

FlexPod as a Workload Domain for VMware Cloud Foundation

Cisco Validated Design

NetApp® is known for unlocking the best of cloud. NetApp, Cisco, and VMware are teaming up once again to deliver a full-stack, software-defined validated solution that provides a turnkey user experience that empowers VMware hybrid cloud capabilities. NetApp and Cisco bring their best-in-class products to deliver a true full stack integration, enabling high performance workloads for VMware Cloud Foundation.

By leveraging Cisco Intersight, Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS), and VMware vSAN ReadyNodes, Cisco enables the management domain of the VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) solution.

FlexPod® uses Cisco X-Series compute, Nexus switching, MDS fabric, and NetApp AFF A-Series storage to function within the VCF Workload Domain. NFS is used for principal storage in this solution, enabling ease of replication to other NFS-based NetApp ONTAP® products. With FlexPod, Workload Domains are performant, and help enable the software defined features of VMware Cloud Foundation.

VMware Cloud Foundation provides the catalyst for a hybrid cloud solution, offering automation, lifecycle management (LCM), and simple cloud-based management of hardware components. These features are delivered by the

software components that provide the building blocks for VCF. VMware vSphere with Tanzu, formerly Pivotal Kubernetes Service, provides a Kubernetes platform native to the vSphere hypervisor. VMware NSX-T Data Center is a network virtualization and security platform that enables a software-defined approach to cloud networking. VMware vRealize Suite uses Lifecycle Manager to deploy and upgrade VMware vRealize Operations Manager, vRealize Orchestrator, and vRealize Automation.

The Cisco Validated Design (CVD) covers best practices in terms of software versions, necessary hardware, and network design to ensure that the deployment is as seamless as possible. The VMware Cloud Foundation design is an automated installation of VMware Cloud Builder, which is responsible for deploying the management domain. Once complete, the SDDC

Manager can be used to deploy automated Workload Domains as well as the optional vRealize Suite, which opens the door to automation of common vSphere tasks, centralized management of vCenter Servers, and log analysis.

For more information, be sure to check out the Cisco Validated Design in its entirety [here](#).

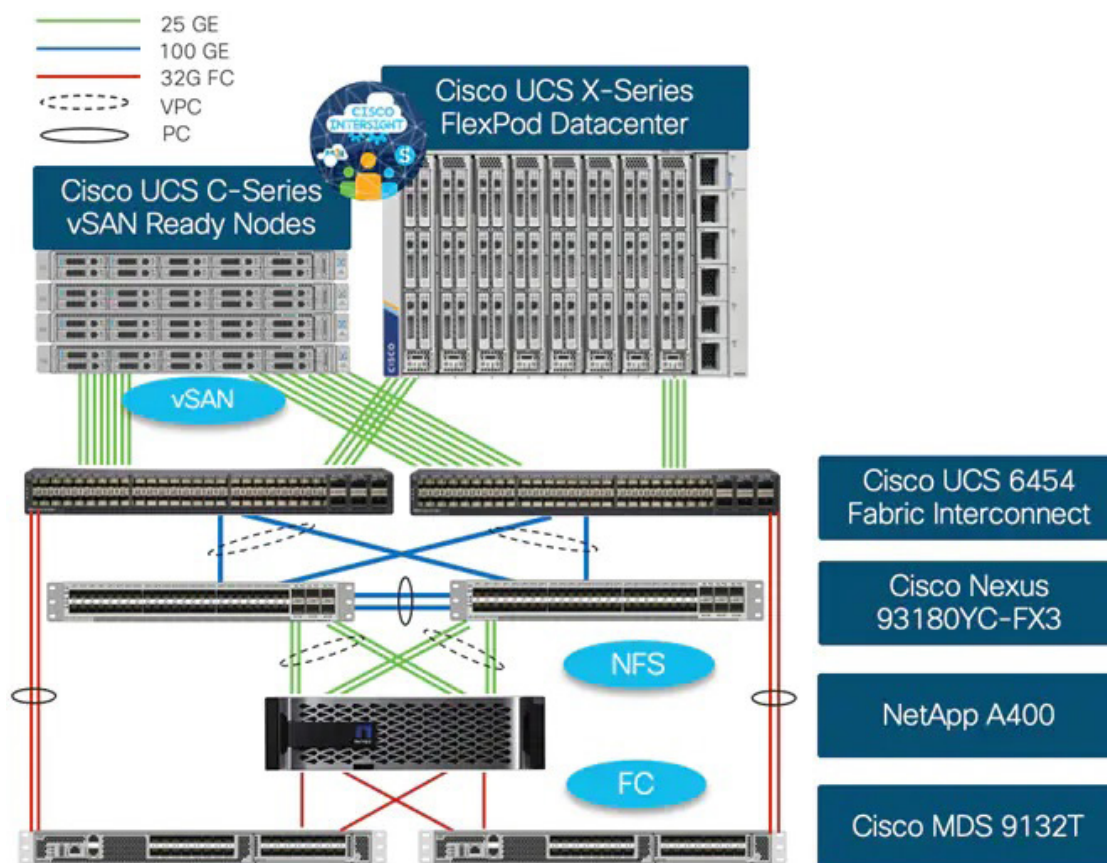


Figure 1. Automated Workload Domains as well as the optional vRealize Suite, opens the door to automation of common vSphere tasks, centralized management of vCenter Servers, and log analysis.