

## What You Make Possible







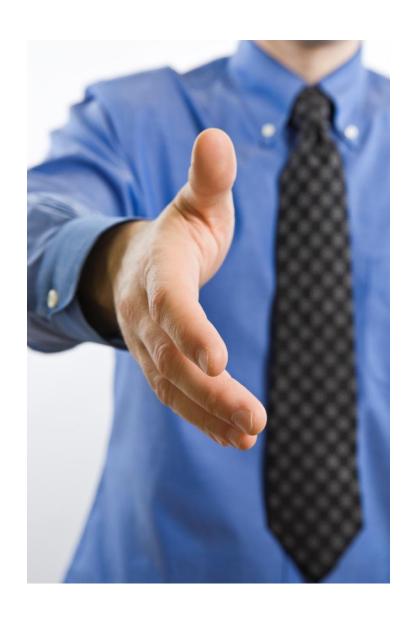
# Deployment Best Practices for VMware on UCS

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#### Introductions

Let us get to know each other



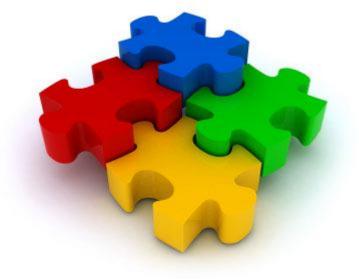
- VMware server virtualisation
- VMware desktop virtualisation
- Cisco UCS
- Area of expertise
  - Networking
  - Storage
  - Compute
- Job function
  - Architecture
  - Operations
  - Management



#### What We Will Cover

#### Deployment Best Practices for VMware on UCS

vCenter Plug-in



Networking



Compute



Rapid Deployment



Storage







## Cisco UCS vCenter Plug-in

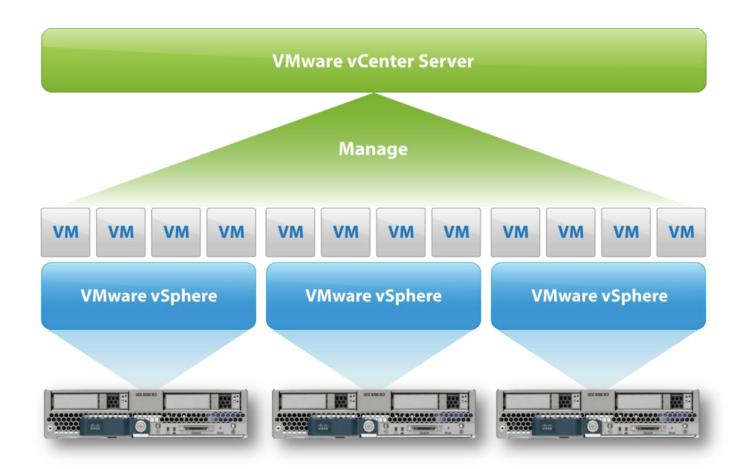




## Cisco UCS vCenter Plugin

Version 0.9(1) beta

- Extension for vSphere Web Client 5.1
- Requires vCenter 5.0 or higher
- Enables admins to view, manage and monitor UCS physical infrastructure
- Free at <u>http://developer.cisco.com/web/unifiedcomputing/vmware</u>

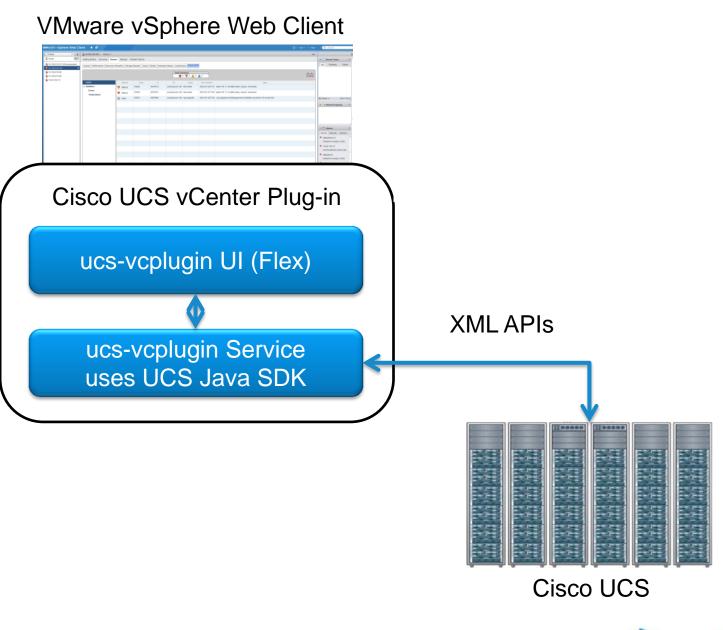




## Cisco UCS vCenter Plug-in Architecture

- Two major components
  - UCS-vcplugin UI is Flex-based extension to VMware web client
  - UCS-plugin services uses XML API to get data from UCS
- v0.9(1) supports only one registration per UCS domain

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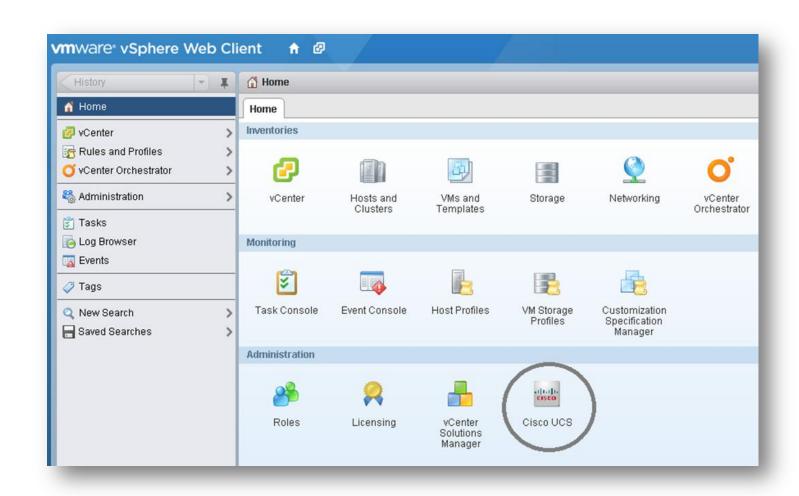


## Cisco UCS vCenter Plug-in Capabilities

- Physical hierarchy view
- Health of servers and infrastructure
- Maps physical servers to ESX hosts
- For each ESX host:
  - Inventory
  - Firmware
  - Faults
  - Power/temp statistics
- KVM launch

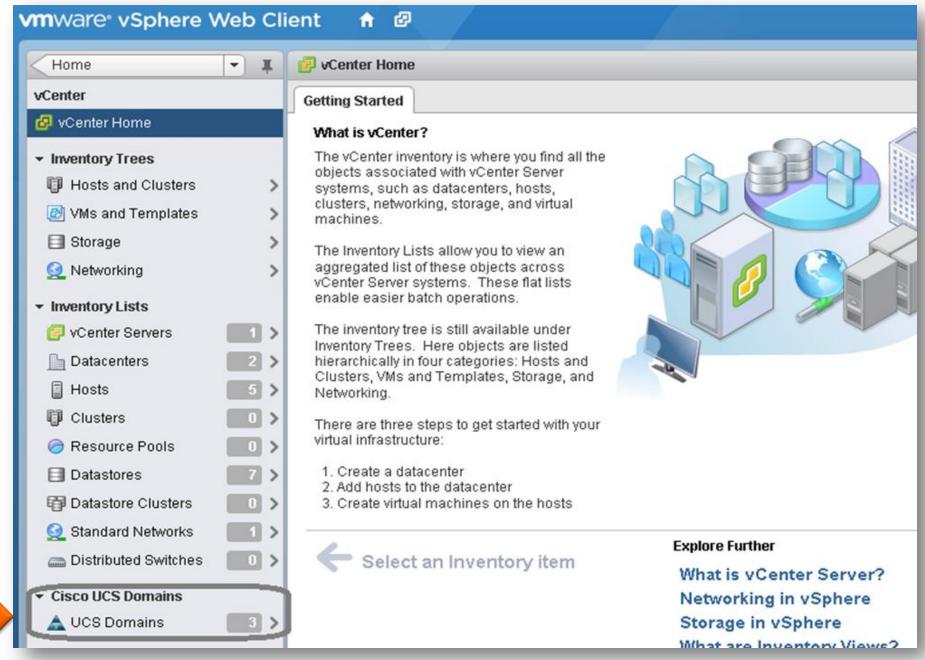
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Toggle blue locater LED



