



# SOFTWARE DEFINED NETWORKS AND NETWORK FUNCTIONS VIRTUALISATION APPLICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



**Brian Levy**  
**Chief Technology Officer EMEA**

# What is a SDN – Software Defined Network

The Brains of the network



- SDN can be thought of as the Brains of the network, it is a centralised intelligence that monitors and controls, the network infrastructure



# The Four Planes of Operation

These are closely bound together in today's networking equipment

Today's telecommunications equipment has four distinct planes of operation closely embedded together on a box level:-

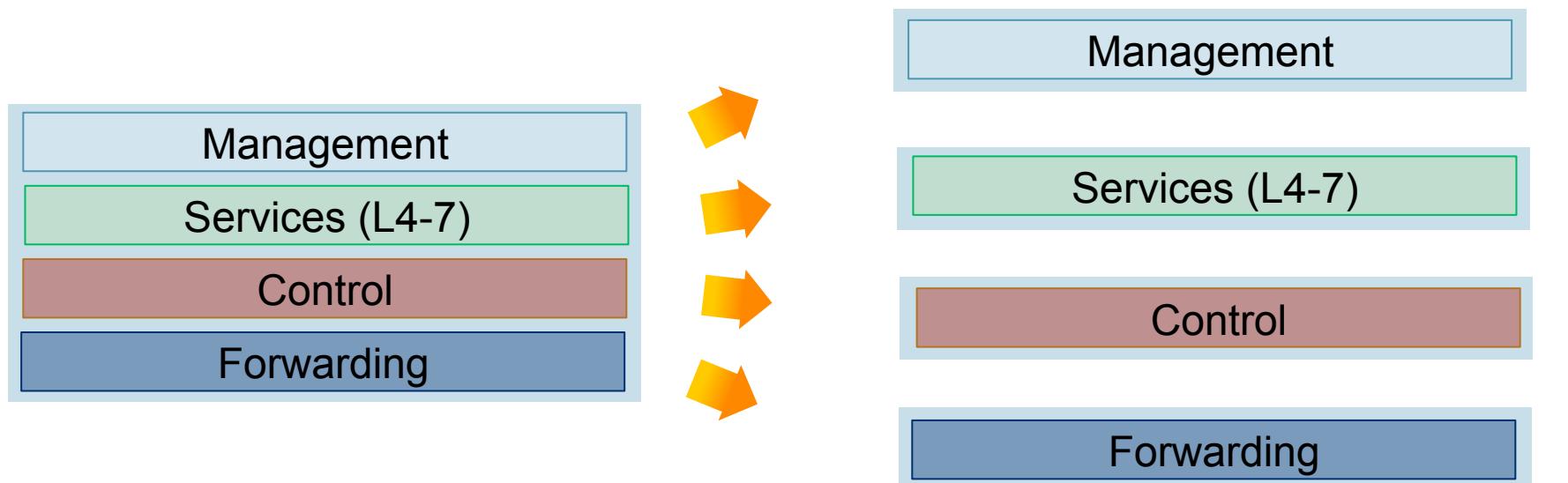
- **The Forwarding plane** – Moving the packets
- **The Control plane** – Deciding where packets go
- **The Services Plane** – Providing specific functions (L4 – L7)
- **The Management plane** – Monitoring and Configuring



# SDN – Splits Apart These Operations

Separate network into four planes – Forwarding, Control, Services and Management

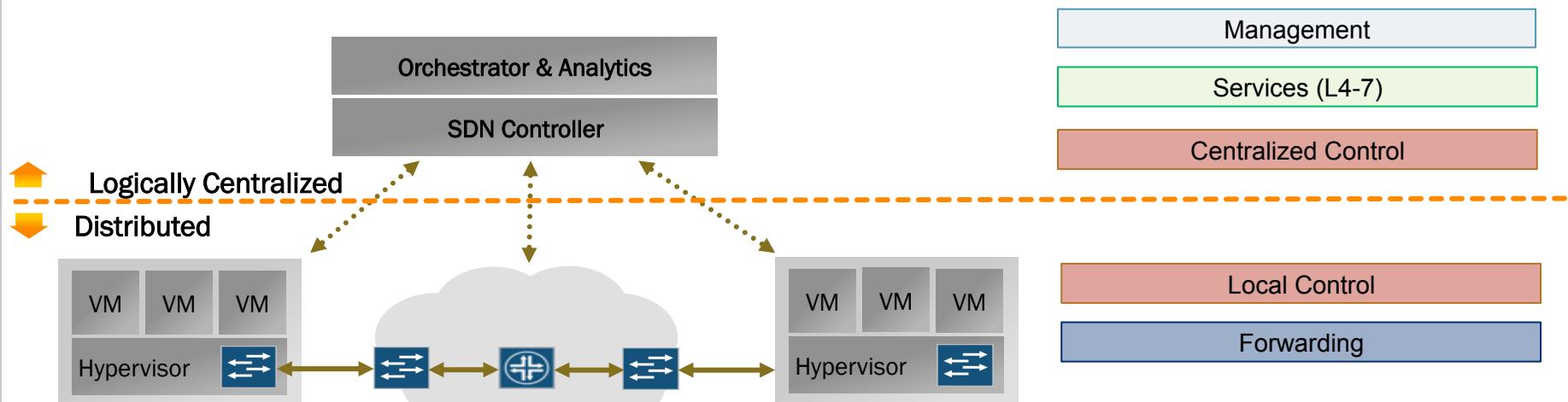
- We gain the ability to optimize each plane
- And we enable functions to be centralized or distributed



# In A Typical SDN Network

We centralise what we can and distribute what we must

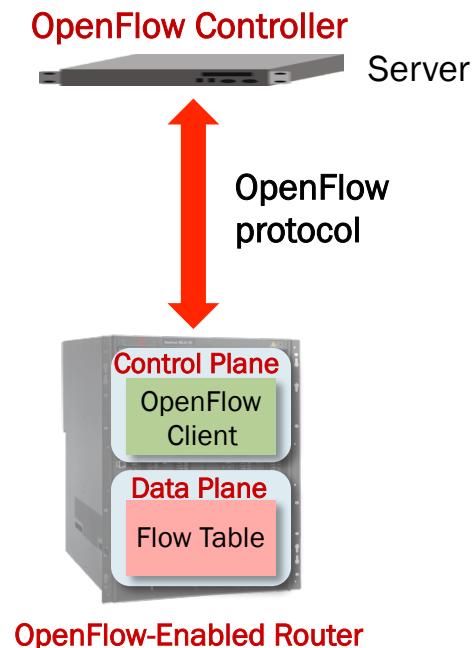
- Centralize: Management, most Services, some Control Plane
- Distribute: Forwarding, some Control Plane



