

**Cloud Computing and Distributed systems**  
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**Lecture – 05**  
**Software Defined Network Application to Networking in the Cloud**

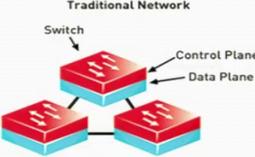
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## Preface

**Content of this Lecture:**

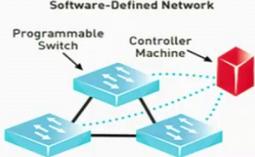
- In this lecture, we will discuss the architecture of software defined networking and its applications to networking in the cloud.
- We will also discuss the network Virtualization in multi-tenant data centers with case study of VL2 and NVP

**Traditional Network**



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**Software-Defined Network**



Software Defined Network

Software Defined Network Application to Networking in the Cloud. Preface, content of this lecture, we will discuss the architecture of software-defined networking, and its application to the networking in the cloud. We will also discuss network virtualization in multi-tenant datacenters with two different case studies of VL2 and NVP.

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**Need of SDN**

The traditional networking problem that SDN (software defined networking) is addressing as:

- I) Complexity of existing networks**
  - Networks are complex just like computer system, having system with software.
  - But worst than that it's a distributed system
  - Even more worse: No clear programming APIs, only **"knobs and dials"** to control certain functions.
- II) Network equipment traditionally is proprietary**
  - Integrated solutions (operating systems, software, configuration, protocol implementation , hardware ) from major vendors

**RESULT:** - Hard and time intensive to innovate new kinds of networks and new services or modify the traditional networks more efficiently.

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The need of software-defined network requires to understand complexity and difficulty of traditional networks. And therefore, it becomes the motivation to understand the software-defined network. So, software-defined network in contrast to the traditional networks will overcome these difficulties in the traditional networking problems, such as complexity of existing networks.

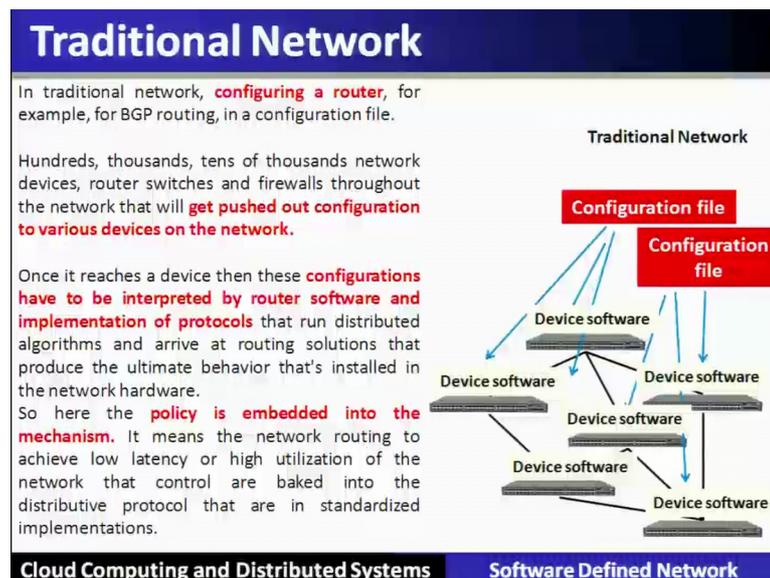
So, the current networks are quite complex; in the sense, it comprises of several 100 networking devices, which are having the embedded software within it, and the supplier has already configured the protocols. So, all the hardware and the software of the network devices are provided by the vendors, they are all proprietary in nature, worst than this it becomes a complete distributed system, wherein the traffic flow and other traffic and other policy decisions over the network regarding the traffic engineering and all these are done in the form of distributed algorithms.

And some aspects are being configured by the vendors. Even worst is that, there is no programming APIs available, only very few control functions are configured in such a network. So, in nut shell, this particular network is very very complex. And if a particular user want the network to be designed regarding the throughput and latency and all these aspects, it is very difficult to program such a so, complexity of the network is known to everyone in the traditional networking.

Now, another aspect in the traditional networks is that network equipments are traditionally proprietary in nature that means, the vendors provides the integrated solution in terms of operating system also is a part of that networking devices, software also is a part of networking devices, the configuration, the protocol implementation, hardware, all are integrated, and that comes from the major vendors. So, therefore, it is very little scope to understand and do the programming of these particular network devices.

Now, why it is required? It is required, because it is the time, when different users like for example, the cloud requires to innovate new kind of rules and methods to configure the network and run the services as per the requirements. But, such a traditional network is very difficult, due to these two problems to modify and give the programming control at the user level.

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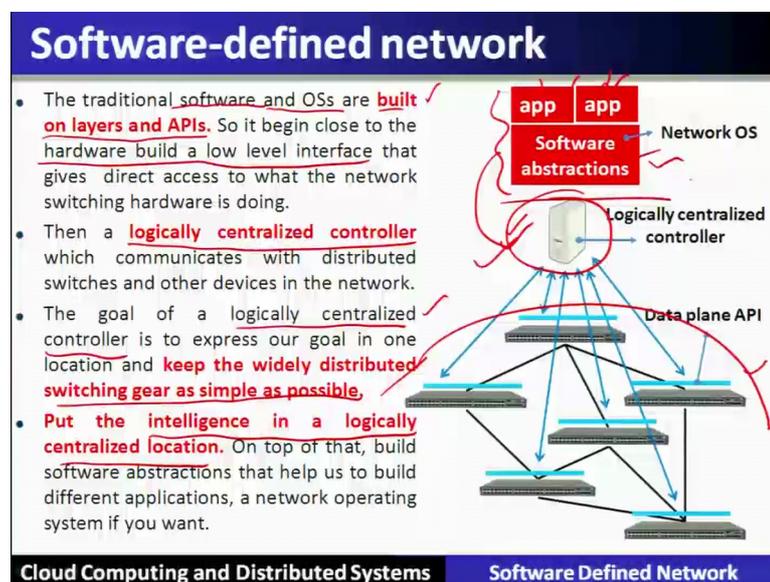


Let us see this difficulty of the traditional network in this scenario here. In the traditional network you can see here, the configuration of a router. For example, if the routers are configured for external routing, that is called BGP routing, and that is done in the configuration files. So, these particular router configured files are then send to or pushed out to the various devices switches. And once it is reaches to these devices, then basically the router software and its protocol will run the distributed algorithm based on that

configuration to arrive into a routing solutions to basically produce the ultimate behavior that is installed in the network hardware.

Therefore, you can see in such traditional networks, the policies and the mechanisms both are embedded into the devices, and the distributed algorithm runs to deal with the traffic flow. Now, if you want to achieve the low latency and high throughput in this scenario, the controls are not given in the form of programming level, but it is already embedded into the distributed protocol, which is basically a very standard implementation, very hard to program and change as far as the requirements of applications are therefore.

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To get this particular flexibility, there comes a rescue in the terms of software-defined networks. So, software-defined networks will deal with these complexities and these problems, so that it can be useful or usable in a different environment that is in the cloud scenario.

Now, let us see: what is the software-defined network, and how it does overcome from the problem of traditional networks. So, analogy is to be taken from the traditional software. So, the traditional software and the operating systems if we see how they are built, they are built on the layers and through the APIs, the programmers can program them that is the software and the operating systems are built in the form of systematically in the form of the layers and APIs are there. Therefore, this particular environment that is

the network environment can we do as per the traditional software and operating system inside this network devices.

