The Cisco cloud portfolio is a powerful set of capabilities enabling customers to build public, private, and hybrid clouds and offer new cloud services and applications dynamically, and on demand. The Cisco cloud portfolio uniquely combines the three pillars of the cloud – Innovative Cloud Applications and Services, Unified Data Center, and Cloud Intelligent Network – into an integrated architecture that helps customers realize the promise of the world of many clouds. Only Cisco uniquely enables this world of many clouds – connecting people and organizations with an assured cloud experience.

Customers are embracing cloud services, but with widely differing needs for size and scale, regulatory requirements, and security concerns. To successfully capture the cloud opportunity you must deliver cloud services tailored to the requirements of different industry segments. The network is a critical component of your success, as it links clouds together and virtualizes connections within the cloud, between clouds, and beyond the cloud to the end customer. The Cisco® Cloud Intelligent Network exposes the intelligence in the network to allow smarter decisions and offering of services that can meet specific customer groups’ needs in what is becoming a world of many clouds.

Cloud Intelligent Network

Secure, reliable, and predictable delivery of cloud services is an essential part of comprehensive cloud service delivery. Whether your requirement is to deliver private or hybrid cloud services at disparate campuses or enterprise-class public cloud commercial services, today’s demanding users are rarely prepared to accept a best-efforts approach to service access.

To help ensure your success in meeting your users’ requirements, Cisco has developed a comprehensive set of solutions that are designed to work transparently together as the Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network. These solutions integrate with the Cisco Unified Data Center to provide a powerful end-to-end delivery platform for cloud services.

Three Essential Capabilities

The Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network strategy encompasses three essential capabilities to support your cloud services in an increasingly complex market.

- **Cloud customer connection** facilitates the delivery of enterprise-class services from the service delivery source to the ultimate user, while securely promoting service quality with business-oriented policy controls and context-aware security capabilities.
- **Cloud-to-cloud connection** addresses the growing need to connect clouds and optimize the sourcing of data and content from the decentralized delivery centers within the cloud. This requires extending the data center fabric across data centers and clouds as well as implementing technologies that support the network’s close integration with the cloud delivery.
- **Network management and automation** is of critical importance for cloud services due to the ever-increasing requirements for agility resulting from the dynamic nature of the cloud.

Virtual Desktop Use Case for Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network

It is common for cloud data centers and the network links between them to be overprovisioned for unexpected demand spikes. Cloud Intelligent Network can optimize the use of your infrastructure and make much of this excess provisioning unnecessary. With Cloud Intelligent Network, data centers and network capacity can offload to each other in real time, maintaining high performance while taking full advantage of distributed resources (Figure 1).
A prime example of real-world use of Cloud Intelligent Network is Cisco’s Virtualization Experience Infrastructure (VXI), an end-to-end systems approach that delivers the next-generation virtual workspace by unifying virtual desktops, voice, and video. When a demand surge in one location exceeds capacity thresholds, demand can be moved to other data centers, offloading to those with available capacity, to optimize and extend provisioning across all available data centers.

**Summary**

The Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network integrates with the Cisco Unified Data Center to provide a powerful end-to-end delivery platform for cloud services, allowing you to manage your infrastructure dynamically and efficiently.

To learn more about the Cisco cloud portfolio, visit [www.cisco.com/go/cloudstrategy](http://www.cisco.com/go/cloudstrategy)