Leaving VMware? Top Questions Answered

With so many customers coming from VMware, there are a common set of questions we hear on their journey to Scale Computing Platform. Many are looking at alternatives due to the recent acquisition. Others are just exploring alternatives to avoid the "vTax" that comes from not fully utilizing the available capabilities that exceed their needs.

Below are some questions and responses to help you explore a move from VMware.

Migration

How hard will it be to migrate my workloads from VMware onto SC//Platform?

SC//HyperCore includes a KVM-based hypervisor that supports a different virtual disk type than the VMDK of a VMware environment. This requires that the workloads be migrated (v2v) from the existing environment onto SC//Platform.

Converting an existing VMware workload to run on SC//Platform is easy! For Windows and Linux VMs, we offer Scale Computing Move, which requires near zero downtime and gives the user ultimate control of deciding when to cutover from the source machine running in VMware. For other workloads, SC//HyperCore also supports virtual disk uploads, which can convert from VMDK to an SC//HyperCore format for attaching to workloads directly. Of course, any backup solution that supports bare-metal recovery can also be used to transfer workloads onto SC//Platform if that is preferred. We supplement this feature set with a full migration service to augment your capabilities with our expertise and experience for a hands-off migration experience.

Fear of the unknown

Do I need training on KVM to run SC//Platform?

No! SC//HyperCore utilizes KVM as the basis for our hypervisor, but it does not require users to have to learn or understand KVM. Our tagline is Simplicity Engineered, meaning we take very complex systems such as KVM and wrap them with our IP to provide a very easy-to-manage environment.

> "...the migration to Scale Computing was one of the smoothest migrations I've been involved with in 25+ years of working in IT."
>
> **Bobby Kewan**
> IT Director, City of Pewaukee

Workload support

Will my apps be supported when running on something other than VMware?

Yes! In fact, with thousands of customers running Scale Computing HyperCore, there is a strong possibility that existing users are running your exact applications.

Scale Computing supports and offers fixes for our hardware and virtualization platform. This includes the HyperCore™ operating system, which includes software-defined storage and the virtualization hypervisor. For applications, we are fully prepared to support Windows and Linux operating systems running on SC//HyperCore, and therefore, applications designed to run on Windows and Linux should be supported by their vendors for SC//HyperCore. Operating system vendors offer fixes for operating system issues. Application vendors offer fixes for application issues. Working together, there should be no issue supporting applications on SC//HyperCore that are designed to run on Windows or Linux.

Backup

Can I still use my favorite backup product of choice with SC//Platform?

Yes, in most cases! We commonly hear this from Veeam and other backup vendor users who use in-guest agents to continue using their backup product of choice. Those looking for agentless backup from a third party can use Acronis Cyber Protect, which includes proactive, ML-based ransomware protection. Many users coming from VMware find that the built-in HyperCore Data Protection Suite negates the need for third-party backup products entirely. This includes support for thousands of snapshots per virtual disk, replication between SC//HyperCore clusters with easy failover/failback capabilities and even file-level restore.

Professional Certifications

Can I still leverage my existing VMware knowledge and skills?

Yes! The concepts of virtualization/VMs remain the same between both VMware and Scale Computing. Here are a few comparisons of features/management differences to see the translation:

	VMware	Scale Computing
Licensing/ Subscription	VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) vSphere Enterprise Plus vSphere Hypervisor (ESXi) vSAN Enterprise Aria Suite Enterprise NSX Enterprise Plus + Add-ons HCX Site Recovery Manager Cloud Disaster Recovery Load Balancer Firewall Tanzu Intelligence Services VMware vSphere Essentials Plus Kit (VVEP) VMware vSphere Standard (VVS) VMware vSphere Foundation (VVF) vCenter Essentials or Standard vSphere Enterprise Plus vSphere Standard vSAN Enterprise vSphere Hypervisor (ESXi) Aria Suite Standard	SC//HyperCore license SC//Fleet Manager license (optional)
Hypervisor	vSphere Hypervisor (ESXi)	Scale Computing HyperCore (KVM-based)
General Management	vCenter Server runs as a separate Linux VM/Server per site in the environment	SC//HyperCore built-in web-based / REST API managementn from any node in the system, optionally connect to SC//Fleet Manager for global centralized management
Storage Management	vSAN, datastores / NFS / Block (iSCS / other to manage	Scale Computing Reliable Independent Block Engine (SCRIBE) - Treats all storage in the cluster as a single logical pool for management and scalability purposes. No external storage to manage, no shares / targets / LUNs to create or maintain
AIOps	N/A	Autonomous Infrastructure Management Engine (AIME) - Handles day-to-day administrative tasks and maintenance automatically, monitors the system for security, hardware, and software errors, and remediates those errors where possible
Upgrade Management	vSphere OS / ESXi Hypervisor patching; requires HCL validation, vCenter interoperability, node "maintenance mode"	Unified, full stack updates with integrated pre-flight update checking
In Guest Tools	VMware Tools	SC// Guest Tools (Virtio)
High Availability	Requires HA configuration	Multi-node SC//HyperCore clusters handle automatic failover of VMs, including storage redundancy
Support	Tiered by severity: Basic, Production, Premier, Success, Select, or Per Incident which determine support team availability and response time	One level: 24/7/365

Total cost of ownership (TCO)

Will I have to pay more?

No. VMware is known for its licensing costs, which can be a significant barrier for smaller organizations. In contrast, SC//Platform is a cost-effective alternative that offers robust virtualization and hyperconverged infrastructure without breaking the bank.

Deployment »

Deploy in under an hour.

90%

savings with zero touch provisioning (ZTP)

Scale-Out »

No need to over-provision because scaling out can be done quickly and easily.

50%

savings over 3-5 years

Training »

No certifications are required.

$0

Downtime »

Practically eliminate all downtime.

83-97%

reduction in recovery time

Software Licensing »

Full version with all features and updates available.

65-75%

savings in licensing costs, roughly $50,000

Management »

Manage the entire system from a single interface.

>75%

time saved managing infrastructure

Scale Computing's all-in-one approach means there's no need to purchase separate licenses for virtualization software, storage, and backup solutions. This consolidation leads to considerable cost savings. Moreover, the predictable and transparent pricing model of Scale Computing simplifies budgeting and reduces the risk of unexpected expenses associated with VMware's complex licensing structure.

> "We had zero operational impact during a complicated infrastructure migration from a traditional vSphere/Server/SAN to Scale Computing platform. Ongoing management is very straightforward, which is important for those of us who only spend 5-10% of our time managing infrastructure. So far, it has truly been a set-and-forget system."
>
> **Seth Maguire**
>
> Mgr. Software Engineering, LCI Engineering Inc.

Services and Support

Will support be better?

Yes! VMware's support options can be complex and costly, and many customers have reported challenges in obtaining timely and effective support. Scale Computing's commitment to customer satisfaction enhances its attractiveness as a more customer-centric alternative. Scale Computing's focus on customer satisfaction and support is another area where it shines as a VMware alternative. We are known for exceptional customer service, with a dedicated support team readily available to address customer concerns and provide assistance.

We invite you to embark on a journey of innovation and cost-saving with our exclusive Scale Computing Seamless Switch Program. Learn more here.

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