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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.

Petroc Wilton

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.”

Tony Chan

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.