



Product Overview

The Cisco ONS 15540 ESP (Extended Services Platform) is an optical transport platform that employs DWDM (dense wavelength division multiplexing) technology. With the Cisco ONS 15540, users can take advantage of the availability of dark fiber to build a common infrastructure that supports data, SANs (storage area networks), and TDM (time-division multiplexing) traffic. For more information about DWDM technology and applications, refer to the [Introduction to DWDM Technology](#) and the [Cisco ONS 15540 ESP Planning Guide](#).

This chapter describes the Cisco ONS 15540 and includes the following sections:

- [Cisco ONS 15540 Chassis, page 1-2](#)
- [Cisco ONS 15540 Components, page 1-6](#)



Note

Before you install, operate, or service the system, read the *Regulatory Compliance and Safety Information for the Cisco ONS 15500 Series* for important safety information you should know before working with the system.



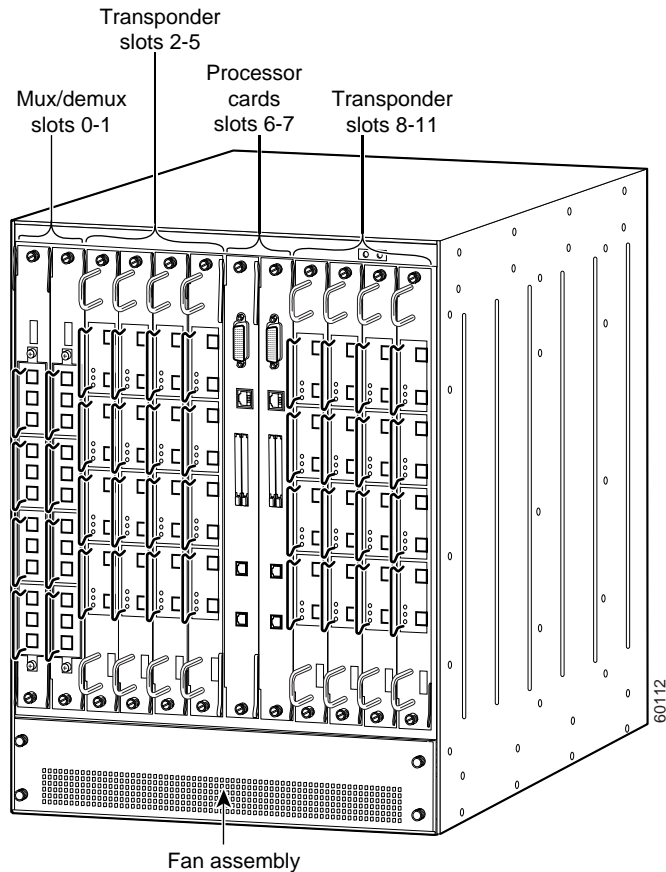
Note

To ensure that your hardware is supported by your release of Cisco IOS software, see the [“New and Changed Information” section on page xii](#). Also refer to the “Hardware Supported” section of the latest release notes for the Cisco ONS 15540 ESP.

Cisco ONS 15540 Chassis

The Cisco ONS 15540 is a 12-slot modular vertical chassis. (See .) The system is powered by redundant -48 VDC inputs. A redundant external AC-input power supply is available or DC-input power can be provided directly. Slots 0 and 1 hold the optical mux/demux motherboards, which are populated with optical

Figure 1-1 Cisco ONS 15540 Shelf



mux/demux modules. Slots 2 to 5 and 8 to 11 hold the line card motherboards, which are populated with transponder modules. Slots 6 to 7 hold the processor cards.

The air intake and fan assembly are located beneath the modular slots. The system has an optical backplane for carrying signals between the transponders and the optical mux/demux modules and an electrical backplane for system control.

Fan Assembly

The Cisco ONS 15540 fan assembly is located at the bottom of the chassis and contains six individual fans and a fan controller board. The controller board monitors the status of each fan and reports the status to the CPU switch modules. If a single fan fails, a minor alarm is reported to the processor card. If two or more fans fail, a major alarm is reported to the processor card. To prevent damage to the cards and modules in the shelf when two or more fans fail, you can configure the system to automatically reset or power off the transponder modules. The transponder modules power off if the hardware version of the line card motherboard is 5.1 or later, otherwise the transponder modules reset. Use the **show hardware** command to determine the hardware version of the 2.5-Gbps line card motherboards.

To recover from fan failure shutdown, you must power-cycle the shelf.



Note

Since the system does not know which fans have failed, all the cards and modules on the shelf are powered down or reset.



Caution

The fan failure shutdown feature disrupts traffic on the shelf when two or more fans fail.

