

A green circle containing the text 'HCI' in white.

HCI

Hyper-Converged (HCI)

Buyer's Guide and Reviews

May 2018

Contents

Vendor Directory	3
Top Vendors	4 - 5
Top Solutions by Ranking Factor	6
Focus on Solutions	
Nutanix	7 - 9
HPE SimpliVity	10 - 12
VMware vSAN	13 - 15
Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series	16 - 17
VxRail	18 - 19
HPE Hyper Converged	20 - 22
Stratoscale	23 - 24
DataCore Virtual SAN	25 - 26
Springpath	27 - 28
VxRack System	29
About This Report and IT Central Station	30

Vendor Directory

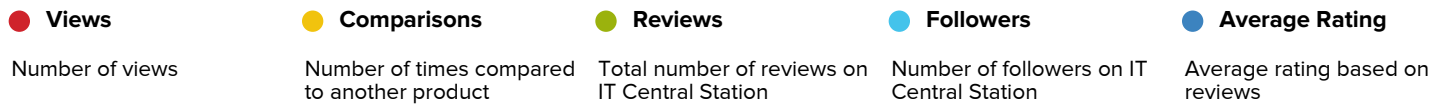
Atlantis Computing	Atlantis Hyperscale
Cisco	Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series
DataCore	DataCore Virtual SAN
Datera	Datera
Datrium	Datrium
Dell EMC	VxRack System
Dell EMC	VxRail
Elastifile	Elastifile
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	HPE SimpliVity
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	HPE Hyper Converged
HTBASE	HTBASE
Huawei	Huawei FusionCube Hyper-Converged Infrastructure
Maxta	Maxta
NetApp	NetApp HCI
NIMBOXX	NIMBOXX

Nutanix	Nutanix
Nutanix	Nutanix Acropolis
Pivot3	Pivot3
QCT	QCT
Sangfor	Sangfor HCI
Scale Computing	Scale Computing HC3
Springpath	Springpath
StarWind	StarWind Virtual SAN
StarWind	StarWind Storage Appliance
StarWind	StarWind HyperConverged Appliance
StarWind	StarWind Virtual Tape Library
StorMagic	StorMagic
Stratoscale	Stratoscale
VMware	VMware vSAN

Top Hyper-Converged (HCI) Solutions

Over 268,436 professionals have used IT Central Station research. Here are the top Hyper-Converged (HCI) vendors based on product reviews, ratings, and comparisons. All reviews and ratings are from real users, validated by our triple authentication process.

Chart Key



Bar length

The total ranking of a product, represented by the bar length, is based on a weighted aggregate score. The score is calculated as follows: The product with the highest count in each area gets the highest available score. (20 points for **Reviews**; 16 points for **Views**, **Comparisons**, and **Followers**.) Every other product gets assigned points based on its total in proportion to the #1 product in that area. For example, if a product has 80% of the number of reviews compared to the product with the most reviews then the product's score for reviews would be 20% (weighting factor) * 80% = 16. For **Average Rating**, the maximum score is 32 points awarded linearly based on our rating scale of 1-10. If a product has fewer than ten reviews, the point contribution for Average Rating is reduced (one-third reduction in points for products with 5-9 reviews; two-thirds reduction for products with fewer than five reviews). Reviews that are more than 24 months old, as well as those written by resellers, are completely excluded from the ranking algorithm.

1 Nutanix



2 HPE SimpliVity



3 VMware vSAN



4 Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series



5 VxRail



6 HPE Hyper Converged



1,247 views

823 comparisons

7 reviews

131 followers

8.4 average rating

7 Stratoscale



4,723 views

2,613 comparisons

2 reviews

1,368 followers

8.5 average rating

8 DataCore Virtual SAN



7,571 views

5,964 comparisons

1 reviews

522 followers

9.0 average rating

9 Springpath



2,199 views

1,745 comparisons

1 reviews

381 followers

4.0 average rating

10 VxRack System




6,093 views

5,492 comparisons

0 reviews

846 followers

Top Solutions by Ranking Factor

 Views

	SOLUTION	VIEWS
1	Nutanix	96,239
2	VMware vSAN	55,483
3	HPE SimpliVity	42,694
4	VxRail	23,862
5	Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series	14,918

 Reviews

	SOLUTION	REVIEWS
1	HPE SimpliVity	47
2	VMware vSAN	40
3	Nutanix	33
4	HPE Hyper Converged	7
5	VxRail	2

 Followers

	SOLUTION	FOLLOWERS
1	Nutanix	4,170
2	VMware vSAN	3,681
3	HPE SimpliVity	3,524
4	Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series	2,118
5	Stratoscale	1,368



Overview

Nutanix delivers invisible infrastructure for next-generation enterprise computing, elevating IT to focus on the applications and services that power their business. Nutanix's software-driven Xtreme Computing Platform natively converges compute, virtualization and storage into a single solution to drive simplicity in the datacenter. Using Nutanix, customers benefit from predictable performance, linear scalability and cloud-like infrastructure consumption.

