NCI Design for Cisco

Product Code: CNS-INF-A-WRK-DES-CSCO

At-a-Glance

Stage: Design

The Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure (NCI) Design for Cisco equips IT teams with practical, in-depth guidance to architect robust on-premises NCI clusters on Cisco UCS Infrastructure. It addresses key design considerations such as scalability, integration, functionality, and operational requirements. This engagement is especially valuable during the design phase of a hybrid multicloud journey—particularly for complex environments involving third-party applications and automation.

Related Services

- NCI Cluster Deployment or Expansion for Cisco

Service Scope

Nutanix-certified consultants with deep domain expertise and real-world experience lead a series of collaborative design sessions to define solution requirements and desired business outcomes. These sessions engage key customer stakeholders from architecture, virtualization, and networking teams to ensure alignment across all technical domains.

Following the design sessions the consultant delivers a comprehensive Nutanix configuration workbook and design document that captures the conceptual, logical, and physical elements of the solution architecture—providing a clear blueprint for successful implementation.

Starter Edition

The Starter Edition includes the following activities:

- Gather and document solution requirements, constraints, assumptions, dependencies, and decisions in a series of design sessions
- Develop NCI architecture, including interoperability, security, and scalability for future growth
- Define integration with Active Directory (AD)/LDAP and IPAM/DNS environments
- Develop on-premises NCI cluster design
- Design virtual networking, including integration with the physical network
- Design virtual storage, including container layout and associated storage optimization features
- Validate cluster sizing based on workload details provided by the customer
- Design management plane and operations dependencies
- Develop a plan for system functional validation testing
- Design security, including data-at-rest encryption, SSL certificate, password complexity, and syslog

Pro Edition

The Pro Edition includes the following activities:

- Gather and document solution requirements, constraints, assumptions, dependencies, and decisions in a series of design sessions
- Develop NCI architecture, including interoperability, security, and scalability for future growth
- Define integration with Active Directory (AD)/lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP) and IP address management (IPAM)/domain name service (DNS) environments
- Develop on-premises NCI cluster design
- Design virtual networking, including integration with the physical network
- Design virtual storage, including container layout and associated storage optimization features
- Validate cluster sizing based on workload details provided by the customer
- Plan Controller Virtual Machine (CVM) and AHV security hardening and compliance as per the *Nutanix Security Operations Guide*
- Develop a plan for system functional validation testing
- Design security, including data-at-rest encryption, SSL certificate, password complexity, and syslog

Ultimate Edition

The Ultimate Edition includes the following activities:

- Everything included in the Pro Edition
- Assess the current state of virtualization elements included in the design
- Assess datacenter infrastructure and rack design
- Plan for VM backup and data protection
- Design role-based access control (RBAC) and Nutanix categories/tagging
- Design security and required cloud access controls

Site Design Topology

Each edition supports either single site or multisite disaster recovery (DR) topology design.

Starter Edition

- **Single Site** – Single site design in a single physical site.

Pro and Ultimate Edition

- **Multisite DR** – DR active/active, active/passive, or hub-spoke design configuration
  - Including Flow Virtual Networking VPC configurations spanning multiple locations (Advanced Edition only)
  - Gather recovery point objective (RPO) and recovery time objective (RTO) requirements for workloads, including DR and replication considerations

Project Management

Nutanix Project Management (PM) oversees Nutanix resources and aligns execution with your goals, scope, and timelines.

Core project management activities may include the following:

- Serve as a single point of contact for all project communication

- End-to-end Nutanix resource management
- Coordinate change window(s) and implementation schedules with customer
- Track and facilitate readiness and prerequisite completion
- Conduct project kickoff/technical readiness meeting(s)
- Integrate customer resources into the high-level project timeline
- Send status update(s)
- Manage timeline(s)
- Deliver created artifacts to the customer
- Facilitate project closeout activities

Limitations

- Limited to general virtualization. Workload-specific designs are available, including:
  - NKP Design
  - NAI Design
- Excludes detailed migration planning.

  Note: Detailed planning, including migration wave planning, is available as part of *Virtual Machine Migration Planning*.
- Excludes design for Cisco Intersight and Cisco UCS Fabric Interconnects
- Excludes design for Nutanix Service Provider Central

Starter Edition

- For each quantity purchased, design is limited to a single production environment at one physical site.

Pro and Ultimate Editions

- For each quantity purchased, design is limited to a single production environment spanning multiple physical sites.
- Design is limited to 2 distinct site patterns, though multiple instances of each pattern can be deployed (common for hub-spoke or branch office architectures)

Supported Hypervisors

- Nutanix AHV
- VMware ESXi

Project Management

- Excludes scheduling customer resources and activities
- Excludes detailed project plan (schedule) development and management
- Excludes responsibility for creating, managing, or delivering change management communications

Prerequisites

- None

Related Product Licenses

- None

Delivered Artifacts

Delivered Artifacts will be provided in English only. Delivery in additional languages must be mutually agreed upon in writing by both parties in advance and may be subject to additional fees.

Delivered Artifact	Description
Design Document	Captures the customer's solution architecture based on design session outcomes, detailing both high-level and low-level designs. It documents requirements, constraints, assumptions, and risks, and provides clear rationale for design decisions to ensure the solution meets performance, availability, scalability, and other critical objectives.
Configuration Workbook	Captures all required configuration settings and decisions gathered during the design session to support accurate and consistent solution deployment.

Level of Effort

Site Topology/ Documentation Type	Starter	Pro	Ultimate
Single Site Workshop Documentation	Typically up to 3 days	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Single-Site Standard Documentation	Typically up to 5 days	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Multisite DR Workshop Documentation	Not Applicable	Typically up to 6 days	Not Applicable
Multisite DR Standard Documentation	Not Applicable	Typically up to 9 days	Typically up to 14 days

Delivery Type

Delivery Type	Delivery Activities
In-person	• In-person design session • Virtual documentation • Virtual project management Note: Any in-person project management activities provided solely at Nutanix's discretion

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Related Products

- Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure (NCI)

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