

Intersight : Why you'll love it!

cisco Live !

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CCIE 42291, MBA

Session ID: BRKCOM-2540

Cisco Webex App

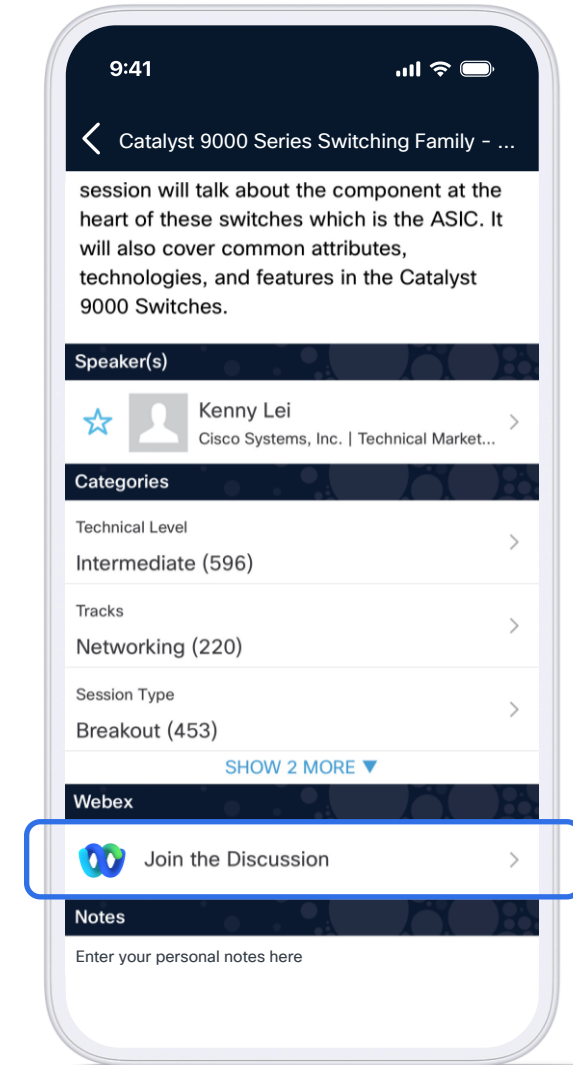
Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
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Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until 14 November 2025.



<https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/ciscolivebot/#BRKCOM-2540>

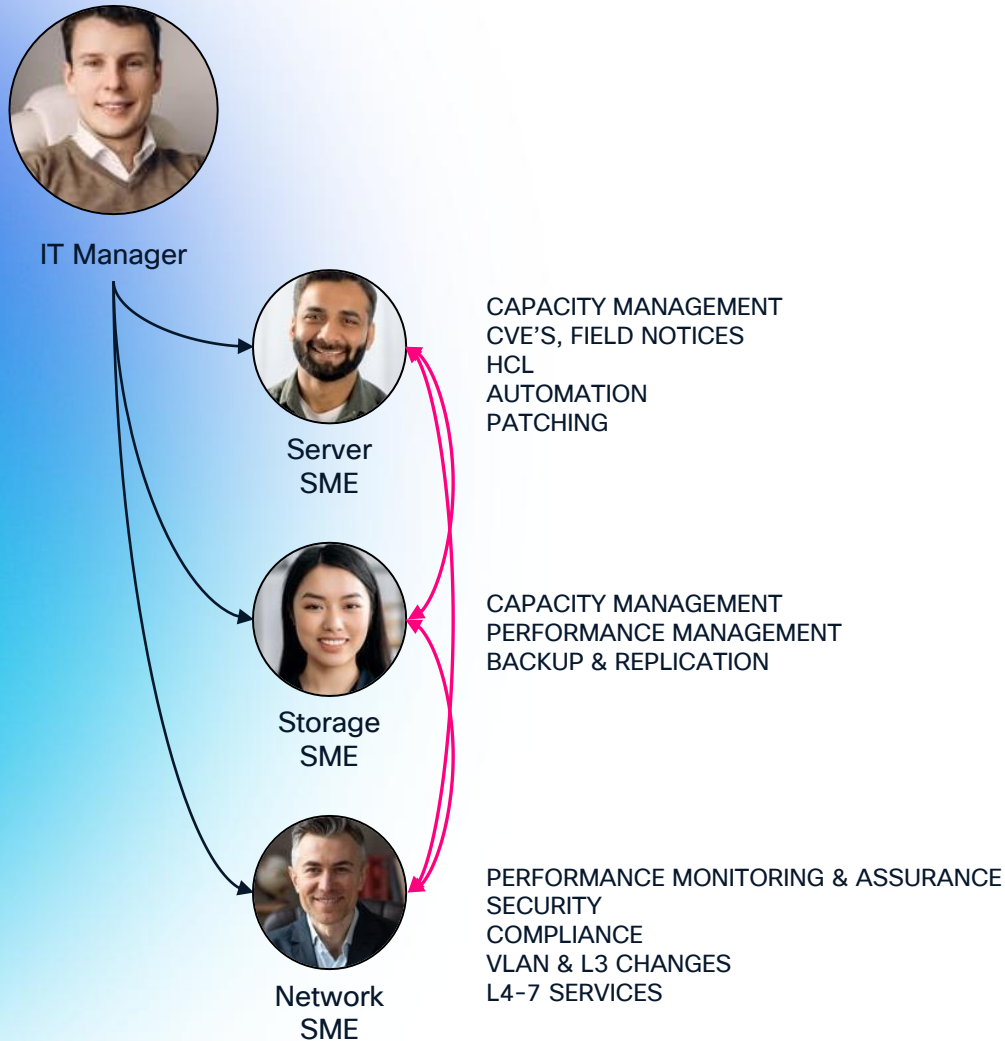
Agenda

- 01 Server Management
- 02 A Unified Operating Model
- 03 Day Two Operations
- 04 What's next?

Server Management 101... An old problem

Server Management

Increasing complexity and scope of responsibility



Need to deploy traditional applications **faster** and support new **AI workloads**?



Operate infrastructure in **multiple locations** across data centers and edge environments?



Face increasing difficulty identifying and responding to **security risks** in a more complex, distributed environment?



Need to **meet regulations**, mandates, or environmental, social, or governance (ESG) requirements for energy use?



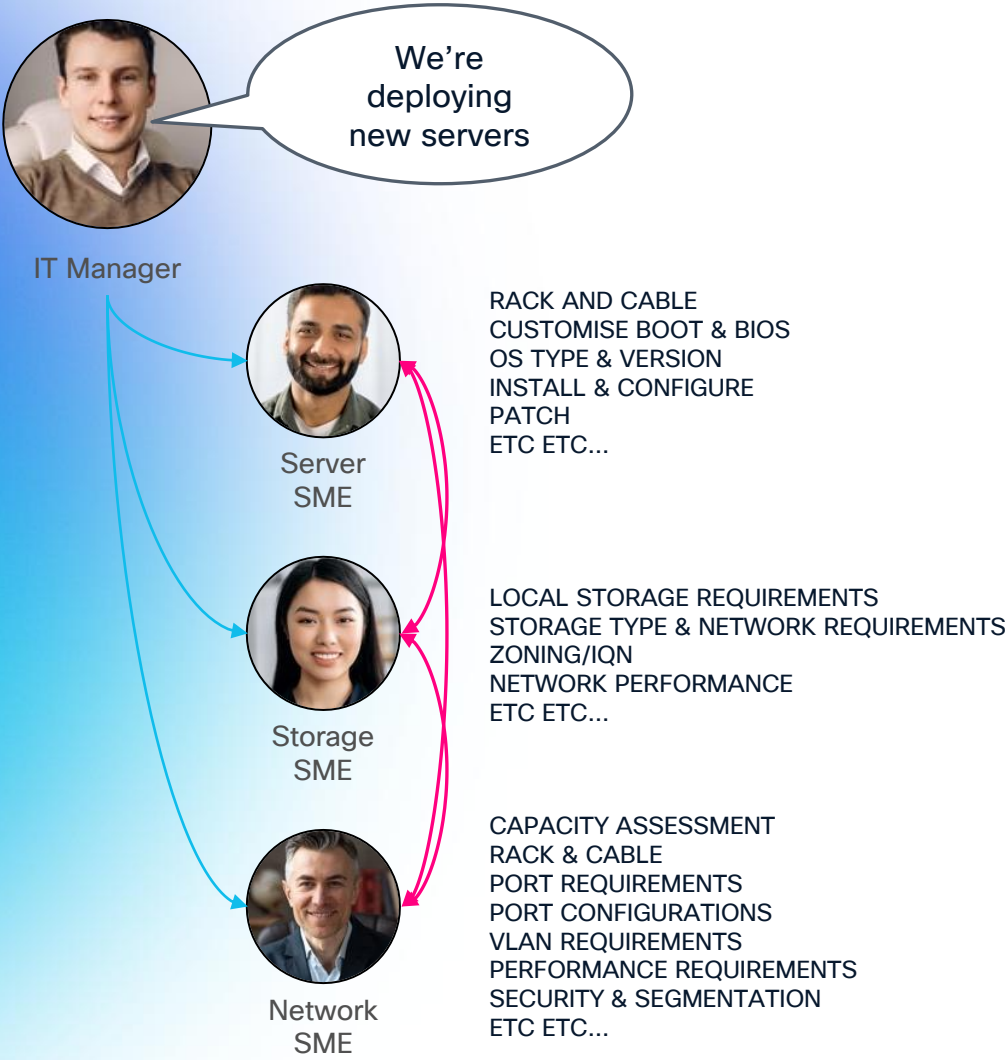
Reduce or prevent **downtime**?



