Nominee: CohesiveFT

Nomination title: VNS3: overlay network security for all clouds

VNS3 does cloud networking differently. Customers create networks on top of existing cloud infrastructure to connect datacentres and clouds. VNS3 delivers a software-based networking application that is a combination of networking devices, customized to fit customers' needs in public and private clouds as well as a traditional datacentres.

Overlay networking with VNS3 lets customers connect and extending datacentre networks to any cloud or virtual environment. Overlays built on top of public cloud IaaS can give enterprise IT teams a level of security and connectivity unlike anything a single enterprise can build, and at much lower costs. Applications no longer need to be constrained by underlying hardware or vendor lock-in.

Unlike all other hybrid cloud security and connectivity solutions, VNS3 can control secure, encrypted VPN connections between deployments and datacentres using standard IPsec tunnels and UDP multicast protocols to distribute a federated network across multiple public and private clouds. VNS3 requires no new knowledge or training to implement. VNS3 is a pay-as-you-go virtual network server that can eliminate vendor lock-in and allow for high availability, geographic distribution, and cloud federation.

With the latest version, VNS3 3.5 with Docker container integration, VNS3 is now the only network device that enables customers to load network functions into the device instead of building separate, costly virtual machines. Customers can build functionality into a single VM to match the the requirements of their use case. Customers using the new VNS3 v3.5 have been running Nginx reverse proxy, Snort for Network intrusion/extrusion detection (NIDS), and HAProxy load balancers. Each use case saved VM run times, simplified network management, and bundled the customers' applications functions in the same VM instance as VNS3.

Enterprise IT customers use VNS3 to meet security compliance and manage complex overlay networks across multiple clouds and datacentres. With VNS3, enterprise customers can guarantee secure access between their corporate data centres and cloud-based systems. Previously, security and networking software could not guarantee this level of access and accountability for the enterprise.

More than 700 customers have built highly available overlay networks with site-to-site connectivity and end-to-end encryption. Now enterprises in regulated industries can attest to data security and securely use public cloud. Other cloud network routing appliances are typically hardware that do not allow access or customization. In the past, customers who wanted to run additional services had to use additional VMs. VNS3 3.5 now allows users to build in functionality and save costs in any cloud IaaS environment.

Users rely on VNS3 to support business systems such as a national banks' mobile banking platforms, a large mutual fund's secure partner network, an international financial exchange's partner trading simulation, an international mobile banking SaaS' customer and partner connectivity, an international healthcare provider's federated cloud platform, and an international retailer's capacity expansion to handle Christmas' day spikes. Any service failure of VNS3 means a failure for end customers, and we are very proud to have never caused any major outage. Our customers rely on VNS3 to operate both internal and external systems vital to their operations both in dev/test and in production environments.

In the last year alone, CohesiveFT and VNS3 won the 2014 EuroCloud Awards for Best Offering IaaS/PaaS, the 2014 Cloud World Series Best Security Solution Award, 2014 DCS Awards for Datacentre ICT Networking Product of the Year, the 7th Global Security Challenge Summit pitch competition, were named Runners Up in the Storage, Virtualization, Cloud (SVC) Awards, won the 2013 International Datacenter & Cloud Awards, were named runners up in the 2013 Data Centre Solutions (DCS) Awards, and listed in the 2013 Top 100 Cloud Service Providers from Talkin' Cloud.

Why nominee should win

- VNS3 overlay networks can be built on top of any cloud IaaS to give enterprises a level of security and connectivity unlike anything a single organisation can build, at much lower costs.

- Major firms rely on VNS3 to support global, production-ready business systems

- Over 900 users / customers in more than 25 countries.

- VNS3 is the only overlay overlay network product that offers both a highly available overlay network and site-to-site IPsec connectivity with end-to-end data in motion encryption.

- Integrates easily with most existing IT systems and is provider, vendor, application, OS and script neutral.