

Deploying Oracle Real Application Clusters on the Cisco Unified Computing System with EMC CLARiiON Storage

White Paper



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What You Will Learn

This document describes how the Cisco Unified Computing System™ can be used in conjunction with EMC® CLARiiON® storage systems to implement an Oracle Real Application Clusters (RAC) system that is an Oracle Certified Configuration. The Cisco Unified Computing System provides the compute, network, and storage access components of the cluster, deployed as a single cohesive system. The result is an implementation that addresses many of the challenges that database administrators and their IT departments face today, including needs for a simplified deployment and operation model, high performance for Oracle RAC software, and lower total cost of ownership (TCO). The document introduces the Cisco Unified Computing System and provides instructions for implementing it; it concludes with an analysis of the cluster's performance and reliability characteristics.

Introduction

Data powers essentially every operation in a modern enterprise, from keeping the supply chain operating efficiently to managing relationships with customers. Oracle RAC brings an innovative approach to the challenges of rapidly increasing amounts of data and demand for high performance. Oracle RAC uses a horizontal scaling (or scale-out) model that allows organizations to take advantage of the fact that the price of one-to-four-socket x86-architecture servers continues to drop while their processing power increases unabated. The clustered approach allows each server to contribute its processing power to the overall cluster's capacity, enabling a new approach to managing the cluster's performance and capacity.

Leadership from Cisco

Cisco is the undisputed leader in providing network connectivity in enterprise data centers. With the introduction of the Cisco Unified Computing System, Cisco is now equipped to provide the entire clustered infrastructure for Oracle RAC deployments. The Cisco Unified Computing System provides compute, network, virtualization, and storage access resources that are centrally controlled and managed as a single cohesive system. With the capability to scale to up to 160 rack-mount servers and incorporate both blade and rack-mount servers in a single system, the Cisco Unified Computing System provides an ideal foundation for Oracle RAC deployments.

Historically, enterprise database management systems have run on costly symmetric multiprocessing servers that use a vertical scaling (or scale-up) model. However, as the cost of one-to-four-socket x86-architecture servers continues to drop while their processing power increases, a new model has emerged. Oracle RAC uses a horizontal scaling, or scale-out, model, in which the active-active cluster uses multiple servers, each contributing its processing power to the cluster, increasing performance, scalability, and availability. The cluster balances the workload across the servers in the cluster, and the cluster can provide continuous availability in the event of a failure.

Oracle Certified Configuration

All components in an Oracle RAC implementation must work together flawlessly, and Cisco has worked closely with EMC and Oracle to create, test, and certify a configuration of Oracle RAC on the Cisco Unified Computing System. Cisco's Oracle Certified Configuration provides an implementation of Oracle Database 10g Release 2 and Oracle Database 11g Release 1 with Real Application Clusters technology consistent with industry best practices. For back-end Fibre Channel storage, it uses an EMC CLARiiON storage system with a mix of Fibre Channel drives and state-of-the-art Enterprise Flash Drives (EFDs) to further speed performance.

Benefits of the Configuration

The Oracle Certified Configuration of Oracle RAC on the Cisco Unified Computing System offers a number of important benefits.

Simplified Deployment and Operation

Because the entire cluster runs on a single cohesive system, database administrators no longer need to painstakingly configure each element in the hardware stack independently. The system's compute, network, and storage-access resources are essentially stateless, provisioned dynamically by Cisco® UCS Manager. This role- and policy-based embedded management system handles every aspect of system configuration, from a server's firmware and identity settings to the network connections that connect storage traffic to the destination storage system. This capability dramatically simplifies the process of scaling an Oracle RAC configuration or rehosting an existing node on an upgrade server. Cisco UCS Manager uses the concept of service profiles and service profile templates to consistently and accurately configure resources. The system automatically configures and deploys servers in minutes, rather than the hours or days required by traditional systems composed of discrete, separately managed components. Indeed, Cisco UCS Manager can simplify server deployment to the point where it can automatically discover, provision, and deploy a new blade server when it is inserted into a chassis.

The system is based on a 10-Gbps unified network fabric that radically simplifies cabling at the rack level by consolidating both IP and Fibre Channel traffic onto the same rack-level 10-Gbps converged network. This "wire-once" model allows in-rack network cabling to be configured once, with network features and configurations all implemented by changes in software rather than by error-prone changes in physical cabling. This Oracle Certified Configuration not only supports physically separate public and private networks; it provides redundancy with automatic failover.

High-Performance Platform for Oracle RAC

The Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Servers used in this certified configuration feature Intel Xeon 5500 series processors that deliver intelligent performance, automated energy efficiency, and flexible virtualization. Intel Turbo Boost Technology automatically boosts processing power through increased frequency and use of hyperthreading to deliver high performance when workloads demand and thermal conditions permit.

The patented Cisco Extended Memory Technology offers twice the memory footprint (384 GB) of any other server using 8-GB DIMMs, or the economical option of a 192-GB memory footprint using inexpensive 4-GB DIMMs. Both choices for large memory footprints can help speed database performance by allowing more data to be cached in memory.

The Cisco Unified Computing System's 10-Gbps unified fabric delivers standards-based Ethernet and Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) capabilities that simplify and secure rack-level cabling while speeding network traffic compared to traditional Gigabit Ethernet networks. The balanced resources of the Cisco Unified Computing System allow the system to easily process an intensive online transaction processing (OLTP) and decision-support system (DSS) workload with no resource saturation.

Safer Deployments with Certified and Validated Configurations.

Cisco and Oracle are working together to promote interoperability of Oracle's next-generation database and application solutions with the Cisco Unified Computing System, helping make the Cisco Unified Computing System a simple and safe platform on which to run Oracle software. In addition to the certified Oracle RAC configuration described in this document, Cisco, Oracle and EMC have:

- Completed an Oracle Validated Configuration for Cisco Unified Computing System running Oracle Enterprise Linux running directly on the hardware or in a virtualized environment running Oracle VM
- Certified single-instance database implementations of Oracle Database 10g and 11g on Oracle Enterprise Linux and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.3

Implementation Instructions

This document introduces the Cisco Unified Computing System and discusses the ways it addresses many of the challenges that database administrators and their IT departments face today. The document provides an overview of the certified Oracle RAC configuration along with instructions for setting up the Cisco Unified Computing System and the EMC CLARiiON storage system, including database table setup and the use of EFDs. The document reports on Cisco's performance measurements for the cluster and a reliability analysis that demonstrates how the system continues operation even when hardware faults occur.

Introducing the Cisco Unified Computing System

The Cisco Unified Computing System addresses many of the challenges faced by database administrators and their IT departments, making it an ideal platform for Oracle RAC implementations.

Comprehensive Management

The system uses an embedded, end-to-end management system that uses a high-availability active-standby configuration. Cisco UCS Manager uses role and policy-based management that allows IT departments to continue to use subject-matter experts to define server, network, and storage access policy. After a server and its identity, firmware, configuration, and connectivity are defined, the server, or a number of servers like it, can be deployed in minutes, rather than the hours or days that it typically takes to move a server from the loading dock to production use. This capability relieves database administrators from tedious, manual assembly of individual components and makes scaling an Oracle RAC configuration a straightforward process.

Radical Simplification

The Cisco Unified Computing System represents a radical simplification compared to the way that servers and networks are deployed today. It reduces network access-layer fragmentation by eliminating switching inside the blade server chassis. It integrates compute resources on a unified I/O fabric that supports standard IP protocols as well as Fibre Channel through FCoE encapsulation. The system eliminates the limitations of fixed I/O configurations with an I/O architecture that can be changed through software on a per-server basis to provide needed connectivity using a just-in-time deployment model. The result of this radical simplification is fewer switches, cables, adapters, and management points, helping reduce cost, complexity, power needs, and cooling overhead.

High Performance

The system's blade servers are based on the fastest Intel Xeon 5500 series processors. These processors adapt performance to application demands, increasing the clock rate on specific processor cores as workload and thermal conditions permit. These processors, combined with patented Cisco Extended Memory Technology, deliver database performance along with the memory footprint needed to support large in-server caches. The system is integrated within a 10 Gigabit Ethernet-based unified fabric that delivers the throughput and low-latency characteristics needed to support the demands of the cluster's public network, storage traffic, and high-volume cluster messaging traffic.

Scalability Decoupled from Complexity

The system used to create the certified configuration is designed to be highly scalable, with up to 20 blade chassis and 160 blade servers connected by a single pair of low-latency, lossless fabric interconnects. New compute resources can be put into service quickly, enabling Oracle RAC configurations to be scaled on demand, and with the compute resources they require.

Ready for the Future

The system gives Oracle RAC room to scale while anticipating future technology investments. The blade server chassis, power supplies, and midplane are capable of handling future servers with even greater processing capacity. Likewise, the chassis is built to support future 40 Gigabit Ethernet standards when they become available.

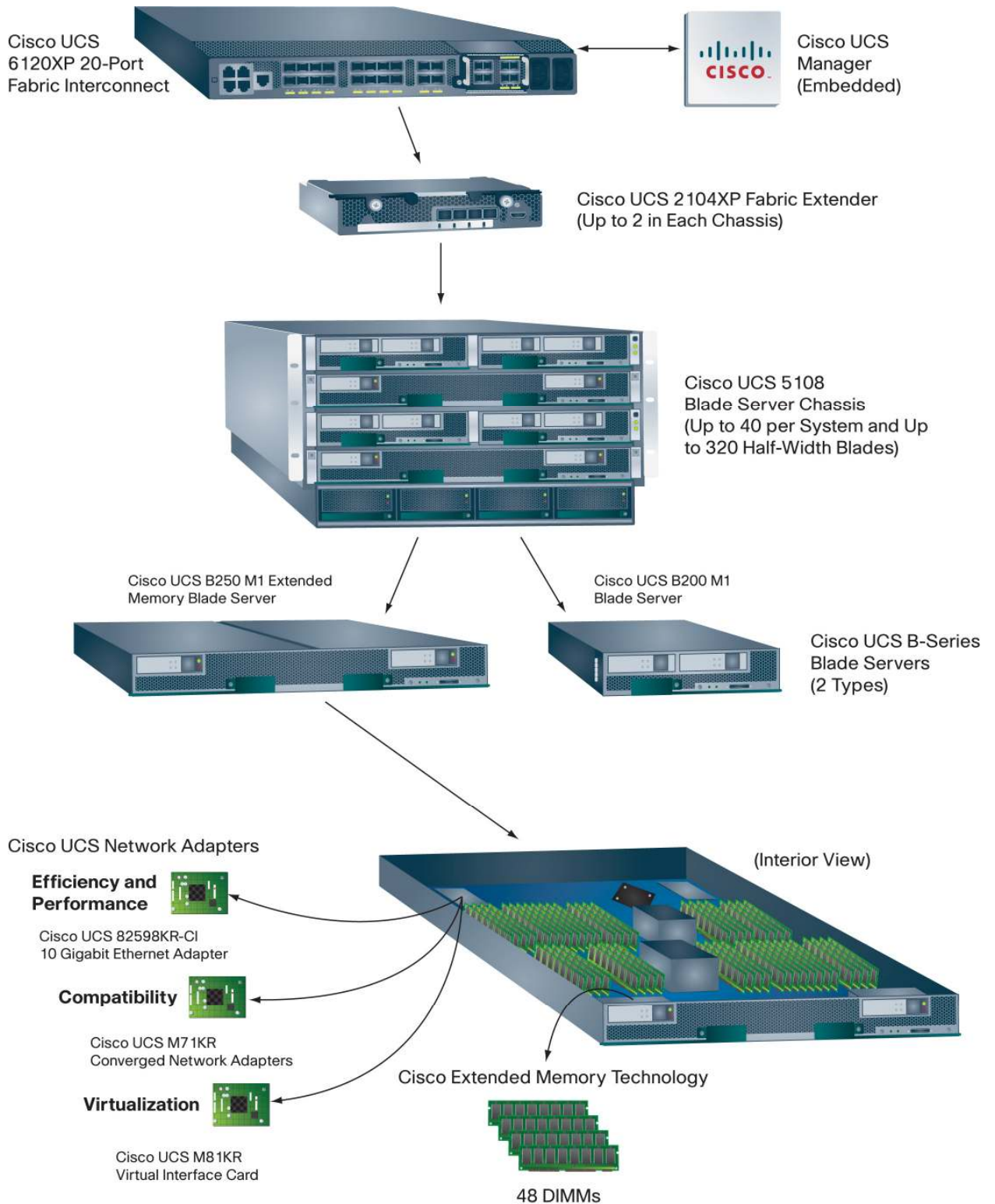
Overview of the Certified Configuration

The Cisco Unified Computing System used for the certified configuration is based on Cisco B-Series Blade Servers; however, the breadth of Cisco's server and network product line suggests that similar product combinations will meet the same requirements. The Cisco Unified Computing System uses a form-factor-neutral architecture that will allow Cisco C-Series Rack-Mount Servers to be integrated as part of the system using capabilities planned to follow the product's first customer shipment (FCS). Similarly, the system's core components -- high-performance compute resources integrated using a unified fabric -- can be integrated manually today using Cisco C-Series servers and Cisco Nexus™ 5000 Series Switches.

