

# Diverse Virtualization Deployment Strategies with Cisco UCS

VMware, Nutanix, Red Hat, Microsoft, and More

Ulrich Kleidon - Principal Engineer BRKCOM-2460



"The server virtualization market is facing its most significant disruption in over a decade. I&O leaders will be forced to question their underlying assumptions for current and future





- Introduction
- Broadcom / VMware
- Cisco HCI with Nutanix
- Red Hat OpenShift Container **Platform**
- Microsoft Azure Local
- Bare Metal and more
- Closing

# Applications redefining IT

### SUSTAINABILITY

Performance, Power and Footprint

Data center power consumption accounts for up to 50x that of a typical commercial office building<sup>3</sup>



### **APPLICATION ARCHITECTURE**

Hyper-distributed and Hyper-diverse

Market disruption drives platform diversity 3 years with 50% of data being generated at the edge

### **HYBRID MULTICLOUD**

Intelligent Workload Placement 82% of companies are operating both on-

82% of companies are operating both onprem and in the cloud while 30% are moving to intelligent workload placement

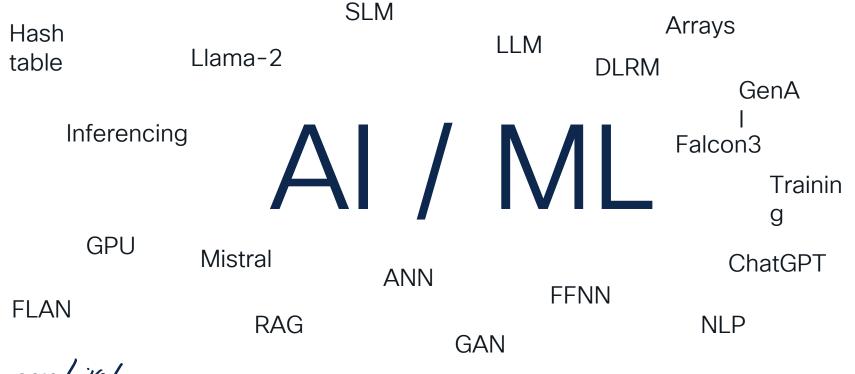


Growing Attack Surface and Vectors

69% of organizations say multicloud security configuration challenges led to data breaches or exposures<sup>2</sup>

Sources: 1. IDC 2. Gartner 3. Osterman Research

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# Let's talk about the Elephant in the room

# Broadcom/VMware





End Of Availability of Perpetual licenses



Transition to subscription-based license model



Transition from CPU to Core based licenses



Reduced many single products down to 4 packages potentially forcing some customers to buy functionality they will never use.

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# Which Hypervisor are you using today?

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# What is your Stack for the Future?

### Option 1

Kubernetes virtualized on VMware

### Option 2

Kubernetes in addition to VM on a Hypervisor

### Option 3

VMs in addition to Containers on a Kubernetes Stack

# Option 4

Public Cloud



### Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS)



Data center



Edge



Colocation





Public cloud



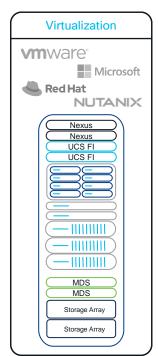
# Infrastructure modernization Solutions

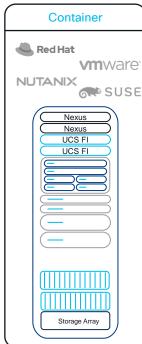
CVDs offering choice and flexibility for a variety of deployment types.

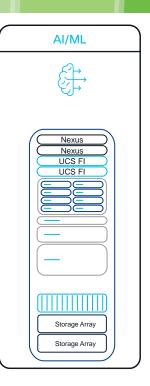
Pre-designed data center architectures that incorporate Cisco computing, Cisco networking, storage and virtualization delivering best practice design, compatibility and lowering business risk.

Designed for enterprise use cases and applications including AI/ML, Containers, SAP HANA, Desktop virtualization, Data protection and hybrid multi-cloud.

The Configuration principals used in the CVD allow customers to scale each component as required.

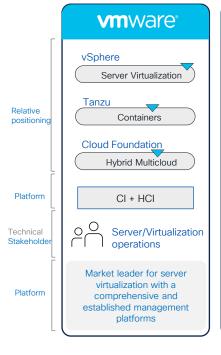


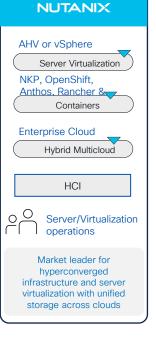


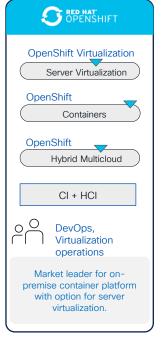




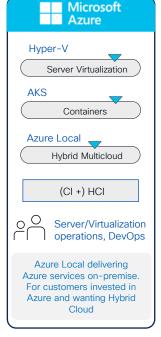
# Application Platform Modernization Crossroads

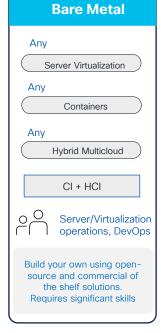






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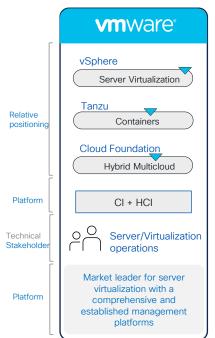