If it is then, we are going to see the software-defined network provides this particular separation of policies and mechanisms separated it out in the terms of this hardware of that particular network devices can be accessed in the form of low level interface. So, directly it can be accessed as far as the policies are concerned, they are separated out from this particular logic. Therefore, in software-defined network, there exist a logically centralized controller, which is shown over here, which communicates with the distributed switches and other devices. And all the smart logic is embedded here in the centralized controller. So, as far as the user is concerned it can express all its policies centrally through this logically centralized controller.

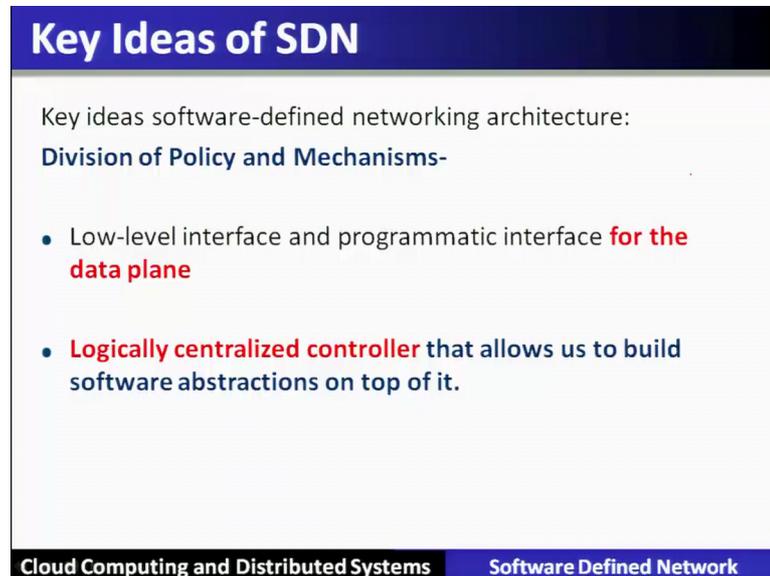
On the other hand, the switches and the other networking devices becomes very simple, because all the decisions are basically the policy decisions and its programming is now taken out from them, and it is basically the pure hardware with the data plane APIs being provided. So, the switching gear is made as simple as possible. So, any vendor can provide its hardware and the logical centralized controller will embed with the software within it. These two separations are there in software-defined network.

So, all intelligence is put in the centralized location. And on top of it is built the software abstractions over which different applications can be made. So, the programming of this logically centralized controller is managed just like the softwares, which we have seen that it is in the form of layers and APIs, which can be programmed as per the need of the organization to run the networks.

So, you can see here, there is the logically centralized controller, and these particular devices are simply the hardware, which provides the data plane APIs, and it gets the instruction from logically centralized controller and work accordingly. So, now the control is all the policies are with the logically centralized controller, which can be programmed using these two layers that is in the form of software abstractions and different applications can run on top of it, which can use this network the way they want to. This software abstraction can be the network operating system and different applications can be programmed as per the requirement of the network. So, this is the

brief overview of a software-defined network. Let us see how this software-defined network will be useful for cloud networking in this discussion.

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**Key Ideas of SDN**

Key ideas software-defined networking architecture:

**Division of Policy and Mechanisms-**

- Low-level interface and programmatic interface **for the data plane**
- **Logically centralized controller** that allows us to build software abstractions on top of it.

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So, again let us summarize the same thing, key idea of a software-defined networking architecture is to divide the policy and mechanism. So, that the low level interface and programmatic interface is provided for the data plane, and the policies are controlled in the form of logically centralized controller that allows to build software abstractions and users can program it.

Now, in the diagram, we have shown only one logically centralized controller, it is not a centralized controller; it is a logically centralized controller. In the sense, there may be more than one controller or the controllers are also run in a form of a distributed system, they may communicate with each other, they may be synchronizing their clocks with each other. And together they may solve or may communicate with each other to enforce the mechanisms and the policies given or programmed, so that all the network devices can work accordingly that means, all the devices can be programmed using the data plane APIs.



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## Key Ideas of SDN

- **A programmatic low level interface with the data plane**  
*low level*
- **Centralized control**
- **Higher level abstractions that makes easier control.**  
*✓*

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So, again the key idea is that programmatic low level interface is being provided with the data plane, so that the hardware switches can be used at as the APIs, so any vendor can pick in providing their hardwares in the form of switches, routers and so on. The entire control is done in a centralized manner that is the logically centralized controller existed. And to program this, there is a high level abstractions, which are provided just like a software, which can be programmed using the simple languages like python. So, the entire network can be programmed as per the requirement.

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## Evolution of SDN: Flexible Data Planes

- Evolution of SDN is driving towards making the network flexible.
- **Label switching or MPLS (1997)** i.e. matching labels, executing actions based on those labels adding flexibility:-  
*J*
- Lay down any path that we want in the network for certain classes of traffic. — *Traffic engineering*
- Go beyond simple shortest path forwarding, —
- Good optimization of traffic flow to get high throughput for traffic engineering —
- Setting up private connections between enterprises and distributed sites. *VPN*



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Let us see the evolution of software-defined network, which will provide the flexible data planes. So, the evolution of software-defined network, as we have just seen is to provide the flexibility in the network operations, so that different users can program as per their requirement the entire network, and will overcome from that proprietary in nature. So, the evolution that means, let us trace through the evolutions, which has reached to this particular stage that is software-defined network.

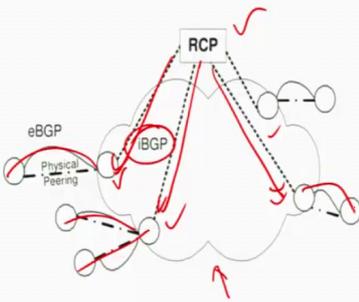
The first one in terms of the idea was called MPLS multiprotocol label switching in 1997, what it does it, matches with the labels, the traffic, which can be used for example, to setup a virtual private network, and then perform various actions on such particular traffic. So, this way one can lay down any path in the network to classify that particular certain traffic class, and do the traffic engineering on it.

So, MPLS provides these particular features. So, it is going beyond the shortest path algorithm, because here lot of traffic engineering can be performed. Similarly, lot of optimizations on a network flow can be done, so that there is a possibility of achieving the throughput. And also this is used to setup virtual private network connections across the different enterprises, and this is all possible using MPLS. So, MPLS has started giving this kind of provisions, and this is by start point of evolving the software-defined network.

