

TOMORROW starts here.



Cisco UCS Network Performance Optimisation and Best Practices for VMware

BRKCOM-2015

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Agenda

- Server to Server East West Traffic Flow Architecture
 - Why it is important
 - UCS Flat Network Topology Comparing to Legacy
- Overview of UCS B series Connectivity Flexibility
- Latency Test Configuration and Results
- VM Migration Configurations Test Results for East-West Traffic Flow
- Best Practices and Observations to Achieve the Greatest Impact on East-West Traffic





East-West Traffic Architecture

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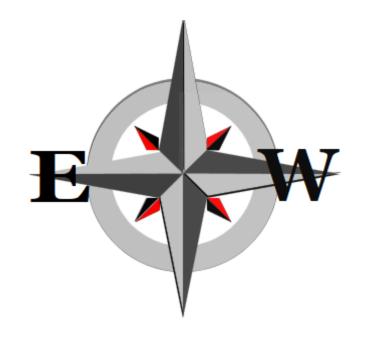
East-West Traffic Flow, Why Do You Care?

- East-West Data Traffic flow represents increasing amount of data centre LAN traffic, up to 80%
 - Growth of virtualisation
 - New requirements for back end communication networks, Storage, Big Data, Cloud
- Traffic between servers inside the data centre
- Application Architectures are changing distributed API
- Traffic between servers and storage inside the data centre
 - Storage synchronisation, cluster file systems
 - Data centre storage virtualisation
- Most common use cases are virtualisation live migration
 - VMware vMotion
 - MSFT Hyper-V Live Migration



East-West Traffic Flow Requirements

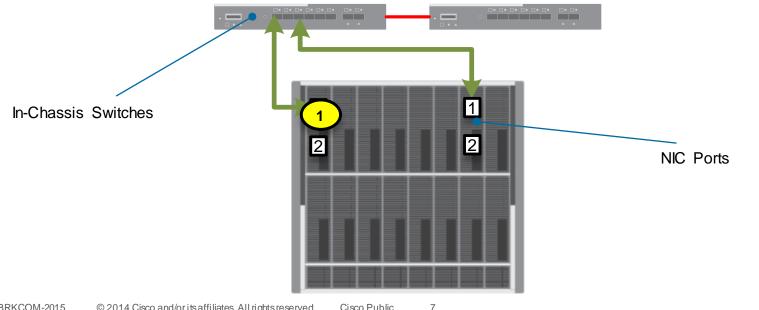
- Provide low latency server to server communication
 - Need for a low latency predictable fabric
 - Reduce the number of hops between servers
- Highly available active/active data paths
- Large Layer 2 flat network design
- Host bandwidth flexibility and control





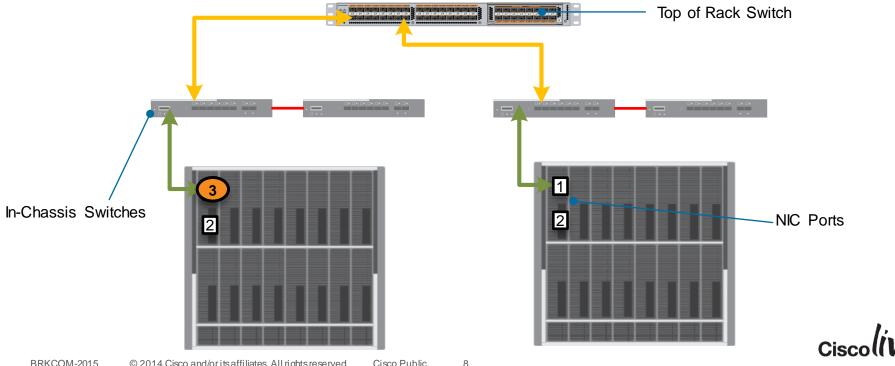
Legacy Single Chassis East-West Traffic

- Single Chassis IS the best case scenario
- Traffic between servers has to go through a L2 Switch inside the chassis
- Traffic does not traverse the midplane



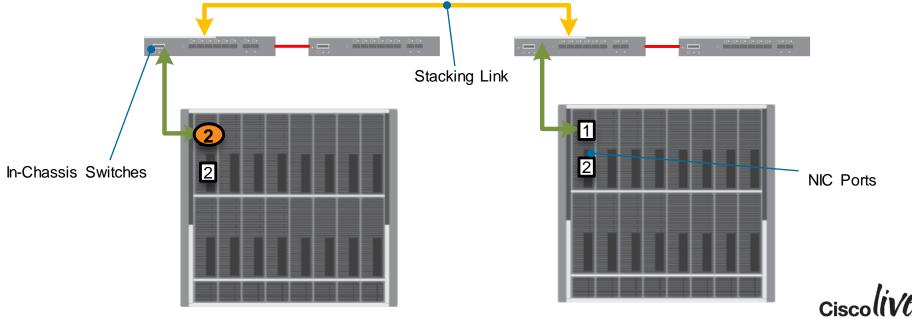
Legacy Multi Chassis East-West Traffic

- Common Data Centre Example with multiple Chassis connected to ToR Switch
- Traffic blade to blade will go through multiple switches



Legacy Multi Chassis Stacking East-West Traffic

- Hits multiple switches even with stacking
- As more stacking links are added latency and hops increase
- Hops become non-deterministic and Spanning Tree is required



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Legacy East-West Traffic Truths

- Server to Server communication optimised for only a SINGLE chassis of blades
- Chassis IO modules ARE switches (except for B22 and pass-thru modules)
- Requires many chassis switches that must be managed
- Blade Chassis to Chassis communication requires at least 2 or more hops
 - Including switch stacking
 - Increased latency
 - Non deterministic
- Customer data centres are larger than 1 chassis; must deal with this issue
- Intra chassis communication represents a small percentage of actual data flow