For more information visit: www.nutanix.com.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

St. Lukes Health System, the City of Seattle, Yahoo! Japan, Sligro, Empire Life, Hyundai AUS, and many others.

TOP COMPARISONS

HPE SimpliVity vs. Nutanix ... Compared 22% of the time

VMware vSAN vs. Nutanix ... Compared 21% of the time

VxRail vs. Nutanix ... Compared 10% of the time

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Financial Services Firm ... 13%

Healthcare Company ... 12%

Manufacturing Company ... 10%

Comms Service Provider ... 8%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 21%

201-1000 Employees ... 28%

1001+ Employees ... 51%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Financial Services Firm ... 12%

Energy/Utilities Company ... 12%

Government ... 8%

Manufacturing Company ... 8%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 33%

201-1000 Employees ... 37%

1001+ Employees ... 30%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.



Top Reviews by Topic



VALUABLE FEATURES



Samuel
Rothenbuehl
er

Some years ago when we started working with Nutanix the solution was essentially a stable, user friendly hyper converged solution offering a less future rich version of what is now called the distributed storage fabric. This is what competing solutions typically offer today and for many customers it isn't easy to understand the added value involved when a meta data update is performed and distributed throughout the cluster with one copy residing on the local node and each replica residing on other cluster nodes. If your VM writes three blocks to its... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Eric Wyman

The level of statistical performance data it is able to report in real time is extremely useful. I can see what my VM's hosts and guests are doing form a single pane of glass and identify issues before they would otherwise become apparent. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Farhan Hafiz

The most valuable features are Prism and Acropolis, as they simplified our jobs and give us the opportunity to lower operational costs without reducing the current day-to-day operation performance. We are using VMware 3-TIER architecture since 2006. Up until this day we're still using the architecture until we could not expand the cluster anymore. Thus, we need to find a way to migrate our VM servers before it's too late. The architecture using old traditional SANS storage and AMD processors platform. We're stuck with VMware version 5.1 and can't be... [\[Full Review\]](#)



William
Beckett

* One-Click upgrades * Software defined storage * The capacity savings One click upgrades are an absolute godsend. Being able to upgrade our entire cluster with the click of a button during business hours with zero downtime has made managing our infrastructure so easy. Previously, we had to schedule downtime to perform upgrades on our infrastructure and that quickly becomes painful and time consuming. Because the entire Nutanix system is contained in a VM, we don't have to reboot physical hosts to apply patches. It's just a restart of a guest VM and... [\[Full Review\]](#)



IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION



Samuel
Rothenbuehl
er

As a system integrators Nutanix offers a solution which is highly standardized that can be deployed in very timely fashion compared to legacy three tier-, converged generation one- and even most competing hyper converged solutions. This allows us to move quickly with a small team or architects and implementation specialists also for large projects. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Eric Wyman

The simplicity Prism/AHV delivers over other hypervisor solutions has dramatically alleviated the workload of our IT department without taking away granular features. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Farhan Hafiz

As opposed to before, the Nutanix platform allows us to pay as we grow instead starting with a large scale. Management seems to like this idea, as it will save us from overspending the budget. We can improve IT utilization and reduce costs by consolidating application infrastructure. [\[Full Review\]](#)



ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Eric Wyman

Site-to-site replication needs some work. It's not as feature rich for a disaster recovery implementation as I would like to see, but my understanding is that it is slated for improvement in near-future releases. DRS-like functionality is also a much-desired feature that is also slated for future release. Third-party solutions are also few and far between as of right now since Nutanix is so new. In regards to third-party backup solutions, your only agentless option is Commvault, which is expensive, complex and requires intensive vendor training. We ... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Farhan Hafiz

We're thinking about hosting SAP HANA on the Nutanix platform, but we are still unsure about the path as SAP still has not certified Nutanix to host SAP HANA yet. Nutanix should make SAP a close partner and certify their product with SAP so that the consumer has a choice to migrate their existing platform to Nutanix platform. As far as I'm concerned, and we already ran the test on an actual Nutanix box, Nutanix can host the HANA without issue. However, without certification from SAP, it looks like we don't have a guarantee from SAP itself. That will... [\[Full Review\]](#)



William Beckett

Given all the amazing features, there is room for improvement around the support ability of different hypervisors. Sure, Nutanix now supports four hypervisors but they are not all at feature parity. If you want all the benefits of Nutanix, you need to be on AHV. For some businesses, that's just not an option. I find we miss out on some of the great features due to being on ESX. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Steffen Hornung

There are various areas, but all points that I could mention are under development and get to you free of charge with another single-click cluster-upgrade. To name some: Native File-Services are under heavy development and Container Services just came out. [\[Full Review\]](#)