# OpenFlow began at Stanford University

With the Clean Slate Program

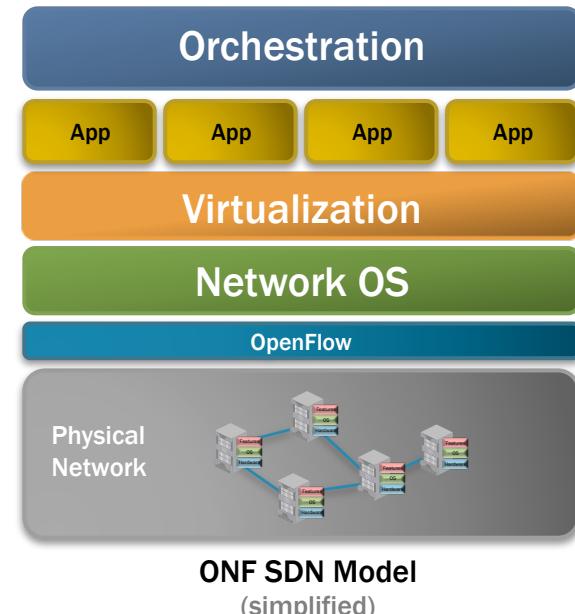
- OpenFlow-enabled router supports an OpenFlow Client (control plane software)
- OpenFlow Client communicates with an OpenFlow Controller using the OpenFlow protocol
  - OpenFlow Controller runs on a server
- OpenFlow-enabled routers support the abstraction of a Flow Table, which is manipulated by the OpenFlow Controller



# The ONF and OPENFLOW

## Open Networking Foundation (ONF)

- ONF launched publicly in March, 2011
- Support from more than 70 major companies
- The ONF defines OpenFlow and API specifications
- Founding members of ONF:



# Brocade's History with SDN/OpenFlow

A strategic technology innovation effort launched in 2010

- Public endorsement of OpenFlow at Brocade Technology Day (June 2010)
- 1st public demo of OpenFlow at Open Networking Summit, Oct. 2011
  - NEC PFC demonstration with CER at NEC booth
- 1st ONF OpenFlow Plugfest, March 5-9, 2012
  - MLXe and CER with pre-alpha OpenFlow feature successfully interworked with the following controllers, NEC PFC, BigSwitch, NTTData, and Indiana University (ON-SS), and FlowVisor.
- 2nd Open Networking Summit, April 16-18, 2012
  - Demonstration of OpenFlow on MLXe and CER at Brocade booth
  - NEC PFC demonstration with MLXe at NEC booth
- Interop Las Vegas May 7-10, 2012
  - NEC PFC demonstration using MLXe
  - MLXe and CER as part of OpenFlow Lab



# What is NFV ?

- NFV or (Network Functions Virtualisation) is the virtualisation of functions within the network such as routers, firewalls etc. Today we have individual physical boxes within communication networks for particular functions
- NFV uses the same techniques that have been used in IT systems for years to create virtualised compute and storage architectures, however, in this case we are virtualising network functions such as firewalls, routers etc
- Having network functions on demand, scalable and flexible within networks will be the most important change driving new network designs in the coming years



# The ETSI NFV Foundation Architecture



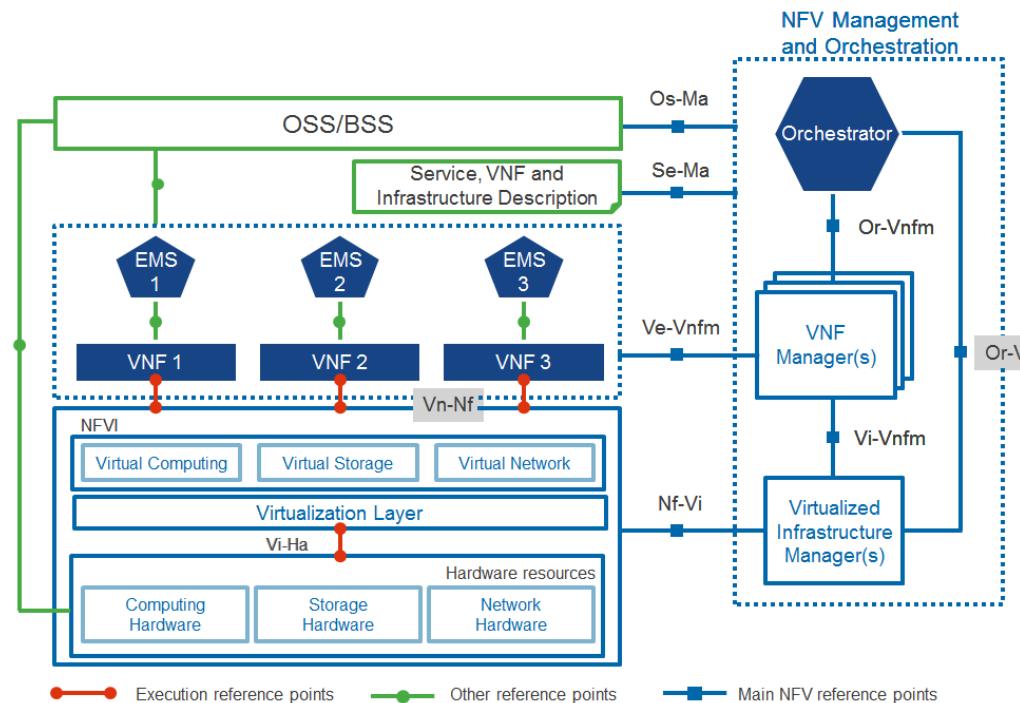
In October 2012, an industry specifications group, "Network Functions Virtualisation", Published a white paper at a conference in Darmstadt, Germany on software-defined networking and OpenFlow

The group, part of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), was made up of representatives from the telecommunications industry from both Europe and beyond.



