

# Deliver Cloud-Like Services and Simplify Management

FlexPod with Cisco Intersight

**Imagine having policy-based management of your virtualized, containerized, and bare-metal workloads. Imagine setting up standards for operation once and knowing your premier infrastructure solution, FlexPod, is always in compliance with those standards. Now you can with the Cisco Intersight™ cloud operations platform managing your FlexPod® systems.**

In 2020 Cisco and Netapp celebrated 10 years of a long and strong partnership that has created this industry-leading infrastructure. Over that period, we have delivered proven results with a vast library of Cisco® Validated Designs, Cisco and NetApp® reference architectures, and customer case studies.

FlexPod is the foundation for your future—and integrating NetApp ONTAP® data management software with Cisco Intersight makes it easier than ever to manage your infrastructure and application lifecycles.

## Simplify infrastructure management

- Deliver cloud-like services to your line-of-business clients
- Simplified management with policy-based, consolidated lifecycle management
- Use industry-leading FlexPod infrastructure

## Cisco Intersight meets FlexPod

Cisco Intersight is a lifecycle management platform for your FlexPod infrastructure, regardless of where it resides. Enterprise data center, edge, remote and branch office, retail, and industrial sites—all present unique challenges that have typically required different management tools for different locations. Cisco Intersight unifies and simplifies your experience of the Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®) and now FlexPod infrastructure with NetApp storage.

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**We believe that managing your entire infrastructure stack should be easy and automated so you can get on with business.**

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## Support your application lifecycle

Cisco Intersight moves the control plane from the network into the cloud. Now you can manage your application infrastructure based on FlexPod wherever it resides through a single interface. It enables you to create workflows that automate your application infrastructure deployment and decommissioning, whether virtualized, containerized, or bare metal. Intersight delivers:

- Cloud-like global management with frequent updates that don't impede your operations
- Proactive guidance that provides notifications, insights, and actionable intelligence to ease operations
- Security service for secure connection and data access



Cisco Intersight software delivers a new level of cloud-powered intelligence that supports full lifecycle management for your FlexPod infrastructure with continuous improvement (Figure 1). Intersight lifecycle management enables you to:

- **Simplify and unify** operations with secure cloud-delivered management
- **Transform with AIOps** to continuously assure application performance, reduce cost, and mitigate risk
- **Accelerate service delivery** and enable developers with an open framework

The result: A single management tool that enables consistent storage policies and deployments that meet the standards you set for your data center.

### Solution architecture

Cisco Intersight manages the server and storage components of your FlexPod with a single interface for unified infrastructure lifecycle management. Intersight provides unlimited policy scale to meet the needs of your stakeholders fast. Intersight integration with NetApp Active IQ Unified Manager (AIQUM) brings NetApp ONTAP data storage into your scope of automated operations (Figure 2).

## What you gain

- Unified infrastructure management
- Accelerated deployment times from days to hours
- Infinite policy scale
- Continuous monitoring and improvement
- Self-healing to improve efficiency of end-to-end lifecycle management
- Automation to keep up with the fast pace of change
- Reduced complexity
- Simplified daily operations with end-to-end automation
- New insights with full-stack observability
- Streamlined lifecycle management of your application infrastructure
- Reduced risk with Cisco Validated Designs and reference architectures from Cisco and NetApp

