Introduction to Network Function Virtualization (NFV)

Student Questions

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These slides and audio/video recordings of this class lecture are at:

http://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse570-21/

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- 1. What is NFV?
- 2. NFV and SDN Relationship
- 3. ETSI NFV ISG Specifications
- 4. Concepts, Architecture, Requirements, Use cases
- 5. Proof-of-Concepts and Timeline

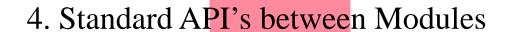
Note: This module is the 3rd in a series of modules on OpenFlow, SDN and NFV in this course.

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Four Innovations of NFV



3. Implementation in Virtual Machines

2. Network Function Modules

1. Software implementation of network

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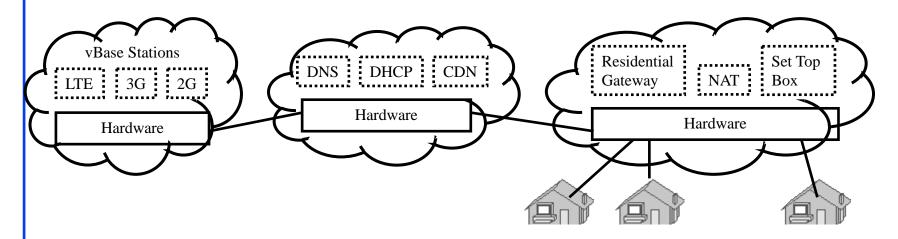
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Network Function Virtualization (NFV)

- Fast standard hardware ⇒ Software based devices
 Routers, Firewalls, Broadband Remote Access Server (BRAS)
 ⇒ A.k.a. white box implementation
- 2. Function Modules (Both data plane and control plane)

 ⇒ DHCP (Dynamic Host control Protocol), NAT (Network Address Translation), Rate Limiting,



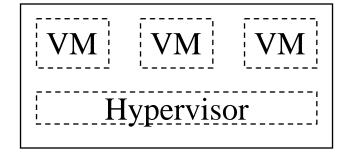
Ref: ETSI, "NFV – Update White Paper V3," Oct 2014, http://portal.etsi.org/NFV/NFV_White_Paper3.pdf (Must read)
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NFV (Cont)

3. Virtual Machine implementation

- ⇒ Virtual appliances
- ⇒ All advantages of virtualization (quick provisioning, scalability, mobility, Reduced CapEx, Reduced OpEx, ...)



Partitioning

4. Standard APIs: New ISG (Industry Specification Group) in ETSI (European Telecom Standards Institute) set up in November 2012

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Why We need NFV?

- 1. Virtualization: Use network resource without worrying about where it is physically located, how much it is, how it is organized, etc.
- 2. Orchestration: Manage thousands of devices
- 3. Programmable: Should be able to change behavior on the fly.
- 4. Dynamic Scaling: Should be able to change size, quantity
- 5. Automation
- 6. Visibility: Monitor resources, connectivity
- 7. Performance: Optimize network device utilization
- 8. Multi-tenancy
- 9. Service Integration
- 10. Openness: Full choice of Modular plug-ins

Note: These are exactly the same reasons why we need SDN.

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NFV and SDN Relationship

- Concept of NFV originated from SDN
 - ⇒ First ETSI white paper showed overlapping Venn diagram
 - ⇒ It was removed in the second version of the white paper
- NFV and SDN are complementary.
 One does not strictly depend upon the other.
 You can do SDN only, NFV only, or SDN and NFV.
- Both have similar goals but approaches are very different.
- Management/virtualization of large networks becomes easier with SDN
- SDN needs new interfaces, control modules, applications. NFV requires moving network applications from dedicated hardware to virtual containers on commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware.
- NFV is present. SDN is the future.
- Multiple flavors of SDN resulting in a debate. Not much debate about NFV.

