HCI

Hyper-Converged (HCI)

Buyer's Guide and Reviews

October 2019

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Vendor Directory

Acronis	Acronis Cyber Infrastructure		**NetApp**	NetApp HCI
Atlantis Computing	Atlantis Hyperscale		**Nutanix**	Nutanix
Cisco	Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series		**Nutanix**	Nutanix Acropolis
CTERA	CTERA Edge X Series		**Pivot3**	Pivot3
DataCore	DataCore SANsymphony SDS		**QCT**	QCT
Datrium	Datrium DVX		**Red Hat**	Red Hat Hyperconverged Infrastructure
Dell EMC	VxFlex (VxRack FLEX)		**Riverbed**	SteelFusion
Dell EMC	VxRail		**Sangfor**	Sangfor HCI
Dell EMC	Dell XC Appliance		**Scale Computing**	Scale Computing HC3
Fujitsu	Fujitsu PRIMEFLEX		**StarWind**	StarWind Virtual SAN
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	HPE SimpliVity		**StarWind**	StarWind HyperConverged Appliance
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	HPE Hyper Converged		**StarWind**	StarWind Virtual Tape Library
Hitachi	Hitachi Unified Compute Platform HC Series		**StorMagic**	StorMagic
HTBASE	HTBASE		**Stratoscale**	Stratoscale
Huawei	Huawei FusionCube Hyper-Converged Infrastructure		**VMware**	VMware vSAN
Maxta	Maxta			

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

Top Hyper-Converged (HCI) Solutions

Over 369,366 professionals have used IT Central Station research. Here are the top Hyper-Converged (HCI) vendors based on product reviews, ratings, and comparisons. All reviews and ratings are from real users, validated by our triple authentication process.

Chart Key

● **Views**
Number of views

● **Comparisons**
Number of times compared to another product

● **Reviews**
Total number of reviews on IT Central Station

● **Words/Review**
Average words per review on IT Central Station

● **Average Rating**
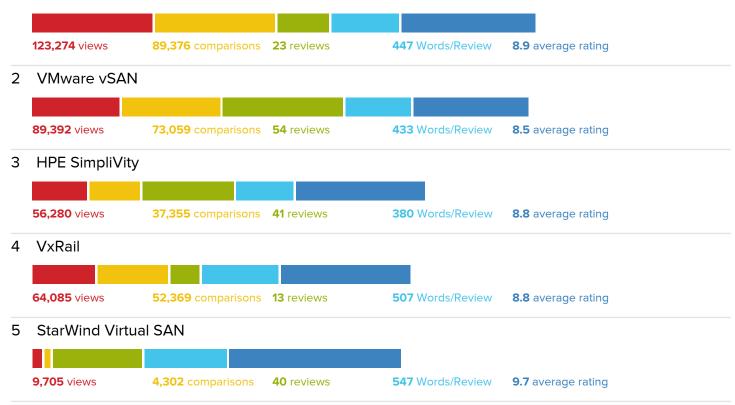Average rating based on reviews

Bar length
The total ranking of a product, represented by the bar length, is based on a weighted aggregate score. The score is calculated as follows:
The product with the highest count in each area gets the highest available score. (18 points for **Reviews**, **Words/Review**, **Views** and **Comparisons**.) Every other product gets assigned points based on its total in proportion to the #1 product in that area.
For example, if a product has 80% of the number of reviews compared to the product with the most reviews then the product's points for reviews would be 18 (weighting factor) * 80% = 14.4. For **Average Rating**, the maximum score is 28 points awarded linearly between 6-10 (e.g. 6 or below=0 points; 7.5=10.5 points; 9.0=21 points; 10=28 points).
If a product has fewer than ten reviews, the point contribution for Average Rating and Words/Review is reduced: 1/3 reduction in points for products with 5-9 reviews, two-thirds reduction for products with fewer than five reviews.
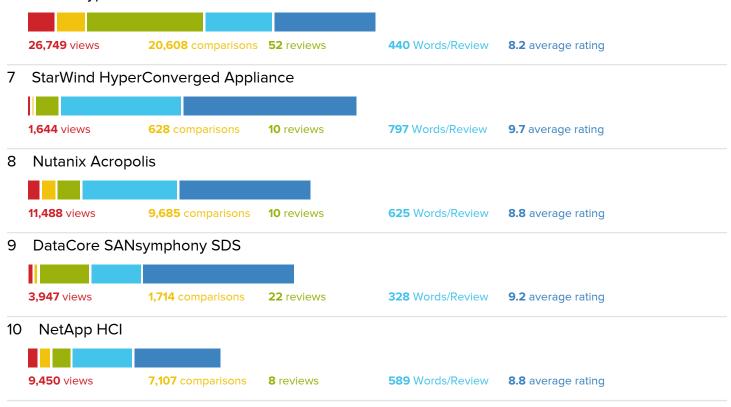Reviews that are more than 24 months old, as well as those written by resellers, are completely excluded from the ranking algorithm.

1   Nutanix

123,274 views   **89,376** comparisons   **23** reviews   **447** Words/Review   **8.9** average rating

2   VMware vSAN

89,392 views   **73,059** comparisons   **54** reviews   **433** Words/Review   **8.5** average rating

3   HPE SimpliVity

56,280 views   **37,355** comparisons   **41** reviews   **380** Words/Review   **8.8** average rating

4   VxRail

64,085 views   **52,369** comparisons   **13** reviews   **507** Words/Review   **8.8** average rating

5   StarWind Virtual SAN

9,705 views   **4,302** comparisons   **40** reviews   **547** Words/Review   **9.7** average rating

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6   Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series

26,749 views   **20,608** comparisons   **52** reviews   **440** Words/Review   **8.2** average rating

7   StarWind HyperConverged Appliance

1,644 views   **628** comparisons   **10** reviews   **797** Words/Review   **9.7** average rating

8   Nutanix Acropolis

11,488 views   **9,685** comparisons   **10** reviews   **625** Words/Review   **8.8** average rating

9   DataCore SANsymphony SDS

3,947 views   **1,714** comparisons   **22** reviews   **328** Words/Review   **9.2** average rating

10   NetApp HCI

9,450 views   **7,107** comparisons   **8** reviews   **589** Words/Review   **8.8** average rating

Top Solutions by Ranking Factor

● Views

SOLUTION		VIEWS
1	Nutanix	123,274
2	VMware vSAN	89,392
3	VxRail	64,085
4	HPE SimpliVity	56,280
5	Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series	26,749

● Reviews

SOLUTION		REVIEWS
1	VMware vSAN	54
2	Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series	52
3	HPE SimpliVity	41
4	StarWind Virtual SAN	40
5	Nutanix	23

● Words / Review

SOLUTION		WORDS / REVIEW
1	StarWind HyperConverged Appliance	797
2	VxFlex (VxRack FLEX)	698
3	SteelFusion	653
4	Nutanix Acropolis	625
5	NetApp HCI	589

Nutanix

Overview

Nutanix delivers invisible infrastructure for next-generation enterprise computing, elevating IT to focus on the applications and services that power their business. Nutanix's software-driven Xtreme Computing Platform natively converges compute, virtualization and storage into a single solution to drive simplicity in the datacenter. Using Nutanix, customers benefit from predictable performance, linear scalability and cloud-like infrastructure consumption.

For more information visit: www.nutanix.com.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

St. Lukes Health System, the City of Seattle, Yahoo! Japan, Sligro, Empire Life, Hyundai AUS, and many others.

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. Nutanix ... Compared 26% of the time [See comparison]
HPE SimpliVity vs. Nutanix ... Compared 20% of the time [See comparison]
VxRail vs. Nutanix ... Compared 16% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *	VISITORS READING REVIEWS *
TOP INDUSTRIES	**TOP INDUSTRIES**
Software R&D Company ... 22%	Energy/Utilities Company ... 15%
Comms Service Provider ... 12%	Healthcare Company ... 12%
Financial Services Firm ... 10%	Financial Services Firm ... 12%
Manufacturing Company ... 9%	Hospitality Company ... 8%
COMPANY SIZE	**COMPANY SIZE**
1-200 Employees ... 14%	1-200 Employees ... 37%
201-1000 Employees ... 32%	201-1000 Employees ... 34%
1001+ Employees ... 54%	1001+ Employees ... 29%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

Nutanix

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Samuel Rothenbühler

Some years ago when we started working with Nutanix the solution was essentially a stable, user friendly hyper converged solution offering a less future rich version of what is now called the distributed storage fabric. This is what competing solutions typically offer today and for many customers it isn't easy to understand the added value (I would argue they should in fact be a requirement) Nutanix offers today in comparison to other approaches. Over the years Nutanix has added lots of enterprise functionality like deduplication, compression, erasu... [Full Review]

William Beckett

* One-Click upgrades * Software defined storage * The capacity savings One click upgrades are an absolute godsend. Being able to upgrade our entire cluster with the click of a button during business hours with zero downtime has made managing our infrastructure so easy. Previously, we had to schedule downtime to perform upgrades on our infrastructure and that quickly becomes painful and time consuming. Because the entire Nutanix system is contained in a VM, we don't have to reboot physical hosts to apply patches. It's just a restart of a guest VM and... [Full Review]

