iOLM vs. OTDR Traces

Test results with either iOLM or traditional OTDR traces are valid forms of Tier-2 optical certification. iOLM results are generated by combining multiple OTDR traces into a single pictorial map of the cable, allowing one iOLM result to show more than what a single OTDR trace can show.

For example, a splice may be missed by an OTDR trace when set at configuration “A” and is detected when the OTDR is set to configuration “B”. Therefore, multiple trace results of the same cable must be evaluated to properly certify a cable. iOLM simplifies the process by combining the many results from several OTDR traces into a single report for fast and comprehensive analysis.

Obtaining OTDR Traces

By default, the OTDR II ships with the iOLM software. The SOFT230OTDR software option can be added so that the OTDR II provides both iOLM and OTDR traces.

If a customer wants OTDR traces only, they should order the OTDR II without the SOFT230OTDR option and call technical support after delivery.

Technical support will be able to help the user convert the OTDR II from iOLM reporting to OTDR trace reporting at no additional cost.