PlanetLab: A Blueprint for Introducing Disruptive Technique into the Internet

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Innovator's Dilemma

- The Internet is an enormous success story
 - commercially
 - impact on our daily lives
 - global reach
- Success has an unexpected cost: ossification
 - difficult to deploy disruptive technologies
 - correct vulnerabilities
 - introduce new capabilities



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Today's Internet

Best-Effort Packet Delivery Service

Limitations

- The Internet is "opaque"
 making it difficult to adapt to current network conditions
- Applications cannot be widely distributed (typically split into two pieces: client and server)

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Tomorrow's Internet

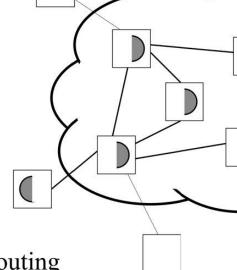
Collection of Planetary-Scale Services

Opportunities

- multiple vantage points
 - anomaly detection, robust routing
- proximity to data sources/sinks
 - content distribution, data fusion
- multiple, independent domains
 - survivable storage

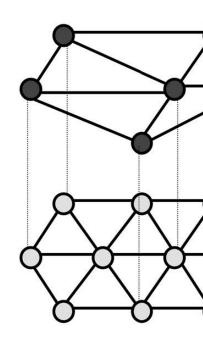
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Evolving the Internet

- Add a new layer to the network architecture
 - overlay networks
 - purpose-built virtual networks that use the existing Internet for transmission
 - the Internet was once deployed as an overlay on top of the telephony network



Challenge

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how to innovate & deploy at scale

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