The system used to create the Oracle Certified Configuration is built from the hierarchy of components illustrated in Figure 1:

- The Cisco UCS 6120XP 20-Port Fabric Interconnect provides low-latency, lossless, 10-Gbps unified fabric connectivity for the cluster. The interconnect provides connectivity to blade server chassis and the enterprise IP network. Through an 8-port, 4-Gbps Fibre Channel expansion card, the interconnect provides native Fibre Channel access to the EMC CLARiiON storage system. Two fabric interconnects are configured in the cluster, providing physical separation between the public and private networks and also providing the capability to securely host both networks in the event of a failure.
- The Cisco UCS 2104XP Fabric Extender brings the unified fabric into each blade server chassis. The fabric extender is configured and managed by the fabric interconnects, eliminating the complexity of blade-server-resident switches. Two fabric extenders are configured in each of the cluster's two blade server chassis. Each one uses two of the four available 10-Gbps uplinks to connect to one of the two fabric interconnects.
- The Cisco UCS 5108 Blade Server Chassis houses the fabric extenders, up to four power supplies, and up to eight blade servers. As part of the system's radical simplification, the blade server chassis is also managed by the fabric interconnects, eliminating another point of management. Two chassis were configured for the Oracle RAC described in this document.
- The blade chassis supports up to eight half-width blades or up to four full-width blades. The certified configuration uses eight (four in each chassis) Cisco UCS B200 M1 Blade Servers, each equipped with two quad-core Intel Xeon 5500 series processors at 2.93 GHz. Each blade server was configured with 24 GB of memory. A memory footprint of up to 384 GB can be accommodated through the use of a Cisco UCS B250 M1 Extended Memory Blade Server.
- The blade server form factor supports a range of mezzanine-format Cisco UCS network adapters, including a 10 Gigabit Ethernet network adapter designed for efficiency and performance, the Cisco UCS M81KR Virtual Interface Card designed to deliver the system's full support for virtualization, and a set of Cisco UCS M71KR converged network adapters designed for full compatibility with existing Ethernet and Fibre Channel environments. These adapters present both an Ethernet network interface card (NIC) and a Fibre Channel host bus adapter (HBA) to the host operating system. They make the existence of the unified fabric transparent to the operating system, passing traffic from both the NIC and the HBA onto the unified fabric. Versions are available with either Emulex or QLogic HBA silicon; the certified configuration uses a Cisco UCS M71KR-Q QLogic Converged Network Adapter that provides 20-Gbps of connectivity by connecting to each of the chassis fabric extenders.

Figure 1. Cisco Unified Computing System Components



Overview of the Solution

The configuration presented in this document is based on the Oracle Database 10g Release 2 with Real Application Clusters technology certification environment specified for an Oracle RAC and EMC CLARiiON CX4-960 system (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Oracle Database 10g with Real Application Clusters technology on Cisco Unified Computing System and EMC CLARiiON Storage

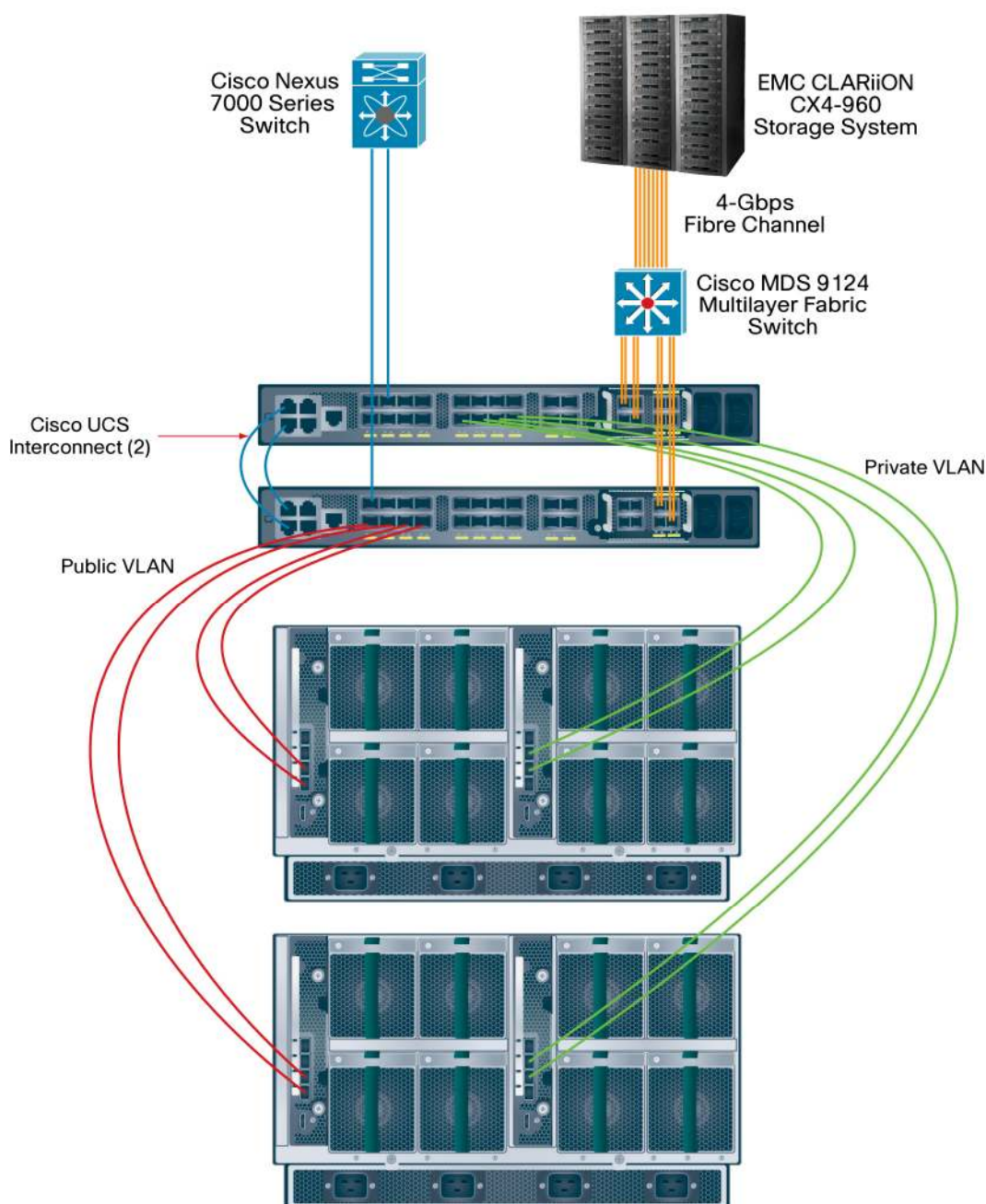


Figure 2 illustrates the 8-node configuration with EMC CLARiiON CX4-960 storage and Cisco Unified Computing System running Oracle Enterprise Linux (OEL) Version 5.3. This is a scalable configuration, that enables users to scale horizontally and internally in terms of processor, memory, and storage.

In the figure, the blue lines indicate the public network connecting to Fabric Interconnect A, and the green lines indicate the private interconnects connecting to Fabric Interconnect B. The public and private VLANs spanning the fabric interconnects help ensure the connectivity in case of link failure. Note that the FCoE communication takes place between the Cisco Unified Computing System chassis and fabric interconnects (red and green lines). This is a typical configuration that can be deployed in a customer's environment. The best practices and setup recommendations are described in subsequent sections of this document.

Detailed Topology

As shown in Figure 3, two chassis housing four blades each were used for this eight-node Oracle RAC solution. Tables 1 through 5 list the configuration details for all the server, LAN, and SAN components that were used for testing.

Figure 3. Detailed Topology of the Public Network and Oracle RAC Private Interconnects

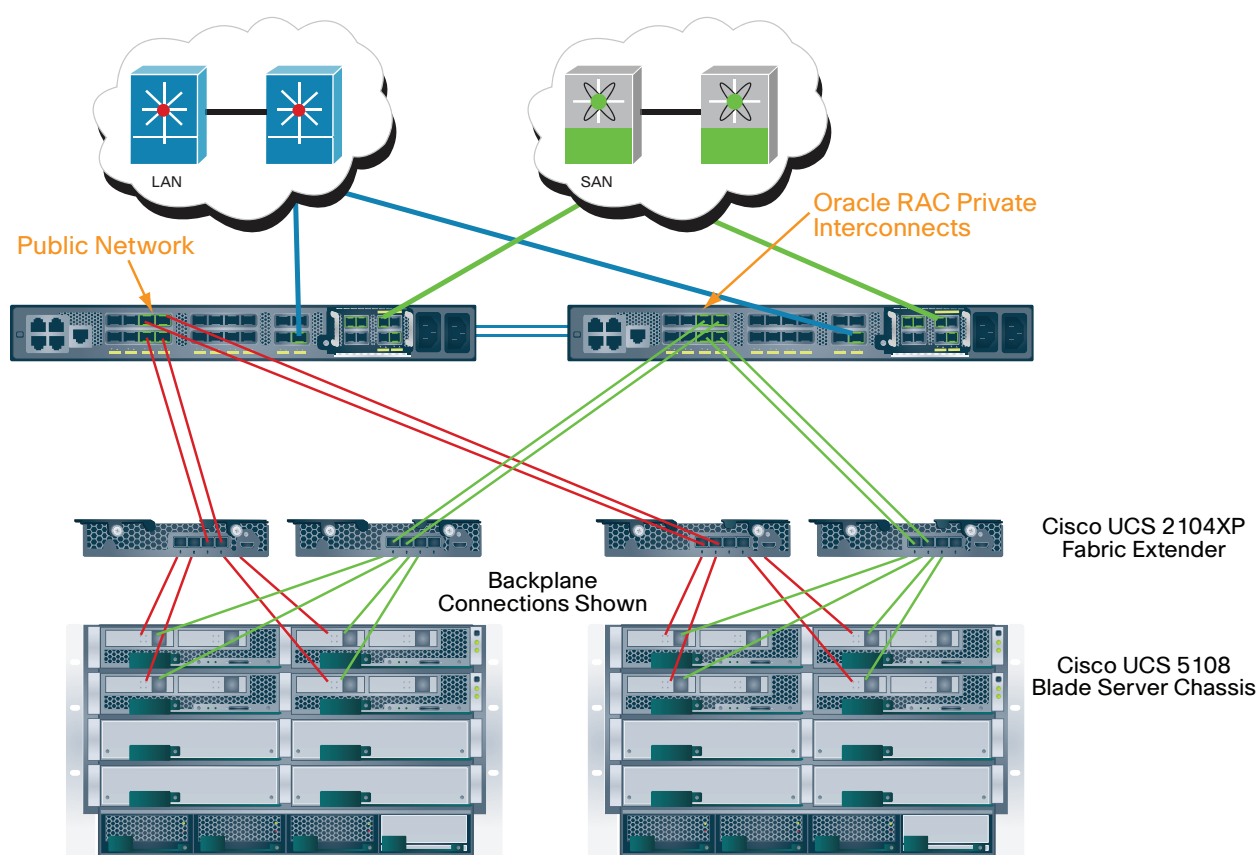


Table 1. Physical Cisco Unified Computing System Server Configuration

Quantity	Description
2	Cisco UCS 5108 Blade Server Chassis, with 4 power supply units, 8 fans, and 2 fabric extenders
8	Cisco UCS B200 M1 Blade Server
16	Quad-core Intel Xeon 5500 series 2.93-GHz processor (2 per blade server)
48	4-GB DDR3 DIMM, 1066 MHz (6 per blade, totaling 24 GB per blade server)
8	Cisco UCS M71KR-Q QLogic Converged Network Adapter, PCIe, 2 ports, and 10 Gigabit Ethernet (1 per blade server)
16	73-GB SAS, 15,000 RPM, Small Form-Factor (SFF) hard disk drive (HDD) hot pluggable (2 per blade)
2	Cisco UCS 6120XP 20-Port Fabric Interconnect with 2 power supply units and 2 fans
2	8-port, 4-Gbps Fibre Channel expansion port module
4	4-Gbps Fibre Channel Small Form-Factor Pluggable Plus (SFP+)
8	10GBASE-CU SFP+ cable (5 meters)
8	Fiber cables for connectivity to Fibre Channel and 10 Gigabit Ethernet

Table 2. LAN Components

Quantity	Description
1	Cisco Nexus 7000 Series Switch
VLAN Configuration	
1	Public VLAN
100	Private VLAN

Table 3. SAN Components

Quantity	Description
1	Cisco MDS 9124 Multilayer Fabric Switch

* This test used only one SAN and LAN switch. Use of redundant SAN and LAN switches is highly recommended to avoid a single-point failure.

Table 4. Storage Configuration

Quantity	Description
1	EMC CLARiiON CX4-960 Storage System
105	450-GB, 15,000 RPM, Fibre Channel spindles
15	73-GB EFDs

Table 5. Software Components

Description
Oracle Enterprise Linux 5.3
Oracle Database 10g Release 2 (10.2.0.1) with Real Application Clusters technology with Release 10.2.0.4 patch set

Configuring Cisco Unified Computing System for the Eight-Node Oracle RAC

Configuring the Cisco UCS 6120XP Fabric Interconnect

The Cisco UCS 6120XP Fabric Interconnect is configured in a cluster pair for redundancy. It provides resiliency and access to the system configuration data in the rare case of hardware failure.

