Enterprise Strategy Group

BRIEF

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VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0: Consolidating the Private Cloud

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Abstract: VMware recently announced the general availability of VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) 9.0. In this release, VMware consolidates and simplifies its management experience across virtual machines and containers, while integrating cost optimization and data sovereignty functionality.

Key Highlights

- 60% of IT organizations agreed that their organization's IT environment has become more complex over the last two years.[1]
- VMware announced the general availability of VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0 to help simplify on-premises environments via consolidation of management.
- As businesses seek to modernize on-premises application environments while freeing up internal talent in the wake of AI, consolidation can provide operational advantages.

Facing Increased Complexity, IT Teams Focus on Consistency

According to research from Enterprise Strategy Group, 60% of administrators agreed that their organization's IT environment has become more complex over the last two years.[2] As application environments scale, IT organizations increasingly rely on a diversified set of technologies. It is this increase in the variety of technologies and the experience required to maintain modern application environments that primarily places the added pressure on administrators.

Addressing on-premises complexity has become paramount as businesses are increasingly looking to leverage on-premises private cloud environments for business-critical and data-intensive applications. Faced with concerns over cloud costs along with increased emphasis on data privacy and sovereignty, organizations are prioritizing on-premises application infrastructure. For example, 81% of organizations agreed that they prefer to keep their most business-critical applications on premises.[3] In addition, 76% agreed that their organizations view on-premises application deployments more favorably today than they did five years ago. This increased

Market Insight

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[1] Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, *2025 Technology Spending Intentions Survey*, December 2024.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Complete Survey Results, *Understanding Workload, App, and Data Deployment and Migration Decision-making*, July 2024. All statistics in this brief have been taken from these complete survey results unless otherwise noted.

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importance of on-premises application deployments is fueling a desire to modernize and consolidate experiences via private cloud operations.

VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0

With VCF 9.0, VMware further consolidates its private cloud experience to reduce the complexity that arises from managing multiple disparate environments, while integrating key functionality essential to better managing data and IT budgets. Feature additions in VCF 9.0 include:

1. A single interface for private cloud operations to help monitor health and simplify maintenance, patching, and compliance.
2. Consolidated management to support both virtual machines and container-based/Kubernetes applications with a unified experience for cloud consumption to better support developers.
3. Advanced NVMe memory tiering that extends the memory pool with NVMe, using the fast NVMe devices as a lower-cost tier memory to free up DRAM for better server consolidation.
4. Data sovereignty and security features such as the ability to apply data-residency tags, implement geo-fencing policies, and provide automated certificate rotation.
5. Cost-control features to track and show chargeback, provide cost management, and help offer predictability for forecasting dashboards.

Analyst's Take

VMware continues to move forward with its strategic vision to consolidate value in VCF. While IT organizations understand the operational benefits that can be achieved via consistency, the prioritization of that consistency when making investments often depends upon multiple factors, including the organizational dynamics of the team managing the infrastructure along with what existing investments have already been made in tooling. In addition, there is a growing interest in prioritizing technology diversity as a strategic objective to minimize reliance upon any one vendor.

While these considerations persist, the emergence of AI is transforming the organizational dynamics placed upon IT and has the potential to even further increase the need for private cloud consolidation, like what is available with VCF 9.0. Businesses are quickly facing talent gaps with AI and are often looking to free up cycles within their existing staff.

This is the logic behind VMware's approach: Consolidate as much value as possible in a single platform and provide businesses with an opportunity to free up critical talent from infrastructure management to focus on higher-value (e.g., AI) initiatives.

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