

# Driving a Modern Applications Strategy

Four ways to accelerate modern applications initiatives



# Table of Contents

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Executive Summary .....	3
Benefits of Modern Applications .....	4
Four Ways to Accelerate Modern Applications Success .....	5
Don't Try to Re-invent the Wheel .....	6
Leverage Existing Investments .....	7
Focus Resources on Innovation .....	8
Architect for Consistency .....	9
Modern Applications: The Dell Technologies Cloud Solution .....	10
How Dell Technologies Can Help .....	12

# Executive Summary

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In this age of digital services, applications and data are core enablers for every organization. The value of Agile and DevOps—including faster delivery and better service levels—is widely recognized, and that is being enabled by a rapid evolution of the IT architectures in organizations today. The pace of innovation continues to accelerate. To keep up, many organizations have begun developing their applications using cloud-native techniques. Cloud-native applications are architected as a set of microservices that can be independently scaled and quickly updated. These are usually delivered as containers and orchestrated with Kubernetes.

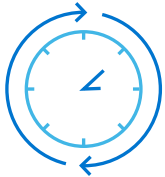
Most organizations have existing applications with business-critical functionality that can't be abandoned. Often these are monolithic packages running in a virtualized environment. In order to thrive and grow, organizations must adopt a modern applications approach. A modern applications approach leverages distributed services exposed as APIs running in a multi-cloud environment. It assumes the collaboration of existing services implemented in today's monolithic architectures along with new services that leverage cloud-native techniques.

Dell Technologies has proven expertise in helping organizations establish a strategic plan for their adoption of modern applications. This eBook will start by summarizing the benefits customers have realized from transitioning to a modern applications approach. Then, it will articulate four techniques for accelerating modern applications initiatives.



# Benefits of Modern Applications

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## Faster response and innovation

Updating monolithic applications requires rebuilding the entire package – even for a minor change. Because modern applications comprise a series of modular services that communicate via APIs, developers can quickly add innovative new features and update existing capabilities independently.



## Greater scalability and change tolerance

Because the services underlying modern applications are loosely coupled, they can be stopped and started and scaled up and down independently. This makes them more reliable and resilient to changes in the service levels of the infrastructure where they are running. It also means they can be scaled out across multiple clouds if needed without disruption.



## Reduced risk and improved productivity

Automation is an integral part of the modern applications approach. Tools that enforce policy and reduce manual steps create repeatable processes that eliminate opportunities for errors and reduce effort required for implementing and operating underlying infrastructure.





# Four Ways to Accelerate Modern Applications Success

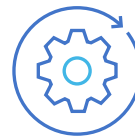
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Don't try to re-invent the wheel



Focus your resources on innovation



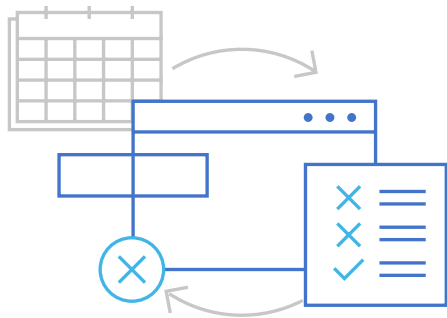
Leverage existing investments



Minimize disruption and lock-in

In the next section, we will dive deeper on each of these recommendations and how to put it into practice.

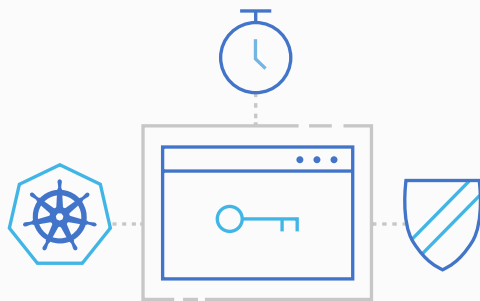
# Don't Try to Re-invent the Wheel



## THE CHALLENGE

### Building your own modern application stack almost never creates differentiated value

The modern application ecosystem is complex; a modern applications platform requires underlying infrastructure components that implement core capabilities including orchestration, image registry, persistence, networking, monitoring, security, and more. You must choose a commercial implementation for each component and integrate them to work seamlessly with the others. Most IT staff is unfamiliar with cloud-native technologies, further increasing the challenge. Selecting and integrating those components to assemble a production-ready platform very rarely adds any unique value. Most organizations that attempt to build a custom cloud-native platform end up with snowflake configurations that are very difficult to sustain and scale to production.



