



NEWS RELEASE

# New York City Nonprofit City Harvest Alleviates Hunger with the Help of New Cisco Hyperconverged Technology

2017-02-17

Employees and volunteers help feed the hungry using virtual desktops powered by Cisco HyperFlex  
SAN JOSE, CA -- (Marketwired) -- 02/17/17 -- Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO)

[City Harvest](#), which rescues surplus food from grocers, farms, restaurants, and manufacturers and distributes it free of charge to New York City food pantries, soup kitchens and other community food programs, looks to utilize cutting-edge technology to better serve its community partners. City Harvest recently selected [Cisco HyperFlex System](#) to host virtual desktops and enhance operations.

As City Harvest continues to expand its anti-hunger programming, creating a secure environment is a key consideration, and virtual desktop infrastructure was chosen because of its ability to isolate the environment. After researching several converged and hyperconverged infrastructure solutions to host virtual desktops, City Harvest selected the [Cisco® HyperFlex System](#), which allows the organization to create hundreds of virtual desktops in minutes and easily add additional processing power using [Cisco UCS®](#) blades. In addition, troubleshooting and support are handled with a single call to Cisco to resolve any issue: servers, networking, or storage. City Harvest was one of the first nonprofits in the United States to adopt this new technology.

"Information technology plays an important role in City Harvest's food rescue and delivery operations," says James Safonov, head of Technology and Information Security for City Harvest. "Consider the intricate planning required to schedule 22 trucks averaging 360 food pickups and deliveries a day. We've developed smart algorithms that update truck routes and delivery instructions in real time based on storage space, preferred delivery days and types of food, and the specific food items we have available."

## ***Flexibility for Employees and Volunteers***

Cisco HyperFlex and the Cisco Nexus switches were up and running in just one day, and the City

Harvest IT team built hundreds of virtual desktops in minutes. Employees and volunteers can now log in to their personal virtual desktops from anywhere. "With other options, we would have had to replace our existing platform to support VDI, but with Cisco we could blend UCS and HyperFlex technology into a hybrid data center environment and continue using our older storage technology," said Safonov.

### ***Increased Efficiency***

The new thin clients cost 75 percent less than new desktop computers, and City Harvest no longer needs to keep spare computers in inventory. If a virtual desktop develops problems, the organization can now build a new one in less than a minute. City Harvest also chose Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS) to run its business applications: by moving 100 virtual machines from traditional servers to Cisco UCS, they eliminated an entire rack.

### ***Scaling to Do More***

Food insecurity -- the lack of access to adequate, nutritious food -- remains persistently high in New York City. "Cisco HyperFlex gives us the opportunity to scale as City Harvest grows to feed more people," said Safonov. "Cisco HyperFlex and Cisco UCS help make our truck routes more efficient and more securely run our desktops and our applications."

In addition to Cisco UCS and HyperFlex, City Harvest utilizes [Cisco UCS Manager](#), [Cisco ASA 5500 Series Firewall with FirePOWER Services](#), [Cisco Umbrella](#) for Security, [Cisco Meraki Wireless Solution](#), [Cisco Unified Communications Manager](#), and [Cisco WebEx](#).

### ***Additional Resources***

Learn more about: [City Harvest](#)

Read: [City Harvest Case Study](#)

View video: [Cisco HyperFlex](#)

Learn more about: [Cisco HyperFlex System](#)

Learn more about: [Cisco HyperFlex at Cisco Live Berlin](#)

Learn more about: [Cisco UCS](#)

Learn more about: [Cisco Data Center and Virtualization](#)

RSS Feed for Cisco: <http://newsroom.cisco.com/rss-feeds>

### **About Cisco**

Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) is the worldwide technology leader that has been making the Internet work since 1984. Our people, products, and partners help society securely connect and seize tomorrow's digital opportunity today. Discover more at [thenetwork.cisco.com](http://thenetwork.cisco.com) and follow us on Twitter at @Cisco.

### **About City Harvest**

City Harvest pioneered food rescue in 1982 and, this year, will collect 55 million pounds of excess food to help feed the nearly 1.4 million New Yorkers struggling to put meals on their tables. Through relationships with farms, grocers, restaurants, and manufacturers, City Harvest collects nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste and delivers it free of charge to 500 soup kitchens, food pantries and other community food programs across the five boroughs. In addition to helping meet the immediate need for food, City Harvest developed long-term *Healthy Neighborhoods* programs which partner with low-income communities to increase access to fresh produce and help residents shop for and cook nutritious, budget-conscious meals. To learn more about food rescue, *Healthy Neighborhoods* and fighting hunger in New York City, visit [cityharvest.org](http://cityharvest.org).

Cisco and the Cisco logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cisco and/or its affiliates in the U.S. and other countries. A listing of Cisco's trademarks can be found at [www.cisco.com/go/trademarks](http://www.cisco.com/go/trademarks). Third-party trademarks mentioned are the property of their respective

owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company.

Availability Disclaimer: Many of the products and features described herein remain in varying stages of development and will be offered on a when-and-if-available basis. This products and features are subject to change at the sole discretion of Cisco, and Cisco will have no liability for delay in the delivery or failure to deliver any of the products or features set forth in this document.

Press Relations:

Lee Davis

Cisco

650-868-3036

[leedavis@cisco.com](mailto:leedavis@cisco.com)

Analyst Relations:

Jennie Olean

Cisco

(978) 936-0223

[jolean@cisco.com](mailto:jolean@cisco.com)

Investor Relations

Carol Villazon

Cisco

408-527-6538

[carolv@cisco.com](mailto:carolv@cisco.com)

Source: Cisco