ExpressPod
A Cisco and NetApp Infrastructure Solution for Small and Midsize Businesses

The Challenge

For many small and midsize businesses, procuring and managing IT infrastructure is a daunting challenge. With servers dedicated to each application, many organizations have too many servers to maintain and manage. This environment is difficult to control, uses more resources, overburdens IT staff, and strains budgets. Companies pursuing greater efficiency are looking toward virtualization for server consolidation, and 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, ExpressPod provides a pre-packaged and tested solution bundle that is integrated and delivered by joint channel partners. ExpressPod integrates Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) C-Series servers, NetApp FAS2220 or FAS2240 storage,Cisco Nexus 3048 switches, and infrastructure management with Cooperative Support, into an affordable, easy-to-deploy infrastructure solution. ExpressPod comes 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

Growing small and midsize businesses can leverage ExpressPod to reduce the number of servers in their environment through virtualization. This solution cost-effectively consolidates common applications, such as email, collaboration, or content management—which previously resided on their own servers—onto one set of infrastructure. With a simplified architecture and processes to manage it, companies can more easily manage IT resources and take advantage of virtualization.

ExpressPod is delivered by an ecosystem of joint channel partners and supported by a cooperative support model composed of Cisco, NetApp and leading software partners. The solution supports leading hypervisors, applications and management platforms.

KEY BENEFITS

Optimize Infrastructure with Workload Consolidation

• Start right with a lower cost of acquisition.

• Implement quickly with an easy-to-deploy platform.

• Trust the solution pretested by Cisco and NetApp.

Reduce Complexity

• Improve efficiency with integration of 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.

ExpressPod

Why ExpressPod

ExpressPod delivers benefits based on three key concepts:

• **Start right,** with a low-cost, easy-to-deploy solution.

ExpressPod 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 detailed deployment instructions, wiring diagrams, bill of materials, and high-level sizing guidance.

• **Keep it simple,** with the built-in system efficiencies of Cisco® UCS™ servers, Nexus® switching, and NetApp® FAS storage.

With ExpressPod, fewer IT resources are needed to manage a pool of server, network, and storage systems in a virtuallized infrastructure. This streamlined solution reduces the number of devices that need to be purchased, cabled, and powered.

• **Grow smart,** with easy infrastructure scaling to keep up with business demands.

Protect your investment in equipment and training; the ExpressPod solution 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 growth.

The Components

ExpressPod 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 efficiency capabilities 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. It combines 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

Collocated experts have the ability to mix and match available product components to reproduce complex customer environments and expedite issues. Unique in the industry, the Cooperative Support Lab allows solution partners to collaborate on solving real-world challenges, providing a single support lab for our joint infrastructure solutions.

OUR PARTNERS

NetApp, Cisco, our strategic partners, and authorized resellers can help you successfully make the move to an ExpressPod solution 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.

Figure 1. ExpressPod—an infrastructure solution.

Contact your local reseller
for more information.

www.cisco.com
www.netapp.com/midsize