DECISION GUIDE · VMWARE

VMware alternatives after the Broadcom licensing changes

What Broadcom changed, which platforms replace vSphere, how to compare them on features, backup support, clustering, skills and migration tooling, and what the move involves.

Updated 4 Nov 2026 6 phases 26 detailed steps 9 official sources

START HERE

Should you renew VMware or move, and where to?

SHORT ANSWER

Broadcom now sells VMware only as a subscription, so this plan helps you decide whether to renew or move, and then move safely. You list what you run, score renewal against two or three alternatives (such as Hyper-V, Proxmox VE or public cloud), test the winner on a few VMs, then move the rest in groups called waves.

- **Recommended route:** Inventory, compare, pilot, then migrate in waves
- **Order:** Find your deadline and what you run before choosing anything, then pick a platform from a pilot, and only then move VMs in waves.
- **6 phases:** Find your deadline, List what you run, Compare and cost, Run a pilot, Migrate in waves and Check and decommission.
- **You're done when:** Every VM runs on the new platform, passes its application tests and has an owner sign-off.

The deadline is the end date of your current VMware support, and the pilot timings tell you how long each wave takes.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE

Inventory, compare, pilot, then migrate in waves

You decide on measured facts (features you use, backup support, skills and real downtime) rather than list prices or forum advice.

▼ Other options and when to use them

- **Renew VMware on a subscription**
  : You rely on VMware-only features or vendor appliances, or cannot move before your support date.
- **Hyper-V on Windows Server or Azure Local**
  : You are a Windows shop already licensed for Windows Server Datacenter.
- **Proxmox VE or XCP-ng**
  : Your team is comfortable with Linux and open source and wants to cut licensing.
- **Public cloud (Azure or AWS)**
  : You want workloads off owned hardware or are leaving your data centre.

TOOLS FOR THIS PLAN

Not sure which route?
Answer 5 quick questions

Are you ready?
22-question readiness check

Plan your dates
Dated countdown you can add to your calendar

Compare options
Hypervisors compared

Check your DNS
MX, SPF, DKIM and DMARC lookup

New to the jargon?
Plain-English migration glossary

ORDER TO MIGRATE IN, AND WHY

Find your deadline and what you run before choosing anything, then pick a platform from a pilot, and only then move VMs in waves. Each step depends on the one before: the support end date sets how much time you have, and the features and appliances you rely on decide which platforms are possible.

1. **Support end dates and licence types for every host and vCenter**
   Your current VMware support end date is the real deadline for the last wave.
2. **Inventory of VMs, VMware features in use, backup, monitoring and vendor appliances**
   A feature or appliance with no equivalent can rule out a platform, or mean keeping some VMware.
3. **Shortlist and score renewal plus two or three alternatives**
   Written backup and vendor support answers and dated quotes make the comparison on facts, not list prices.
4. **Pilot on the chosen platform: one Windows VM, one Linux VM and one appliance**

Shows the real downtime, driver and network fixes and backup support before you commit the estate.

5 **Build the target platform, its network and its backup**

VMs need matching networks and storage to land on, and a backup from their first day.

6 **Waves: low-risk VMs first, then application groups, then critical systems**

Early waves prove the timing, and each application moves with its servers together for one outage.

7 **Decommission VMware, or renew only the hosts you keep**

Source VMs and recovery keys are your rollback until each wave has passed a full backup cycle.

SETTINGS CHECKLIST: DECIDE THESE BEFORE YOU COPY

Built-in and third-party tools treat these differently. Tick each one off once you have decided.

Download this checklist (Excel)

- [ ] **VMs on vSAN**

Whether vSAN VMs move to another datastore first, or move through a backup product.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	Built-in importers differ. Proxmox VE import wizard: VMs with disks on vSAN do not import. Windows Admin Center VM Conversion (Hyper-V): does not support VMs on vSAN.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	Cannot convert VMs on vSAN storage to Hyper-V.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Backs up VMs on vSAN, then restores them as Proxmox VE VMs (version 12.2 or later with the Proxmox VE plug-in) or starts them on Hyper-V with Instant Recovery.

Tip: Count vSAN VMs in the inventory: if there are many, budget for Storage vMotion time or a backup-based method.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

- [ ] **Snapshots on the source VMs**

When snapshots are deleted or consolidated, and who approves it.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	Proxmox VE import wizard: imports VMs with snapshots, but can be significantly slower. Windows Admin Center VM Conversion: its prechecks verify there are no snapshots. Azure Migrate agentless: existing snapshots from earlier attempts or backup tools block replication setup.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	The VM must have no snapshots and be stopped before conversion.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Not stated in Veeam's documentation: test it in your pilot.
StarWind V2V Converter	Not stated in StarWind's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Consolidate snapshots in a quiet period before each wave, whichever platform you choose.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

- [ ] **Boot type: BIOS or UEFI**

How each VM's firmware maps on the target platform.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	Proxmox VE: match the source with SeaBIOS for BIOS and OVMF for UEFI. VM Conversion (Hyper-V): BIOS VMs become Generation 1 and UEFI VMs Generation 2. Azure Migrate agentless: UEFI VMs become Azure Generation 2 VMs, which lack Secure Boot until converted to Trusted Launch.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	You choose Generation 1 for BIOS or Generation 2 for UEFI in the wizard.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Not stated in Veeam's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Add firmware and Secure Boot columns to the inventory so the pilot covers both types.

Microsoft Learn: Support matrix for VMware vSphere migration

Virtual TPM and BitLocker

How VMs with a virtual TPM (a virtual security chip) and BitLocker will move.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	Proxmox VE: the virtual TPM state cannot be migrated from VMware, so a BitLocker VM stops at the recovery screen unless protection is suspended first. VM Conversion (Hyper-V): not stated in Microsoft's documentation: test it in your pilot.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	Not stated in Microsoft's documentation: test it in your pilot.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Not stated in Veeam's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Back up every BitLocker recovery key before any VM moves, whichever platform you choose.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

Drivers in the guest

Which drivers each guest needs before it moves.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	Proxmox VE: install VirtIO drivers (its fast disk and network drivers) in the guest before migrating. VM Conversion (Hyper-V): Hyper-V drivers must be installed on Linux VMs before migration. Azure Migrate agentless: makes the driver and boot changes itself for the operating systems it lists.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Not stated in Veeam's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Add the drivers during the pilot preparation and record the exact steps per operating system.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

VMware Tools

When VMware Tools is removed on each route.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	Proxmox VE: remove guest tools before migrating, because removing them afterwards may be hard. VM Conversion (Hyper-V): Microsoft's FAQ says VMware Tools are not uninstalled automatically after migration. Azure Migrate agentless: sets the VMware Tools service to disabled.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	VMware Tools must be uninstalled before conversion.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Not stated in Veeam's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Write the removal point for each route into the runsheet so nobody removes the tools too early or forgets them.

