

Nimble Storage SmartStack for VDI with Cisco and VMware

A pre-validated reference architecture developed for VMware Horizon View using Nimble Storage hybrid arrays and Cisco UCS

The proliferation of new applications and devices in the workplace has added complexity to traditional IT environments. Companies of all sizes are being forced to re-evaluate how they manage IT, secure data and enable workplace mobility. This has led to organizations to turn to desktop virtualization. This year alone, over 50 percent of organizations will turn to virtual desktops to streamline desktop management, ensure greater security and compliance and provide anytime, anywhere access to the users across devices. (Source: ESG 2012)

A well-designed, thoroughly tested virtual desktop infrastructure enables companies to reduce operational expenditures and enhance worker productivity. While there are several new technologies available to assist IT in designing a virtual desktop solution, many of these offerings require the know-how to maximize investment, support service-level agreements, and reduce the total cost of ownership.

A Better Way Forward

Tackling desktop virtualization projects while meeting business criteria around costs, service levels and timing is now easier than ever before with the Nimble Storage SmartStack™ for virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) with Cisco® and VMware®. This pre-tested and validated SmartStack solution for VDI with Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS) and VMware® Horizon View™ eliminates much of the guesswork involved in planning and sizing, procuring the solution, and provisioning and operations.

As a result IT organizations take advantage of:

- Lower cost of acquisition, better ROI and a clear recipe for successful implementation
- Simplified management, with the environment contained in the datacenter
- Better support for SLAs and compliance initiatives
- Lower ongoing operation and maintenance costs
- Better desktop performance to drive higher levels of productivity

Mid-sized organizations seeking to tap into the benefits of desktop virtualization can now take advantage of the Nimble Storage CS-Series and the Cisco UCS SmartPlay with VMware Horizon View bundled solution. The flexible and scalable design for 300-user and up can be customized to meet specific requirements including increased end-user performance or storage capacity needs. The validated architecture is built using the blocks listed below and can scale to thousands of users:

- Nimble Storage CS220G-X2
- Cisco UCS Smart Play with VMware Horizon View, comprised of
 - UCS 5108 Blade Server Chassis
 - UCS B200 M3 Blade Servers
 - UCS 2200 Series IO Module
 - Cisco UCS 6200 Series Fabric Interconnects
 - VMware Horizon View 5.2 and VMware vSphere™ 5.1

Using this solution approach, end-user desktops run on Cisco UCS B200 M3 Blade Servers with VMware vSphere 5.1. The UCS and vSphere deployments are managed with

SmartStack Solution Overview

Cisco, Nimble Storage, and VMware make cost-effective VDI a reality for IT organizations large and small.

- Lower the risk of VDI and simplify deployment with tested reference architectures
- Scale to fit the growing number and increasing needs of end users
- Keep costs low with efficient infrastructure and simple management

Solution Details for 300 Users

- Cisco Unified Computing System B200 M3 Blade Servers
- Nimble Storage CS200 Series arrays
- VMware Horizon View

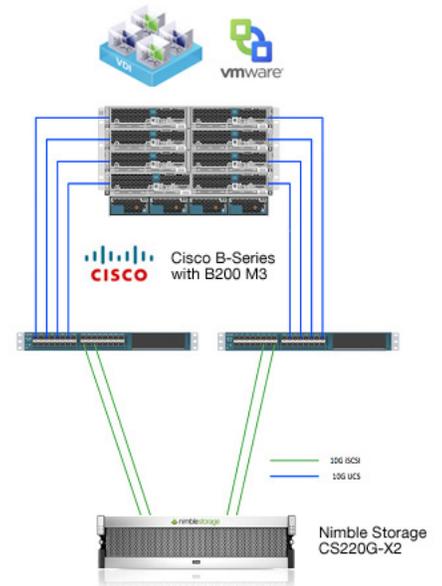
“Together Cisco, Nimble, and VMware have made VDI easy to manage and very cost-effective. We can now scale our VMware View environment at a moment’s notice — adding a block of new users in a lot less time that it took us with the previous solution. This has given us the ability to better serve our ‘customers’ inside the organization and embark on new projects.”

Suzette Allaire, CIO
Lindquist & Vennum

UCS Manager and VMware vCenter™ 5 respectively. VMware Horizon View Composer can be used to provision the desktop—leveraging cloning to save as much as 70 percent on storage capacity. The Nimble Storage CS220G-X2 delivers the storage performance and capacity that VMware Horizon View needs—in 3U of space—for hundreds of users. It connects to the UCS Fabric Interconnect using 10-gigabit Ethernet, eliminating any bottlenecks in the storage network. The environment is highly available, thanks to the active-standby storage controllers, redundant network connectivity, and VMware vSphere.

The Bottom Line

Nimble Storage hybrid arrays are an ideal complement to the Cisco UCS SmartPlay with VMware Horizon View. This prescriptive solution takes the guesswork out of VDI planning and validation, helping large and small IT organizations accelerate the move to a virtual desktop environment. Get started by contacting your local authorized reseller or by contacting us via email at info@nimblestorage.com.



Scalable VDI environment for 300+ users using Nimble Storage hybrid arrays, Cisco UCS, and VMware Horizon View.



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