

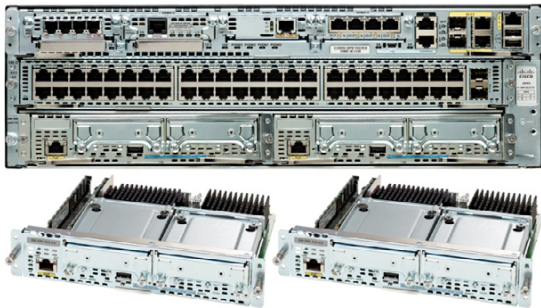


## What Is Cisco Unified Computing System Express?

The Cisco Unified Computing System™ Express (UCS Express) is a converged computing, virtualization, and networking platform for hosting essential infrastructure services and mission-critical business applications in the lean branch office.

It comprises the following:

- Cisco® Services Ready Engine (SRE) x86 blade server computing platform
- Cisco Services Ready Engine Virtualization (SRE-V) server virtualization platform powered by VMware vSphere Hypervisor (ESXi)
- Cisco Integrated Services Router Generation 2 (ISR G2) networking platform with Multigigabit Fabric (MGF) backplane switch
- Cisco Integrated Management Controller Express (IMC Express) blade management system



Cisco UCS Express is best suited for multisite organizations with centralized IT infrastructure that need to host applications locally in the branch office for performance, survivability, or compliance reasons. It enables multiple virtual instances of Microsoft Windows Server to run on dedicated general-purpose x86 blades directly in the ISR G2 chassis. With Cisco UCS Express, multisite organizations can increase business agility, lower total cost of ownership (TCO), and get more value out of their branch-office infrastructure.

## Cisco UCS Express Features

### Single-Device Consolidation

Cisco ISR G2 serves as the networking platform for Cisco UCS Express. The ISR G2 provides:

- Compact enclosure for housing x86 blade servers
- Multigigabit switch for connecting virtual servers
- Platform for consolidating all branch-office services

### Compact x86 Blade Servers

Cisco SRE blade serves as the computing platform for Cisco UCS Express. The SRE blade provides:

- Modular, energy-efficient blade-server form factor
- Wire-free, simple, and fast hardware provisioning
- Right-size hardware profile for the lean branch office
- On-demand deployment of virtualization platform

### Server Virtualization

Cisco SRE-V serves as the virtualization platform for Cisco UCS Express. The SRE-V provides:

- Enterprise- and production-class bare-metal hypervisor
- Improved uptime and failure recovery time for applications
- Shorter deployment time for new or existing applications

### Dedicated Blade Management

Cisco IMC Express is the hardware management controller for Cisco UCS Express. The IMC Express provides:

- Lights-out management for multiple SRE blades
- Command-line interface and GUI management consoles
- Consistent device management for Cisco UCS Family

### Microsoft Windows Server Platform

Cisco SRE blades and the SRE-V have passed the following Microsoft Windows Server certifications:

- Microsoft Windows Hardware Quality Labs (WHQL)
- Microsoft Server Virtualization Validation Program (SVVP)

## Cisco UCS Express Benefits

The physical server consolidation opportunity offered by the SRE-V, the right-size hardware profile provided by the SRE blades, and the rich collection of branch-office services available in the Cisco IOS® Software—all integrated and housed under a single chassis—make the Cisco ISR G2 with Cisco UCS Express an ideal all-in-one platform for the lean branch office. This solution offers many benefits, including the following.

### Low Total Cost of Ownership

Cisco UCS Express reduces both capital expenditures and operating expenses:

- Reduced server onsite deployment and shipping costs
- Lower power, cooling, cabling, and space costs
- No server hardware and virtualization support costs

### Operational Efficiency in the Branch Office

Cisco UCS Express offers flexibility to address changing business needs:

- New applications can be deployed quickly on a virtualized platform.
- Consolidated, wire-free infrastructure reduces operational burden.
- Blade servers accelerate and simplify physical server provisioning.

### Protection of Infrastructure Investment

The Cisco UCS Express future-proofs the branch-office IT infrastructure:

- You can use slots available on the ISR G2 for server applications.
- Your Cisco SMARTnet® covers SRE hardware and SRE-V support.
- No infrastructure changes are needed to deploy new applications.