Fan status is reported to the processor cards. [Table 2-2 on page 2-29](#) lists the LEDs describing the alarm reports for the fan assembly.

Power Supplies

The external power supply is a single-phase, AC-DC, 1050W, -48V output power supply that connects to the chassis through terminal blocks. The external power supply is installed in an external power shelf that fits into a standard equipment rack. Up to three external power supplies can be installed in the external power shelf.

When the chassis is used in the telco environment, DC-input power is directly powered to the chassis through the terminal blocks. The power supply is Ernestine with 52 volts and 1050 watts output.

See the [“Powering Up the Shelf” section on page 2-29](#) for more information about the power supplies.

Backplane

The Cisco ONS 15540 optical backplane has no active components and uses a cable of single mode fibers. The power connectors on the modules connect to the electrical backplane allowing modules to draw up to 100W of power. The backplane used on the chassis provides the optical connections between the line card motherboards and their attached transponder modules on the client side and the mux/demux motherboards and modules on the trunk side.

Refer to the *Cisco ONS 15540 ESP Planning and Design Guide* for more information about the optical backplane and slot mapping.

The alarm signals from the processor card are sent to the alarm card attached to the bottom of the backplane. They connect to the central office alarm via connectors on the backplane. For information about alarm cable connections, see the [“Installing Strain Relief Brackets” section on page 2-12](#).

Alarm Cards

The alarm card has relays and terminal blocks to interface the chassis to the Telco Central Office alarm equipment. It is a separate card that mounts to the back of the chassis and connects to the backplane.

There are six relays on the alarm card. They are audible and visible with three levels for each type:

- critical
- major
- minor

Each relay has two form C contacts. One is used to connect to the terminal block and the outside. The other is used to provide feedback on the state of the relay.

A processor card energizes the relays by driving 3.3 volts to them. Only the primary processor card drives the relays, however, each processor card can tell if the relay is energized by sensing that the feedback line is grounded through the second contact.

[Table 1-1](#) lists the specifications for the alarm cards on the Cisco ONS 15540 ESP.

Table 1-1 Alarm Card Specifications

Connector	Type	Level	Pin	Contact	Notes
P1	Visible	Minor	1	C ¹	Each type and level of alarm is signaled by a contact closure of C to NO and an open from C to NC. Voltage at contacts is limited to 48 VDC. Switched current / load is limited to 1 A resistive. Alarms are signaled when the chassis is unpowered.
			2	NC ²	
			3	NO ³	
		Major	4	C	
			5	NC	
			6	NO	
		Critical	7	C	
			8	NC	
			9	NO	
P2	Audible	Minor	1	C	
			2	NC	
			3	NO	
		Major	4	C	
			5	NC	
			6	NO	
		Critical	7	C	
			8	NC	
			9	NO	

1. C = center

2. NC = normally closed

3. NO = normally open

Cisco ONS 15540 Components

The following hardware components can be installed in the Cisco ONS 15540:

- Line card motherboards and transponder modules
- Mux/demux motherboards and modules

- Processor cards
- Blank panels

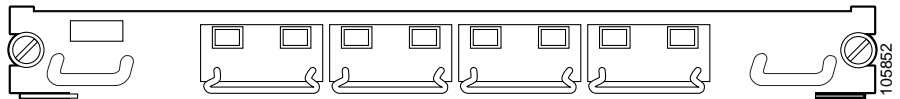
Line Card Motherboards and Transponder Modules

You can install up to eight hot-swappable line card motherboards in slots 2 to 5 and 8 to 11 of the Cisco ONS 15540 chassis. Each line card motherboard holds up to four transponder modules that have a single protocol-transparent and bit-rate transparent external interface to the client side network and an internal interface that connects over the system's backplane to the mux/demux modules. The transponder modules are hot pluggable, allowing in-service upgrades and replacement.

Line Card Motherboards

Line card motherboards are available with or without splitter protection. (See [Figure 1-2](#).)

