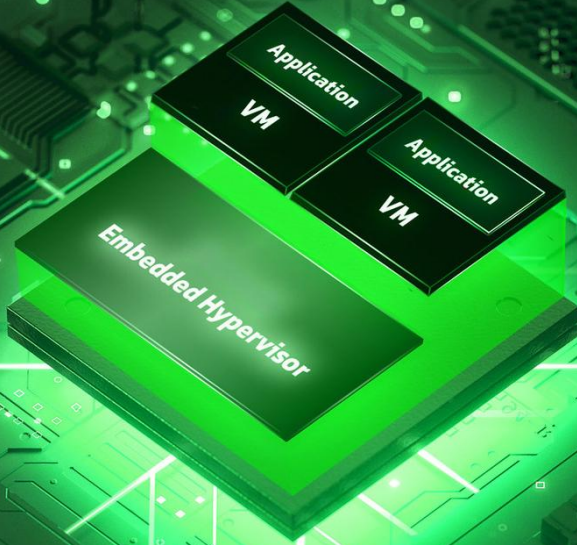




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The Hypervisor Landscape

March 2026 Edition



The Hypervisor Landscape

- What are the major platforms?
- What should I be aware of?
- Purchase price isn't everything.
- TCO is a big conversation.
- What does your organization truly need?
- Is it a good time to move to Idaho and grow potatoes?



“Smoker Rating” Decoder Ring

- 1) **Best in Breed.** Be confident in your decision.
- 2) **Very solid choice.** Limited risks.
- 3) **Solid choice.** Be aware of caveats and limitations.
- 4) **Proceed with caution.** Go in eyes wide open.
- 5) **Update your resume.** It will come in handy.



In this presentation, we will cover:

- 1 Platform with a #1 rating
- 5 Platforms with a #2 rating
- 2 Platforms with a #3 rating
- 5 Platforms with a #4 rating
- 5 Platforms with a #5 rating

VMware VCF

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** ESXi
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – vSAN
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – NSX
- **Storage Support:** vSAN, iSCSI, NVMe/TCP, NFS, FC
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Full-stack Private Cloud
- **Licensing:** \$400/core
- **Support:** Very good
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Best
- **Smoker Rating: 1**



Citrix XenServer

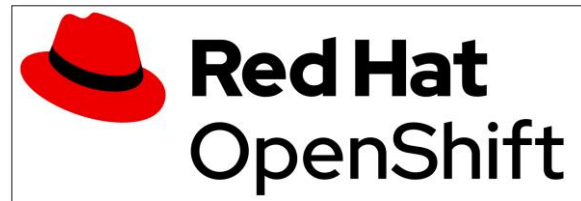
(now Citrix Hypervisor)

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** Xen
- **Does it have SDS:** No
- **Does it have SDN:** Limited
- **Storage Support:** iSCSI, FC, NFS
- **Public Cloud:** No
- **Key Features:** Citrix engineers say, "Please don't."
- **Licensing:** Per socket
- **Support:** Excellent. You'll get to know your Support Engineers
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 5**



Red Hat OpenShift

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** Kubernetes Platform (KubeVirt)
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – ODF
- **Does it have SDN:** Limited
- **Storage Support:** Any S3 storage
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Containers
- **Licensing:** Per core-pair
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak – virtualization
- **Smoker Rating: 5**



oVirt

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM
- **Does it have SDS:** No
- **Does it have SDN:** No
- **Storage Support:** NFS, iSCSI, FC, FCoE, Gluster
- **Public Cloud:** No
- **Key Features:** Free
- **Licensing:** Free
- **Support:** Community
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 5**



OpenStack

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes
- **Does it have SDN:** Limited
- **Storage Support:** Cinder, Swift, Manila
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Massive scale
- **Licensing:** Free
- **Support:** Excellent – 3rd party
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Improving
- **Smoker Rating: 5**