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING



Eric Wyman

I would encourage you to heed the advice of your rep on what to purchase with one exception: Make sure the hardware you're purchasing is the latest generation of hardware available. Also, Prism Central Pro is worth spending a few extra bucks. I'd also take into consideration that since Nutanix is fairly new, not all ESX-comparable features exist yet, but don't let that discourage you away from Acropolis, as their development team is top notch and moving fast... the features are coming. If you must have ESX, it runs fantastically on Nutanix, but you're... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Farhan Hafiz

The pricing is good for us and just what we are looking for. We can cut off the VMware license and maintenance support, and migrate to Acropolis instead. [\[Full Review\]](#)



William Beckett

While cost may seem higher than your traditional 3-tier architecture, you need to look at the bigger picture. You're not just buying hardware here. You're buying a complete environment that not only is super-fast to deploy, it's amazingly easy to manage. I find that I'm spending less time managing my infrastructure and more time listening to the businesses needs and tailoring our infrastructure to their needs. [\[Full Review\]](#)

HPE SimpliVity

Overview

HPE SimpliVity provides the most complete hyperconverged solution, powering the world's most efficient and resilient data centers and delivering up to 49% cost savings verses public cloud alternatives. A market and customer satisfaction leader, HPE SimpliVity dramatically simplifies IT by combining all infrastructure and advanced data services—including guaranteed data efficiency, built-in data protection, and VM-centric mobility—onto the customer's choice of server. With HPE SimpliVity, expand your possibilities, not your data center.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Red Bull Racing, Mandarin Oriental, Brigham Young University, UCLA, Merlin Entertainments, Sasa Cosmetics, Travelport, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Princess House

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. HPE SimpliVity ... Compared 53% of the time
VMware vSAN vs. HPE SimpliVity ... Compared 16% of the time
VxRail vs. HPE SimpliVity ... Compared 10% of the time

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Financial Services Firm ... 12%
Manufacturing Company ... 11%
Healthcare Company ... 11%
Retailer ... 8%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 33%
201-1000 Employees ... 24%
1001+ Employees ... 43%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Financial Services Firm ... 23%
Healthcare Company ... 15%
University ... 15%
Pharma/Biotech Company ... 8%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 33%
201-1000 Employees ... 38%
1001+ Employees ... 29%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

HPE SimpliVity

Continued from previous page

Top Reviews by Topic



VALUABLE FEATURES



Charlene
Harsch

The ease of managing this system! Recently added the All Flash CN3400F and oh my goodness are these nodes fast as lightning! I love having a private cloud for my organization. Public cloud will never care for my organizations data more than I do. [\[Full Review\]](#)



reviewer543
450

Data replication, backup and recovery of VMs and disks. Data replication happens in the background once the policy is set and takes few seconds. The fact that the data is deduped inline makes this possible, as only the changes not already replicated blocks are written, which is extremely efficient. We use the Omnicubes to replicate our data to a second datacenter. By having our company data on the Omnicubes, we ensure that all of our data is constantly replicated within the defined intervals to the remote site. This is the reason why we did choose O... [\[Full Review\]](#)



anush
santhanam

* Simple management * HyperGuarantee * Accelerator card * Globally federated architecture The simple management comes in handy since a standard VMware can admin manage it. The HyperGuarantee is unique and the accelerator card is the primary IP with the product. The 4KB based dedupe and optimization are definitely helpful as observed by our clients. The globally federated architecture means that the backup across sites does not consume precious MPLS bandwidth, which is cool. [\[Full Review\]](#)



AccountM64
fc

We have a lot of customers who are looking at the whole hyper-converged infrastructure. Comparing this solution to some of the other competitors that we've been going up against, they like the ease of use, the centralized management, and big cost-savings. We had one SimpliVity deal so far, but that's what everybody from the customer standpoint really liked about it. They just received the product and they were just setting it up. Hypothetically, it's going to solve a lot of business problems that they were running up against. [\[Full Review\]](#)



IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION



Charlene
Harsch

The inline dedupe and compression has allowed me to run all my servers and appliances (total 60) in an HA configuration while taking up just 8U of rack space (4x2U nodes). There is incredibly fast I/O and with the OmniCubes, my users are spoiled with the super-fast reads and writes. Did I mention that we truly enjoy our 99.999% up time? [\[Full Review\]](#)



reviewer543
450

We now have much lower RPOs, from hours to seconds. It is now much simpler for us to deploy additional workloads, since we do not have to take care anymore of storage provisioning. The SimpliVity datastores are so efficient that the never seem to fill up, or at least not that fast anymore. [\[Full Review\]](#)



anush
santhanam

Our clients have been very happy with the data efficiency features (OmniCube accelerator card) and the HPE/SimpliVity HyperGuarantee, which is unique. For one of our clients who needed backup capability but did not want to invest in a dedicated backup tool, SimpliVity's native backup with app consistency came in handy. When you do this across more than 80 sites, the savings is significant and the WAN bandwidth efficiency is impressive. [\[Full Review\]](#)