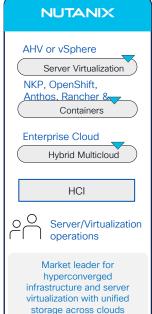


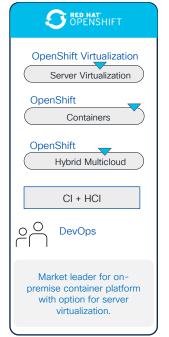


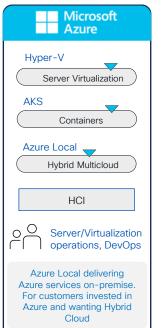


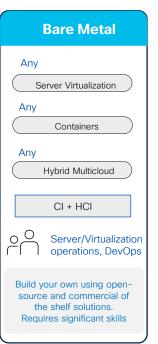
# **VMware**





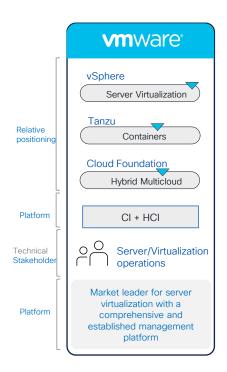








# **VMware**





### A Leader in Virtualization

VMware give customers the most matured platform and ecosystem for virtualization in the datacenter and across clouds.



### **Broad Partner Integrations**

Integrations and Plug-Ins allow full application platform and infrastructure lifecycle management.



### **Application Modernization**

Vmware Tanzu helps companies to adopt containerized application and cloud native workload in the data center

- Most of the K8s deployments are running on top of VMware.



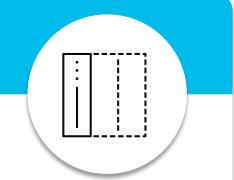
# Cisco solutions to continue with VMware



Deliver VMware on Cisco Converged and Hyperconverged infrastructure assured by Cisco validated designs.



Manage and optimize the VMware Software Defined data center with **VMware Cloud** Foundation or VMware vSphere Foundation deployed on Cisco UCS series



Optimize VMware licensing costs through server refresh and consolidation



# Validated Solutions for VMware







Validated and Integrated Solutions to reduce deployment time and risk.

Pre-designed data center architectures that incorporate Cisco computing, Cisco networking, storage and Vmware virtualization delivering best practice design, compatibility and lowering business risk.

Converged and Hyper Converged solutions to address every scale and deployment option.

Simplified operations with Cisco Intersight integrations including vCenter HA plugin, Intersight Device Connector for Nutanix Prism.

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VMware Inventory in Intersight



See the Information you need

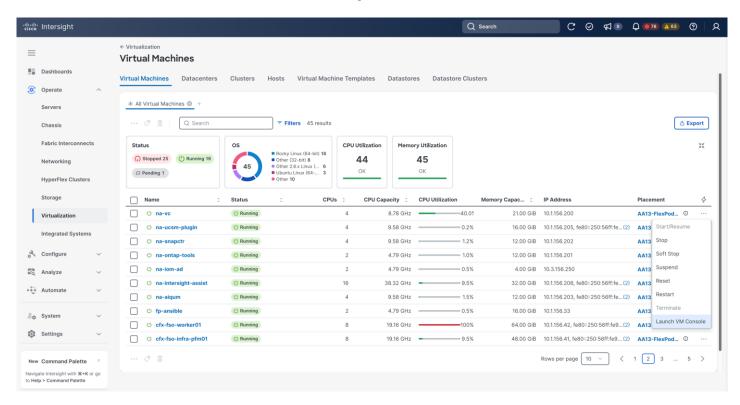


Connect the information and components



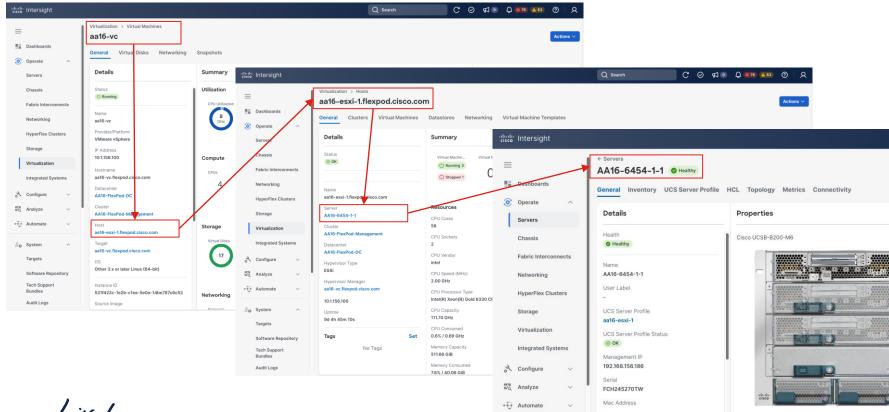
Operate
Simplified operation through Information

# Core Virtual Machines operations





# From the VM to the physical Server



# Cluster Life-Cycle Operations - with Ansible

### Cluster Installation



Ansible Playbooks to automate the initial setup across Cisco UCS, Nexus, Storage, and VMware Infrastructure.

### **Operational Summary**

- · Inventory Cisco UCS servers
- Create Cisco UCS Service Profiles
- · Perform hypervisor imaging
- · Create a new Datacenter and Cluster
- · Add the nodes to the cluster
- · Configure network and storage.

# **Cluster Expansion**

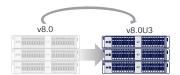


Cluster expansion automation across Cisco UCS, Nexus, Storage and Vmware Infrastructure, driven by Ansible Playbooks.

