Cisco IT Migrated Critical Applications from HP Superdome to Cisco Unified Computing System

New platform reduced TCO, increased business agility, and improved resiliency.

Cisco is moving its production environment to Richardson, Texas. Major goals include are minimizing total cost of ownership (TCO), acquiring adequate capacity for growth, ensuring business continuity, and enabling business innovation through rapid provisioning.

To meet these goals, Cisco is consolidating to the x86 processor platform and two operating systems: Linux and Windows. Previously, approximately 200 HP Superdome and mid-range HP-UX servers in the U.S. and Europe hosted Oracle RAC and Oracle eBusiness Suite. In the Georgia data center, Cisco used HP-UX Itanium servers to host SAP ECC 6 and SAP Exchange Infrastructure (XI).

To continue the journey to the private cloud, Cisco is systematically moving Oracle and SAP applications and databases from the HP-UX platforms to Cisco Unified Computing System. Four Cisco UCS Blade Servers in Richardson houses the Oracle RAC 11g database, Goal to Commission (G2C) applications, and Cisco channel partner database. SAP ECC 6 and SAP XI operate on a Cisco Unified Computing System in Georgia, in a test environment.

Cisco is saving on data center space, power, and cooling. The four-node Cisco Unified Computing System occupies 10 times less space than the two-node HP Superdome it replaced, is 200 percent more power efficient, and uses 1.5 times fewer cables. Licensing, support, and maintenance costs are also lower on the x86 processor.

Business agility has increased. Deploying a new server takes 15 minutes, compared to six to eight weeks on HP Superdome.

Cisco has improved resilience. If a Cisco UCS blade server fails, Cisco can provision another server in a few minutes by applying a Cisco UCS Manager service profile, and then use VMware tools to move the application.

Oracle and SAP application performance has increased, improving the user experience. Response times for a G2C application decreased from 3.6 to 2.9 milliseconds. Average processing time for SAP Dialog transactions decreased from 217.7 to 90.7 milliseconds, and average processing time for SAP HTTP transactions decreased from 7.1 to 6.3 milliseconds.

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