Is Your Data Center Ready for the Digital Era?

Businesses are facing enormous competitive challenges. The more digital an organization is, the more likely it is to stand apart from its peers and be a leader in its industry. The key tenet for digital transformation is speed, because businesses must be able to operate faster than ever.

To succeed in this digital era, your data center must evolve and maintain business continuity because the data center is the mission-critical application delivery platform for your business.

Cisco® Data Center Migration Services can help you modernize your data center and older IT infrastructure with a hybrid IT solution that increases application performance, reduces risk, and increases operation agility, accelerating your digital transformation.

“Cisco Services helped define an architectural vision for Molina Healthcare that is critical to the entire operation.”

— Amir Desai, CIO, Molina Healthcare
Migrate Your Data Center with Confidence to a Hybrid IT Solution

Migrating your data center or any of its IT assets—applications, data, computing resources, network, servers, and facilities—can be a complex effort requiring large-scale change management. It can entail significant investment and risk unless carefully planned and strategically managed.

To be successful, data center migration initiatives need to address architectural, business, and operational challenges within and across the entire IT stack (Figure 1).

In addition, keeping up with emerging data center technologies, assessing the architectural value of these technologies for your organization, and then establishing a multiyear deployment strategy will help ensure that your migrated data center elements continue to demonstrate high performance and agility.

Central to migration services is Cisco’s migration methodology (Figure 2). We use a six-step proven methodology focused on significantly reducing business risk and discovering hidden interdependencies. The use of automation and best in class tools help to eliminate manual effort to ensure repeatable level of success on large and complex projects.

• The first step, Discovery is important to determine the success of the project by aligning business objectives to the technical objectives of the migration project. We use a set of bottom-up and top-down approaches to discover your IT Infrastructure physical and logical components.

• Determining a Migration Strategy, anticipating what could go wrong, and creating a plan to mitigate the risk of errors is one of the most critical steps in the methodology. Our experts will assess the data collected in the discovery phase and draft a high-level migration strategy that will minimize downtime, costs, risk, availability, and effort impact.

• During the Risk Analysis and Mitigation phase, our experts will assess the entire IT stack to identify risks that may impede the ability to meet the migration timelines and determine the appropriate risk mitigation plan to implement.

• Within the Detail Migration Plan phase, there are two critical decisions: 1) determining the number of move groups, and 2) determining the contents of each move group (e.g., candidate applications, application data, and the corresponding networking, server, and storage infrastructure). Our experts will help optimize the number of moves to provide business continuity and application availability. The outcome of this phase is a migration plan that minimizes cost, risk, and time.

• Once the detailed migration plan is determined, our experts will help prepare and coordinate the data center staff, assets, transportation, and migration partners for the move during the Execute Migration Plan phase. They will also help make sure that the data migration plan works as expected during the Post Migration Validation & Support phase.
Because data centers have tight interdependencies, our migration methodology is applied to each area of the entire IT stack, including business, application, server, storage, networks, facilities, and operational resources.

**Figure 2. Data Center Migration Methodology**

Proven and Repeatable Delivery to Reduce Business Risk

- Discovery
- Migration Strategy
- Risk Analysis/Mitigation Planning
- Detailed Migration Plan
- Execute Migration Plan
- Post Migration Validation and Support
- Across Entire IT Stack

**Figure 3. End-to-End Data Center Migration Capabilities**

- IT Stack
  - Business
  - Application
  - Information/Data/Storage
  - Network
  - Facilities
- Strategy and Technology
  - Business Continuity
  - Disaster Recovery
  - Application Migration
  - Application Modernization
  - Data Replication, Storage Array Migration
  - Backup & Restore Strategy
  - P2P, P2V Platform Migration
  - Server Consolidation & Virtualization
  - Network, Storage & SAN Migration
  - UPS, Generators, Structured Cabling Assessment

By engaging Cisco Services, you can expect a repeatable level of success regardless of the complexity and scope of your migration. With Data Center Migration Services, Cisco and our certified partners deliver personalized services that accelerate the transformation of your data center to a hybrid IT solution. Using a unique, network-based perspective and a unified view of data center assets, Cisco takes an architectural approach to help you efficiently consolidate, virtualize, and manage data center resources. Data Center Services help you transform, optimize, and protect your data center to reduce costs, deliver high availability, and improve application performance.

**Next Steps**

to learn more about how Cisco Services can help you successfully migrate your data center to a hybrid IT solution, visit [http://www.cisco.com/go/dcservices](http://www.cisco.com/go/dcservices) and contact your Cisco sales representative or Cisco authorized partner.

“We brought Cisco Services in, to help with a complete redesign of our architecture. This was the most successful project Scottrade has ever done from an IT perspective.”

— Ian Patterson.
CIO, Scottrade

Figure 3 show our end-to-end data center services capabilities. This holistic approach significantly reduces project implementation overhead and provides a path to on-time completion.