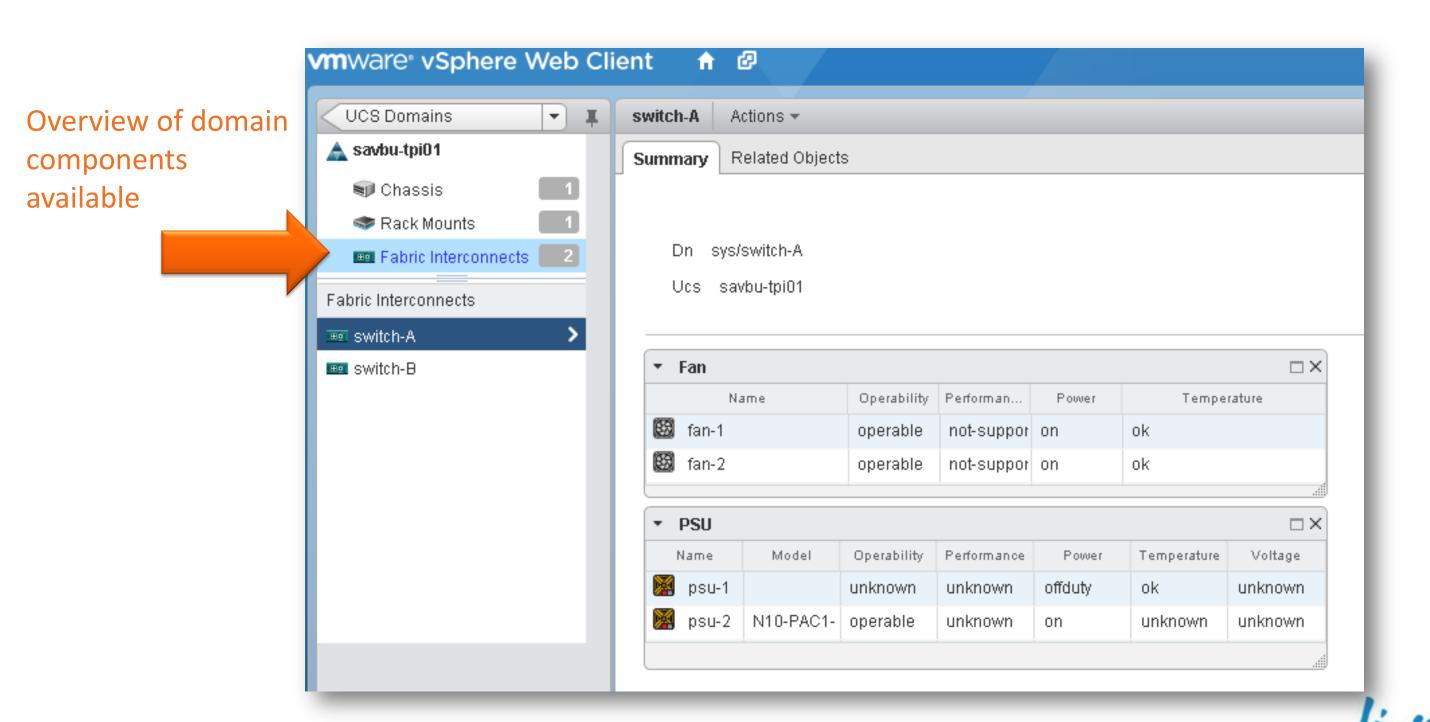


## **UCS Domains Shown in Inventory**

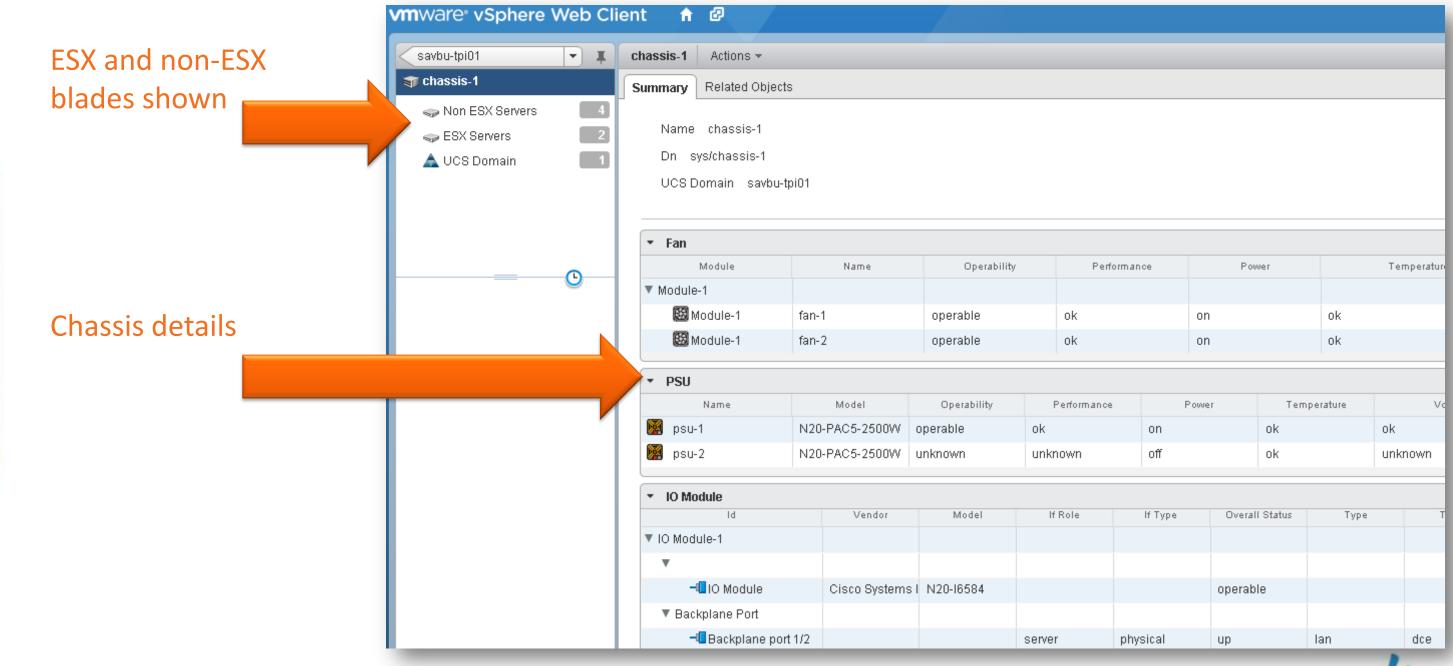




## **UCS Domain Inventory**



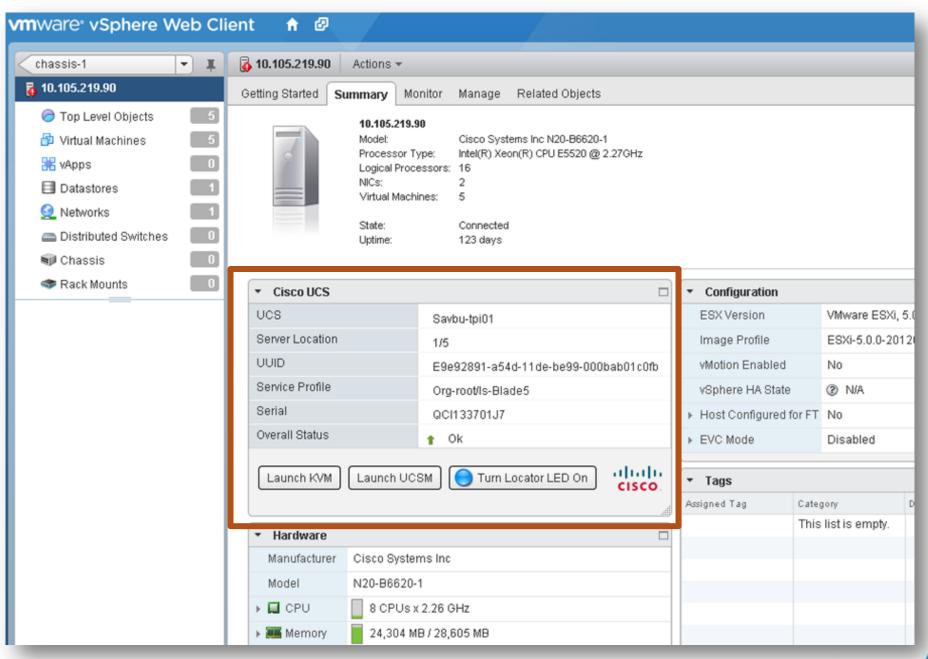
#### **UCS Chassis View**



#### **ESX Server Extension**

Summary view

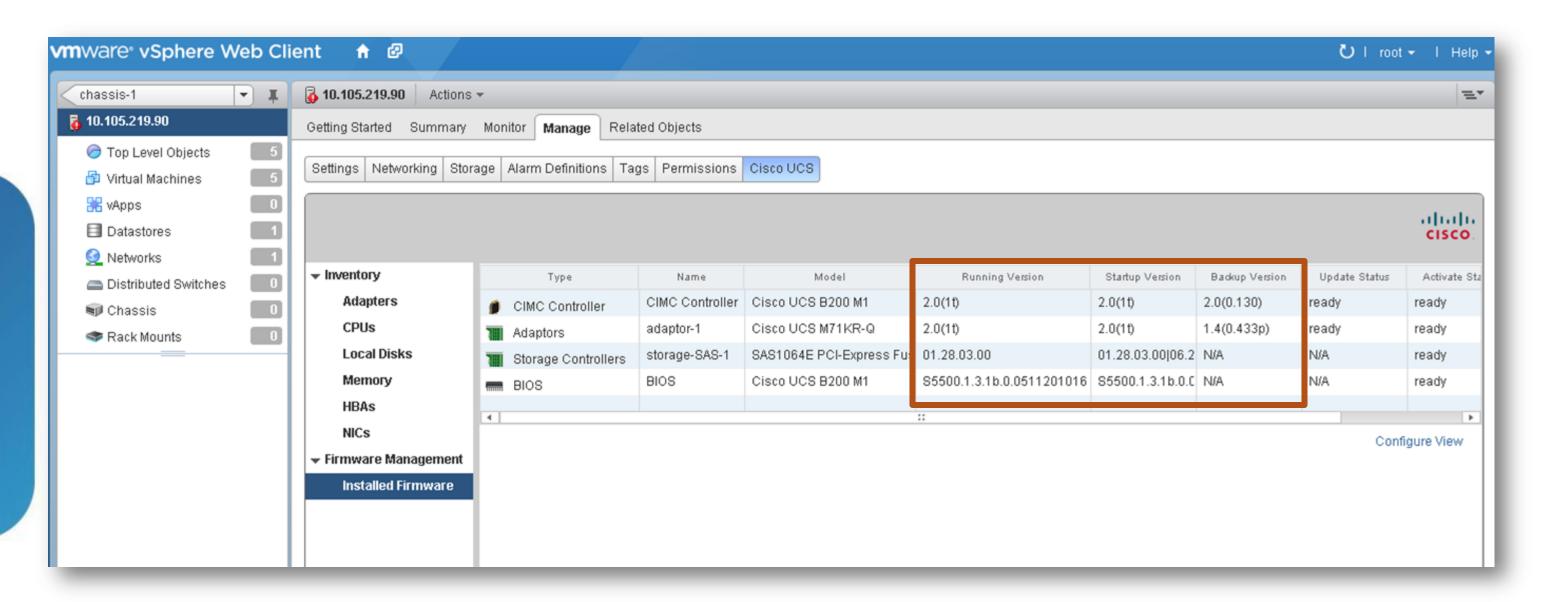
- Service profile name
- Server location
- Hardware inventory





