



# Cisco and Splunk: Under the Hood of Cisco IT

Robert Novak, Cisco Big Data Partner CSE

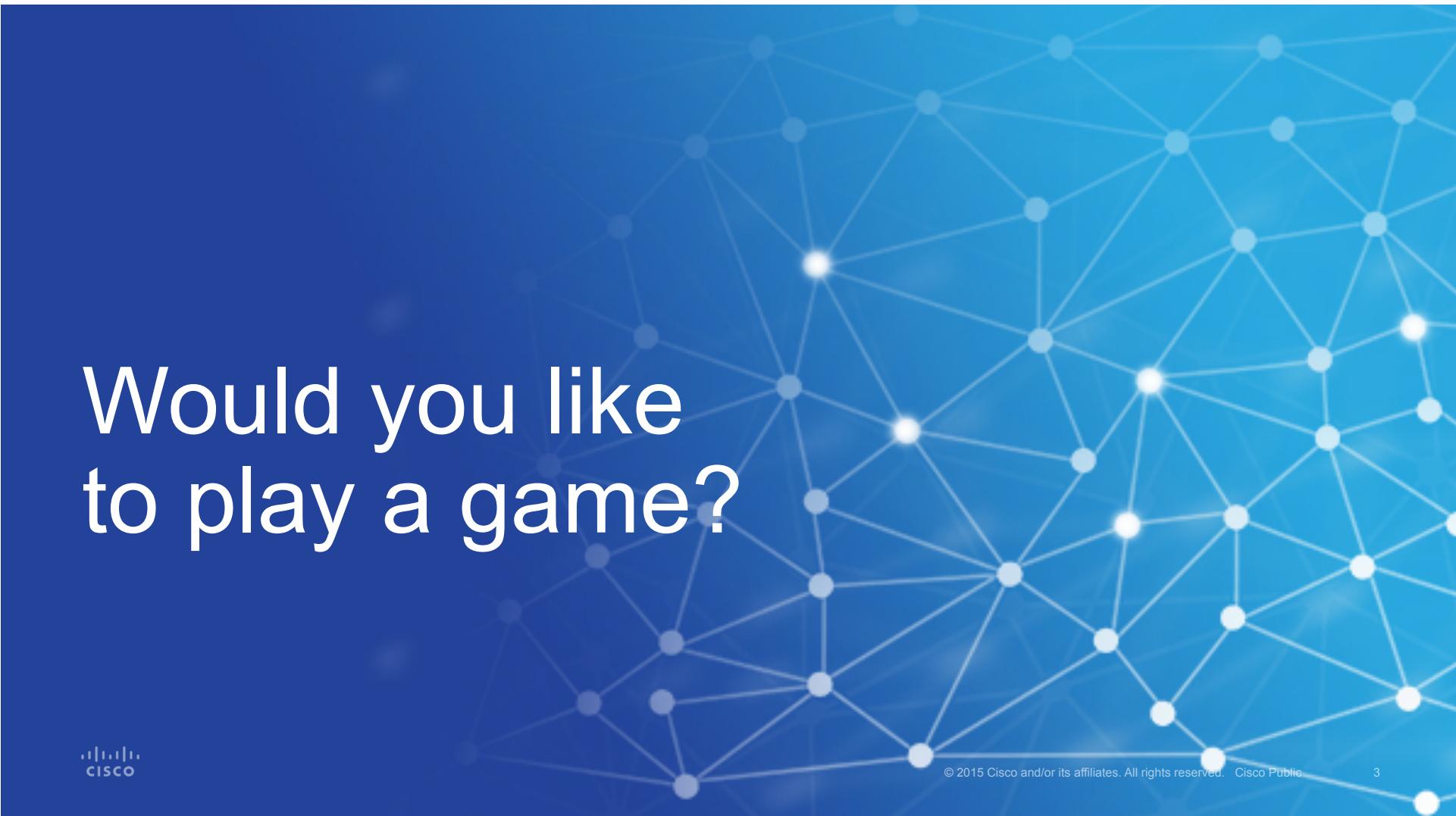
George Lancaster, Engineer, Cisco IT

September 2015

# Agenda

- Cisco's History with Splunk
- How Cisco Uses Splunk
  - IT Operations
  - Security Analytics
- There's an App for that!
- Splunk + Cisco UCS = Better Together
- Learn More



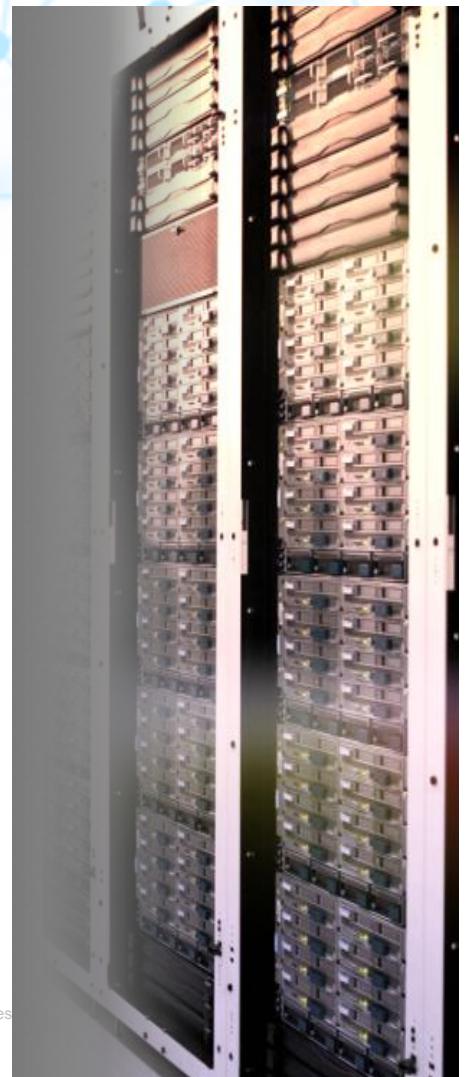


A large, semi-transparent network graph is centered on the slide. It consists of numerous small, light-blue circular nodes connected by thin white lines, forming a complex web of connections against a dark blue background.

