Virtual Application Networks enable a more agile model by eliminating unnecessary steps in virtualizing business environments. Time to virtual machine (VM) deployment is accelerated through the upfront definition of policies for virtual machine connectivity and provisioning automation, instead of defining connectivity using an iterative manual process. These consumable policies allow for rapid deployment and follow the workload if it is moved, paused, and/or resumed. HP Intelligent Management Center (IMC) is the foundation upon which Virtual Application Networks is built and is enabled by a new module—IMC VAN Manager Module.

Advantages to Virtual Application Networks
1. Virtual Application Networks can save quantifiable time, reducing the manpower and operational cost of administering cloud networks
2. Virtual Application Networks support multiple hypervisors, unlike other solutions that support only one, ensuring clients have flexibility and choice
3. Virtual Application Networks remove the need for costly hypervisor and vSwitch licenses; the only cost is the license for IMC and the VAN Manager Module
4. IMC multivendor management ensures Virtual Application Networks supports heterogeneous networks
5. Virtual Application Networks also delivers a robust set of application program interfaces (APIs) for enterprises to integrate Virtual Application Networks operations into E2E orchestration solutions

IMC Standard Edition comes with an initial license for 100 managed devices. Additional licenses are available to extend the node limit.

IMC Enterprise Edition license supports 200 managed devices. Additional node licenses can be purchased. Two nodes of Network Traffic Analyzer are also included. IMC Extended APIs are also in the Enterprise Edition.

IMC VAN Manager Module
IMC VAN Manager Module is a software module available for purchase with IMC Standard or Enterprise Edition Software to support Virtual Application Networks. The module is composed of three components—the VAN Designer, VAN Policy Engine, and the VAN plug-in.

The VAN Designer provides the GUI. It enables administrators to define profiles, which consist of connection characteristics and a policy for VMs. It also configures and manages edge switches deployed as part of the Virtual Application Networks. The VAN Policy Engine stores connection policy information, publishes connections to the hypervisor, and services/authorizes connection requests. The VAN plug-in, which is installed on the VM hypervisor manager, integrates with the VAN Policy Engine and is used by the system administrator to bind connection profiles to VM interfaces.

IMC Extended APIs
IMC Extended APIs include over 200 APIs that provide access to core platform services. IMC is built upon an open and extensible architectural platform that leverages representational state transfer (REST)-style Web services. These services enable third-party developers to create applications that interface with and leverage IMC services—including those for Virtual Application Networks—which enable integration of virtual machine edge profile administration and control. The Virtual Application Networks-specific APIs enable external access to Virtual Application Networks functions from cloud and network orchestration frameworks. Virtual Application Networks-specific APIs allow network and enterprise IT administrators to access, configure, provision, and manage connection resources in conjunction with virtual machine operations.

Extended APIs are included with the Enterprise Platform and are an optional license upgrade for the Standard Platform.
Availability
IMC v5.1 SP1 Standard and Enterprise, IMC VAN Manager Module, and IMC Extended APIs licenses will be available June 25, 2012.

- IMC Standard Edition Software Platform with 100-Node E-LTU (JF377AAE)
- HP IMC VAN Manager Module License E-LTU (JG494AAE)
- HP IMC Extended API License (JG399A)