Top 5 ways that Cisco ACI makes IT agile

Applications are the currency of the digital world. Organizations use them to boost productivity or engage customers in new ways. If the IT structure is too rigid or complex to keep up with the demand for new applications, you end up with a bottleneck, and business suffers. Software-defined networking (SDN) offers the flexibility to eliminate those bottlenecks, and Cisco® Application Centric Infrastructure (Cisco ACI™) is the most comprehensive SDN in the industry. Here are five ways that Cisco ACI makes IT fast and agile.

*The Cisco ACI agile, open, and secure approach reduces operational overhead by **45%** (through reduced power and cooling costs).*[1]

1. An open ecosystem means more choices.

Cisco gives you options by building on open APIs, open sources, open standards, and open ecosystems. Cisco works closely with 36 ecosystem partners including F5, Citrix, and Fortinet. The result is customer choice and interoperability with lower costs and a foundation for innovation.

2. Automation fast-tracks deployment.

The Cisco ACI policy-based automation solution, together with Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®) servers, reduces deployment time down to minutes and helps eliminate human error. It also supports heterogeneous physical and virtual endpoints such as bare-metal or virtual servers.

58%

reduction in networking provisioning costs (actual dollar savings plus service-level agreement [SLA] improvement)[2]

"The Cisco Nexus 9000 and Cisco ACI allow us to rapidly provision applications for our clients. It's the perfect mix of control and scalability."

– Clayton Weise, director of cloud services, Key Information Systems

3. Simplify troubleshooting with application-level visibility.

Real-time health monitoring gives you visibility across physical and virtual environments so that you can troubleshoot quickly no matter where a problem occurs.

Deploy applications in minutes instead of weeks.

4. Hardware-based gateways deliver performance and scalability.

Within the fabric, every leaf switch is a hardware-based Virtual Extensible LAN (VXLAN) gateway delivering faster performance than solutions that depend on software gateways. The Cisco ACI environment can also be scaled up quickly without adding complexity.

10 to 20%

computing and storage optimization[3]

5. Whitelist security lets applications share infrastructure safely.

Cisco ACI automatically blocks connectivity between devices until policy specifically allows it. It's automatically multitenant aware, so traffic, connectivity, and policies for every application and user can run over the same infrastructure without leaking information.

"Cybersecurity is key to customer confidence. ... ACI's policy-based automation combined with next-generation intrusion protection and advanced malware protection will optimize our ability to safeguard sensitive information."[4]

– Chuck Huetter, director of information technology, Ameritas

1. *Cisco Preparing Its Datacenters for the Next Generation of Virtualization and Hybrid Cloud with Its Application Centric Infrastructure*, IDC, May 2014.
2. Cisco IT committed projection to Cisco executive management, publicly announced.
3. Cisco IT committed projection to Cisco executive management, publicly announced.
4. Quote was shortened for brevity. View original quote.

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