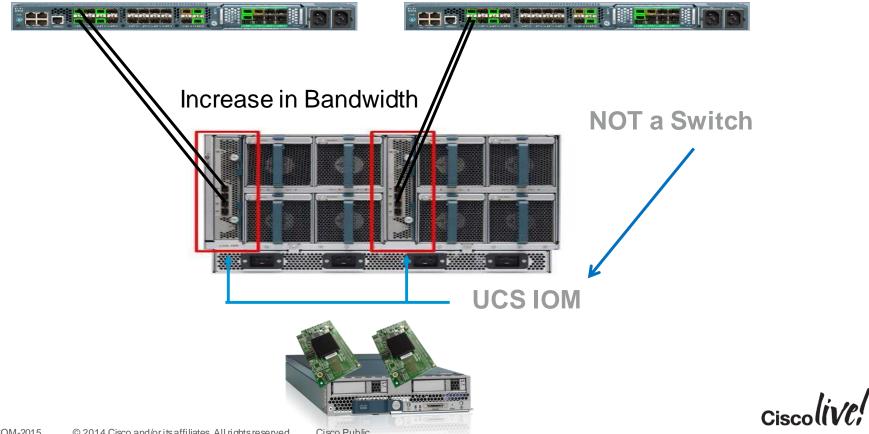


UCS Advantage Summary

- Cisco UCS offers a single flat L2 compute network for systems up to 160 servers
- Cisco UCS offers 'right sizing' the networking providing bandwidth where it's needed, when it's needed
- Simple and flexible, logical configuration of blade I/O connectivity managed with UCS Manager



UCS Advantage Fabric Topology

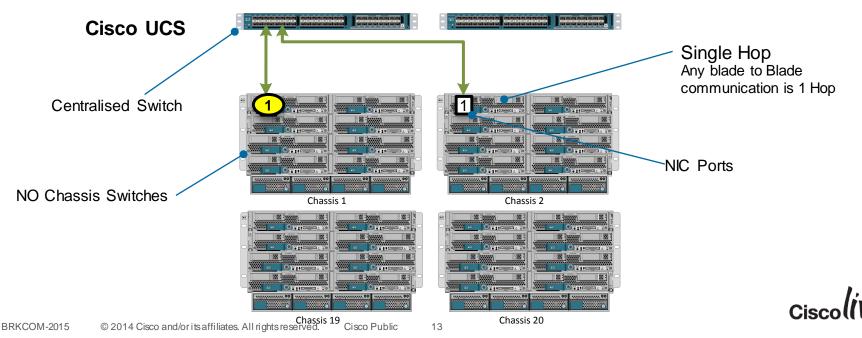


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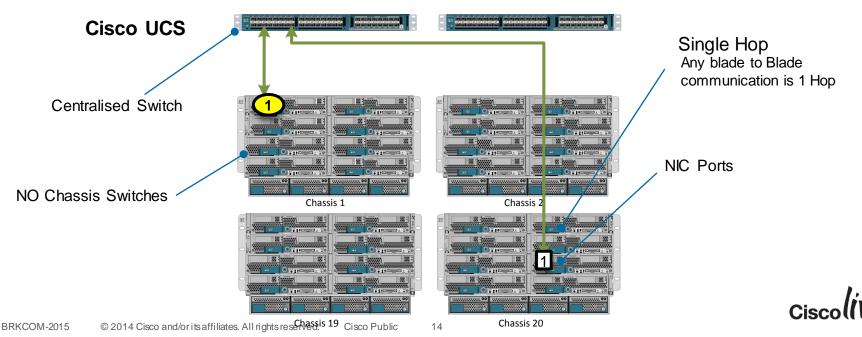
UCS Optimised Flat East-West Traffic

- Cisco UCS changes the legacy constraints
- Industries flattest L2 blade to blade network 160 servers
- Single hop and predictable latency between ANY server in domain



UCS Optimised Flat East-West Traffic

- Cisco UCS changes the legacy constraints
- Industries flattest L2 blade to blade network 160 servers
- Single hop and predictable latency between ANY server in domain



UCS East-West Traffic Truths

- Server to Server communication optimised for 160 blades across 20 chassis
- Chassis IO Modules are NOT switches
 - Fabric Extenders have no switching ASICs
 - Extension of the Fabric Interconnect



- Blade Chassis to Chassis communication requires only 1 hop
 - Lower system latency
 - Latency and performance predictable across entire domain
- NO Spanning Tree
 - Legacy stacking technologies require spanning-tree
 - Most legacy switches are non configurable



Cisco B-Series Networking Flexibility

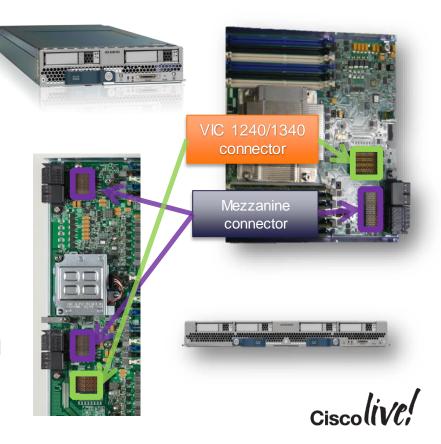
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UCS B-Series Network Connectivity

- UCS B200 M3/M4 Half Width blades
 - Aggregate bandwidth up to 80Gb
 - (1) mLOM connector
 - (1) Mezzanine slot
- UCS B260/420/440 Full Width blades
 - Aggregate bandwidth up to 160Gb
 - (1) mLOM connector
 - (2) Mezzanine slot
- UCS B460 Full Width Double Slot Blade
 - Whopping 320Gb of aggregate bandwidth
 - (6) Mezz slots, 2 for VIC 1240 and 4 additional slots



UCS Half-Height Blade Networking Options

- Cisco UCS Fabric Extender (FEX)
 - 2204 IOM 10Gb
 - 4 Uplinks / 16 Downlinks
 - 2208 IOM 10Gb
 - 8 Uplinks / 32 Downlinks
- Cisco Virtual Interface Card (VIC)
 - VIC1240/1340 10Gb
 - Up to 4 10Gb Interfaces
 - Offers 40Gb of connectivity PER Blade
 - Port Expander adds 4 additional 10Gb ports
 - VIC1280/1380 10Gb
 - Up to 8 10Gb Interfaces
 - Offers 80Gb of connectivity PER Blade
- All without adding expensive and complicated chassis switches