Face **staffing shortages** that impede your ability to keep up?

Server Management

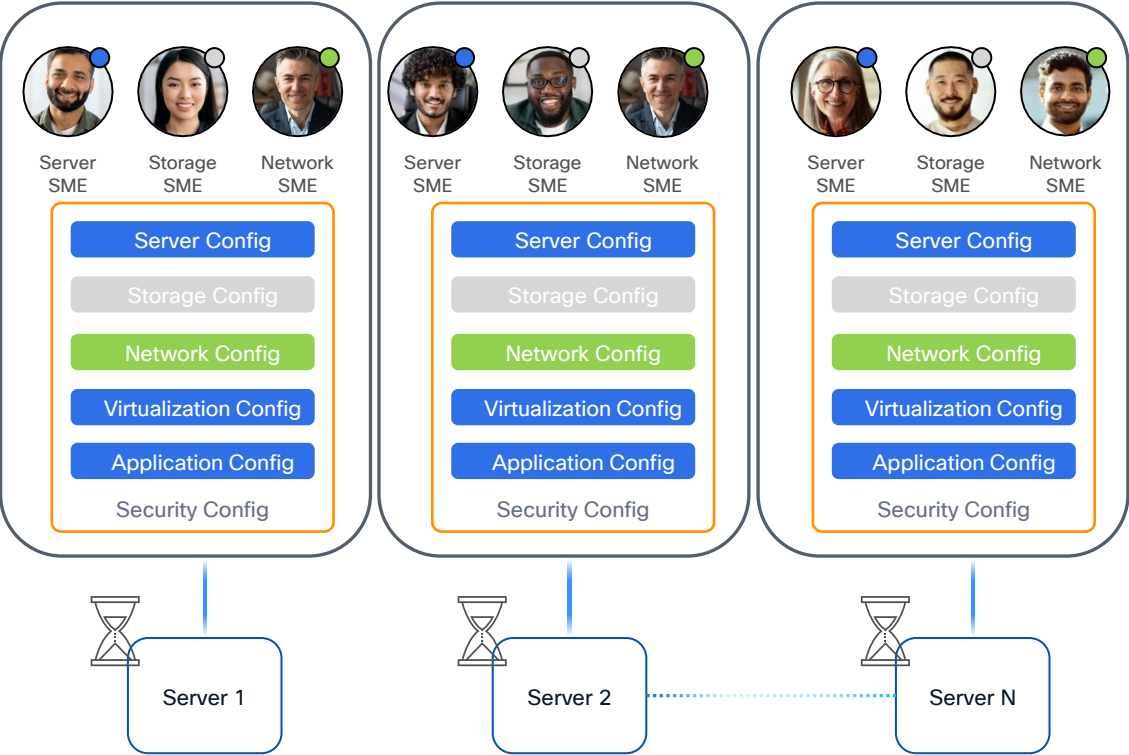
New Deployments



Conventional approach

Massive complexity and time to scale compute

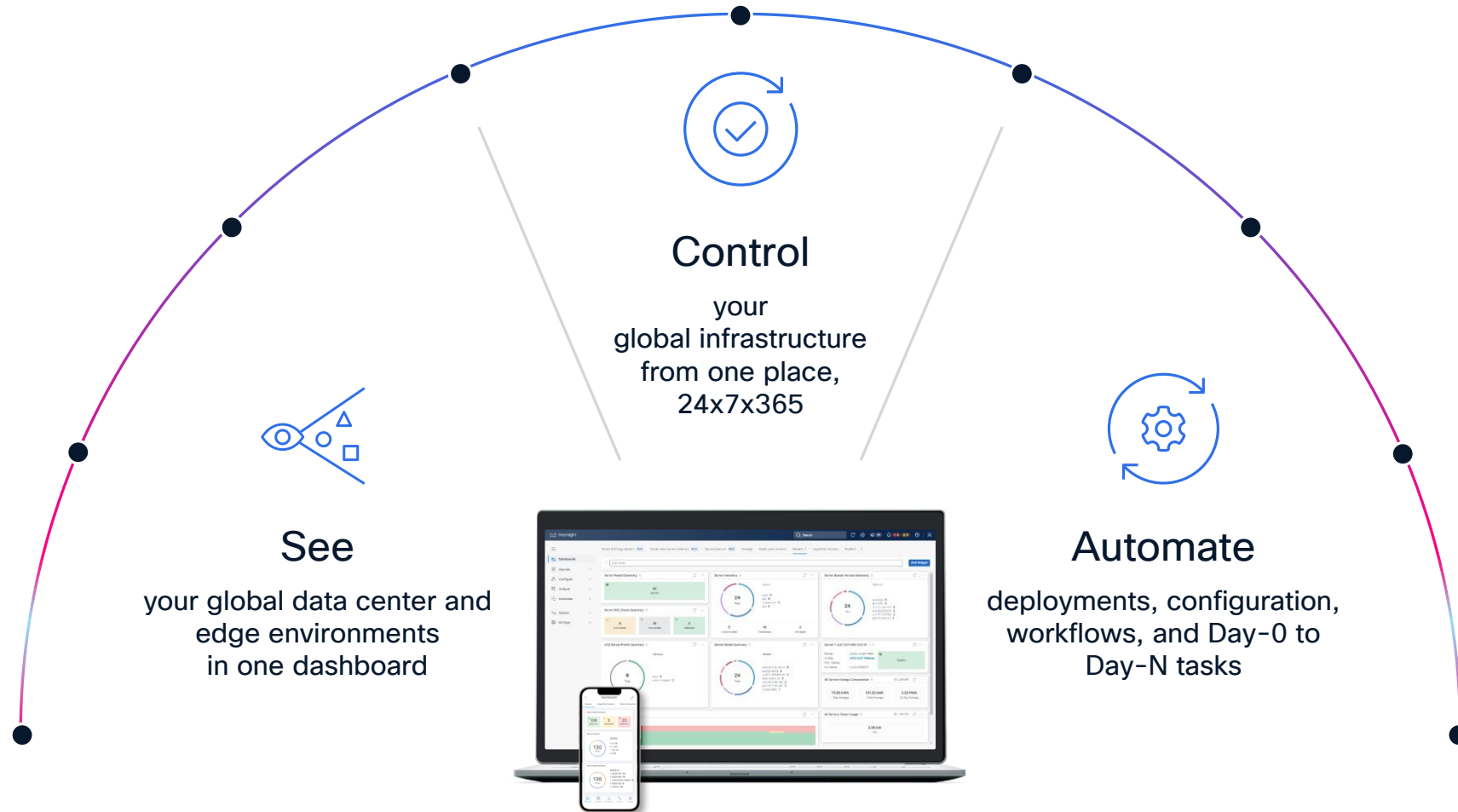
- Duplication of work
- Non-Automated, error prone
- Labour intensive
- No centralised control



A Unified Operating Model

IT operations. Simplified.

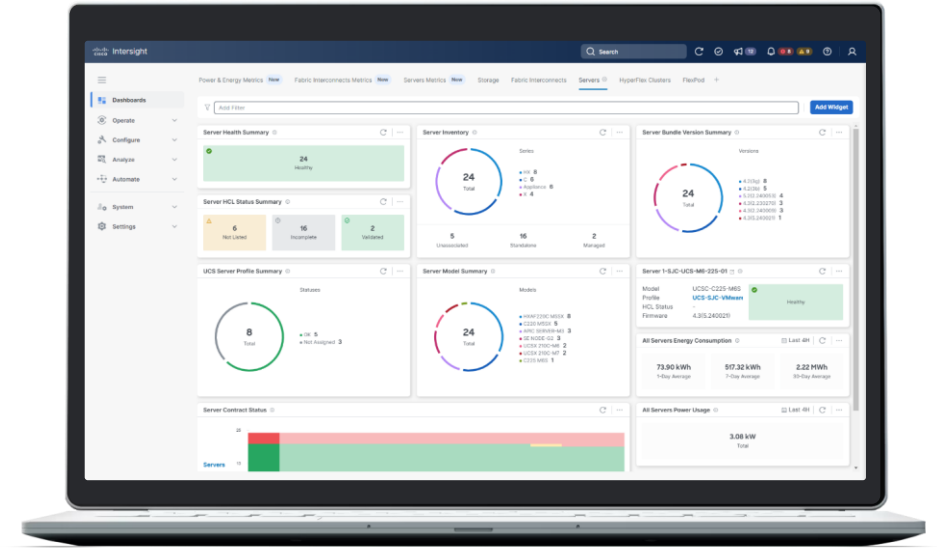
Cisco Intersight®



View in one place

See

- Your global UCS Infrastructure
- Servers, virtual machines, storage, and networking
- Real-time physical and virtual device status, UCS domain connectivity issues, security advisories, field notices, and hardware compatibility status
- Selected historical data (up to two years)



The customizable dashboard uses widgets for a single view of the health and inventory status of managed devices.

