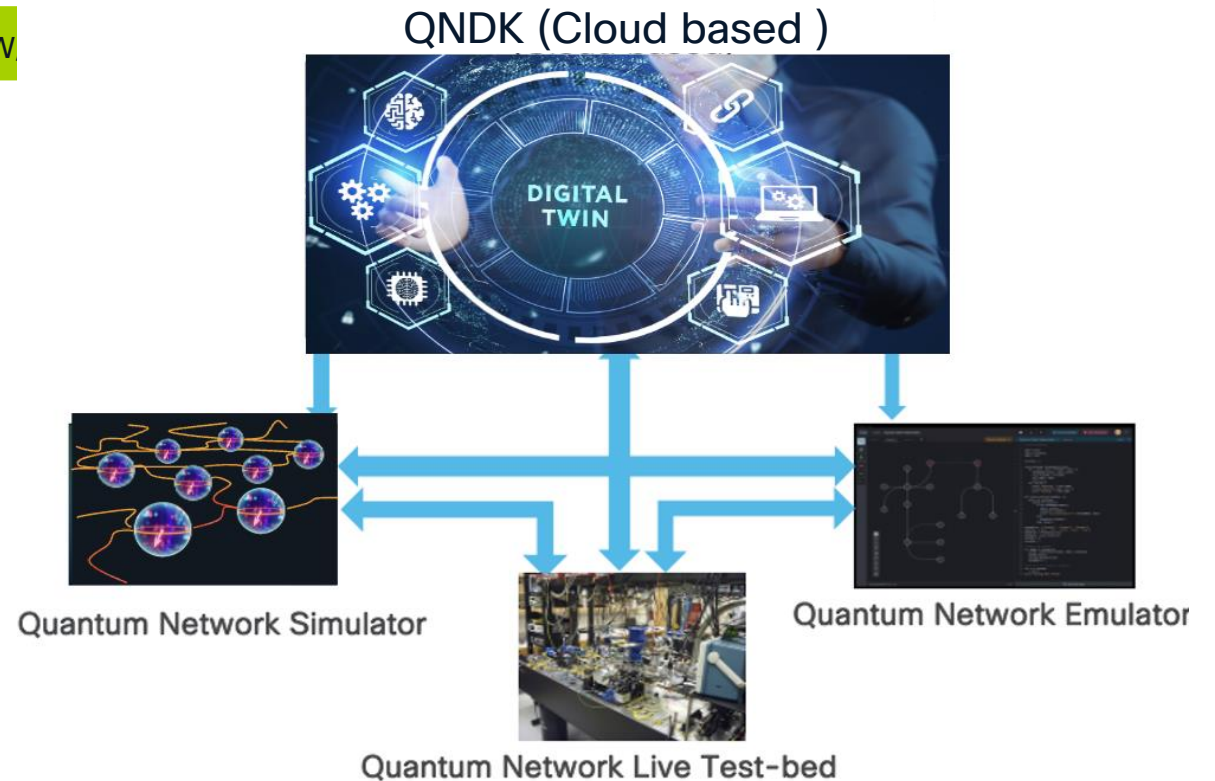
Enable fast development, experimentation, characterization, and control of Quantum Networking hardware, software, protocols and applications

Simulation

Emulation

Real SW

- QNDK
 - Quantum network planning tool
 - Quantum network simulation tool
 - Quantum network emulation tool
 - Feedback loop with the live Cisco quantum network test-bed
 - Up skilling and training tool for engineers



Cisco's Quantum Network Development Kit (QNDK)

