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NETWORKWORLD

Strategic Marketing Services

Reducing Complexity, Increasing Visibility of SDN/NFV Networks

The rise of the application economy has created an urgent need for network transformation – a revolution, you are calling it. Can you expand on this?

To remain competitive in the application economy, organizations must deploy mobile and cloud-based apps that change 1) the way they create products and deliver services, and 2) how they market and sell these products and services. However, success requires changing the underlying IP infrastructure. Similar to how the enterprise back office was transformed by cloud computing, networks in the application economy must now transform to deliver differentiated and tailored services at lightning speed, and that's done through SDN/NFV [software defined networking and network functions virtualization].

What's lacking in the industry today for proper assurance capabilities for SDN/NFV networks?

Today's offerings for network management assurance are pretty disparate. You have a lot of systems and orchestration vendors who focus on overlay [virtual] monitoring as a complementary solution while ignoring the underlay [physical]. Basically the customers are getting puzzle pieces they have to put together themselves. Consequently, the big challenge is the lack of one comprehensive solution that puts all these pieces together so that customers can quickly correlate a problem in one area to other affected areas.

How does CA Virtual Network Assurance extend visibility and improve the reliability of SDN/NFV networks?

CA Virtual Network Assurance offers a monitoring solution for comprehensive SDN/NFV assurance. We have a unique way to dissect and map the underlay/overlay relationships that are essential to SDN/NFV operation. We hide the disparate complexities of SDN/NFV and present a consistent, uniform data model to the network engineers. With Virtual Network Assurance, customers can see

their SDN/NFV network in a logical manner, enabling analysis of fault, performance and capacity.

What unique assurance capabilities does CA Virtual Network Assurance provide?

CA Virtual Network Assurance allows you to use your current investments and operating processes and apply them to the new network. This is one part of Virtual Network Assurance that we are most proud of: We've built something that addresses immediate business and technical challenges for network engineers in the SDN/NFV era.

Why is the assurance of multilayer SDN/NFV stack performance and the service chain so important?

The multilayer stack is our way to make sense of the SDN puzzle. What we've done is apply this concept to the way we've developed the software so that customers can track all the dynamic moving parts within SDN/NFV, especially service chaining. This hides the complexity and provides a uniform data model and presentation to our customers. For a long time, we have been searching for a way to present information that helps the customers relate it to the end-user experience. As the industry adopts service chain provisioning, we now have the answers we've been searching for.

Which types of organizations would most benefit from CA Virtual Network Assurance?

Any organization that deploys SDN/NFV would benefit, including service providers, large enterprises and those in the cloud service space adopting OpenStack. Small enterprises would get benefits via a managed service provider utilizing CA Virtual Network Assurance. In general, if you are a shop with a huge investment in network management software and want to protect it along with the valuable operational experience, then CA Virtual Network Assurance is for you. ■