Cisco ACI und DNA

Veränderungen des Kompetenzprofils des Admins der Zukunft

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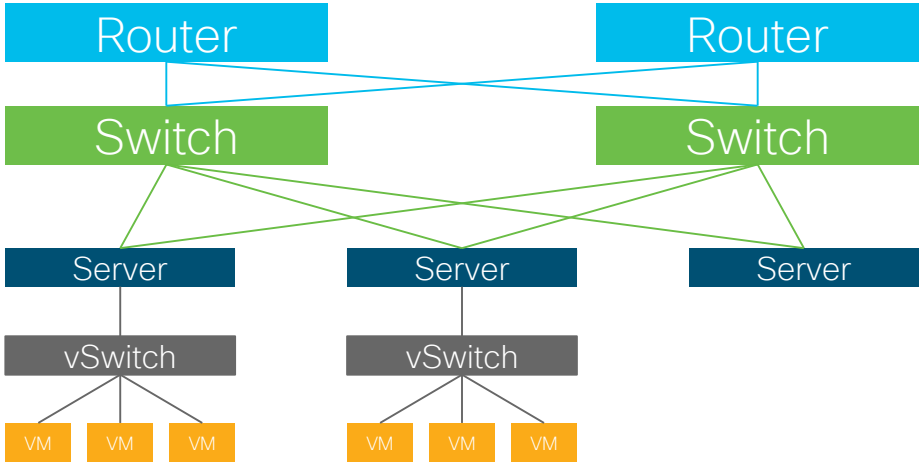
Agenda

- Classic Network Design
- Software-defined Networking
- Cisco ACI
- Cisco DNA & SDA
- Future Net Admin Skill Set
- Summary and Evaluation

Classic Network Design

Network Evolution



Network Evolution

Load Balancer

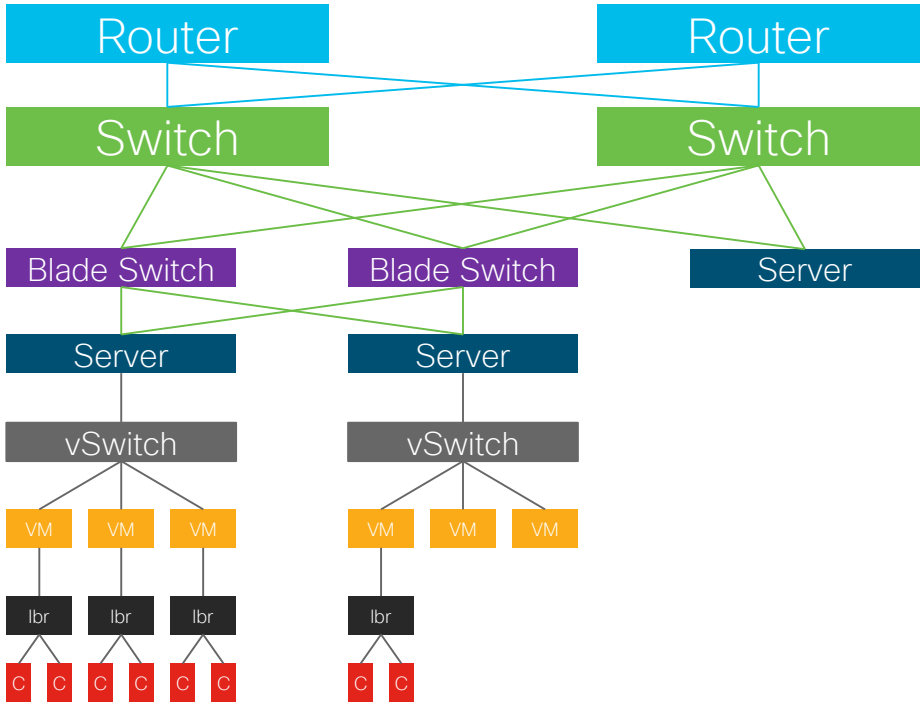
Firewall

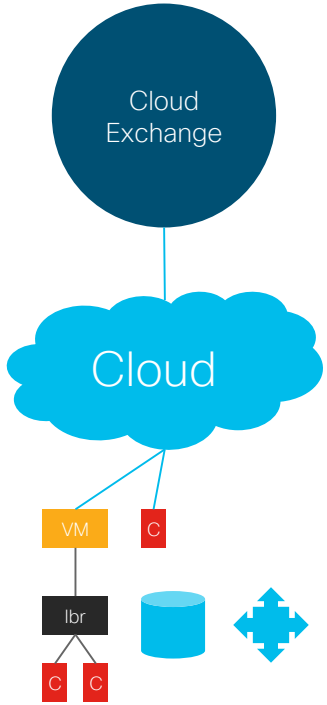
IPS

DNS

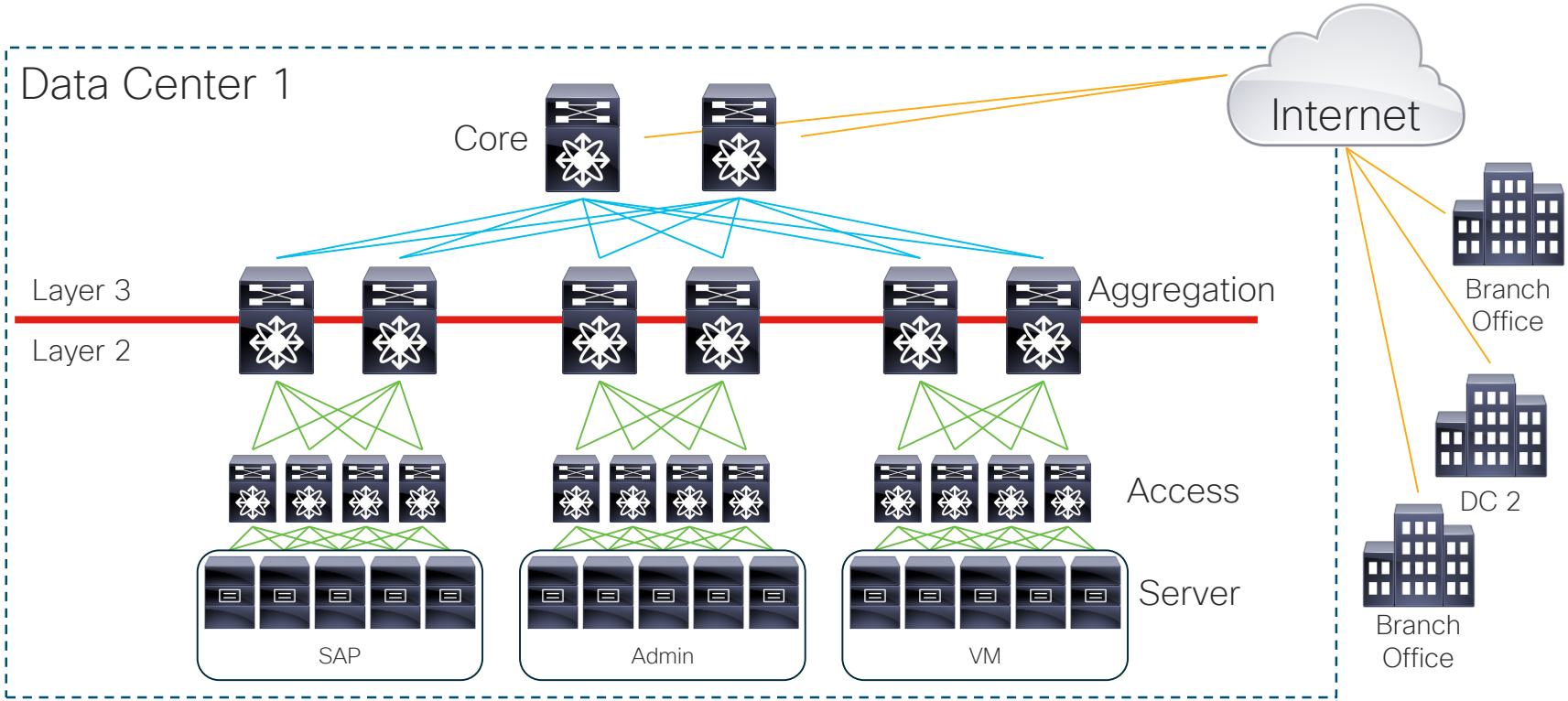
Gateways

Others





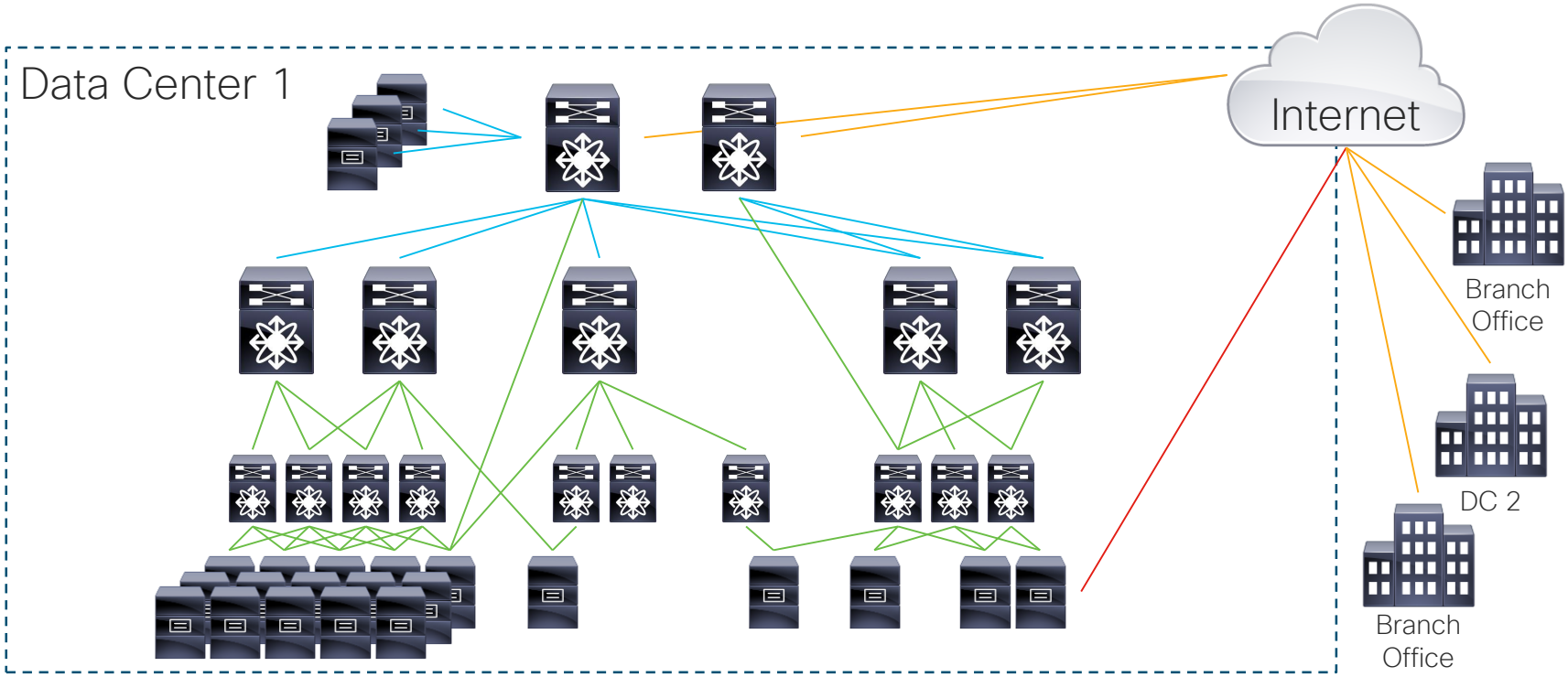
Data Center 3-Tier Design



Data Center 3-Tier Design

“Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.”

Data Center 3-Tier Design



Network Revolution

I want an agile bimodal hybrid cloud so we can develop containerised serverless trustless microservices applications to take us digitial to avoid disruptions from any unicorns. Oh … and I want DevOps … two of those …

What has changed?

- digitization
- cloud computing
- app economy
- Internet of Things
- software-defined networks
- tech unicorns

Four Ages of Networking

Stone Age

Spanning Tree
VLANs

Bronze Age

Routing Protocols
WAN Design
IP-mageddon

Renaissance

SDN
OpenFlow
Controllers
Overlays
MP-BGP
VXLAN
Micro-Segmentation
White Box

Programmable Age

Cloud
Python
REST/APIs
NETCONF/YANG
Fabrics
NFV
Containers
(Net)DevOps

Software-defined Networking

Definition

"Software-defined networking (SDN) technology is a novel approach to cloud computing that felicitates network management and enables programmatically efficient network configuration in order to improve network performance and monitoring."