Emmanuel Onen

The most valuable feature would be the ease of deployment. That is the most significant feature for me because I've worked with multiple vendors and it's always been very complicated to install the software and get everything running. It has better software to get everything up and running. It has a simple interface. [Full Review]

Steffen Hornung

* Single click actions is definitely the most important. They were not even aware that they wanted this. * Performance was the main point for buying it. * No virtualization-vendor lock-in is another main point. * But if you ever had good support, Nutanix Support will overwhelm. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Samuel Rothenbühler

As a system integrator, Nutanix offers a highly standardized solution which can be deployed in timely fashion compared to legacy three-tier, generation one converged, and most competing hyper-converged solutions. This allows us to move quickly with a small team or architects, and implementation specialists for large projects. [Full Review]

William Beckett

Processes that used to take hours to complete have been drastically improved due to the nature of Nutanix. Data locality means things complete faster and our users now have more time to complete their work rather than having to wait for a certain job to finish before they can continue on. [Full Review]

Steffen Hornung

Any task with our servers which is painless because the system runs really fast. Our users are glad to be migrated to Citrix, although giving up the local admin rights there (yes, there are some local admin users still in place), because it performs so well. [Full Review]

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Nutanix

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Samuel
Rothenbühle
r

Nutanix has the potential to replace most of today's traditional storage solutions. These are classic hybrid SAN arrays (dual and multi controller), NAS Filers, newer All-Flash Arrays as well as any object, big data etc. use cases. For capacity it usually comes down to the price for large amounts of data where Nutanix may offer higher than needed storage performance at a price point which isn't very attractive. This has been address in a first step using storage only nodes which are essentially an intelligent disk shelf (mainly SATA) with its own vi... [Full Review]

Mohammed
Alakhouch

I think that there are several areas that they can improve slightly, including the mail servers, the application servers, and perhaps even the database servers. If we can have certified compatibility with other companies, such as Oracle, then it would let us know that they function correctly together. [Full Review]

William
Beckett

Given all the amazing features, there is room for improvement around the support ability of different hypervisors. Sure, Nutanix now supports four hypervisors but they are not all at feature parity. If you want all the benefits of Nutanix, you need to be on AHV. For some businesses, that's just not an option. I find we miss out on some of the great features due to being on ESX. [Full Review]

GILLES
THEAUDIER
E

They have offered some new features that I have not deployed so I assume that these issues might have been addressed already, but there was a networking problem. This solution could use network improvements. I think the next release should include a software improvement, like the ability to deploy with a cloud provider like Amazon or Microsoft Azure. I believe that they are already working on this and I think that the best improvement would be to remove the storage configuration because you don't need to manage or to configure this. By default, it s... [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

William
Beckett

While cost may seem higher than your traditional 3-tier architecture, you need to look at the bigger picture. You're not just buying hardware here. You're buying a complete environment that not only is super-fast to deploy, it's amazingly easy to manage. I find that I'm spending less time managing my infrastructure and more time listening to the businesses needs and tailoring our infrastructure to their needs. [Full Review]

Steffen
Hornung

Setup cost is minor, pricing is quite a bit (we have a 7-node-cluster for about 450K EUR with 2 vGPU-nodes for Citrix) but that includes hardware, software, and support. I would also license Prism Central in Pro Edition because you get capacity planning. This makes sense even for a single cluster setup. [Full Review]

Manzeel
Uprety

Consider purchasing Turbonomic with or before Nutanix. They pair and play well together. If you do use Turbonomic before going with Nutanix, make sure the company knows you intend to move to Nutanix. This ensures you license the proper features. [Full Review]

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

VMware vSAN   See 55 reviews >>

Overview

VMware vSAN is the industry-leading software powering Hyper-Converged Infrastructure solutions.

What vSAN Does

Enables you to evolve without risk. Seamlessly extend virtualization to storage with an integrated hyper-converged solution that simply works with your overall VMware environment and reduces the risk in digital transformation by using existing tools, skillsets and solutions.

Lowers total cost of ownership by 50% or more with capital and operational savings. Reduce storage CapEx, decrease operational costs, manage the day-to-day operations of compute and storage infrastructure, and accelerate responsiveness to traditionally time-consuming tasks.

vSAN helps customers scale to tomorrow. Prepare for tomorrow's dynamic ... [Read More]

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Read Some Case Studies
At Home
Cloud CaribCINgroupDiscovery Check out the Rest of our Customer Stories Here

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. VMware vSAN ... Compared 37% of the time [See comparison]
VxRail vs. VMware vSAN ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]
HPE SimpliVity vs. VMware vSAN ... Compared 10% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *	**VISITORS READING REVIEWS ***
TOP INDUSTRIES	**TOP INDUSTRIES**
Software R&D Company ... 26%	Healthcare Company ... 17%
Comms Service Provider ... 13%	Retailer ... 14%
Manufacturing Company ... 10%	University ... 9%
Financial Services Firm ... 9%	Energy/Utilities Company ... 8%
COMPANY SIZE	**COMPANY SIZE**
1-200 Employees ... 14%	1-200 Employees ... 28%
201-1000 Employees ... 28%	201-1000 Employees ... 19%
1001+ Employees ... 58%	1001+ Employees ... 53%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCl), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

VMware vSAN

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Yves Sandfort

vSAN gives us a lot of advantages when we need to expand resources. We have an overall larger host infrastructure, and we split that up for specific customer test and use cases. In that specific scenario, we can easily add more hosts or reduce the number of hosts in the environment. This is an advantage when we use vSAN. We have pretty constant performance results, which is sometimes, on a normal three-tier storage architecture, harder for us to achieve because the customer doesn't want us to verify that the performance of a specific device works. W... [Full Review]

Paul Letta

We like that it is a hyperconverged solution. Everything is in a box. You got the compute, memory, and storage. So, we can scale out by adding nodes as we go and eliminate the back-end storage, whether that's a NAS or iSCSI device. You get the benefit of local storage, but you have the protection of shared storage. [Full Review]

ManagerT5 097

The most valuable feature for us, long-term, is the integration with VMware that we're going to be using. We're currently using AirWatch, we're working in Workspace ONE. We want to make sure that our VDIs, with the integration of the Windows 10 solution - as well as any-device, anywhere, anytime mobility - work, yet still offer them the ability to gain access to that VDI. That is huge for us. [Full Review]

Vijayakumar Arumuga Nadar

With vSAN coming in, we have stability within the cluster of resources which has been grouped together in a local storage. This is a wonderful feature in vSAN. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Yves Sandfort

The way vSAN improved our organization was we could deploy scenarios or workloads more easily because, from a vSAN perspective, we don't need to reconfigure underlying storage or anything else. We can actually adjust for each individual machines and individual workload characteristics. We don't have to deal with different type of disk shelves, rate groups, etc. We can directly take that off. [Full Review]

Paul Letta

It's improved the organization overall primarily because the storage is local on the boxes. Before we were with vSAN, we were with another iSCSI product which was a clustered product that went across the network. We had multiple instances where we would have either a network hiccup (caused by us) or a network hiccup (caused by the device). This took a whole bunch of VMs down with a lot of repercussions. It took a long time to recover. By eliminating dependency on that back-end storage, we now depend on everything that's in the VMkernel with vSAN. So... [Full Review]

ManagerT5 097

The opportunity gained with the relationship we have now is limitless, as new features and products roll out, especially with today's announcements: the news about microsegmentation, the RDS in the cloud with AWS, as well as some security features. It's a constant evolution for us. That's really why we're with vSAN. [Full Review]

VMware vSAN

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Yves Sandfort

Stability can be improved. Adding all these new features is nice, but we are now at the level that most of the features you need in production are there. The stability, not from a day-to-day operations' perspective, but more from a supportability perspective, because currently some of the support scenarios require you to completely evacuate hosts or the complete cluster. That sometimes can be a stretch. This would clearly be an improvement if the support teams were given additional tools to make that easier. Upgradability could be a bit easier somet... [Full Review]

Paul Letta

I see room for improvement with vSAN in particularly in the reporting realm. Now, with vSAN 6.7, they're starting to include vRealize Operations components in the vSphere Client, even if you're not a vRealize Operations customer. So, that's really good. It exposes some really low-level reporting. I would like to see more of that. However, you have to be a vRealize Operations customer to obtain that. I would like to see more include of this included in the vSAN licensing. The vSAN licensing is not an inexpensive product. It does cost more than hyperv... [Full Review]

ManagerT5 097

If you want to get down to the nuts and bolts of room for improvement, we would really like them to look at what Nutanix did for day-one/day-two operations deployment: Bringing in the equipment, getting it deployed, getting it setup, and ease of use of one-click for deploying our 30-node solution. With vSAN we had to go into each one individually and set it up. [Full Review]