HPE SimpliVity

Continued from previous page

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Charlene
Harsch

I gave it an excellent rating, thus I think it's well excellent! If there was anything I would like to see, it would be indexed backups. You have to hunt a bit if you have to restore a file. Index the backups and it would be perfect! [\[Full Review\]](#)



reviewer543
450

We definitely want to see more of the CLI commands come up to the GUI, and it is a legitimate question, if we are going to be happy with the integration in the vsphere web client, which is awfully slow. While this is responsibility of VMware (having killed the c-client), the question is legitimate, because the client is what you need to restore your data in the end, and in such situation you do not have time to waste. [\[Full Review\]](#)



anush
santhanam

* For SimpliVity to become a true DC solution, the limit of 32 nodes needs to be investigated. While this may not be a significant deterrent, it brings into question the underlying architecture. * HPE support is still not aware/trained on SimpliVity, and this is beginning to show. * While SimpliVity was a pioneer of cloud connect capability, they have simply not exploited it. * SimpliVity has little to no integrations. It may have APIs, etc., but there are very few signed on integrations in place. This is necessary to build a solutions ecosystem. [\[Full Review\]](#)



AccountM64
fc

That's a good question and I don't really have a good answer for that right now. I'm still learning about the product as a whole and I really want to see, once it's stood up in our customer environment, how it performs. I will then probably have some better ideas once our engineers go through it and talk with the customers as to what improvements there could be. In terms of what I would define as a perfect solution, I am looking for one that is easy to manage, has a real user-friendly interface, and something that is not too complex. I want somethin... [\[Full Review\]](#)

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING



Charlene
Harsch

This solution, while costly as all these solutions are, was in fact less expensive than upgrading my old SAN. Licensing is easily maintained. Keep in mind that you still have to license VMware per processor. [\[Full Review\]](#)



anush
santhanam

In terms of setup, there are some gotchas and caveats, particularly when discussing stretched clusters. Rapid DR also pretty much goes the same way. Otherwise the process is pretty straightforward. Upgrades were a problem but have been addressed to a large extent. The biggest concern is around support and HPE's apparent lack of knowledgeable people. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Francesco
Battistin

The pricing is not cheap but it lines up with converged solutions. If compared with a traditional system, it is important to evaluate all the features. If all of the features are compared, SimpliVity is less expensive than a traditional solution. If you compare it to Nutanix, it is important to compare it to a RF3 solution. However, it's possible to use an x86 external server connected to the SimpliVity storage using a 10Gb network and exported by NFS, using the power of the Data Virtualization Platform with the external x86 computational power. Thi... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Overview

VMware vSAN is the industry-leading software powering Hyper-Converged Infrastructure solutions.

What vSAN Does

Enables you to evolve without risk. Seamlessly extend virtualization to storage with an integrated hyper-converged solution that simply works with your overall VMware environment and reduces the risk in digital transformation by using existing tools, skillsets and solutions.

Lowers total cost of ownership by 50% or more with capital and operational savings. Reduce storage CapEx, decrease operational costs, manage the day-to-day operations of compute and storage infrastructure, and accelerate responsiveness to traditionally time-consuming tasks.

vSAN helps customers scale to tomorrow. Prepare for tomorrow's dynamic ... [\[Read More\]](#)

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Read Some Case Studies

At Home

Cloud CaribCINgroupDiscovery Check out the Rest of our Customer Stories Here

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. VMware vSAN ... Compared 37% of the time

HPE SimpliVity vs. VMware vSAN ... Compared 12% of the time

Red Hat Ceph vs. VMware vSAN ... Compared 9% of the time

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Financial Services Firm ... 15%

Healthcare Company ... 11%

Manufacturing Company ... 11%

Comms Service Provider ... 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 21%

201-1000 Employees ... 26%

1001+ Employees ... 53%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Retailer ... 21%

University ... 14%

Healthcare Company ... 10%

Financial Services Firm ... 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 37%

201-1000 Employees ... 21%

1001+ Employees ... 42%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.



Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES



Architect99
9w

I think performance and cost are the most valuable features of VMware Virtual SAN. We're stringing up an entire virtualization environment for VDI and RDSH through Horizon View. When we compared the cost of a traditional SAN versus vSAN, that's what actually made it all possible for us. We're actually able to deploy Virtual SAN for a fraction, like 1/5th, of the cost, of what we're paying for our SAN. It was crazy. The reduced cost made it very palatable and then the actual performance of it made it even that much more functional. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Harri Waltari

The most important feature for us is the converged infrastructure, which is all this tool is about. There is no need to manage separate storage areas in SAN/NAS environments. Storage management comes built-in with the vSAN tool. Storage is managed via policies. Define a policy and apply it to the datastore/virtual machine and the software-defined storage does the rest. These are valuable features. Scalability and future upgrades are a piece of cake. If you want more IOPS, then add disk groups and/or nodes on the fly. If you want to upgrade the hardw... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Solutiona35
7

