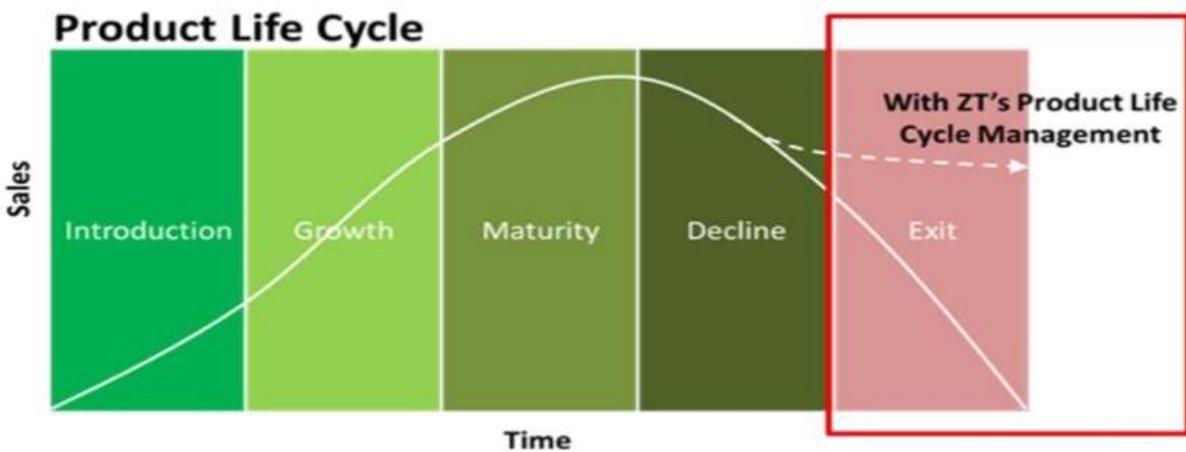


## The Death of PSTN Equipment is Finally Here

While I was a young engineer at Western Electric, I attended MBA classes at NYU, and I became mesmerized by Product Life Cycle theory. This was the reason I became a Product manager. When I started my career in 1976 at AT&T Long Lines, I was amazed by the mechanical engineering of step x step and cross bar offices. I quickly realized the quietness and sleek elegance of the 4ESS was the future. However, it is obvious that as the chart below shows we are now in the Decline/Exit state for legacy TDM.

This philosophy became the essence of Datatek Applications, which I created in 1998, and ZT Technology Solutions, which I created in 2011. I believed that legacy products never die and as long as you can support them; they can live in the telco network forever. Our mission statement was to extend the life of legacy equipment and eliminate obsolescence. We have done that successfully for the last 25 years. The image below shows how ZT was able to extend the life cycle of legacy products.



As part of ZT Technology Solutions, we have been providing our expertise in legacy switching systems (DMS, EWSD, DCO, 5ESS) to maintain the current network. It has become harder and harder due to the reduction of experienced telco personnel, unmanned sites, lack of office records, lack of spares, lack of documentation regarding OS systems (passwords, disk drives), and a general lack of preventative maintenance. Coupled with all the telco mergers and divestitures and mismanagement of the past 25 years, it's obvious the legacy TDM network became the stepchild of the telco industry.

Since 2020 however the legacy telco landscape has fundamentally changed, and it has nothing to do with software or hardware. Telco companies in their drive to reduce costs, cut headcount, save floor space and power have driven their core expertise (i.e., crafts people and technical support personnel) to early retirement or unemployment thru "cost reductions". The focus on investment has been on 5G and Fiber, while legacy TDM services have been the proverbial "cash cow" generating cash to fund these new investments.

Preservation of the legacy TDM assets is no longer the right solution as these systems are becoming unsupportable. For the reasons stated above, expertise is no longer available, and some hardware

components are becoming even more difficult to find. The need to retire legacy TDM systems has become more urgent for the reasons stated above.

As a vendor, we believe it is critical that we accelerate the migration off the legacy PSTN and that includes Voice Mail systems, to the next generation IP based technologies. We are currently working with a small telco to migrate off the legacy DMS/5ESS network to a Metaswitch environment. Due to the lack of personnel, we have provided on site and remote support to accomplish trunk and subscriber migration and all the essential central office work to accomplish this task. We are providing migration services that includes complex translations including routing, lines, trunks and Centrex translations. We are also migrating a legacy Voice Mail system for a Tier 2 Telephone company that has over 300,000 voice mailboxes to Metaswitch.

We believe that NOW is the time to accelerate the migration to the next generation of products. In the past most telco companies slowly migrated off the legacy TDM. It will not run forever. Now is the time to consider accelerating your plans for migration.

The Federal government has provided monies to upgrade the telco network for fiber and internet connectivity to many rural areas. With the additional savings in OPEX, floor space and energy the economics are in favor of migration.

ZT has established its reputation in supporting the legacy TDM equipment and we will continue to do so. We have the expertise and manpower, and we will support you and your team's effort to migrate to the newer IP technologies.

It should be noted that I've included on our website ([www.zttechsol.com](http://www.zttechsol.com)) several references from industry leaders that discuss this topic.

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[www.zttechsol.com](http://www.zttechsol.com)

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A listing of industry experts that share our thoughts:

<https://info.metaswitch.com/hubfs/pdfs/metaswitch-datasheet-network-transformation-overview.pdf>

<http://zttechsol.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PSTN-to-IP-Transition-Why-Bother-or-Why-Wait.pdf>

<http://zttechsol.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PSTN-to-IP-Transition-Why-Bother-or-Why-Wait.pdf>

[https://finleyusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/SwitchConsolidation\\_Is\\_the\\_Time\\_RightWP-Final.pdf](https://finleyusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/SwitchConsolidation_Is_the_Time_RightWP-Final.pdf)

[https://isemag.com/2021/11/preparing-for-the-future-a-three-phased-approach-to-modernizing-legacy-networks/?oly\\_enc\\_id=2248I5850912E4V](https://isemag.com/2021/11/preparing-for-the-future-a-three-phased-approach-to-modernizing-legacy-networks/?oly_enc_id=2248I5850912E4V)

<https://isemag.com/2021/12/whats-the-story-with-network-modernization/>

<http://zttechsol.com/events-news/ieee-cgr-2018/ieee-cgr-2018-presentations/>

<https://isemag.com/2019/08/telecom-network-optimization-windstream-best-practices/>