Jose Fuentes

I think the vSAN product uses vSphere to monitor the system. It is sometimes difficult to manage the PCs within the system. VMware is currently working towards moving things to the cloud network. This is a great new addition to the VMware product. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Yves Sandfort

Setup cost, pricing and licensing should be a secondary factor. We talk about primary system storage, which if not performing well or storing reliable can have massive business impact. [Full Review]

ManagerT5 097

We purchased a VMware Enterprise agreement so vSAN was already included with what we had. It was just a smart choice, given where we were heading eventually, to go with vSAN. That was one of the deciding factors. [Full Review]

Jose Fuentes

The only problem I see with VMware is the price tag. This may start causing problems because there are other solutions out there, like AWS, that are open source and free. So, there is no license fee. VMware is very good, but expensive, in comparison. [Full Review]

HPE SimpliVity   [See 44 reviews >>](#)

Overview

HPE SimpliVity provides the most complete hyperconverged solution, powering the world's most efficient and resilient data centers and delivering up to 49% cost savings verses public cloud alternatives. A market and customer satisfaction leader, HPE SimpliVity dramatically simplifies IT by combining all infrastructure and advanced data services—including guaranteed data efficiency, built-in data protection, and VM-centric mobility—onto the customer's choice of server. With HPE SimpliVity, expand your possibilities, not your data center.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Red Bull Racing, Mandarin Oriental, Brigham Young University, UCLA, Merlin Entertainments, Sasa Cosmetics, Travelport, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Princess House

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. HPE SimpliVity … Compared 47% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. HPE SimpliVity … Compared 18% of the time [See comparison]
VxRail vs. HPE SimpliVity … Compared 15% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company … 17%
Comms Service Provider … 13%
Manufacturing Company … 10%
Healthcare Company … 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees … 24%
201-1000 Employees … 44%
1001+ Employees … 33%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Financial Services Firm … 19%
Healthcare Company … 10%
Retailer … 8%
University … 8%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees … 24%
201-1000 Employees … 35%
1001+ Employees … 41%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

HPE SimpliVity

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Scott Howell

* The ease of management in these deployments were some of the most valuable things. * The date storage infrastructure that it provides is pretty fantastic. * The ease of use on the backup and DR and replication side of things is good. It can be done by a VMware admin with no additional training. [Full Review]

reviewer543450

Data replication, backup and recovery of VMs and disks. Data replication happens in the background once the policy is set and takes few seconds. The fact that the data is deduped inline makes this possible, as only the changes not already replicated blocks are written, which is extremely efficient. We use the Omnicubes to replicate our data to a second datacenter. By having our company data on the Omnicubes, we ensure that all of our data is constantly replicated within the defined intervals to the remote site. This is the reason why we did choose O... [Full Review]

anush santhanam

* Simple management * HyperGuarantee * Accelerator card * Globally federated architecture The simple management comes in handy since a standard VMware admin can manage it. The HyperGuarantee is unique and the accelerator card is the primary IP with the product. The 4KB based dedupe and optimization are definitely helpful as observed by our clients. The globally federated architecture means that the backup across sites does not consume precious MPLS bandwidth, which is cool. [Full Review]

SeniorEn1655

The way it does backups is its most valuable feature. It replicates snapshots with very low bandwidth. We only have a 50 megabit link to that site, and it doesn't really use much of it at all. Therefore, it is a really good fit for getting our backups done. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Scott Howell

Looking at the way that our infrastructure team works now, we don't think about infrastructure, storage, or compute anymore. The solution just works. It is same with the backup and replication side of things, as it just works on schedule. We don't have to manage it tightly, like we used to. That has freed up those resources to do more application delivery type functionalities. [Full Review]

reviewer543450

We now have much lower RPOs, from hours to seconds. It is now much simpler for us to deploy additional workloads, since we do not have to take care anymore of storage provisioning. The Simplivity datastores are so efficient that the never seem to fill up, or at least not that fast anymore. [Full Review]

anush santhanam

Our clients have been very happy with the data efficiency features (OmniCube accelerator card) and the HPE/SimpliVity HyperGuarantee, which is unique. For one of our clients who needed backup capability but did not want to invest in a dedicated backup tool, SimpliVity's native backup with app consistency came in handy. When you do this across more than 80 sites, the savings is significant and the WAN bandwidth efficiency is impressive. [Full Review]

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HPE SimpliVity

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Scott Howell

The biggest feature, which should be included, is some method to handle archival backup or cloud-based backup. Where SimpliVIty typically falls down with their data structure is: The longer a backup is kept, the more space it ends up inevitably using. When you get into things that you have to keep for five or seven years for legal requirements or regulatory compliance, then you start taking up a lot of space with these old dead backups that you are probably never going to use again. Being able to offload those to a separate platform or cloud storage... [Full Review]

reviewer543 450

We definitely want to see more of the CLI commands come up to the GUI, and it is a legitimate question, if we are going to be happy with the integration in the vsphere web client, which is awfully slow. While this is responsibility of Vmware (having killed the c-client), the question is legitimate, because the client is what you need to restore your data in the end, and in such situation you do not have time to waste. [Full Review]

anush santhanam

* For SimpliVity to become a true DC solution, the limit of 32 nodes needs to be investigated. While this may not be a significant deterrent, it brings into question the underlying architecture. * HPE support is still not aware/trained on SimpliVity, and this is beginning to show. * While SimpliVity was a pioneer of cloud connect capability, they have simply not exploited it. * SimpliVity has little to no integrations. It may have APIs, etc., but there are very few signed on integrations in place. This is necessary to build a solutions ecosystem. [Full Review]

SeniorEn165 5

SimpliVity has this thing where if a virtual machine is on the wrong node with two nodes, it will be optimized. However, if one of the nodes won't be optimized, then it will complain about that. It will give you a little warning to say the source is not optimized. Please move this to one of the other hosts. They should just add a little thing in SimpliVity to move all the VMs to the right host, because it is a pain to load balance across the three nodes when all these VMs are complaining and you have to move them to one. It's sort of silly. I feel l... [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

anush santhanam

In terms of setup, there are some gotchas and caveats, particularly when discussing stretched clusters. Rapid DR also pretty much goes the same way. Otherwise the process is pretty straightforward. Upgrades were a problem but have been addressed to a large extent. The biggest concern is around support and HPE's apparent lack of knowledgeable people. [Full Review]

DougCollett e

While SimpliVity is not inexpensive, we found it was not significantly more expensive than the cost of buying equivalent host servers and equivalent SAN storage. HPE installed and configured the equipment as part of the purchase, so that was painless. [Full Review]

AaronSMR

Make sure you plan for future growth and get a solution that has enough storage/resources for years to come. Originally, we thought we were only going to deploy our most critical VMs using this product, but once we saw how much better it was to manage the VMs, back them up, and deploy new VMs, we started moving a lot more servers over to it. Eventually, we had to buy another pair of SImpliVity OmniCubes to accommodate everything. [Full Review]

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

DELLEMC VxRail   See 15 reviews >>

Overview

VxRail is the only fully integrated, preconfigured, and pre-tested VMware hyper-converged infrastructure appliance family on the market. Based on VMware's vSphere and Virtual SAN, and EMC software, VxRail delivers an all-in-one IT infrastructure transformation by leveraging a known and proven building block for the Software Defined Data Center (SDDC).

With the power of a whole SAN in just two rack units, they provide a simple, cost effective hyper-converged solution for a wide variety of applications and workloads. VxRail Appliances deliver resiliency, QoS, and centralized management functionality enabling faster, better, and simpler management of consolidated workloads, virtual desktops, business-critical applications, and remote office i... [Read More]

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

World Wide Technology Inc, Renault Sport Formula One Team, 8x8 Inc, Brownes, Canadian Pacific, Canopy, Denton, EDF, Unilin, Xerox

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. VxRail ... Compared 33% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. VxRail ... Compared 17% of the time [See comparison]
VxFlex (VxRack FLEX) vs. VxRail ... Compared 14% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company ... 32%
Manufacturing Company ... 9%
Comms Service Provider ... 9%
Financial Services Firm ... 6%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 5%
201-1000 Employees ... 27%
1001+ Employees ... 67%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Legal Firm ... 20%
Hospitality Company ... 20%
Healthcare Company ... 20%
Financial Services Firm ... 20%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 20%
201-1000 Employees ... 30%
1001+ Employees ... 50%

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DELL EMC **VxRail**

Top Reviews by Topic

⚡ VALUABLE FEATURES

Engineer02 21

The most valuable feature is the fact that the storage is integrated with the VxRail so I don't have to go in between systems when I have to monitor my storage. The second valuable feature would be the space. Because they're all combined I save a lot of space when it comes to the rack. I was able to consolidate two racks into one and the one is only used in about half a rack. The storage and the VMware servers are all in the same infrastructure. [Full Review]

UnitManae3 81

The most valuable feature in the VxRail solution is the software that binds the management portal and its ease of use of managing the environment. The guys don't have to worry about getting a multiple solutions specialist. You can have one person looking at and managing the whole environment. [Full Review]

