

# Cisco Next Generation Data Center Design

*Maximizing Application Performance, Security And  
Economics To Accelerate Digital Transformation*

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**3S**

**TECHNOLOGY  
CITY**

INNOVATION STARTS HERE.



Standard Sharing Software

# Agenda

- Challenges of IT
- ACI Architecture & Deployments
- ACI Use Cases
- Application Driven Data Center & Cisco VTS
- Scalable Fabric, Network Virtualization & EVPN/VXLAN
- Use Cases
- Q & A

# Applications Are Changing

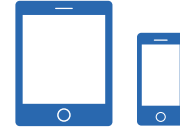
Type  
Consumption  
Delivery



Big Data,  
Distributed  
Apps, Mobile



Cloud—public,  
Private,  
Hybrid



Anywhere,  
Anytime, Any  
Device

---

78%

The network is even more critical to  
delivering applications than a year ago\*



### Deciding the Application Location(s)

Public, Private, Both?

Build, Buy, Rent?



### Empowering LoB & App. Developers

PublicCloud-like agility and simplicity

Self-Service Operations



### Mitigating Risk

Securing Apps, Users, Data.

Compliance. Data sovereignty.

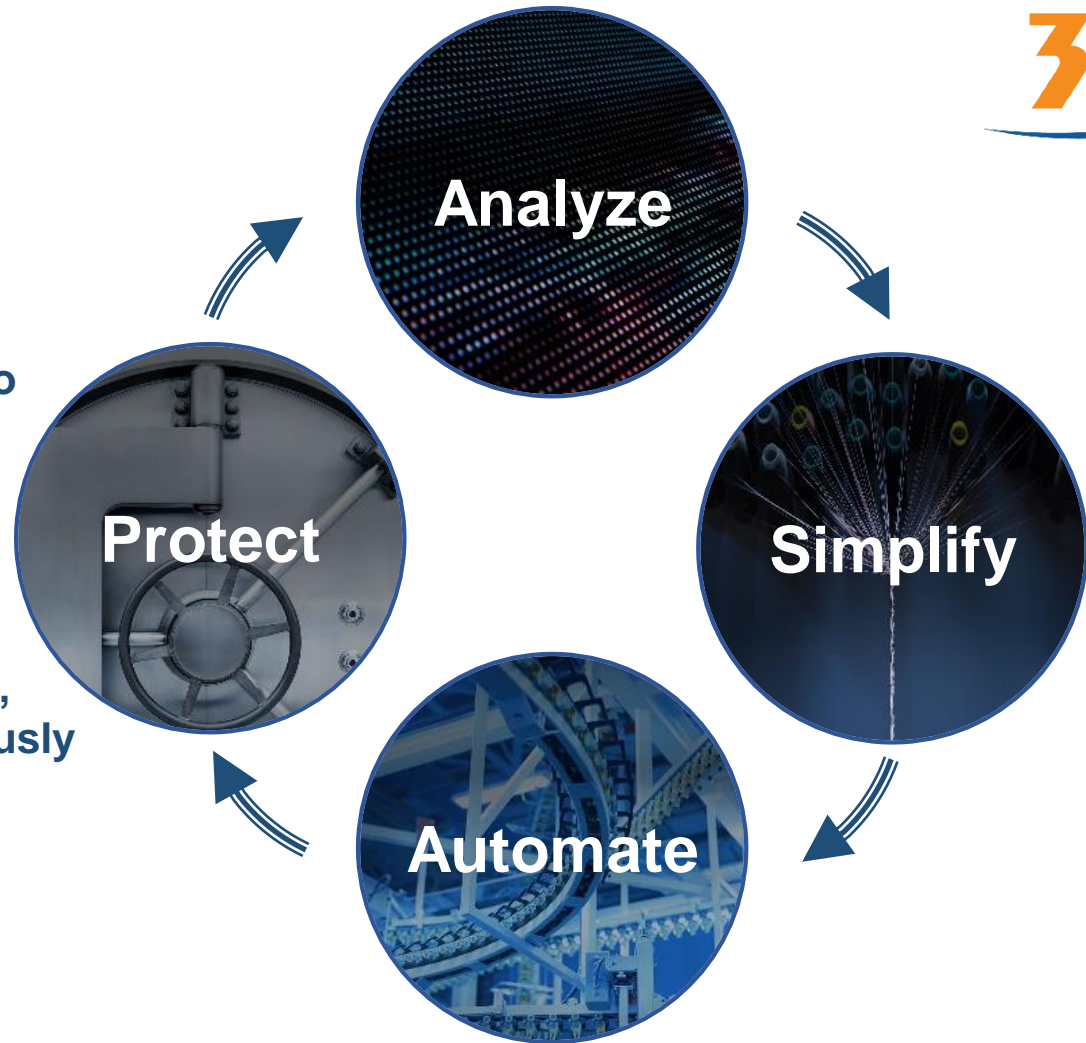
# Cisco Data Center Architecture Design

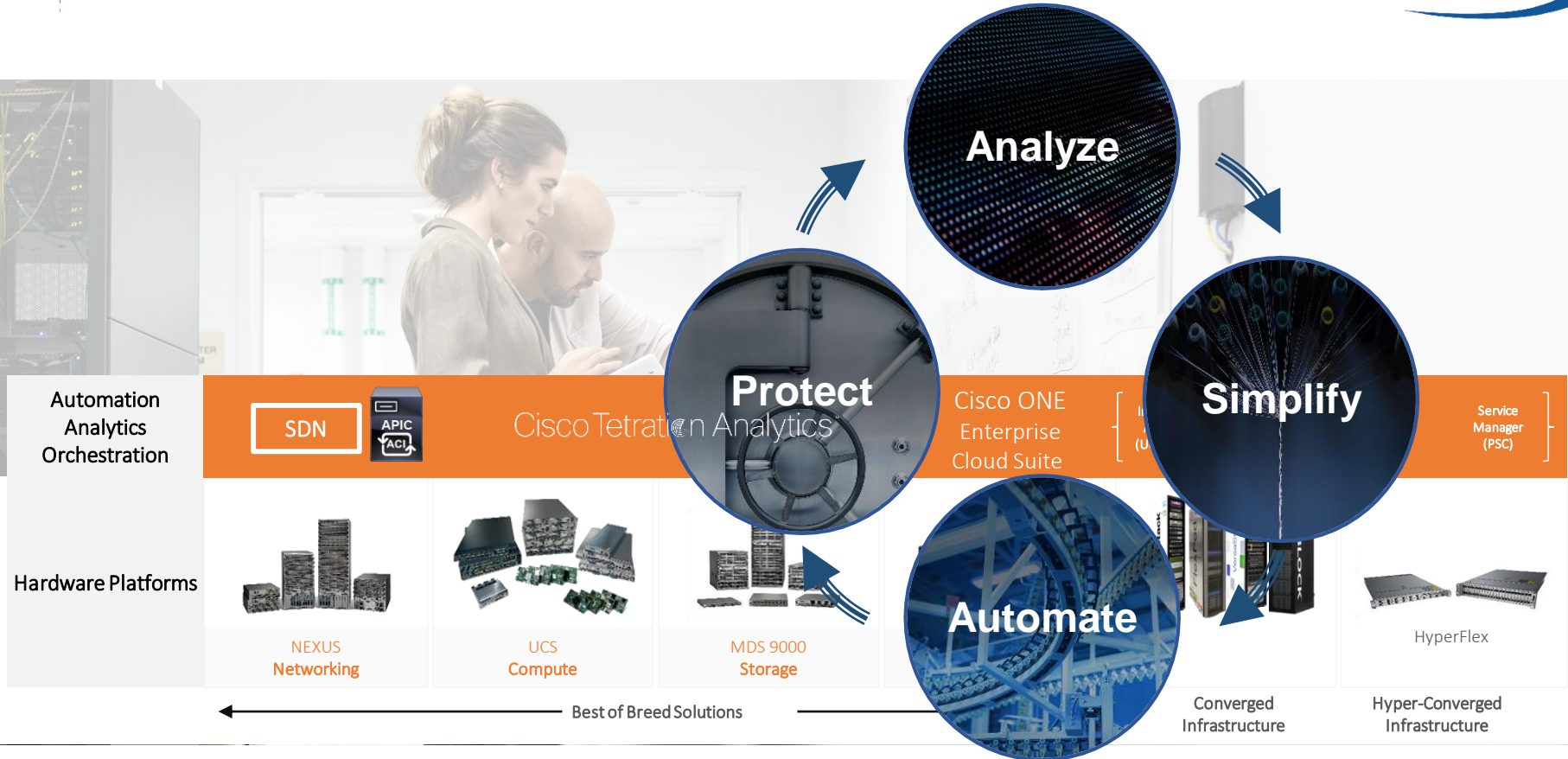
## Cisco's Differentiation:

Integration of DC/Cloud products to deliver the ASAP architecture

Consistent policy-defined model across entire hybrid cloud domain

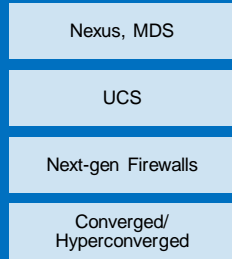
Maximize Application Performance, economics and security Continuously





# Customer Journey with Cisco ASAP Data Center

Optimize  
Infrastructure



Performance

Scale

Security

Simplify  
Operations



Automation

Unify Policy

50+ eco-system

Build Cloud-native  
App Stack

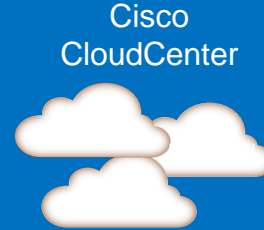


Containers

Self-Service

DevOps Tools

Chose your  
Hybrid Cloud



App. Benchmark

Extend Policy

Securely move  
data & workloads

Real-time  
Analytics

Cisco Tetration Analytics™

Monitor every flow

App dependency

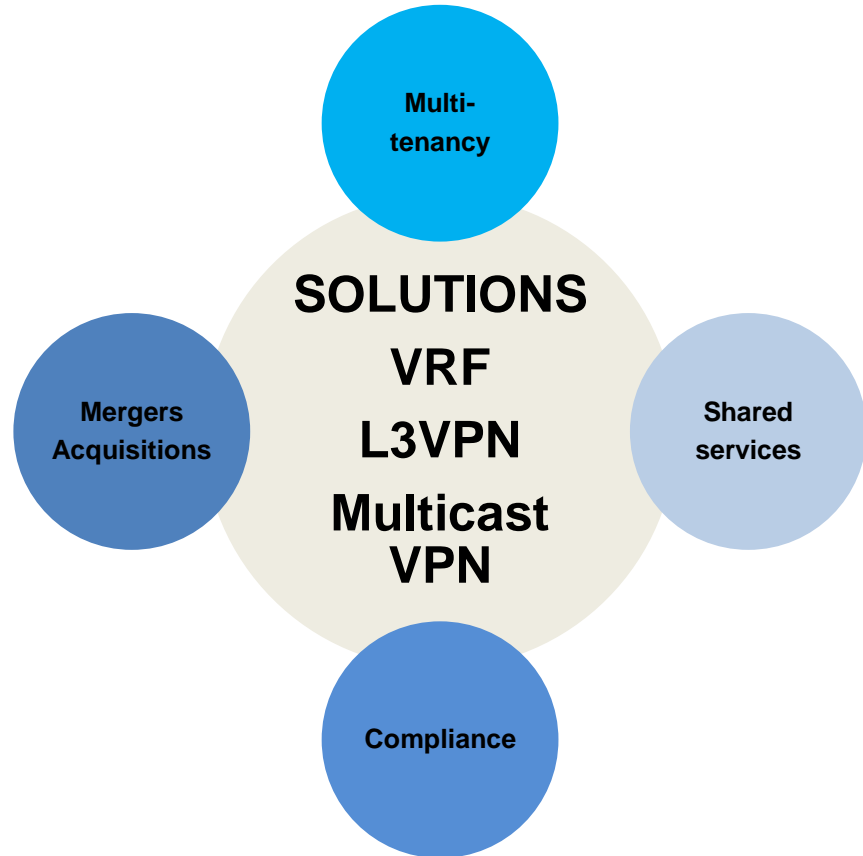
On-prem & Cloud



# ACI Real World Deployment

# Requirements: Business Drivers & Solutions for Network Segmentation

- Multi-tenancy
- Security and Separation
- Traffic Engineering
- Scalable
- Flexible topology
- Minimise oversubscription
- Scale out and scale up
- Scalable L4-7 Service Layer
- No spanning tree
- Incremental scale
- Virtual FW/LB per tenant
- Flexible placement
- Incremental capacity



# Customer Deployment: Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)

App-Based Automation



Automated L4-7 Stitching

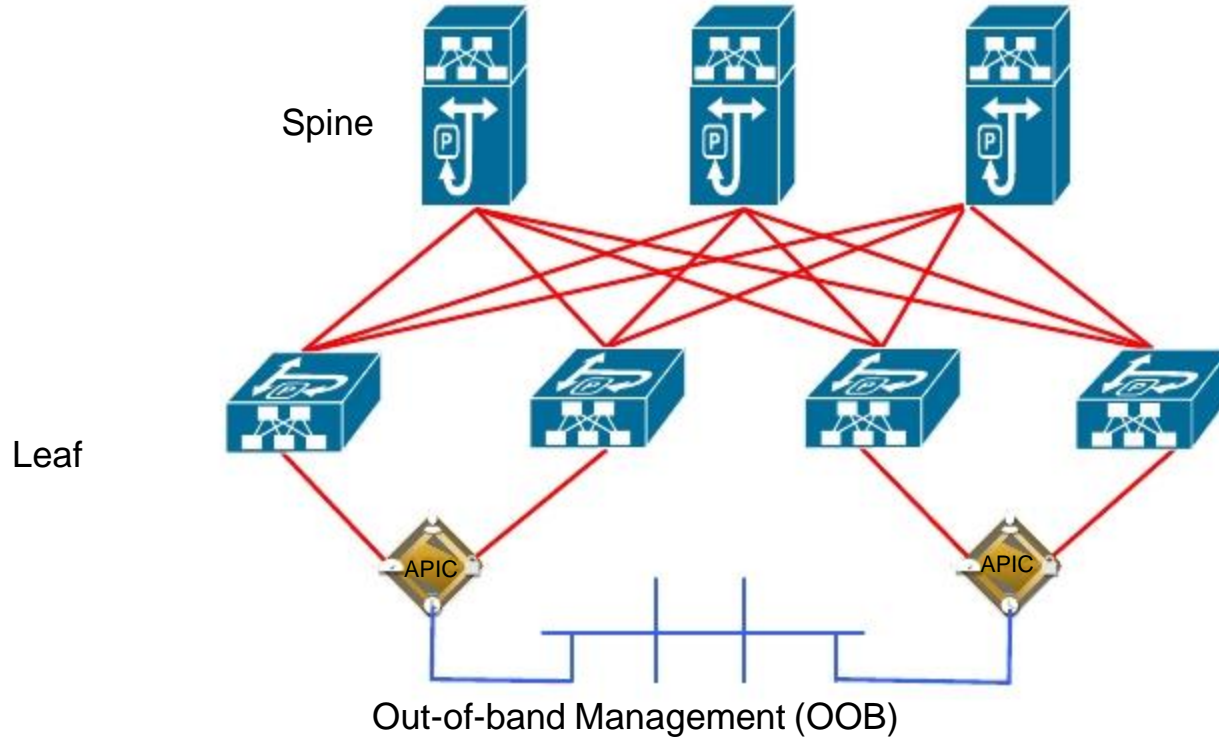


Turnkey network automation

# ACI Fabric Overview

## Spine and Leaf Architecture / Design

### Attaching the ACI APIC(s)



# Defining Terms

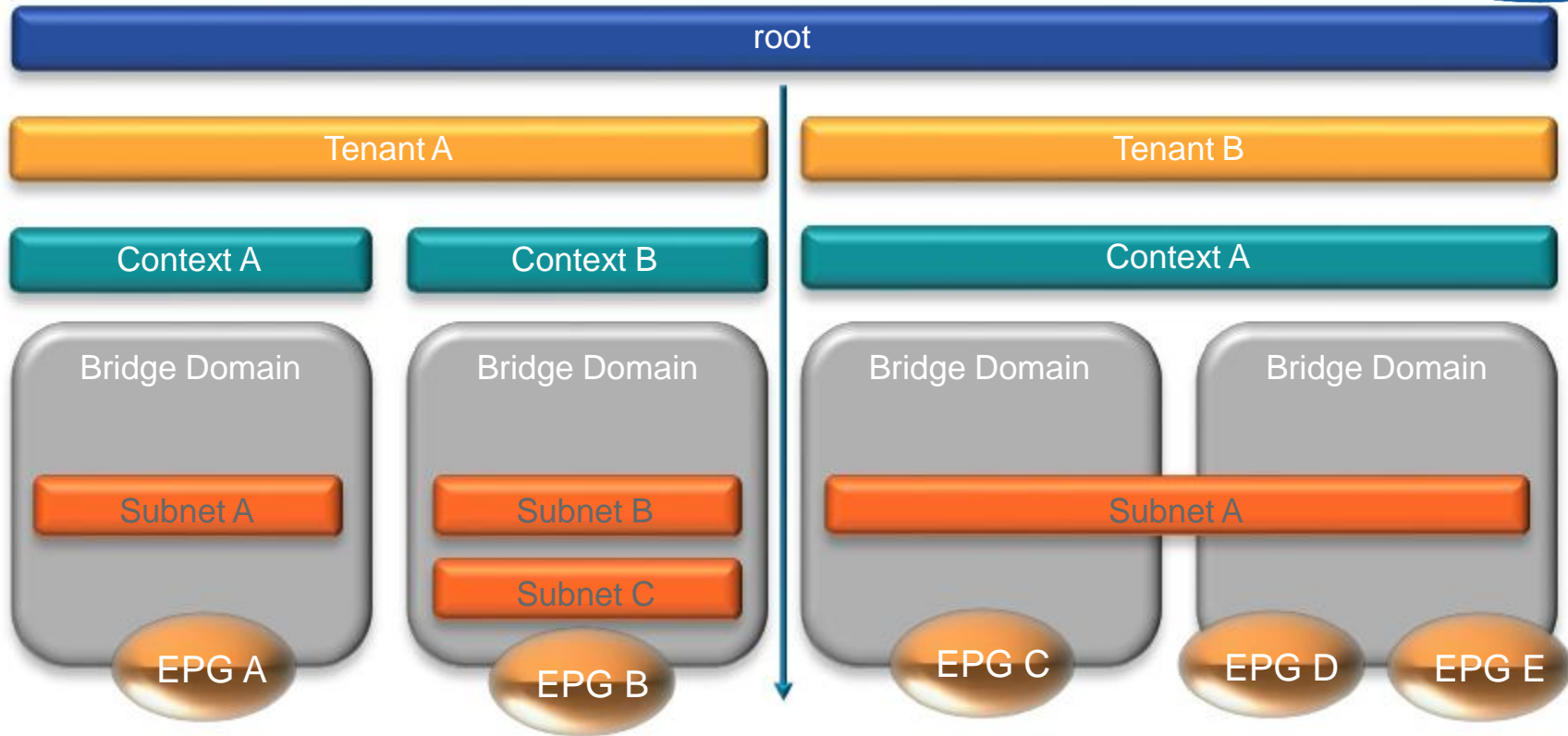
Tenant: Logical separator for: Customer, BU, group etc. separates traffic, admin, visibility, etc.