#### **ESX Server Extension**

#### Manage view

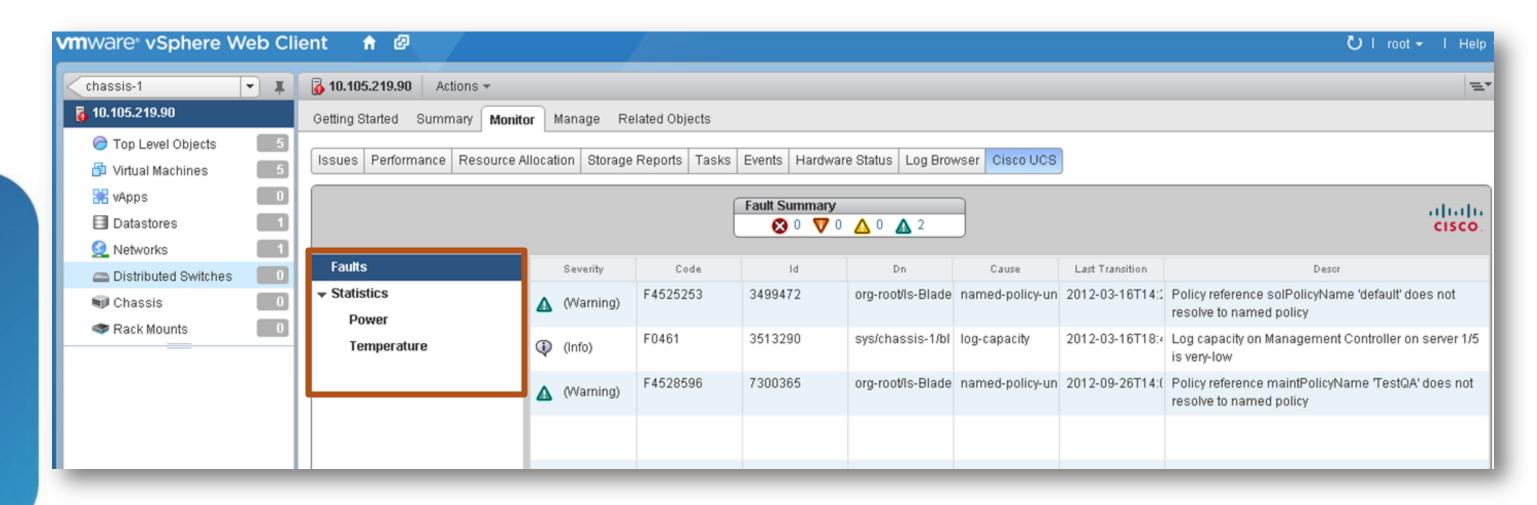


Inventory and firmware summary information



#### **ESX Server Extension**

#### Monitor view



Faults, power statistics and temperature statistics





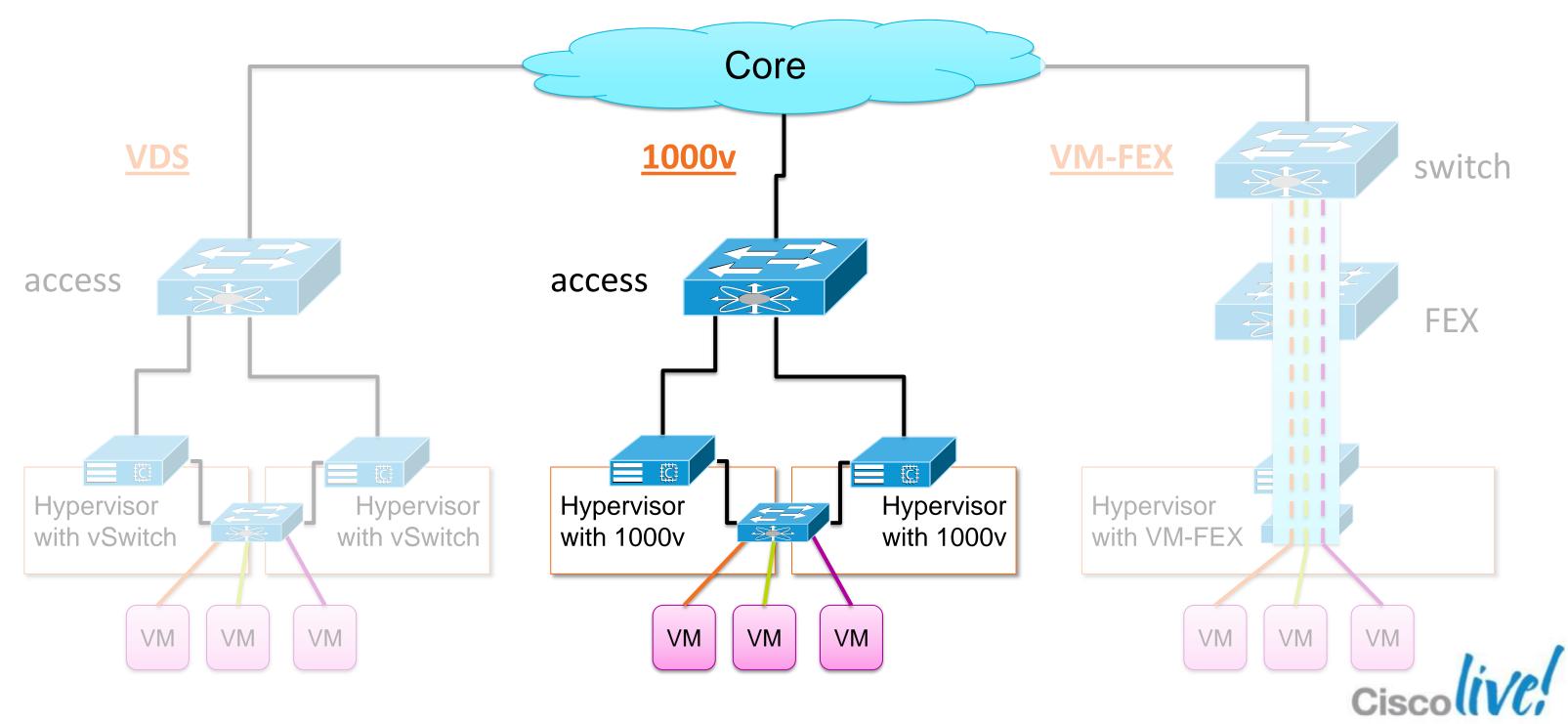
## Networking





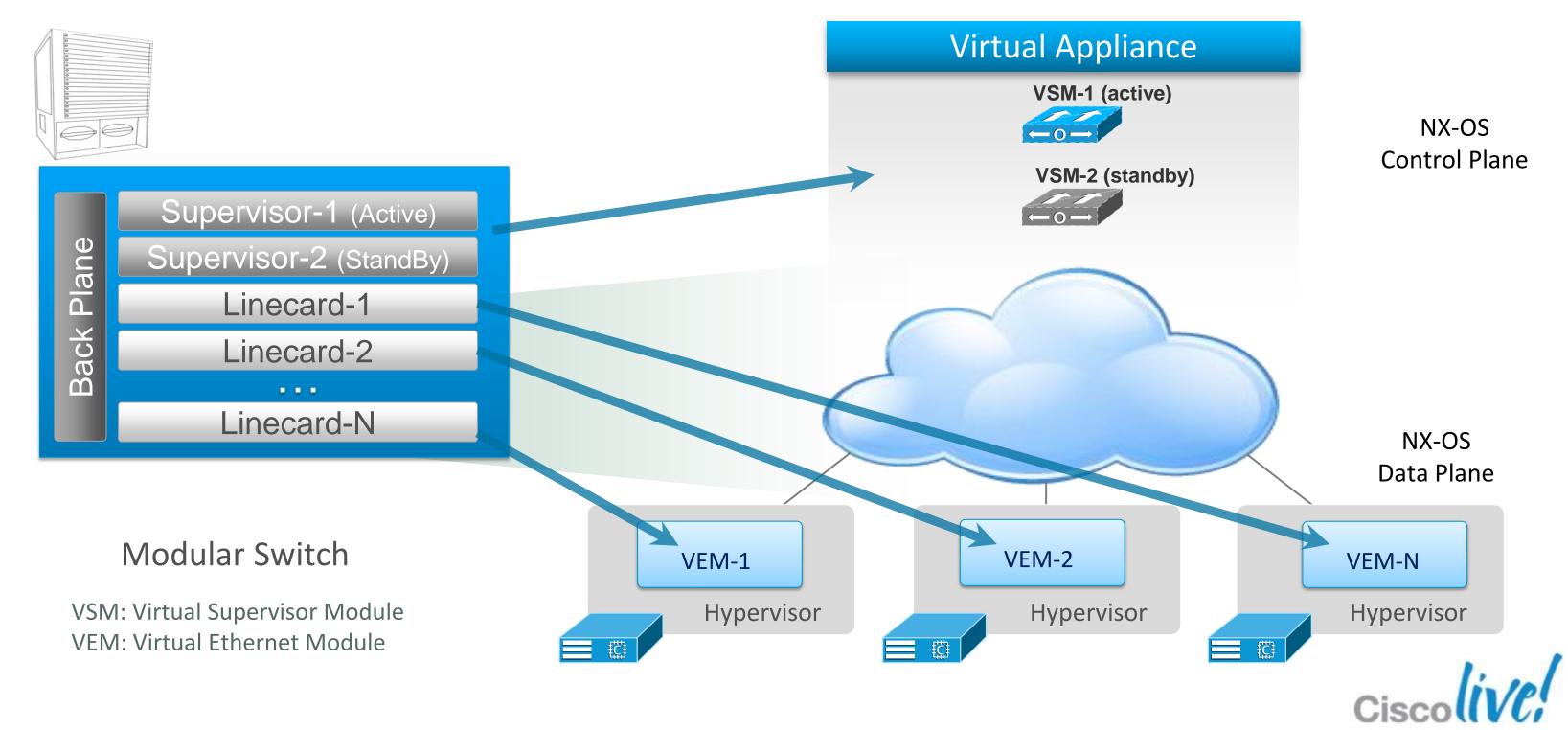
#### Three Ways to Provide IO to a VM

VMware VDS, Cisco 1000v, and Cisco VM-FEX



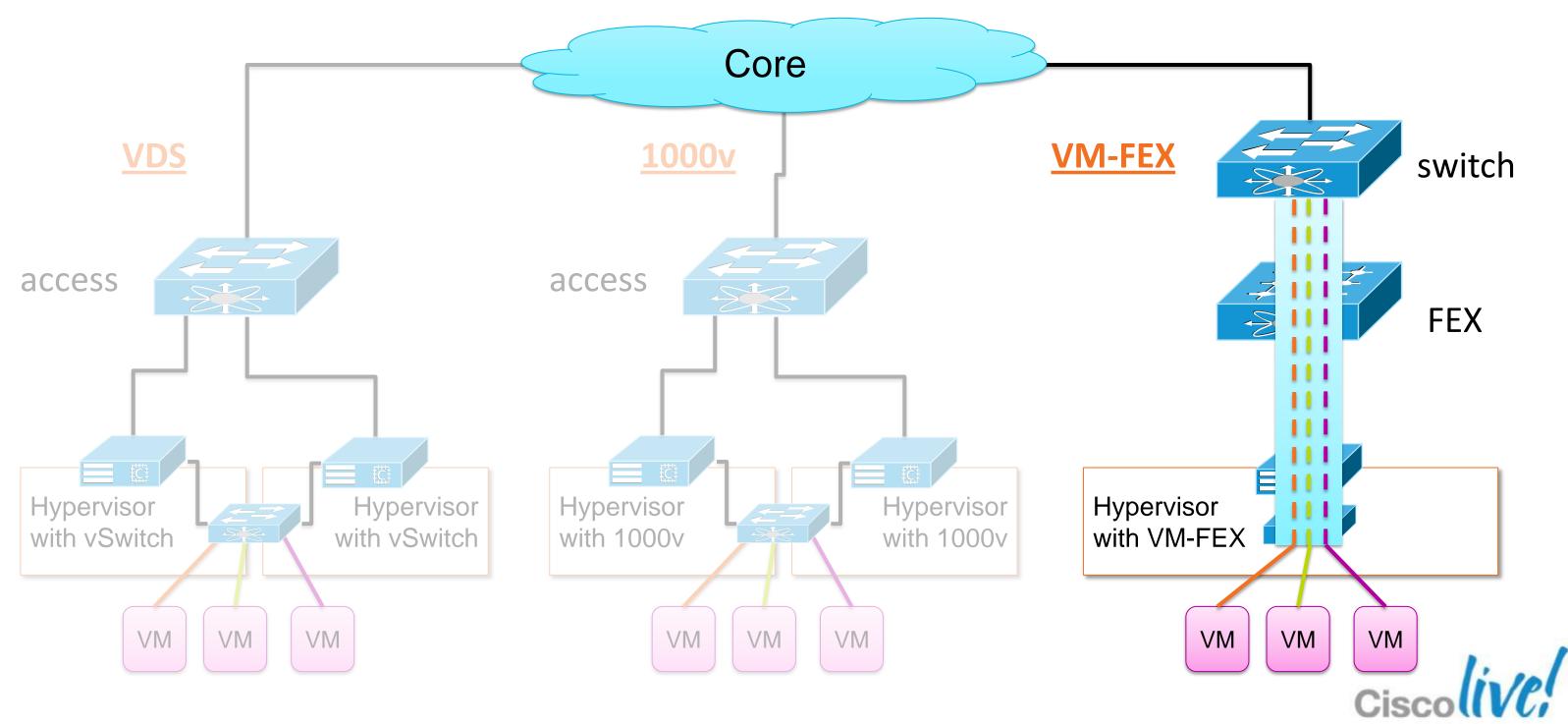
#### **Nexus 1000V Architecture**

A virtual modular switch with familiar NX-OS



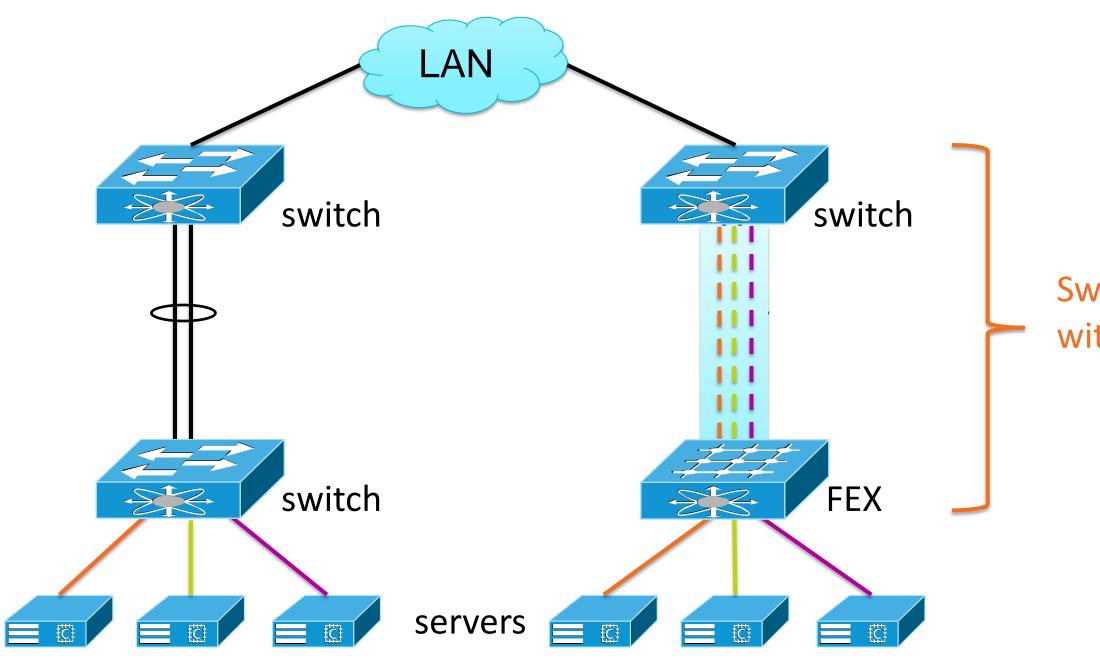
#### Three Ways to Provide IO to a VM

VMware VDS, Cisco 1000v, and Cisco VM-FEX



## Fabric Extension (FEX)

Virtualising the network port



Switch port extended with FEX



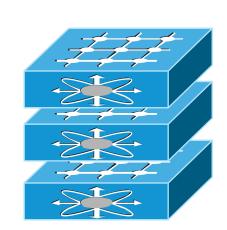
## **Nexus 5K Family with FEX**

FEX puts switch ports closer to the load

#### Modular System

Nexus 5K (supervisor)

Distributed Modular System

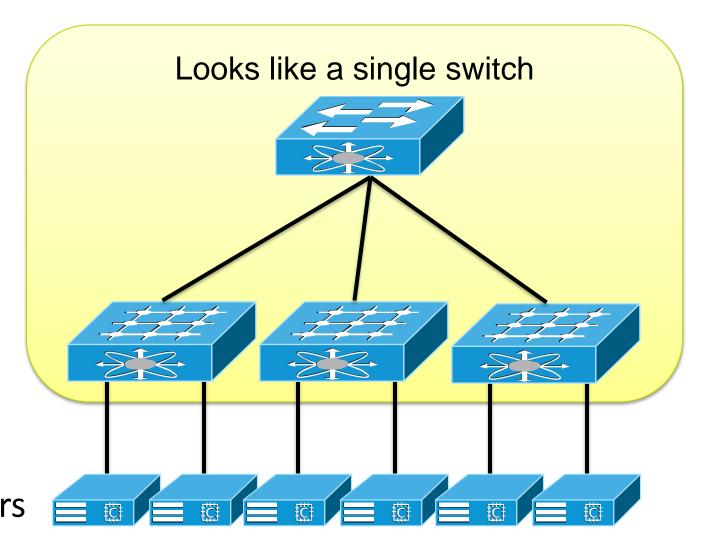


Nexus 2K FEX (line card)

#### **Distributed Modular System**

- Nexus 2000 FEX is a Virtual Line Card to the Nexus 5000
- Nexus 5000 maintains all management & configuration
- No Spanning Tree between FEX & Nexus 5000