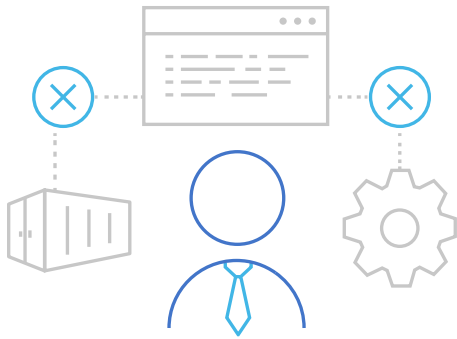
## THE SOLUTION

### Turnkey solutions for modern application infrastructure

To get modern applications to production faster and enable them to scale, organizations need to streamline the procurement and configuration of their modern applications infrastructure. By selecting a turnkey, production-ready platform, they can focus on the strategic outcomes that modern applications drive instead of sourcing and configuring components. Leveraging a standardized architecture that is pre-configured speeds time to production and ensures the ability to go from development to production at scale.

# Focus Resources on Innovation

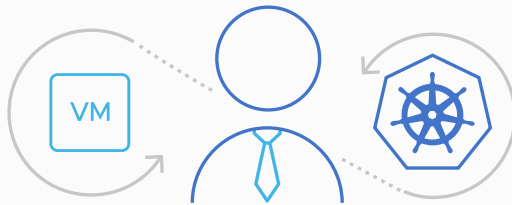
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## THE CHALLENGE

### Frequent updates create security and compliance concerns

With so many components in a modern application stack, lifecycle management can become overwhelming quickly. Feature enhancements and security patches require regular updates to the platform. Failure to maintain pace comes with the risk of downtime and security incidents. Developers and operators can end up spending their time maintaining the integrity of the stack instead of deploying features that differentiate the business.

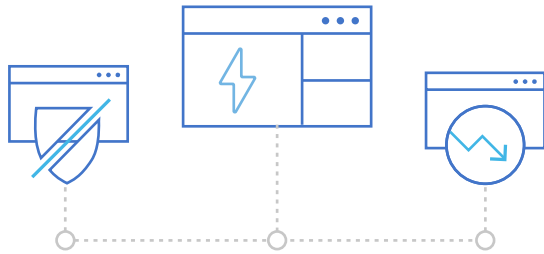


## THE SOLUTION

### Automate lifecycle management

By adopting a platform that automates patching and updating to new releases, organizations can ensure the stability and security of their modern applications architecture while keeping developers focused on innovation. This capability allows verified updates to be downloaded automatically, which takes the underlying infrastructure from one known good state to the next, non-disruptively. It removes the barriers to keeping the platform current so that new features and security enhancements can be accessed as soon as they are available. This, in turn, frees up staff to focus on tasks that add value to the operation.

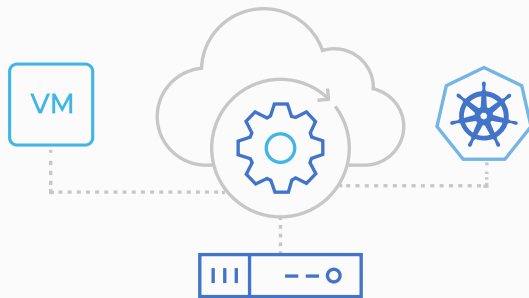
# Leverage Existing Investments



## THE CHALLENGE

### Incompatible environments cause disruption and raise costs

Few organizations can afford to start from scratch and walk away from existing investments in infrastructure and staff. For your modern applications approach to be successful, traditional and cloud-native approaches must co-exist pragmatically. While many cloud-native stacks excel at delivering new functionality in containerized microservices, they neglect valuable legacy applications that run the business. If existing infrastructure and current skills are not extended into your modern applications practice, DevOps process flows will be inherently disjointed and our architecture unsustainable.