Microsoft Learn: VMware to Hyper-V migration FAQ (VM Conversion)

- [ ] **Network, MAC and IP addresses**

How each VM keeps its IP address and any MAC-based DHCP reservation or licence.

▼ **How each tool handles it**

Built-in method	Proxmox VE: each VM gets a new network card and MAC address, so update DHCP reservations or set the MAC by hand, and restore recorded IP settings. VM Conversion (Hyper-V): captures static IP settings with guest credentials and reapplies them. Azure Migrate agentless: sets the guest to DHCP, so servers get new private IPs.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	You choose the logical network, VM network and VLAN. Whether static IPs are kept: not stated in Microsoft's documentation: test it in your pilot.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Not stated in Veeam's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Record every VM's IP, gateway, DNS and MAC address before the pilot, whichever platform you choose.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

- [ ] **Disk format and storage**

How much storage the target needs and which disks must be fixed size.

▼ **How each tool handles it**

Built-in method	VM Conversion (Hyper-V): writes dynamically expanding VHDX files holding only used space, which can overfill storage as they grow. Proxmox VE OVF import: --format chooses raw, vmdk or qcow2 on file-based storage. Azure Migrate: moves disks to Azure managed disks only.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	New-SCV2V -VhdType chooses dynamically expanding or fixed size disks.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Not stated in Veeam's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Size on-premises target storage for each VM's provisioned size plus growth, not only today's used space.

Microsoft Learn: VMware to Hyper-V migration FAQ (VM Conversion)

- [ ] **Downtime and how many VMs at once**

Which method each VM uses, given how long it can be offline.

▼ **How each tool handles it**

Built-in method	Proxmox VE import wizard: the source is off while it copies; live import starts the VM during the copy, but loses data written since the start if it fails. Proxmox advises four disks at once. VM Conversion (Hyper-V): copies while the VM runs, then a short final sync; up to 10 VMs at a time. Azure Migrate: replicates in the background, then a final sync at cutover.
System Center Virtual Machine Manager	Online conversion is not supported, so the VM is off for the whole copy.
Veeam Backup & Replication	Instant Recovery starts a VM on Hyper-V from its backup within minutes. Changes after the last backup are not included.
StarWind V2V Converter	Not stated in StarWind's documentation: test it in your pilot.

Tip: Time every pilot VM and use those figures, not vendor estimates, to size waves.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

- [ ] **Backup on the new platform**

Which product backs up VMs after they move, and whether it supports the target platform and version.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	Proxmox VE: Proxmox Backup Server is Proxmox's own backup product. Hyper-V and public cloud: use a backup product that names the platform and version in writing. Your VMware backup jobs stop protecting each VM once it moves.
Veeam Backup & Replication (Proxmox VE plug-in)	Included from version 12.2. Adds Proxmox VE hosts for VM backup and restore.

Tip: Get a written yes or no from your backup vendor for each target platform before you choose it.

☐ **Windows Server licensing on new hosts**

How many Windows Server licences each target needs.

▼ How each tool handles it

Built-in method	No migration tool changes licensing. On Hyper-V and Proxmox VE, Windows Server guest licences are counted against the physical hosts. In Azure, Azure Hybrid Benefit lets you reuse licences you own with Software Assurance.

Tip: Ask your Microsoft licensing partner to price guest rights for each shortlisted platform and add it to the cost comparison.

THE PLAN, PHASE BY PHASE

1 Find your deadline Before anything else

Record each ESXi host and vCenter Server with its licence

type and support end date.

Check your vSphere versions: general support for 7.0 ended 2 October 2025, and 8.0 ends 11 October 2027.

Ask Broadcom or your reseller for a written renewal quote naming the bundle you would need.

Watch out: Support contracts on perpetual licences can no longer be renewed, so your support end date is the real deadline.

WAYS AROUND IT

- Schedule the last wave at least one change window before the earliest support end date.
- If you cannot make it, get a renewal quote only for the hosts that will remain.

Watch out: The free ESXi 8.0 hypervisor has no vCenter, vMotion, HA, VADP backups (the VMware interface backup products use) or official support.

WAYS AROUND IT

- Use it only for lab or edge hosts where those limits are acceptable.

Show the detailed steps (4) →

2 List what you run

Export every VM with its CPU, memory, disk, operating system, firmware and vTPM (virtual security chip) use, using PowerCLI or RVTools.

List the VMware

features each cluster relies on, such as HA, DRS, vMotion, vSAN and NSX.

Mark each feature "needs equivalent" or "can drop".

List backup, monitoring, scripts and vendor appliances, and ask each vendor which hypervisors they support.

> **Watch out:** Vendor appliances (firewalls, load balancers, line-of-business systems) are often supported only on named hypervisors.

WAYS AROUND IT

- Get each vendor's answer in writing before you choose a platform.
- Where the answer is "VMware only", plan a vendor image for the new platform, a SaaS replacement, or keep a small VMware footprint.

Show the detailed steps (3) →

3 Compare and cost

Shortlist renewal plus two or three alternatives from the options table.

Score each one on features, backup support, hardware compatibility and skills in the evaluation scorecard.

Get a written yes or no from

your backup vendor for each target platform and version.

Collect dated quotes for licences, support, hardware, backup changes and partner services.

Enter the figures in the renew-or-move calculator and attach the result to the business case.

> ⚠ **Watch out:** Your backup product may not support the new hypervisor, or may need a new agent, proxy or licence.

WAYS AROUND IT

- On Proxmox VE, evaluate Proxmox Backup Server if your current product is not supported.

TOOLS THAT CAN DO IT

Veeam Backup & Replication (Proxmox VE plug-in)
Included from version 12.2. Adds Proxmox VE hosts for VM backup and restore.

Veeam Backup & Replication (Restore to Proxmox VE)
Restores Veeam backups of VMware VMs as Proxmox VE VMs.

Veeam Backup & Replication (Instant Recovery to Hyper-V)
Recovers Veeam backups of VMware VMs as Hyper-V VMs, at reduced performance until moved to production storage.

