Cisco UCS and Cisco Tidal Software Deliver an Exceptional SAP Platform

Highlights

Better
- Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®) is far easier to manage, provision, and scale than RISC/UNIX environments.

Faster
- Cisco UCS has achieved world-record-setting performance on both industry and application benchmarks.

More Cost Effective
- Unified fabric reduces cabling, requires fewer interface cards and switches, and occupies less physical rack space, contributing to lower capital expenditures (CapEx) and faster return on investment (ROI).

Simpler
- Reliable, repeatable workflow automation built into Cisco UCS and Cisco® Tidal Software helps streamline SAP deployment and migration.

More Reliable
- Designed with high availability in mind, Cisco UCS provides a simplified, automated platform with model-based management that delivers stable infrastructure to SAP applications.

The unique combination of SAP applications, Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®), and Cisco® Tidal Software outperforms other solutions to deliver outstanding ownership benefits.

In the past, a lack of platform choices for SAP applications forced IT departments to use proprietary solutions with architectural limitations. Although more options exist today, many fail to meet business demands. Migration from traditional RISC/UNIX platforms to the Cisco UCS and Cisco Tidal Software solution makes it easy for businesses to get reliable information, right when they need it, so that they can make business decisions more effectively, for competitive advantage. At the same time, the radically simplified and high-performance architecture of Cisco UCS with Cisco Tidal Software enables IT departments to provide critical new benefits to the business. Service-level agreements (SLAs) can be met with increased efficiency and greater operational control, while reducing capital and operational costs.

With Cisco Tidal Software, IT staff can instantly perform troubleshooting procedures and isolate incidents to improve technical monitoring, automate tasks for Run SAP operations and procedures to improve system administration, and automate incident response and corrective action processes to improve service desk operations. IT staff can also perform custom operations and procedures across heterogeneous landscapes, including custom system copy procedures before and after system refreshes, for improved landscape operations.

RISC/UNIX Systems: Expensive and Inflexible

Tier 1 business applications, such as SAP, must be continuously available to the business and customers. Typically, IT departments overprovision RISC/UNIX servers when sizing SAP systems to meet peak workloads. As a result, many resources are underutilized for 90 percent of the infrastructure lifecycle. The fact that RISC/UNIX servers often sit idle, in combination with the high costs of purchasing, maintaining, supporting, and upgrading these servers, has made existing solutions untenable.

Rigid, inflexible, and lower-performing RISC/UNIX platforms have failed to keep pace with x86 architecture–based systems. In addition, scaling is expensive and difficult, with systems falling to meet workload demands. Without the capability to efficiently take advantage of modern software architectures, UNIX/RISC systems are unable to dynamically scale to meet changing business priorities. According to IDC's 2010 Server Study, 90 percent of RISC/UNIX users either are in the process of migrating or are making plans to migrate their business-critical applications from RISC/UNIX system to x86 architecture–based solutions (Figure 1).

Migrate SAP to Cisco UCS

SAP enterprise applications are extremely powerful tools for increasing business efficiency. Part of the

Figure 1. IDC 2010 Server Study Shows That Nearly 90 Percent of RISC/UNIX Customers are Considering Migration
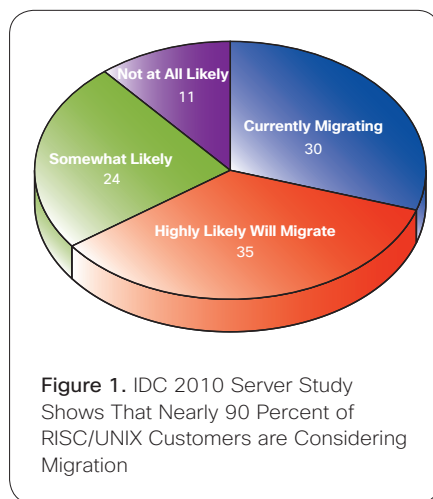
value derives from the flexibility to customize business environments. The simplicity of Cisco UCS and Cisco Tidal Software enables faster time-to-value when migrating SAP from RISC/UNIX platforms, responding to peak workloads, and migrating to a new version of the SAP software. Together, these Cisco solutions provide exceptional flexibility and agility in scaling, deploying, migrating, and troubleshooting SAP environments, with increased business benefits.

