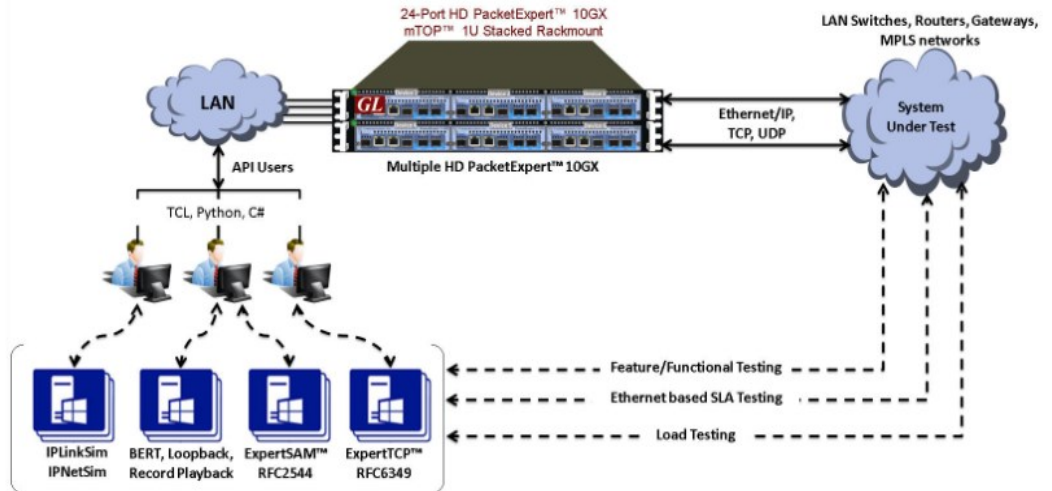


# Automated GigE Network Testing using PacketExpert™ - MAPS™ CLI/API Architecture



## Overview

PacketExpert™ supports Command line Interface (CLI) for test automation and remote accessibility of various functionalities such as Bert, Loopback, RFC 2544, Record Playback, IPNetSim™, ExpertSAM™, PacketBroker, and Multi Stream Traffic Generator and Analyzer using **TCL, Python, C# client APIs** and **MAPS™ CLI Client/Server architecture**.

Required licenses across PacketExpert™ 1G, 10G, 1G/10G platforms for CLI support are -

- CXE100 (CLI Server for PXE100 basic and optional software)
- CXG100 (CLI Server for PXG100 basic and optional software)
- CXN100 (CLI Server for PXN100 basic and optional software)

PacketExpert™ can be configured as server-side application using the GL's MAPS™ Client-Server architecture, to provide the capability of remote operation, automation, and multi-site connectivity, using any client-side scripting tools such as the **Python, C#, and TCL**. On the client side, the scripting library enables communication with the MAPS™ CLI Server using TCP/IP socket from a client environment.

The **MAPS™ CLI server** interfaces with the PacketExpert™ hardware through the USB. The MAPS™ CLI Server developed specifically for PacketExpert™ runs (\*.gls) scripts that can control the PacketExpert™ hardware. The advantage of such communication enables user to control PacketExpert™ by sending commands and receiving responses in a scripting language such as **TCL, Python, C#** that is already familiar with many users.

For more information, visit <https://www.gl.com/packetexpert-cli-testing.html>.

## Main Features

- Capability of remote operation, automation and multi-site connectivity using TCL /Python/C# client and MAPS™ CLI server.
- Supports Bert, Loopback, RFC 2544, Record Playback, ExpertSAM, PacketBroker, and Multi-Stream Traffic Generator and Analyzer functionalities.
- PacketExpert™ CLI offers complete Lab Management, Device Provisioning and Test Automation solutions.
- CLI integration with popular framework such as LabVIEW/TestStand and TestShell for test automation.
- Multiple PacketExpert™ can be controlled remotely from single client application via MAPS™ CLI server.
- Support for a wide range of tests setup, interfaces, protocols, and script languages.
- TCL, Python, C# client access through MAPS™ CLI Server.
- High Level APIs allows to access PacketExpert™ functionalities.
- Scripts for MAC, VLAN, MPLS, IP and UDP layers testing
- Remote monitoring capability.
- Requires additional licensing for CLI support across various PacketExpert™ platforms.



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Access PacketExpert™ Functionalities using API and CLI Server Architecture

TCL, Python, C# API Clients

Simple Scripting Languages

Configure and Control Test Systems Remotely

Test Automation and Remote Access

Event Driven MAPS™ CLI Server & TCL, Python, C# Client Scripts

BERT, RFC 2544, Loopback, Record Playback, PacketBroker, ExpertSAM, WAN Link Emulation, Multi-stream Traffic Generation and Analysis

Complete Lab Management, Device Provisioning and Test Automation Solutions

Integration with LabVIEW/ TestStand and TestShell Framework

Test IP, UDP, MPLS, VLAN, Q-in-Q Systems

## Working Principle of MAPS™ CLI Client/Server Architecture

MAPS™ CLI Client/Server platform supports various client libraries in different languages, so that users can make use of these different libraries to communicate with the MAPS™ server, and achieve automation using their language of choice. However, these are relatively low-level libraries, which gives users a very fine grain control.