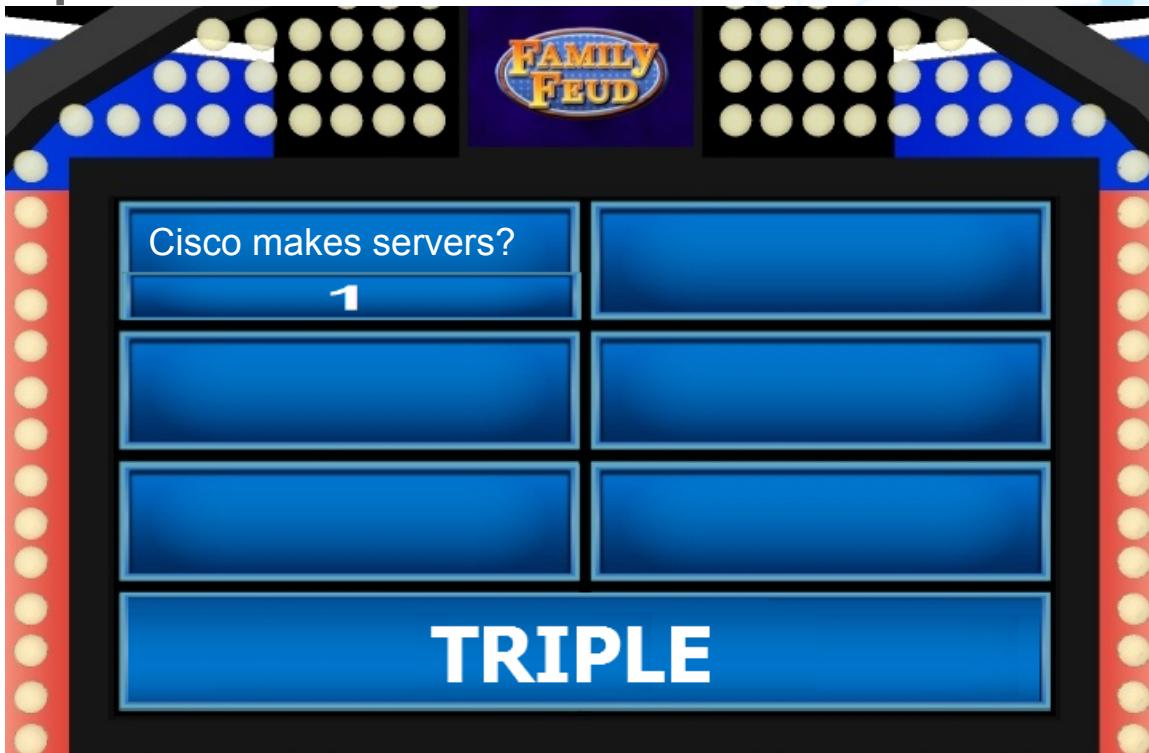
# Would you like to play a game?