Figure 1-2 Line Card Motherboard with Four Transponder Modules

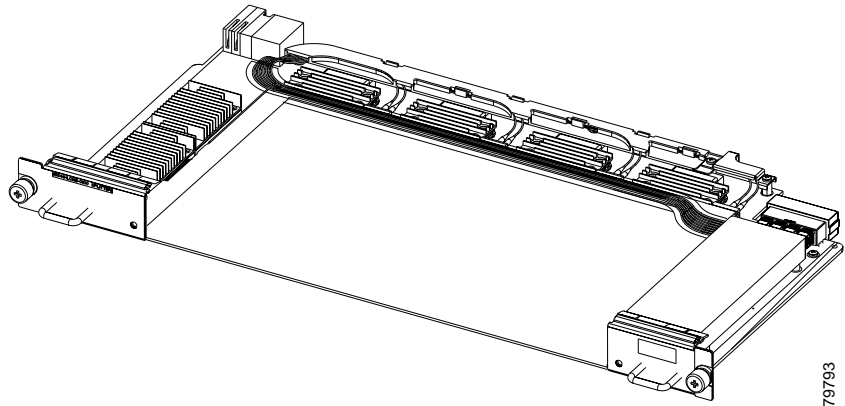


Line Card Motherboard LEDs

[Table 1-2](#) lists the LEDs on the 2.5-Gbps line card motherboard faceplate, their default conditions, and what the conditions indicate. [Figure 1-3](#) shows the 2.5-Gbps line card motherboard without inserts installed.

Table 1-2 2.5-Gbps Line Card Motherboard LEDs

LED	Status	Description
Status	Blinking green	Motherboard has a good system clock from the primary processor and is out of the reset state.
	Solid green	Software initialization is successful.
	Orange	System clock is not present. Board is unavailable.
	Off	Board failure.

Figure 1-3 2.5-Gbps Line Card Motherboard

Transponder Modules

In the transponder module, the client signal is converted to an ITU-compliant wavelength, which is crossconnected over the optical backplane to the mux/demux modules. You can populate the line card motherboard subcard slots with as few or as many transponder modules as required (up to 32) to support the desired number of client signals, or data channels.

The Cisco ONS 15540 supports five types of single interface transponder modules:

- SM (single-mode) transponder modules

- MM (multimode) transponder modules
- Type 2 extended range transponder modules with SFP optics

SM Transponder Modules

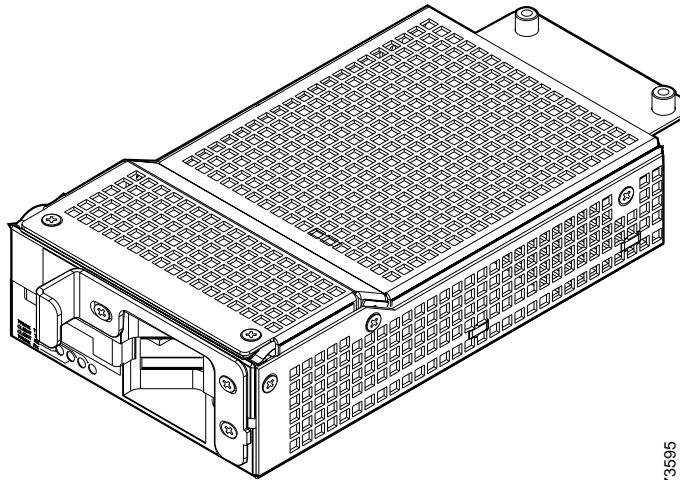
SM transponder modules have fixed, non-pluggable transceivers for the single client interface. SM transponder modules accept SM client signals on the 1310-nm wavelength through an SC connector and support client signal clock rates ranging from 16 Mbps to 2.5 Gbps.

MM Transponder Modules

MM transponder modules have fixed, non-pluggable transceivers for the single client interface. MM transponder modules accept both SM client signals and MM client signals on the 1310-nm wavelength through an SC connector and support client signal clock rates ranging from 16 Mbps to 622 Mbps.

Type 2 Extended Range Transponder Modules with SFP Optics

The Type 2 extended range transponder modules accepts two types of SFP optics, fixed rate and variable rate. (See [Figure 1-4](#).)

Figure 1-4 Type 2 Extended Range Transponder Module

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Fixed rate SFP optics modules support specific protocols. [Table 1-3](#) lists the features for the fixed rate SFP optics supported by the Type 2 extended range transponder modules.

**Note**

Only use Cisco-certified SFP optics for the Type 2 extended range transponders.

