



## Out with the Old, in with the New: Guiding a U.S Department of Commerce Agency through a Server Refresh

Presidio Federal is proud to be a trusted advisor to a U.S. Department of Commerce Agency (USDOC) and actively engaged in the planning and design of compute, storage, networking, and cloud technologies. Our team has dedicated members whose priority is providing the right technology for a complex USDOC agency that was environment and pre and post sales service and support.

Recently, our team heard of a challenge that the USDOC was encountering with their servers. Their x86 servers were coming to the end of life and required a refresh. Typically, they would move on to the next server version provided those met all requirements. There was only one

problem - the next version of x86 servers were IBM's Lenovo server series, which were not Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI) compliant. FOCI compliance is key for federal agencies as it's the policy of the United States Government to allow foreign investment consistent with the national security interest of the country.

Presidio Federal was able to play a key role in assisting a USDOC agency in managing a technology evaluation to help determine which server would provide the best value and be technologically, operationally, and federally compliant. Our team provides an open forum to draw findings and related conclusions on various technologies,

*Our team provides an open forum to draw findings and related conclusions on various technologies, conducts technical discussions, and provides both pre-sales functions and delivery of technical solutions to customers*

conducts technical discussions, and provides both pre-sales functions and delivery of technical solutions to customers. This specific evaluation included servers from many original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) who are our leading-edge partners like Cisco, Dell Technologies, and Hewlett Packard (HP) in a standardized test environment.

Our team set up the evaluation with the three competing technologies and provided access to the OEM's subject matter experts in case of further technical questions or concerns throughout the testing. We also assisted in building out the scorecards a USDOC agency used to evaluate the various equipment and that helped to aid in making their decision.

After thorough evaluations, the USDOC agencies team decided on Cisco Unified Computing Systems (UCS) based on numerous factors, but especially due to the ease of deployment, resiliency, and the compatibility with the Cisco network infrastructure. The decision was further confirmed given the performance delta between the initial operational capability and final operational capability, as well as the virtual machine (VM) performance on UCS. Through this server refresh and the selection of the best servers, they gained 3X VM density from their legacy servers that were at the end-of-life. Even to this day, the USDOC agency continues realize the benefits of Cisco UCS technology!

## ABOUT PRESIDIO FEDERAL

---

Presidio Government Solutions LLC, branded publicly as Presidio Federal, is a purpose-built and mission-driven IT services and solutions provider dedicated to serving the federal government. Presidio Government Solutions leverages its wealth of experience and deep relationships across its partner ecosystem, creating an environment of active collaboration and real-time responsiveness.

The company develops and delivers the most advanced technologies through expert knowledge centers in automation, augmentation, cloud, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and collaboration.

Presidio Government Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of Presidio.



### THE CHALLENGE:

- The USDOC agency had a challenge in that their x86 servers were end of life and required a refresh.
- The next version of x86 servers were IBM's Lenovo server series, however, this series was not FOCI compliant.



### SOLUTION:

- Presidio Federal assisted in managing a technology evaluation to determine which server would be technically, operationally and FOCI compliant.
- Presidio Federal led an evaluation of Cisco, Dell Technologies, and Hewlett Packard capabilities through a standardized test environment.



### BENEFITS AND A LOOK TO THE FUTURE:

- The recommendation of Cisco Unified Computing Systems was determined based on the performance delta between Initial Operational Capability and Final Operational Capability, as well as VM performance on UCS.
- They gained 3X VM density from their legacy install through Presidio's solution recommendation.
- The USDOC agency continues realize the benefits of Cisco UCS technology.