

How Cisco IT Achieves Consolidation and Standardization in the Data Center

Server and data storage virtualization enhances Cisco business resilience and lowers TCO.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Significantly Lower TCO
- Enhanced business resilience
- Improved Business Agility
- Greater uptime
- Faster application and services deployment

“The future Data Center is in transition from a proprietary platform-centric world to a standard network-centric world.”

– Nick Gall, Meta Research

Cisco IT operates five operational Data Centers dedicated to non-engineering tasks. Two are located in San Jose, the others are located in Research Triangle Park, Amsterdam, and Sydney.

But like many enterprise data centers, design and operational inefficiencies result in high cost of ownership, delayed provisioning and application development, and unnecessary down time. By 2004, Cisco had developed a compelling business case for reengineering its five data centers for easier management, lower total cost of ownership and improved business resilience and agility.

This was the first step in a challenging three-stage reengineering process that, when complete, will result in a single Service Oriented Data Center the US and smaller, regional centers in

Europe and the Asia Pacific region. The three critical phases of this reengineering begin with consolidation of isolated storage and processing resources into large, shared resource pools. The second phase continues with using software and hardware to carve out virtual storage and processing resources for individual applications. The third phase continues with an intelligent network fabric that can allocate these virtual resources moment by moment. Critical to this new vision are storage networking, grid computing, and virtualized machines, and the flexibility of application-oriented networking. This will result in an set of extremely flexible, cost effective, and high-performance computer-processing environments powering a wide range of applications and services, optimized for reliability, availability, and serviceability. Cisco IT is currently in the initial, consolidation phase complete.

Cisco is currently building large shared Storage Area Networks to reduce cost and improve storage flexibility within the data centers.

By consolidating its storage resources Cisco is saving \$225 Million per year, and has reduced total cost of ownership from US\$0.12 / MB to \$ 0.034 / MB.

Case Study: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/about/ciscoitwork/case_studies.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the entire case study or for additional Cisco IT case studies on a variety of business solutions, visit Cisco on Cisco: Inside Cisco IT www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit

NOTE

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Americas Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-1706
USA
www.cisco.com
Tel: 408 526-4000
800 553-NETS (6387)
Fax: 408 527-0883

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
168 Robinson Road
#28-01 Capital Tower
Singapore 068912
www.cisco.com
Tel: +65 6317 7777
Fax: +65 6317 7799

Europe Headquarters
Cisco Systems International BV
Haarlerbergpark
Haarlerbergweg 13-19
1101 CH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www-europe.cisco.com
Tel: +31 0 800 020 0791
Fax: +31 0 20 357 1100

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