“[Cisco] Intersight® allowed us to quickly find a problem that would have taken us months to troubleshoot without the visibility that Intersight provides.”

Director of IT and Communications, regional medical center

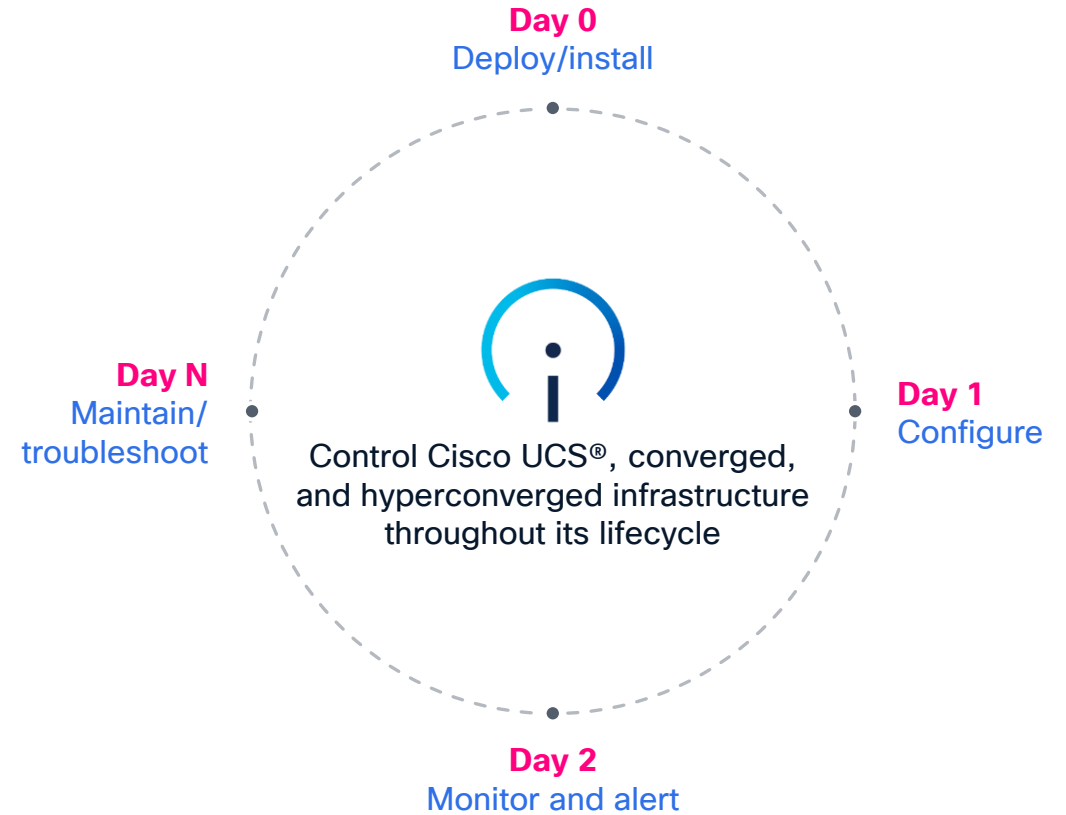
“With Cisco Intersight, I can now see information that I did not have before. It is one of the first places that we go to when we have performance issues or if a tech upgrade is requested.”

Director of IT, state governmental agency

Manage infrastructure throughout its lifecycle

Control

Configure, deploy, monitor, manage, and support your physical and virtual infrastructure throughout its lifecycle from one place—anytime, anywhere



“[Cisco] Intersight® has reduced the weight of routine deployment and monitoring tasks so we can focus on the work that helps our business.”

Director of IT and Communications, regional medical center

Prevent, resolve, analyze

Control

Infrastructure issues with custom insights and automated support

- Reduce troubleshooting by 45–60 minutes*
- Close Return Material Authorization (RMA) cases up to two days faster*

*Reported by Cisco Intersight® customers

Prevent

- Advanced alarm management
- Topology views
- Security advisories and field notices
- Hardware Compatibility List (HCL) baselining and notifications

Resolve

- Connected support (Cisco® Technical Assistance Center [TAC])
- Proactive RMAs

Analyze

- Real-time and historical data
- Out-of-the box dashboards
- Customizable dashboards / widget library
- Metrics Tab / Metrics Explorer

“You know you are being proactive when an engineer replaces a hard drive that was displaying anomalies before it fails and causes problems downstream.”

Distinguished Engineer, global technology conglomerate

Unified Operating Model

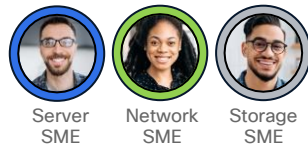
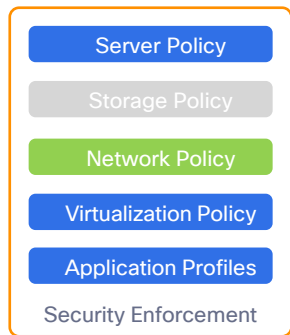
Cisco Computing system

State-less to State-full compute in minutes

- Reduces management costs with standardisation
- Eliminates human error and missed steps
- Faster time to deploy and scale
- Enhanced security enforcement with centralized authorisations
- Prevents local configuration changes and tampering

STEP 1

Subject matter experts (SMEs) define policies



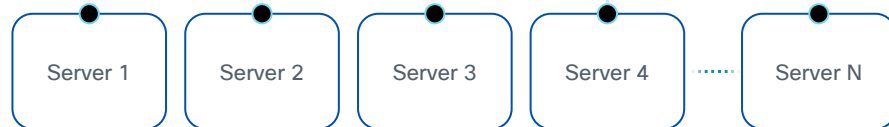
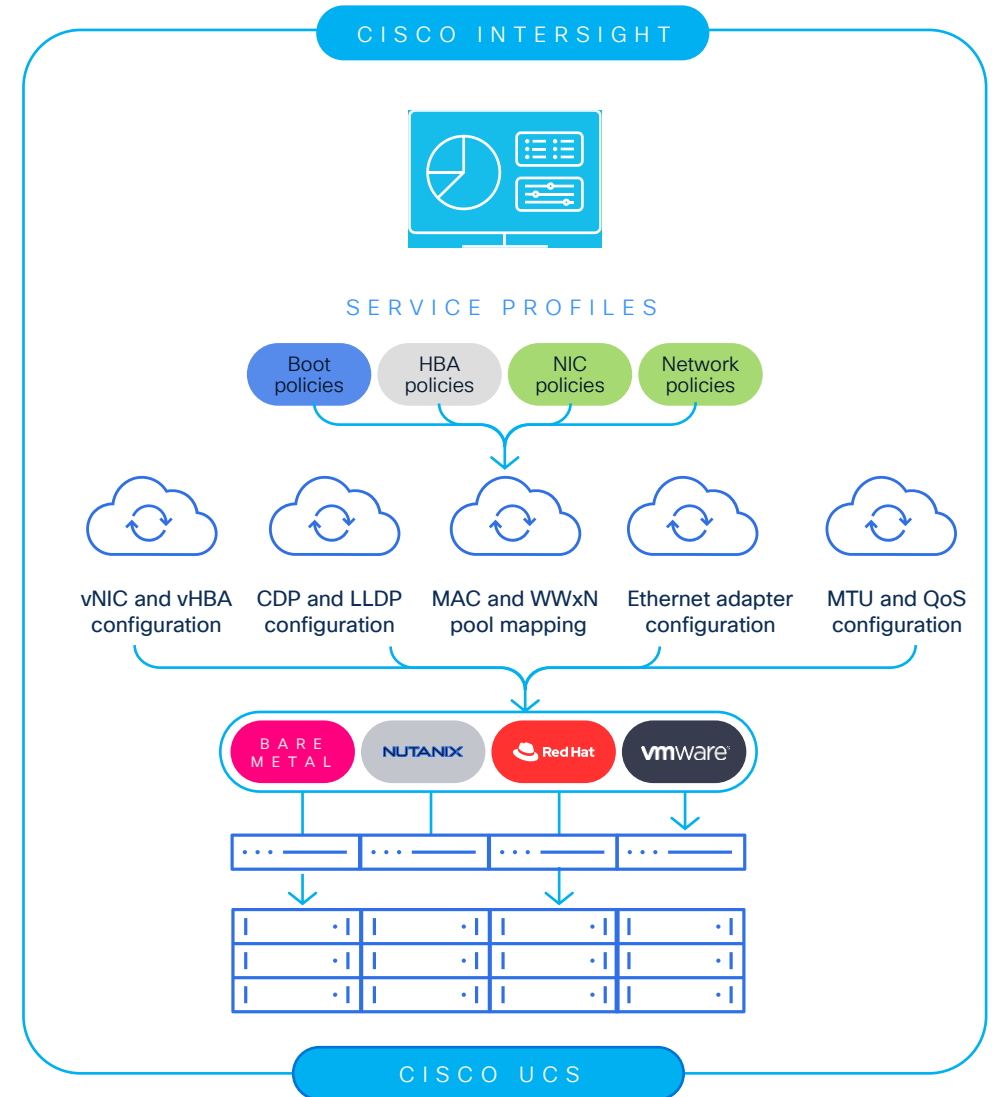
STEP 2