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### Evolution of SDN: Logically Centralized Control

- **Routing Control Platform (2005) [Caesar et al. NSDI 2005]**
- Centralized computing to BGP routes, pushed to border routers via iBGP



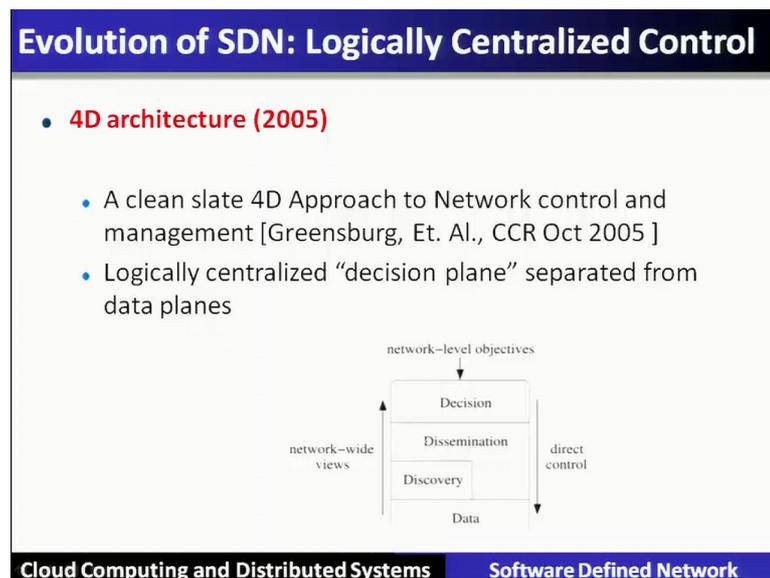
The diagram shows a central box labeled 'RCP' (Routing Control Platform) at the top. Below it, a network topology is depicted with several nodes and connections. A red circle highlights a node labeled 'iBGP'. To the left, a node is labeled 'eBGP' with a red arrow pointing to it. A red arrow also points from the RCP to the iBGP node. A red checkmark is placed above the RCP box. In the bottom right corner of the diagram area, there is a silhouette of a human evolution sequence from an ape to a modern human.

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The next one in this evolution is called routing control platform in 2005. What it provides is that, within an organization also there are many number of border gateway protocols, there are various routers installed with BGP protocol to interact with the outside world. Normally in a routing control platform, that means, at the centralized control, the policies are being pushed to these border routers via iBGP. So, this iBGP intern will propagate to the other BGPs, which are installed externally or which are connected to the other BGP.

So, here we can see that the explorer traffic, that means, when the organization is communicating its messages with the other networks, that it can be programmed through the central control, through the centralized computing for computing the BGP routes and following the routing information. So, this is also the aspect, which is required here in the evolution of software-defined network.

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Another, architecture is 4D architecture of 2005. Now, here it gives a approach to the network control and management. So, it also defines logically centralized decision plane separated from data plane. These ideas are also there in software-defined network.

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**Evolution of SDN: Logically Centralized Control**

- **Ethane (2007) [Casado et al., SIGCOMM 2007]**
  - Centralized controller enforces enterprise network Ethernet forwarding policy using existing hardware.

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Ethane is just a precaution to the SDN; ethane was given in 2007. It is a centralized controller, which enforces the enterprise network Ethernet forwarding policy using existing hardware. So, again it is separating out policies and mechanisms.

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**Evolution of SDN: Logically Centralized Control**

- **OpenFlow (2008) [McKeown et al. 2008]**
  - Thin standardized interface to data planes.
  - General purpose programmability at control.

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Now, comes after that is open flow in 2008. This is a thin standardized interface to the data planes; and it also provides a general programmability at the control level.

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### Evolution of SDN: Logically Centralized Control

- Routing Control Platform (2005)
- 4D architecture (2005)
- Ethane (2007)
- OpenFlow (2008)
- **NOX (2008) [Gude et al. CCR 2008]**
  - **First OpenFlow (OF) controller:** centralized network view provided to multiple control applications as a database.
  - Handles state collection and distribution.
- **Industry explosion (~2010+)**

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Now, the NOX we have already seen uses the first open flow controller, which is having the centralized view, which is provided to the multiple control applications just like a database it handles. So, there is a central controller, which will have the complete view or it can be programmed as a database does. And what it does it collects by state of the entire network, stores in the database, do the analysis, and provides control back to those particular devices. And after that almost every networking industry has adopted the software-defined network in one form or the other.

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### SDN Opportunities

- **Open data plane interface**
  - **Hardware** : with standardized API, easier for operators to change hardware, and for vendors to enter market
  - **Software** : can more directly access device behavior
- **Centralized controller:**
  - Direct programmatic control of network
- **Software abstraction of the controller**
  - Solves distributed systems problem only once, then just write algorithm.
  - Libraries/languages to help programmers write net apps
  - Systems to write high level policies instead of programming

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What are the options or opportunities, which software-defined networking is giving us to the networking of the organizations and the cloud as well as. Open data plane interface provides the separation of hardware and software. In the hardware, with standardized APIs, if it is provided, then basically it is easier for the operators to change the hardware, and it is not proprietary hardware, and different vendors can enter into the hardware market. As far the software is concerned software can be programmed to directly control the behavior of such devices. For that, the policies are given from the centralized controller, which also is having a direct programmatic control of the network.

Software abstractions are also supported or provided for the input to the controller. This way, it is all (Refer Time: 23:01) distributed problem only once and then those policies are now generated in the form of distributed algorithm and being pushed to those hardwares, which will use its software to run the mechanisms. For that controls, the libraries, and languages, are also there, and it can be programmed to write down the network operations or applications.

So, here a very high level policies can be implemented in the form of the network controller, and the organizations through the simple programming language, so this way the SDN has given lot of opportunities to program and control the networks the way is required in the applications or in the in the organization.

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**Challenges of SDN**

- Performance and Scalability**
  - Controlling the network through devices to respond quickly with latency concerns i.e. capacity concerns.
- Distributed systems challenges still present**
  - Network is fundamentally a distributed system
  - Resilience of logically centralized controllers
  - Imperfect knowledge of network state
  - Consistency issues between controllers

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Now, another challenge of software-defined network is the performance and scalability. So, the controlling such a network through the devices to respond quickly with the latency concerned, and also with the capacity concerned deals are related with the performance and scalability.

So, network is a distributed system. And resilience of logically centralized controller is very much required. So, imperfect knowledge of network system states due to the distributed system is already there, and lot of consistency related issues between the controllers are also there. For example, it is not a centralized one controller; it is a logically centralized controllers several controllers are there. So, all these challenges are still present in the software-defined network.

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**Architectural Challenges of SDN**

- **Protocol to program the data planes**
  - OpenFlow ? NFV function ? WhiteBox switching ?
- **Devising the right control abstraction ?**
  - Programming OpenFlow : far too low level
  - But what are the right level abstractions to cover important use cases ?

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Let us see some more architectural challenges of software-defined network, how to program the data planes. So, that it can run different protocols, so different mechanisms are there, whether open flow should be used or network function virtualization, NFV can be used or white box switching is there. There are various different alternatives.

And this particular space is open for the research between (Refer Time: 25:47) and the industry. That is why, the devising the ride control abstraction in the form of whether the open flow is already very low level way of solving this particular problem. Instead of that, what kind of abstraction to cover the most important use cases is going to be important development for the future applications?

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**The First Cloud Apps for SDN**

- **Virtualization of multi-tenant data centers**
  - Create separate virtual network for tenants
  - Allow flexible placement and movements of VMs
- **Inter-datacenter traffic engineering**
  - Trying to achieve maximum utilization near 100% if possible.
  - Protect critical traffic from congestion.
- **Key-characteristics for above use cases**
  - Special purpose deployments with less diverse hardware.
  - Existing solutions aren't just inconvenient and don't work.

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First cloud application for software-defined network. We will see here, the virtualization of multi-tenant datacenters, which is an application of software-defined network into the cloud system. Here we will see that how to create separate virtual functions for tenants, and allow the flexible placement and movements of virtual machines. So, to understand this, in a cloud datacenters, there are many tenants, which are running their VMs. And there is a requirement of the isolation separation among their, the traffic and also the different VMs not shared, but it has to be secured.

So, the virtualization of multi-tenant data center is going to be an important issue. And that is how using software-defined network this particular problem is going to be addressed, that we will see. We will also see the how inter data center traffic engineering can be used. So, that there should be a maximum utilization of nearly 100 percent to achieve the profit of running the data center or the cloud services for the public or maybe for the internal purpose. So, in that scenario, we will see how to protect the traffic, how to monitor the traffic and how to protect it from reaching into a state, which is called a congestion.