### **Operational Summary**

- Inventory new Cisco UCS servers
- · Create Cisco UCS Service Profiles for new nodes
- · Perform hypervisor imaging
- · Join new nodes to existing clusters.
- · Configure network and storage.

# Cluster Upgrade



Manual change of Server Profile configuration in Intersight and Host Profile in vCenter

### **Operational Summary**

- Update policies for Cisco UCS infrastructure and server firmware.
- · Upgrade Cisco UCS Infrastructure firmware.
- Update host profile for VMware ESXi in vCenter
- Upgrade of ESXi software and implicid update of Cisco UCS server firmware while reboot ESXi.







# Are you looking for an alternative virtualization stack?

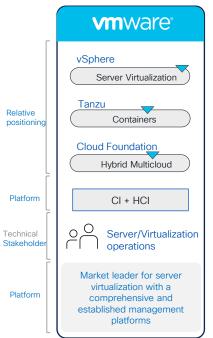
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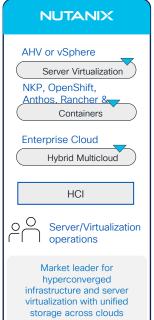
# Server Virtualization market disruption is happening. With Cisco UCS you have choices.

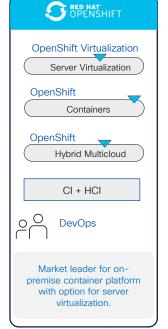


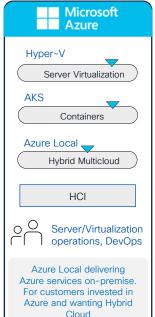


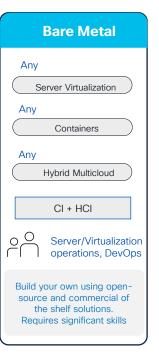
# Cisco HCI with Nutanix





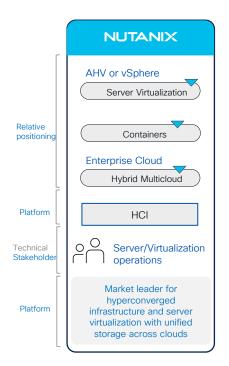








# Cisco HCI with Nutanix





### A Leader in HCI

Give customers a VMware alternative with extensive capabilities for virtualization, containers and unified storage across clouds.



### Simplify with cloud operations

Eliminate complexity with better visibility, control, and consistency across highly distributed environments



### Resilient hyperconverged solution

Keep systems running with augmented support, resiliency, and security capabilities



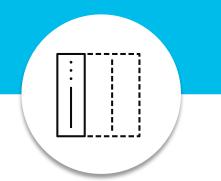
# Continue with Cisco + Nutanix



The industries most comprehensive partnership between Cisco and Nutanix delivering joint engineering and support



Simplify with cloud operations eliminate complexity with better visibility, control, and consistency across highly distributed environments



Nutanix Prism and Intersight cloud-based management for full application platform and infrastructure lifecycle management

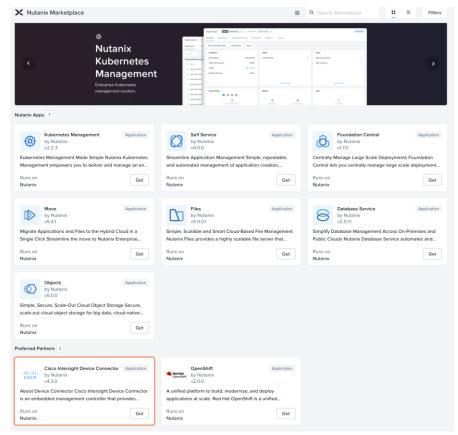


# Cisco Device Connector

Nutanix Prism Central (PC) can be managed as target connected to the Intersight portal through a Cisco Device Connector.

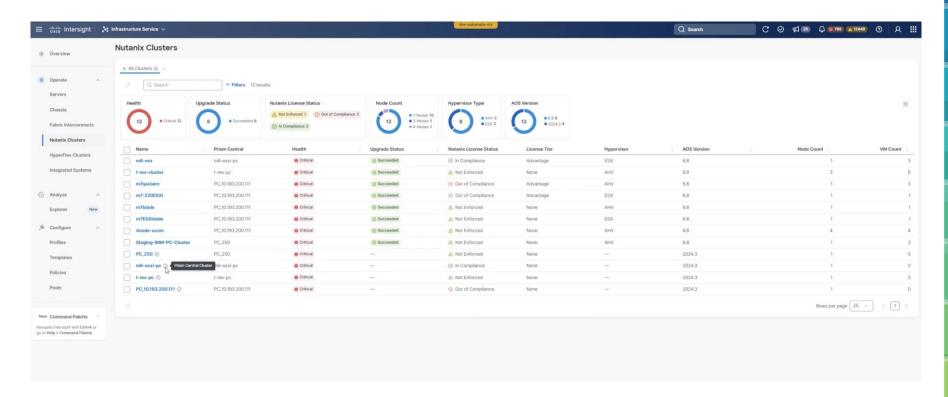
Cisco Device Connector is an embedded management controller that enables the capabilities of Cisco Intersight

- Cisco Device Connector application is available in Nutanix Market Place
- From the marketplace, download and install Cisco device connector in Prism Central
- A bi-directional channel is established between Cisco Intersight and Prism Central
- Prism Central v4 Management APIs are used by Cisco Intersight to display day 1 management features.