#### Distributed Modular System

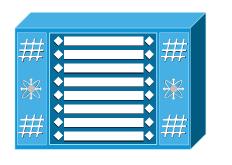


Over 6000 production customers
Over 5 million Nexus 2000 ports deployed

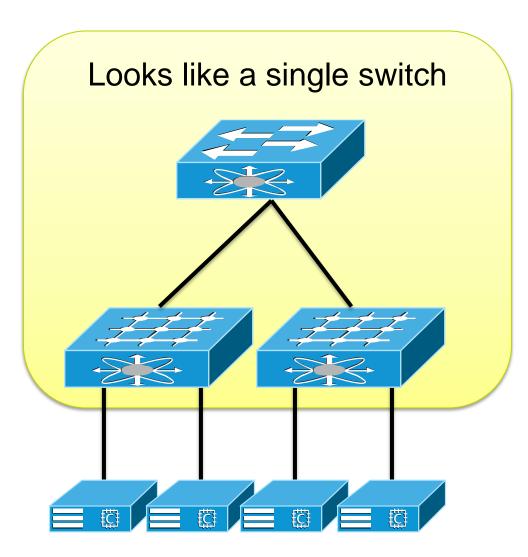


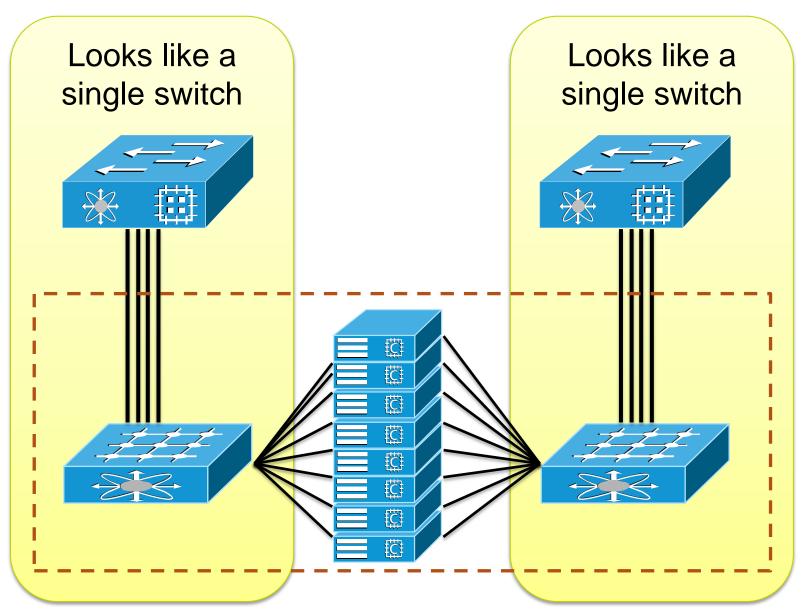
#### Cisco UCS Blade Chassis

#### FEX technology simplifies management



#### <u>Distributed Modular System</u>

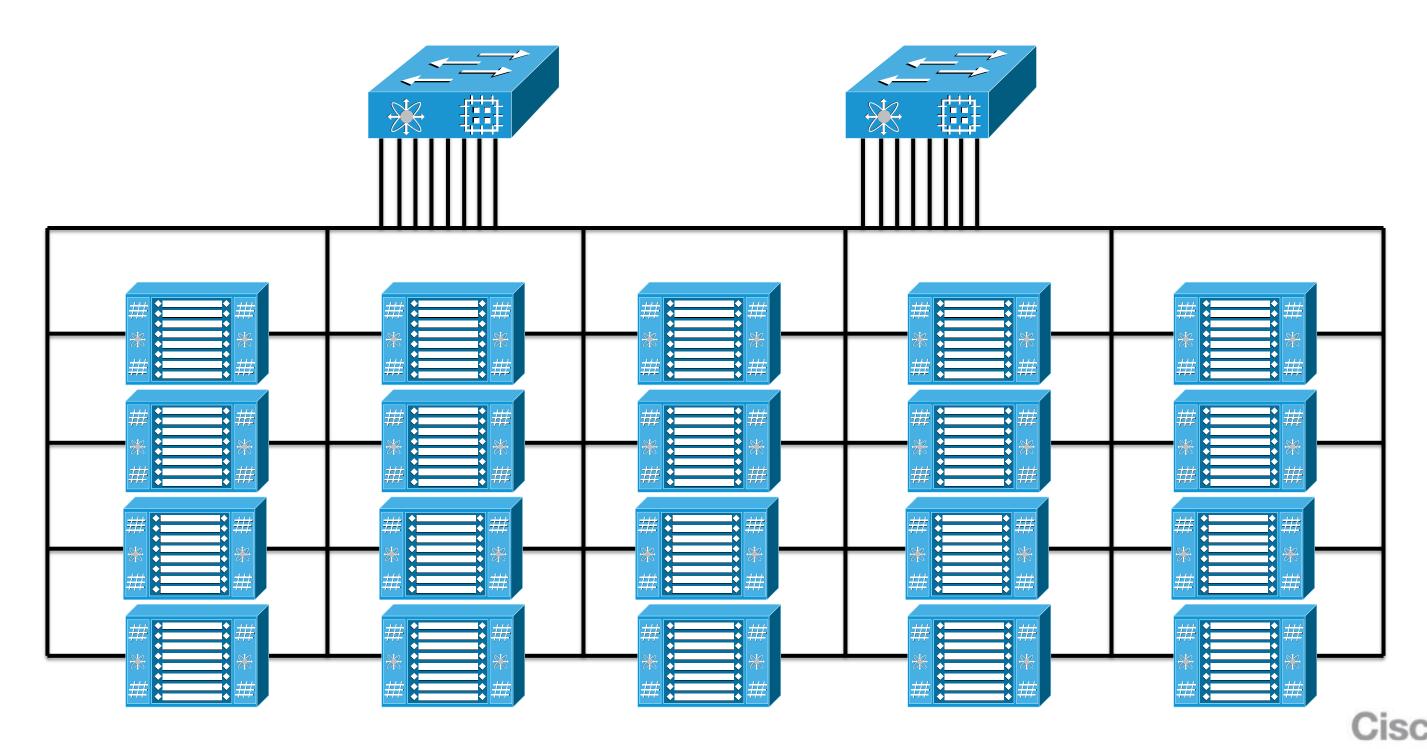




UCS 5108 blade chassis = 8 blades + 2 FEX

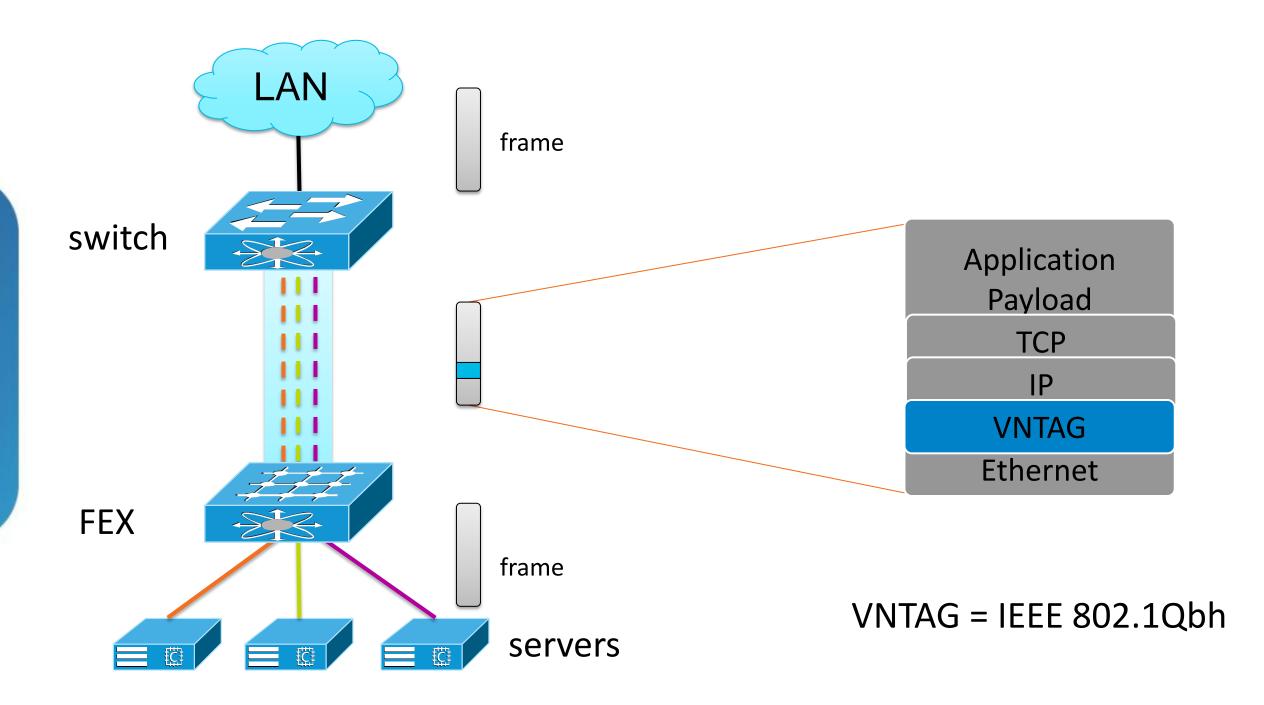
#### Cisco UCS Blade Chassis

Up to 160 blades can be part of one system



## Key Architectural Component 1: VNTAG

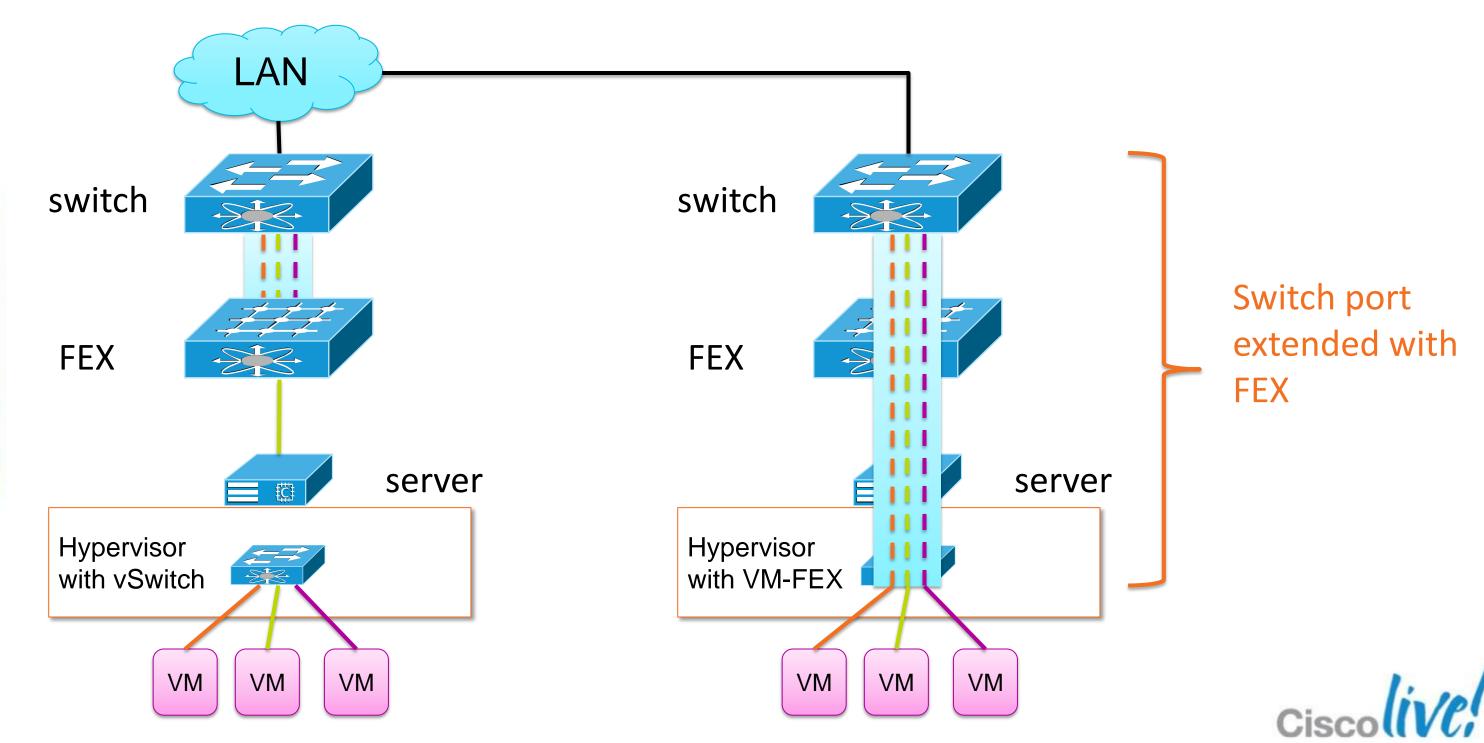
Intra-chassis bus header





#### **Extending FEX Architecture to VMs**

FEX inside the server

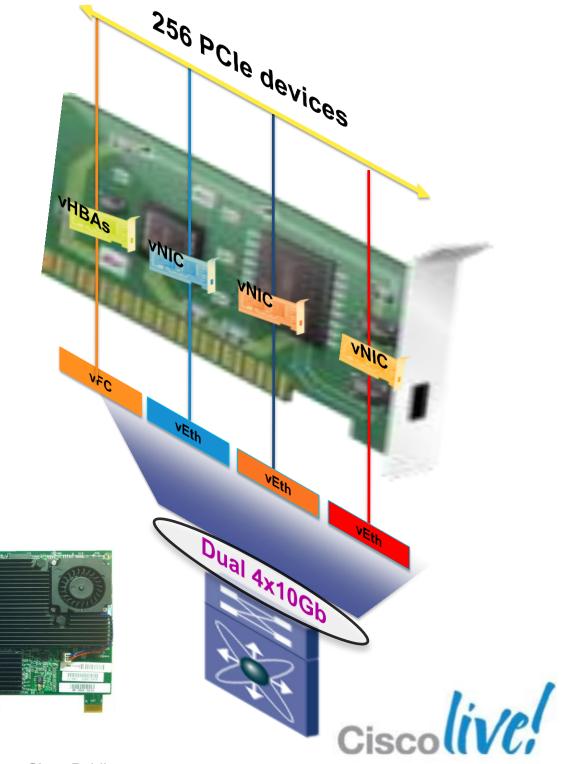


## Key Architectural Component 2: UCS VIC

**UCS Virtual Interface Card family** 

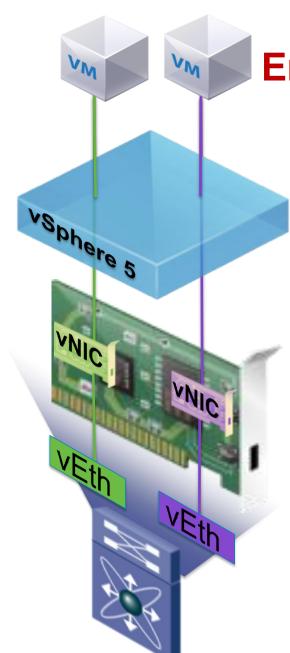
- 256 PCIe devices
  - Devices can be vNICs or vHBAs
  - Each device has a corresponding switch interface
- Bandwidth 2x4x10 Gb
  - -Uses 4x10 Ether Channel, HW 40Gb Capable
  - -vNICs/vHBAs NOT limited to 10Gb
- PCIe Gen-2 x 16
- Mezzanine and PCI





#### VM-FEX Modes of Operation

Enumeration vs. Hypervisor Bypass

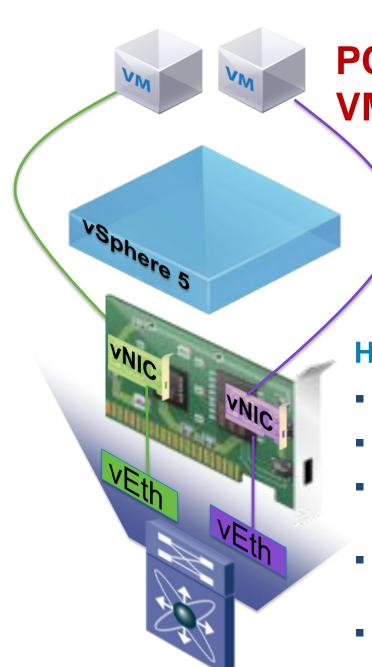


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#### **Emulated Mode**

#### **Standard (Emulated) Mode**

- Each VM gets a dedicated PCIe device
- ~12%-15% CPU performance improvement
- Appears as distributed virtual switch to hypervisor
- LiveMigration supported



#### PCle Pass-Thru or **VMDirectPath**

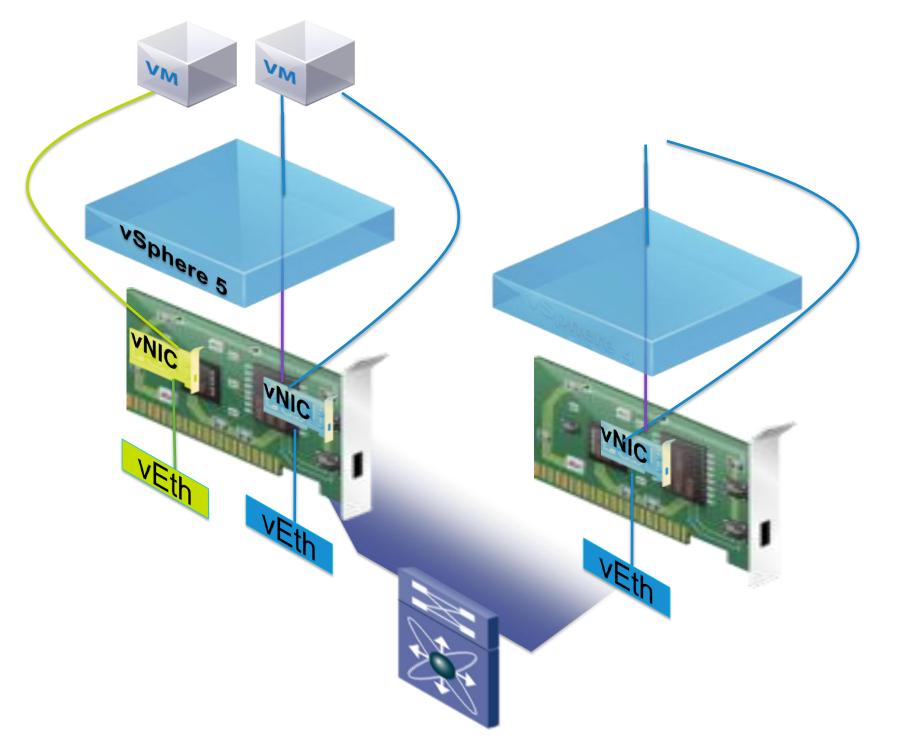
#### **High Performance Mode**

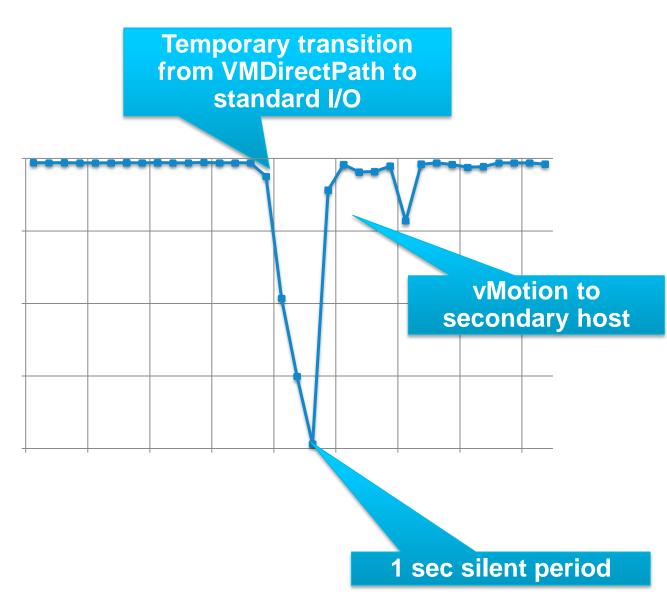
- Co-exists with Standard mode
- Bypasses Hypervisor layer
- ~30% improvement in I/O performance
- Appears as distributed virtual switch to hypervisor
- Currently supported with ESX 5.0 only
- vMotion supported

Cisco Public

#### VM-FEX Operational Model

vMotion with Hypervisor Bypass (VMDirectPath with VM-FEX)





- VM Sending TCP stream (1500MTU)
- UCS B200 M2 blades with UCS VIC card



#### **VM-FEX Performance Review**

Test of 10 VM's running HTTP and FTP Gets with IxLoad



Virtual Switch, CPU at ~65%



VM-FEX, CPU at ~ 37%





## Compute





## Intel E5-2600 Processor Improvements

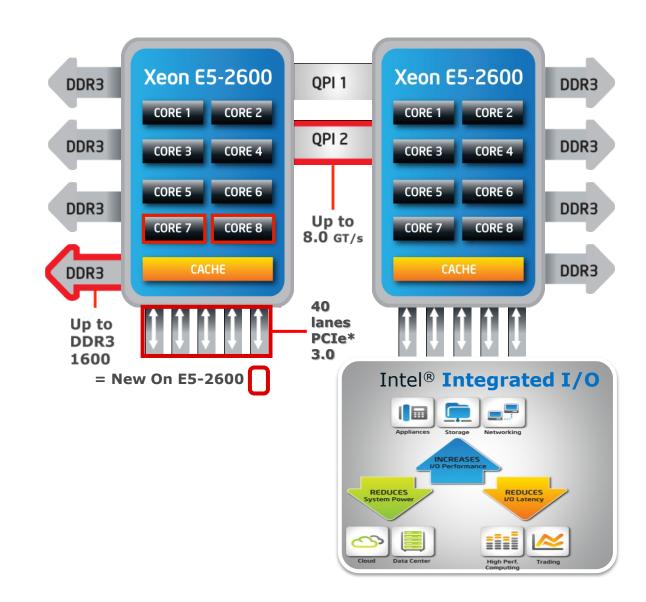
**More Cores** 

More Memory

More Integration

Reduces I/O latency by as much as 30% PCIe 3.0 improves I/O by as much as 2X

More Bandwidth



For more information: <a href="http://www.intel.com/go/performance">http://www.intel.com/go/performance</a>



## Top Bin E7 Versus Top Bin E5

	E7-2870	E5-2690
Power (W)	130	135
Cores	10	8
Cache	30M <b>~</b>	20M
Speed (GHz)	2.40	2.90
QPI	6.4GT/s	8.0GT/s
SPECint	267.5	348.5
SPECfp	184.5	254.5
Recommended Cost	\$4,227	\$2,057

Higher performance at half the price. Which one do you prefer?



#### E7 Versus E5 Proc Comparison

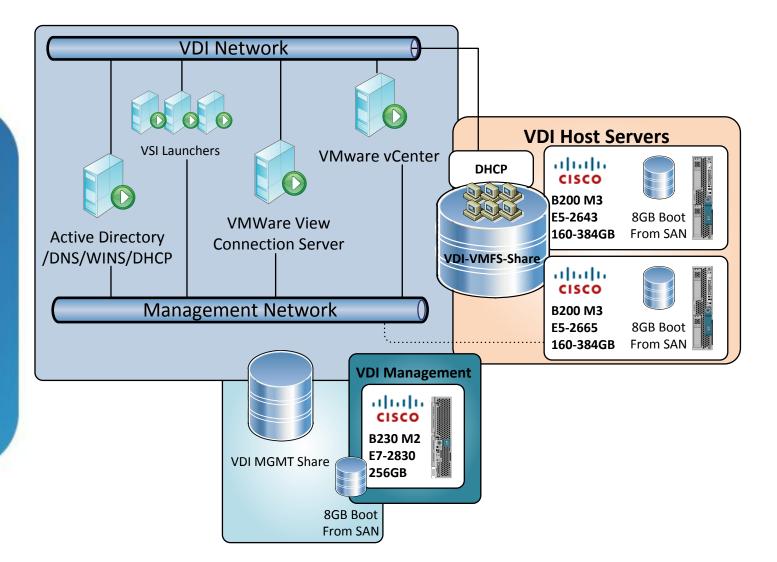
To be fair...

- Most comparisons are not as extreme
- Most sizing exercises show E7 systems to be superior
- E5-2600 systems substantially less expensive



## Lessons Learned From VDI Testing

Compute trends relevant to general server virtualisation



Logical test environment

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- Various UCS B200 M3 configurations
- Login Consultants' Virtual Session Indexer (Login VSI) 3.6.1 benchmark
- Login VSI's Medium with Flash workload
- VMware View 5.1.1
- Microsoft Windows 7 SP1 32-bit virtual desktops

Cisco Public

Pure Storage FlashArray with Purity version 2.0.2.



## **Configuration Settings for Tests**

Configuration	Setting(s)	
Login VSI Configuration Settings	<ul> <li>Medium with Flash workload generator</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>4,000ms response cut off</li> </ul>	
Windows 7 Configuration	<ul> <li>1.5GB memory for all tests</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>32-bit Windows 7 SP1 and Windows updates through September 1, 2012</li> </ul>	
ESX Host Configuration	<ul> <li>Power management set to High Performance in vSphere</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>BIOS settings have C1E disabled in UCSM policy</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>ESXi-5.0.0-623860-custom (Cisco specific build of ESXi with drivers)</li> </ul>	
VM Configuration	<ul> <li>1vCPU and 2vCPU configurations</li> </ul>	
View Configuration	<ul> <li>Linked clones</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>View Optimisation* registry changes on all Virtual desktops</li> </ul>	
	Did not use profile management	
	Did not use host Cache for View	



<sup>\* &</sup>lt;a href="http://www.vmware.com/files/pdf/vmware-view-optimizationguidewindows7-en.pdf">http://www.vmware.com/files/pdf/vmware-view-optimizationguidewindows7-en.pdf</a>

## **Processor Comparison**

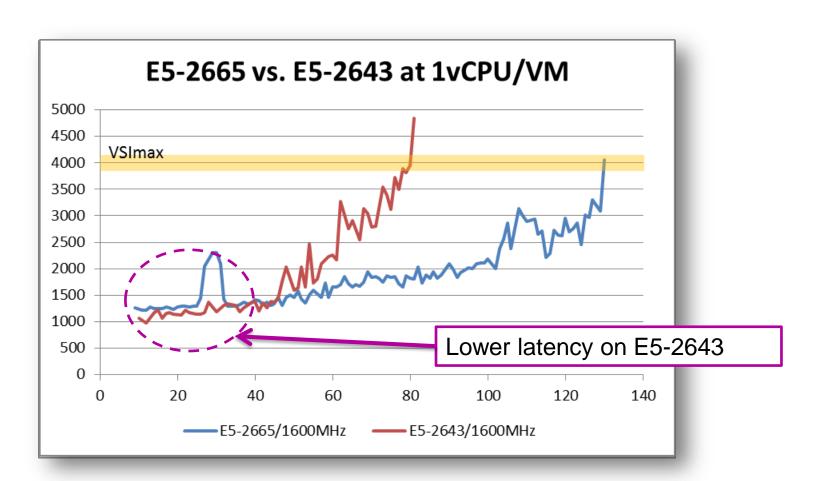
	Intel E5-2643	Intel E5-2665
Number of Cores	4	8
Clock Speed	3.3 GHz	2.4 GHz
Max Turbo Frequency	3.5 GHz	3.1 GHz
Max TDP	130W	115W
Cache	20M	20M
Recommended Customer Price (Tray)	\$885	\$1440
SPEC CINT2006 Rate	187.5	305
SPEC CFP2006 Rate	167.5	233.5
SPEC Blend/Core	44.38	33.6

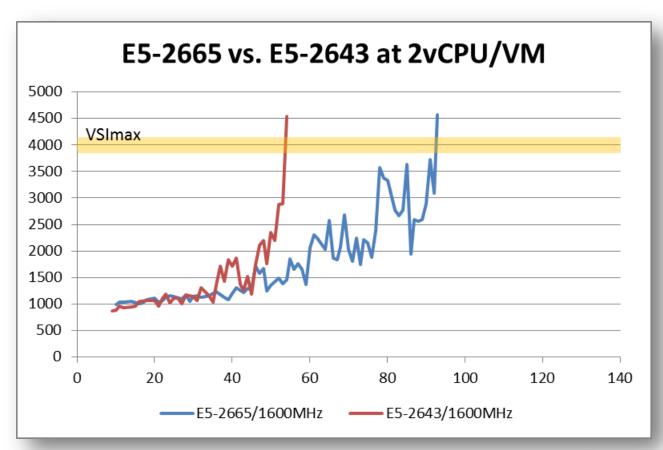


#### **Question 1**

#### Which is more important, core count or core speed?

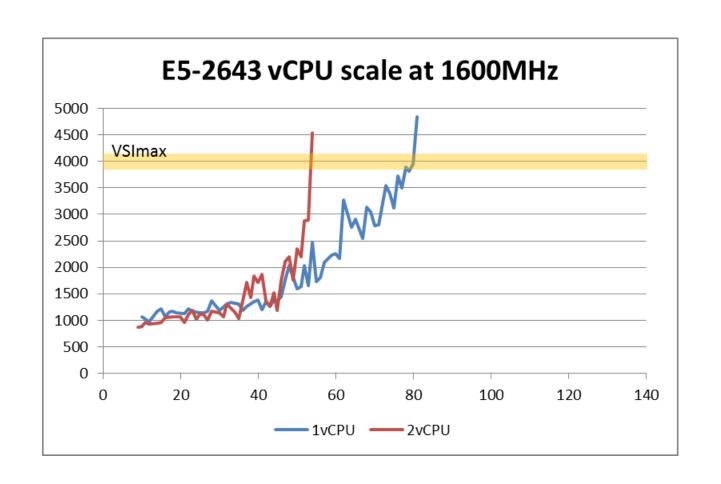
- E5-2665 achieves 60-72% better density
- E5-2643 has lower latency at small desktop counts
- When density is the goal, core count is more important