We will also see some of the key characteristics for different use cases. For example, this special purpose deployment with a less diverse hardware sometimes is required. Similarly, another use cases existing solutions are not just inconvenient and do not work.

So, how special use cases are going to be addressed in this particular way of software defined networks.

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**Multi-tenant Data Centers : The challenges**

Cloud is shared among multiple parties and gives economy of scale. To share the cloud among multiple tenants, there's bit more work to do. So the key needs for building a multi-tenant Cloud data center are:

- (i) Agility**
- (ii) Location independent addressing**
- (iii) Performance uniformity**
- (iv) Security**
- (v) Network semantics**

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So, multi-tenant data center, let us see the challenges. So, cloud is shared among multiple parties to give the economy of scale that means, the more are the parties, which are sharing the data center, the profit runs according to that scale, that is called economy of scale in the cloud. Now, to share the cloud among the different multiple tenants, lot of work has to be done start (Refer Time: 29:11) forward.

So, the key needs for building multi-tenant cloud data center are, it has to ensure or provide these five different requirements or we can say that the multi-tenant data center has five different challenges; let us see one by one, agility, location independent addressing, performance uniformity, security and network semantics.

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**(i) Agility**

- **Use any server for any service at any time:**
  - **Better economy of scale through increased utilization:** Pack, compute as best we can for high utilization. If we ever have constraints then it's going to be a lot harder to make full use of resources.
  - **Improved reliability:** If there is a planned outage or an unexpected outage, move the services to keep running uninterrupted.
- **Service or tenant can mean:**
  - A customer renting space in a public cloud
  - Application or service in a private cloud as an internal customer

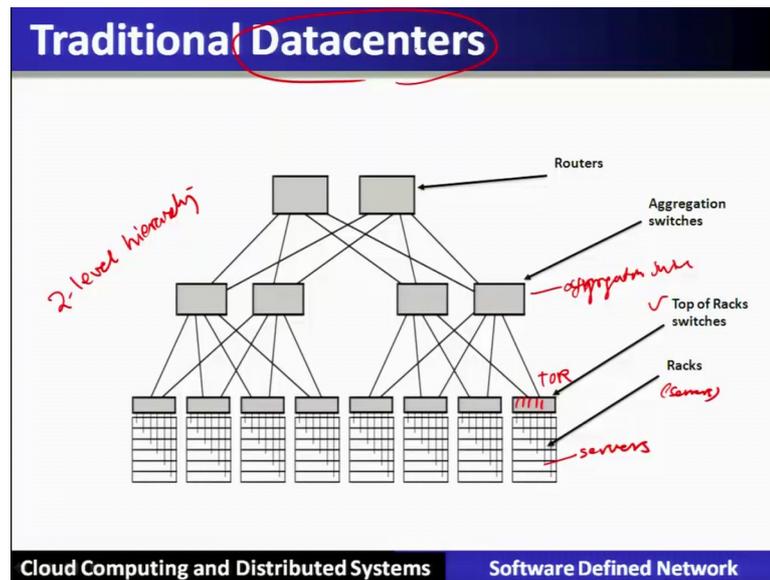
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Agility means, that use any server for any service at any point of time. If there is a constraint, obviously, economy of scale will not be achieved, and hence realization of multi-tenant cloud system will not be possible. So, agility is first and foremost important requirement for multi-tenant cloud data center. So, to provide the use of any server for any service at any point of time, means that it will provide the better economy of a scale through increased utilization means to pack compute as best as we can for higher utilization. If you ever have the constraints, then it is going to be a lot harder to make the full use of the resources.

The other thing, the agility will support is improved reliability, for example, if there is a tenant, which experiences the outage which is a planned outage let us say or maybe sometimes an unexpected outage, there in order to run its services without interruption, it can move out its services to some other data center. That is only possible due to the agility, that is use of any server for any service at any point of time, it can move to at any place, which is which can continue to give that particular service, that is called agility.

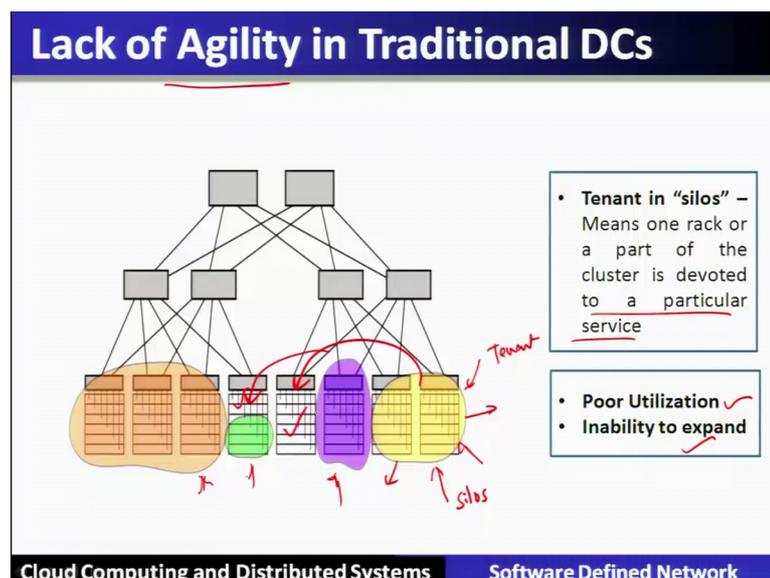
So, the service or the tenant can mean, the customer renting a space in a public cloud, and customer or the service in a private cloud as an internal customer. Either, so either it is a public cloud or internal or a private cloud, multi tenancy can be supported in the form of so, the first requirement is called agility.

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Let us see, what are the issues. This is the picture of traditional datacenter, which comprises of the racks full of the servers, every rack has top of the rack switch. And different racks are connected through an aggregation switch, and they are being connected over the routers. So, it is a hierarchy of 2-level hierarchy, which you can see in any the traditional data center. So, hundreds and thousands of servers are deployed in a particular datacenter, which are connected in this network form.

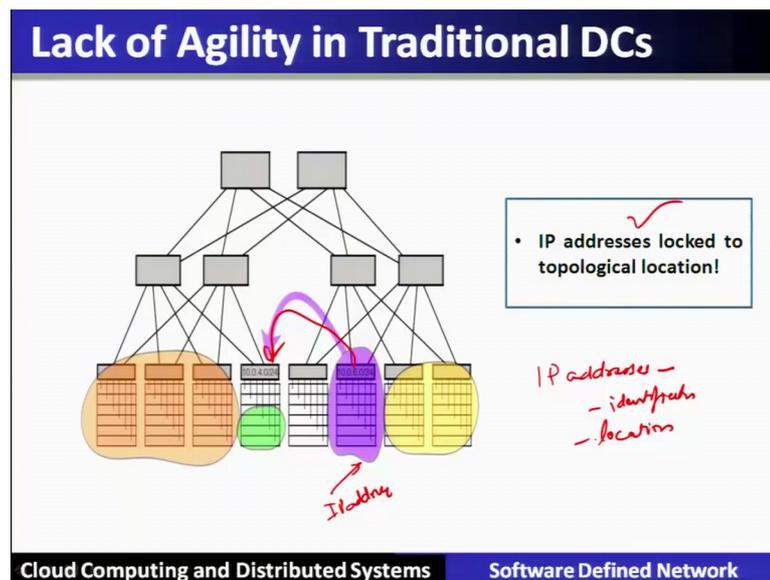
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Now, in this particular traditional datacenter, whether it lacks the agility, let us see why. So, tenants in the datacenter is just like the silos that means, a particular tenant is using let us say these two racks, which are shown here in different colors, so that means, these servers are devoted to that particular tenant service.

