

FlexPod®

A Cisco and NetApp Infrastructure Solution for Small and Midsize Businesses

The Challenge

For many small and midsize businesses, procuring and managing their IT infrastructure are daunting challenges. With servers often dedicated to each application, many organizations have too many servers to maintain and manage. This environment is difficult to control, wastes resources, overburdens IT staff, and strains budgets. Companies can save money and resources by using virtualization to consolidate workloads and streamline management. These customers need a simple solution at an affordable price.

The Solution

For growing small and midsize organizations beginning to virtualize their networking, storage, and computing environments, FlexPod® Express provides a pretested, low-cost solution that is integrated and delivered by an ecosystem of joint channel partners. FlexPod Express integrates a choice of Cisco UCS® C-Series servers or Cisco UCS Mini Servers, Cisco Nexus® switches, NetApp® FAS storage, and management tools with Cooperative Support into an affordable, easy-to-deploy infrastructure solution. FlexPod Express is available in predefined configurations and is deployed with easy-to-use implementation guides. This solution:

- Reduces the number of servers and storage capacity required for applications
- Simplifies overall infrastructure
- Optimizes architecture with best-in-class components
- Accelerates deployment times

Organizations can leverage FlexPod Express to reduce the number of servers in their environment through virtualization. This cost-effective solution consolidates common applications, such as e-mail, database, collaboration, or content management—which previously resided on their

Key Benefits

Optimize Infrastructure with Workload Consolidation

- Start right with an affordable solution.
- Implement quickly with an easy-to-deploy platform.
- Trust the solution pretested by Cisco and NetApp.

Reduce Complexity

- Improve efficiency with integrated server, storage, and network resources.
- Simplify operational processes and management.
- Manage more resources per person.

Support Business Growth

- Standardize your environment to more easily predict budgets and growth.
- Grow smart to keep up with increasing business demands.



own servers—into one infrastructure set. With its streamlined architecture and processes, FlexPod Express allows companies to more easily manage IT resources and take advantage of the benefits of virtualization.

FlexPod Express supports the leading hypervisors, applications, and management platforms. FlexPod Express was tested with Cisco UCS Director, VMware vSphere®, and Microsoft® Windows Server® 2012 Hyper-V® virtualization platforms.

Why FlexPod Express

FlexPod Express delivers benefits based on three key concepts:

- **Start right**, with a low-cost, easy-to-deploy solution. FlexPod Express is tested and documented by Cisco and NetApp and includes an implementation guide to facilitate integrating the solution with your existing data center environment.
- **Keep it simple**, with the built-in system efficiencies of Cisco UCS servers, Cisco Nexus switches, and NetApp FAS storage. With FlexPod Express, fewer IT resources are needed to manage a pool of server, network, and storage systems in a virtualized infrastructure. This streamlined solution consolidates your infrastructure, reducing the number of devices to purchase, cable, and power, and it simplifies management.
- **Grow smart**, with easy infrastructure scaling to keep up with business demands. Protect your investment in equipment and training as FlexPod

Express maintains a consistent operational environment as you grow. Scale up by adding components or scale out with a standardized platform to more easily predict budgets and support growth.

The Components

FlexPod Express leverages best-in-class building blocks from Cisco and NetApp to deliver a simple virtualization platform. The no-compromise entry-level server, storage, and networking products deliver the features that meet the needs of growing businesses at an affordable price. FlexPod Express solutions include the following components:

- The NetApp FAS2500 series of hybrid arrays provides powerful, flexible storage that maximizes the long-term value of your IT investment. Its unified architecture supports a broad set of SAN and NAS workloads. It also provides built-in data protection and scalability features; optimized performance; built-in deduplication; thin provisioning; rapid cloning; and automated storage management, data protection, and security features.
- The Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS) servers are designed from the ground up for virtualized environments. They combine compute, network, storage access, and virtualization into a scalable, modular system. Cisco UCS has a simplified architecture that dramatically reduces the number of devices that must be purchased, cabled, configured, powered, cooled, managed, and secured.

- The Cisco Nexus 3048 switches deliver high-performance and low-latency switching to create a fast network foundation for Cisco UCS C-Series and aggregation connectivity.

Cooperative Support Model

FlexPod Express is covered by the Cooperative Support Model. FlexPod Cooperative Support is a partnership between NetApp; Cisco; and our technology partners Microsoft, VMware, Citrix, and Red Hat. Your IT staff chooses which vendor to call based on your initial assessment of the problem's origin. Multivendor engineers work to resolve your issue quickly, using shared communications, expertise gained through ongoing joint training, and a formal escalation process.

Our Partners

NetApp, Cisco, our strategic partners, and authorized resellers can help you successfully make the move to FlexPod Express and assist with the consolidation, optimization, and virtualization of IT environments. Together, we deliver solutions that increase utilization and reduce complexity and costs.



* FlexPod Express rack shown for illustration only. Rack and panels not included.

Figure 1) FlexPod Express: an infrastructure solution.

