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An extensible, programmable, commercial-grade platform for internet service architecture

T. Lavian D.B. Hoang F. Travostino P.Y. Wang S. Subramanian I. Monga

Nortel Networks, Santa Clara, CA, USA

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Abstract

With their increasingly sophisticated applications, users promote the notion that there is more to a network (be it an intranet, or the Internet) than mere L1-3 connectivity. In what shapes a next generation service contract between users and the network, users want the network to offer services that are as ubiquitous and dependable as dial tones. Typical services include application-aware firewalls, directories, nomadic support, virtualization, load balancing, alternate site failover, etc. To fulfill this vision, a service architecture is needed. That is, an architecture wherein end-to-end services compose, on-demand, across network domains, technologies, and administration boundaries. Such an architecture requires programmable mechanisms and programmable network devices for service enabling, service negotiation, and service management. The bedrock foundation of the architecture, and also the key focus of the paper, is an open-source programmable service platform that is explicitly designed to best exploit commercial-grade network devices. The platform predicates a full separation of concerns, in that control-intensive operations are executed in software, whereas, data-intensive operations are delegated to hardware. This way, the platform is capable of performing wire-speed content filtering, and activating network services according to the state of data and control flows. The paper describes the platform and some distinguishing services realized on the platform.

Index Terms

Inspec

Controlled Indexing

Internet distributed programming public domain software

Non-controlled Indexing

Internet service architecture alternate site failover application-aware firewalls control-intensive operations data-intensive operations directories end-to-end services extensible programmable commercial-grade platform hardware load balancing network devices normadic support open-source programmable service platform programmable network devices service enabling service management service negotiation software virtualization wire-speed content filtering

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DOE Thesaurus Terms

Not Available

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