

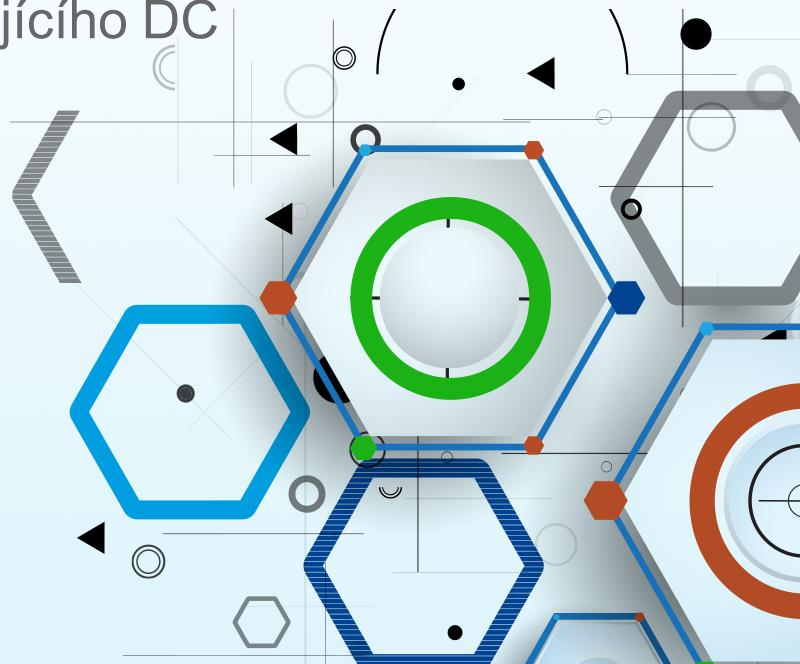


# Application Centric Infrastructure

Design pro řešení na zelené louce i do stávajícího DC

DCA4

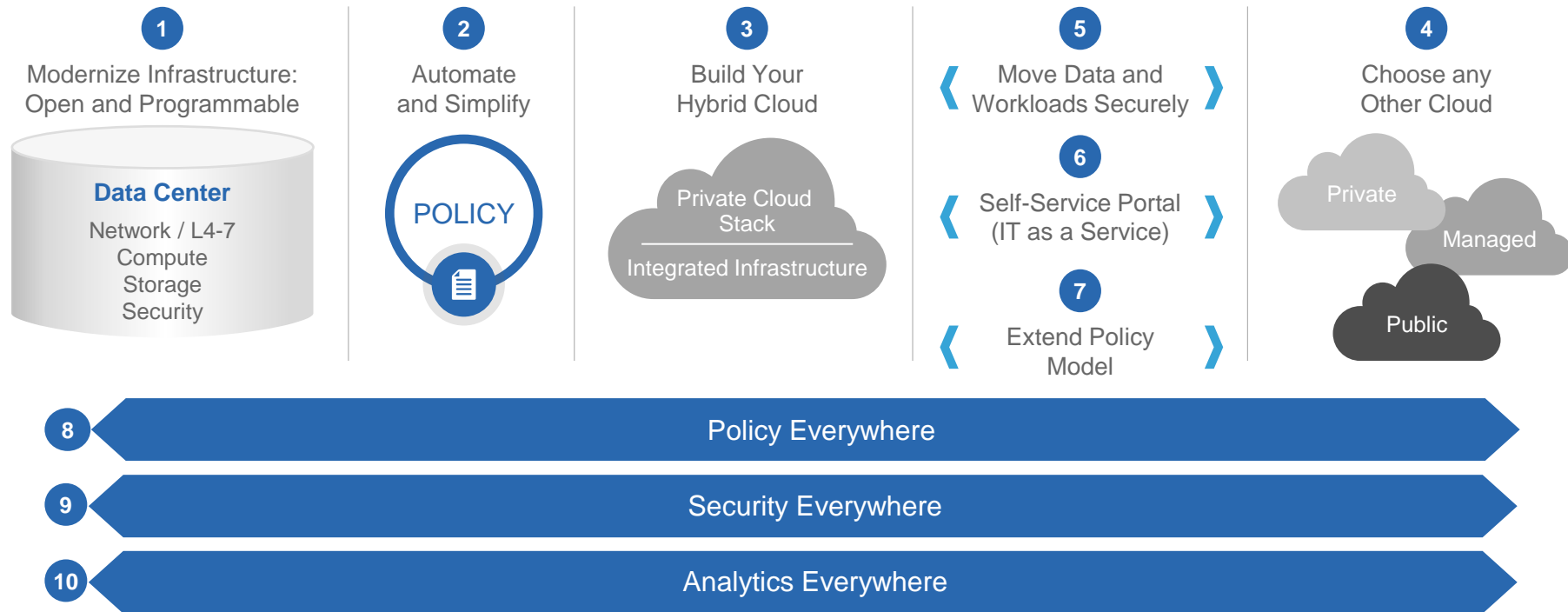
Miroslav Brzek, Systems Engineer



# Agenda

- Modern DC infrastructure – Customer requirements
- What's Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)
- How ACI affects / enhances Data Center Infrastructure
  - Network fabric
  - Hypervisors
  - L4-L7 Services
- How ACI affects Applications
  - Security
  - Automation / Orchestration
- Migration to ACI

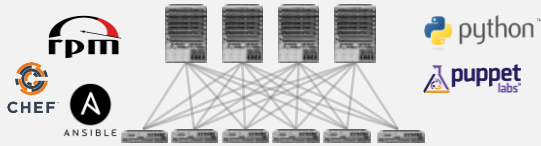
# Modern DC infrastructure – Customer's Requests



# Cisco Data Center Networking Strategy

## Providing Choice in Automation and Programmability

### Programmable Network



Modern NX-OS with enhanced  
NX-APIs

DevOps toolset used for Network  
Management  
(Puppet, Chef, Ansible etc.)

### Programmable Fabric

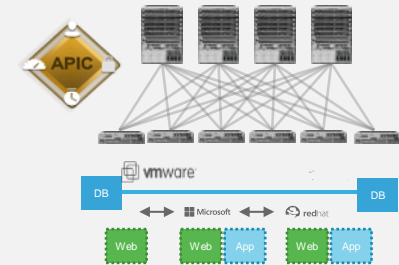


VxLAN-BGP EVPN  
standard-based

3<sup>rd</sup> party controller support

Cisco Controller for software  
overlay provisioning and  
management across N2K-N9K

### Application Centric Infrastructure



Turnkey integrated solution with  
security, centralized management,  
compliance and scale

Automated application centric-policy  
model with embedded security

Broad and deep ecosystem

Automation, API's, Controllers and Tool-chain's

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# ACI: Policy-Driven DC Infrastructure

Answers customer's requests

App Requirements Drive  
Network Deployment/Operation

## Agile



Policy  
Automation



Visibility



Scale and  
Performance

- Speed through Automation
- Physical and Virtual Endpoints with Consistent Policy
- Application Health Monitoring

## Open



Open  
API's



Partner  
Ecosystem

- Open APIs, Open Source and Open Standards
- Customer Choice And Interoperability
- Drives Innovation

## Secure



Multi-Tenant  
Security



Compliance

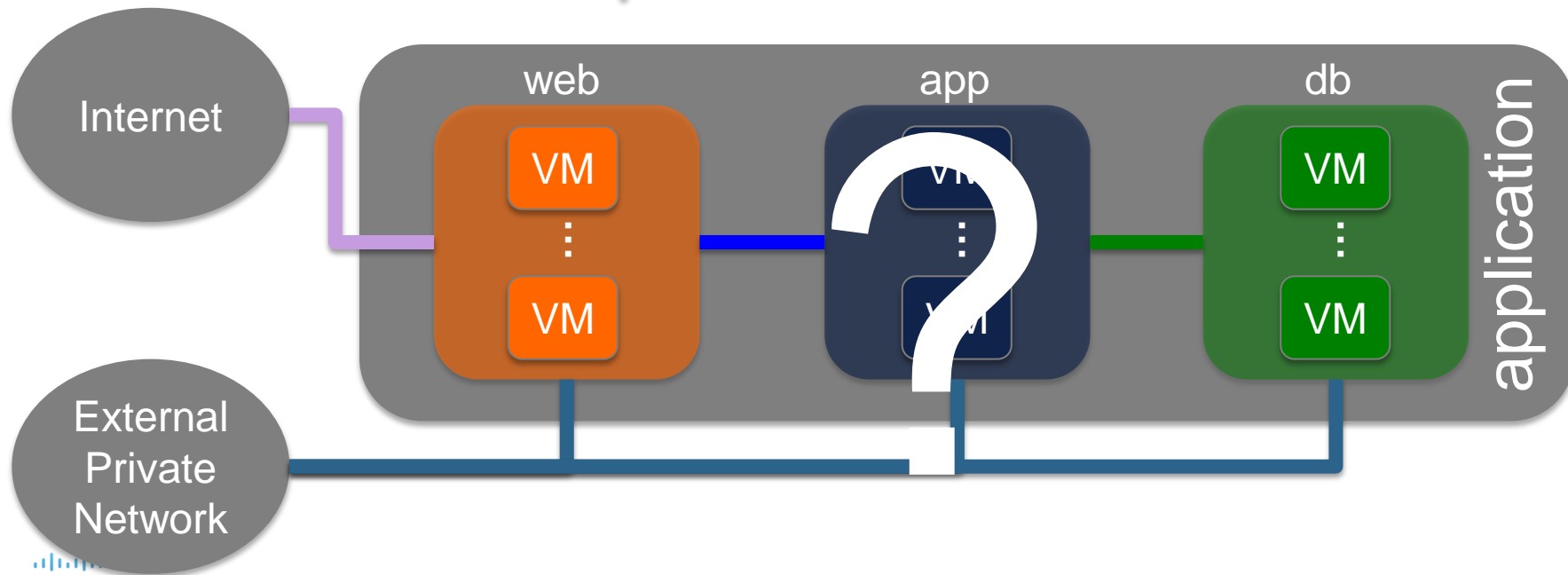
- Whitelist Approach
- Multitenant Aware
- Simplified Compliance