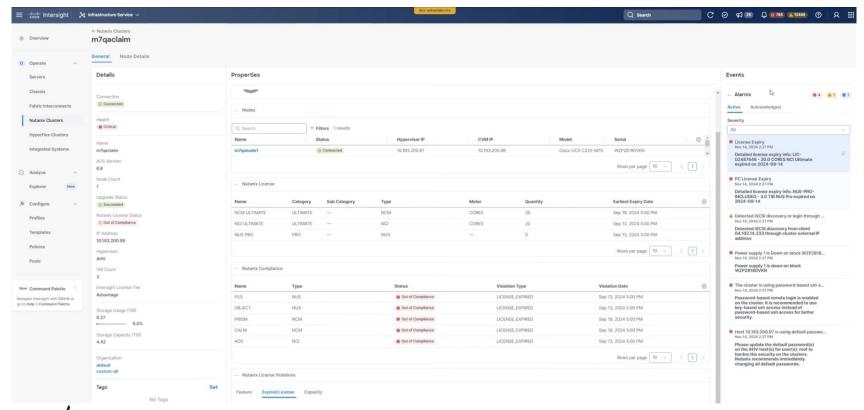


# Cisco HCl Nutanix cluster list view





# Cisco HCI Nutanix cluster detail view



Simplify and scale with cloud operations

Unified operations across your distributed environment with Cisco Intersight and Nutanix Prism Central

- See and control your entire Cisco Compute Hyperconverged estate with Cisco Intersight
- Unified storage and cluster management with Nutanix Prism Central
- Turnkey solution combining compute, networking, storage, management, and hybrid multicloud platform simplifies end-to-end experience
- Augmented support and resiliency capabilities keep systems up and running at global scale



Remotely deploy and manage





# Cluster Life-Cycle Operations

### Cluster Installation



NUTANIX Foundation VM

Fully integrated cluster installation automation across Cisco UCS and Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure, driven from Nutanix Foundation.

### **Operational Summary**

- · Inventory Cisco UCS servers
- Create Cisco UCS Service Profiles
- · Perform hypervisor imaging
- Deploy Nutanix storage controller VM (CVM)
- · Create new hypervisor and storage cluster

# **Cluster Expansion**



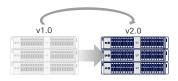
NUTANIX Prism

Fully integrated cluster expansion automation across Cisco UCS and Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure, driven from Nutanix Prism or Prism Central

### **Operational Summary**

- · Inventory new Cisco UCS servers
- Create Cisco UCS Service Profiles for new nodes
- Perform hypervisor imaging
- Deploy Nutanix storage controller VM (CVM) on new nodes
- Join new nodes to existing hypervisor and storage clusters

# Cluster Upgrade



NUTANIX

Fully integrated end-to-end cluster software and firmware upgrades with Nutanix Prism or Prism Central Life Cycle Management (LCM).

### **Operational Summary**

- Upgrade of Cisco UCS infrastructure and server firmware
- Upgrade of hypervisor software, VMware ESXi and/or Nutanix AHV
- · Upgrade of Nutanix Cloud Infrastructure software

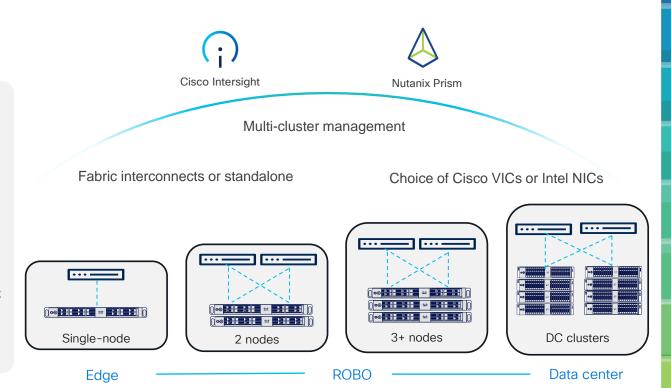


# Flexible Deployment Options

Intersight Standalone Mode for HCI

# Deploy Nutanix cluster on Cisco HCI Nodes

- · With or without UCS Fabric Interconnect
- Deploy in edge/remote locations or primary data centers
- Flexible networking options with Cisco VIC and Intel NICs
- · Policy-based management from Intersight
- · Start as small as 1 and 2 nodes for ROBO
- Parallel multi-cluster deployment with Nutanix Prism Central
- Support for AHV and ESXi hypervisors
- Support for M6 and M7 nodes

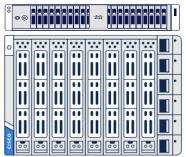


cisco Life!

# Reuse and Repurpose Servers

- Reuse and repurpose existing servers with qualified components as Nutanix HCl nodes while still
  enjoying the <u>same deployment and operational automations as factory-prepped appliances</u>
- Cisco can convert newly purchased HCl nodes back to regular x86 servers for other use cases (Red Hat, bare metal, VMware, etc.)
  - Provides investment protection with a standardized platform, including management, without being tied to an architecture

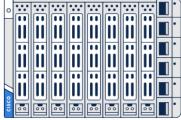
Cisco M6/M7 general purpose rackmount and modular\* servers









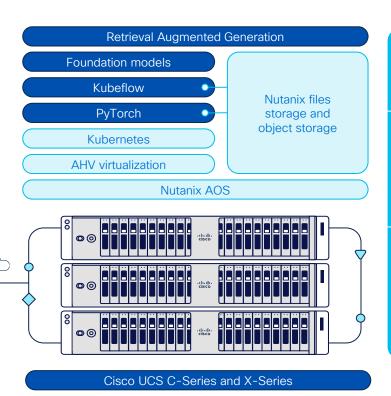




# Nutanix GPT in a Box on Cisco

**Cisco** Intersight

Designed, tested and validated with best practices for deployment



### Opinionated Al stack

### **GPU-enabled**

Select GPU according to availability and need (NVIDIA L40s CVD target)

