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Business Value Highlights

Reduced staff time needed for server management

68.4%

Reduced staff time needed for server deployment

83.8%

Reduced productive employee time lost due to hardware downtime and degradation

96.3%

Five year total business benefit

\$4.79M

Five-year ROI:

368%

Payback period:

10 months

The Business Value of Cisco UCS as a Platform for SAP HANA and Other SAP Mission-Critical Applications

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IDC finds that leveraging data analytics in business decisions is becoming a top priority for an increasing number of companies. This in turn is placing new demands on IT organizations; the need is twofold: to manage new streams of unstructured data from sources such as social media and to speed response times to deliver real-time analytics.

As analytic and business application systems grow ever more sophisticated, and their operational platform requirements become more complex, enterprise IT is turning to integrated systems to reduce the complexity, risk, and cost of managing datacenter infrastructure for such applications. Cisco has been a market leader in integrated systems since the introduction of the Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) more than five years ago.

SAP has responded to the demand for data analytics by developing SAP HANA, a comprehensive in-memory database software system that is delivered on platforms built to SAP specifications by select system partners.

SAP applications are cornerstones of many organizations' business operations. Thus organizations running SAP applications need to put in place compute and network infrastructure solutions that maximize the performance and ease the operation of SAP applications and SAP HANA. Accomplishing this can be challenging in the context of competing demands placed on IT departments and making organizations' IT operations as cost effective as possible while also increasing business agility.

To meet these objectives, many organizations are turning to Cisco UCS to support SAP HANA and other mission-critical SAP applications. Cisco UCS offers SAP-specific advantages such as delivering an architecture customized for running SAP HANA as well as benefits based on UCS' integrated nature, strong scalability, and centralized system management and administration.

Leveraging these advantages enables organizations running SAP HANA and SAP ERP applications on Cisco UCS to achieve significant IT and business benefits. IDC calculates that the organizations interviewed for this white paper are achieving average annual benefits of \$4.79 million per organization over five years. This translates to an average return on investment (ROI) of 368% over five years and breakeven in their investment in Cisco UCS in 10 months.