-Kamal Benzekki

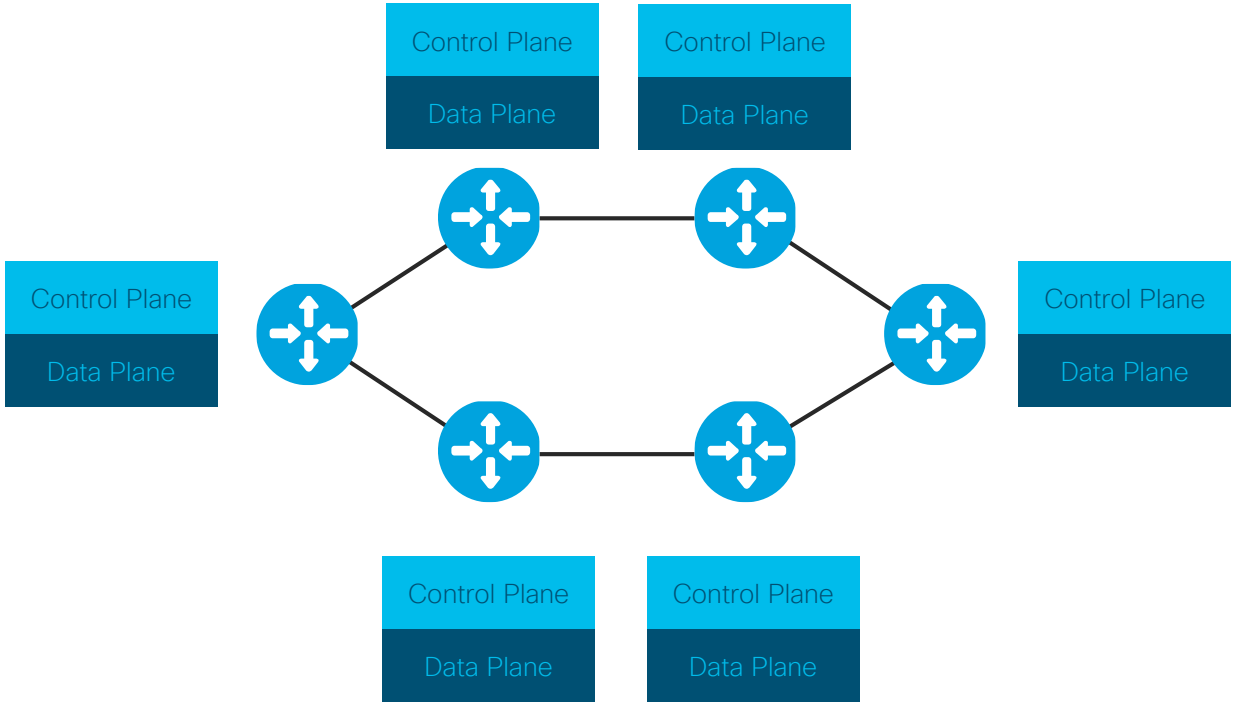
SDN suggests to centralize network intelligence in one network component by disassociating the forwarding process of network packets (data plane) from the routing process (control plane).

Inside The Box

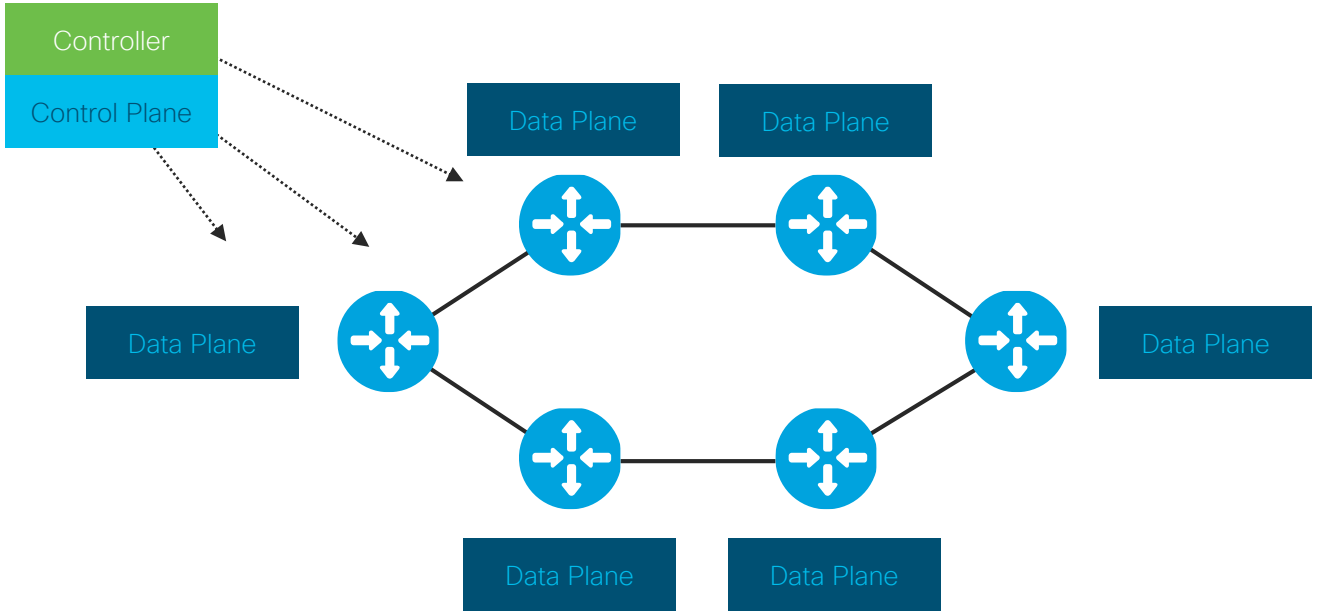
Control Plane | RIP, OSPF, STP, EIGRP, SNMP, CLI, etc.

Data Plane | store-and-forward, ACL, encryption, etc.

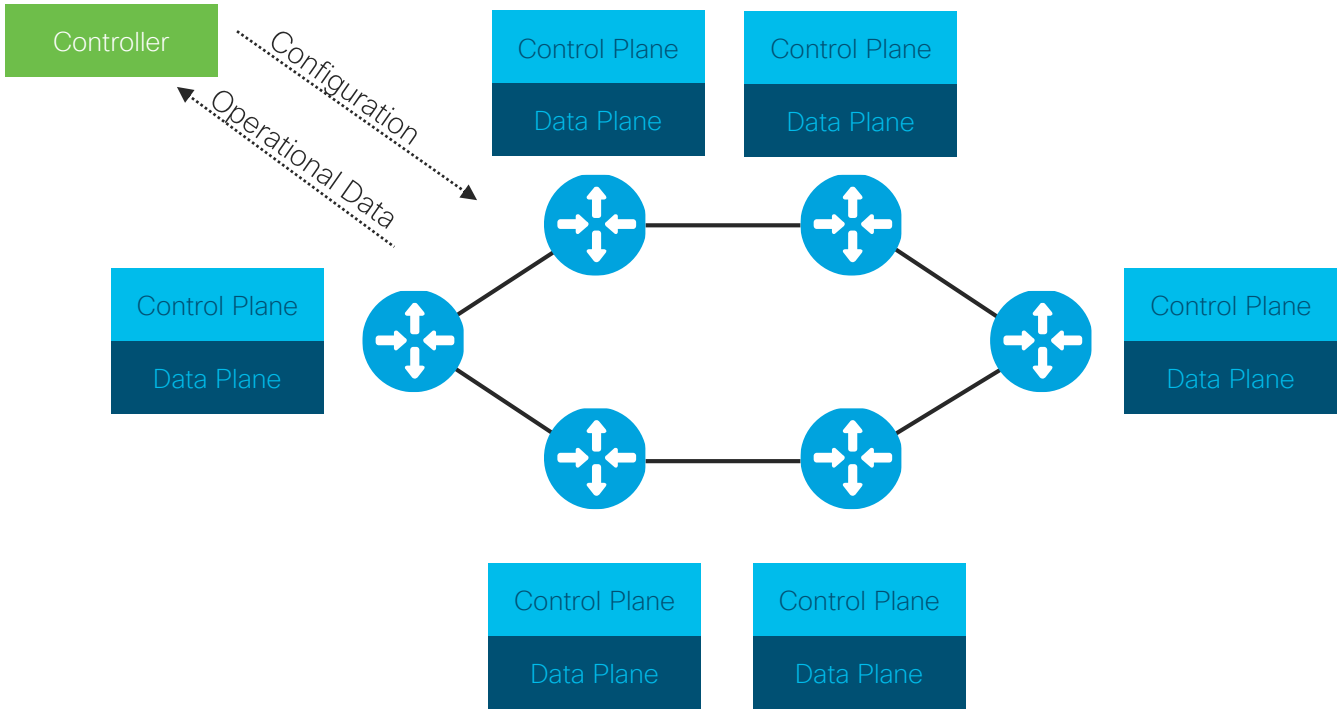
Traditional Networking



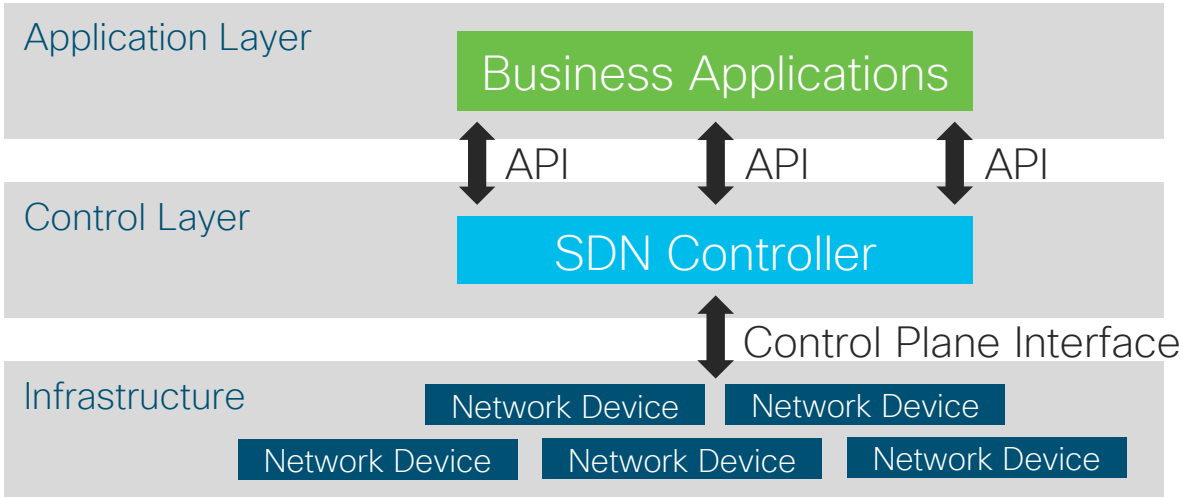
SDN: The Original Idea



SDN: What It Really Is Today



SDN: High Level

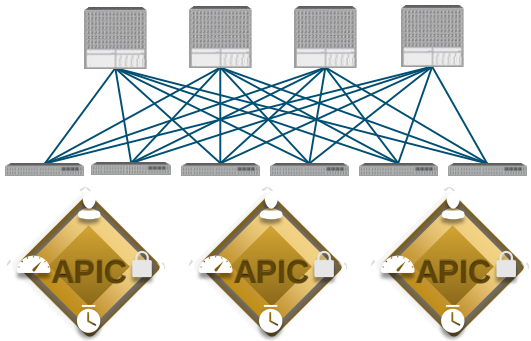


Advantages

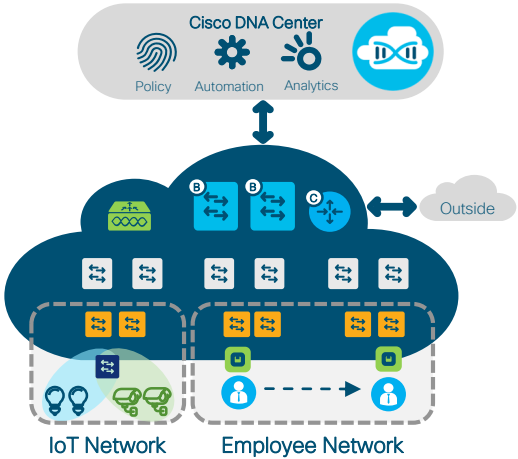
- Flexibility:
  - IT groups can become more agile; deployment backlogs are less problematic.
  - Departments are more easily able to self-select services – including internal, 3rd-party and external cloud services.
- Automation:
  - Features (protect, segment, provision, add policies) are easily added to new workloads, groups, branches, employee devices and cloud resources.
- Visibility drives speed:
  - SDN provides a holistic view of application connectivity and external needs (branch, device).
  - Applications can ask for resources, routes, and instantaneously verify traffic flow (by application) across the campus and data center.

