

## About Non-GAAP Financial Measures

To provide investors and others with additional information regarding VMware's results, we have disclosed in this press release the following non-GAAP financial measures: non-GAAP operating income, non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP operating margin and trailing twelve-month and third quarter free cash flows. VMware has provided a reconciliation of each non-GAAP financial measure used in this earnings release to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure. These non-GAAP financial measures differ from GAAP in that they exclude stock-based compensation, employer payroll tax on employee stock transactions, amortization of intangible assets, acquisition related items, and the net effect of the amortization and capitalization of software development costs, each as discussed below.

VMware's management uses these non-GAAP financial measures to understand and compare operating results across accounting periods, for internal budgeting and forecasting purposes, for short- and long-term operating plans, to calculate bonus payments and to evaluate VMware's financial performance, the performance of its individual functional groups and the ability of operations to generate cash. Management believes these non-GAAP financial measures reflect VMware's ongoing business in a manner that allows for meaningful period-to-period comparisons and analysis of trends in VMware's business, as they exclude expenses that are not reflective of ongoing operating results. Management also believes that these non-GAAP financial measures provide useful information to investors and others in understanding and evaluating VMware's operating results and future prospects in the same manner as management and in comparing financial results across accounting periods and to those of peer companies. Additionally, management believes information regarding free cash flows provides investors and others with an important perspective on the cash available to make strategic acquisitions and investments, to repurchase shares, to fund ongoing operations and to fund other capital expenditures.

Management believes these non-GAAP financial measures are useful to investors and others in assessing VMware's operating performance due to the following factors:

- *Stock-based compensation.* Although stock-based compensation is an important aspect of the compensation of VMware's employees and executives, determining the fair value of the stock-based instruments involves a high degree of judgment and estimation and the expense recorded may bear little resemblance to the actual value realized upon the future exercise or termination of the related stock-based awards. Furthermore, unlike cash compensation, the value of stock-based compensation is determined using a complex formula that incorporates factors, such as market volatility, that are beyond our control. Management believes it is useful to exclude stock-based compensation in order to better understand the long-term performance of our core business and to facilitate comparison of our results to those of peer companies. In addition, we account for stock-based compensation under GAAP, which requires that we report the excess income tax benefit from stock-based compensation as a financing cash flow rather than as an operating cash flow. We have added this benefit back to our calculation of free cash flows in order to generally classify cash flows arising from income taxes as operating cash flows.
- *Employer payroll tax on employee stock transactions.* The amount of employer payroll taxes on stock-based compensation is dependent on VMware's stock price and other factors that are beyond our control and do not correlate to the operation of the business.
- *Amortization of intangible assets.* A portion of the purchase price of VMware's acquisitions is generally allocated to intangible assets, such as intellectual property, and is subject to amortization. However, VMware does not acquire businesses on a predictable cycle. Additionally, the amount of an acquisition's purchase price allocated to intangible assets and the term of its related amortization can vary significantly and are unique to each acquisition. Therefore, VMware believes that the presentation of non-GAAP financial measures that adjust for the amortization of intangible assets, provides investors and others with a consistent basis for comparison across accounting periods.
- *Acquisition related items.* Acquisition related items include direct costs of acquisitions, such as transaction fees, which vary significantly and are unique to each acquisition. Additionally, VMware does not acquire businesses on a predictable cycle.
- *Amortization and capitalization of software development costs.* Amortization and capitalization of software development costs can vary significantly depending upon the timing of products reaching technological feasibility and being made generally available. In addition, we exclude the capitalization of software from our free cash flows to better convey management's view of operating cash flows. If we did not capitalize

costs under generally accepted accounting guidance, our GAAP operating cash flows would be lower as a result of additional expense recognized within net income and paid out in cash during the period.

Additionally, we believe that the non-GAAP financial measure, free cash flows, is meaningful to investors because we review cash flows generated from operations after taking into consideration capital expenditures due to the fact that these expenditures are considered to be a necessary component of ongoing operations. As discussed above, we also exclude capitalization of software development costs and the excess income tax benefit from stock-based compensation from our measure of free cash flows.

The use of non-GAAP financial measures has certain limitations because they do not reflect all items of income and expense that affect VMware's operations. Specifically, in the case of stock-based compensation, if VMware did not pay out a portion of its compensation in the form of stock-based compensation and related employer payroll taxes, the cash salary expense included in costs of revenues and operating expenses would be higher, which would affect VMware's cash position. VMware compensates for these limitations by reconciling the non-GAAP financial measures to the most comparable GAAP financial measures. These non-GAAP financial measures should be considered in addition to, not as a substitute for or in isolation from, measures prepared in accordance with GAAP and should not be considered measures of VMware's liquidity. Further, these non-GAAP measures may differ from the non-GAAP information used by other companies, including peer companies, and therefore comparability may be limited. Management encourages investors and others to review VMware's financial information in its entirety and not rely on a single financial measure.