


A GUIDE TO SOFTWARE-DEFINED
DATA CENTRES & **CISCO**
APPLICATION CENTRIC
INFRASTRUCTURE

HIGHPOINT

The Agile Enterprise moves at speed and requires Agile IT. It needs a dynamic environment where compute resources are responsive and elastic to business demand.

Workload mobility, lower public cloud costs and the ability to rapidly spin up resources independently of established organisational governance and procurement frameworks are extending the boundaries of traditional data centres, leading most organisations to operate hybrid, multi-cloud environments.

This presents complex challenges: How to balance and switch workloads seamlessly across clouds, how to ensure consistent security policies and postures across multiple cloud environments and how to capitalise on the inherent elasticity of the available resources.

Agile Enterprises need software-defined data centres that can simplify, automate and secure critical applications and data both on-premise and in the cloud.



THE BENEFITS OF THE SOFTWARE-DEFINED DATA CENTRE

Software-Defined Data Centre delivers an intent-based environment by translating defined business outcomes into a set of centrally managed portable policies that are applied to and travel with workloads wherever they reside.

This enables the Agile Enterprise to leverage a true hybrid cloud environment for applications and data, utilising a combination of on-premise, co-located and public cloud offerings as appropriate for maximum efficiency and flexibility, all with the confidence that a common set of segmentation, security and availability policies are applied consistently throughout the hybrid multi-cloud.

Management and orchestration of workloads across the hybrid cloud is achieved seamlessly through a single management console, allowing monitoring, configuration and visibility of applications and data stores that are dispersed across multiple cloud environments.



REDUCED COSTS

Significantly lower operational expenditure by optimising public and private cloud resource usage.



INCREASED BUSINESS AGILITY

Simplified and accelerated deployment of applications across multiple hybrid cloud environments.



ENHANCED APPLICATION SECURITY

Enforced security for corporate applications and data through centrally managed, consistently applied policies that travel with the application.

INTRODUCING CISCO ACI

Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI) is one of the leading solutions for enabling the software-enabled data centre.

Cisco ACI is a software-defined networking solution that combines physical and virtual elements to simplify network management and deliver an application focused network service.

The solution captures business and user intent and translates them into native policy constructs that are attached to the workload wherever it travels across the data centre or multi-cloud environment.

Cisco ACI provides centralised control and visibility across the entire physical, virtual and multi-cloud infrastructure, ensuring consistent policy enforcement across all environments as well as enabling many network management tasks to be automated.



KEY CAPABILITIES OF CISCO ACI

APPLICATION DEPLOYMENT ACROSS MULTI-CLOUD

Integrate cloud-native services between on-premise data centres and public clouds with a common operating model and centralised visibility and control.

COMMON POLICY ABSTRACTION, GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

Simplify the deployment of cloud-native, containerised, virtualised or bare-metal applications across multiple environments with consistent segmentation policy, security and visibility.

ELASTICITY ACROSS DATA CENTRE & CLOUDS

Automate dynamic resource allocation and enable on-demand cloud bursting when on premise data centre workloads require additional cloud resources.

WORKLOAD MOBILITY ACROSS MULTI-CLOUDS

Enable secure workload mobility across multi-cloud environments while preserving the application policies, segmentation and identification of workload (IP mobility).

CONSISTENT SECURITY POSTURES

Enable secure workload mobility across multi-cloud environments while preserving the application policies, segmentation and identification of workload (IP mobility).

COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Deliver Business Continuity through the ability to quickly recover failures to cloud resident back-up applications and recovery sites in the public cloud.

HOW CAN HIGHPOINT HELP?

WE REDUCE THE TIME TO DEPLOY, REDUCE MIGRATION RISK AND ACCELERATE TIME TO GAIN A POSITIVE RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

Our Accelerator service for Cisco ACI is specifically designed to help our clients to reduce the time required to bring Cisco ACI into production while at the same time mitigating the impact on business-critical applications and services.

Our expertise helps you quickly gain full depth visibility of your current infrastructure and automates the extraction and conversion of critical configurations in order to build new network configurations and design ACI policies. We then assist you through the deployment phases including staging, fabric deployment and integration, and service migration support.

The ultimate goal of our Accelerator service is to ensure that your Cisco ACI environment is brought into production quickly, configured optimally to meet your specific requirements and that your teams are equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to confidently support and manage your Cisco ACI environment.

For more information or to discuss a particular requirement, please contact our team:

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