### Stack offers

- PyTorch (Al Framework)
- Kubeflow (MLOps)
- BYO Model



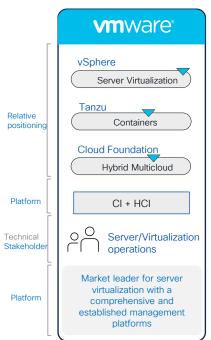


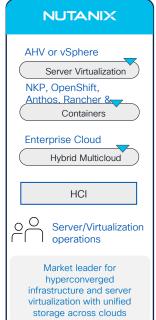


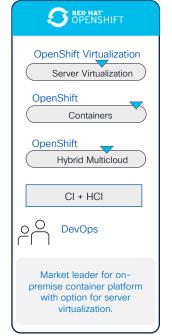
Are you running your major Kubernetes Cluster(s) on Virtual Machines, on Bare-Metal, or in the Public Cloud?

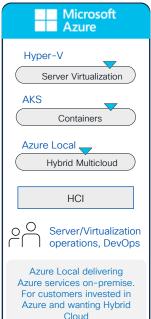
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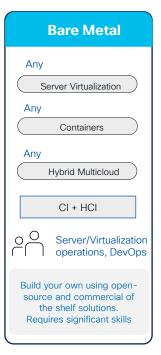
# Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform





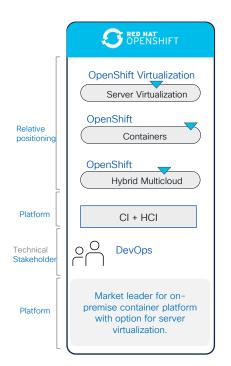








# Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform





### A Leader in Container Platform

Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform (OCP) give customers a matured platform and ecosystem to run and manage containerized workloads in the datacenter and across clouds



### Validated Solutions / Patterns

Validated pattern supports companies deploying solutions and reducing risk and time



### **Application Modernization**

Red Hat OCP helps companies to adopt containerized application and cloud native workload in the data center and across clouds and manage them from a single place.



# Cisco + Red Hat message



Consolidate containers and VMs with OpenShift on bare-metal UCS to build private cloud as part of a true hybrid multi-cloud solution.



Unleash the power of Al by deploying a full-stack Al solution on OpenShift on UCS. Use OpenShift Al to manage lifecycle of Al models.



Harness the power of edge workloads with the new purpose-built edge infrastructure running the industry leading container platform. All managed at scale from the cloud.



## Intersight provisioning for Assisted Installer



#### **Automate**

Automating the boot process using Intersight reduces manual tasks and failures.



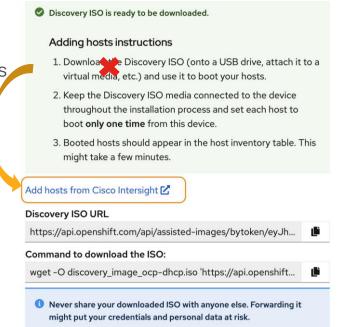
### Simplicity

Bringing the power of Intersight to the Red Hat Administrator inside their own tools

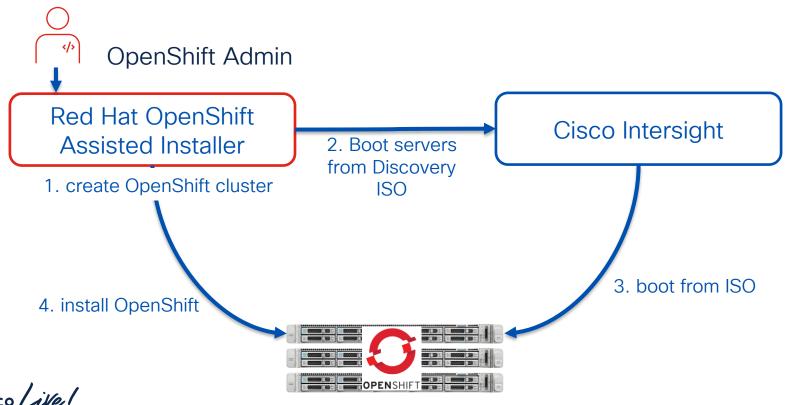


### Seamless Integration

Cross launch provides a smooth integration without the need for API key exchanges



## Intersight provisioning for Assisted Installer



What's Next?



MCE / ACM Integration



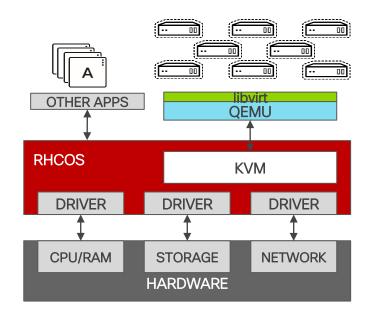
Intersight / Hybrid-Cloud Console integration



Validated-Pattern / Edge Solution

## Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization

- Virtual machines
  - Running in containers, managed as Pods
  - Using the KVM hypervisor
- Scheduled, deployed, and managed by Kubernetes
- Integrated with container orchestrator resources and services
  - Networking connectivity
  - Persistent storage