# The NFV Architectural Framework

The NFV framework shows interfaces between various functional blocks:-



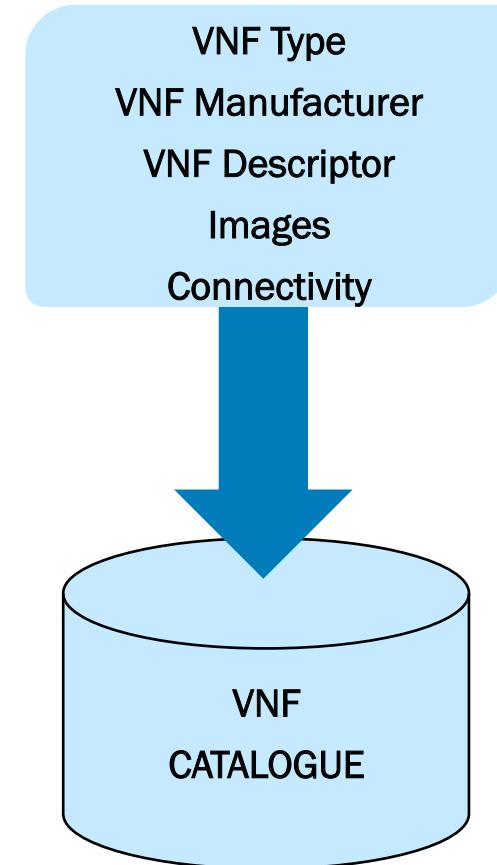
For further information please see

<http://portal.etsi.org/portal/server.pt/community/NFV/367>



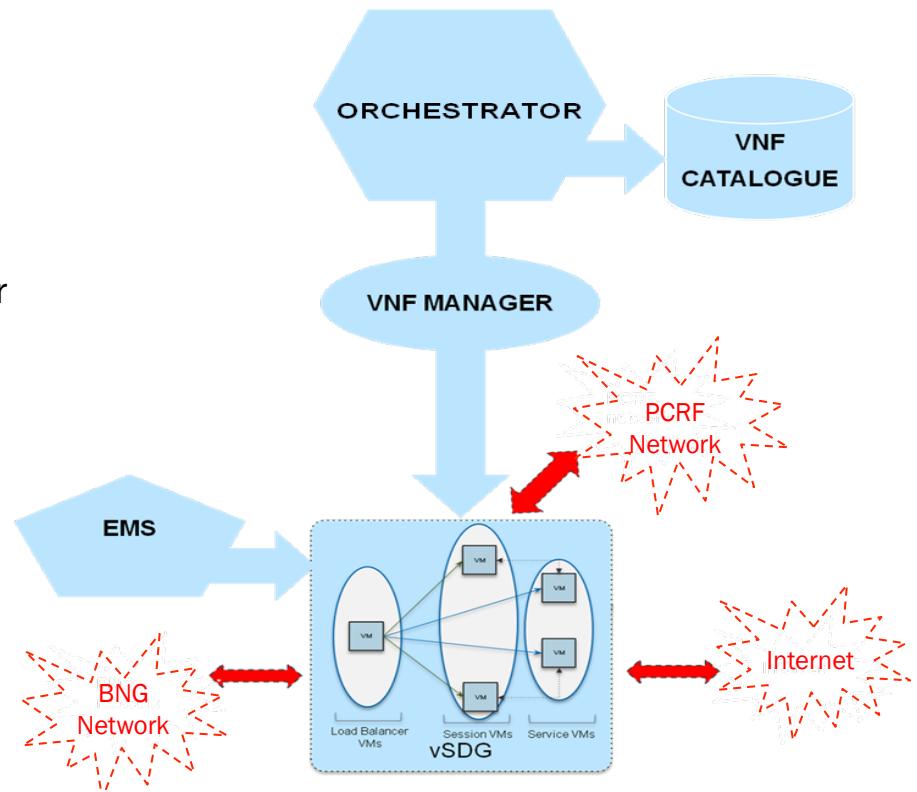
# 1 On Boarding

- Here a digitally signed software package is received from a software vendor and submitted into the virtual network function catalogue
- The package contains information on how to construct the Virtual Network Function for example
  - The number of virtual machines for each possible version of the function
  - The compute, storage and interface requirements for each VM
  - The virtual machine images to be loaded
  - The connectivity between the VMs described in a service graph
  - The external interfaces



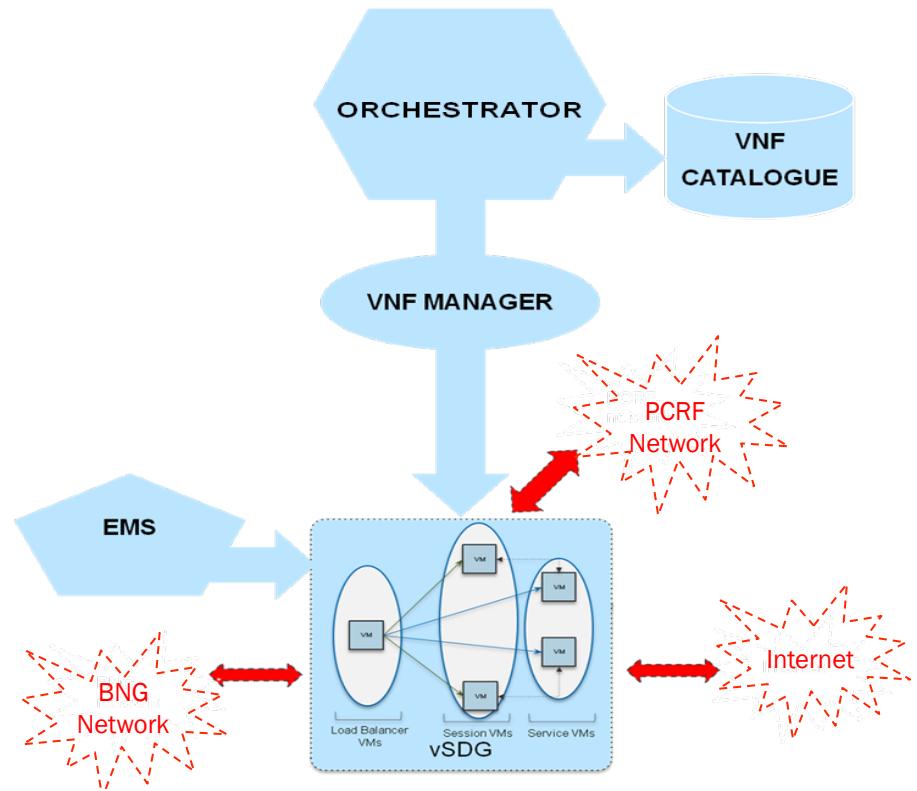
## 2 Instantiation

- The NFV orchestrator having received an instantiation instruction make a request to the infrastructure layer for the resources required to build the virtual machines; compute, storage etc.
- The resources are then locked down and the Orchestrator in combination with the VNF manager provisions the VMs
- The VMs are populated with the required images for the Virtual Network Function Components (VNFCs)
- The connectivity is provisioned by the orchestrator from the information in the VNF descriptor (service graph). The orchestrator provisions the external and internal connectivity