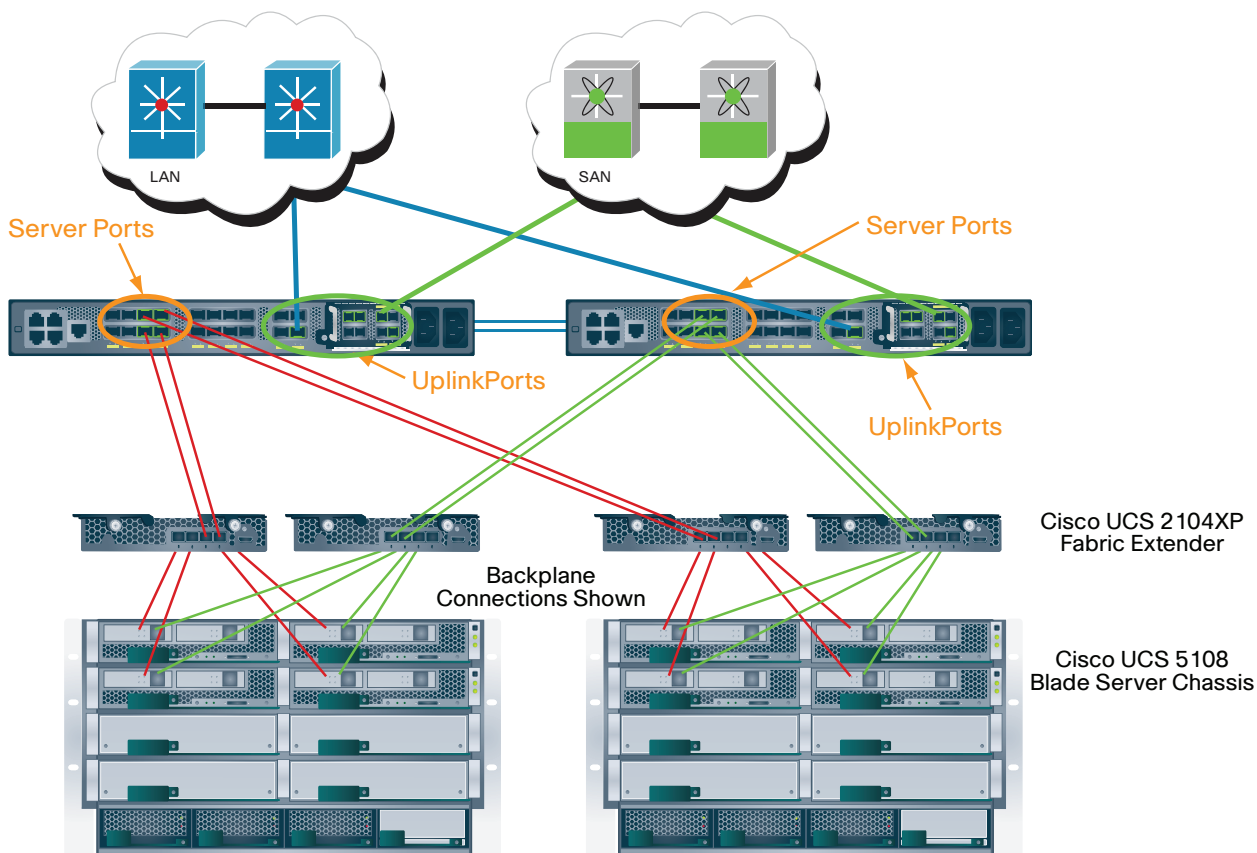
For fabric interconnects, the configuration database is replicated from the primary switch to the standby switch. All operations are transaction-based, keeping the data on both switches synchronized.

Note: Detailed information about the fabric interconnect configuration is beyond the scope of this document. For more information, refer to the Cisco Unified Computing System documentation at http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/unified_computing/ucs/sw/gui/config/guide/b_GUI_Config_Guide.html.

Configuring the Server Ports

The first step is to establish connectivity between the blades and fabric interconnects. As shown in Figure 4, four public (two per chassis) links go to Fabric Interconnect A (ports 5 through 8). Similarly, four private links go to Fabric Interconnect B. These ports should be configured as server ports as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Physical Connectivity and Port Configuration



Configuring Uplinks to the SAN and LAN

At this time, you should also configure the uplink Fibre Channel ports (Expansion Module 2). SAN connectivity is discussed later in this document.

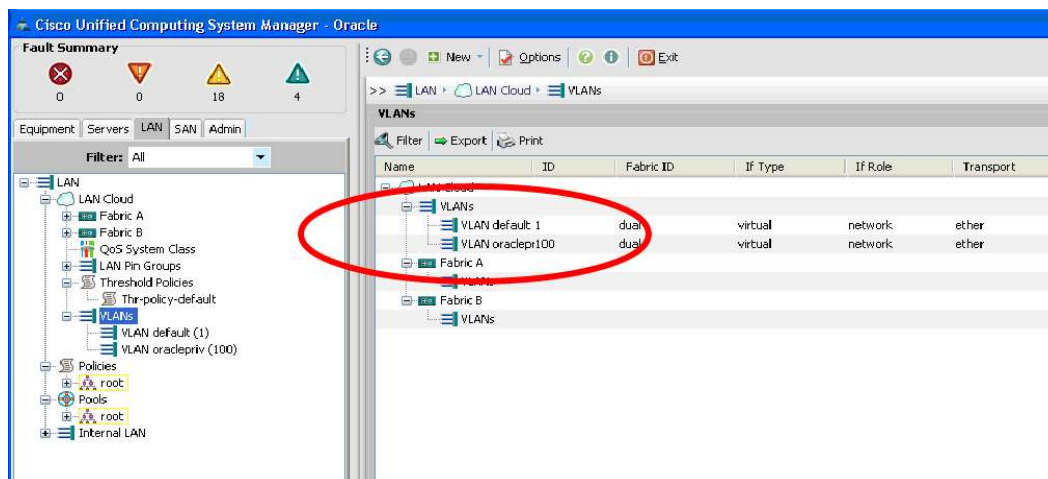
Configuring the SAN and LAN on Cisco UCS Manager

Before configuring the service profile, you should perform the following steps:

- **Configure the SAN:** On the SAN tab, set the VSANs to be used in the SAN (if any). You should also set up pools for world wide names (WWNs) and world wide port names (WWPNs) for assignment to the blade server virtual HBAs (vHBAs).
- **Configure the LAN:** On the LAN tab, set the VLAN assignments to the virtual NICs (vNICs). You can also set up MAC address pools for assignment to vNICs. For this setup, the default VLAN (VLAN ID 1) was used for public interfaces, and a private VLAN (VLAN ID 100) was created for Oracle RAC private interfaces.

Note: It is very important that you create a VLAN that is global across both fabric interconnects. This way, VLAN identity is maintained across the fabric interconnects in case of failover.

The following screenshot shows two VLANs.



After these preparatory steps have been completed, you can generate a service profile template for the required hardware configuration. You can then create the service profiles for all eight nodes from the template.

Setting up Service Profiles

Service profiles are the central concept of the Cisco Unified Computing System. Each service profile serves a specific purpose: to help ensure that the associated server hardware has the configuration required to support the applications it will host.

The service profile maintains configuration information about:

- Server hardware
- Interfaces
- Fabric connectivity
- Server and network identity

This information is stored in a format that can be managed through Cisco UCS Manager. All service profiles are centrally managed and stored in a database on the fabric interconnect.

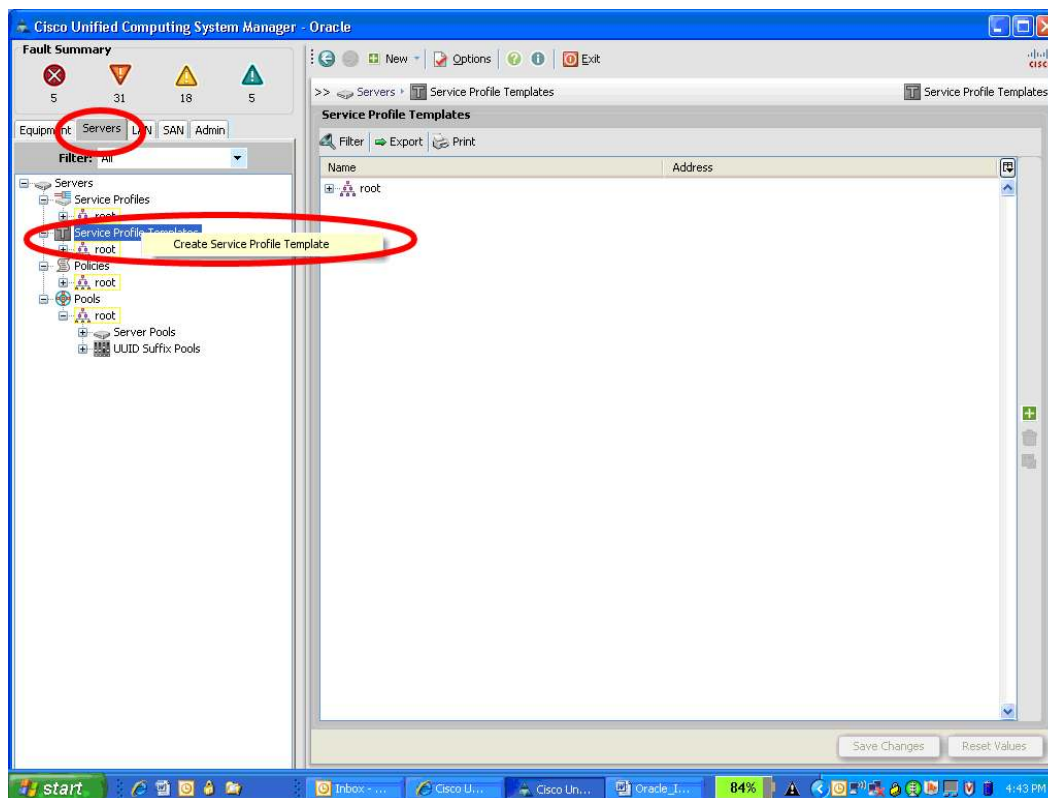
The service profile consists of the following information:

- Identity and personality information for the server
 - Universally unique ID (UUID)
 - World wide node name (WWNN)
 - Boot order
- LAN and SAN configuration (through the vNIC and vHBA configuration)
 - NIC and HBA identity (MAC addresses and WWN and WWPN information)
 - Ethernet NIC profile (flags, maximum transmission unit [MTU], etc.)
 - VLAN and VSAN connectivity information
- Various policies (disk scrub policy, quality of service [QoS], etc.). For Oracle certification testing, no policies were used.

Creating the Service Profile Template

Follow these steps to create the service profile template:

1. On the **Service Profile Templates** screen:
 - a) Click the **Servers** tab.
 - b) Right-click **Service Profile Template**.



2. On the **Identify Service Profile Template** screen:
 - a) In the **Name** field, enter the template name (such as **Oracle_RAC**).
 - b) For the template type, select Initial Template.

Initial templates create new service profiles with the same attributes, but the child service profiles are not updated when a change is made to the original template. If you select Updating Template, child profiles will immediately be updated when a change to the template is made, potentially making all the dependent child profiles to cause servers to reboot, so you should use updating templates with care.

- c) Click Next.

Create Service Profile Template

Unified Computing System Manager

Create Service Profile Template

1. **Identify Service Profile Template**
2. Storage
3. Networking
4. Server Boot Order
5. Server Assignment
6. Operational Policies

Identify Service Profile Template

You must enter a name for the service profile template and specify the template type. You can also specify how a UUID will be assigned to this template and enter a description.

Name: **Oracle_RAC**

The template will be created in the following organization. Its name must be unique within this organization.

Where: **org-root**

The template will be created in the following organization. Its name must be unique within this organization.

Type: ☒ Initial Template ☐ Updating Template

Specify how the UUID will be assigned to the server associated with the service generated by this template.

UUID

UUID Assignment: Select (pool default used by default)

Select UUID assignment option.
If no selection is made, the UUID will be assigned from the default pool.

WARNING: The selected pool does not contain any available entities.
You can select it, but it is recommended that you add entities to it.

Optionally enter a description for the profile. The description can contain information about when and where the service profile should be used.

< Prev **Next >** Finish Cancel

3. On the **Storage** screen (to create vHBAs for SAN storage):
 - a) In the **How would you like to configure SAN storage?** options, select **Expert**.
 - b) Click **Add** to add an HBA.

Create Service Profile Template

Unified Computing System Manager

Create Service Profile Template

1. **Identify Service Profile Template**
2. **Storage**
3. Networking
4. Server Boot Order
5. Server Assignment
6. Operational Policies

Storage

Optionally specify disk policies and SAN configuration information.

Select a local disk configuration policy.

Local Storage: Select Local Storage Policy to use

If nothing is selected, the default Local Storage configuration policy will be assigned to this service profile.

[Create Local Disk Configuration Policy](#)

Scrub Policy: <not set> [Create Scrub Policy](#)

How would you like to configure SAN storage? ☐ Simple ☒ **Expert** ☐ No vHBAs

A server is identified on a SAN by its World Wide Node Name (WWNN). Specify how the system should assign a WWNN to the server associated with this profile.

World Wide Node Name

WWNN Assignment: Select (pool default used by default)

Select WWNN assignment option.
If nothing is selected, the WWNN will be assigned from the default pool.

WARNING: The selected pool does not contain any available entities.
You can select it, but it is recommended that you add entities to it.