If you really want to squeeze all of the value out of this solution, it should be deployed in an all-flash configuration. The all-flash vSAN solution allows customers to take advantage of newer features such as erasure coding, deduplication and compression, greater swap file efficiency and other enhanced management capabilities. The erasure coding feature increases storage capacity efficiency compared to the default RAID-1 fault tolerance method that consumes more space but provides the best performance. Some virtual workloads do not require all of the... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Michel Isaia

The most important functionality is the ability to extend cluster storage and cluster computing power securely without loss of data. Also, the ability to set up an extended cluster on multiple sites in a much simpler and easier way than with a traditional storage solution. [\[Full Review\]](#)

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION



Architect99
9w

I'm from the cloud virtualization side of things, so consolidating the data allowed us to set up the vSAN instead of a traditional SAN, and allowed us to do faster deployments without having to interact with as many teams. It's simplified our deployment methodology a fair amount, and it gave us the better performance we're looking for from a SAN perspective. Beyond that, it didn't change a lot how we function, necessarily, but it gave us a better tool, or a tool specific for our use case, or something that opens up the door for more. I think that th... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Solutiona35
7

vSAN is a very cost-effective solution for just about any data center. It is very easy to deploy, scale and manage. The entire solution is built on commodity hardware, so customers do not have to break the bank (or budget) to invest in this technology compared to a much more costly centralized storage array. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Michel Isaia

It is precisely the possibility of being able to extend the capacities of the cluster of storage and calculation by the simple addition of one or more physical server which makes us lean on this solution in a secure way. Moreover, with the storage policy, we were able to create different security policies depending on the virtual machines according to their needs for performance or availability. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Continued from previous page

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Architect99
9w

I know it's coming, but I'm really excited for the encryption. I know it's on the all-flash, which is fine, because we're migrating to that anyways. Nonetheless, the encryption would be great for at-rest data, because I don't want to rely on a third party. I don't want to get some self-encrypting drives or anything like that; drives me nuts. That would be very good to get. I'm looking forward to being able to do VSAN shares with other clusters; sharing the VSAN storage outside of its existing cluster so that we can actually move data a little bit ea... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Harri Waltari

The management client, i.e., the Flash-based client, is just not up to the mark. I'm really waiting for the HTML5 client to be fully ready and all the features are implemented to it. This, of course, is not a vSAN issue but a vSphere issue. Of course as vSAN is tightly embedded into vSphere, it is also managed by the same tool. vSphere management is done via browser, and currently the only supported client is the flash-based one. VMware is rolling out a new HTML5 –based client, but that is a slow process. It began as a Fling and since then, there ha... [\[Full Review\]](#)

Solutiona35
7

Snapshot management is something that continues to improve with each release of vSAN. Earlier versions experienced performance degradation, but each version gets more and more efficient with snapshots. The new snapshot format known as “vsanSparse” was introduced in vSAN 6.0, which replaced the traditional “VMFSsparse” formats which involved redo logs. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Michel Isaia

This product is usable in many cases. It can be used for a wide range of applications. It is also possible, for example, to parameterize a stretch cluster at the very least without going to a costly solution based on conventional storage, such as MetroCluster, or another solution of the same level. [\[Full Review\]](#)

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING



Harri Waltari

As VMware products are licensed per number of sockets, you need to think this fully through. However, don't go cheap on the number of hosts. You'll thank me later. [\[Full Review\]](#)

Solutiona35
7

Review all of the options available with each vSAN version (Standard, Advanced, Enterprise, ROBO) and look at the solution from a “long-term” perspective. One example would be a vSAN solution that will eventually span multiple sites. The primary site is ready now but the second and third sites are a year or so away from being production ready. In this case, I would recommend to my customer the Enterprise Edition, so they can take advantage of the stretched cluster feature. Once the other sites are ready, the stretched cluster vSAN can be quickly dep... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Michel Isaia

Basically, vSAN is a license in addition to that of the classic VMware Vsphere, which is also mandatory. The easiest way is to get closer to VMware directly; it's much simpler and easier. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series

Overview

The Cisco HyperFlex HX Data Platform is a purpose-built, high-performance, scale-out file system with a wide array of enterprise-class data management services. The data platform's innovations redefine distributed storage technology, giving you complete hyper-convergence with enterprise storage features:

Enterprise-class data management
Continuous data optimization
Securely encrypted storage
Dynamic data placement
Clusterwide parallel data distribution
Linear and incremental scaling
API-based data platform architecture
A simplified approach

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

BluePearl Veterinary Partners, Ready Pac Foods, Bryant University, Bellevue Group, KPIT Technologies, City Harvest

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series ... Compared 47% of the time

VxRail vs. Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series ... Compared 16% of the time

VMware vSAN vs. Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series ... Compared 14% of the time

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.