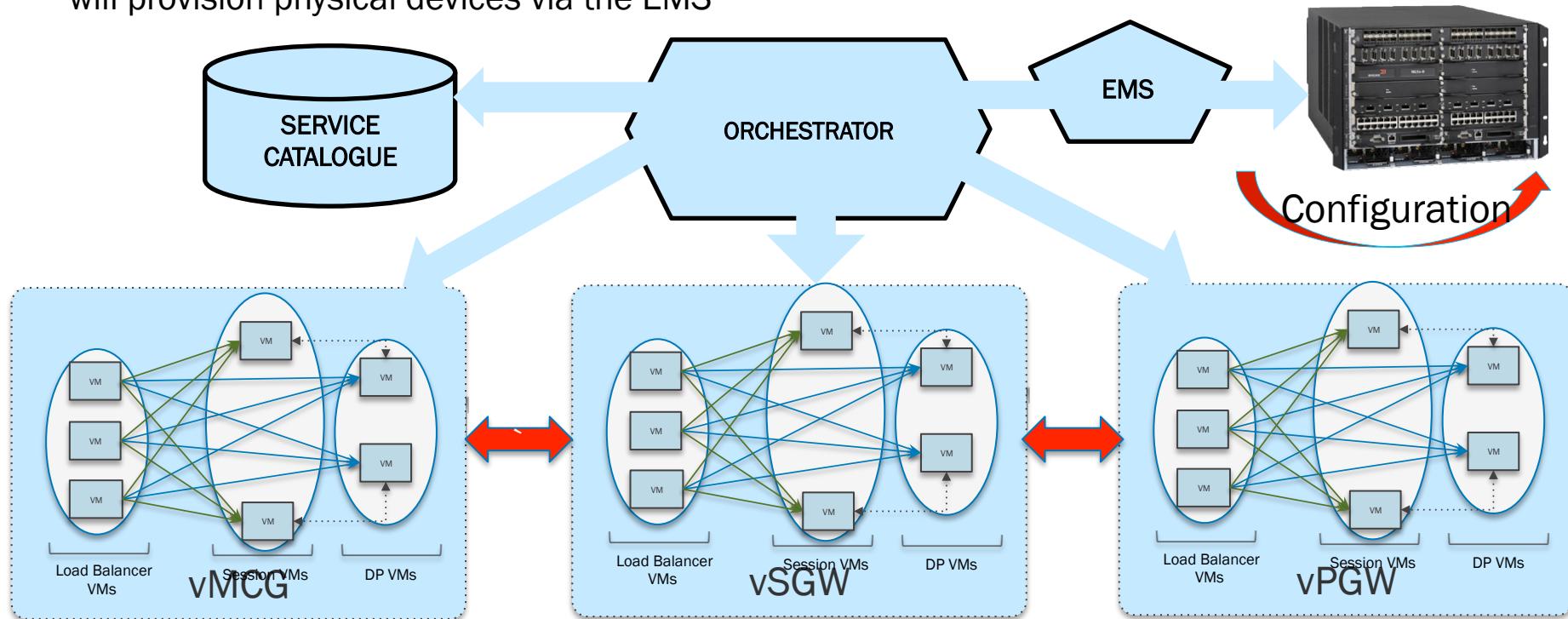
# 3 Configuration

- Once the virtual network function is booted it is a very similar situation to switching on a physical box and then having it become visible on the EMS and the EMS pushing a configuration to the box.
- It is important to realise here that the EMS will not see the internal connectivity of the VNF and is not responsible dealing with internal VNF management. The EMS just sees the holistic unitary high level function



## 4 Building a Service Chain

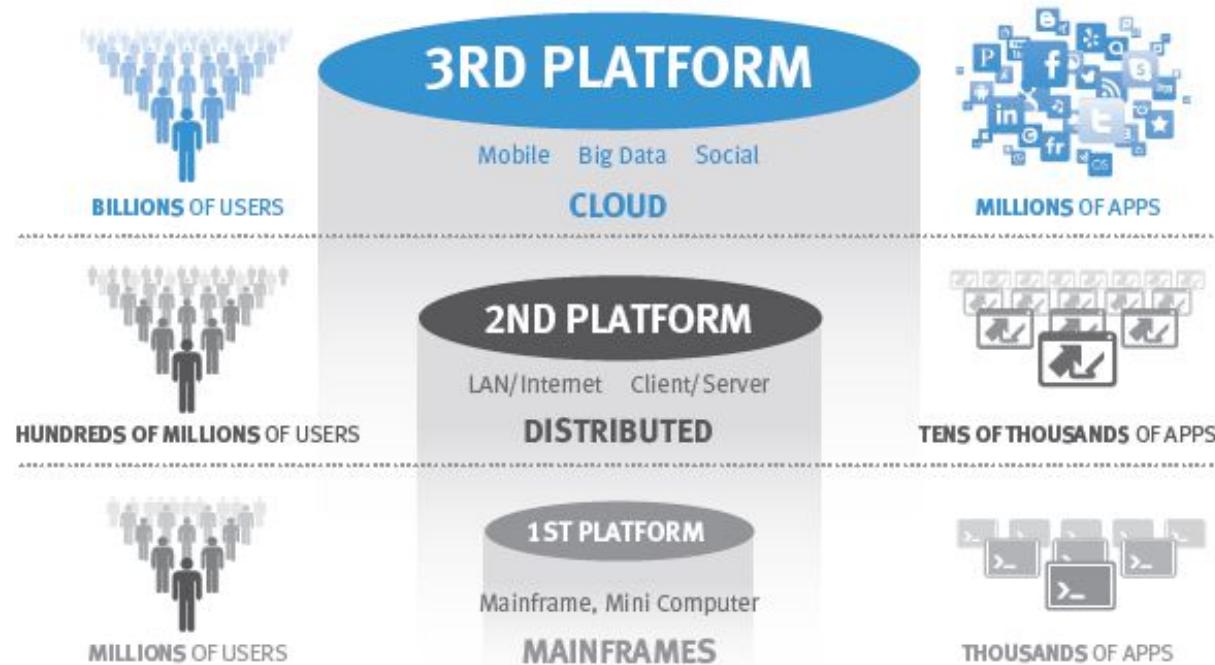
- As well as the concept of a VNF catalogue there is also the concept of a service catalogue the service catalogue will have details of various services containing multiple VNFs connected together and the orchestrator can provision this by receiving an instruction to provision the whole chain. The chain can contain both physical and virtual devices, generally the orchestrator will provision physical devices via the EMS



# What is the Third Platform?

## THE THIRD PLATFORM

The Third Platform is described by IDC as the next-generation compute platform that is accessed from mobile devices, utilizes Big Data, and is cloud based.

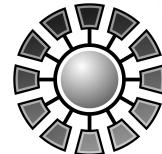




The transformational network architecture required to deliver this evolution

**GOODBYE  
STATUS QUO  
IP NETWORK.**

**HELLO NEW IP**



OPEN



RAPID  
INNOVATION



USER-  
CENTRIC



SOFTWARE  
DEFINED

# The New IP Framework

ORCHESTRATION



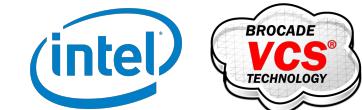
CONTROL/MANAGEMENT



SERVICES



HARDWARE/FORWARDING



# What is Openstack ?

Solution, community, foundation

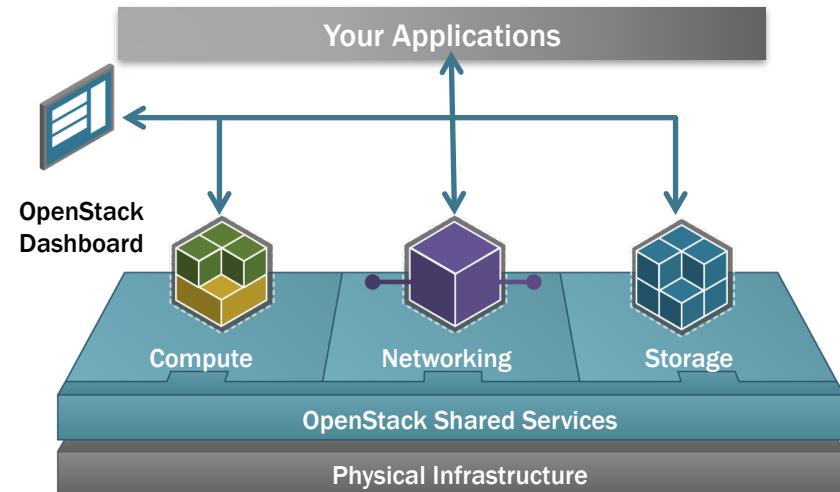
**Solution:** Open source cloud management framework for private and public clouds

**Foundation:** Created by Rackspace and NASA

- July 2010: Merged and open sourced Cloud Software (storage) and Nebula (compute)
- September 2012: Launched OpenStack Foundation as a vendor-neutral consortium