Name	WWPN	Order

Move Up Move Down Delete **Add** Modify

< Prev **Next >** Finish Cancel

4. On the **Create vHBA** screen:

- a) In the **Name** field, enter **vHBA1**.
- b) In the **Select VSAN** drop-down list, choose **VSAN default**.

For simplicity, this configuration uses the default VSAN for both HBAs. You may need to make a different selection depending on what is appropriate for your configuration.

- c) If you have created SAN pin groups for pinning Fibre Channel traffic to a specific Fibre Channel port, specify appropriate pin groups, using the **Pin Group** drop-down list.

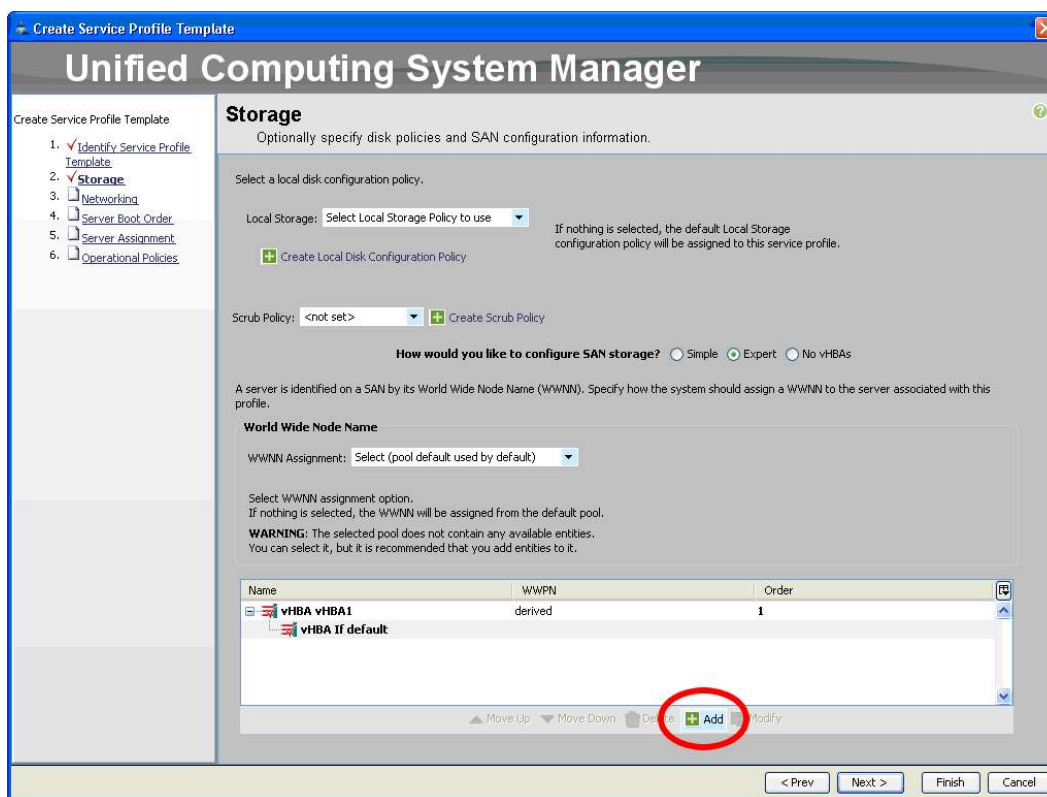
Pinning in a Cisco Unified Computing System is relevant only to uplink ports, where you can pin Ethernet or FCoE traffic from a given server to a specific uplink Ethernet (NIC) port or uplink (HBA) Fibre Channel port. When you pin the NIC and HBA of both physical and virtual servers to uplink ports, you get finer control over the unified fabric. This control helps ensure better utilization of uplink port bandwidth. However, manual pinning requires an understanding of network and HBA traffic bandwidth across the uplink ports. The configuration described here does not use pin groups.

The screenshot shows the configuration for vHBA1 assigned to Fabric Interconnect A.

- d) Click **OK**.

5. On the **Storage** screen (to create the second vHBA for SAN storage):

- a) Click **Add** to add an HBA.



6. On the **Create vHBA** screen, create the second vHBA:

- a) In the **Name** field, enter **vHBA2**.
- b) In the **Select VSAN** drop-down list, choose **VSAN default**.

For simplicity, this configuration uses the default VSAN for both HBAs. You may need to make a different selection depending on what is appropriate for your configuration.

- c) If you have created SAN pin groups for pinning Fibre Channel traffic to a specific Fibre Channel port, specify appropriate pin groups, using the **Pin Group** drop-down list.

The screenshot shows the configuration for vHBA2 assigned to Fabric Interconnect B.

Create vHBA

Use SAN Connectivity Template: ☐

World Wide Port Name

WWPN Assignment: default(16/32)

The WWPN will be assigned from the selected pool.
The available/total WWPNs are displayed after the pool name.

+ Create vHBA Template

Fabric ID: ☒ ☐

Select VSAN: VSAN default + Create VSAN

Pin Group: <not set> + Create SAN Pin Group

Persistent Binding: ☒ disabled ☐ enabled

Operational Parameters

Adapter Performance Profile

Adapter Policy: <not set> + Create Fibre Channel Adapter Policy

OK Cancel

d) Click **OK**.

7. On the **Storage** screen, click **Finish**.

Create Service Profile Template

Unified Computing System Manager

Create Service Profile Template

- Identify Service Profile Template
- Storage**
- Networking
- Server Boot Order
- Server Assignment
- Operational Policies

Storage

Optionally specify disk policies and SAN configuration information.

Select a local disk configuration policy.

Local Storage: Select Local Storage Policy to use

+ Create Local Disk Configuration Policy

Scrub Policy: <not set> + Create Scrub Policy

How would you like to configure SAN storage? ☐ Simple ☒ Expert ☐ No vHBAs

A server is identified on a SAN by its World Wide Node Name (WWNN). Specify how the system should assign a WWNN to the server associated with this profile.

World Wide Node Name

WWNN Assignment: Select (pool default used by default)

Select WWNN assignment option.
If nothing is selected, the WWNN will be assigned from the default pool.
WARNING: The selected pool does not contain any available entities.
You can select it, but it is recommended that you add entities to it.

Name	WWPN	Order
vHBA vHBA1	derived	1
vHBA If default		
vHBA vHBA2	derived	2
vHBA If default		

Move Up Move Down Delete Add Modify

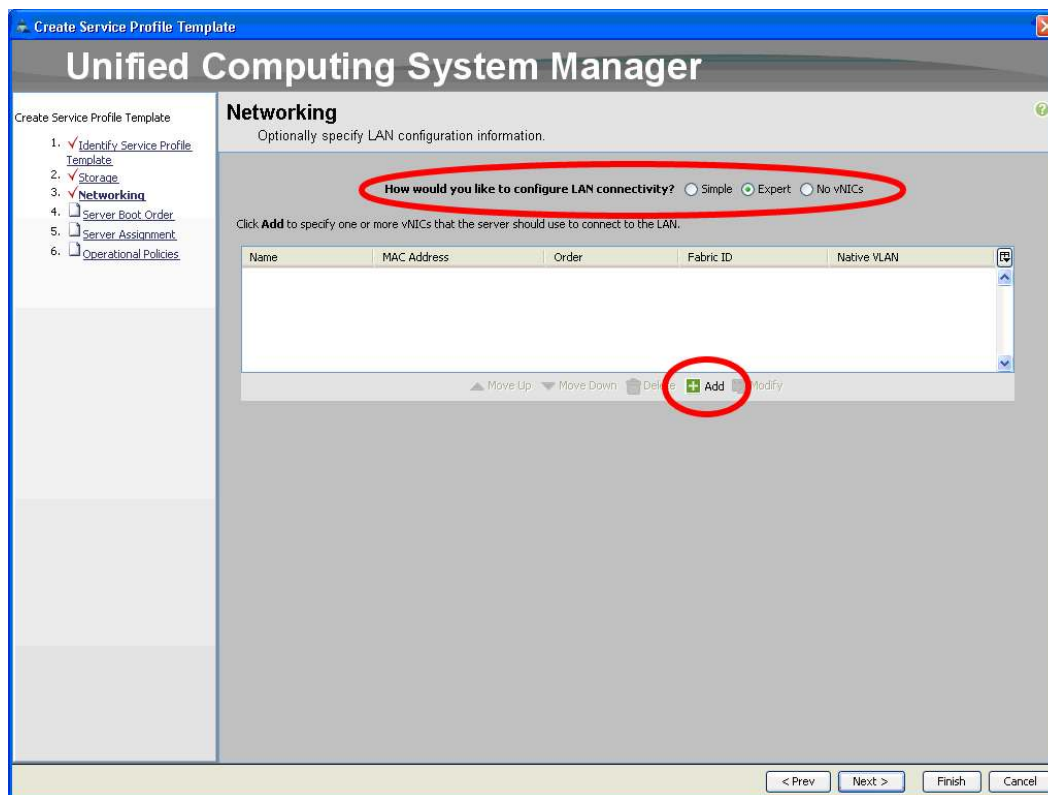
< Prev Next > **Finish** Cancel

Two vHBAs have now been created, which completes the SAN configuration.

Creating the vNICs and Associating Them with VLANs

Follow these steps to create the vNICs and then associate them with the appropriate VLANs:

1. On the **Networking** screen:
 - a) In the **How would you like to configure LAN connectivity?** options, select **Expert**.
 - b) Click **Add**.



2. On the **Create vNICs** screen:
 - a) In the **Name** field, enter **vNIC1**.
 - b) For the **Fabric ID** options, select **Fabric A** and **Enable Failover**.
 - c) For the **VLAN Trunking** options, select **Yes**.
VLAN trunking allows multiple VLANs to use a single uplink port on the system.
 - d) In the **VLANs** area, select the associated check boxes for **default** and **oraclepriv**.

Create vNICs

Name: **vNIC1**

MAC Address

MAC Address Assignment: Select (pool default used by default)

Select MAC address assignment option. If nothing is selected, the MAC address will be assigned from the default pool.

Fabric ID: ☒ Fabric A ☐ Fabric B ☒ Enable Failover

VLAN Trunking: ☐ No ☒ Yes

Select	Name	Native VLAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	default	<input type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	oraclepriv	<input type="radio"/>

Operational Parameters

Adapter Performance Profile

Adapter Policy: <not set> Create Ethernet Adapter Policy

QoS Policy: <not set> Create QoS Policy

OK Cancel

e) Click **OK**.

vNIC1 is now assigned to use Fabric Interconnect A for the public network.

Create the second vNIC in Step 3.

3. On the **Networking** screen:

a) Click **Add** to add vNIC2.

Create Service Profile Template

Unified Computing System Manager

Create Service Profile Template

1. ☒ Identify Service Profile Template
2. ☒ Storage
3. ☒ **Networking**
4. ☐ Server Boot Order
5. ☐ Server Assignment
6. ☐ Operational Policies

Networking

Optionally specify LAN configuration information.

How would you like to configure LAN connectivity? ☐ Simple ☒ Expert ☐ No vNICs

Click **Add** to specify one or more vNICs that the server should use to connect to the LAN.

Name	MAC Address	Order	Fabric ID	Native VLAN
vNIC vNIC1	derived	1	A-B	
Network OraclePriv				no
Network default				no

Move Up Move Down Delete **Add** Modify

< Prev Next > Finish Cancel

4. On the **Create vNICs** screen:
 - a) In the **Name** field, enter **vNIC2**.
 - b) For the **Fabric ID** options, select **Fabric B** and **Enable Failover**.
 - c) For the **VLAN Trunking** options, select **Yes**.
 - d) In the **VLANs** area, select the associated check boxes for **default** and **oraclepriv**.

Create vNICs

Name: **vNIC2**

Use LAN Connectivity Templates: ☐

MAC Address

MAC Address Assignment: Select (pool default used by default)

Select MAC address assignment option.
If nothing is selected, the MAC address will be assigned from the default pool.

Fabric ID: ☐ Fabric A ☒ Fabric B ☒ Enable Failover

VLAN Trunking: ☐ No ☒ Yes

VLANs

Select	Name	Native VLAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	default	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	oraclepriv	<input type="radio"/>

Operational Parameters

Adapter Performance Profile

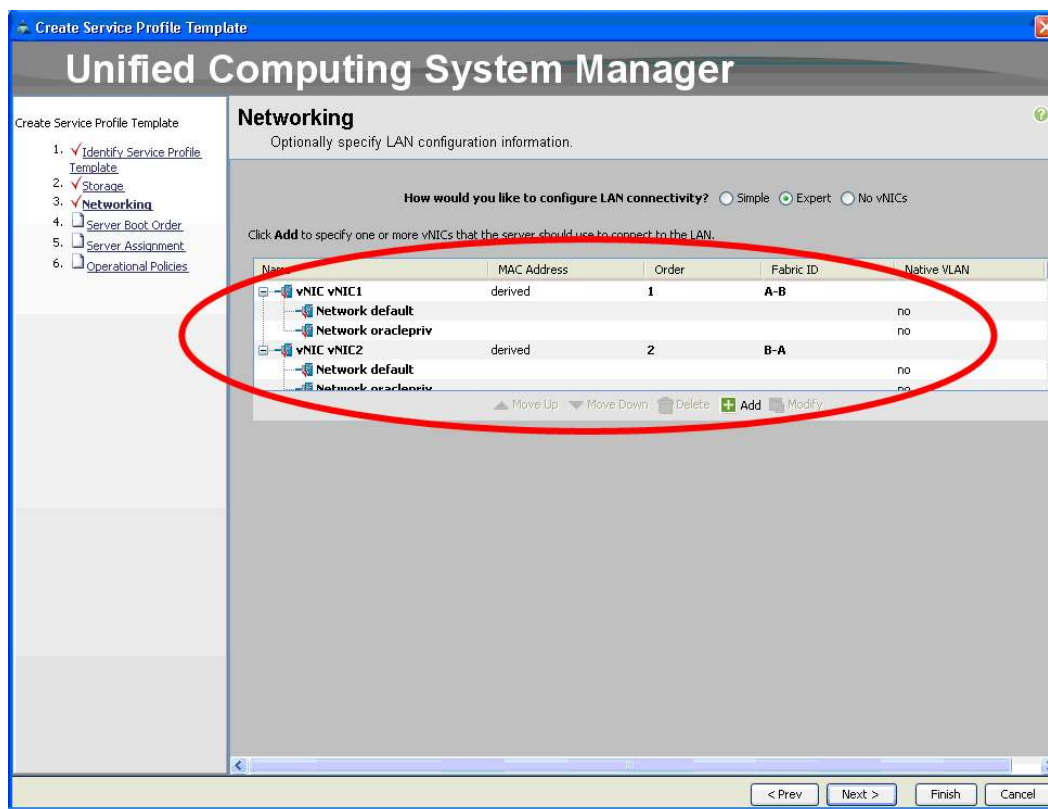
Adapter Policy: <not set>

OK Cancel

5. Click **OK**.

vNIC2 is now assigned to use Fabric Interconnect B for the Oracle RAC private network.