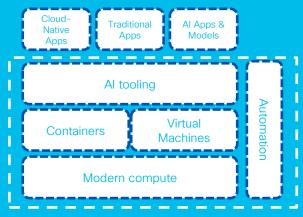


## How Cisco and Red Hat helps



# We deliver a validated, full-stack, private cloud platform

for deploying applications in containers and VMs, running Al workloads, and automating your infrastructure from Cisco



Application Platform Modernization, Al-ready Infrastructure

### So you can:



#### Reduce costs

With future-ready, sustainable, and secure compute infrastructure



#### Deploy apps faster and securely

Consolidate container and virtualization platforms



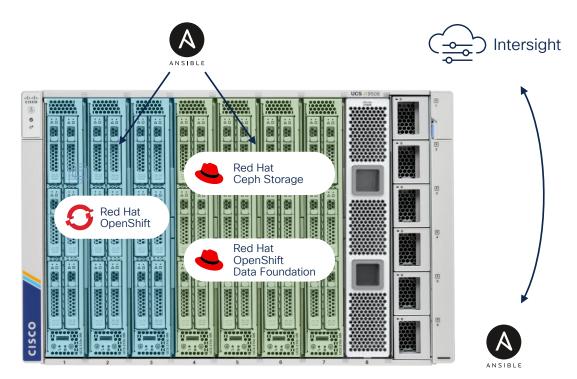
#### Support Al initiatives

Build, train, and maintain inferencing solutions to delight your customers



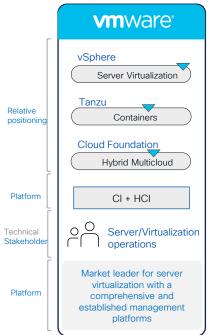
## Red Hat OCP and ODF – Hyperconverged Container Platform

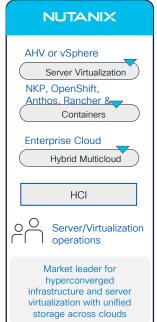
- Cisco UCS X-Series connected to FI and managed by Intersight through IMM
- Configuration and deployment through Intersight Ansible
- Automated install
- Preparation of all nodes through Ansible
- Install of OCP, Ceph, and ODF

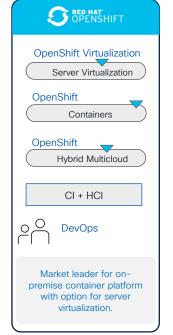


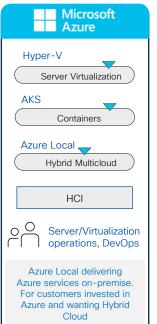


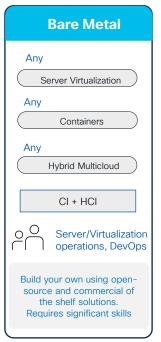
## Microsoft Azure Local with Hyper-V





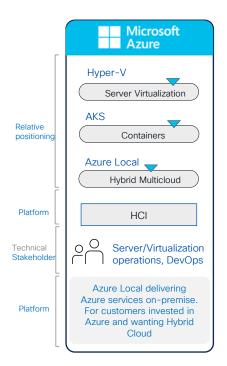








## Microsoft Azure Local with Hyper-V





### A Leader in Virtualization

Hyper-V provides an extremely feature rich virtualization alternative whose license is included with each Windows Server license. Many customers already have Hyper-V licenses and just don't know it!



### **Consistent Management**

Microsoft Azure Arc provides a consistent management overlay to enable customer to manage data on-premise on Azure Local and in Azure public cloud.



### **Application Modernization**

Hyper-V combined with Azure services helps companies adopt containerized applications and cloud native workloads in the data center

## Cisco + Microsoft offering



Consistently build and run hybrid apps across on-premises, cloud, and edge with Azure and Azure Local providing optimal system performance



Flexible, powerful designs hosting a wide range of workloads from Al to VDI. Leveraging the latest in Cisco and MSFT technology.



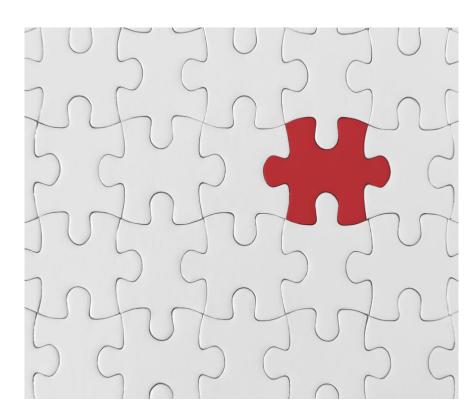
Long and extensive partnership jointly developing solutions for on-premise and Azure based deployments. Support teams collaborate on customer issues.



## Hyper-V is core to Microsoft Solutions

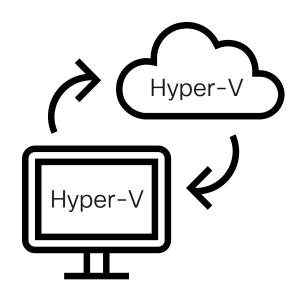
- Azure
- Azure Local
- Windows Server/Windows
- SQL Server
- Containers with Hyper-V isolation
- Platform Security



