

A city skyline at sunset, featuring a prominent bridge in the foreground and several illuminated buildings in the background. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The bridge has a complex steel truss structure. The buildings are lit up, with windows glowing. The overall scene is a vibrant urban landscape.

Plotting Your Virtualization Route: Making Your Move Between VMware and Hyper-V

2/27/2026



Agenda

- Why now is the time to move
- Why Hyper-V is probably the right choice
- What don't you get with Hyper-V
- Why 'the cloud' might be the right choice
- How do you move
- What's required to move
- What's your Return on Investment

Who Am I To Tell You?

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CTO at Mirazon

- VMware (2007 – now)
 - VCP VMware ESX(i) version 3 to 7
 - VCAP-DCA/DCD VMware 4 to 5
 - Built/maintained (literally) hundreds of VMware clusters
- Microsoft Hyper-V (2008 – now)
 - MCITP-EA/MCSE from 2003-2016
 - SME for Microsoft creating the MCTS: Windows Server Virtualization
 - Subcontracted for Microsoft for Hyper-V deployment
 - Built/maintained over a hundred Hyper-V clusters

Why Now Is The Time To Move

- Broadcom is very revenue focused
- Prices have gone up exponentially for the last couple of years
- Minimums have grown
- SKUs have been removed
- Impossible to shrink your (financial) footprint
- Working hard to trap users with a renewal
- Not a nice or fair company to work with

Why Now Is The Time To Move

- Broadcom has made a better mouse trap (and you're the mouse)
- To get a renewal, you must now run a discovery script
 - This seems reasonable, on its own
- If you're on 7, you **MUST** upgrade
 - Seems... somewhat reasonable, 7 isn't supported anymore
- If you're on 8, you **MUST** move to a subscription license
 - This... hmm... hard to justify
- Once you get this information to them... nothing happens.
 - Pricing won't be given until 45 days or (often) less from renewal

Why Now Is The Time To Move

- If your environment is small:
 - Surprise! the minimum is now 72 cores
 - Yes, even if you have a single server with only 16 cores.
 - No, Essentials, Standard, Enterprise and Enterprise Plus no longer exist
- If your environment shrunk, and you want to renew less:
 - Surprise! “any decrease in license count requires a change to VCF” (the highest SKU)
- The price for VCF is fully made up per quote.
 - If you shrunk, it will be \$2000-\$4000 less than your previous VVF
 - We’ve seen, in the same day, the per core count range from \$250 - \$450 to make the above math work.

Why Now Is The Time To Move

- Ugh, it's gone up AGAIN!
- It's going to take a couple years to move off
- Maybe I should just renew my VVF for 3-years
 - That will lock my price in so they can't keep changing it
- Surprise! Multi-year renewals are only possible on VCF
- You can only renew VVF for 1-year
- We'll cut you a 'deal' on moving to VCF though... (they don't)

Why Now Is The Time To Move

- Jeez! This pricing is insane, there's no way I can renew this!
- Alas, now the mouse-trap closes
- In order to get a renewal quote, you had to apply a subscription license
- You could not get the quote until 45 days (usually less) from due date
- Probably too late to migrate if you weren't already on the way
- Now your environment breaks if you don't renew
 - vCenter – kicks out all hosts day of expiration
 - ESXi – you can no longer power a VM on

Why Now Is The Time To Move

- Ok, now they've forced me to the highest level, what more could they do
- Well, your VCF licenses you were forced to were 'discounted'
- Next year they will almost certainly go to 'normal' pricing
- Next year they will also almost certainly raise costs (since almost every business does)
- At best you'll get another 'discount' that will still raise your costs
- The year after it can then go up again to get you to 'normal' pricing.

Why Now Is The Time To Move

- Yes, this is duplicitous
- No, it isn't fair
- Yes, they can do this
- In America, no, it isn't illegal
- Hurray EULAs!

Why Hyper-V Is Probably The Right Choice

- If you're properly licensed for Windows, Hyper-V is free
 - You already need to be properly licensed for VMware
- Most direct feature parity to VMware
- No additional licensing of any type needed
- Second largest market share to VMware
- Stable, mature product with several ecosystem partners
 - Don't under-estimate the importance of this
- Single servers are extremely simple to manage
- Lift and shift relatively easy and cheap

What Don't You Get With Hyper-V?

vCenter!!!!!!!!!!!!

