



# FlexPod Express

## 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 is a daunting challenge. 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<sup>®</sup> Express provides a pretested, low-cost solution that is integrated and delivered by an ecosystem of joint channel partners. FlexPod Express integrates Cisco<sup>®</sup> Unified Computing System<sup>™</sup> (UCS<sup>™</sup>) C-Series servers, NetApp<sup>®</sup> FAS2220 or FAS2240 storage, Cisco Nexus<sup>®</sup> 3048 switches, and management tools with Cooperative Support into an affordable, easy-to-deploy infrastructure solution. FlexPod Express is available in two predefined configurations and is deployed with an easy-to-use implementation guide. This solution:

- Reduces the number of servers and storage capacity required for applications
- Simplifies overall infrastructure
- Optimizes architecture with best-of-breed 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 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 Cloupia Unified Infrastructure Controller, a management solution that provides physical and virtual infrastructure control, management, and monitoring from a unified dashboard. FlexPod Express was also tested and documented with VMware<sup>®</sup> vSphere<sup>®</sup> and Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Windows Server<sup>®</sup> 2012 Hyper-V<sup>™</sup> virtualization platforms.

### 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.

## FlexPod Express

## 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. The implementation guide includes a bill of materials, cabling diagrams, and detailed deployment instructions.

- **Keep it simple**, with the built-in system efficiencies of Cisco UCS servers, 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.

- The NetApp FAS2200 Series multiprotocol unified storage platform provides advanced efficiencies that dramatically reduce capacity utilization. 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. NetApp delivers highly flexible storage for server and desktop virtualization environments.
- The Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) C220 M3 servers are designed from the ground up for virtualized environments. They combine compute, network, storage access, and virtualization into a scalable, modular system. 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.

## Cooperative Support Model

FlexPod Express is covered by the Cooperative Support Model. This three-way partnership between Cisco, NetApp, and VMware allows engineers from each of these companies to collaborate directly with one another to resolve customer issues and expedite problem resolution, providing a single point of contact for customers. For other software vendors, including Microsoft, a similar structure addresses issues as necessary via TSNet. TSNet is an alliance that enables global technology organizations to work together to fast-track technical support cooperation between several partners.

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## 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. With this joint solution, you can grow your business without needing to grow your IT budget at the same pace.



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

**Figure 1.** FlexPod Express—an infrastructure solution.

Contact your local reseller  
for more information.



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