DanRogers

It gives us tons of flexibility. We can create new machines, then destroy them if they don't work out. We test a lot of use cases that may or may not play out. We can build all types of scenarios into virtual machines that we may or may not use. If we don't use them, we just turn them off, no using up resources. [Full Review]

Chris-Stanley

ESRS: This gives us the confidence that when we are not monitoring our environment, then Dell Tech is, and can make us aware of any failures/pending issues before those issues impact us globally. We do not have the manpower to monitor 24/7, so this saves us significant costs on support contracts. RecoverPoint: It give us peace of mind knowing any corruption or server issue can be rectified very quickly, making sure the business impact is minimal. It has also allowed us during our setup to failover an entire cluster. This is a significant improvement... [Full Review]

📄 IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Engineer02 21

One way VxRail has improved my organization is in the way that I am now able to replicate the virtual because I'm using vSAN. I use the code point for VMware. I'm able to replicate my Unity appliance in my production environment to the vSAN which I wasn't able to do when I was using the older solution. I can replicate my production servers into the vSAN which is in the VxRail using the recover points of a VM. That's a great improvement. [Full Review]

Managing56 d7

I'm one of the architects for hybrid cloud. I like the new releases that Dell EMC is doing with VMware. They are allowing for flexibility across the hybrid cloud. This allows organizations to use containers and to be able to move into the public cloud, but also not have lock-in. They can come back to the private cloud when they want to, so it's creating a lot of flexibility across the stack. [Full Review]

DanRogers

The flexibility has improved our organization. If we went the traditional method, we would have to carry a lot more equipment. VxRail allows us to take all the systems that we would use in a full rack in a quarter rack. [Full Review]

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

DELLEMC **VxRail**

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Engineer02 21

If they can improve the HTML client that would be great because the HTML client is a lot more responsive. It's a lot smoother than the flash that it comes with and flash updates every minute and every time flash updates I can't open my web client. You should update and make sure the HTML client works. If it does then you have a product that gives you an excellent 9.5/10 from most vendors with no problem. Everybody complains that for 6.5 and 6.7 there's no desktop client for V7. Everyone misses the desktop client. I don't like the web client. If they... [Full Review]

Managing56 d7

We would like to see tighter integration with Pivotal, because we're looking for end-to-end transformation and tight integration. So, we would like to see the Dell EMC family have stronger integration with their products, as this would be the best thing. It still has some maturity to grow. It needs to be more tightly integrated with its own family of products. It has shown that it is open with the other products within the market, through its stack, but it needs to have the proof in the market (with use-cases), and it has to have the scalability wit... [Full Review]

UnitManae3 81

From a hardware and software perspective, there could be an improvement in the sales cycle, as there are a lot of hoops to go through to get pricing on a solution. [Full Review]

DanRogers

I would like them to include an easier solution to host its own DNS. When they changed to version 6.5, they took out the easy features of letting the rail be its own DNS. You can still trick the system and make the VxRail Manager another one of the rail-required VMs become the DNS, but it's a lot of extra work. I'd like to see it put back into the UI. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Engineer02 21

We pay yearly for support. The cost was justified by now because it stays up and I don't have to constantly open tickets. I probably rebooted the system once or twice. We haven't replaced any discs in the storage, we haven't had to do any disc replacements, so it just runs. You pay a little more but you cut down on the maintenance. [Full Review]

Chris-Stanley

Compare it to what you spent on your last solution. Look at other costs: Power, IT staff, time to manage the system, cost of expansion for the future versus current (all costs: human/power/kit). [Full Review]

Principa0cc 5

The price point needs improvement, certainly for smaller SMBs. The cost of it is still quite painful. I think all vendors should do a product which is capped either by terabytes, IOPs, or VM instances. It should be an SMB solution that's going to make hyper-converged solutions easier for SMBs to get hold of. It's fine for those big guys that have billions of dollars of budget, but not for customers who have barely a 100,000 dollars or pounds in budget. [Full Review]

≋ StarWind **StarWind Virtual SAN**   See 41 reviews >>

Overview

For SMB, ROBO, Cloud and Hosting providers, who look to cut down virtualization expenses, our solution is StarWind VSAN. It is software that eliminates any need in physical shared storage by basically "mirroring" internal hard disks and flash between hypervisor servers. There is less hardware to buy in general, consequently less money is spent on purchase and maintenance. The existing hardware is used with maximum efficiency, so there is no money wasted at all.StarWind Virtual SAN targets those who already have servers, or are bound to a particular vendor list to buy from. In case there is a new virtualization infrastructure to be built from scratch, StarWind offers a much better way – StarWind HyperConverged Appliance. It is a turnkey solu... [Read More]

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Baker Tilly BVI, CMS Internet, Board Harpeth Hall School

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. StarWind Virtual SAN ... Compared 36% of the time [See comparison]

Nutanix vs. StarWind Virtual SAN ... Compared 17% of the time [See comparison]

Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct vs. StarWind Virtual SAN ... Compared 10% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Energy/Utilities Company ... 16%
Software R&D Company ... 16%
Manufacturing Company ... 10%
Construction Company ... 10%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 58%
201-1000 Employees ... 19%
1001+ Employees ... 23%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Energy/Utilities Company ... 11%
Manufacturing Company ... 11%
Construction Company ... 11%
Engineering Company ... 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 61%
201-1000 Employees ... 21%
1001+ Employees ... 18%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

≋ StarWind **StarWind Virtual SAN**

Top Reviews by Topic

💡 VALUABLE FEATURES

Bryan Schuler

* The control panel is nice. It gives you a lot of good feedback as to the status and health of the VSAN. * The synchronization is very nice. * I like its flexibility. It is more flexible than most VSAN solutions that I have seen. For example, you can run it across two hosts. You don't need a third host observing it. [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

The most attractive feature is, as a Virtual SAN, the data on one is copied to the data on the second. We have two in tandem. So, the data on one is the same as the data on the second one. If we need to do maintenance on the server, it doesn't necessarily have to be after hours, or recommended after hours. If I need to do something in an emergency, I can stop the sync and know that one server has all the information, do what I need to do, and sync them back. Once we resolve the syncing issues, a first sync of about 4TB of data was done in under 30 m... [Full Review]

Dan Reynolds

Performance, reliability, I love the management console (once I got used to it). It works and it works well. Maybe not exactly a feature but tech support is beyond great. It is fantastic. The techs are supportive, understanding and really care about your implementation. I feel they really want to see you succeed. I'm so pleased with the tech support that I consider it better than any feature. [Full Review]

FAFCO

Without question, the support. StarWind has been a valuable technology partner for us from the beginning. On the rare occasion when we have had a problem, or have simply needed to do an upgrade, they have provided first-rate support. Anyone who has dealt with common off-shore support understands the frustration in dealing with incompetent and difficult to communicate with support staff. This is not so with StarWind, as their support staff is comprised of true experts who can also communicate clearly. For highly technical products this is essential. ... [Full Review]

📄 IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Bryan Schuler

It is more of a perceptual thing with the users. The system that we moved onto it is our ERP system, which handles everything. It handles our orders, workflow, and shop work orders. It was by far the slowest, clunkiest system that we have here. When we put it together the StarWind Virtual SAN, and we moved it onto the flash drives, everything seemed to run a lot faster. I went from a drive system that peaked out at 2000 IOPS to a system that could now do over 200,000 IOPS. It was absolutely a night and day difference. Everything is just snappier. Wh... [Full Review]

Matthew Henson

Instead of having to maintain two completely separate systems: * The cluster where all the data processing is happening. * Maintaining the SAN clustering. Now, we can do everything in one location, because the storage and processing are all happening on the same cluster. It has reduced our overall maintenance and overhead by having to only maintain physical boxes for one cluster instead of having to manage physical boxes for two clusters. It also has reduced the amount of switching, network connections, etc., because the converged StarWind Virtual S... [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

I don't have to stay late at night. Prior to using this VSAN, if anything happened to a server, everything went down. We couldn't do anything, and that was a nightmare. There was even a time where all the data on the server got wiped. People were unable to work for half a day. We did have a backup. We had to go to a third party to get a hard drive, have it shipped, and upload the data back into the server, then foster continuum. It happened like that twice before they said, "Enough is enough, what are our options?" We had the option of a physical se... [Full Review]

StarWind Virtual SAN

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Bryan Schuler

For improvement, I would like to see how the software determines which networks to use for which purpose. It seems like the naming terminology changes a bit from here to there. When I access the console on the computer, where is it going in through: * The computer's connections? * The heartbeat connection? * The iSCSI connection? It is a little odd as far as making sure those networks are isolated just for their function. On the console, there is no good way to see how all the networks are allocated. Other than that, once they are set up and allocat... [Full Review]

Matthew Henson

If there are domain controllers inside the cluster, there needs to be some sort of logic allowing them to boot independently so all the rest of the domain clients can gain the authority they need to come online. We made that mistake at first. We have since moved one of our domain controllers out of the cluster, so everything can obtain whatever authentication it needs on the initial boot. Ultimately, Microsoft says they support it, but we would like to see all of our domain controllers running within the cluster, too. We don't want to have additiona... [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

