

# Optimize Prime: The Self-Optimizing Application Delivery Network



Lori MacVittie, 2010-12-01

*Infrastructure 2.0 enabled application delivery platforms have more than a few things in common with the Transformers. Like Autobots, there's more to it than meets the eye.*



If you're familiar with the mythology of the Transformers – and perhaps even if you aren't – you know that the key attribute of Transformers is their ability to take on “alternate modes” such as cars, trucks, and winged vehicles simply by scanning the object and then adapting their own form to match.

One of the key premises of Infrastructure 2.0 is also the ability of network and application networking solutions to adapt to their environments. While they won't be transforming their physical manifestations into some other device they *can* transform their configurations based on the environment in which they are deployed. Like the Transformers ability to take on alternate modes, the ability to react in real-time is a native capability of

Infrastructure 2.0 solutions and should not be overlooked by those integrating Infrastructure 2.0 into their cloud-based architectures.

While everyone seems aware of the capability of Infrastructure 2.0 to be managed and integrated with the rest of a cloud-based ecosystem via a [standards-based control-plane API](#), there's more to infrastructure 2.0 than meets the eye, here. That same dynamic control plane can be used at run-time to transform configuration and policies to better match customer need for balancing of performance and cost across the application infrastructure. *That's* the transformative power of infrastructure 2.0, and what will certainly be core to the next generation of network management systems when trying to enforce SLAs across applications, data centers, and cloud computing environments, a.k.a. [cloud balancing](#).

Now I doubt that anytime in the future we'll hear [application delivery controllers](#) describe themselves as autonomous networking organisms from [<insert vendor city here>](#) still there are enough similarities between a self-optimizing application delivery network and a Transformer to run with the analogy – and as long as I have the opportunity to legitimately include a picture of Optimus Prime in my blog, well, I'm going to take it.

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