VAST Data/Cisco AI Collaboration

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CONTEXT

VAST Data and Cisco announced a new collaboration to deliver a robust, high-performance AI data infrastructure that integrates seamlessly with an Ethernet-based AI fabric designed to handle data at an exabyte scale. Each company brings specialized expertise to create a unified, high-performance AI data platform.

DETAILS OF THE COLLABORATION

The collaboration touches on a range of capabilities. Here's a look at each:

1. **VAST Data Platform Integration with Cisco Nexus HyperFabric:** VAST Data's platform, known for its unified storage, database, and data-driven function engine services optimized for AI, is now supported by Cisco Nexus HyperFabric. This integration makes the VAST Data Platform the first to be optimized and supported by Cisco's advanced networking solution, enabling enterprises to manage large volumes of data efficiently on an exabyte scale.

2. **End-to-End Visibility and Management:** The collaboration includes integrating the VAST Data Platform with Cisco's cloud-management solution for data center networking. This integration allows for the orchestration, deployment, and management of the entire stack, leveraging VAST APIs and pulling network and storage telemetry back to Cisco Nexus HyperFabric.

3. **Enhanced AI Data Centers with NVIDIA Technology:** The solution incorporates NVIDIA's accelerated computing technologies, including Tensor Core GPUs, BlueField-3 DPUs and SuperNICs, and NVIDIA AI Enterprise software. With Cisco networking and the VAST Data Platform, enterprises can build AI data centers with comprehensive visibility across compute, networking, storage, and data management.

4. **Disaggregated Shared Everything (DASE) Architecture:** VAST's DASE architecture, powered by NVIDIA BlueField DPUs, is a key component of this integrated solution. It supports the high-performance, low-latency requirements of AI workloads and enables efficient data sharing and management across the infrastructure.

5. **Impact on Ethernet Switching Market:** Cisco, VAST Data, and NVIDIA's combined solution leverages Ethernet networking technologies to meet the demands of modern AI/ML platforms.

6. **Simplified Enterprise AI Adoption:** Traditionally, enterprises have been cautious in adopting new technologies due to integration challenges. This collaboration simplifies AI implementation from proof of concept to production, making it easier for enterprises to adopt AI technologies. Customers' endorsement further emphasizes the practical benefits and value of this partnership.

7. **Certified Cisco Nexus Switches:** VAST Data has certified Cisco Nexus Ethernet-based switches with its platform, ensuring validated designs for seamless deployment.

8. **Innovative Network Management:** Cisco's private cloud-managed Nexus Dashboard offers advanced congestion management, real-time telemetry, and flow control algorithms. These features, combined with the integration of VAST Data Platform and Cisco Nexus 9000 Series Switches, deliver the necessary scale, speed, and efficiency to support AI applications, simplifying network management across all infrastructure endpoints.

ANALYSIS

By combining VAST Data's innovative AI data platform, Cisco's enterprise networking and security expertise, and NVIDIA's accelerated computing technologies, this partnership provides a robust, scalable, and efficient solution for managing and processing large volumes of data. Its integrated approach addresses the technical challenges of AI deployments and simplifies the adoption process for enterprises, paving the way for accelerated business innovation and enhanced AI capabilities.

The collaboration between VAST Data and Cisco, bolstered by NVIDIA's advanced technologies, is a nice evolution of AI infrastructure. The strategic partnership between the companies not only addresses the technical and

operational challenges of deploying AI at scale but also simplifies the adoption process for enterprises, driving innovation and efficiency across the board. As businesses increasingly turn to AI to fuel their growth and competitive edge, the combined capabilities of VAST Data and Cisco are ready to play a critical role in shaping the future of enterprise AI.

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