Context: Equivalent to a VRF, separates routing instances, can be used as an admin separation

End-Point Group (EPG): Container for objects requiring the same policy treatment, i.e. app tiers, or services.

Bridge Domain: Not a VLAN, simply a container for subnets. It can be used to define a L2 boundary.

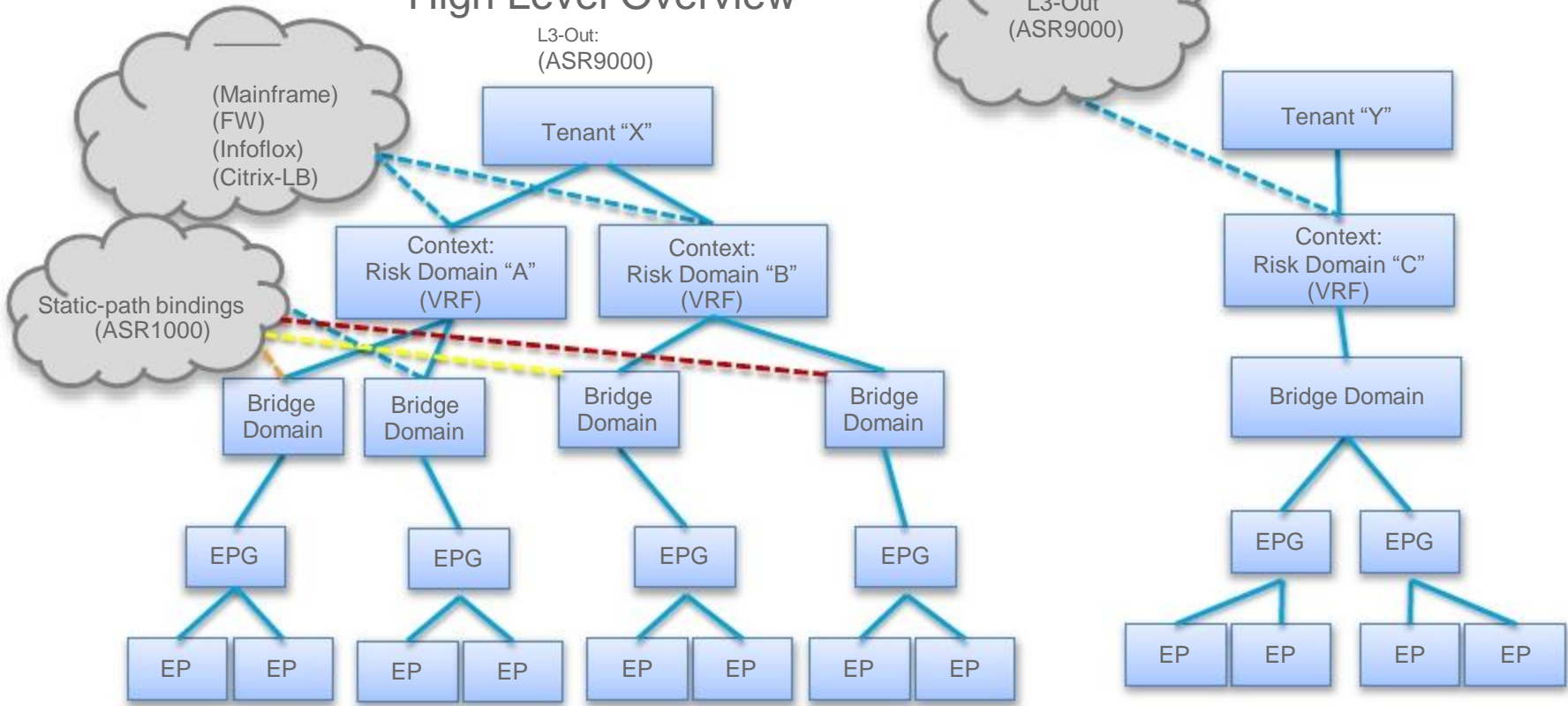
# Logical Model Overview



Context and subnets are independent between tenants

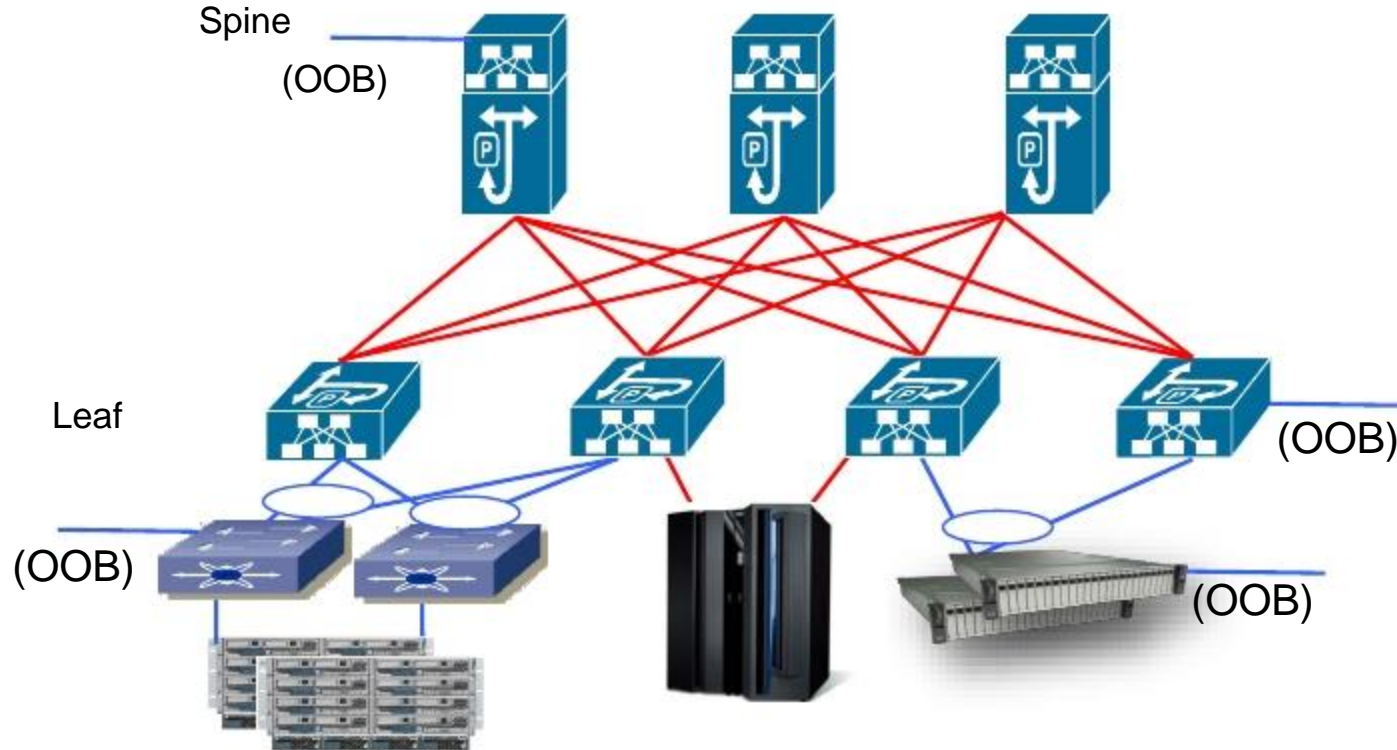
# ACI Policy Model

## High Level Overview



# ACI Fabric

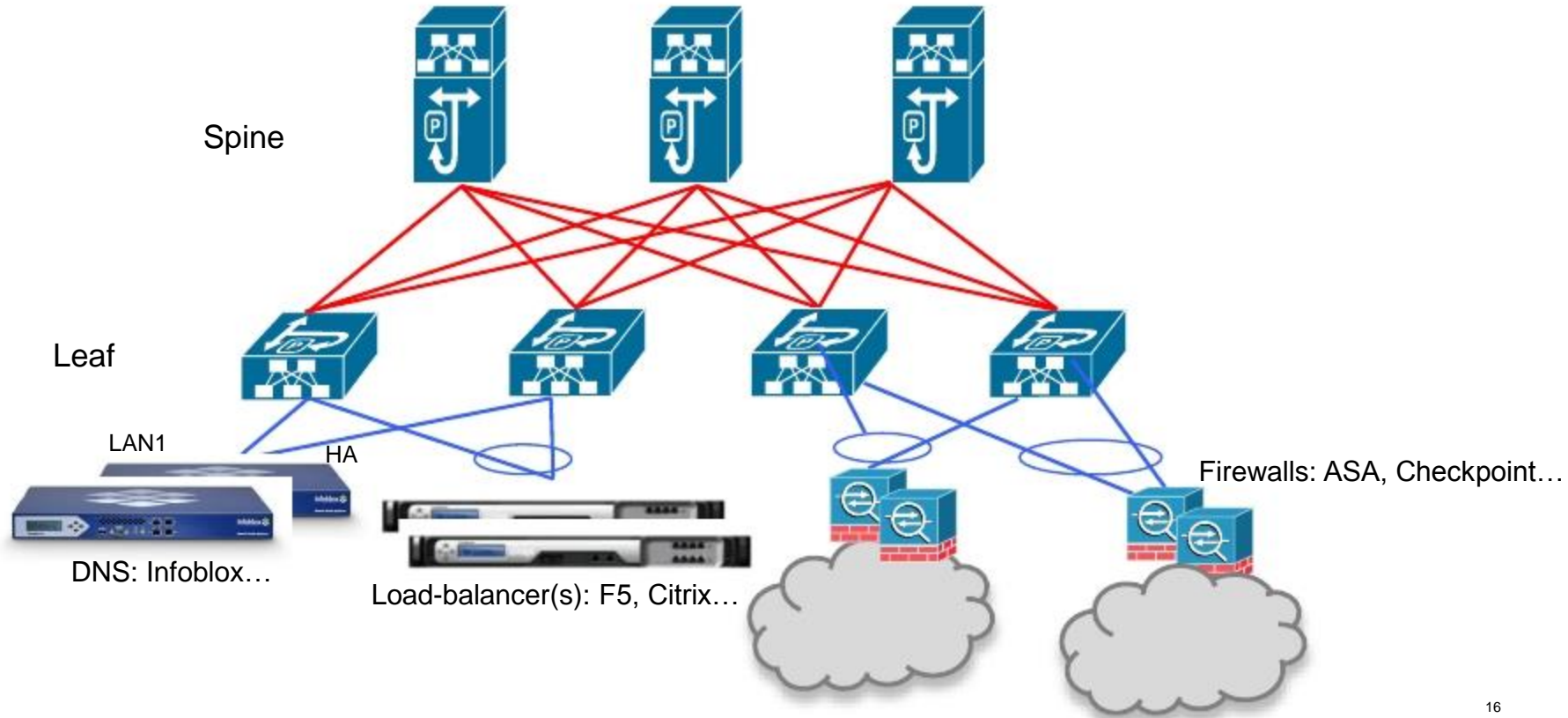
## Attaching the Compute Resource to the Fabric