Initially, when we first started, the sync was horrible. It would take about 13 hours. However, they have since then improved on it. It also depends on the pipe. We had a small pipe back then. So, we would do things at around 8:00 AM, then by 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning (the next day), everything would be back on. Once we upgraded the pipe between them, within half an hour, it was synced. StarWind made us understand that we had a small pipe and our drives were not SSD, but SATA. All these things contributed because they have tons of clients. Thus, i... [Full Review]

MarkMgr

It would be helpful to have a little more insight into what kind of performance the VSAN cluster is utilizing; something that would be more proactive on our side, versus their ProActive Support. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Bryan Schuler

I was so impressed by what I saw, because at first, you set it up for free. I set it up for free to see how it worked, because I was losing nothing but time. After I set it up, and everything worked, I was like, "Okay, I don't need anything else for this. Let's get the licensing and go." The pricing is more than reasonable. The licensing is a bit weird. If you license the standard version of StarWind, it allows you four terabytes. Then, they have a pro version, but with the pro version, the only difference is it doubles the terabytes to eight. Howev... [Full Review]

Matthew Henson

For pricing, you have two things that come into it: * The cost of the hardware. * The software licensing pricing. When we did all the analysis for StarWind, it was approximately 20 percent less than any of the other solutions that we looked at. This wasn't our only criteria, as you don't want to buy the cheapest thing, then find out you have a problem. Also, StarWind isn't the cheapest solution out there, but it is certainly cost-effective relative to the major players. I haven't seen any difference in quality overall. StarWind works as well as any ... [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

The pricing is fine for the work that it does. I have had no issues. When we bought it three to four years ago for what we needed, it was literally cheaper than the alternative which was ten times the amount and took up physical space. The license is reusable. We can always rebuild it and apply the license. Then, boom, we get new servers, apply the license, and we're back up and running. [Full Review]

Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series   [See 53 reviews >>](#)

Overview

The Cisco HyperFlex HX Data Platform is a purpose-built, high-performance, scale-out file system with a wide array of enterprise-class data management services. The data platform's innovations redefine distributed storage technology, giving you complete hyper-convergence with enterprise storage features:

Enterprise-class data managementContinuous data optimizationSecurely encrypted storageDynamic data placementClusterwide parallel data distributionLinear and incremental scalingAPI-based data platform architectureA simplified approach

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

BluePearl Veterinary Partners, Ready Pac Foods, Bryant University, Bellevue Group, KPIT Technologies, City Harvest

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series ... Compared 39% of the time [See comparison]
VxRail vs. Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series ... Compared 24% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series ... Compared 14% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *	**VISITORS READING REVIEWS ***
TOP INDUSTRIES	**TOP INDUSTRIES**
Software R&D Company ... 33%	Manufacturing Company ... 18%
Comms Service Provider ... 10%	Energy/Utilities Company ... 12%
Manufacturing Company ... 8%	Comms Service Provider ... 12%
Financial Services Firm ... 7%	Healthcare Company ... 9%
COMPANY SIZE	**COMPANY SIZE**
1-200 Employees ... 5%	1-200 Employees ... 14%
201-1000 Employees ... 19%	201-1000 Employees ... 11%
1001+ Employees ... 77%	1001+ Employees ... 75%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series

Top Reviews by Topic

☀ VALUABLE FEATURES

Ole Johan

The storage system is its most valuable feature. It has eliminated our entire need for having to worry about storage. We were storing a lot of syslog data and using a lot of templates in our data center. With the storage system, we are now saving an enormous amount of space. [Full Review]

MatsHagberg Olsson

There are two most valuable features in HyperFlex: * The UCS, which is by far the best management tool there is on the market, regardless of vendor. It's the only tool I see that gives you the opportunity to size and scale all the assets and capacity you have in your data center, from a unified view. * That Cisco provides the ability to configure BIOS, something that no one else can do, on a remote basis. That's really helpful sometimes. The bus-snooping alteration tool for BIOS is fantastic. That's one of the game-changing features that Cisco alone... [Full Review]

Dan Abamonte

The most valuable feature for us was the time to delivery. We had a short window of about three months to implement because we had in incoming residence group of about a thousand users that they wanted us to have VDI up and running for. We were told about it in March by our CIO, and by June 1st it was up and running. [Full Review]

Karuna Madhu Devandla

The fact that it's hyperconverged is what is most valuable about this solution. There is no specific feature which I can name because we have only been using it for a very short time. We just started using it. [Full Review]

📄 IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

MatsHagberg Olsson

If you set up a cluster and then you decide a bit later on to split that resource into several smaller clusters, that's where UCS comes in and eases that operation better than anyone else that I've worked with. It provides better capacity utilization and a faster time to delivery. The cluster-splitting took about two hours while before, it took about four days. That's a considerable time savings in down-scaling and cluster spitting. [Full Review]

Dan Abamonte

One of the big benefits of using this solution is security. It allows us to authorize our residents to come in using their own personal devices to access any of our clinical applications and ensure that the PHI is secure and protected. PHI is a major concern for us. Patient safety, patient security, and our data protection are the number one priorities for a lot of our solutions. [Full Review]

SeniorNeab15

It ultimately provides a virtual desktop so that we can backup user data a lot more easily. In the past, it was all a straight desktop computer so if your desktop dies, all your data would die as well. In terms of it being flexible for various projects, it does seem to lend itself to other applications, for example, our VMware, as well as servers that we may want to bring up under the HyperFlex solution so we may go in that direction sometime in the future. It has the potential of actually being a six million dollar impact to the college because it ... [Full Review]

Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Ole Johan

I would like to see more analytics. The storage data is just IP packets. It could use better infographs in the HyperFlex Connect on how traffic is running in the network. If you were reaching any capacity issues on the Fabric Interconnects, it should be able to cool all of the servers and Fabric Interconnects, then possibly integrate it with, e.g., Nexus Series switches. This should all be available in a single pane of glass. I would also like a fast on-premise service. While there is Intersight, which does a lot, there is not the same clarity of in... [Full Review]

Dan Abamonte

One of the challenges we have with Cisco, in general, is the multiple management platforms for the UCS, and I would like to see it all under one umbrella. If we could have just a single pane of glass, where everything can be managed through that one app, rather than have multiple apps, it would be great. There are three apps that we currently have to integrate with. I would like to see them broaden their processor options. We've had some challenges with Intel, and I'd like to see them look at other potential CPU providers. [Full Review]

Karuna Madhu Devandla

It needs improvements in terms of I/O. Sometimes I have felt it is slightly slow while we are trying to provision VMs or access VMs. They should concentrate on that issue. At the same, time L2 switches are bundled in HyperFlex. If they make that the L3 switch, that would enhance the performance slightly better. [Full Review]

SeniorNeab15

We would like to have the ability to not have to reboot while doing updates. Being able to work through updates with as minimal amount of impact to users. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Ole Johan

I would like a clearer licensing model. It should explain a bit more what you receive if you buy the more expensive license rather than the standard one. This would probably help in a lot of cases. [Full Review]

MatsHagberg Olsson

They are not the cheapest on the market. But there's an old saying I like to quote: "If you know that you are getting what you pay for, it's fine if it's expensive." [Full Review]

Dan Abamonte

One of the challenges we have with HyperFlex is that they have a subscription fee for the operating system that runs on it, and if I remember correctly, it costs approximately $15,000 USD per month. [Full Review]

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

≋StarWind **StarWind HyperConverged Appliance**   [See 10 reviews >>](#)

Overview

For SMB, ROBO and Enterprises, who look to bring in quick deployment and operation simplicity to virtualization workloads and reduce related expenses, our solution is StarWind HyperConverged Appliance (HCA). It unifies commodity servers, disks and flash, hypervisor of choice, StarWind Virtual SAN, Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct or VMware Virtual SAN and associated software into a single manageable layer. The HCA supports scale-up by adding disks and flash, and scale-out by adding extra nodes.StarWind HyperConverged Appliance consists of StarWind Virtual SAN, Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct or VMware Virtual SAN "Ready Nodes", targeting those, who are building their virtualization infrastructure from scratch. In case there is an existing se... [Read More]

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Sears Home and Franchise Business

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. StarWind HyperConverged Appliance ... Compared 20% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. StarWind HyperConverged Appliance ... Compared 18% of the time [See comparison]
VxRail vs. StarWind HyperConverged Appliance ... Compared 9% of the time [See comparison]

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 50%
201-1000 Employees ... 38%
1001+ Employees ... 13%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

≋ StarWind **StarWind HyperConverged Appliance**

Top Reviews by Topic

⬡ VALUABLE FEATURES

David Rager

High-availability is what I bought it for. The hardware footprint size is good. They use Dell EMC boxes for the appliances. They're pretty standard for the industry, as far as servers go. I think they're good. [Full Review]