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Mobile Network Functions

- □ Switches, e.g., Open vSwitch
- □ Routers, e.g., Click
- □ Home Location Register (HLR),
- □ Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN),
- □ Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN),
- □ Combined GPRS Support Node (CGSN),
- □ Radio Network Controller (RNC),
- □ Serving Gateway (SGW),
- □ Packet Data Network Gateway (PGW),
- □ Residential Gateway (RGW),
- □ Broadband Remote Access Server (BRAS),
- □ Carrier Grade Network Address Translator (CGNAT),
- □ Deep Packet Inspection (DPI),
- □ Provider Edge (PE) Router,
- □ Mobility Management Entity (MME),
- □ Element Management System (EMS)

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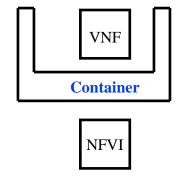
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VNF

- □ NFV Infrastructre (NFVI): Hardware and software required to deploy, mange and execute VNFs
- Network Function (NF): Functional building block with a well defined interfaces and well defined functional behavior
- □ Virtualized Network Function (VNF): Software implementation of NF that can be deployed in a virtualized infrastructure
- □ Container: VNF is independent of NFVI but needs a container software on NFVI to be able to run on different hardwares



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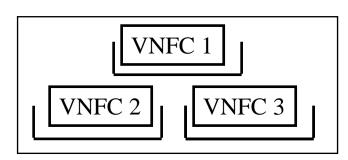
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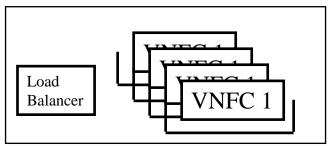
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NFV Concepts

- □ Containers Types: Related to Computation, Networking, Storage
- VNF Components (VNFC): A VNF may have one or more components
- VNF Set: Connectivity between VNFs is not specified, e.g., residential gateways
- VNF Forwarding Graph: Service chain when network connectivity order is important, e.g., firewall, NAT, load balancer

VNFC 1





Ref: ETSI, "Architectural Framework," 2015, http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/NFV/001_099/002/01.02.01_60/gs_NFV002v010201p.pdf

Ref: ETSI, "NFV Terminology for Main Concepts in NFV," 2015,

http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/NFV/001_099/003/01.02.01_60/gs_NFV003v010201p.pdf

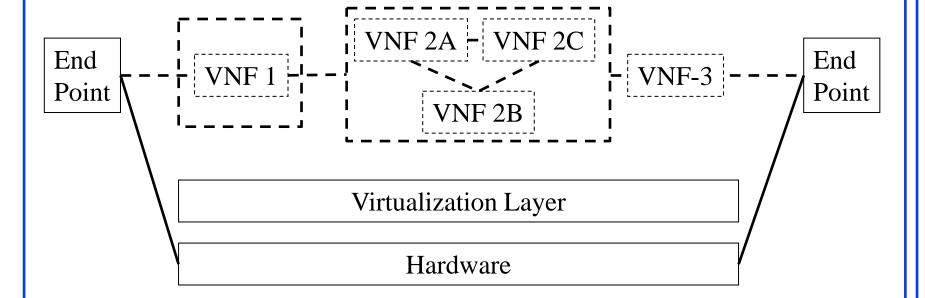
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Network Forwarding Graph

□ An end-to-end service may include nested forwarding graphs



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Ref: ETSI, "Architectural Framework," 2015, |

http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/NFV/001_099/002/01.02.01_60/gs_NFV002v010201p.pdf

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NFV Concepts (Cont)

- □ NFVI Point of Presence (PoP): Location of NFVI
- □ NFVI-PoP Network: Internal network
- □ Transport Network: Network connecting a PoP to other PoPs or external networks
- VNF Manager: VNF lifecycle management e.g., instantiation, update, scaling, query, monitoring, fault diagnosis, healing, termination
- □ Virtualized Infrastructure Manager: Management of computing, storage, network, software resources
- Network Service: A composition of network functions and defined by its functional and behavioral specification
- □ NFV Service: A network services using NFs with at least one VNF.

NFV Concepts (Cont)

- User Service: Services offered to end users/customers/subscribers.
- Deployment Behavior: NFVI resources that a VNF requires, e.g., Number of VMs, memory, disk, images, bandwidth, latency
- □ Operational Behavior: VNF instance topology and lifecycle operations, e.g., start, stop, pause, migration, ...
- □ **VNF Descriptor**: Deployment behavior + Operational behavior
- □ NFV Orchestrator: Automates the deployment, operation, management, coordination of VNFs and NFVI.
- □ VNF Forwarding Graph: Connection topology of various NFs of which at least one is a VNF

