The Logic Behind the Application Centric Infrastructure

The application centric infrastructure (ACI) is a network architecture that is designed to provide a consistent and automated way to provision and manage network resources. ACI is based on the principle of software defined networking (SDN),which allows network administrators to program the network using software instead of hardware. This makes it possible to create a more agile and responsive network that can be easily adapted to changing business needs.

There are many benefits to using an ACI, including:

- **Increased agility:** ACI can help organizations to be more agile by making it easier to provision and manage network resources. This can help organizations to respond more quickly to changing business needs and to take advantage of new opportunities.

- **Improved security:** ACI can help organizations to improve their security posture by providing a consistent and automated way to implement security policies. This can help to prevent unauthorized access to the network and to protect data from being compromised.

- **Reduced costs:** ACI can help organizations to reduce costs by automating many of the tasks that are traditionally performed by network administrators. This can free up network administrators to focus on more strategic initiatives.

ACI is a layered architecture that consists of the following components:

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- **Physical infrastructure:** The physical infrastructure includes the network devices, such as switches, routers, and firewalls.

- **Virtualization layer:** The virtualization layer is responsible for creating virtual networks and for assigning resources to those networks.

- **Policy layer:** The policy layer is responsible for defining and enforcing the policies that govern the network.

The ACI controller is the central component of the ACI architecture. The controller is responsible for managing the physical infrastructure, the virtualization layer, and the policy layer. The controller also provides a single point of management for the entire network.
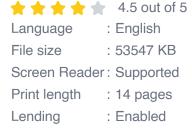
ACI is ideal for a variety of use cases, including:

- **Data center virtualization:** ACI can be used to virtualize the data center network, which can help to improve agility, security, and cost efficiency.

- **Cloud computing:** ACI can be used to provide a consistent and automated way to provision and manage network resources in the cloud.

- **Software defined WAN:** ACI can be used to create a software defined WAN (SD-WAN),which can help to improve connectivity and performance between branch offices and the data center.

The ACI is a powerful network architecture that can help organizations to achieve a number of benefits, including increased agility, improved security, and reduced costs. ACI is ideal for a variety of use cases, including data center virtualization, cloud computing, and software defined WAN.

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