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Paradigm 13 Shift 2 SDN (lost count)

By [Steve Broadhead](#) on September 28, 2012 8:43 AM

Such was the count at the end of Day 1 of Netevents Portugal. Thirteen "paradigm's" and two "paradigm shifts". Surprisingly there were no "out of the boxes" and only one "granularity" reference. It should also be noted that the "p" word" was used by at least four different nationalities, so it's not a single country syndrome.

But the winner for "fully embraced buzz-phrase" has to be SDN or Software Defined Network, something we've spoken about in this blog on more than one occasion, including yesterday. The thing is, regardless of whether it is simply what network management should have been all along (or not), something really IS going on here - real products, services, open (OpenFlow) and proprietary (the rest) and pilot customers. It is, therefore, realistic to suggest that we are going to move into phase III of IT; mainframe, then networked and now SDN - i.e. fully separating the control and management of network traffic (users and application) from the physical components - switches, routers etc. For it to be truly worthwhile, SDN has to enable us to manage the network on a per user, per application, per connection (end to end) basis.

Is this feasible? Certainly. Does anyone have a true, fully-working solution? Watch this space - at least until Wednesday, when I can reveal one client of Broadband-Testing who has all the components; now just let us loose on the testing of said solution...