NFV Reference Points

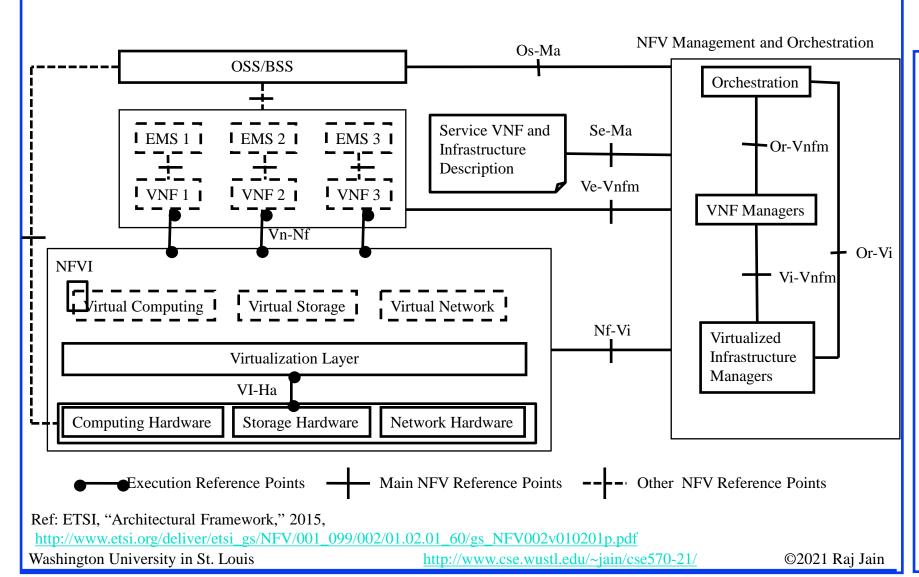
Reference Point: Points for inter-module specification

- 1. Virtualization Layer-Hardware Resources (VI-Ha)
- 2. VNF NFVI (**Vn-Nf**)
- 3. Orchestrator VNF Manager (Or-Vnfm)
- 4. Virtualized Infrastructure Manager VNF Manager (Vi-Vnfm)
- 5. Orchestrator Virtualized Infrastructure Manager (Or-Vi)
- 6. NFVI-Virtualized Infrastructure Manager (Nf-Vi)
- 7. Operation Support System (OSS)/Business Support Systems (BSS) NFV Management and Orchestration (Os-Ma)
- 8. VNF/ Element Management System (EMS) VNF Manager (Ve-Vnfm)
- 9. Service, VNF and Infrastructure Description NFV Management and Orchestration (Se-Ma): VNF Deployment template, VNF Forwarding Graph, service-related information, NFV infrastructure information

Ref: ETSI, "Architectural Framework," 2015, http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/NFV/001_099/002/01.02.01_60/gs_NFV002v010201p.pdf
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NFV Architecture



NFV Framework Requirements

- 1. General: Partial or full Virtualization, Predictable performance
- 2. Portability: Decoupled from underlying infrastructure
- 3. Performance: as described and facilities to monitor
- 4. Elasticity: Scalable to meet SLAs. Movable to other servers.
- 5. Resiliency: Be able to recreate after failure.

 Specified packet loss rate, calls drops, time to recover, etc.
- 6. Security: Role-based authorization, authentication
- 7. Service Continuity: Seamless or non-seamless continuity after failures or migration

Ref: ETSI, "NFV Virtualization Requirements,", 2015, http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/NFV/001_099/004/01.01.01_60/gs_NFV004v010101p.pdf
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NFV Framework Requirements (Cont)

- 8. Service Assurance: Time stamp and forward copies of packets for Fault detection
- **9. Energy Efficiency Requirements**: Should be possible to put a subset of VNF in a power conserving sleep state
- **10.Transition:** Coexistence with Legacy and Interoperability among multi-vendor implementations
- 11.Service Models: Operators may use NFV infrastructure operated by other operators