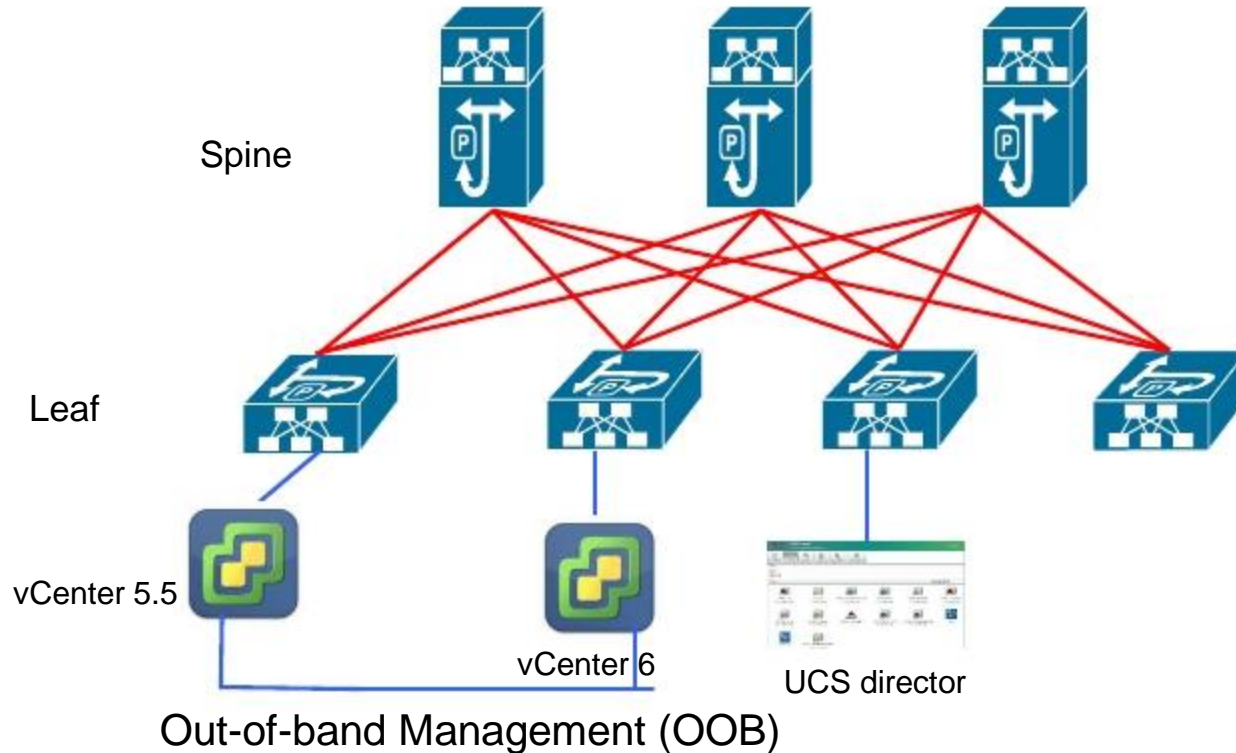
# ACI Fabric

## Attaching the Services to the Fabric



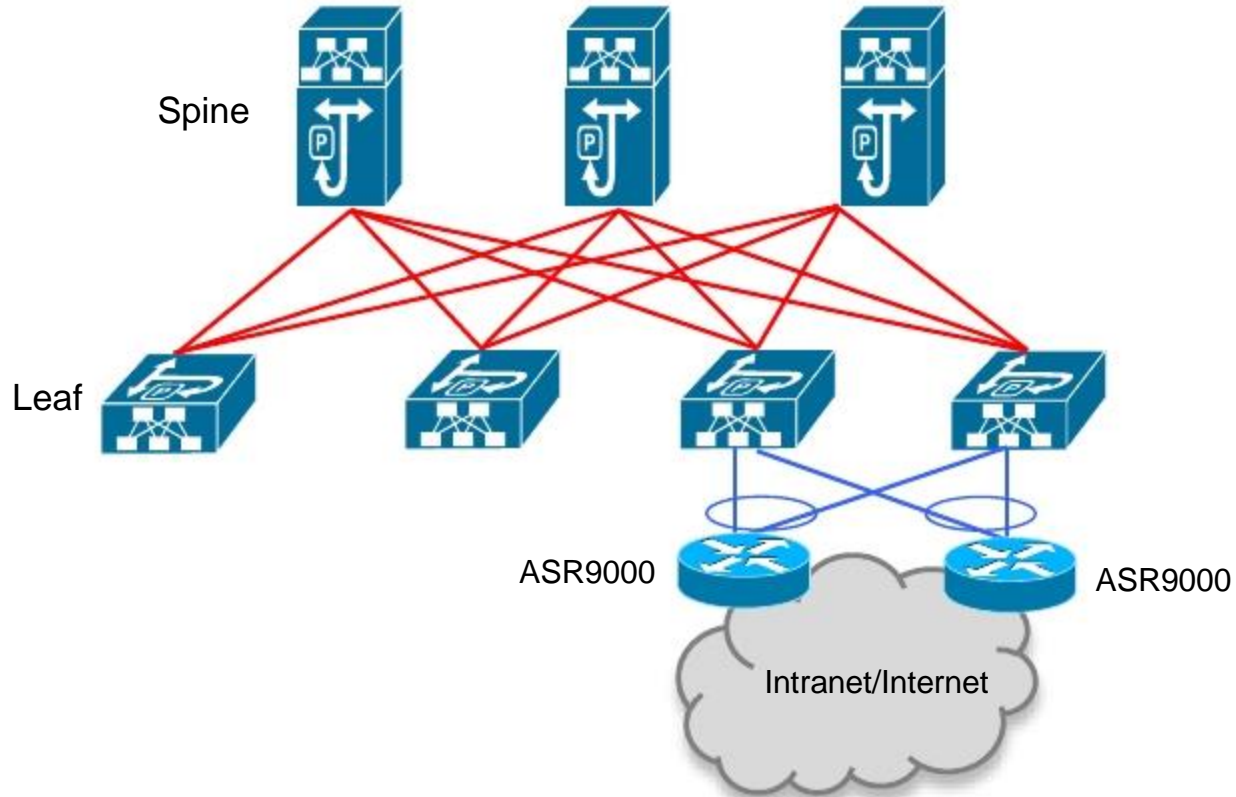
# ACI Fabric

Attaching the VMM/Orchestration to the Fabric

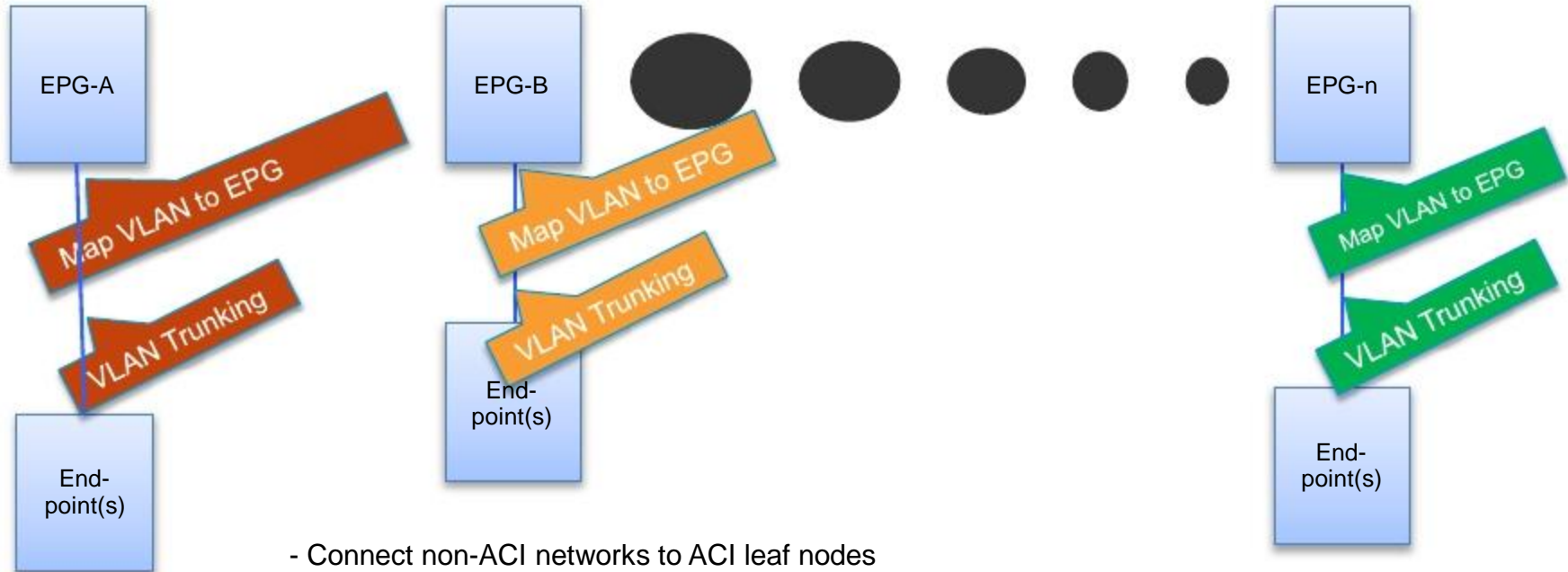


# ACI Fabric

Attaching the External WAN/Enterprise to the Fabric

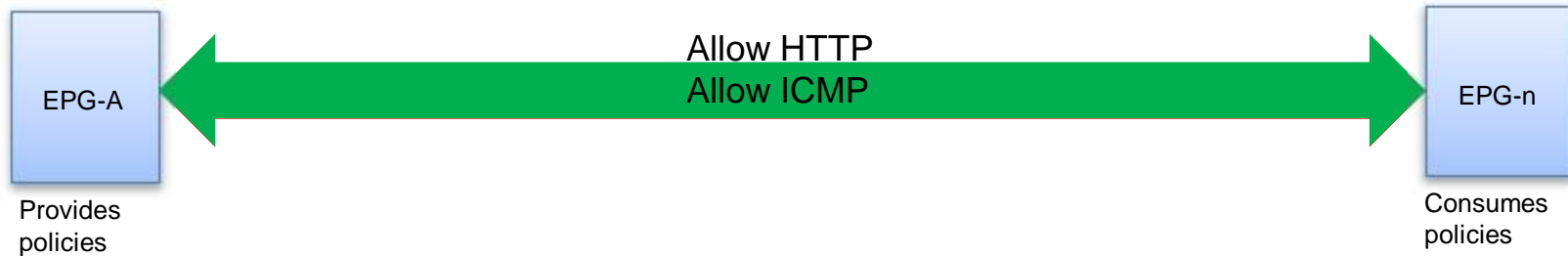


# VLAN = EPG



- Connect non-ACI networks to ACI leaf nodes
- Connect at L2 with VLAN trunks (802.1Q)
- Objective: Map VLANs to EPGs, extend policy model to non-ACI networks

# ACI Policy Model: EPG To EPG Communication

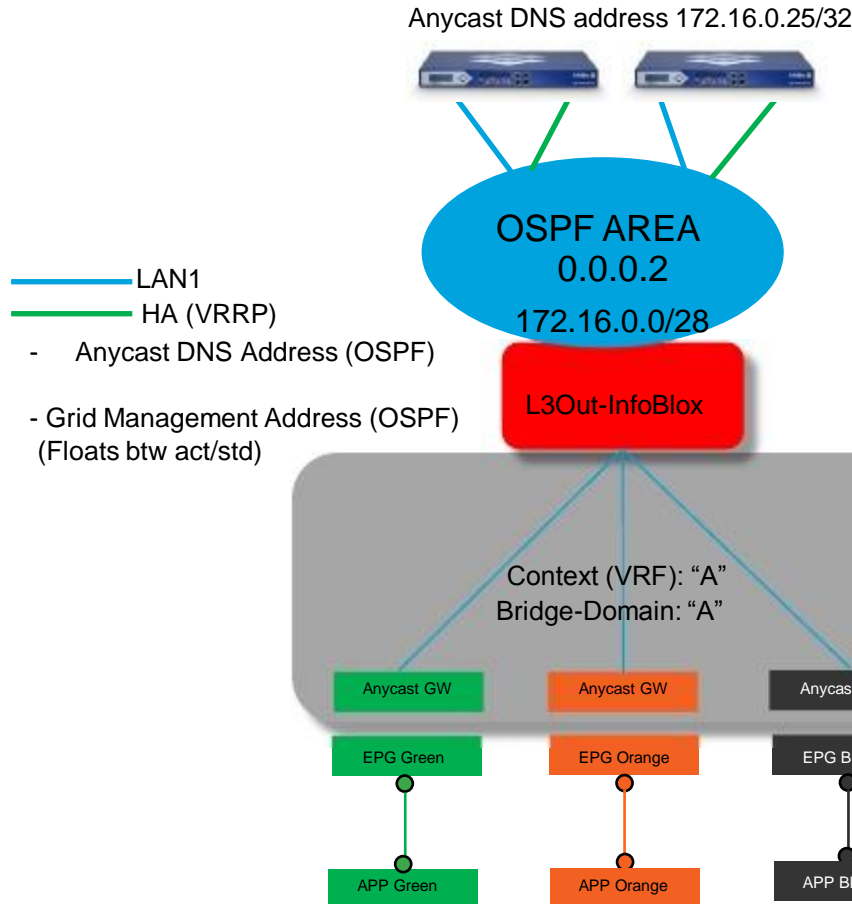


## Zero Trust Security Model

- Need to define a Contract (Policy); - A contract is used to specify the interaction between two EPG(s), a provider/consumer pair.
- The goal is to provide a global policy view that focuses on improving automation and scalability.

# DNS/DHCP Integration: Infoblox

# Infoblox Anycast (DNS/DHCP) L3-Out ACI Deployment



## Access Interface (Untagged)

Leaf advertises default-route to the Infoblox. "External Network Instance Profile advertise 0.0.0.0/0 to Infoblox – like OSPF Stub no-summary.

Infoblox OSPF Priority = 0

OSPF Network Type: Broadcast

HA Active / Standby Anycast Management VIP

Physical: Infoblox1 LAN1/HA connects to Leaf1. Infoblox2 LAN1/HA connects to Leaf2. (2 OSPF peers)

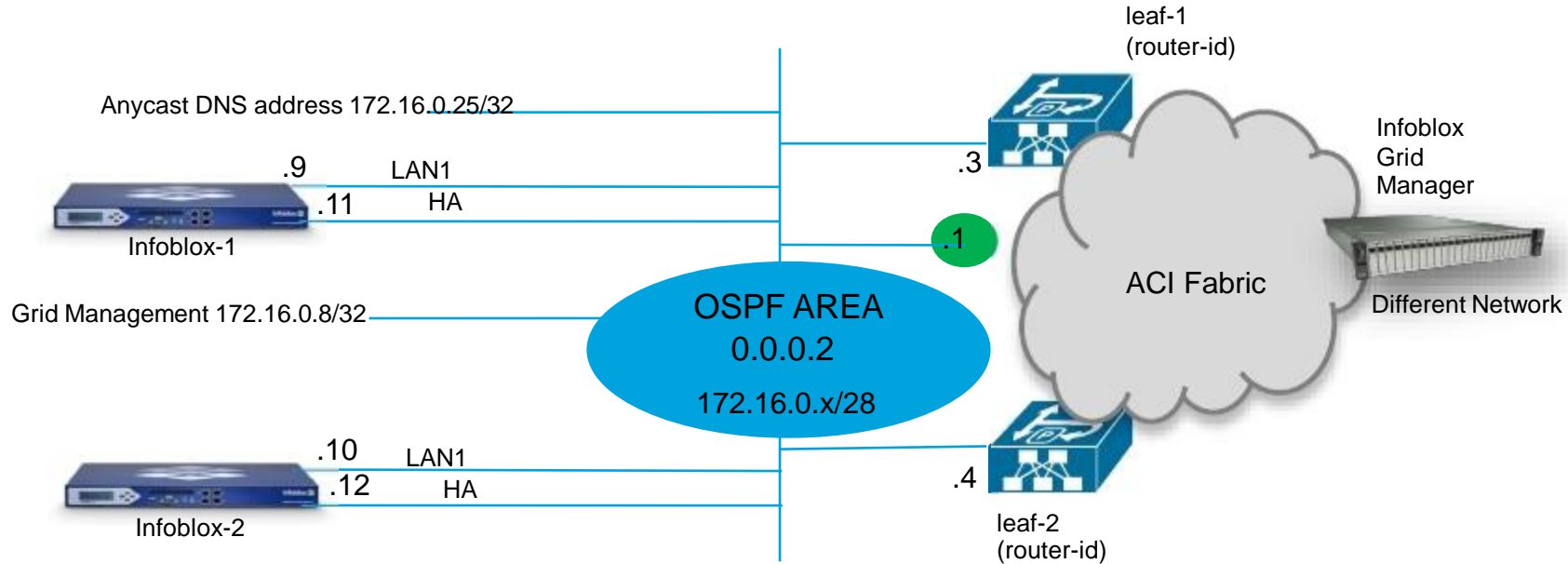
LAN and HA interfaces all have to be in the same EPG/BD/Subnet.


Passive nodes listen to VRRP advertisements on the HA port while Active nodes listen on the LAN port.

Peering is on leaf interface, the SVI for the default gateway

Default route leak policy being used as an alternative to a pre-existing default-route. The VRF-Intra, it is being injected via the ASR9000 (OSPF) or configure a static-route via the FW (security

# Infoblox Grid Geographical Redundancy



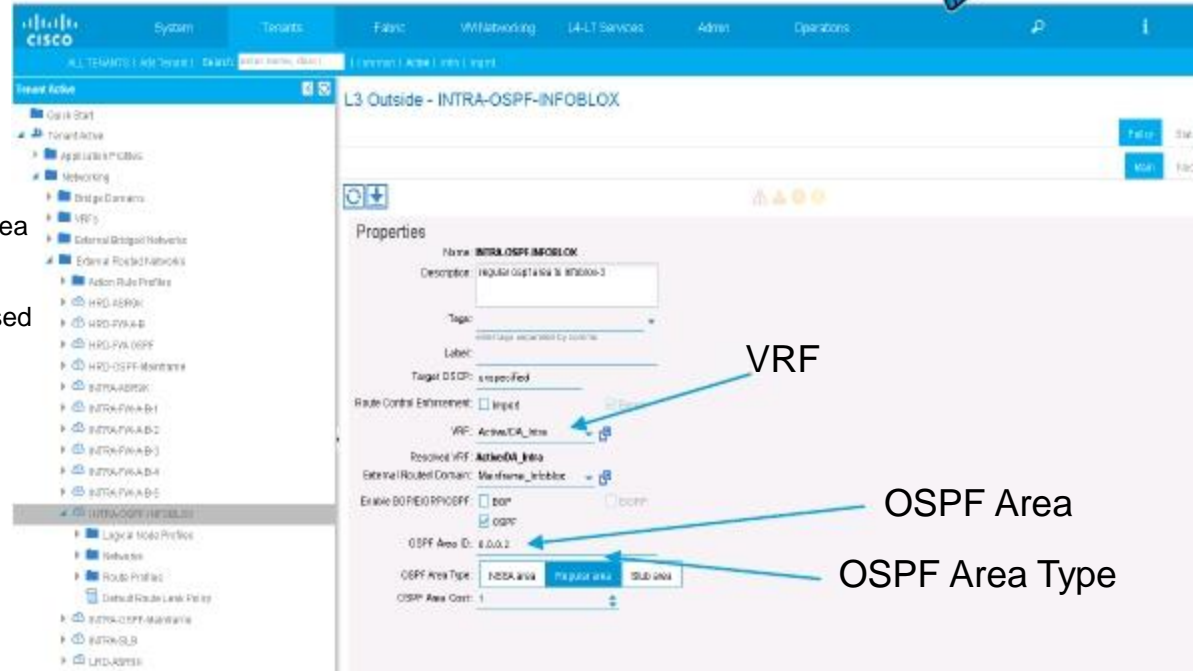
 Floating IP .1 (SVI); this is the default gateway for the Infoblox Grid management.



# L3-Outside Configuration: OSPF



- 1) Configure L3Out for OSPF
- 2) Select Context / VRF
- 3) Define OSPF Area, in this case OSPF Area 0.0.0.2
- 4) Define OSPF Area type, in this case regular OSPF Area
- 5) The external routed domain, policy for managing the physical infrastructure, such as ports/VLANS, that can be used by an L3 routed outside network.



The image shows the Cisco SD-WAN configuration interface for an L3 Outside context named "INTRA-OSPF-INFOBLOX". The left sidebar shows a tree view of the configuration hierarchy, with "L3 Outside - INTRA-OSPF-INFOBLOX" selected. The main panel displays the "Properties" section for this context.