The Networking screen lists the vNICs that you have created.



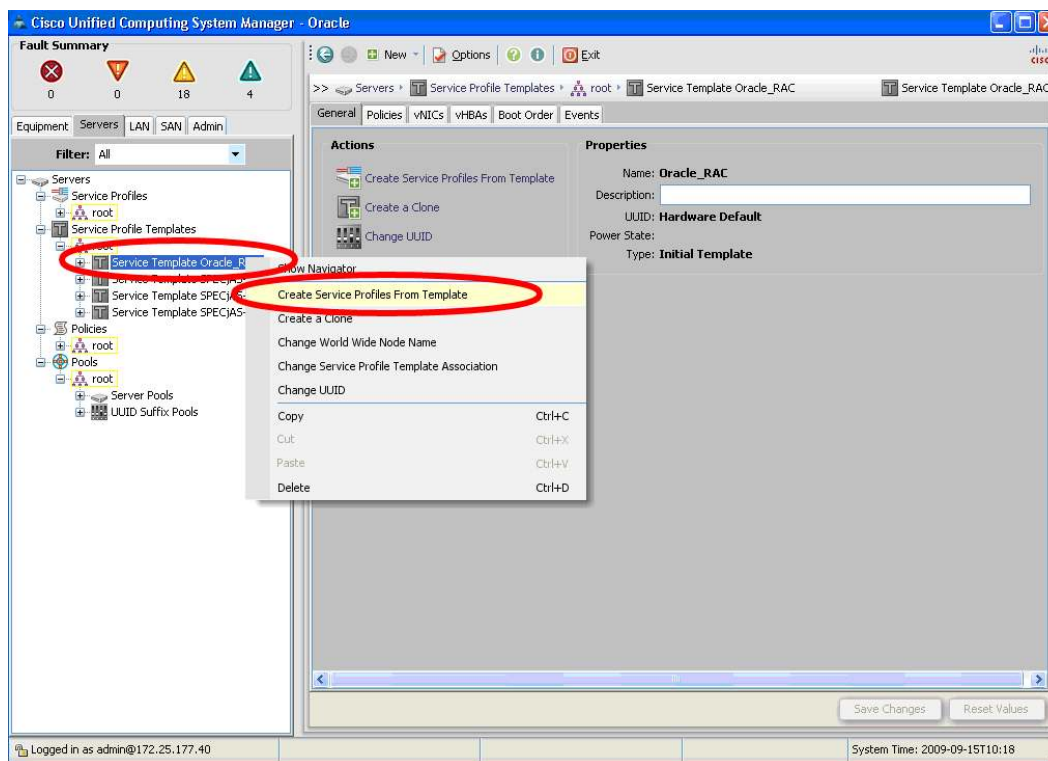
The setup created here did not use SAN boot or any other policies. You can configure these in the screens that follow the Networking screen. You may be required to configure these policies if you choose to boot from the SAN or if you associate any specific policies with your configuration.

6. Click **Finish** to complete the service profile template.

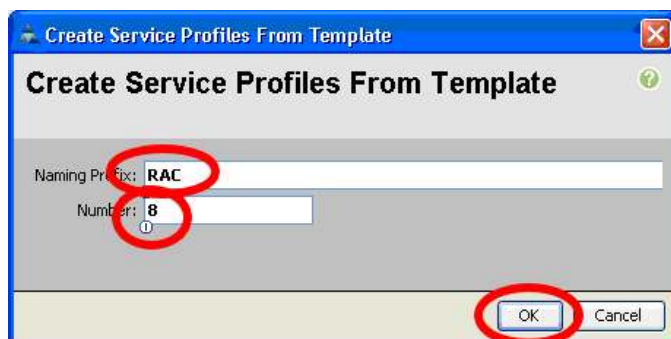
Creating Service Profiles and Associating Them with Blade Servers

Follow these steps to create eight service profiles and then associate them with individual blade Servers:

1. On the **Cisco Unified Computing System Manager** screen:
 - a) Right-click **Service Template Oracle_RAC**.
 - b) Select **Create Service Profiles From Template**.



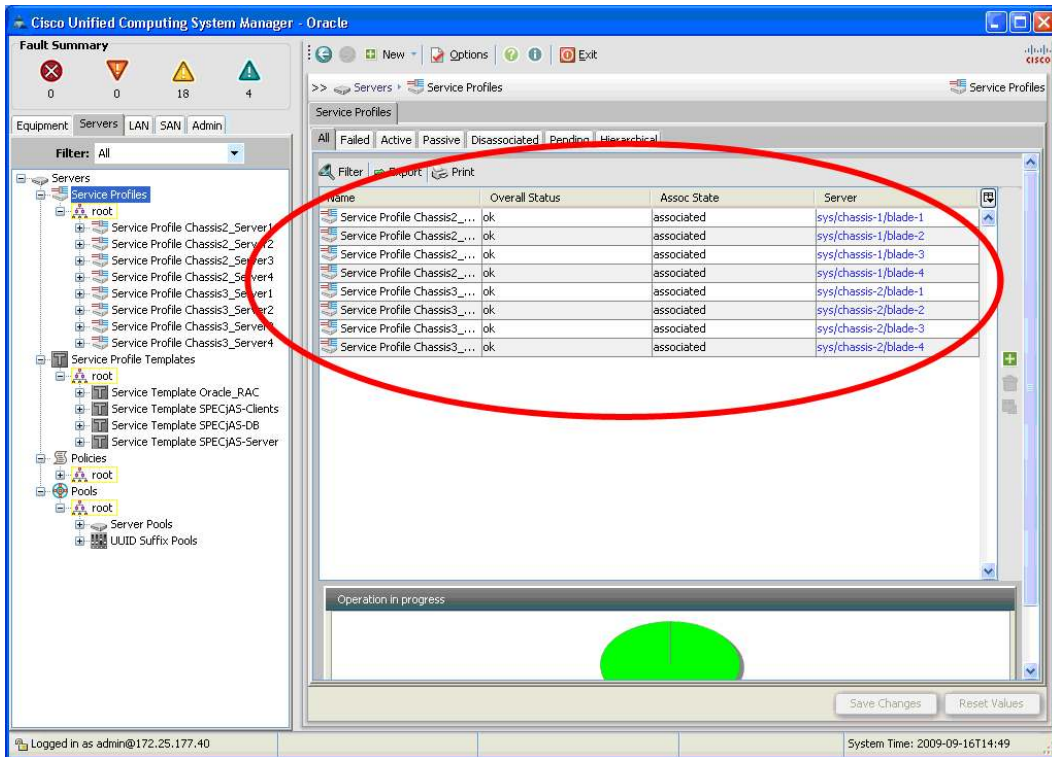
2. In the **Create Service Profiles From Template** dialog box:
3. In the **Naming Prefix** field, enter **RAC**.
4. In the **Number** field, enter **8**.



- a) Click **OK**.

This step creates service profiles for all eight blade servers. When the service profiles are created, they will pick unique MAC address, WWN, and WWPN values from the resource pools created earlier.

Now you can associate the profiles with the appropriate blade servers in the chassis.



Configuring the SAN Switch and Zoning

The fabric interconnects are connected to a SAN switch that also provides connectivity to storage.

To configure the SAN switch, follow these steps:

1. Make sure that the following configuration details are implemented:
 - The NPIV feature must be enabled on the Cisco MDS 9124 Multilayer Fabric Switch.
 - The 4-GB SPF+ modules must be connected to the Cisco UCS 6100 Series Fabric Interconnect with the port mode and speed set to **AUTO**.
 - If you have created different VSANs, be sure to associate each Fibre Channel uplink with the correct VSAN.
2. Refer to established SAN and zoning best practices for your setup.
3. Complete the zoning.

Table 6 lists the zones and their associated members that are used in the testing and discussed in this document.

Table 6. Zones for Oracle RAC Setup

Zone Name	Host (HBA)	Storage Visible from Zone
RAC1_Zone1	RAC1_HBA1	SPA0, SPA4, SPB2, and SPB6
RAC2_Zone1	RAC2_HBA1	
RAC3_Zone1	RAC3_HBA1	
RAC4_Zone1	RAC4_HBA1	
RAC5_Zone1	RAC5_HBA1	
RAC6_Zone1	RAC6_HBA1	
RAC7_Zone1	RAC7_HBA1	
RAC8_Zone1	RAC8_HBA1	

RAC1_Zone2	RAC1_HBA2	SPA2, SPA6, SPB0, and SPB4
RAC2_Zone2	RAC2_HBA2	
RAC3_Zone2	RAC3_HBA2	
RAC4_Zone2	RAC4_HBA2	
RAC5_Zone2	RAC5_HBA2	
RAC6_Zone2	RAC6_HBA2	
RAC7_Zone2	RAC7_HBA2	
RAC8_Zone2	RAC8_HBA2	

After you complete the zoning, you are ready to configure storage.

Setting Up EMC CLARiiON Storage

This document provides a general overview of the storage configuration for the database layout. However, it does not supply details about host connectivity and logical unit number (LUN)—that is, RAID—configuration. For more information about EMC CLARiiON storage, refer to <http://powerlink.emc.com>.

Configuring Storage

Follow these steps to configure storage for the Cisco Unified Computing System data center solution:

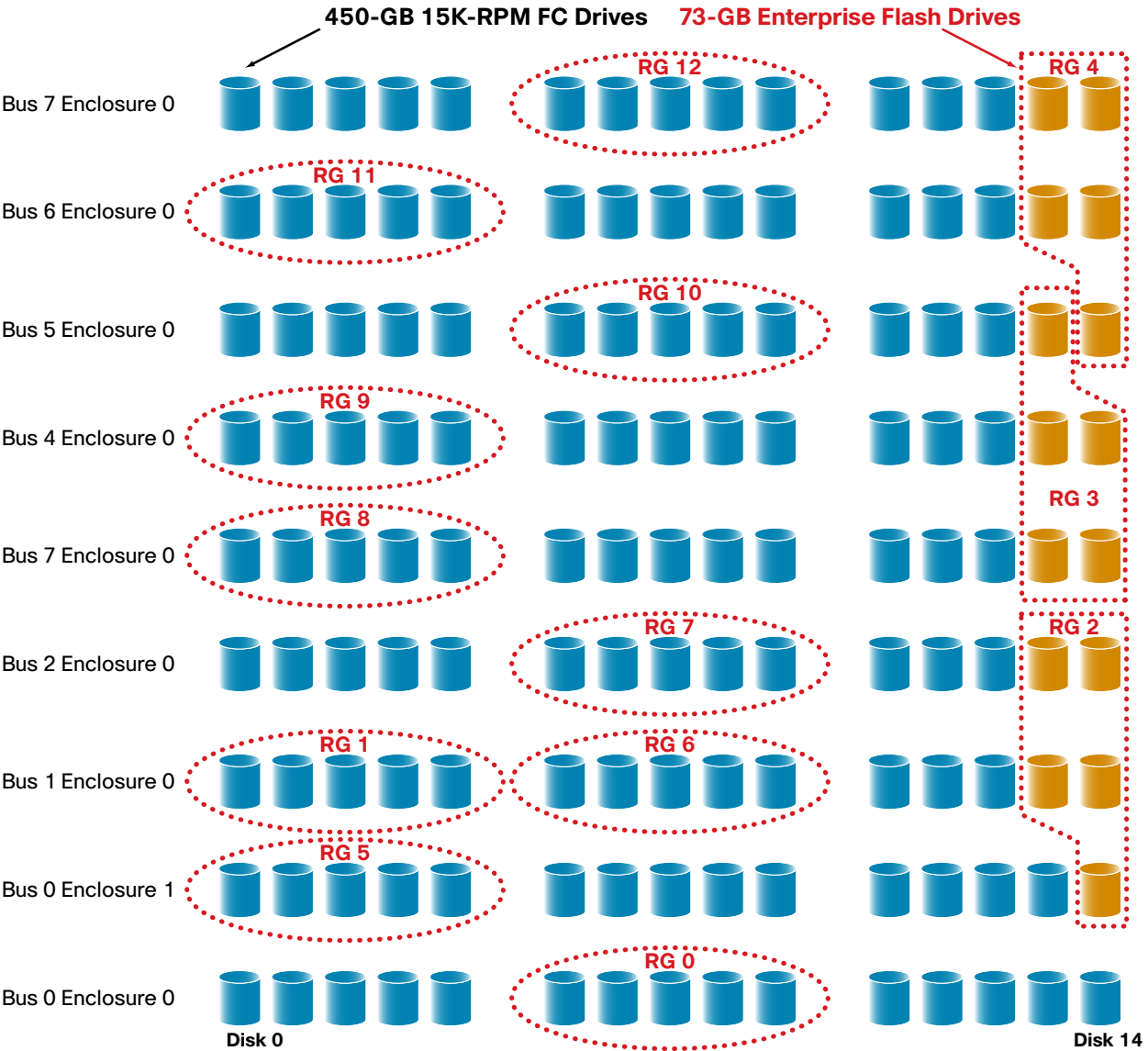
1. Ensure host connectivity.
If each host has the EMC Navisphere Agent[®] package installed, the agent automatically registers the HBA initiators.
2. If the package is not installed, make sure that all initiators are registered properly to complete the host registration.
3. Create the RAID groups.