Top Reviews by Topic



ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



BenAllen

We are operating two clusters for site resiliency. I would like to support running redundant/resilient vCenter server instances on each rather than a supported external server. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Overview

VxRail is the only fully integrated, preconfigured, and pre-tested VMware hyper-converged infrastructure appliance family on the market. Based on VMware's vSphere and Virtual SAN, and EMC software, VxRail delivers an all-in-one IT infrastructure transformation by leveraging a known and proven building block for the Software Defined Data Center (SDDC).

With the power of a whole SAN in just two rack units, they provide a simple, cost effective hyper-converged solution for a wide variety of applications and workloads. VxRail Appliances deliver resiliency, QoS, and centralized management functionality enabling faster, better, and simpler management of consolidated workloads, virtual desktops, business-critical applications, and remote office i... [\[Read More\]](#)

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

World Wide Technology Inc, Renault Sport Formula One Team, 8x8 Inc, Brownes, Canadian Pacific, Canopy, Denton, EDF, Unilin, Xerox

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. VxRail ... Compared 33% of the time

VxRack System vs. VxRail ... Compared 22% of the time

HPE SimpliVity vs. VxRail ... Compared 14% of the time

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Manufacturing Company ... 27%

Energy/Utilities Company ... 14%

Logistics Company ... 7%

University ... 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 17%

201-1000 Employees ... 27%

1001+ Employees ... 57%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.



Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES



Rodney Barnhardt

Being able to perform upgrades and check the system through the VxRail Manager has been very helpful. It allows files to be uploaded, performs a pre-check against the system, then upgrades the appliance from the hardware up through the VMware environment. [\[Full Review\]](#)

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION



Rodney Barnhardt

At a remote location where physical servers were deployed in order to address latency or process delays, one of these appliances is now installed and a low cost virtual environment is in place. This has also allowed snapshot backups to be taken with our Avamar solution rather than just performing file level backup with an agent. [\[Full Review\]](#)

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Rodney Barnhardt

My main issue so far is that the installation created a default datacenter name of "Marvin" and it cannot be changed. This can be a problem with multiple device\location deployments where all of the names are "Marvin". [\[Full Review\]](#)



Muhammad Adel

It still has compatibility issues with the latest version of VMware vSphere 6.5. In fact, we spend around six months waiting for a confirmation and firmware upgrade to confirm this step. [\[Full Review\]](#)

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING



Rodney Barnhardt

At the time, VMware licensing was purchased separately. I have heard that now it is offered as part of the appliance. There is a permanent vSAN license included since it is required, but vCenter\ESXi host licensing should be validated in the purchase process. [\[Full Review\]](#)

HPE Hyper Converged

Overview

HPE Hyper Converged solutions combine intuitive software with the reliability of a world class platform to deliver cloud-like simplicity to your business.

Now, IT can become an internal service provider to end-users by quickly delivering the resources they need for application development and consumption. With HPE Hyper Converged systems companies can operate with cloud efficiency to simplify IT operations with one comprehensive control panel to deploy, monitor, analyze and update – with a single generalist; consume with cloud flexibility to deliver a cloud-like experience, with multi-tenant workspaces that eliminate stranded resources and flexes on demand; and deploy at cloud speed to empower developers and lines-of-business with a self... [\[Read More\]](#)

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

North Lindsey College, FireWhat?, HudsonAlpha

TOP COMPARISONS

- VxRail vs. HPE Hyper Converged ... Compared 44% of the time
- Nutanix vs. HPE Hyper Converged ... Compared 19% of the time
- VMware vSAN vs. HPE Hyper Converged ... Compared 13% of the time

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

COMPANY SIZE

- 1-200 Employees ... 29%
- 201-1000 Employees ... 29%
- 1001+ Employees ... 43%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

HPE Hyper Converged

Continued from previous page

Top Reviews by Topic



VALUABLE FEATURES



Bart
Heungens

For HPE Hyper Converged 380, the added value is not having to buy multiple elements – servers, hard disks, memories, CPU, cables, and software – because you have to unpack it, install it, and update the firmware. You have to do it all by yourself. With this solution, I buy everything together, pre-packaged, pre-installed, and in just 15 minutes, it's installed. It just asks a few questions about IP address and user passwords, and everything is installed. You don't need to have experts in servers, storage, and networking because an IT generalist can ... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Allan
Erickson

Flexibility, it can spin up new server to meet business needs at will. I don't have to worry about buying a new box, provisioning it, all the issues that go along with that. I like the fact that it's taken us from approximately 23 servers down to three ProLiant servers running the StoreVirtual VSA. We have had a big reduction in our electricity consumption, the cooling requirements for our server room dropped dramatically and the reliability has been fantastic with it. Ease of management, as I come from a software background, and I'm responsible for... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Howard
Lanham

