Many organizations have begun consolidating servers into centralized data centers, looking to use physical, application or data consolidation as a means of reducing the challenges and costs associated with administering many small servers scattered across the enterprise.

A blade server is a type of rack-optimized server that eliminates many of these complications, thus providing an effective alternative to 1U and 2U servers. There is a range of blade server designs—from ultradense, low-voltage, lesser-performing servers to high-performance, lowerdensity servers to proprietary, customized rack solutions—that include some blade features.

By design, IBM BladeCenter can offer the benefits of tremendous horizontal scalability in a small space, the versatility to mix and match types of blades within a single chassis, a performance spectrum ranging from low cost to high performance/high availability, with quick and easy serviceability, enhanced manageability and simplified deployment, and significant cost savings—both upfront and long-term