Testing for the Cisco Unified Computing System solution used:

- EMC CLARiiON CX4-960 with 105 Fibre Channel spindles
- 15 EFDs

Figure 5 illustrates the RAID groups created for database testing.

Figure 5. RAID Groups Used in Database Testing



4. Create the LUNs.

Note: It is extremely important that you choose an appropriate storage processor as the default owner so that the service processors are evenly balanced. The Cisco Unified Computing System data center solution creates one LUN per RAID group for Fibre Channel drives and four LUNs per RAID group for EFDs.

Table 7 provides the LUN configuration data.

Table 7. LUN Configuration Data

RAID Group and Type	LUN	Size	Purpose	Owner (Storage Processor)
RAID Group 0 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUNs 0 and 1	256 MB	Voting disks	SP-A
	LUN 2	256 MB	OCR disk	SP-B
RAID Group 1 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 3	256 MB	Voting disk	SP-B
	LUN 4	256 MB	OCR disk	SP-A
RAID Group 2 EFD drives (RAID-5 4+1)	LUNs 5 and 6	66 GB	Data disks for Oracle ASM	SP-A
	LUNs 7 and 8	66 GB	Data disks for Oracle ASM	SP-B
RAID Group 2 EFD drives (RAID-5 4+1)	LUNs 9 and 10	66 GB	Data disks for Oracle ASM	SP-A
	LUNs 11 and 12	66 GB	Data disks for Oracle ASM	SP-B
RAID Group 4 EFD drives (RAID-5 4+1)	LUNs 13 and 14	66 GB	Data disks for Oracle ASM	SP-A
	LUNs 15 and 16	66 GB	Data disks for Oracle ASM	SP-B
RAID Group 5 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 50	512 GB	Redo logs	SP-A
RAID Group 6 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 17	512 GB	Redo logs	SP-B
RAID Group 7 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 18	512 GB	Redo logs	SP-A
RAID Group 8 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 19	512 GB	Redo logs	SP-B
RAID Group 9 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 20	768 GB	Temp	SP-A
RAID Group 10 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 21	768 GB	Temp	SP-B
RAID Group 11 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 22	768 GB	Temp	SP-A
RAID Group 12 (RAID-5 4+1)	LUN 23	768 GB	Temp	SP-B

5. Follow the additional recommendations for configuring storage and LUNs:

- a) Turn off the read and write caches for EFD-based LUNs. In most situations, it is better to turn off both the read and write caches on all the LUNs that reside on EFDs, for the following reasons:
 - The EFDs are extremely fast: When the read cache is enabled for the LUNs residing on them, the read cache lookup for each read request adds more overhead compared to Fibre Channel drives. This scenario occurs in an application profile that is not expected to get many read cache hits at any rate. It is generally much faster to directly read the block from the EFD.
 - In typical situations, the storage array is also shared by several other applications and the database. This situation occurs particularly when storage deploys mixed drives, which may also consist of slower SATA drives. The write cache may become fully saturated, placing the EFDs in a force-flush situation, which adds latency. Therefore, it is better in these situations to write the block directly to the EFDs than to the write cache of the storage system.
- b) Distribute database files for EFDs. Refer to Table 8 for recommendations about distributing database files based on the type of workload.

Table 8. Distribution of Data Files Based on Type of Workload

EFD-Friendly Database Workloads	Expensive Workloads (Not as Cost Effective on EFD)
User Tablespace-Based Data Files Random Reads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-tree leaf access • Row ID lookup in table • Access to out-of-line LOB • Access to overflowed row • Index scan of unclustered table • Compression: Increases I/O intensity (I/O operations per second [IOPS] per GB) Serial Reads Random Writes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Row update by PK • Index maintenance • Reduction of checkpoint interval Temporary Tablespace Files: Sort Areas and Intermediate Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequentially read and written, but I/O is performed in 1-MB units; not enough to amortize seeks • Lower latency: Get in and get out 	Redo Log Files <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequential I/O • Read and write and commit latency already handled by cache in storage controller Undo Tablespace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequential writes and random reads by Oracle Flashback. • Generally, reads are for recently written data that is likely to be in the buffer cache Large Table Scans (If Single Stream)

The configuration described here employs most of EMC's best practices and recommendations for LUN distribution in the database. It also adopts the layout for a mixed storage environment consisting of Fibre Channel disks and EFDs.

For more information about Oracle database best practices for flash-drive-based EMC CLARiiON storage, refer to the document "Leveraging EMC CLARiiON CX4 with Enterprise Flash Drives for Oracle Database Deployments" at <http://www.emc.com/collateral/hardware/white-papers/h5967-leveraging-clariion-cx4-oracle-deploy-wp.pdf>.

Applying Patches, Environment, and OS Settings

After completing the configuration of the Cisco Unified Computing System, the SAN, and storage, you can install the OS.

To test the Cisco Unified Computing System data center solution, 64-bit Oracle Enterprise Linux (OEL) 5.3, Update 3, was used as the OS.

Installing the OS and Setting Up the Environment

Follow these steps to install the OS and enable the environment settings:

1. Install 64-bit OEL 5.3, Update 3, on all eight nodes.
2. Update the Intel ixgbe driver by applying the latest errata kernel.

Because of a bug in OEL and Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 5.3, systems with 16 or more logical processors that use network devices requiring the ixgbe driver have intermittent network connectivity or can experience a kernel panic. To help ensure network stability, follow the recommendations in the article at <http://kbase.redhat.com/faq/docs/DOC-16041>.

3. Install the Oracle Validated RPM package.

Use of this RPM package can simplify preparation of Linux for Oracle Clusterware and RAC installation. The RPM downloads (or updates) all necessary RPM packages on the system, resolves dependencies, and creates Oracle users and groups. It also sets all appropriate OS and kernel specifications, depending on the system configuration. The appendix lists kernel settings if you decide to set them manually.

4. Install the Oracle Automatic Storage Management (ASM) RPM package.

The Oracle ASM Library (ASMLib) enables ASM-based I/O to Linux disks without the limitations of the standard UNIX I/O API. For information about downloading and installing Oracle ASMLib based on your kernel version, go to <http://www.oracle.com/technology/tech/linux/asmlib/install.html>.

5. Configure Oracle ASM; then create and label the disks that the ASM is to manage.

The following disks were created for the test environment:

- 12 data disks managed by Oracle ASM
- 4 temporary disks
- 4 log disks (archive, logs, etc.)

6. Install the EMC Navisphere RPM package.

It is highly recommended that you install this RPM package because the package helps ensure automatic host registration with EMC CLARiON storage.

7. Configure the multipathing software.

The test environment uses the Linux Device Mapper utility for multipathing and device-naming persistence.

For the test environment, a total of 24 LUNs were created and divided into the following components:

- 2 Oracle Cluster Registry (OCR) disks
- 3 voting disks
- 12 data disks managed by Oracle ASM
- 4 temporary disks
- 4 log disks (for archives, logs, etc.)

For more information about multipathing software and device setup, refer to Oracle MetaLink document 564580.1 (Oracle service contract required).

8. Create disk partitions for Oracle Clusterware disks (OCR and voting):

```
root@rac1 downloads]# fdisk /dev/dm-1
```

```
n          new partition
p          primary partition
1          partition 1
(CR)       start from beginning of device or LUN
(CR)       use all the available sectors
w          commit changes
```

9. Create a partition for ASM-managed data disks at the offset of 1 MB (or 2048 sectors).

This step is useful because Oracle ASM performs I/O operations at 1-MB boundaries. Setting this offset aligns host I/O operations with the back-end storage I/O operations.

Use the following setup for ASM-managed data disks:

```
[root@rac1 downloads]# fdisk /dev/dm-8
n          new partition
p          primary partition
1          partition 1
(CR)       start from beginning of device or LUN
(CR)       use all the available sectors
x          go into EXPERT mode
```

```

b          adjust partition header data begin offset
1          for partition 1
2048       to sector 2048 from beginning of LUN, or 1MB
w          commit changes

```

10. Configure the private and public NICs with the appropriate IP addresses.
11. Identify the virtual IP addresses for each node and update the /etc/hosts file with all the details (private, public, and virtual IP).
12. Configure the ssh option (with no password) for the Oracle user.

For more information about ssh configuration, refer to the Oracle installation documentation.

You are now ready to install Oracle Clusterware and the database.

Installing Oracle Clusterware and the Database

For more information about the Oracle RAC installation, refer to the Oracle installation documentation.

Follow these steps to perform an Oracle installation:

1. Download the Oracle Database 10g Release 2 (10.2.0.1.0) software.
2. Install Oracle Database 10g Release 2 Clusterware.
3. Install Oracle Database 10g Release 2 Database “Software Only”; do not create the database.
4. Download the Oracle Database 10g Release 2 (10.2.0.4) Patch Set 3 bundle and install it.

During the installation, you may encounter several known issues, described in the following Oracle MetaLink notes:

- **Note 414163.1:** 10gR2 RAC install issues on Oracle EL5 or RHEL5 or SLES10 (VIPCA failures)
- **Note 443617.1:** (32-bit) libXp-1.0.0-8.1.el5.i386.rpm is required to avoid OUI error during install

Now you are ready to create the database and the workload setup.

Configuring the Oracle SwingBench Workload

Two databases were created for the configuration discussed here: for Oracle SwingBench OLTP and DSS workloads. To set up the Oracle SwingBench workloads, follow these steps:

1. Create two databases using Oracle Database Creation Assistant (DBCA):
 - OLTP (Order Entry) workload
 - DSS (Sales History) workload
2. Populate the databases.

Both databases were populated with the data shown in the next sections: “OLTP (Order Entry) Database” and “DSS (Sales History) Database.”

OLTP (Order Entry) Database

The OLTP database was populated with the following data:

```

[oracle@rac1 ~]$ sqlplus soe/soe
SQL*Plus: Release 10.2.0.4.0 - Production on Sat Sep 19 17:34:46 2009
Copyright (c) 1982, 2007, Oracle. All Rights Reserved.
Connected to:
Oracle Database 10g Enterprise Edition Release 10.2.0.4.0 - 64bit Production
With the Partitioning, Real Application Clusters, OLAP, Data Mining
and Real Application Testing options

```



```
SQL> select table_name, num_rows from user_tables;
```

TABLE_NAME	NUM_ROWS
WAREHOUSES	264
PRODUCT_INFORMATION	288
PRODUCT_DESCRIPTIONS	288
LOGON	50033
INVENTORIES	77815
ORDERS	25459388
ORDER_ITEMS	89147570
CUSTOMERS	25305070

```
8 rows selected.
```

DSS (Sales History) Database

The DSS database was populated with the following data:

```
[oracle@rac1 ~]$ sqlplus sh/sh
```

```
SQL*Plus: Release 10.2.0.4.0 - Production on Sat Sep 19 17:43:42 2009
```

```
Copyright (c) 1982, 2007, Oracle. All Rights Reserved.
```

```
Connected to:
```

```
Oracle Database 10g Enterprise Edition Release 10.2.0.4.0 - 64bit Production
With the Partitioning, Real Application Clusters, OLAP, Data Mining
and Real Application Testing options
```

```
SQL> select table_name, num_rows from user_tables;
```

TABLE_NAME	NUM_ROWS
COUNTRIES	23
COSTS	132528
SALES	2034392904
SUPPLEMENTARY_DEMOGRAPHICS	204426381
CUSTOMERS	204400080
TIMES	1826
CHANNELS	5
PRODUCTS	72
PROMOTIONS	503

```
9 rows selected.
```

For more information about creating and populating databases for OLTP (Order Entry) and DSS (Sales History) workloads, refer to the Oracle SwingBench documentation at <http://dominicgiles.com/swingbench.html>.

Testing Workload Performance

To evaluate workload performance, the cluster was stressed for 24 hours with a sustained load. During the 24-hour run of both the OLTP (Order Entry) and the DSS (Sales History) workloads, no crashes or degradation of performance was observed.