We like the fact that the hyper-converged infrastructure provides a simple to grow, easy to configure platform. It meets our needs now, but if there's growth later, it's easy to add on another node or two. You don't have to go out and get more servers and get additional pieces of the SAN. It's one box that has its own warranty, so it's not mixing. With the SAN, you'd get additional drives, but they'd have a warranty that started and ended separate from the original SAN. It got complicated. This makes all of that process easier. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Mohamad
Charara

* The ease of use and management. * The speed: It is extremely fast. * The price per value compared to other solutions, like Nutanix and SimpliVity.. * The HA, which means I have a copy of the VMs always available, and the moment a VM is down, the system tries to power it on again. The drawback: I do not have deduplication, compression, and DR features, which were later addressed through HPE SimpliVity acquisition. [\[Full Review\]](#)



IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION



Gerald
Nguyen

We had four ESX hosts and a big storage rack. We needed to replace it really quickly. It's all VMware stuff and it involved moving it over. The unit came in. Our lead architect spent an hour with it, figured out a couple IP addresses that it needed to have, and it was up and running in four hours. He was able to migrate all the workloads off the old equipment in three days. From the time it came into the building, it took three days. Everything was moved over. He was moving things slowly at first, moving non-critical things during the day. Then once... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Mohamad
Charara

Before deploying the product, we did not have any enterprise IT infrastructure. Now, with the HC380 deployment, we succeeded in building all the required servers, organizing the data and protecting it, which has increased our operational efficiency and level. Now, we have flexibility thanks to HPE HC380 and VMware. [\[Full Review\]](#)



ITManage116
2

It helped our business continuity. For example, if you have a failed disk or you have some errors, the system keeps running and you have time to fix it. The HPE computer center is notified automatically and they help us fix the problems. [\[Full Review\]](#)

HPE Hyper Converged

Continued from previous page



ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Gerald
Nguyen

I'm guessing that the next release will be the SimpliVity stack. I don't know. It seems like they've got a lot of features packed in there. There's nothing that comes to mind in terms of improvement. It has worked pretty well. We've had to do a power cycle to bring it all the way down, bring it back up for power outages, A/C shut-downs of our DC office, but it hasn't presented a problem. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Bart
Heungens

I would like to see improvement in the hardware underneath it. Currently, it's a Gen9 DL380. One day, there will be a Gen10 DL380 and maybe they will have bigger or smaller sizes. The HE380 is already a good step forward with the first product, which was the CS250, which was really cool. It was just a 2U box (chassis). It had a lot of performance in there, but not that much flexibility on the storage and VDI side. HPE CS380 is really spot on. It is the right answer from HPE to give you more flexibility. The next thing will be newer, faster hardware.... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Howard
Lanham

From the release that we have, we'd like to see better integration with vCenter and OneView. I believe the vCenter integration is available in an update that was released earlier this year. We have not applied it yet. It is complex to set up and it is not something you would really want to have to do yourself. The software version on the HC380s we are using is version 1. It does not support spanned vCenter which we use since we have multiple sites. I heard that the version 2 of the software handles that better. We are working with HPE to get the sof... [\[Full Review\]](#)



Mohamad
Charara

Data protection and optimization: It is really weak. They do not offer deduplication or compression. Also, we do not have a real backup solution. It is just snapshots, which is forcing us to do automatic backups of the extremely important data on different servers. Thus, if I can have a deal with HPE to have an upgrade to SimpliVity with our current agreement, it would work well. We are in negotiations and we hope to reach happy ending soon. [\[Full Review\]](#)



PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING



Mohamad
Charara

HPE pricing is good. It was much cheaper than their competitors. It does not have any hidden costs as the other competitors. I just have to pay for the support after my three year support contract finishes. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Overview

Stratoscale is the cloud infrastructure company, allowing enterprises to deploy an AWS-compatible region in any data center. Stratoscale Symphony, can be deployed in minutes on commodity x86 servers, creating an Amazon Web Services (AWS) compatible region and offering AWS-compatible services including EC2, S3, EBS, RDS and Kubernetes.

Stratoscale was named a “Cool Vendor in Servers and Virtualization” by Gartner and raised over \$70M from leading investors including: Battery Ventures, Bessemer Venture Partners, Cisco, Intel, Qualcomm Ventures, SanDisk and Leslie Ventures.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

SanDisk, Orange, Merck, NTT, Troy Cable, Bezeq, Tieto, Neen, Ofek Cloud Technologies, APA IT, Netkom, SOS Surveillance, Futong, WeBank, Team Netsol

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. Stratoscale ... Compared 18% of the time

Mirantis Cloud Platform vs. Stratoscale ... Compared 14% of the time

Platform9 vs. Stratoscale ... Compared 9% of the time

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.