Service Profiles created from templates



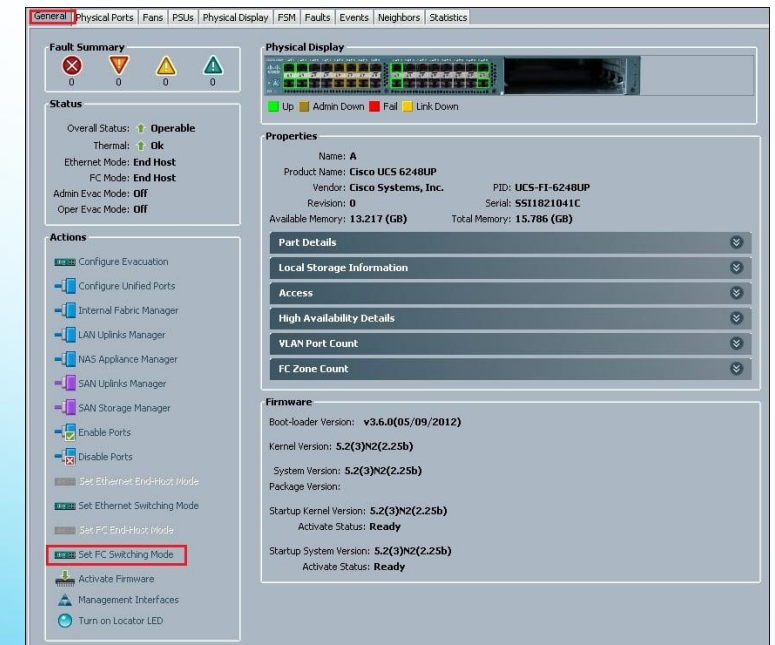
STEP 3

Scale compute



“But this is just UCSM... tell me what’s new?!”

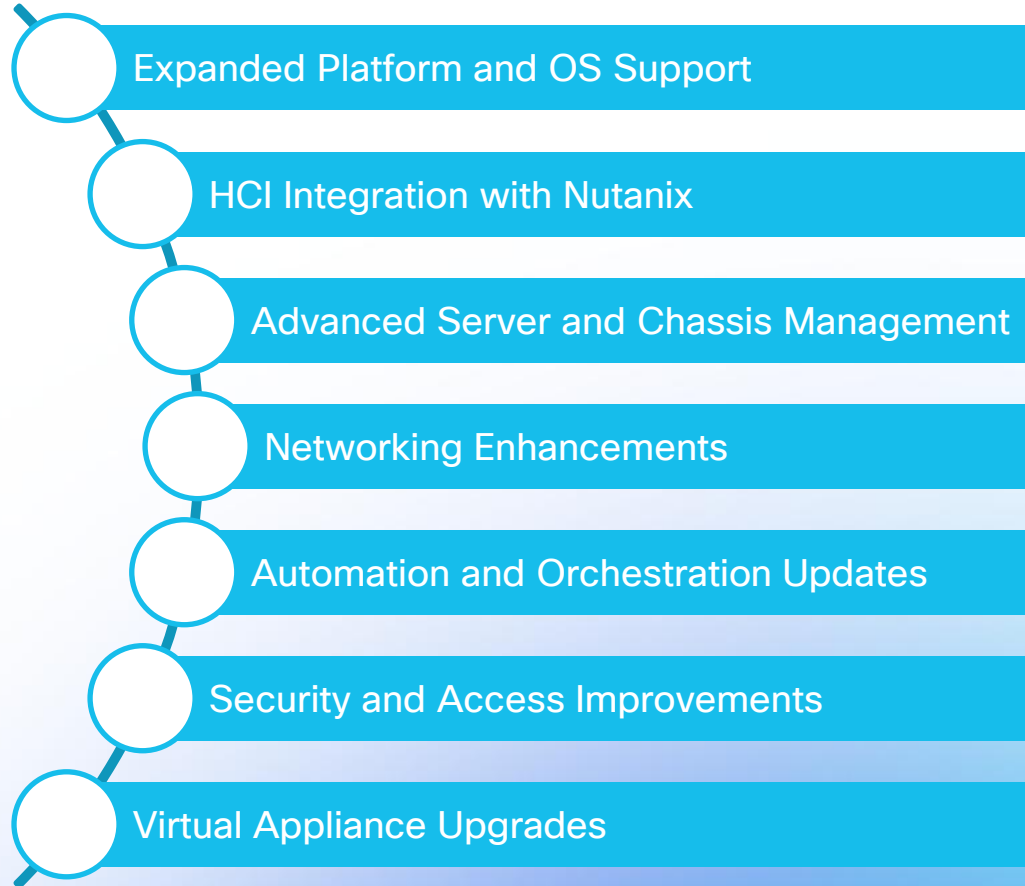
Every UCS customer, 2025



SaaS Delivery

New Features and Enhancements

https://intersight.com/help/saas/whats_new/2025



SaaS Delivery

Connected Support

~13,000

Datapoints per
second collected
by Intersight

481,979

Tech support files
automatically
generated by
Intersight

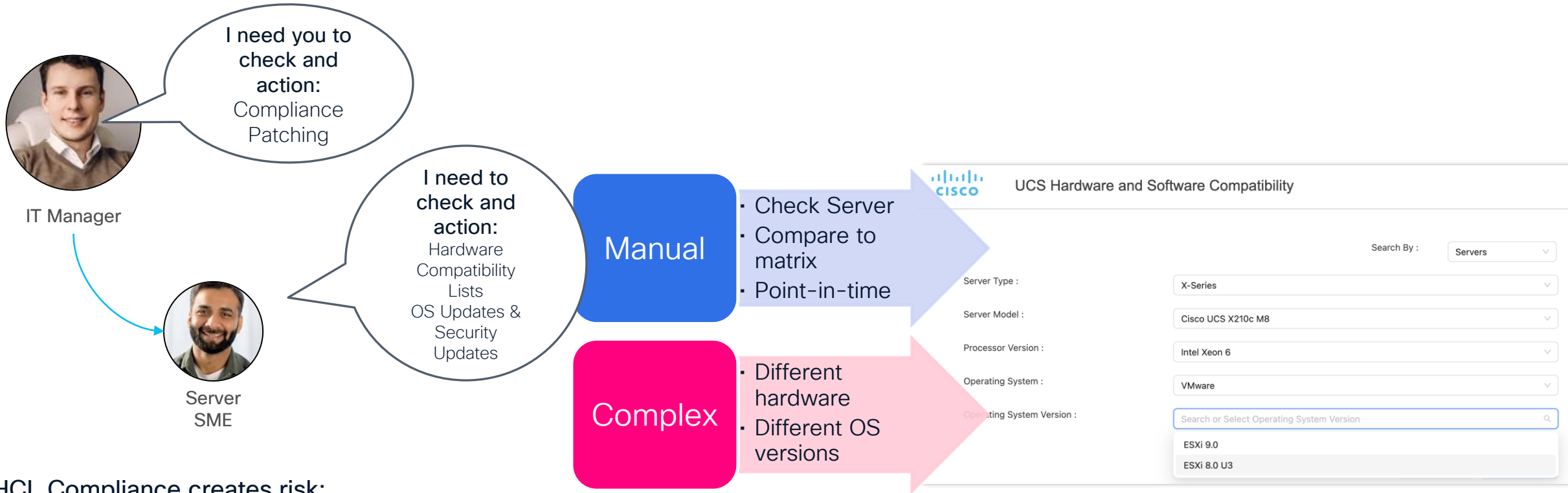
361,484

Hours or **41.26**
years of time saved
by customers

Day Two Operations

Day Two Operations

Hardware & Software Compatibility



HCL Compliance creates risk:

- Instability
- Unsupported platforms
- Regulatory

Day Two Operations

Intersight HCL Solution

CHALLENGE

Manually searching and collating info about OS/firmware/driver and server compatibility

SOLUTION

- Check and display hardware compliance status for UCS
- Get alerts related to potential hardware incompatibility issues specific to your environment
- Get ahead of potential issues with customized, preventive actions about hardware compatibility and contract status

1



SERVER HARDWARE COMPLIANCE

2



SERVER SOFTWARE COMPLIANCE

3



ADAPTER COMPLIANCE



Address potential hardware, OS, or software issues before they impact users, or minimize them when they occur?

