WHAT'S INSIDE

ACCENTURE CLOUD FIRST USES ITRINEGY'S NE-ONE NETWORK EMULATOR FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION EVALUATIONS

Accenture Cloud First helps clients across all industries rapidly become "cloud first" businesses and accelerate their digital transformation to realize greater value at speed and scale. More than 100,000 Accenture cloud professionals help clients shape, move, build and operate their businesses in the cloud and realize the cloud's business value, speed, cost, talent and innovation benefits.

Accenture does not sell its own cloud solutions but works in an advisory capacity to help its clients select the cloud service most appropriate to their particular requirements. Recognizing that when making technology purchasing decisions that directly impact the business, clients seek reassurance that they are buying the right product, Accenture Italy utilize iTrinegy's NE-ONE to create test environments that realistically reflect the customer's intended network set-up in order to deliver realistic proof-of-concepts.

THE REQUIREMENT

Accenture Italy's Network Manager explains, "Our Network Practice has the purpose of supporting the cloud strategies of our clients. We focus around Software-Defined networking technologies, from SD-WAN to Software-Defined Data Center, Local Area Network to WiFi, as well as covering security and performance monitoring to support our clients. Our first step is in an advisory role, helping the client select technologies that will potentially work best for their business. To enable them see for themselves, before actually making any investment, the potential benefits of the different proposed offerings, we introduce the NE-ONE into their network environment to create a range of network conditions that will show how their applications react to them. The client can then make an informed decision about which vendor's offering is right for them."

The NE-ONE is taken out to client sites to conduct realisitc proof-of-concept testing

The NE-ONE network emulator used by Accenture is a small, portable desktop appliance which can be taken to client sites and used to create software-defined test networks in which application performance can measured in order to understand the impact of network characteristics such as latency, jitter and packet loss. It can re-create a wide range of networks including WAN, Internet, Mobile, ADSL and Satellite. The Accenture Network Manager became aware of the NE-ONE through a colleague who visited the iTrinegy stand at the VMWorld Europe Conference.

THE SOLUTION

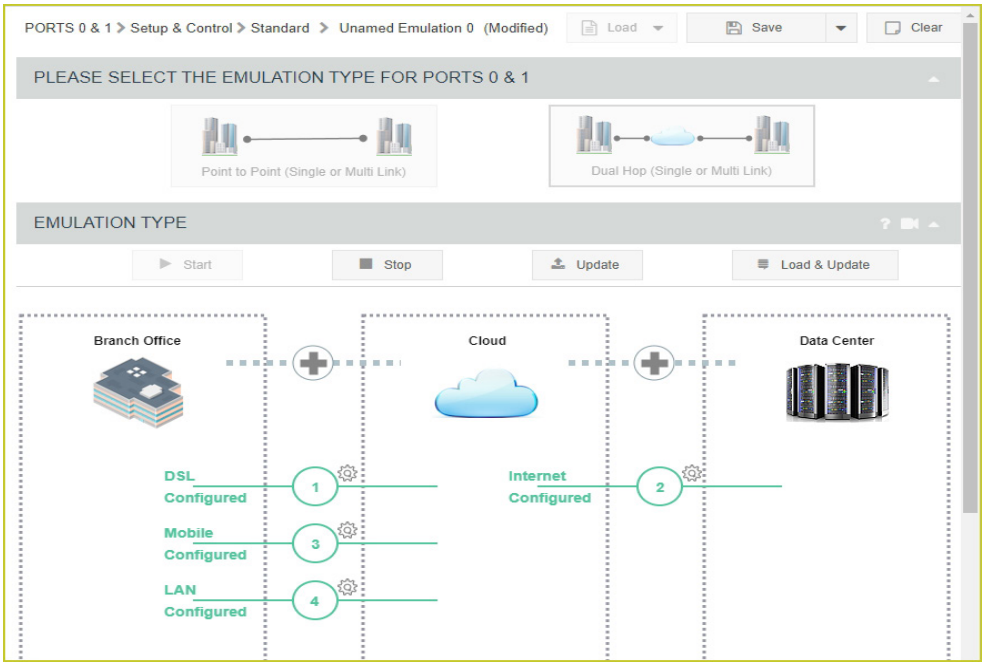
Prior to this, the Accenture Network Manager was familiar with network emulation technology as it was used within Accenture's Innovation Centre where open-source emulators, which needed to be installed onto server hardware, were used to simulate MPLS and Internet connections. However, these open-source products were far from easy to use which prompted the search for a reliable, easy-to-use alternative. "As we are going out to customer sites, we need a small professionally developed portable appliance that allows us to adopt a 'more plug & play approach', quickly setting up the required test environment and the NE-ONE meets this need. It is proving very beneficial as it enables us to conduct our proof-of-concept tests very quickly at the customer site. We can implement our tests and report the results rapidly, helping the client determine the best solution for their environment."

In the majority of cases, the clients the Accenture team help with cloud provider selection are Italian organizations in the manufacturing and retail sectors but some of these are global enterprises.

USE CASE EXAMPLES

Ways in which NE-ONE has been used included showing one customer the difference between a network with SD-WAN and a network without SD-WAN. Latency, jitter and packet loss were introduced into the network and tests performed for FTP and SMB (Server Message Block) file transfers, first on the network without SD-WAN and then on the network with SD-WAN implemented. The download speeds of the file transfers were compared to show the difference in terms of the end-user experience helping to demonstrate the potential benefits of deploying SD-WAN.

On other occasions, the NE-ONE has been inserted into the customer's network environment which comprises Internet, MPLS and LTE connections. The SD-WAN was placed on one side of the emulator and the MPLS router situated on the other side. Increasing levels of latency and packet loss were then added to the connection to influence the delivery of FTP and SMB file transfers and a VoIP application to observe how the SD-WAN solution responded to these changes.



The NE-ONE creates realistic Cloud and SD-WAN test networks so that Accenture's clients can conduct evaluations of different vendor offerings

CLOUD DEPLOYMENTS

Looking forward, while much of the current consultancy work involving use of the NE-ONE is focused on SD-WAN implementation projects, with increasing numbers of organizations moving applications out to Cloud platforms such as AWS, Azure and Google, Accenture believes that it will also have a role to play in helping clients who are considering this step. "Being able to analyze, predict and address networked application performance issues before deploying over potentially challenging network environments will help our clients manage their digital transformations and to reduce deployment costs and risk, mitigate remediation expenses and at the same time improve quality."

BENEFITS OF THE NE-ONE

When asked about use of the NE-ONE and the business benefits it provides Accenture, the response was, "The NE-ONE is very easy to use for what we need to do, just plug into the ports, start the emulation and modify the parameters. When we use the NE-ONE to compare different solutions, we do not have a direct business benefit as Accenture is not a product vendor. However, it does demonstrate to the customer that we have the right tools and the ability to analyze, in detail, the difference between solutions in the market which gives clients confidence that our recommendations are based on strong empirical evidence which they appreciate."

Desktop Appliance

Half-Rack Appliance

Virtual Appliance

vmware READY APPLICATION SOFTWARE

openstack. COMPATIBLE

The iTrinegy NE-ONE Network Emulator referenced in this case study is available on a variety of different platforms

www.itrinegy.com • T: (USA): +1 888 448 4366 • T: (UK): +44 (0)1799 252 200 • E: info@itrinegy.com

Copyright © iTrinegy 2021