Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Services

The Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Services provide expert assistance in the planning, design, and deployment of your virtual server environment on the Cisco Unified Computing System platform.

Accelerating the Success of Your Virtualization Initiative

For years, companies have used dedicated data center servers to support each new major business application they deployed. While this practice boosts the availability of critical applications, it has also led to a serious problem: high and growing costs to maintain these isolated hardware environments, many of which are significantly underutilized. As data center cooling and power costs continue to grow, and rack and floor space become ever more scarce, businesses face mounting pressure to optimize the data center. The solution: virtualization. By running multiple instances of a virtual resource on fewer physical machines, businesses can reduce overall data center power, cooling, and maintenance costs and free up valuable space. Indeed, a properly architected and deployed virtualization effort can substantially reduce data center costs, while improving the responsiveness of critical business applications.

The innovative new Cisco® 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 (UCS) provides a powerful solution. However, to quickly realize the benefits of your virtualization initiative and mitigate the risks, you need expert guidance.

Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Services

The Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Services give you a clear view of server consolidation opportunities within your data center's physical IT infrastructure and provide expert assistance in the planning, design, and deployment of your virtual server environment on the Cisco Unified Computing System platform. Drawing on Cisco Services best practices and proven methodologies, these services help you plan and implement your virtualization strategy more effectively and accelerate the return on your Cisco Unified Computing System investment.

Three services are available:

- Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Assessment Service
- Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Accelerator Service
- Cisco Unified Computing Server Virtualization Mobility and Management Service

Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Assessment Service

The first steps in launching a successful virtualization effort are assessing the opportunities for server consolidation and designing the right virtualized architecture for your data center. Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Assessment Service provides a clear, comprehensive analysis of the server consolidation opportunities within your physical IT infrastructure and provides expert assistance creating a roadmap for your solution. The engagement consists of automated data collection from your compute environment, followed by an interactive facilitated design session.

Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Accelerator Service

The Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Accelerator Service option provides expert guidance through the design and deployment of a virtual server environment on the Cisco Unified Computing System. The service begins after you have installed the Cisco Unified Computing System and the environment is online. The service helps you design and deploy an optimized compute infrastructure and includes the development and implementation of an exhaustive test plan to address the resiliency and flexibility of your planned unified architecture on the Cisco Unified Computing System.

Cisco Unified Computing Server Virtualization Mobility and Management Service

This service 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.

Table 1 lists service activities and deliverables.

Table 1. Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Services Activities, Deliverables, and Benefits

Activities and Deliverables	Benefits
Unified Computing Virtualization Assessment Service · Install collection tool in your environment and validate your inventory in preparation for automated data collection · Analyze collected data to determine suitable candidate servers for virtualization · Clearly define business and technical objectives for your Cisco Unified Computing System environment · Estimate the total cost of ownership and return on investment for your planned compute environment · Identify clear roadmap and next steps to pursue your virtualization strategy successfully **Deliverables:** · Site assessment report of servers in your current compute environment · Overview of virtualization assessment, including financial effect analysis associated with consolidation on the Cisco Unified Computing System platform	· Enhance your return on investment by identifying opportunities to yield maximum benefit from server consolidation in your Cisco Unified Computing System deployment · Reduce risk by clearly understanding potential virtualization scenarios for server consolidation · Increase your confidence in your virtualization initiative and readiness to transition to a unified computing architecture · Speed time to value of your virtualization effort · Improve the availability of data center resources and the ability of your data center environment to meet fast-changing business requirements
Unified Computing Virtualization Accelerator Service · Engagement split between design support and implementation support phases · Design support experts review your existing server resources, network and storage access requirements, and configuration requirements · Implementation support experts help verify your physical infrastructure and necessary hardware installation for the Cisco Unified Computing System deployment · Deployment and verification of system components such as VMware ESX/ESXi and vSphere **Deliverables:** · Transfer of critical knowledge regarding operation of virtualized environment such as vSphere4.0 · Comprehensive test plans	· Reduce risk of your virtualization initiative through clear understanding of the sizing of the virtual machines required for your application environment · Accelerate your virtualization project implementation and return on investment through expert setup of the Cisco Unified Computing System infrastructure and virtualization environment, including virtual machines
Unified Computing Server Virtualization Mobility and Management · 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:** · Customer requirements document detailing critical success factors, risks, and recommended next steps, as well as 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	· Realize the full benefits of your x86 server virtualization effort through a professionally installed hypervisor and virtual machine environment that is installed and configured according to industry best practices · Reduce the costs and improve the reliability and manageability of your server infrastructure through optimized and flexible use of compute resources · Enhance business continuity and availability of critical business applications through the more robust disaster recovery capabilities of a virtualized server environment · Improve overall quality of service and reduce server virtualization management costs through the ability to manage compute devices as a pool of resources

Benefits

Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Services provide the advanced expertise, best practices, and proven methodologies you need to plan and design a successful virtualization solution and realize the full value of your Cisco Unified Computing System investment. These services help you to:

- Gain optimal value from your virtualization project through expert assistance in identifying opportunities for server consolidation and virtualization in your data center

- Reduce the risk of your data center initiative through a detailed analysis of how the Cisco Unified Computing System will support virtualization 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 virtualization initiative and reduce the risk of errors or misconfigurations during implementation

Prerequisites

These services are often preceded by the Cisco Unified Computing Architecture Assessment Service.

Follow-On Services

The Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Assessment Service can be followed by Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Accelerator Service, Cisco Unified Computing Server Virtualization Mobility and Management Service, or other Cisco Unified Computing Services.

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 Virtualization Services are 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 offers the following expertise:

- Data center solutions architect
- Layer 2 and Layer 3 infrastructure architect
- SAN architect
- Layer 4 to Layer 7 architect
- Professional consultants certified on VMware
- Information security expert
- Network management architect
- Customer system architect and administrator
- Project manager

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

The Cisco Unified Computing Virtualization Service is widely available. For availability in your area, check with your local Cisco representative.

For More Information

For more information about this and other 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.

Cisco Services.
Making Networks Work.
Better Together.

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