TechTalk

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How Modi Takes His 'Digital India' Vision To Silicon Valley

Top CEOs of global IT companies have endorsed India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious 'Digital India' program, describing it as a vision that would bring India technologically at par with the rest of the world. At his recent visit with top tech executives in the Silicon Valley, Narendra Modi said, "'Digital India' is an enterprise to transform India in a scale unmatched anywhere in the world and it has the potential to make development truly inclusive."

The first Indian Prime Minister to visit Silicon Valley in more than three decades, Modi his government wants paperless transactions. "We would set up digital locker for every citizen to share documents across department. After MyGov.in, we have just launched the Narendra Modi Mobile App. They are helping me stay in close touch with people. I want our 1.25 billion citizens to be digitally connected," PTI reports the PM's speech addressing the massive crowd and the tech titans in the US.

"India will play a big part in driving technology forward in the future," said Google CEO Sunder Pichai. He applauded PM Narendra Modi for accelerating India's effort to become the next global hot bed of innovation and entrepreneurship. Driving technology forward would really improve people's lives in India and all around the world, Pichai said.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said his company will take low-cost broadband technology to some five lakh villages across the country. Nadella said Microsoft's plan is to partner with the Indian government to bring in low-cost broadband connectivity to 500,000 villages in India. "We believe that low-cost broadband connectivity coupled with the scale of cloud computing intelligence that can be harnessed from data can help drive creativity, efficiency and productivity across governments and businesses of all sizes," he said.

"From large corporates to young professionals in this great center of innovation, each can be part of India story. Building upon that vision, we conceive of Digital India, to fundamentally transform the way our nation will work," he said.

Following Apple, Google Is Also Planning To Release Its Microsoft Surface Clone

Just few backs, Apple announced their Surface Pro 3 clone called iPad Pro. Now there is a report that even Google is planning to release a Surface clone soon. This upcoming Google device will be called Pixel C and it will run on Android.

It will come with a 10.2-inch display with 308ppi, NVIDIA X1 quad-core processor, 3GB of LPDDR4 RAM. Users will have two keyboard accessories to choose from, one made of aluminum and another one from leather. Both attach to the tablet and charge automatically when closed just like Surface Type covers.

While Google and Apple are following Microsoft's steps in convertible device world, Microsoft is going to reveal their next generation Surface devices at Oct-6th press event.

The Future is Now

Spaceflight Wants to Send Satellites up to Space with Elon Musk's SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket

Spaceflight Industries is attempting to reinvent the ways that we send satellites up into space. The key ingredients to it all? A SpaceX Falcon 9 reusable rocket that the company has recently purchased and a satellite ridesharing initiative that the company has coined the 2017 Sun Synch Express mission.

Based in Seattle, Wash., Spaceflight's goals are to make the process of launching satellites more cost-effective and accessible, and according to a press release issued by the company, that's exactly what the SpaceX rocket is meant to do. Curt Blake, Spaceflight's launch sector president, is confident about their buy:

"By purchasing and manifesting the entire SpaceX rocket, Spaceflight is well-positioned to meet the small sat industry's growing demand for routine, reliable access to space. Our purchase of a private rocket further continues our mission of providing a customer-focused, full-service launch experience."

The rocket itself is produced by – you guessed it – SpaceX, which is owned by business magnate and engineer Elon Musk. Because the rocket is a "two-stage," it can both deliver and return its cargo, making it perfect for ridesharing possibilities. The Falcon 9 can purportedly also launch humans up into space, which was also one of the major intents of its design.

Like Spaceflight, SpaceX is also pleased with the business deal. "Dedicated missions for Rideshare-class payloads are an excellent way to promote space enterprise and research," said Gwynne Shotwell, SpaceX president and COO. "We are pleased that Spaceflight has successfully brought this multifaceted partnership together."

As its name suggests, Spaceflight's 2017 Sun Synch Express program will begin in the second half of 2017. The company says the manifest is nearly full, with more than 20 satellites scheduled to be deployed in a low-Earth orbit during the mission, ranging from commercial customers to scientific research originating from six countries.

Mysterious Company Offers Mobile Private Islands: Perfect for Supervillains

Mysterious Austria-based Company Migaloo Private Submersible Yachts is offering customers a man-made mobile private island that features a penthouse, a jungle deck complete with waterfalls and an outdoor dining area. Migaloo also has a few other designs for private submersible yachts, but it is the design for the mobile private island, named Kokomo Ailand, that stands out from all the rest.

The penthouse of Kokomo Ailand, accessible through an 80-meter (close to 263 feet) elevator, will provide people with a 360-degree view around the mobile private island. Around the complex will be different amenities that would be expected of a sea-based getaway, including a gym, spa, pool, beauty salon and bar. The island will also be dressed with palm trees and vertical gardens.