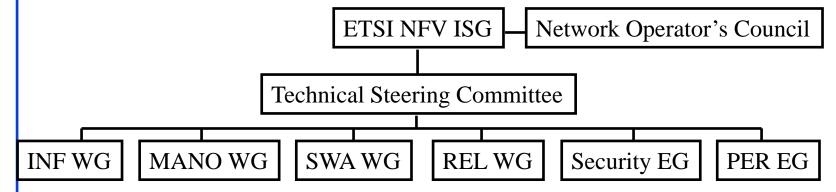
NFV Use Cases

- □ **Home Environment:** Virtualization of the Home environment
- □ CDNS: Virtualization of Content Distribution Networks
- □ Fixed Access Network: Fixed Access NFV
- □ NFVIaaS: NFVI as a service like IaaS
- VNFaaS: VNFs as a service like SaaS
- VNPaaS: Virtual Network Platform as a Service like PaaS
- VNF Forwarding Graph: VNF forwarding graphs (Service Chains)
- Mobile Core and IMS: Virtualization of the Mobile Core Network and IP Multimedia System
- Mobile Base Station: Virtualization of Mobile Base Station

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Ref: ETSI, "NFV Use Cases," http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/NFV/001_099/001/01.01.01_60/gs_NFV001v010101p.pdf
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ETSI NFV ISG



- □ Industry Specification Group (ISG)'s goal is to define the requirements.
- □ Four Working Groups:
 - > INF: Architecture for the virtualization Infrastructure
 - > MANO: Management and orchestration
 - > **SWA**: Software architecture
 - > **REL**: Reliability and Availability, resilience and fault tolerance

Ref: M. Cohn, "NFV, An Insider's Perspective: Part 1: Goals, History, and Promise," Sep 2013, <a href="http://www.sdncentral.com/education/nfv-insiders-perspective-part-1-goals-history-promise/2013/09/Washington University in St. Louis http://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse570-21/

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ETSI NFV ISG (Cont)

- Two Expert Groups:
 - > Security Expert Group: Security
 - > Performance and Portability Expert Group: Scalability, efficiency, and performance VNFs relative to current dedicated hardware

ETSI NFV Release 2.0

- □ 2015-2016. INF, SWA disbanded. Several new groups.
- □ IFA: Interfaces and Architecture
 - > Fault, performance, and lifecycle management of virtualized resources, VNFs, and network services
 - > Package and software image management
 - > Capacity management, Policy Management
 - > Information models
- □ REL: Reliability and Availability, resilience and fault tolerance
- □ SEC: Security analysis and management
- □ EVE: Evolution and Ecosystem working group
 - > Charging, Billing, and Accounting, License Management
- □ TST: Testing, DevOps, Continuous Integration

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Ref: http://www.etsi.org/technologies-clusters/technologies/689-network-functions-virtualisation
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ETSI NFV Release 3

- **2**017-2018
- □IFA, EVE, REL, SEC, and TST continue

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NFV Proof of Concepts (PoCs)

ETSI has formed and NFV ISG PoC Forum. Following modules have been demoed:

- 1. Virtual Broadband Remote Access Server (BRAS) by British Telecom
- 2. Virtual IP Multimedia System (IMS) by Deutsche Telekom
- 3. Virtual Evolved Packet Core (vEPC) by Orange Silicon Valley
- 4. Carrier-Grade Network Address Translator (CGNAT) and Deep Packet Inspection (DPI), Home Gateway by Telefonica
- 5. Perimeta Session Border Controller (SBC) from Metaswitch
- 6. Deep packet inspection from Procera

Most of these are based on Cloud technologies, e.g., OpenStack Ref: M. Cohn, "NFV Group Flocks to Proof-of-Concept Demos," Aug 2013,

http://www.sdncentral.com/technology/nfv-group-flocks-to-proof-of-concept-models/2013/08/

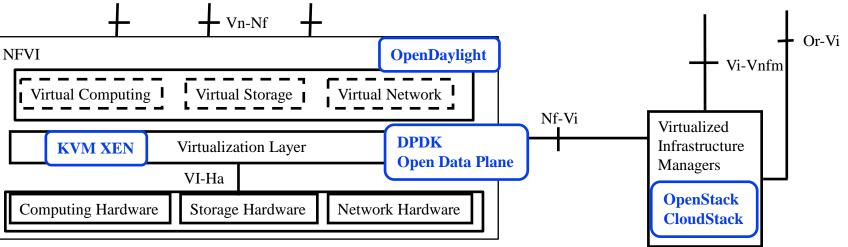
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OPNFV

