Frequently Asked Questions

HP OpenDaylight Platinum Membership

May 12, 2014

**Q: What is being announced?**

**A:** HP is announcing that it is stepping up its commitment to the OpenDaylight project, and will become a ‘Platinum’ member, the highest level of membership.

**Q: What is the OpenDaylight Project?**

**A:** The OpenDaylight project is a collaborative open source project that aims to accelerate adoption of Software-Defined Networking (SDN) and create a solid foundation for Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) for a more transparent approach that fosters new innovation and reduces risk.

**Q: What has HP's participation in OpenDaylight been to date?**

**A:** HP is a founding member of OpenDaylight. It has been a silver member since the project's inception, and was instrumental in its founding, legal and organizational setup, and the creation of its technical governance model. HP representatives from ATG, Legal and R&D have been engaged with, and contributed to the OpenDaylight project and community from the onset of the industry's decision to create an open source project to cater to SDN.

**Q: What is HP's position on Open Source, with respect to Networking?**

**A:** The networking market is rapidly evolving, and HP has been at the forefront of the change towards increasing openness, standardization and interoperability. HP has a proven ability to drive, adopt, productize, and plug-in to open source, as evidenced by our leadership in Linux, OpenStack and various other open source projects. We believe openness speeds up the innovation.

**Q: Why is HP increasing its commitment to OpenDaylight?**

**A:** OpenDaylight’s collaborative approach to solving common problems in the SDN and NFV space paves the way for interoperability between vendors, and the emergence of an SDN ecosystem that gives users flexibility with their networks. As the leading provider of SDN infrastructure, controllers and applications, HP is increasing its commitment to OpenDaylight in support of community and customer demands to help accelerate the transition from single vendor solutions to open SDN and NFV architectures.

**Q: What is HP’s SDN strategy?**

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A: The HP Software-defined Networking (SDN) provides an end-to-end solution to automate the network from data center to campus and branch. HP SDN solution strategy is to align the network to business objectives for customers who are looking for increased network agility, lower costs and higher performance, with easy migration and no single vendor lock-in. Expanding the innovations with SDN, HP SDN Open Ecosystem was created that includes HP SDN Developer Kit (SDK), SDN App Store, and VAN SDN Controller delivering the resources to develop and creating a market place for SDN applications.

Q: Is HP’s increasing commitment to OpenDaylight affects HP’s SDN strategy?

A: This event does not reflect a change in HP’s SDN strategy. HP SDN solution strategy is to align the network to business objectives for customers who are looking for increased network agility, lower costs and higher performance, with easy migration and no single vendor lock-in. So not only this new commitment to OpenDaylight does not change our strategy but also it affirms our position and commitment to open source and open standards.

Q: What impact does this announcement have on the HP VAN SDN Controller?

A: There is no impact to the product known as HP VAN SDN Controller. HP will continue to enrich the HP VAN SDN Controller with better capabilities to make it the industry’s leading platform for SDN application. As part of our OpenDaylight investment, we will bring the best of OpenDaylight innovations, interfaces and practices from the SDN community to the VAN SDN Controller.

Q: Will there be multiple controller products from HP VAN SDN and OpenDaylight?

A: HP intends to produce one controller that will deliver the best of HP’s innovation and value added features, compatibility and interoperability across the OpenDaylight landscape.

Q: How does OpenDaylight fit our HP open-source strategy?

A: HP’s vision for open networking can be traced back to its foundational work advancing and implementing the Openflow standard. Since that time, we have been leading the charge on open, standards based, and interoperable solutions for customers. HP’s leadership in Openstack, where it is one of the largest committers, is a prime example of our commitment to open solutions and open communities of developers and users. OpenDaylight promises to herald a new era in openness for SDN and NFV, and HP is proud to take a leadership position to make that promise a reality.

Q: Is OpenDaylight competitive to any HP products or solutions?

A: OpenDaylight is an open source software project and is not production ready in its open source instantiation. Member companies take the open source components and build products around them. Hence OpenDaylight is an enabler of SDN controller frameworks and is not a competitive product or solution in its own right.

Q: I keep hearing that ‘OpenDaylight is not production ready’. Why, then, is HP committing to OpenDaylight?