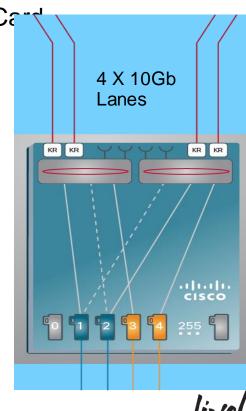






UCS B Series Bandwidth Scaling

- UCS B200 M3/M4 connectivity with Virtual Interface Mezz Car
 - VIC1240/1340 ships standard with B200 on Mezz Slot
 - Provides 2 10GbE links when paired to IOM 2204
 - Provides 4 10GbE links when paired to IOM 2208
- Optional Port Expander for VIC1240/1340
 - Enables 4 additional 10GbE links
 - Passive Connector
 - Fits into Mezz slot B200
- Simple to scale bandwidth
 - NO switches in chassis
 - Just increase chassis links
 - Add expander or mezz in blades



8 X 10Gb Lanes

1 1.1 1

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UCS B Series VIC Configuration

- VIC host ports are programmable by the Service Profile
 - OS Independent
 - No complicated BIOS configuration required
 - Place the vNICs on ANY fabric desired not limited by Hardware placement

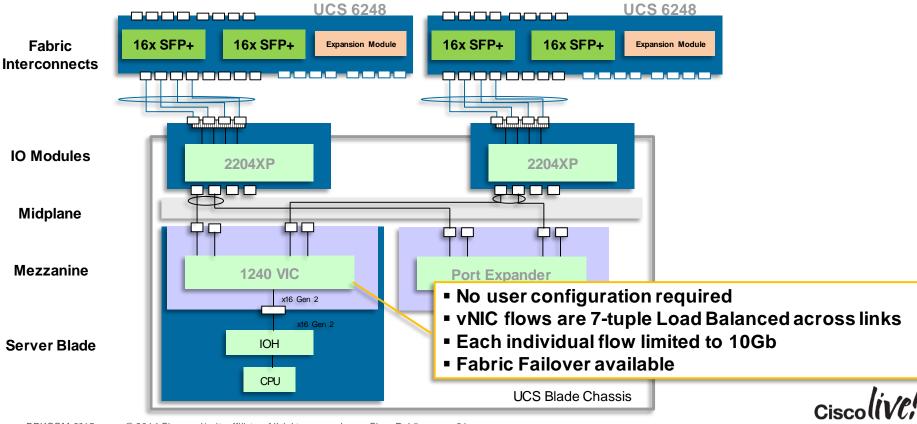
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- Up to 256 vNIC/vHBA interfaces can be created
 - 8 reserved for internal use
 - OS limits apply
- VIC Fabric Failover (Cisco only Feature)
 - HW based NIC Teaming fail on fault
 - Enabled on each vNIC
 - Does not apply for vHBA



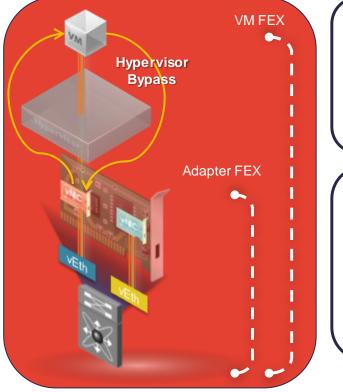
VNICs					
-I vNIC Eth1		00:25:85:00:A1:1E	1	1	A
-I vNIC Eth2		00:25:85:00:A1:0E	2	2	A
–🚺 vNIC Eth3		Derived	5	Unspecified	BA
-I vNIC Eth4		Derived	6	Unspecified	AB
-I vNIC Eth5		Derived	7	Unspecified	BA
-I vNIC Eth6		Derived	8	Unspecified	В

Block Diagram: Blade to FI Connection Test Setup



Virtualised I/O

Improved Performance and Visibility with Cisco FEX Architecture



Features:

- Adapter FEX split a physical NIC into multiple logical NICs
- VM-FEX extends Adapter FEX technology to virtual machine
- Based on open Standards

Benefits:

- · Same functionality in Physical and Virtual environments
- Increased bandwidth utilisation by sharing physical interface to multiple Applications and/or VMs
- Improved Performance and dynamic network & security policy mobility during VM migration with VM-FEX



Network Latency Test Setup and Results

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Latency Test Setup

- 2 X UCS B200 M3 with VIC1240
- 2 X 5108 Blade Chassis with 2204 Fabric Extenders
 - 1 link IOM to FI
- 1 10Gb VIC port configured on each host connected to fabric A
- Chassis to Chassis Local network communication
 - Single Fabric (A) used on all tests unless noted
- Purpose of the test
 - Determine if UCS design has more host based latency than other fabrics
 - Answer claims that Cisco UCS has higher latency for applications

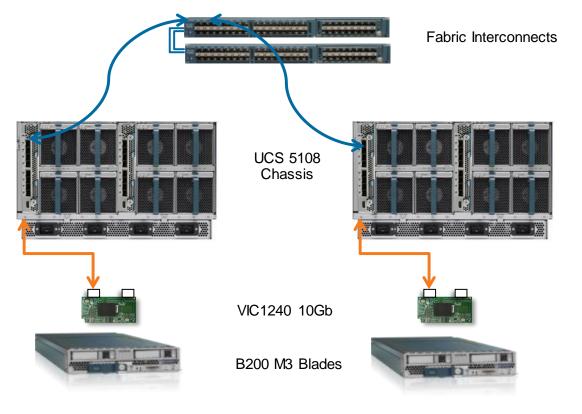


Latency Test Setup

- Server BIOS optimised for Performance
 Max Performance memory and CPU set
- OS NIC parameters set for performance
 - RX/TX Coalescing Timer OFF
 - Forces HW to be used to measure latency
 - Interrupts localised to CPU Socket
- NetPerf used for host to host packet generation
- Ran 3 Latency measurement tests
 UDP, TCP, TCP RTT
- 9K MTU shown for all test results
 - 1500 MTU was also tested but not shown