# Top 3 Questions



# Top 3 Questions

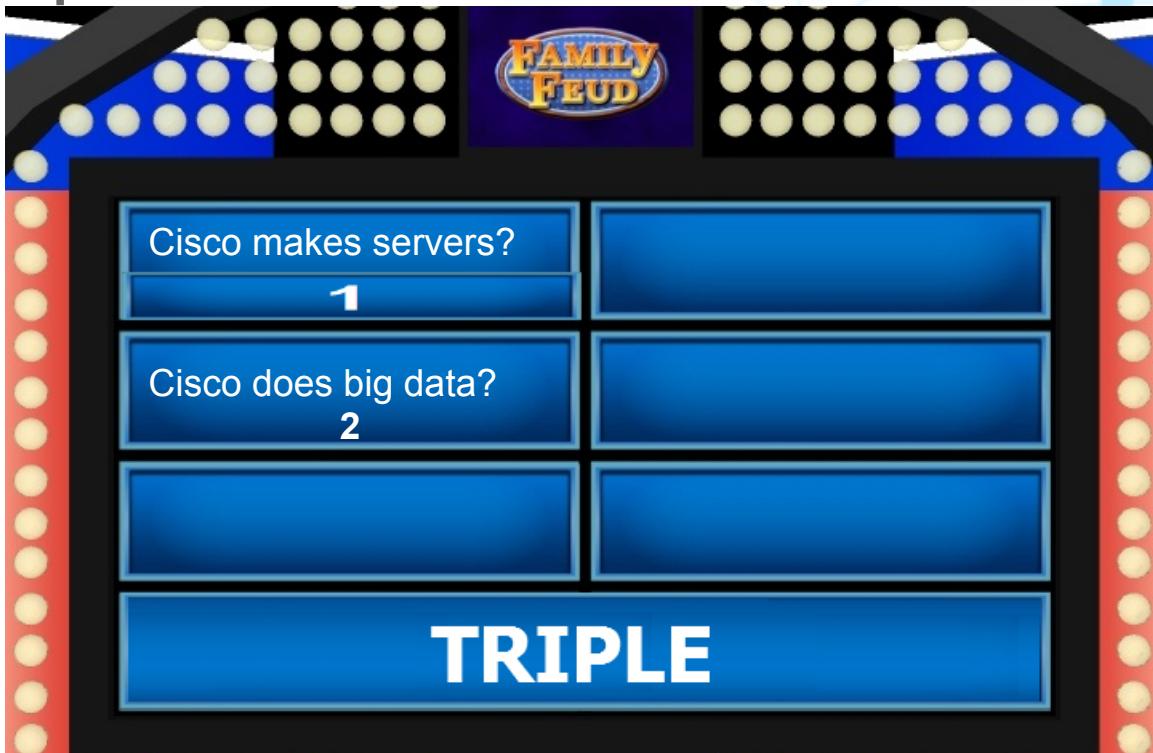


5

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# Top 3 Questions

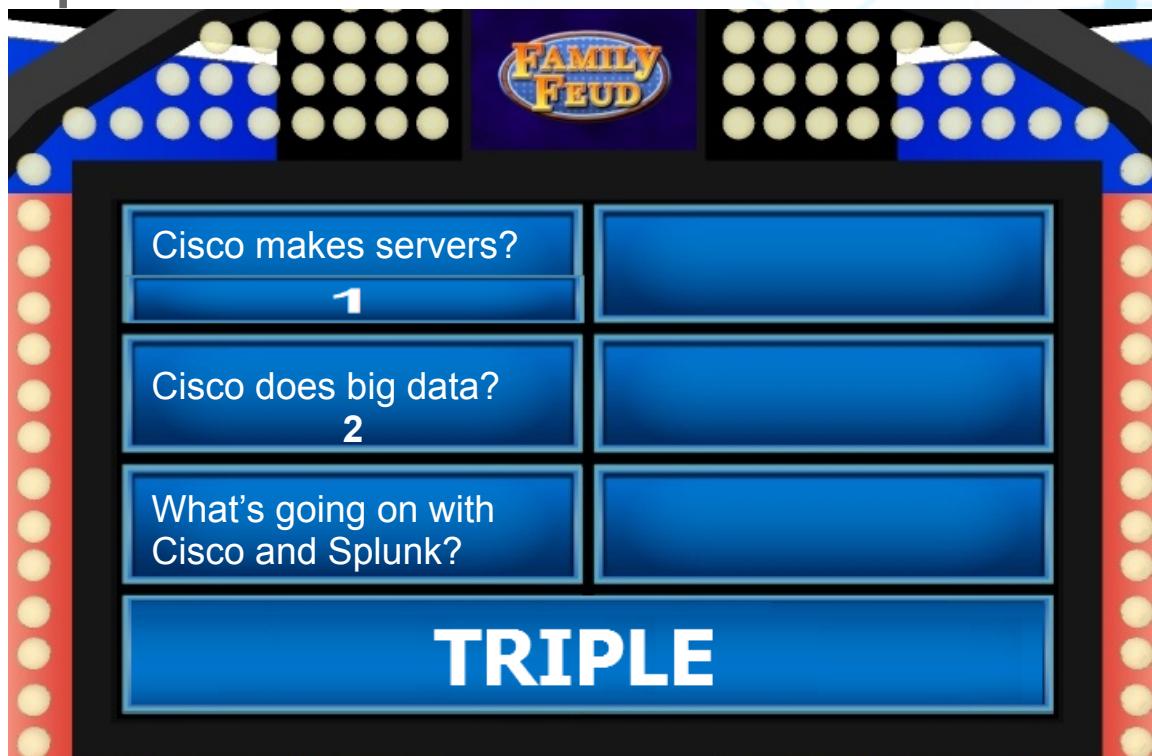


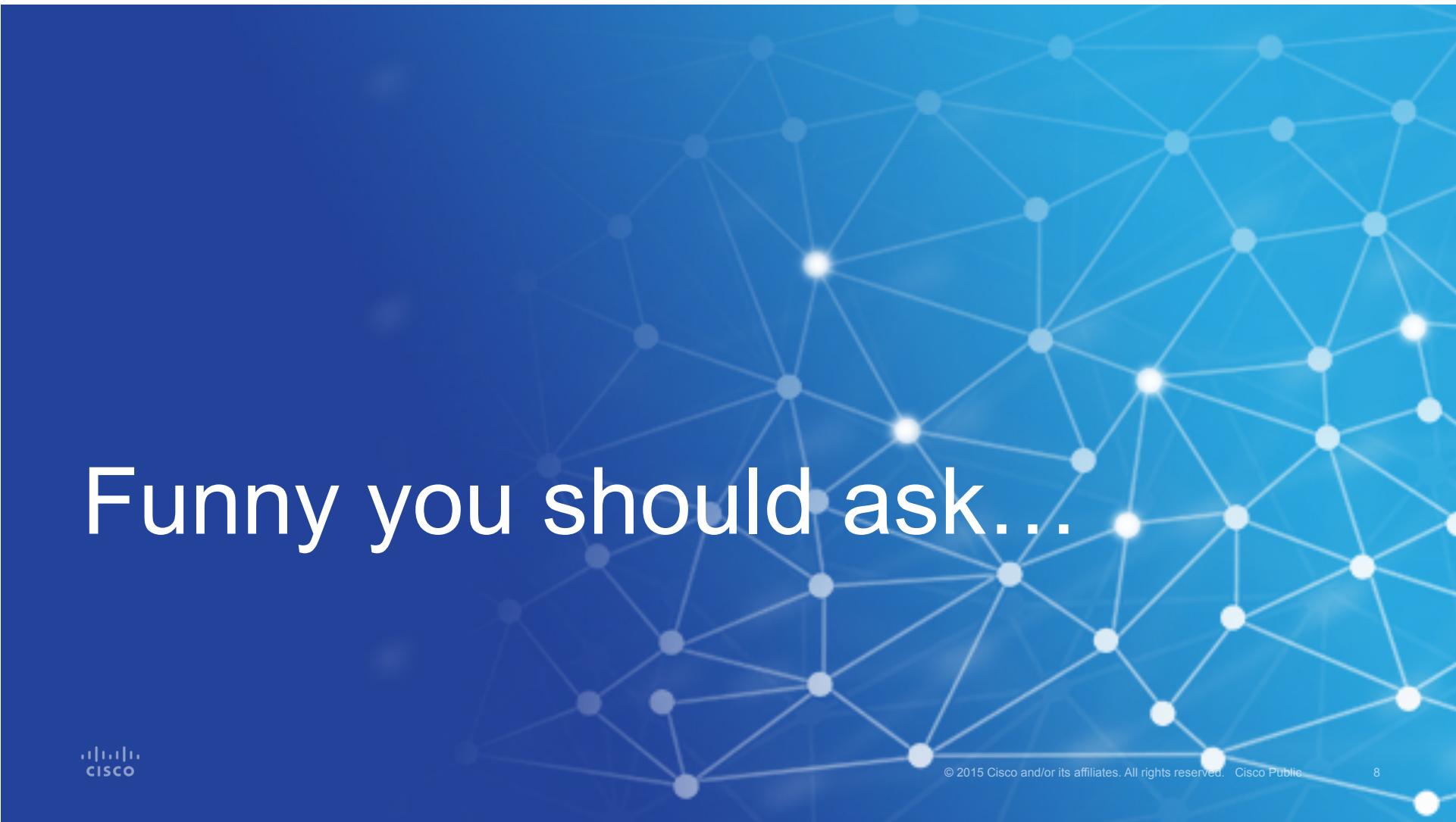
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# Top 3 Questions





# Funny you should ask...

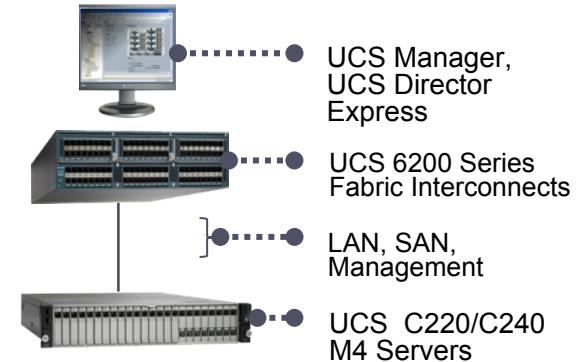


# Big Data & Analytics – Gain Insight from your Data

Data is the lifeblood of any applications and business. While the real value is in the analytics and the ability of a company to use that intelligence to gain a desired business outcome

## Data Analytics with Splunk on Cisco UCS

Splunk drives operational insights and outcomes for our customers on Cisco UCS Infrastructure



# Cisco's Footprint with Splunk



# How Cisco Uses Splunk

Data Analytics with Splunk on  
Cisco UCS for Cisco's IT Operations



# Cisco IT Operations Challenges

1

Provide  
self-service  
& self-  
healing  
capabilities

2

Reduce  
time  
required to  
detect &  
resolve  
issues

3

Monitor,  
manage,  
protect,  
and avoid  
security  
incidents

4

Manage  
Cisco UCS  
Hardware  
Platforms

5

Empower  
Cisco's  
internal  
Cloud users  
to manage  
their own  
environments



# Cisco's IT Operations Results

“Splunk pulls data from all the logs and gives our operations teams a single place to look and work together to solve problems.”

— Piyush Bhargava, Distinguished Engineer, Cisco IT

- ✓ **Proactive monitoring** enables **50% reduction** in high priority issues
- ✓ **80% reduction** in operational costs
- ✓ **90% improvement** in problem resolution and root cause analysis times
- ✓ Improvements in system stability, availability and performance

