



v1.2, 31-05-2009

VMware ESXi 3.5  
(without vCenter  
Server)VMware ESX(i) 3.5  
(with vCenter  
Server)VMware vSphere 4  
(with vCenter  
Server)Microsoft Hyper-V  
Server 2008Microsoft Server 2008  
Enterprise w Hyper-V  
1.0Microsoft Server 2008  
Enterprise w Hyper-V  
2.0Citrix XenServer 4.5  
(with essentials pack)Citrix XenServer 5.0  
(with essentials pack)

Free

✓

✓

✓

**Business continuity**

High Availability

✓

✓

✓ (MSCS)

✓ (MSCS)

✓

✓ \*1

Fault tolerance (zero downtime HA)

✓

\*2

Disaster recovery

✓ (SRM)

✓ (SRM)

✓ (WS)

Storage replication support for disaster recovery

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Live migration

✓ \*3

✓ \*3

✓

✓ \*3

✓

**Storage**

Local storage

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Shared storage (FC, iSCSI)

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Live storage migration (no downtime)

✓

✓

**Back-up**

Support for back-up and recovery

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Back-up proxy

✓

✓

**Networking**

VLAN support (802.1q)

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Link aggregation (803.2ad)

✓

✓

✓

✓ \*5

✓ \*5

✓ \*5

✓

✓

**Core**

Bare metal deployment

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Intel-VT or AMD-V needed

No

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Max CPU support (logical/cores)

32

32

64

24

24

32

2-Unlimited \*3

Unlimited

Max Memory support

256GB

256GB

1TB

32GB

32GB

1TB

4GB-128GB \*3

Unlimited

**Virtual machines**

Max vCPU

4

4

8

4

4

4 \*6

8

8

Max memory

64GB

64GB

255GB

31,5GB

31,5GB

64GB

32GB

32GB

Max network I/O

9Gb/s

9Gb/s

40Gb/s

[unknown]

[unknown]

[unknown]

[unknown]

[unknown]

Max storage I/O

100.000

100.000

300.000+

[unknown]

[unknown]

[unknown]

[unknown]

[unknown]



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Server)

VMware ESX(i) 3.5  
(with vCenter  
Server)

VMware vSphere 4  
(with vCenter  
Server)

Microsoft  
Hyper-V Server  
2008

Microsoft Server 2008  
Enterprise with Hyper-  
V 1.0

Microsoft Server 2008  
Enterprise with Hyper-  
V 2.0

Citrix XenServer  
4.5

Citrix XenServer 5.0

**Operating system support (servers)**

Windows NT	✓	✓	✓					
Windows 2000	✓	✓	✓	SP4, max 1 CPUs	SP4, max 1 CPUs	SP4, max 1 CPUs	✓ (no x64)	✓ (no x64)
Windows 2003	✓	✓	✓	SP2, max 2 CPUs	SP2, max 2 CPUs	SP2, max 2 CPUs	✓	✓
Windows 2008	✓	✓	✓	Max 4 CPUs	Max 4 CPUs	Max 4 CPUs	✓	✓
Mandrake Linux	✓	✓	✓					
Ubuntu Linux	✓	✓	✓					
SUSE Linux	✓	✓	✓	10 SP1/2, 1 CPU	10 SP1/2, 1 CPU	10 SP1/2, 1 CPU	✓	✓
RedHat Linux	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
FreeBSD	✓	✓	✓					
Netware	✓	✓	✓					
SUN Solaris	✓	✓	✓					

**Management**

Role based management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P2V migration		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zero downtime host maintenance		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Auto VM placement while running		✓	✓				✓ *1	✓
Auto VM placement at startup		✓	✓				✓	✓
Live VM migration (no downtime)		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

**NOTE:**

Hyper-V 2.0 is not released yet. Features are subject to change.

- \*1 With add-on
- \*2 Only 1 vCPU, max 10% performance loss and physical CPUs may differ max 400MHz
- \*3 Dependent on version
- \*4 Machine gets suspended during migration, cuts network connections, also to databases
- \*5 Only with 3rd party drivers
- \*6 Max 512 vCPUs on 384 virtual machines. (384x single vCPU or 256x dual vCPU or 128x quad vCPU or combi)