Migaloo insists that Kokomo Ailand could be built within the near future, and based on the technology that the company has available, the mobile private island can also be used for commercial purposes such as a casino, hotel or company headquarters.

If Kokomo Ailand would be used for such commercial applications, Migaloo said that living quarters for the crew are also available, along with a helipad to provide access to customers. According to Migaloo managing director Christian Gumpold, the response to the project has been amazing, with the company already in negotiations with several possible clients.

Gumpold said that while the initial concept of Kokomo Ailand's design to show the company's ideas took some months, the actual design of client-ordered mobile private islands will take much longer as it will be a more intensive process to include all the wishes of customers.

The specifications of Kokomo Ailand seem like it is straight out of a movie, with the supervillain using the mobile private island as his hideout. Kokomo Ailand is almost 385 feet in length, with other features of the mobile private island being a shark-feeding station and a "massive storage for tender and toys," according to its description on Migaloo's website. What the storage would hold would depend on who buys one of these islands, of course, but that space sounds like it is perfect for something like a death ray.

Migaloo has not yet sold any private floating islands.

Technology Focus

8 Database Consolidation Strategy Tips for DBAs

Database sprawl costs money and not just in software licenses. It costs money in maintenance and hardware, and also hits businesses indirectly by impacting the performance of other applications. Through database consolidation, enterprises can cut the number of physical database servers they have to administer and reduce demand for servers and storage. Consolidation can also offer increased operational efficiency. With the case for consolidation this strong, the next step for enterprises is deciding how best to go about it. A list of tips for your organization before you embark on a consolidation project.

Failing to Plan Is Planning to Fail

Forrester reported that about 30 percent of database consolidation projects fail because of poor planning. There should be goals in mind on exactly what you are trying to accomplish and metrics to track those goals, such as reducing the number of databases, database management systems and servers.

Thinking Outside the Box

Forrester analyst Noel Yuhanna said enterprises should look beyond a single large SMP server for consolidation. Virtualization through server clustering and cloud computing is a good platform for consolidation. "After all, consolidation projects are all about re-using the infrastructure to its maximum potential. Private or public cloud[s] offer an on-demand infrastructure which makes it not only cost-effective, but also availability of additional resources to support any unforeseen increase in workload or data growth," he said.

Standardization Is Key

Standardization is an important element of any consolidation project, and reduces operational costs and business risk. Standardization should be defined in concert with a strategy of tiered service levels.

Application Decommissioning

'An application decommissioning initiative should be conducted alongside the database consolidation initiative,' said Burton Group analyst Marcus Collins. "Applications are sticky, they are far easier to create than to decommission; this drives up operational complexity, business risk and cost. The cheapest and most straightforward consolidation approach is decommissioning," he said.

Test Applications before Consolidation

"Many companies reported they ran into application- and data-related issues when they consolidated databases to a fewer number of servers, only to later realize that some clients could not connect without manual changes on their desktop, batch processes failed [and] application response time became worse than before. All applications should be tested, especially the critical ones to ensure that there is no impact on its functionality, performance, availability, integration and security," Forrester's Yuhanna said. "Do a parallel run with the new platform to ensure there are no unknown issues."

Database Consolidation Is an Ongoing Process

Because it is driven by hardware refreshes and the evolving nature of businesses—which enter new markets and buy other companies—database consolidation is a continuous process, said Burton Group's Collins. "The supporting processes [e.g., application portfolio management and technology refresh] should be an integral part of the IT processes."

Understand the Database Landscape

Businesses should develop a comprehensive application portfolio that details the relationship between database, application and business processes and the service level required by businesses process; the relationship between databases and the supporting hardware as well as internal database structures, version and feature usage. Businesses should also have current and historical workload and usage statistics and forward-looking, capacity-planning data, Collins said.

Licensed to Drive

Organizations should pay attention to special licensing terms with virtualized database servers. "We've seen many customers make mistakes in their licensing calculation for running Oracle on a virtual platform," said Pythian CTO Alex Gorbachev. "It often comes as a surprise that licensing rules make clients pay for the whole physical hardware rather than the small subset allocated to a virtual machine that is running database software. Know your platform and licensing schemes."

Galaxy's experts can guide you through the database consolidation phase and optimize your licenses so that you can save up to 50% on underutilization of licenses. Call or write to us for more information on these services.

Tech News

Salesforce Thunder, Lightning, and Wave Show New App Economy at Work

At Dreamforce 2015, Salesforce.com's Adam Gross and Stephanie Buscemi discuss the internet of things app economy and action-orientated business intelligence apps.

