



Buyer's guide to

Transitioning from VMware with confidence

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What is the ideal VMware alternative?

The virtualization landscape is changing fast, and more organizations are looking for private cloud alternatives. With Broadcom's acquisition of VMware, enterprises are prioritizing flexibility, advanced features, and better business relationships. For vAdmins, it's not just about comparing features—it's about finding a smooth, hassle-free migration path that protects existing investments and keeps productivity on track.

Migrating from VMware brings a myriad of challenges. Can you easily switch to a new virtualization platform without disrupting operations? How do you protect your existing investments—ensuring your hardware infrastructure, backup and recovery tools, security systems, and performance monitoring remain compatible? And most importantly, how do you make the migration process smooth and low-risk?

This guide simplifies the search for VMware alternatives, focusing on key features and functionality of Platform9 Private Cloud Director, and comparing this solution to alternatives including Microsoft Hyper-V, Nutanix AHV, Red Hat OpenShift, and VMware vSphere. Designed for enterprise vAdmins, it cuts through the noise of the virtualization market to help you make smart decisions that align with your business goals and budget.

Table stakes: Core virtualization capabilities

A new virtualization platform must do the same job (or better) than VMware has done for you over the years. First of all, it must provide a familiar admin experience. Experienced vAdmins should only require minimal training and on-boarding to a new platform. It should be easy to manage, multi-tenant, and have the fine-grained features required to fine tune for legacy applications.

Additionally, any new virtualization platform must support critical vSphere management features, such as VM High Availability, VMware DRS (Distributed Resource Scheduler), vMotion, Distributed Virtual Switches, Software Defined Networking, and vVols.

	VMware vSphere	Platform9 Private Cloud Director	Nutanix AHV	Microsoft Hyper-V	Red Hat OpenShift virtualization
Virtualization technology	VMware ESXi	Private Cloud Director virtualization (KVM)	AHV (based on KVM)	Windows Server Virtualization	OpenShift virtualization (KVM in a Kubernetes container using KubeVirt)
Resource Scheduler	vSphere Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)	Dynamic Resource Rebalancing (DRR)	Nutanix Prism Acropolis Dynamic Scheduling (ADS)	Windows Server Failover Clustering for HA	Kubernetes native clustering
High Availability (HA)	vSphere HA	VM HA	NCS	Windows Server Failover Clustering	Kubernetes orchestration
Live migration	vSphere Storage APIs for Data Protection Compatible with many 3rd-party backup products	Live Migration Storage Live Migration	Metro Availability vDisk Migration	Live Migration Storage Migration	Live Migration Storage Live Migration

Integrate with your exisiting storage platform

You've already spent the time, effort, and money to select the storage system best suited for your organization. You shouldn't have to discard that decision for a virtualization platform that requires a prescriptive HCI hardware selection.

You should have complete freedom to choose your block storage or even SAN array, and even your hypervisor operating system. How can you protect your hardware investment when selecting a new virtualization platform?

	VMware vSphere	Platform9 Private Cloud Director	Nutanix AHV	Microsoft Hyper-V	Red Hat OpenShift virtualization
Shared storage	VMware vSAN VMware vSphere Storage APIs	Supported protocols: NVMe, Fibre Channel, iSCSI, NFS Integrates with every major storage platform (e.g. Dell, HPE, NetApp, Pure)	Nutanix Distributed Storage Fabric (DSF) and storage-only nodes. Fibre Channel / iSCSI not currently supported.	Storage Spaces Direct (S2D)	Supports CSI-based storage.
Virtual Storage Volumes	vVols VASA APIs	PCD Volumes, Volume Types, Volume Snapshots	N/A	N/A	Volumes Volume Types Volume Snapshots

Future-proof virtual environments with Software-Defined Networking

A virtual platform won't scale without a fluid, programmable network. Software-Defined Networking (SDN) and micro-segmentation work together to provide networking architecture that enhances security and flexibility in virtualized environments.

Virtual switches, implemented at the host level or across clusters (distributed switches), allow flexible connectivity, traffic isolation, and security policy enforcement for virtual machines. However, other features such as NIC teaming, virtual firewalls and port security, and IPAM (IP Address Management) are required to enable a vibrant private cloud network (see these details in Appendix I). How does the field stack up?

	VMware vSphere	Platform9 Private Cloud Director	Nutanix AHV	Microsoft Hyper-V	Red Hat OpenShift virtualization
Virtual networking	vSphere vSwitch NSX	Open vSwitch (OVS) Open Virtual Network (OVN). LBaaS v2 FWaaSv2 VPNaaS	Nutanix Flow	Hyper-V Network Virtualization (HNV).	Linux bridges Open Virtual Network (OVN) Integration with Kubernetes networking plugins.
Virtualized switches	vSphere Distributed Switch (VDS)	Networking Service	Open vSwitch (OVS)	Hyper-V virtual switches	OpenShift Container Platform networking
SDN and micro- segmentation	VMware NSX	Networking Service	Nutanix Flow	Hyper-V Network Virtualization	OpenShift SDN and OpenShift Service Mesh

Migrate to a next-gen private cloud platform

A modern virtualization platform should seamlessly bridge between virtual machines and containers. A unified interface allows vAdmins to manage VMs and containers side by side, simplifying operational workloads.