# Modern Data Center Network

It's All About the Application

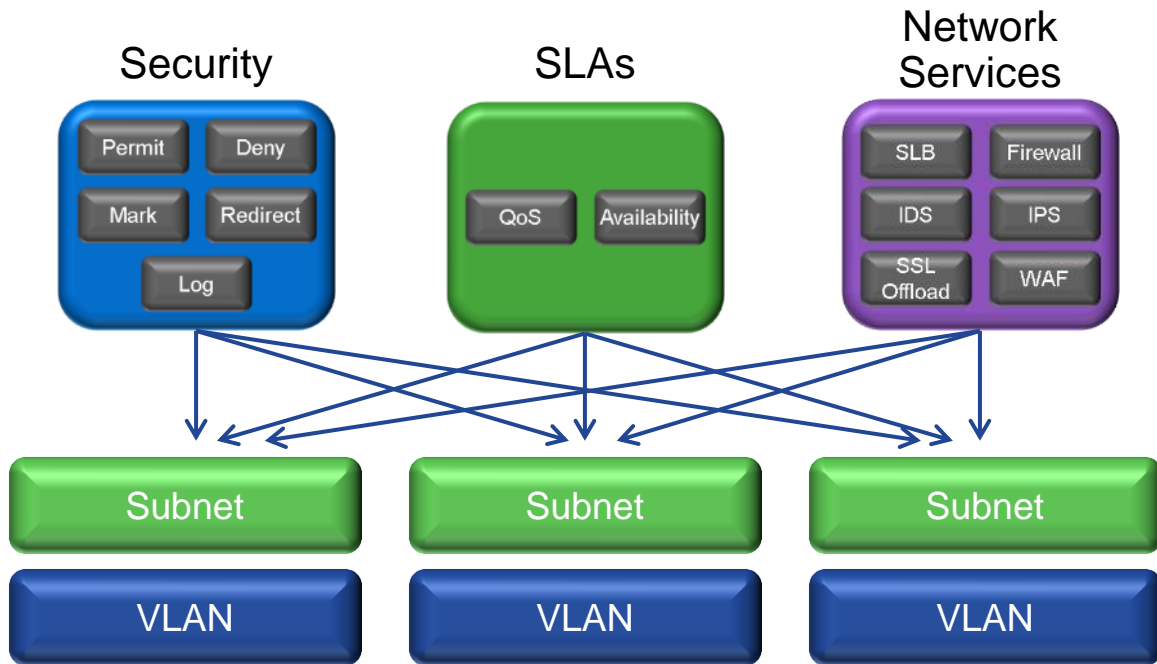
An Application is more than just a VM  
Interconnected components

**How do we define the network for the application?**



# How do we define the network for the application today?

- Group applications by VLAN to segment them and to control the path between them
- Map IP subnets to those VLANs
  - Policy boundary
  - Security identifier
  - Application identifier
- Apply connectivity, policies (security, QoS) and network services based on those constructs



This leads to restrictions on how applications can be grouped and how policy can be applied



```
switch1(config)#
switch1(config)# int eth 1/1
switch1(config)# switch mode acc
```

```
switch2(config)#
switch2(config)# int eth 1/3 ~ 3
```

```
switch3(config)#
switch3(config)# int eth 1/4 ~ 3
switch3(config)# switch mode acc
```

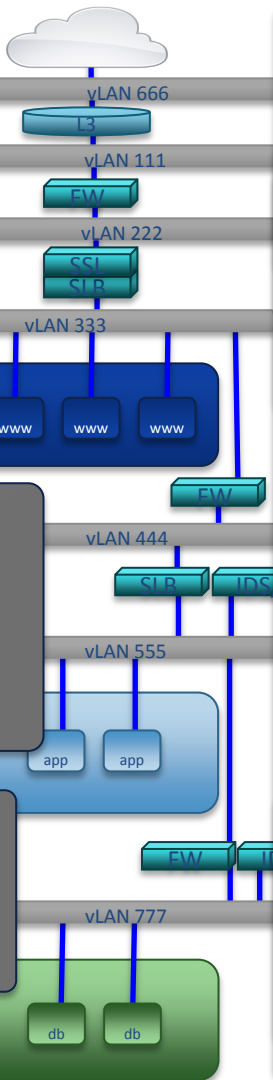
```
switch4(config)#
switch4(config)# int eth 1/6
switch4(config)# switch mode acc
switch4(config)# switch acc vlan 113
switch4(config)# no shut
switch4(config)# int eth 1/7 ~ 3
switch4(config)# switch mode acc
switch4(config)# switch acc vlan 333
```

```
switch5(config)#
switch5(config)# int eth 1/10 ~ 11
switch5(config)# switch mode acc
switch5(config)# switch acc vlan 444
switch5(config)# no shut
switch5(config)# int eth 1/11 ~ 15
switch5(config)# switch mode acc
switch5(config)# switch acc vlan 555
switch5(config)# no shut
switch5(config)# monitor session 1 source vlan 333
switch5(config)# monitor session 1 dest eth 1/16
```

```
switch6(config)#
switch6(config)# int eth 1/16 ~ 19
switch6(config)# switch mode acc
switch6(config)# switch acc vlan 777
switch6(config)# no shut
switch6(config)# monitor session 1 source vlan 777
switch6(config)# monitor session 1 dest eth 1/20
```

CISCO

DB  
Servers



```
router1(config)#
router1(config)# int eth 1
router1(config)# ip add 6.6.6.1 255.255.255.0
router1(config)# no shut
router1(config)# int eth 2
```

```
slb1 (CONFIG)
probe http http-probe
interval 30
expect status 200 200
rserver host webserv1
description foo web server
ip address 3.3.3.1
inservice
rserver host webserv2
description foo web server
ip address 3.3.3.2
inservice
```

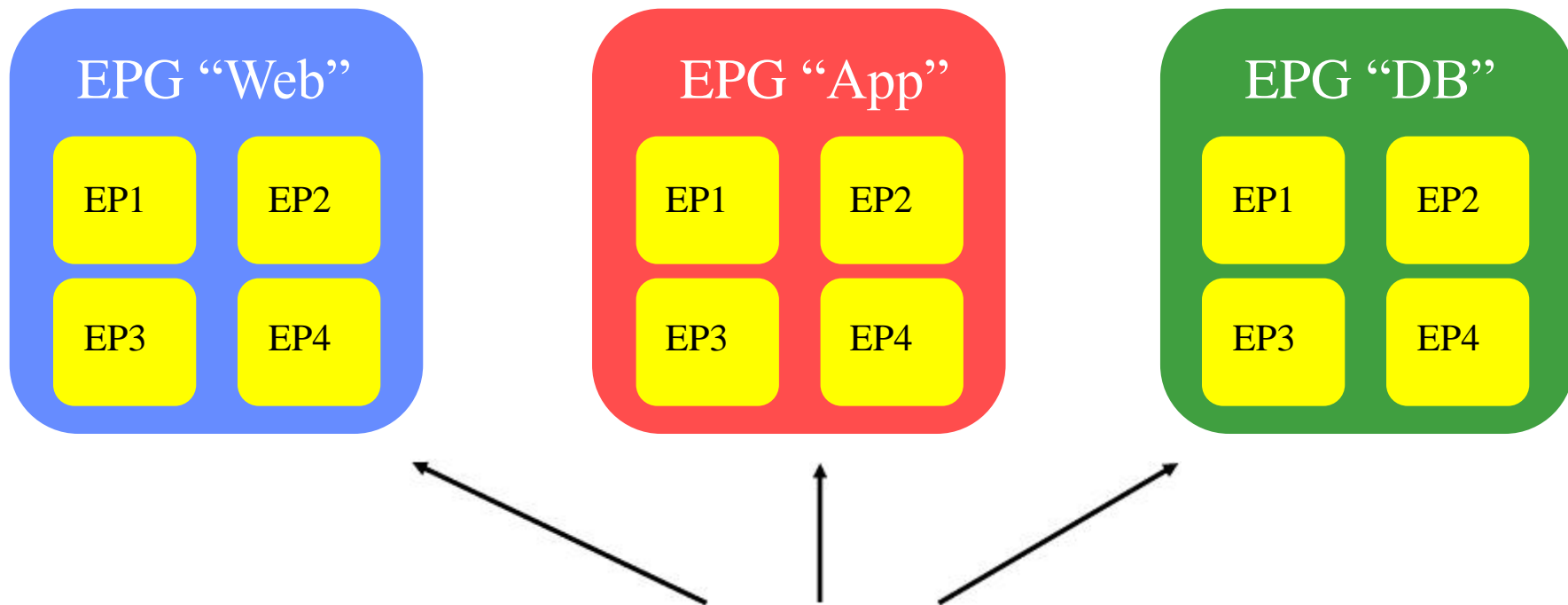
```
fw2 (config) #
fw2 (config) # int eth 0/1
fw2 (config) # nameif webfront 20
fw2 (config) # int eth 0/2
```

```
slb2 (CONFIG)
rserver host appsvr1
description foo app server
ip address 5.5.5.1
inservice
rserver host appsvr2
description foo app server
ip address 5.5.5.2
inservice
rserver host appsvr3
description foo app server
```

```
fw3 (config) #
fw3 (config) # int eth 0/1
fw3 (config) # nameif appfront 10
fw3 (config) # int eth 0/2
fw3 (config) # nameif dbfront 30
fw3 (config) # object network db_cluster
fw3 (config) # host 7.7.7.7
fw3 (config) # nat (dbfront,appfront) static 3.3.3.50
fw3 (config) # access-list web_to_app permit tcp any host 3.3.3.50 eq 1433
```

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# ACI policy model brings the concept of End-Point Group (EPG)



**EPGs** are a **grouping of end-points** representing **application or application components** **independent** of other network constructs.

# End-Points end EPG membership



Server



Virtual Machine



Storage

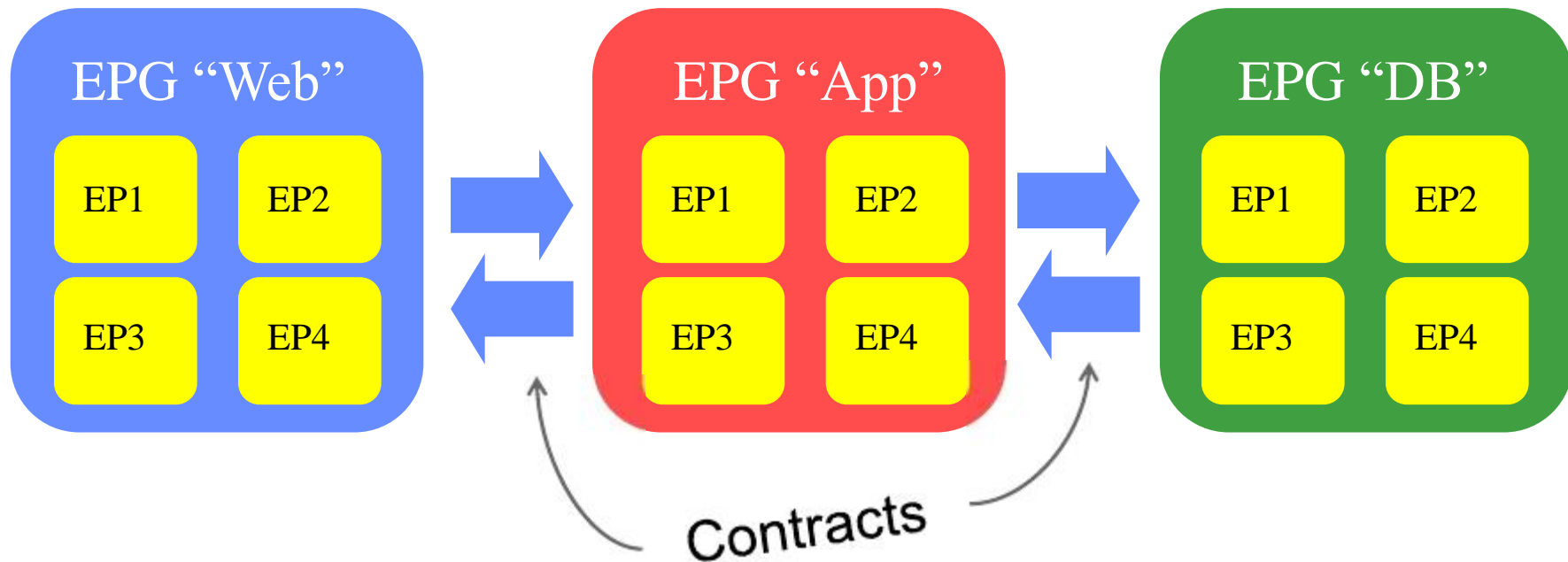


Client

- Device connected to network directly or indirectly
- Has address (identity), location, attributes (version, patch level)
- Can be physical or virtual
- End Point Group (EPG) membership defined by:
  - Ingress physical port (leaf or FEX)
  - VLAN ID
  - VXLAN (VNID)
  - IP address
  - IP Prefix/Subnet (applicable to external/border leaf connectivity)
  - VM Attribute

