



## Executive summary

# Deploy and manage servers more efficiently with HPE Synergy

## HPE Synergy composable infrastructure requires fewer steps and less time than Cisco UCS

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) has gained enormous popularity because of the ease and speed with which it lets companies deploy and manage compute modules to perform their varied workloads. HPE Synergy facilitates IaaS in your company's private datacenter—its composable infrastructure provides fluid pools of resources that administrators control using software, letting your company respond to changing business needs with great agility.

Principled Technologies (PT) used HPE Synergy and Cisco<sup>®</sup> UCS<sup>®</sup> to execute four typical datacenter deployment and management scenarios. We found that thanks to the HPE Synergy Composer and HPE Synergy Image Streamer, two key components of the HPE Synergy solution, PT technicians could carry out all four scenarios in less time and fewer steps than they could using the Cisco solution. For two scenarios, the HPE Synergy approach also required fewer tools.

Whether you use it for some of your workloads or all of them, HPE Synergy has the potential to boost the efficiency of your IT staff and the agility of your datacenter—both of which can help your business.



Faster

up to **63%**  
less time needed



Simpler

up to **88%**  
fewer steps needed



Less complex

fewer management tools

## The advantages of HPE Synergy composable infrastructure

Organizations require datacenters that allow them to make real-time decisions and implement new strategies quickly. HPE Synergy offers a distinct business advantage: the ability to quickly deploy resources and shuffle them as demand changes.

HPE Synergy is a composable infrastructure that lets administrators control fluid pools of datacenter resources via an easy-to-use console. Instead of having to physically configure hardware components, IT staff can take advantage of an infrastructure-as-a-service model, using software to control compute, storage, and networking resources.

### Head to head: HPE Synergy vs. Cisco UCS

Datacenter administrators spend some of their time every day completing repetitive deployment and maintenance tasks. The less time and effort they spend on those tasks, the more they can devote to complex tasks that add value to the company. At PT, we measured the ease and speed of executing four typical deployment and management scenarios using HPE Synergy and Cisco UCS. HPE Synergy consistently allowed our administrators to spend less time and fewer steps on this everyday work.

HPE Synergy made it easier to deploy a server, requiring less than half the steps and saving 22 minutes compared to using Cisco UCS, thanks to HPE Synergy Composer and HPE Image Streamer. That's a significant time savings for deploying a single server, and the savings grow dramatically in a large datacenter where administrators deploy hundreds of servers.

When we tried installing firmware and applying OS patches, Cisco UCS required us to spend extra time and steps to apply some firmware updates separately. HPE Synergy Composer leverages familiar enterprise management components, so we needed only 10.5 minutes and four steps to complete the task, saving us over 15 minutes and 12 steps compared to Cisco UCS.

Use case	Savings with HPE Synergy			
	Time savings (min.)	Percentage savings	Step savings	Percentage savings
1. Deploying a server	22.6	63.0%	8.0	53.3%
2. Installing firmware updates and applying OS patches	16.2	60.7%	12.0	75.0%
3. Deploying VMware vSAN on an existing three-node cluster	28.2	63.5%	35.0	55.6%
4. Enabling boot from SAN	4.5	31.5%	31.0	88.6%
<b>Total savings in minutes and steps</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>59.0%</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>66.7%</b>

When deploying VMware vSAN™ on an existing three-node cluster, HPE Synergy again saved time and effort—over 28 minutes and 35 steps. HPE Synergy Composer allowed us to easily provision and add storage to an existing node, saving time and effort compared to Cisco UCS, which does not provide in-chassis JBOD storage.

Enabling boot from SAN was also easier and faster with HPE Synergy than Cisco UCS because Synergy Composer enables the rapid provisioning and deployment of bootable SAN volumes and handles all SAN fabric zoning tasks. HPE Synergy let us complete this task in four steps and less than 10 minutes in a single admin tool, while Cisco UCS required more than 14 minutes and 35 steps across three separate admin tools.

Across all four scenarios, HPE Synergy saved 71.5 minutes and 86 steps and used four fewer tools compared to Cisco UCS. In large datacenters, these savings grow quickly. By helping you save time and effort on repetitive tasks, HPE Synergy can increase the agility of your datacenter and the efficiency of your IT staff, thus contributing to your business' success.

Read the full report at <http://facts.pt/JvTFrq> ▶



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