

Agentic AI Overlay Working Group – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Agentic AI Overlay?

The Agentic AI Overlay is a secure, autonomous, and policy-driven network framework designed to support AI-driven data movement at enterprise scale. It enables real-time telemetry processing and intelligent path selection using distributed agents and stateless routers.

2. Why do we need a new network architecture for AI?

AI workloads are growing exponentially, creating unpredictable traffic patterns and overwhelming traditional, rigid network architectures built on outdated protocols like BGP. The Agentic AI Overlay offers a dynamic alternative tailored to real-time AI needs.

3. What are the core components of the Agentic AI Overlay?

- **Modal Context Protocol (MCP)** – Enables interoperability among applications, agents, and tools.
 - **Agent-to-Agent (A2A) Protocols** – Allow real-time, secure inter-agent communication.
 - **Agent Directory** – Acts as a system registry for agent capabilities and status.
 - **Stateless AI Router** – Makes intelligent routing decisions in milliseconds based on business and security policies.
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4. What is the goal of the working group?

To collaboratively define a **reference architecture** for the Agentic AI Overlay, develop an actionable **Buyer's Guide**, and demonstrate the solution at the **AI Networking Summit in NYC 2025**. The goal is to inform both RFP processes and product development.

5. What will the working group deliver?

- Agentic AI Overlay Reference Architecture
- Enterprise Buyer's Guide with standard use cases and architecture diagrams
- Live demonstration of a functioning prototype

- Common documentation and API artifacts for vendors and enterprise teams
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6. Who should participate?

Initially, **IT executives** will meet (June–August) to define requirements. Starting mid-August, **all vendors who are members of the ONUG Collaborative** are welcome to participate in building, contributing to, and demonstrating the architecture.

7. What is the role of co-chairs?

Co-chairs lead the group by:

- Defining use cases and scope
 - Driving consensus and collaboration
 - Ensuring practical, buyer-ready outputs
 - Promoting adoption within their networks
 - Guiding the live demonstration planning
 - Maintaining engagement and momentum
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8. Why does a reference architecture matter?

It aligns enterprise and vendor communities on a shared framework that:

- Informs procurement (RFPs, RFIs)
 - Shapes vendor roadmaps
 - Reduces implementation risk
 - Accelerates adoption of AI-driven infrastructure
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9. What is the timeline?

- **Now–August:** Requirements gathering with IT leaders
 - **August–October:** Vendor participation begins; architecture and demo development
 - **Late October 2025:** Demonstration at AI Networking Summit NYC
 - **May 2026:** Full verification testing and expanded showcase in Dallas
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10. How do I get involved?

- Attend weekly Tuesday meetings (tentative time 1 pm ET)
- Collaborate via Slack and Google Drive
- Contact: Nick Lippis (nick.lippis@onug.net)
- To join the ONUG Collaborative as a supplier:
<https://onug.net/supplier-collaborative-membership-application/>