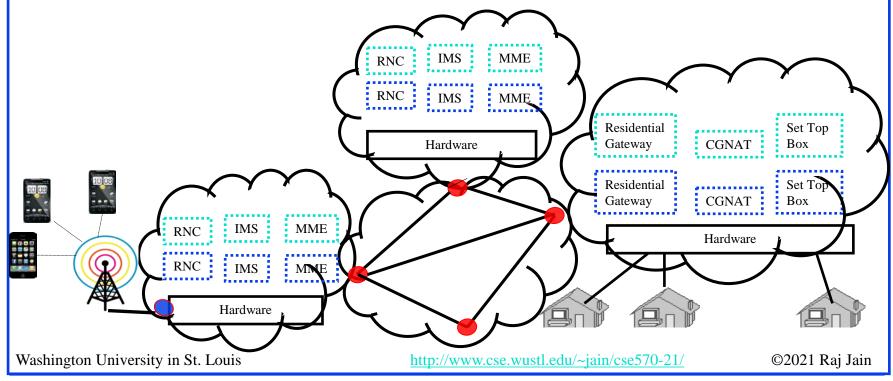
- □ Open Source NFV implementation project under Linux Foundation (Similar to OpenDaylight)
- □ Founded September 2014
- □ Initial goal to integrate KVM, OpenStack, and OpenDaylight
- □ Integrated project will be run through software testing labs at service providers



Ref: K. Gray and T. Dadeau, "Network Function Virtualization," Morgan Kaufmann, July 2016, 270 pp., ISBN:0128021195
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Service Chaining in a Multi-Cloud Multi-Tenant Environment

- □ VNFs (Virtual network fns) belong to tenants. Multiple tenants.
- Each Cloud belongs to a different Cloud Service Provider (CSP)
- □ Internet infrastructure belongs to an NFVI service provider (NSP)
- Service chain = Workflow



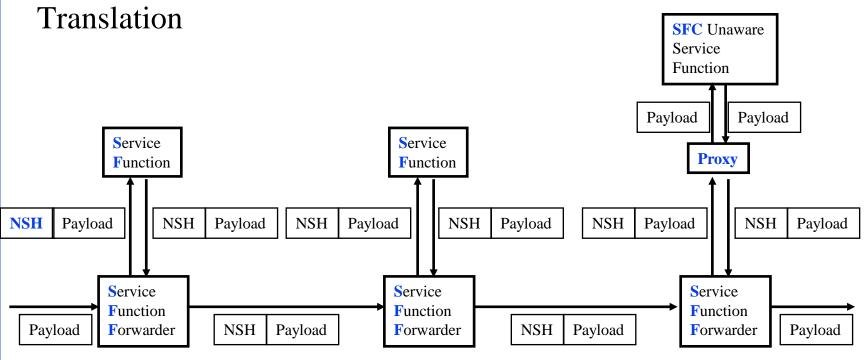
Challenges in Service Chaining

□ Dynamic:

- > Forwarding changes with state of the servers, links, ...
- > Independent of physical topology
- □ Content sensitive:
 - > Different for different types of videos, read-writes, ...
- **□ Distributed Control**:
 - > Equipment belongs to infrastructure provider
 - > Data belongs to Tenants
- **■** Massive Scale:
 - > Billions of users with different user context
- **□** Stateful Services:
 - > All packets of a flow should be sent to the same replica
 - □ Message level services (firewalls),
 - □ Packet level services (intrusion detection)

Service Function Chaining Terminology

- □ Defined by IETF SFC Working group
- Service: E.g., Video streaming. Consists of a number of functions.
- □ Service Function: E.g., Firewall, Compression, Video



Ref: RFC 7498, "Problem Statement for Service Function Chaining," Nov. 2015, https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/pdfrfc/rfc7498.txt.pdf Washington University in St. Louis http://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse570-21/ ©2021 Raj Jain

SFC Terminology (Cont)

- □ Service Function Chain: A forwarding graph
- □ A service function may have more than one instance.
- □ Number and location of instances changes with time
- □ All packets of a flow should be forwarded to the same instance
- □ Service Function Path (SFP): A sequence of service functions for a particular service
- □ Network Service Header (NSH): Added to forward packets dynamically to correct instances of the service function
- □ Service Function Forwarder (SFF): Forwards the packets to correct instance using NSH. May add/delete NSH if needed.
- □ Proxy: Helps use legacy functions. Removes/Adds NSH header before sending the packet to SFC unaware functions.

