VMware Horizon Cloud Next-Gen on Microsoft Azure

Overview

Q. What is VMware Horizon Cloud next-gen?

A. VMware Horizon® Cloud next-gen is a desktop-as-a-service (DaaS) architecture built for today's hybrid world. It leverages a unique "thin edge" architecture that reduces the infrastructure in a customer environment, thereby significantly reducing infrastructure-related costs.

Q. What are the benefits of Horizon Cloud next-gen?

A. Horizon Cloud next-gen provides several benefits.

Cost reduction – Horizon Cloud next-gen replaces the functionality of Horizon pods with a new entity called Horizon Edge, which reduces the Horizon infrastructure deployed in a customer environment by moving key components and services to the VMware-operated Horizon Control Plane. Reducing the customer footprint lowers operational costs and requires less day-to-day maintenance. This cost reduction is further amplified by significant gains in scalability.

Scalability – Each Horizon Edge supports up to 20,000 desktops—a tenfold increase in the number of desktops supported. If you need more than 20,000 desktops, you just add another Horizon Edge. Because adding capacity is so simple, you can scale up and scale down as needed.

Improved visibility and troubleshooting – With Horizon Cloud next-gen, all infrastructure components are hosted on the VMware-managed Horizon Control Plane, which allows for proactive detection and resolution of issues before they affect your users. Advanced alerting, notifications and monitoring make troubleshooting easier.

Advanced automation – APIs are core to Horizon Cloud next-gen—anything that can be done via the admin interface can be automated. The API architecture enables many integration possibilities, such as third-party ticketing or monitoring solutions, partner-built managed service offerings, and customer-built integrations and automations that leverage existing workflows.

Q. What is the difference between the current and new architecture?

A. Prior to next-gen, Horizon Cloud required components to reside in a customer's Azure subscription, in addition to the Azure PostgreSQL service. The components generated additional Azure consumption costs each month per Azure subscription, each of which could handle 2,000 users. With Horizon Cloud next-gen, most Horizon infrastructure components are moved away from the customer's responsibility to the Horizon Control Plane, which reduces costs and increases scalability from 2,000 to 5,000 users per Azure subscription.

Placing these resources in the VMware-managed Horizon Control Plane also reduces the impact of updates and patches and gives VMware more visibility into the day-to-day operations so we can resolve issues before they affect your environment.

Q. Does Horizon Cloud next-gen work with Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop?

A. Like its predecessor, Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure, with Horizon Cloud next-gen you can leverage all the benefits of your Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop entitlement, including Windows 10 and Windows 11 multi-session, along with all the enterprise-class capabilities of Horizon Cloud next-gen.

Technical details

Q. Which features does Horizon Cloud next-gen include?

A. Horizon Cloud next-gen supports the following features on Azure infrastructure.

Microsoft Azure provider capacity
- Support for Microsoft Azure Private Link Service, which provides secure connectivity over the Azure backbone network to the Horizon Control Plane

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Horizon Gateway appliances

- Automated deployment of the Horizon Edge Gateway and Unified Access Gateway along with Day 2 management
- Support for customer-configured proxy
- Support for deployment into a dedicated VNet or dedicated provider

Horizon Universal Console

- **Customer onboarding** – Allow customers to choose where they want to store their metadata while onboarding to the service
- **Role-based access control** – Assign predefined roles to administrator users and groups
- **Search** – Search for users, and review their assigned desktops, applications, active sessions and entitlements
- **Monitoring** – Access dashboards powered by VMware Workspace® ONE Intelligence to monitor usage and health metrics for all core components and services
- **Audit and logging** – Export audit and system activity with support for third-party SIEM systems

Application and desktop delivery

- Deliver Windows 10 and Windows 11 VDI desktops and multi-session desktops and apps from Azure
- Use VMware App Volumes™ for centralized application packaging, management and delivery

Image Management

- Automate the image publishing process

Universal Broker

- Connect end users based on nearest site-based brokering rules and policies

Identity and access management

- Supports Azure AD and Active Directory with Workspace ONE Access as an IdP
- Active Directory domain-joined machines
- Support for two-factor and multi-factor authentication via a configured IdP