TAKEAWAYS

Customized notifications based on your devices

No manual and error prone HW compatibility checks

Avoid running into known issues, minimize downtime and keep the system running the latest supported version

Get compliance checks with driver recommendations

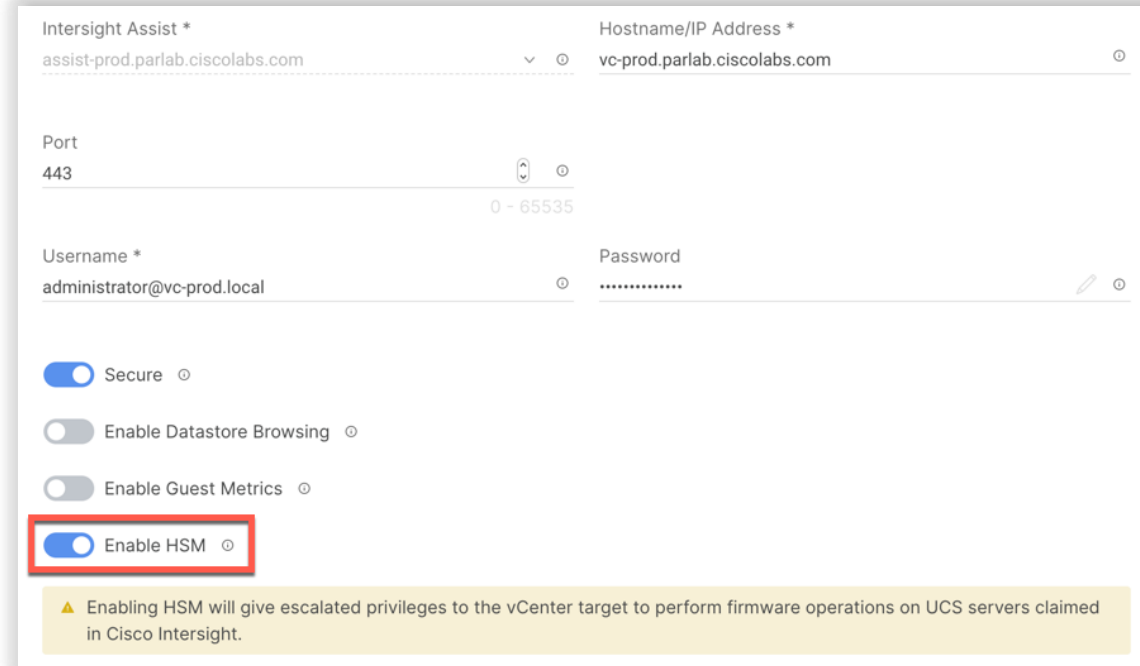
Day Two Operations

vSphere Life Cycle Management Integration

Cisco provides a vCenter plug-in called Hardware Support Manager (HSM)
Automate UCS server firmware updates via vLCM
in Intersight

No additional setup/plugin required

Select “**Firmware and Driver Addon**” bundle
directly from vLCM (auto-populated)
Run Pre-Check & Remediate Hosts
Supported on SaaS & Appliance
Supported with Standalone & IMM servers



Intersight Assist *

assist-prod.parlab.ciscolabs.com

Hostname/IP Address *

vc-prod.parlab.ciscolabs.com

Port

443

0 - 65535

Username *

administrator@vc-prod.local

Password

.....

☒ Secure

☐ Enable Datastore Browsing

☐ Enable Guest Metrics

☒ Enable HSM

▲ Enabling HSM will give escalated privileges to the vCenter target to perform firmware operations on UCS servers claimed in Cisco Intersight.

Select Firmware and Drivers Addon

Select the hardware support manager

Intersight HSM via intersight-cva.complab.lab

Hardware Support Manager

Select a firmware and driver addon

	Addon name	Addon version	Supported ESXi versions
☐	CR-4.2(1f)	4.2(1f)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3
☐	CR-4.1(3f)	4.1(3f)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3
☐	CR-4.1(3d)	4.1(3d)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3
☐	CR-4.1(3c)	4.1(3c)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3
☐	CR-4.1(3b)	4.1(3b)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3
☐	CR-4.1(2h)	4.1(2h)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3
☐	CR-4.1(2g)	4.1(2g)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3
☐	CR-4.1(2f)	4.1(2f)	7.0.0, 7.0.1, 7.0.2, 7.0.3

Day Two Operations

Faults, CVE's, EoL and Field Notices

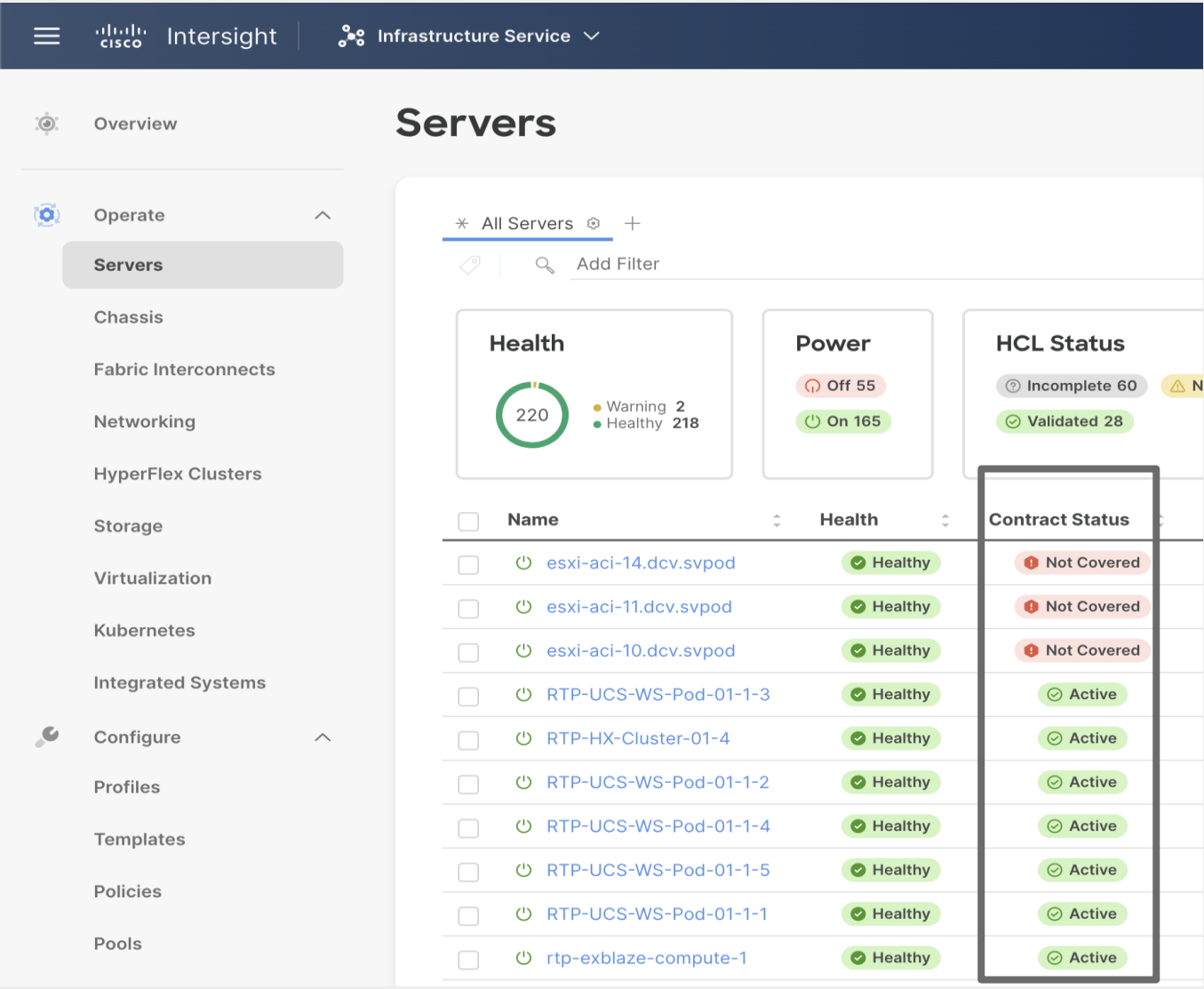


Fleet Management is a challenge

- New CVEs at all device levels (Firmware, Switches, CIMC)
 - Require multiple tracking points, mailer subscriptions etc
- End of Life data is complicated
 - Components, Servers
- Field Notices
 - As Above
- Faults are listed per domain controller – multiple touchpoints/integrations with upstream tools.
 - Noise

Day Two Operations

Support Contract Status



Speeds up support calls knowing that the hardware is covered under a valid support contract.