Top Reviews by Topic



IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION



Nir
Ashkenazi

We use Stratoscale to allow our end customers and our integrators to manage their own servers and their own product. We're allowing them a great deal of flexibility in terms of how they utilize the cloud. We're making the cloud a lot closer to them, rather than having only six locations like Amazon does. For example, they don't have presence in Israel. They don't have a place in New York, which is closer to our customer base. [\[Full Review\]](#)



ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Nir
Ashkenazi

We've been working with the product for so long, we've actually been very satisfied. But they could integrate more products. They recently purchased a DB-as-a-service provider, which is something we've been expecting. [\[Full Review\]](#)



DataCore Virtual SAN

Overview

DataCore Virtual SAN introduces the next evolution in Software-defined Storage (SDS) by creating high-performance and highly-available shared storage pools using the disks and flash storage in your servers. It addresses the requirements for fast and reliable access to storage across a cluster of servers at remote sites as well as in high-performance applications.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Volkswagen , Maimonides Medical Center, The Biodesign Institute, ISCO Industries, Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, United Financial Credit Union, Derby Supply Chain Solutions, Mission Community Hospital, Bellarmine College Preparatory, Colby-Sawyer College, Mount Sinai Health System, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Quorn Foods, Bitburger, University of Birmingham, Stadtverwaltung Heidelberg, NetEnt to name a few.

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. DataCore Virtual SAN ... Compared 27% of the time

VMware vSAN vs. DataCore Virtual SAN ... Compared 21% of the time

StarWind Virtual SAN vs. DataCore Virtual SAN ... Compared 9% of the time

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.



Top Reviews by Topic



ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



JefeDelna6e
b

When I sometimes reboot for maintenance, the connectivity from the iSCSI initiator host could be improved. I think that SAN Symphony Data Core should improve the connectivity of iSCSI initiators on hosts, because sometimes when I do a maintenance any data core server, I lose connection and I need to reboot the server. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Overview

Springpath is the pioneer in hyperconvergence software, turning standard servers of choice into a single pool of compute and storage resources. The Springpath Data Platform eliminates the need for network storage and intuitively integrates into existing management tools to maximize operational efficiency. Using adaptive scaling capabilities, customers can grow compute, caching or capacity resources independently, depending on their changing business needs. Springpath proactively monitors your infrastructure to ensure resilient, always-on availability. Using data management and optimization capabilities, Springpath customers experience transformative levels of resource utilization, accelerating the adoption of DevOps in their organization wi...

[\[Read More\]](#)

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Sigma Designs, Superior Document Solutions

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. Springpath ... Compared 41% of the time

VMware vSAN vs. Springpath ... Compared 24% of the time

Hedvig vs. Springpath ... Compared 8% of the time

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

Top Reviews by Topic



VALUABLE FEATURES



DennisLefeb
vre

Integration with vCenter WebClient services and Cisco UCS Ecosystem, as it gives a Single Pane Of Management which lowers administration-cost (improving TCO). [\[Full Review\]](#)



Overview

VxRack System consists of hyper-converged rack-scale engineered systems, with integrated networking, to achieve the scalability and management requirements of traditional and cloud native workloads. The VxRack series is purposely designed to enable customers to quickly deploy Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) and/or Private Cloud architectures. VxRack Systems tightly integrate hardware with software and management layers. The result is a fully tested, pre-configured, hyper-converged system with simplified operations at data center and Service Provider scale. VxRack Systems support the deployment of a variety of application workloads, allowing IT to rapidly deliver new services while improving overall agility and efficiency.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Canopy, 8x8Inc., Atos, Canadian Pacific, City of Denton, CenturyLink, BNP Paribas, Asyaport, EDF, CSC, Fox Sports, Insight, Hunter, KPIT, Paetec, Rosetta Stone, Sonda, Xerox

TOP COMPARISONS

VxRail vs. VxRack System ... Compared 78% of the time

Nutanix vs. VxRack System ... Compared 12% of the time

Cisco HyperFlex HX-Series vs. VxRack System ... Compared 2% of the time

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

About this report

This report is comprised of a list of enterprise level Hyper-Converged (HCI) vendors. We have also included several real user reviews posted on ITCentralStation.com. The reviewers of these products have been validated as real users based on their LinkedIn profiles to ensure that they provide reliable opinions and not those of product vendors.

About IT Central Station

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors but what you really want is objective information from other users.

We created IT Central Station to provide technology professionals like you with a community platform to share information about enterprise software, applications, hardware and services.

We commit to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective and relevant. We protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

IT Central Station helps tech professionals by providing:

- A list of enterprise level Hyper-Converged (HCI) vendors
- A sample of real user reviews from tech professionals
- Specific information to help you choose the best vendor for your needs

Use IT Central Station to:

- Read and post reviews of vendors and products
- Request or share information about functionality, quality, and pricing
- Contact real users with relevant product experience
- Get immediate answers to questions
- Validate vendor claims
- Exchange tips for getting the best deals with vendors

IT Central Station

244 5th Avenue, Suite R-230 • New York, NY 10001

www.ITCentralStation.com

reports@ITCentralStation.com

+1 646.328.1944