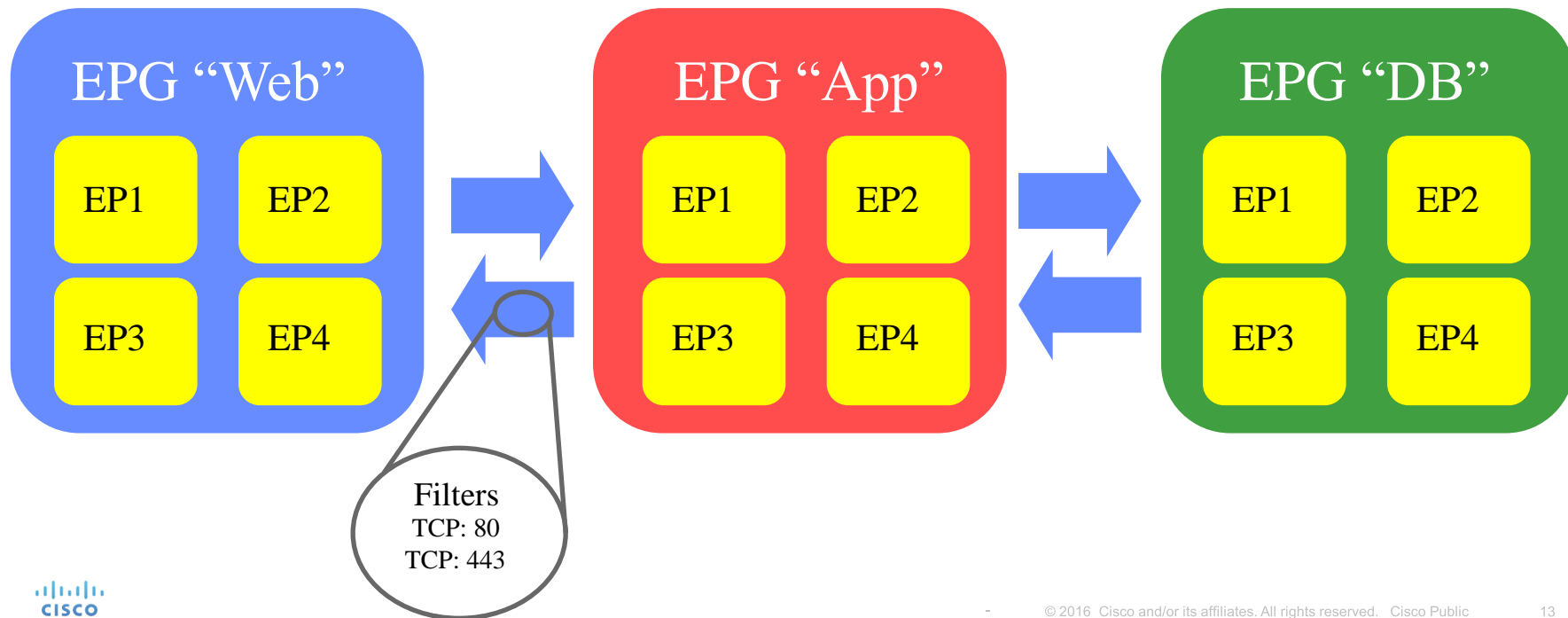
# Applying Policy between EPGs: ACI Contracts

Once we have our EPGs defined, we need to create policies to determine how they communicate with each other -> ACI Contract



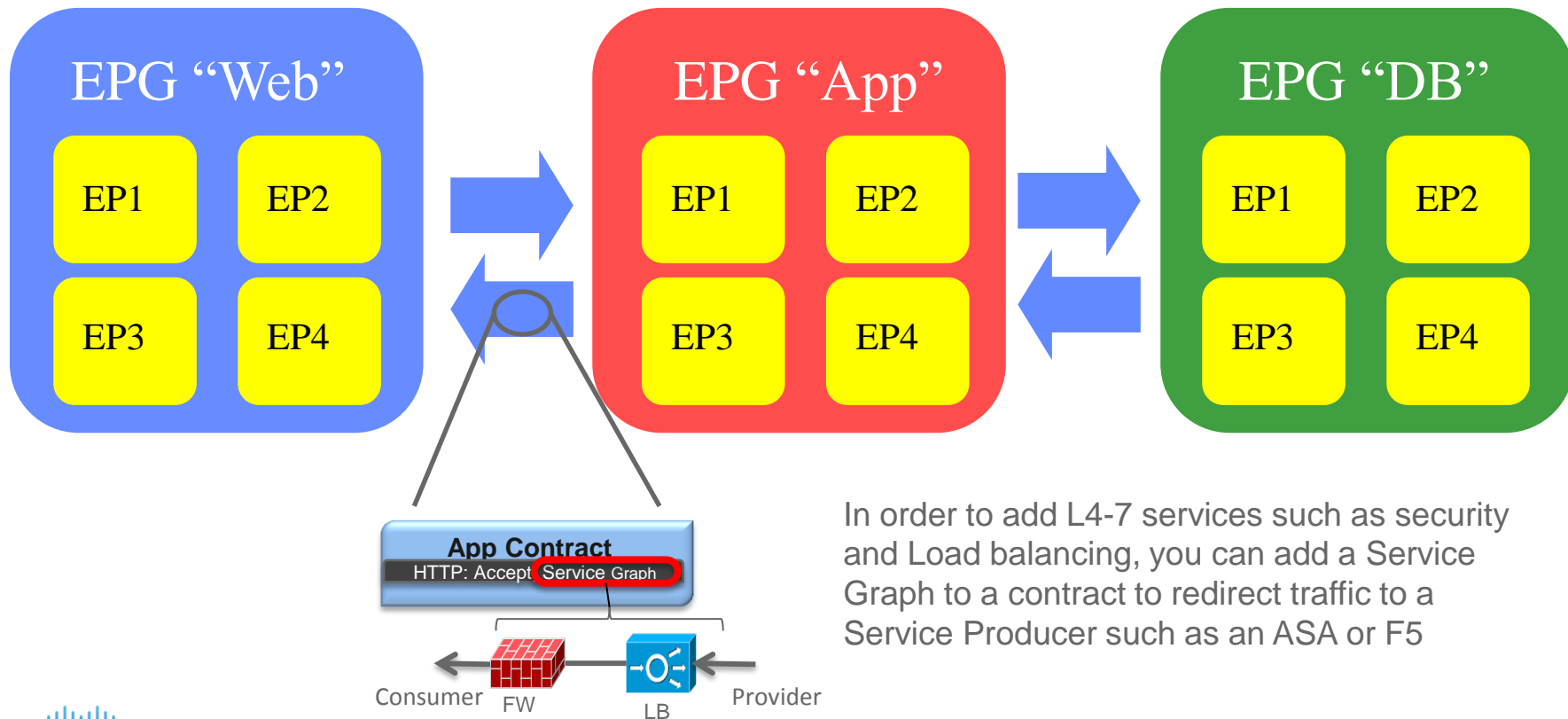
# Applying Policy between EPGs: ACI Contracts

A contract typically refers to one or more 'filters' to define specific protocols & ports allowed between EPGs



# ACI Service Graph

Insertion of Layer 4 - 7 services with contracts



In order to add L4-7 services such as security and Load balancing, you can add a Service Graph to a contract to redirect traffic to a Service Producer such as an ASA or F5

# EPGs @ ACI bring true network abstraction

## Traditional Network Model

VLAN 100  
10.10.10/24



VLAN 200  
10.10.20/24



VLAN 300  
10.10.30/24



VLAN 400  
10.10.40/24



**Apps Coupled  
to Location**

**Visibility At Network or  
VLAN Level**

**ACL-based Policy Per  
Interface**

**No Address Independence  
or Policy Mobility**

## Application Centric Infrastructure

**Apps Decoupled  
from Location**

**Visibility At App or Group  
Level**

**Policy Between Groups**

**Complete Address  
Independence & Policy  
Mobility**

**App 1** EPG 100 **App 2**  
10.10.10/24



EPG 200  
10.10.20/24



EPG 100 EPG 200  
EPG 300  
10.10.30/24



EPG 400  
10.10.40/24



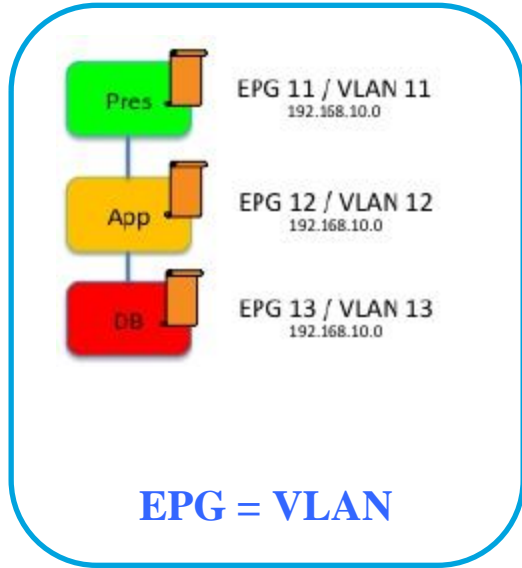
“Do I need to have a complete knowledge of my current application environment to fully use, benefit or leverage Cisco ACI ?”

