



Cisco® Unified Computing System provides the foundation for a broad spectrum of virtualization initiatives that can reduce equipment and operating costs, consolidate resources, and automate data center processes.

Cisco Unified Computing Planning, Design, and Implementation Service

Accelerate Your Transition to a Unified Computing Architecture

To meet the ever-growing demands of your users and applications, you need to achieve the utmost performance, availability, and efficiency from your data center. Cisco's innovative new data center technology, the Cisco® Unified Computing System, provides the foundation for a broad spectrum of virtualization initiatives that can consolidate resources and automate data center processes, thereby reducing equipment and operating costs. Whether you are seeking to create a stateless computing environment, enable just-in-time provisioning of resources, simplify the management of virtual machines, or more, the Cisco Unified Computing System provides a powerful solution.

Quickly reaping the benefits of a new data center initiative and mitigating risks require expert guidance. To realize the significant advantages of the Cisco Unified Computing System, you need a collaborative design that accounts for your entire data center environment, including servers, storage, network, security, virtualization, and applications. To quickly and safely deploy this new architecture, you need an implementation strategy based on proven methodologies and industry best practices.

Take the Right Steps

Cisco Unified Computing Planning, Design, and Implementation Service draws on a unified view of infrastructure, processes, and interdependencies across your data center to help you take the right steps to achieve your business and technical objectives and help to reduce risk and accelerate your unified computing. These services are custom engagements, shaped around achieving the specific goals you have set for your unified computing project. Cisco can deliver a customized service engagement for projects such as:

- Virtualization
- Implementing a stateless computing environment
- Database migration
- Scalability and performance improvement
- x86 and legacy migration

Cisco and our industry-leading data center partners bring in-depth expertise to help you effectively plan and design these and other projects and realize the full potential of unified computing in your environment. These service options are available:

- Preproduction pilot
- Accelerated deployment support
- Server virtualization, mobility, and management
- Management systems integration
- Unified computing
- Migration and transition
- Database accelerator
- Installation

Preproduction Pilot

If you are still evaluating the Cisco Unified Computing System, a preproduction pilot is the best place to start. This three-week engagement conducts a pilot in your environment to validate that the project will deliver the business and technical objectives you expect. Through this pilot, you gain valuable expertise using the Cisco Unified Computing System before you commit to a purchase and develop a production-ready blueprint for deploying in your environment. At the end of the engagement, you will receive documentation of your validated business case with an executive summary detailing critical success factors, risks, and the next steps toward a successful deployment. A summary TCO analysis comparing the benefits of a unified computing system-enabled architecture to those of a legacy architecture, and an operational runbook for scaling the validated solution and transitioning the pilot into a production state will also be provided.

Accelerated Deployment Support

If you have already committed to implementing the Cisco Unified Computing System, the accelerated deployment support service option provides planning, design, and implementation expertise to bring your project into production within four weeks in one segment of your data center. You will collaborate with Cisco experts to design the production scope that the engagement will cover. At the end of the engagement, you will receive documentation of the recommended next steps, an architectural design, and a runbook to scale the implementation throughout your environment.

Server Virtualization Mobility and Management

This service option provides in-depth planning and design for an end-to-end data center virtualization strategy and for enhanced provisioning and management of virtual machines. It applies management and movement best practices to help you eliminate common problems associated with virtual machine deployments. The service provides an exhaustive evaluation of your current environment and processes and documents requirements across your existing and planned assets to achieve your virtualization objectives. At the end of the engagement, you will receive all of the information you need to begin implementing your virtualized data center, including detailed documentation of requirements and an architectural design.

Management Systems Integration

This service option provides for the creation of an interoperability interface between the unified computing platform and third-party management tools, using the available application programming interface (API) for ease of provisioning, monitoring, troubleshooting, and adaptability of the unified computing platform. The service uses the advanced API of Unified Computing Server Manager to tightly integrate with a customer's existing Cisco network, storage, server, and provisioning management systems.

Unified Computing

This service option has been designed to help Cisco customers plan, design, and implement their systems on a unified computing platform and to help ensure they get the full benefit of the platform's enhanced architecture, unified fabric, and management features.

Migration and Transition

This service option provides expert support to smooth the transition from your existing server platforms to a Cisco Unified Computing System architecture. Migration support is available for both x86-based and legacy (non-x86) server platforms. Using industry best practices, Cisco helps you create and deliver a migration plan to speed migration and mitigate risks.

