



## What Is the Cisco Data Center Assurance Program for Applications?

The Cisco® Data Center Assurance Program (DCAP) is a transparent, extensive, and on-going solution-level testing program that allows customers to design, implement, and operate a data center network infrastructure. As part of the Cisco Validated Design program, the Cisco DCAP program provides multiple levels of design guidance, including:

- **Cisco Validated Design Guides:** These guides identify a system that has been validated through architectural review and proof-of-concept testing.
- **Cisco Validated Design System Assurance Guides:** These designs identify a system that has undergone extensive architectural and customer-relevant testing.
- **Cisco Validated Design Application Deployment Guides:** These guides build on the design guides and identify the incremental changes required to optimize the network specifically for applications.

The Cisco DCAP helps customers by providing:

- Improved end-to-end stability and scalability
- Reduced downtime and faster recovery
- Faster deployment and lower risk
- Reduced burden of preproduction testing
- Easier, better Cisco IOS® Software selection
- Faster, reliable technology adoption upgrades

Cisco DCAP for Applications uses the Cisco Validated Design Application Deployment Guides to demonstrate delivery capabilities for specific applications. This program focuses on joint solution testing with application vendors to create solutions guides and Cisco Validated Design Application Deployment Guides.

These guides for application deployment provide information about optimizing:

- Performance
- Reliability
- Security

## Benefits of Cisco DCAP for Applications

Large application rollouts are strategic to business and are heavily invested in by enterprise and midmarket customers.

Through the use of Cisco DCAP for Applications, you can address concerns that arise from different areas of expertise within your IT department:

- Validate a product and solution by the application partners to provide a high level of reassurance for your deployment.
- Understand how the application delivery products you purchase and support will affect the application.
- Understand how the product or solution under consideration accelerates and secures the application, especially if the application vendor has validated the solution.

Although traditional networking companies can point to data center environment testing, only Cisco can demonstrate end-to-end deployment guidance, such as LAN, Layer 2 and 3, security, SAN, load-balancing, and WAN technologies.

You can use the infrastructure Cisco Validated Designs as a foundation and then add the application-specific components. This approach will give you a higher level of confidence when deploying an application within an intelligent network.

This process also gives you reassurance from both the application partners and Cisco that the network is tested, and a joint verified deployment and design criteria for the application has been produced as a result. Testing is performed in conjunction with the application vendor in the Cisco certification labs.

## Cisco DCAP for Applications Portfolio of Testing

Following is a list of application vendors and the associated applications that have been included in the Cisco DCAP for Applications testing process or are currently being tested.

Although most of this testing takes place in the Cisco laboratories, increasingly the work is shifting to partner locations as well, demonstrating increased cooperation between Cisco and the application partners.

- Microsoft
  - Microsoft Exchange (2003 and 2007)
  - Microsoft SharePoint
- IBM
  - IBM WebSphere
  - IBM Lotus Domino Web Access
  - IBM Lotus Notes
- Oracle
  - E-Business Suite 11i and 12i
  - PeopleSoft Enterprise
  - Siebel 8.0
  - Fusion Middleware
- SAP
  - ERP with NetWeaver
- EMC
  - Documentum
- VMware
  - Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)
- BEA
  - BEA WebLogic



## How to Use Cisco DCAP for Applications Documentation

The documents that are produced from this program demonstrate the steps Cisco is taking to help ensure that synergy between an application-aware network and the application itself. Three documents are created as part of this process:

- **Solutions overviews:** Solutions overviews provide direction on how to address the business challenges of application availability, performance, security, and cost of ownership for primary business applications such as those from Oracle, SAP, and Microsoft.
- **Application Solution Guides:** These guides demonstrate how the Cisco Application Delivery Network (ADN) solution addresses these business challenges today and positions your organization to deliver optimal performance for your business applications.
- **Cisco Validated Design Application Deployment Guides:** These guides provide best practices for accelerating application performance and addressing the problem of poor and unpredictable application behavior for crucial business applications. Through comprehensive testing, documentation, and validation, in most cases with the application vendor, Cisco has done the groundwork that will help you configure and successfully deploy an application delivery network while establishing the network as the platform to help you get the most out of all your business applications.
- **Cisco Validated Design Guides:** These guides identify a system that has been validated through architectural review and proof-of-concept testing. Designs at this level, developed by Cisco technical solutions engineers, follow a baseline development methodology and have been approved by engineering, marketing, services, and sales departments to meet the desired criteria. Validated designs are architectural best practices that you

can use to design your own data center networking architectures.

In addition to these documents, you will find case studies and references on partner pages listed below that are particular to the application partner represented on a given page.

## For More Information

- **Cisco Application Networking Services (ANS) solutions:** <http://www.cisco.com/go/optimizemy-app>.
- **Microsoft solutions and information:** <http://www.cisco.com/go/OptimizeMicrosoft>.
- **IBM solutions and information:** <http://www.cisco.com/go/OptimizeIBM>.
- **Oracle solutions and information:** <http://www.cisco.com/go/OptimizeOracle>.
- **SAP solutions and information:** <http://www.cisco.com/go/OptimizeSAP>.