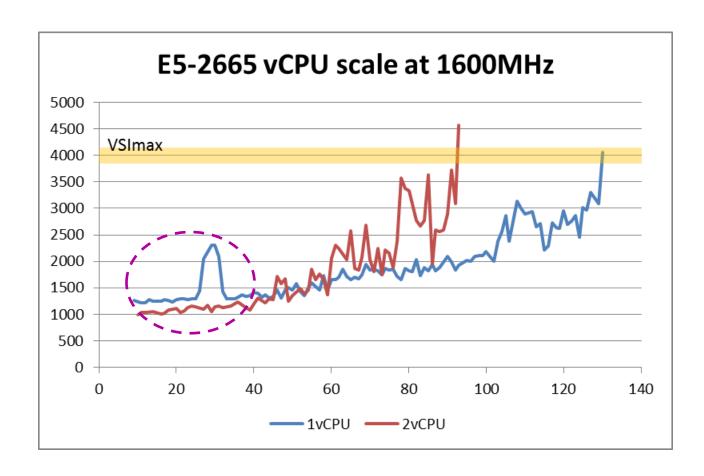




### Question 2

#### How well does a system scale with multi-vCPU VMs?





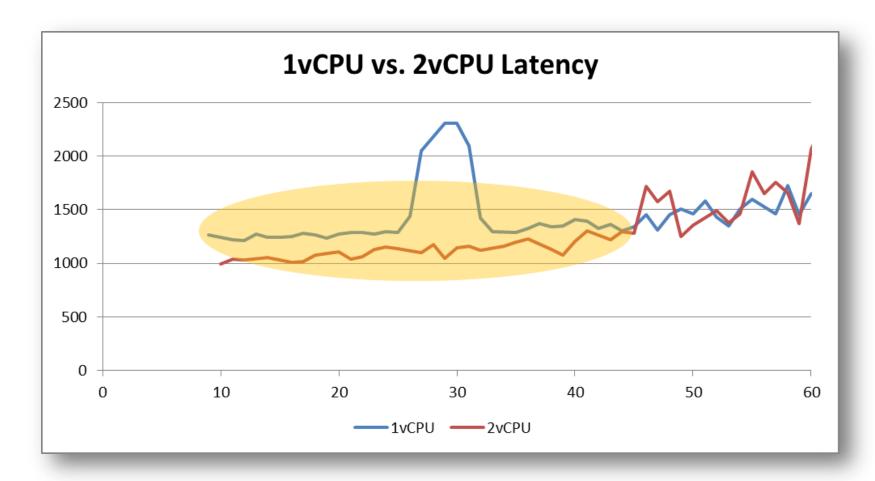
- Going from 1vCPU to 2vCPU yielded 66-72% as many desktops
- Increasing vCPU count impacts scale, even with the same workload
- Advice: don't give a VM more vCPUs unless it needs it



### **Question 2 Continued**

#### How well does a system scale with multi-vCPU VMs?

- Purpose of multi vCPU machine is better performance
- Graph shows better performance (lower latency)
- Performance benefits taper off after 45 desktops

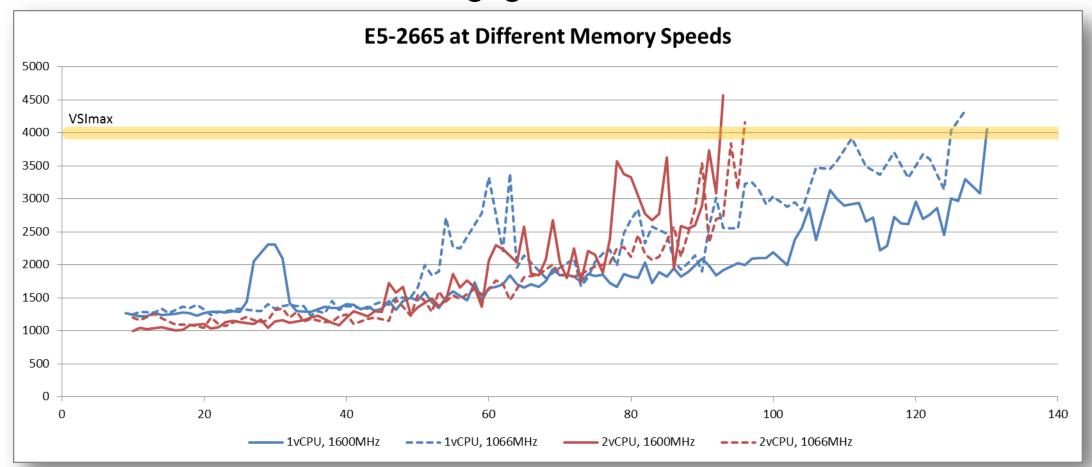




### Question 3

#### How does memory speed affect scalability?

- At 1vCPU (blue lines), only 4% difference between 1600MHz and 1066MHz
- At 2vCPU (red lines), only 3% difference between 1600MHz and 1066MHz
- In both cases, the difference is negligible

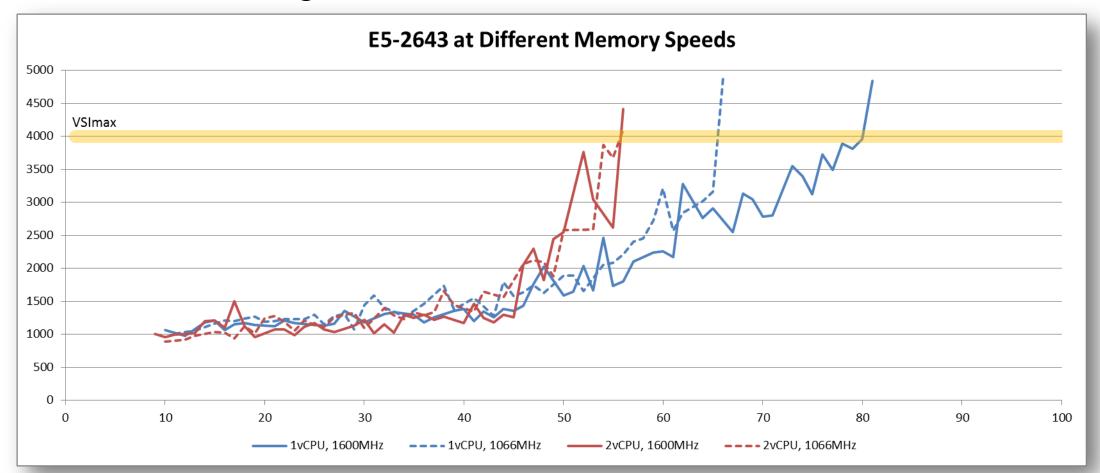




### **Question 3 Continued**

#### How does memory speed affect scalability?

- At 2vCPU, performance difference is negligible
- At 1vCPU, E5-2643 saw huge 23% performance difference
- What is the cause? A higher VM/core ratio?

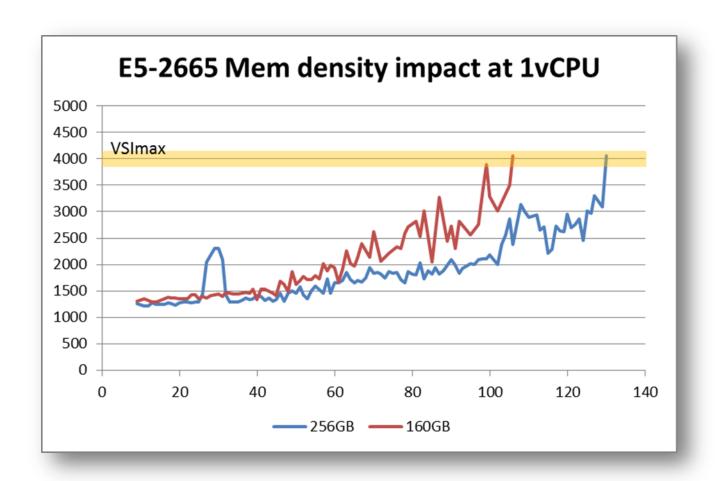




### **Question 4**

#### How does memory capacity affect VDI scalability

- At 160GB system memory
  - Theoretical limit 98 desktops
  - Actual test reached 106 desktops
  - VMware memory overcommit gave ~12%
- At 256GB system memory
  - Theoretical limit 157 desktops
  - Actual test reached 130 desktops
  - System ran out of CPU
- Lesson: understand system constraints



#### **Theoretical**

98 desktops X (1.5GB + 130MB overhead) = 160GB 157 desktops X (1.5GB + 130MB overhead) = 256GB



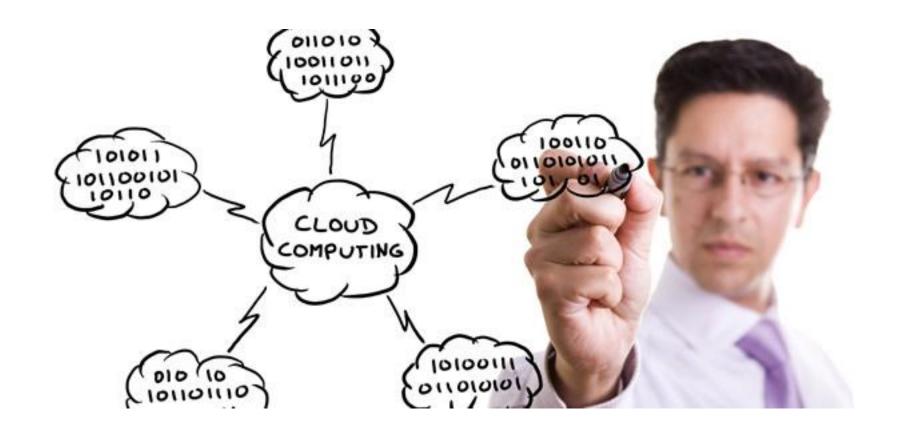


## Rapid Deployment and Automation



### **Stateless Computing**

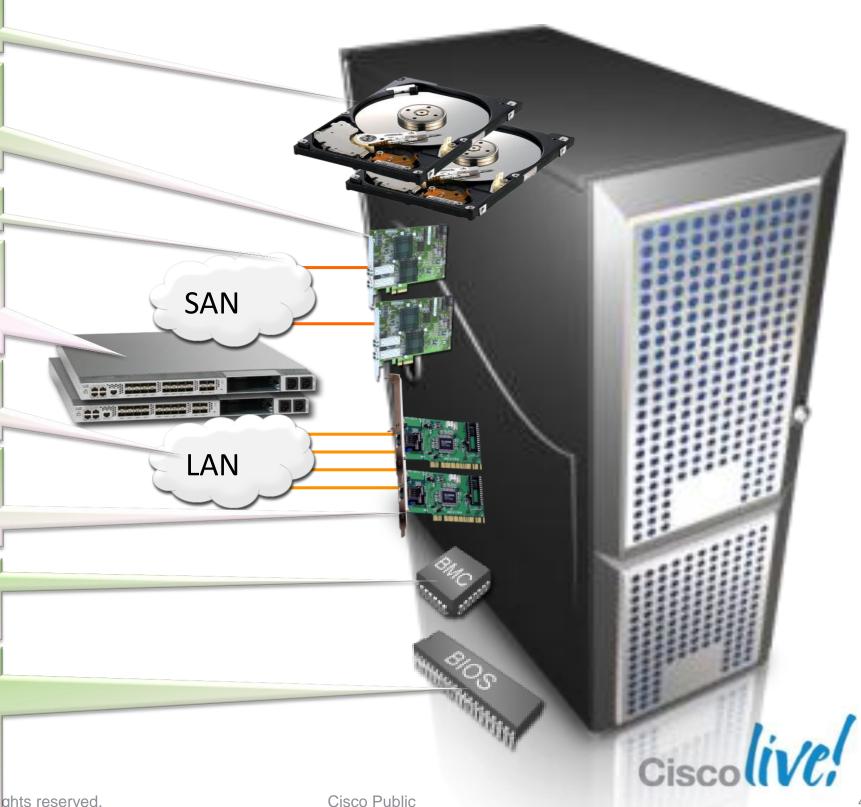
What does it mean to you?





### Stateless: UCS Service Profiles

- RAID settings
- Disk scrub actions
- Number of vHBAs
- HBA WWN assignments
- FC Boot Parameters
- •HBA firmware
- •FC Fabric assignments for HBAs
- QoS settings
- Border port assignment per vNIC
- •NIC Transmit/Receive Rate Limiting
- VLAN assignments for NICs
- VLAN tagging config for NICs
- Number of vNICs
- •PXE settings\
- NIC firmware
- Advanced feature settings
- Remote KVM IP settings
- Call Home behaviour
- Remote KVM firmware
- Server UUID
- Serial over LAN settings
- Boot order
- •IPMI settings
- BIOS scrub actions
- BIOS firmware
- •BIOS Settings



### Stateless: UCS Service Profiles

**NIC MACs HBA WWNs Server UUID VLAN Assignments VLAN Tagging FC Fabrics Assignments FC Boot Parameters Number of vNICs Boot order PXE** settings **IPMI Settings Number of vHBAs** QoS **Call Home Template Association Org & Sub Org Assoc. Server Pool Association Statistic Thresholds BIOS** scrub actions Disk scrub actions **BIOS** firmware **Adapter firmware BMC** firmware **RAID** settings **Advanced NIC settings Serial over LAN settings BIOS Settings** 



### Creating and Moving Service Profiles

- State is decoupled from hardware
- Easy to redeploy HW for other applications
- Dynamic provisioning
  - Speed/agility
  - Consistency
- Simplified management



Service Profile: ESX\_5
Network1: www\_prod
Network1 QoS: Gold
MAC: 08:00:69:10:78:ED
Boot Order: LOCAL
FW: WebServerBundle





### Quickly Recover From ESX Host Failure

Local boot media breaks stateless computing

- No local disk
- No USB flash drive
- No SD card



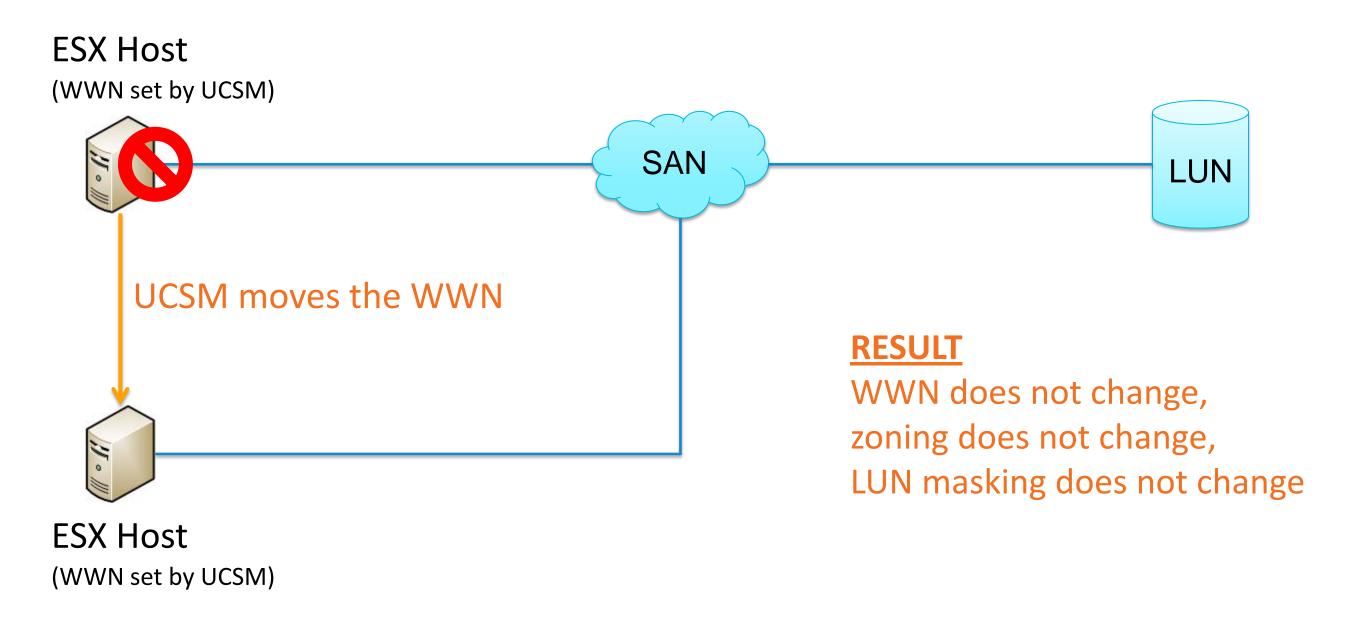




Local boot media is something an admin has to touch or move



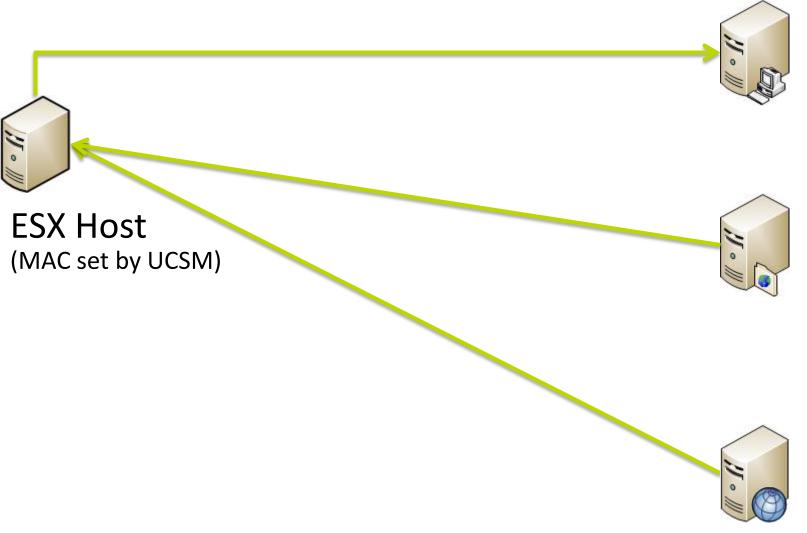
## Quickly Recover From ESX Host Failure Boot from SAN





### Quickly Recover From ESX Host Failure

VMware Auto Deploy (boot from Ethernet)



#### **DHCP Server**

set option 66 NextServer = IP of TFTP server set option 67 FileName = name of PXE boot file provides host with IP & FileName for boot

#### **TFTP Server**

gPXE boot image downloaded from vCenter provides host gPXE boot image to perform HTTP boot from **Auto Deploy server** 



#### **Auto Deploy Server**

rules engine and profiles configured with PowerCLI uses host MAC, IP, etc. in rules engine to assign a host profile

#### What happens when this host fails?

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Use UCS Manager to move the MAC to spare server.