Watch out: On Hyper-V and Proxmox VE, Windows Server guest licences are counted against the physical hosts, so new hosts can change how many licences you need.

WAYS AROUND IT

- Ask your Microsoft licensing partner to confirm guest rights on the target hosts, and add it to the cost comparison.

Show the detailed steps (5) →

4 Run a pilot

On a test host per shortlisted platform

Pick three test VMs: one Windows, one Linux and one vendor appliance.

Save each VM's network settings,

and back up BitLocker recovery keys before suspending protection on vTPM VMs.

Install the target drivers in each guest first (VirtIO for Proxmox VE, Hyper-V drivers for Linux on Hyper-V).

Remove VMware Tools first for Proxmox VE, but leave

them in place on the Hyper-V route until the VM runs there.

Import with the Proxmox VE ESXi import wizard or Windows Admin Center VM Conversion, and record the downtime.

Back up and test-restore each pilot VM on the

new
platform.

Watch out: vTPM state does not move to Proxmox VE, so a BitLocker VM stops at the recovery screen.

WAYS AROUND IT

- Suspend BitLocker before migrating, then re-enable it once a new vTPM is attached.

Watch out: Windows Admin Center VM Conversion is an unsupported preview, moves up to 10 VMs at a time and pauses if the browser session closes.

WAYS AROUND IT

- Use it for pilots and small estates, from a jump host that stays signed in.
- Keep a backup-and-restore fallback for critical VMs.

TOOLS THAT CAN DO IT

System Center Virtual Machine Manager
Supported Microsoft product. Converts powered-off VMware VMs to Hyper-V in parallel. Does not convert VMs on vSAN.

Veeam Backup & Replication
Instant Recovery starts VMs from Veeam backups as Hyper-V VMs within minutes.

StarWind V2V Converter
Converts a selected VM from an ESXi host directly to a Hyper-V host.

Show the detailed steps (8) →

5 Migrate in waves

Group
VMs
into
waves:
low-
risk
servers
first,
then
application

tiers together, then critical systems.

Give each wave a date, a change window and an owner who signs off each VM.

Power off the source VM, run the import or final sync, and boot it on the target.

Check the

network, run the application tests and record sign-off in the cutover runsheet.

Keep each source VM powered off, not deleted, until its rollback window closes.

> ⚠ **Watch out:** The Proxmox VE import wizard runs far slower through vCenter, and Proxmox advises importing no more than four disks at once.
>
> **WAYS AROUND IT**
>
> - Add each ESXi host as its own import storage, and use the pilot timings to size each wave.

> ⚠ **Watch out:** Proxmox live-import starts the VM while data copies, and loses data written since the start if it fails.
>
> **WAYS AROUND IT**
>
> - Use a normal powered-off import for production VMs, and test live-import on a non-critical VM first.

> **Watch out:** Every imported VM gets a new network card, which breaks DHCP reservations, MAC-licensed software and static IP settings.
>
> **WAYS AROUND IT**
>
> - Update DHCP reservations or set the MAC address on the target VM to match.

Show the detailed steps (3) →

6 Check and decommission

After each wave, then after the last one

Confirm each migrated VM boots with its drivers, matches its saved IP settings and has BitLocker back on.

Confirm the first backup of each VM completed and one test restore per

wave boots.

After the last wave, remove ESXi hosts from vCenter, retire licences and update the CMDB (your asset register).

Reformat hosts only after each wave has passed its tests and a full backup cycle.

> **Watch out:** Rollback ends once you delete source VMs, reformat ESXi hosts or let VMware support lapse.

WAYS AROUND IT

- Keep source VMs powered off in vSphere and keep BitLocker recovery keys until each rollback window closes.
- After that, going back means restoring from backups made on VMware.

Show the detailed steps (3) →

✓ You are finished when

- Every VM runs on the new platform, passes its application tests and has an owner sign-off.
- Every migrated VM has a successful backup, and a test restore boots.
- No VM from a completed wave is powered on in vSphere.
- No hosts remain in vCenter, and VMware licences are retired or renewed only where you chose to stay.

Tools named in this plan are independent third-party products, not endorsed by the platform vendor and not paid placements. Check the tool's own documentation and run a pilot first.

CLICK BY CLICK

What does each step involve?

Open a part when you reach it in the plan. Each step says where to go, what to do and what you should see.

About this migration

What it covers, limits at a glance —

Broadcom moved VMware to subscription-only licensing, ended renewals of support for perpetual licences and consolidated the product list into a few bundles. Many organisations are now deciding whether to renew or move. This guide covers the realistic targets, a repeatable way to compare them, and the work involved in moving.
We do not quote prices. Licensing costs change often, so get current quotes from Broadcom and each alternative vendor, then model them in our renew-or-move calculator.

PERPETUAL LICENCES	VSPHERE 7 STATUS	VSPHERE 8 STATUS

No longer sold by Broadcom; offerings are subscription or term only

End of general support was 2 October 2025

End of general support is 11 October 2027

FREE V2V TOOLS

Proxmox VE ESXi import wizard; Windows Admin Center VM Conversion (preview); Azure Migrate

BEFORE YOU DECIDE

Confirm your backup vendor supports the target hypervisor

1 What you need before step one

Need	Details	Where to get it
Read access to vCenter Server	To list VMs, hosts, clusters and features in use. The Proxmox ESXi import uses an admin account on the ESXi host itself.	vSphere Client: Administration > Access Control > Global Permissions
VMware PowerCLI (optional)	To export the VM inventory with one command.	PowerShell Gallery: `Install-Module VMware.PowerCLI -Scope CurrentUser`
Azure Migrate appliance (optional)	Discovery and sizing data if Azure or Azure Local is on the shortlist.	Set up the Azure Migrate appliance
A test host per candidate platform	For the pilot in Step 6. Proxmox VE must be version 8 or later with the latest updates for the ESXi import wizard.	Proxmox VE: https://www.proxmox.com/ ; Hyper-V: Windows Server
Windows Admin Center (Hyper-V route)	Gateway version 2410 (build 2.4.12.10) or later, the latest PowerCLI and VMware VDDK 8.0.3 on the gateway for the VM Conversion extension.	https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/manage/windows-admin-center/use/migrate-virtual-machines-vm-conversion-extension

Need	Details	Where to get it
Written quotes	Broadcom renewal quote and quotes for each alternative, support and partner services.	Broadcom or your reseller, and each vendor; check current pricing with them
Templates	Application inventory and dependency map, Migration tool evaluation scorecard, TCO and cost comparison.	Templates linked at the end of this guide

2 Understand what Broadcom changed

4 steps

Base your decision on what Broadcom has published, not on forum summaries. These are the documented changes.