The following workload performance metrics were detected and recorded:

- Very consistent CPU utilization: around 40 percent on all eight nodes
- No saturation levels of any subsystems (CPU, disk, I/O, or networking)
- Sustained FCoE-based I/O ranging between 1.8 and 2.0 GB per second, which could be further divided into 1.4 GB per second of Fibre Channel I/O and approximately 450 MB per second of interconnect communication
- No occurrence of I/O bottlenecks or wait times
- Excellent I/O service times for storage

The consistent workload performance can be attributed to:

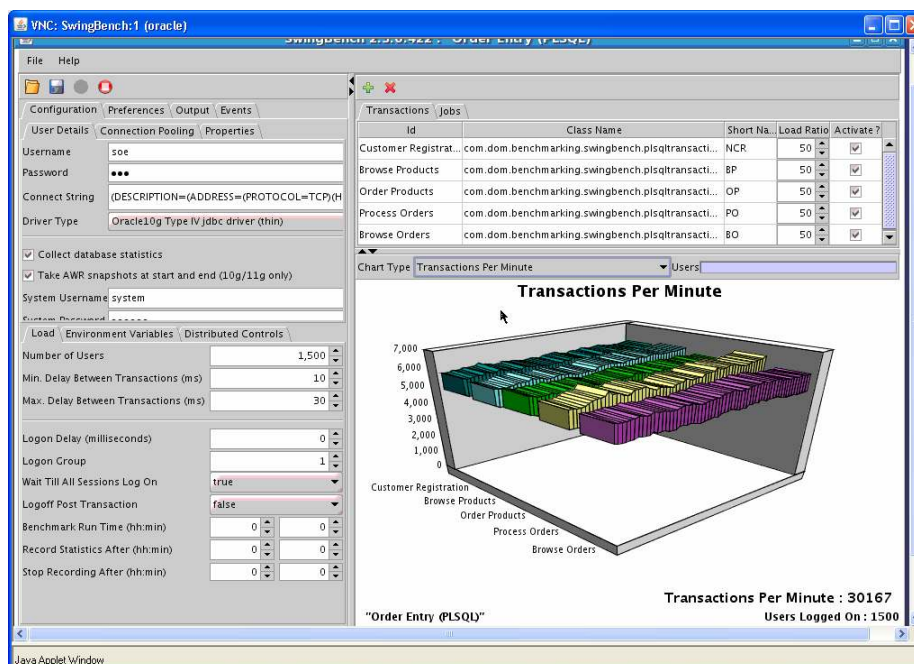
- The simplified, excellent architectural design of the Cisco Unified Computing System based on a 10-Gbps unified fabric
- The pairing of the Cisco Unified Computing System with EMC CLARiiON storage with high-performance EFDs

Note: This is a testing, not a performance benchmarking, exercise. The numbers presented here should not be used for comparison purposes. The intent here is to look at the Cisco Unified Computing System supporting a sustained load over a long time period. Note that no tuning was performed, and the lack of resource saturation indicates that significant headroom is available to support greater performance than that shown here.

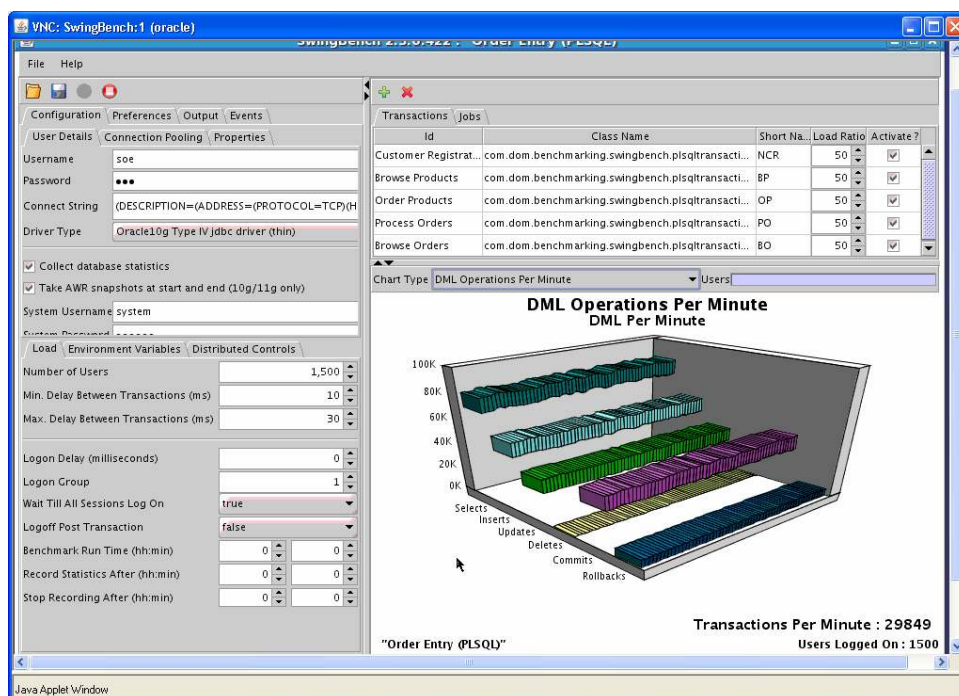
OLTP Workload

Figure 6 shows the Order Entry workload running 1500 users in the eighth hour of a 24-hour run.

Figure 6. Order Entry Workload



A typical OLTP Oracle application has some write activity because of Data Manipulation Language (DML) operations such as updates and inserts. Figure 7 shows the DML operations per minute for the OLTP workload.

Figure 7. DML Operations Breakdown for OLTP Workload

DSS Workload

Unlike the OLTP workload, the DSS workload is set to run from the command line. DSS workloads are generally very sequential and read intensive. For DSS workloads, it is common practice to set the parallel queries and the degree of parallelism on heavily read tables. This practice was followed in the test environment and achieved excellent performance, as indicated in the Tablespace and File IO Stats information from the Oracle Automated Workload Repository (AWR) report (90-minute duration) shown in Tables 9 and 10.

Table 9. Oracle AWR Report Tablespace IO Stats Information

Tablespace	Reads	Av Reads/s	Av Rd(ms)	Av Blks/Rd	Writes	Av Writes/s	Buffer Waits	Av Buf Wt(ms)
SH	847,901	134	0.03	122.44	0	0	28	14.29
SYSAUX	695	0	36.23	2.19	2,340	0	33	954.85

As Table 9 shows, 134 read operations occur per second. Each read fetches about 122 data blocks, and each data block is 8 KB in size. Consequently, each read operation fetches about 1 MB (122.44 x 8 KB). In other words, this particular instance performs about 134 MB of read operations on SH tablespace. Similar behavior was observed across all eight nodes. The result is about 130 MB x 8 instances at 1 GB per second of read operations for the DSS workload.

Table 10. Oracle AWR Report File IO Stats Information

Tablespace	Filename	Reads	Av Reads/s	Av Rd(ms)	Av Bks/Rd	Writes	Av Writes/s	Buffer Waits	Av Buf Wt(ms)
SH	+USER_DG/sh1	122,795	19	0.00	122.32	0	0	0	0.00
SH	+USER_DG/sh2	122,239	19	0.00	122.66	0	0	0	0.00
SH	+USER_DG/sh3	124,802	20	0.08	122.24	0	0	16	25.00
SH	+USER_DG/sh4	120,709	19	0.01	122.48	0	0	2	0.00
SH	+USER_DG/sh5	117,037	18	0.00	122.24	0	0	6	0.00
SH	+USER_DG/sh6	116,116	18	0.10	122.84	0	0	0	0.00
SH	+USER_DG/sh7	123,903	20	0.00	122.34	0	0	4	0.00

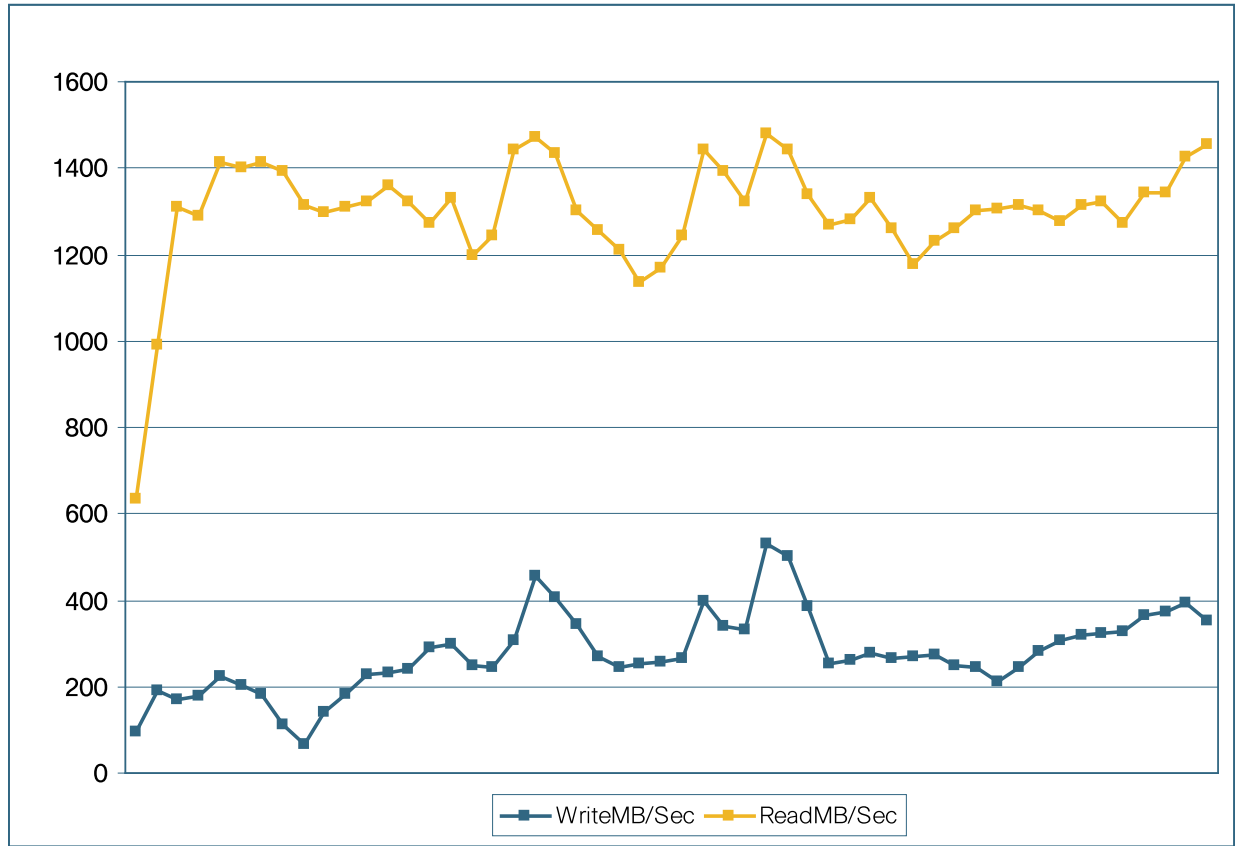
The File IO Stats information indicates that all ASM-managed files have evenly spread read operations (18 to 20 operations per second). However, the benefit of the EFD drives is clearly reflected in the Av Rd(ms) column.

Generally speaking, rotating Fibre Channel drives perform well in a single stream of queries. However, addition of multiple concurrent streams (or parallel queries) causes additional seek and rotational latencies, thereby reducing the overall per-disk bandwidth. In contrast, the absence of any moving parts in EFDs enables sustained bandwidth regardless of the number of concurrent queries running on the drive.

FCoE Traffic and the Read-to-Write Ratio

Figure 8 provides a sample from a 24-hour stress run using the workload. It shows the combined FCoE read and write traffic observed at the fabric interconnects. This I/O is the combination of Oracle RAC interconnect traffic (approximately 450 MB) and Fibre Channel I/O (1.4 GB).

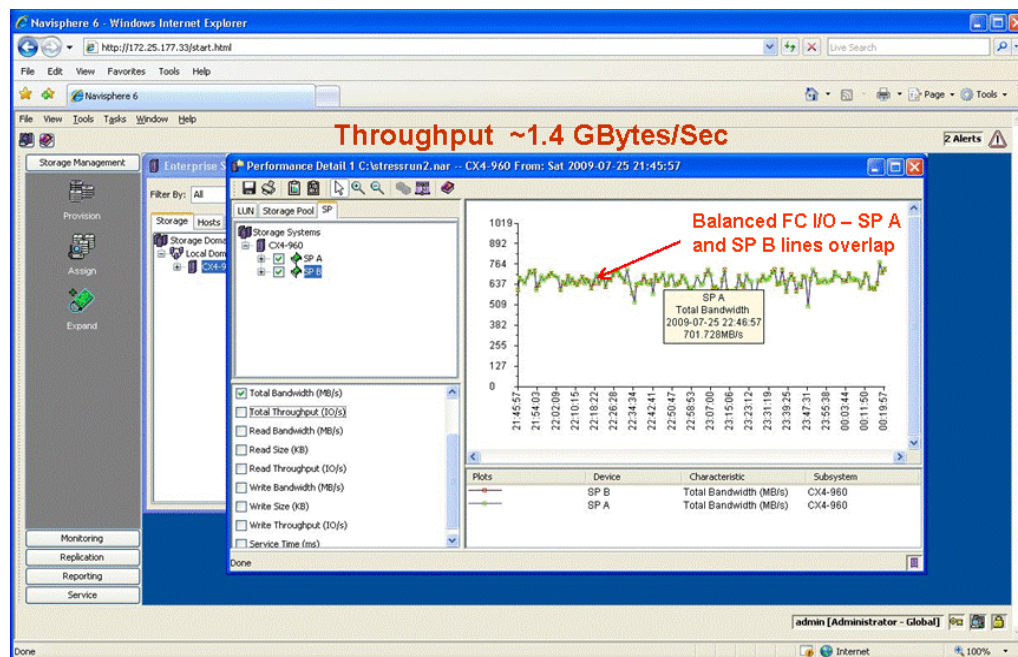
Figure 8. FCoE Traffic Observed at Fabric Interconnects



Fibre Channel Throughput

A sample from a 24-hour stress run (Figure 9) shows the Fibre Channel I/O serviced by the storage.