Dell NativeEdge

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM (NativeEdge OS)
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes
- **Does it have SDN:** No
- **Storage Support:** Dell only
- **Public Cloud:** Partial
- **Key Features:** ZeroTouch deployment
- **Licensing:** Per server
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Proprietary – Dell
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 5**



Proxmox VE

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM (QEMU + LXC)
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – Ceph/ZFS
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes
- **Storage Support:** NFS, CIFS/SMB, CephFS, iSCSI, ZFS
- **Public Cloud:** No
- **Key Features:** Integrated backup
- **Licensing:** Free + support per socket
- **Support:** Limited
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Improving
- **Smoker Rating: 4**



OpenNebula

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM
- **Does it have SDS:** No
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes
- **Storage Support:** NFS, Ceph, iSCSI, RDM, NetApp
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** 2500 hosts scale
- **Licensing:** Per host
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 4**



Virtuozzo

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM + system containers
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – Virtuozzo SDS
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes
- **Storage Support:** iSCSI, NFS, S3
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Supportable OpenStack
- **Licensing:** Per core + storage
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 4**



HPE Morpheus

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM (HVM)
- **Does it have SDS:** No
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes
- **Storage Support:** S3, Ceph, NFS, iSCSI
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Multicloud control plane
- **Licensing:** Per socket
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Proprietary – HPE
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 4**



XCP-ng

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** XenServer
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – via XO
- **Storage Support:** Almost anything
- **Public Cloud:** No
- **Key Features:** Focused on Security
- **Licensing:** Per host
- **Support:** Limited
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 4 – but close to a 3**



Microsoft HyperV

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** Hyper-V
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – S2D
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – HyperV SDN
- **Storage Support:** S2D, iSCSI, NVMe/TCP, FC
- **Public Cloud:** No
- **Key Features:** Ease of use
- **Licensing:** Free-ish
- **Support:** Unified support
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Very good
- **Smoker Rating: 3**



Microsoft Azure Local

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** Hyper-V
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – S2D
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – HyperV SDN
- **Storage Support:** Limited PowerFlex & FC
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Ease of use
- **Licensing:** Per core
- **Support:** Unified support
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Choice of vendors
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Good
- **Smoker Rating: 3**



Nutanix AHV

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – AHV
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – Flow
- **Storage Support:** AHV, PowerStore, PowerFlex
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Full stack Private Cloud
- **Licensing:** Per core
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Choice of vendors
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Very good
- **Smoker Rating: 2**



Oracle Linux & KVM

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM (special)
- **Does it have SDS:** No
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – OVN
- **Storage Support:** NFS, iSCSI, FC, Gluster, PowerStore
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** K-Splice
- **Licensing:** Per socket
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Good
- **Smoker Rating: 2**

ORACLE®

LINUX

Scale Computing

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – SCRIBE
- **Does it have SDN:** No
- **Storage Support:** Limited
- **Public Cloud:** Partial
- **Key Features:** Attractive price
- **Licensing:** Per core
- **Support:** Very good
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Choice
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Improving
- **Smoker Rating: 2**



Verge.IO

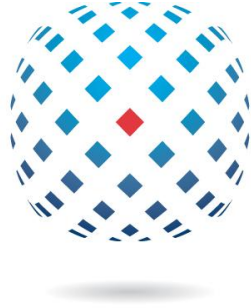
- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM (VergeHV)
- **Does it have SDS:** Yes – VergeFS
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – VergeFabric
- **Storage Support:** Limited
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Memory deduplication
- **Licensing:** Per node
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Weak
- **Smoker Rating: 2**



RHEL KVM

- **Underlying Hypervisor:** KVM
- **Does it have SDS:** No
- **Does it have SDN:** Yes – Ceph
- **Storage Support:** NFS, iSCSI, GlusterFS
- **Public Cloud:** Yes
- **Key Features:** Security, long lifecycles
- **Licensing:** Per server/VM
- **Support:** Excellent
- **Open or Proprietary HW:** Open
- **3rd Party Ecosystem:** Very good
- **Smoker Rating: 2**





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Questions?