1

Perpetual licences are no longer sold

Where: Broadcom news page: VMware by Broadcom business transformation (news.broadcom.com), and your Licensing assessment template

Broadcom states that it no longer sells perpetual licences and that offerings are available only as subscriptions or term licences. Existing perpetual licences can still be used, and support continues for the term of active contracts, but support and subscription (SnS) contracts for perpetual products can no longer be renewed.

In your licensing assessment, record for each host whether it runs on a perpetual or subscription licence and the date its current support contract ends.

✓ **You should see:** A list of every ESXi host and vCenter Server with its licence type and support end date.

2

The portfolio is now a few bundles

Where: Your Broadcom or reseller quote, compared with your licensing assessment

The two main offers are **VMware Cloud Foundation** and **VMware vSphere Foundation**. vSphere Standard and vSphere Essentials Plus remain for smaller deployments. Ask your reseller which bundle maps to your current features, and get the answer in writing.

✓ **You should see:** A written statement of which bundle you would need to renew, attached to the licensing assessment.

3

Check the support dates for your version

Where: vSphere Client: Help > About VMware vSphere (vCenter version), and Hosts and Clusters > each host > Summary (ESXi version). Or PowerShell with PowerCLI, connected to vCenter

Read the vCenter and ESXi versions. Broadcom lists the end of general support for vSphere 7.0 (ESXi, vCenter and vSAN 7.x) as 2 October 2025 and for vSphere 8.0 as 11 October 2027. If you run 7.x today you are already past general support.

```
Connect-VIServer -Server vcenter.contoso.com
Get-VMHost | Select-Object Name,Version,Build
```

✓ **You should see:** Each host listed with its version (for example 7.0.3 or 8.0.3), which you can compare with the Broadcom dates.

4

Know the limits of the free hypervisor

Where: Broadcom KB 399823: VMware ESXi 8.0 Update 3e now available as a Free Hypervisor (knowledge.broadcom.com)

Broadcom again offers ESXi 8.0 Update 3e as a free hypervisor. Its KB says the free licence cannot be managed by vCenter, excludes vMotion, DRS, HA and VADP-based backups, and has no official Broadcom support. It is a lab or edge option, not a production cluster replacement. Mark any host where these limits are acceptable.

✓ **You should see:** Only lab or edge hosts, if any, are marked as candidates for the free hypervisor.

Get your own quote. Pricing and minimum purchase rules have changed more than once. Ask Broadcom or your reseller for a written renewal quote, and check the vendor's current pricing for every alternative.

3 Inventory what you run on VMware

3 steps

You cannot compare platforms until you know which VMware features you actually depend on.

1

Export the VM inventory

Where: PowerShell 7 on your admin PC with VMware PowerCLI, connected to vCenter with Connect-VIServer. Alternative: the Azure Migrate appliance

Record every VM with vCPU, memory, disk size, guest OS, firmware type (BIOS or UEFI), vTPM use and network. The commands below write all of these to a CSV. RVTools is another common way to export the same data. If Azure or Azure Local is on your shortlist, set up the Azure Migrate appliance instead, which also produces sizing data for Azure.

```
Install-Module VMware.PowerCLI -Scope CurrentUser
Connect-VIServer -Server vcenter.contoso.com
Get-VM | Select-Object Name,NumCpu,MemoryGB,ProvisionedSpaceGB,@{N='GuestOS';E=
{$_.Guest.OSFullName}},@{N='Firmware';E={$_.ExtensionData.Config.Firmware}},@{N='vTPM';E={[bool]
($_.ExtensionData.Config.Hardware.Device | Where-Object { $_ -is [VMware.Vim.VirtualTPM]
})}},@{N='Network';E={(Get-NetworkAdapter -VM $_).NetworkName -join ';'}} | Export-Csv .\vm-
inventory.csv -NoTypeInformation
```

✓ **You should see:** vm-inventory.csv with one row per VM. Firmware shows bios or efi, and vTPM shows True for VMs that need the vTPM step in Step 6.

2

List the VMware features in use

Where: vSphere Client: each cluster > Configure > Services (vSphere DRS, vSphere Availability), the Networking view (distributed switches), and your licence list

Note which of these you rely on: HA, DRS, vMotion, Storage vMotion, vSAN, NSX, distributed switches, Fault Tolerance, Site Recovery Manager, Horizon and Tanzu. Each one needs an equivalent or a decision to drop it. Add a column per feature to your application inventory and dependency map.

✓ **You should see:** A feature list per cluster, with each feature marked "needs equivalent" or "can drop".

3

List integrations

Where: Application inventory and dependency map template, filled from your backup console, monitoring tool and automation repository

List backup software, monitoring, automation scripts (PowerCLI), CMDB sync and any appliance that only ships as an OVA. Appliances supplied by vendors are often the hardest part of a move, so ask each vendor which hypervisors they support.

✓ **You should see:** Every integration and vendor appliance listed with an owner and a supported-hypervisor answer (or "unknown").

4 Shortlist the realistic alternatives

Most organisations end up choosing between the platforms below. Check each vendor's documentation for current features.

Platform	Best fit	Clustering	VMware migration path
Hyper-V on Windows Server	Windows-heavy shops already licensed for Windows Server Datacenter	Windows Server Failover Clustering	Windows Admin Center VM Conversion extension (preview), or backup-and-restore
Azure Local	On-premises hardware managed from Azure, Azure Arc integration	Hyperconverged cluster managed from Azure	Azure Migrate (VMware to Azure Local), applies to Azure Local 2503 and later
Proxmox VE	Cost-sensitive teams comfortable with Linux, KVM and open source	Multi-master cluster with quorum; three or more nodes preferred	Built-in ESXi import wizard, or qm importovf and qm disk import

Platform	Best fit	Clustering	VMware migration path
Nutanix AHV	Teams wanting a hyperconverged appliance experience	Nutanix cluster	Vendor migration tool (check Nutanix documentation)
XCP-ng	Xen-based open source, often with Xen Orchestra	Resource pools	Vendor migration tooling (check XCP-ng documentation)
Public cloud (Azure, AWS)	Workloads you want off owned hardware	Provider managed	Azure Migrate or AWS Transform MGN; Azure VMware Solution for a like-for-like move

Staying on VMware in the cloud. Azure VMware Solution runs vSphere on dedicated hosts in Azure (minimum three hosts per cluster) in the Azure regions Microsoft lists, including Australia East and Australia Southeast. It changes where you run VMware, not whether you license it.