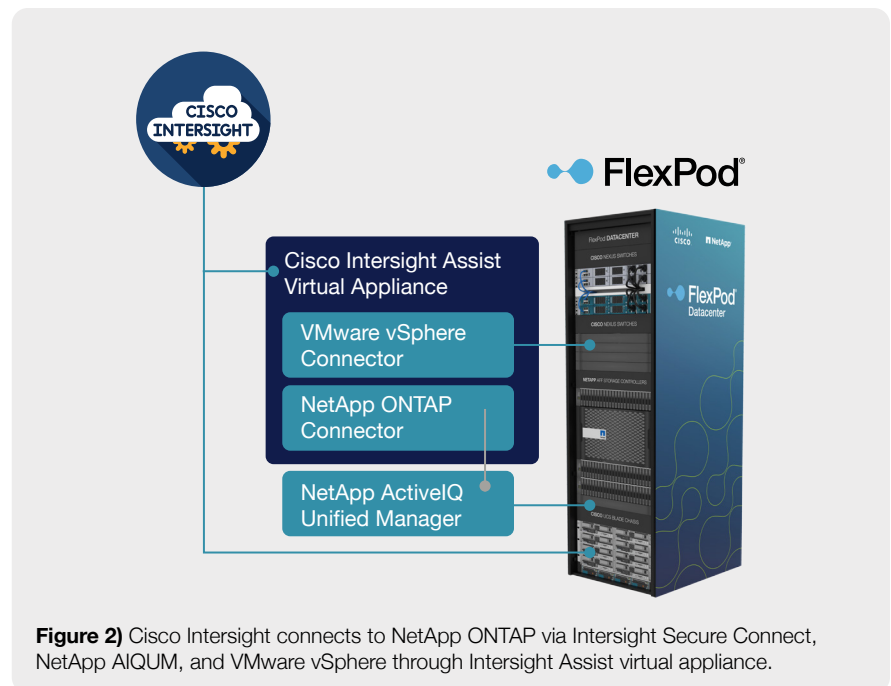
## Server integration with Intersight Managed Mode

With the fabric interconnects set to Intersight Managed Mode (IMM) your entire Cisco UCS infrastructure—blade and rack servers—can be managed from Intersight either in the cloud or on premises. Intersight Secure Connect technology reaches to the fabric interconnects with an encrypted connection as safe as a physically separate management network.

With this capability your entire FlexPod computing infrastructure, can be managed, including fabric interconnect configuration

policies. This makes it easy to replicate FlexPod instances with consistent fabric interconnect configurations as you scale.

As part of the Intersight Infrastructure Service, it is connected to the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (Cisco TAC). This connection accelerates problem resolution and remediation through automated upload of error logs for rapid root-cause analysis. The NetApp Interoperability Matrix (IMT) is integrated into the Intersight Infrastructure Service with hardware compatibility list (HCL) cross-checks to help you avoid unsupported configurations.



**Figure 2)** Cisco Intersight connects to NetApp ONTAP via Intersight Secure Connect, NetApp AIQUM, and VMware vSphere through Intersight Assist virtual appliance.

## Storage integration with Intersight Assist

Intersight Assist enables Intersight to securely connect to third-party devices, including ONTAP-based NetApp storage, through AIQUM, and services such as VMware vSphere. This delivers operational-level support that unifies the entire infrastructure stack.

## Workflow automation

One of the key benefits of FlexPod with Cisco Intersight is that it supports both predefined and custom workflows. You can create workflows to automate common operations across the entire infrastructure stack. This enables your staff to focus on more strategic and high-level operations rather than repetitive tasks.

The integration includes a whole new set of primitives that you can assemble into workflows using a visual editor. These workflows can perform functions such

as “new virtual machine” that allocate virtual storage, direct the hypervisor to create a new virtual machine, and deploy the new virtual machine with storage attached from a NetApp storage volume. This way these tasks are performed consistently and in compliance with your standards.

## Kubernetes support

Intersight Kubernetes Service enables you to automate deployment of containerized infrastructure to support all of your application developers regardless of whether they are deploying into virtual machines or bare-metal servers. We can deploy in FlexPod or in the cloud, and we can optimize your workloads with the Intersight Optimization Service.

## Take the next step

Contact your Cisco or NetApp sales representative to see how Intersight SaaS can simplify your FlexPod environment.



### Learn More

- [flexpod.com](http://flexpod.com)
- [netapp.com/flexpod](http://netapp.com/flexpod)
- [cisco.com/go/flexpod](http://cisco.com/go/flexpod)
- [cisco.com/go/intersight](http://cisco.com/go/intersight)