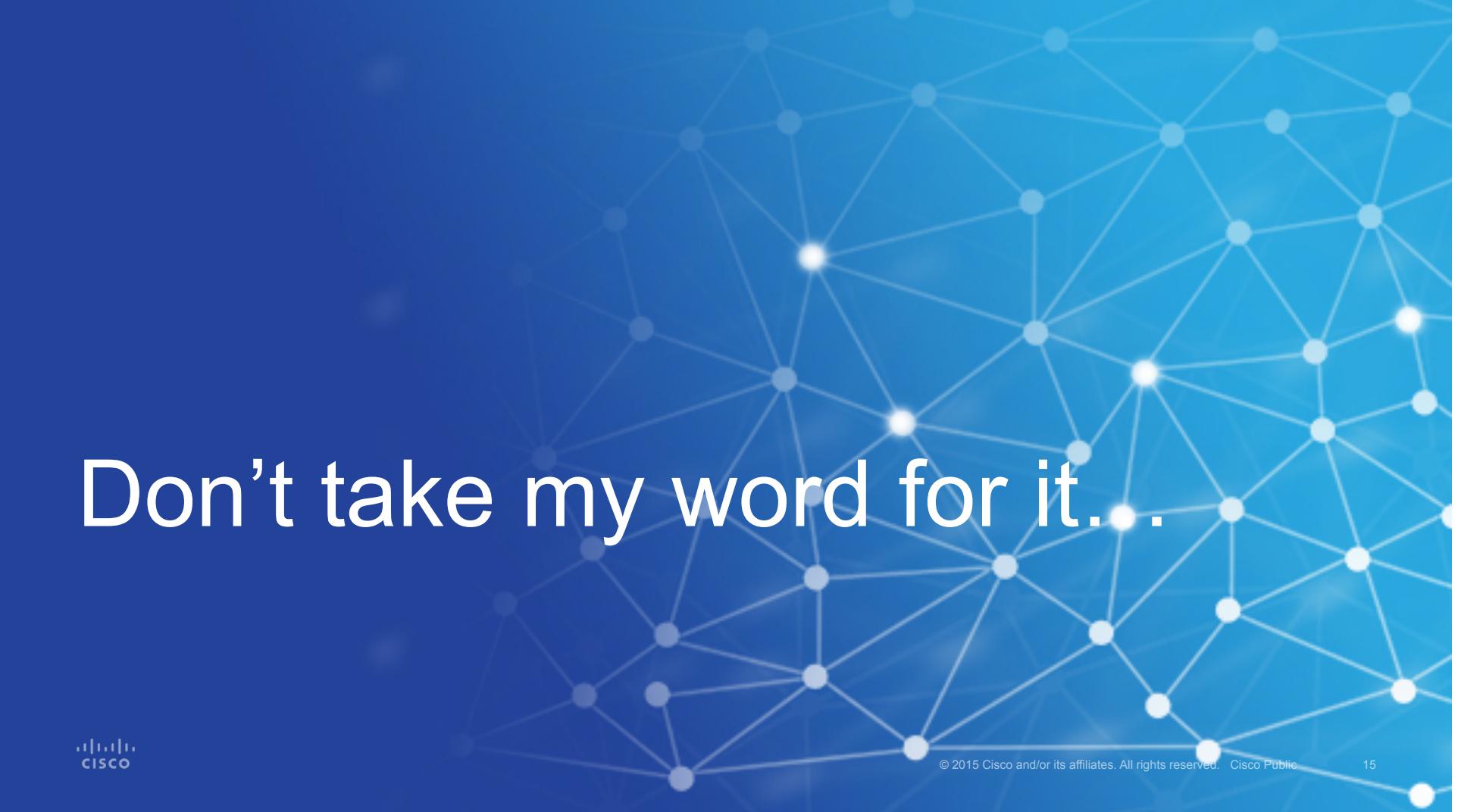


# IT Operations @ Cisco

Cisco IT uses Splunk to index a broad range of system logs and machine data for networking devices, operating systems, unified communications, video events, and applications.

- ✓ Aggregated multiple siloed systems into Splunk
- ✓ Monitoring 70+ Applications
- ✓ 846% increase of search volume per day in one year
- ✓ Operational Intelligence in minutes rather than hours





# Don't take my word for it.



# Cisco's Splunk Environment

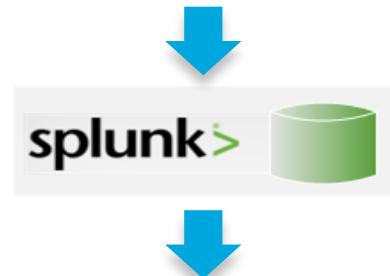


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16

# Insights Across Cisco - Platform

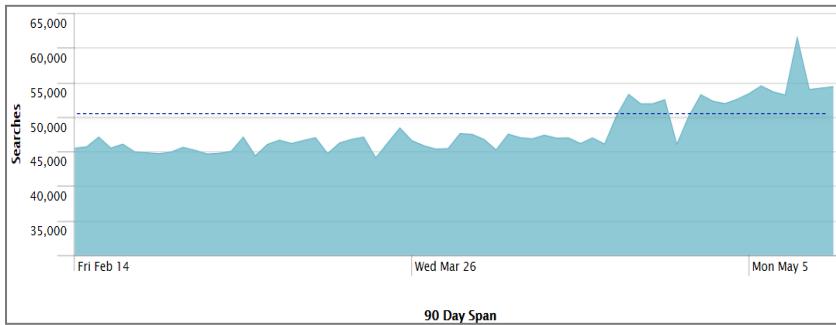
Business Unit	Platform	SPLUNK App	Sources and Logs				
			SYSLOG	Windows	Active Directory	ACS	Storage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infra Structure</li> <li>IT OPS</li> <li>Security</li> <li>Commerce</li> <li>Sales &amp; Marketing</li> <li>Channels</li> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Webex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCIX (web + app)</li> <li>FTP</li> <li>RAC DB</li> <li>WSG</li> <li>PING</li> <li>OBIEE</li> <li>ACE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Splunk on Splunk</li> <li>Deployment Monitor</li> <li>UCS App</li> <li>JMX App</li> <li>Unix App</li> <li>NetApp App</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network</li> <li>Linux / Unix</li> <li>UCS</li> <li>VMWare ESXi</li> <li>Datacenter battery / temperature logs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-Prod Event Logs</li> <li>Production Event Logs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event Logs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event Logs</li> <li>AAA Logs</li> <li>ISE Logs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event Logs</li> </ul>



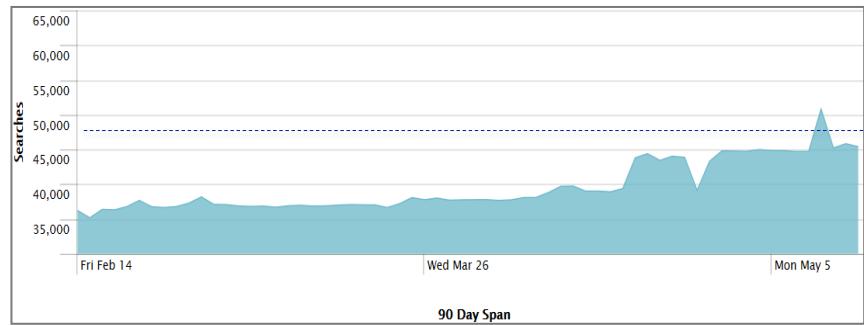
Search Heads	Indexers	Storage	Data Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 VMs (64 core X 32 GB)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 VMs (16 core X 16 GB)</li> <li>70 + Unique Indexes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>56 TB SAN – Hot &amp; Warm</li> <li>28 TB NAS - Cold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prod: RCDN – 8 SH &amp; 10 Indexers</li> <li>Prod: ALLEN – 8 SH &amp; 10 Indexers</li> <li>Dev: RTP – 4 SH &amp; 2 indexers</li> </ul>