5 Compare on features, backup support, skills and tools

5 steps

Score each shortlisted platform against the same criteria. Use a weighted scorecard so the decision is visible to management.

1

Feature parity

Where: Migration tool evaluation scorecard template, one column per shortlisted platform

Map each VMware feature from Step 2 to the candidate platform, citing the vendor page for each answer. For example, Proxmox VE clusters use quorum where each node has one vote and at least three votes are needed for a stable cluster; a two-node cluster needs a QDevice for the extra vote.

✓ **You should see:** Every feature row has an equivalent, a workaround or "drop" for each platform, with a link to the vendor document.

2

Backup vendor support

Where: Your backup vendor's published support matrix, and an email from the vendor or partner

Confirm in writing that your backup product supports the target hypervisor at the version you will deploy, including application-consistent backups and granular restore. If not, budget time to change backup products. Proxmox VE pairs with Proxmox Backup Server, which supports incremental backups of running VMs and live restore.

✓ **You should see:** A written yes or no from the backup vendor for each platform, filed with the scorecard.

3

Clustering and storage

Where: Each candidate vendor's hardware compatibility list, checked against your server and storage models

Decide whether you keep your SAN, move to hyperconverged storage, or use the cloud. Check the hardware compatibility list for the candidate platform before you reuse servers.

✓ **You should see:** Each existing server and array marked as supported, not supported or not listed for each platform.

4

Skills

Where: Migration tool evaluation scorecard template (skills and support rows)

Hyper-V and Azure Local suit Windows and PowerShell skills. Proxmox VE and XCP-ng suit Linux skills. Factor in training and whether you can get local support partners in your city.

✓ **You should see:** A skills score and a named support partner (or "none found") for each platform.

5

V2V tooling and effort

Where: A test host for each candidate platform, using the tools in Step 6

Test the migration tool on three representative VMs: one Windows, one Linux and one appliance. Record the downtime each one needed. That test is the most reliable input for planning.

✓ **You should see:** A measured downtime figure and a pass or fail result for each of the three test VMs on each platform.

6 Model renew versus move

3 steps

1 Collect current quotes

Where: TCO and cost comparison template, with quotes from Broadcom, each alternative vendor, your hardware supplier and partners

Get the Broadcom renewal quote and quotes for the alternative platform, support subscriptions, hardware (if any), backup licensing changes and partner services. Do not rely on published list prices in blogs.

✓ **You should see:** A written, dated quote for every cost line in the template.

2 Include the migration effort

Where: TCO and cost comparison template (one-off costs section)

Count staff time for testing, cutover windows, retraining and a period of running both platforms. Use the per-VM downtime measured in Step 4.

✓ **You should see:** One-off migration costs filled in, based on your measured pilot figures rather than estimates.

3 Run the numbers

Where: The renew-or-move calculator on this site, then your Business case and ROI template

Enter your figures in the renew-or-move calculator and keep the output with the business case.

✓ **You should see:** A side-by-side renew and move result that you attach to the business case.

7 Prepare VMs and run a pilot

8 steps

These preparation steps apply to most targets. The Proxmox VE and Windows Admin Center steps are shown as examples.

1

Record network settings and remove VMware Tools

Where: Inside each guest VM. Windows: elevated PowerShell, then Settings > Apps > Installed apps. Linux: a root shell and the package manager

Save the guest network configuration first. Proxmox recommends removing guest tools tied to the old hypervisor before migrating, because they can be hard to remove afterwards, and considering removing static IP configuration on Windows. Update DHCP reservations for the new MAC address, or plan to set the MAC manually on the target VM. On the Windows Admin Center VM Conversion route, leave them in place until the VM runs on Hyper-V: Microsoft's overview says the extension removes them, but its FAQ says they are not uninstalled automatically, so check installed apps after migration and remove them yourself if they remain.

```
ipconfig /all | Out-File -FilePath C:\Temp\ipconfig-before.txt
```

✓ **You should see:** A saved copy of each VM's IP settings and, on the Proxmox route, VMware Tools no longer listed in installed apps.

2

Handle vTPM and disk encryption

Where: Inside each Windows guest with vTPM = True in your inventory: elevated PowerShell

Proxmox notes that vTPM state cannot currently be migrated from VMware. If BitLocker or another full-disk encryption keeps keys in the vTPM, back up the recovery key, then suspend protection before you migrate.

```
manage-bde -protectors -get C:
Suspend-BitLocker -MountPoint "C:" -RebootCount 0
```

✓ **You should see:** The recovery password is saved somewhere safe, and Get-BitLockerVolume shows ProtectionStatus Off for the volume.

3

Install target drivers

Where: Inside each guest, before migration. Windows to KVM: mount the VirtIO ISO from the Proxmox wiki page Windows VirtIO Drivers (https://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/Windows_VirtIO_Drivers)

Windows guests on KVM need VirtIO drivers, and Proxmox says Linux guests need the VirtIO drivers loaded in the initramfs. Microsoft says Linux guests moving to Hyper-V need Hyper-V drivers installed before migration. Install them first so the VM boots on the new platform.

✓ **You should see:** The drivers are installed in the guest (for Windows, the VirtIO drivers appear in Device Manager after the move instead of unknown devices).

4

Proxmox VE: add the ESXi host as import storage

Where: Proxmox VE web interface: Datacenter > Storage > Add > ESXi

Enter the ESXi host's domain name or IP address and an admin account for that host. If the host uses a self-signed certificate, add its CA to the trust store or tick **Skip Certificate Verification**. Connect to the ESXi host directly: Proxmox warns that going through vCenter dramatically reduces performance. Proxmox says import was tested from ESXi 6.5 to 8.0.

✓ **You should see:** The ESXi storage appears in the resource tree on the left, and selecting it shows the VMs on that host in the import panel.

5

Proxmox VE: import a pilot VM with the wizard

Where: Proxmox VE web interface: the ESXi storage in the resource tree > select a VM > Import

Power down the source VM first. Select the target storage for the disks and the network bridge for the NIC. On the **Advanced** tab you can change storage per disk, NIC models or bridges, or leave out disks, CD-ROMs or NICs. Check the **Resulting Config** tab, then select **Import** in the wizard to begin. Proxmox advises importing no more than four VM disks at once, and testing live-import on a test VM before you rely on it.

