WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of forming a virtual network, the method comprising:

passing frames of data at a frame rate across one or more fiber optic cables that each has two or more physical fibers,

when the frame rate of the frames of data is greater than a maximum frame rate of a first physical fiber in a fiber optic cable, the passing including:

passing a first number of the frames of data over the first physical fiber at a first data rate that is equal to or less than a maximum data rate of the first physical fiber; and

passing a second number of the frames of data over a second physical fiber at a second data rate that is equal to or less than a maximum data rate of the second physical fiber; and

when the frame rate of the frames of data is equal to or less than the frame rate of the first physical fiber in the fiber optic cable, the passing including:

passing a pair of frames of data in sequence through the first physical fiber such that the pair of frames include data from a plurality of sources.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the frames of data to be passed across the fiber optic cable.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the frames of data includes:

receiving frames of data from a source device at the frame rate greater than the maximum frame rate to form received frames of data; and

splitting the received frames of data and the frame rate greater than the maximum frame rate into a first number of received frames of data with a first data rate that is equal to or less than the maximum data rate of the first physical fiber, and a second number of received frames of data with a second data rate that is equal to or less than the maximum data rate of the second physical fiber.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein generating the frames of data further includes:

determining a remote device from a received frame of data;

determining a virtual exit device from the remote device; and

first encapsulating the received frame of data to form a first encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the virtual exit device.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein generating the frames of data further includes:

determining the virtual exit device from the first encapsulated frame;

determining a first hop device from the virtual exit device; and

second encapsulating the first encapsulated frame to form a second encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the first hop device.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

receiving the frames of data passed across the fiber optic cable;

unpacking the second encapsulated frame to extract the first encapsulated frame and the identity of the virtual exit device;

determining whether the first hop device is the virtual exit device;

when the first hop device is the virtual exit device, unpacking the first encapsulated frame to extract the received frame of data; and

when the first hop device is not the virtual exit device, determining a next hop device from the identity of the virtual exit device.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

when the next hop device is a virtual forwarding device, encapsulating the first encapsulated frame to form a third encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the virtual forwarding hop device; and

when the next hop device is a network-to-network interface device, forwarding the first encapsulated frame to the network-to-network interface device.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the frames of data includes:

receiving first frames of data from a first source at a first frame rate, and second frames of data from a second source at a second frame rate; and

combining data from a first frame from the first source with data from a second frame from the second source to form a combined frame of data.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein generating the frames of data further includes:

determining a remote device from the first frame from the first source;

determining a virtual exit device from the remote device; and

first encapsulating the combined frame of data to form a first encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the virtual exit device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein generating the frames of data further includes:

determining the virtual exit device from the first encapsulated frame;

determining a first hop device from the virtual exit device; and

second encapsulating the first encapsulated frame to form a second encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the first hop device.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving the frames of data passed across the fiber optic cable;

unpacking the second encapsulated frame to extract the first encapsulated frame and the identity of the virtual exit device;

determining whether the first hop device is the virtual exit device;

when the first hop device is the virtual exit device, unpacking the first encapsulated frame to extract the combined frame of data; and

when the first hop device is not the virtual exit device, determining a next hop device from the identity of the virtual exit device.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

when the next hop device is a virtual forwarding device, encapsulating the first encapsulated frame to form a third encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the virtual forwarding hop device; and

when the next hop device is a network-to-network interface device, forwarding the first encapsulated frame to the network-to-network interface device.

13. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the frames of data includes:

receiving first frames of data from a first source at a first frame rate, and second frames of data from a second source at a second frame rate;

determining a remote device from a first frame of data from the first source;

determining a virtual exit device from the remote device;

encapsulating a first frame of data from the first source to form a first encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the virtual exit device; and

encapsulating a second frame of data from the second source to form a second encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the virtual exit device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein generating the frames of data further includes:

determining the virtual exit device from the first encapsulated frame;

determining a first hop device from the virtual exit device;

encapsulating the first encapsulated frame to form a third encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the first hop device; and

encapsulating the second encapsulated frame to form a fourth encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the first hop device.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein generating the frames of data further includes outputting a number of third encapsulated frames and a number of fourth encapsulated frames such that a combined frame rate of the third encapsulated frames and the fourth encapsulated frames are equal to or less than the maximum frame rate of the first fiber.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving the frames of data passed across the fiber optic cable;

unpacking the third encapsulated frame to extract the first encapsulated frame and the identity of the virtual exit device;

determining whether the first hop device is the virtual exit device;

when the first hop device is the virtual exit device, unpacking the first encapsulated frame to extract the first frame of data from the first source;

when the first hop device is not the virtual exit device, determining a next hop device from the identity of the virtual exit device;

when the next hop device is a virtual forwarding device, encapsulating the first encapsulated frame to form a fifth encapsulated frame having a header that identifies the virtual forwarding hop device; and

when the next hop device is a network-to-network interface device, forwarding the first encapsulated frame to the network-to-network interface device.

17. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

generating a test frame having a header that identifies a virtual exit device under test, and transmitting the test frame to the virtual exit device under test; and

receiving the test frame, unpacking the test frame, and determining one or more measures of status from the unpacked test frame.