# Splunk Searches – Daily Average

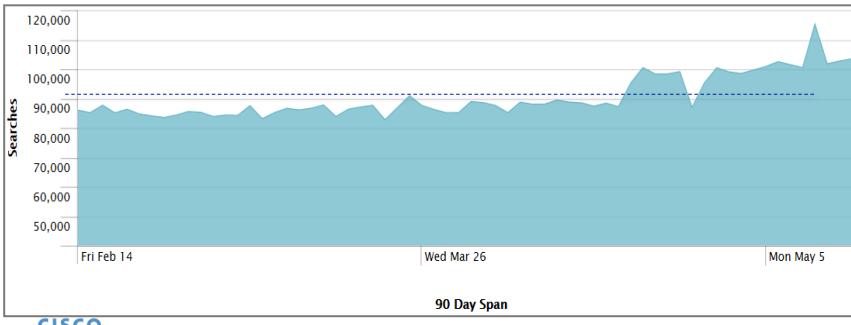
**1. Interactive Searches = 55K+**



**2. Scheduled Searches = 45K+**

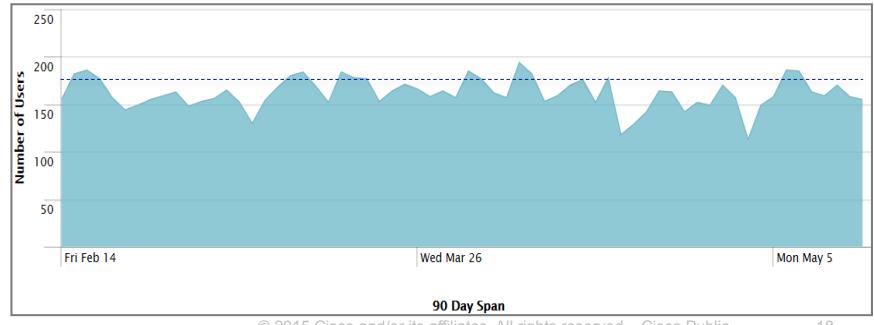


**3. Total Searches = 100K+**



CISCO

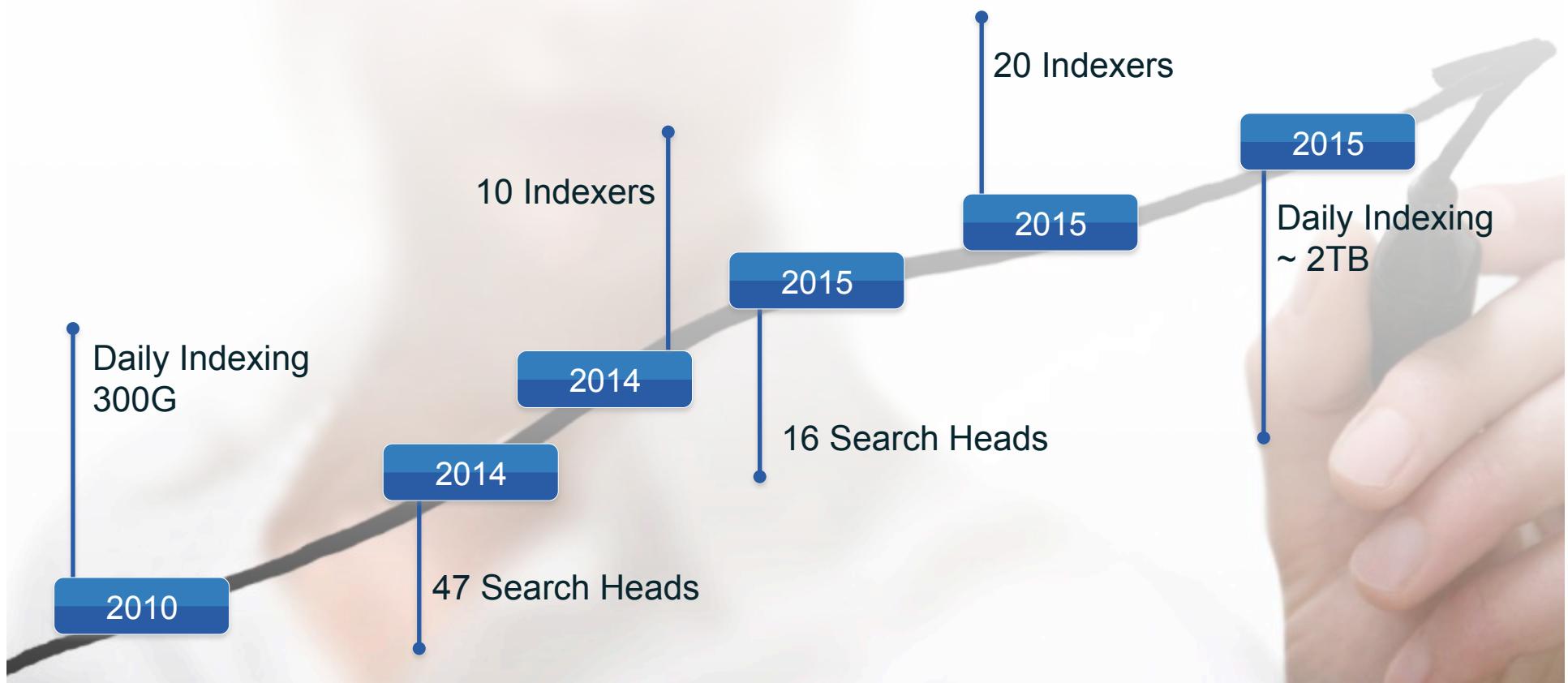
**4. Number of Users = 180+**



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18

# Cisco's IT Operations Evolving with Splunk



## MANAGEMENT TOOLS



## SEARCH HEADS AND SEARCH HEAD POOLS



## INDEXERS



## INTERMEDIATE FORWARDING COMPONENTS



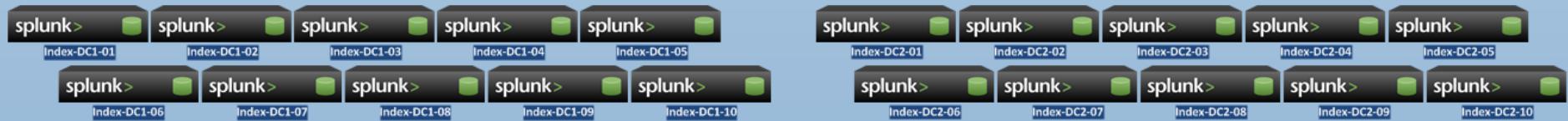
## MANAGEMENT TOOLS



## NEW SEARCH HEAD CLUSTERS



## INDEXERS



## INTERMEDIATE FORWARDING COMPONENTS



# Data Analytics with Splunk on Cisco UCS for Security Analytics Using Splunk @ Cisco CSIRT



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22

# About CSIRT

- Cisco Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)
- CSIRT = Security Monitoring and Incident Response
- Architecture, Engineering, Research, and Investigations
- Enterprise global threat and 24x7 incident response



# CSIRT Environments Recent Snapshot

- ✓ 300 locations in 90 countries
- ✓ 400 buildings
- ✓ 1500+ labs
- ✓ 100,000+ employees on network
- ✓ 50-300 malware-related cases opened in a typical week
- ✓ 650,000+ ip devices on network
- ✓ 130,000 windows hosts
- ✓ 50,000 Linux hosts
- ✓ 40,000 routers
- ✓ 2-3 million highly tuned ids events per day
- ✓ 10+ billion netflow records per day



