NFV: POC to Production

Recent experiences and outcomes from service provider to enterprise

Lightning talk for Boston Software Networking Meetup – March 2016

NFV Ingredients in Network Infrastructure

- Platform – open or vendor solution (containers, converged, rack)
- Functions (usually products from everywhere)
  - Firewalls
  - Routers
  - DNS and
- A promise of Management/Orchestration

Before you POC, know the business outcome that is driving you, and assess your capacity to manage technology risk.

Common Outcomes – even in 2016

- It works but...
  - Disappointments in capacity, performance, level of integration

- Design flaws
  - Customers still want something the product manager didn't count on
  - Orchestration on the white paper meant "build your own"

- More than likely:
  - Too expensive and too much work for no real gain
  - Some feature or flaw is going to scare away a stakeholder

Upsides

- Validation of both the Open and the Vendor case
  - The open stuff really does work! Why should I pay for a "BGP License"?
  - Time-tested vendor products show the value of deployment experiences

- Full-stack experience

- Suddenly you have OPTIONS for addressing your problem
  - Mousetrap
  - Loosely couple blocks
  - Swap out one block for another block
  - Or break one block into two to work around a limitation