For PacketExpert™ platform, a set of relatively High-Level APIs have been developed on top of the MAPS™ Client library, which greatly reduces the time to develop sample applications and achieve automation. These APIs are developed in the respective languages and are easy-to-use and intuitive. Eg: C# APIs are provided by means of API classes for each application. Similarly, Python APIs are provided through API scripts that implement API classes for different applications. Also supplied are sample applications, that users can use to work with APIs. Using these high-level APIs and sample applications, users can develop automated tests in a very short period.

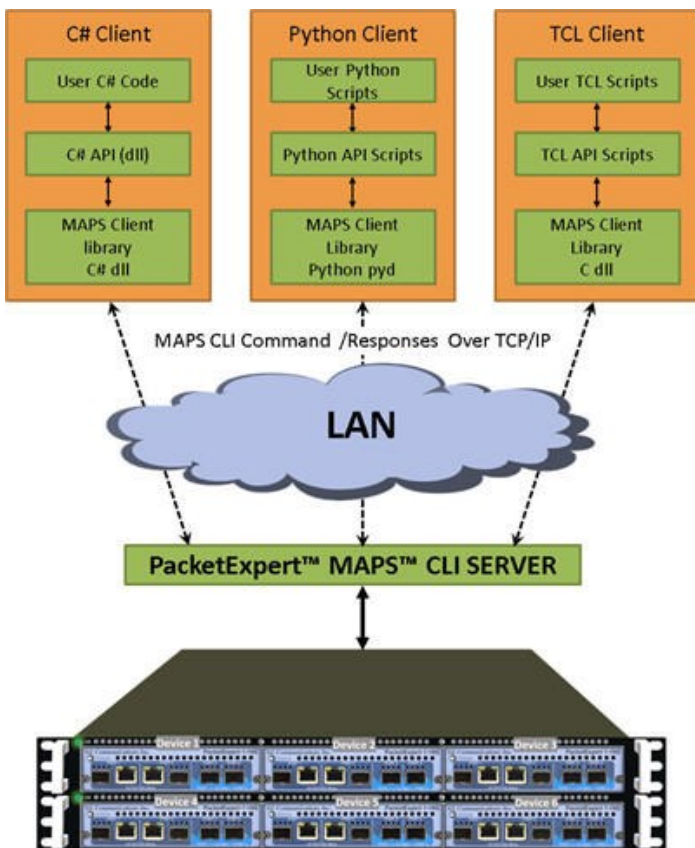


Figure: PacketExpert™ MAPS™ CLI Working Principle

## CLI Functional Modules

CLI application consists of 3 functional modules.

- Client Users (TCL/Python/C#) – Acts as User Interface which executes TCL/Python/C# Scripts instructing the CLI/API server to run the particular script to perform the specific test like BERT/RFC 2544, etc.
- MAPS™ Client Interface (MAPS Client IFC) – acts as an interface between MAPS™ CLI Server and its clients TCL/Python/C#. The MAPS™ TCL/Python/C# Client application includes a dll file, a packaged library that enables communication with the MAPS™ Server from the client environment.
- MAPS™ CLI Server – is an executable which inherits all features of MAPS™ GUI. MAPS™ CLI/API Server is a scripting based frame work which controls the PacketExpert™ hardware using proprietary MAPS™ scripts.

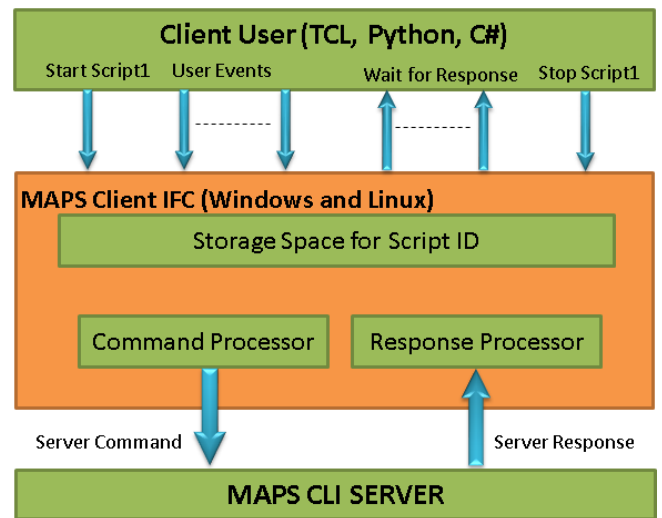


Figure: MAPS™ CLI Functional Modules

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## TCL Client and Scripting

TCL provides a simple scripting language, with programming facilities such as looping, procedures, and variables. The TCL Client application includes a MapsTclIfc.dll file (MAPS Client IFC), a packaged library that enables communication with the Server from a TCL environment.