Cisco SDN Portfolio

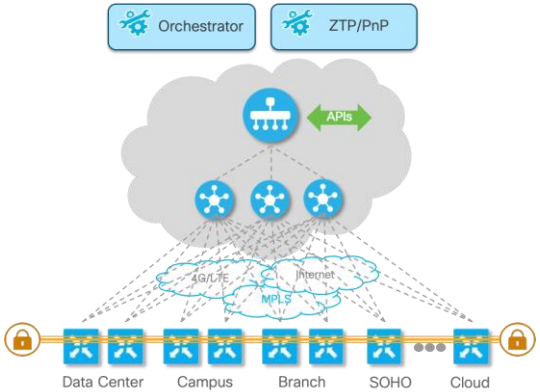
ACI



DNA & SDA



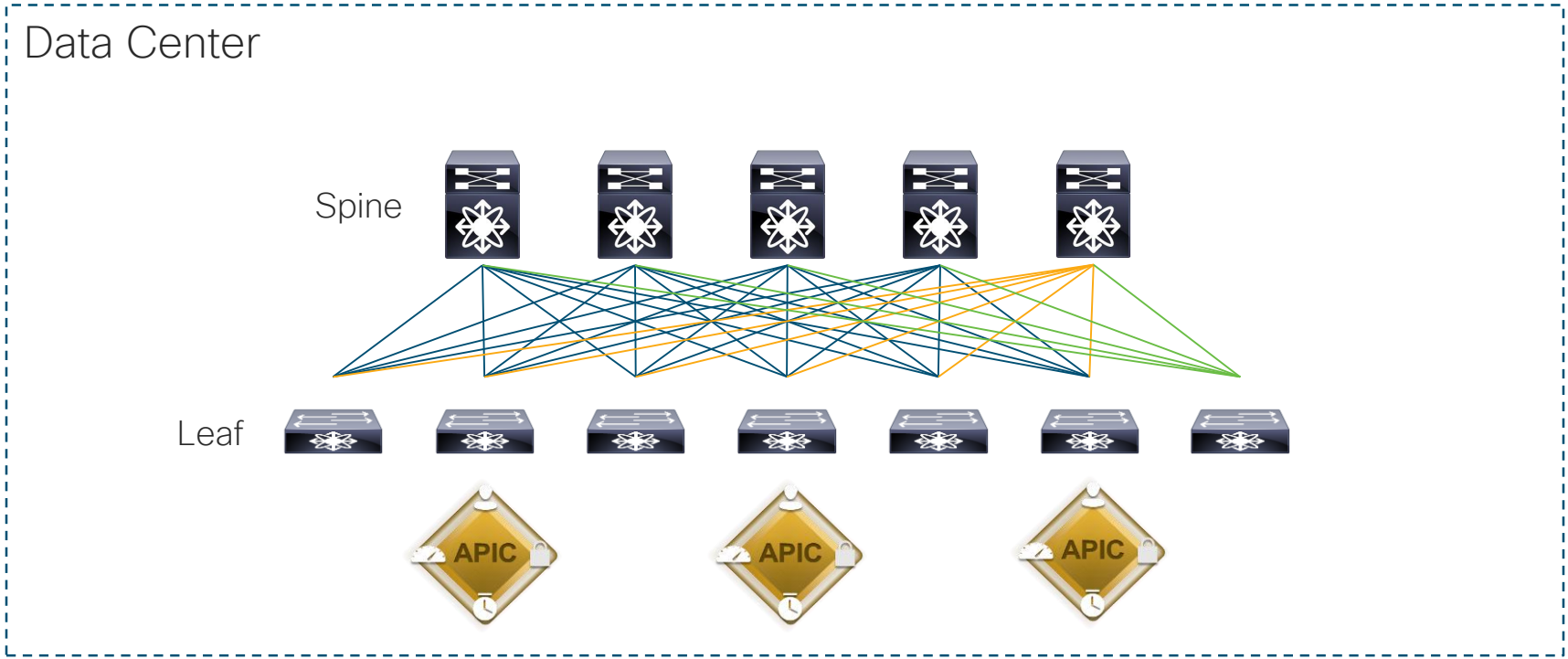
SD-WAN



Cisco Application-Centric Infrastructure

Design Principles

Design Principles

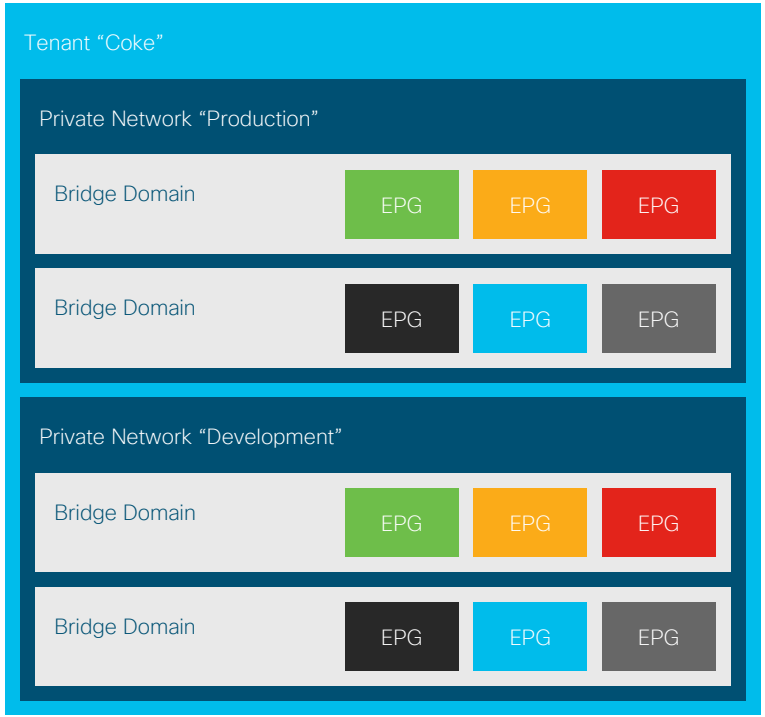


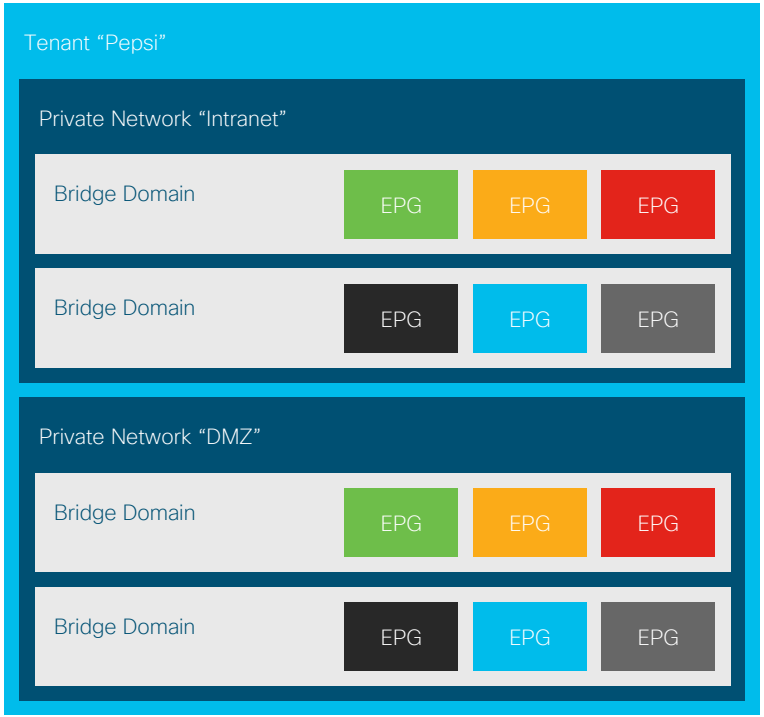
Design Principles

Reference

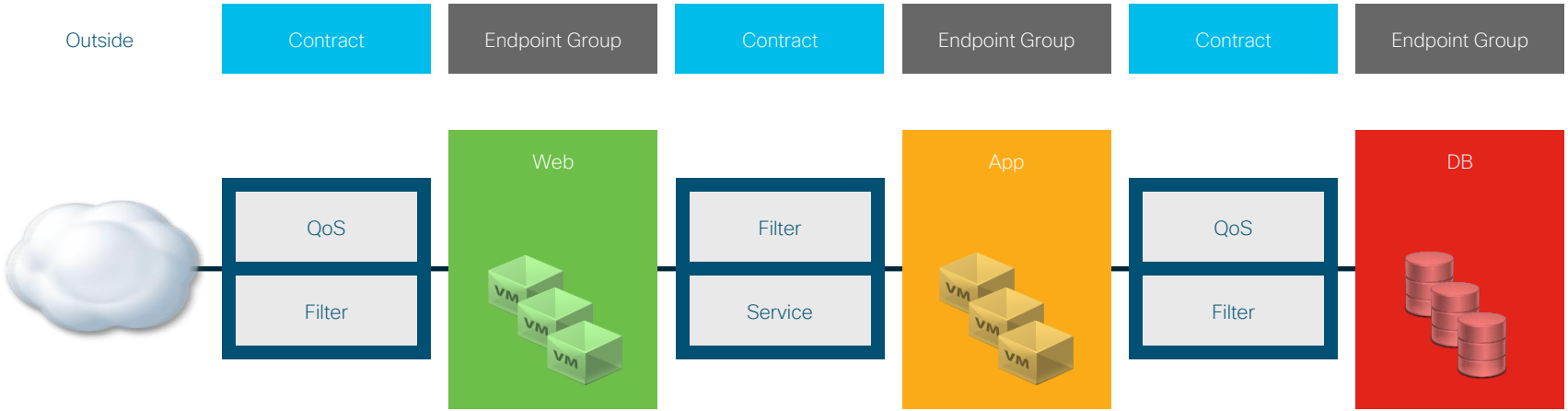
- spine-leaf architecture
  - add a spine to increase bandwidth
  - add a leaf to increase port count
- APIC cluster controls the fabric
- fabric acts as a single distributed (L3) switch from the application's point of view

Multi-Tenancy





Policy Model



Policy Model

Reference

- Endpoint Group (EPG)
  - collection of endpoints with similar functionality
  - possible form factors
    - physical servers
    - virtual servers
    - containers
    - ...
- Contract
  - collection of communication rules between EPGs
- whitelist model (all communication is forbidden by default)

Design: Network-centric vs. Application-centric

Network-centric

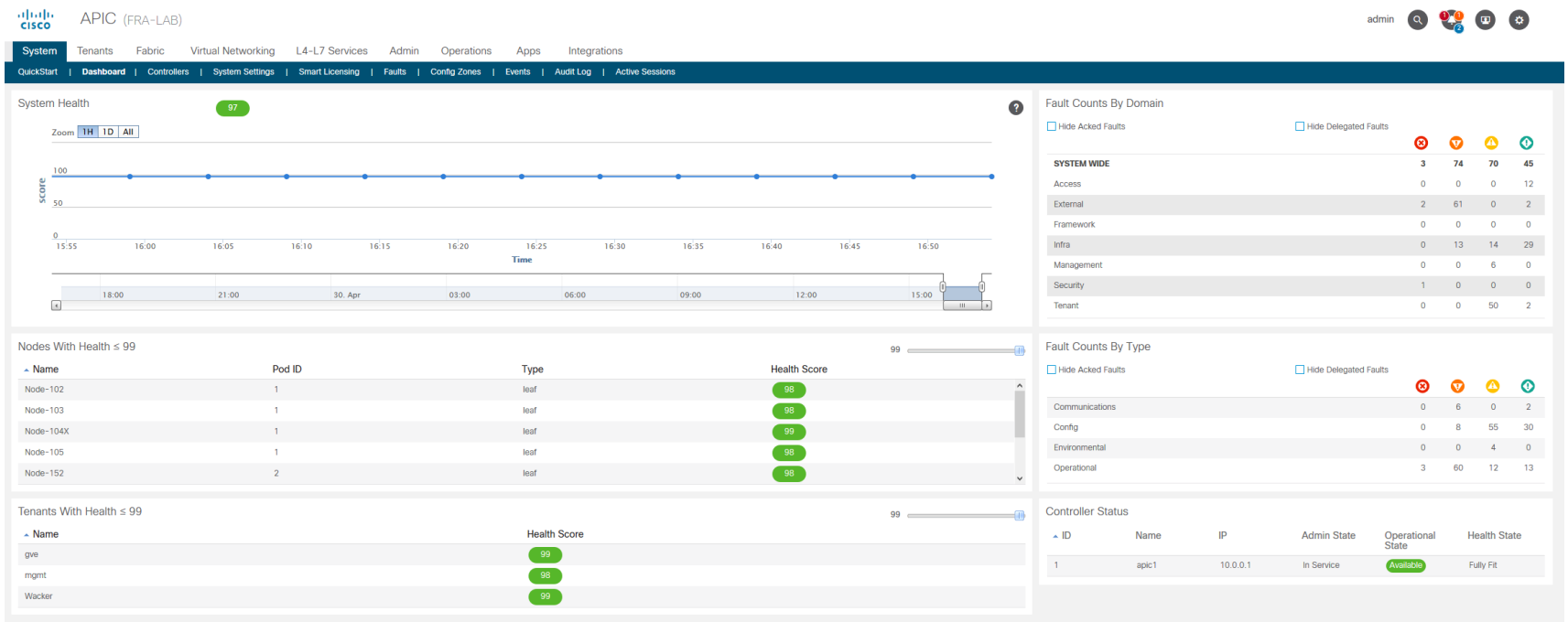
- basically an SDN version of traditional networking:
  - 1 VLAN/subnet → 1 BD → 1 EPG
- mostly an intermediate state on the way to an application-centric deployment