Table 1-3 Fixed Rate SFP Optics Features

Part Number	Supported Protocols	Fiber Type	Wavelength	Connector Type
15500-XVRA-01A2	ESCON, SONET OC-3 SR, SDH STM-1	MM 50/125 m MM 62.5/125 m	1310 nm	MT-RJ
15500-XVRA-02C1	Gigabit Ethernet ¹ , Fibre Channel (1 Gbps) ² , FICON (1 Gbps), ISC-1 (1-Gbps)	MM 50/125 m MM 62.5/125 m	850 nm	LC

Table 1-3 Fixed Rate SFP Optics Features (continued)

Part Number	Supported Protocols	Fiber Type	Wavelength	Connector Type
15500-XVRA-02C2	Fibre Channel (1 Gbps and 2 Gbps) ³ , FICON (1 Gbps and 2 Gbps), ISC-3 (1-Gbps and 2-Gbps)	MM 50/125 m MM 62.5/125 m	850 nm	LC
15500-XVRA-03B1	Gigabit Ethernet ⁴ , Fibre Channel (1 Gbps) ⁵ , FICON (1 Gbps), ISC compatibility mode (1 Gbps), ISC peer mode (1 Gbps)	SM 9/125 m	1310 nm	LC
15500-XVRA-03B2	Fibre Channel (1 Gbps ⁶ and 2 Gbps ⁷), FICON (1 Gbps and 2 Gbps), ISC compatibility mode (1 Gbps), ISC peer mode (1 Gbps and 2 Gbps)	SM 9/125 m	1310 nm	LC
15500-XVRA-06B1	SONET OC-12 SR ⁸ , SDH STM-4	SM 9/125 m	1310 nm	LC
15500-XVRA-07B1	SONET OC-48 SR, SDH STM-16	SM 9/125 m	1310 nm	LC

1. 1000BASE-SX
2. FC-0-100-M5-SN-S and FC-0-100-M6-SN-S standards
3. FC-0-200-M5-SN-S and FC-0-200-M6-SN-S standards
4. 1000BASE-LX
5. FC-0-100-SM-LC-S standard
6. FC-0-100-SM-LC-S standard
7. FC-0-200-SM-LC-S standard
8. SR = short range

Variable rate SFP optics modules support a range of clock rates. [Table 1-4](#) list the characteristics for the variable rate SFP optics supported by the Type 2 extended range transponder.

Table 1-4 Variable Rate SFP Optics Features

Part Number	Clock Rate Range	Protocol Encapsulations Supported	Fiber Type	Wavelength	Connector Type
15500-XVRA-10A1	Low-band 8 Mbps to 200 Mbps	Sysplex (CLO and ETR) ¹ (8 Mbps), Fast Ethernet ² (125 Mbps), SONET OC-3 ³ (155.52 Mbps), SDH STM-1 (622 Mbps), ESCON ⁴ (200 Mbps)	MM 50/125 m 62.5/125 m	1310 nm	LC
15500-XVRA-10B1	Low-band 8 Mbps to 200 Mbps	Sysplex (CLO and ETR) ¹ (8 Mbps), Fast Ethernet ² (125 Mbps), SONET OC-3 ³ (155.52 Mbps), SDH STM-1 (155.52 Mbps), ESCON ⁴ (200 Mbps)	SM 9/125 m	1310 nm	LC
15500-XVRA-11A1	Mid-band 200 Mbps to 622 Mbps	ESCON ⁴ (200 Mbps), SONET OC-12 ³ (622 Mbps), SDH STM-4 (622 Mbps)	MM 50/125 m 62.5/125 m	1310 nm	LC

Table 1-4 Variable Rate SFP Optics Features (continued)

Part Number	Clock Rate Range	Protocol Encapsulations Supported	Fiber Type	Wavelength	Connector Type
15500-XVRA-11B1	Mid-band 200 Mbps to 1.25 Gbps	ESCON ⁴ (200 Mbps), SONET OC-12 ³ (622 Mbps), SDH STM-4 (622 Mbps), FC ⁴ (1.062 Gbps), FICON (1.062 Gbps), GE ⁴ (LX) (1.250 Gbps) ISC compatibility mode (1.062 Gbps), ISC peer mode (1.062 Gbps)	SM 9/125 m	1310 nm	LC
15500-XVRA-12B1	High-band 1.062 Gbps to 2.488 Gbps	FC ⁴ (1.062 Gbps and 2.125 Gbps), FICON (1.062 Gbps and 2.125 Gbps), GE ⁴ (LX) (1.250 Mbps), SONET OC-48 (2.488 Gbps), SDH STM-16 (2.488 Gbps), ISC compatibility mode (1.062 Gbps), ISC peer mode (1.062 Gbps and 2.125 Gbps)	SM 9/125 m	1310 nm	LC

1. Manchester coded
2. 4B/5B coded
3. Scrambler 2²³⁻¹
4. 8B/10B coded

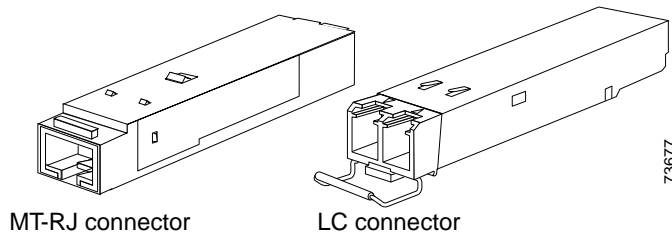
Figure 1-5 shows the two types of SFP optics that the Type 2 extended range transponders support.