✓ **You should see:** A new VM appears under the target node with the imported disks, and it boots to the guest OS.

6

Proxmox VE: import exported OVF or VMDK files instead

Where: A shell on the Proxmox VE host (node > Shell, or SSH), in the folder that holds the exported files

Use `qm importovf` for a full OVF export. For a single VMDK, create the VM first, remove its default disk on the Disk tab, then run `qm disk import`. The disk appears as an **unusedX** entry: select it, choose **Edit** to attach it to a bus, and set the boot disk under **Options > Boot Order**. For Windows guests attach the disk as IDE or SATA first, until the VirtIO drivers are installed.

```
qm importovf 120 /mnt/export/app01.ovf local-zfs
qm disk import 121 /mnt/export/app02.vmdk local-zfs
```

✓ **You should see:** The command finishes without errors and the VM (or the unused disk) appears in the web interface.

7

Hyper-V: install the VM Conversion extension

Where: Windows Admin Center: Settings (top right) > Extensions > Available Extensions

Search for **VM Conversion (Preview)** and select **Install**. The gateway needs version 2410 (build 2.4.12.10) or later, the latest PowerCLI, and VMware VDDK version 8.0.3 extracted to `C:\Program Files\WindowsAdminCenter\Service\VDDK`. Microsoft supports vCenter 6.x, 7.x and 8.x and says the extension is in preview.

✓ **You should see:** VM Conversion (Preview) is listed under Installed Extensions.

8

Hyper-V: synchronise and migrate a pilot VM

Where: Windows Admin Center, connected to the target Hyper-V server or cluster: Extensions > VM Conversion (Preview)

Select **Connect to vCenter** and enter the vCenter FQDN, username and password. Select up to 10 VMs, enter the **Path to store data** in the **Synchronize VM** window and select **Synchronize**. When the sync finishes, go to the **Migrate** tab, select the VM, select **Migrate** and then **Proceed**. Stay signed in: Microsoft says the migration can pause if the browser session closes or times out.

✓ **You should see:** A VHDX file appears in the folder you chose during sync, and after migration the VM is listed in Hyper-V Manager and boots.

8 Migrate in waves and decommission

3 steps −

1

Group VMs into waves

Where: Migration wave plan template, built from your inventory CSV and dependency map

Start with low-risk internal servers, then application tiers together, then critical systems. Keep each wave inside one change window, and note the owner who signs off each VM.

✓ **You should see:** Every VM is assigned to a wave with a date, a change window and an owner.

2

Cut over each wave

Where: vSphere Client (power off the source), the target platform's console (import or final sync), and your Cutover runsheet

Power off the source VM, run the final sync or import, boot on the target, check the network, run application tests and get sign-off. Keep the source VM powered off, not deleted, until the rollback window closes.

✓ **You should see:** Each VM in the wave runs on the new platform, passes its tests and has a recorded sign-off in the runsheet.

3

Decommission VMware

Where: vSphere Client: each host > Maintenance Mode > Enter Maintenance Mode, then Remove from Inventory. Then your licence records and CMDB

After the last wave, remove hosts from vCenter, retire licences, update the CMDB and confirm backups run on the new platform.

✓ **You should see:** No hosts remain in vCenter, the CMDB shows the new platform, and the first backup cycle on the new platform has completed.

⚠ **Keep a rollback path.** Do not delete source VMs or reformat ESXi hosts until each wave has passed its acceptance tests and a full backup cycle on the new platform.

WORTH KNOWING

What can go wrong, and how do you avoid it?

The detail behind the plan: options compared, and what experienced engineers check first. Tap any item.

Compare all the ways to do this

4 options –

Renew VMware on a subscription

LOW EFFORT

Best for: Estates that rely on VMware-only features or vendor appliances, or that cannot move before their support date

+ No migration work, retraining or new backup integration
+ Keeps every VMware feature and integration you use today
– Subscription or term only: support for perpetual licences can no longer be renewed
– Bundles changed to VMware Cloud Foundation and vSphere Foundation, so get a written quote for your features

Read more →

Hyper-V on Windows Server or Azure Local

MEDIUM EFFORT

Best for: Windows-heavy organisations already licensed for Windows Server Datacenter, or wanting Azure management on-premises

+ Windows Server Failover Clustering and familiar Windows tooling
+ Windows Admin Center VM Conversion, or Azure Migrate for VMware to Azure Local
– The Windows Admin Center VM Conversion extension is in preview
– Confirm your backup vendor supports the target before production

Read more →

Open source hypervisor (Proxmox VE or XCP-ng)

MEDIUM EFFORT

Best for: Teams comfortable with Linux and open source who want to cut licensing

- \+ Proxmox VE has a built-in ESXi import wizard
- \+ Proxmox VE clusters are multi-master with quorum
- – vTPM state does not move to Proxmox VE
- – Skills, support contracts and backup vendor support need checking

Read more →

Move to public cloud

HIGH EFFORT

Best for: Workloads you want off owned hardware, or a data centre exit

- \+ Azure Migrate or AWS Transform MGN rehost VMs without a new hypervisor to run
- \+ Azure VMware Solution gives a like-for-like move if you need vSphere
- – Azure VMware Solution still needs VMware licensing
- – Cloud running costs and network redesign need modelling

Read more →

OUR ADVICE

Inventory the VMware features and appliances you actually use, then score renewal and two or three alternatives (Nutanix AHV included if a hyperconverged appliance appeals) on features, backup support, skills and migration effort. Windows shops usually land on Hyper-V or Azure Local, Linux-skilled teams on Proxmox VE, and estates leaving their data centre on public cloud. Renew only where the cost of moving before your support date is higher.

Time the move against your support end date

COST LEVER –

Support on perpetual licences cannot be renewed, so the end date of each current support contract is your real deadline. Running out of support mid-migration leaves the remaining hosts unpatched.

WHAT TO DO

Take the support end dates from your licensing assessment (Step 1) and schedule the last wave at least one change window before the earliest date. If you cannot make it, get a written renewal quote for the hosts that will remain, not the whole estate.

