



# Escape the Virtualization Lock-In

[get away from VMware]

8/29/2025



# Who am I?

## LOUMUG:

- “The person who’s done the ‘What’s New With Windows Server’ presentation at LOUMUG since 2010.”
- The person who fills in with something when no one else will present at LOUMUG

## Mirazon:

- CTO since 2018

## Customer:

- The person who gets involved with your issues when they’re challenging

# Who am I?

## VMware ESX:

- Started with 3.02
- VCP from 3-7
- VCAP-DCA, DCD and 5
- Multiple hundreds of clusters designed/built/maintained since 2007

## Hyper-V:

- Started with 2008 Hyper-V Beta
- SME for Microsoft, helped develop initial Hyper-V certification
- SME for Microsoft, sub-contracted setting up Hyper-V clusters [2008]
- Over 100 Hyper-V clusters designed/built/maintained since 2008



# Agenda

- How we got here
- How Hyper-V is different from VMware
- How Hyper-V is managed
- What do day-to-day operations look like
- When you're going to slam a mouse into a table in frustration
- When you're going to take a walk to avoid an aneurism

# Anti-Agenda

- We aren't talking cloud
- This lab in fact, has no internet connection at all
- Like-for-like replacement of VMware
- No prolonged ranting about VMware, no matter how easy they make it
- No prolonged ranting about Microsoft, no matter how easy they make it

# How we got here - VMware

- Broadcom announces they're buying VMWare
- Broadcom PUBLICLY says they don't care about anything but the top 600 customers that VMware has and the other 400,000+ 'meh'
- Broadcom completes acquisition
- Broadcom starts scorched earth campaign against their customers and partners by raising prices and cutting margins
- Broadcom raises prices again and starts forcing 3-year contracts randomly and cuts out partners
- Broadcom raises prices again and fires partners
- Broadcom raises prices again and fires partners

# How we got here – Hyper-V

- 2008 – Strong Hypervisor, weak clustering, crap management
- 2008 R2 – Strong Hypervisor, better clustering, crap management
- 2012 – Stronger Hypervisor, better clustering, crap management
- 2012 R2 – Strong Hypervisor, good clustering, tolerable management
- 2016 – Better Hypervisor, good clustering, tolerable management
- 2019, 2022 – “Is it the cloud?” “then, tweak it some to make it keep working”
- 2025 – “oh... we should care about this again.” uhm “COMING SOON!”

# How Hyper-V Is Different From VMware

- Designed for virtualization-aware OSes
- Doesn't work ~~well~~ with legacy OSes
- Actual Hypervisor itself faster than VMware's
- Uses a VMBUS concept with a privileged 'parent' partition
- VMware is a monolithic hypervisor
- VMware's superpower is vCenter
- Microsoft has no vCenter
- ~~Bifurcated Trifurcated~~ Quadfurcated Management plane



# How Hyper-V Is Different From VMware

- Pretty much anything VMware ESXi/vCenter can do, a combination of Hyper-V tools can do
- It will, 100% of the time take more work than VMware
- It will be more complicated
- It will require subject matter expertise
- You will have to work AROUND the tools

# Single Host Environment

- VMware: ESXi Host Client
  - HTML 5
  - Fast
  - Doesn't give you all the information
- Hyper-V: Hyper-V Manager
  - MMC Snap-in
  - Fast
  - Doesn't give you all the information
  - Relies on parent partition to fill in those gaps

# Demos!

- Basic visibility
- Network setup
- Storage setup
- VM creation
- VM Management

# Normal Multi-Host Environment

- VMware vCenter
  - HTML 5
  - Fast [normally]
  - Gives you everything you need
  - Appliance
  - Upgrades and maintenance are... better than they've ever been...

# Normal Multi-Host Environment

- Microsoft Hyper-V: Failover Cluster Manager and Windows Admin Center... oh, and still Hyper-V Manager occasionally.
- Mix of HTML5 and MMCs
- Moderately quick to slow
- Gives you a decent amount of what you need
- Apps and tools installed on servers
- Upgrades and maintenance can be... interesting

# Demos!

- Basic Visibility
- Network setup
  - Manual
  - DVS
- Storage Setup
- VM Creation
- VM Management
- Cluster Setup
- Cluster Management



# Large Multi-Host Environment

- VMware vCenter
  - Link multiple vCenters together.

# Large Multi-Host Environment

- Microsoft Hyper-V:
- Failover Cluster Manager
- Windows Admin Center
- System Center Virtual Machine Manager...
- oh, and still Hyper-V Manager occasionally.

- [good thing we left the cloud options out, eh?]

## SCVMM

...should be considered a war crime.

# Conclusions

- It works
- It's more complicated to manage
- It has a higher learning curve
- Know what you want out of your environment
- Build accordingly
- It can do everything you need it to
- SCVMM Sucks.

# Helpful Videos

- [The Hypervisor Rollercoaster: What Next for Your Virtualization?](#)
- [What's New With Windows Server 2025?](#)





# Thanks! Q&A

Brent Earls - Mirazon

