Softchoice FlexPod Accelerator+

A simplified journey to a converged infrastructure

softchoice

The business is asking more than ever of IT. To stay relevant and heighten responsiveness, IT needs to provide quick time-to-value by delivering new business initiatives and related IT projects faster. Many of these challenges will be solved with a converged infrastructure, but obstacles still exist.

Softchoice designed the FlexPod Accelerator+ for clients who want to move to a converged infrastructure and look to work with a partner with the technical expertise to implement the technology and strategic foresight support the new infrastructure.

What is FlexPod?

FlexPod is a pre-tested and validated solution that combines networking, computing, and storage in a shared infrastructure and supports multiple applications and workloads that helps clients accelerate their transition to a cloud-like infrastructure.

How the Softchoice FlexPod Accelerator+ helps

1 Architectural Simplicity	**2** A Converged Infrastructure Project Team	**3** Simplified Operational State	**4** Refocus on Innovation
The FlexPod Accelerator+ simplifies the architectural decisions based on Softchoice's best practices combining real-world scenarios, current state considerations and validated vendor designs to achieve accelerated returns.	Softchoice's implementation team carries a unique hybrid converged skill set in architecture and implementation supported with PMI-certified project management expertise. We leverage a repeatable methodology that mitigates risk and provides a consistent, connected experience for clients.	Softchoice Keystone services provides 24X7, operational simplicity by acting as the single point of contact reducing or removing the need to train, acquire and maintain new skills sets.	Rapidly transition from sustaining silos of technology to innovating within the business by repositioning staff to focus on new projects and application-centric activities.

Consult Phase	Client Benefits
Pre-deployment questionnaire & converged infrastructure planning workshop	• Reduce project risk and provide ease of expansion through the delivery of an impact assessment, where the current state environment is evaluated and outlines operational requirements • Streamline collection of pre-requisite information to guide design and architecture • Provide meaningful recommendations related to client-specific scenarios that aid in decision making through a collaborative session • Prescriptive approach resulting in a milestone to review proposed design

Implement Phase	Client Benefits
Converged infrastructure implementation program	• Provide a structured approach to implementing and integrating throughout network, storage, server and virtualization components • Deliver quality assurance and system milestones based on Softchoice best practices to isolate issues and ease transition to operational state
Operational knowledge transfer	• Joint session to provide cohesive knowledge transfer related to each element of the converged infrastructure including inter-relationships to build base knowledge of environment and streamline transition to operational state

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Manage Phase	Client Benefits
Keystone Complete for FlexPod:	• Keystone provides long-term operational simplicity for the FlexPod environment based on an ITIL delivery framework and staffed by an always-on (24X7 live answer), highly certified, onshore team called the Keystone Technical Support Center (KTSC)
Operational readiness & transition	• Integrated program designed to transition to operational state including monitoring setup, preparation and tuning, and definition of standard operating procedures
Incident & problem management	• Single point of contact for all issues and vendors handled through streamlined incident and problem management
Relationship management	• Client-centric experience supported by a Customer Relationship Manager, Quarterly Service Analysis and SLA reviews
FlexPod monitoring	• 24X7 availability and performance delivers insight throughout the environment mitigating outage risks and offers proactive recommendations
Release, patch & change management	• Simplified approach to the most common client standard set of core infrastructure moves, adds and changes (MACs) and patch/release management based on co-developed standard operating procedures
Capacity planning & resource management	• Trend analysis, bottlenecks and troublesome device identification provide actionable insight to protect the user experience
Reporting	• Tactical and strategic reporting delivered at key intervals to help achieve SLAs and recommend actions associated with the converged infrastructure

Why the FlexPod Accelerator+ works

Based on client feedback and real-world deployment findings, Softchoice created the FlexPod Accelerator+ to fast track the adoption of FlexPod. Softchoice has completed over 5,000+ projects throughout North America helping clients discover, plan, deploy, adopt and operate solutions. Using similar delivery best practices, the FlexPod Accelerator+ improves returns, reduces time-to-value and lowers risk through effective planning to align technology with desired business outcomes.

Hybrid Converged Team: a highly experienced, PMI-certified team that focuses on converged infrastructure, delivers project management through a standard methodology.

CISCO Cloud and Managed Services Masters: Softchoice is recognized within an exclusive group of partners with the highest level of competency and capabilities to providing operational excellence related to the converged infrastructure and associated components.

FlexPod Premium Partner: Softchoice carries one of the highest degrees of certification for the converged infrastructure focused on CISCO and NetApp technologies, uniquely positioned to offer clients architecture, integration and a single number for all support throughout the environment.

What our Clients say about working with Softchoice

"Softchoice provides management and monitoring capabilities that were prohibitively expensive to run in-house. Softchoice gives us 24x7x365 visibility and support of our managed systems."

- IT Manager, Large Enterprise

Stop managing and maintaining silos of technology, and refocus on projects by accelerating your journey to a converged infrastructure. Contact your Account Manager for more details.