Test Architecture Overview



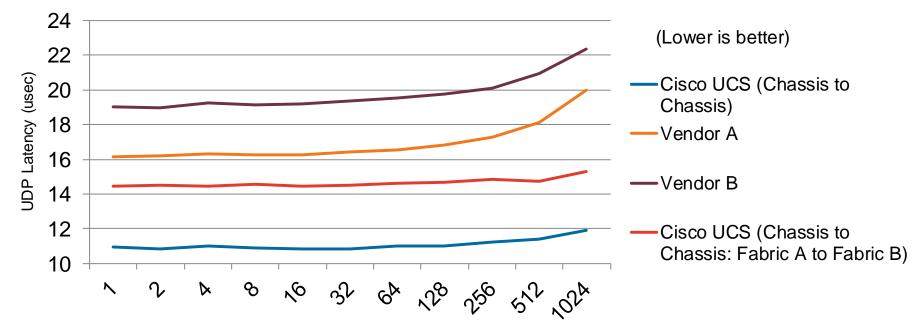


UDP Latency Test

- UDP Latency
 - UDP connectionless, reliable delivery no required
 - Fire and Forget
- Application Examples
 - Streaming audio and video
 - VolP
 - Heartbeats
 - NFS
- Incrementally increased payload size from 1 byte to 1024 bytes
- Cisco UCS Chassis to Chassis results
 - Legacy both single chassis and chassis to chassis represented



UDP Latency Test Results Chassis to Chassis



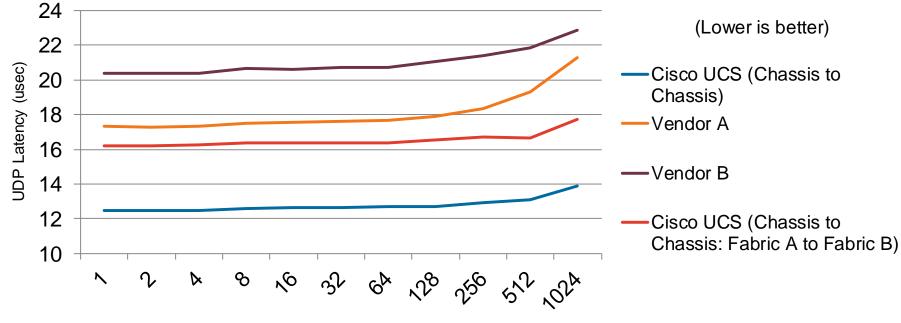
Payload Size Bytes





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TCP Latency Test Results Chassis to Chassis



Payload Size Bytes

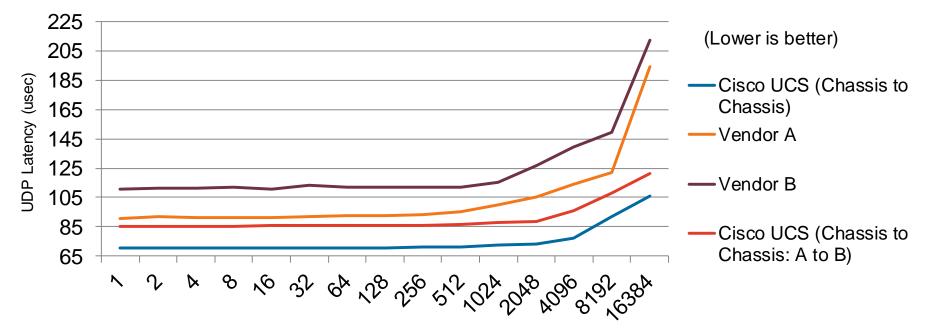
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TCP Transaction RTT Latency Test

- TCP Transaction RTT
 - Represents the TCP connection opening, sending, receiving, closing complete round trip time
 - Ping Pong example
 - Measuring Transactional Performance
- New connection for each request/response pair, transactional workload
- Mimics web server HTTP protocol
- Incrementally increased payload size from 1 byte to 16384 bytes
 - Large payload sizes will expose switch port buffer issues
- Cisco UCS Chassis to Chassis results
 - Legacy both single chassis and chassis to chassis represented



TCP RTT Latency Test Results Chassis to Chassis



Payload Size Bytes

Source: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/ps10265/le_40202_ibmlatencypb-130717.pdf; http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/ps10265/le_40201_pb_hplatency_130717.pdf; http://www.cisco.com/c/dam/en/us/products/collateral/switches/nexus-7000-series-switches/network_latency.pdf



VM Migration Test Setup and Results

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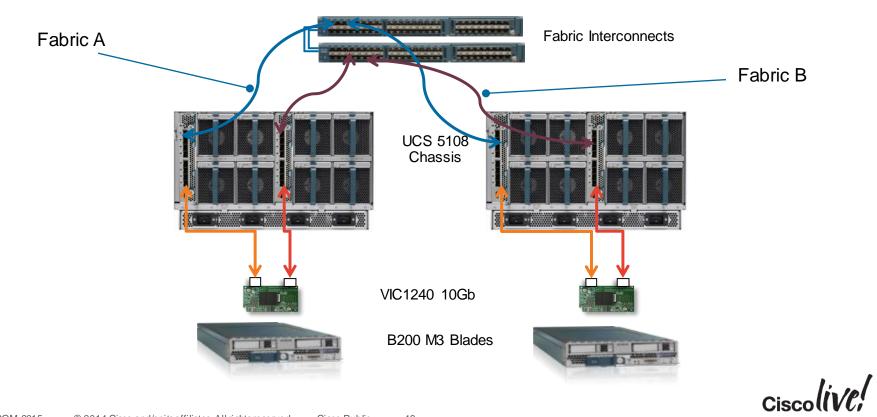


VM Migration Test Setup

- B200 M3 with VIC1240 + Port Expander
 - 2 X 2680 Intel Processors
 - Host 64GB RAM
 - 1,2 or 4 Ethernet vNICs configured
- 2 X 5108 Blade Chassis with 2204 Fabric Extenders
 - 1, 2 and 4 links to FI tested
- Windows 2008R2 Guest VMs running Prime95 load tool
 - Each VM running 100% memory and processor capacity
 - ESXi Host memory fully utilised
- 2 different test stacks
 - 8 VMs with 8GB memory each
 - 4 VMs with 16GB memory each



Test Architecture Overview



VM Migration Test Methodology

- Baseline Migration test overview
 - 2 IOM links to FI
 - 1vNIC configured and presented to VMware
 - Single vSwitch for vMotion
 - Traffic only on Fabric A for vMotion

- Why
 - Simple test setup that anyone could reproduce
 - No special benchmarking modifications or tuning
 - Mirror real world working scenarios
 - Customer inspired problem statement
 - Place busy hosts into maintenance mode and vacate VMs quickly
 - Find out the truth of claims being made against Cisco UCS network design