**ABSOLUTELY NOT !!!**

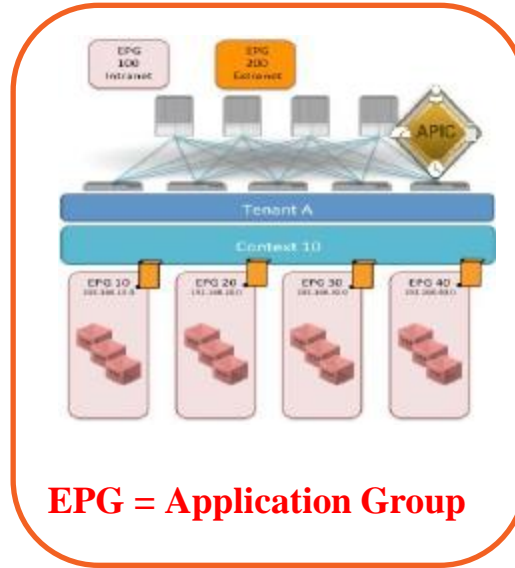


# ACI Design Flexibility

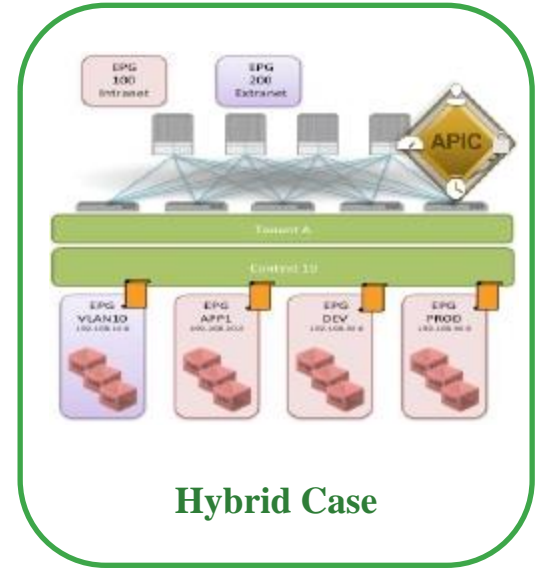
## Network Centric or Application Centric Deployment



Align EPGs to a Traditional  
VLAN/Subnets



Align EPGs to an Individual  
Components of one or more  
Applications



# How can we define the network for the application?

## Defining Application Logic Through Policy



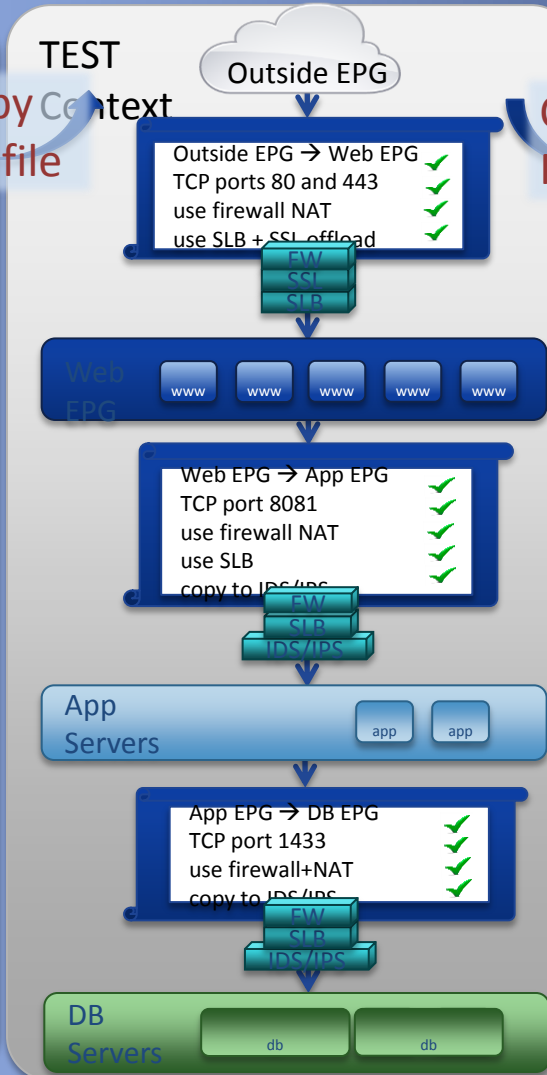
1. Group: A set of virtual or physical workloads with the same policy
2. Contracts: A set of rules governing communication between groups
3. Service Chains: A set of network services between groups

## DEV Context



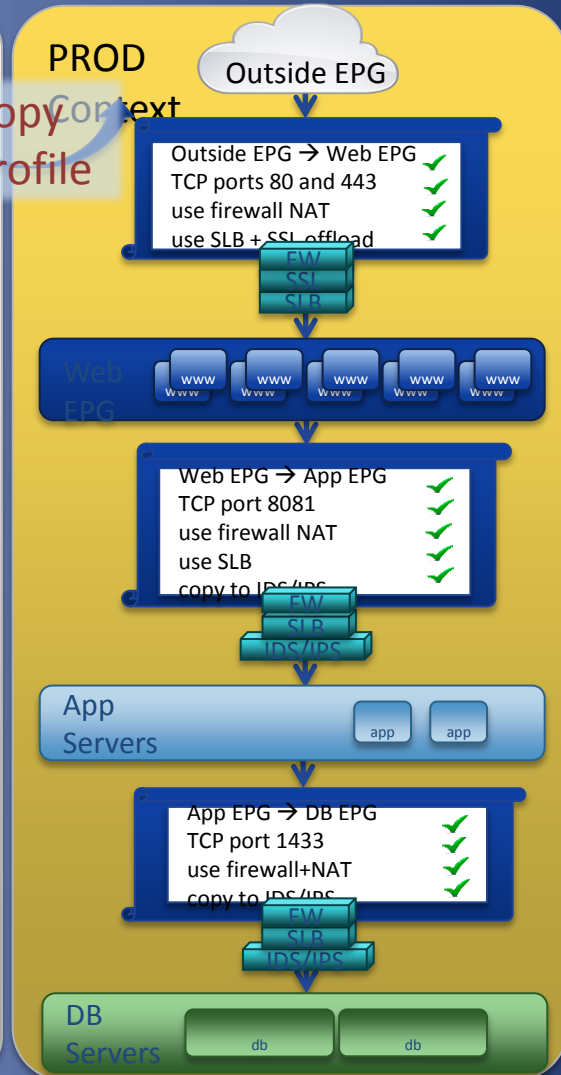
Copy Context  
Profile

## TEST Context



Copy Context  
Profile

## PROD Context



Tenant

# Cisco ACI

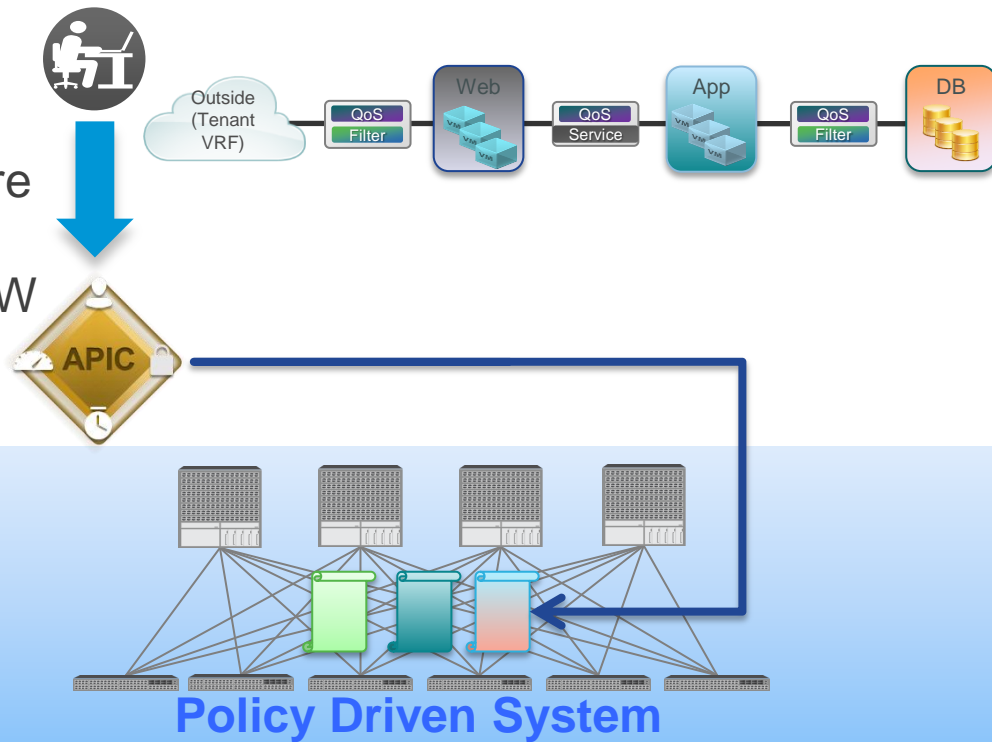
## Logical Network Provisioning of Stateless Hardware with ANP