Kristopher Skully

The biggest thing we were looking for was redundancy, with both the compute and the storage, so that way we could lose a full node and still keep everything up and running, and not have to worry about it. Another of the most important features we were looking for, since we're short on time, was something that we could deploy quickly and easily. They were offering what they call a "turnkey solution." We could just buy it, they would preconfigure it, we would throw it in our environment and do some very minimal configuration on the phone with them, an... [Full Review]

Ho-Ching Yung

* StarWind Virtual SAN. We no longer have to manage storage via multiple local server disks. * Added fault tolerance helps everybody sleep easier at night knowing we can lose an entire node without affecting production. [Full Review]

Ben Poole

The most valuable features are consolidated storage, low cost and overhead compared to previous solutions. As an NPO, we are always concerned with new technology and the associated costs. The solutions from StarWind were not only a major increase in performance, but they were very affordable for us. [Full Review]

📄 IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

David Rager

We're getting close to 50 trucks and growing pretty quickly. We have guys out on the road all the time and this system we're putting in place is going to track all of that in the greatest of detail. If anything happens with a load, it's all being communicated back through the system. That includes dispatching the drivers, monitoring the drivers as they're hauling the load, tracking when they arrive at their destinations. All that is done through the system. Any time that it goes down for an extended period of time is a time that we have to operate o... [Full Review]

Kristopher Skully

The old solution we had worked. It was starting to show its age and it consisted of several more pieces of equipment than the StarWind HyperConverged Appliances. It has saved us time because there are fewer devices to update. We no longer have to worry about updating our hardware SANs, which would actually cause a brief outage, even though the upgrades are advertised as non-disruptive. We just update the StarWind software every once in a while with no downtime. In terms of overall systems performance, the latency has been reduced. Instead of having ... [Full Review]

reviewer968 163

Our two goals were to improve performance and add fault tolerance. Even before implementation, the StarWind team analyzed our current workload to determine which HCA would be appropriate for us. This allowed us to make a decision based on data rather than instinct. Performance has been excellent, and we have really noticed a big improvement from our old system. Our other goal, improving fault tolerance, was immediately realized with the installation of the second HCA node. We have been running flawlessly since day one with zero downtime. The second ... [Full Review]

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

StarWind HyperConverged Appliance

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

David Rager

This is just being nit-picky but the only thing I have run into is that I did want to add more hard drives into the host, so that we could look at doing a RAID 10, and the hard drive prices were pretty expensive. I think they're just getting pricing straight from whoever supplies their hardware. They do have the Dell EMC guarantee where, if you have hardware that goes out, you will have a replacement there by the next day. So if one of my drives goes out they'll have a new one to me by the next day. But I compared the price of one hard drive - I can... [Full Review]

Ho-Ching Yung

It could potentially be less reliable due to the Hypervisor, and the cluster relies on Microsoft Windows Server. However, we have not had any issue since putting them in production 12 months ago. [Full Review]

Ben Poole

The only thing my team has recommended improving on is possibly a StarWind-customized GUI to monitor the overall system health, similar to 5nine Manager. There is nothing else I would recommend improving because everything from sales, installation to post-install service for the past year has been great. [Full Review]

Andrew Wolf

A desired feature or service would be the ability to have a hardware subscription plan that ensures routine hardware updates in conjunction with hyper-converged software. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

David Rager

I honestly feel that there's no one else in the market doing what they're doing for the price point that they're doing it at. That's why I asked them about investing in their company. I think that the options they're providing and the software that they have is sort of revolutionary for the price point. It's making it possible for small businesses and medium-sized businesses to be able to have high-availability at a cheap price. The total cost was $24,400. I believe it was just a one-time fee. They did a per-hour plan for their services, which was f... [Full Review]

Kristopher Skully

Other than the standard licensing fee for StarWind HCA, there are the server costs and the server support. We purchased all of this thorough StarWind on one invoice. [Full Review]

reviewer968 163

Do your research. You will find that nothing compares to the value you get with the HCA appliance. If you have a limited budget, the decision is an easy one. [Full Review]

Nutanix Acropolis   See 10 reviews >>

Overview

Nutanix Acropolis combines feature-rich software-defined storage with built-in virtualization in a turnkey hyperconverged infrastructure solution that can be deployed out-of-the-box in 60 minutes or less. Eliminate the need for standalone SAN or NAS-based storage, reduce the complexity of legacy virtualization management and lower virtualization costs by up to 80%.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

AT&T, Beedie, AccorHotels, Airbus, BAE Systems

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSphere vs. Nutanix Acropolis ... Compared 41% of the time [See comparison]
KVM vs. Nutanix Acropolis ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]
Proxmox VE vs. Nutanix Acropolis ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company ... 32%
Comms Service Provider ... 11%
Government ... 8%
Manufacturing Company ... 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 44%
201-1000 Employees ... 37%
1001+ Employees ... 19%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

Nutanix Acropolis

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Senior9883

On-demand scaling is the most valuable feature, I can keep on scaling on-demand. Secondly, Nutanix allows me to create my own configuration. I can create my own configuration and I can get all of it as per my configuration. Number three is that in Nutanix if I do three or four nodes if I look at the traditional environment I have to really figure out the wave concept. Connect wave one, wave two, wave six, wave five. In Nutanix I don't have any of these issues. Lastly, deduplication. Deduplication and erasure coding. [Full Review]

Gerhard Joubert

I definitely find the reduced power consumption very valuable. Another aspect I really like, when one compares Citrix to VMware, is the interface where you talk directly to your VM from the present software. We have found that it is a lot more responsive using VMware compared to Citrix. [Full Review]

MohamedMostafa1

Flexibility. We're able to mix performance nodes with storage nodes easily. Unlike other vendors where, if we start a hyperconverged solution with them, we have to stick to a specific model, to a specific series with specific capabilities, with Nutanix it's very easy to mix and match the best solution, especially for a dynamic infrastructure like ours. [Full Review]

Ran Givon

The management interface of this solution is great. We really enjoy not being locked into VMware as the app adviser vendor. The latest version of Acropolis has a very handy micro-segmentation feature, which we use very often. Overall, I think the most significant upside is the great support provided by Nutanix. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Senior9883

One of the benefits this solution has had for my organization is the space consumption. Space consumption was reduced by approximately 40% because if I had gone with another kind of traditional, or open world solution, then I would have not saved my floor space. Another way it has benefited my organization is because of the energy consumption. Currently, energy consumption has been saved by around 30% to 40%. Plus the number of IOPS has increased, I'm getting the highest IOPS in Nutanix. I had situations where I got applications that depend on publi... [Full Review]

Gerhard Joubert

We are not fully in production yet and we are still busy testing Nutanix. A couple of things that it makes a huge difference in is our company's power consumption because we don't have to use computers for all our employees. We can simply put down a Raspberry Pi or a little nook, and in the Inuvika environment, everything is up and running immediately. It gives the users a lot more freedom in connection with what they usually have in a standard setup. With everything operating in the cluster, the chances of losing data is reduced by about 90%. We us... [Full Review]

MohamedMostafa1

The TCO model of Nutanix is much more mature than other solutions, because everything is consolidated. We're getting the best value for our investments. We're able to build cost-effective solutions, so it helps us to generate better revenue, and better margins as well. [Full Review]

Nutanix Acropolis

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Senior9883

As of now, Acropolis and VMware cannot talk to each other. Until we have some kind of interface, it would be much better for Nutanix if they built an interface which can talk. Otherwise, if I have a VMware stack and I already have a Nutanix stack, I can create containers, I create clusters on VMware, I create clusters on Nutanix. All of these clusters cannot talk to each other. Then it has to be then subverted as a parallel execution. What happens then is that I have to work in two different environments within my data center. Practically, they are ... [Full Review]

Gerhard Joubert

One thing I've noticed is that, when you do a shift from VMware to Nutanix, it opens the setup of the VM that's currently running. If people from another site double click on it, it opens the VM instead of the setup of the unit. So I would suggest that this could perhaps be switched. That is so far the only change I would like. I would like it if they could fix the instance where you double click on a VM and it opens the VM instead of the setup. That's the only thing that's a major bother to me. [Full Review]

MohamedMostafa1

It would be fantastic if there was a built-in layer, in Nutanix, that acted like a cloud interface. So far, we need to integrate a cloud interface on top of Nutanix for billing the usage for specific customers' domains. It would be great if a cloud gateway was built-in, inside Nutanix. Also, one of the very important things that I would like to see in Nutanix, but I'm not sure if it's in the roadmap or not, is to have some kind of caching optimization at remote sites, to build active-active data centers more easily. [Full Review]

Ran Givon

I believe the only things that may need to improve is that the Nutanix Controller VM consumes quite a lot of resources. If that could be reduced, it would be great. Secondly, I would have liked it if Nutanix were a hardware as well as a software platform. I think they are currently progressing into a software only path. I think that, in the near future, their own hardware will be discontinued. I can understand why they're doing it, but I would have preferred them to continue being a one-stop shop for hardware and software alike. However, so far, for... [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Gerhard Joubert

One of the major problems with IT in South Africa is that licensing fees are 14 times more expensive than anywhere in the world. This is due to the rand/dollar exchange rate. If I remember correctly, our licensing fee on the total setup was about R900,000. There are no additional costs. The only additional things we added to the system was Commvault for additional backup services for the cluster. [Full Review]

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

DataCore SANsymphony SDS   <u>See 23 reviews >></u>

Overview

DataCore™ SANsymphony™ enterprise-class Software-defined Storage (SDS) platform provides a high-performance, highly available and agile storage infrastructure with the lowest Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Volkswagen , Maimonides Medical Center, The Biodesign Institute, ISCO Industries, Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, United Financial Credit Union, Derby Supply Chain Solutions, Mission Community Hospital, Bellarmine College Preparatory, Colby-Sawyer College, Mount Sinai Health System, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Quorn Foods, Bitburger, University of Birmingham, Stadtverwaltung Heidelberg, NetEnt to name a few.

