

May 28, 2014

Time to Say Goodbye: Research Indicates That Businesses Need Agile Networks to Meet Evolving User Demands

Less Than One in Ten Enterprises Has Faith in Its Existing Network; More Agile Infrastructures Are Needed to Deliver Next-Generation Applications and Services

SAN JOSE, CA -- (Marketwired) -- 05/28/14 -- New research* commissioned by [Brocade](#) (NASDAQ: BRCD) indicates that enterprises are being restricted by legacy network resources, requiring them to say "goodbye" to yesterday's infrastructure and challenge the status quo on how to architect their data centers for the future. While many enterprises (75 percent) have invested in the network over the last three years, a staggering 92 percent of senior IT Decision-Makers (ITDMs) feel that their infrastructure is not agile enough to deliver robust and scalable services to stakeholders or support next-generation applications.

To further highlight the challenge facing these organizations, more than a quarter of respondents admitted to having to take remedial action on network outages several times a week, if not daily, while almost a fifth of respondents candidly stated that their network was *not fit for purpose*, suggesting that the legacy network is in need of change.

"The fact that legacy networks are not able to meet the evolving demands of modern business is not necessarily news, but what is concerning is the scale of the problem," stated Jason Nolet, Vice President Data Center Switching and Routing at Brocade. "Over the last ten years, the way we interact with data has evolved beyond anyone's expectation. Billions of connected devices are overloading global networks with requests every second, and users demand always-on, instantaneous access to applications and services. Virtualization and cloud models are scaling at pace but require greater network agility and performance, as well as reduced operational cost and complexity. All of these factors are placing pressure on an infrastructure that, frankly, was never designed to deal with such demands. While the problem itself is not new, the scale to which it is impacting businesses means that enterprises must address it immediately or face the real danger of becoming obsolete to their customers."

Many enterprises are beginning to meet this challenge head-on. Acknowledging that their current networks cannot scale to meet short- to mid-term business needs, more than half of senior ITDMs are either actively evaluating Software-Defined Networking (SDN) technologies or plan to do so in the next 12 months. Users believe that a software-based approach will deliver improved uptime and availability, better access to real-time information and increased productivity, so they are looking to re-engineer their environments to help them on the journey to SDN. As such, 65 percent of respondents are actively using (or evaluating in the next year) Ethernet fabric architectures in a bid to manage their current cost, complexity and reliability challenges while building the robust physical infrastructure needed for SDN.

"The findings clearly show that, despite apparent investment in the past few years, most organizations are still ill-equipped for current business demands and need to say "goodbye" to their legacy environments. The Brocade vision for the network -- a fabric-based network -- enables our customers to simplify and automate their networks, as well as dramatically improve network efficiency, utilization and performance. It also represents another logical step on the path toward mass customer adoption of SDN, which is what respondents say they need," added Nolet.

Other key findings from the research included:

- 75 percent of respondents would welcome the use of an "on-demand" data center model (a purpose-built network infrastructure for highly virtualized and cloud computing environments)
- Complexity (20 percent), cost (19 percent) and performance (14 percent) are the biggest data center challenges facing senior ITDMs
- 17 percent of enterprises have no plans to evaluate SDN, and 16 percent feel the same towards fabric-based architectures
- On average, 49 percent of servers are currently virtualized with this rising to an average of 64 percent in two years
- It currently takes an average of four days to provision a new device or application, and five days to provision a new service
- 35 percent of departments have looked to deploy cloud-based services in order to enhance their IT experience, but have done so without engaging the company's IT organization

Brocade leads the way in SDN technologies to help unleash the power, intelligence and analytics of networks with a flexible,

end-to-end cloud-based solution. To pave the way for SDN, [Brocade VCS Fabric technology](#) helps organizations create efficient data center networks that just work. Ethernet fabrics built on Brocade VCS Fabric technology provide unmatched automation, efficiency and VM awareness compared to traditional network architectures and competitive fabric offerings. In addition, they increase flexibility and IT agility, enabling organizations to transition smoothly to elastic, mission-critical networks in highly virtualized cloud data centers.

For more information, visit www.brocade.com or www.brocade.com/networkfacts.

* The study, commissioned by Brocade, was conducted by third-party research firm Vanson Bourne, and surveyed 400 senior ITDMs from large enterprises in the UK and US.

About Brocade

Brocade (NASDAQ: BRCD) networking solutions help the world's leading organizations transition smoothly to a world where applications and information reside anywhere. (www.brocade.com)

© 2014 Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

ADX, Brocade, Brocade Assurance, the B-wing symbol, DCX, Fabric OS, ICX, MLX, MyBrocade, OpenScript, SAN Health, VCS, VDX, and Vyatta are registered trademarks, and HyperEdge, NET Health, The Effortless Network, and The On-Demand Data Center are trademarks of Brocade Communications Systems, Inc., in the United States and/or in other countries. Other brands, products, or service names mentioned may be trademarks of their respective owners.

BROCADE CONTACTS

Media Relations

Stuart Marks

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8432 5194

Mob: +44 (0) 7734 688062

markss@brocade.com

Investor Relations

Ben Jones

Tel: +1.408.333.6601

Mob: +1.408.627.5434

bjones@brocade.com

Source: Brocade

News Provided by Acquire Media