Cisco UCS: Better
With powerful Intel® Xeon® processors, Cisco UCS provides an intelligent, self-integrating architecture. A unified fabric carries network, storage, and computing interprocess communications over a single, high-bandwidth, low-latency Ethernet and Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) network connection. As a result, Cisco UCS is far easier to manage, provision, and scale than RISC/UNIX

environments. Outstanding memory capacity is delivered in a 2-socket blade server, further reducing infrastructure and licensing costs for virtualized environments.

Cisco UCS: Faster
Cisco USC has achieved world-record-setting performance on both industry and application benchmarks. Yet benchmarks are only part of the story. Businesses experience significantly faster response times when their SAP applications run on the Cisco solution (Figure 2). In addition, Cisco UCS service profiles and templates offer just-in-time application provisioning, reducing application deployment times from days to minutes. IT staff are more productive, because centralized management makes it just as easy to manage hundreds of servers and virtual machines as it is to manage one.

Cisco UCS: More Cost Effective
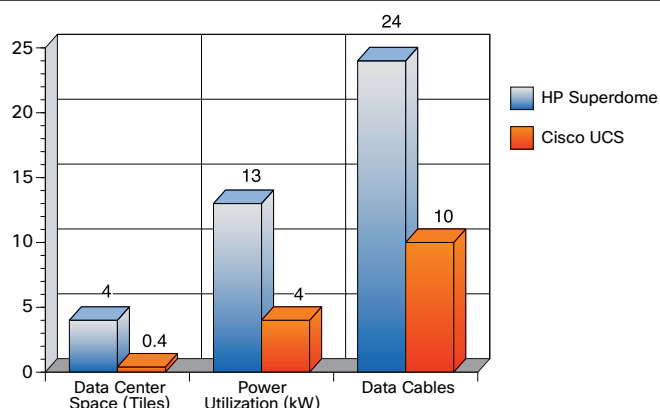Architectural features make Cisco UCS a cost-effective platform. For

Figure 2. SAP Dialog Transactions Take Less Than Half the Time on Cisco UCS
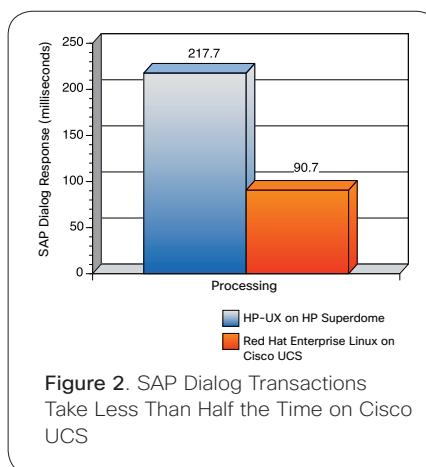
Figure 3. Cisco UCS Requires Significantly Less Space, Power, and Cabling Than an HP Superdome Solution

Cisco UCS: Simpler

Reliable, repeatable workflow automation built into Cisco UCS and Cisco Tidal Software helps streamline SAP deployment and migration processes. Cisco Tidal Software integrates with Cisco UCS Manager to easily move SAP applications through the development, testing, and production cycles (Figure 4).

Cisco UCS: Reliable

In today's global economy, the availability of business-critical SAP applications is essential. When a sale cannot be completed because of application downtime, businesses lose customers and associated revenue. Now companies can achieve the same level of availability expected from expensive, complex, specialized RISC/UNIX systems with a robust platform based on industry standards. Designed with high availability in mind, Cisco UCS provides a simplified, automated platform with model-based management that delivers stable infrastructure to SAP applications. When Cisco UCS is used in combination with Cisco Tidal Software, every layer of the application and hardware infrastructure is monitored for anomalies, with corrective actions taken automatically to avoid outages that can disrupt business operations.