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24

# Replacing a SIEM @ Cisco



Security  
Information  
and event  
management

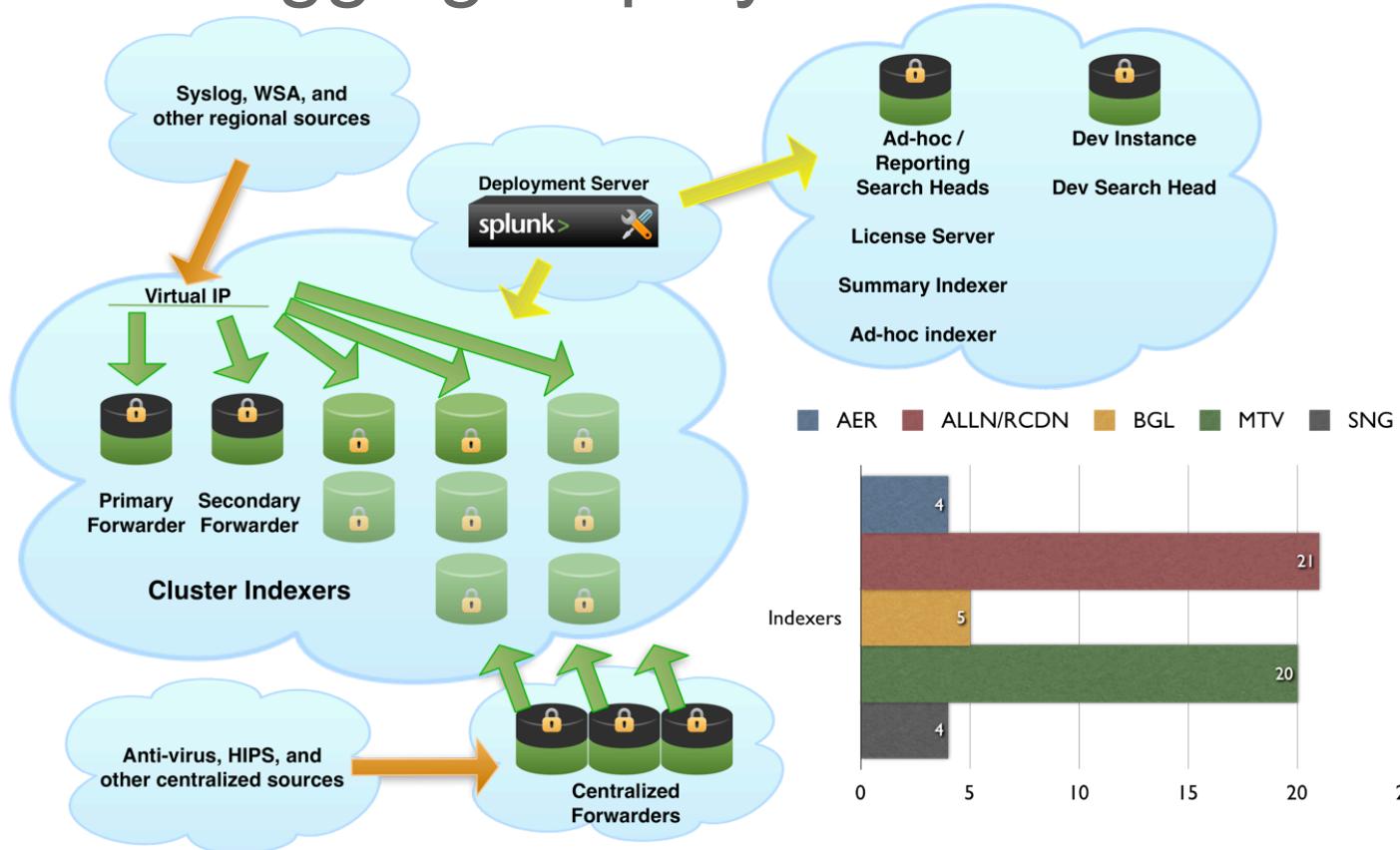
- **Challenges:** SIEM could not meet security needs
  - Very difficult to index non-security or custom app log data
  - Serious scale and speed issues. 10GB/day and searches took > 6 minutes
  - Difficult to customize with reliance on pre-built rules which generated false positives

# Replacing a SIEM @ Cisco, cont'd

- **Enter Splunk: Flexible SIEM and empowered team**
  - Easy to index any type of machine data from any source
  - Over **60 users doing investigations**, correlations, reporting, advanced threat detection
  - All the data + flexible searches and reporting = empowered team
  - 2TB/day and searches take less than a minute. 7 global data centers with 350TB stored data
  - Flashback Malware Example
  - Estimate Splunk is 25% the cost of a traditional SIEM



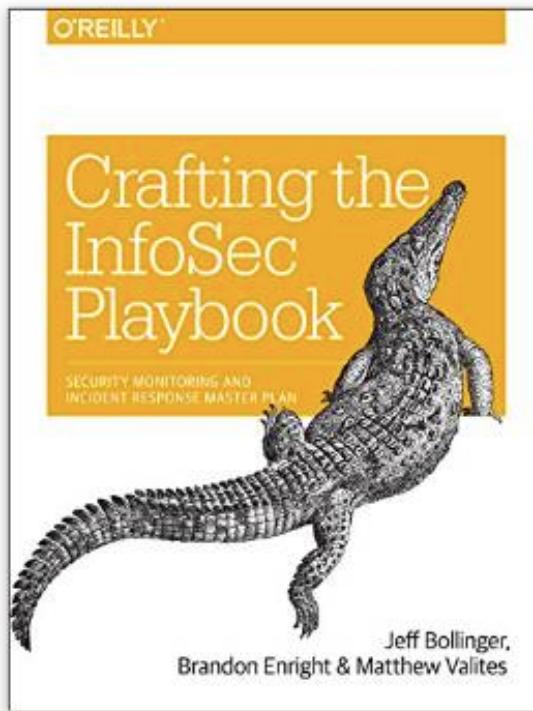
# CSIRT Logging Deployment



# Cisco Security Analytics Results

- 33 percent reduction in the time required to conduct security investigations
- All security data is readily available in a single, centralized portal for faster and simpler access
- Substantially easier correlation allows for more thorough investigations
- Ability to automate routine tasks and search log data allows CSIRT analysts to work more effectively

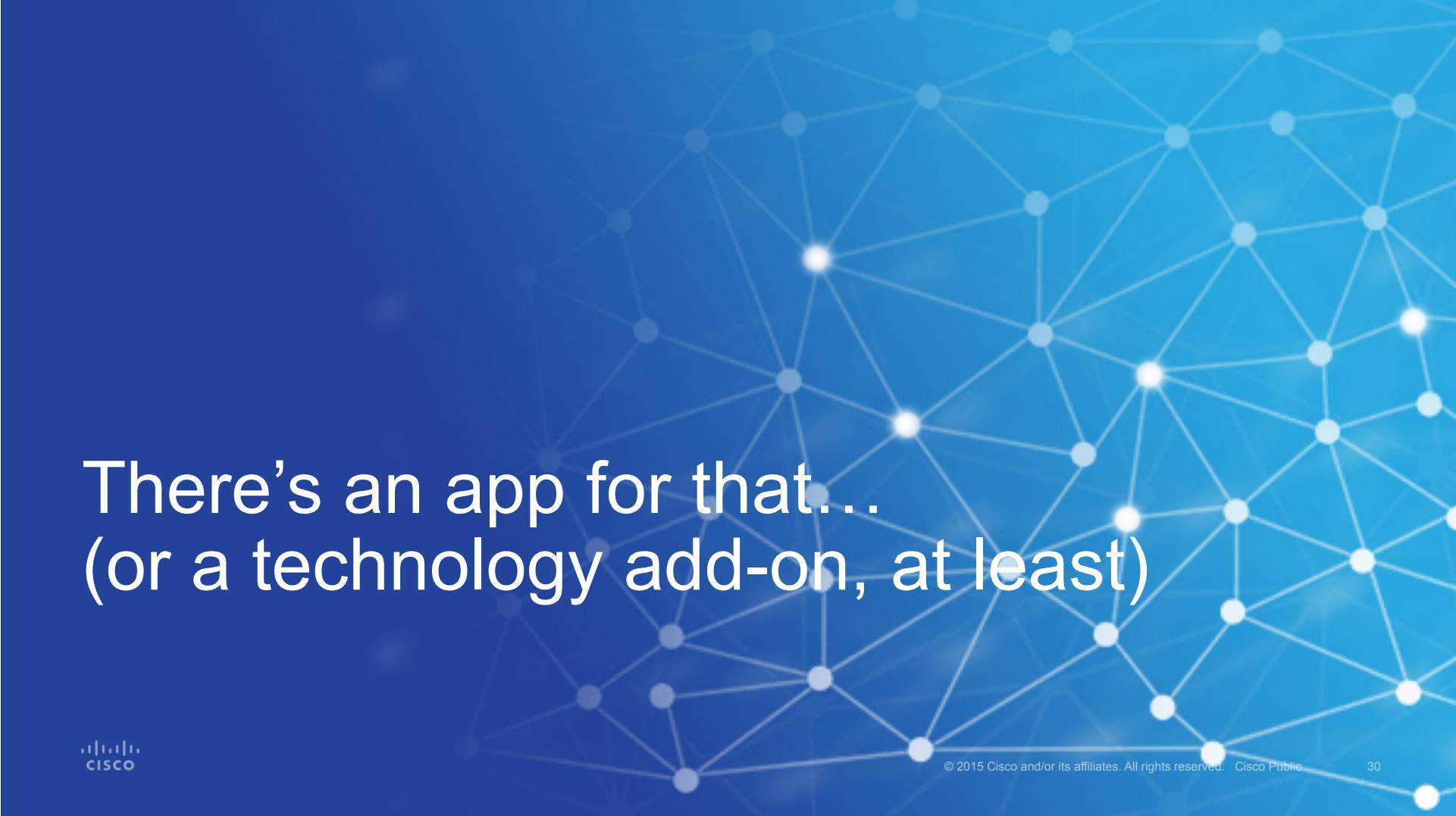
“And they wrote the book ...”