Admin creates policies and profiles

Admin does **NOT** program the hardware

APIC pushes policies and profiles to HW

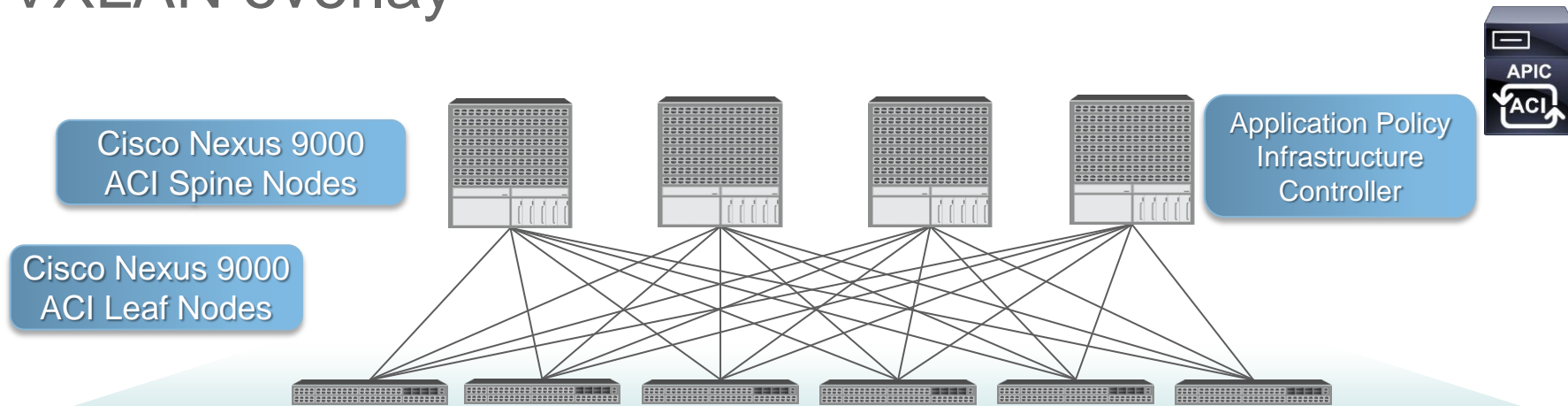
**HW programs itself!**



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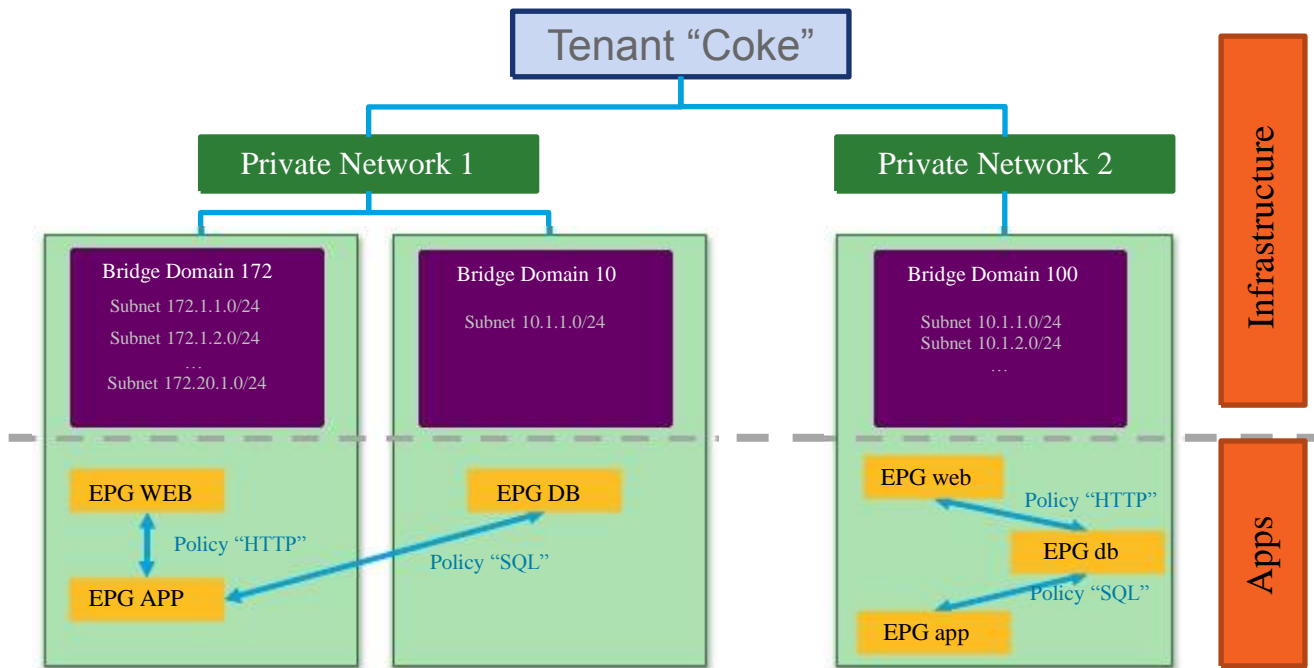
# Cisco ACI Fabric – IP network with an integrated GBP VXLAN overlay



## Cisco ACI Fabric provides:

- Full normalization of the ingress encapsulation mechanism used: 802.1Q VLAN, IETF VXLAN, and IETF NVGRE
- Distributed Layer 3 gateway to help ensure optimal forwarding for Layers 3 and 2 (No HSRP/VRRP required)
- Support for standard bridging and routing semantics without standard location constraints (any IP address anywhere)
- Service insertion and redirection
- Removal of flooding requirements for IP control plane (IP ARP and GARP packets are forwarded directly to the target endpoint address contained within ARP or GARP header)

# Cisco ACI Fabric Multi-Tenancy Construct



**Tenant** is a container for all network, security and L4–7 service policies  
Tenant resources are isolated from each other

**Private network** (VRF or context) is used to allow isolated and potentially overlapping IP address space

**Bridge domain** is a L2 forwarding construct within the fabric, used to constrain broadcast and multicast traffic

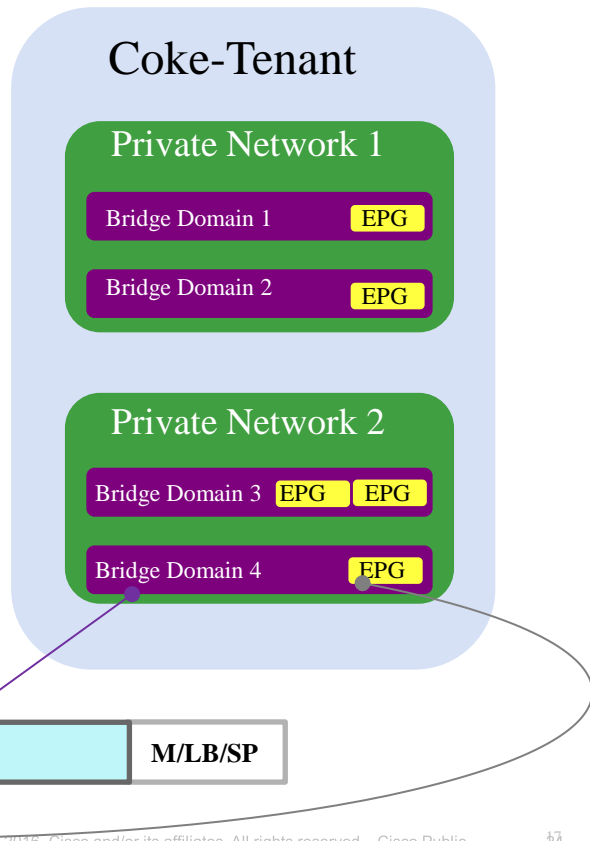
**EPGs** exist within a single bridge domain only

**Policy (Contract)** is used to determine how EPGs communicate with each other

# Cisco ACI Fabric Multi-Tenancy Construct

## Mapping the Configuration to the Packet

- ACI Fabric leverages VXLAN Encapsulation to build network overlay
- The ACI VXLAN header is not associated with a specific L2 segment or L3 domain but provides a multi-function tagging mechanism used in ACI fabric.
- VXLAN Source Group/Source Class ID is used as a tag/label to identify the specific end point for each application function (EPG)
- Policy is enforced between an ingress or source application tier (EPG) and an egress or destination application tier (EPG)
- Policy can be enforced at source or destination

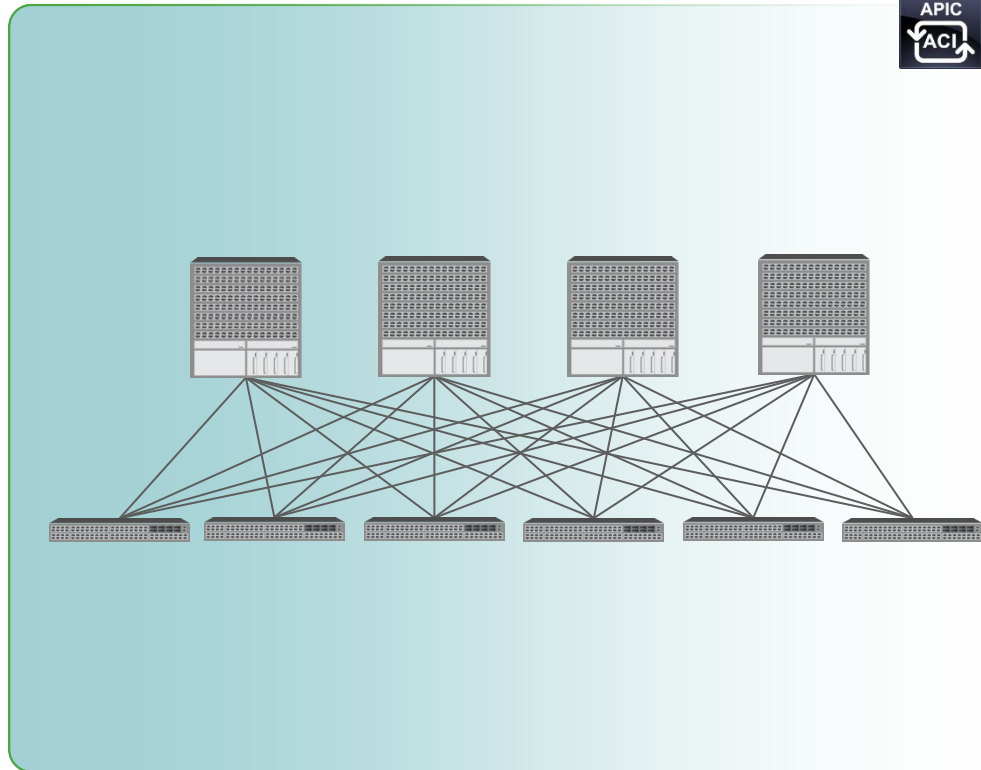




# Cisco ACI Fabric Load Balancing

## Focus on the Application Response Time

- Cisco® ACI fabric tracks the congestion along the full path between the ingress leaf and the egress leaf through the data plane (real-time measurements)
  - Congestion on switch-to-switch ports (external wires)
  - Congestion on internal ASIC-to-ASIC connections (internal wires)
- Fabric load-balances traffic on a “flowlet” basis
  - Dynamic shedding of active flows from congested to less congested paths
- Fabric prioritizes small (and early) flowlets
  - Provides DC-TCP behavior without having to modify host stacks
  - Ramps up large TCP flows faster



# Application Awareness

## Application-Level Visibility

Cisco® ACI Fabric provides the next generation of analytic capabilities

Per application, tenants, and infrastructure:

