



Application Networks: A Work in Progress



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- [Application Oriented Networking](#)

Relevancy: 100.0% - -

- [Munin \(Network Monitoring Application\)](#)

- 
- Involves network devices designed to aid in computer-to-computer application integration
 - Popularized by Cisco in response to increasing use of XML messaging (combined with related standards such as XSLT, XPath and XQuery)
 - Mediation or monitoring
 - Can be built into network devices are optimized for the purpose
 - Rules and policies are specified separately and downloaded as required
 - Cisco has adopted the AON acronym as the name of a family of products that function in this way



Is this just vendor positioning?

Three main drivers

- Web 2.0 services
 - Formal WS-* deployment in the enterprise
 - Clients (Adobe Flex, Vista)
-
- Application Networks handle service calls the way traditional networks handle packets

Where's all the activity?

- Huge increase in “organic” simple services
 - Social bookmarking, image sharing, online to do, mapping, peer content, hosted storage, productivity tools, project management, etc.
- But public WSDL growth lags
 - Lack of interoperability undermines adoption
- Within enterprises, web services replace SQL

No doubt web services are growing

Use of Web Services	Percentage of Respondents
We currently make extensive use of Web Services	33.7%
We currently make only moderate use of Web Services, but it is likely that we will significantly expand our usage	32.0%
We currently make only moderate use of Web Services, and that it is unlikely to change	18.6%
We don't currently use Web Services, but it is highly likely that we will in the next 12 months	5.2%
We don't currently use Web Services, nor do we intend to in the next 12 months	10.5%

TABLE 1 | Percentages of projected Web services involvement

Why make the network smart?

Good idea

- Scales well
- Huge increase in message traffic
- Networks are everywhere, work together, and understand high availability
- Natural consequence of service architectures
- Better manageability tools in place
- Services are the new sockets!

Bad idea

- Too much risk leaving business processes up to the routers
- Not general-purpose enough
- Keep the plumbing separate from the cosmetics
- Requires a forklift upgrade
- We already have cache protocols for this
- It'll never be standardized enough

Difficult questions

Network layer

Actions

Devices

Logic

Message

Modify

App Network

?

HTTP session

Mapping

Load-balancer

Cookie table

TCP Session

NAT or block

Stateful Firewall

ACL

Packet

Forward

Router


Route table

Frame

Repeat

Bridge

Spanning tree



Let's see if we can get
some answers.