Key configuration details visible in the Properties section:

- Name:** INTRA-OSPF-INFOBLOX
- Description:** Regular OSPF Area 0.0.0.2
- Tags:** (empty)
- Label:** (empty)
- Target DSCP:** unspecified
- Route Control Enforcement:** ☐ Ingress
- VRF:** Active/Idle (selected) - **VRF** (labeled with an arrow)
- Resolved VRF:** Active/Idle (selected)
- External Routed Context:** Mainframe\_infoblox
- Enable BGP/EO/POSPF:** ☐ BGP, ☒ OSPF
- OSPF Area ID:** 0.0.0.2 - **OSPF Area** (labeled with an arrow)
- OSPF Area Type:** Intra-area, Regular area, Stub area - **OSPF Area Type** (labeled with an arrow)
- OSPF Area Cost:** 1

# Mainframe OSPF Integration

# Mainframe: L3-Out ACI Deployment

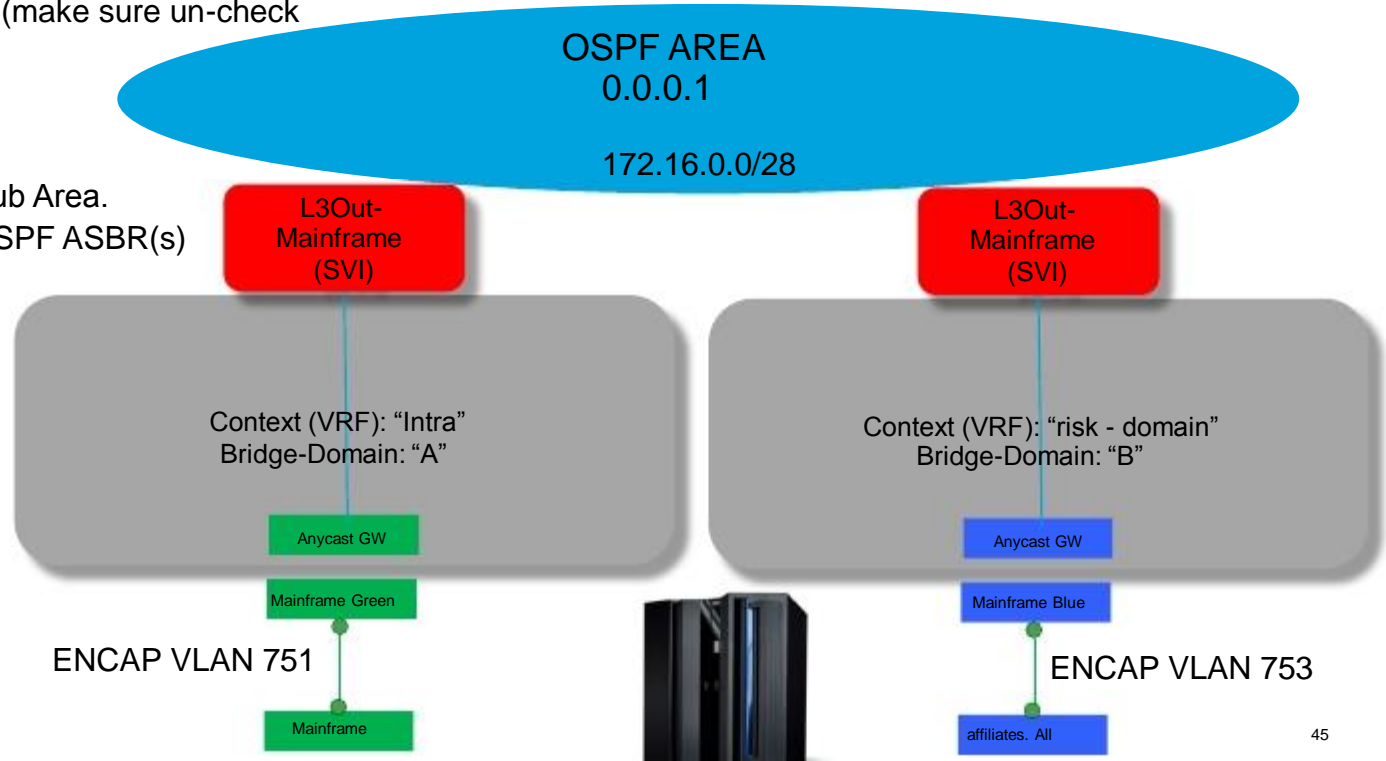
Mainframe L3-out is a regular OSPF Area.

Defined external network instance for Export Route  
Control Subnet for 0.0.0.0/0 (make sure un-check

"Aggregate Export")

Trying to "treat" as OSPF Stub Area.

Type 5 LSA(s); leaf(s) are OSPF ASBR(s)



The screenshot displays the Cisco ACI configuration interface. The left sidebar shows the navigation tree with 'Tenant Active' selected. The main panel is titled 'External Network Instance Profile - HRD-Mainframe'. The 'Properties' section shows the following configuration:

- Name: HRD-Mainframe
- Tags: (empty)
- Description: (empty)
- Configured VRF name: DA\_HRD
- Resolved VRF: unresolvable:DA\_HRD
- QoS Class: Unspecified
- Target DSCP: unspecified
- Configuration Status: applied
- Configuration Issues: (empty)

Below the properties, there is a table for 'Subnets' and a 'Route Control Profile' section.

IP Address	Scope	Aggregate	Route Control Profile
0.0.0.0/0			Expert Route Control Subnet External Subnets for the External EPG

The 'Route Control Profile' section is currently empty, displaying the message: 'No items have been found. Select Actions to create a new item.'

At the bottom right, there are buttons for 'SHOW USAGE', 'SUBMIT', and 'RESET'.

# Load-balancers Integration: Citrix/F5

# Citrix 2-arm Load-balancer: Static-Bindings

External-arm (VLAN) for the VIP / Client


Static route for LB servers pointing to VIP



VIP: 20.20.20.20/32

- 1) External-arm: VIP / Client
- 2) Internal-arm: server default-gateway is on the load-balancer.

VLAN 400 (Bridge-domain same for Servers)  
192.168.50.100

 Server(s) default-gateway

 Static route to Servers



Internal-arm (VLAN) is the Server default-gateway on the load-balancer

# ACI: Configuring the Server-side bridge-domain

Enabled Flooding (ARP) as this L2 Only

The screenshot displays the Cisco ACI Tenant configuration interface. The left sidebar shows the navigation tree with 'Bridge Domain - ENT\_INTRA\_DB\_P' selected. The main panel shows the configuration for this bridge domain.

**Bridge Domain - ENT\_INTRA\_DB\_P**

Policy Operational State Health Faults History

Map L3 Configurations Advanced Troubleshooting

**Properties**

Name: ENT\_INTRA\_DB\_P

Description:

Label:

Legacy Mode: No

VRF: Active/DALntna

Resolved VRF: Active/DALntna

L2 Unknown Unicast:

L3 Unknown Multicast Flooding:

Multi Destination Flooding:

ARP Flooding: ☒ Enabled

End Point Retention Policy:

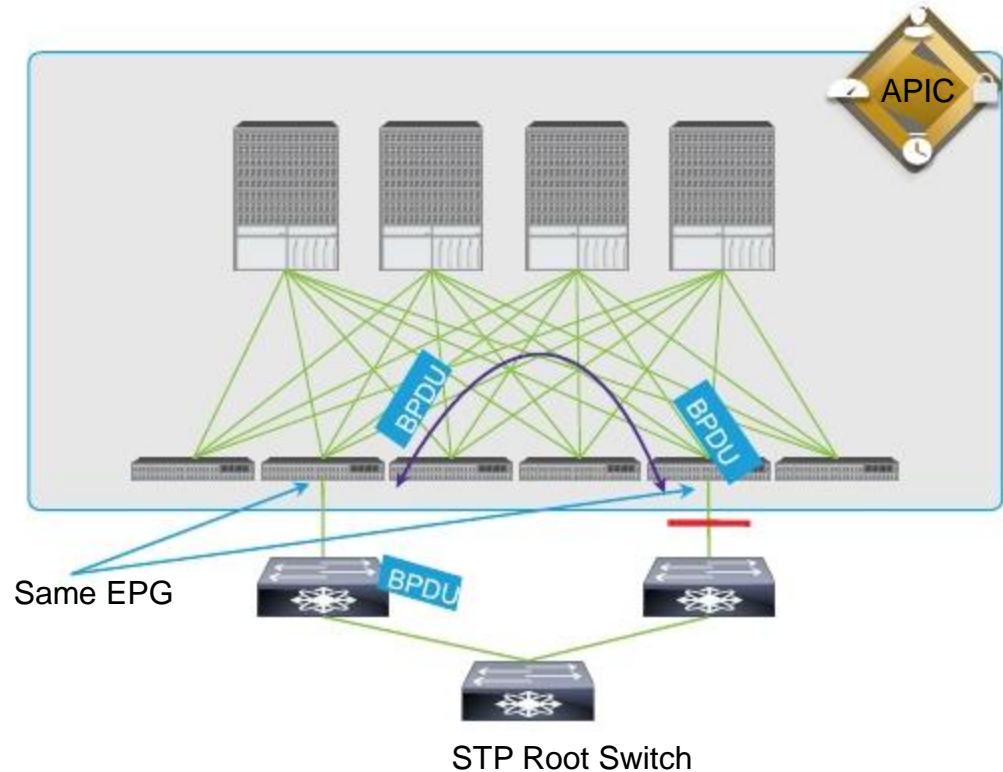
ISMP Sweep Policy:

# External Connectivity

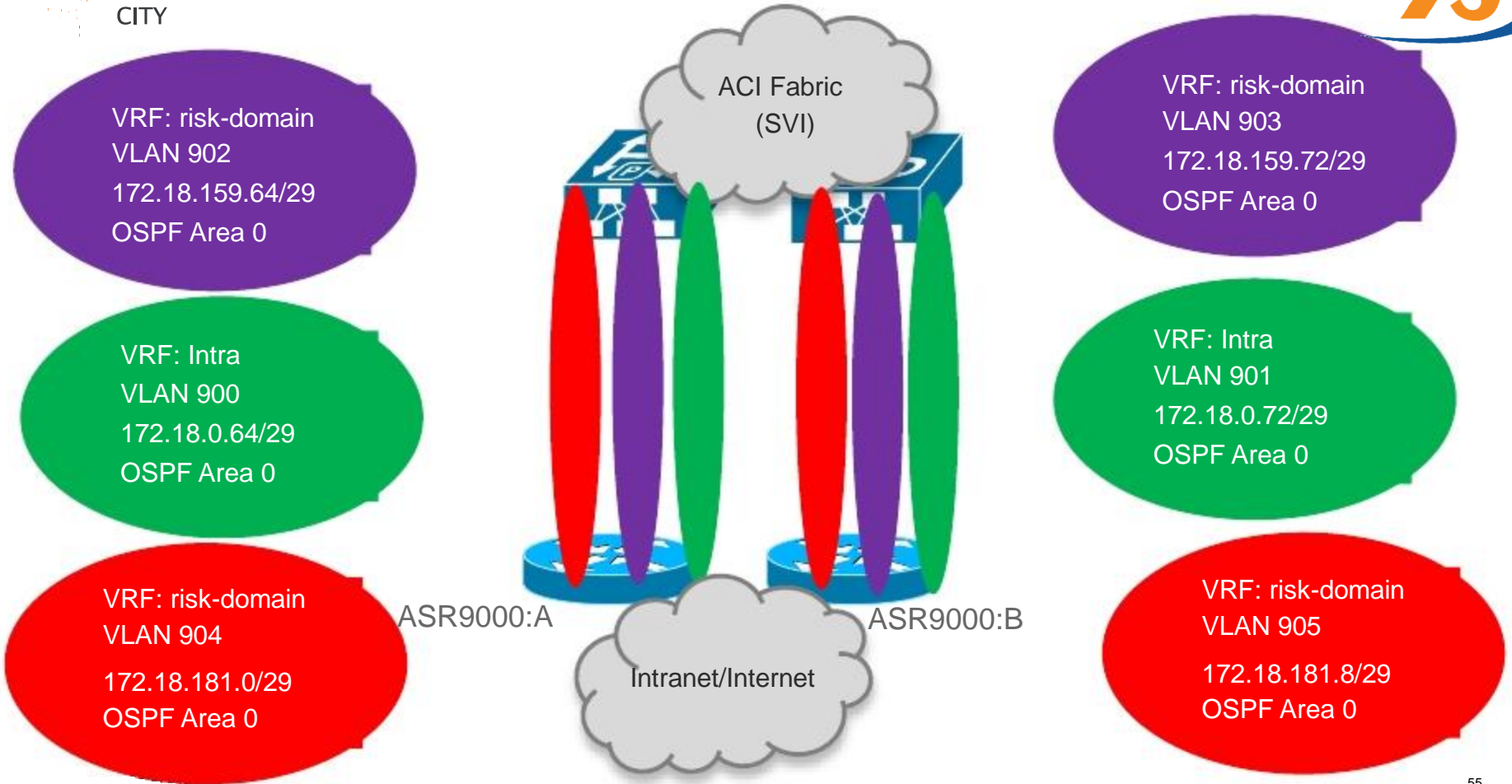


# ACI Interaction with STP

- No STP running within ACI fabric
- BPDU frames are flooded within EPG. No Configuration required
- External switches break any potential loop upon receiving the flooded BPDU frame fabric
- BPDU filter and BPDU guard can be enabled with interface policy

