

WSTA Seminar: Future Hot Technologies

Wall Street's IT trade association held a half day seminar on technology trends. We present the highlights.

By Alex Goldman, ISP-Planet Managing Editor, November 20, 2006

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Last week the Wall Street Tech Association held a seminar meeting in New York City's Warwick Hotel, Future Hot Technologies, covering areas that are important to business.

Nicholas Lippis, Lippis Enterprises

The first speaker, Nicholas Lippis of Lippis Enterprises, provided an overview of the issues. He said that we can expect more of Moore's Law and Metcalf's Law (sic.).

As users consume more applications, traffic patterns will become less predictable, but bandwidth prices will decline. For example, he said, one Wall Street firm has a 1 Gbps pipe connecting its offices in London and New York. "This enables the company to do things they could never do before. They can shadow data centers across the Atlantic," he claimed.

In a trend Lippis called "appliance consolidation", devices are performing more functions than before.

As more services become network services, the network must never go down, especially when voice is on the IP network. "The data center is now being deployed into the network. We're seeing server blades, redundancy being built into the edge."

Wall Street is paying attention because this trend is worth money on the market. Riverbed's IPO netted nearly a billion dollars earlier this year.

Lippis finished his speech with some predictions for 2010, including:

- Common Gbps links
- Over 50 percent of services to be accessed by mobile phones, as 300 million smartphones ship
- Every laptop to have a bundled smartphone (which will pose a challenge to the cellular telephone industry)
- Number of developers writing APIs, working in XML, javascript, etc., to increase
- The network will reduce human delay in business processes

Vinod Paul, Eze Castle Integration

Vinod Paul, managing director of Eze Castle Integration (ECI), has clearly been focusing on the company's new Business Continuity Service, launched earlier this month.

He said that his customers are finding that local events can cause problems and are more frequent than the disasters that make national headlines. "A fire in one building, an HVAC failure, or a local power failure is more likely than a national disaster. One of our clients was in a building where the installation of a new generator took out power for a day. They were able to fail over to their Boston office and use the out of office network until power was restored at the main site."

Another issue for customers is that backup data is portable, and tapes can get lost when they are being couriered from one location to another. Paul recommended encryption at every level.

ECI is a Network Appliance partner and uses NetApp products in its deployments. The company uses NetApp's Decru DataFort FC series to provide encryption, NearStore for backup hardware, and Symantec Veritas NetBackup for backup software.

DataFort allows servers to share keys, so that if the backup in New York is unavailable, the data can be retrieved from London with the same key.

Tom Rowland, Avaya

Tom Rowland, Senior Product Manager at Avaya had just returned from a symposium on Event Processing. He said that Communications-Enabled Business Processes (CEBP) will eliminate human latency and human error.

Essentially, the software has been fed the process, and prompts each person for their input when it is required. The process path must be flexible, but the rewards are great and varied, Rowland claimed.

Rewards include: knowing how your communications resources are used, tracking customer lead and retention, and responding to opportunities faster and with greater efficiency.