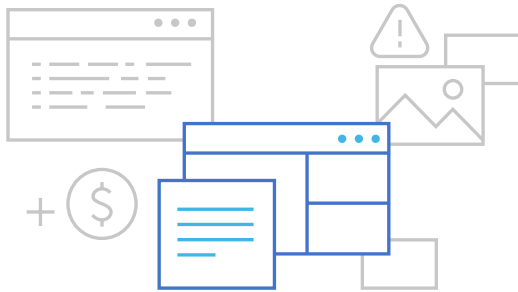
## THE SOLUTION

### Add cloud-native capabilities incrementally to your existing operation

The pragmatic approach is to enhance infrastructure and staff that are currently supporting virtualized apps and Infrastructure-as-a-Service in a way that adds support for containers and Kubernetes orchestration. Modern applications will combine services from both traditional monolithic apps and emerging containerized apps, and it makes sense to have those applications be supported on the same infrastructure. Cloud-native skills are at a premium and staff with knowledge of legacy systems are valuable in their own right. You can ensure that you maximize the value you derive from both by equipping staff with tools that allow them to support cloud-native capabilities with their existing skill set.



# Architect for Consistency



## THE CHALLENGE

### Multi-cloud deployments suffer from inconsistent infrastructure and operations

Modern applications run in the era of cloud operations. Whether on-premises in a private cloud or in hyperscaler public clouds, most organizations must plan to support multiple cloud deployment options for their applications. When applications are not compatible across cloud deployment options, IT loses the flexibility to place workloads on the cloud that best aligns to their needs. Governance and compliance are greatly complicated in a multi-cloud world because of variations in operational procedures, management interfaces, security policies, and monitoring tools from private to different public deployment options.



## THE SOLUTION

### Streamline operations with hybrid cloud consistency

Where applications are run should be driven by business, technical, operational, and financial considerations—not compatibility limitations. The right approach allows the same VM or container to be moved unchanged, so developers and IT can create alignment between application needs and infrastructure options. A consistent operational framework that spans all environments is key to maintaining governance, security, and compliance as well as enhancing DevOps productivity. A consistent cloud operating model should extend across all environments, including on-premises data centers, edge locations, and public cloud. This enables policies and processes to be instituted in a way that limits operational silos increasing efficiency and reducing risk.

# Modern Applications: The Dell Technologies Cloud Solution

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Dell Technologies Cloud delivers a simple and direct path to Kubernetes at cloud scale with a complete, automated platform. It includes a curated set of open source technologies with a proven track record, it allows organizations to build a modern applications architecture and run it at any scale—without having to re-invent the wheel. Importantly, it supports the deployment and running of traditional virtualized applications and emerging containerized applications with Kubernetes orchestration on the same infrastructure. This extends existing investments by enabling the incremental adoption of cloud-native technologies for the creation of a true modern applications approach.

