Software Defined Networks and Critical Infrastructure

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Critical Infrastructure – Market Sectors

- Energy & Smart Grid
- Transportation
- Water
- Healthcare
- First responders
 - Police
 - Fire
 - Ambulance

Software Defined Network

- Network controlled by user's applications
- Published Applications Programmer's Interfaces (API)
- Separation of Data and Control plane
- Hardware Agnosticism
- Standard Hardware Abstraction
- Heterogeneous Networks
- Network Virtualization

Critical Infrastructure SDN as "Industrial Internet"

- Mission-critical "real-time" local and wide-area
 - The right answer, delivered too late or "compromised", becomes the wrong answer
- Distribution of Global Time
- Auto-scaling applications indicate their resource needs a priori, providers scale the resources up/down
- Dynamic end-to-end resource management
- Network resources must be schedulable
- Traffic separation and protection
- Network Virtualization "Virtual Overlay Networks"

Virtual Overlay Network

 A Virtual Overlay Network is one form of network virtualization that uses tunneling protocols to form paths between software-based network agents on servers and networked devices. Virtual overlay network software separates the virtual network from the underlying physical network hardware.

Networking Options



OpenFlow Software Defined Network



Software Defined Network



Virtual Overlays





Source: IBM Towards an Open Data Center with an Interoperable Network (ODIN) May 2012

Multi-Service Software Defined Networks



SDN Benefits for Critical Infrastructure

- Simplified network configuration and management
- Dynamic network resource management
- Hardware and infrastructure independence
- Inherent security and high scalability
- Traffic separation and management
- Flexible and open open source

Questions

Thank you