Management Tool	Single Server	Small Cluster	Large Cluster	Hyper-Converged Cluster
Hyper-V Manager	Easy, quick.	Only if something is broken	Only if something is broken	Only if something is broken
PowerShell	Yes, not required	Yes, not required	Yes, maybe required	Yes, absolutely, you have no other option
Failover Clustering	No	Yes	Yes, but sometimes tedious	Ish. Some things can't be done in the UI
Windows Admin Center	Yes, but some features not there	Yes, but some features not there	Yes, but some features not there	Yes, but some features still aren't not there
System Center Suite	Are you insane?	Are you insane?	SCVMM + SCOM + SCCM	SCVMM + SCOM + SCCM + PowerShell

What Don't You Get With Hyper-V

- Windows Admin Center
 - Has gotten so much better
 - Way faster than it used to be
 - Way more functions than it used to have
 - Can manage a cluster... pretty well
 - Releases have slowed significantly
- Windows Admin Center Virtualization Mode (preview)
 - Has a stateful database using ~~of course Microsoft SQL~~ PostgreSQL
 - Give vCenter like navigation
 - Was originally shown in April 2024
 - Is now in preview (many buttons say “coming soon”)
 - Destroys an existing cluster if you connect it to it

What About The OTHER Hyper-V Option?

- Azure Stack HCI is an OEM integrated solution that combines certified hardware from a major OEM with Microsoft's Azure software stack.
- Can be managed from the Azure console, 'eliminating' all of the previous limitations/issues/frustrations/infuriations... if you like how Azure is managed.
- It's a monthly subscription (as of over a year ago).
 - \$10/physical core/month for base Azure Stack HCI
 - \$23.3/physical core/month for the Windows guest licenses
- Both can be mitigated with Azure Hybrid Benefits (AKA you already own datacenter licenses with SA)

Why [Vendor] Might Not be the Right Choice

- LOADS of other companies out there
 - Almost all are KVM or Xen reskinned derivatives
- They all have tiny market shares relative to VMware and Hyper-V
- ProxMox, Scale, Red Hat, Oracle, QEMU, Nutanix, XCP-ng, Citrix, etc.
- Many are add-ons to bigger products rather than a focus
- A lot of the focused vendors are smaller
- Many don't have ecosystem support

The Fluffy Option

- Moving to the cloud SHOULD NOT be a “lift and shift”
- The cloud wasn’t made to run servers like you do on-premise
- IaaS doesn’t have good SLAs for single VMs
 - Between 99.9% and 95% - AKA 8.76 hours to 438 hours (18 days) a year
 - From the January 1, 2026 SLA, page 92-94
 - It’s 105 pages this month and it’s a *riveting* read. I did it for you, you’re welcome.
 - Fun fact, they publish this nearly every month, often twice a month: [Licensing Documents](#)
 - No, it’s not the ‘results’ it’s just the agreement they’re complying to, any given month.
 - Great to know they can change your SLAs at any time as long as they publish it, isn’t it?
 - These types of EULA loopholes are the same that allows them to changing pricing at any time too.
 - Luckily, historically, they’ve chosen not to be as vindictive and spiteful as Broadcom.
 - But yes, these agreements technically allow them to do that exact same shenanigans Broadcom does at any time.
 - Luckily, their stock has been going up without the need to ruin their reputation and enrage their customers [they let windows 11 do that for them]
- Need to refactor/rearchitect your workloads for the cloud
 - SaaS, PaaS, Containers, Serverless
 - Avoid IaaS

The Fluffy Option

- Ran out of space on that last slide being snide because they made me read a licensing document.
- Cloud will be more expensive if built the same as on premise
- You need to move to a cloud native solution
 - Some things are easy – Exchange to 365
 - [if you know what you're doing]
 - Some things are slow and miserable – Windows file servers to anything
 - [even if you know what you're doing]
 - Some things are non-starters like that 10-year-old ERP
 - [WHEN CAN WE SHUT IT DOWN!? WHY THE @\$@#\$\$@% DOES ACCOUNTING STILL NEED THIS? WE MOVED OFF 4 YEARS AGO!!!!]
- Every server becomes a full project

How Do You Move?

