



Cisco SAN Optimization Service

Consolidate SAN islands into a secure, manageable solution with Cisco SAN Optimization Service.

Deliver a Consistently High Level of SAN Performance and Support Growing Information Management Needs

Maintaining an efficient storage area network (SAN) infrastructure is critical to sustaining business agility as your information resources grow and your business needs change. An efficient SAN can provide the reliability, availability, and consistent performance that SAN applications need to operate with high performance and availability. Ongoing SAN operations that are not optimized to align with business growth can result in lower availability, poor performance, and corrupted data.

The Cisco® SAN Optimization Service helps you optimize a SAN infrastructure based on the Cisco MDS platform. Cisco MDS 9000 Series Switches use multiple layers of intelligence to consolidate SAN islands into a secure, manageable solution that supports business continuance and disaster recovery for intelligent storage fabric applications. The service helps speed the identification and resolution of SAN issues after your initial SAN deployment. Through ongoing support focused on operational and SAN enhancements, we help you make sure of optimal performance of your SAN in a dynamic environment.

Ongoing Optimization Service for Your Cisco SAN

The Cisco SAN Optimization Service can help you continuously improve your Cisco SAN solution and achieve operational excellence. You receive ongoing support to incorporate changes to your SAN environment to help maintain security and availability in a changing application environment.

The Cisco SAN Optimization Service offers a wide variety of activities and deliverables to help you evaluate how your SAN infrastructure can help increase data center performance and efficiency. Using leading practices, the Cisco SAN Optimization Service identifies gaps in your SAN infrastructure and provides network support, design support, software strategy support, and ongoing and scheduled change support. The Cisco SAN Optimization Services activities, deliverables, and benefits are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. SAN Optimization Service Activities, Deliverables, and Benefits

Activities and Deliverables	Benefits
<p>SAN Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a list of recommendations based on analysis of customer's environment and comparison against best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses list of documented best practices for future SAN MDS optimization efforts; helps you to analyze SAN MDS infrastructure so you can improve infrastructure ROI
<p>SAN Architecture Design Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides detailed design reports on data center architecture components Provides recommendations for resiliency, self-recovery, scalability, disaster recovery, business continuance, virtualization, and application traffic requirements Provides detailed design reports on SAN MDS environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps ensure that your Cisco data center designs continually address the critical elements required for your business goals Uses list of recommendations for your SAN MDS architecture design to speed identification of issues in the future
<p>Proactive Software Recommendation Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review provides strategic and tactical approach to managing current and future software levels Assists in defining feature requirements and performance and availability objectives as they relate to software strategy Comprehensive reports for each software track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports examine production configurations and compare them to Cisco's leading practice recommendations Recommendations for software modifications as necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a strategic and tactical approach to managing current and future software levels Helps resolve software compatibility issues faster through proactive software changes Provides awareness of known software defects and available workarounds to use in making software upgrade decisions Provides ongoing configuration and design optimization to help ensure that your Cisco MDS environment continues to meet your business and operational requirements Provides recommendations for software modifications as necessary

Activities and Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Performance and Validation Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test applications, technologies, and so on, based on review of your business requirements and objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide test cycle and review. Cisco will consult with customer through a series of meetings to develop a thorough understanding of customer's solution-oriented testing goals and requirements. Cisco will implement networking tests to prove or disprove theories and report findings to customer. A test cycle and review may include, among other information, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of customer's testing goals and business objectives – Collaborate on a test plan – Analysis of requirements such as platforms, topology, protocols, and configurations – Report describing test findings and recommendations
<p>Scheduled Change Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote resource for critical scheduled changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps verify that the planned changes meet your technical objectives and do not adversely affect the operational environment • Provides technical assistance to your operational changes • Provides an escalation point that includes a thorough understanding of your SAN environment • Accelerates deployment of changes to your data center and helps minimize disruption to your network • Provides network-aware assistance for use in interfacing with other Cisco support resources called in to provide unscheduled support to your network
<p>Ongoing Software Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing software support for incremental changes to device configuration or architecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides timely security alerts and critical bug reports to help ensure that you stay current with the most recent developments • Provide informal remote support for incremental changes to device configuration or architecture
<p>Ongoing Design Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support for incremental changes to data center or architecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides continuous application of best practices and proven methodologies to foster an optimized environment in the face of changing business and technical requirements • Helps ensure that your Cisco SAN designs address the critical elements required for your business goals