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Ref: RFC 7665, "Service Function Chaining (SFC) Architecture," Nov. 2015, https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/pdfrfc/rfc7665.txt.pdf
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SFC Terminology (Cont)

- □ Transport: Between the SFFs, SFs, and Proxies. E.g., Ethernet, GRE, VXLAN, TCP, ...
- NSH encapsulated packet is sent using the transport header to the next SFC element.

Transport Header NSH Payload

- Metadata: Data passed between SFC elements. Part of the NSH
- □ Service Path Identifier (SPI): A service function path may have many instances. Each instance has a SPI.
- □ Service Index: Each function on the SFP has a service indes.

Network Service Header

□ Consists of "base header", "service path header", and zero or more "context headers."

Base Header:

Ver OAM Res TTL Length Res MD Type Protocol

2b 1b 1b 6b 6b 6b 4b 4b 8b

Service Path Header:

Service Path Identifier (SPI)

Service Path Header (Fixed Length)

MD Type 2 Context Headers (Variable Length)

Multiples of 32b

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Ref: RFC 8300, "Network Service Header (NSH)," July 2017, https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/pdfrfc/rfc8300.txt.pdf https://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse570-21/

NSH (Cont)

- □TTL: # of SFC hops to live
- □ Length: Total length of NSH header including base, service path, and context headers in bytes
- MD Type: Type of the metadata (context header)
 - 1 = Fixed length
 - 2 = Variable length

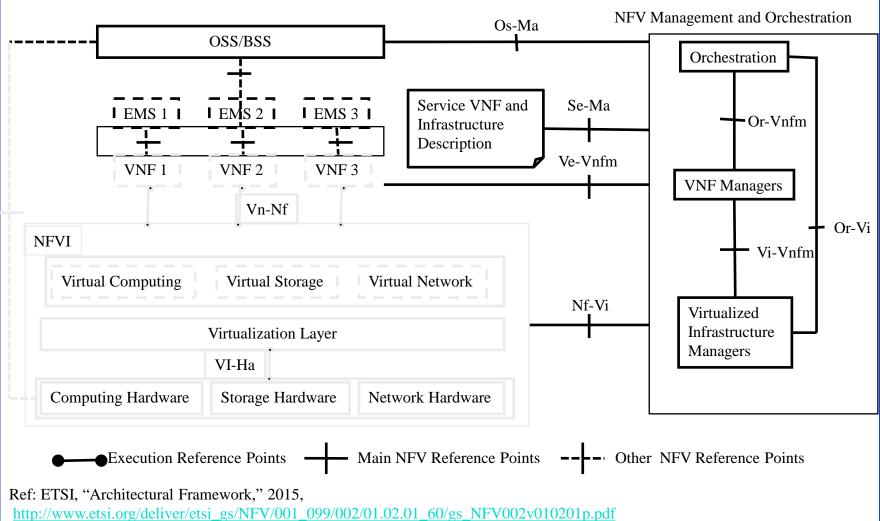
SPRING

- □ Source Packet Routing in Networking An IETF working group
- □ NSH requires maintaining state in all SFFs
- Source routing is an alternative in which no state is maintained in the intermediate nodes. The packet header contains the route.
- □ Source routing is limited to IP addresses
- □ Segment Routing = Generalization of source routing
 - > MPLS Label = Segment
 - > IP address = Segment
- □ Differentiate between elephant storage flows and mice compute flows
- □ Although SPRING working group is not for NFV, Segment routing can be used for Service Function Chaining

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Ref: Source packet Routing in Networking (spring), https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/spring/about/ Washington University in St. Louis https://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse570-21/

Management and Orchestration (MANO) OSS/BSS Orchestration Orchestration OSS/BSS Orchestration Orchestration OSS/BSS Orchestratio



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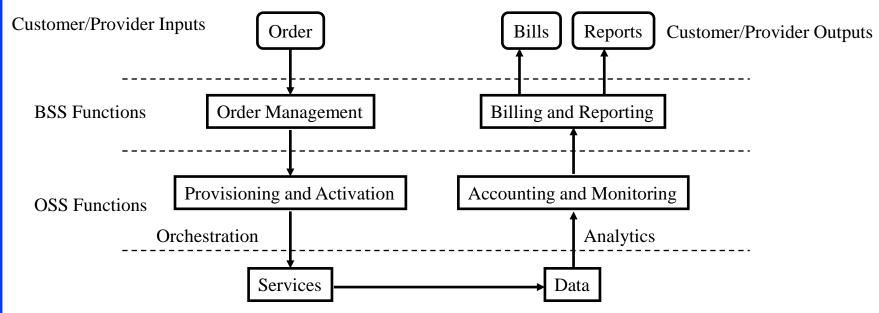
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MANO (Cont)

