

CISCO ACI IS KEY TO IAAS SCALABILITY



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Infrastructure-as-a-service provider Sungard AS uses Cisco ACI to drive agility for cloud offerings.

One of the unique aspects of the Cisco® Application Centric Infrastructure (Cisco ACI™) deployment being undertaken by Sungard® Availability Services™ (Sungard AS), a Cisco Powered™ cloud and managed services provider, is that its very business model relies on the provisioning of applications.

The company's cloud engineering team, which provides infrastructure as a service (IaaS) to its customers, is currently undergoing a platform refresh. Cisco ACI's ability to scale caught the attention of Nik Weidenbacher, senior director of cloud engineering at Sungard AS.

ABILITY TO SCALE

"Having a 40-gig leap in spine architecture is huge for us. When our sales team brings a new customer to us, we don't know in advance what those workloads are going to be. So the ability to scale and grow as our customers' workloads grow and we get new customers is a big advantage," he says.

"ACI supports concurrency in a multi-tenant environment, so our customers can deploy apps any time and ACI handles them simultaneously. I haven't seen that in other architectures," Weidenbacher adds.

Agility and speed were also big selling features, says Simon Withers, vice president of IaaS management at Sungard AS. "We're better able to facilitate rapid systems integration and customization for network services, monitoring, management, and orchestration, delivering flexibility and availability to our customers," he says.

Sungard AS needed automation features to help facilitate improved self service, Weidenbacher says.

"We have a self-service provisioning feature on our platform, so customers using the web portal can create their environments on the fly at any time. So we need to be able to support that seamlessly."

OPEN TO OPENNESS

Weidenbacher lauds the openness of the architecture, which seamlessly integrates into the company's orchestration system (CloudStack) and delivers automation functionality between the Cisco Application Policy Infrastructure Controller (APIC) and the network infrastructure.

Beyond CloudStack, Withers attests that Cisco ACI will also integrate into other open orchestration systems like OpenStack. "This gives our customers flexibility in choice, features, and functions," he says. "It's a solid foundation to develop holistic architecture capabilities."

LEARN MORE

To learn more about how Sungard AS is using Cisco ACI, [watch the Sungard AS video](#), available on the [Cisco ACI resource page at UnleashingIT.com](#).

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