Database Accelerator

This service option provides for the creation of a roadmap, strategy, and implementation plan for a unified computing-based database service. It provides expert guidance to obtain optimal use of a Cisco Unified Computing System for enhancing the performance of the database service and to avoid disruptions during the database implementation and migration.

Installation

This service option provides installation of all interconnected hardware in your data center from an expert Cisco partner with extensive experience with complex and virtualized data center environments. The service helps you to deploy unified computing in your environment with minimal stress or disruption to your operations. It encompasses compute platforms, network and storage networking devices, interconnects and cabling, and installation and configuration of related network and management software.

Table 1 lists service activities and deliverables.

Table 1. Service Activities and Deliverables

Activities/Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Preproduction pilot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three-week engagement split between interactive and hands-on engagements at your location to clearly validate that expected results will be delivered, prior to purchase • Clearly define business and technical objectives for your unified computing initiative; identifies best practices for achieving them and delivers a customer requirements document (CRD) detailing critical success factors, risks, and recommended next steps as well as TCO analysis when applicable • Define technical and business criteria by which to measure effects of planned project and deliver architectural design document detailing infrastructure capacity planning and design considerations for your planned environment • Analyze current state of server and computing architecture and assess compute platform requirements as they relate to projected environment, resource capacity, and user community demands • Document challenges, critical success factors, and risks and verify physical infrastructure and hardware installation for pilot • Install and verify required management software, including firmware and single operating system, and perform initial configuration of the unified compute platform, including administration accounts and basic role configuration • Validate pilot unified computing implementation against expected business and technical objectives • Deliver detailed operational runbook for transitioning the pilot implementation into a scaled production environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate specific use case(s) for unified computing system architecture • Increase your confidence and readiness in transitioning legacy technologies to a unified computing architecture • Gain valuable expertise during validation and knowledge transfer for assessing, designing and implementing a unified computing system architecture • You receive a specific TCO report aligned with the use cases • Speeds time-to-value attainment and production
<p>Accelerated deployment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-week engagement split between interactive and hands-on engagements at your location and offsite data validation for a single segment of your data center • Clearly define business and technical objectives for your unified computing initiative and identify best practices for achieving them • Analyze current state of server and computing architecture • Assess compute/server platform requirements as they relate to projected environment, resource capacity, and user community demands • Document challenges, critical success factors, and risks • Verify physical infrastructure and hardware installation for pilot • Install and verify required management software, including firmware and single operating system • Perform initial configuration of unified computing platform, including administrator accounts and basic role configuration • Deliverables: CRD detailing critical success factors, risks, and recommended next steps as well as an architectural design document and detailed operational runbook for transitioning the pilot implementation into a scaled production environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More rapid installation of Cisco Unified Computing System and operating environment • You gain an in-depth understanding of the Cisco Unified Computing System and architectures • CRD that provides a roadmap to guide you to a low-risk successful deployment of the Cisco Unified Computing System

Activities/Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Server virtualization mobility and management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly define business and technical objectives for your virtualization initiative and identify best practices for achieving them • Analyze current state of server and computing architecture • Assess existing infrastructure, management, application, network, and storage environment as they relate to projected environment • Apply management and movement best practices to help eliminate common issues associated with virtual machine deployments • Document primary requirements, challenges, critical success factors, and risks • Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CRD detailing critical success factors, risks, and recommended next steps and an architectural design document – Clearly defined strategy for data center virtualization that is customized to your technical and business objectives and aligned with industry best practices – Detailed framework for enhancing the manageability, scalability, availability, and provisioning of virtual machines, using any-to-any connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionally installed hypervisor and virtual machine environment installed and configured according to industry best practices to realize the benefits of x86 server virtualization; optimized and flexible use of compute resources to create a more reliable, manageable server infrastructure with lower costs • Provides high degree of disaster recovery for business continuity • Improvement in overall quality of service by reducing server virtualization management cost and management of compute devices as pool of resources
<p>Management systems integration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview stakeholders to discover customer's existing management tools • Requirements analysis: review, consolidate, document • Evaluate existing management tools • Identify integration touchpoints and need for additional tools or customization • Perform high-level decomposition of design requirements; expose and resolve potential issues and assemble detailed functional description • Carry out design and information sharing sessions; intermediate sessions to assure design alignment with customer expectations • Collaborate with providers of management tools, as necessary, to enhance result and reduce risk • Code and implement integration and pipelining frameworks as provided in low-level design • Deliverables: CRD detailing critical success factors, risks, and recommended next steps, high-level document (HLD) and close-out (final) documentation and knowledge transfer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tight integration using programmatic interface between Cisco Unified Computing System and existing data center systems' management tools for ease of provisioning, monitoring and troubleshooting of Cisco Unified Computing System
<p>Unified computing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver assessment workshop with the express intention of gathering requirements and dependencies for the infrastructure, new systems planning, management systems, application, network, and storage • Review gathered workshop data and analyze data using statistical tools • Set up and configure bare-metal operating environments on new unified computing system • Set up and configure logical server profiles, network interface virtualization on the unified computing system • Set up physical-to-physical replatforming requirements • Evaluate desired architectural, computer, and I/O requirements • Develop I/O subsystem design covering data center Ethernet and Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE), storage, connectivity (paths), and interconnects • Deliverables: low-level document (LLD), HLD, and best practices implementation of unified computing virtualized adapter I/O support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a seamless transition to your new environment for a low-risk successful deployment of the Cisco Unified Computing System