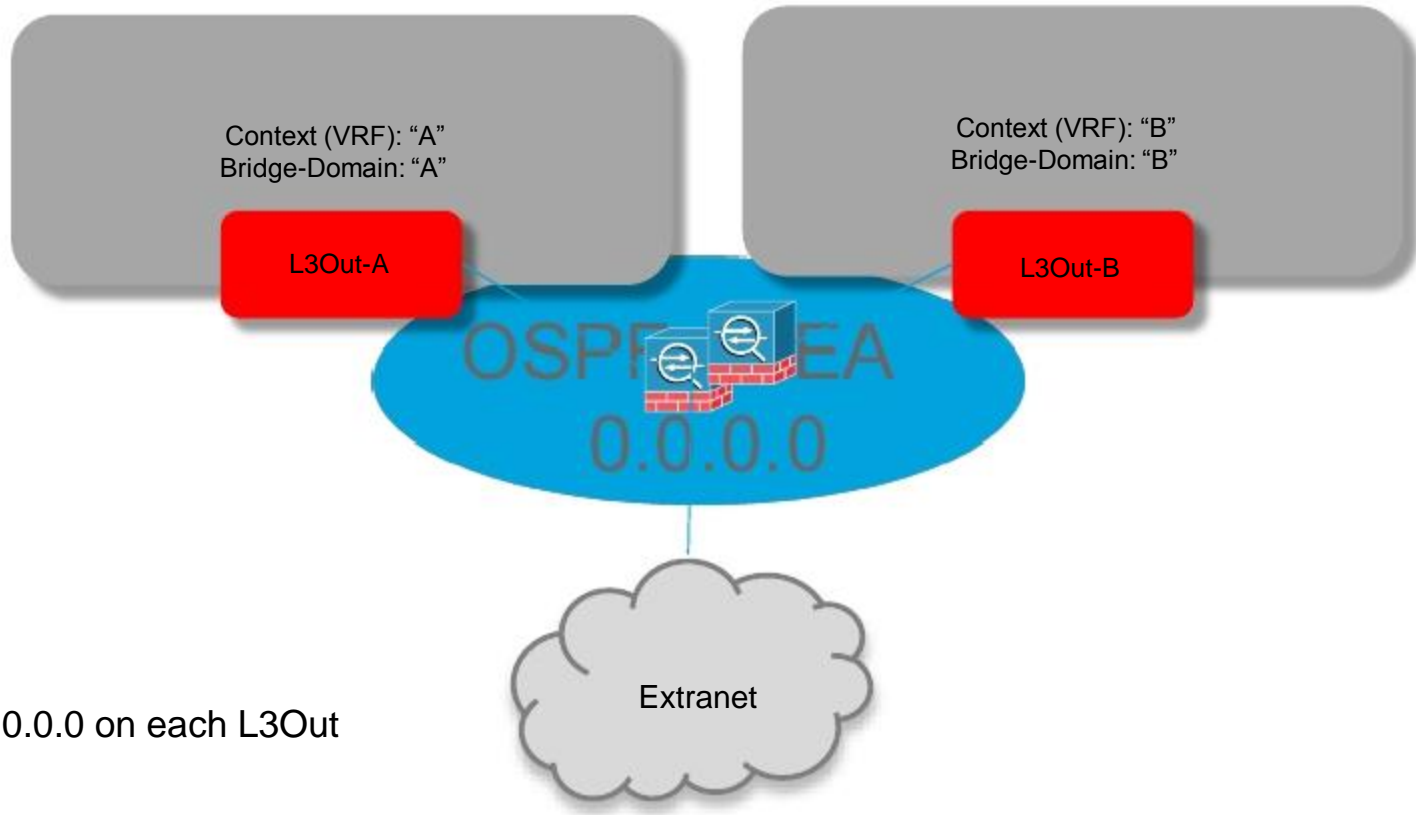


# ASR9000 External L3out OSPF via SVI and vPC



# Firewall Integration : ASA / Checkpoint

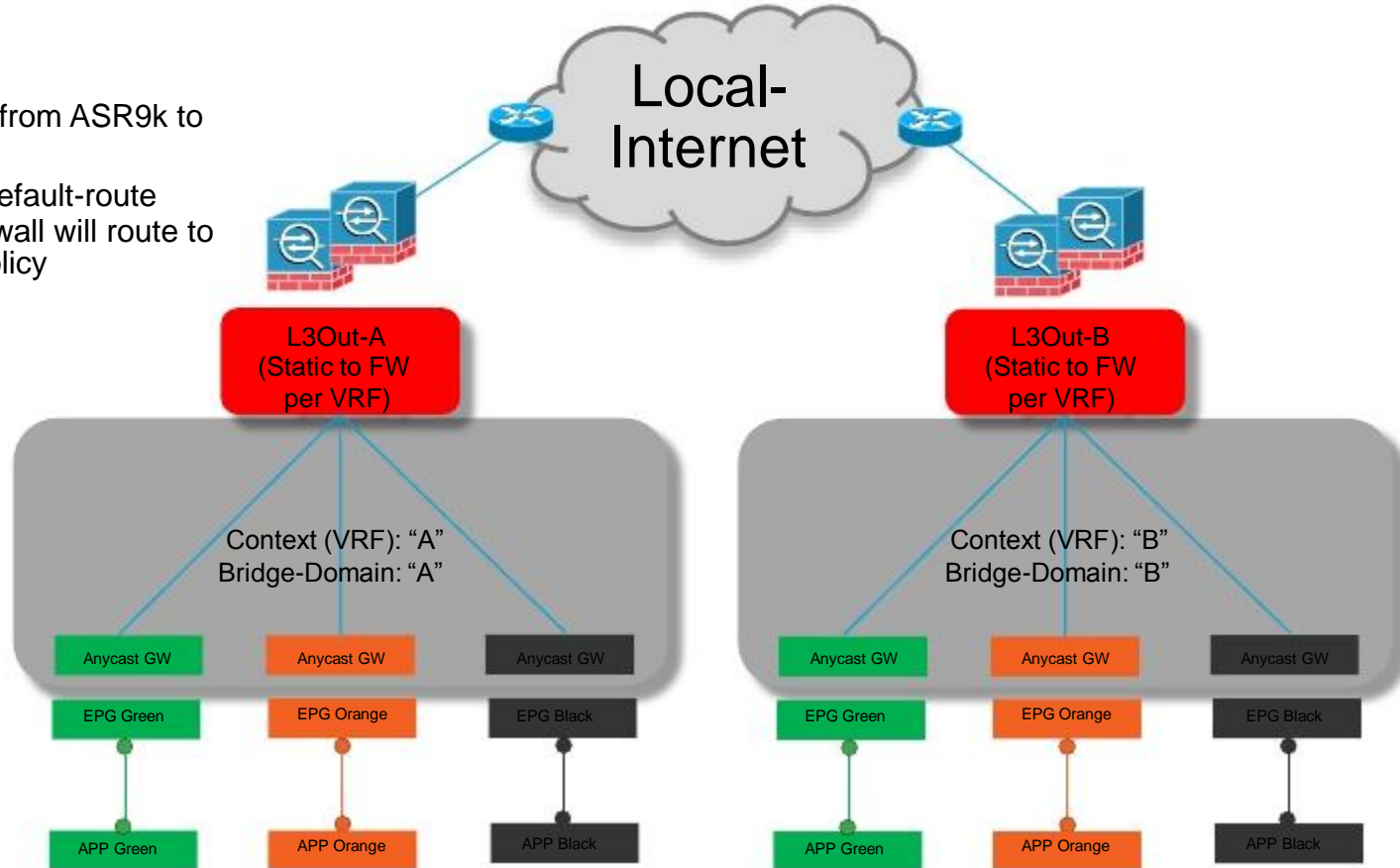
# Extranet: Routing Between Contexts



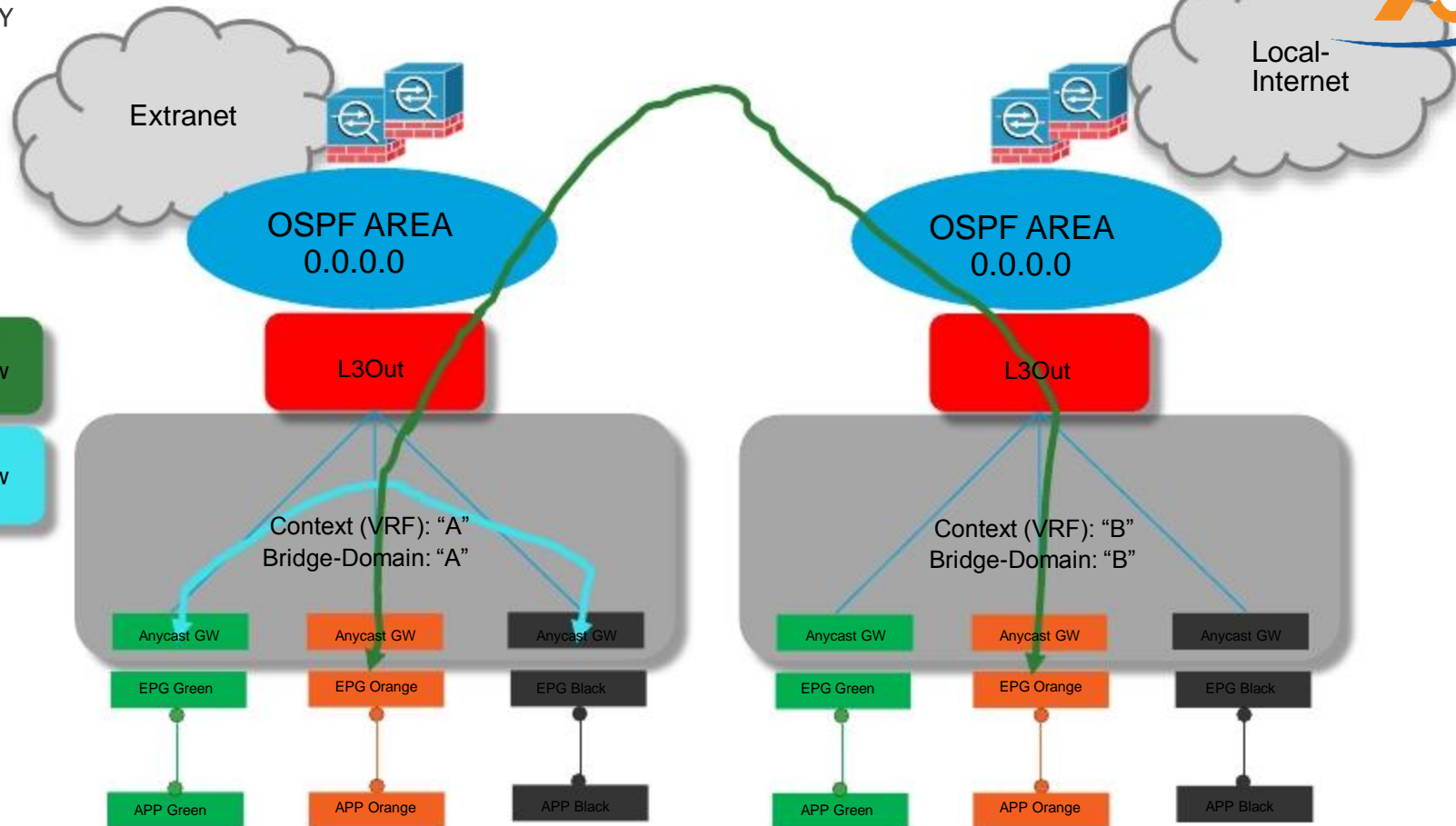
**L3Out** OSPF Area 0.0.0.0 on each L3Out

# Local-Internet: Logical view

- 1) Intra-VRF default routes from ASR9k to Fabric to Internet Only
- 2) Other VRF(s) will have default-route point to Firewall and Firewall will route to Intranet; based on FW policy

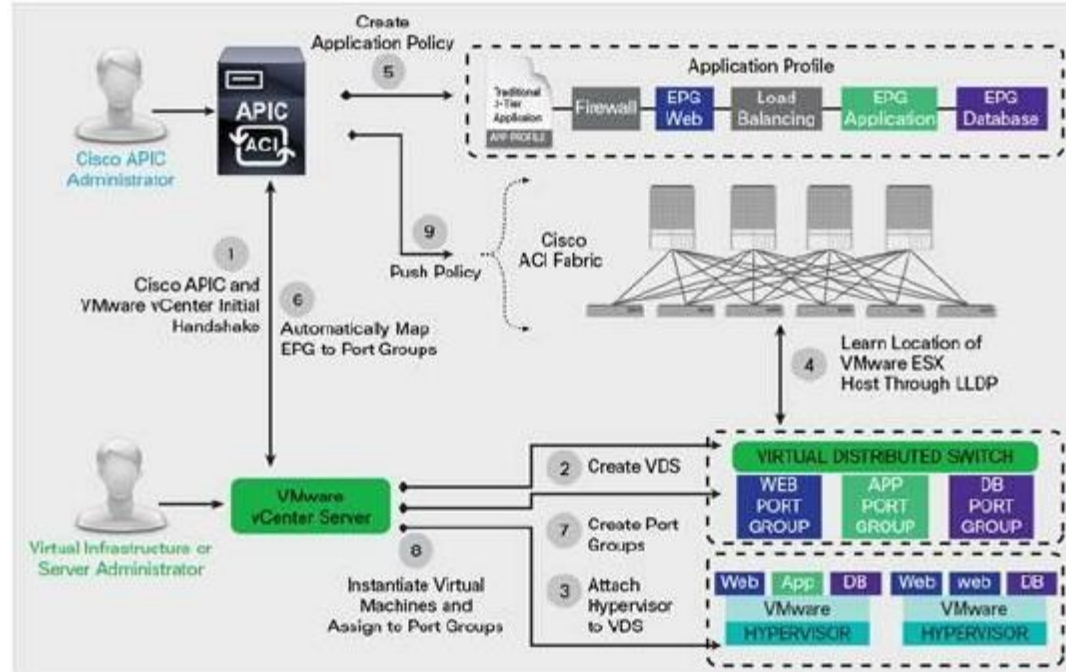


# Intra-VRF and Inter-VRF Traffic Flows



# ACI and VMM vCenter Integration

- Cisco APIC integrates with the VMware vCenter.
- Ability to transparently extend the Cisco ACI policy framework to VMware vSphere workloads.
- APIC uses Application Network Profiles (ANPs) to represent the Cisco ACI policy.
- APIC creates a virtual distributed switch (VDS) in VMware vCenter for virtual networking.
- APIC manages all application infrastructure components. The network administrator creates EPGs and pushes them to VMware vCenter as port groups on the DVS.
- Server administrators can then associate the virtual machines and provision them accordingly.



# ACI and VMM vCenter Integration

- Show configured VMware VMM vCenter
- Focusing on vCenter 6 instances

The screenshot displays the Cisco APIC (Application Policy Infrastructure Controller) web interface. The top navigation bar includes tabs for System, Tenants, Fabric, VM Networking, L4-L7 Services, Admin, and Operations. The 'VM Networking' tab is currently selected. On the left, the 'Inventory' pane shows a hierarchical tree structure. Under the 'Controllers' section, 'vcenter-2-vcenter' is highlighted with a red oval. The main pane on the right, titled 'Controllers', displays a table of integrated vCenter instances.

Name	State	Model	Serial	Revision	MacAddress
vcenter-2-vcenter	Online	VMware vCenter Server 6.9.0 build-2778511	82606540-10d1-4aa9-b1...	6.0.0	1

vCenter 6 instance integrated into APIC



# UCS Director workflows

- Provision new server
- Decommission server
- ACI - Create Context
- ACI - Create Bridge Domain
- ACI - Create EPG
- ACI - Create Application Profile
- ACI - Create Contract
- ACI - Assign EPG to PortChannel/Alias
- ACI - Unassign EPG from PortChannel/Alias
- ACI Combined Provisioning Workflow
- ACI Combined De-provisioning Workflow
- Create a data LUN (array based on 'class') for presentation via

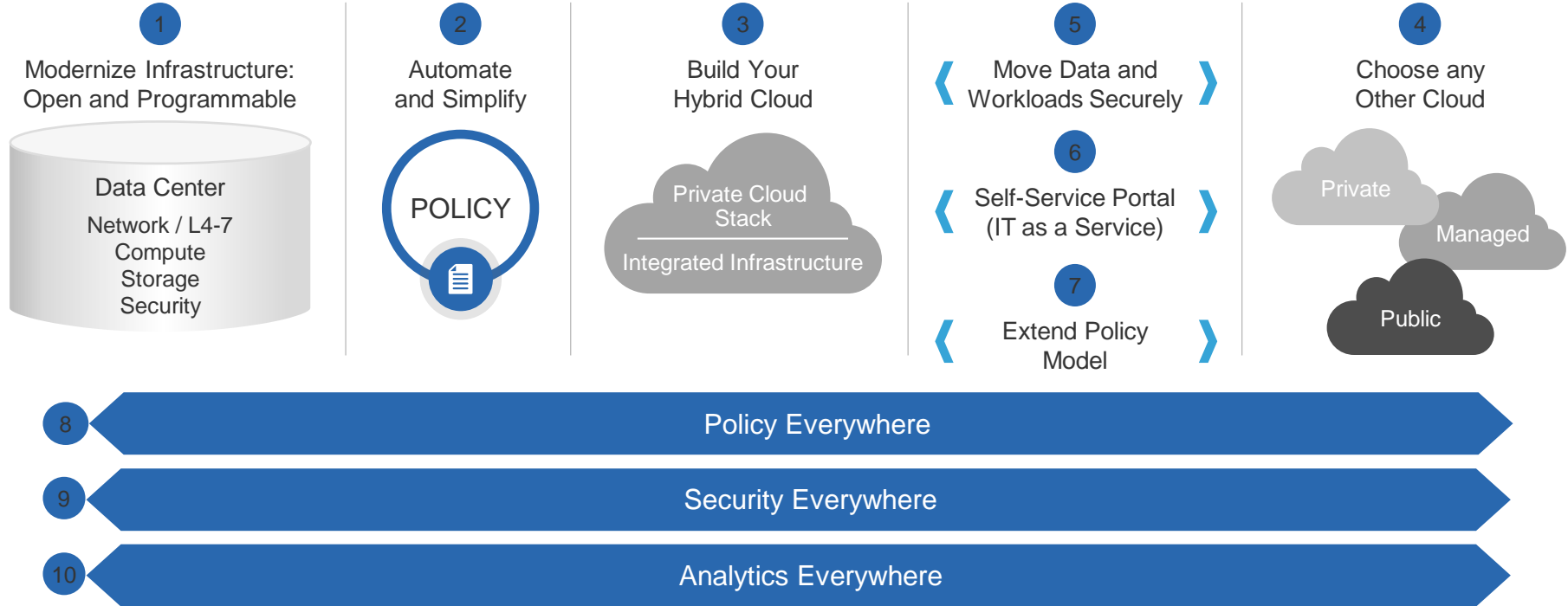
## VPLEX

- Expand LUN and volume
- Remove LUN and volume
- Present virtual volume to a host
- Present virtual volume to a RP cluster

# Driving Innovation

## The Path to Agility in an App-Centric World

# Policy-Driven Integrated Infrastructure Answers Customers' Request



# Policy Driven Automation for a Cloud Model

## Foundational Challenges

Simplification ✓

Drive Agility & Automation

Optimize Operations > TCO ✓

Open & Programmable

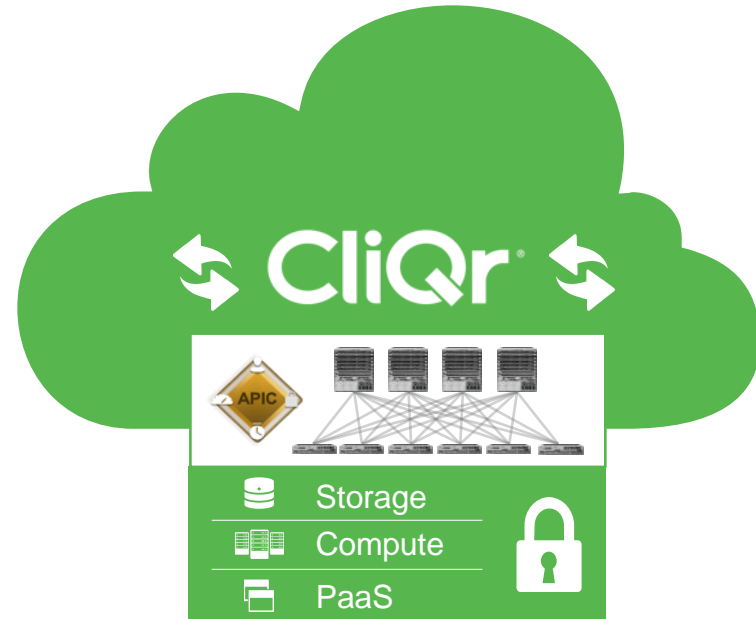
Security to Meet Compliance ✓

Segment with Multi-tenancy

Elastic Model ✓

Develop Hybrid Cloud Model

ACI  
Solves



# Enhancing Bi-Modal IT with ACI and UCS

Tenant 1 = Mode 1



Manufacturing



IT  
Department



Recently Acquired  
Company



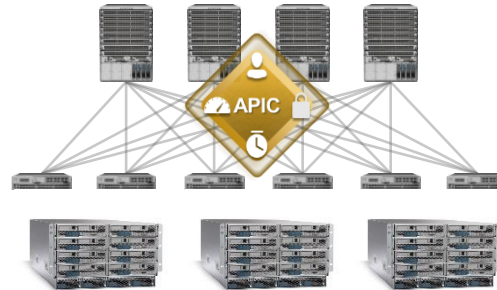
Marketing  
Department

Tenant 2 = Mode 2

Pivotal™



apprenda

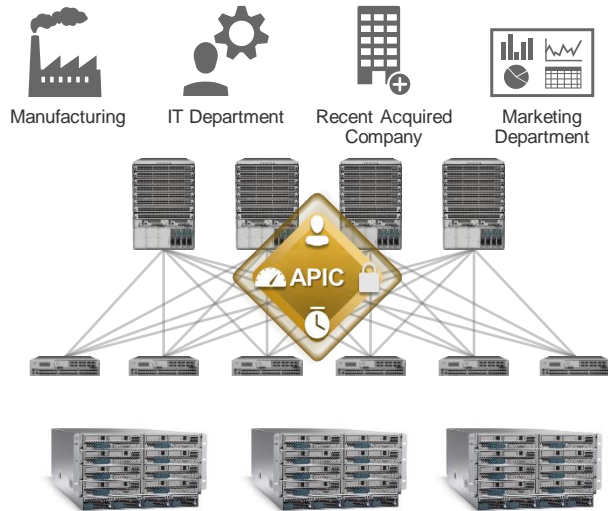


Common Infrastructure, and Management With Secure, Stable Separation

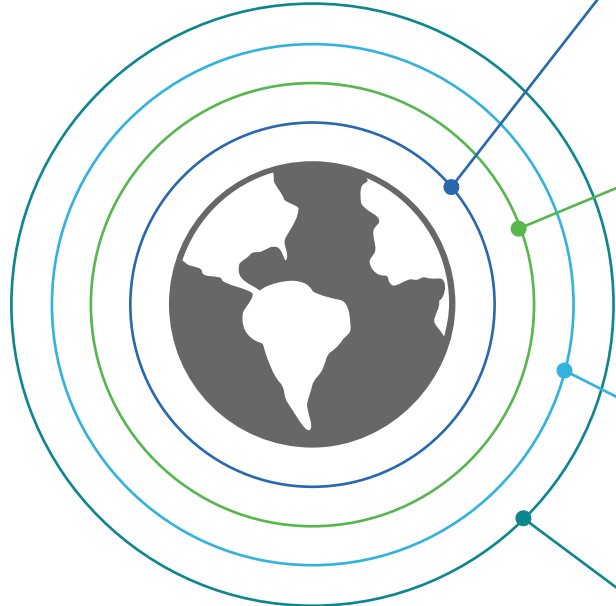
# Enhancing Bi-Modal IT with ACI and CliQr

ACI, UCS, UCSD = Mode 1

Public Cloud = Mode 2



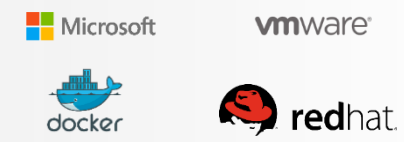
Stability With on Premises Model 1. Agility with Public Model 2.