Application-centric

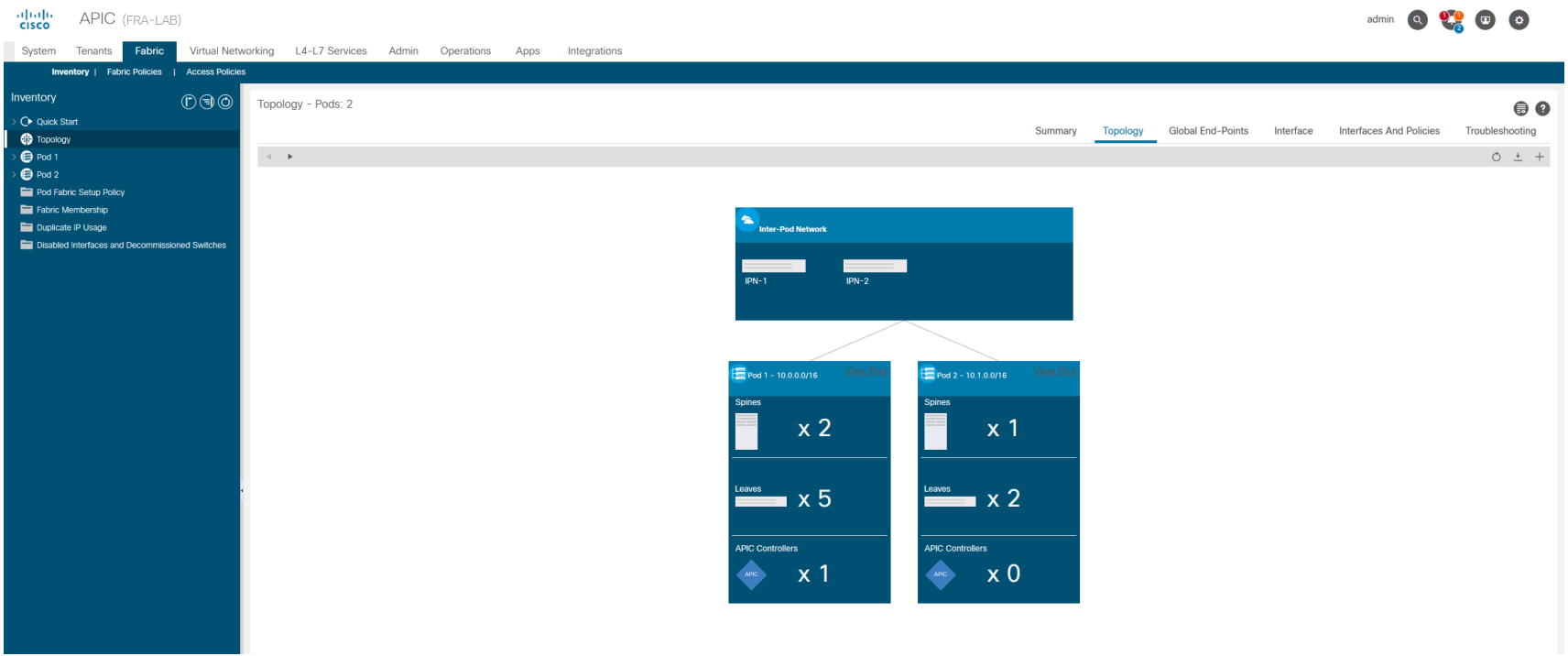
- application connectivity requirements directly mapped onto the network
  - 1 BD → n subnets → n EPGs
- no need for individual network provisioning (VLANs/subnets) per group of servers

Infrastructure Visibility

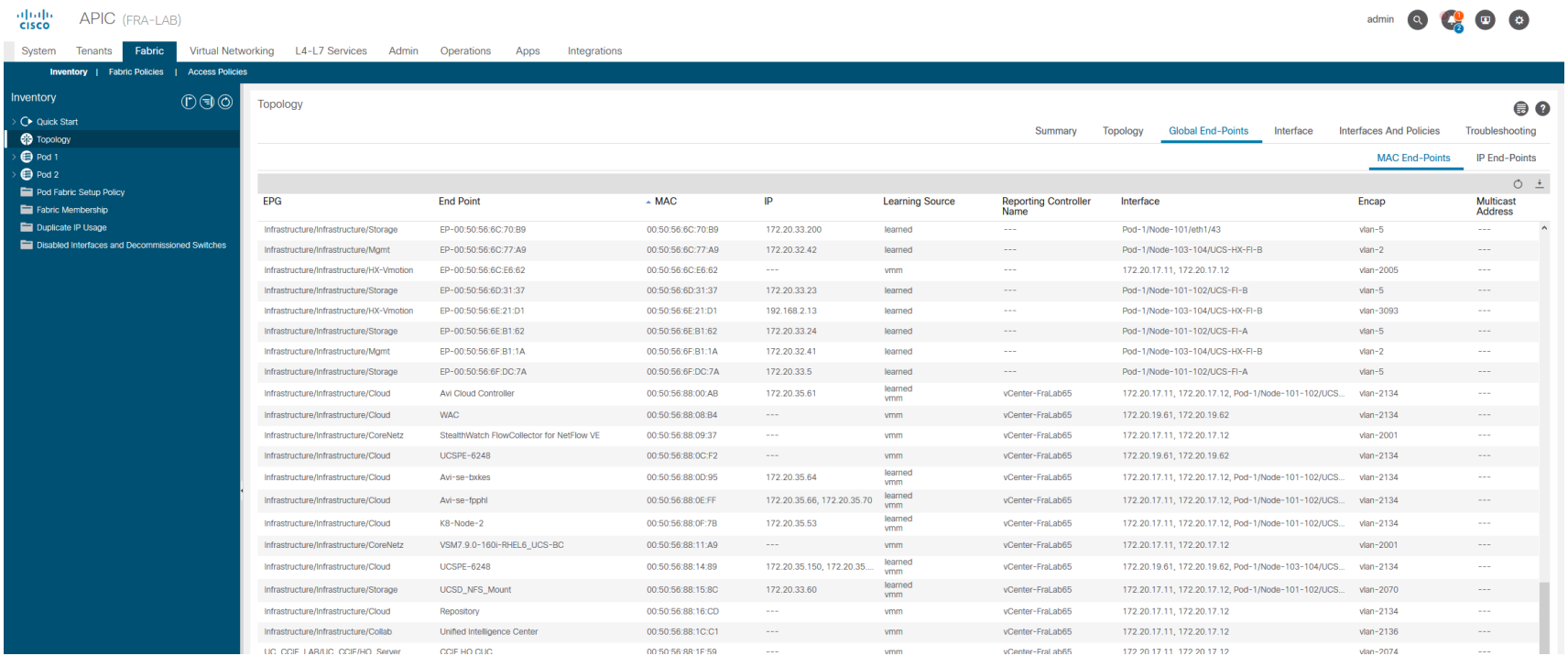
APIC: Dashboard



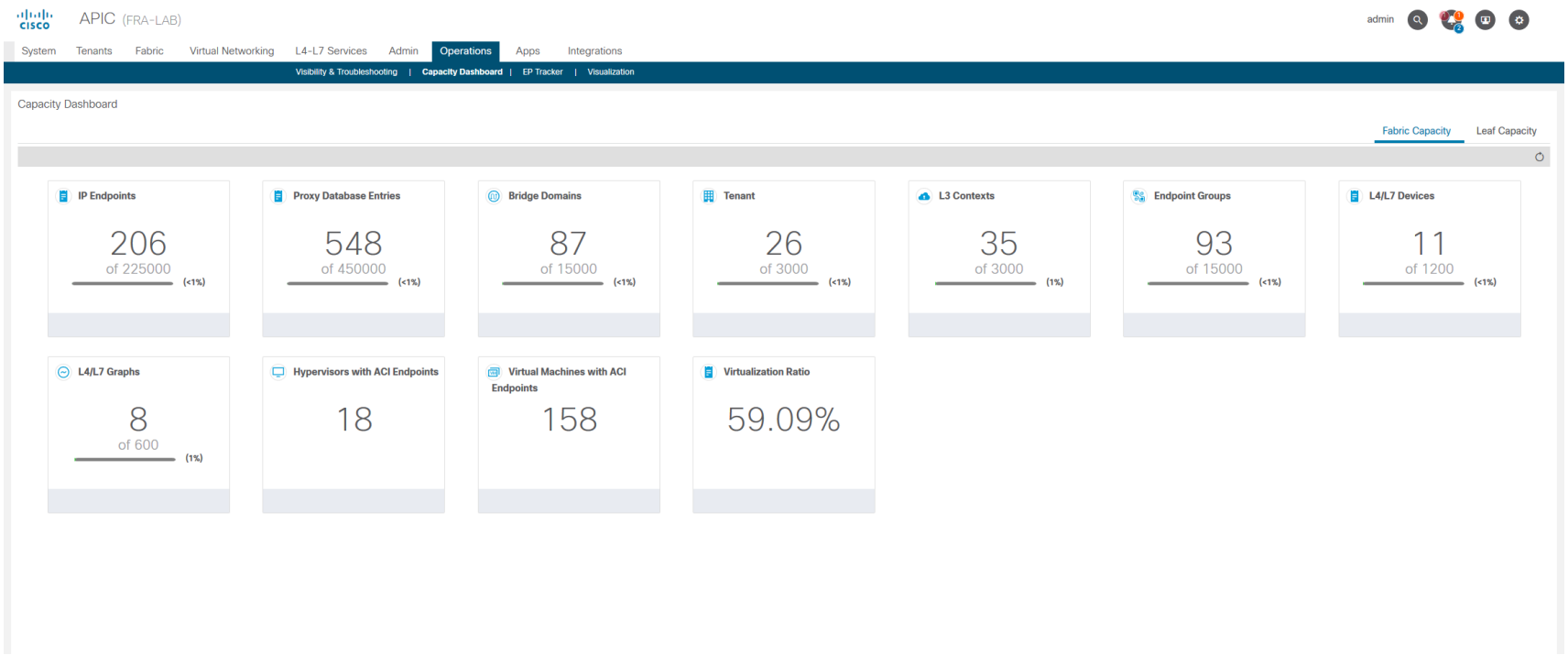
APIC: Topology



APIC: Endpoints

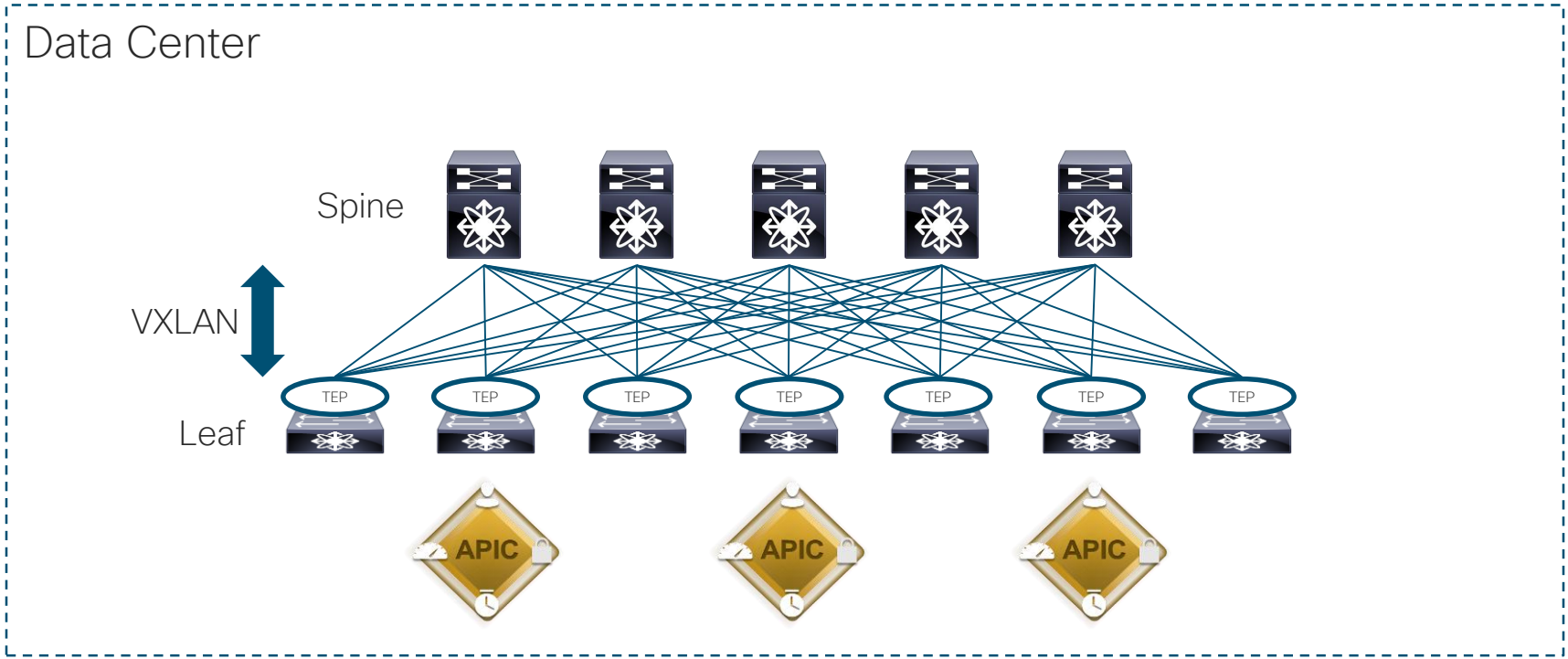


APIC: Capacity Dashboard



Under the Hood

Under the Hood



Under the Hood

Reference

- L3 point-to-point links
- loopback interfaces on each node
- VXLAN overlay
  - leaf switches are TEPs
- distributed anycast gateway on all leaf switches
- MP-BGP control plane
- further information → Cisco Live session BRKACI-3545 “Mastering ACI Forwarding Behavior – A day in the life of a packet”