VM Migration Test Reliability

• How

- VMs migrated between two blade nodes on two different chassis
- PowerShell script to start migrations and capture times
- Averaged times of all samples across multiple test runs
- Pause delay between each move
- Quality
 - Obtain insight on system performance with multiple iterations of the tests
 - Each scripted test was run 5 times with 100 samples each (500 migrations minimum)
 - Nearly 30,000 samples captured across all tests
 - All samples used to calculate average migration time
 - Balances out vCenter variances
 - After each test run all hosts sat until idle and VMs rebooted



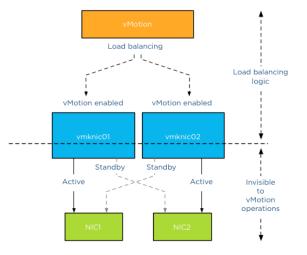
Multiple VMkernel Interfaces for vMotion

- VMware introduced multi-nic vMotion with ESX 5.0
 - using multiple 10Gb VMkernel ports designated for vMotion traffic
- Simple to configure
 - Add Physical NIC Ports to vSwitch
 - Add and configure 1st vMotion VMkernel portgroup
 - Configured NIC Teaming select 1st vmnic to active and 2nd vmnic to standby
 - Add and configure 2nd vMotion VMkernel portgroup
 - Configured NIC Teaming select 2nd vmnic to active and 1st vmnic to standby

vSw	itch0 Properties				
irts	Network Adapters				
1000	figuration	Summary	-		
		120 Ports	Subnet Mask:	255.255.255.0	
	VLAN153	Virtual Machine		View Ro.	
Ö	VM Network	Virtual Machine	Effective Policies		
0	vMotion_2	vMotion and IP	Security		
0000000	vMotion_1	vMotion and IP	Promiscuous Mode:	Reject	
9	Management Net	vMotion and IP	MAC Address Changes:	Accept	
í –			Forged Transmits:	Accept	
í –			Traffic Shaping	Accept	
1			Average Bandwidth:	-	
í –			Peak Bandwidth:	**	
í –			Burst Size:		
			Failover and Load Balan		
1			Load Balancing:	Port ID	
1			Network Failure Detection	:: Link status only	
			Notify Switches:	Yes	
			Faiback:	Yes	
			Active Adapters:	vmnic0	
			Standby Adapters:	vmnic1, vmnic2, vmnic3	

Multiple VMkernel Interfaces for vMotion

- Mark extra NICs as standby instead of unused
 - If you lose a physical NIC no network connection issue
 - Keeps the vmotion network stable
 - NIC failure traffic is routed to other connections



VMknic	Active NIC	Standby NIC
vmknic0	NIC1	NIC2, NIC3
vmknic1	NIC2	NIC1, NIC3
vmknic2	NIC3	NIC1, NIC2



vMotion Pairing Behaviour

- vMotion vmknic pairings are arbitrary setup by vCenter
 - No guarantee that any vmknic can communicate with any other specific vmknic
 - Placing on different subnets, likely to fail when pairings change
 - No preferred pairings of vmknic ports
 - Based on vmknic link speed and provision order (either of which may change depending on host behaviour)
 - Persistent only for a single vMotion
- ALL NICs in a cluster for vMotion must be able to communicate
 - Primary and secondary vmknics must be able to communicate on failure
- vMotion assigns a default interface on One vmknic for connection management
- VMware does not support dedicating vMotion on a specific fabric
 - No ability to prefer pairings of vmknics on a specific fabric

Multiple VMkernel Interfaces for vMotion

- VMware vMotion why is it not working the way I want?
- Do I put them on different subnets?
 - NO this is not supported by Vmware
 - This may work but not guaranteed, may fail at any time
- VMKernel NIC pairs are made first by
 - Highest speed
 - Order of creation on the ESXi host
- vMotion distributes across all available vmknics
 - even when a single VM is migrated multiple links are used



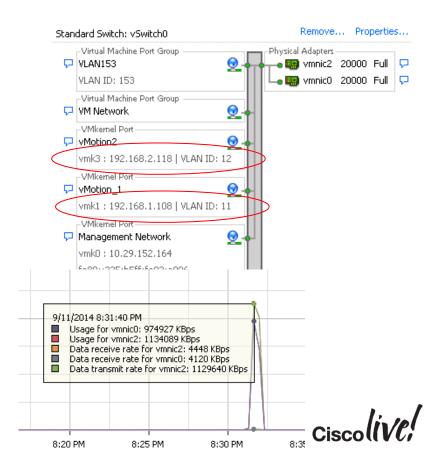
vMotion Behaviours

- Links speed matters
 - vMotion requires 10Gb links for 8 migrations
 - Mixing NIC speeds results in reduction of 4 migrations
 - Multi NIC vMotion still caps at 8 migrations
- vMotion operations
 - Work at the vmknic level not physical layer
 - No knowledge of pnic status
 - Trusts connection from vmknic between source and destination
- Ensure successful configuration
 - Build the vNICs in the same order on all hosts
 - Make all connections identical (speed, MTU, fabric connection)
 - Leverage UCSM LAN connection policies



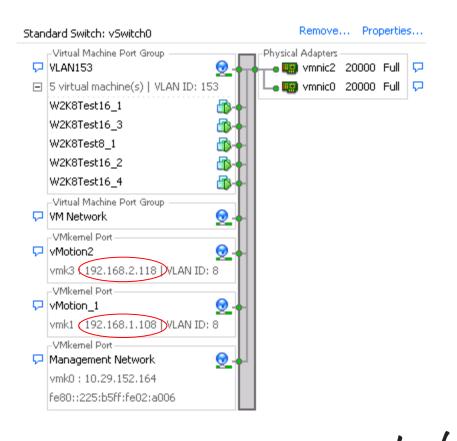
Sample Setup Scenarios

- UCS upstream 5K configured VLANs
- <u>Separate</u> VLAN and IP ranges
- All vMotion vmknic ports are pingable from each host
- Successful migrations with no errors
- Would not work if remote host lost primary NIC and standby was used with different subnet/VLAN



