Meru brings virtualisation to wireless LANs

A dedicated virtual WLAN for every client device provides wired switch reliability and lowers cost

Melbourne, December 17, 2008 – Wavelink has introduced new virtualisation techniques from WLAN vendor Meru Networks for Meru's enterprise wireless LAN products.

This new virtual port technology optimises radio frequency (RF) resources to raise WLAN performance and reliability to wireline levels, while reducing the cost of wireless networking to a fraction of its wired equivalent.

For the first time, every client device on a Meru WLAN will have its own dedicated virtual wireless network. Just as with dedicated ports on a wired switch, enterprise s gain control over the wireless resources allocated to each client, lowering both initial expenditures and ongoing management costs.

The increased control realised with virtual port technology is especially important as wireless becomes the primary edge technology for network connectivity in an increasing number of environments, and as new and more diverse wireless devices, based on the high - performance 802.11n Wi-Fi standard, proliferate throughout the enterprise.

"Virtualisation has brought dramatic cost savings, resource efficiencies and predictability to the server and storage worlds," said Jonathan Ordman, director, Wavelink.

"Now it is doing the same for wireless LANs – at a time when the increasing diversity of devices and applications in the enterprise makes cost-effective use of assets more critical than ever. When applied to the WLAN, the fine -grained control and effective resource - sharing of virtualisation lets each user device live within its own 'virtual world,' where performance and other policies can be customised to its specific needs."

Virtualisation - pooling and partitioning on the WLAN

Virtualisation technology has two chief components – pooling and partitioning. In 2003 Meru pioneered the concept of wireless "virtual cells," which e nable all wireless access points

(APs) in an organisation to share a common, pooled radio channel resource – a technique that removes the discontinuity of physical boundaries between access points, eliminating co - channel interference and disruptive "handoffs" as clients roam across the network.

With the introduction of virtual port technology, the common pooled resources of virtual cells can be partitioned into multiple virtual WLANs, with a unique WLAN for each user device; the dedicated virtual WLAN moves with the user as long as his device is connected to the wireless network.

As with wired switches, the network has full control over the resources and services allocated to a given device. Because the device is "sandboxed" in its own virtual WLAN, the user has a highly reliable wired-like experience, with full access to appropriate resources yet protected from disruptions by other users' network demands.

Availability

Virtual port technology is included in Meru's System Director 3.6 software, which is av ailable now from Wavelink.

About Wavelink

Wavelink Communications (www.wavelink.com.au) specialises in the supply, marketing and support of leading edge IP telephony and wireless solutions. Wavelink distributes a range of products from Polycom, Digium and Meru Networks.

About Meru Networks

Meru Networks develops and markets wireless infrastructure solutions that enable the All - Wireless Enterprise. Its industry-leading innovations deliver pervasive, wireless service fidelity for business-critical applications to major Fortune 500 enterprises, universities, healthcare organizations and local, state and federal government agencies. Meru's award - winning Air Traffic Control technology brings the benefits of the cellular world to the wireless LAN environment, and its WLAN System is the only solution on the market that delivers predictable bandwidth and over-the-air quality of service with the reliability, scalability and security necessary to deliver converged voice and da ta services over a single WLAN infrastructure. Founded in 2002, Meru is based in Sunnyvale, Calif. For more information, visit www.merunetworks.com.

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