- Operation Support System (OSS)
- □ Business Support System (BSS)
- □ Element Management System, VNF Management, Infrastructure Management, Orchestration



Ref: Ken Gray and Thomas Nadeau, "Network Function Virtualization," Morgan Kaufmann, July 2016, 238 pp.,

ISBN: 978-0-12-802119-4, (Safari Book)

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NGOSS

- □ Next Generation OSS
- □ Service providers have many different OSSs
 Mostly using polling/event monitoring
 All proprietary and often incompatible ⇒ High OpEx
- Next Generation OSS (NGOSS) being discussed in TeleManagement Forum (TM Forum)
- Enhanced Telecom Operations Map (eTOM): Common language for service providers to describe business processes
- □ Shared Information/Data Model (SID): Common language for vendors to decrive management information
- □ Technology Neutral Architecture (TNA) and Contract Interface
- □ NGOSS Compliance: A Suite of tests

Ref: "NGOSS (New Generation Operations Systems and Software)," http://dpnm.postech.ac.kr/NGOSS/NGOSS.html

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Open Source MANO Implementations

- □ Open-O: Linux Foundation project for open orchestration
- **ECOMP**: Linux Foundation project for Enhanced Control, Orchestration, Management, and Policy (Led by AT&T)
- □ ONAP: Open Network Automation Platform
 Open-O and ECOMP merged at Linux Foundation
- □ TACKER: OpenStack project for NFV orchestration
- □ Open Source MANO (OSM): ETSI effort started by Telefonica in 2015
- □ Open Baton: Closely follows ETSI MANO
- Most of these use TOSCA templates

Ref: https://wiki.open-o.org/, https://wiki.open-o.org/, https://www.onap.org/, <a href="https://www.on

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TOSCA

- □ Topology and Orchestration Specification for Cloud Applications
- □ TOSCA template for an application describes the resources required to run the application on a cloud
- □ Resources can be compute, network, storage, databases, etc.
- □ TOSCA template includes a graph modeling the relationships between various components and operations on them
- □ Orchestration engines can use the TOSCA template to create an instance of the application. Resources required are also created in correct order. For example, a database will be created before the program that needs it, etc.

Ref: OASIS, "TOSCA Simple Profile in YAML Version 1.1," Jan 2018, 282 pp.,

http://docs.oasis-open.org/tosca/TOSCA-Simple-Profile-YAML/v1.1/os/TOSCA-Simple-Profile-YAML-v1.1-os.pdf
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Any Function Virtualization (FV)

- Network function virtualization of interest to Network service providers
- ■But the same concept can be used by any other industry, e.g., financial industry, banks, stock brokers, retailers, mobile games, ...
- □ Everyone can benefit from:
 - > Functional decomposition of there industry
 - > Virtualization of those functions
 - > Service chaining those virtual functions (VFs)
 - ⇒ A service provided by the next gen ISPs

Enterprise App Market: Lower CapEx

Virtual IP Multimedia System

Available on the App Store





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Summary

- 1. NFV aims to reduce OpEx by automation and scalability provided by implementing network functions as virtual appliances
- 2. NFV allows all benefits of virtualization and cloud computing including orchestration, scaling, automation, hardware independence, pay-per-use, fault-tolerance, ...
- 3. NFV and SDN are independent and complementary. You can do either or both.
- 4. NFV requires standardization of reference points and interfaces to be able to mix and match VNFs from different sources
- 5. NFV can be done now. Several of virtual functions have already been demonstrated by carriers.

