



Tax Preparation Leader Accelerates AI Journey with Full-Stack Solution Featuring Cisco AI PODs with NVIDIA GPUs

For financial services companies, rapid innovation, backed by security and compliance, are essential. But competition is fierce and the threat landscape is constantly changing, so IT must move fast—while keeping risks in check. When a leading tax preparation company prepared to modernize its infrastructure to prepare for new AI applications, it also discovered new opportunities to strengthen security and create a foundation for future needs.

Providing online tax filing for individuals and professionals, the growing company supports millions of e-filed returns each year. However, its existing data center solution was beginning to show its age, with limited scalability and power efficiency. A long-time Cisco customer, the tax preparation company met with their account team to explore options.

A modular, full-stack approach to AI

At first, the IT team was narrowly focused on updating its data center compute environment. As discussions progressed, Cisco helped the organization consider its overall technology strategy, including AI, business intelligence, cybersecurity, and other technologies and use cases. The IT team wanted to move fast to capture the potential of AI. They recognized the value of Cisco's vision to establish a secure AI workload environment, extending from endpoints and end users, through transport, to back-end operations.

Cisco recommended AI PODs, a pre-validated, full-stack infrastructure solution with unified management. Developed in partnership with NVIDIA, AI PODs combine Cisco UCS compute, Cisco Nexus networking, advanced GPUs, and high-performance software to support every stage of the AI lifecycle: from training and optimization to inferencing. The modular Cisco UCS design delivers improved energy efficiency and performance. It's designed for both traditional workloads as well as modernized applications, offering the flexibility to add new capabilities as soon as they're needed. NVIDIA H100 GPUs deliver exceptional performance, scalability, and security that's ideal for demanding AI workloads.

This future-ready solution lets the company support applications like fraud detection, business intelligence, and business attribution models. The new Cisco and NVIDIA solution also improves flexibility, giving the

tax company the option to move its cloud-based AI workloads on-premises if desired—or deploy any new AI workloads on-premises with assured superior performance.

Securing with segmentation

In addition to improving efficiency and performance, the Cisco team also helped the organization modernize its security with Cisco Firepower 3100 Series firewalls, Cisco N9300 Series Smart switches with integrated data processing unit (DPUs), and Cisco Hypershield embedded into the data center fabric. Utilizing a distributed, AI-native security architecture, Hypershield lets the organization embed security within workloads and the network from a single policy framework and management system. Together, Cisco's solutions strengthen security and enable a level of segmentation and micro-segmentation that the organization couldn't achieve with its previous network.

The tax preparation company was also impressed with the Cisco Collaboration capabilities that were demonstrated during the consultation and deployed 27 new Cisco video endpoints at its headquarters.

Unlocking immediate savings and performance

With its holistic, forward-looking approach to data center modernization, the tax preparation company is not only achieving its short-term goals but charting a clear path forward. Cisco's UCS Servers enabled the company to reduce power and rack use, refreshing both its data centers with its budget two years ahead of schedule.

The company is confident that its highly secure, full-stack infrastructure solution stands ready to take on advanced new workloads to sustain its competitive advantage for years to come.

“Cisco and the tax preparation company worked together to consider the big picture, and how to create a more inclusive infrastructure strategy that better prepared their organization for the future.”

Cisco Account Manager