Activities and Deliverables	Benefits
<p>Ongoing Service and Project Management Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support and project management to assist with overall delivery • Provides better visibility and organization of your data center events and Cisco support, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Account kickoff – Weekly conference call – Preparation and presentation of quarterly business review – 90-day planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps you plan, initiate, and manage changes to your Cisco MDS implementation • Provides better visibility and organization of your data center events and Cisco support to help ensure the best utilization of your support plan
<p>Remote Knowledge Transfer Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps your IT staff achieve operational excellence as it pertains to your Cisco data center network • Helps ensure the ongoing readiness of your operational staff to accommodate planned changes and be well versed on the effects on these changes on your entire data center network • Provides informal training on the operational processes, activities, and tools necessary to achieve operational excellence

Benefits

This Cisco SAN Optimization Service helps you deliver a high level of SAN performance and availability as your storage needs evolve. Plus the Cisco SAN Optimization Service helps you to:

- Improve and update your SAN in response to changes in your IT infrastructure and business requirements
- Effectively integrate changes in a multivendor solution by working closely with Cisco storage partners
- Reduce the complexity and cost of ownership of your SAN
- Enable more efficient use of existing resources by enhancing staff skills through customized, ongoing training and knowledge exchange with Cisco experts
- Reduce the risks inherent in any change to your SAN infrastructure
- Align your SAN deployment with your data center goals

Prerequisite Services

Customers interested in deploying the Cisco SAN Optimization Services will achieve the best results of their optimization activities if they have completed a SAN MDS planning and design service comparable with the Cisco SAN Planning and Design Service. Additionally, a SAN MDS assessment similar to the Cisco SAN Health Check is highly recommended.

Follow-On Services

As a next step to transforming your data center architecture, Cisco recommends you take advantage of our expertise in virtualization. The Cisco Data Center Virtualization Assessment helps to identify gaps in your infrastructure so you can prepare to deploy an end-to-end virtualization solution.

Cisco and Partner Expertise

Cisco and our industry leading partners use best practices and proven methodologies to help you quickly and efficiently plan and deploy a high-performance, resilient, and scalable virtualized architecture for your business.

The Cisco SAN Optimization Service is delivered by Cisco experts who hold a wide array of industry certifications and are subject matter experts in business and technology architecture and data center technologies. They have direct experience in planning, designing, and supporting virtualization solutions.

Cisco product and technology expertise is continually enhanced by hands-on experience with real-life networks and broad exposure to the latest technology and implementations.

Why Cisco Data Center Services?

Today, the data center is a strategic asset in a world that demands better integration among people, information, and ideas. Your business and your data center work better when technology products and services are aligned with your business needs and opportunities. Cisco and our industry-leading partners deliver intelligent, personalized services that accelerate the transformation of your data center. Using a unique, network-based perspective and a unified view of data center assets, Cisco takes an architectural approach to help you efficiently consolidate, virtualize, and manage data center resources. Cisco Data Center Services help transform, optimize, and protect your data center to reduce costs, deliver high availability, and improve application performance.

Availability

Cisco SAN Optimization Service is widely available. Contact your local Cisco account manager about availability in your area.

For More Information

For more information about Cisco SAN Optimization Service, as well as the broad array of Cisco Services for the data center, contact your local Cisco account manager or visit www.cisco.com/go/datacenter.

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Making Networks Work.
Better Together.



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