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Industry moves to enhance Ethernet for the Cloud: CloudEthernet Forum launched with close MEF collaboration

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http://cloudcomputingnews.in/hp-launches-industrys-most-complete-software-defined-network-fabric-for-cloud/

The CloudEthernet Forum addresses the specific issues of scaling and applyingsuitable Ethernet servicesto meet the stringent demands of delivering cloud services.

With virtual machine populations running into the millions across geographically dispersed datacentersplus the migration of storage networks to Ethernet, the Forum provides a unique frameworkfor industry stakeholders to collectivelydevelop solutionsthataddress technical challenges such asVLAN scaling, layer 2 performance and resilience across very large domains and consolidating storage network technologies onto Ethernet.

James Walker, president of the CloudEthernet Forum and vice president ofManaged Network Services, Tata Communications, explains how the Forum is addressing real concerns, "Four years ago we migrated our Ethernet services over SDHto native Ethernet over PBB and it is proving highly popular with our datacenter customers.They love Ethernet's simplicity and scalability and want more.However, as datacenter networks become larger and more sophisticated, they are coming up against challenges,and the CloudEthernet Forum is committed to resolving those issues."

Ultimately, the work of the CloudEthernet Forum enables cloud service providers, carriersand enterprises to quickly and simply build and manage very large amounts of computing and storage capacity to meet the rapidly changing localized performance, scalability and regulatory requirements of cloud services,all while optimizing operational costs. Just as the MEF has enhanced and standardized CarrierEthernet to create services suitable for geographically-dispersed enterprises and mobile operators worldwide, the CloudEthernet Forum will work to developEthernet to enable collections of millions of virtual servers and storage devices to perform reliably and efficiently across both regional and global networks.

"Establishment of the CloudEthernet Forumis a reflection of Ethernet's critical position in the future of the communications industry," says Ihab Tarazi,chairman of the board of the MEF and vice president of product technology at Verizon. "Ethernet is ideal for delivering dynamic high speed bandwidth for public and private clouds with reliability, scalability andhigh performance."

"Solutions from the CloudEthernet Forum will increase demand for Carrier Ethernet services –aligning it closely with the MEF's objectives and mission to accelerate the adoption of carrier-class Ethernet globally," says Nan Chen, president of the MEF.

The founding members of the CloudEthernet Forum include: Alcatel-Lucent, Avaya, Equinix, HP, Juniper Networks, PCCW Global, Spirent Communications, Tata Communications and Verizon. The

CloudEthernet Forum is an MEF organization but will operate independently. New members such as systems integrators, NEMs and service providers, including leading cloud providers, are encouraged to join.