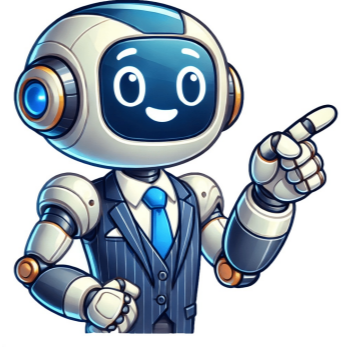


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about how those functions perform and behave at runtime). It is also the case that these software-based implementations evolved in a way that was optimized for Network Virtualization, as opposed pursuing the general-purpose, use-case agnostic approach embodied in the SDN software stack introduced in Chapter 3. None of this should come as a surprise. SDN has always been an approach to building and operating networks, applied to isolated domains where it provides value. There is no requirement of universality. (See the Domain of Control sidebar in Chapter 1.) Datacenter underlays, as exemplified by leaf-spine switching fabrics, are one such domain. Virtual networking overlays are another such domain. Both are even deployed simultaneously in the same datacenters, without either being aware that the other exists. Going forward, it will be interesting to see how many mechanisms these two domains come to share (e.g., a common Network OS, a common language for writing forwarding functions, a common toolchain to generate the control interface). It will also be interesting to see if the line separating the two domains begins to blur, which will happen as soon as an overlay-aware underlay / underlay-aware overlay is shown to provide value. © Copyright 2022, Systems Approach LLC (Publisher). Built with Sphinx using a theme provided by Read the Docs.