

4 VMware Converged Infrastructure Best Practices

VMware does an excellent job of letting you virtualize servers. What remains complex, and therefore challenging, is managing the underlining storage and network. That's where converged infrastructures come in.

The right converged solution will let you see and manage your entire infrastructure from VMware: not just the operating system, but the whole system. This approach uses "single pane of glass" to manage your physical, virtual and cloud applications. 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.¹

These 4 best practices for VMware on converged infrastructure can help you manage complex changes, respond quickly to management requests, and achieve the full benefits of your VMware solution. Read on.

1. SINGLE-PANE MANAGEMENT

As the pace of IT accelerates, so does the need for an integrated management tool. Using different tools to manage a nonconverged infrastructure can create inefficiencies as administrators have to jump from one management tool to another. Working with multiple tools also means spending resources to develop skills on each tool instead of managing systems.

Converged systems let you handle and control your physical and virtual environments from a single pane of glass, so infrastructure administration is simple.

Practice: Implement a converged system with single-pane management of VMware converged infrastructure so you can quickly adapt to changing business needs and manage user file services more efficiently.

2. ADVANCED MONITORING

IT organizations with nonconverged systems find themselves using disparate tools to manage the infrastructure, but they use a variety of tools to monitor their virtual machines, storage and overall system health. Identifying and remediating problems, ranging from boot storms in a virtual desktop infrastructure to problems with physical storage devices, takes longer. Both time-to-repair issues and the cost of downtime increase.

Advanced monitoring enables end-to-end visibility of your entire infrastructure, from the system layer and the storage pool down to the component level. A single tool for behavioral analytics detects physical and virtual bottlenecks, identifies issues and enables rapid remediation. Forrester states that 45% of IT decision-makers said centralizing IT resources was their top reason for adopting a converged infrastructure.²

Practice: Make sure your converged system provides an end-to-end view of your infrastructure's health and performance. This view allows you to observe and address issues, and accelerate remediation before problems disrupt your business.

3. AUTOMATED PROVISIONING

The increased complexity that IT organizations face puts pressure on business to deliver new computing and storage capacity in shorter timelines. Finding a way to decrease the time to provision new resources is crucial to meeting your evolving business needs.

¹ IDC, Converged Systems Survey, July 2012.

² Forrester, Converged Infrastructure, Ready for the Next Phase, September 2013.

Automated provisioning using a single tool for asset selection simplifies the process. Using a library of reusable, prevalidated and tested service templates can significantly increase provisioning efficiency. Forrester claims that budget constraints (59%), IT sprawl (46%) and time-to-provision (38%) are the top 3 IT challenges driving organizations to consider converged infrastructures.³

Practice: Your converged infrastructure should let you serve customers faster without adding to your IT team and reduce the deployment phase for new applications by 25% or more. With this level of automated provisioning, new compute clusters can be up and running in 10 minutes. How's that for speed?

4. AUTOMATED DATA PROTECTION

Now that more business-critical applications and data are being virtualized, protecting your virtual infrastructure is more important than ever. However, most IT organizations turn to a variety of tools and complex processes to protect their data, and these processes can be tedious and error-prone.

With the right converged system for VMware, you can automate your data protection and eliminate error-prone processes. This means implementing and validating protection of your virtual environment in just minutes.

Practice: The right converged solution for you should ensure easy, error-free data protection setup capabilities and an easy-to-implement test site to ensure your organization has automated data protection with zero worry.

With IT facing so many challenges to meet rapidly evolving business demands, turning to a converged infrastructure for VMware to improve agility, speed up problem resolution and provisioning, and automate data protection makes good business sense. With so many converged platforms available to enterprises today, choosing the right one can be difficult.

Hitachi Unified Compute Platform eliminates the guesswork and troubleshooting organizations normally experience when rolling out a new infrastructure. You can manage your infrastructure from virtual machines to physical storage through familiar administration tools. With comprehensive monitoring and automated tools for quick provisioning and data protection, you can simplify your infrastructure management, improve reliability, reduce cost and complexity and gain agility in your organization.

"Total worldwide spending on converged infrastructure will hit \$14.3 billion in 2017."⁴



Download the white paper, *The Future of Convergence Is Here*. See how you can move from a siloed IT architecture with disjointed server, storage and networking buying cycles to a converged system for your VMware environment.

One Platform. Zero Worry. Want to simplify 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.

³ Forrester, *Converged Infrastructure, Ready for the Next Phase*, September 2013.

⁴ IDC, *Worldwide Integrated Systems, 2014–2017 Forecast*: March 2014.



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