Launch CCW-R from Intersight and extend or renew support



Allow organizations to verify their upcoming budget cycle

Day Two Operations

Faults, CVE's, EoL and Field Notices



CHALLENGE

Spend hours scouting thousands of advisories and miss the one that's critical

SOLUTION

- Get custom advisories that apply to your infrastructure, and a list of the devices potentially affected
- Immediate visibility into potential security vulnerabilities and remediation steps
- Notifications of significant, non-security related issues



TAKEAWAYS

Customer asset specific advisories

Continuously identify and mitigate risks

Improve security posture

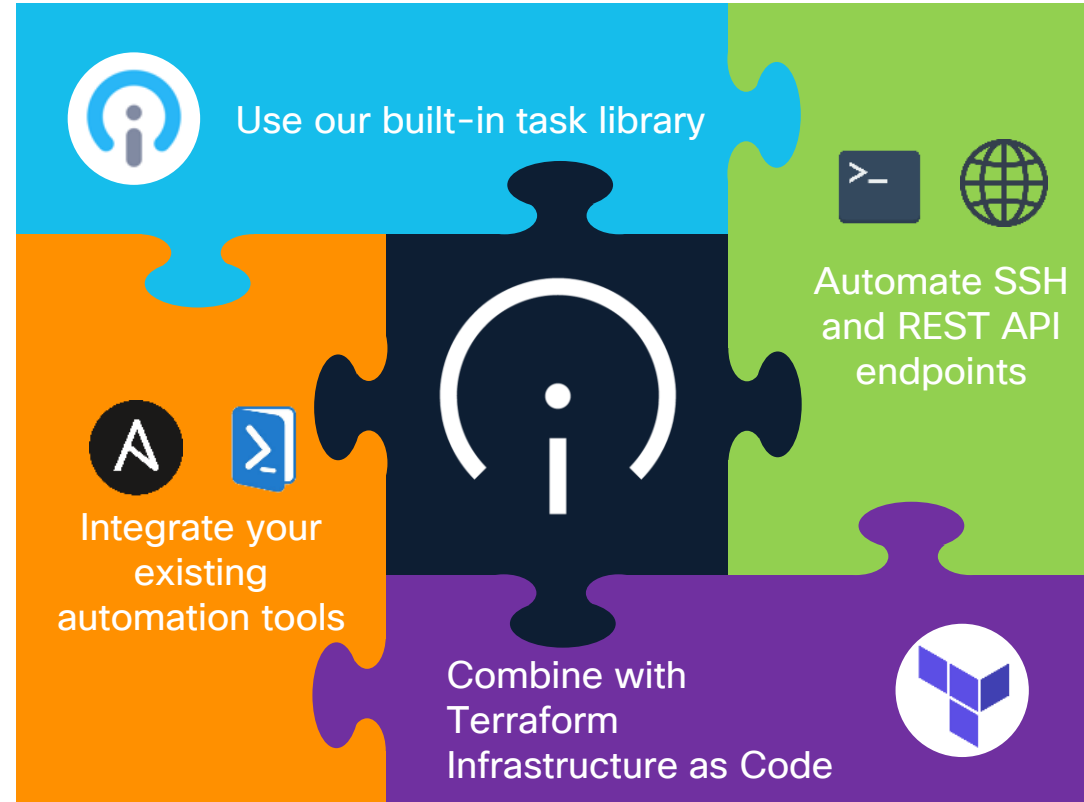
Intersight Automation

CHALLENGE

Repeating the same manual tasks on multiple devices is time consuming and error-prone, results in inconsistent application of policies and configuration drift, and locks staff into low-value tasks

SOLUTION

- Create and execute automated tasks and complex workflows with a drag-and-drop
- Design your own workflows. Incorporate automation from Red Hat Ansible, HashiCorp Terraform, or other tools using an API and SDKs.



TAKEAWAYS

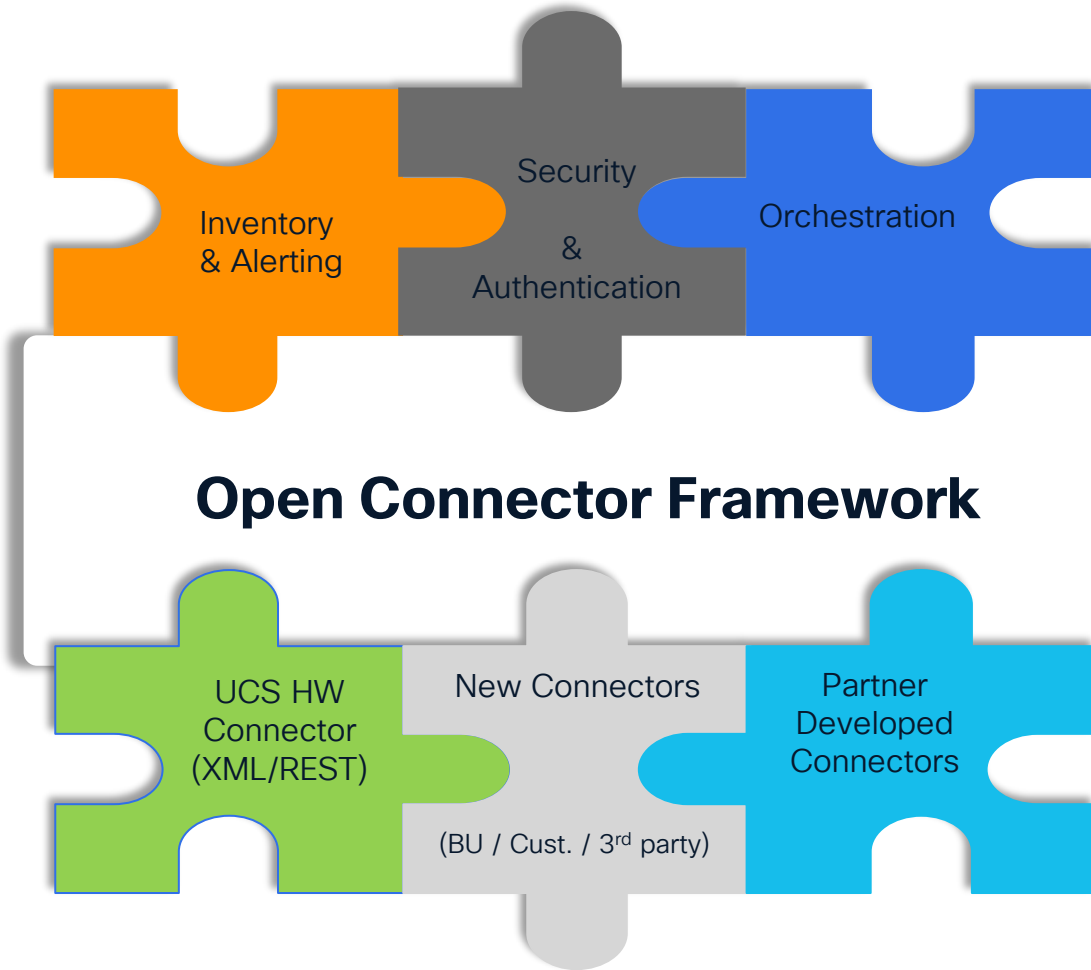
**Deploy and
configure
infrastructure
fast and
consistently**

**Reduce risk with
standardisation**

**Simplify cross-
domain
orchestration**

**Accelerate delivery
of apps and
infrastructure**

Intersight API



Intersight Portal



RESTful OpenAPI



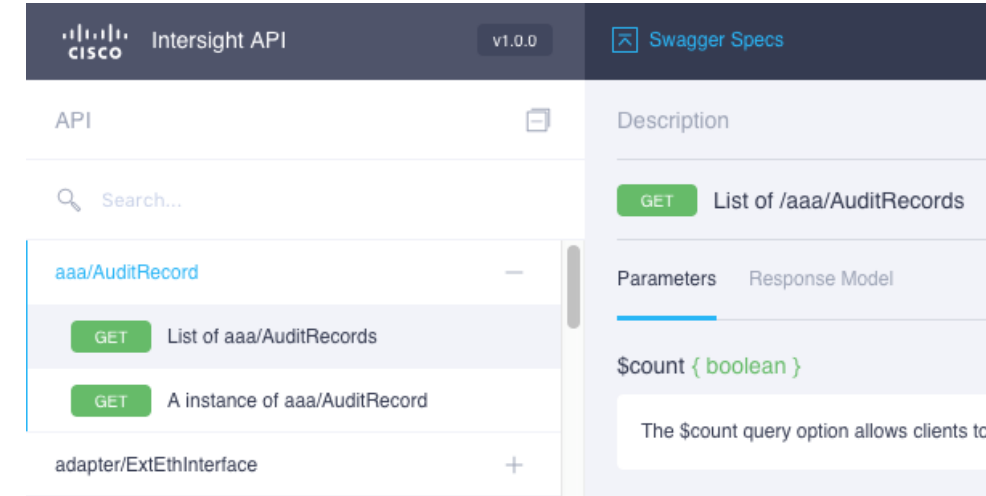
Tools and SDK



ANSIBLE



Cisco and 3rd Party Infrastructure



The background of the slide is an abstract design featuring flowing, wavy lines in various shades of blue and white. A large, white rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the slide, serving as a backdrop for the main text.