Cisco's CSIRT engineers applied their experiences during the CSIRT deployment to a new O'Reilly book now available at most booksellers

[bitly.com/infosecplaybook](http://bitly.com/infosecplaybook)





There's an app for that...  
(or a technology add-on, at least)



# Splunk Apps for Cisco Environments

**Splunk app for Enterprise Security**



**120+ security apps & add-ons**

	Cisco ASA		MobileIron
	Cisco ESA		OSSEC
	Cisco WSA		NetFlow Logic
	Cisco ISE		Active Directory
	Sourcefire		Bit9 ETD
	Cisco Security Suite		Norse Darklist

**500+ apps/add-ons**

	Cisco ACI, IOS, Nexus 9000
	Cisco UCS
	VMware
	NetApp
	ServiceNow
	UNIX/Linux

**splunk >**



# Splunk App for Cisco UCS

- **NEW AND IMPROVED** as of May 28, 2015
- Aggregates, monitors, trends and analyzes all relevant data from Cisco UCS Manager instances
- Enables proactive capacity and performance monitoring/ management, fault trending, power and cooling, and more
- Works with other Splunk add-ons and data sources (including Enterprise Security and PCI Compliance add-ons) to aggregate and correlate data across your enterprise



# Splunk on Cisco UCS



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33

# What is Cisco's Unified Computing System (UCS)?



Unified Management: UCS Manager uses policy-based configuration to ensure consistent deployments

Unified Fabric: Integrated 10 Gigabit Ethernet and Storage Networking (FCoE/iSCSI)

Service Profiles: Maintain consistency across batches of servers and multiple applications. Deploy and expand in record time.

Performance: Built with 10GbE at the core, 40GbE available, repeatable configurations and performance, and over 100 benchmark records



# Why Splunk on Cisco UCS?



**Time to Deployment:** Spin up a mutually validated, pre-tested environment in minutes rather than days or weeks

**Total Cost of Ownership:** Integrated networking and management reduce customer cost and effort to migrate, deploy, and expand

**Time to Grow:** Expand servers and network capacity quickly and consistently



# Cisco UCS + Splunk = Better Together

## **Seamless Scalability** Facilitates Rapid Growth

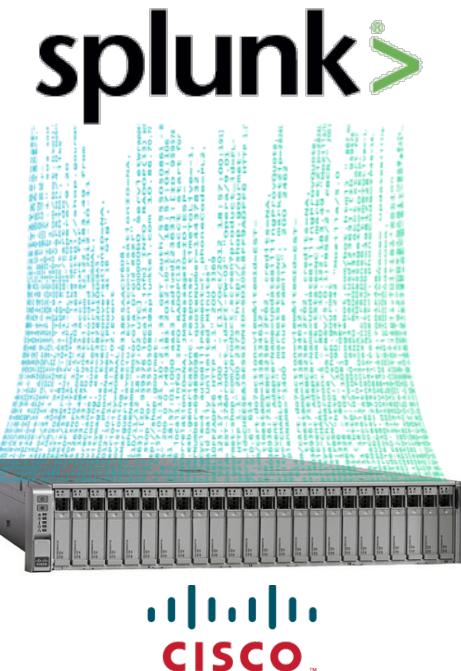
- Scale Splunk from a single server to distributed/clustered deployment
- Grow your clusters efficiently and consistently
- Runs on the same UCS C-Series servers as other big data platforms

## Split Second Response Times

- Exceptional performance for “needle-in-a-haystack” searches
- **Consistent performance** as simultaneous users increase

## Simplified Repeatable Deployments

- Four pre-tested UCS Integrated Infrastructures
- Capacity or performance optimization
- NEW! Cisco Validated Design (CVD) with HA and Archiving



# Cisco UCS Reference Architectures

Retention  
optimized

Performance  
optimized

## Single Server

250 GB indexed per day  
4 months retention

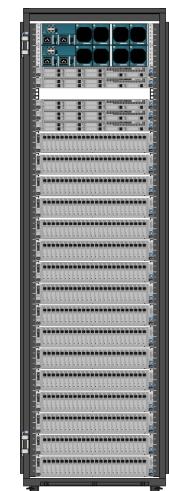


250 GB indexed per day  
1 month retention

## Clustered Deployment

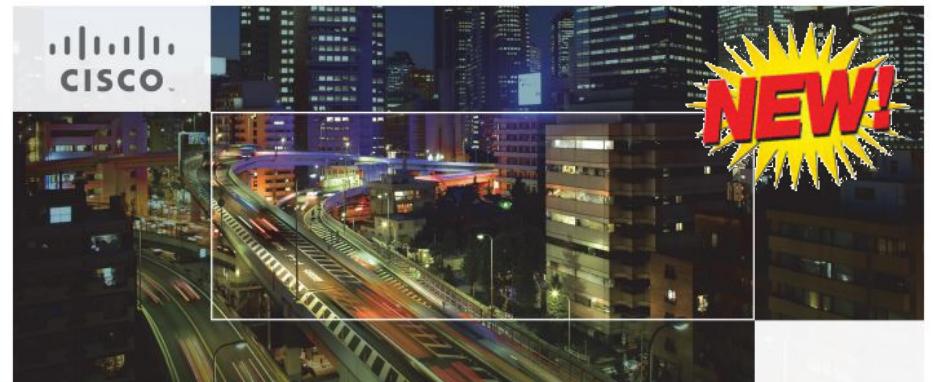
Up to 4TB indexed per day  
1 year Retention

Up to 4TB indexed per day  
3 months Retention



# Cisco Validated Design (CVD) for Splunk

- Developed by Cisco and Splunk engineers in Spring 2015
- 250+ page guide to design and deployment, pallet to production
- Based on UCS C-Series (C220, C240, C3160) servers and Splunk Enterprise software
- Includes high availability & data archiving
- Download for free at [cisco.com/go/bigdata\\_design](http://cisco.com/go/bigdata_design)