- Health scores
- Latency
- Atomic counters
- Resource consumption

Integrate with workload placement or migration



### Tenant

#### Health Score

78%

#### Latency

5 Microsecond(s)

#### Drop Count

25 Packets Dropped

#### Visibility

16 VMs



Application Delivery Controller

8 Physical



Firewall

### Application

#### Health Score

96%

#### Latency

2 Microsecond(s)

#### Drop Count

0 Packets Dropped

#### Visibility

16 VMs



Application Delivery Controller

8 Physical



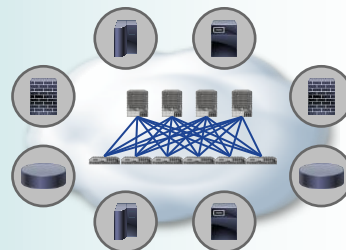
Firewall



VXLAN  
Per-Hop Visibility



Physical and  
Virtual as One

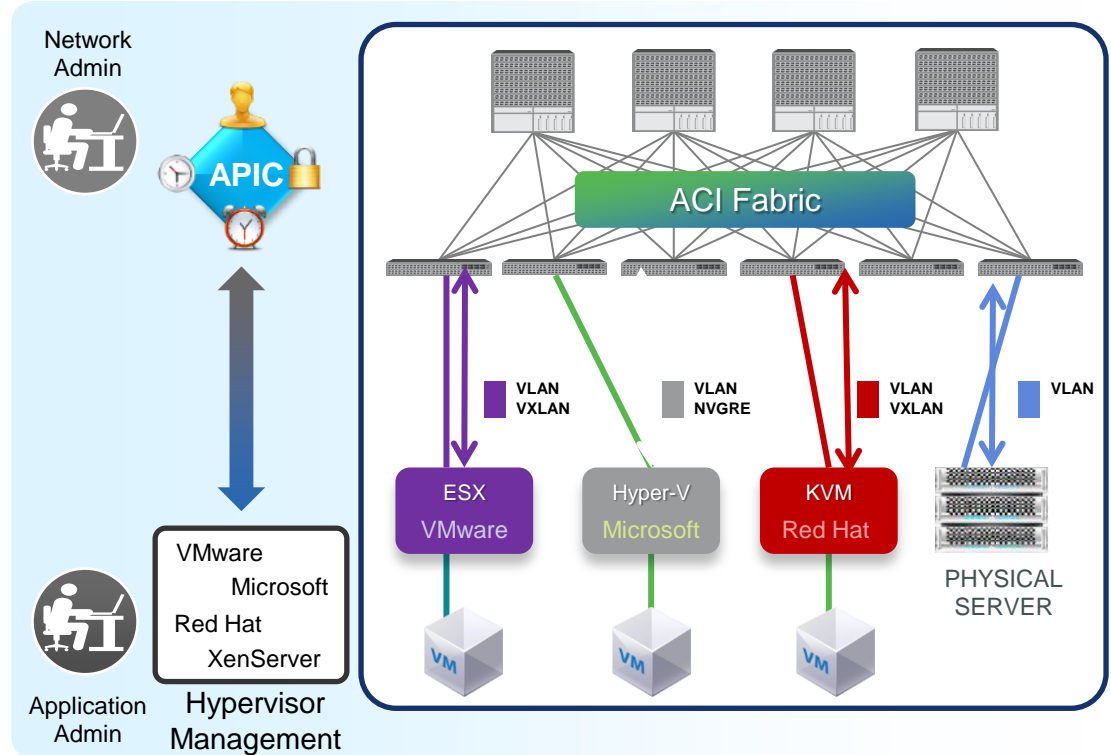


# Cisco ACI - Multi-Hypervisor Fabric

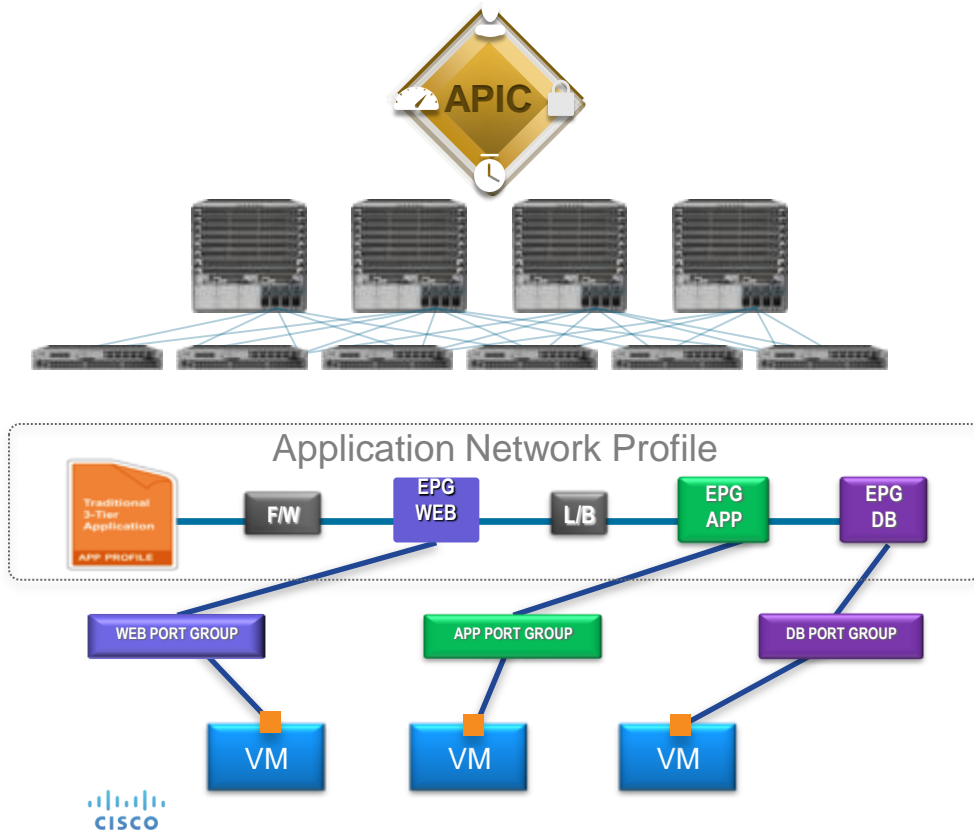
## Virtual Integration



- Integrated gateway for VLAN, VXLAN, and NVGRE networks from virtual to physical
- Normalization for NVGRE, VXLAN, and VLAN networks
- Customer not restricted by a choice of hypervisor
- Fabric is ready for multi-hypervisor



# Hypervisor Integration with ACI

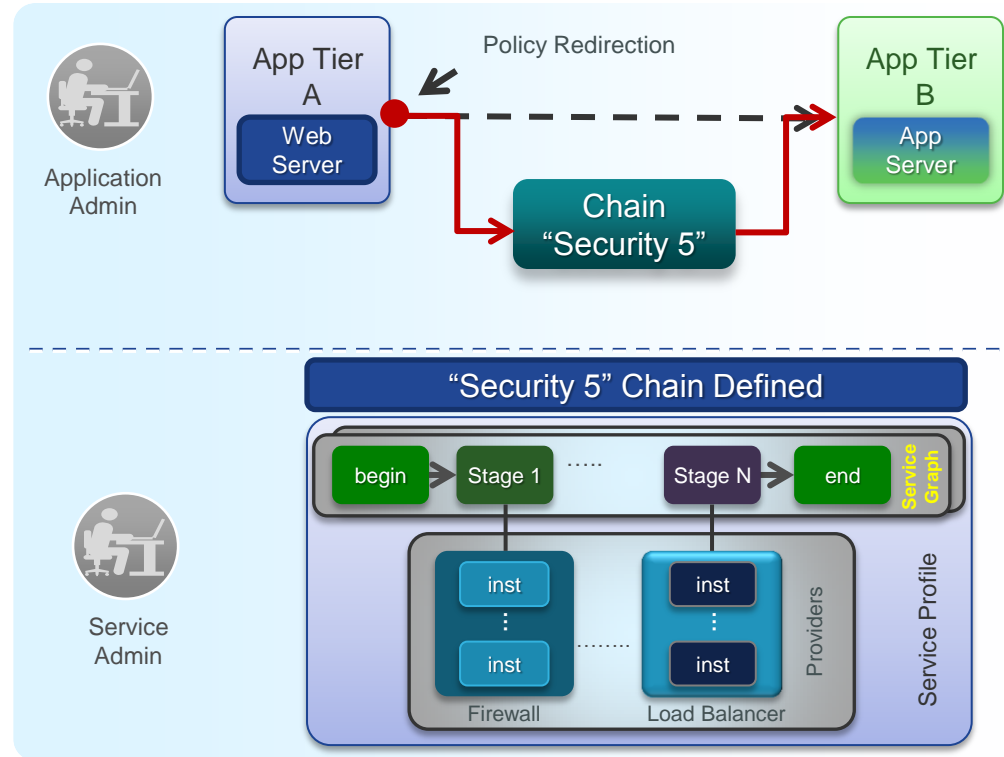


- ACI Fabric implements policy on Virtual Networks by mapping Endpoints to EPGs
- Endpoints in a Virtualized environment are represented as the vNICs
- VMM applies network configuration by placement of vNICs into:
  - Port Groups (VMWare),
  - VM Networks (Hyper-V)
  - Networks or Policy groups (OpenStack)
- EPGs are exposed to the VMM as a 1:1 mapping to Port Groups, VM Networks or OpenStack Networking.

# ACI Layer 4 - 7 Service Integration

## Centralized, Automated, and Supports Existing Model

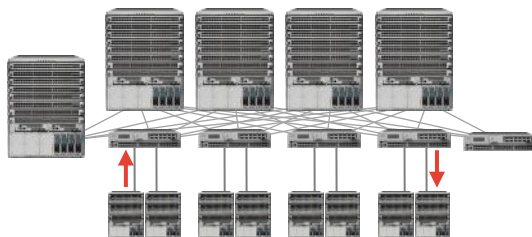
- Automated and scalable L4-L7 service insertion
- Elastic service insertion architecture for **physical and virtual** services
- Packet match on a redirection rule sends the packet into a services graph
- Service Graph can be one or more service nodes pre-defined in a series
- APIC as central point of network control with policy coordination
- Supports existing operational model when integrated with existing services



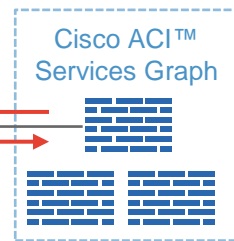
# L4-L7 Service Automation: Support for All Devices

## Any Device and Cluster Manager Support

### L4-L7 Service Automation



### L4-L7 Services



L4- L7 Device Package

- Centralized L4-L7 service configuration and management
- Full L4-L7 service automation (with device package)
- Large ecosystem and investment protection



No Device Package



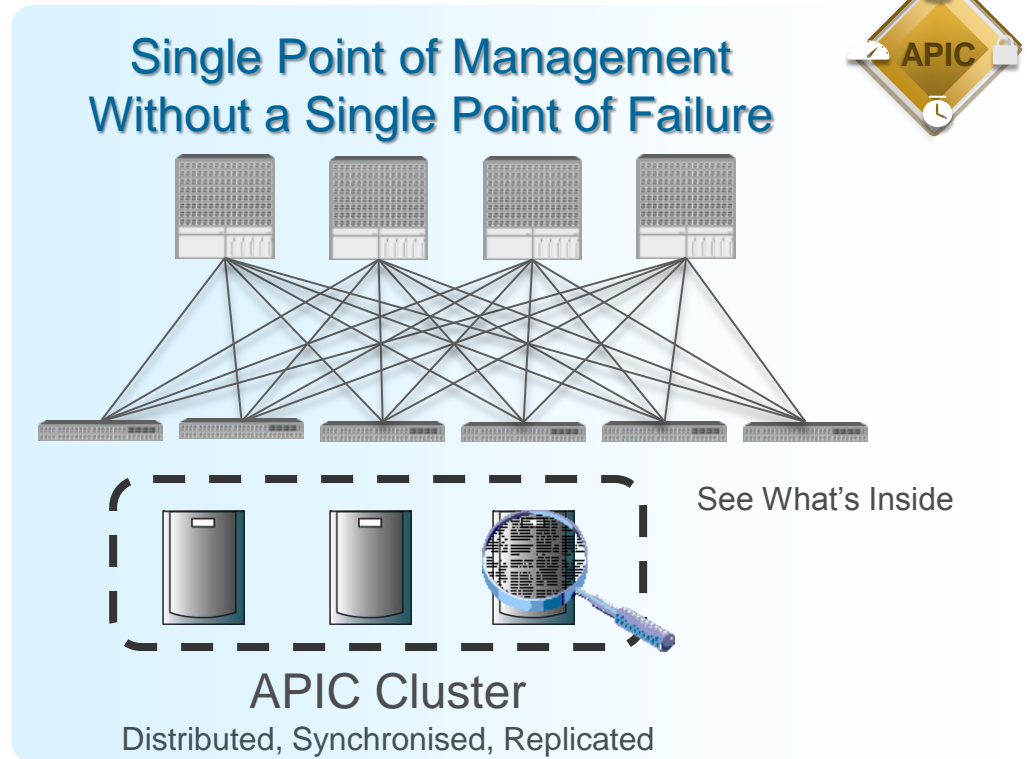
Service Cluster Manager

- Automated service insertion and chaining
- Support for any L4-L7 device
- New support for L4-L7 cluster managers

# Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller

## Algorithmically Sharded Cluster

- Applications fully use clustered and replicated controller (N+1, N+2, etc.)
- Any node is able to service any user for any operation
- Seamless APIC node adds and deletes
- Fully automated APIC software cluster upgrade with redundancy during upgrade
- Cluster size driven by transaction rate requirements
- **APIC is not in the data path**