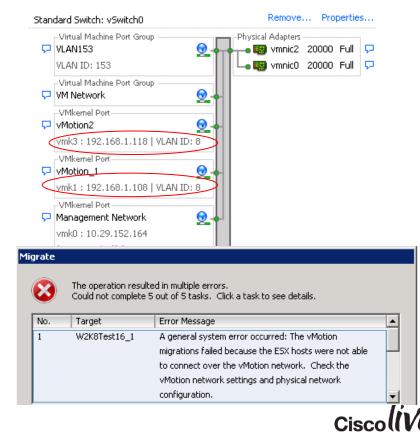
Sample Setup Scenarios

- UCS Private VLANs not configured on 5K
- <u>Same</u> VLAN <u>different</u> IP ranges
- All vMotion vmknic ports are pingable from each host
- Successful migrations with no errors
- Would not work if remote host lost primary NIC and standby was used with different subnet



Sample Setup Scenarios

- UCS Private VLANs not configured on 5K
- <u>Same</u> Subnet, <u>Same</u> IP ranges
- Some vMotion vmknic ports are NOT pingable from each host
 - vMotion2 vmknic are not reachable on each host from each other
 - All other interfaces work (local and vMotion 1 vmknic)
- Vmknic pairings going over two different fabrics that are not connected
- Migrations do NOT Work



Demo Multi NIC Setup

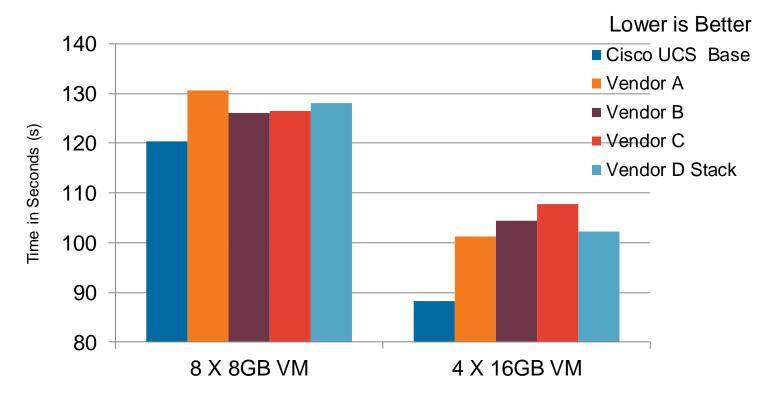


East-West Traffic Test Objectives

- NOT a Performance benchmark of vMotion itself
- NOT a study to discover why vCenter behaves the way it does
- NOT a networking tuning benchmark effort
- Compare equally configured Legacy systems and Cisco UCS
- Performance impact on Cisco UCS with fabric tunings
 - UCS has many options and capabilities for traffic engineering
- Only observations made during testing outlined
 - Enable customers to choose configurations that provide the greatest impact to their environment



Migration Test Results Cisco and Legacy



Source: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/ps10265/le_40202_ibmlatencypb-130717.pdf: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/collateral/ps10265/le_40201_pb_hplatency_130717.pdf; http://www.cisco.com/c/dam/en/us/products/collateral/switches/nexus-7000-series-switches/network_latency.pdf



Communication Performance Observations

- Viewing link performance during the migration tests observed
 - Real time performance between blades and uplink ports to the other side
 - Used built in measurement tools for other vendors switches to view real time data

- UCS with 1 Link between IOM and FI with 1 vNIC
 Averaged 9.5Gb/s
- Other vendor intra-chassis switch performance
 - Averaged 5.5 and 6 Gb/s

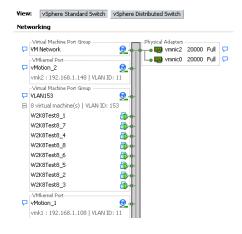


Migration Base Configuration

- Base system using 2 IOM uplinks
- 1 vNIC configured with a single vSwitch dedicated for vMotion
- Traffic running over a single dedicated fabric

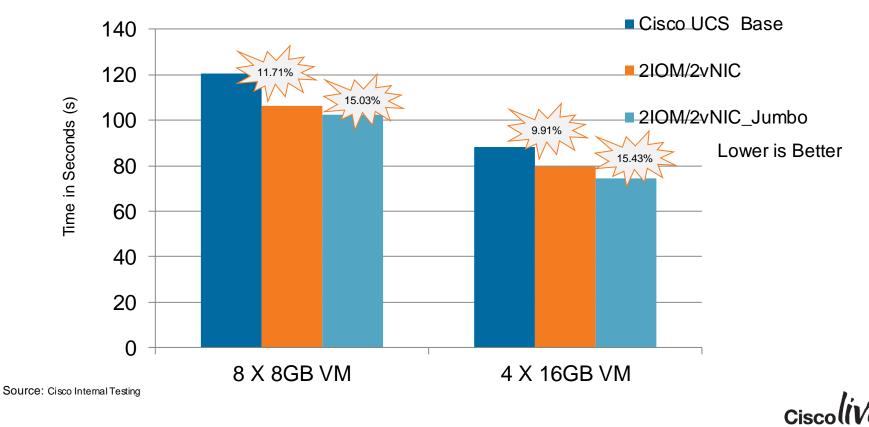
- What if we create two VMkernel ports on the same vSwitch?
 - All traffic on Fabric A
 - 2 VMkernel portgroups configured

• What if we configure Jumbo frames?





Migration Cisco UCS Test Base vs 2 vNIC



IOM Traffic Example

- Traffic is load balanced across all the available ports
 - VIC to IOM
 - IOM to FI

Single Fabric A

Average Bandwidth 13-14Gb/s

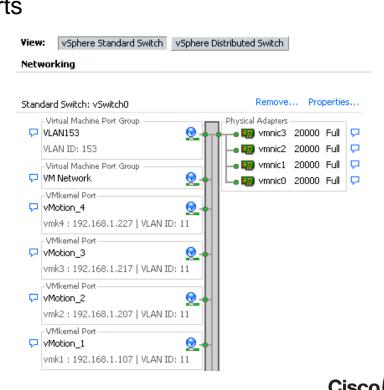
	fex-1# s	-++ how	platform so	oftware woods	ide rate	++		+		+	+	++
	+ Port 	-++ 	Tx Packets	Tx Rate (pkts/s)	Tx Bit Rate	++	Rx Packets 	Rx Rate (pkts/s)	Rx Bit Rate	+ Avg Pkt (Tx) -		++ Err
<	0-BI 0-CI 0-VI1 0-NI0 0-HI27 0-HI26 0-HI19	ii	25 10 2927298 2505339 17 0 273030	5 2 585459 501067 3 0 54606	4.52Kbps 5.66Kbps 7.21Gbps 6.16Gbps 5.52Kbps 0.00 bps 213.19Mbps		21 12 340801 306456 0 1 2116818	2 68160	20.43Kbps 250.64Mbps 201.70Mbps	334 1519 1517	104 1044 439 391 0 164 1515	
<	+		520805 	104161	258.97Mbps		3316024	663204	1	'	1520 	+