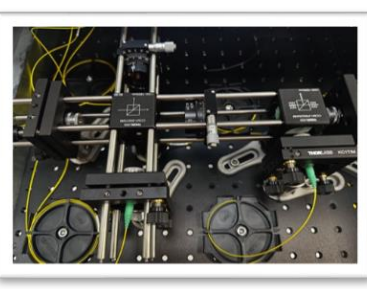
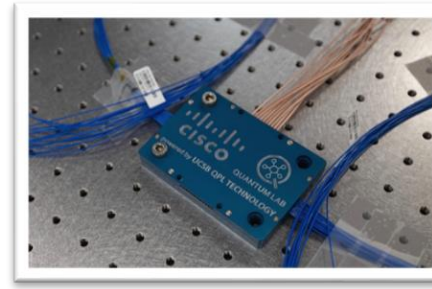
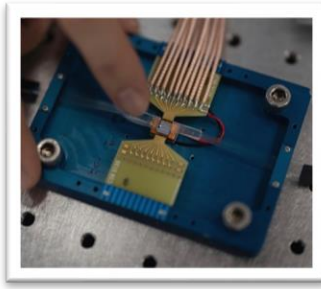
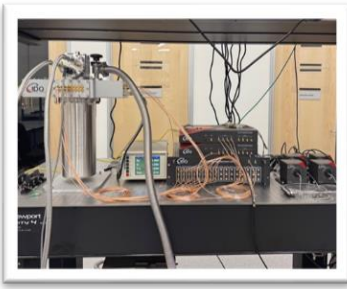
We are releasing APIs



Cisco Quantum Lab

Accelerating the Impact of Quantum Computing

Cisco's advancements in **quantum networking**, combined with significant progress in quantum processors, will accelerate transformative, **scalable**, **practical** quantum computing within the next 5-10 years, rather than decades.



Research team + Scale of Cisco



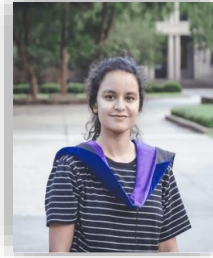
Ramana Kompella



Reza Nejabati



Peng Zhao



Eneet Kaur



Michael Kilzer



30+ peer reviewed publications

- Nature, IEEE Magazine, IEEE Transactions, IEEE Networks, IEEE JSAC
- Flagship IEEE, OSA, OPTICA, ACM confs.

20+ Patents

- **Practical** quantum computing can only be achieved via **scaling-out** as opposed to just scaling-up
- Cisco is researching and developing components, software, systems to create a high-fidelity **entanglement**-based quantum network

- +Outshift team
- +Our optics and photonics group
- +Security business group
- +Security and Trust Organization
- +More than 10 universities, industry organizations

Data Center Network Architecture

- Quantum Data Center Infrastructures: A Scalable Architectural Design Perspective
- Optimizing Quantum Communication for Quantum Data Centers with Reconfigurable Networks
- Quantum network planning for utility maximization

Compilers and Protocols

- Optimized Quantum Circuit Partitioning Across Multiple Quantum Processors
- Entanglement Request Scheduling in Quantum Datacenter Networks
- Resource Placement for Rate and Fidelity Maximization in Quantum Networks
- Minimal Protocols for Entanglement Distribution with Finite Memory Coherence Time
- Analysis of Asynchronous Protocols for Entanglement Distribution in Quantum Networks
- Asynchronous entanglement routing for the quantum internet

Physical layer

- Scalable MHz rate entanglement distribution in a heterogeneous quantum network with reduced latency
- Continuous entanglement distribution via time-multiplexed entanglement source and BSM
- Photonic One-Way Quantum Repeater
- MECH: Multi-entry communication highway for superconducting quantum chiplets
- Bipartite entanglement of noisy stabilizer states through the lens of stabilizer codes

4 Key Takeaways

- 1 Quantum networking is **completely different** from classical networking
- 2 Though scale-up quantum computing could be X years out, quantum networks can **accelerate** the arrival of practical quantum computing by 5–10 years
- 3 Quantum networking has many **practical** and commercial use cases in the **classical** world **today**
- 4 We are building a **practical** and **scalable** Quantum Network



Demo 1

CISCO Live !

Demo 2 (Live)

cisco Live !

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Contact me at: rnejabat@cisco.com

Thank you

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