

HP Virtual Connect:

\ Announcer:

Matt: Welcome to the HP ProLiant Podcast series. This series covers the latest-breaking news about the HP ProLiant server and server blade portfolio, with insights from the people behind the technology. By subscribing to this series, you will receive the latest product and solution introductions delivered straight to your desktop or MP3 player.

Today we have with us Bill Dicke, our BladeSystem Interconnect Strategy Manager, who is going to describe HP Virtual Connect---- an important innovation for managing your infrastructure.

Tell us Bill , what is HP Virtual Connect?

Speaker 2:

Well Matt, Virtual Connect is a really exciting new product category for connecting your BladeSystem servers with your data center networks. It reduces the number of cables you need without adding switches to manage. It cleanly separates the management of the servers from the management of the LANs and SANs. And, it makes your data center change-ready; you can add, replace, or recover servers fast without impacting your LANs or SANs. It allows many customers to knock weeks off the time it takes to deploy servers.

Virtual Connect is a brand new concept; only HP offers it, and it came about because we asked our customers about how they operate and what problems they had and then we listened and invented products they needed.

Each time a server is added or replaced, it requires coordination among the storage, network and server administrators to complete it successfully— and, every time they do it, that coordination is needed again, over and over. HP worked with users around the world—bringing together server, network and storage administrators—to find better answers to these traditional approaches. We asked questions like:

What would it take to pre-provision your entire infrastructure once, then add or replace servers or the networks they were connected to?

What if you could create and store the servers' network and storage connection profile and apply it to another server with a few simple clicks? If for every new server you added or replaced, what if the infrastructure was ready to go when you plugged it in and powered it up and you didn't need to ask the network and storage people to help?

HP Virtual Connect architecture enables a unique and simple way to add, move or replace server blades without impacting networks or requiring multiple experts at each step. HP Virtual Connect is a major innovation for customers because it provides a better way for IT teams to work together and save time and money.

Matt:

How exactly does HP Virtual Connect work?

We designed the Virtual Connect architecture into the c-Class enclosure right from the beginning. It allows us to put a layer between the servers and the external networks much like the layer that separates Virtual Servers from a physical server. We call this Server-edge Virtualization and it allows us to assign the LAN and SAN connections to the server bays instead of the servers themselves, so that when you add or replace a server, the new server gets the same addresses as the old one and the LAN and SAN don't see anything change. And, LAN and SAN administrators don't need to adjust their networks when a server is added or replaced. In essence, Virtual Connect decouples servers and the network so that changes in the server infrastructure and the LAN and SAN environments don't require a complex choreography among multiple datacenter teams for every task. This means a huge operational savings of time, effort, and expense for everyone – the server admin, LAN and SAN admins, and of course the benefits really add up for the CIO.

At the same time, the number of cables and switch ports they're connected to is reduced up to 94 percent. So Virtual Connect saves you money at acquisition and every day from then on.

Matt:

Will this help a customer's overall virtualization efforts?

Absolutely. Virtual Connect expands the advantages of virtualization and picks up where virtual machines leave off. Virtual server technology becomes a challenge when moving virtual machines from one physical machine to another because changes to the LAN and SAN are required. Virtual Connect extends the

capability by allowing physical setup and movement transparently from the LAN and SAN. So, with this type of structure, a BladeSystem truly becomes an end-to-end adaptive infrastructure out-of-the-box. The next-generation HP BladeSystem combined with Virtual Connect architecture puts you in control.

What is the big takeaway here?

HP Virtual Connect simplifies your connections and your operations. It reduces cables without adding switches to manage, cleanly separates management of the servers from management of the networks, and lets you change servers in minutes, not hours or days. It allows you to add, replace and recover servers fast without impacting your Ethernet and Fibre Channel networks.

Thanks Bill, This concludes today's HP global news Podcast; we hope you enjoyed it. For more details, just go to www.hp.com/go/proliant or www.hp.com/go/bladeSystem/virtualconnect