

IT Is Prawn Cocktail ?

By [Steve Broadhead](#) on September 27, 2012 10:41 AM |

Bem Vindo from the Algarve, at the latest Netevents symposium.

One of my favourite topics in networking (and IT in general) is how often we revisit old "recipes". In the same way that prawn cocktail has become trendy again, so it is with networking and Netevents. Two panel debates in, we've already had seven "paradigms" (IT buzzword of the year, 1995) and several "visions" and a few "hype cycles".

Debate topics are pretty well predictable:

- BYOD
 - SDN
 - Mobile + Cloud = opportunity or risk?
- etc...

The focus of the BYOD debate (and let's face it, people have been bringing their personal laptop into work and copying data onto it to work on from home out of office hours since the early '90's) was device management and security. But is the real issue here not the device, but the kind of applications that people are using on them, and adopting and managing those? In other words, at what point do applications such as Facebook become "enterprise" applications and how do we then manage those, rather than simply block them (and the devices themselves)?

Now we're onto the subject of SDN - Software Defined Networking. The panel talk is about automation, removing the need for manual administration, control of mixed vendor networks etc. Isn't this called vendor-independent Network Management - i.e. what all the net' management vendors in the early '90's set out to achieve? So, it didn't get there - will SDN?

The debate goes on...