

Cisco Services for Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)



Application Centric Infrastructure: A New Era in the Data Center

The move to the cloud/mobile era, with an emerging set of next-generation applications and new operational models, is driving the need for infrastructure change and a new set of requirements for data center architectures.

Is your data center ready for the cloud and big data? With the introduction of new technologies and business models, your data center has become a strategic asset. And that requires an application-centric operational model, with closely integrated infrastructure, systems management, and application layers. With Cisco® Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI), you can meet the demands of the cloud/mobile/big data era and related distributed applications.

Cisco ACI is an innovative, secure architecture that delivers centralized application-driven policy automation, management, and visibility of physical and virtual networks. It's a holistic solution that not only solves technical challenges but also delivers the operational, service-level, and financial business improvements you need. ACI gives IT leaders the ability to manage even the most complex private, public, brokered, or hybrid environments more easily and transparently.

Even in a sizeable operation running hundreds of applications, a properly deployed ACI architecture can significantly lower operational overhead, delivering higher service levels at a lower cost.

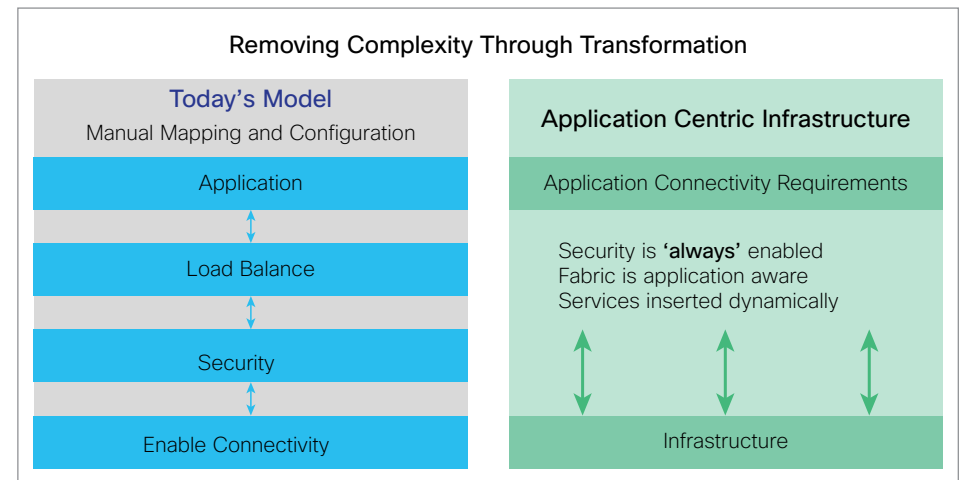
Dynamic, Application Centric Infrastructure

The architecture provides a common programmable automation and management framework for network, application, security, and virtualization teams. This framework makes IT more agile while reducing application deployment time. It's built on a fabric foundation that delivers best-in-class infrastructure by combining hardware, software, and ASIC innovations into an integrated system. It's optimized for running today's physical and virtual applications. And it's optimized for tomorrow's emerging architectures as well, supporting an "application anywhere" model with complete freedom of application movement and placement.

The building blocks of ACI include:

- Application-focused fabric
- Centralized management, automation and orchestration
- Extensibility and openness – open source, open APIs

Figure 1. ACI Transforms IT and Removes Complexity





Your Network, Your Way

As Figure 1 shows, ACI simplifies operations by automating layers of configuration that previously had to be done manually, while making sure that security is “always on.” You can dynamically insert services and enable connectivity.

Application Centric Infrastructure services help you:

- Identify and address technical and operational readiness to effectively deploy architecture that supports your particular needs
- Enable network automation and programmability
- Optimize the data center infrastructure for the new breed of applications
- Simplify operations through integration at the infrastructure, systems, and management levels
- Enable centralized application-based policy automation, management, and visibility of physical and virtual networks from a single point of management
- Protect capital and operational investments, while gaining a simple transition path from existing environments to an ACI-enabled architecture

Cisco Services for Application Centric Infrastructure

Reaping the benefits of a new data center initiative quickly and mitigating risks require expert guidance. To realize the benefits of your project, you need to account for the entire data center environment. Cisco Services for ACI help you take the right steps to achieve your business and technical objectives and reduce risk.

Cisco offers a range of professional and product support services for your ACI deployment, including:

Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)/Nexus 9000 Services			
SKU/PID	Description	Orderability	FCS
Contact for quote	Cisco Business Strategy capabilities help you articulate the strategy and develop the business case and an architectural led master plan for Application Centric Infrastructure. We work with you to assess the specific opportunity and benefits from ACI within your environment and to identify and prioritize key business impacting scenarios into an overall master plan – using tools and frameworks that we have developed and tested internally and with others.	Oct 2013	Oct 2013
AS-ACI-CNSLT	Cisco Readiness Planning capabilities help transform your data center networks to an Application Centric Infrastructure. We identify risks and opportunities, analyze operational aspects of people, tools, and processes to understand your application profile, and recommend detailed migration plans to help enable a smooth and successful transition to ACI.	Oct 2013	Oct 2013
AS-ACI-SME in US/EMEAR; AS-ACI-CNSLT for APJC	Cisco Quick Start Service for Nexus 9000 provides consulting services that include technical advice and assistance to help deploy the Cisco Nexus 9000.	Oct 2013	Oct 2013
ASF-DCV1-NEX-ADS (for Fixed Price) and AS-ACI-CNSLT (for SOW based engagement)	Cisco Accelerated Deployment Services for Nexus 9000 support rapid transition to an application-centric architecture.	Oct 2013	Oct 2013
AS-DCN-CNSLT	Cisco Data Center Services for Operations Enablement is an existing service which can prepare your environment for ACI while addressing all stages of the operations lifecycle	Oct 2013	Oct 2013
PRAT for Cisco Internal Service Finder for Customers	Cisco Product Support is available globally 24/7 for Cisco software and hardware products and technologies associated with the Cisco Nexus 9000. Enhanced Cisco-delivered support options also include Cisco SMARTnet or Cisco Smart Net Total Care .	Oct 2013	Oct 2013

* Cisco products only



We take an architectural approach to help you efficiently integrate and manage data center resources to improve the performance and availability of your applications. And we have a proven track record of using a unique network-based perspective and an integrated view of data center assets. Cisco and our partners deliver services that accelerate a cost-effective transformation of your data center to the Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure so you can operate efficiently and meet your service level agreements.

Cisco Services for ACI are delivered by experts with a wide array of industry certifications and knowledge of business and technology architectures and data center technologies. You will benefit from their expertise in planning, designing, and supporting data center infrastructures and application development projects.

Why Cisco Services?

With Cisco Services, you'll know more, save more, and innovate more. You can rely on us because we're the worldwide leader in IT that helps companies seize the opportunities of tomorrow. We have more than 28 years of experience, more than 50 million installed devices, and 6 million customer interactions each year. Delivered by Cisco and our Cisco Channel Partners, service engagements result in measurable business gains for our customers, who have achieved benefits such as 15-20% faster acceleration to revenue; 30% lower infrastructure costs; 50% faster disaster recovery; and 90% reduction in deployment time. For information about Cisco Services, visit www.cisco.com/go/services.

Availability

Cisco Services for ACI are globally available. Contact your local Cisco account manager or channel partner for availability in your area.

For More Information

For more information about Cisco Services for ACI, contact as-aci-support@cisco.com or visit www.cisco.com/go/ACI.