Now, if let us say this particular tenant want to expand its services, which is already full, so that means, which our rack having an empty servers, so how it can be further moved to use that empty scenario, so that is not possible in the traditional datacenters. Why, because it lacks the agility. So, this will lead to a poor utilization, and this inability to expand. Similarly, there are some unused servers, due to this there is a requirement of expansion, expansion is not possible, and also it results into a poor utilization. These are all possible these are all possible, due to the reason that it lacks the agility.

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Why this particular problem is there, why, because every rack and its servers, they are locked they are tied with this IP address. So, moving it to some other rack that means, the applications will breakaway with this particular IP addresses and will disrupt the application in its continuation. So, therefore, this IP addresses are locked to the topological locations. So, IP addresses are over used, that means, it is not only went for the identification, but it also identifying the location; so, it is overly used and not supporting the agility.

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**Key needs: Agility**

- **Agility**
  - **Location independent addressing:** Racks are generally assigned different IP Subnets, because subnets are used as topological locators so that we can route. To move some service over there, we're going to have to change its IP address and it is hard to change the IP addresses of live running services.
  - **Tenant's IP address can be taken anywhere:** Tenant's IP address to be taken anywhere, independent of the location and the data center without notify tenants that it has changed location. Large over subscription ratio i.e. 100 % or greater if there's a lot of communication between both sides will be about a hundred times lower throughput than communicating within the rack.

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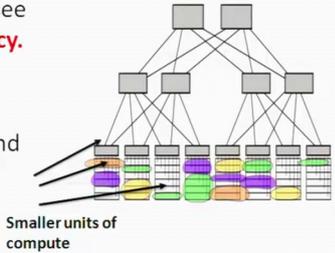
So, here let us see the details of requirements of the agility that is the location independent addressing, so that means, the addressing should be location independent, that is the racks are generally assigned different IP subnets, because subnets are used as topological locators, so that we can route. To move some service over there, we are going to change the IP address and it is hard to change the IP address of a live running service. So, there will be a possibility of disruption, that is not possible.

Now, tenant's IP addresses can be taken anywhere, if this is detached with the location. So, tenant's IP address can be taken to anywhere, independent of the location and the data center without notifying the tenants that has changed the location. This is the aspect of the agility, which is to be ensured.

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## Key needs: Performance Uniformity

- **Performance Uniformity**
  - Wherever the VMs are, they will see the **same performance and latency**.
  - **Smaller units of compute** that we've divided our services into, and put them anywhere in the data center, and may be on the same physical machine.



Smaller units of compute

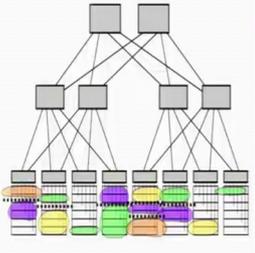
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Now, another key requirement is called performance uniformity. We say that wherever the VMs are, they will see the same performance and latencies because, when agility is being provided, so they will be the traffic order data will be segregated. So, all the VMs, all the servers, will be properly used, and they will experience in the same set of same performance and latency. So, smaller units of compute that we divided into the services into, and put them anywhere in the data center, may be on the same physical machine.

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## Key needs: Security

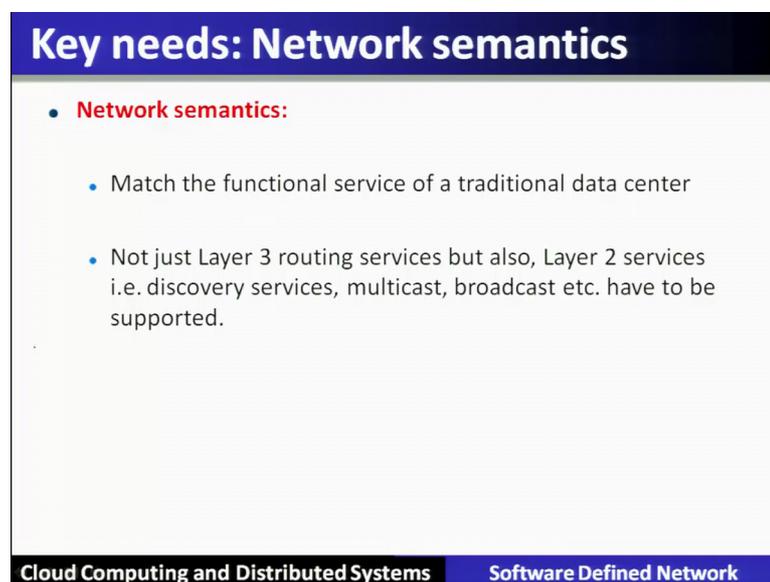
- **Security:** Untrusting applications and users sitting right next to each other and can be inbound attacks. So to protect our tenants in the data center from each other in both the public data center as well as in the private cloud and you don't want them to have to trust each other.
- **Micro-segmentation:** separation of different regions of a network.
- Much finer grained division and control, of how data can flow.
- Isolate or control just the data flow between pairs of applications, or tenants that should be actually allowed.



Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems      Software Defined Network

Now, third requirement is called a security, that is untrusted applications and users sitting next to each other can face the inbound attacks. So, to protect the different tenants into the data center from each other, you require the security is to be enforced or implemented. So, there are various techniques, for example, micro segmentation. The separation of different regions of the network; and much finer grained division and control of how the data can flow and isolate the control just the data flow between the pairs of application, or the tenants. So, there are different ways are there, but the key accept here is to ensure the security.

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**Key needs: Network semantics**

- **Network semantics:**
  - Match the functional service of a traditional data center
  - Not just Layer 3 routing services but also, Layer 2 services i.e. discovery services, multicast, broadcast etc. have to be supported.

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems      Software Defined Network

Finally, the last requirement of multi-tenant datacenter virtualization is called network semantics. So, it will match the functional service of the traditional datacenter, that is the traditional data services which are supported either in the layer 2 or layer 3 services in the form of discovery services, multicast, broadcast also has to be supported.

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## Network Virtualization in Multi-tenant Data Centers Case Study: VL2

**VL2: A Scalable and Flexible Data Center Network**

Albert Greenberg    James R. Hamilton    Navendu Jain  
Srikanth Kandula    Changhoon Kim    Parantap Lahri  
David A. Maltz    Parveen Patel    Sudipta Sengupta  
Microsoft Research

[ACM SIGCOMM 2009]

A Single Layer 2 Domain

**Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems**      **Case Study: VL2**

So, how this particular four five aspect of multi-tenant datacenters are to be virtualized that we will see in two different case studies, one is in the paper, which is described as VL2 method, that is the scalable and flexible data center design.

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## Network Virtualization Case Study: VL2

**Key Needs:**

- (i) Agility
- (ii) Location independent addressing
- (iii) Performance uniformity
- (iv) Security
- (v) Network Semantics

**Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems**      **Case Study: VL2**

Let us see how the VL2 provides the multi tenancy virtualization for data center. [FL] let us take a break. Network virtualization in VL2; Again, we will see how the five different key needs for multi tenancy datacenter virtualization is being architect or being designed in VL2, that is we will see how the agility is supported, how the location independent

addressing is provided, how the performance uniformity is guaranteed, and how the security is ensured, how the network semantics is being allowed.