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**A:** OpenDaylight is a young open source project that has had just one release thus far. It is correct to classify it as a ‘not production ready’ product when referring to the open source version, which has not seen any formal QA or performance tuning. However, it is important to note that no one expects the open source version of OpenDaylight to run in production. It will likely be used in lab trials, and proof of concepts. The expectation is that vendors will productize solutions built using the OpenDaylight framework and provide the necessary value added features and performance required for enterprise or carrier grade solutions.

**Q:** How will HP be successful using OpenDaylight?

**A:** Networking has always required substantial deep skill sets, interoperability testing and productization work which has tended to separate top tier vendors from the bottom. As the clear #2 vendor with the strategy of simplification through open standards, convergence, virtualization and automation, HP is uniquely positioned to make collaboration with OpenDaylight a success.

**Q:** Why is HP now aligning with OpenDaylight after creating its own distinct controller?

**A:** HP’s investment in SDN solutions including the VAN SDN Controller predates the OpenDaylight project. Given how new the effort was at launch, it did not make sense for HP to delay introduction of its own products to the market in light of customer demand. As OpenDaylight’s acceptance has grown in the community and customer base, we determined that this is the right time to propagate our standards based, open approach into the OpenDaylight community. This is a two way effort, where HP will contribute in key areas to the open source effort, and will also in turn benefit from some of the projects and solutions that the larger community is developing.

**Q:** What is the relationship between OpenDaylight and the ONF NorthBound Interfaces Working Group?

**A:** The NorthBound Interfaces Group in ONF (Chaired by Sarwar Raza of HP) is working closely with the OpenDaylight community to ensure that the standards track for SDN Application NBIs being developed by ONF are adopted by OpenDaylight. There is a large common group of contributing members and companies in both projects, and we hope to make great progress in the second half of 2014.

**Q:** What is the relationship between OpenDaylight and Openstack?

**A:** OpenDaylight interfaces with Openstack using the Neutron networking framework. There is a strong and growing overlap of companies and individual contributors working on both Openstack Neutron and OpenDaylight. In addition to this, OpenDaylight, by virtue of being a liberally licensed open source project, is becoming the de-facto SDN controller for Openstack test environments, and several companies are productizing full stack solutions for Openstack that include an SDN controller powered by OpenDaylight.

**Q:** I have written or ported an app to the HP VAN SDN controller. How much of this code will be usable in a potential future HP VAN SDN Controller?

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A: HP is committed to working with its application partners to ensure smooth migration, if required, to any new APIs resulting from our increased participation in OpenDaylight. We believe that the move towards an industry common API is beneficial to our ecosystem partners. HP also fully intends to maintain the unique differentiation provided by the HP VAN SDN controller. In doing this we expect that the bulk of the application integration work you’ve done should be portable to the future unified solution.

Q: Will the HP SDN AppStore host applications designed for both OpenDaylight and HP VAN SDN controller?

A: We intend to open up our SDN App store to the OpenDaylight community at some point in the future.

Q: What code contributions do we plan on making?

A: HP will work with the community to determine contribution areas where our experience and capabilities can advance the state of the art for SDN controllers and applications. We are committed to the emergence of an industry common north bound interface for SDN application developers, and we believe strongly in support for open, standards based protocols that interface with network devices.

Q: H3C is listed separately as a Silver member of OpenDaylight. Does H3C participate under the HP brand, or are they working independently?

A: HP Networking uses the H3C brand in China, where we have #1 market share across every segment of the networking market. As such, it is important for H3C to project its brand strength into its important industry initiatives, such as OpenDaylight. Internally, our controller development at HP Networking is aligned around one platform, the VAN SDN Controller, and H3C and the SDN controller development team work closely on defining and producing unified solutions for our customers. This will continue with our OpenDaylight participation as well.

Q: Where can I find more information on OpenDaylight?

A: More information on OpenDaylight can be obtained at www.opendaylight.org

Q: Are there any HP contributions in OpenDaylight to date?

A: The OpenDaylight UI project, DLUX is led by an HP contributor. HP employees have also contributed to the OVSDB project, and HP has proposed a AAA service for the next release that has broad community support.

Q: What representation does HP have in the OpenDaylight organization?

A: HP has a seat on the Board of Directors of the OpenDaylight Organization, and a representative on the Technical Steering Committee of the Project.

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For additional information please visit: www.hp.com/go/sdn

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