



Improve your unified compute environment so it remains a competitive resource with the Cisco Unified Computing Optimization Service.

Cisco Unified Computing Optimization Service

Increase Agility and Performance with a Unified Systems Approach

Today's business leaders are asking data center managers to provide better responsiveness, resiliency, asset utilization, and performance than ever before, often with lower budgets and a shortage of qualified staff. This is an enormously difficult challenge because it requires data center managers to evaluate and address each of these factors to create a comprehensive solution.

In an era where business demands and user expectations are both growing, data center managers need to evolve their data centers to support business growth, deliver next-generation services, and maintain a competitive advantage. Organizations often need to evolve their data centers by migrating to new technologies, all while efficiently scaling and deploying diverse and complex technologies, such as virtualization. Without this evolution, the data center might not provide the capabilities needed to take full advantage of business opportunities and overcome technical challenges. Data centers need a more efficient operating model that views all unified compute resources as an integrated and unified entity, so targeted investments can add greater value across all business areas.

All levels of data center and server functionality must be addressed and included in the master architecture plan. Data center managers must evaluate current designs to determine how to best unify and virtualize the assets in their data center, while placing a continuing emphasis on maintaining a dynamic, flexible, and efficient environment.

The Cisco Unified Computing Optimization Service

Cisco provides a uniquely holistic view of your unified compute environment and its effect on operational management using virtualization and segmentation. The Cisco® Unified Computing Optimization Service takes advantage of this unified perspective to provide a set of activities for building a solid unified compute solution for your data center.

The activities and deliverables provided with this service will help guide you through the process of creating an end-to-end unified compute architecture and help ensure you can absorb technology innovations, meet your ongoing business needs, and reduce costs. Cisco consulting engineers provide this service using industry-leading tools and methodologies to mitigate implementation risks and accelerate your return on investment. They will review detailed design standards for your unified compute environment and evaluate your ability to meet your future requirements. Cisco also uses best-known methods, adopted internally and by our largest customers, as blueprints for success. Using those methodologies, Cisco will support you as we work through your unified computing initiatives. We will help you meet tight timelines and facilitate high availability and security as we mitigate risk through proactive recommendations, escalation support, and continuous learning.

The Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Optimization Service provides recurring analyses of the architecture design, best practices review, performance data, and configurations from compute infrastructure to give you a continuous, strategic view of your data center environment. Ongoing communication with Cisco experts will help keep you informed about new products and software features.

The Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Optimization Service offers a wide variety of activities and deliverables to help you evaluate how unified computing can benefit the performance and efficiency of your data center's server capacity. Application requirements, trends, procedures, capacity patterns, and security needs are utilized to recommend optimal architectures that are secure and resilient. The Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Optimization Services activities, deliverables, and benefits are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Unified Computing Optimization Service Activities, Deliverables, and Benefits

Activities and Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Unified Computing Systems Architecture Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of customer's design requirements, priorities, and goals • Assess and recommend architecture for the unified computing deployments • Analysis of effects of new requirements on existing environment • Develop a recommended architecture and future deployment roadmap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps achieve your business goals by clearly defining your operational and technical objectives, and aligning them with industry best practices • Reduces the risk involved in your data center initiative with a detailed analysis of how the Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS) will support your project in your environment • Lays the conceptual foundation for a smooth implementation that rapidly delivers the expected results • Helps you proceed with your unified computing initiative with confidence, backed by expert recommendations and next steps from Cisco
<p>Unified Computing Systems Configuration and Performance Audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review technical environment • Investigate peak utilization trends and identify optimal configuration and architecture to meet these thresholds • Report with performance optimization recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps identify areas for platform improvement through implementation performance and capacity patterns, peak utilization trends, and underutilized assets