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. DataCore SANsymphony SDS ... Compared 15% of the time [See comparison]
EMC FAST vs. DataCore SANsymphony SDS ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]
Nutanix vs. DataCore SANsymphony SDS ... Compared 9% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Real Estate/Law Firm ... 27%
Government ... 12%
Outsourcing Company ... 12%
Manufacturing Company ... 11%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Government ... 23%
Transportation Company ... 15%
Non Profit ... 15%
Manufacturing Company ... 15%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 52%
201-1000 Employees ... 19%
1001+ Employees ... 29%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

To read more reviews about Hyper-Converged (HCI), please visit: https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/hyper-converged-hci

DataCore SANsymphony SDS

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Damon

No more vendor lock-in, overpriced drives, or forklift upgrades. With DataCore SANsymphony, you can utilize just about any storage you wish with this product such as another SAN, NAS, JBOD, FusionIO, etc. If Windows can see it as a non-removable drive, you can use it with SANsymphony. Also, you can use this to mirror any of these various types of storage, which is awesome for migration. Say, for example, you have an HP SAN and you want to migrate off it to your own JBOD-type storage, or you have two sites with two different storage SANs that you wan... [Full Review]

reviewer109 0101

The most valuable feature is auto-tiering, which allows for storage pools containing different speed storage systems and the data automatically moved to the most appropriate pool. [Full Review]

Rog Fed

DataCore's ability to seamlessly move virtual volume data between storage pools as well as their synchronous mirroring has made maintenance and disaster recovery planning achievable. DataCore's auto-tiering feature also allows us to use our SSD arrays efficiently. [Full Review]

MichaelP

* Redundancy of vdisk: It provides less downtime. * Continuous data protection: It is always good to have a possibility to "go back". * Technical support: Technical support is amazing. It is very fast and always has a solution in no time. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Damon

This solution allows the use of off-the-shelf hardware and charges by the TB of storage. So, we can throw in our own enterprise-class hardware (including SSDs) and not pay any extra based on the type of storage we use. This is the same model used with server virtualization. This has allowed us to keep the hardware separate from software. It is true "storage virtualization" at its finest. It has all the features of any high-end SAN such as fiber channel, iSCSI, thin provisioning, storage tiering, snapshots, continuous data protection/recovery, synchr... [Full Review]

Rog Fed

DataCore has been doing software-defined storage since back before SDS was even a buzzword. It has provided a great deal of flexibility, performance, and efficiency for our Enterprise SAN. We are not tied to any one hardware vendor and over the nineteen years that we've had DataCore, we have gone through various models of IBM servers to Dell servers as well as various storage arrays from IBM, Dot Hill, XIO, Kaminario, and Dell (all with some of the same data from year one). [Full Review]

MichaelP

* SANsymphony gives us the possibility to get storage redundancy with a very good ROI. * It also helps us to get a more balanced performance of our storage systems. [Full Review]

DataCore SANsymphony SDS

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Damon

There's very little that I can find in their software that I would say needs to be improved. Sometimes the updates are too frequent, where just as we finish updating all of our sites, another update comes out. Due to the many various options for what hardware to use, sometimes it is difficult trying to figure out what hardware options are the best for the money. DataCore can help a bit with this, but because they are only the software side of the solution, they tend to not prefer one hardware vendor over another (they get along with everyone). They ... [Full Review]

reviewer109 0101

The cost is becoming prohibitive since they moved to a subscription model. 'Education' pricing is such in name only (we are a school). When we originally purchased Datacore (in 2014) it was on a perpetual basis and provided exceptional value for money. We have renewed our DataCore solution this year, in 2019, and have found that DataCore has moved to a subscription model. Not only was the initial licensing far higher than previously, partly due to additional storage requirements but also because we can no longer acquire a 'limited' license and we al... [Full Review]

Rog Fed

DataCore needs a more efficient and better way to keep track of metrics and counters so that we can do baseline analysis to measure performance. Datacore has some functionality where you can send performance metrics to a SQL database however it has not always worked well for us. We actually had to turn it off because we were actually collecting too much data, but in my opinion we sometimes want this data. Ideally if there was a way to see metrics for current and specific points in time it would be great for troubleshooting and any type of trend anal... [Full Review]

Scott Lambourne

Installing updates could be a bit more straightforward and easier to install. I have only installed one update on the systems, and for that, I had to bring in outside help that was more knowledgeable with the product than I currently am. He also had to contact DataCore support for assistance as the update did not go smooth. I also did Windows updates at this same time as it was strongly suggested to me not to do the Windows updates as they are released. The Windows updates were installed with no problems and caused no problems to the system. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Damon

I would recommend sending administrators through DataCore's DCIE training/certification. DataCore has many options from hyper-converged solution, to even providing their own storage appliances if that's what you are looking for. [Full Review]

reviewer109 0101

When we initially purchased DataCore, it was extremely cost-effective with a perpetual license. They have since moved to a subscription model, which may prove too expensive for us in the future. Make sure you are made aware of the annual subscription cost when purchasing. [Full Review]

Rog Fed

In regards to Fibre Channel, buy a server that can handle the highest number of Quad Port HBA cards. Purchase as much memory for the server as you can afford. Anything you spec out, you will need to double if you want redundancy. [Full Review]

NetApp HCI   [See 9 reviews >>](#)

Overview

NetApp HCI is the only true enterprise-scale hyper converged cloud infrastructure. NetApp HCI comes in a 2 RU chassis with 4 node expansion slots.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

American Showa, Children's Mercy, Coca-Cola, Consultel Cloud, Evangelische Landeskirche in Wurttemberg, Imperva, Surface Mount Technology

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. NetApp HCI ... Compared 41% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. NetApp HCI ... Compared 20% of the time [See comparison]
VxRail vs. NetApp HCI ... Compared 16% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company ... 41%
Manufacturing Company ... 12%
Comms Service Provider ... 9%
Media Company ... 5%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 20%
201-1000 Employees ... 40%
1001+ Employees ... 40%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

NetApp HCI

Top Reviews by Topic

💡 VALUABLE FEATURES

Sean Henry

The most valuable features that the HCI brought was power, simplicity, and flexibility. I don't have a staff of hundreds, I have a staff of seven. We're providing support for three companies across North America on a corporate level, and then providing all IT support for American show spread across five facilities in the US. [Full Review]

Sean Henry

It was designed from the ground up to work together. It's not disparate technologies that the vendors put together and decided, "These can work together." It was designed from the ground up to work together. You get that slight economy of scale from that fact that it was designed that way. It becomes more than the sum of its pieces, rather than less. [Full Review]

IT2ced

* Its data literacy gives us so much flexibility for our development group to be able to stay on task. * The solution integrates well with all the other applications that we use on our environment. * The GUI is user-friendly and intuitive. [Full Review]

Engineerc2b6

We're trying to move to a much more API-driven management of all of our products, and NetApp's product is, from all the SDS providers we have seen, the most fully-baked API out there. [Full Review]

📄 IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Sean Henry

If my people are chasing issues on old hardware, and in the weeds, we're not doing anything that management sees as value. They don't see any value in email being up, they expect email to be up. This solution has brought power and simplicity. Everything we've moved over runs two times faster and in some cases, a lot faster, far more than twice, which our users noticed. That's an immediate productivity boost. We've been able to bring a dead project up like a phoenix to start moving again. This also allowed our managers and our executives that had put... [Full Review]

Sean Henry

It significantly reduces downtime on two of our assembly lines. In addition, it allowed us to move forward on one of the products that we're going to use to improve as a company, to potentially allow us to shore up some things. In terms of helping us with storage persistence across private and hybrid clouds, we do store data internally and in Azure. It has allowed us to consolidate a number of workloads, across our old NetApp and a number of our older storage arrays, into a single unit and have that unit also working with Azure. [Full Review]

IT2ced

The integration that it has with some of our data recovery tools, like Veeam, has been helpful. We just had an incident where we had to recover the whole company. We were attacked, so it was lifesaving. Basically, we would be under now if we would not have had it. That is how critical it is for us. [Full Review]

