

Big Switch Networks Pushes OpenFlow Adoption

Written by Marco Attard
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Big Switch Networks bids for further OpenFlow software-defined networking (SDN) adoption with the Switch Light-- an open source-based "thin" virtual switch for servers and commodity switches.



Switch Light is a software switch customers can deploy on server hypervisors and silicon-based physical switching platforms (aka white box switches). Designed as an alternative to proprietary, vendor-unique architectures, the Switch Light uses the OpenFlow SDN API and protocol to lower both capital (by providing choice in networking hardware) and operational (through an automated and centralised common provisioning and management model tying together physical and virtual networks) costs.

A separate OpenFlow controller enables the management and provisioning model, with the Switch Light performing management agent duties.

It is based on Indigo Project-- the open source sub-project within Project Floodlight, the community developing the Floodlight open source SDN controller, the Indigo OpenFlow agent and a number of open source applications and utilities.

Initially Switch Light runs on Broadcom Trident+ and Trident 2-based switches, and Linux-based hypervisors, although Big Switch says it will be ported to other data plane devices in the future.

Big Switch is available free (complete with technical service and support) to Big Switch Network Controller, Big Virtual Switch or Big Tap SDN customers.

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