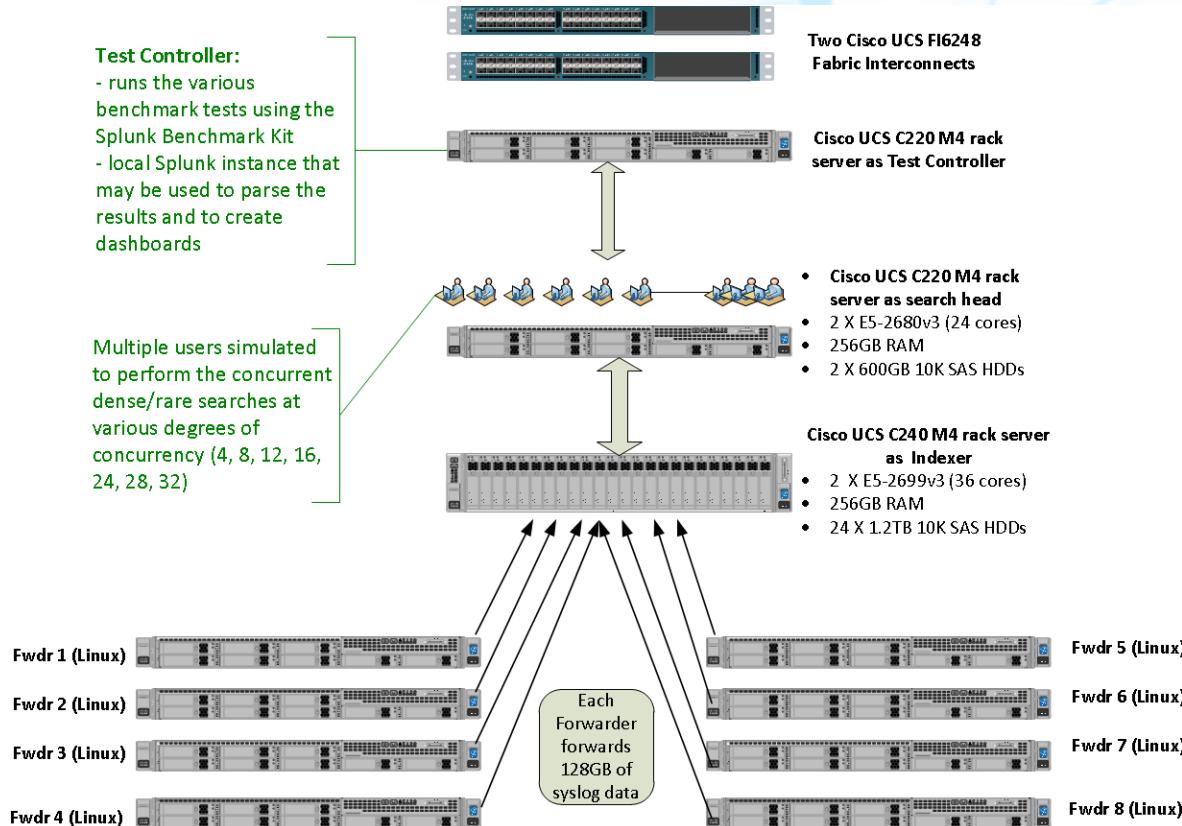
Cisco UCS Integrated Infrastructure for Big Data with  
Splunk Enterprise

With Cluster Mode for High Availability and Optional Data Archival

Last Updated: June 8, 2015



# Splunk on UCS : Performance Benchmark Test bed Topology



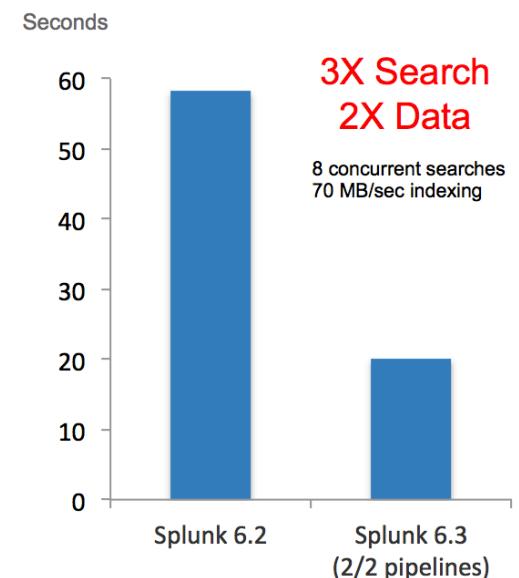
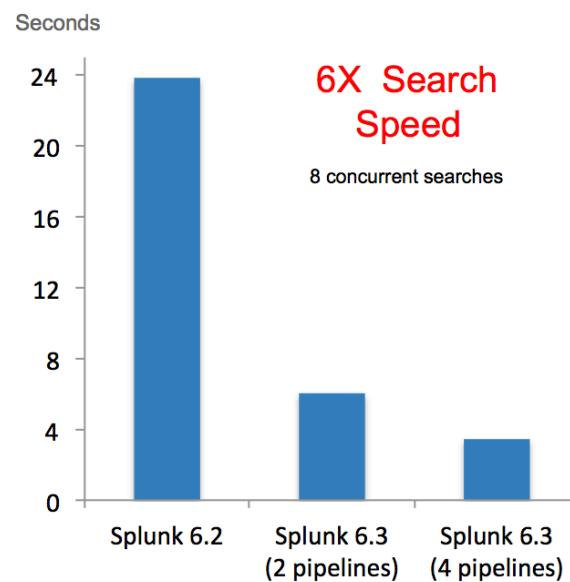
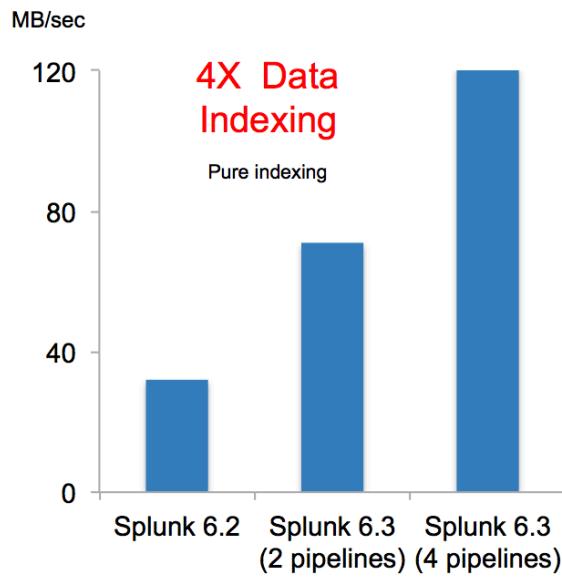
NOTE: Each forwarder forwards about 128GB of raw syslog style event data to the Indexer

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39



# Splunk – Cisco UCS Benchmark Results (6.2 v/s 6.3)



# Learn more about Splunk and Cisco UCS



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41

## Learn More About Splunk on Cisco UCS!

**SplunkBase app resources:**

[splunkbase.splunk.com](http://splunkbase.splunk.com)

**Cisco's Big Data Design Hub:**

[cisco.com/go/bigdata\\_design](http://cisco.com/go/bigdata_design)

features Cisco Validated Designs (CVDs) and other architectural docs

**Big Data Applications Hub:**

[cisco.com/go/bigdata](http://cisco.com/go/bigdata)

features reference architectures, solution briefs, infrastructure, automation, etc.



Thank you.





*TOMORROW starts here.*

# Cisco Big Data & Analytics Solutions

## Data Management: Build the Foundation

Cisco and Hadoop partners providing a lower cost & scalable storage platform to capture and analyze new & traditional data

## Data Warehouse Optimization: Save Millions

Offload data and move ETL processing from expensive EDW to low cost Hadoop leveraging Cisco Data Virtualization for easy access

## Data Analytics: Turn Data into Business Outcomes

Cisco and strategic analytics ISV's to gain insight from your data for competitive business advantage



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