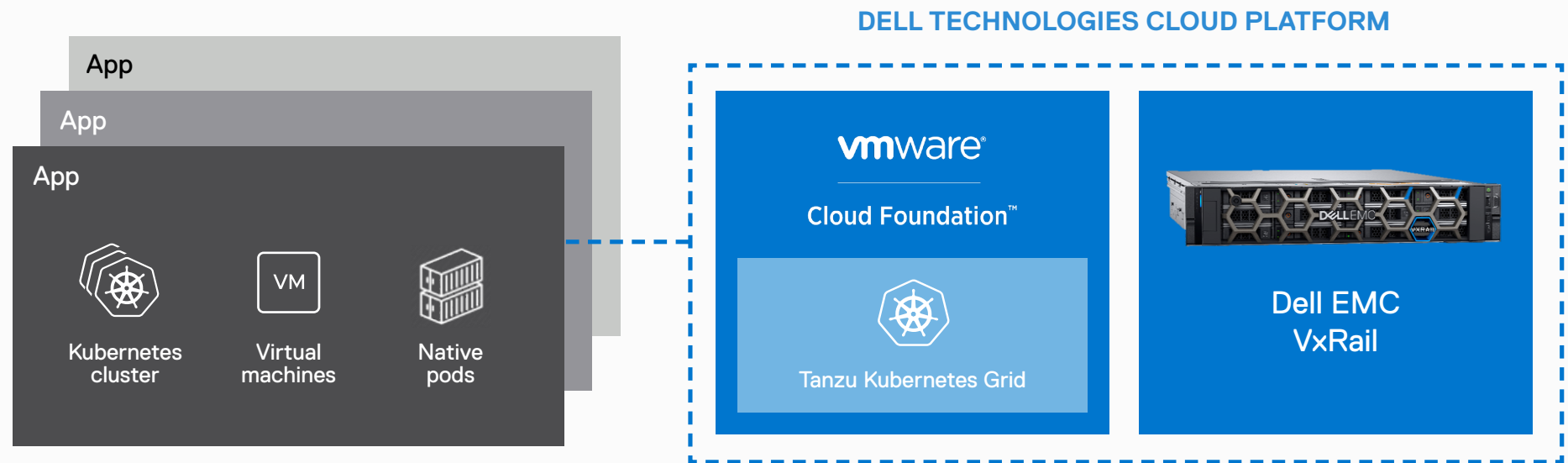
## **VMware Cloud Foundation on Dell EMC VxRail**

is a hyperconverged infrastructure platform that provides the fastest path to hybrid cloud. Automated lifecycle management allows you to maintain full workload continuity through non-disruptive patches and version upgrades. Furthermore, the addition and retirement of nodes can also be done non-disruptively enabling seamless scalability. And with the support of mixed node clusters newer hardware can be non-disruptively incorporated in your cluster meaning you can say goodbye to downtime and forklift upgrades. With all this automation, your team can stay focused on application delivery.



## VMware Tanzu™ Kubernetes Grid

simplifies Kubernetes installation and Day 2 operations across multiple clouds, so you can keep resources focused on innovation. This enables you to deploy, run and manage Kubernetes for production with a familiar VMware toolset. This is proven technology deployed in many organizations that are leading in terms of adoption of cloud-native technologies.





# Dell Technologies Can Help You Embrace Modern Applications With Confidence

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Modern applications are at the heart of delivering innovative products and services in every organization. A modern applications approach leverages existing and new applications across private cloud, public cloud, and edge deployment options. Organizations that embrace this approach have more agile and scalable IT and experience reduced TCO as well as improved service levels.

The changing information technology landscape can be challenging to navigate. Dell Technologies has helped our customers establish an enterprise architecture that embraces modern applications in a pragmatic way. This approach protects existing investments while scaling from pilot to production. We have experience with establishing a sustainable approach that leverages automation and a consistency across multiple cloud deployment options.

Dell Technologies Cloud is built on proven components from Dell EMC and VMware. The solution features unique integrations that streamline the entire ownership experience from design to implementation to maintenance. It is backed by our service professionals and service provider partners who can help with all aspects of how to incorporate cloud-native technologies and Kubernetes orchestration from architecture to education to managed services and hosting. The result is a modern applications approach that will enable efficient, agile IT that is practical and aligned with the needs of your organization.

[Contact us to get started today.](#)

Dell Technologies Cloud is a set of cloud infrastructure solutions built on Intel® architectures and are supported by the industry's broadest ecosystem. This provides trusted cloud computing and enhanced security, along with workload-optimized and scalable performance across public clouds, private clouds, and edge locations.



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