Salesforce's Internet of Things Cloud service and an upgrade to its Wave Analytics service are significant developments because they take part in a broader trend of action-orientated apps, according to two of its leading spokespeople. Chief operating officer Adam Gross runs the supplier's platform as a service, Heroku. He was the co-founder and CEO of Cloudconnect.com, which was acquired by Salesforce in 2013.

At Salesforce's 2015 Dreamforce event in San Francisco, Gross explained the import of Salesforce's most recent technical developments with respect to the trend, exemplified by car ride hiring company Uber, of "refashioning the customer experience" through apps that are event driven – pushed out rather than pulled.

He invoked a near-future scenario of checking into a hotel, whereby rather than having to check in at a desk, a beacon will detect your arrival and send a digital key to your smartphone. You won't have to telephone for room service. Instead you'll press an app button, and food will be delivered within 15 minutes from the hotel or, more likely, its environs.

The technology to make this sort of customer interaction work takes the form, in Salesforce's world, of Thunder and Lightning. Thunder is, according to Gross, the underlying real-time event processing engine behind Lightning, which is an app development console used by business professionals among the supplier's customers.

IBM Expands Cloud Business Solutions in India

IBM announced plans to globally expand its business solutions capabilities with new, cloud-based Industry Platforms to simplify and accelerate clients' digital transformation journeys. IBM's portfolio of Cloud Industry Platforms and Solutions deliver fast, simplified access to services that allow clients to exploit the opportunities of cloud and big data, and make their transformations with the assurance of predictable outcomes. As part of this initiative, IBM announced the opening of the first state-of-the-art IBM Cloud Business Innovation Center in Bangalore. Cloud Business Innovation Centers provide an opportunity for clients around the world to work side-by-side with IBM solution consultants, researchers, digital marketing, and experience design experts to personalize the Industry Platforms to their specific needs.

In 2014, IBM Global Business Services launched a portfolio of Cloud Business Solutions that package multiple technology and services components into a single client agreement and delivers end-to-end solutions "as a service". The initial offerings addressed business functions in the areas of sales, marketing, financial management and operations and included consulting services, intellectual property assets from IBM Research, software, advanced analytics, ongoing support and cloud infrastructure delivered via IBM Softlayer. Today, Cloud Business Solutions have been applied in more than 500 client engagements.

Building on this portfolio, IBM is announcing Industry Platforms that will combine multiple Cloud Business Solutions with deeper industry content for expanded business benefits and faster time to value. Each Industry Platform offers clients access to a set of standard assets that can be quickly tailored to deliver a differentiated business solution.

India Replaces China as Next Big Frontier for U.S. Tech Companies

American technology companies desperately want to win over people like Rakesh Padachuri and his family.

Mr. Padachuri, who runs a construction business in this city, the center of India's technology industry, uses his smartphone to reserve movie seats through BookMyShow and to order pizzas from Domino's. His wife, Vasavi, orders clothes from Myntra and Amazon.com, and downloads videos and games from YouTube and the Google Play store to entertain their 4-year-old daughter. His sister-in-law, Sonika, enjoys posting selfies on Facebook and follows the YouTube musings of Lilly Singh, an Indo-Canadian comedian. They all stay in touch via a group chat they have set up on WhatsApp, a free messaging service owned by Facebook. "There's no need to call each other," Mr. Padachuri said last month during an interview at his home, which is next to a Best Western hotel. There's barely a need to leave the house — groceries, a birthday cake, even a hairdresser can be summoned via an app.

The Padachuri family's love of technology helps explain why India and its 1.25 billion residents have become the hottest growth opportunity — the new China — for American Internet companies. Blocked from China itself or frustrated by the onerous demands of its government, companies like Facebook, Google and Twitter, as well as start-ups and investors, see India as the next best thing. "They are looking at India, and they are thinking, 'Five years ago, it was China, and I probably missed the boat there. Now I have a chance to actually do this,'" said Punit Soni, a former Google executive who was lured back to India recently to become the chief product officer of Flipkart, a Bangalore e-commerce start-up similar to Amazon.

The increasing appeal of India, now the world's fastest growing major economy, was underscored in recent days.

During a meeting in Seattle on Wednesday with American technology executives, China's president, Xi Jinping, was unwavering on his government's tough Internet policies. India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on the other hand, was on a charm offensive during his own American tour.

Tech News

India Withdraws Draft National Encryption Policy after Outrage

Life moves fast in the social media era. In the space of 48 hours, India managed to float a draft of something as geeky as an encryption policy, trigger national outrage, exempt social media from it, and finally withdraw it.

Two days after the policy draft was floated, it was withdrawn. It had been released for public feedback "without my knowledge," said IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

What was this draft National Encryption Policy (NEP)?

