Cisco Services for Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure

Benefits

- Accelerate time to market by gaining an understanding of the ways that Cisco® Application Centric Infrastructure (Cisco ACI™) can address your unique use cases, align IT goals with business goals, and simplify operational processes required for success.

- Reduce risks by identifying and addressing your technical and operational readiness to effectively deploy a Cisco ACI solution to support your target use cases.

- Protect capital and operational investments by developing a simple transition path from existing environments to architecture based on Cisco ACI.

- Optimize performance and reduce service interruption by preempting and proactively resolving problems efficiently to help you maintain the performance, reliability, and ROI of your Cisco ACI deployment.

Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure: A New Era in the Data Center

We live in a new, digital world in which cloud, mobility, and big data applications are placing new demands on the data center infrastructure. Trying to adapt to these changes with a traditional network model has resulted in increased network complexity, complicated operational models, and reduced business agility and responsiveness. Keeping up requires application flexibility, agility, and ease of operation. That's why an application-centric operational model is now so essential.

With closely integrated infrastructure, systems management, and application layers, Cisco® Application Centric Infrastructure (Cisco ACI™) equips you to meet these demands. Cisco ACI is an innovative, highly secure architecture built to deliver centralized, application-based policy automation and management. Cisco ACI effectively turns the traditional IT model upside down. Network complexity is eliminated, so it no longer dictates application deployment or operation. Instead, application needs dictate IT deployment and operation. Because Cisco ACI decouples network identity from the physical infrastructure and then automates policy to meet application needs, it enables IT to be responsive to changing business needs.

To gain the full benefits of these innovations, you need to implement them quickly and accurately, in accordance with proven methodologies and industry best practices. But you may have questions about the most effective way to implement and support your solution, or you may lack personnel with the required skill sets.

"Migration from the current data center to the Cisco ACI solution is going to be a huge effort for us, so we look for Cisco Services to provide us the support and tools to do that."

— Global Shipping Company.

Cisco Services for Cisco ACI solutions help you achieve greater value from your solution through the guidance of experts from Cisco and our partners. Our comprehensive portfolio of services helps you know more, save more, and innovate more.

## Achieve Business Outcomes Faster with Cisco Services for ACI

Cisco ACI can deliver significant advantages for your business. To help you quickly gain the benefits of your Cisco ACI solution while also mitigating implementation risks, we offer a comprehensive portfolio of services. These services provide expert guidance to accomplish your business and technical objectives and can help you:

- Identify and address technical and operational readiness to effectively deploy this architecture to support your target use cases

- Prepare your data center infrastructure for the new classes of applications (cloud based, performance intensive and big data) in today's dynamic environments

- Simplify operations through integration at the infrastructure, systems, and management levels

- Achieve centralized application-based policy automation, programmability, and visibility in your physical and virtual networks from a single point of management

- Prepare operationally to help ensure that your processes and operational tools allow you to benefit fully from Cisco ACI

"Operationalizing Cisco ACI technology is going to be key for us because we have a small operation team, with little to no knowledge of the Cisco ACI operation model."

— Global Information Technology Company.

Figure 1. Cisco Services for ACI
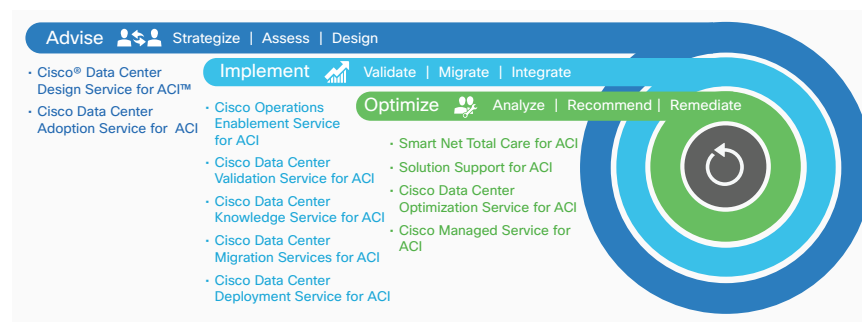
Our Cisco ACI Services portfolio provides a range of professional, solution, and product support services for each stage of your Cisco ACI journey (Figure 1). When engaged early, we can help you better align your business and IT goals as well as offset costs associated with unnecessary and unplanned rework and lack of operational readiness that often result from poor or uninformed planning.

Advise: Cisco Advisory Services help you during the evaluation phase with detailed analysis and assessments and planning and design activities. These services help guide you through the steps necessary to gauge the merits of the solution and prepare for a successful solution deployment.

Implement: Cisco Services provide the expert assistance needed to implement the solution. Cisco Training and Implementation Services help you develop and implement detailed test plans; develop implementation plans; and install, configure, and integrate new solutions in your production network. They also help mitigate the risk associated with migration.