Note

The SFP optics pictured below may not match your equipment exactly.

Figure 1-5 Type 2 Extended Range Transponder Module SFP Optics



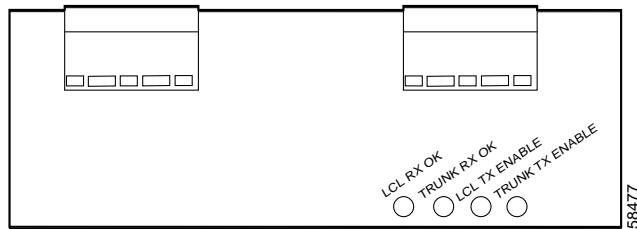
For information on how to install the SFP optics onto the transponder module, see the “[Installing the Type 2 Extended Range Transponder Modules with SFP Optics](#)” section on page 2-21.

Transponder Module LEDs

[Table 1-5](#) lists the LEDs on the transponder module faceplate, their default conditions, and what the conditions indicate. (See [Figure 1-6](#).)

Table 1-5 SM and MM Transponder Module LEDs

LED	Status	Description
LCL RX OK	Green	Data is received on the client side.
TRUNK RX OK	Green	Data is received on the trunk side.
LCL TX ENABLE	Green	Client side transmit laser is enabled.
TRUNK TX ENABLE	Green	Trunk side transmit laser is enabled.

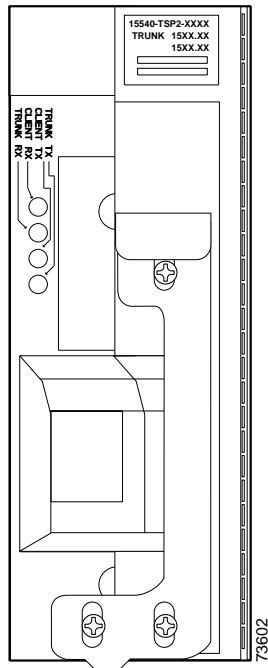
Figure 1-6 SM and MM Transponder Module LEDs

[Table 1-6](#) lists the LEDs for the Type 2 extended range transponder module. [Figure 1-7](#) shows the LEDs.

Table 1-6 Type 2 Extended Range Transponder Module LEDs

LED	Status	Description
CLIENT RX	Green	Data is received on the client side.
TRUNK RX	Green	Data is received on the trunk side.
CLIENT TX	Green	Client side transmit laser is enabled.
TRUNK TX	Green	Trunk side transmit laser is enabled.

Figure 1-7 Type 2 Extended Range Transponder Module LEDs



Y-Cables

Y-cables are 2:1 combiner cables used for splitter protection on the transponder modules. Using a y-cable enables full protection on the Cisco ONS 15540 and offers protection against both facility failures and transponder card failures.

For detailed information about the hardware rules, refer to the [Cisco ONS 15540 ESP Planning Guide](#). To attach y-cables to your system, see the “Powering Up the Shelf” section on page 2-29.

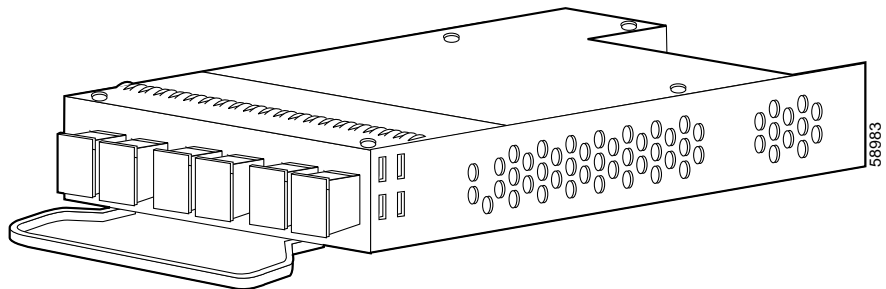
Mux/Demux Motherboards and Modules

The optical mux/demux motherboards occupy slots 0 and 1 of the Cisco ONS 15540 chassis. The chassis uses one optical mux/demux motherboard for unprotected operation or two per system for protected operation. Each mux/demux motherboard can accept up to four mux/demux modules. The modular mux/demux motherboards are available with or without OSC (optical supervisory channel) and can be populated according to user needs. There are three types of mux/demux modules available:

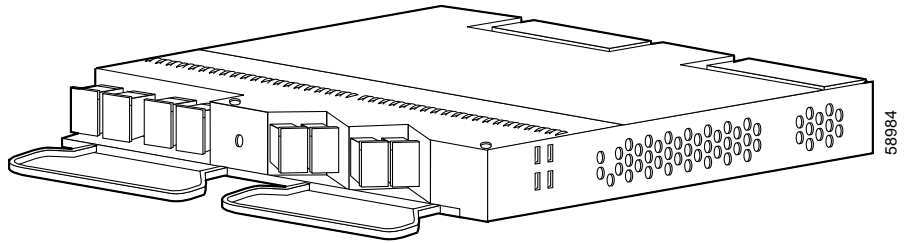
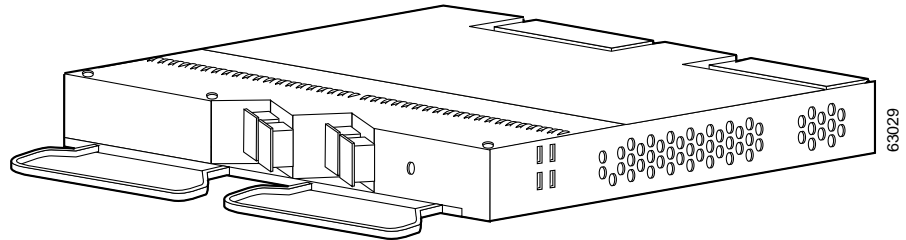
- 4-channel
- 8-channel
- 16-channel

Up to four 4-channel or 8-channel optical add/drop mux/demux modules can be installed in a mux/demux motherboard. Each module can multiplex and demultiplex a band of 4 or 8 channels, for a maximum of 32 channels. Channels not filtered are passed on to the next mux/demux module. The add/drop mux/demux modules connect to the trunk side and to the transponder modules over the optical backplane. (See [Figure 1-8](#).)

Figure 1-8 Mux/Demux Module with OSC



Two 16-channel optical terminal mux/demux modules can be installed in a mux/demux motherboard. Each terminal mux/demux module can multiplex and demultiplex a band of 16 channels, for a maximum of 32 channels. All of the channels received by the module are terminated, none are passed through. The terminal mux/demux modules connect to the trunk side and to the transponder modules over the backplane. (See [Figure 1-9](#) and [Figure 1-10](#).)

Figure 1-9 16-Channel Terminal Mux/Demux Module with OSC*Figure 1-10 16-Channel Terminal Mux/Demux Module without OSC***Note**

You must have a 16-channel mux/demux module with OSC installed and operating to use a 16-channel mux/demux module without OSC.

Mux/Demux Motherboard LEDs

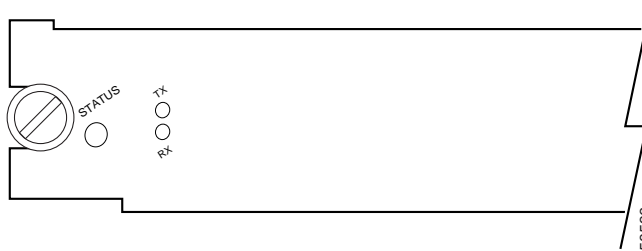
[Table 1-7](#) lists the LEDs on the mux/demux motherboard with OSC faceplate, their default conditions and what the conditions indicate. (See [Figure 1-11](#).)

**Note**

Mux/demux motherboards without OSC have no LEDs.

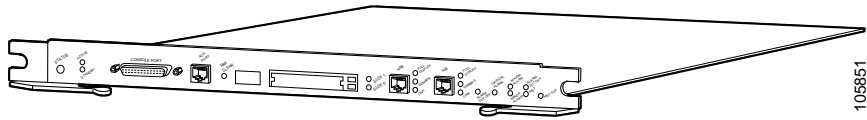
Table 1-7 Mux/Demux Motherboard with OSC LEDs

LED	Status	Description
Status	Blinking green	The motherboard has a good system clock from the primary processor and is out of the reset state.
	Orange	System clock is not present.
	Solid green	Software initialization is successful.
	Off	Board failure.
Tx	Solid green	OSC is present and the optical laser output is enabled.
	Off	OSC is not present and the optical laser output is disabled.
Rx	Solid green	OSC is present and the optical data stream is being received.
	Off	OSC is not present and the optical data stream is not being received.