Example: Basic Network Provisioning – Traditional vs. ACI-based

Use Case: New Application Onboarding

- 3-tier application (web, application, database)
  - virtual servers
  - application tiers have to be logically separated

Network Provisioning: Traditional vs. ACI Approach

Traditional

- create VLANs
  - per VTP domain
- create SVIs
  - per L3 device
- configure interfaces
  - per device
- configure ACLs
  - per L3 device

ACI

- create Application Profile “XYZ“
  - once
- create EPGs (Web, App, DB)
  - once
- associate endpoints to EPGs
  - once
- associate contracts
  - once

Network Provisioning: Traditional vs. ACI Approach

Traditional

VTP Primary Server

```
vlan 101
name XYZ_Web_Servers
vlan 102
name XYZ_App_Servers
vlan 103
name XYZ_DB_Servers
```

Access Switches

```
interface port-channel 10, ethernet 1/1-8
switchport trunk allowed vlan add 101-103
```

Virtualization Environment

create port groups

connect VMs to port groups

Aggregation Switches

```
<ACL definitions omitted for simplicity>
interface vlan 101
description XYZ_Web_Servers
vrf member Production
ip address 10.0.101.2/24
hsrp 101
ip 10.0.101.1
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
<ACL bindings omitted for simplicity>
interface vlan 102
description XYZ_App_Servers
vrf member Production
ip address 10.0.102.2/24
hsrp 102
ip 10.0.102.1
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
<ACL bindings omitted for simplicity>
interface vlan 103
description XYZ_DB_Servers
vrf member Production
ip address 10.0.103.2/24
hsrp 103
ip 10.0.103.1
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
<ACL bindings omitted for simplicity>

interface port-channel 1, port-channel 10
switchport trunk allowed vlan add 101-103
```

ACI

APIC

create Application Profile "XYZ“

create EPG "Web“

create EPG "App“

create EPG "DB"

create and bind contract between “DB” and “App”

create and bind contract between “App” and “Web”

create and bind contract between “Web” and outside

Virtualization Environment

connect VMs to port groups

Example: Microsegmentation – Traditional vs. ACI-based

Microsegmentation: Traditional vs. ACI Approach

Traditional

- create secondary VLANs
  - per VTP domain
- create PVLAN associations
  - per device
- configure interfaces
  - per device
- configure virtualization environment

ACI

- ☑ intra-EPG isolation
  - per EPG

Cisco Digital Network Architecture & Software-defined Access

Intent-based Networking

Manual Policy Deployment

Admin Driven

The What:
„QoS policy for branches A-N“

The How:
„Change QoS config in the following elements“

Intent-based Policy Deployment

Admin Driven

The What:
„QoS policy for branches A-N“

The How:
„Change QoS config in the following elements“

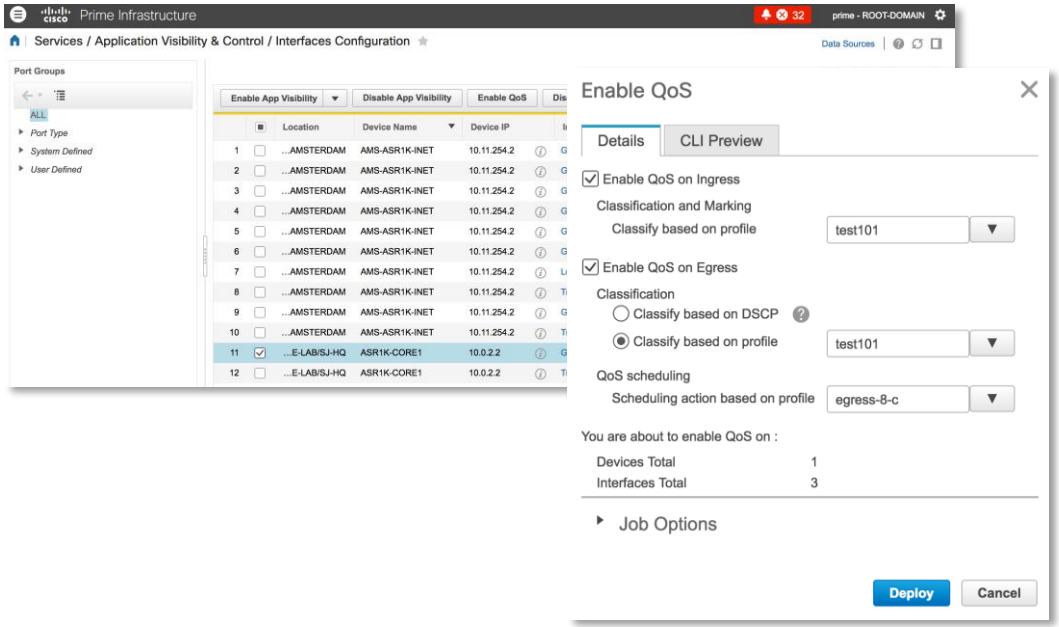
System Driven

Feature Configuration vs. Intent-based Networking

Feature Configuration

- QoS config in Prime:
  - choose device
  - choose interface (ingress/egress)
  - choose configuration
  - admin needs to understand QoS

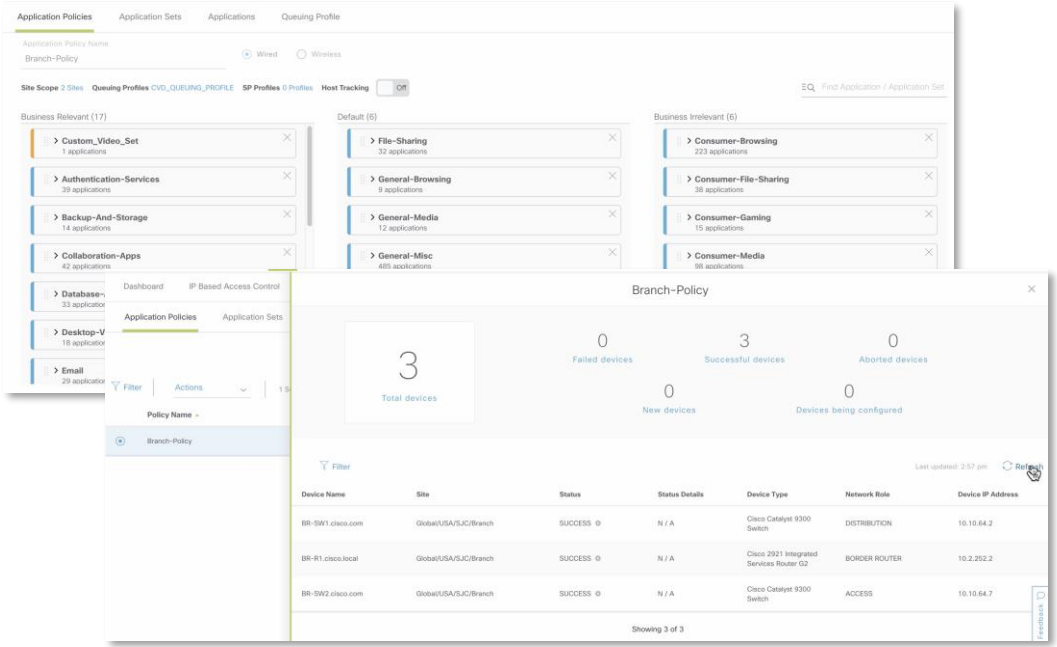
→ complex and error prone



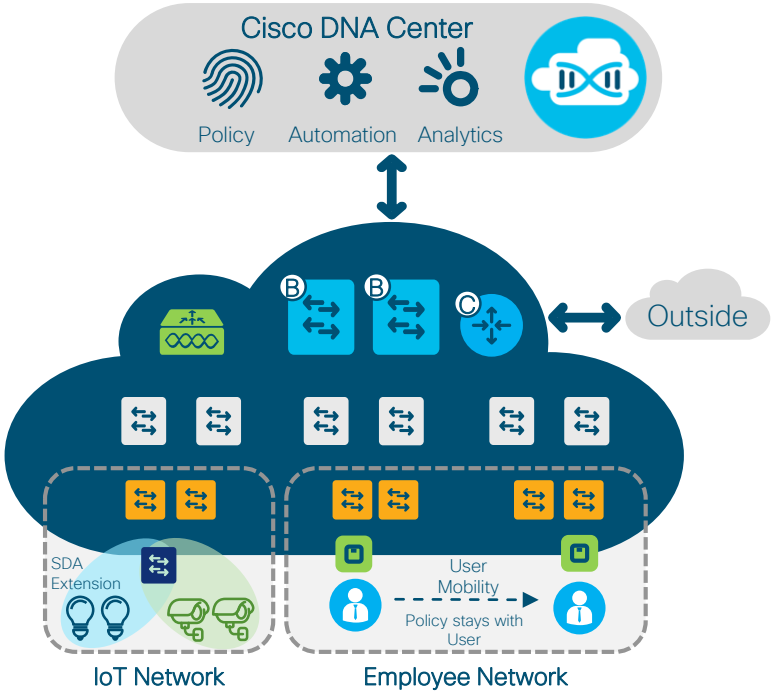
Feature Configuration vs. Intent-based Networking

Intent-based Networking

- QoS in DNA Center
  - application focus
  - configure application policies based on the business requirements
  - configure sites, not devices



Cisco DNA & SDA



Application to manage the network:

- Design
- Policy
- Provision
- Assurance

Campus Fabric:

- Control plane based on LISP
- Data plane based VXLAN
- Policy plane based on SGT

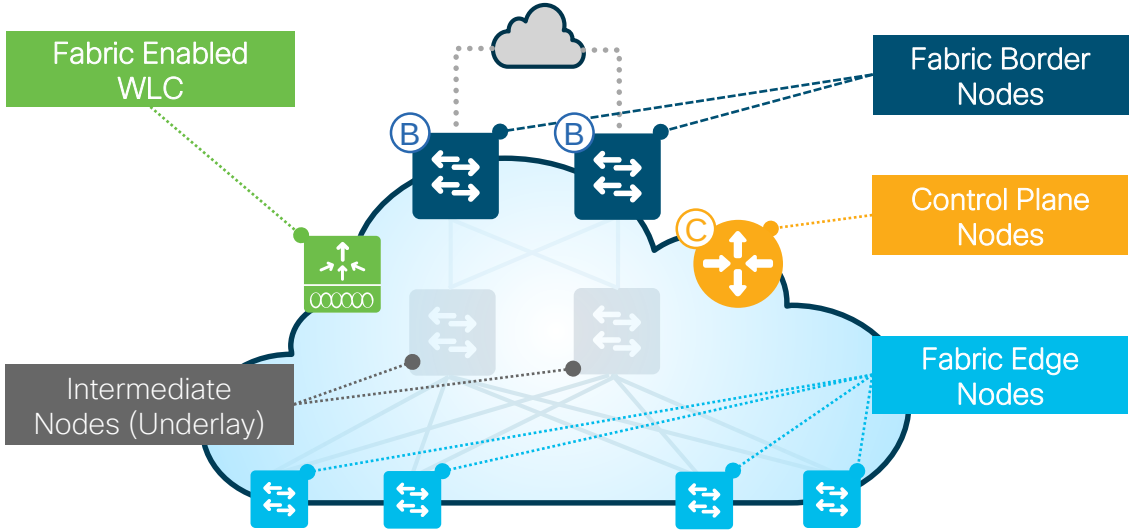
Cisco SD-Access

Control Plane Nodes – Map system that manages endpoint ID to device relationships