What's coming next?

Intersight fleet management



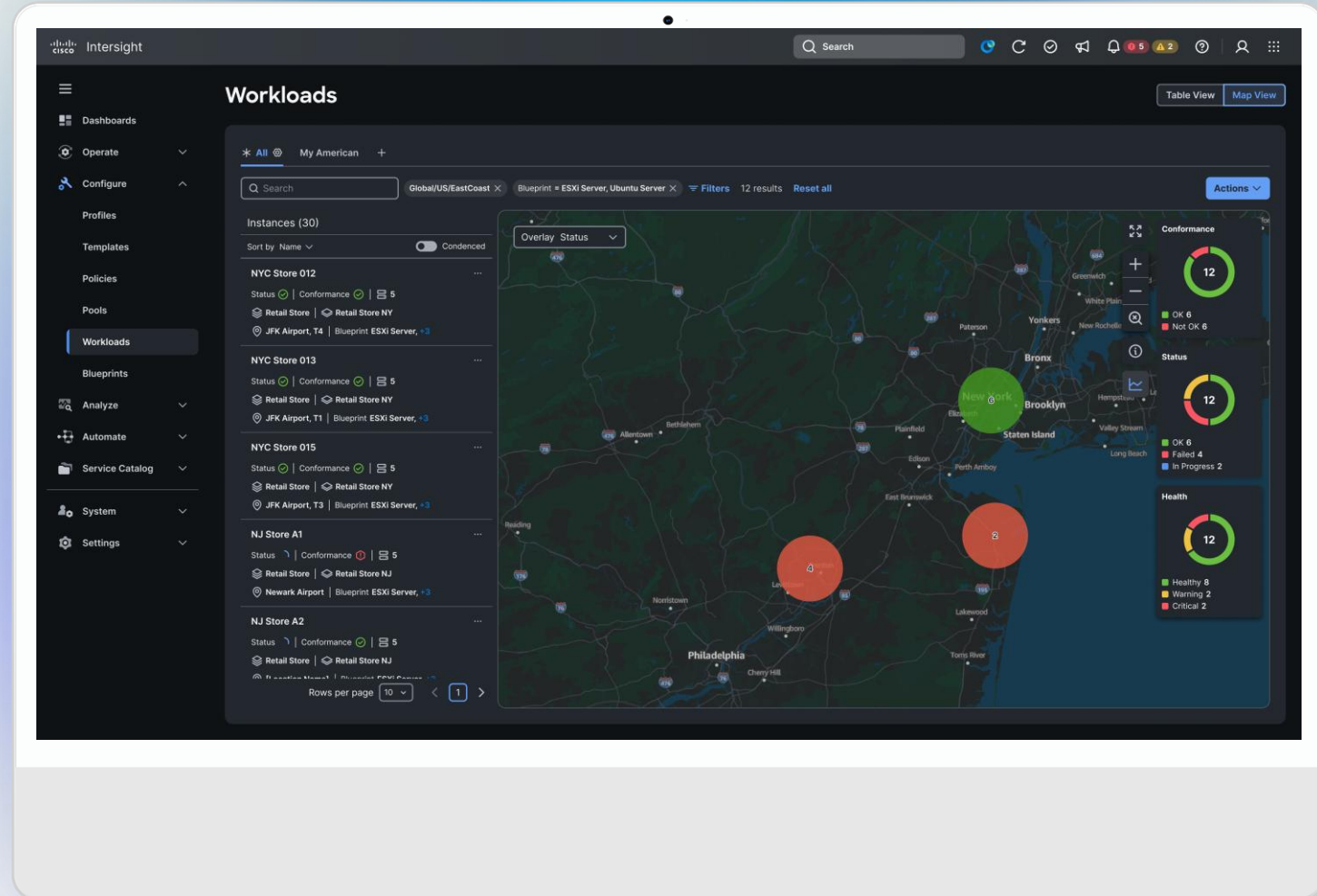
Simplified onboarding &
Zero-Touch provisioning



Automated lifecycle
management



Global visualization



Deployment Blueprints

Manual setup
and configuration

Applications

GPUs

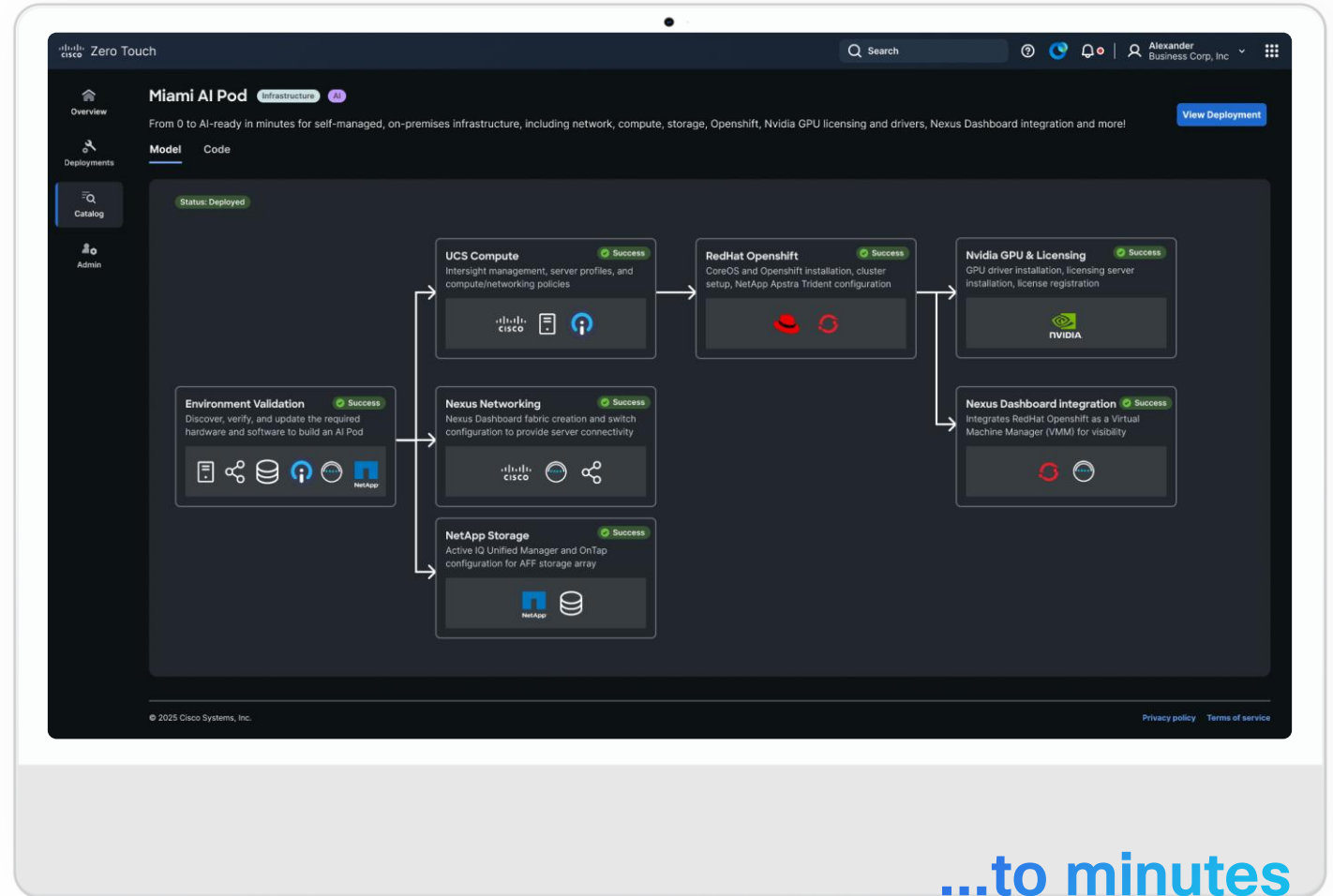
Container
orchestration

Storage

Compute

Network

From weeks...



