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Mobile Enterprise Is Charging the Global Device Market

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Automation is transforming the network and the role of engineers, panelists say. As tasks such as resolving network issues become automated, IT employees will be able to refocus their time and effort toward more creative efforts, such as improving application latency across the network, [panelists said Wednesday at the ONUG conference in New York City](#). Network engineers can free up time to "improve their skill sets in a way that focuses on what the business really needs," said Mansour Karam, founder and chief executive of **Apstra**, which specializes in automating network infrastructure and services. "In the years ahead, I really hope that the technology we're bringing to the table will help (IT employees) achieve a better work-life balance," Mr. Karam said.

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Nick Lippis, co-founder and co-chairman of ONUG, formerly known as the Open Networking User Group. — *SAMANTHA YANOFSKY OF SLY PHOTOGRAPHY*

ONUG, formerly known as… An organization of IT leaders that hosts an annual IT Fall event in New York City is rebranding this year to incorporate a broader IT mission. Formerly known as the **Open Networking User Group**, ONUG will now be known simply as… **ONUG**. When it was founded five years ago, the group was largely focused on advocating for hardware and software-defined infrastructure solutions that would give more options to IT leaders. Since then, different parts of the network have opened up, such as data centers and wide area networking, where there are now choices around the different products IT leaders can use. Functions that were previously handled by proprietary networking hardware, such as switches or routers, have also moved to software. Now, infrastructure can be in a private data center or in the cloud, which is what ONUG originally strived for.

But this year, the group realized its mission also needs to include other issues at the forefront of IT leaders' minds, including most importantly, security. "There was an inflection point this year, and a realization that we can't just keep on approaching security the way we've done it before," said Nick Lippis, co-founder and co-chairman of ONUG. "We need a new way forward."

One of ONUG's goals now will be to address the security industry, which Mr. Lippis says is "fundamentally broken," evidenced by high-profile breaches at major corporations such as **Equifax Inc.** There are hundreds of security solutions across the IT stack and panelists at ONUG have said infinite spend on security doesn't work. ONUG is advocating for security solutions that include an insurance policy consumption model. For example, a company would buy a security product that's licensed like an insurance policy and if a company was attacked, the security vendor would pay a claim. ONUG is also now addressing hybrid multi-cloud, monitoring and analytics, storage and automation. [At its conference this week](#), IT leaders gathered to address best practices and insights about these issues, along with digital transformation. The group has more than 300 members and 7,000 people who attend its conferences and working group initiatives. Combined, its members spend $100 billion on IT services annually. — *Sara Castellanos*