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### Motivating Environmental Characteristics

**Increasing internal traffic is a bottleneck**

- Traffic volume between servers is 4 times larger than the external traffic

**Rapidly-changing traffic matrices (TMs)**

- i.e. Take traffic matrices in 100 second buckets and classify them into 40 categories of similar clusters of traffic matrices and see which of the clusters appear in the measurements
- So over time rapidly changing and no pattern to what the particular traffic matrix is.

**Design result:** Nonblocking fabric

- High throughput for any traffic matrices that respects server NIC rates.
- The fabric joining together all the servers, we don't want that to be a bottle neck.

[Greenberg et al.]

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: VL2

Before we go ahead into the details of the mechanisms, we will see: what was the motivating environment that led to the development of VL2 mechanisms. They have analyzed the internal traffic, and found that increasing internal traffic is a bottleneck. Why, because the traffic internal traffic within the data center between the servers is four times larger than the external traffic that is the traffic outside the data center. So, this particular internal traffic, which is becoming a bottleneck, has to be at rest, let us see that.

Now, they have also analyzed this internal traffic through the traffic matrices, and they found that this particular traffic matrices is rapidly changing, there is no fixed pattern. How they have analyzed is they have taken the traffic matrices in 100 seconds bucket and classify them into 40 different categories of clusters of traffic matrices, and see which of the clusters appear in the measurements. If you see the diagram, it is all scattered that means, there is no way a particular cluster is appearing again. So, over the time rapidly changing and no pattern to what the particular traffic matrix is, so that means, you cannot fix up a particular traffic matrix, it is basically rapidly changing even in the internal traffic, which is a bottleneck into a data center.

So, therefore, the approach for the design should be that the internet or a data center network should be non-blocking fabric. And it should basically be a high throughput for

any traffic matrix irrespective of the server NIC rates. The fabric joining together all the servers, we do not want that it to be bottleneck in any case, so that brings up the motivating point that how the non-blocking fabric, which will provide the high throughput for any traffic matrices being supported as per the design is concerned.

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**Motivating Environmental Characteristics**

**Failure characteristics:**

- Analyzed 300K alarm tickets, 36 million error events from the cluster
- 0.4% of failures were resolved in over one day
- 0.3% of failures eliminated all redundancy in a device group (e.g. both uplinks)

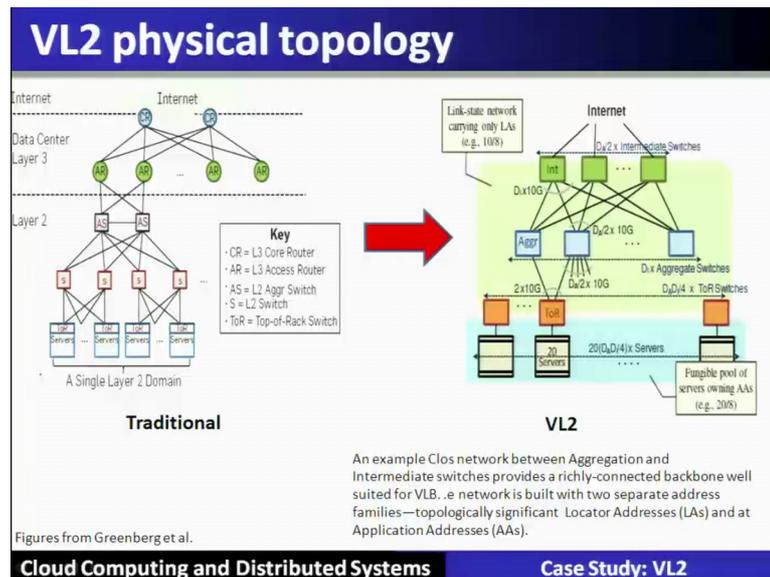
**Design result: Clos topology:**

- Particular kind of non blocking topology
- “Scale out” instead of “scale up”

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: VL2

Now, another aspect, which is being seen here is about the failure characteristics. There are several error events occurring that is 0.4 percent of those failures can be resolved in a particular day, 0.3 percent of the failures eliminated all the redundancy in a device groups. So, as far as these failures and their handling, this is specific characteristics has shown that the design requirement should be like clos topology that is a particular kind of non-blocking topology, which will be scaled out instead of scaling up, so that means, large number of devices should be provided in such a topology.

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Let us see the VL2 physical topology. Now, in the VL2 physical topology, we will see that different devices, which are connected that means, using different kind of devices are there, hierarchically networking the entire data center that is the racks and the servers.

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### Routing in VL2

**Unpredictable traffic**

- Means it is difficult to adapt. So this leads us to a design that is what's called **oblivious routing**. It means that the path along which we send a particular flow does not depend on the current traffic matrix.

**Design result: "Valiant Load Balancing"**

- For routing on hyper cubes take an arbitrary traffic matrix and make it look like a completely uniform even traffic matrix.
- Take flows and spreading evenly over all the available paths. Spread traffic as much as possible.
- Route traffic independent of current traffic matrix

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: VL2

Now, let us see in this particular scenario, how the routing is supported here in VL2. Since, you know that we have already seen is a unpredictable traffic matrix, so best thing is to use the oblivious routing. Oblivious routing will basically not deal with the

particular traffic flow, rather than it is independent to the traffic flow and that means, the path along which we send the particular flow does not depend on the current matrix. So, oblivious routing is basically supported in this scenario.

The other designed result is a valiant load balancing. So, valiant load balancing also does not takes into an account of a current traffic matrix. So, for an arbitrary traffic matrix, the routing on a hypercube will give the valiant load balancing. So, take the flows and spreading evenly over all the available paths, so that becomes a multipath kind of routing a valiant load balancing will be done, so that means, is spreading the traffic as much as possible in the valiant load balancing. And route the traffic independent of the current traffic matrix.

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## Routing Implementation

**Spreads arbitrary traffic pattern** so it's uniform among top layer switches which are called intermediate switches.

Now to do that what VL2 does is **it assigns those intermediate switches and any cast address.** The same any cast address for all of the switches.

So, then a top of rack switch can send to a random one by just using that single address. And if we are using **ECMP we will use a random one of those paths that are shortest.**

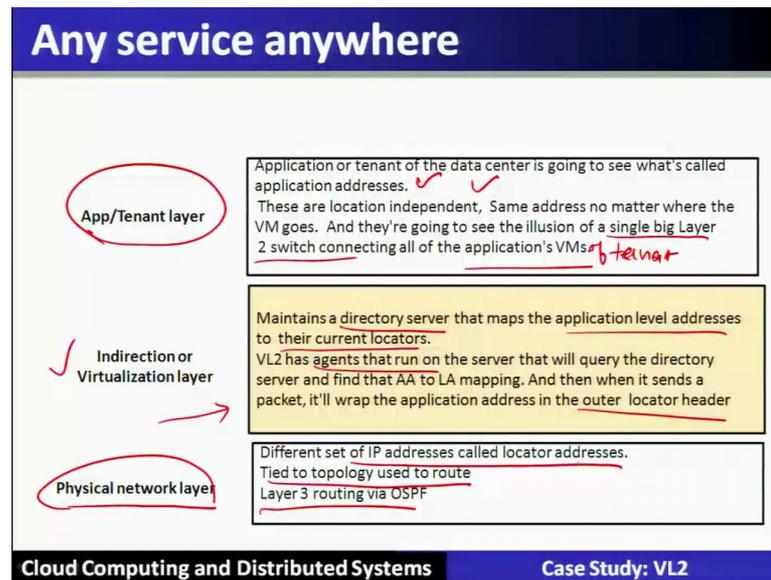
**Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems**
**Case Study: VL2**

So, it is so after spreading arbitrary the traffic pattern, so it is a uniform among all the top layers, which is which are called intermediate switches. Now, to do that what VL2 does is that it assigns those intermediate switches with any cast address. So, then the top of the rack switch can send to a random one by just using a single address. We are using ECMP; we will use the random one of those paths that are shortest. Let us understand these concepts.