	VMware vSphere	Platform9 Private Cloud Director	Nutanix AHV	Microsoft Hyper-V	Red Hat OpenShift virtualization
Kubernetes support	Natively supports Kubernetes through VMware Tanzu (additional product license required).	Hosted Kubernetes control plane support Open-source cluster API project	Nutanix Kubernetes Engine (NKE) Nuntanix Kubernetes Platform (NKP)	Windows Server containers	Native Kubernetes Support

Make Platform9 Private Cloud Director your VMware alternative

If you're considering transitioning from VMware to an alternative virtualization stack, the Private Cloud Director is an excellent choice. It offers features similar to those you've relied on in VMware for years.

Familiar VM management

Platform9's founding team built core vSphere products, such as DRS and vCloud Director. They wanted to bring that familiar and easy-to-use experience to vAdmins. They also knew that the Private Cloud Director management experience needed drop-in replacements for key vSphere management features.

That's why the Private Cloud Director delivers a user experience that's closest to VMware, easy to use and easy for vAdmins to adopt.

All critical VMware features included

With Private Cloud Director, Dynamic Resource Rebalancing (DRR) ensures consistent VM performance and eliminates resource contention, much like vSphere DRS. Of course, there is VM HA for high availability. And Live Migration is an equivalent to vMotion.

You can find more equivalents in this list.

Bring your existing storage

Private Cloud Director is the only private cloud alternative to VMware that offers deep integrations with every enterprise storage solution in the industry. In fact, several Platform9 customers currently run Private Cloud Director on existing deployments of Pure, NetApp, Tintri, Dell, EMC and many other popular storage vendors.

Private Cloud Director also works with all existing x86 server hardware. This means you can migrate your virtualization platform and still protect your storage and server investments. No need for a server refresh or to invest in HCI architecture.

Next-Gen private cloud platform

As containerized workloads become the norm, Private Cloud Director can bridge the gap between traditional virtualization and modern cloud-native needs. It provides a unified management plane for VMs and containers, as well as features self-service, API automation and multi-tenancy with packaged services built-in: databases, Kubernetes, firewalls, VPNs, DNS, and more

Best migration experience in the industry

Migrating away from VMware can feel overwhelming, but Platform9's Project vJailbreak makes the process seamless and stress-free. This tool was built to simplify and automate VMware VM migrations to Private Cloud Director, providing end-to-end automation of the entire process.

From validation and mapping to rigorous testing, vJailbreak ensures every step of the migration is reliable and efficient. Advanced capabilities like the live migration and rollback options minimize risks typically associated with large-scale migrations.

Ready to move to a modern virtualization platform?

Transitioning from VMware doesn't have to be complex or risky. With the right alternative, you can maintain compatibility, protect your investments, and improve your virtualization capabilities—all without disrupting your operations.

Platform9 simplifies this process with a fully-managed (with options for self-management and air-gapped deployments), drop-in, modern solution that delivers the same core features you rely on, with added flexibility and cost efficiency.

Ready to see how Platform9 can help your business transition smoothly? <u>Schedule a demo</u> today and take the first step toward a smarter virtualization future!