Border Nodes – A fabric device (e.g. core) that connects external L3 network(s) to the SDA fabric

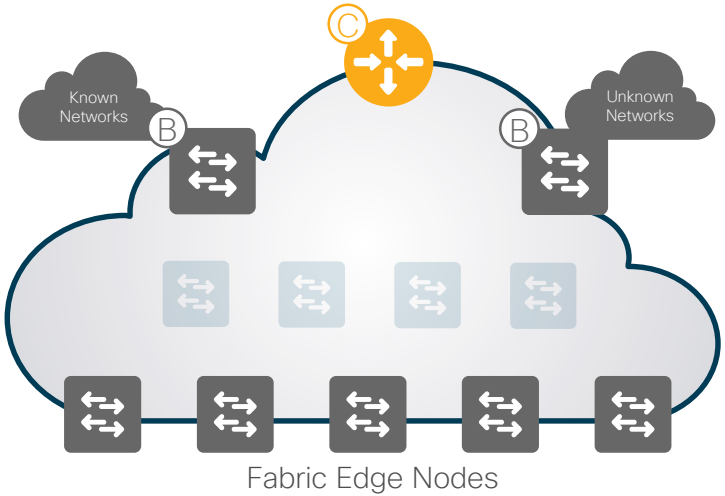
Edge Nodes – A fabric device (e.g. access or distribution) that connects wired endpoints to the SDA fabric

Fabric Wireless Controller – A fabric device (WLC) that connects wireless endpoints to the SDA fabric



SDA – Control Plane Nodes

- runs a host tracking database to map location information
  - A simple host database that maps endpoint IDs to a current location, along with other attributes
  - Host database supports multiple types of endpoint ID lookup types (IPv4, IPv6 or MAC)
  - Receives endpoint ID map registrations from edge and/or border nodes for “known” IP prefixes
  - Resolves lookup requests from edge and/or border nodes, to locate destination endpoint IDs

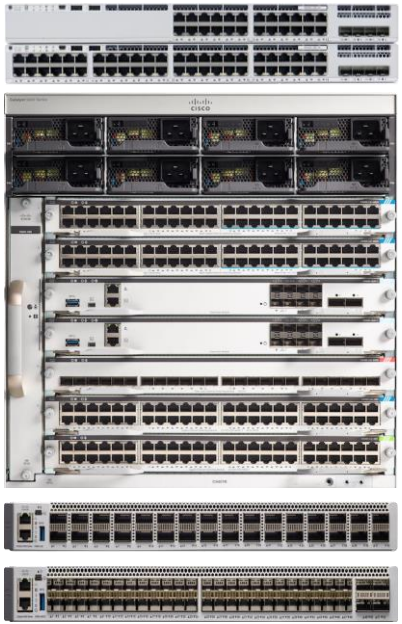


SDA – Control Plane Nodes

Reference

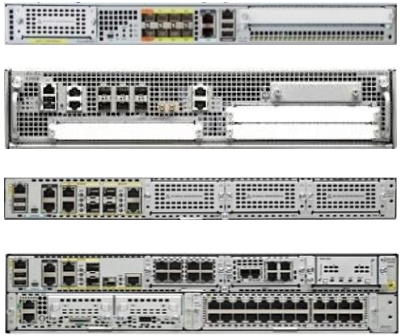
Catalyst 3850

Catalyst 9300/9400/9500



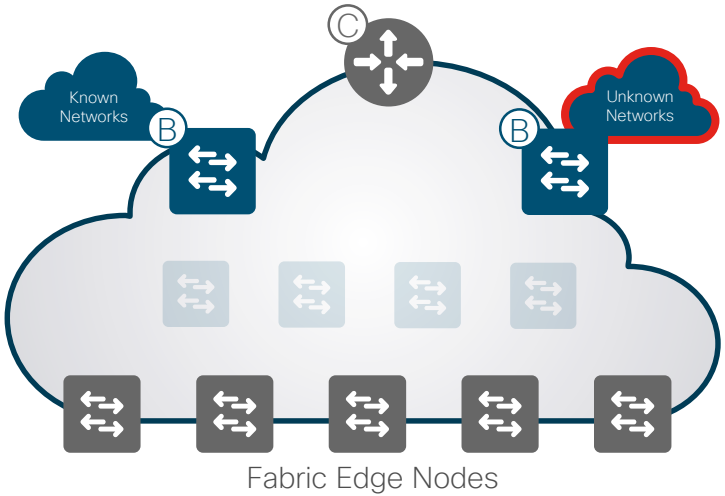
Catalyst 6800

ASR 1000/ISR 4000 & CSRv



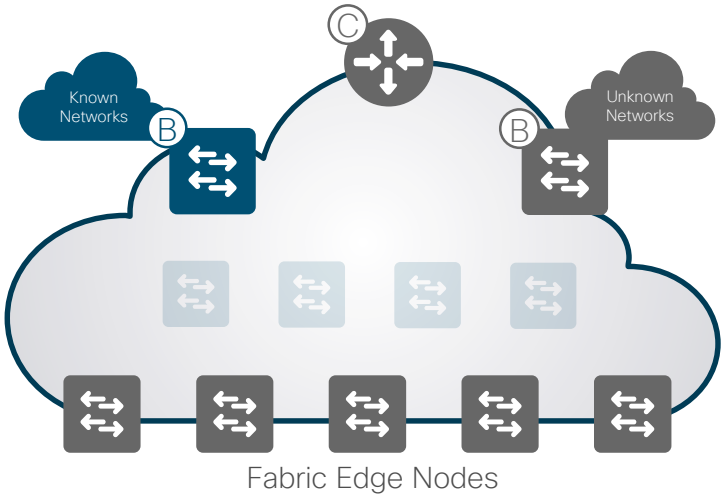
SDA – Border Nodes

- entry and exit point for all data traffic coming in or going out of the fabric
- two types:
  - Fabric Border (internal)
    - used for “known” routes in your company
  - Default Border (anywhere)
    - used for “unknown” routes outside your company



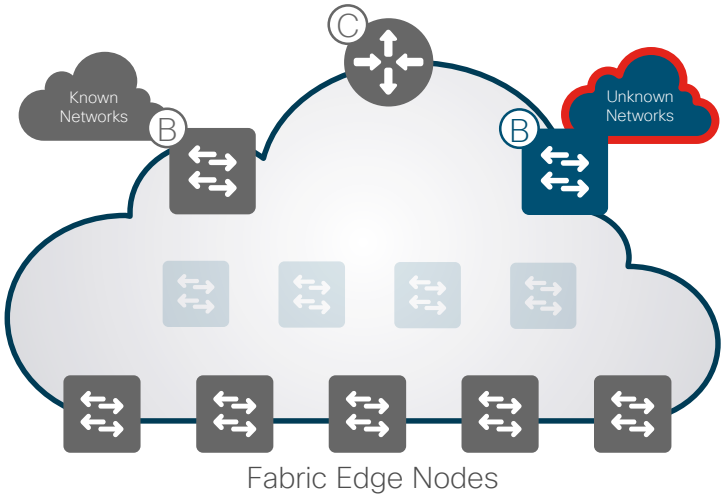
SDA – Fabric Border Nodes

- advertise endpoints to outside and known subnets to inside
  - connect to any “known” IP prefixes (e. g. DC, WLC, FW, etc.)
  - export all internal IP pools outside (as aggregate) using a traditional IP routing protocol(s)
  - import and register (known) IP subnets from outside the fabric to the control plane
  - outside hand-off requires mapping the prefix context (VRF and SGT) from one domain to another



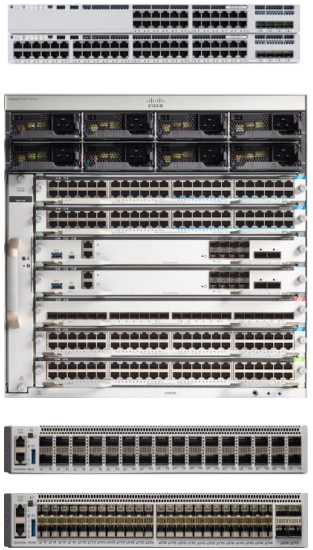
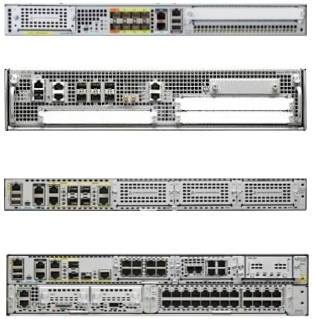
SDA – Default Border Nodes

- gateway of last resort for unknown destinations
  - connect to any “unknown” IP prefixes (e. g. internet, public cloud, 3rd party, etc.)
  - export all internal IP pools outside (as aggregate) using a traditional IP routing protocol(s)
  - are a default domain exit point, if no other (specific) entry present in map system
  - outside hand-off requires mapping the prefix context (VRF and SGT) from one domain to another



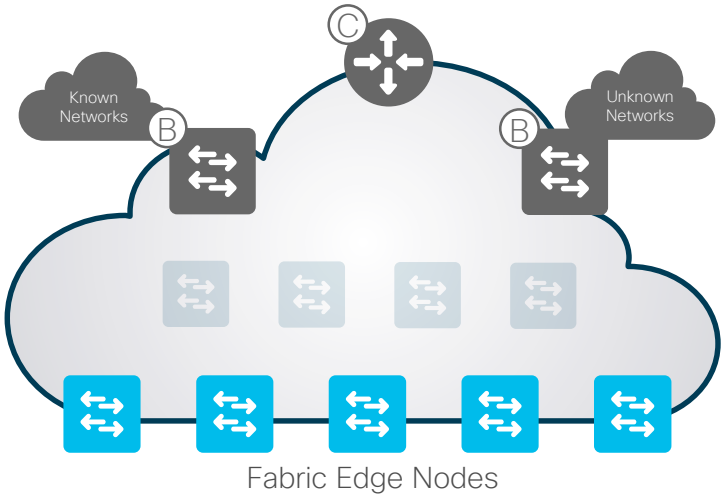
SDA – Border Nodes

Reference

Catalyst 3850	Catalyst 9300/9400/9500	Catalyst 6800	ASR 1000/ISR 4000	Nexus 7700
				

SDA - Edge Nodes

- provide first-hop services for users/devices connected to the fabric
  - responsible for identifying and authenticating endpoints (e. g. static, 802.1X, Active Directory)
  - register the specific endpoint ID info (e. g. /32 or /128) with the control plane node(s)
  - provides an anycast L3 gateway for connected endpoints (same IP address on all edge nodes)
  - performs encapsulation/decapsulation of data traffic to and from all connected endpoints



SDA - Edge Nodes

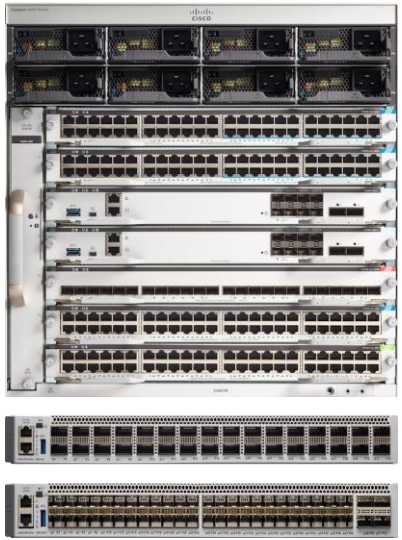
Reference

Catalyst 3650/3850

Catalyst 9200/9300

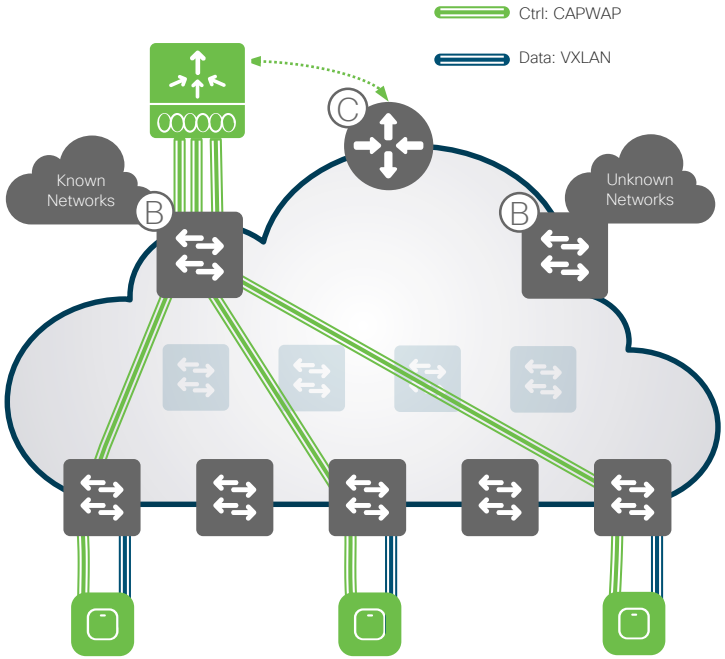
Catalyst 4500-E

Catalyst 9400/9500



SDA – Wireless LAN Controller

- fabric-enabled WLCs are integrated into fabric for SDA wireless clients
  - connect to fabric via border (underlay)
  - fabric-enabled APs connect to the WLC (CAPWAP) using a dedicated host pool (overlay)
  - fabric-enabled APs connect to the edge via VXLAN
  - wireless clients (SSIDs) use regular host pools for data traffic and policy (same as wired)
  - fabric-enabled WLC registers clients with the control plane (as located on local edge + AP)