Now, here they are called intermediate switch. And any cast address is being used here, when a packet reaches up to this point. As far as the top of the rack switch, when a



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So, this particular aspect is being supported by the virtualization layer. So, therefore, there are three different layers. Now, earlier we have seen there will be a physical layer, which will be nothing but the IP addresses, which are also called the locator addresses, and they are tied up on the topology used, and it also follows a particular routing scheme that is called OSPF at the physical network layer.

Similarly, at the application layer or the tenant layer, so the application or tenant of the data center is going to see what is called the application addresses. So, that tenants, they can communicate through the application addresses, which is quite different than the IP addresses. So, these are location independent addresses. So, same addresses no matter, where the VM goes, and they are going to see the illusion of a single big layer to switch connecting all the application VMs. So, now therefore, all the tenants can communicate with each other, and they will not cross across to the other tenant traffic. So, therefore, the illusion will be that, it will be at the application or tenant layer will give an illusion that it is a very big layer to switch, which is connecting all the applications VM of or particular tenant. Similarly, different tenants will have this kind of view.

Now, to translate the physical addresses to the physical addresses to the application addresses, there is a requirement of a indirection or a virtualization layer, which is maintained in the form of a directory server that maps the application level addresses to their to the current locators. So, VL2 has the agents that runs on the server that will query

to the directory service and find out the application address to the location address mapping. And then, when it sends the packet, it will be wrapped the application address in the outer locator header.

So, it is encapsulation and decapsulation will be done. So, encapsulation that means, when the packet is build, it will be encapsulated. And on the outer header, the application address will be and will be put. Similarly, at the time of delivery, all these decapsulation will be done, and it will be delivered in this particular manner. So, this will support a virtualization layer will support any service, anywhere, that is called agility, that we have already explained.

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**Did we achieve agility?**

- Location independent addressing**
  - AAs are location independent
- L2 network semantics**
  - Agent intercepts and handles L2 broadcast, multicast
  - Both of the above require “layer 2.5” shim agent running on host; but, concept transfers to hypervisor-based virtual switch

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: VL2

So, did we achieve agility? Let us review this. Now, we have seen that it is a location independent addressing, we have achieved with the help of application addresses. And application addresses are location independent. As far as L2 network semantics are concerned. These agents will intercept and handles the L2 broadcast, multicast, and so on. So, both of these above issues, will require a layer 2.5 that is shim agent running on the host, but the concept transfers to the hypervisor based virtual switch.

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**Did we achieve agility?**

**Performance uniformity:**

- Clos network is nonblocking (non-oversubscribed)
- Uniform capacity everywhere.
- ECMP provides good (though not perfect) load balancing
- But performance isolation among tenants depends on TCP backing off to the rate that the destination can receive.
- Leaves open the possibility of fast load balancing

**Security:**

- Directory system can allow/deny connections by choosing whether to resolve an AA to a LA
- But, segmentation not explicitly enforced at hosts

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: VL2

Now, let us see the performance uniformity. So, Clos network is non-blocking, and non-oversubscribed. Uniform capacity is everywhere. ECMP provides a good do not perfect load balancing. But, the performance isolation among the tenants depends on the TCP back off rates. And leaves open possibility for the fast load balancing. Security, let us review VL2, whether how it ensure the security. So, directory service can allow and deny connections by choosing whether to resolve an application address to a locator address. So, security is enforced at the level of directory system, but the segmentation not explicitly enforced at hosts.

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**Where's the SDN?**

**Directory servers:** Logically centralized control

- Orchestrate application locations
- Control communication policy

**Hosts agents:** dynamic “programming” of data path

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: VL2

So, here we have seen that software defined networks in the form of director service has been used as the logically centralized control. Why, because it used to deny or accept the new incoming requests of the traffic. So, therefore, the software-defined networks will orchestrate, the application locations will control the communication policies across different directory services. And this host agent will perform the data path, using a dynamic programming approach.

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**Network Virtualization  
Case Study: NVP**

**Network Virtualization in Multi-tenant Datacenters**  
Teemu Koponen, Keith Amidon, Peter Balland, Martin Casado, Anupam Chanda, Bryan Fulton, Igor Ganichev, Jesse Gross, Natasha Gude, Paul Ingram, Ethan Jackson, Andrew Lambeth, Romain Lenglet, Shih-Hao Li, Amar Padmanabhan, Justin Pectit, Ben Pfaff, and Rajiv Ramanathan, VMware; Scott Shenker, International Computer Science Institute and the University of California, Berkeley; Alan Shieh, Jeremy Stribling, Pankaj Thakkar, Dan Wendlandt, Alexander Yip, and Ronghua Zhang, VMware

<https://www.usenix.org/conference/nsdi14/technical-sessions/presentation/koponen>

This paper is included in the Proceedings of the  
11th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems  
Design and Implementation (NSDI '14).  
April 2-4, 2014 • Seattle, WA, USA

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: NVP

The next case study, the next type of implementation, you will see in the network virtualization using NVP protocol that is network virtualization in multi-tenant datacenters.

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## NVP Approach to Virtualization

- The network virtualization platform that was introduced in the paper “**Network virtualization in Multi-tenant Datacenters**” by Teemu Koponen et al. in NSDI 2014.
- Product developed by the Nicira startup that was acquired by VMware.

Cloud Computing and Distributed SystemsCase Study: NVP

Let us see, how it supports, what is his view. There is another approach to the virtualization of multi-tenant datacenters in the form of NVP approach that is Network Virtualization in Multi-tenant Datacenters, published in 2014. This particular approach later on was taken up by the VMware as a product.

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## Service: Arbitrary network topology

- Replicate arbitrary topology
- Any standard layer 3 network
- Network hypervisor
- Virtual network tenants want to build

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graph TD; A[Network hypervisor] --- B[Physical Network: Any layer standard3 network];
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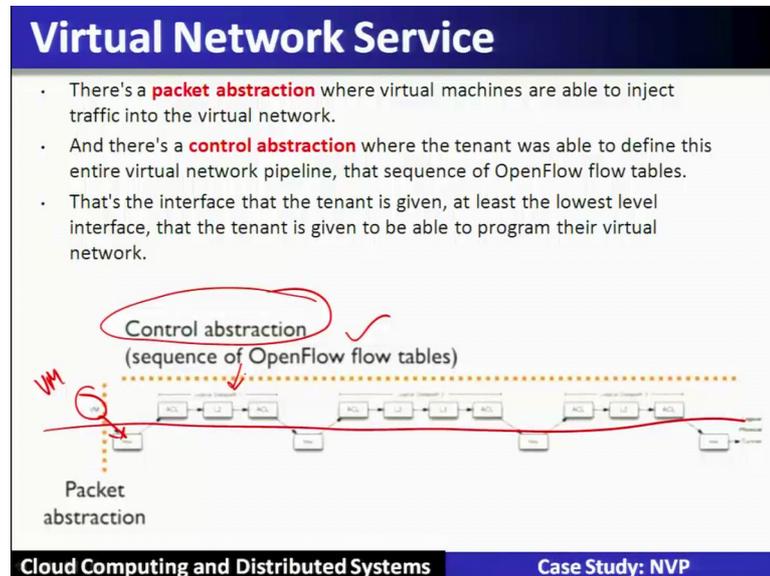
Cloud Computing and Distributed SystemsCase Study: NVP

