5 Requirements for VMware Converged Systems Readiness

The rise in demand for IT resources is putting mounting pressure on IT budgets and staff. This is causing increased management and operational complexity, growing service level requirements for availability and the need for application flexibility and cost transparency.

To meet these rapidly evolving business needs, many IT managers are turning to converged infrastructures to support their VMware applications. From improved application performance and higher uptime to quicker troubleshooting and faster deployments, VMware converged systems offer a host of benefits that can quickly pay off.

According to ESG Research, IT pros cited ease of management (44%), faster deployment (37%) and improved total cost of ownership (TCO) as the top 3 benefits of an integrated computing platform.¹

Here are 5 requirements you should look for in a converged infrastructure solution.

**REQUIREMENT #1: READY FOR USE**

Every new piece of hardware or software added to your infrastructure eats up valuable time and resources. In fact, IDC states that IT organizations spend 23.3% of staff time and resources on this type of presystem deployment.²

Your converged solution should be fully pretested, prevalidated and pre-integrated, with the flexibility to meet your needs, so it comes to you ready for use.

**Advantage:** The right converged system lets you serve customers faster without adding to your IT staff budget. It also reduces your deployment phase for new applications by 25% or more.

**REQUIREMENT #2: ONE PLATFORM FOR PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS**

Using different tools to manage physical and virtual environments can create inefficiencies as administrators have to jump from one management tool to another. So, you’re spending your resources acquiring skills for a variety of tools.

The ideal solution supports both virtualized and nonvirtualized environments within a single converged stack. Your system should integrate directly into the management tools IT already knows and uses. It will allow you to manage your converged infrastructure without having to learn 3rd-party orchestration tools. In fact, IDC claims that IT decision-makers using converged systems cited fewer management tools and improved IT staff efficiency as the top benefits of convergence.³

**Advantage:** One platform allows you to monitor performance fluctuations and workloads across your entire IT environment to provide a deeper understanding of the business impact of data center operations. It also delivers the level of information needed to make intelligent decisions about where virtualization and consolidation can have the biggest impact.

**REQUIREMENT #3: EXTENSIVE AUTOMATION**

With today’s increased infrastructure complexity, it’s not uncommon for businesses to experience delays in rolling out new products and services. Without proper support and resources, your IT staff can’t respond quickly to business needs. With improved automation, your business can move faster.

Extensive automation across a wide range of functions and systems results in fewer manual, time-consuming and error-prone activities for your IT department, and improved efficiency. IDC states that moving to converged systems can help reduce operations and management costs over time by automating management, and centralizing and consolidating the overall infrastructure.⁴

¹ Bowker, Mark, Bill Lundell and John McKnight, ESG Research Brief, Integrated Computing Trends, March 2011.
**Advantage:** End-to-end automation enables you to deploy applications faster and manage your environment easier. With an automated orchestration tool, you can manage and administer both virtualized and nonvirtualized infrastructures, not just 1 or 2 elements.

**REQUIREMENT #4: EXTEND CAPABILITIES OF IT ASSETS**

For years, IT organizations have been adding servers, storage and networking devices to keep pace with applications and the terabytes of data they generate. Over time, these IT resources became locked up in countless technology silos, each devoted to a particular application or line of business. The result: More budget is spent on operations and IT’s inability to quickly deploy new services.

With the right converged infrastructure, you can extend the capabilities of existing assets to monitor your physical and virtual environments, identify issues and rapidly remediate them. Forrester states that 45% of IT decision-makers said centralizing IT resources was their top reason for adopting a converged infrastructure.5

**Advantage:** Extending the value of existing IT assets to provision, monitor and protect your infrastructure with new capabilities improves IT efficiency.

**REQUIREMENT #5: OPEN ARCHITECTURE**

Without open architecture, migration can be complex, time-consuming and error prone. Also interoperability and scalability can suffer. Make sure your converged infrastructure supports the operating systems you need and the applications you use. According to ESG, because more companies are running multiple hypervisors, having the right converged infrastructure is going to be critical to advancements in your business.

The ideal converged system should be designed to integrate with different hypervisors to avoid vendor lock-in and enable multi-hypervisor IT solutions. To support this, ESG also claims that 65% of today’s organizations are already running multiple hypervisors for both business and technical reasons.6

**Advantage:** The converged solution allows seamless integration with various hypervisors and 3rd-party orchestration frameworks, security partners and service delivery platforms, enabling IT to work with a single, familiar tool.

"Total worldwide spending on converged infrastructure will hit $14.3 billion in 2017."7

Download the full white paper, *The Future of Convergence is Here*. See how to move from a siloed IT architecture with disjointed server, storage and networking buying cycles, to a converged system.

**One Platform. Zero Worry.** Want to simply management and support, enable continuous availability and scale to meet mission-critical business needs? Find out how HDS converged solutions can help simplify your processes by providing single-pane visibility of physical, virtual and cloud infrastructures today.

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5 Forrester, Converged Infrastructure, Ready for the Next Phase, September 2013.
6 Bowker, Mark and Bill Lundell, ESG Research Brief, Multiple Hypervisor Usage Trends, December 2012.