In the past, attempts to integrate data centre infrastructure and applications have been manual, time-consuming, and expensive efforts. Fortunately, with the advent of cloud computing and hybrid IT, that situation is changing. IT can now be a catalyst for transformation: the enabler of innovation, new business models, and new revenue streams in five steps.

Cisco UCS® with Intel® Xeon® processors

Now by exercising new choices and new models, you can move from "No way!" to "Why not?"

1. Develop a vision.

Without a vision and a strategy for implementation, organisations can run themselves into the ground. First, make sure to determine how you want your operations to run. Then identify and remove the obstacles keeping you from achieving that vision. Our Cisco Domain Ten framework provides the path to strategic alignment of IT with your organisational goals.

2. Lay an infrastructure-as-a-service foundation.

The next step is to plan an agile infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) foundation to enable infrastructure services to be managed by IT in a highly automated way and to be delivered to your users in minutes, instead of weeks or days. This step is best accomplished by standardising and integrating your IT components.

With the Domain Ten framework, Skipton Building Society (the United Kingdom's fourth-largest building society) is well-braced to have its IT organisation continue to support its in-house SaaS application developments more effectively.

3. Add the platform-as-a-service building block.

The platform-as-a-service (PaaS) building block uses the agility in the IaaS foundation to automate the provisioning of operating systems, middleware, and databases. This evolution ultimately delivers greater efficiency and flexibility in the development and deployment of cloud workloads.

4. Augment with software as a service.

New applications accessible through software as a service (SaaS) can empower organisations to quickly test new business concepts and implement new business models to advance their transformation goals.

5. Implement transformational change.

Talking about doing something and actually doing it are not the same thing. After constructing your new and improved infrastructure, you need to begin to reengineer and develop business processes and organisational structure to convert your recently developed vision into an optimised reality.