example, unified networking reduces cabling, requires fewer interface cards and switches, and occupies less physical rack space, contributing to lower capital expenditures (CapEx) and faster return on investment (ROI). Testimony to the cost savings of Cisco UCS, migration has enabled Cisco UCS customers to lower their power and cooling consumption and significantly reduce the data center footprint (Figure 3). Intrinsic support for virtualization simplifies physical and virtual server deployment and management, and lower maintenance and software licensing costs help reduce operating expenses (OpEx). The result is far lower overall total cost of ownership (TCO) when compared to RISC/UNIX systems.
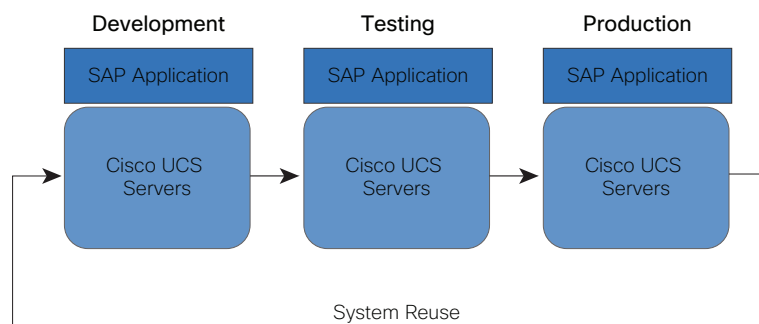
Cisco Advanced Services: Proven SAP Migration Methodology

Cisco's SAP migration methodology is more than a simple process; it is

Figure 4. Cycle Through Development, Testing, and Production Phases Almost Effortlessly Using the Same Programmable Infrastructure

an extensible framework that can be adapted to each individual client organization and its project needs. This methodology is not meant to be a strictly prescribed process; depending on the customer's situation and requirements, steps can be combined and modified. Each phase, however, provides the necessary foundation for the next phase, with each phase providing feedback to the overall process to help refine and improve each wave of migration.

Migrate or Upgrade Without Disruption

"By choosing Cisco UCS, we have been able to manage our upgrade and migration projects to ECC 6.0 without affecting the core live SAP production system."

—Chris Ellison, IT Manager, Cisco Service Provider, Video Technology Group

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/solutions/collateral/ns340/ns517/ns224/ns977/ns1141/white_paper_c11-689670_sap.pdf

Cisco and SAP offer flexible services to help you get started automating your SAP environment with Cisco Tidal Software. Cisco and SAP offer 10-day service for small environments, 30-day service for medium-sized environments, and 60-day service for large SAP environments.

SAP on Cisco UCS: The Right Choice

By running business-critical SAP applications on powerful, open, integrated, and scalable Cisco UCS servers and Cisco Tidal Software, IT departments can take advantage of infrastructure that can quickly and automatically respond to increases and decreases in workload demand. When more computing power is needed, Cisco Tidal Software provisions another server and migrates SAP applications to it to take advantage of the newly available processing capability.

Cisco UCS can help IT departments in many business scenarios. By running SAP Business Warehouse Accelerator (BWA) or SAP High-Performance Analytic Appliance (HANA) in-memory business intelligence applications on Cisco UCS, companies can accelerate information management and analysis for better business decisions. By adding Cisco Tidal Software, companies can bring exceptional automation and simplicity to powerful, SAP environments. With these solutions, IT departments can accelerate SAP application migration and deployment,

Simplified SAP Server Provisioning

"Previously it took us a week or two to provision a server. With the Cisco UCS, we can provision a new server for SAP applications within 30 minutes."

—Matt Okuma, Enterprise Architect, Pacific Coast Building Products

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/solutions/collateral/ns340/ns517/ns224/ns944/case_study_C36_603155.pdf

increase availability, and deliver performance and scalability, for greater business benefits.

For More Information

· For more information about migrating to Cisco UCS, please visit http://www.cisco.com/go/migratetoucs.

· For more information about Cisco UCS, please visit http://www.cisco.com/go/ucs.

· For more information about SAP running on Cisco UCS, please visit http://www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns1156/index.html

· For more information about, Cisco Tidal Software, please visit http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/ps11101/index.html