Detailed feature comparison

Core capabilities	VMware vSphere	Platform9 Private Cloud Director	Nutanix AHV	Microsoft Hyper-V	Red Hat OpenShift virtualization
Virtualization technology	VMware ESXi	Private Cloud Director virtualization (KVM)	AHV (based on KVM)	Windows Server Virtualization	OpenShift virtualization (KVM in a Kubernetes container using KubeVirt
Dynamic resource management	VMware DRS	Dynamic Resource Rebalancing (DRR)	Nutanix Prism Acropolis Dynamic Scheduling (ADS)	Hyper-V Dynamic Memory Dynamic Optimization.	Kubernetes scheduler
High Availability (HA)	vSphere HA	VM HA	NCS	Windows Server Failover Clustering	Kubernetes orchestration
Shared storage	VMware vSAN VMware vSphere Storage APIs	Supported protocols: NVMe, Fibre Channel, iSCSI, NFS on every major storage platform (including Dell, HPE, NetApp, Pure)	Nutanix Distributed Storage Fabric (DSF) and storage-only nodes. Fibre Channel / iSCSI not currently supported.	Storage Spaces Direct (S2D)	Supports CSI-based storage.
Virtual Storage Volumes	vVols VASA APIs	PCD Volumes, Volume Types, Volume Snapshots	N/A	N/A	Volumes Volume Types Volume Snapshots
Kubernetes support	Natively supports Kubernetes through VMware Tanzu.	Natively supports VMs alongside Kubernetes deployments.	Nutanix Kubernetes Engine (NKE) Nutanix Kubernetes Platform (NKP	Windows Server containers	Native Kubernetes support
Virtual networking	vSphere vSwitch NSX	Open vSwitch (OVS) Open Virtual Network (OVN). Provider network support includes VLAN, VXLAN, and GENEVE.	Nutanix Flow	Hyper-V Network Virtualization (HNV).	Linux bridges Open Virtual Network (OVN) Integration with Kubernetes networking plugins.
Virtualized switches	vSphere Distributed Switch (VDS)	Networking Service	Open vSwitch (OVS)	Hyper-V virtual switches	OpenShift Container Platform networking
SDN and micro- segmentation	VMware NSX	Networking Service Leverages SDN solutions Open vSwitch (OVS) and Open Virtual Network (OVN)	Nutanix Flow	Hyper-V Network Virtualization	OpenShift SDN and OpenShift Service Mesh
NIC Teaming	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Virtual Firewalls/Port Security	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Live migration	vSphere vMotion Storage vMotion	Live Migration Storage Live Migration	Metro Availability vDisk Migration	Live Migration Storage Migration	Live Migration Storage Live Migration
Snapshots	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Backup/restore	vSphere Storage APIs for Data Protection Compatible with many 3rd-party backup products	Provided via snapshots. Compatible with many 3rd- party backup products.	VM backup and restore functionality Compatible with many 3rd-party backup products.	Provided via snapshots, Backup Manager Compatible with many 3rd-party backup products.	Provided via snapshots CSI driver that supports Kubernetes Volume Snapshot API

Management Capabilities	VMware vSphere	Platform9 Private Cloud Director	Nutanix AHV	Microsoft Hyper-V	Red Hat OpenShift virtualization
Web UI	vSphere Client	Web-based interface	Nutanix Prism	Hyper-V Manager	Web-based interface
CLI	PowerCLI	OpenStack CLI kubectl	Nutanix Command- Line interface	PowerShell	OpenShift CLI tools
ΑΡΙ	vSphere API vSphere Automation SDKs	Exposes APIs for automation and integration	Nutanix REST APIs.	Hyper-V WMI PowerShell	Exposes APIs for automation and integration.
Monitoring	vSphere Health vRealize Operations.	Integrates comprehensive monitoring Gnocchi, Prometheus.	Nutanix Prism Pro.	Windows Admin Center System Center Operations Manager (SCOM).	Built-in monitoring capabilities using Prometheus and Grafana.
User access, permission management	RBAC vCenter Single Sign-On (SSO) Integration with identity providers.	Identity Service using RBA with SAML/SSO integration. Integration with identity providers.	Nutanix Prism Central.	Active Directory integration	RBAC with integration with identity providers.
IPAM	VMware Aria Suite (formerly vRealize).	YES	YES	YES	Not Directly Supported
Operational Items	VMware vSphere	Platform9 Private Cloud Director	Nutanix AHV	Microsoft Hyper-V	RedHat OpenShift Virtualization
Ease of upgrade	vSphere Update Manager provides automated upgrade capabilities for hosts and virtual machines.	SaaS-based management control plane. Automated updates and security patches. Proactive operations and monitoring via Always-On Assurance.	Nutanix AHV upgrades are streamlined and non-disruptive, with features like 1-click upgrades	Integrated with Windows Server Update Services (WSUS).	The Operator Lifecycle Manager manages Virtualization Operator upgrades. Requires the upgrade of the underlying OpenShift Container Platform.
Support	Comprehensive commercial support with SLAs .	Dedicated 24/7 support with Always- On™Monitoring and SLAs	Dedicated support with Nutanix AVH licenses.	Comprehensive commercial support with SLAs.	Comprehensive commercial support with SLAs.
Pricing	Per-core, subscription based pricing. Currently unpredictable.	Per-core pricing includes Private Cloud Director, deployment assistance, and 24/7 Always-On Assurance.	Bundled per-core pricing structure. Included with Nutanix Hardware and Licensing.	Bundled Datacenter and Standard editions. Included with Windows Server.	Core pair subscriptions at the cluster level. Socket pair at bare metal level. Included with RedHat.
	Often bundled with additional features and support services over multi- year contracts.				



Platform9 is a leader in simplifying enterprise private clouds. Our flagship product, Private Cloud Director, turns existing infrastructure into a full-featured private cloud. Founded by a team of cloud pioneers from VMware, Platform9's private cloud platform has powered over 20,000 nodes in production across some of the world's largest enterprises like Cloudera, EBSCO, Juniper Networks, and Rackspace. With a comprehensive SaaS-based control plane, Always-On Assurance[™], and decades of experience, Platform9 helps businesses embrace the future of private cloud with ease and confidence.

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