Figure 1-11 Mux/Demux Motherboard with OSC LEDs

Processor Cards

Slots 6 and 7 of the Cisco ONS 15540 chassis hold processor cards. The processor cards support redundancy and online insertion and removal. In a redundant system, the processor cards monitor each other using the Ethernet backplane and signals. The processor card monitors the fan assembly operation and airflow temperature. (See [Figure 1-12](#).) During a fan failure or an out-of-temperature range condition, the processor card activates an alarm. See [Table 2-2 on page 2-29](#) for fan assembly status.

Figure 1-12 Processor Card

Processor cards manage communication functions for the system. The cards monitor all modules in the chassis and determine the state of the system. Each module determines its state from feedback at various system monitoring points. The processor generates clocking to all the modules and some additional components in the system.

Processor Card LEDs

[Table 1-8](#) lists the LEDs on the processor card faceplate, their default conditions, and what the conditions indicate. [Figure 1-13](#) and [Figure 1-14](#) show the processor card LEDs.

Table 1-8 Processor Card LEDs

LED	Status	Description
Status	Red	A board reset or initial power on.
	Orange	System initialization.
	Green	Full initialization and operational.
Active	Green	This board is the primary processor and is running IOS software.
Standby	Green	This board is the secondary processor.
Slot 0	Green	Flash PC Card is present.
Slot 1	Green	Flash PC Card is present.
NME		
Full Duplex	Green	Full duplex is running.
	Off	Half duplex is running.
100 Mbps	Green	Operating at 100 Mbps.
	Off	Operating at 10 Mbps.

Table 1-8 Processor Card LEDs (continued)

LED	Status	Description
Link	Green	Link is up.
	Off	Link is down.
ASE		
Full Duplex	Green	Full duplex is running.
	Off	Half duplex is running.
100 Mbps	Green	Operating at 100 Mbps.
	Off	Operating at 10 Mbps.
Link	Green	Link is up.
	Off	Link is down.
Critical alarm	Yellow	A critical alarm condition exists.
Major alarm	Yellow	A major alarm condition exists.
Minor alarm	Yellow	A minor alarm condition exists.
Alarm cutoff	Yellow	A major or minor alarm condition exists and the cutoff button has been pushed. Turns off by software when the original alarm clears or any new alarm occurs. See Table 1-11 .
History	Yellow	A major or minor alarm occurred. Clears if the Clear button is pushed and no alarm exists. See Table 1-11 .

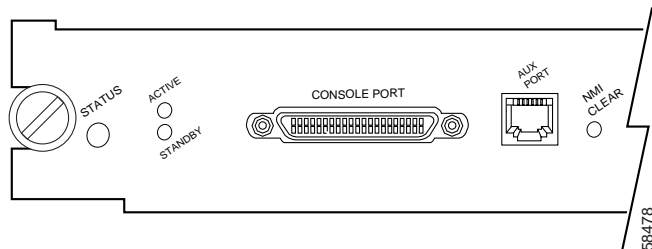
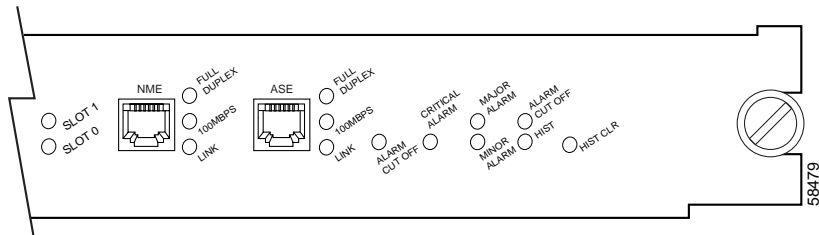
Figure 1-13 Processor Card LEDs (Left Side)

Figure 1-14 Processor Card LEDs (Right Side)

**Note**

The ASE port on the processor card cannot be used as a management port. Do not make any connections to this port.

Management Ports

The console port is a female data communications equipment (DCE), DB-25 receptacle used for connection to a console terminal or modem. [Table 1-9](#) lists the console port pinouts.

Table 1-9 Console Port Pinouts DB-25 DCE

Pin Number	Console		
	Direction	Circuit	Function
1	N/A	gnd	Ground
2	Input	rxd	N/A
3	Output	txd	N/A
4	N/A	RTS	Tied together
5	N/A	CTS	Tied together
6	Output	DCD	N/A
7	N/A	gnd	Ground
8	Output	DCD	N/A
11	N/A	rsvd	N/A
13	N/A	gnd	Ground

Table 1-9 Console Port Pinouts DB-25 DCE (continued)

Pin Number	Console		
19		rsvd (y cable)	
20	Input	DTR	

The auxiliary port is a female RJ-45 receptacle used for connection to a modem. A three inch RJ-45 cable ships with the processor card for use with the auxiliary port. This cable is necessary for proper use of the auxiliary port. Attach this cable to the auxiliary port before attaching your own cables to it using the proper coupler. See [Table 1-10](#) for the auxiliary port pinouts on the processor card.