### Auto Deploy Methods in vSphere 5.1

All three modes work well with UCS stateless computing

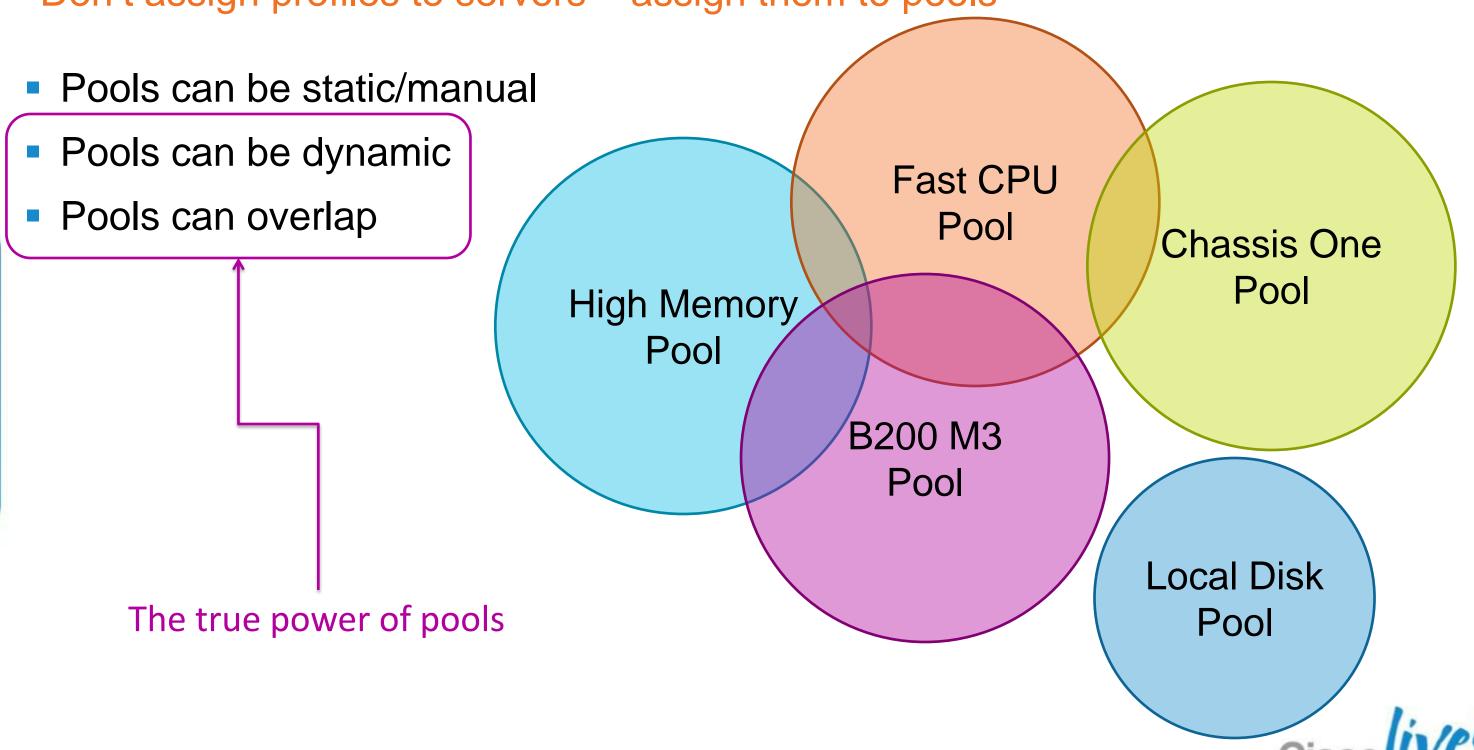
#### Stateless

- Host boot order: PXE only
- Loads image and configuration from AD server on every reboot
- Stateless caching
  - Host boot order: PXE then local disk
  - Caches ESXi image to local disk; used only if PXE fails
- Stateful Install
  - Host boot order: local disk then PXE
  - Uses AD to install to disk



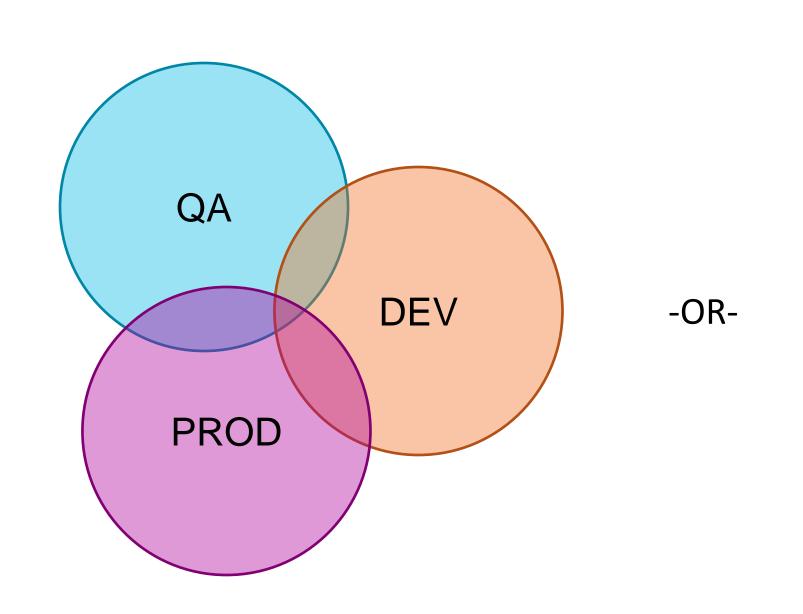
### **Using Server Pools**

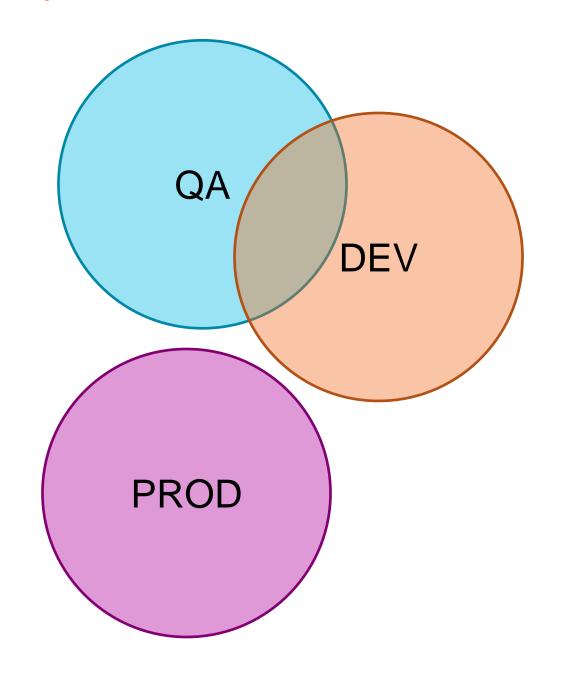
Don't assign profiles to servers – assign them to pools



### **Beware That Pools Can Overlap**

Don't accidentally take resources away from one pool



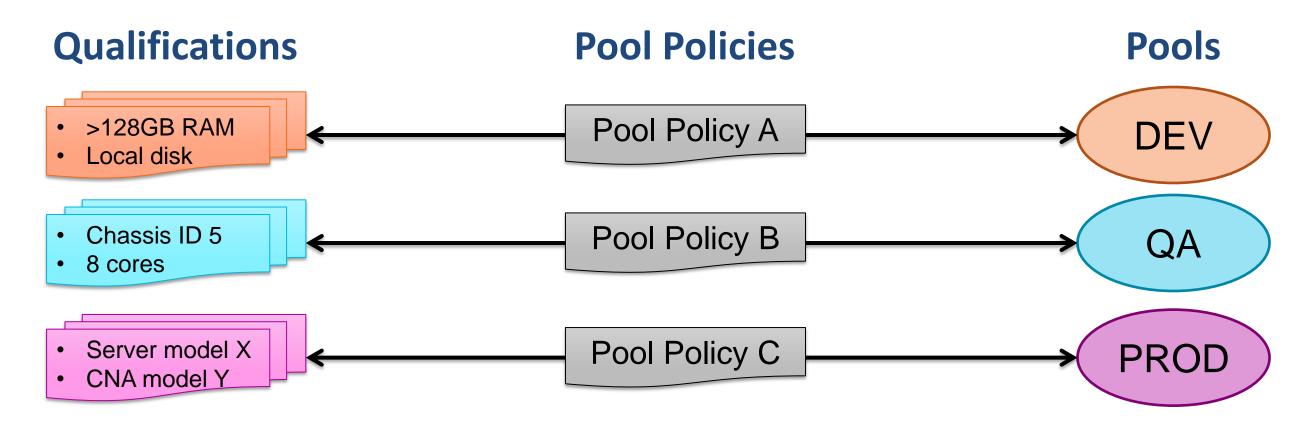




### **Creating Dynamic Pools**

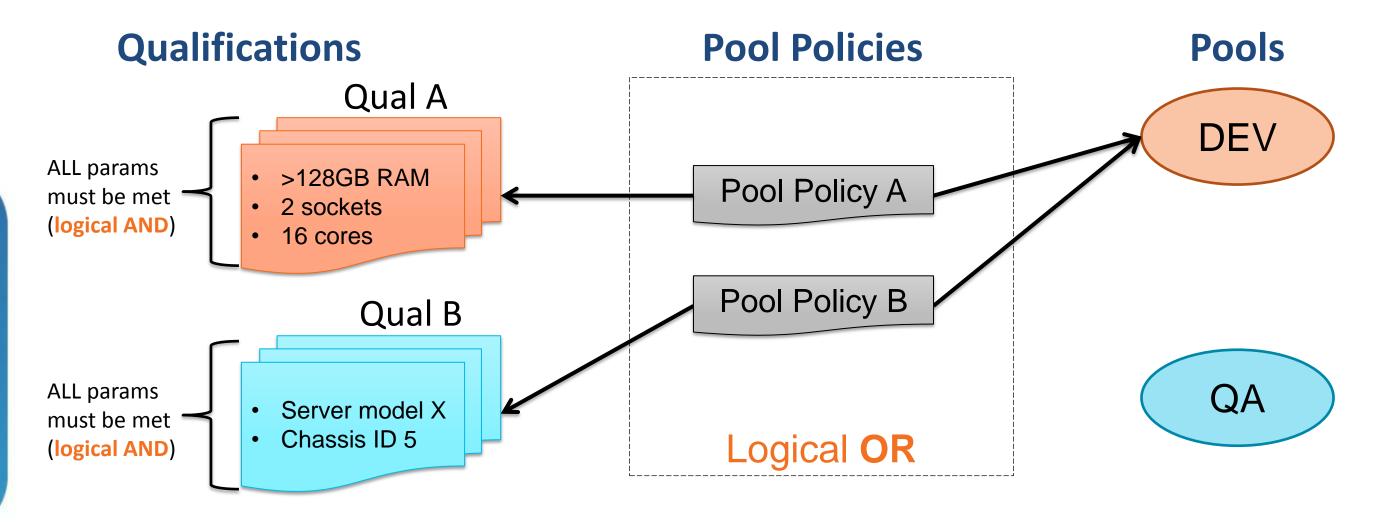
Relationship between pools and policies

- 1. Create Server Pool Policy Qualifications
- 2. Create empty Server Pools
- 3. Link each Server Pool to Qualification(s) with a Pool Policy