Broadcom: VMware by Broadcom business transformation

vTPM state does not move to Proxmox VE

REDUCES RISK

Proxmox says it is currently not possible to migrate vTPM state from VMware. A Windows VM that keeps BitLocker keys in the vTPM will stop at the recovery screen after import.

WHAT TO DO

Use the vTPM column in your inventory CSV to find these VMs. Back up the recovery keys and suspend BitLocker before migrating (Step 6), then re-enable it on the new platform once a new vTPM is attached.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

Vendor appliances decide the timeline

REDUCES RISK

Firewalls, load balancers and line-of-business appliances shipped as OVAs are often supported only on named hypervisors. Converting them yourself can void vendor support.

WHAT TO DO

Ask each appliance vendor in writing which hypervisors and versions they support before you choose a platform. Where the answer is "VMware only", plan a vendor-supplied image for the new platform, a SaaS replacement, or keep a small VMware footprint.

Confirm backup support before the first production VM moves

REDUCES RISK

A VM that runs on the new platform but cannot be backed up is a bigger risk than one still on VMware. Many backup products need a new proxy, agent or licence for each hypervisor.

WHAT TO DO

Check your backup vendor's support matrix for the exact target version, run a backup and a test restore of the pilot VMs, and only then start Step 7. On Proxmox VE, evaluate Proxmox Backup Server if your current product is not supported.

TOOLS THAT CAN GET AROUND THIS

Veeam protects VMware, Hyper-V and Proxmox VE from one backup server, and can restore a VMware VM backup onto Hyper-V or Proxmox VE. The same product then covers the source, the target and a backup-based fallback for each wave.

Veeam Backup & Replication (Proxmox VE plug-in)

Included from version 12.2. Adds Proxmox VE hosts to the backup infrastructure for VM backup and restore.

Veeam Backup & Replication (Restore to Proxmox VE)

Restores backups of VMware vSphere VMs created by Veeam as Proxmox VE VMs.

Veeam Backup & Replication (Instant Recovery to Hyper-V)

Recovers backups of VMware vSphere VMs as Hyper-V VMs from the Backup & Replication console, at reduced performance until moved to production storage.

Third-party tools, not endorsed by the platform vendor. Confirm in the tool's documentation and run a pilot first.

Import from ESXi directly and limit parallel disks

SAVES TIME

Proxmox warns that connecting the import storage through vCenter dramatically reduces performance, and advises importing no more than four VM disks at once.

WHAT TO DO

Add each ESXi host as its own import storage (Datacenter > Storage > Add > ESXi) and schedule imports so no more than four disks copy at the same time. Use the pilot timings to size each wave.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

Treat live-import as a tested option, not the default

REDUCES RISK

Live-import starts the VM on Proxmox VE while data is still copying. Proxmox says that if the import fails, data written since the start is lost, and advises against it on low-bandwidth or high-error networks.

WHAT TO DO

Use a normal powered-off import for production VMs. Only use live-import after a successful test on a non-critical VM over the same network path.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

Windows Admin Center VM Conversion is a preview

REDUCES RISK

Microsoft says the VM Conversion extension is prerelease software and Microsoft is not obligated to provide support for it. It migrates up to 10 VMs at a time and needs an active browser session throughout.

WHAT TO DO

Use it for pilots and small estates, keep a backup-and-restore fallback for critical VMs, and run migrations from a session that will not time out (for example a jump host kept signed in).

TOOLS THAT CAN GET AROUND THIS

These tools give a supported or backup-based path for production VMs instead of a preview extension tied to a browser session, and are not limited to 10 VMs per batch.

System Center Virtual Machine Manager

Supported Microsoft product. Converts powered-off VMware VMs to Hyper-V, up to 100 in parallel across different source and destination pairs (Microsoft advises no more than 10 per ESXi host and Hyper-V host pair). Does not convert VMs on vSAN.

Veeam Backup & Replication

Instant Recovery to Microsoft Hyper-V starts VMs from Veeam backups as Hyper-V VMs within minutes, at reduced performance until they are moved to production storage. Veeam lists migration between environments as a use case.

StarWind V2V Converter

Connects to an ESXi host and converts a selected VM directly to a Hyper-V host.

Third-party tools, not endorsed by the platform vendor. Confirm in the tool's documentation and run a pilot first.

Microsoft Learn: VM Conversion extension for Windows Admin Center

Plan for new MAC addresses and NIC names

USER IMPACT

Every imported VM gets a new virtual NIC. DHCP reservations, licence servers tied to a MAC address and static IP settings bound to the old adapter break silently.

WHAT TO DO

Record IP settings before migrating (Step 6), list any application licensed by MAC address, and either update DHCP reservations or set the MAC manually on the target VM.

Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE

Check guest operating system licensing on the new hypervisor

COST LEVER

Windows Server guest licensing is tied to the physical hosts it runs on. Moving VMs to new hosts or a new hypervisor can change how many licences you need.

WHAT TO DO

Ask your Microsoft licensing partner to confirm guest rights for the target hosts (for example Datacenter edition on each Hyper-V or Proxmox node) and add the result to the TCO and cost comparison.

Do not remove VMware Tools too early on the Hyper-V route

REDUCES RISK

Proxmox recommends removing VMware Tools before import, but on the Hyper-V route you should keep them until the VM runs on Hyper-V (Microsoft's pages disagree on whether the VM Conversion extension removes them, so check afterwards). Removing them early on the Hyper-V route just leaves the source VM without its drivers if you roll back.

WHAT TO DO

Follow the guidance for your chosen tool: remove guest tools first for Proxmox VE; for Windows Admin Center VM Conversion, leave them during migration and check installed apps afterwards, removing VMware Tools if they are still there.

Microsoft Learn: VM Conversion extension for Windows Admin Center

FINISH SAFELY

How do you check it worked, or roll back?

Full validation checklist

8 checks

Run these before you declare the migration complete. Record the results in the data validation report.

Check	How to check	What good looks like
Every VM in the wave exists on the new platform	Compare the inventory CSV from Step 2 with the target: `qm list` in a Proxmox VE node shell, `Get-VM` in PowerShell on the Hyper-V host, or the VM list in your cloud portal.	Every VM in the wave appears on the target with the vCPU, memory and disk sizes in the inventory, or has a recorded rebuild or retire decision.