Activities and Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Unified Computing Systems Disaster Recovery Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess current disaster recovery process and provide recommendations to optimize procedures for Cisco UCS • Establish disaster recovery capability • Review Cisco UCS failover design and configuration • Close-to-the-box solution to help enable Cisco UCS configuration recovery at a disaster recovery site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps to enable Cisco UCS configuration recovery at a disaster recovery site • Helps ensure resiliency • Use industry-leading best practices to meet your ongoing business goals
<p>Unified Computing Systems Best Practices Audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a review of best practices for the unified computing environment • Align applicable best practice deployment configuration options and settings for specific customer usage • Discussion areas for increasing architectural resiliency, availability, flexibility, and agility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing expertise and support to help you improve your unified compute environment so it remains a competitive resource • Helps support growth, improve productivity, enhance business processes, and accelerate change in every aspect of your business
<p>UCS Health Check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic review of performance and health of a data center's post deployment UCS infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current configuration of Unified Computing System infrastructure as part of a periodic examination of post deployment, or audited, environments, that require additional examination guided by customer needs and concerns. UCS Health Checks are structured to service instances within a single data center environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and analysis of virtual machine, server, network and storage performance and utilization including management switch, chassis and cabling configurations – Develop report on the environment as evaluated against best practices and expected server response times, virtualized I/O, and protocol optimization
<p>Performance and Validation Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test applications, technologies, and so on, based on review of your business requirements and objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide test cycle and review. Cisco will consult with customer through a series of meetings to develop a thorough understanding of customer's solution-oriented testing goals and requirements. Cisco will implement networking tests to prove or disprove theories and report findings to customer. A test cycle and review may include, among other information, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of customer's testing goals and business objectives – Collaborate on a test plan – Analysis of requirements such as platforms, topology, protocols, and configurations • Report describing test findings and recommendations

Activities and Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Ongoing Design Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support for incremental changes to data center or architecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides continuous application of best practices and proven methodologies to foster an optimized environment in the face of changing business and technical requirements • Helps ensure that your Cisco data center SAN design addresses the critical elements required for your business goals
<p>Scheduled Change Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote resource for critical scheduled changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps verify that the planned changes meet your technical objectives and do not adversely affect the operational environment • Provides technical assistance to your operational changes • Provides an escalation point that includes a thorough understanding of your application networking environment • Accelerates deployment of changes to your data center and helps minimize disruption to your network • Provides network-aware assistance for use in interfacing with other Cisco support resources called in to provide unscheduled support to your network
<p>Ongoing Service and Project Management Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support and project management to assist with overall delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps you plan, initiate, and manage changes to your Cisco Data Center compute implementation • Provides better visibility and organization of your data center events and Cisco support to help ensure the best utilization of your support plan, which can include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Account kickoff – Weekly conference call – Preparation and presentation of quarterly business review – 90-day planning
<p>Remote Knowledge Transfer Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps your IT staff achieve operational excellence as it pertains to your Cisco data center compute environment • Helps ensure the ongoing readiness of your operational staff to accommodate planned changes and be well versed on the effects on these changes on your entire data center compute environment • Provides informal training on the operational processes, activities, and tools necessary to achieve operational excellence

Benefits

The Cisco Data Center Unified Computing Optimization Service helps you transform your data center by determining how to optimize data center functions. The service helps you to:

- Realize ongoing cost reductions throughout your data center operations
- Improve the performance of business-critical applications
- Reduce operational overhead
- Quickly absorb technology innovations
- Reduce costs through the efficient use of equipment
- Improve productivity and enhance business processes
- Increase revenue through improved application performance

Cisco and Partner Expertise

Cisco and our industry leading partners use best practices and proven methodologies to help you quickly and efficiently plan and deploy a high-performance, resilient, and scalable virtualized architecture for your business.

The Cisco Unified Computing Optimization Service is delivered by Cisco experts who hold a wide array of industry certifications and are subject matter experts in business and technology architecture and data center technologies. They have direct experience in planning, designing, and supporting virtualization solutions.

Cisco product and technology expertise is continually enhanced by hands-on experience with real-life networks and broad exposure to the latest technology and implementations.

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. Cisco and our industry-leading partners deliver intelligent, personalized services that accelerate the transformation of your data center. Using a unique, network-based perspective and a unified view of data center assets, Cisco takes an architectural approach to help you efficiently consolidate, virtualize, and manage data center resources. Cisco Data Center Services help transform, optimize, and protect your data center to reduce costs, deliver high availability, and improve application performance.

Availability

Cisco Unified Computing Optimization Service is widely available. Contact your local Cisco account manager about availability in your area.

For More Information

For more information about Cisco Unified Computing Optimization Service, as well as the broad array of Cisco Services for the data center, contact your local Cisco account manager or visit www.cisco.com/go/dcservices.

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