### SW Overlay Apps



### Hypervisor and/or Container

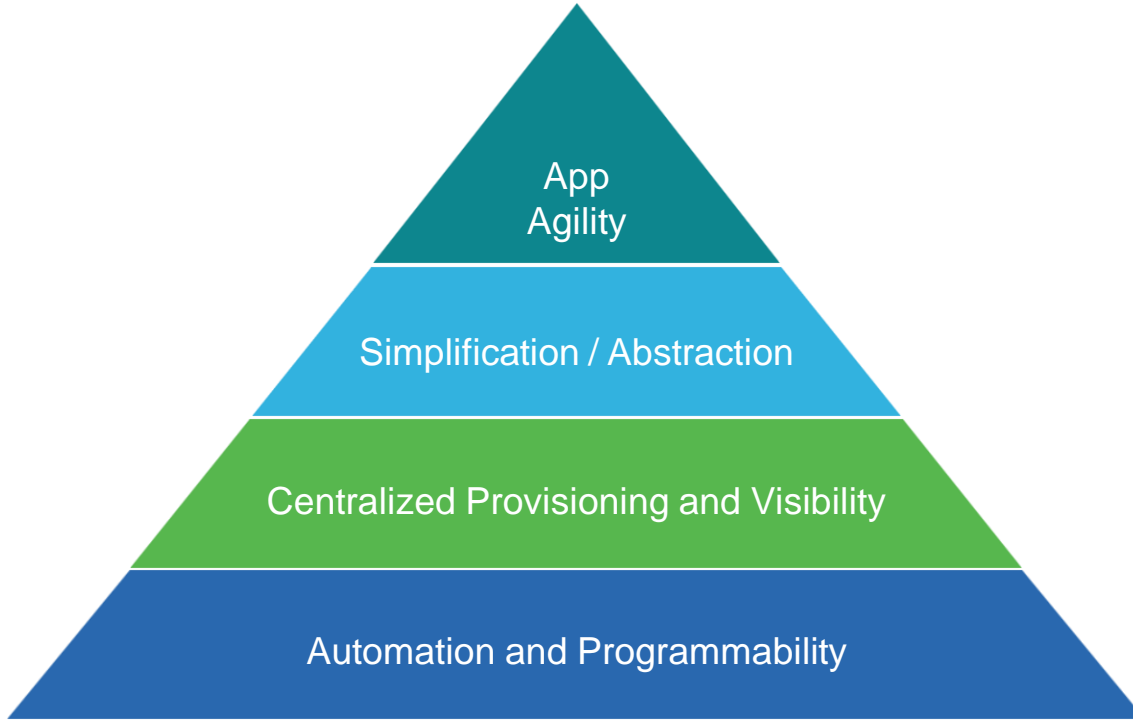


### Bare Metal



### Orchestration/Automation







# Different Teams Different Languages

## Application Language

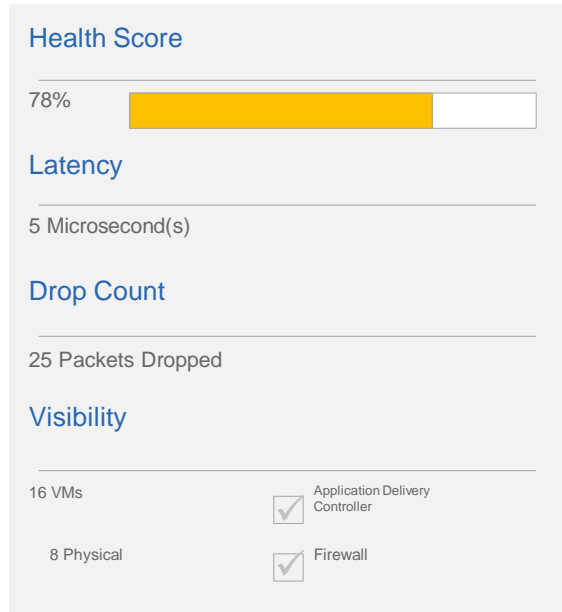
Security – SLA – Dependency – Performance –  
Compliance – Tenants – Geo-dependency

## Network Language

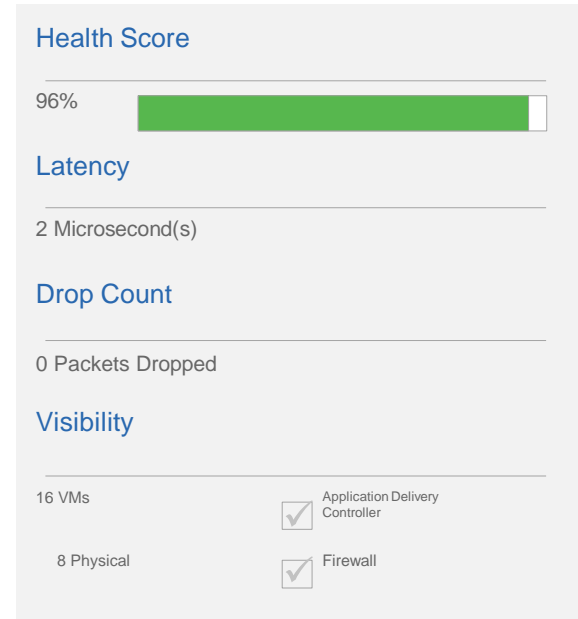
VLAN – IP Addressing – Subnet – Firewalls – QoS –  
ACL – Load Balancer

# Our Vision for ACI: Scale, Security and Full Visibility

## Tenant

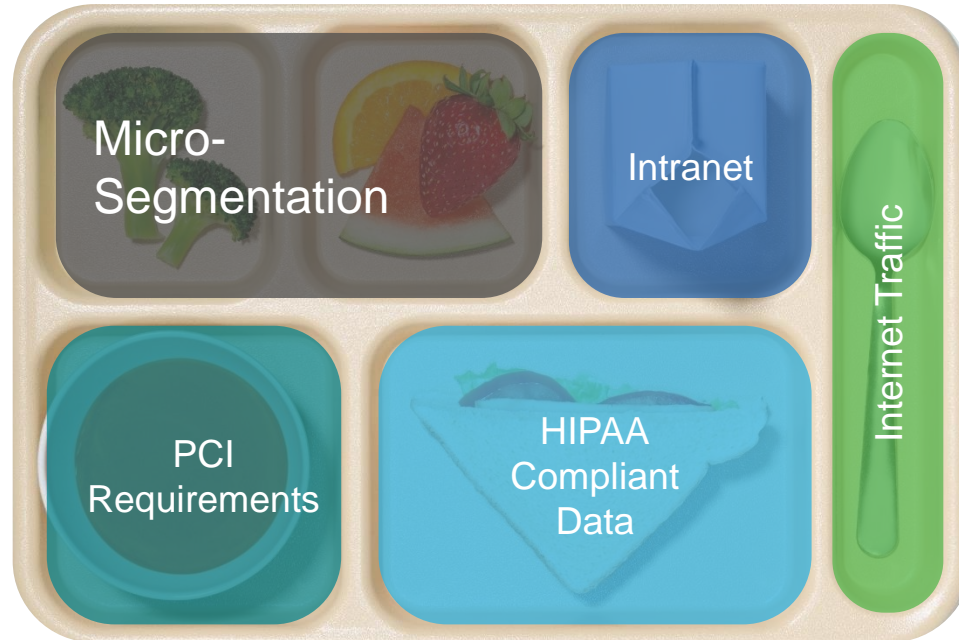


## Application



Enabled By Physical and Virtual Integration

# Implement Granular Security Groups



# ACI Security

With Focus on Simplification, Multi-Tenancy and Scalability

## Integrated in ACI



Policy—  
Physical and  
Multi-Cloud



Automated  
Audit, Detect,  
Mitigate



Stateless Firewall  
and Micro  
Segmentation\*

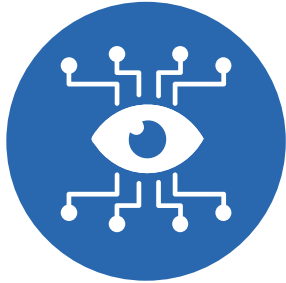
\* State-full with Cisco  
AVS

## Investment Protection

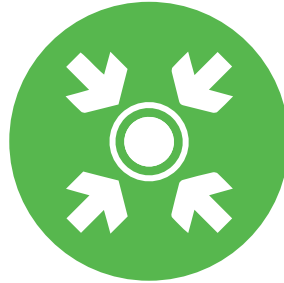


Validated for Deployment in PCI Compliant Networks

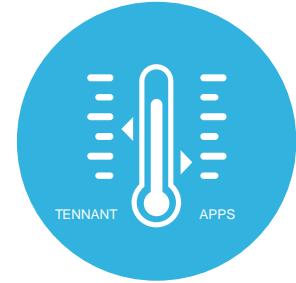
# ACI Visibility Across Physical, Virtual and Containers



Integrated  
Overlay/Underlay



Centralized  
Management  
and Open APIs

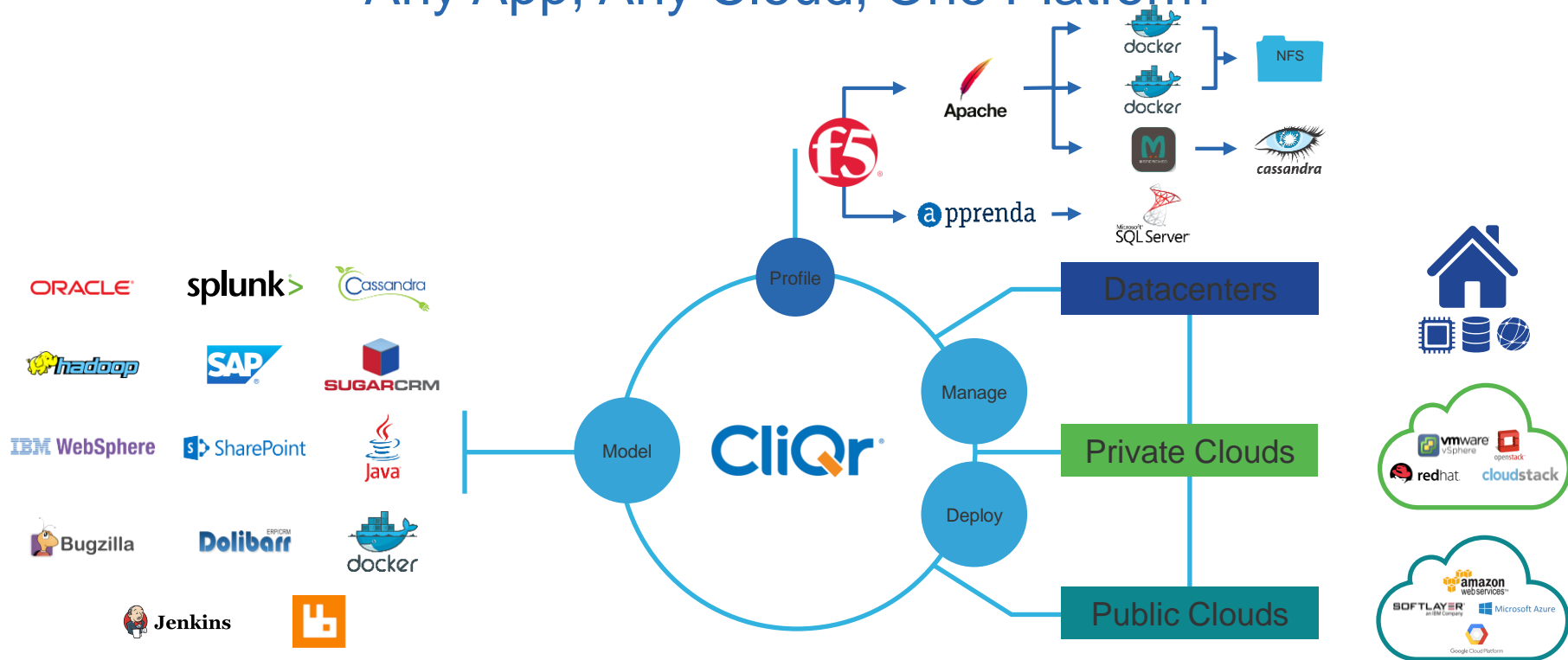


Health  
Scores

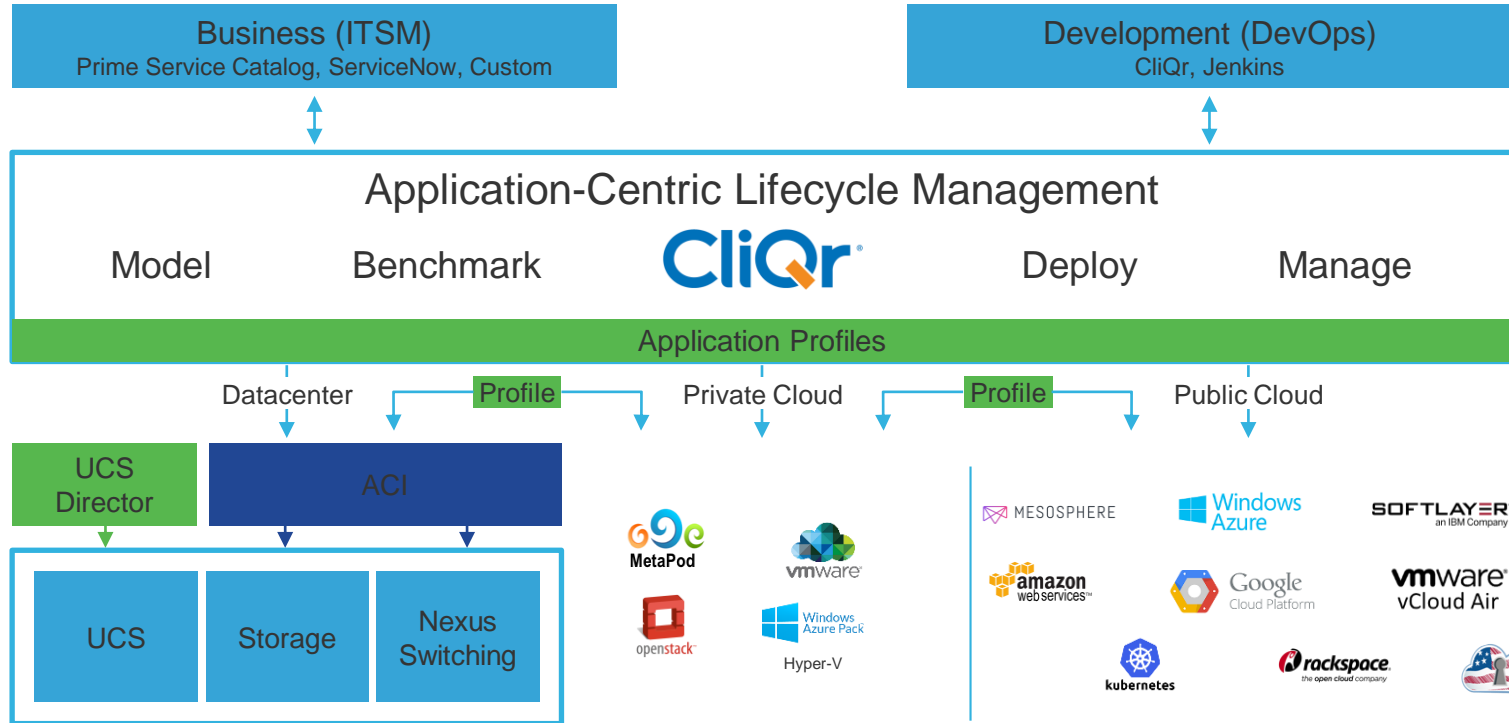
# Hybrid Cloud Orchestration

# CliQr CloudCenter

## Any App, Any Cloud, One Platform



# Working Together End-to-End Orchestration





# Application Driven Datacenter & Cisco Virtual Topology System

# Application Driven Data Center

Today's App



**Scale:** Connectivity, Tenancy,  
Secure Access

+



**Integration:** APIs,  
IOT, M2M, Cloud

+



**Data:** Volume,  
Streaming & Predictive  
Analytics

+



**Agile:** CI/CD, DevOps,  
Scale Out, Containers,  
Microservices

## Traditional Applications

Monolithic Model  
Multi-tier Apps



Scale &  
Modularity



## Cloud-native applications

Business Agility with cloud model  
Micro-services / Bi-Modal IT / DevOps

## Focus on Products

Disjoint approaches to solve technical  
demands. Cohesiveness as "after thought"



Integration



## Focus on Integrated Solutions

Data Center is the foundation for business  
agility. Delivered as a solution and / or as a  
service