- Azure runs on Hyper-V so lift and shift very similar for both
- Each server must be converted
- Similar process to ye olde P2V from the late 2000s/early 2010s
- Most servers barely notice
- Some servers explode in unique ways
 - Drivers (networking and graphics) and licensing are most common
- Can also be a good time to just replace servers
 - Build new servers to replace 2016...or 2012... or 2008
- EX: DC on 2016 -> 2025 or if you have patience and time, EntraID

How Do You Move?

- What tool will you use?
- First party Microsoft has a couple options
- New WAC add-in for conversions to Hyper-V (Still in preview)
 - Very similar to Azure Migrate tool
 - “New”, so your mileage may vary
 - When it works, it just works
- Disk to VHD, yeah... I know.
- Backup tools are often good choices

What's Required To Move?

- Somewhere to move to
 - This is the #1 thing people don't think about
 - Compute
 - Storage
 - Backups
- A tool to move from one place to another
- Maintenance windows for every server
- Application owners to verify functionality

>>> YOUR TIME <<<

What's Your Return on Investment?

- A year and a half ago the decision was harder
- VMware renewals were MORE expensive
- Now they're exponentially more
- Next year they're going to be even more
- Your time and opportunity costs are still important
- If you need new hardware... those prices are spiraling
- Those prices WILL hit the cloud, just a matter of when

Conclusion

- Now is the time to move.
- The choice isn't always clear
- Hyper-V is probably the right choice
- You don't get a good management pane with Hyper-V
- 'The cloud' might be the right choice
- There's no VMware standalone converter
- You need somewhere to put stuff
- You need to justify the Return on Investment



Thanks! Q&A After a
message from our sponsor.

Brent Earls



VMware to Hyper-V Migration: FIVE-ATES

High-level process overview for planning, build, migration waves, and operational readiness

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1 Evaluate

Standards, naming, cluster model, licensing, network and storage decisions

2 Create

SCVMM, hosts, clusters, networking, shared storage, management tooling

3 Validate

POC testing, performance checks, backup, monitoring, and operational readiness

4 Migrate

Low, medium, and high impact workloads moved in controlled phases

5 Operate

Patching, balancing, maintenance, and future expansion on Hyper-V

What the process included

Naming conventions and repeatable standards for hosts, clusters, and storage.
Cluster sizing, failover capacity, licensing model, and future growth planning.
Networking and VLAN alignment so workloads land correctly during migration and after cutover.
Tiering of workloads into low, medium, and high impact waves to reduce business risk.

Execution approach

Pre-build as much as possible before production cutovers to shorten migration windows.
Use a POC / pilot first to validate the build, migration method, and support processes.
Prestage in waves, move workloads, confirm application function, then stabilize before the next wave.
Treat post-migration operations as part of the project, not an afterthought.

Implementation, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

High-level summary of what it took to move from design into a stable operating model

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Implementation flow

Prepare the source VMware environment, inventory virtual machines, and validate readiness.

Stand up the Hyper-V platform components: SCVMM, management, hosts, cluster networking, and shared storage.

Join hosts to clusters, validate storage presentation, and confirm backup / monitoring integration.

Run a proof of concept and then execute migrations by waves based on workload criticality.

After cutover, transition into maintenance, patching, and optimization so the platform stays stable.

Things we faced

Standardizing naming, cluster design, and host build decisions early enough to avoid rework.

Getting networking, VLAN mapping, and storage alignment right before migrations started.

Coordinating low-risk quick wins while still planning for higher-impact production systems.

Operational lessons

A migration is not done when the VM powers on; networking, backup, monitoring, patching, and support have to be ready.

Pilot waves build confidence and expose process gaps before critical workloads move.

Repeatable standards matter because future clusters and hosts will follow the same model.

Bottom line: success came from disciplined design, phased execution, and treating operations as part of the migration.

A man wearing a brown cowboy hat, a blue long-sleeved shirt, and a brown vest is shown in profile, looking out over a hazy, green landscape. He is holding a pair of brown leather chaps with fringes. The scene is set against a bright, hazy background, possibly a sunrise or sunset.

YOU CAN DO IT !!! 🍀 🔥

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