### **Dynamic Pool Advanced Scenario 1**

Pools can be fed by more than one qualification policy

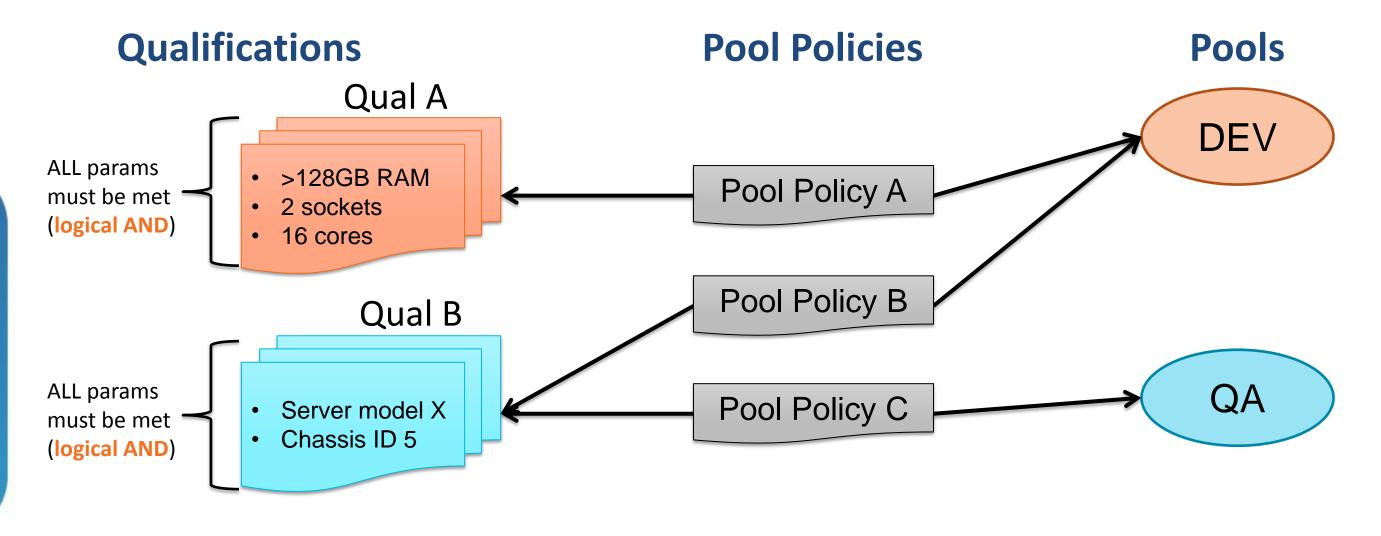


IF (Qual A is TRUE) OR (Qual B is TRUE) THEN add server to DEV pool

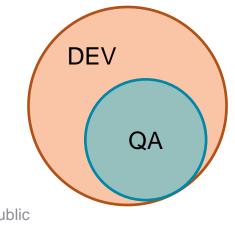


### **Dynamic Pool Advanced Scenario 2**

One pool can be a subset of another

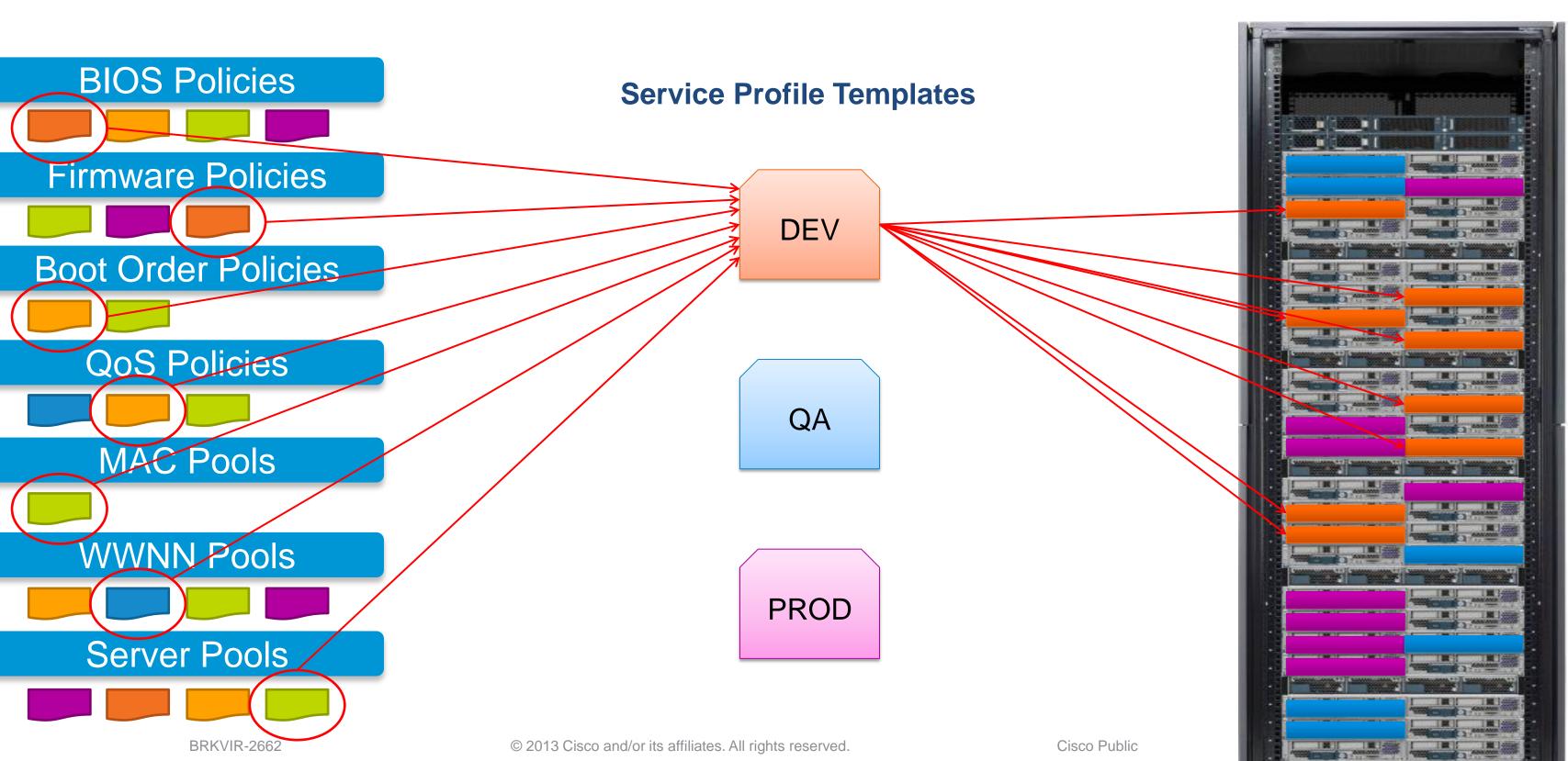


QA pool is a SUBSET of the DEV pool





### Templates Promote Agility, Consistency



### Cisco Unified Computing System

Optimised and Designed as an Integrated System

#### **Cisco UCS™ Manager**

(Read / Write Configuration Interfaces)

UCS Manager GUI and CLI

#### **Cisco UCS Fabric Interconnects**

(Read Only / Cut Through Interfaces)

SNMP, Syslog, SMTP, SMASH CLP, CIM XML, Smart Call Home

Cisco UCS I/O modules

**Cisco UCS Blade Server Chassis** 

**Cisco UCS Blade and Rack Servers** 

(Cut through Interfaces to CIMC)

Serial over LAN, KVM, IPMI

**Cisco UCS I/O Adapters** 



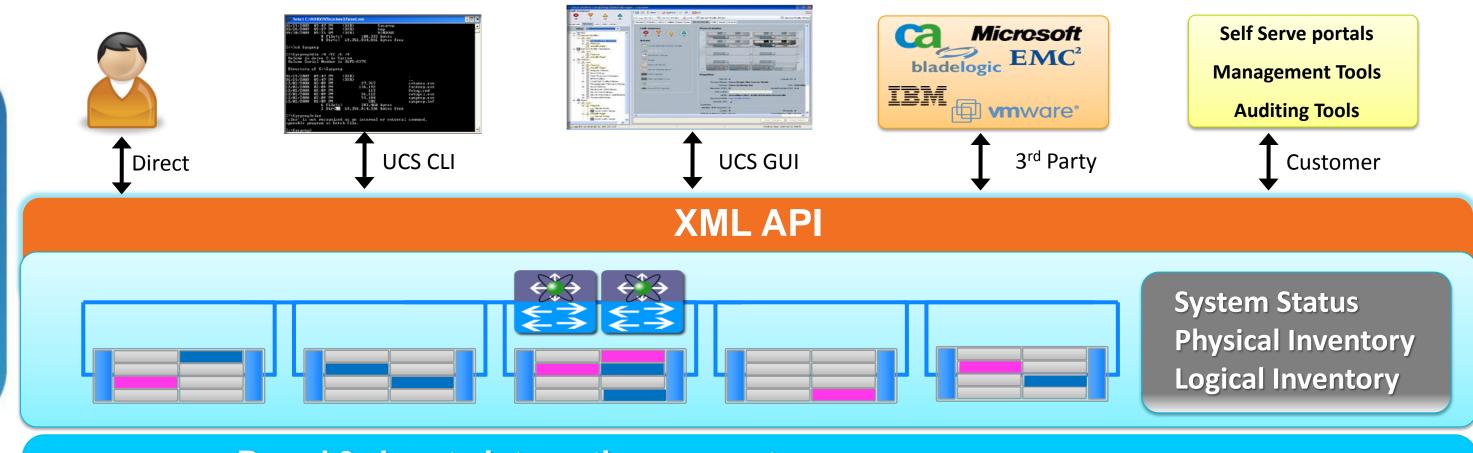




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### Programmatic Infrastructure

- Comprehensive XML API, standards-based interfaces
- Bi-Directional access to physical & logical internals



- Broad 3rd party integration support
- Faster custom integration for customer use cases
- Consistent data and views across ALL interfaces

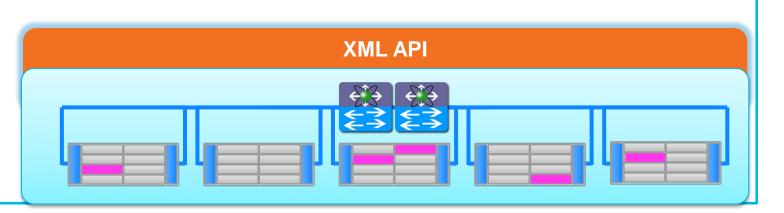


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### **UCS XML API Overview**

#### **UCS XML API Features**

- Communicates over HTTP / HTTPS
- XML Based, Transactional
- XML Transactions are Order Agnostic
- Standard Request / Response cycle
- Role Based Authentication
- Object Model Hierarchy
- Built-in Object Browser
- Published XML Schema
- Java Doc Style documentation
- High Availability
- Event Stream





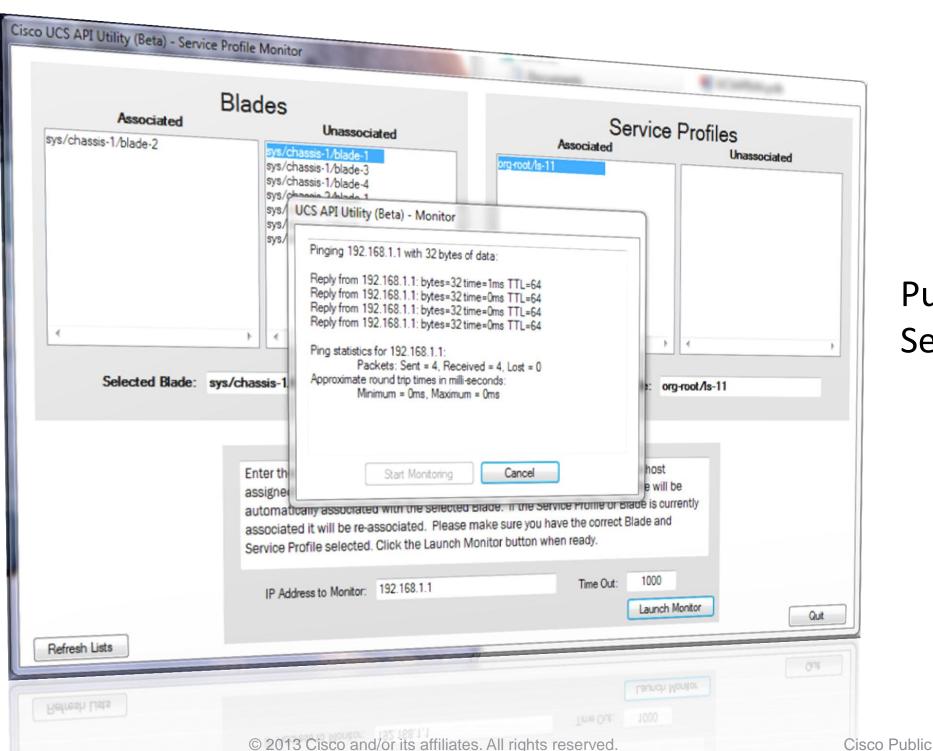
### A Very Simple XML Query

Inme > Report Pr	roject1 > UCSFault	There																			Home   My Sub
	of 1 D DI		•	Find   Nex	· 4. (2)	A D															Home   Hy 200
reservation and a second	ult Che	And and a second																			
	cookie	response	class Id	ack	cause	code	created	descr	dn	highest	id	last	lc	occur	orig	prev	rule	severity	tags	type	fault Inst
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	1280766236/f8 4c6b28-f14d- 4622-af13- 17fc54fdea15	yes	faultInst	no	configuration- failure	F0327	29T11:04:21.2 78	profile			601488	2010-07- 29T11:04:21.2 78		1	major	major	ls-server- config-failure	major	server	server	
	1280766236/f8 4c6b28-f14d- 4622-af13- 17fc54fdea15		faultInst	no	execute-peer- failed	F77959	2010-07- 29T11:05:03.7 62	REMOTE- ERROR]: Result: unidentified- fail Code: ERR-0505- IBMC-fru- retrieval-error Message: Could not get Fru from 7f050607, dn=fabric/serv er/chassis- 6/slot-7 (sam:dme:Fab ricComputeSlo ticComputeSlo ticDefattify:Ex ecutePeer)			601565	2010-08- 02T12;20:16.2 61		512	condition	cleared	fsm-identify- remote-inv	condition		fsm	
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### Write Your Own App

Expose only features you want exposed OR create new functionality



Purpose-built console for Service Profile monitoring



### Cisco Developer Network



#### Web based developer community

http://developer.cisco.com/web/unifiedcomputing/home

#### **Downloads:**

- UCS Platform Emulator (UCSPE)
- goUCS Automation Tool
- XML API, Perl, PowerShell de samples (44 and counting)
- Microsoft PowerShell library, SCOM MP
- HP Software HPOM, HPOO integration modules

#### Documentation:

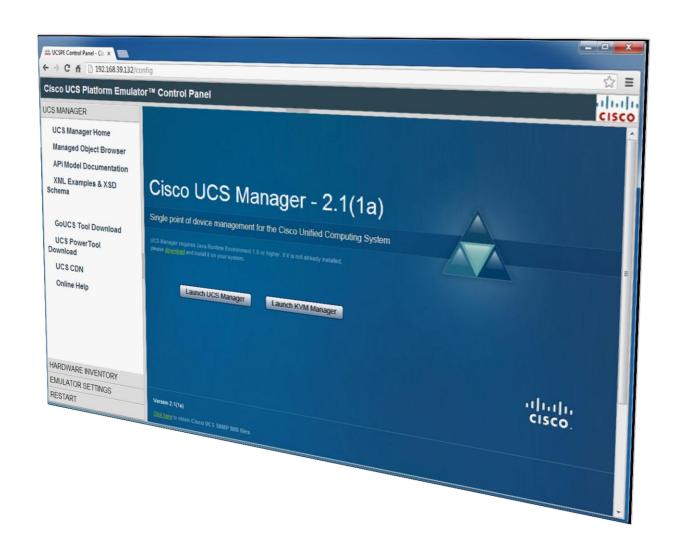
- Programming & developer guides
- White papers
- Reference guides (XML model, Faults)

#### Collaboration:

- Blogs
- Peer to peer forums
- Videos
- Access to Cisco subject matter experts

### **UCS Platform Emulator (UCSPE)**

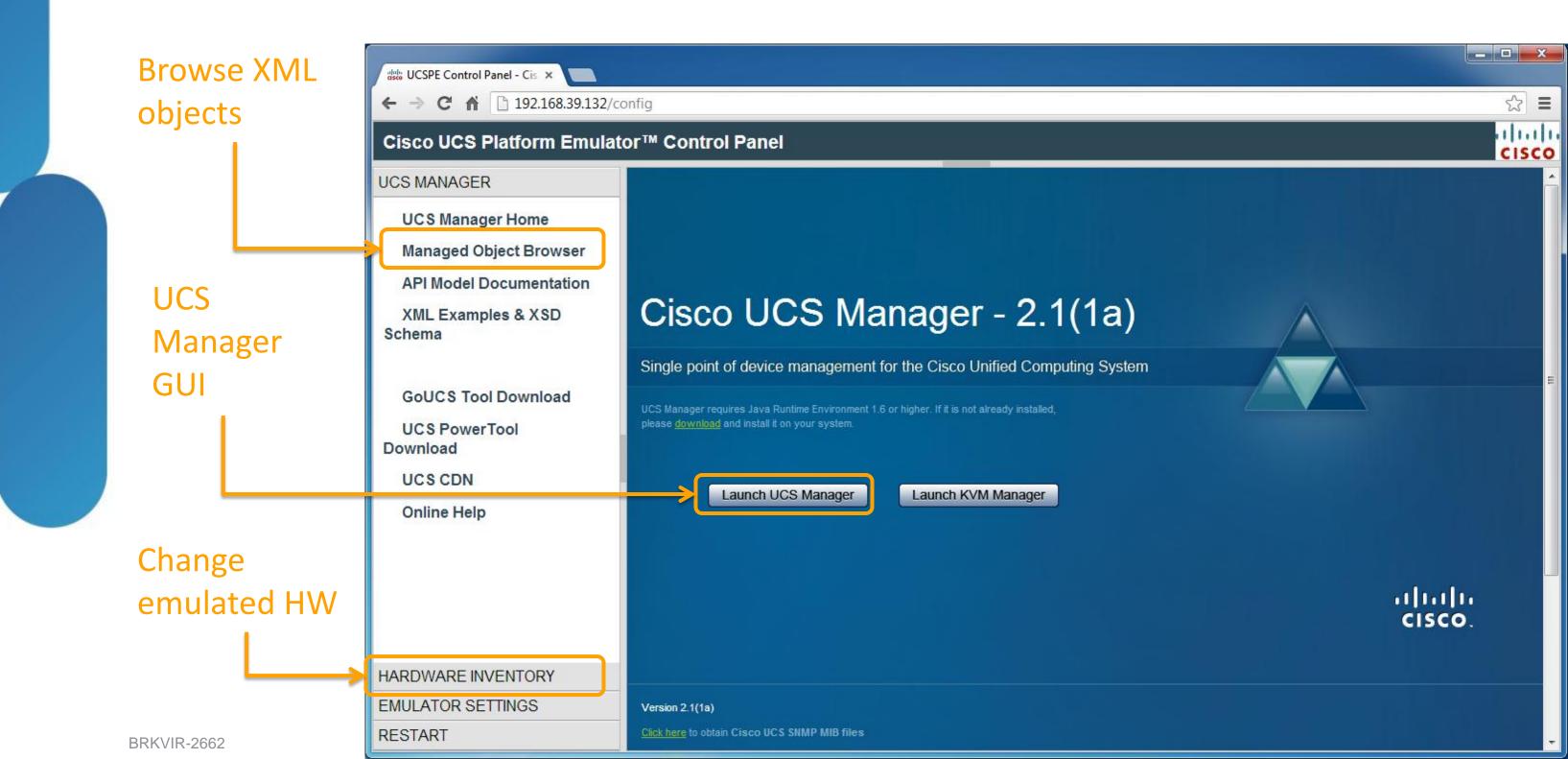
No UCS hardware needed for code development