...to minutes

Integrate, extend, and orchestrate

Unified operating model

Intersight API

Seamless integration with popular tools like Ansible and Terraform

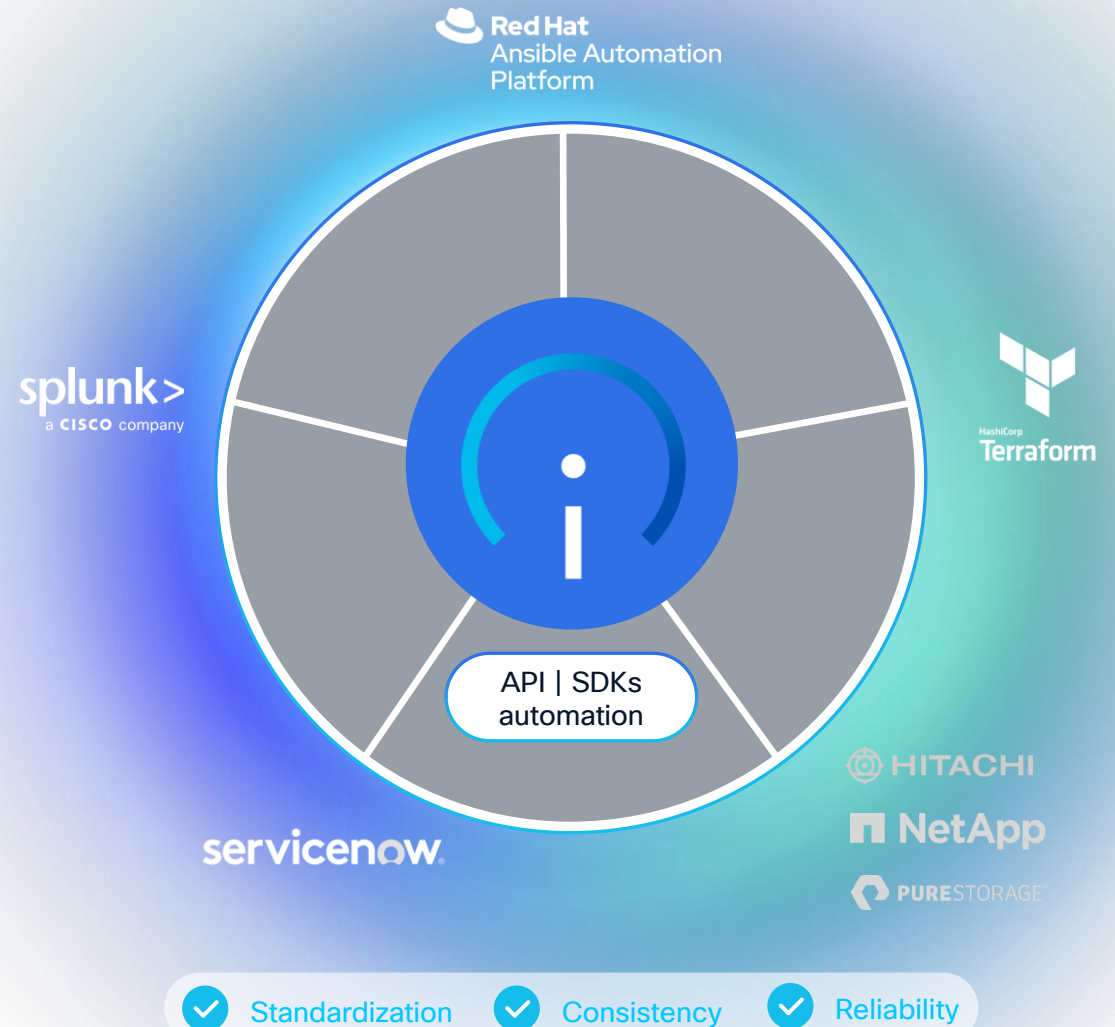
Consistent and repeatable operations across environments

Third-party integration

Storage plugins: automate management and orchestration

Standardize deployments and configuration management

ServiceNow integration for automated incident management

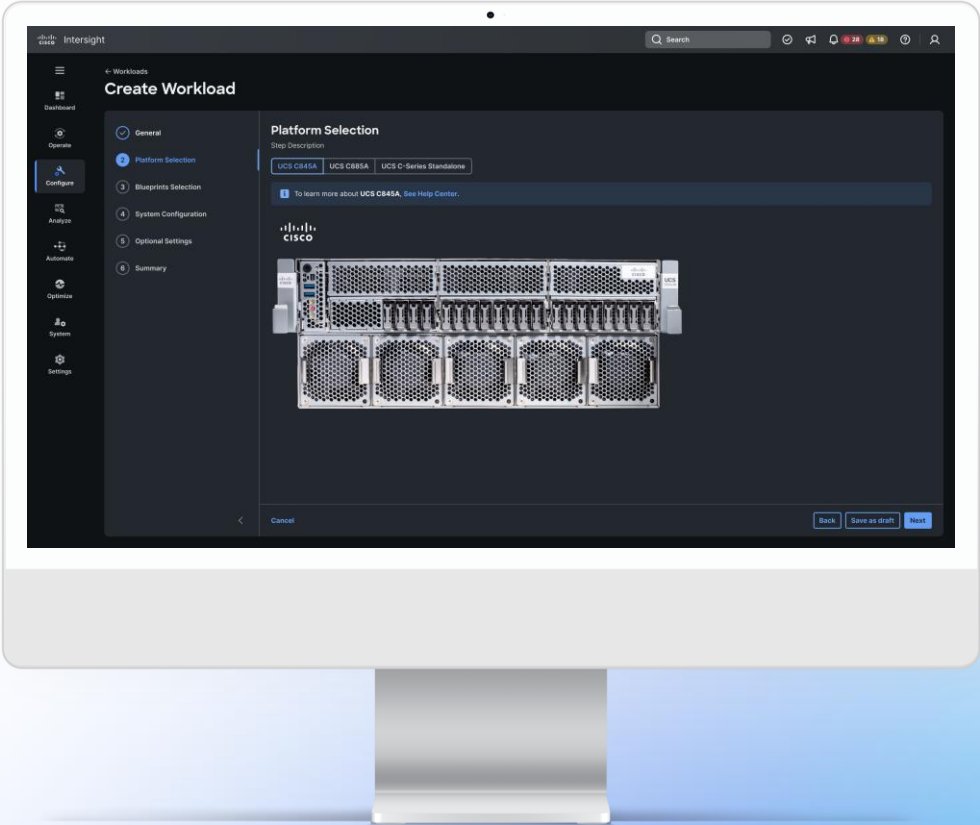


Powered by AI, for AI

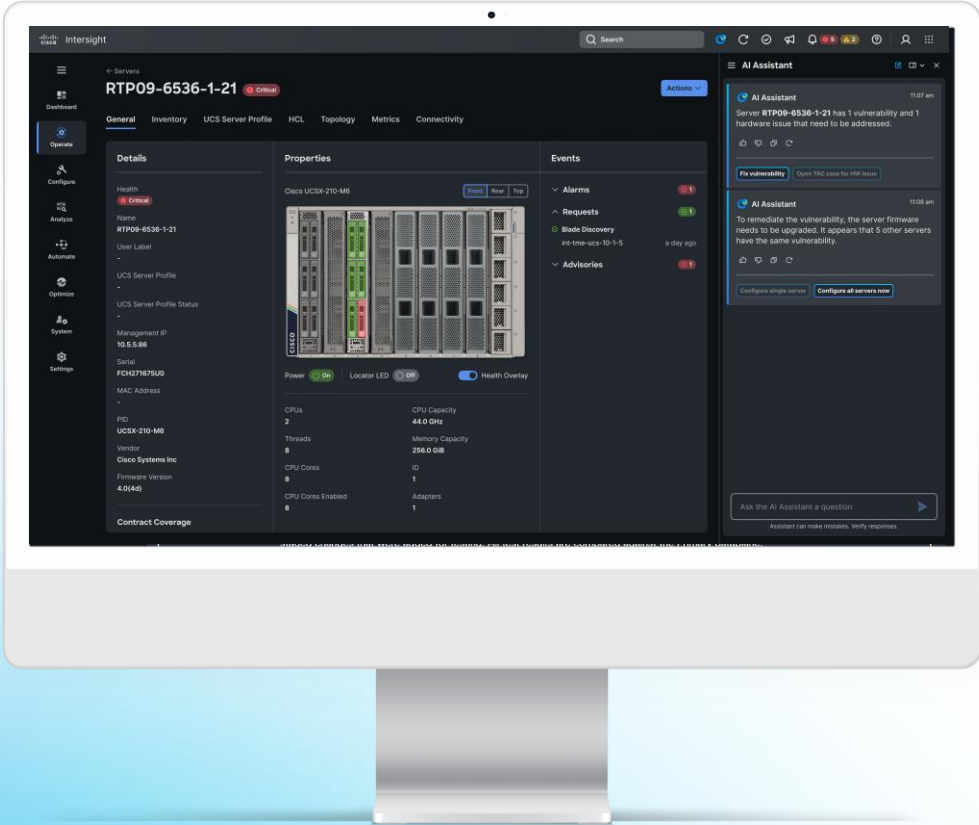
GPU Support

Coming

AI Assistant



AI outside



AI inside

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Earn up to 800 points by completing all surveys and climb the Cisco Live Challenge leaderboard.



Level up and earn exclusive prizes!



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Attend the interactive education with Capture the Flag, and Walk-in Labs



Visit the On-Demand Library for more sessions at www.CiscoLive.com/on-demand

Contact me at: grscarle@cisco.com / Webex Teams

The Cisco Live! logo is positioned on the right side of a white rectangular area. It consists of the word "CISCO" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the word "Live" in a lighter, black, sans-serif font, and a large black exclamation mark. The background of the slide features a dynamic pattern of blue and white wavy lines, with a thin, multi-colored arc (yellow, orange, and pink) visible in the upper right corner.

CISCO Live !