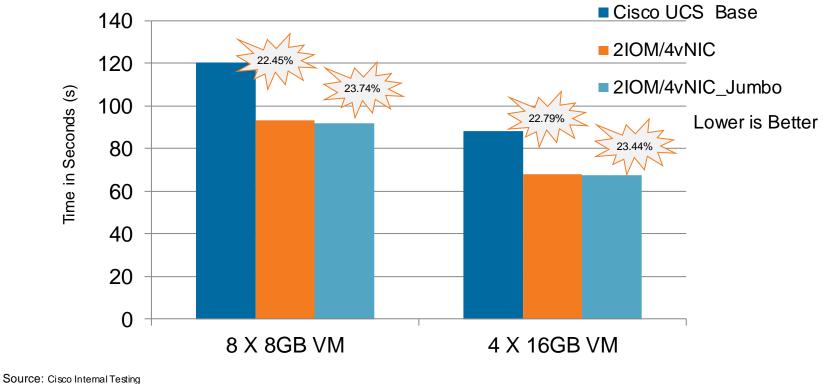
Migration

- What if we configure more VMkernel ports (4) for vMotion?
 - All traffic on Fabric A
 - 4 VMkernel portgroups configured

• What are the results of Jumbo and non-Jumbo frames being enabled?



Migration Cisco UCS Test Base vs 4 vNIC





IOM Traffic Example 4vNIC

- Traffic is load balanced across all the available ports note no change in host port connections
- vCenter can run 4 independent TCP Flows

Single Fabric A Average Bandwidth up to 15Gb/s

Port	11 7	X Packets	Tx Rate	ı	Tx Bit	Rx Pac	kets I	Rx Rate		Rx Bit	l àszo	r Pkt	Avq Pkt	- 1
		. .	(pkts/s)		Rate	IX Fac		(pkts/s)	j,	Rate	· -	, Γ.C. Γχ)	(Rx) 	Err
+ O-BI	·-++ 	++ 13	2	·+- 	2.75Kbps		-+ 9	1	-+-	1.74Kbps	+	112	+ 101	·+
0-CI		14	2	I	3.96Kbps		15	3		11.13Kbps	1	157	444	
O-NI1		238325	47665	I	38.28Mbps	274	0896	548179	1	6.78Gbps	1	80	1527	1
O-NIO		339500	67900	I	54.54Mbps	350	7941	701588	$\langle \cdot \rangle$	8.68Gbps	\mathcal{V}	80	1527	1
0-HI27	'	3	0_		576.00 bps		O Į	0		0.00 bps	1	100	0	1
0-HI19)	2971312	594262	I	7.35Gbps	19	3220	38644		31.85 M pps	1	1527	80	1
<u>8-HI18</u>	}	3275421	655084	I	8.11Gbps	38	4595	76919		61. 76Mbps	1	1527	80	1



Migration

• What if we increase the IOM links from 2 to 4 and increase the number of VMkernel ports to 4?

• What if we configure jumbo frames?

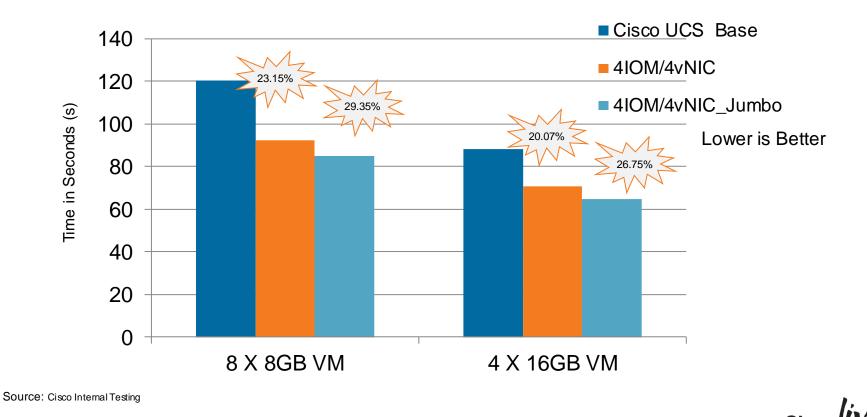
+	++	+		++									
Port	Tx Packets	Tx Rate	Tx Bit	R:	x Packets						NI (0		
I		(pkts/s)	Rate						+				
+	++	+					+				-+		
O-BI	14	2	2.90Kbps		10	2	1.92Kbps	109		100			
0-CI	13	2	9.48Kbps		20	4	34.43Kbps	436	1	O56			
0-NI3	99257	19851	16.05Mbps		1020626	204125	2.53Gbps	81	1	532			
0-NI2	320113	64022	345.97 M bps		1939933	387986	4.81Gbps	655	1	530			
0-NI1	228915	45783	227 . 40 M bps		1744105	348821	4.33Gbps	600	1	533			
O-NIO	118380	23676	19.15 M bps		1289526	257905	3.19Gbps	81	1	529			
0-HI27	12	2	3.36Kbps		0	0	0.00 bps	155		0			
0-HI26	1	0	480.00 bps		0	0	0.00 bps	283		0			
0-HI19	3060155	612031	7.59Gbps		367310	73462	313.20Mbps	1530	1	512	1		
0-HI18	2915766	583153 I	7.24Gbps	1.1	399383	79876	295.35Mbps	1 1533	1	442 I		/ ,	

(FINAL POSITION TBD)

Uplink #: Link status:

SFP:

Migration Cisco UCS Test Base vs 4 vNIC_4IOM



Migration

- What happens now if we run the same tests but spread the VMkernel ports over both UCS Fabrics?
 - Configured both 2 and 4 VMkernel portgroups
 - Spread the Physical NIC ports over UCS Fabric A and Fabric B

- Measure using 2 IOM to FI links then 4 IOM to FI links
- Enable Jumbo frames, what happens?

