RISC/UNIX SERVER MIGRATION

Historically, organizations were willing to pay a premium for RISC-based Unix server platforms in order to gain top performance, availability and reliability for their mission-critical applications. Today, the price premium remains but the advantages of RISC/Unix servers have been eclipsed by newer, more cost-effective technologies.

The Intel Xeon processor line has closed the gap on reliability and surpassed the performance of RISC processor architectures. As a result, migrating from legacy RISC-based Unix servers to Intel Xeon-based systems can improve service levels while lowering total cost of ownership (TCO). But which Intel Xeon solution should you choose?

The Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) delivers more features and functionality than any other Intel Xeon-based platform. With Cisco UCS, customers benefit from:

- Lower hardware support costs
- Lower costs for operating system, database and application licensing and support
- Better system performance
- A common management platform
- Reduced complexity and administrative overhead
- Unique hardware features such as the Cisco Virtual Interface Card and extended memory

In addition, Cisco UCS provides high levels of reliability, availability and serviceability (RAS); faster, simpler, more agile application deployment; and a vast technology, service and support partner ecosystem.

Cisco UCS servers, based on Intel Xeon multicore processors, offer an attractive alternative to legacy RISC/Unix systems.

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FusionStorm's team of Cisco-certified engineers and data center experts are helping customers take advantage of Cisco UCS to reduce TCO while improving the performance and manageability of their server infrastructures. FusionStorm can develop and execute a server migration strategy that delivers rapid time-to-value for the Cisco UCS platform.

Legacy RISC/Unix Servers: Is it Time to Migrate?

A growing number of businesses have come up against the real limits of their legacy RISC/Unix implementations. As they explore the possibility of upgrading these systems, many are finding that the aging RISC/Unix infrastructure doesn't provide the performance or flexibility required to support today's business requirements.

What's more, there is great uncertainty about the future of RISC/Unix: missed chip release deadlines, changes in product roadmaps, and dropped hardware and software support from HP and Oracle/Sun. Given that costs for RISC/Unix maintenance, support, software licenses and power are increasing, many organizations are looking at migrating to an Intel Xeon-based environment.

Changes within the application server infrastructure are also driving customers to migrate from RISC/Unix to Intel Xeon. Mission-critical workloads are now being deployed in virtualized environments that have been architected to scale out across multiple smaller servers rather than scaling up vertically with large, expensive RISC/Unix servers. Nearly all cloud computing initiatives are deployed on Intel Xeon architecture platforms, thanks to the superior technology and economic model they provide.

Why Cisco UCS?

Cisco UCS unites compute, network, storage access and virtualization resources in an energy-efficient system that reduces cost and complexity and improves business agility. Its "wire once" unified fabric and scalable, modular architecture uses one-half the components and requires less cabling and power/cooling than legacy server installations.

The Cisco UCS product line includes blade and rack-mount servers to meet a wide range of workload requirements. The Cisco UCS architecture takes optimum advantage of the latest Intel Xeon processors to deliver record-setting performance for mission-critical applications, as well as greater bandwidth and application throughput.

Cisco UCS unleashes the full potential of virtualization by enhancing the scalability, performance and operational control of virtual environments. Cisco security, policy enforcement and diagnostics features are extended into dynamic virtualized environments.

Management is integrated into all components of the system. The Cisco UCS Manager provides an intuitive graphical user interface, a command line interface and a robust application programming interface to manage all system configuration and operations. Service profiles enable data center managers to provision applications in minutes instead of days.

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Cisco UCS Product Line:

- Blade Servers: UCS B-Series
- Rack Servers: UCS C-Series
- Blade Servers for ISR Gen2
- Routers: UCS E-Series
- UCS Server and Systems Management
- System I/O: UCS Fabric Interconnects and Fabric Extenders
- Server I/O: UCS Virtual Interface Cards
- Server Accelerators: UCS Storage Accelerators and GPUs
- Rack and Power Infrastructure

FusionStorm: Your Resource for RISC/Unix Migrations

FusionStorm's Solution Architects and Engineers have many years of expertise in developing data center solutions, including hardware virtualization incorporating blade and server solutions, management of said solutions, as well as the storage and network infrastructure that are critical to these systems. FusionStorm has invested heavily in the competencies needed to support Cisco UCS in the data center with real-world implementation expertise:

- RISC/Unix architectures
- Intel Xeon architectures
- RISC/Unix migration strategy
- RISC/Unix migration planning and roadmap
- RISC/Unix migration execution
- RISC/Unix to Intel Xeon knowledge transfer and documentation

With FusionStorm as a partner, organizations are capitalizing on Cisco UCS to enable scalability without complexity while improving performance.

Cisco UCS Manager Architecture

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