Encryption technology is used to encode messages, making them secure so that only authorized people can read them. On the face of it, the NEP was a plan to define common minimum standards for encryption. Nice idea for security of all communications, no? But wait, government agencies would be exempt from all this. Suspicious. Until it became clear that the policy did its best to ensure a decrease in the security of communications for individuals and organizations in India. It got worse. Before you use an encryption product, said the NEP, it must be registered with 'the competent authority'. You can only use encryption approved by the government, and, presumably, familiar to and crack able by government agencies.

That isn't what caused the public outrage, though. WhatsApp and Facebook did that.

Send a text message on WhatsApp or Facebook or BBM messengers, and you'd be required by law to save a plain text copy for 90 days.

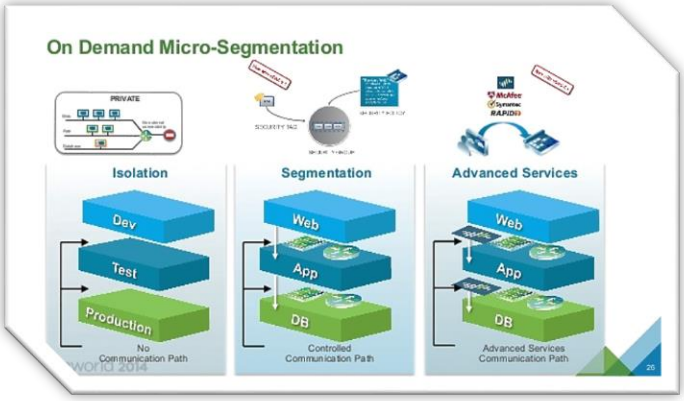
Actually, the NEP plan was sweeping, covering all encrypted messages. All emails, including Gmail. All messages on any messenger except SMS. Everything is encrypted these days. On demand by Indian law enforcement or a government agency, you would need to submit a copy of any encrypted message sent in the past three months. Yes, that was the plan according to the NEP, whose draft was released for public comment on September 20, with a month given for feedback. It's rare for something as geeky as encryption to become a subject of national outrage in India within a day, but that's what happened in India. The draft triggered fury, and fiery debates.

That was up to 22nd Sept. morning. By afternoon, the NEP draft was reportedly withdrawn.

Special Focus

What is NSX Micro-Segmentation?

VMware's NSX network virtualization offering can add another layer of protection by isolating various elements in the vSphere infrastructure.



In basic networking, segmentation splits a physical network into logical sub-networks -- or subnets. Segmentation improves performance by minimizing the number of host systems on each subnet to reduce traffic congestion. It also improves security by limiting the reach of broadcast traffic and hiding the internal network structure, as well as mitigating network failures by containing effects within the subnet.

VMware's NSX offering carries these basic capabilities into network virtualization, citing benefits like isolation, segmentation and security. Isolation serves the same purpose in virtual networks that it does in virtual machines (VMs) -- it prevents communication across unrelated entities, yet requires no changes to the existing network architecture.

Segmentation works to direct and control communication within the virtual network right down to the individual physical NIC. Administrators can use NSX to establish a security perimeter around particular workloads or network segments to add east-west firewall functionality in the data center. This granular control has spawned the term "micro-segmentation." NSX micro-segmentation only works in environments that run on vSphere.

Security provides a distributed firewall and policies that follow VMs as they are deployed and moved. Third-party security products such as malware scanners and intrusion prevention tools also integrate with NSX to supply more comprehensive services.

Policies play a large role in network virtualization segmentation and security because policies follow business workflows allowing substantial automation for the enterprise. It's more than using IP addresses. Policies make use of VM names, virtual network identifiers, operating system information and other details to make better provisioning decisions and mitigate errors.

Network virtualization platforms such as NSX also support containers running on VMs. This approach combines the dynamic scalability of containers -- such as Docker and others -- with the isolation and mobility benefits of common VMs. For enterprises that need to isolate particular resources but retain some flexibility for various business goals, the NSX micro-segmentation feature is worth exploring.

About Galaxy

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- The Galaxy Technology Innovation Centre, a state-of-the-art integrated hardware and software laboratory, allows customers a hands-on look at the latest storage, backup, security, application delivery and virtualization technologies.
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MD Speaks

"This month has seen a lot of activity in the digital space. More so in terms of promises and pledges from the likes of Google, Apple and Microsoft when our Prime Minister had visited them on his recent tour to the Silicon Valley. Assuming that the pledged investments will come in soon, there will be a lot of activity and requirements in the space of building & extending IT Infrastructure to rural India. Also, with the renewed thrust on start-ups and Make in India, the time is ripe for the next wave of technology companies to emerge from India. We at Galaxy, are excited and looking forward to assist such companies with all their IT Infrastructure, consulting & software requirements in order to enable them to compete on the global platform."