Figure 9. Fibre Channel Traffic Serviced by Storage



Availability after Hardware Failures

Previous sections described Cisco Unified Computing System installation, configuration, and performance. This section examines the Cisco Unified Computing System's nearly instant failover capabilities to show how they can improve overall availability after unexpected, but common, hardware failures attributed to ports and cables.

Figure 10 shows some of the failure scenarios (indicated by numbers) that were tested under the stress conditions described in the preceding section, "Testing Workload Performance."

Figure 10. Sample Failure Scenarios

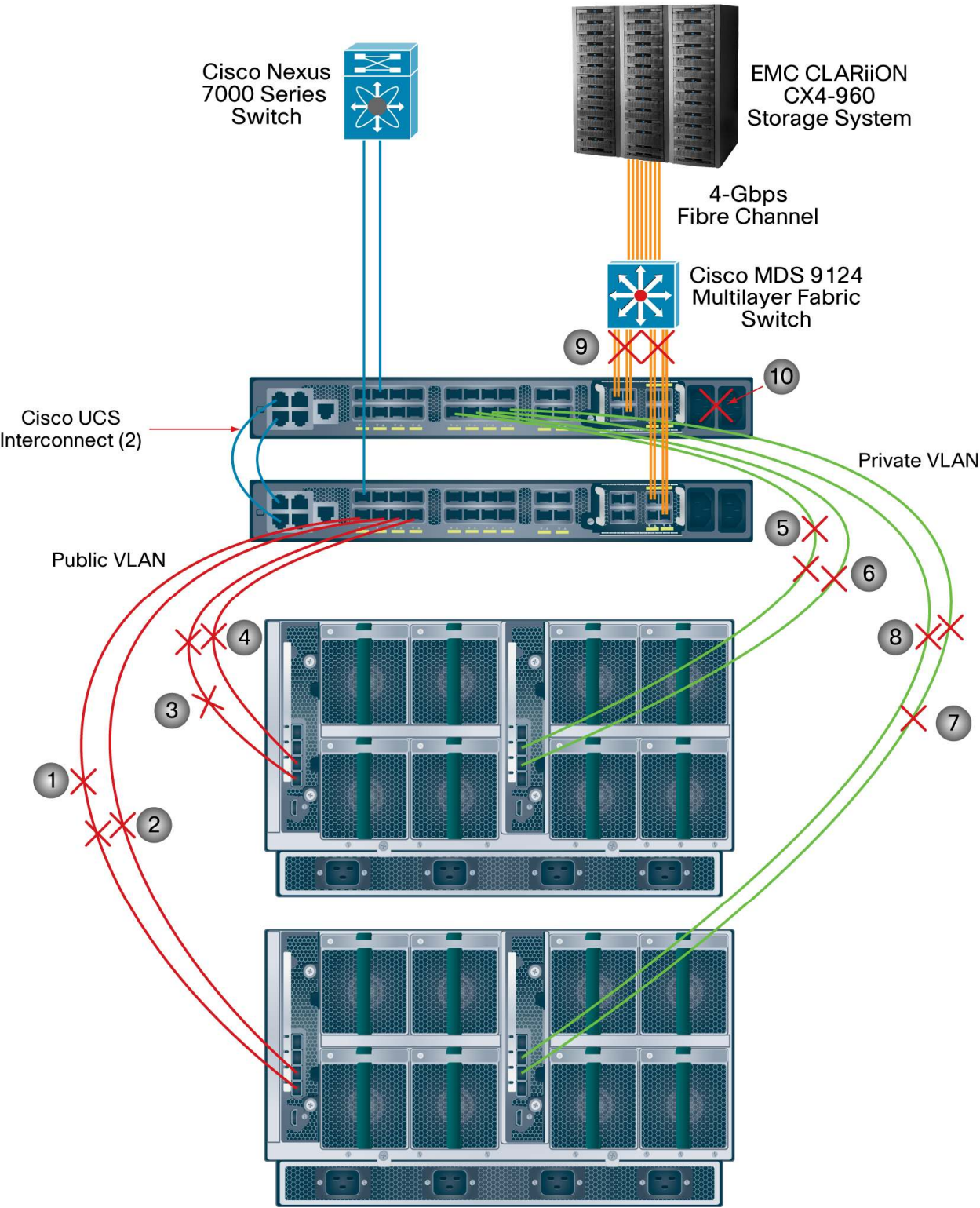


Table 11 summarizes the failure scenarios (each indicated by a number in Figure 10) and describes how the Cisco Unified Computing System architecture sustains unexpected failures related to ports, links, and the fabric interconnect (a rare occurrence).

Table 11. Failure Scenarios and Cisco Unified Computing System Response

Failure Scenario (Figure 10)	Description	Response
1 or 3	Single-link failure (public interface)	Represents port failure; nodes should continue to work
2 or 4	All-links failure (public interface)	Nodes should continue to work through other I/O module
5 or 7	Single-link failure (private interconnect)	Represents port failure; nodes should continue to work
6 or 8	All-links failure (private interconnect)	Nodes should continue to work through other I/O module
9	Storage path failure	Single I/O path loss should have no effect; if all I/O paths fail, nodes should reboot
2 and 6 or 4 and 8	Failure of both I/O modules on a single chassis	All nodes in failed chassis should reboot; nodes in other chassis should continue to work
10	Fabric interconnect failure	All nodes should continue to work through other fabric interconnect

Conclusion

Designed using a new and innovative approach to improve data center infrastructure, the Cisco Unified Computing System unites compute, network, storage access, and virtualization resources into a scalable, modular architecture that is managed as a single system.

For the Cisco Unified Computing System, Cisco has partnered with Oracle because Oracle databases and applications provide mission-critical software foundations for the majority of large enterprises worldwide. In addition, the architecture and large memory capabilities of the Cisco Unified Computing System connected to the industry-proven and scalable CLARiiON storage system enable customers to scale and manage Oracle database environments in ways not previously possible.

Both database administrators and system administrators will benefit from the Cisco Unified Computing System combination of superior architecture, outstanding performance, and unified fabric. They can achieve demonstrated results by following the documented best practices for database installation, configuration, and management outlined in this document.

The workload performance testing included a realistic mix of OLTP and DSS workloads, which generated a sustained load on the eight-node Oracle RAC configuration for a period of 72 hours. This type of load far exceeds the demands of typical database deployments.

Despite the strenuous workload, the following high-performance metrics were achieved:

- The quad-core Intel Xeon 5500 series processors barely reached 50 percent of their capacity, leaving substantial headroom for additional load.
- The average 10 Gigabit Ethernet port utilization at the fabric interconnect was about 40 percent.
- The I/O demands generated by the load were supported very efficiently by the capabilities of the minimally configured EMC CLARiiON storage array. The array featured a mix of Fibre Channel and EFDs.

In summary, the Cisco Unified Computing System is a new computing model that uses integrated management and combines a wire-once unified fabric with an industry-standard computing platform.

The platform:

- Optimizes database environments
- Reduces total overall cost of the data center
- Provides dynamic resource provisioning for increased business agility

The benefits of the Cisco Unified Computing System include:

- Reduced TCO: Enables up to 20 percent reduction in capital expenditures (CapEx) and up to 30 percent reduction in operating expenses (OpEx)
- Improved IT productivity and business agility: Enables IT to provision applications in minutes instead of days and shifts the focus from IT maintenance to IT innovation
- Increased scalability without added complexity: Is managed as a single system, whether the system has one server or 160 servers with thousands of virtual machines
- Improved energy efficiency: Significantly reduces power and cooling costs
- Interoperability and investment protection: Provides assurance through infrastructure based on industry standards

For More Information

Please visit <http://www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns944/index.html#>.

Appendix

Cisco Unified Computing System Kernel Settings (/etc/sysctl.conf)

This appendix provides the parameters for the Cisco Unified Computing System with 24 GB of RAM.

Note: It is highly recommended that you use the Oracle Validated RPM to derive kernel settings that are most suitable for your system.

```
# Kernel sysctl configuration file for Red Hat Linux
#
# For binary values, 0 is disabled, 1 is enabled.  See sysctl(8) and
# sysctl.conf(5) for more details.

# Controls IP packet forwarding
net.ipv4.ip_forward = 0

# Controls source route verification
net.ipv4.conf.default.rp_filter = 1

# Do not accept source routing
net.ipv4.conf.default.accept_source_route = 0

# Controls the System Request debugging functionality of the kernel
kernel.sysrq = 0

# Controls whether core dumps will append the PID to the core filename
# Useful for debugging multi-threaded applications
kernel.core_uses_pid = 1

# Controls the use of TCP syncookies
net.ipv4.tcp_syncookies = 1

# Controls the maximum size of a message, in bytes
kernel.msgmnb = 65536

# Controls the default maximum size of a message queue
kernel.msgmax = 65536

# Controls the maximum shared segment size, in bytes
kernel.shmmax = 4398046511104

# Controls the maximum number of shared memory segments, in pages
kernel.shmall = 4294967296

# User added
kernel.shmmni = 4096
#kernel.sem = 250 32000 100 142
kernel.sem = 250 32000 100 256
fs.file-max = 6553600
net.ipv4.ip_local_port_range = 1024 65000
```

```
net.core.wmem_default = 262144
net.core.wmem_max = 262144
kernel.panic_on_oops = 1
kernel.panic = 30
vm.nr_hugepages=7200
#vm.nr_hugepages=0
```

```
kernel.msgmni = 2878
net.core.rmem_default = 262144
net.core.rmem_max=2097152
net.core.wmem_default = 262144
net.core.wmem_max = 262144
fs.aio-max-nr = 3145728
```

Multipath Settings (/etc/multipath.conf)

The setup described in this document used the Linux Device Mapper.

The entries from the multipath.conf file are as follows:

```
# This is a basic configuration file with some examples, for device mapper
# multipath.
# For a complete list of the default configuration values, see
# /usr/share/doc/device-mapper-multipath-0.4.7/multipath.conf.defaults
# For a list of configuration options with descriptions, see
# /usr/share/doc/device-mapper-multipath-0.4.7/multipath.conf.annotated

# Blacklist all devices by default. Remove this to enable multipathing
# on the default devices.
#blacklist {
#    devnode "*"
#}

## By default, devices with vendor = "IBM" and product = "S/390.*" are
## blacklisted. To enable mulitpathing on these devices, uncomment the
## following lines.
#blacklist_exceptions {
#    device {
#        vendor "IBM"
#        product "S/390.*"
#    }
#}

## Use user friendly names, instead of using WWIDs as names.
defaults {
    user_friendly_names yes
}

multipaths {
    multipath {
        wwid 360060160aef72200b84551be8672de11
        alias ocr1
```

```
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200229b6dc98672de11
    alias ocr2
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200c804f1218c72de11
    alias voting1
}

multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200c904f1218c72de11
    alias voting2
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200248d682f8c72de11
    alias voting3
}

multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef7220048576cb0cf70de11
    alias usr_disk1
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef7220049576cb0cf70de11
    alias usr_disk2
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200449fb70cd070de11
    alias usr_disk3
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200459fb70cd070de11
    alias usr_disk4
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200de51f950d070de11
    alias usr_disk5
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200df51f950d070de11
    alias usr_disk6
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef722004a576cb0cf70de11
    alias usr_disk7
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef722004b576cb0cf70de11
    alias usr_disk8
```



```
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef7220046c52c1ad070de11
    alias usr_disk9
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef7220047c52c1ad070de11
    alias usr_disk10
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200f857cc5dd070de11
    alias usr_disk11
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200f957cc5dd070de11
    alias usr_disk12
}

multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef722008e27404bd770de11
    alias redo_disk1
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef7220010fe640fd770de11
    alias redo_disk2
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef722002cde712ed770de11
    alias redo_disk3
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef7220008351e59d770de11
    alias redo_disk4
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200ca4cd6c6d770de11
    alias temp_disk1
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef7220090066da1d770de11
    alias temp_disk2
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200066886bad770de11
    alias temp_disk3
}
multipath {
    wwid 360060160aef72200660708b2d770de11
    alias temp_disk4
}
```

```

    }

    devices {
        device {
            vendor "DGC "
            product "*"
#            path_grouping_policy group_by_prio
            path_grouping_policy multibus
            getuid_callout "/sbin/scsi_id -g -u -s /block/%n"
            prio_callout "/sbin/mpath_prio_emc /dev/%n"
            path_checker emc_clariion
            path_selector "round-robin 0"
            features "1 queue_if_no_path"
            no_path_retry 300
            hardware_handler "1 emc"
            failback immediate
        }
    }

```



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