The advantage of such communication enables user to control MAPS™ by sending commands and receiving responses in a scripting language already familiar with many users.

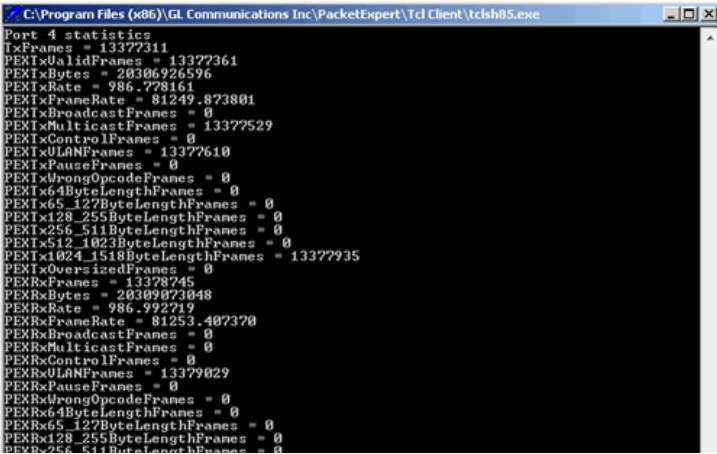


Figure: Sample TCL Client Script

## C# Client and Scripting

The C# interface developed for PacketExpert™ allows users to control all features of PacketExpert™ through C# APIs. The C# interface is implemented based on a client-server model. The C# client connects to the MAPS™ CLI server using TCP/IP sockets. MAPS™ CLI Server interfaces with PacketExpert™ low level API controlling the hardware. There will be different MAPS™ scripts to implement different applications like BERT, RFC 2544 etc.,

The MAPS C# Interface (MAPS Client IFC) application includes a MAPSCSAPI.dll file, a packaged library that enables communication with the MAPS™ CLI Server from a C# environment. C# Client invokes APIs which executes the command, that instructs the MAPS™ CLI Server to run the particular script which performs the particular PacketExpert™ tests like BERT, RFC 2544 etc.

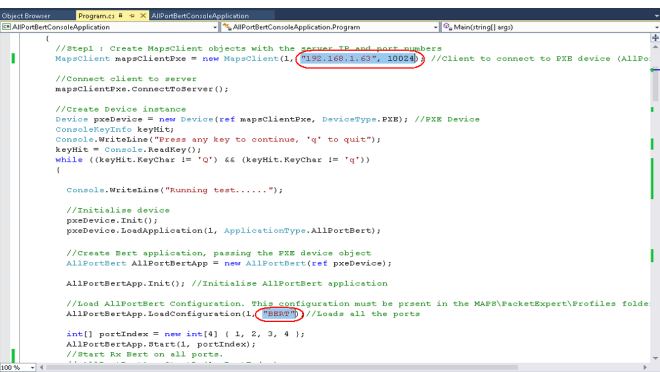


Figure: C# Sample API Client

## Python Client and Scripting

The Python interface developed for PacketExpert™ allows users to control all features of PacketExpert™ through Python APIs. The Python interface is implemented based on a client-server model. The server is the MAPS™ CLI server, which interfaces with the PacketExpert™ hardware through the USB. The client consists of a Python API dll and Python API scripts, which allows user to control the MAPS™ CLI server, issue commands and get back results.

The MAPS™ Python Interface (MAPS Client IFC) application includes a PythonMapsCliIfc.pyd file, a packaged library that enables communication with the MAPS™ CLI Server from a Python environment. MAPS Client IFC provides added benefits of a fully capable flow control engine with built commands.



Figure: Executing the Client script in “Python Shell” console

## MAPS CLI Server

The client connects to the MAPS™ CLI server via TCP/IP sockets. PacketExpert™ will run the MAPS™ CLI Server, which can interface with PacketExpert™ low level API to control hardware. There are different MAPS™ scripts to implement various applications like BERT, RFC 2544 etc.

MAPS™ CLI Server consists of GL’s proprietary scripts (.gls files) that actually implement various PacketExpert™ functionalities like BERT, RFC 2544 etc. XML files (called as “Profiles”) containing the configuration information for the test. PacketExpert™ internal low level APIs are used within MAPS™ scripts to control the PacketExpert™ hardware.