Table 1-10 Auxiliary Port Pinouts for the Cisco ONS 15540 ESP

Pin Number	Direction	Circuit	Function
1	Output	DSR	Data set ready
2	Input	DCD	Data carrier detect
3	Input	DTR	Data terminal ready
4	S/gnd	N/A	Signal ground
5	Output	TXD	Transmit data
6	Input	RXD	Receive data
7	Output	CTS	Clear to send
8	Input	RTS	Request to send
9	P/gnd	N/A	Protective ground

Alarms

The processor generates three alarm signals: critical, major, and minor. (See [Table 1-8](#).) These signals from the alarm card generate visual and audible alarm signals to the backplane. The alarm card is a separate card that mounts on the back of the chassis to the backplane. The alarm card has relays and terminal blocks to interface the system to the telco central office alarms. LEDs on the processor card front panel display the status of the critical, major, and minor alarm signals, plus the status of alarm cutoff (ACO) and history conditions.

Push button switches on the front panel provide for the alarm cutoff and history clear functions. (See [Table 1-11](#).)

Table 1-11 Alarm Cutoff and History Clear Buttons

Label	Location	Description
Alarm cutoff	Recessed push-button switch	When pushed, software should turn off all external alarm relay control bits until the next new alarm condition.
History CLR	Recessed push-button switch	When pushed, software should turn off the HIST LED if there are no major or minor alarm conditions.



Note

To clear the switch alarms, use a thin tool (such as a small screwdriver) to press and release the button.

Flash SIMM

The processor card Flash SIMM is a 16 MB, 80-pin SIMM that contains a compressed Cisco IOS image that is loaded and executed automatically by ROMMON upon powerup.

Flash PC Card Slots

The processor card has two Flash PC Card slots that are accessible from the front panel. Either slot can be a memory or an I/O device.

The Flash PC Cards are typically used to copy system images and save standard configurations. Flash PC Cards are a type of Flash memory that provide expanded file storage for your system. Flash PC Cards, unlike the onboard Flash SIMM (bootflash), are not required for the operation of the system.



Note

Not all cards that are commercially available are supported. Only cards requiring 3.3V or 5V power are supported. No 12 VDC power supply is available to the Flash PC Card slots.

[Table 1-12](#) lists the Flash PC Card slot LEDs on the processor faceplate and what the conditions indicate.

Table 1-12 Flash PC Card Slot LEDs

LED	Status	Description
Slot 0	Green	Flash PC Card slot 0 is being accessed.
Slot 1	Green	Flash PC Card slot 1 is being accessed.

NMI Clear

A recessed push button, labeled NMI CLR, is accessible through the faceplate to clear an NMI (non-maskable interrupt).



Note

To activate the switch, use a thin tool (such as a small screwdriver) to press and release the button.

NME Interface

The NME (network management Ethernet) interface supports 10-Mbps or 100-Mbps UTP (unshielded twisted-pair) ports. This RJ-45 interface supports full-duplex or half-duplex connections.

The NME port on the processor card is a management port that allows multiple simultaneous Telnet or SNMP network management sessions. The Ethernet port on the processor card does not route or bridge traffic to other Ethernet ports on the Cisco ONS 15540. This Ethernet port is a management port only and cannot be configured as a routing port.

[Table 1-13](#) describes the LEDs used to confirm and troubleshoot the operation of the NME interface. The LEDs on the processor faceplate indicate the status of the NME interface.

Table 1-13 NME LEDs

LED	Status	Description
Link	Green	NME interface is receiving the link integrity signal.
100 MPS	Green	Interface is operating at 100 Mbps.
Full Duplex	Green	Interface is operating in full duplex mode.

Blank Panels

You can install blank panels in any of the 12 slots of the Cisco ONS 15540 ESP chassis or in the line card motherboards and mux/demux motherboards. Blank panels have connectors that protect the backplane from dust and particles and are also required for proper airflow in the chassis.

The blank panels are specific to what slot you use them in. They are available as follows:

- Mux/demux motherboard blank panels (slots 0 and 1)
- Line card motherboard blank panels (slots 2 to 5 and 8 to 11)
- 4-channel and 8-channel blank panels (any motherboard installed in slots 0 and 1)
- Transponder module blank panel (any line card motherboard installed in slots 2 to 5 and 8 to 11 without a full compliment of transponder modules)