**Community:** 15,000+ participants—  
independents, vendors, user organizations

- Becoming the de facto open source standard for cloud orchestration



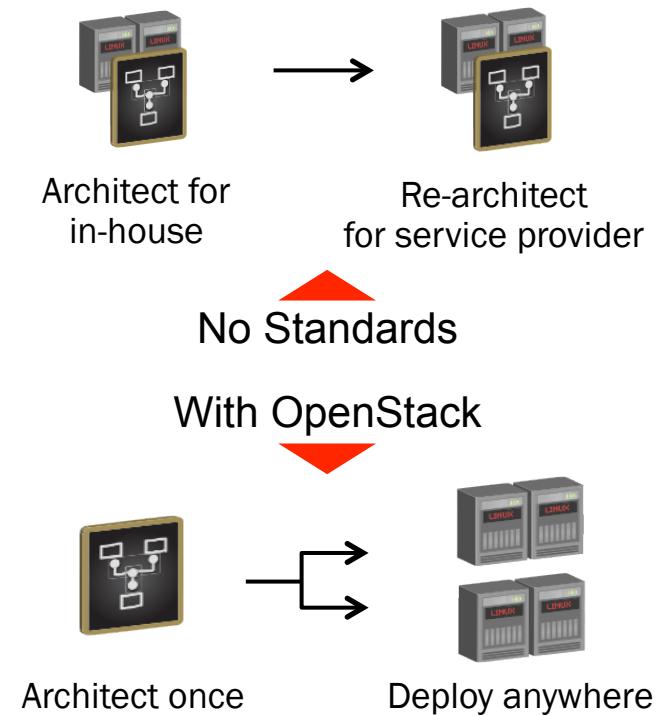
**OPENSTACK**  
CLOUD OPERATING SYSTEM



# Openstack enables workload mobility

Between clouds – Private and Public

- Enables interoperability between clouds by seamlessly federating virtual workloads across them
  - Portability: Vendor and technology agnostic
  - Is extensible to meet specific deployment needs
    - Vertical flexibility (plugin)
    - Horizontal flexibility (API extension)
  - Is designed to be massively scalable
    - Very large groups of virtual private servers, terabytes, or even petabytes of data



# OpenStack Taxonomy – But changing

## Five major Components

Cloud Core Services	OpenStack Project	Amazon Web Services Equivalent	Rackspace Equivalent
Virtual Machines	Nova	EC2	Cloud Servers
Object Store	Swift	S3	Cloud Files
Block Storage	Cinder	EBS	Cloud Block Storage
Virtual Networks	Neutron	VPC	Cloud Networks
Dashboard	Horizon	AWS Mgmt Console	Cloud Control Panel

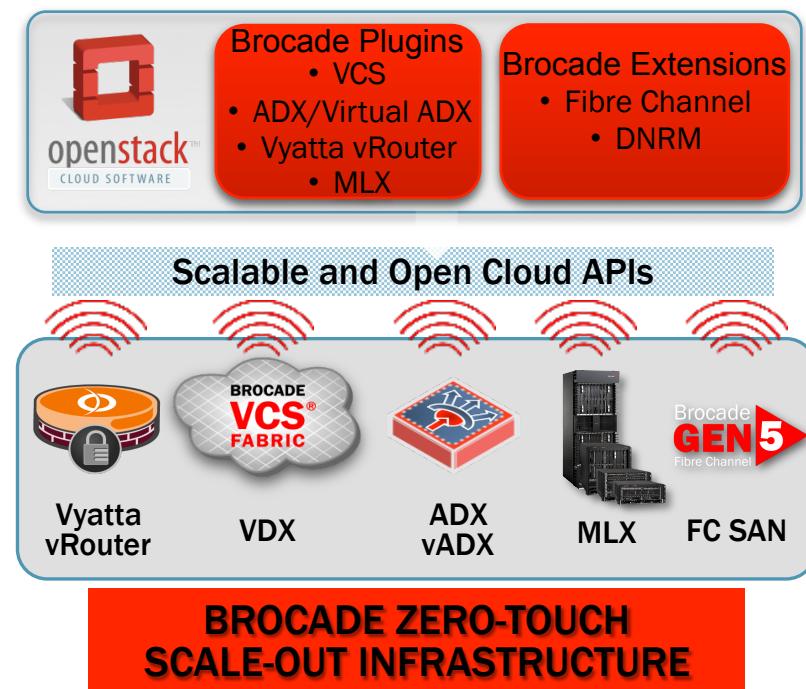
Source: <http://www.pistoncloud.com/cloud-technology/what-is-openstack/>



# Brocade OpenStack Solutions for an Open Cloud

Self-service cloud networking resources on-demand

- Brocade joined in May 2011, became a corporate sponsor in September 2012
- Brocade supports OpenStack users with plugins for its entire data center portfolio
- Brocade is leading industry efforts to champion:
  - Fibre Channel zone management
  - Dynamic network resource management
  - Inter-data center multitenancy



# The Industry First

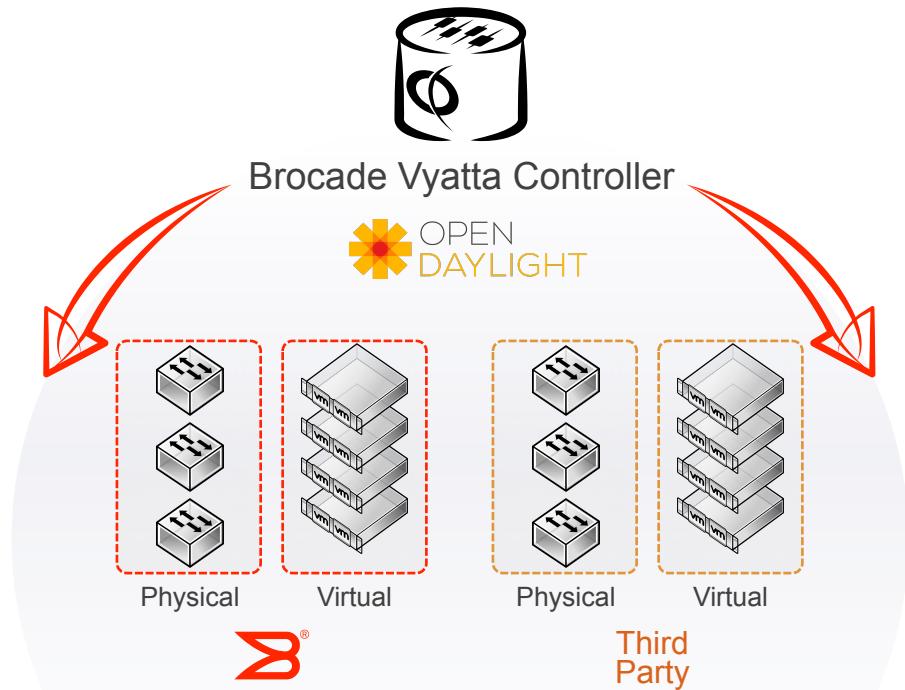
## The Brocade Vyatta Controller

### Broad Capability

- Controls L2–7
- Controls Physical or Virtual
- Controls Brocade and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Products