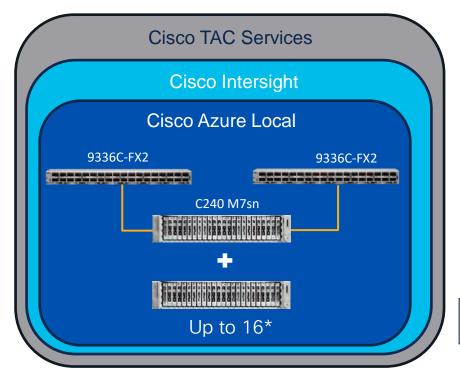


## Windows Server 2025 Hyper-V New Features

- GPU Partitioning (GPU-P)
- GPU-P with Live Migration
- GPU-P with High Availability
- Dynamic Processor Compatibility
- Workgroup Hyper-V Clusters
- Network ATC
- Native ReFS Deduplication & Compression
- VM Performance Improvement
  - Host Up to 4 PB Memory
  - Host Up to 2048 Logical Processors
  - VM 240 TB Memory
  - VM 2048 Virtual Processors



## Validated Azure Local Design

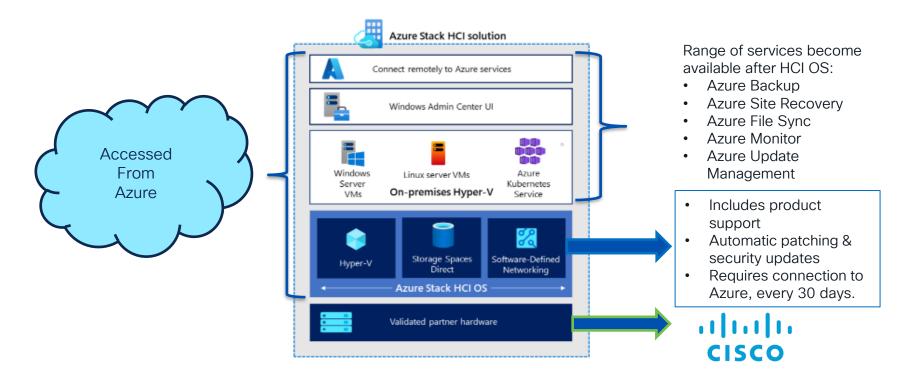


- Scale from 1 to 16 nodes, initially or add-on\*
- 5th gen Intel Xeon Scalable processors
- Storage: Single tier all NVMe\*\*
- Up to 100G End to End
- Support for optional Nvidia GPUs
- Intersight cloud-based management
- Nexus 9300-Series ToR switches
- NX-OS or ACI choice
- No single points of failure
- Contact either Cisco or Microsoft for support
- Microsoft requires server nodes configured **EXACTLY** same.
- \*\* Windows Server 2025 increase NVMe performance by 60%.

ACI Whitepaper for Azure Local: https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/dcn/whitepapers/ACI\_AzureStackHCI\_whitepaper.html

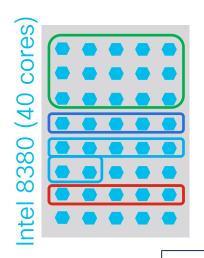


### Azure Local Software Architecture



## Cisco - Unique Advantage for Azure Local

- Cisco Intersight provides ability to turn core on/off with system reboot
- Azure Stack HCl OS only needs to be licensed on cores it sees (turned on)



Initial order, enable 15 cores.

- + 1 year, enable 5 cores, add
- + 6 months, enable 7 cores, add

- + 6 months, enable 5 cores, add
- + 6 months, drop 5 cores, remove

License = \$1,800/yr

License = \$+600/yr

License = \$+840/yr

TOTAL \$ 3,240/yr

License = \$+600/yr

License = \$-600/yr

Note: Azure Local OS is \$10/core/month

## Cisco Advantages for Azure Local

All system elements come from Cisco



Control all roadmaps and system integration points.

Nexus as networking and security standard



World's leading standard for data connectivity and security.

Utilize customer's choice of rack in data center



Maintains approved best practice for system rack.

Positioned for performance



All NVMe storage, 100G NIC, 5<sup>th</sup> Gen Scalable Intel Xeon CPUs.

Leverage eco-system partners and products



A wide range of management tools, data security, installation & consulting services, simple updating processes.

Cloud based management



Intersight policies across multiple locations, global patch management. Azure Stack HCl OS updated directly from Azure.

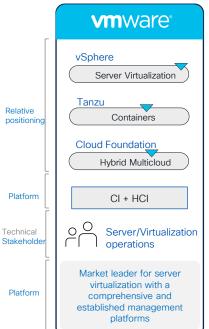
Cisco Support

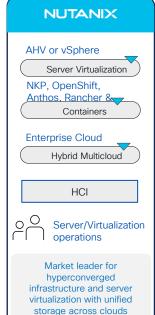


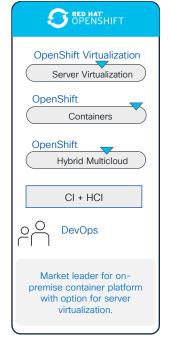
Collaborative Support - Contact either Cisco or Microsoft.

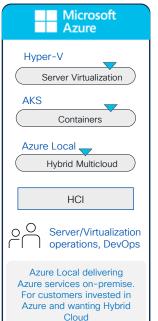


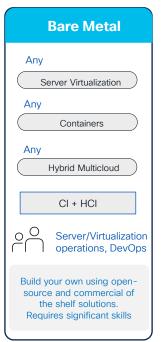
### Bare Metal and other Solutions





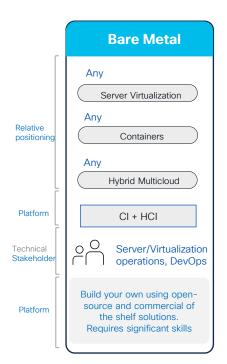








### Bare Metal and other Solutions





### **Stateless Computing**

Cisco UCS provides a stateless compute platform allowing companies to use and re-use existing hardware based on application and business demand.



