Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure Starter Kits

Benefits

- **Accelerate** application delivery

- **Reduce** operating costs

- **Greatly increase** business agility

Cisco ACI: Agile, Open and Secure

Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI) is a comprehensive SDN architecture. This policy-based automation solution supports a business-relevant application policy language, greater scalability through a distributed enforcement system, and greater network visibility. These benefits are achieved through the integration of physical and virtual environments under one policy model for networks, servers, storage, services, and security (Figure 1.)

Figure 1. Cisco ACI: Accelerate Application Deployments with Scalability, Security, and Full Visibility

Customers can start their SDN deployments by choosing from a variety of bundle options (Table 1). For lab deployments, customers should choose the ACI starter lab bundle with one fixed spine switch. For small and midsize production environments, you can follow a simple three-step process to identify the best ACI starter kit option and create an ACI point of delivery (PoD). This includes a resilient cluster of three Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controllers (APICs), modular/fixed spine switches, leaf switches, 40 Gigabit Ethernet optics, and ACI software licenses:

Step 1. Choose a Cisco ACI spine and APIC bundle.

Step 2. Use Cisco Nexus® 9300 platform starter kits.

Step 3. Get a Cisco ACI software license.*

*Step 3 is not required in cases in which a software license was already purchased for in-deployment Cisco Nexus 9300 platform switches.

"A big factor in the decision to select ACI was its integration with existing and future platforms. The open APIs and open architecture gives us that flexibility."

Erik Sohlman
Network Infrastructure Manager, Qbranch

Services for Cisco ACI

Cisco Services offers fixed-price and fixed-scope companion services for customers to accelerate the value of their ACI starter kits:

- Cisco Data Center Deployment Service for Cisco ACI Starter Kit with SKU ASF-DCV1-G-ACI-SKB (Global)

- Cisco Data Center Deployment Service for Cisco ACI Bundle, at an entry-level price point with SKU ASF-DCV1-G-ACI-BUN (Global)

These services provide a working Cisco ACI fabric with up to three Cisco APICs, and includes configuration of the ACI fabric build and reference architecture. Onsite at your location, we will create a base ACI fabric with connectivity between spine and leaf and APIC within one business day. Deployments consist of up to two Cisco Nexus 9000 Series Switch chassis as spines, up to four Cisco Nexus 9000 Series chassis as leafs, and one APIC cluster based on fewer than1000 leaf ports per kit and up to three tenants per fabric.

For more information about Cisco ACI Services, consult our Service Finder and Service Legal Descriptions.

Table 1. ACI Starter Kits

Starter Kit Part Number	Spine, Leaf, and Software License	US$ List Price
For Lab: ACI-C9336-BL-96PX (w. 2x 9396PX as leafs) ACI-C9336-BL-96PX (w. 2x9372PX-E as leafs)	Bundle for Labs with One Fixed Spine and Two Leafs Bundle for Labs with One Fixed Spine and Two Leafs	$115,000.00 $98,000.00
For Production: Step 1 ACI-C9336-APIC-B1 ACI-C9504-APIC-B1 ACI-C9508-APIC-B1	 Fixed Spines + Cisco APIC Modular Spines (4 slot) + Cisco APIC Modular Spines (8 slot) + Cisco APIC	 $100,000.00 $200,000.00 $250,000.00
Step 2 N9K-C9396PX-B18Q N9K-C9396TX-B18Q N9K-C9372PX-E-B18Q N9K-C9372TX-E-B18Q* N9K-C93120TX-B18Q*	Leafs + Cisco BiDi Optics + 12 port 40G Uplinks Leafs + Cisco BiDi Optics + 6 port 40G Uplinks Leafs + Cisco BiDi Optics Leafs + Cisco BiDi Optics Leafs + Cisco BiDi Optics	$50,000.00 $45,000.00 $45,000.00 $45,000.00 $56,000.00
Step 3 ACI-N9K-48X (2x) ACI-N9K-96X (2x)	 Software License Software License	 $26,000.00 $30,000.00

*Expected to be available by November 2015.For a detailed BOM, please check with your Cisco sales representative or Cisco partner.

Cisco ACI Starter Kits Offer Rapid Deployment Options

ACI starter kits let customers quickly begin ACI deployments for testing or production operations. With fixed-price licensing for 48 or 96 leaf ports, they eliminate any penalty for running multiple virtual machines per server versus bare-metal servers. Customers also achieve more predictability in the cost of running their software-defined network infrastructure.

Customers can use the ACI starter kits as policy appliances for flexible and granular network virtualization and secure tenant isolation in conjunction with their existing base of Cisco Nexus 2000 Series Fabric Extenders and Cisco Nexus 7000 Series Switches. The ACI starter kits can also be used to scale out a Cisco UCS® Integrated Infrastructure solution such as NetApp FlexPod or VCE Vblock™ Systems, while the large modular spine kits can be the starting point to scale out private clouds with secure multitenancy.

For customers who want to simulate a Cisco ACI environment, the Cisco ACI Simulator physical appliance can be used. The ACI simulator enables the creation of profiles for enterprise apps with actual application delivery controllers and security devices.

Next Steps

To find out how to get started with these ACI starter kits, contact your local Cisco sales representative or Cisco partner. For additional information, visit Cisco ACI.