### Innovative Offering

- Open Source
- Supported software roadmap
- Enabling customer services

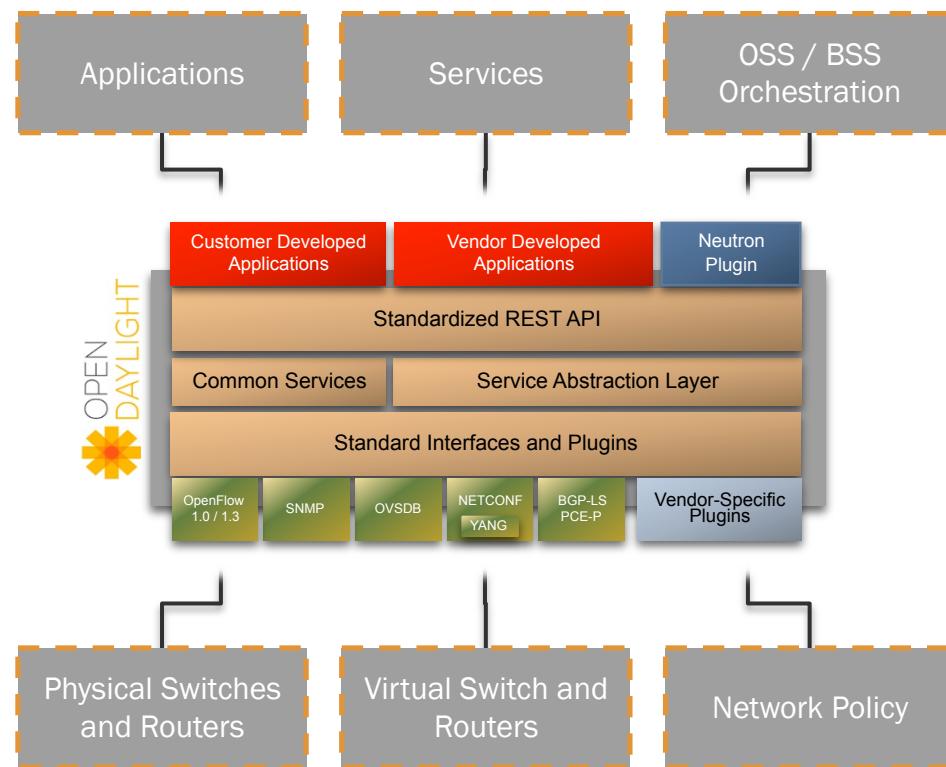


Bringing openness, reliability and choice to SDN



# OpenDaylight Project—Operated by the Linux Foundation

## Foundation for the Brocade Vyatta Controller



- The leading open-source SDN controller
  - More than 200 developers from 41 member companies AND individuals from user organizations
  - 1.7+ million lines of code
- Open industry forum: most networking providers, many SDN ecosystem firms
- Addresses service provider & enterprise needs
- Platform-independent “narrow waist”—standardization point that allows for optimization and innovation above and below



# What a Controller Does

A Controller is a Platform That:

Allows software developers to innovate applications that get information from the network and control the network

**CONTROLLER  
PLATFORM**

Allows network equipment suppliers to create plugins and information models for their equipment that improve manageability and lowers costs