Activities/Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Migration and transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess existing deployment of x86 and non-x86 servers at customer data center that will be targeted for migration to unified computing system platform • Planning and detailed assessment of systems requirement and assess customer's application environment • Architecture review of customer environment • Configuration services for migration • Application migration • Test migration and acceptance • Deliver: Complete migration plan from migration assessment, planning, and implementation to postmigration activities with a solution perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth transition of operating environment from existing platform to Cisco Unified Computing System • Simplify your transition, save time and costs associated with managing the migration procedures • Reduce migration-related risks and implement primary IT upgrades with complete confidence to help ensure successful business readiness
<p>Database accelerator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess database clustering, database failover, and availability in customer environment • Identify the applications and components (operating systems, servers, storage, network, and environment infrastructure) that are required for or will utilize the database service • Validate workload estimates for migration through database-level macro and best practices analysis • Identify known interoperability and compatibility issues and identify any requirement gaps • Develop unified computing design and sizing estimates for compute resources (CPU, memory, storage, and network) • Develop database design to optimize availability, capacity, and performance, including caching, partitioning, and instance recovery • Develop optimization and tuning plan for the database management system and related components • Deliverables: CRD detailing critical success factors, risks, and recommended next steps; project plan and roadmap, risk mitigation and status update, knowledge transfer and best practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated migration of your application and/or database platform to the Cisco Unified Computing System • Validation of an application and/or database on the Cisco Unified Computing System architecture
<p>Installation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop customized procedures and configuration for your planned implementation • Evaluate and configure correct software revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unified computing hardware implemented with minimal disruption to your environment and business operations by an expert Cisco data center partner • Accelerated benefits of unified computing initiative

Benefits

Cisco Unified Computing Planning, Design, and Implementation Service draws on Cisco's unique architectural approach and unified view of data center resources and interdependencies to accelerate your transition to a unified computing architecture. These services help you:

- Achieve your business goals by clearly defining and validating your operational and technical objectives
- Reduce the risk of your data center initiative with a detailed analysis of how the Cisco Unified Computing System will support your project in your environment
- Lay the foundation for a smooth, rapid implementation of your virtualization project that rapidly delivers the expected results
- Reduce the risk of costly delays and design or configuration errors by creating an expertly engineered end-to-end virtualization design
- Accelerate the benefits of your unified computing initiative and reduce the risk of errors or misconfigurations during implementation

Why Cisco Data Center Services?

Today, the data center is a strategic asset in a world that demands better integration among people, information, and ideas. Your business and your data center work better when technology products and services are aligned with your business needs and opportunities. Using a unique network-based perspective and a unified view of data center assets, Cisco and our industry-leading partners deliver services that accelerate and optimize your data center transformation. Cisco takes an architectural approach to help you efficiently integrate and manage data center resources and improve the performance and availability of your vital business applications. Cisco Data Center Services help you reduce costs, operate more efficiently, and better meet your service level agreements.

Availability

Cisco Unified Computing Planning, Design, and Implementation Service is widely available. Check with your local Cisco representative for availability in your area.

For More Information

For more information about Cisco Unified Computing Services, visit www.cisco.com/go/unifiedcomputingservices.

To learn more about our comprehensive portfolio of Cisco Data Center Services, visit www.cisco.com/go/dcservices or contact your Cisco service account manager.



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