# Agenda

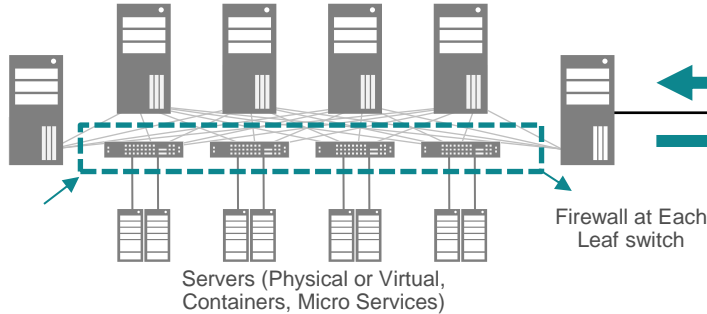
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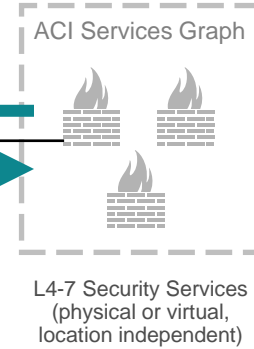
# ACI Security

Whitelist, Multi-Tenant Isolation, Service Automation

## L4 Distributed Stateless Firewall



## L4-7 Security Via ACI Service Graph



## Embedded Security

- White-list Firewall Policy Model (line rate)
- Authenticated Northbound API (X.509)
- Encrypted Management Plane (TLS 1.2)
- PCI, FIPS

## Micro-Segmentation

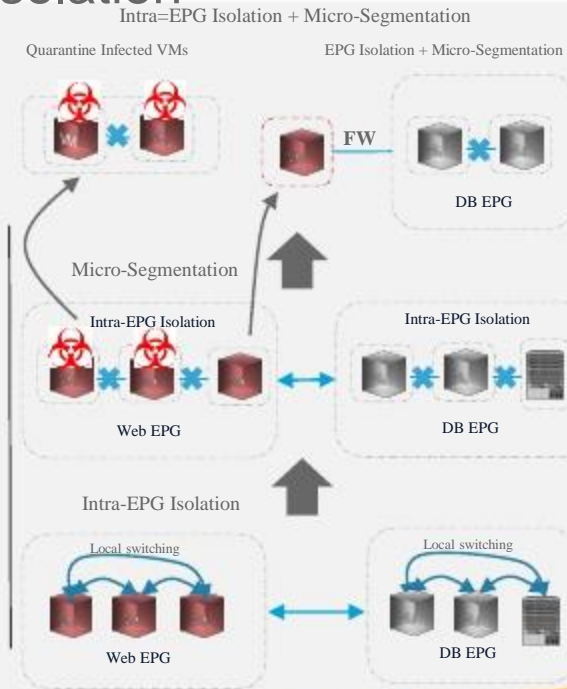
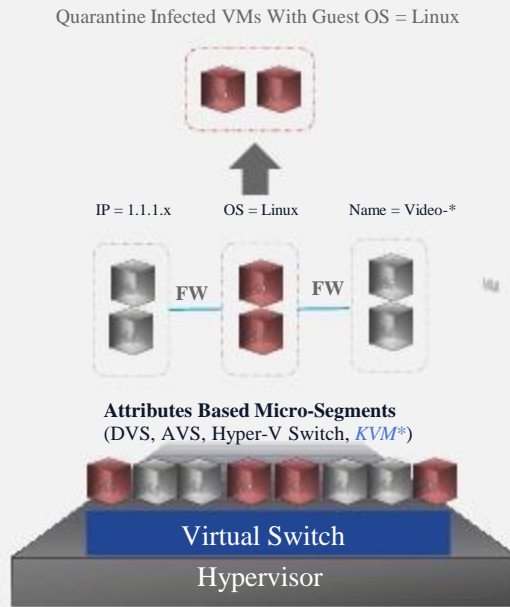
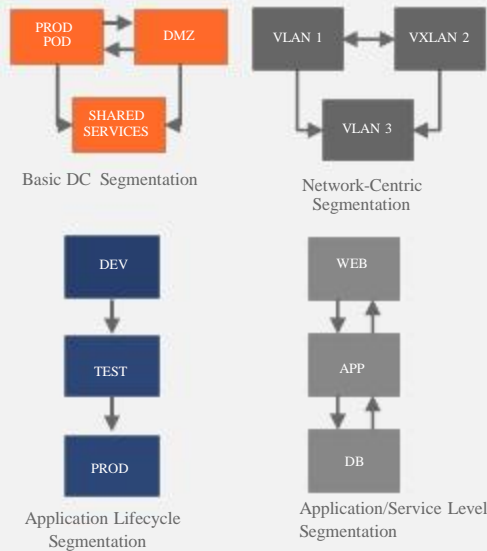
- Intra End-Point-Group (EPG) isolation
- Attribute Based isolation and quarantine

## Security Automation

- Dynamic Service Insertion and Chaining
- Security Policy follows workloads
- Centralized Security provisioning and visibility

# ACI Enables Segmentation Based on Business Needs

## Policy Driven Micro-Segmentation and Intra-EPG Isolation



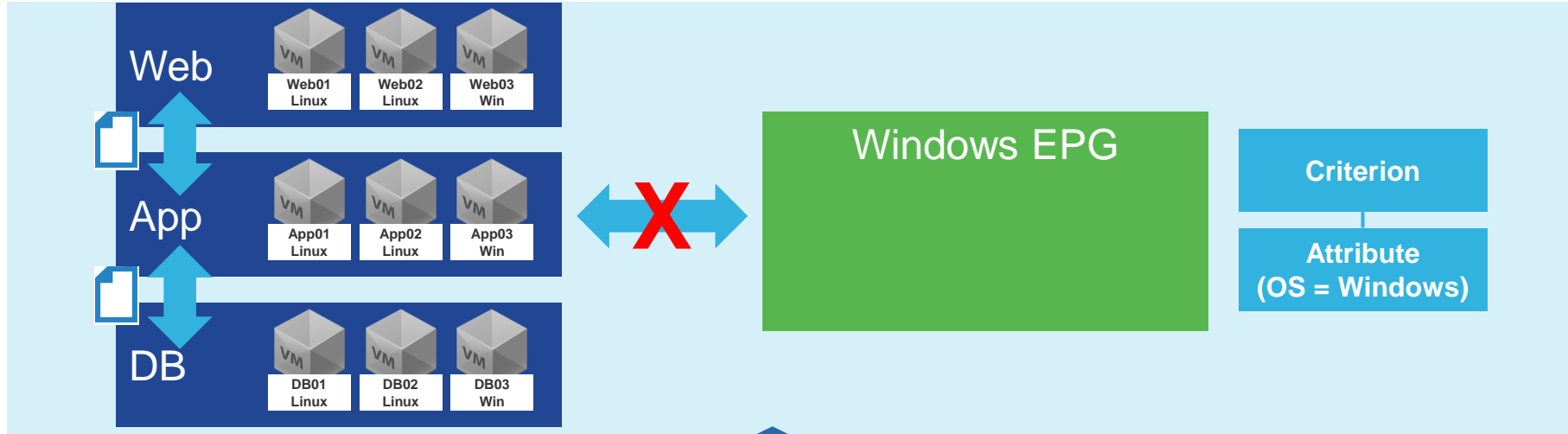
**Flexible  
Segmentation**

**Hypervisor Agnostic Micro-segmentation  
For Any Virtual Workload**

**Intra-EPG Isolation + Micro-segmentation  
For Any Workload (Physical, Virtual)**

# Attribute-Based EPG/uSeg EPG

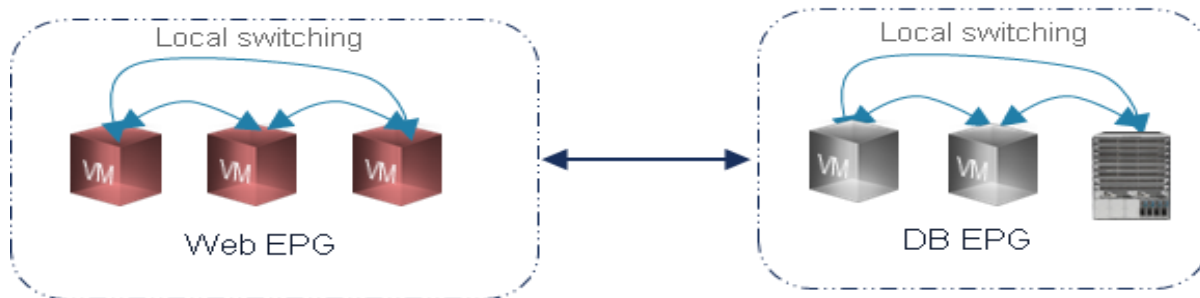
## Isolate Malicious Virtual Machines



- Problem: A vulnerability is detected in a particular type of operating system (for example, Microsoft Windows). The network security administrator wants to isolate all Windows virtual machines.
- Solution: Define a security EPG with a criterion such as Operating System = Windows. No contracts are provided or consumed by this EPG. It will stop all inter-EPG communication for the matching virtual machines.
- No virtual machine attachment or detachment or placement in a different port group is needed.