Now, here it will consider for the service any arbitrary network topology that means, it considers the multi tenants to be using different tenants to be using an arbitrary network topology. What do you mean by arbitrary topology, means any combination of layer 2



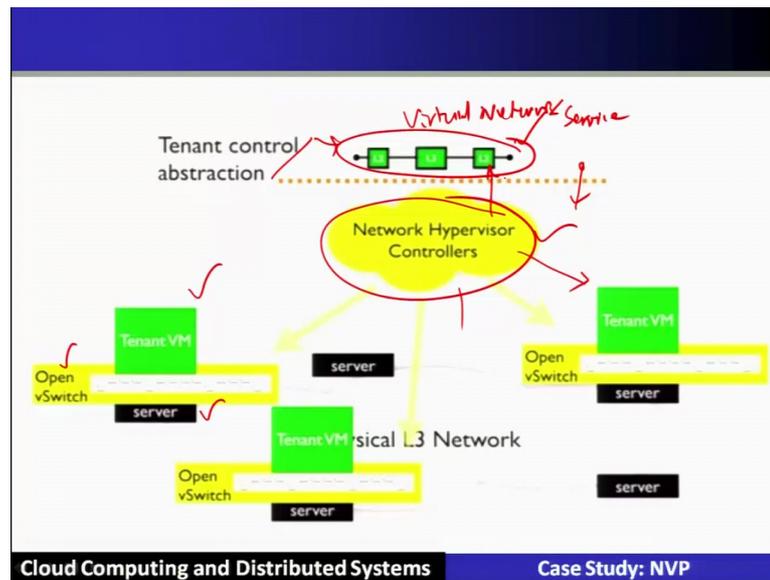
physical layer. And this is the logical layer. So, the virtual network service can be provided in this particular form of a logical layer. And finally, this particular or a packet will be send through the tunnel.

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Now, here there will be a separation that there is a packet abstraction, where the virtual machines are able to inject the traffic into the virtual network that we have shown. And there is a control abstraction. So, control abstraction that is let us see this view. So, virtual machine can inject the packet, and the packet abstraction will be that the control abstraction will be provided in the form of a OpenFlow tables that we have seen in access control link tables. So, that is the interface that the tenant is given, at least the lowest level interface that the tenant is given to be able to program their virtual network.

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So, let us see the virtualization in more detailed of the virtual network. So, this is the abstraction, which tenant can see its virtual network. So, this can be formed or tenant can specify its network in this form of virtual connections. And the tenant can control it over this particular topology. Now, this particular control topology or control abstraction will be supported by the network hypervisor controllers. And they will manage all the tenant virtual machines.

And this tenant virtual machine is being supported by an Open vSwitch, which manages the server. So, just see that, these network hypervisor controllers will provide an abstraction to the tenants in the form of a virtual network, which intern will manage the tenant virtual machine. The tenant virtual machine in turn will be supported by the Open vSwitch. And Open vSwitch manages the servers.

So, Open vSwitch is managing the devices and gives the support to the tenant virtual machine. And the network hypervisor will support to the tenant control to the tenant virtual network. So, this way every tenant can establish or can be specified through the abstraction its virtual network which in turn is virtualized by a network hypervisor, and using vSwitch all the network devices are being managed. So, therefore, NVP has given the idea of the network virtualization. So, it has given the concept of network hypervisor, just like we have seen the hypervisors or virtualization of the servers.

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**Challenge: Performance**

**Large amount of state to compute**

- Full virtual network state at every host with a tenant VM!
- $O(n^2)$  tunnels for tenant with  $n$  VMs
- **Solution 1:** Automated incremental state computation with nlog declarative language
- **Solution 2:** Logical controller computes single set of universal flows for a tenant, translated more locally by “physical controllers”

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: NVP

Now, the challenge is let us see the performance. Here it requires large amount of state to be computed. Full virtual network state at every host with a tenant virtual machine, it requires order  $n$  square different tunnels for tenants with  $n$  virtual machines. So, the 1st solution says that automatic incremental state computation with nlog declarative languages is possible. 2nd solution says that logical controller computes single set of universal flows for a tenant, translated locally by physical controllers.

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**Challenge: Performance**

**Pipeline processing in virtual switch can be slow**

- **Solution:** Send first packet of a flow through the full pipeline: thereafter, put an exact-match packet entry in the kernel

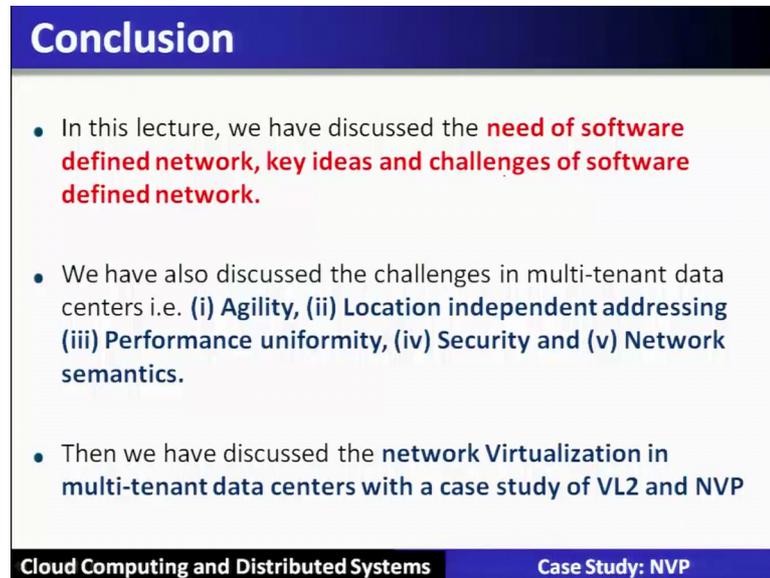
**Tunneling interfaces with TCP Segmentation Offload (TSO)**

- NIC can't see TCP outer header
- Solution: STT tunnels adds “fake” outer TCP header

Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems Case Study: NVP

So, therefore, the performance can be handled through the different programming of pipeline processing in the virtual switch can be slow. So, it is a tunnel interface with TCP offloading can be there.

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**Conclusion**

- In this lecture, we have discussed the **need of software defined network, key ideas and challenges of software defined network.**
- We have also discussed the challenges in multi-tenant data centers i.e. **(i) Agility, (ii) Location independent addressing (iii) Performance uniformity, (iv) Security and (v) Network semantics.**
- Then we have discussed the **network Virtualization in multi-tenant data centers with a case study of VL2 and NVP**

**Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems** **Case Study: NVP**

So, conclusion, in this lecture, we have discuss the need of software-defined networks, and how this software-defined network has overcome from different challenges of the traditional network. We have also seen the use of software-defined network for virtualization in a multitenant datacenters to support the agility, location independent addressing, performance uniformity, security and network semantics. We have then discussed there are two different ways of network virtualization in multi-tenant datacenters in the form of VL2, and another way of design that is called NVP.

Thank you.