

IP Telephony/ Unified Communications Readiness



Cisco IP Telephony solutions support next-generation corporate collaboration, while cutting communications costs, but they require a well-designed, resilient network. Can yours stand up to the test?

Ensure a Smooth Rollout of Your Convergence Solution

CDI's Cisco-powered IP Telephony solution promises to help your company create a more effective work environment by expediting collaboration between employees, partners and customers—all while shrinking long-distance charges and helping control telecommunication expenses.

But does your company have the right network foundation to handle this business-critical application?

The first important step in any CDI IP Telephony/Unified Communications engagement is a thorough assessment of a company's network and telephony infrastructure. This will provide a base-level understanding of how well voice, data, and even video will coexist within the existing infrastructure, and whether or not there will be sufficient bandwidth for all relevant applications. Just as important: CDI's team will document your organization's business requirements related to this project so that these needs are addressed and met.

There are three major considerations that should be taken into account during a IP Telephony/Unified Communications Readiness Assessment, which will dictate whether or not changes must be made to a company's network before a Cisco IP Telephony/Unified Communications solution is deployed.

Quality of Service (QoS)

Don't just assume a high-bandwidth network will solve all your QoS concerns. CDI's assessment will help you understand the ramifications of prioritizing network traffic, reducing congestion and ensuring the quality of voice transmissions.

Resiliency and Design

In a converged network, the ability of network services to recover or adjust after any failure, change, interruption or network hiccup is paramount. Transmission delays that may have been tolerated in a data-only world will not be acceptable in a voice world.

Power Requirements

A unified communications solution will require that power is supplied to IP Telephony clients, as well as servers. Understanding whether or not a company will require upgrades to its power infrastructure in order to embrace IP Telephony or whether it will require Power over Ethernet solutions is an important part of each readiness assessment.

Even if you've already invested in a unified communications solution, you might consider undergoing a IP Telephony/Unified Communications Readiness Assessment if any of the following is true:

- Your existing system isn't performing up to expectations
- Your existing infrastructure documentation is outdated
- You're looking to add more capacity
- You're considering an outright replacement
- Frame-Relay DLCI Level Statistics

Ultimately, CDI's IP Telephony/Unified Communications Readiness Assessment can improve your company's ability to deploy a Cisco IP Telephony/Unified Communications solution successfully while ensuring your infrastructure can live up to important business requirements.