Reference

SDA – Wireless LAN Controller

Catalyst 9800

CT 3504/5520/8540

Wave 1*/2 APs

Wave 1 APs
(1700,2700,3700)

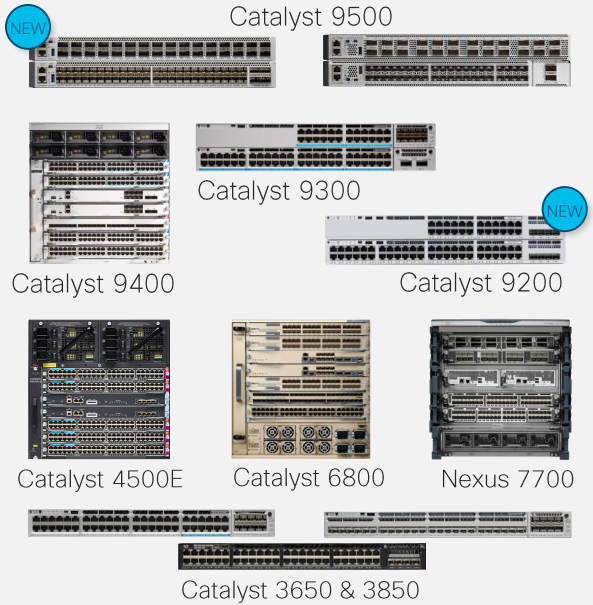
Wave 2 APs
(1800, 2800, 3800, 4800)

*with caveats

Reference

SDA - Device Portfolio

Switching



Routing

Wireless

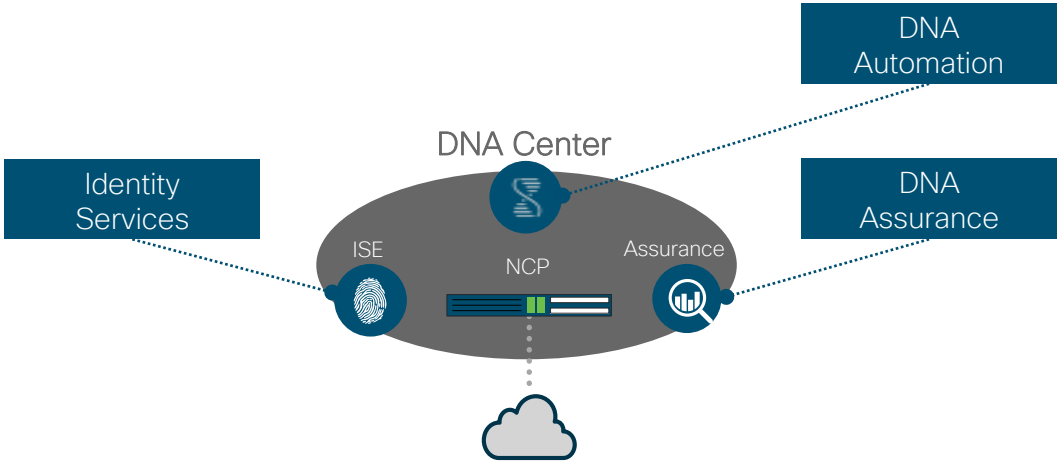
Extended BETA

Cisco DNA Center

DNA Automation – provides simple GUI management and intent-based automation (e. g. NCP) and context sharing

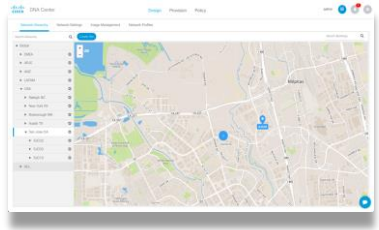
Identity Services – NAC and ID systems (e. g. ISE) for dynamic endpoint to group mapping and policy definition

DNA Assurance – data collectors (e. g. NDP) analyze endpoint to app flows and monitor fabric status



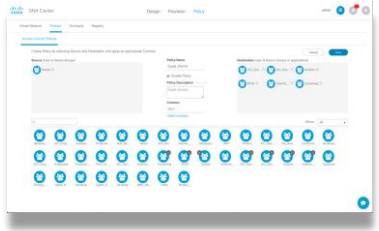
Cisco DNA Center

Design



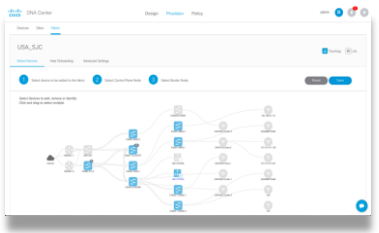
- global settings
- site profiles
- DDI, SWIM, PNP
- user access

Policy



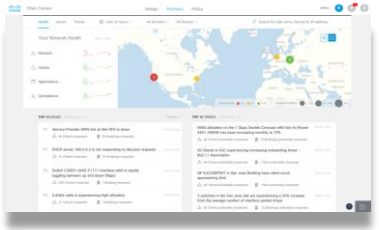
- virtual networks
- ISE, AAA, RADIUS
- endpoint groups
- group policies

Provision



- fabric domains
- CP, Border, Edge
- FEW, OTT WLAN
- external connect

Assurance



- health dashboard
- 360º views
- FD, Node, Client
- Path Traces

Platform

- allows programmatic access with 3rd-party systems using APIs, using feature set bundles, configurations, a runtime dashboard, and a developer toolkit

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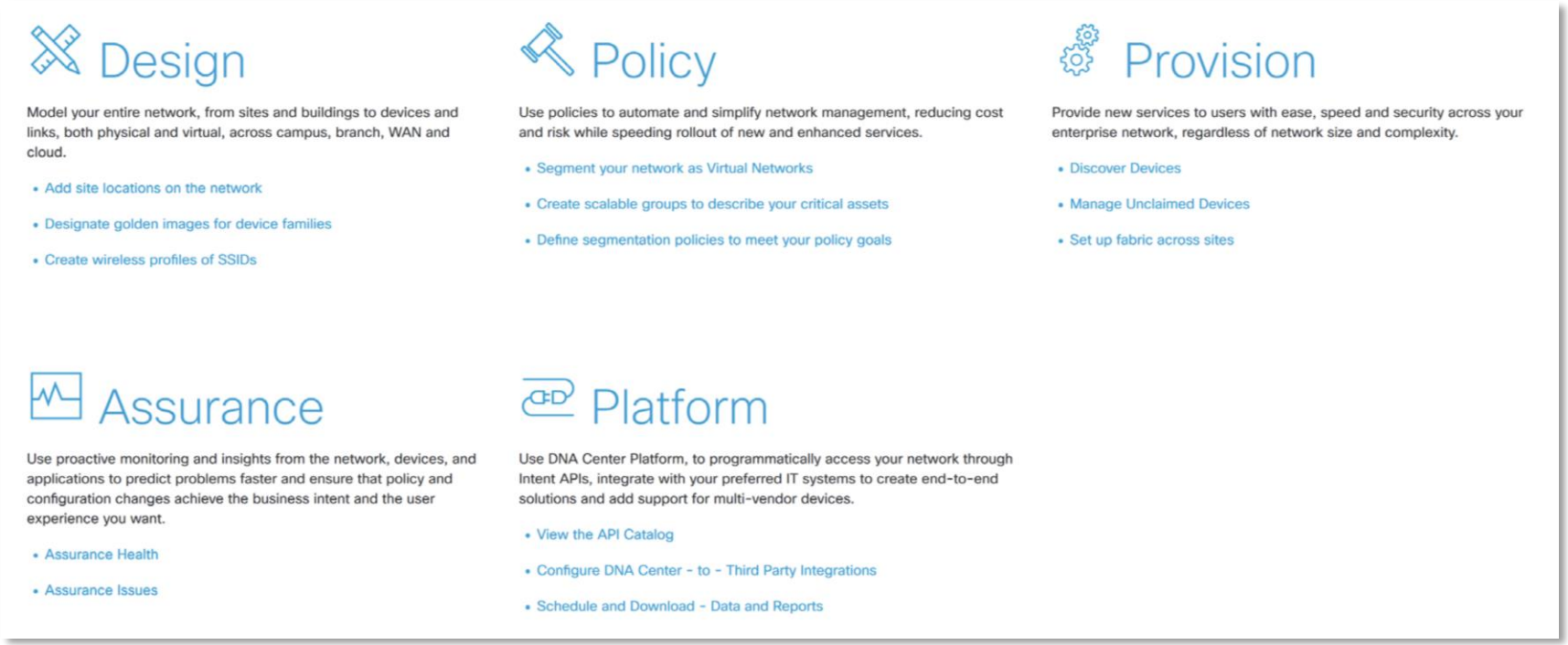
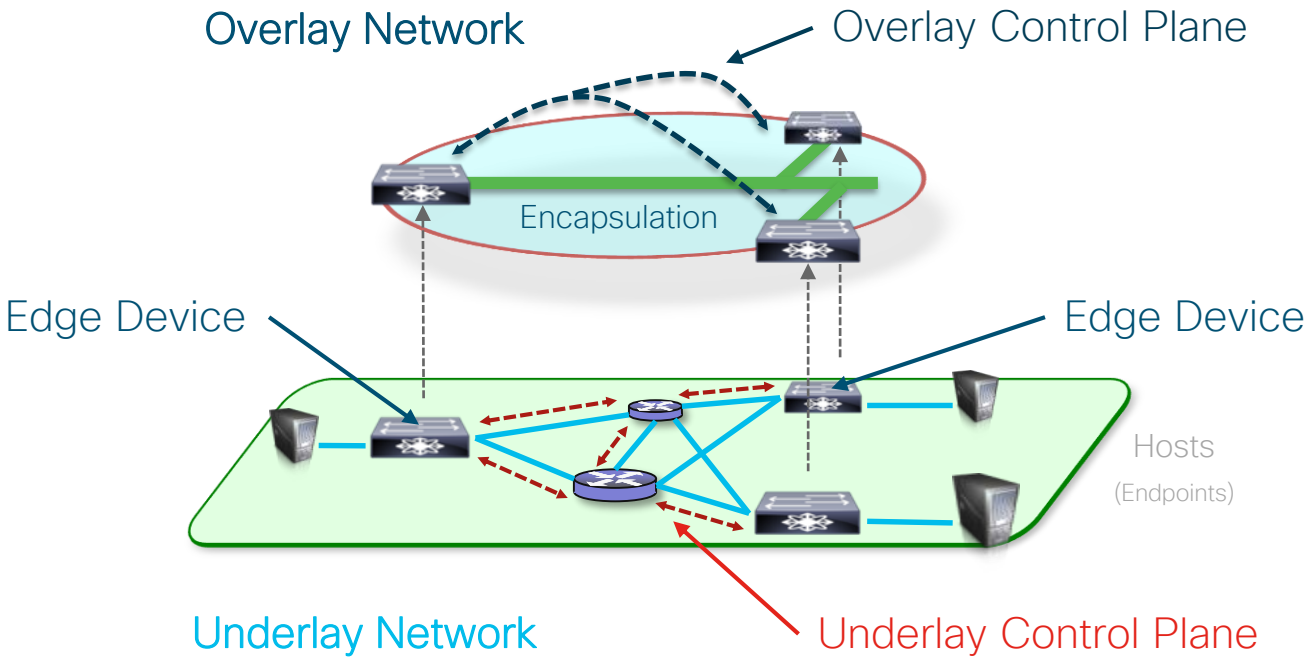