## Manual Interaction

IT Silos based approach  
Configuration driven



Automation

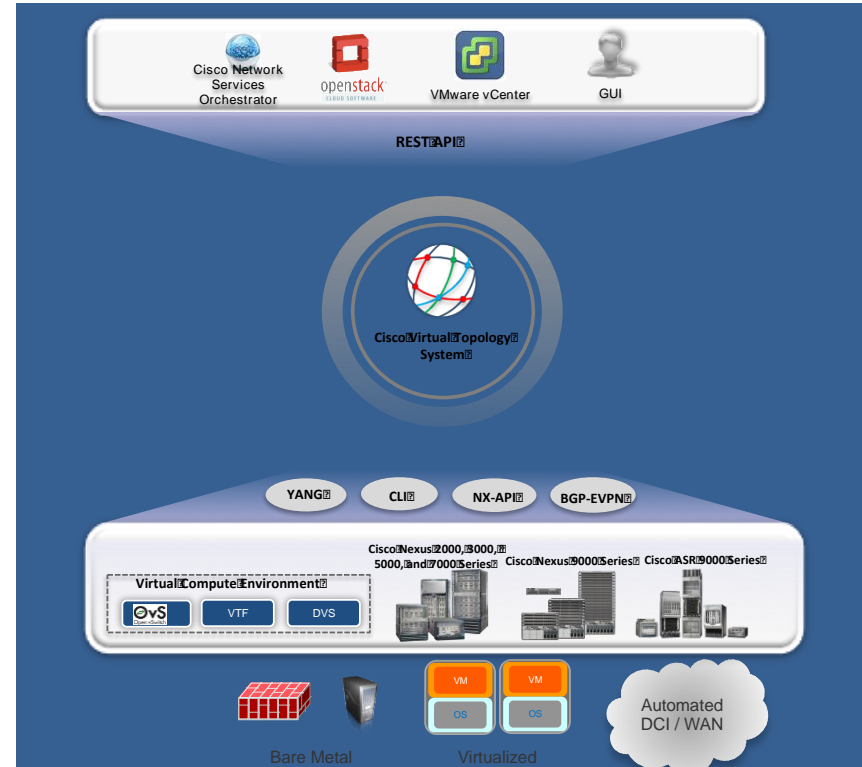


## Policy Driven Automation

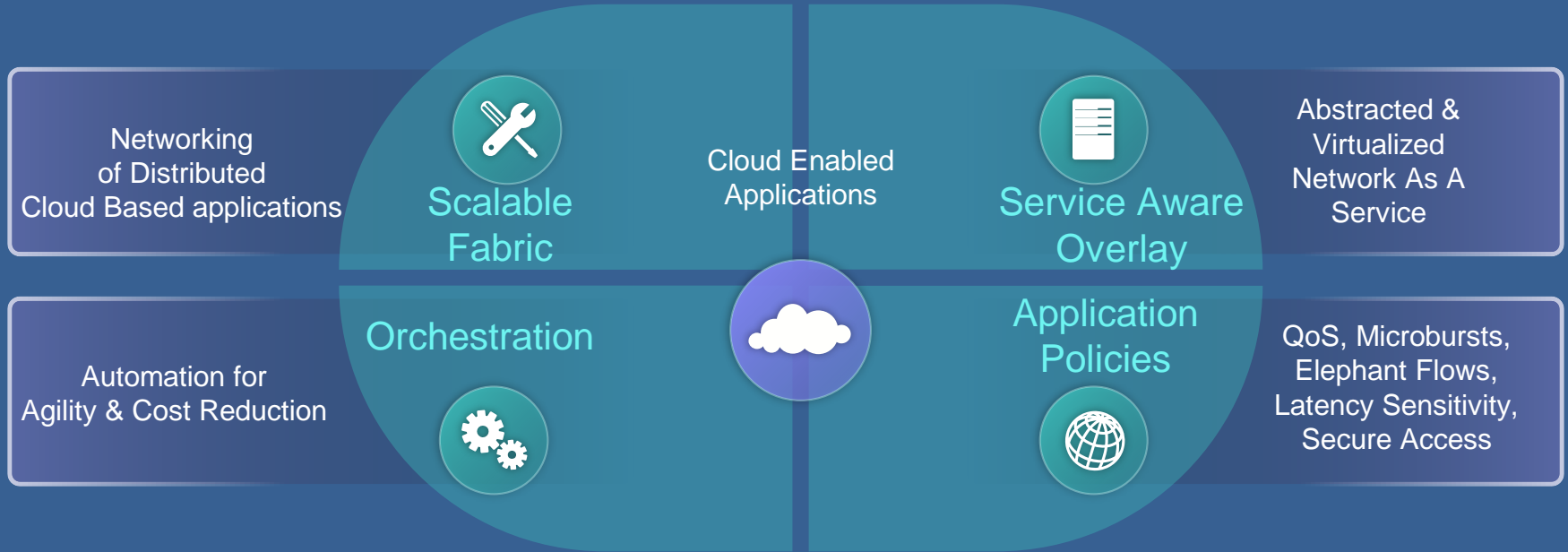
Enterprise-wide policy, hyper-convergence and  
cross-domain automation. Consumption driven  
with analytics and programmability

# What is Cisco Virtual Topology System (VTS)?

- Overlay Provisioning and Management System
- Automates Overlay provisioning across Cisco Datacenter Top of Rack Nexus switches (Nexus 2000- Nexus 9000), Virtual Switches & DCI routers
- Automates fabric provisioning for both virtual and bare metal workloads.
- Programmable using North Bound REST APIs
- Tighter Integration with Orchestration systems such as Openstack, vCenter and Cisco NSO



Simplified Management for Ease of Operations



Scale & Automation Drives Business Success

# Why Cisco VTS?



## Open

Control &  
Data Plane

Programmable  
Architecture  
(NB & SB)

Interoperability  
(MPLS/VPN, OTV)



## Agility and Automation

Network as a  
Service

Integration with  
Orchestrators

Automated  
DCI/WAN

Multi-Tenancy



## Seamless Integration

Multi-Hypervisor  
Multi-VMM

Heterogeneous  
Workloads

Custom NB  
Integration

Services  
Integration (P&V)



## Scale Performance Efficiency

Scale-Out PODs

Fabric Efficiency

Multi-POD &  
Multi-DC



## Investment Protection

Host Based  
Overlays

N2k-N9k, ASR  
Support

Bare metal  
Apps/Services

Interoperability



## Policy Driven

Infrastructure

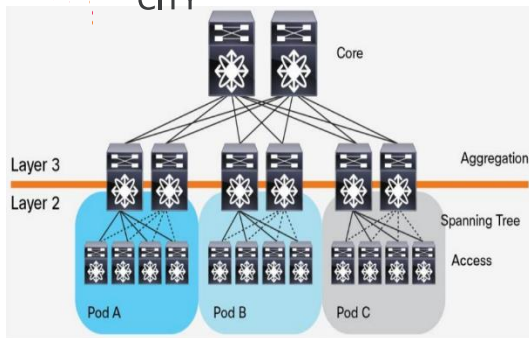
Network  
Connectivity

Group Based  
Policies

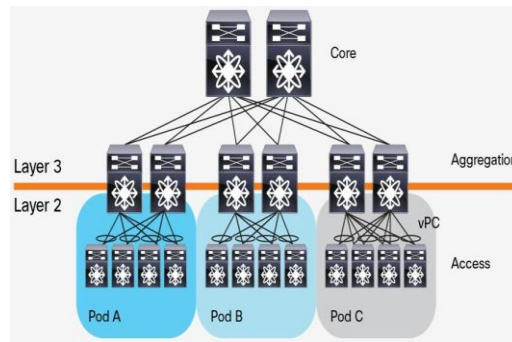
Service Assurance

# Scalable Fabric, Network Virtualization & Overlays

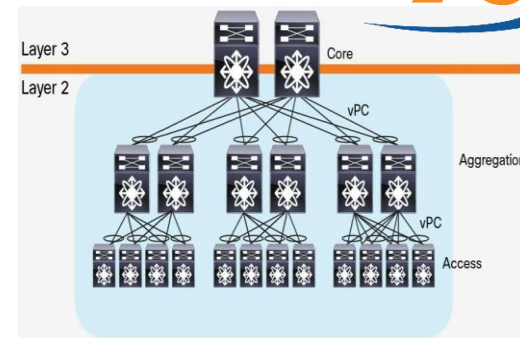
# Scalable Fabric to meet Application Demands



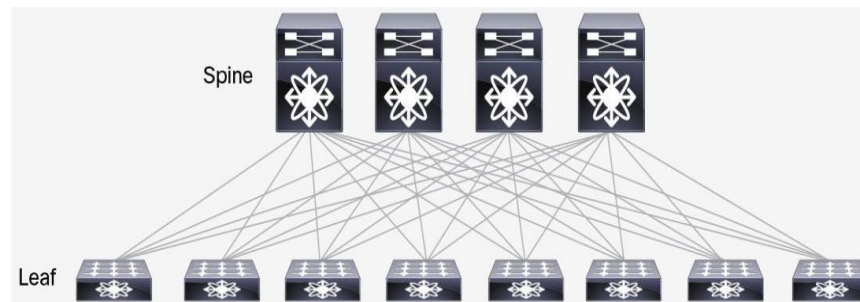
Three tier DC with STP



Three tier DC with VPC



Three tier DC with L2 Extended



Spine-Leaf, L3 Fabric

## Spine Leaf Evolution

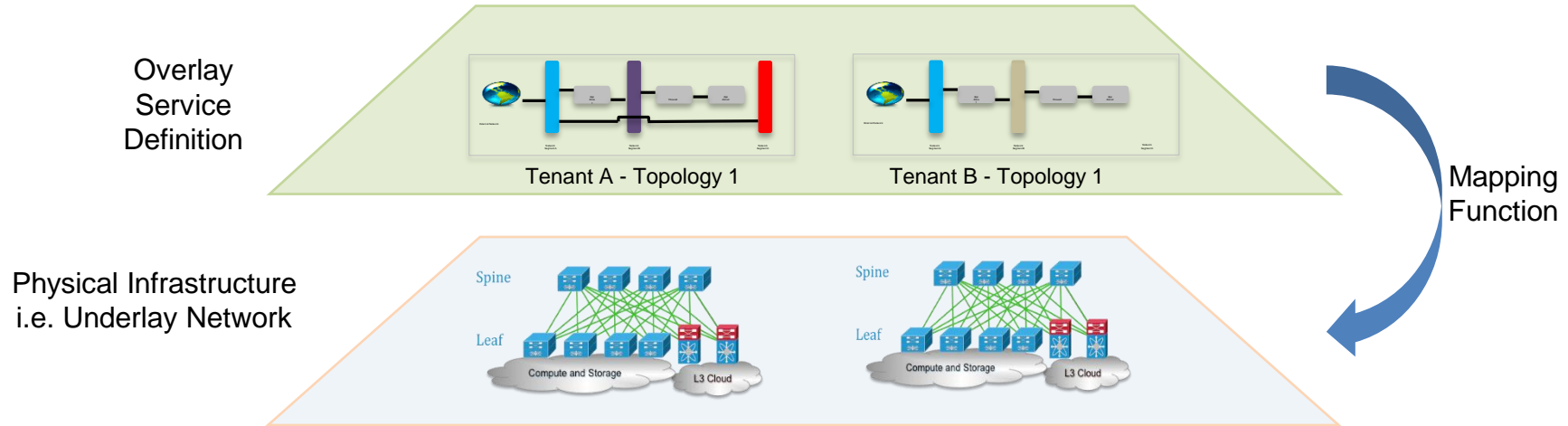
Fabric Path + BGP → VXLAN (Flood & Learn) → Fabric Path + BGP + Automation → VXLAN + EVPN → **VXLAN + EVPN + Automation**



# Network Virtualization and Multi-Tenancy using Overlays

Network virtualization: ability to separate, abstract and decouple the physical infrastructure & topology from a 'logical' topology or infrastructure typically by creating overlay networks.

Network overlays helps disassociates applications from physical networks infrastructure & topology, allowing a transition to cloud based multi-tenanted & scalable networks.

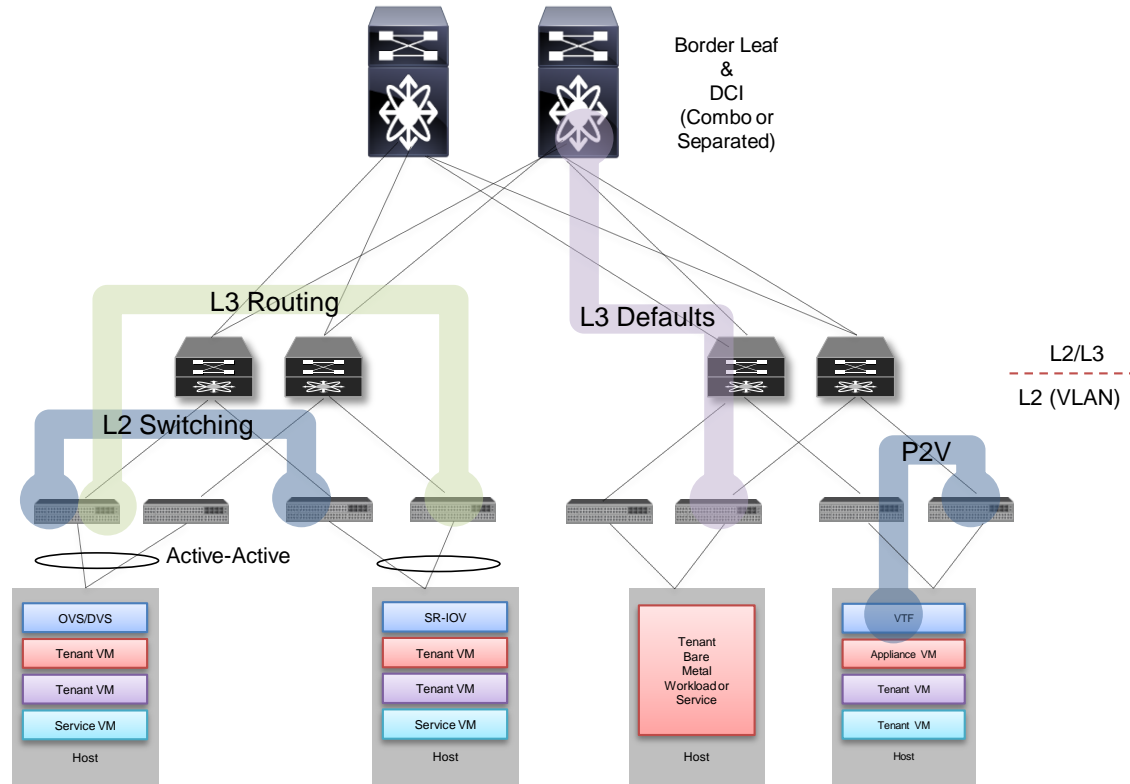




# Routing and Forwarding Requirements For Overlays

Must Have Requirements for CP & DP:

- Underlay Topology Agnostic
- IP Only Underlay
- Open Standards Based
- Scalable multi-tenancy
- Optimal forwarding of L2 and L3
- Unified CP/DP for inter & intra POD

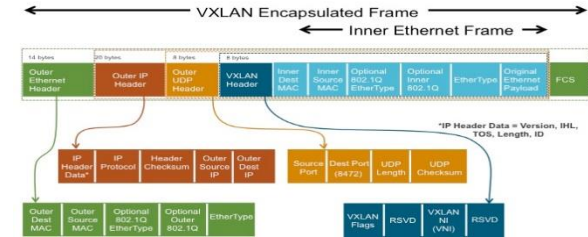


# MPBGP-EVPN/VXLAN based Overlays



Overlay Forwarding Table			
T1,S1	MAC, IP Address	P1/2	
T1,S2	MAC, IP Address	VTEP2	
T2,S3	MAC, IP Address	VTEP3	
T2,S4	MAC, IP Address	VTEP4	

Layer-2 MAC and  
Layer-3 IP  
information  
distribution by  
Control-Plane (BGP)



- Built in multi-tenancy (at scale)
- Integrated Routing/Bridging (IRB) for Optimized Forwarding
- Minimize flooding through ARP suppression
- Fast convergence upon network failures and host movements
- Security through VTEP peer-authentication

- IP routing – proven, stable, scalable
- ECMP – utilize all available network paths
- Flexible placement of multitenant segments
- Better utilization of network paths
- Scalable network domain (16M VNI vs. 4K VLANs)