Workspace ONE integration

- Workspace ONE Intelligence for dashboards and customized reports
- Workspace ONE Cloud Admin Hub provides single sign-on to all VMware end-user computing services

Horizon Client

- Support for Windows, macOS and Linux clients

Dynamic Environment Manager

- Configuration from within the Horizon Universal Console

Q. Which markets is Horizon Cloud next-gen available in?

A. The Horizon Cloud next-gen control plane is deployed in several Microsoft Azure regions around the world, and additional regions are added based on customer demand. Desktops and applications can be deployed from any supported Microsoft Azure region. See List of Microsoft Azure regions for more information.

Q. Which virtual machine types does Horizon Cloud next-gen support?

A. You can select from over 200 virtual machine (VM) sizes for both VDI and RDSH use cases. You can also filter VM sizes based on type, series, CPU, memory, and tag when creating a desktop assignment or RDSH farm. For recommended VM types based on workloads, see the product documentation.

Q. Does Horizon Cloud support vGPU-accelerated apps and desktops?

A. Horizon Cloud supports vGPU-accelerated Azure infrastructure to deliver secure, immersive 3D graphics to virtual desktops and applications.

Q. Which display protocol does Horizon Cloud next-gen use?

A. Horizon Cloud next-gen supports VMware Blast Extreme for a premium end-user experience.

Migration

Q. Do existing Horizon Cloud customers need to migrate?

A. A small, self-service migration is required for existing Horizon Cloud customers. For more information on this process, see Horizon Cloud next-gen product documentation. No action is taken without your consent.

Licensing

Q. Which licenses do I need to use Horizon Cloud next-gen?

A. Horizon Cloud next-gen is included with any Horizon subscription:

- **Horizon Universal Subscription** – An all-inclusive SKU that includes everything VMware Horizon has to offer, such as VDI and multi-session desktops and apps, hybrid and multi-cloud support, App Volumes, and Dynamic Environment Manager.

- **Horizon Apps Universal Subscription**– Includes all Horizon functionality and support for multi-session (RDSH) desktops and applications at a lower cost.

- **Horizon Apps Standard Subscription** – An entry-level offering that includes basic Horizon functionality, like the Blast Extreme protocol.

Q. How do I buy a Horizon subscription?

A. You can purchase directly from VMware or your preferred reseller. Contact VMware Sales or a VMware Partner to learn more.

Other Info

Q. Does VMware offer managed infrastructure on Microsoft Azure or do customers attach their own Azure infrastructure to Horizon Cloud next-gen?

A. Horizon Cloud next-gen runs natively in your Azure subscription. A managed infrastructure platform called Azure VMware Solution is available if you want to run VMware vSphere® workloads in Azure. Microsoft operates this service in partnership with VMware, which is available through the Azure Marketplace. However, this environment does not run Horizon Cloud next-gen. Instead, it runs the same version of Horizon that runs on-premises on VMware vSphere. While Horizon on Azure VMware Solution has unique capabilities compared to Horizon Cloud next-gen, like Linux VM support and lift and shift migrations, it does not support the features of Azure Virtual Desktop.

For more information, see the Azure VMware Solution product page.

Q. Can you deploy Horizon Cloud next-gen on-premises or other types of public cloud?

A. At this time, the next-gen architecture is available only for Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure environments.

Q. If I'm a new Horizon Cloud customer, do I automatically get Horizon Cloud next-gen?

A. New customers with 100 percent Azure-based environments are automatically deployed on Horizon Cloud next-gen. Customers with additional needs, such as hybrid or multi-cloud support, are deployed in Horizon Cloud.

Q. If I want to use Horizon Cloud, how do I purchase Microsoft Azure hosting?

A. You can purchase Azure capacity from Microsoft resellers.

Q. Where can I get more information about Horizon Cloud next-gen?

A. To learn more about this offering, visit the Horizon Cloud product page or check out the Horizon Cloud service Next-gen DaaS architecture page on VMware Tech Zone.