

Cisco Publishes Industry's First and Best VMware View Planner Benchmark Result



With the Versatile Intel Xeon Processor E5-2600 v2 Family

Performance Brief
September 2013

Highlights

Excellent Performance

- The Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®) can deliver scalable, uncompromised desktop virtualization performance for extremely rigorous workloads.

Cisco's Dedication to Desktop Virtualization

- Cisco's dedication to ultra-simplified, high-performance, and cost effective virtual desktops infrastructure delivers an industry-leading VMware View Planner benchmark result.

Faster Virtual Desktop Deployment

- Cisco was the first in the industry to deliver VMware VDImark results in part because of the streamlined operation and provisioning model for Cisco UCS.

Cisco has the distinction of being the first in the industry to announce top VMware View Planner benchmark results.



Organizations everywhere can gain fast results for virtual desktop deployments using Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS) and the new Intel Xeon processor E5-2600 v2 family. Cisco UCS can be deployed quickly in any data center, delivering virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) in minutes and industry-leading response times to real-world desktop workloads.

Cisco UCS and Intel Xeon Processors E5-2600 v2 Family

The Cisco UCS B200 M3 Blade Server used in this benchmark was powered by Intel® Xeon® processors E5-2697 v2. The Intel Xeon processor E5-2600 v2 product family is at the center of an agile, efficient data center that meets a diverse set of needs, including the needs of VDI deployments. Using industry-leading Intel 22-nanometer (nm) 3-D Tri-Gate transistor technology, these versatile processors deliver significantly greater performance and power efficiency compared to the previous generation of Intel Xeon processors. The processor family offers more cores with more threads, more processor cache faster main memory, and lower power consumption by intelligently matching core, memory, cache, and I/O power to system demand.

The VMware View Planner Benchmark

Today's user workloads are becoming ever more intense: they include a wider range of demanding applications, all with users expecting quick response times. They perform operations such as document preparation, spreadsheet manipulation, web browsing, presentation preparation, and video streaming. The VMware View Planner benchmark helps organizations through their virtual desktop planning processes by precisely measuring the responsiveness of simulated user operations on the standardized VMware VDImark desktop workload. The benchmark then incorporates that responsiveness into a VDImark score. This metric helps organizations evaluate the performance impact of new server, storage and virtualization technologies as new features and innovations are introduced.

VMware View Planner Benchmark Scoring

A VDImark is the number of virtual desktop users that can be run on a platform with application response times that meet or exceed a given threshold that is defined by

VMware. The workload for these tests is highly rigorous and is intended to stress every part of the system. The VDI mark score characterizes a system's response to three types of workload:

- Interactive operations (Group A)
- I/O operations (Group B)
- Background operations (Group C)

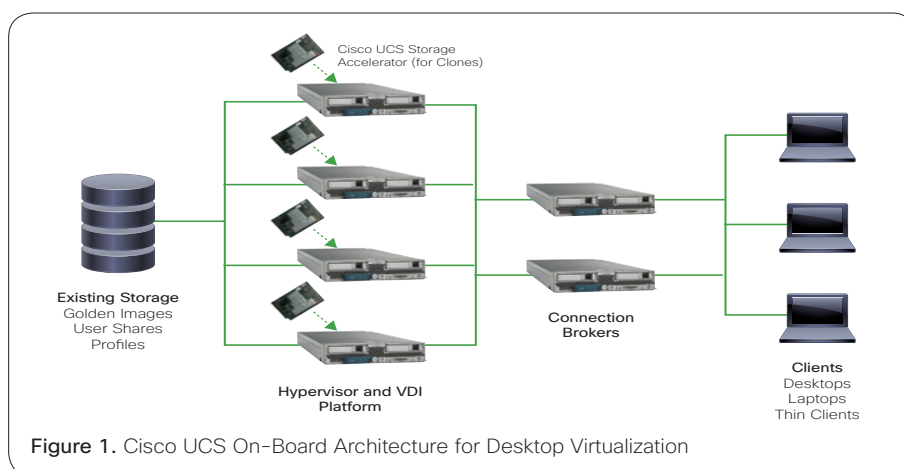
The VDI mark score is determined by calculating the latency for Group A user operations and Group B user operations. For a VDI mark user desktop to be counted in the score, 95 percent of its user response times must be lower than the threshold level. The thresholds for the VMware View Planner Benchmark are 1.0 second for Group A and 6.0 seconds for Group B.

Benchmark Results

Cisco delivers a VDI mark of 149, the first official result reported by any company.

Test Configuration

Cisco is dedicated to providing high-performance, easy-to-use, and cost-effective desktop virtualization solutions. The configuration tested to obtain this first-ever VDI mark was a single-server implementation of the Cisco On-Board Architecture for Desktop Virtualization (Figure 1). This architecture delivers exceptional response times to users while also radically simplifying management of desktop operations.



The test configuration used VMware Horizon View 5.2 with VMware vSphere 5.1 Update 1

The server configuration that obtained this excellent VDI mark score was a single Cisco UCS B200 M3 Blade Server powered by two Intel Xeon processors E5-2697 v2, each with 12 cores and 24 threads. The server hosted 256 GB of 1866-MHz memory and a Cisco UCS Storage Accelerator. The Cisco UCS Storage Accelerator provides up to 785 GB of server-resident flash-memory storage that is easily managed as part of the blade configuration.

For More Information

- The VMware View Planner benchmark is a product of VMware, Inc. The results cited in this

document were available at <http://www.vmware.com/pdf/ViewPlanner-3.0-results.pdf> and were valid as of September 10, 2013.

- Cisco performance briefs are available at <http://www.cisco.com/go/ucsatwork>.
- For more information about Cisco Desktop Virtualization Solutions with VMware Horizon View please visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/vdivmware>.
- To learn more about the VMware View Planner benchmark please visit <http://blogs.vmware.com/performance/2013/08/vdi-benchmarking-with-view-planner-3-0.html>



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