EXFO

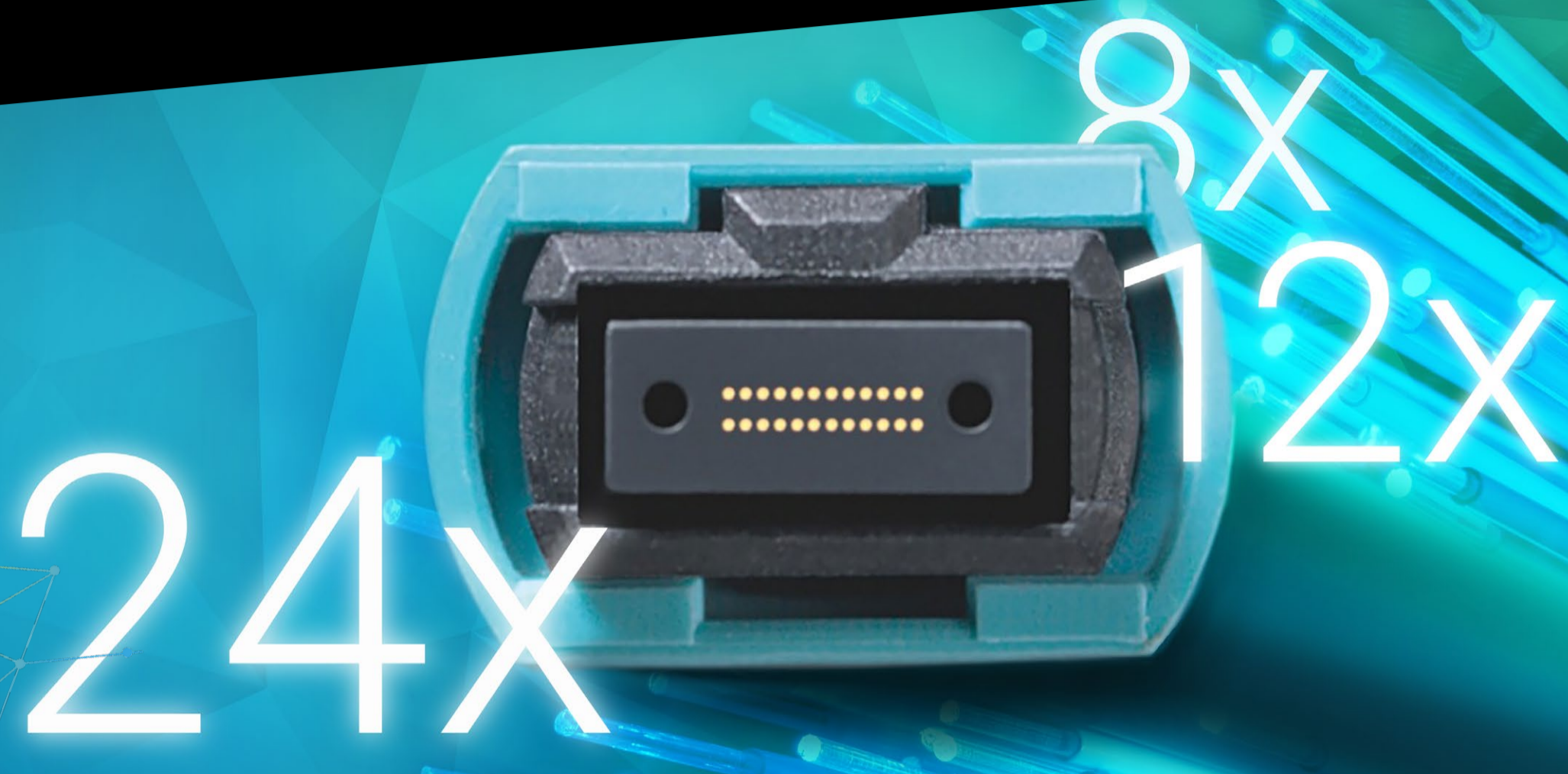# 4 totally avoidable multifiber connector mistakes

Multifiber push-on (MPO) connectors are increasingly popular because they bring many advantages to high-speed network operators, owners and installation companies. But if you don't test and care for connectors properly, **you are putting your network at risk**.

The No.1 cause of network failures is contaminated connectors[1]

[1] Source: NTT-Advanced Technology research, 2010

Mistake 1

Ignoring the risk: more fiber means more potential failures.

8x
12x
24x

MPO connectors typically have 12, 24 or even more fibers running through the same endpoint. **It just takes one dirty or damaged endface to bring down 12, 24 or even more network connections!** Time to take multifiber connector inspection more seriously.

Mistake 2

Disconnecting later instead of inspecting now: these are critical links for your customers.

Multifiber connectors are used to connect the fastest links that deliver the most sensitive of services and data to your customers—and they directly impact your service-level agreements. Without proper inspection, you'll end up having to **pull the plug on 12, 24 or more critical lines at the same time** to fix dirty or damaged multifiber endfaces. That's why it's a best practice recommended by the **IEC 61300-3-35 standard**.

Why are multifiber links so critical?

Multifiber connections are commonly used to:
– Reach 40G/100G line rate in data centers
– Interconnect data centers and metro/core networks
– Deliver fast broadband to high-volumes of households and businesses
– Feed antennas connecting thousands of mobile end-users
– Carry secure, sensitive data and create redundancy

Mistake 3

Skipping the essential inspection step: legacy tools are discouraging technicians.

plug -and- pray

It's really tempting to skip the multifiber connector inspection step. Why are so many technicians often deciding to "plug and pray"? Because **legacy tools turn MPO inspection into a real nightmare**. Not only are they frustrating to manipulate, but it's also easy to miss fibers—which sends technicians back to square one in a complex, time-consuming and tedious process that often generates inaccurate results, despite their best efforts. Can you blame them?

Mistake 4

Not using an automated approach to eliminate mistakes!

easy as 1-2-3

EXFO

Take 2 minutes to see how easy it is.

MPO inspection just got a whole lot easier.

Now it's just as fast to inspect connectors as it is to clean them. With the right tool, multifiber connector inspection is fast, accurate and mistake-free. EXFO's patent-pending solution minimizes inspection time and avoids the hassle of manipulating scanning knobs, while ensuring no fiber is missed.