## Applications and Services

Customer Developed Applications

Vendor Developed Applications

Orchestration Plugins

Standardized REST API

Common Services

Service Abstraction Layer

Standard Interfaces and Plugins

OpenFlow  
1.0 / 1.3

SNMP

OVSDB

NETCONF  
YANG

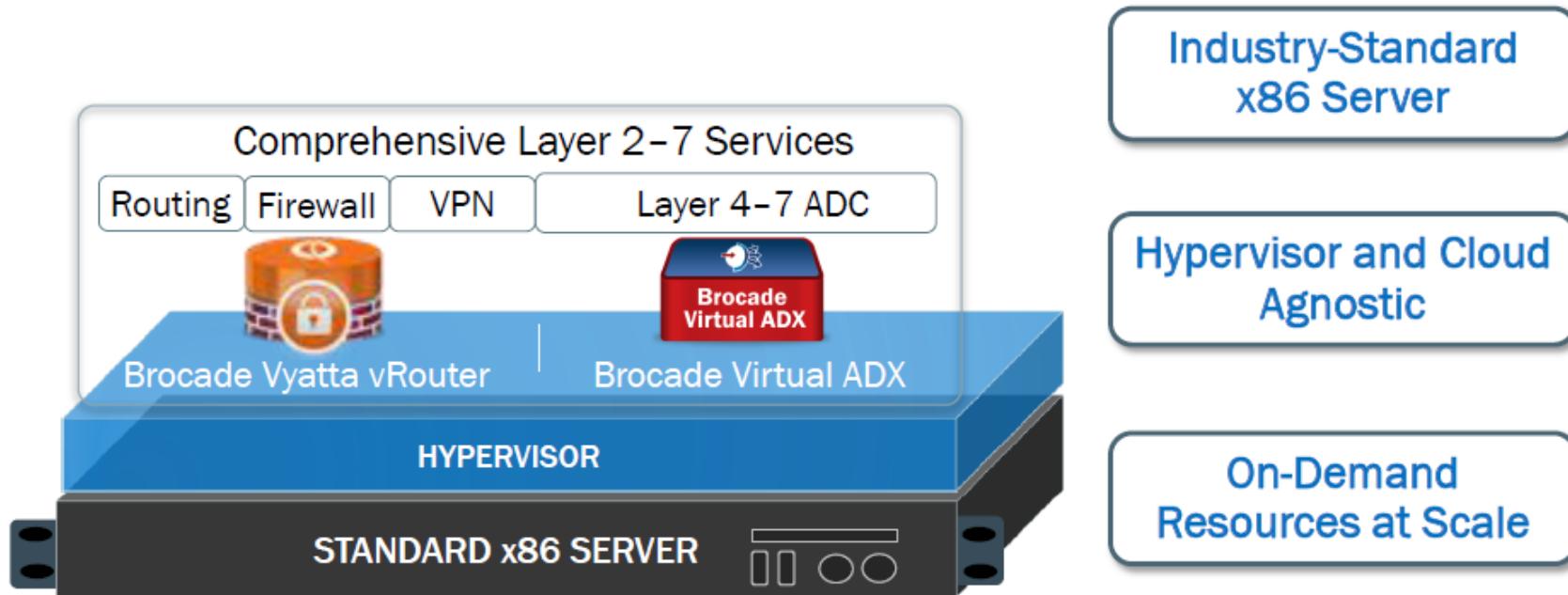
BGP-LS  
PCE-P

Vendor-Specific Plugins

Network – Switches and Routers



# Brocade is leading in creating new virtualised networking products



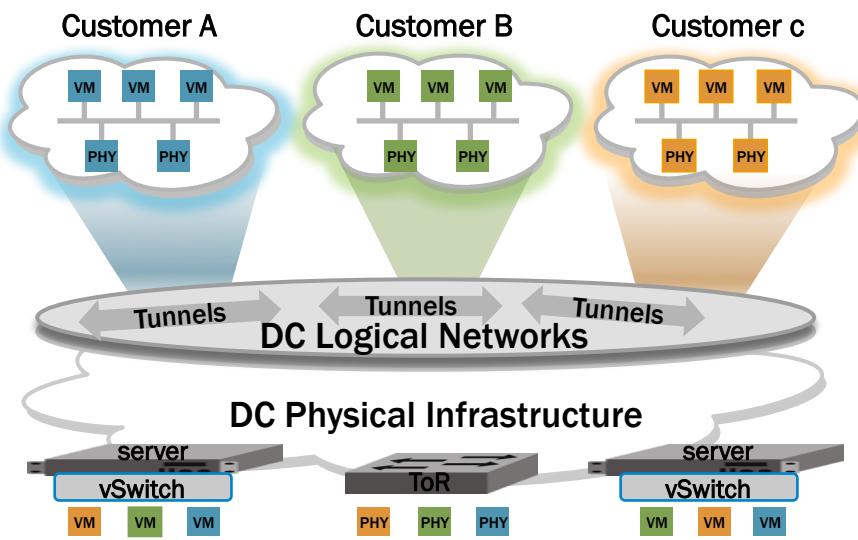
# SDN Use Cases

SDN Will Evolve Through Value-Added Applications



# Data Center Network Virtualization

## Scalable Cloud Services

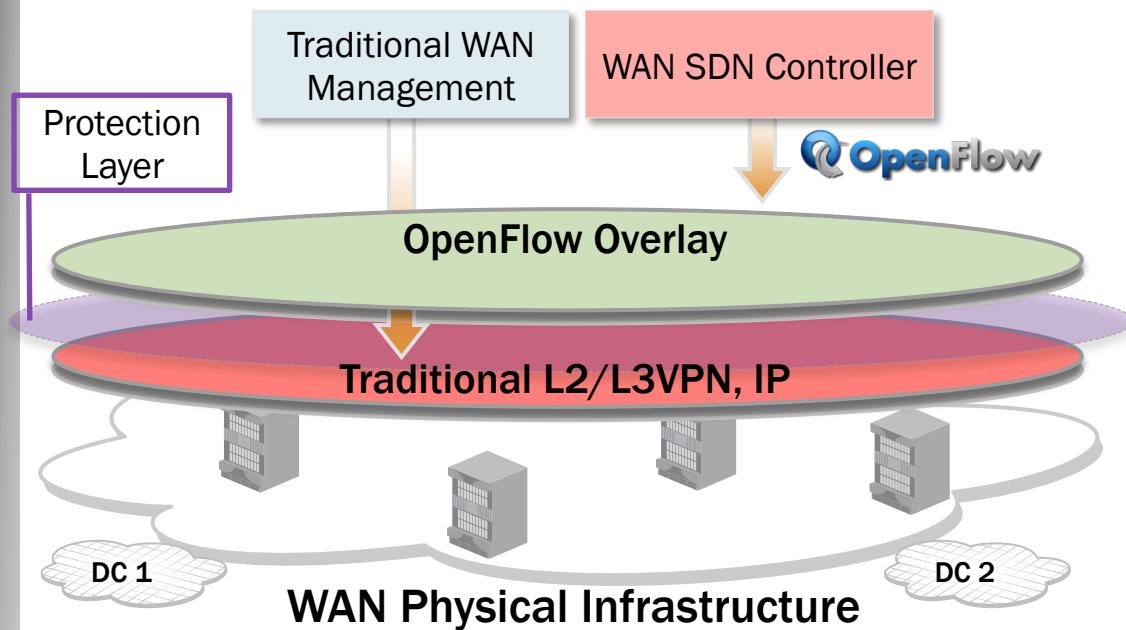


- Tunnels enable physical network abstraction (logical network)
  - VxLAN, NVGRE, STT
- Software Switches (vSwitches) connect virtual machines
- ToRs connect physical machines
- SDN Gateways enable scalable connectivity into the logical network



# WAN Network Virtualization

Traditional L2/L3VPN-IP Network with OpenFlow Overlay



- OpenFlow as an overlay to existing network
  - Allows for new revenue-generating features on top of existing production network
- Enabled by Brocade's "**Hybrid port mode**"
  - OpenFlow and traditional features enabled concurrently on same router ports
- **Protected Hybrid Port Mode**
  - OpenFlow does not affect Traditional traffic
  - Protection in hardware
  - Allows for initial OpenFlow overlay service development without risk

# Internet2 WAN Use Case

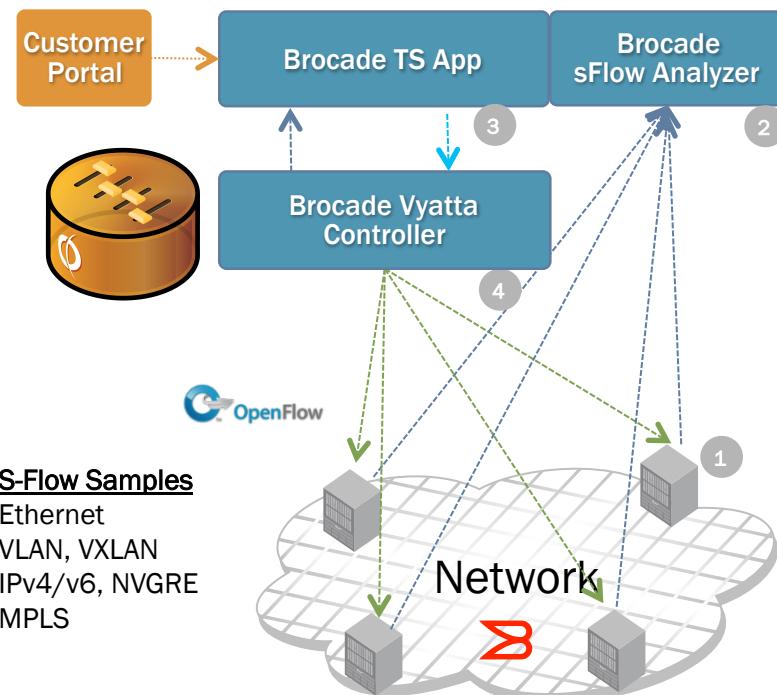
Internet2 is an advanced networking consortium for the research and education community developing and deploying revolutionary Internet technologies. I2 wanted to create a new Innovation Platform to provide massive bandwidth to address network bottlenecks and introduce Software-Defined Networking (SDN). They are building out this network with Brocade's MLXe, 100 GbE, and true Hybrid Mode OpenFlow.



Problems	Solution	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needed a high-performance networking platform for member Research &amp; Education IP and peering services</li> <li>Required 100 GbE to provide massive bandwidth needed for elephant flows</li> <li>OpenFlow enabling simultaneous SDN and IP routing</li> <li>Development of a new persistent Open Exchange with persistent &amp; dynamic VLANs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLXe-16 at 17 sites nationwide</li> <li>36 2x100G and 19 8x10G-X modules</li> <li><b>Protected Hybrid-mode:</b> WAN ports run OpenFlow concurrently with traditional MPLS/IP routing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLXe provides highest density 10GbE and 100GbE</li> <li>Brocade enables their Open Exchange with <u>SDN via OpenFlow on the MLXe</u></li> <li>SDN via OpenFlow enables I2 member institutions to innovate SDN applications concurrent with high-speed routing &amp; MPLS</li> <li>OpenFlow network as an overlay on top of a “protected” MPLS/IP WAN network</li> </ul>