# VTs Architecture: Hardware VTEPs

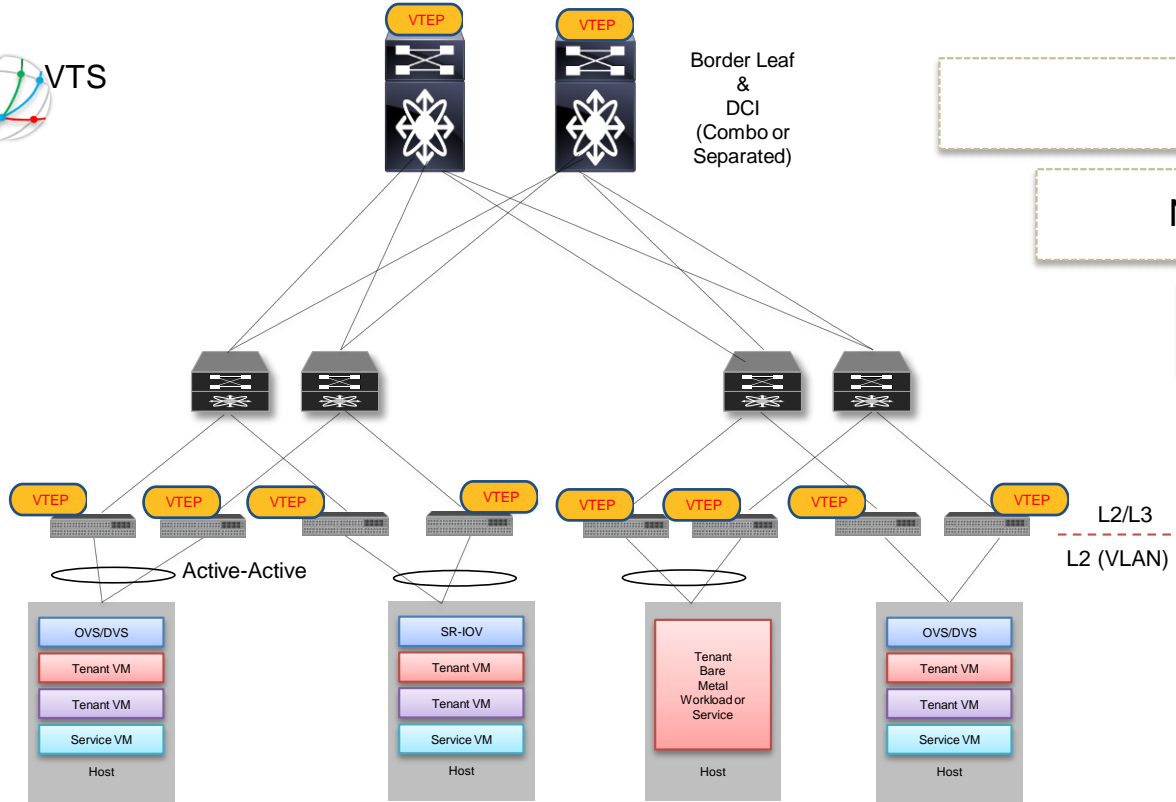


Border Leaf  
&  
DCI  
(Combo or  
Separated)

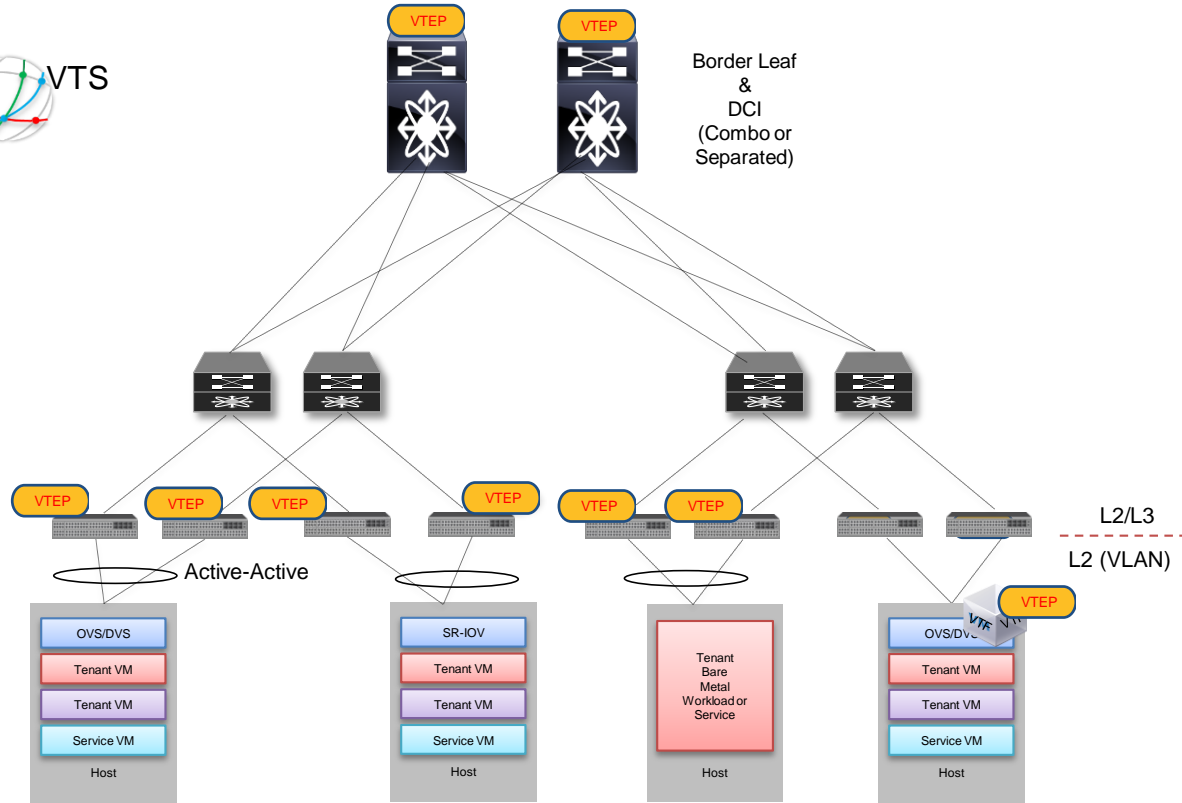
Nexus 9200/9300/5600 – ToR

Nexus 9x00/5000/7x00– Spine (RR)

ASR9000, Nexus 7x00– DCI



# VTS Architecture: Software VTEPs



# VTs Use Cases

# VTS Use Cases

Multi-Tenant  
Data Centers



Network-Function  
Virtualization



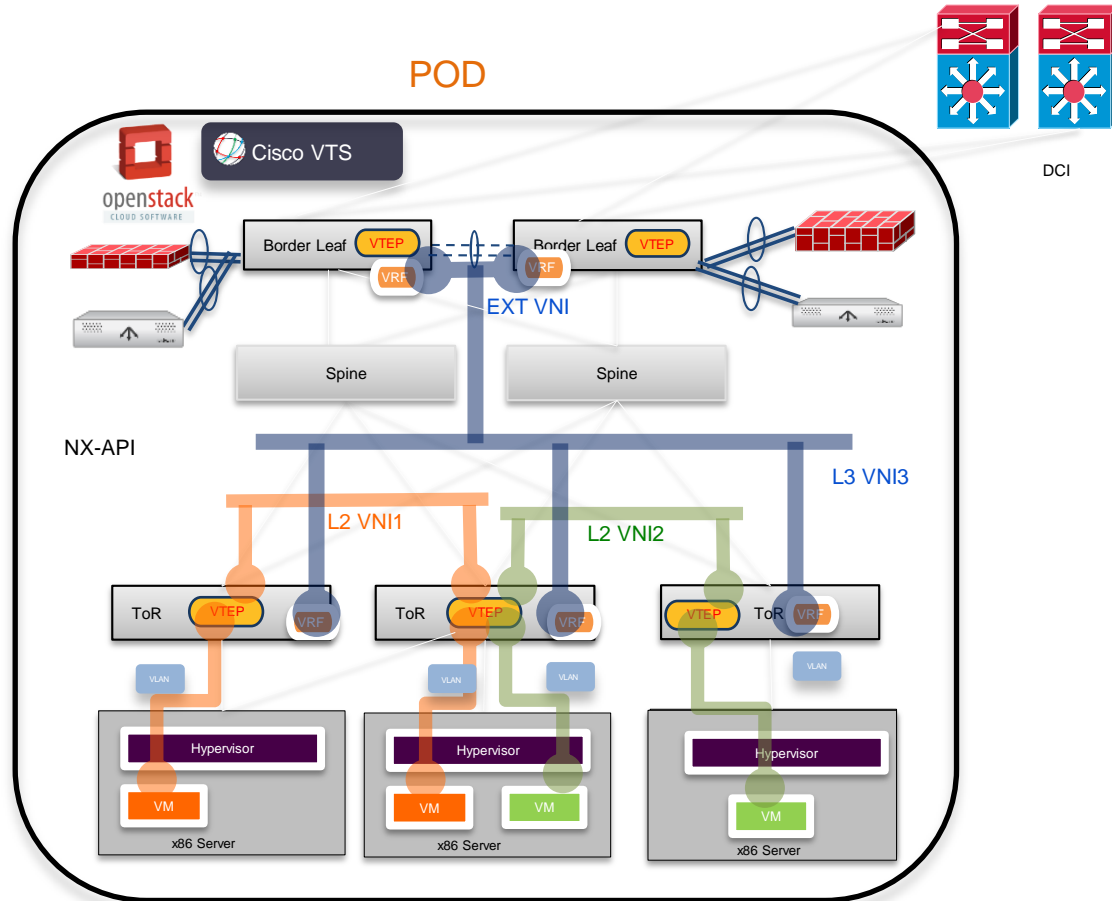
# VTs – Multitenant Data Center

## A case study

- Cloud Management: OpenStack
- Host OS: RHEL, Hypervisor: KVM
- Sites: Multi-POD, Multi-DC
- Core: MPLS Core
- Servers Connected as VPC
- Services: Firewall & Load Balancer
- Management and IP Storage Network
- L2/L3 Connectivity
- Selectively allow L2 outside POD
- Remote access for branches
- Integrated DCI/BL
- N9k within POD and ASR9k as DCI



# VTs Architecture – Single POD



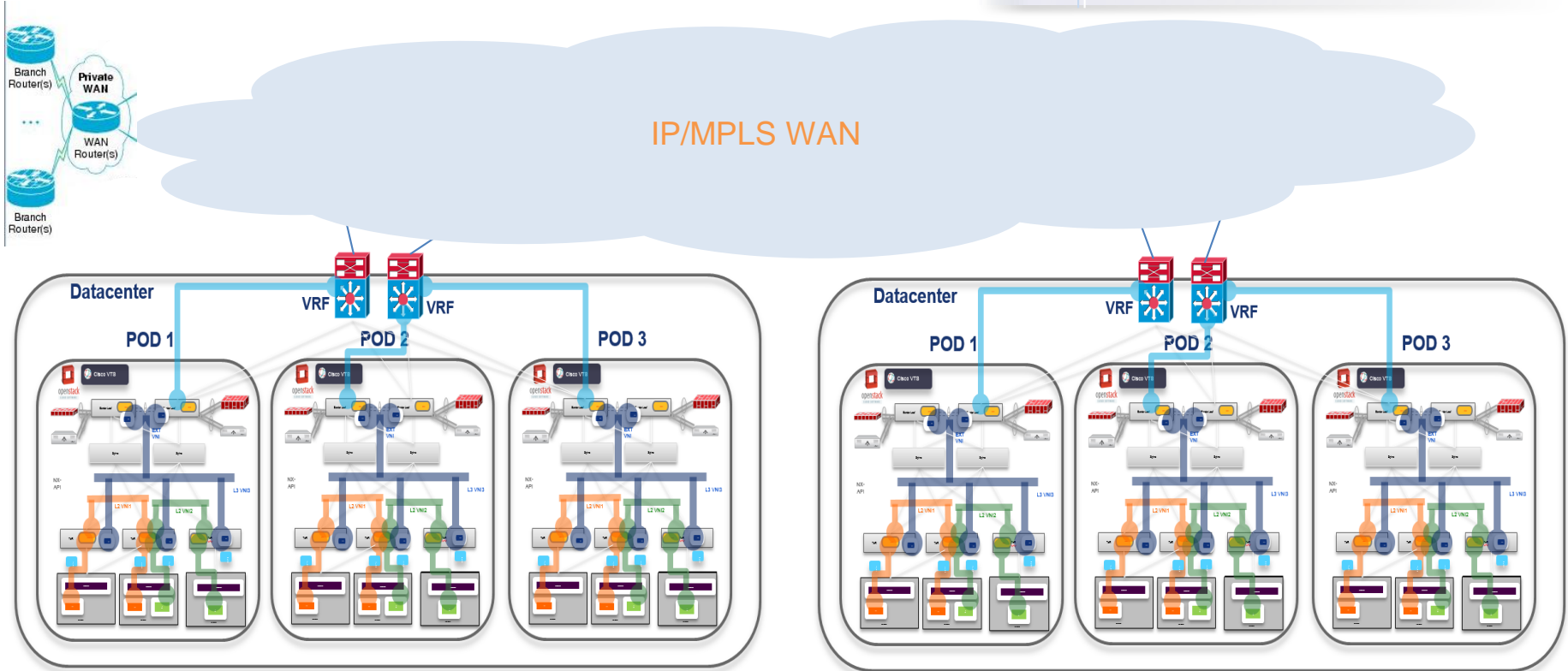
# VTS Architecture Multi-Site



For Disaster recovery, High Availability

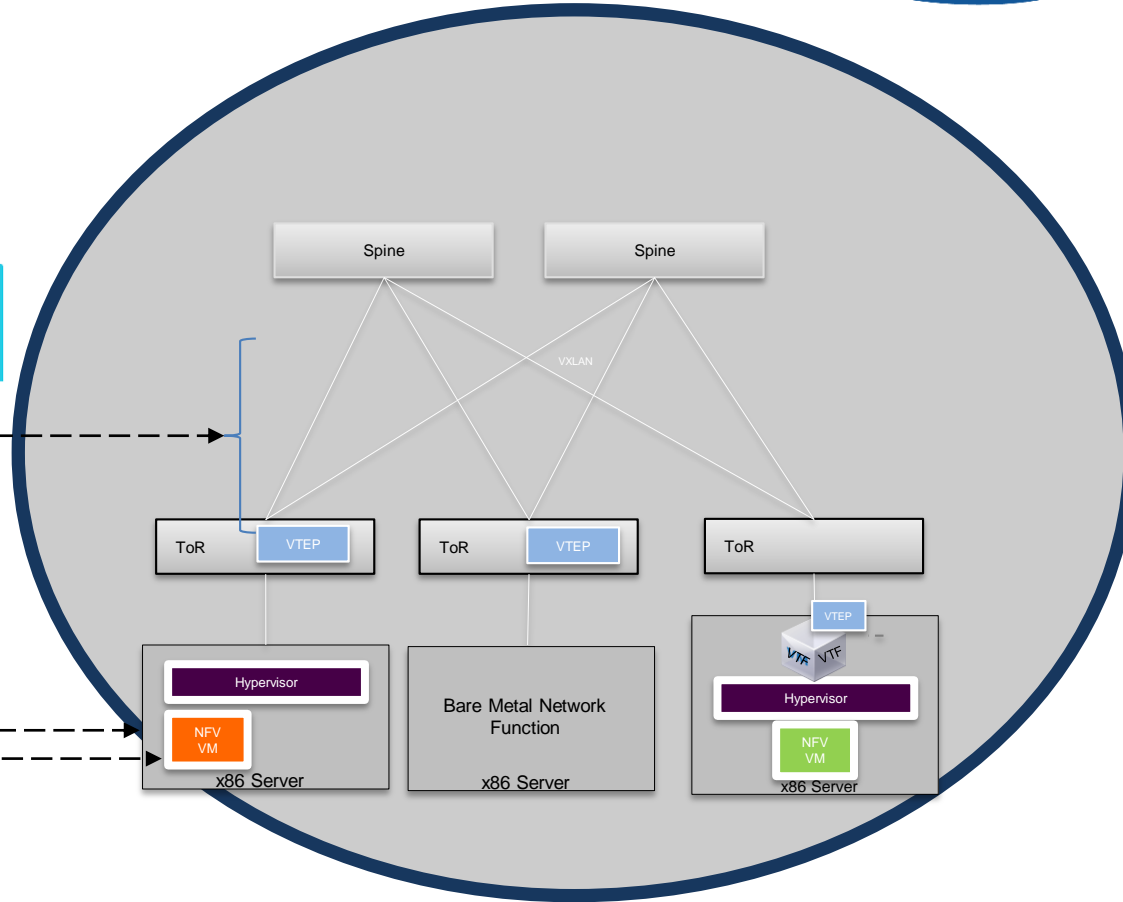
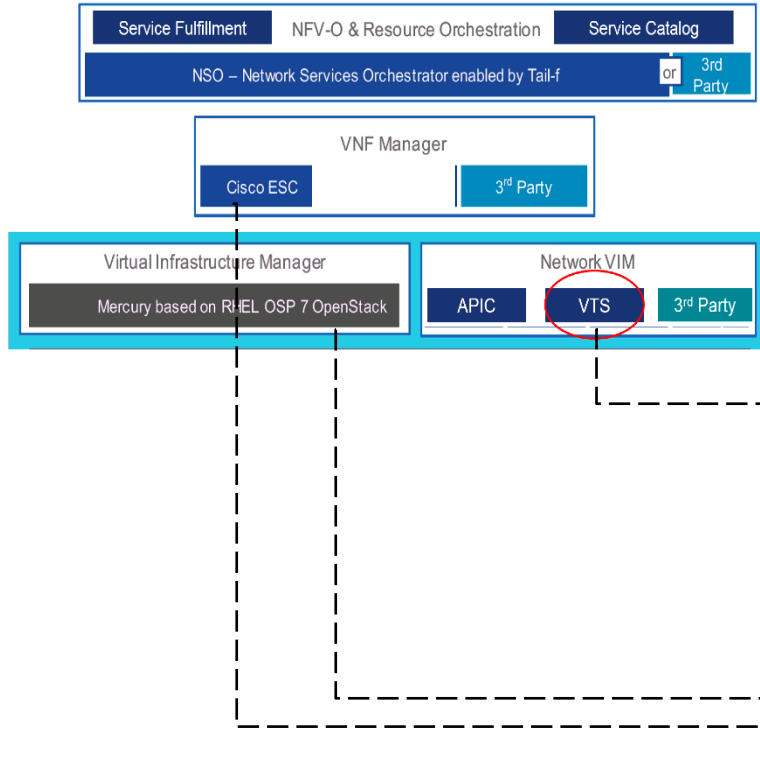


Integrate EVPN/XLAN to MPLS-L3VPN



# Cisco NFV Integration with VTS

North Bound APIs



The background features a complex network diagram with numerous white circular nodes connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background is composed of overlapping translucent geometric shapes in shades of light blue, green, and grey.

# 3S



Innovation for a Better Future