



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HYPERCONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

Hyperconvergence is a hot topic right now. And for good reason. Organisations have longed for a way to reduce the amount of time and effort it takes to deploy new business-facing IT services. Hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) delivers the speed, simplicity and agility needed in today's digital economy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. WHAT IS HYPERCONVERGENCE?

HCI is the next step in the evolution of IT infrastructure. It takes the idea of integrating compute, storage and networking that started with converged systems and adds deeper levels of abstraction and automation to provide an all in-one data centre that can be up and running in under an hour.

Q. WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS OF HCI?

- Eliminates the need for making individual purchases of servers, virtualisation software and Management tools
 - Supported by a single vendor
- Does not require installation of Storage-area Network (SAN) or Network-attached Storage (NAS)
 - Integration reduces the overall cost of the HCI system

Q. WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY CURRENT SETUP?

The typical enterprise now has a data centre built in silos of hardware to support a range of distinct applications. This distributed environment can be static and inflexible. It also means IT staff devote a large amount of time and resources to deploy, provision and manage the individual components.



Q. SO WHAT MAKES HCI DIFFERENT?

HCI offers the simplicity and speed of an appliance approach by consolidating all required functionality into a single infrastructure running on an efficient pool of x86 resources.

Q. WHAT SORT OF MARKET ADOPTION IS HCI GETTING?

Gartner believes HCI will become mainstream by the end of the decade in what it describes as a '*third wave of integrated systems in the data centre*'. IDC reports that HCI sales grew 68% year on year during the third quarter of 2017, generating \$1 billion in revenue. This represents almost 34% of the total worldwide market for converged systems, which saw revenue hit \$2.99 billion during the same period.

Q. WHAT DRIVING THE GROWTH OF HCI?

Data growth and increasing complexity have made the management of storage an acute pain point for businesses. At the same time, the world of hybrid IT and multi-cloud management, virtualisation and software defined everything is evolving at pace against a backdrop of demand for operational efficiency and speed of provisioning.

HCI's ability to deliver key storage functions such as snapshots/cloning, replication and flash acceleration without the need for storage SAN expertise has proved a real game changer.

Q. WHAT ARE THE KEY COMPONENTS THAT HCI SHOULD HAVE?

- Common management and orchestration
- Integration with legacy data centre platforms
- Integration with well-known management tools to eliminate the need to add new ones
- A common control plane for servers, networking and storage to centralise logs and error reporting within existing tools
- Integrate with APIs – a key requirement for organisations building a private cloud environment
- Secure sensitive data – file-level encryption as an option, plus VPN integration for securing replication streams
- Provide comprehensive auditing capabilities to track the source of breaches and data-corruption events within the organisation

Q. WHY CISCO HYPERFLEX?

Not all HCI solutions are created equal. Several well-known platforms do not include the network as part of the HCI stack – which means additional time and cost for your business. It also leads to scaling issues later on. Cisco is driving rapid HCI innovations and has delivered high performance component options, intuitive management enhancements and new enterprise data protection and security features.

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