

Nominee: Silver Peak

Nomination title: Silver Peak Unity

According to Gartner, traditional enterprise wide area network (WAN) architectures are not well-suited for the adoption of cloud-based infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) and software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions, due to increased latency and the cost of backhauling traffic to centralised gateways. Furthermore, it claims that through 2015, at least half of cloud deployments will suffer from network performance issues. With public cloud within and outside of IT proving to be a powerful tool for helping businesses grow and become more efficient, Silver Peak believes adoption will outpace what the underlying network can handle. As such, network architects need to revise WAN infrastructures to improve performance for external cloud applications and resources.

The new WAN fabric

Silver Peak Unity is an intelligent WAN that unifies the enterprise network with the public cloud. Unlike traditional WAN optimisation solutions, Unity tracks the location of cloud services and intelligently routes traffic over the shortest, least congested path. By keeping SaaS and IaaS traffic on the WAN until the last possible moment, Unity gives IT an ability it's never had; the ability to monitor and control connectivity to the cloud while providing users with consistent performance for any cloud or enterprise application.

Unity dynamically compensates for internet weather. SaaS applications perform far better as latency issues are solved, packet loss and other effects of network congestion are minimised or eliminated, and bandwidth requirements are reduced by as much as 40 times. With Unity, the enterprise becomes SaaS-optimised.

Enabling the new enterprise network

By deploying Silver Peak's software at data centres, branch offices and cloud interconnection hubs, customers generate the Unity fabric, a network overlay that controls and accelerates connectivity to any combination of enterprise assets, IaaS resources and SaaS applications. Each Silver Peak instance on the Unity Plane communicates with Silver

Peak's new Cloud Intelligence (CI) service, which creates an internet weather map that enables Silver Peak to route traffic to any asset over the optimal path. Orchestration is handled by Silver Peak's Global Management System (GMS), which provides complete visibility and control over the deployment.

Silver Peak Unity ultimately provides IT managers with new levels of visibility and control over SaaS connectivity over the internet. By doing so, it enables IT to provide users with consistent performance for cloud and enterprise applications and helps the enterprise move to a more cost-effective network strategy that includes using the internet more securely and efficiently for business use.

WAN intelligence

Unity is the first solution to combine advanced WAN routing and Cloud Intelligence to constantly monitor for internet weather and strategically route and optimise network traffic over the optimal path. With Unity, IT can also effectively monitor services and gain better insight into where performance is being impacted by network conditions. With the Cloud Intelligence technology, users can obtain information about cloud services to Silver Peak software instances, creating an internet weather map for intelligent routing decisions. Additionally, Unity deploys Advance Exterior WAN Routing technology, which identifies closest egress points to cloud data centres and directs traffic to a cloud service over an optimal path. Advance Interior WAN Routing selects the fastest, least-congested path for traffic by monitoring for packet loss, latency and bandwidth in real-time.

Unity essentially enables users to control network usage and prioritise business critical applications with traffic shaping. Data transfers and backups are done over a secure connectivity with accelerated end-to-end encryption across various SaaS and IaaS providers, while optimising service delivery with data reduction and path conditioning.

Building out the WAN

Silver Peak's WAN optimisation technology can be used to build the Unity intelligent WAN fabric and optimise every SaaS application. Virtual WAN optimisation has already proven to be a critical requirement for moving more data over longer distances, and in less time. It is a fast and cost effective way to overcome the bandwidth, distance and quality challenges

that hinder data mobility performance for disaster recovery and access localised resources across multiple data centres, including cloud and MSP environments.

Why nominee should win

- Cloud Intelligence – Silver Peak Unity is the first solution to combine advanced WAN routing and Cloud Intelligence to constantly monitor for internet weather and strategically route and optimise network traffic over the optimal path
- SaaS optimisation – Silver Peak Unity optimises every SaaS application, including Office 365 and Salesforce.com with one fee per enterprise. In addition, new applications are constantly being added
- Global Visibility – this is provided by Silver Peak's web-based GMS provides centralised orchestration of WAN deployments