Optimize: In addition to helping you increase operational efficiency, reduce support costs, and improve network risk management through automated network-equipment inventory management and award-winning support services, Cisco Optimization Services help you achieve efficiency and agility in your data center. We provide the expert guidance needed to increase the resiliency, recoverability, and robustness of the entire data center. Cisco's experts help eliminate points of failure through careful design and the application of best practices.

Services for Strategizing, Assessing, Designing Your Solution

- Prepare your data center infrastructure for the new classes of applications (cloud based, performance intensive and big data) in today's dynamic environments.
  - **Cisco Data Center Adoption Service for ACI:** This service creates a complete framework and end-to-end plan for adopting Cisco ACI. It provides Cisco ACI Adoption Assessment and Adoption Strategy Development plans based on agreed-upon customer requirements and constraints.
- Identify and address technical and operational readiness to effectively deploy this architecture to support your target use cases.
  - **Cisco Data Center Design Service for ACI:** This service helps you design a data center environment based on Cisco ACI, including infrastructure design, multisite design, stretched fabric design, and application policy template design.
  - **Cisco Data Center Validation Service for ACI:** This service verifies that the Cisco ACI solution capabilities will work with your specific business use cases. Test cases are created, validated, and run to demonstrate the Cisco ACI platform's capabilities.

Services for Deploying and Scaling the Solution

- Realizing and implementing your ACI design and adoption strategy into a production environment that you can manage and operate effectively, including cutting over from your existing environment.
  - **Cisco Data Center Deployment Service for ACI:** This service helps reduce deployment risk by providing onsite activation and configuration of Cisco ACI components based on the outcomes of the Design and Adoption services.
- Protect capital and operational investments while gaining a simple transition path from existing environments to an architecture based on Cisco ACI.
  - **Cisco Data Center Migration Service for ACI:** This service provides implementation planning, development, execution, and testing support for network and application migration.
- Simplify operations through integration at the infrastructure, systems, and management levels.
  - **Cisco Data Center Operations Enablement Service for ACI:** This service develops documentation, such as run books, to support management and operations tailored to your Cisco ACI infrastructure. The service covers release, change, availability, event, incident, and configuration management.

Services for Optimizing the Solution

- Through optimization after deployment (day 2), support continuous improvement of your Cisco ACI infrastructure and your use of it as your business needs and infrastructure use evolve. **Resulting in maximum return on your ACI investment**.
  - **Cisco Data Center Optimization Service for Cisco ACI:** This service includes Cisco ACI services for strategy and architecture, ongoing planning, optimization, performance and consumption analysis, operational support, scripting support, and ongoing training. These services provide annual, ongoing support for data center Layers 4 through 7, data center networking, Cisco Nexus® 9000 Series Switches for ACI, and Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC) clusters.

- Get centralized support across the Cisco ACI ecosystem from Cisco solution experts accountable for problem management and resolution no matter where the problem resides.

  - **Cisco Solution Support for Cisco ACI:** This service resolves complex problems in multivendor environments on average 41 percent more quickly than with product support alone. It includes Cisco product support and solution-level support for broad coverage in one service that is easy to order and renew. You can choose from three services tailored to your needs: Cisco Solution Support Express for ACI, Solution Support for ACI, and Solution Support Plus for ACI.

Related Services to Accelerate Your Cisco ACI Deployment

- Fixed-price, fixed-scope Cisco ACI Services **are designed to meet the most common needs of our customers**. They help you quickly and safely accelerate your deployment of this new technology and gain the full potential of a policy-based infrastructure in your environment.

  - **Cisco ACI Starter Kits:** These kits offer a basic working Cisco ACI fabric solution based on a fixed design, with migration or without migration of VLANs. This service is excellent for a proof-of-concept deployment.

  - **Cisco ACI Advise and Implement:** These fixed-price services allow you to purchase Cisco Services that offer the same core deliverables as custom engagement services. They are designed and scoped to help you achieve the specific goals you have set for your policy-based infrastructure project. You can purchase a Standard, Large, Medium, or Small engagement.

- **Application Dependency Mapping:** This service provides detailed discovery of the application and infrastructure assets in your data center facility and maps the interdependencies among those assets (application to application and application to infrastructure). It can assist you with data, planning, and high-level analysis to help migrate applications within your policy-based infrastructure.

- Cisco Nexus 9000 Series Switches provide the foundation for Cisco ACI and deliver savings in capital expenditures (CapEx) and operating expenses (OpEx) to achieve an agile IT environment. We and our certified partners offer a full portfolio of services to help with each stage of your Cisco Nexus 9000 Series deployment.

"Cisco Application Dependency Mapping Service identified the potential performance issue we would face in accessing Authorization service. This service also identified many undocumented application connections that developers had forgotten."

– Cisco IT.

You can depend on Cisco Services to be your trusted advisor in every stage of your Cisco ACI deployment.

Figure 2. Cisco Services: Your Trusted Advisor

Next Steps

To learn more about how Cisco Services can help you successfully and quickly deploy Cisco ACI, visit http://www.cisco.com/go/dcservices and contact your Cisco sales representative or Cisco authorized partner.