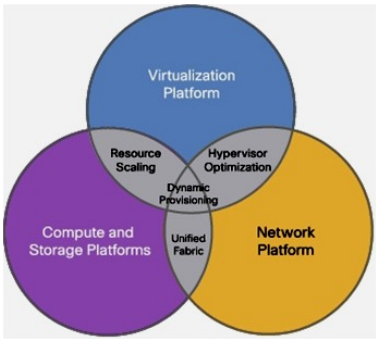
Tecnica
Technology Translated

Technology Alert—Unify Simplify & Amplify Your Data Centre

Cisco Unified Computing Systems



Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) brings together all common data centre resources such as compute power, storage access, and networking into a unified whole. Managed as a single system whether it has 1 server or 320 servers with thousands of virtual machines, this approach decouples scale from complexity. The Cisco Unified Computing System accelerates the delivery of new services simply, reliably, and securely through end-to-end provisioning and migration support for both virtualised and non-virtualised systems.

Probably the most notable thing about the Cisco UCS is how it handles I/O. Traditional servers have multiple I/O adapters for their Ethernet and Fibre Channel (FC) SAN connections, which creates a lot of expense and complexity to manage. Blade systems add internal Ethernet and Fibre Channel switches for aggregating these connections.

UCS can also be applied to the infrastructure policies needed to deploy applications—such as server identity, firmware, and Ethernet and storage networking. These policies are encapsulated into a construct called a service profile, which can be provisioned onto any blade in the environment. When the service profile is moved from one blade to another, all policies and identities follow. This both compliments a virtual environment and brings mobility to a physical environment.

The Cisco Unified Computing System is designed to deliver:

- Reduced total cost of ownership (TCO) at the platform, site, and organisational levels
- Increased IT staff productivity and business agility through just-in-time provisioning and mobility support for both virtualised and non-virtualised environments
- A seamless integrated system that is managed, serviced, and tested as a whole
- Scalability through a design for up to 320 discrete servers and thousands of virtual machines, and the ability to scale I/O bandwidth to match demand

Cisco Unified Fabric

The typical data centre environment supports two to three parallel networks: one for data, one for storage, and possibly one for server clustering. In addition, servers often have dedicated interfaces for management, backup, or virtual machine live migration. Supporting these interfaces imposes significant costs related to interfaces, cabling, rack space, upstream switches, and power and cooling.

Unified fabric consolidates these different types of traffic onto a single, general-purpose, high-performance, highly available network that greatly simplifies the network infrastructure and reduces costs.

The performance benefits for the server are improved by increasing the speed to 10 Gbps per adapter, through the installation of converged network adapters (CNAs). The Cisco® solution, using Cisco Nexus 5000 Series Switches, also decreases switch latency to less than 4 microseconds, satisfying the requirements of a large number of applications.

Technical Briefings

As a long term Cisco partner Tecnica, in conjunction with Cisco's John Shaw - Business Development for Health, would like to offer you the opportunity to attend a series of technical briefings on Cisco Unified Computing Systems and Unified Fabric at our Dunfermline office.

If you, or a colleague, would like more information on these products or wish to attend one of our technical briefings please contacts us at

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or give us a call now on 01383 722757

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