# Volumetric Attack Mitigation

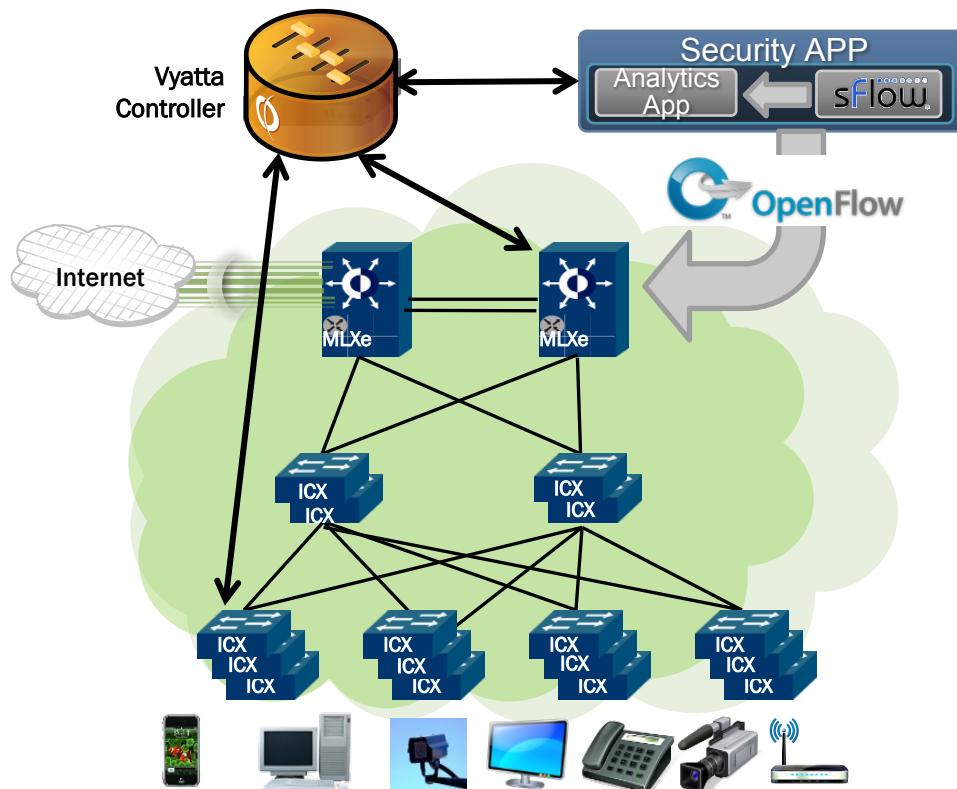
Value proposition: Less expensive, Easy out-of-the-box install



1. Data Center Devices  
Send sFlow samples to the collector
2. sFlow Analyzer  
Analyze and report Volumetric Flow trigger
3. Traffic steering application with policy based UI and REST APIs  
Instruct controller to redirect volumetric flows
4. Vyatta Controller  
Program OpenFlow 1.3 rules in MLX and ICX



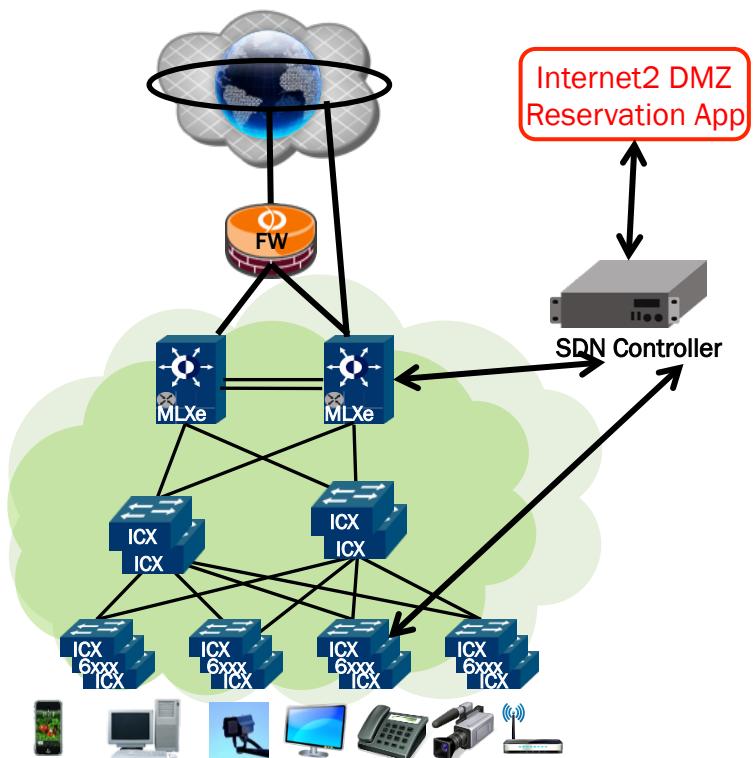
# Context-Aware Policy Enforcement



- sFlow to monitor traffic
- Analytic application identifies behavior
- Policy activated upon threat detection
- Security application programs flow action in controller
- Vyatta Controller pushes appropriate OpenFlow entries



# Science DMZ – App Flow

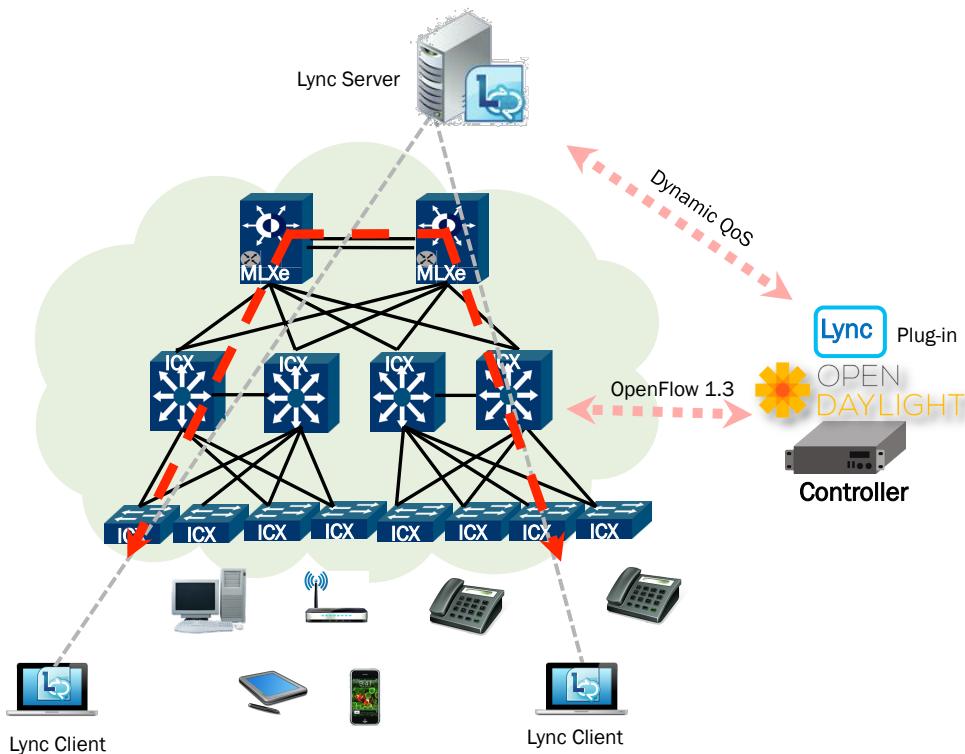


- User logs in as trusted user
- Connects to Internet2 Reservation App
- User AAA for services requested
- Resources identified and request sent to SDN controller
- Controller pushes appropriate OF entries to pre-emptively create path
- Trusted traffic routed around firewall
- All other traffic sent to firewall



# SDN-Based Adaptive and Automated QoS

Application detects voice/video delays, dynamically requests prioritization



## Benefits

- Fully automated and adaptive call admission and control
- Single trusted source of QoS management
- Eliminates the need to QoS tag at the switch port level
- Dynamic replacement of manual switch-by-switch provisioning of static QoS policies





# THANK YOU

