COMMUNICATIONS DAY

ness Telecom, Telco Together has also welcomed Red Dot Telecom, 4 Nines Telecom and Next Telecom to its member roster; it now boasts a combined reach of over 13 million customers and 20,000 staff nationwide.

In its first eighteen months of operation, Telco Together has raised over A$500,000 for its community partners.

<div align="right">Petroc Wilton</div>

Security to be the proof in the pudding for network virtualisation

The ability to differentiate privileges between different applications will be the catalyst for the adoption of network virtualisation, says VMware CTO networking Martin Casado.

According to Casado, the driver going forward for network virtualisation will be the fact that applying security in software will allow network managers to segment applications into their own domains.

The concept is part of Casado's definition of the industry trend called network functions virtualisation – or NFV, which describes the replacement of previously proprietary, hardware-based equipment with software modules that can be control and configured with software.

"40% of the early adopters who are actually paying money for SDN and network virtualisation are doing it for security," he told an audience at a NetEvents conference in California.

Casado, who revealed he actually worked at the security services of the US government before he went and got a degree at Stanford and founded a company called Nicira Networks that was purchased by VMware for about US$1.3 billion, said the lack of internal security within today's data centres is a major architecture flaw.

According to Casado, 80% of the security spend today is "on the perimeter," which doesn't protect the data when threats succeed in infiltrating a facility's walls.

"I can pay somebody off to put on a black mask and break into the building and install some code on a server, or I can remotely exploit a server. If I get into a data centre, it's done, all the data is there and there is almost no control inside a data centre. Why? It is very difficult to control a terabit of bandwidth. That's why you build boxes and put them at the perimeter," he explained. "We have this imaginary line where we have boxes that we put in the perimeter and we have all the valuable stuff which if you are inside, you have unfettered access to."

In his opinion, this represents a key incentive for service providers to implement network virtualisation for a process he calls "micro segmentation."

"What you want to do is enforce the principle of least privilege... to give it [an application] exactly the access to get the job done and nothing else," he said. "The idea is to use network virtualisation as the building blocks to build micro segments, and if I put something in within one of those segments, the only thing that you can see is only in those segments."

<div align="right">Tony Chan</div>

MEF claims rising demand for CE2.0 certification

The Metro Ethernet Forum says 53 companies have achieved the MEF CE 2.0 certification, which checks services and products against a set of industry guidelines for features and functions such as network-to-network interconnection, and end-to-end manageability of Ethernet services.

According to MEF chief operating officer Kevin Vachon, 53 companies were awarded CE 2.0 certification in the 12 months since its debut. In comparison, there are 162 companies with the CE 1.0 certification after nearly a decade.

"Adoption has been much faster with CE 2.0," said Vachon, adding that some 30 companies are in the funnel seeking CE 2.0 certification for their products and services.

The demand is driven at least partly by market requirements, Vachon added, citing a market survey by the MEF that showed CE 2.0 as now a critical component of wholesale.

"Of the 150 respondents from across 20 odd countries, 20% said 'yes' to the question whether CE 2.0 certification was an importantly part of wholesale request for proposals," he said. "More importantly, 60% of the respondents said they expect to see CE 2.0 as a part of wholesale RFPs in 2014."

Meanwhile, Vachon says the MEF is looking into the next evolution stage for Carrier Ethernet, pointing to evolving applications such as machine-to-machine, more dynamic network services and emerging requirements for on-demand differentiated network access through Ethernet.

However, he declined to say whether a CE 3.0 scheme is in the works. "We are looking at the market and where it is going. That is one of the key topics for us this year. Whether it will be called CE 3.0, or something else, remains to be seen."

Tony Chan

HUAWEI MARINE ADDS 800GBPS TO INDONESIAN SUBSEA CABLE
Huawei Marine Networks has added some 800Gbps of capacity on a segment of an intra-Indonesia network. HMN added the capacity on Telkom Indonesia's 3rd route submarine cable system, which features two links of 380km and 360km respectively. The upgrade featured 8 x 100G wavelengths with soft-decision forward error correction.

TM TAKES MAJORITY SHARE OF PACKET ONE
Telekom Malaysia has entered into deal to inject RM350 million into Malaysian WiMax operator Packet One Networks. The investment now gives Telekom Malaysia a 57% share in P1, whose existing backers, SK Telecom and Green Packet will remained key investors.

COMCOM TO WRAP UP PRICING PRINCIPLES BY DECEMBER
New Zealand's Commerce Commission has confirmed that it will conduct the final pricing principle for both the unbundled bitstream access and unbundled copper local loop services by 1 December this year. In February the Commission had outlined the process for pricing the UBA service only. However following discussions with modellers retained for the exercise, French firm TERA Consultants, the Commission now believes it is possible to complete both processes this year.

ORACLE AWARDS TELSTRA, VERIZON, TELEFONICA
Oracle Communications has announced that Telstra Corporation and Verizon Enterprise Solutions and Telefonica Digital received Oracle Communications Innovation Awards at its annual Oracle Communications Customer Advisory Board meeting in Boston. The criteria of the Innovation Awards centre on industry players, using Oracle's products and solutions for projects resulting in measurable process improvement, innovation, and deliver enhanced customer experience, impacting bottom line results.

ON THIS DAY 10 YEARS AGO: FROM THE COMMSDAY 2004 ARCHIVES
The federal government's second push to fully privatise Telstra was quashed by the Senate... Telecommunications provider Westel Group expanded into the defence markets of Asia and the US with the acquisition of military data solutions provider Opentec... US research company In-Stat/MDR said lack of customer demand remained the only outstanding hurdle in getting 3G up and running, suggesting operators may be overstating technical difficulties that had impinged on rollout schedules to date.