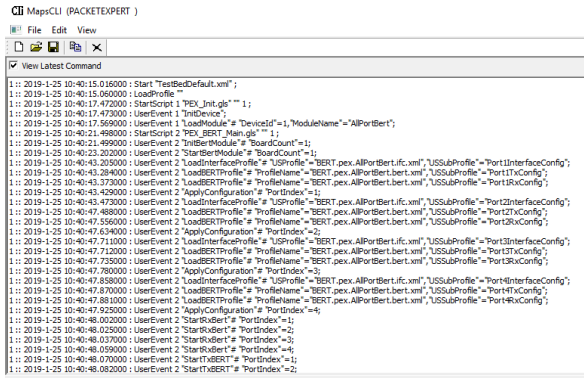


Figure: MAPS CLI Server



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## TestShell Integration

A typical application is with QualiSystems' TestShell as the centerpiece for achieving network wide automation for testing telecom services and telecom network equipment. TestShell software framework offers complete Lab Management, Device Provisioning and Test Automation solutions for engineers. TestShell has a TCL Client built in, with scripting, drag and drop interface. This makes the system compatible with GL's PacketExpert™ software. TestShell/TCL Client runs TCL scripts which executes commands, that instructs the MAPS™ CLI Server to run a particular script to perform specified tests – BERT, RFC2544, Loopback, and others.

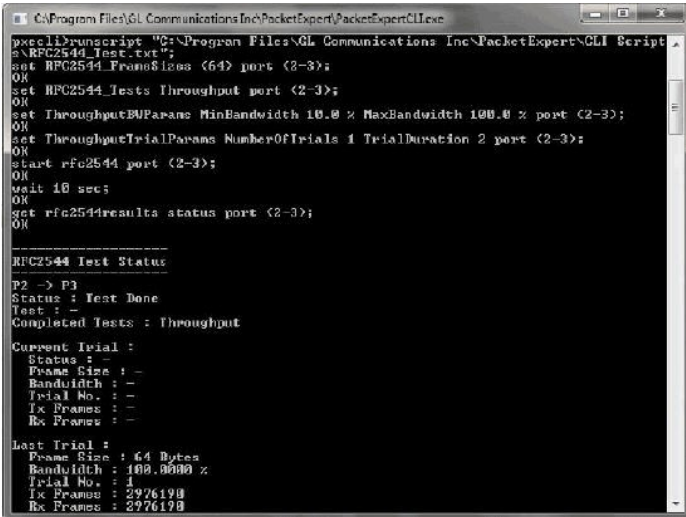


Figure: TestShell Integration using CLI - RFC2544 Tests

## LabVIEW / TestStand Integration

Using PacketExpert™ APIs, it is very easy to integrate PacketExpert™ into LabVIEW. Since LabVIEW supports various languages like C# or Python, the PacketExpert™ C# API dll or Python classes can be directly imported into LabVIEW and used in the Graphical environment that LabVIEW provides to control PacketExpert™ devices and automate testing.

With LabVIEW, it is easy to create flexible test scripts that control multiple hardware, customize test system with graphical programming, included analysis, drag and drop interface. This makes the system compatible with GL's PacketExpert™ software. Eg: Importing the C# Client API dll into LabVIEW instantly provides ability to run any PacketExpert test application like – BERT, RFC2544, Loopback and others.

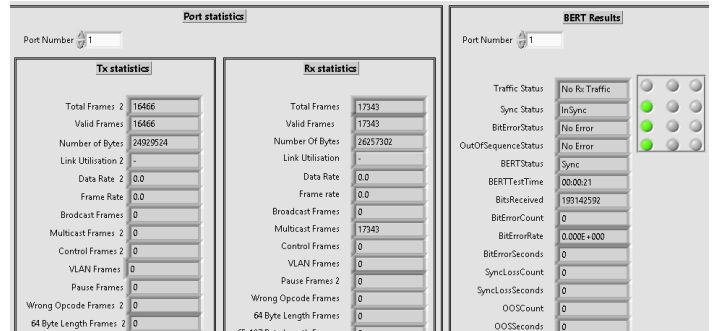


Figure: LabVIEW Test Results

## Buyer's Guide

[PXN100](#) - PacketExpert™ 10GX

[PXN101](#) - 10G option for PXN100

[CXN100](#) - CLI Server for PXN100

[PXN112](#) - PacketExpert™ 10GX – SA (12-Port)

[PXN124](#) - PacketExpert™ 10GX – SA (24-Port)

[MT001](#) - mTOP 1U Rack Mount Enclosure w/SBC

[PXG100](#) - PacketExpert™ 10G/1G

[CXG100](#) - CLI Server for PXG100

[PXE100](#) - PacketExpert™ 1G

[CXE100](#) - CLI Server for PXE100

For complete list, refer to <https://www.gl.com/ip-ethernet-testers-packetexpert-platforms.html> webpage.



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