### **Broad Partner Ecosystem**

A broad range of supported and certified hardware and software components to build virtualization and container solutions of any scale.



### **Application Modernization**

Cisco UCS provides a versatile platform to help customers running baremetal, virtualized, and containerized applications and use-cases.



## UCS Infrastructure Solutions - Ready to Scale



Manage all your UCS servers regardless of their location from a single pane of glass



Utilize recognized best practices to design and implement and manage your solution stack.



Integrate with the forthcoming Edge Compute Platform to efficiently manage baremetal, virtual, and container workloads across any location.



## Bare-Metal = Build your own Stack?

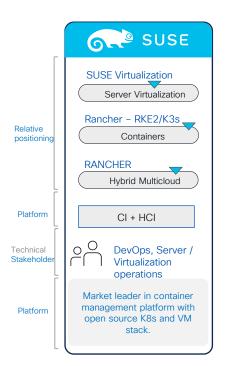
Any supported Operating System

Any supported Virtual Machine Manager or Container Manager

Any OS, VM and Container Management tool



### SUSE Virtualization and SUSE Rancher





### A Global Leader in Container Management

Simplifies and addresses the operational and security challenges of managing multiple Kubernetes clusters across any infrastructure.



### **Open-Source Efficiency**

Avoid vendor lock-in, reduce TCO, and maximize certified hardware use with scalable, secure open-source solutions.



### **Enhanced Security and Innovation**

A single, secure, and scalable platform to manage VMs and containers while bridging legacy and cloud-native solutions for reliable application deployment.



## DC to Cloud to Edge with Cisco and SUSE



Validated Solutions for Enterprise Applications, Container workloads and virtualization. Helping customers Modernize applications for secure scaling across any infrastructure



Open-Source architecture to right-size the solutions to your ideal technical and business outcomes.

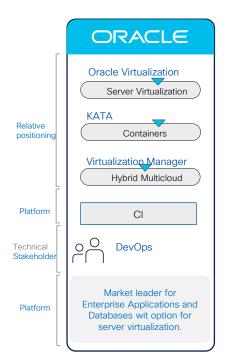
SLE / SLE Micro RKE2 / K3S / Harvester Single-node / Multi-node



Infrastructure & workload observability, management, and updates across data centers, cloud, and edge locations.



### **Oracle Virtualization**





### Oracle Virtualization is designed for hybrid cloud

Backed by affordable enterprise support for hybrid environments, reducing operation and support costs while increasing IT efficiency and agility—on premises and in the cloud.



### Speed of containers with the isolation of VMs

Kata Containers is an Open Container Initiative compliant runtime that uses lightweight virtual machines to provide isolation using hardware virtualization technology.

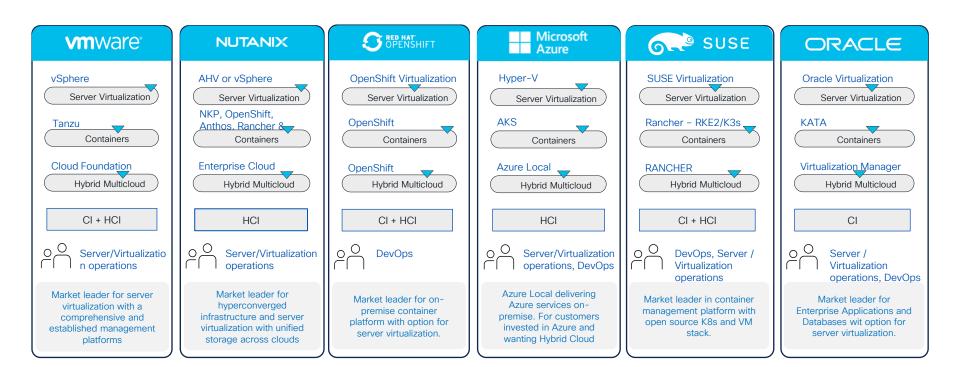


### Integration

Oracle VM server virtualization software is supported by a long list of partners to support management, monitoring, data protection, and other important services and tasks.



## Many Options One Platform - Cisco UCS







## Webex App

### **Questions?**

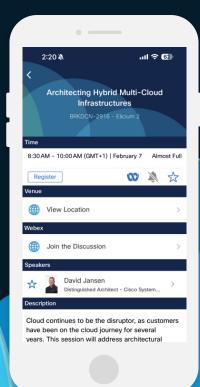
Use the Webex app to chat with the speaker after the session

#### How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Events mobile app
- 2 Click "Join the Discussion"
- 3 Install the Webex app or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until February 28, 2025.





## Fill Out Your Session Surveys



Participants who fill out a minimum of 4 session surveys and the overall event survey will get a unique Cisco Live t-shirt.

(from 11:30 on Thursday, while supplies last)





All surveys can be taken in the Cisco Events mobile app or by logging in to the Session Catalog and clicking the 'Participant Dashboard'



**Content Catalog** 



# Continue your education

- Visit the Cisco Showcase for related demos
- Book your one-on-one Meet the Engineer meeting
- Attend the interactive education with DevNet, Capture the Flag, and Walk-in Labs
- Visit the On-Demand Library for more sessions at ciscolive.com/on-demand. Sessions from this event will be available from March 3.

Contact me at: Webex or LinkedIn

BRKCOM-2460

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Thank you



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cisco life!

GO BEYOND