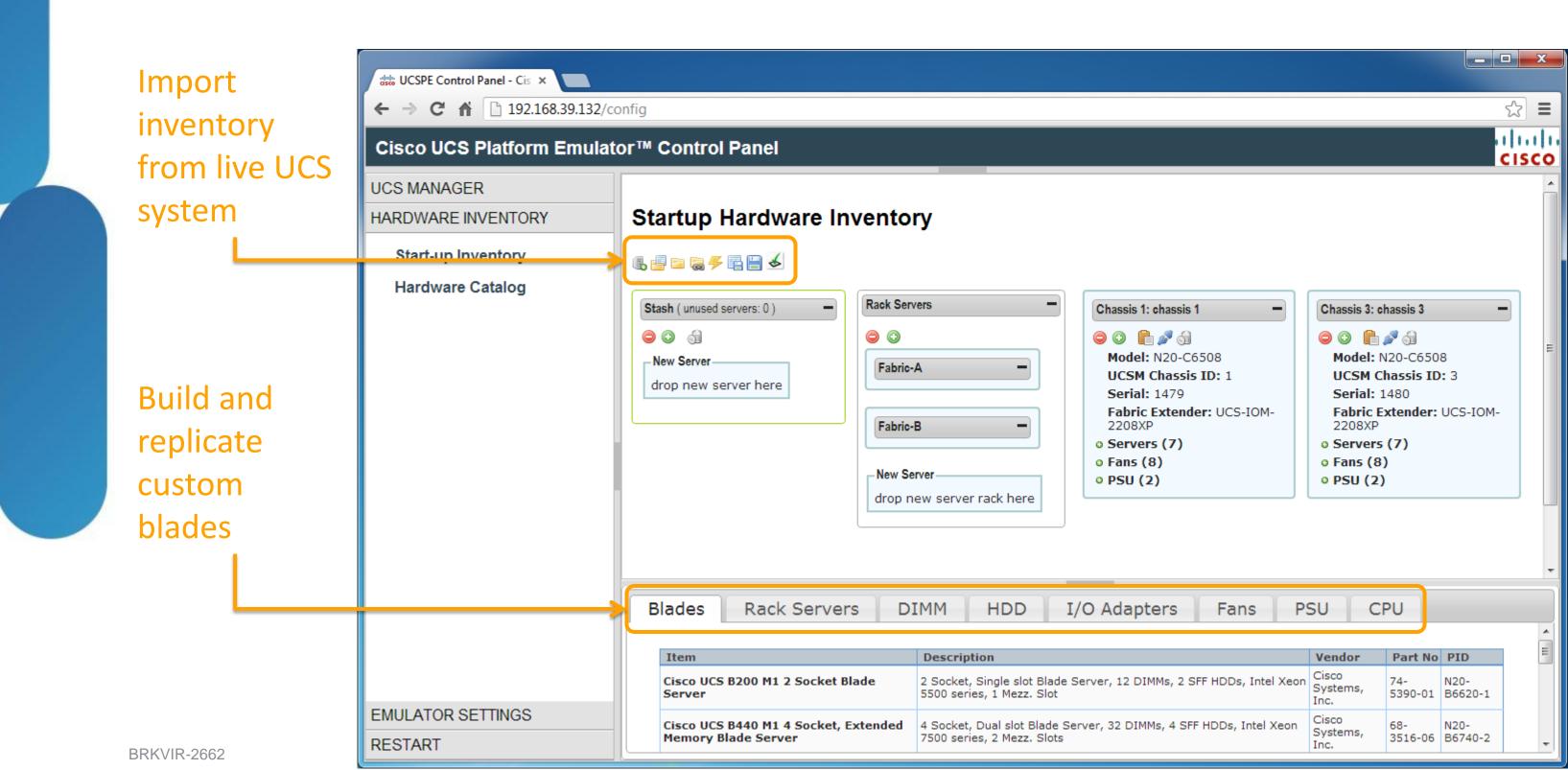
- Full featured emulator
- Installs as a Virtual Machine
- Support for all XML API calls
- Object Browser to view the UCSM model
- Import & replicate existing live UCS
   Manager physical inventory
- Share saved inventories among UCS Platform Emulators
- Drag-n-drop hardware builder to create custom physical inventory

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### **UCS Platform Emulator: Great DEV Tool**



### **UCS Platform Emulator: Great DEV Tool**



### PowerShell is Common Scripting Method



- Plain English cmdlets
- Pipeline commands
- Strong library/module/snapin support
- Strong support in Microsoft environments
- Free development tools



**PowerTool** 



**PowerCLI** 



### Scripting with PowerShell

PS C:\> Get-Command -Module CiscoUcsPS | Measure-Object

Count

: 1506

Over 1500 cmdlets for UCS

```
PowerCLI C:\> Get-Command -PSSnapin (Get-PSSnapin | ? {$_.Name -match "VMware"}) | Measure-Object
```

Count : 301

Over 300 cmdlets for VMware



### Real World Scripting Example

How many and what kind of DIMM is in every server I own?

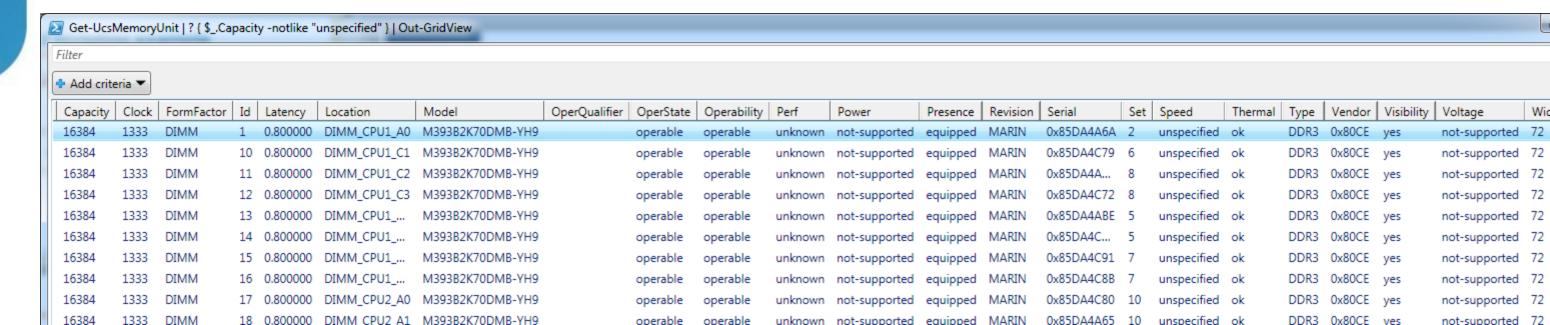
```
Get-UcsMemoryUnit | ? {$_.Capacity -notlike "unspecified"} | ft Bank, Capacity, Dn, Id, Location,
Model, Serial, Type, Vendor -AutoSize
```

#### Or dump it to Excel...

```
Get-UcsMemoryUnit | ? {$ .Capacity -notlike "unspecified"} | Export-Csv -Path "mem.csv"
```

#### Or dump it to the screen...

```
Get-UcsMemoryUnit | ? {$ .Capacity -notlike "unspecified"} | Out-GridView
```



### Real World Scripting Example

Which profile is associated with a specific MAC address?

```
$mac = "4f"

Get-UcsVnic | ? {$_.Addr -match $mac} | Format-Table Ucs, Dn, Addr -AutoSize
```

```
Ucs Dn Addr
--- OPK-SELAB-Area51 org-root/org-jamarche/ls-jmESXTest01/ether-jmESXvmnic1 00:25:B5:AA:E0:4F
OPK-SELAB-Area51 org-root/org-VDI_TEST/ls-M3_ESXi_2/ether-vnic0 00:25:B5:10:00:4F
OPK-SELAB-Area51 org-root/org-VDI_TEST/ls-VI_MGMT/ether-vNIC0 00:25:B5:20:10:4F
```



### **Objects**

"An object is a collection of parts and how to use them"

#### Parts

**Front Wheel** 

**Back Wheel** 

Pedals

Saddle

Frame



How to use

Pedal

Steer Left

Steer Right

**Apply Front Brake** 

**Apply Rear Brake** 

### **Objects**

<del>Parts</del> Properties

DisplayName

Status

RequiredServices



How to use
Methods

Stop()

Start()

Pause()



### **Demo Time!**







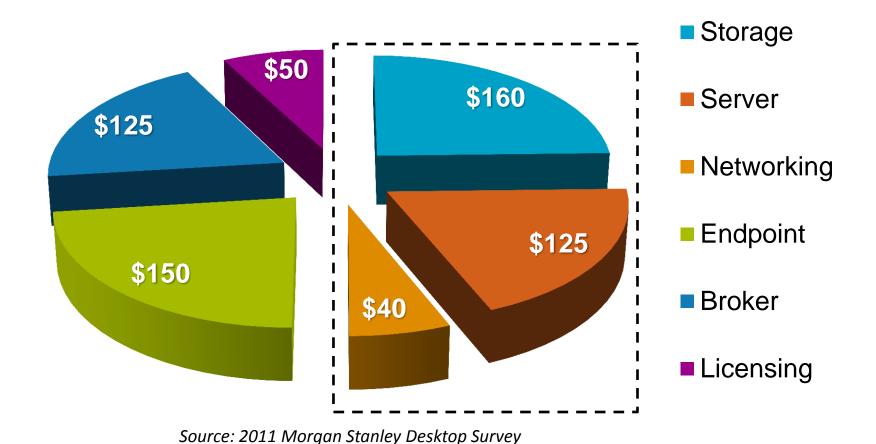
## Storage Considerations





## Cost Where does your VDI money go?

#### Average Cost per Virtual Desktop (\$650)

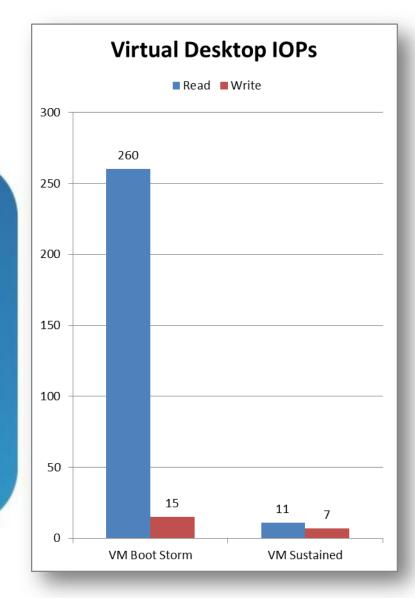


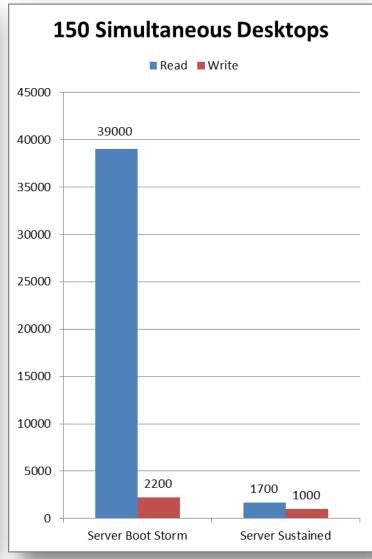
Server, Storage and Networking on average comprise 50% of solution TCO per desktop



### **VDI Boot and Login Storms**

#### More lessons learned from earlier VDI testing





- Single Win7 VM can demand 260 read IOPS during boot
- Single ESX host can demand 39K read IOPS during VM boot storm



### Fusion-io Mezzanine Card for UCS Blades

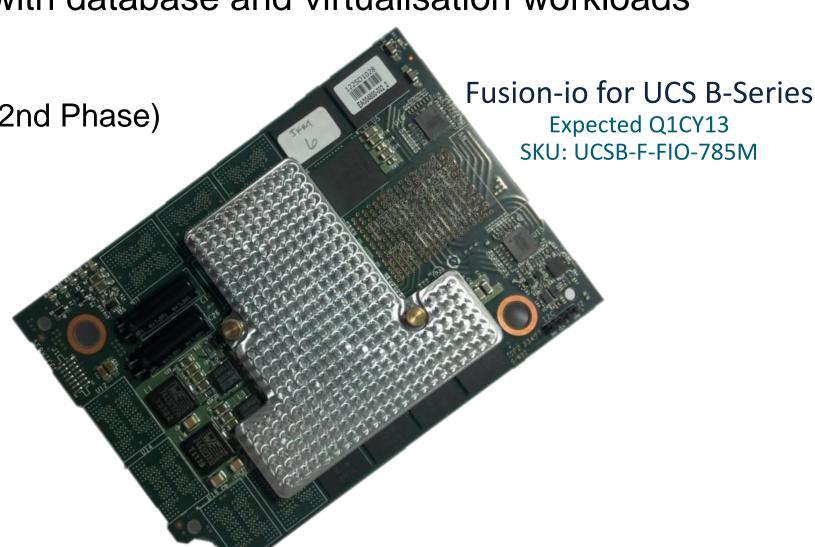
Expanding the Unified Computing blade option portfolio

- Create new ultra-low latency storage tiers
- Boost in-server application performance with database and virtualisation workloads

Specs:

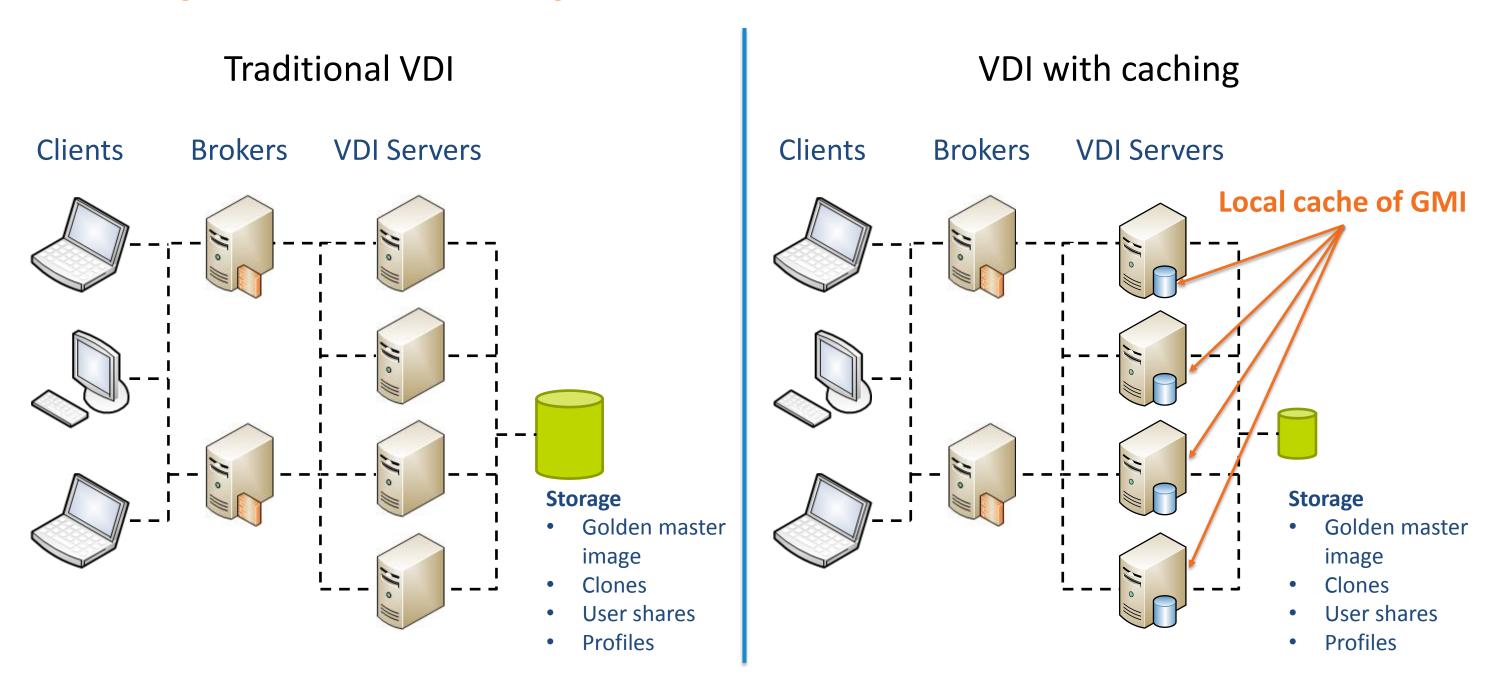
- 785 GB MLC Flash capacities (365 GB MLC 2nd Phase)

- 1.5GB/s Bandwidth (1MB Read)
- 1.1GB/s Bandwidth (1MB Write)
- 141,000 IOPS (512B Random Read)
- 535,000 IOPS (512B Random Write)
- 15µs Write Latency, 68µs Read Latency
- HW supported: all M3 blades
- SW supported: UCS Manager 2.1+



### VDI With and Without Local Cache

Caching Golden Master Image (GMI) saves IOPS



Fusion-io doesn't change your storage needs. It changes your storage performance needs.



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Q&A



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