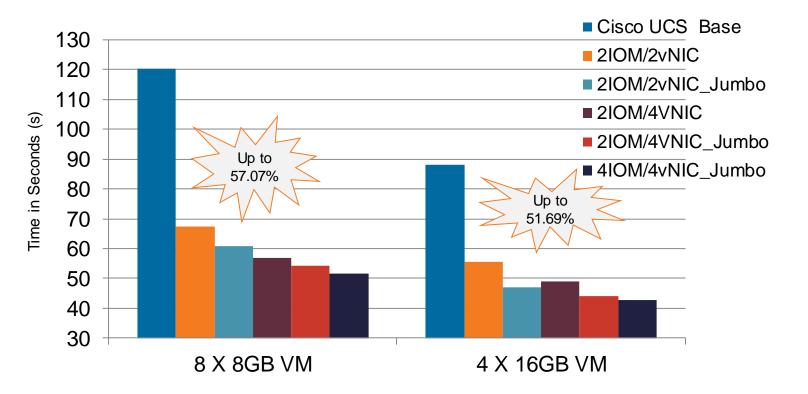
vNICs												
A Filter = Export B Print												
Name	MAC Address	Desired Order	Actual Order	Fabric ID								
-I vNIC Eth0	00:25:85:02:A0:06	3	1	A								
-I vNIC Eth1	00:25:85:02:A0:07	4	2	В								
-I vNIC Eth2	00:25:85:00:A1:3E	5	3	A								
-1 vNIC Eth3	00:25:85:00:A1:2E	6	4	В								

IOM Dual Fabric Traffic Example

- Traffic is load balanced across all the available ports
- Multiple VMKernel vNICs are configured assigned to Fabric A and Fabric B

	10.29.152 Port		uTTY (Packets 	Tx Rate (pkts/s)	Tx Bit Rate	R 	x Packets	Rx Rate (pkts/s) +	Rx Bit Rate +	Fabric A	N		Bandwidth Average combined fabrics					
i o)-BI	11	65 [13	11.12Kbps	11	57	11	19.60Kbps				COMPINE					
)-CI		19 j	3			17	· I 3					18Gb/s	Gh/s				
j o)-NI1		13 j	2			1949040	389808	4.82Gbps				1000/3					
i o)-NIO	11	244	48	198.25Kbps	11	2406090	481218	5.95Gbps									
1 0)-HI27		0	0	0.00 bps	11	1	0	288.00 bps									
1 0)-HI26	+ +	1	0	152.00 bps	11	1	0	352.00 bps									
)-HI19		1941444	388288	4.80Gbps		3125	625	565.10Kbps									
1.0)-HI18		2412413	482482	5.97Gbps		2949		401.62Kbps									
					·	<u>a</u> 10	J.29.152.96 - I	PuTTY										
							11		(pkts/s)	Rate			(pkts/s)	Rate				
	Fabric B			+	++		+		-++		+	++						
				i au		0-	BI	19	3	3.97Kbps		12	2	4.24Kbps				
						0-	CI	12	2	3.76Kbps	11	17	3	13.43Kbps				
						O-	NI1	563691	112738 j	90.95 M bps		2492069	498413	6.17Gbps				
						I O-	NIO	292840 j	58568 j	47.32Mbps		1782000	356400	4.41Gbps				
						I O-	HI27	8 I	1	2.89Kbps		0	i o					
							HI26 II	1		632.00 bps		0		· • •				
							HI19	2996389 j				417501		67.32Mbps				
					\leq		·HI18	1276838	255367	3.16Gbps		443908		71.60Mbps				
								1210030	200007	3.1000053			00701					

Migration Cisco UCS Test Base vs Multiple Fabrics



Source: Cisco Internal Testing

Ciscolive,

East-West Traffic Impact Summary

BBIN

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Testing Summary

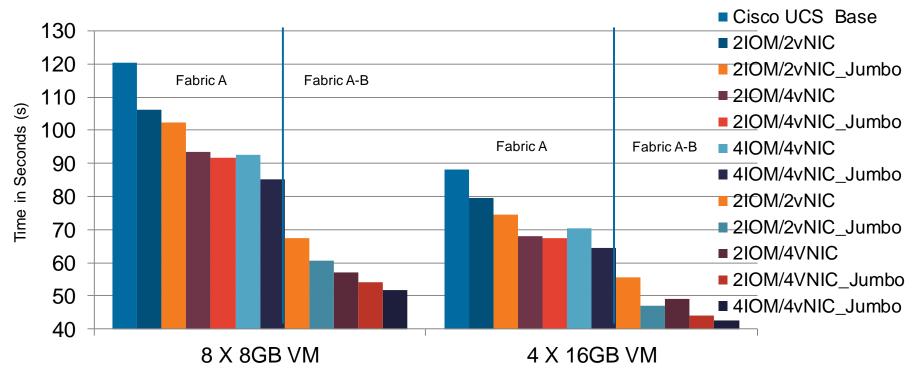
- Cisco UCS outperformed legacy environments on all Latency and VM migration tests
- Cisco UCS is specifically designed for compute East-West communication
- Cisco UCS offers the most flexible networking configuration options for architects
 - Traffic Pinning
 - Manage vNIC Fabric Placement not stuck with legacy hardware rules
 - Add more bandwidth easily with chassis to FI uplinks NOT adding expensive switches
- Quality and Reproduction of Testing
 - Thousands of migration samples gathered then averaged
 - Removes vCenter time variances
 - Not a benchmark, anyone can replicate test setup



Observations and Recommendations

- Biggest impact is to spread load across both UCS Fabrics
 - Example 1 vNIC on Fabric A and 1 vNIC on Fabric B
 - vCenter seems to keep traffic on each respective fabric not guaranteed
 - Traffic does not appear to cross from Fabric A to B unless there is a failure event
- Adding multiple VMkernel interfaces yields excellent results
 - Multi-NIC vMotion capability
 - Increases the number of TCP flows not subject to the 1 NIC 10Gb limit
- Adding more IOM Links do not get much performance increases without increasing the host ports as well.
- Jumbo frames have little impact on performance (2vnic/4IOM) but do make a **bigger** difference on 2vnic/2iom and 4vnic/4iom configurations.
 - Impact greater when vNIC and IOM uplinks are evenly matched

Migration Cisco UCS Test Summary of All Tests



Source: Cisco Internal Testing

Q&A

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Thank you.



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