SDA – Underlay/Overlay

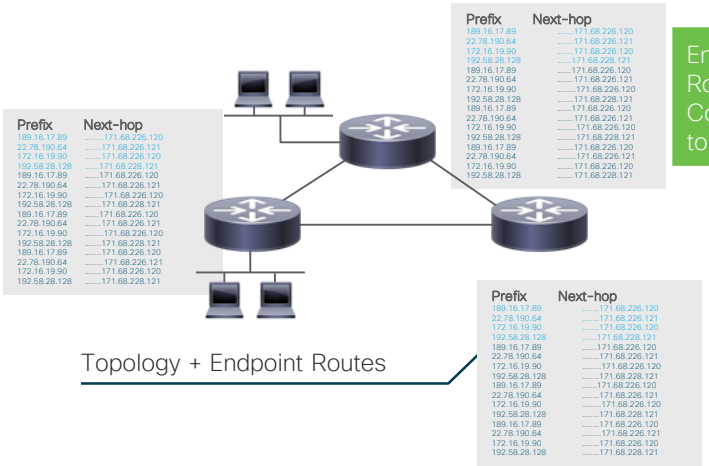


SDA – Control Plane (LISP)

Routing Protocols = **Big Tables** & **More CPU**
with Local L3 Gateway

BEFORE

IP Address = Location + Identity

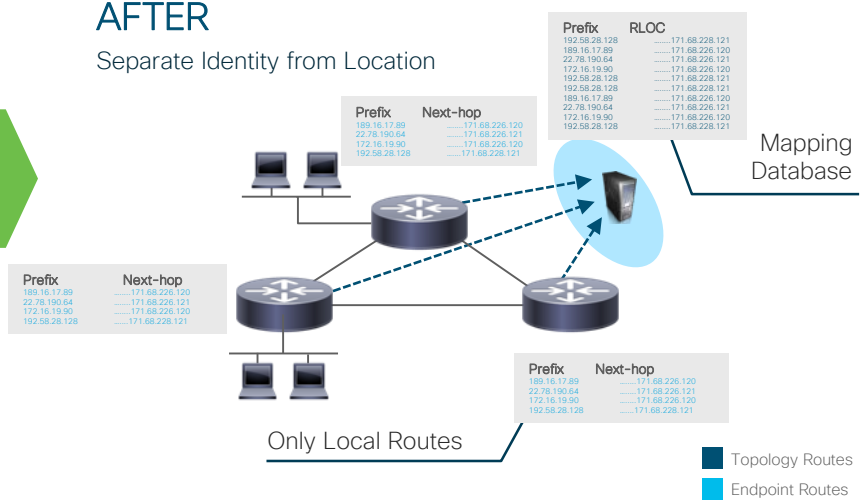


Endpoint Routes are Consolidated to LISP DB

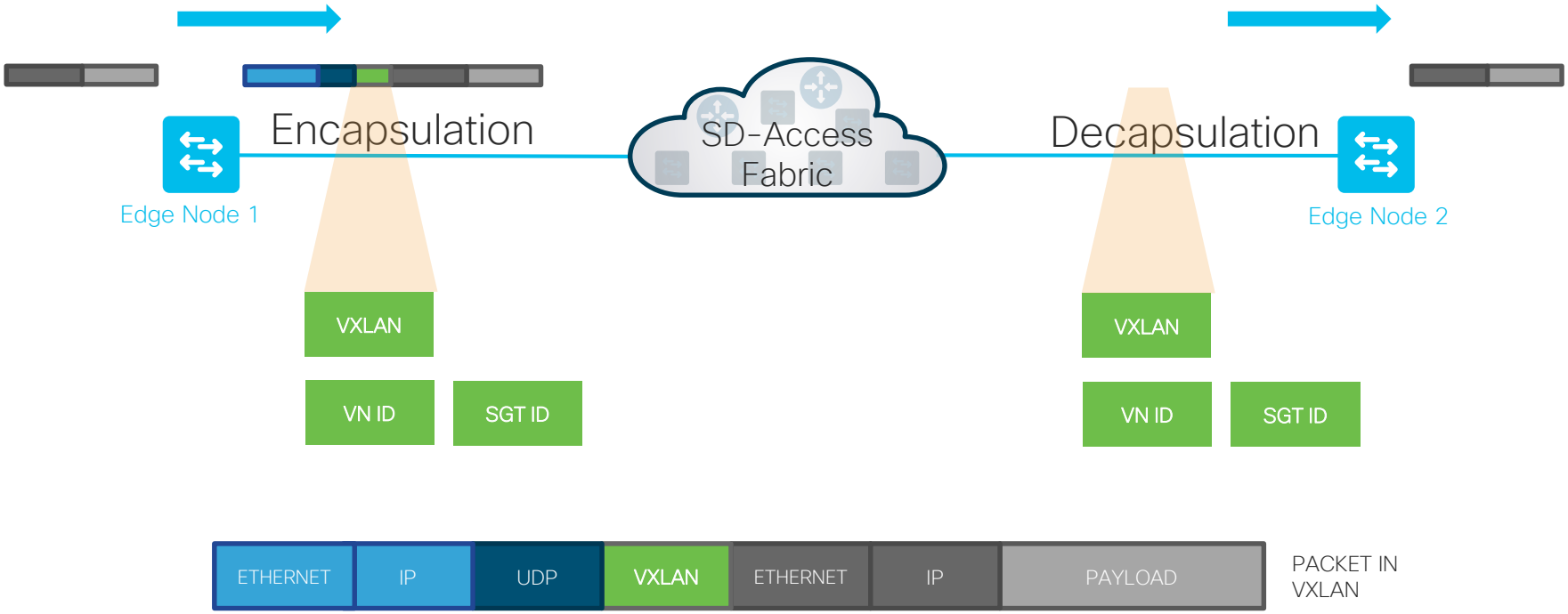
LISP DB + Cache = **Small Tables** & **Less CPU**
with Anycast L3 Gateway

AFTER

Separate Identity from Location



SDA – Data Plane (VXLAN)

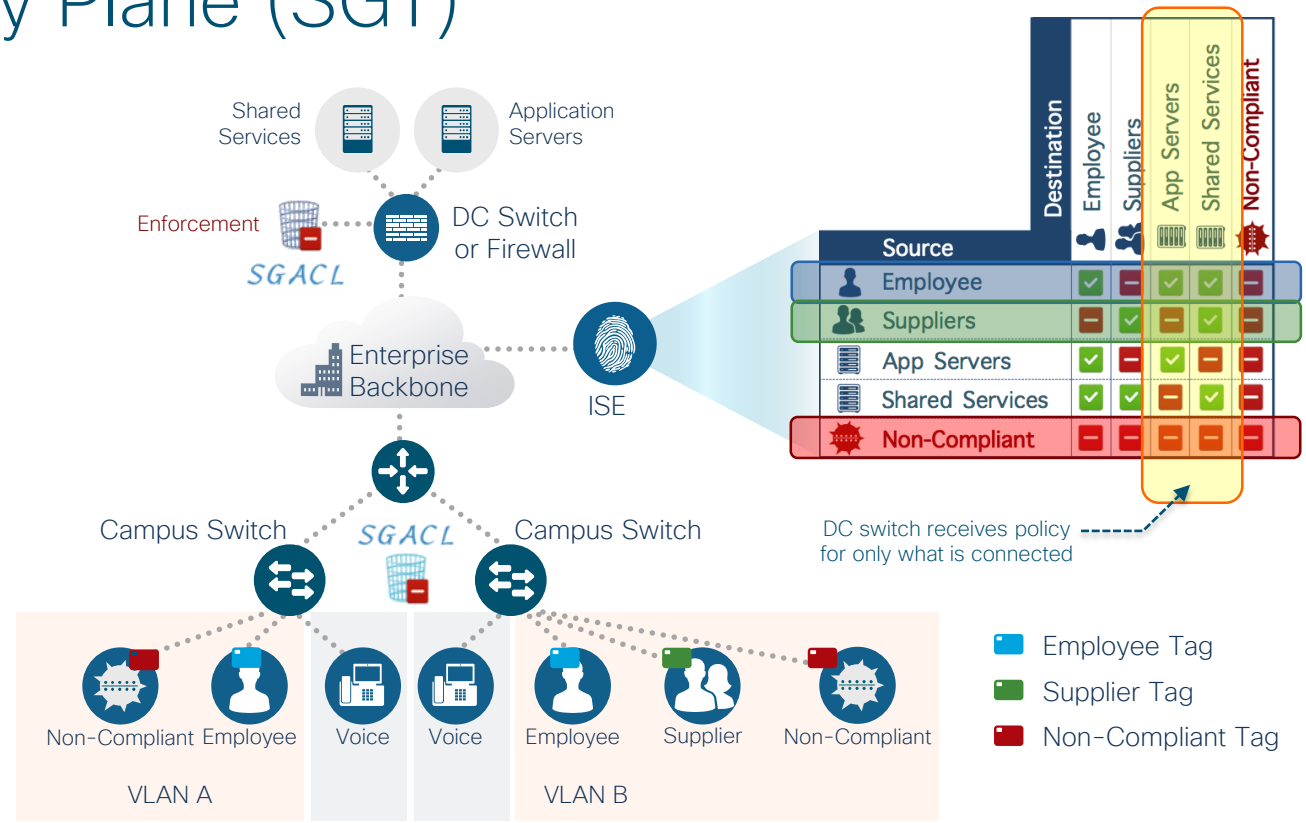


SDA – Policy Plane (SGT)

Enforcement
Group Based Policies
ACLs, Firewall Rules

Propagation
Carry “Group” context through the network using only SGT

Classification
Static or Dynamic SGT assignments



Cisco DNA & SDA

What we do is the same.

How we do it is different.

Future Net Admin Skill Set

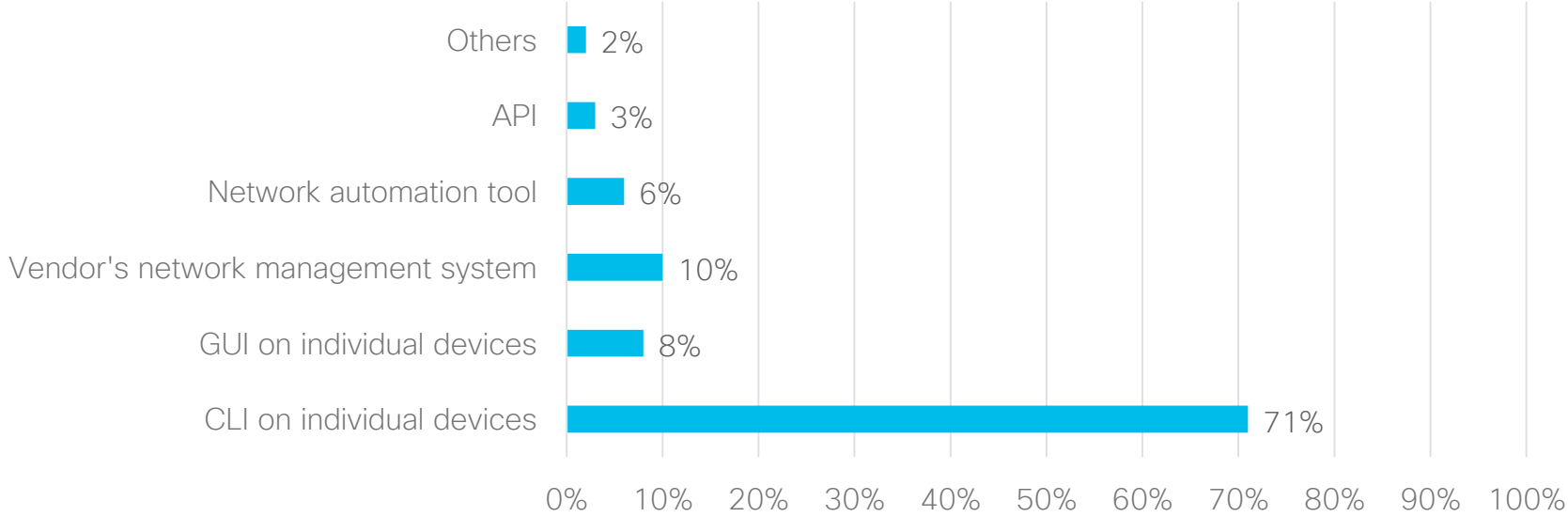
Future Net Admin Skill Set

- understanding of advanced networking concepts
  - (relatively) new technologies/architectures (VXLAN, LISP …)
  - virtualization and container networking
- programming/scripting knowledge to drive automation
  - (REST) APIs
  - data structures (XML, JSON, YAML …)
  - Python, PowerShell, Ansible …

Summary and Evaluation

Critical Observation

What is the primary method of making network changes in your environment?



*https://blogs.gartner.com/andrew-lerner/2018/01/04/checking-in-on-the-death-of-the-cli/

Summary and Evaluation

- What‘s next?
  - Cloud computing is now over 15 years in the market, still evolving/adapting at some customers.
  - SDN is now 5 years in the market, quite new and needs time to be adapted, similar to IoT (Industrie 4.0).
  - But what‘s the next step if we follow up this timeline?

Technology Evolution

- SDN technologies need to be standardized
- orchestration of solutions
- integeration into existing deployments (campus to data center end-to-end)
- extension to other areas (e. g. industrial, mobile and cloud networks)
- connection to business critical applications (ERP, CRM, etc.)

Questions?

More Questions?

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