Reading List

- □ Ken Gray and Thomas Nadeau, "Network Function Virtualization," Morgan Kaufmann, July 2016, 238 pp., ISBN: 978-0-12-802119-4, (Safari Book) Recommended Reading
- □ Jim Doherty, "SDN and NFV Simplified: A Visual Guide to Understanding Software Defined Networks and Network Function Virtualization," Addison-Wesley Professional, March 2, 2016, 320 pp., ISBN:978-0-13-430739-8 (Safari Book).
- ☐ Ying Zhang, "Network Function Virtualization," Wiley-IEEE Press, January 2018, 192 pp., ISBN:978-1-119-39060-2 (Safari Book).
- □ Rajendra Chayapathi, Syed Farrukh Hassan, Paresh Shah, "Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) with a Touch of SDN," Addison-Wesley Professional, November 2016, 368 pp., ISBN:978-0-13-446431-2 (Safari Book).
- □ Russ White, Jeff Tantsura, "Navigating Network Complexity: Next-generation Routing with SDN, Service Virtualization, and Service Chaining," Addison-Wesley Professional, November 2015, 320 pp., ISBN:0-13-398792-2 (Safari Book).

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- □ ETSI, "NFV Update White Paper V3," Oct 2014, http://portal.etsi.org/NFV/NFV_White_Paper3.pdf (Must read)
- □ ETSI, "White Paper on NFV priorities for 5G," Feb 2017, 15 pp., http://portal.etsi.org/NFV/NFV_White_Paper_5G.pdf
- □ ETSI, "NFV Terminology for Main Concepts in NFV," 2015, http://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_gs/NFV/001_099/003/01.02.01
 60/gs_NFV003v010201p.pdf
- □ ETSI Specifications, see the public download directory at https://docbox.etsi.org/ISG/NFV/Open/Publications_pdf/Specs-Reports

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Acronyms

□ API Application Programming Interface

□ BRAS Broadband Remote Access Server

□ BSS Business Support Systems

□ CapEx Capital Expenditure

CDN Content Distribution Network

□ CGNAT Carrier-Grade Network Address Translator

CGSN Combined GPRS Support Node

■ COTSCommercial-off-the-shelf

DDIOData Direct I/O Technology

□ DHCP Dynamic Host control Protocol

□ DPI Deep Packet Inspection

□ EMS Element Management System

□ ETSI European Telecom Standards Institute

□ GGSN Gateway GPRS Support Node

□ GPRS General Packet Radio Service

□ HLR Home Location Register

□ IaaS Infrastructure as a Service

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Acronyms (Cont)

□ IETF Internet Engineering Task Force

□ IMS IP Multimedia System

□ INF Architecture for the virtualization Infrastructure

□ IP Internet Protocol

□ ISG Industry Specification Group

□ LSP Label Switched Path

■ MANO Management and orchestration

■ MME Mobility Management Entity

□ NAT Network Address Translation

□ NF Network Function

□ NFV Network Function Virtualization

□ NFVI Network Function Virtualization Infrastructure

□ NFVIaaS NFVI as a Service

□ NIC Network Interface Card

OpEx Operational Expences

OS Operating System

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Acronyms (Cont)

□ OSS Operation Support System

□ PaaS Platform as a Service

□ PE Provider Edge

□ PGW Packet Data Network Gateway

□ PoC Proof-of-Concept

□ PoP Point of Presence

□ PSTN Public Switched Telephone Network

QoS Quality of Service

□ REL Reliability, Availability, resilience and fault tolerance group

□ RGW Residential Gateway

□ RNC Radio Network Controller

□ SaaS Software as a Service

□ SBC Session Border Controller

□ SDN Software Defined Networking

□ SGSNServing GPRS Support Node

□ SGW Serving Gateway

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Acronyms (Cont)

□ SIP Session Initiation Protocol

□ SLA Service Level Agreement

□ SWA Software architecture

□ TAS Telephony Application Server

□ TMF TM Forum

□ vEPC Virtual Evolved Packet Core

□ VM Virtual Machine

□ VNF Virtual Network Function

□ VNFaaS VNF as a Service

□ vSwitch Virtual Switch

□ VT-d Virtualization Technology for Direct IO

□ VT-x Virtualization Technology

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CSE567M: Computer Systems Analysis (Spring 2013),

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjGG94etKypJEKjNAa1n_1X0bWWNyZcof

CSE473S: Introduction to Computer Networks (Fall 2011),

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjGG94etKypJWOSPMh8Azcgy5e_10TiDw





Wireless and Mobile Networking (Spring 2016),

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CSE571S: Network Security (Fall 2011),

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjGG94etKypKvzfVtutHcPFJXumyyg93u





Video Podcasts of Prof. Raj Jain's Lectures,

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4-5wzNP9-ruOzQMs-8NUw

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