NetApp HCI

📊 ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Sean Henry

I would like to see higher level graphics support because we are going to be doing some virtual desktop for our CAD software, and I want to be able to support AutoCAD and Cantillo on remote desktop machines. [Full Review]

Engineerc2b 6

I'm not a fan of how they don't log you out properly from some of their web tools for management. There are some little things like that, that they're working on, still. Replication is a big one that, I believe they're saying in version 11, is going to be able to accommodate our needs. That's three to six months away. [Full Review]

Manager312 8

* Application consistency restorations * More database support * More application-based features There are some legacy applications which still cannot be migrated. That is why we have to keep two environments: legacy and the new one. We would like to see more compatibility to move stuff. [Full Review]

ArchiSolut67 7

The networking needs improvement. There are a lot of cables, but I have been spoily by converged networking. I guess the issue with teh number of cables would also be evident in other HCI products. In the next release, it would be nice if there were additional hypervisors supported out of the box. Currently it supports VMware but having end-to-end support for Hyper-V, KVM, Openstack and bare-metal would make it unique. These other hypervisors would work (from my limited lab testing) but support would critical for production workloads. [Full Review]

🎚️ PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Manager312 8

There are the overall infrastructure costs. Even though the initial costing was higher, we calculated for year-to-year for five years. That brought us into a position where we decided, we have to go for HCI rather than having distributor systems. [Full Review]

Answers from the Community

When evaluating Hyper-Converged Infrastructure, what aspect is the most important to look for?

There are a lot of vendors offering HCI solutions. What is the #1 most important criteria to look for when evaluating solutions?
Help your peers cut through the vendor hype and make the best decision.

SamuelMc Koy

In my opinion, the most important criteria when assessing HCI solutions other than the obvious performance. How does that HCI solution scale? Or in other words, how does one add storage and compute resources to the solution. Without understanding how the solution scales one can easily request resources without understanding how and why the overall costs have ballooned. The costs can balloon not only because you're adding additional nodes to your HCI cluster for the additional storage and compute resources that were needed but also with additional compute nodes added to the cluster this requires additional licensing for whichever hypervisor the HCI solution depends upon. This is usually on a per-compute-node basis. For example, some HCI architecture allows admins to add only storage to the HCI cluster when additional storage is needed. Not requiring the purchase of any additional licensing from the hypervisor's perspective. On the other hand, some HCI...

Bharat Bedi

While there is a long list features/functions that we can look at for HCI -> In my experience of creating HCI solutions and selling it to multiple customers, here are some of the key things I have experienced most customers boil it down to: 1) Shrink the data center: This is one of the key "Customer Pitch" that all the big giants have for you, "We will help you reduce the carbon footprint with Hyperconverged Infrastructure". It will be good to understand how much reduction they are helping you with. Can 10 racks come down to two, less or more? With many reduction technologies included and Compute + Storage residing in those nodes, what I mentioned above is possible, especially if you are sitting on a legacy infrastructure. 2) Ease of running it: The other point of running and buying HCI is "Set it and forget it". Not only should...

Bart Heungens

For me an HCI solution should provide me: - ease of management, 1 console does all, no experts needed, cloud Experience but with on-premise guarantees - invisible IT, don't care about the underlying hardware, 1 stack - built-in intelligence based on AI for monitoring and configuration - guaranteed performance for any workloads, also when failures occur - data efficiency with always-on dedupe and compression - data protection including backup and restore - scalability, ease of adding resources independent of each other (scale up & out) - a single line of support

[See all 33 answers >>](#)

Answers from the Community

What's the best way to trial hyper-converged (HCI) solutions?

We all know that it's important to conduct a trial and/or proof-of-concept as part of the buying process.
Do you have any advice for the community about the best way to conduct a trial or POC? How do you conduct a trial effectively?
Are there any mistakes to avoid?

Manish Bhatia

I would say, gather and understand the requirements, share and check with vendors, invite them for a solution with a POC on your environment, ask for use cases and for any legacy application/hardware, ask for the compatibility matrix, and then you will have the idea about the capabilities of that solution and vendor.

anush santhanam

Hi, When evaluating HCI, it is absolutely essential to run a trial/POC to evaluate the system against candidate workloads it will be expected to run in production. However, there are quite a few things to watch out for. Here is a short list: 1. Remember that most HCI depend on a distributed architecture which means it is NOT the same as a standard storage array. What that means is that, if you want to do any performance benchmarking with tools such as IOMeter, you need to be extremely careful in the way you create your test VMs and how you provision disks. Guys such as Nutanix have their own tool X-Ray. However I would still stick to a more traditional approach. 2. Look at the list of apps you will be looking to run. If you are going to go for a KVM type of a hypervisor solution, you need...

Mohamed Mostafa1

There are several ways to evaluate HCI Solutions before buying, Customers need to contact HCI Vendors or one of the local resellers who propose the same technology. Both of HCI Vendors and Resellers will be able to demonstrate the technology in Three Different scenarios like : 1 – Conduct Cloud-Based Demo, in which the presenter will illustrate product features and characteristics based on a ready-made environment and the presenter will be able to demonstrate also daily administration activities and reports as well. 2 – Conduct a Hosted POC, in which the presenter will work with the customer in building a dedicated environment for him and simulate his current infrastructure components. 3 – Conduct Live POC, in which the presenter has to ship appliances to customer's data center and deploy the solution and migrate/create VMs for testing purpose and evaluate performance, manageability & Reporting. If the vendor or a qualified reseller...

[See all 29 answers >>](#)

Answers from the Community

Should I Move to Hyper Converged? Why?

A lot of community members are trying to decide between hyper-convergence vs. traditional server capabilities.
How do you decide between traditional IT infrastructure, Converged Infrastructure (CI), and Hyperconverged Infrastructure (HCI)?
What advice do you have for your peers?
It's really hard to cut through all of the vendor hype about these solutions.
Thanks for sharing and helping others make the right decision.

Shawn Saunders

This is truly a TCO decision. But not as some do TCO, a comprehensive TCO which includes the cost of the new CI/HCI, plus the installation, training, and staffing, and the difference in operational costs over the life of the solution. This should consider the other points from Scott and Werner about consistency in support and compatibility of the components. The best time I see this opportunity is in an environment with substantial IT debt, or when you can align refreshes of the various components together. This helps the TCO conversation dramatically. Keep away from the "shiny object" argument. Just because "everyone" is doing it, is not the right reason. Nor does it make sense just because all your vendors are pushing it, or your technical team is pushing it. Again steer clear of "shiny object". I recommend, getting demos of multiple 3-5 HCI vendors, and capture the capabilities they...

John Barnhart

HCI lowers operating and capital costs since it is dependent on the integration of commoditized hardware and certified/validated software such as Dell Intel-based x86 servers and "SANSymphony" from DataCore, or say VSAN from VMware, etc. The idea is used to reduce costs and complexity by converging networking, compute, storage and software in one system. Thereby avoiding technology silos and providing a "cloud-like" cost model and deployment/operation/maintenance/support experience for the admin, developer, tenant/end-users. HCI platforms can also help with scalability, flexibility, and reduction of single points of failure as well as HA, BURA, security, compliance, and more. HCI provides a unified resource pool for running applications more efficiently and with better performance due to being more rack dense and because different technologies are converged into one solution. Placing technology inside the same platform is very beneficial if for no other reason than the physical benefits of how data and electronic signals...

Bob Whitcombe

Should I or Shouldn't I – that is the HCI question. Not to wax poetic over a simple engineering decision – but HCI is about understanding the size and scale of your applications space. Currently, most HCI implementations are limited to 32 nodes. This can make for a very powerful platform assuming you make the right choices at the outset. What does HCI do that is fundamentally different from the traditional client-server architecture? HCI manages the entire site as a single cluster – whether it has 4 nodes, 14, 24 or 32. It does this by trading ultimate granularity for well-defined Lego blocks of Storage, Network and Compute. When seeking to modify a traditional architecture you need to coordinate between 3 separate teams, Storage, Server and Network to add, move, update or change anything. With HCI, if you need more capacity, you add another Block of storage, compute and network....

See all 12 answers >>

About this report

This report is comprised of a list of enterprise level Hyper-Converged (HCI) vendors. We have also included several real user reviews posted on ITCentralStation.com. The reviewers of these products have been validated as real users based on their LinkedIn profiles to ensure that they provide reliable opinions and not those of product vendors.

About IT Central Station

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors but what you really want is objective information from other users.

We created IT Central Station to provide technology professionals like you with a community platform to share information about enterprise software, applications, hardware and services.

We commit to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective and relevant. We protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

IT Central Station helps tech professionals by providing:

- A list of enterprise level Hyper-Converged (HCI) vendors
- A sample of real user reviews from tech professionals
- Specific information to help you choose the best vendor for your needs

Use IT Central Station to:

- Read and post reviews of vendors and products
- Request or share information about functionality, quality, and pricing
- Contact real users with relevant product experience
- Get immediate answers to questions
- Validate vendor claims
- Exchange tips for getting the best deals with vendors

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