

DUAL PROTECTION PATH

The optical signals travel over two "diverse" or separate paths. In case of a problem—such as a cable cut—traffic will instantly reroute and continue on the path that was not disturbed.

INTERCONNECTION TO THE LOCAL PHONE COMPANY

Interconnection—as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission—allows MFS to interconnect or attach its network to that of the incumbent local telephone company. In doing so, it allows for a smooth flow of telephone traffic from one network to another, so that calls originating on one network can be completed on another. It also provides a way for customers not directly connected to the MFS network to take advantage of MFS' fiber network.

Telephone Company Central Office

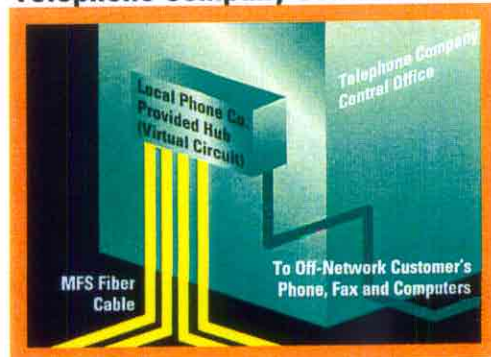


Fig. 2