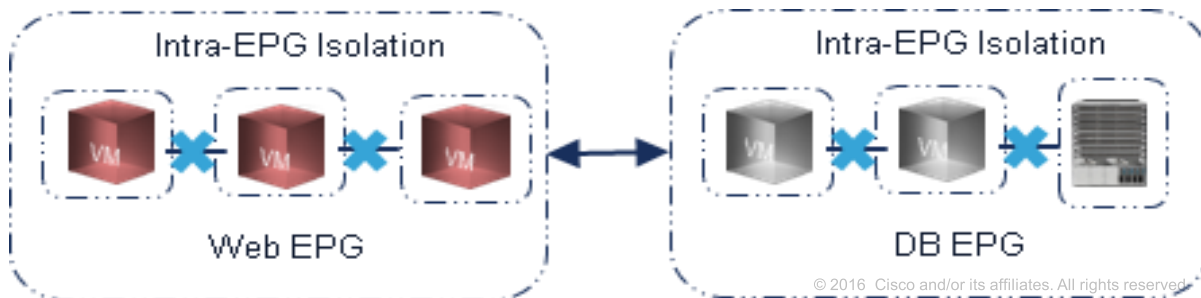
# Intra-EPG Segmentation

## Problem

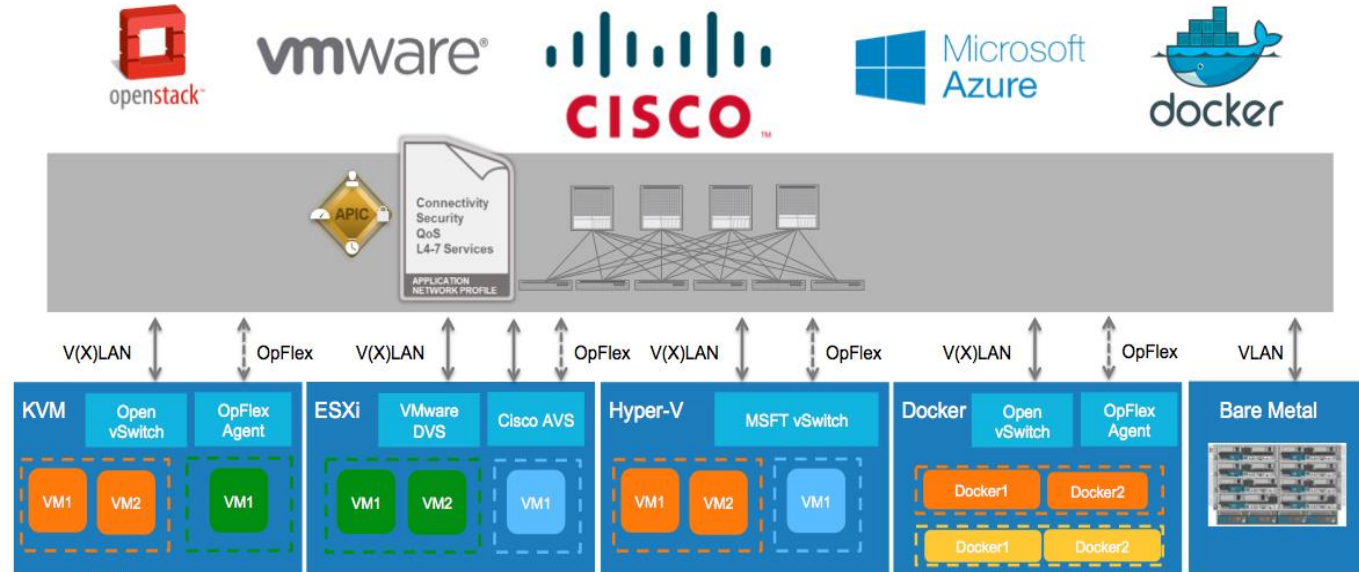


Intra-EPG Isolation Denies All Communication within an EPG

## Solution



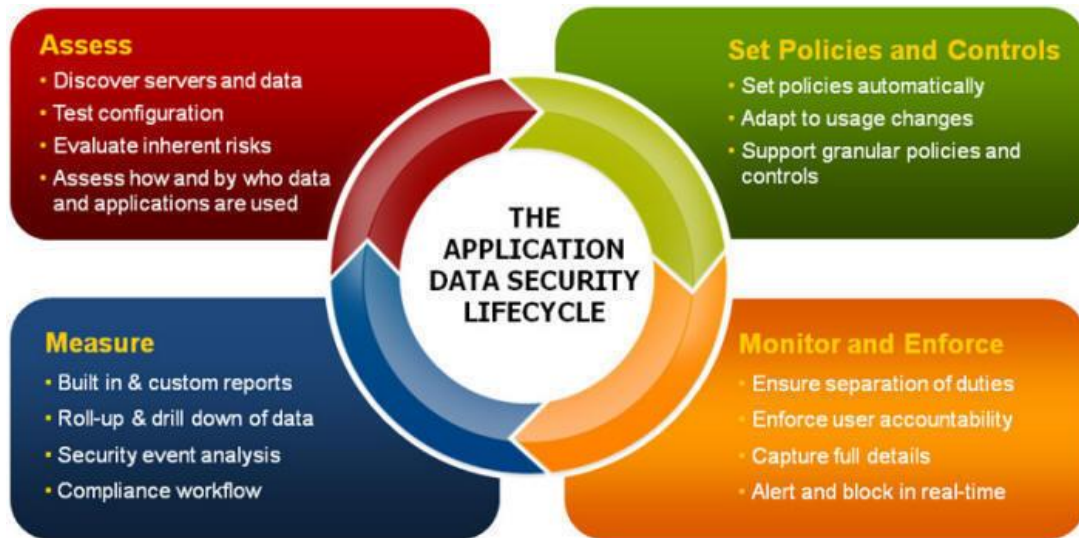
# Why ACI is best for Micro Segmentation



- Micro Segmentation works for all workloads (bare metal, virtual, containers, management, backup ...)
- Same policy-model for vSphere, Hyper-V, OpenStack, Containers and Bare Metal.
- Works with standard virtual switch offerings, including VMware VDS, OVS, MSFT vSwitch (AVS is optional for vSphere)
- Stateful firewall when using Cisco AVS on vSphere at no extra cost with better performance at the VMware environment

# Application decommission & the compliance / audit demand

*“Due to compliance regulations, when an application gets decommissioned, every IT resource associated with that must be removed and/or wiped out”*



UCS allows one do dissociate service profile(s) associated with this application.

**Audit OK !**

Storage arrays can wipe-out the data or associated disks can be trashed.

**Audit OK !**

Current network approach and solutions don't have a way to map application workflow and “remove” it.

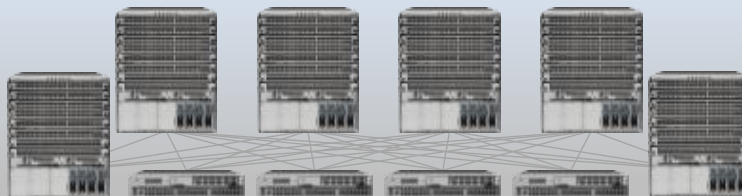
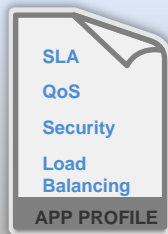
**Audit Fail ☹**

ACI is the only one that can, inclusive programmatically and automated

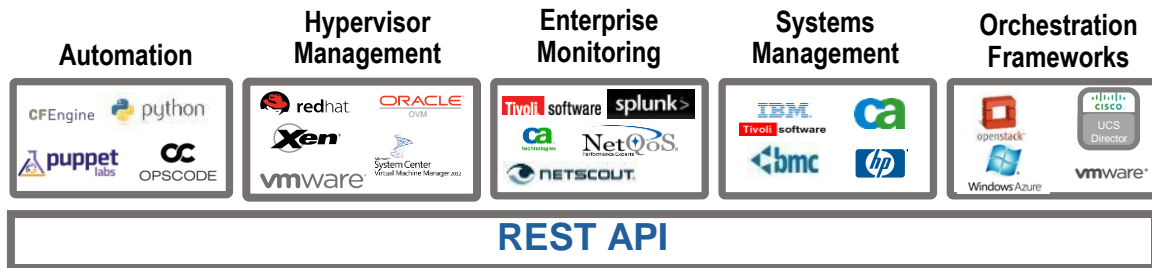
**Audit OK !**



# Orchestration with ACI



# ACI Open APIs and Ecosystem



**NORTHBOUND  
PROGRAMMABILITY  
LAYER**



**SOUTHBOUND  
PROGRAMMABILITY  
LAYER**

**APIC SUPPORTS A RICH ECOSYSTEM BUILT AROUND OPEN NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND APIS**

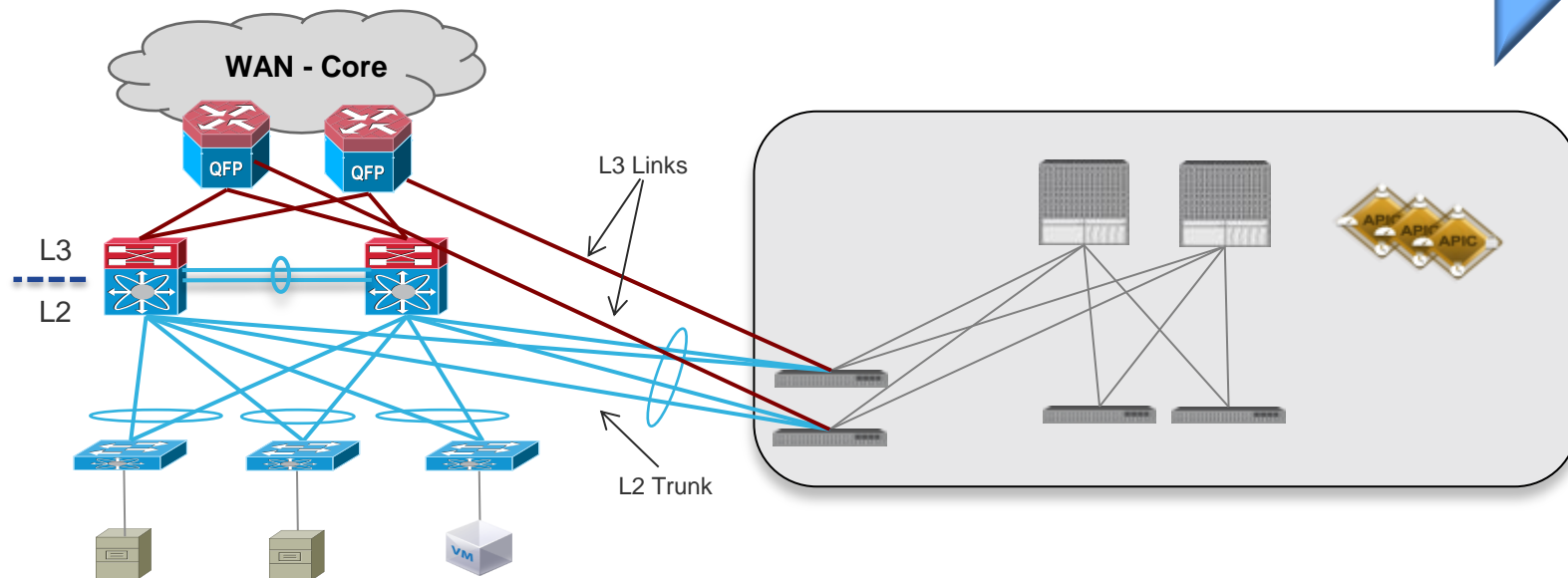
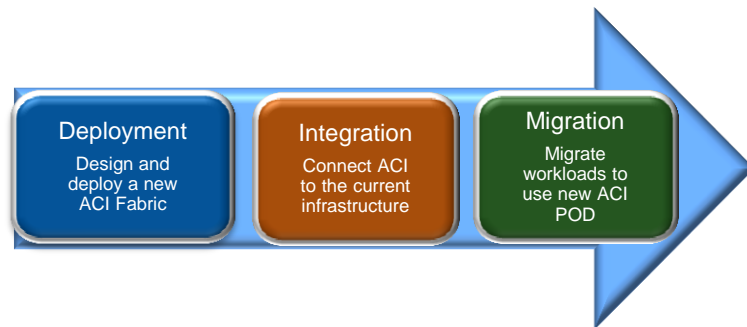


# Agenda

- Modern DC infrastructure – Customer requirements
- What's Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)
- How ACI affects / enhances Data Center Infrastructure
  - Network fabric
  - Hypervisors
  - L4-L7 Services
- How ACI affects Applications
  - Security
  - Automation / Orchestration
- **Migration to ACI**

# Migration to ACI

## Connecting Brownfield to new ACI network



# Cisco ACI - Delivering the Next-Generation DC Infrastructure for an Application-Centric World

6,000+

Nexus 9K and ACI  
Customers Globally

1400+

ACI  
Customers

50

Ecosystem  
Partners





App Based Automation



Automated L4-7 Stitching



Turn-key Network Automation



Děkujeme za pozornost.