Check	How to check	What good looks like
Guests boot with the right drivers	Open each VM console on the target platform. On Windows, check Device Manager for unknown devices; on Linux, check the disks and network interface are present.	Every VM boots to the login screen with no missing storage or network drivers.
Network settings match the source	Inside each Windows guest, run `ipconfig /all` and compare it with `C:\Temp\ipconfig-before.txt` saved in Step 6. Check DHCP reservations for the new MAC addresses.	IP address, gateway, DNS servers and DNS suffix match the saved settings, and the VM is reachable by name.
Disk encryption is back on	For every VM with vTPM = True in the inventory, run `manage-bde -status C:` in an elevated prompt after attaching a new vTPM and resuming protection.	Protection Status is On and a new recovery key is stored in your key escrow.
Old guest tools are gone and new ones run	Inside each guest, check Settings > Apps > Installed apps (Windows) or the package manager (Linux) for VMware Tools, and confirm the target guest agent is running.	VMware Tools is not installed and the target platform reports the guest agent (for example QEMU guest agent or Hyper-V integration services) as running.
Applications and integrations work	Run the application tests in your Cutover runsheet with each owner, including monitoring alerts, scheduled jobs, CMDB sync and any vendor appliance.	Every test passes and each VM owner signs off in the wave plan.
Backups run and restore on the new platform	In your backup console (or Proxmox Backup Server), check the first full backup of each migrated VM completed, then restore one VM per wave to an isolated network.	Every migrated VM has a successful backup and the test restore boots.

Check	How to check	What good looks like
Source VMs are powered off and not receiving changes	In PowerShell with PowerCLI, run `Get-VM | Where-Object PowerState -eq PoweredOn | Select-Object Name` against vCenter.	No VM from a completed wave is powered on in vSphere.

Rollback plan

If it goes wrong

ROLL BACK IF

- A migrated VM will not boot or loses its disks on the target and the fix is not found within the change window
- An application or vendor appliance fails acceptance tests on the new hypervisor
- Backups of migrated VMs fail or a test restore does not boot
- Performance on the target is far below the source under normal load

POINT OF NO RETURN

Each wave can be rolled back while the source VMs are powered off but still in vSphere, the ESXi hosts are intact and your VMware licence or support still covers them. Deleting source VMs, reformatting ESXi hosts for the new platform, or letting the VMware subscription or support lapse ends the rollback path. After that, going back means restoring from backups made on VMware.

1

Shut down the target VM

Where: The target platform console (Proxmox VE web interface, Hyper-V Manager or Windows Admin Center, or your cloud portal)

Shut down the migrated VM so it cannot clash with the source on the network. Do not delete it until you know why it failed.

✓ **You should see:** The target VM shows as stopped.

2

Power on the source VM

Where: vSphere Client > Hosts and Clusters > the VM > Actions > Power > Power On

Power on the original VM. If you removed VMware Tools before migrating, reinstall it from Actions > Guest OS > Install VMware Tools.

✓ **You should see:** The VM boots and vSphere shows VMware Tools as running.

3

Restore network identity and encryption

Where: Inside the source guest, then your DHCP and DNS servers

Check the IP settings against `ipconfig-before.txt` and put back any DHCP reservations you changed for the new MAC. If you suspended BitLocker, run `Resume-BitLocker -MountPoint "C:"`.

✓ **You should see:** The VM is reachable by name and `manage-bde -status C:` shows protection on.

4

Point dependencies back

Where: Your DNS host, load balancers, firewalls and backup console

Revert any DNS, load balancer or firewall changes made for the target, and re-enable the VM in your VMware backup jobs.

✓ **You should see:** Application tests pass against the source and the next VMware backup succeeds.

5

Record what cannot be undone

Where: Your Rollback plan and Decommission checklist

Note that deleted source VMs and reformatted ESXi hosts cannot be recovered except from backup. Keep the BitLocker recovery keys you backed up in Step 6 until the rollback window closes. Only reformat hosts after each wave has passed acceptance tests and a full backup cycle on the new platform.

✓ **You should see:** Host reuse and licence end dates are scheduled after the last rollback window.

Agree the triggers and who decides before the go / no-go meeting. Use the rollback plan template.

Common problems and fixes

6 errors

`Windows VM boots to INACCESSIBLE_BOOT_DEVICE after import`

Cause: The storage controller changed and Windows has no driver for the new controller (for example VirtIO SCSI).

Fix: Boot with an IDE or SATA disk first, install the VirtIO drivers from the VirtIO ISO, then switch the boot disk to VirtIO SCSI.

`BitLocker recovery prompt after migration`

Cause: The vTPM state did not move with the VM.

Fix: Enter the recovery key, then suspend BitLocker before migrating the remaining VMs that use a vTPM.

`No network after import`

Cause: The NIC changed and the old adapter configuration or DHCP reservation points at the previous MAC address.

Fix: Reapply the recorded IP settings, or set the MAC address on the target VM to match the reservation.

`Proxmox ESXi import storage fails with a certificate error`

Cause: The ESXi host uses a self-signed certificate.

Fix: Use a certificate from a trusted CA or tick Skip Certificate Verification when adding the ESXi storage.

`Linux VM does not boot on Hyper-V after conversion`

Cause: Hyper-V drivers were not installed in the guest before migration.

Fix: Install the Hyper-V drivers in the source VM before you start the VM Conversion migration.

`Backups fail after the move`

Cause: The backup product does not support the new hypervisor or needs a new agent or proxy.

Fix: Check your backup vendor's support matrix and deploy the correct integration before cutting over production VMs.

Search the full error library →

FAQ

Frequently asked questions

Can I keep using my perpetual VMware licences? –

Yes. Broadcom says customers may continue to use perpetual licences, with support for the term of active contracts, but those support contracts cannot be renewed.

Is free ESXi still available? –

Broadcom offers ESXi 8.0 Update 3e as a free hypervisor, but without vCenter management, vMotion, HA, VADP backups or official support.

What is the cheapest VMware alternative? –

It depends on your hardware, Windows Server licensing and support needs. Get current quotes and model them in our renew-or-move calculator rather than relying on list prices.

Which alternative is easiest for a Windows shop?

Hyper-V and Azure Local reuse Windows Server, PowerShell and failover clustering skills, which shortens retraining.

Do I need a migration tool for every VM?

For small estates the free tools (Proxmox import wizard, Windows Admin Center VM Conversion, Azure Migrate) are often enough. Larger estates usually benefit from tooling that supports replication and batch cutover.

Can I move VMware to the cloud without changing hypervisor?

Yes. Azure VMware Solution runs vSphere in Azure in the regions Microsoft lists (check availability for your region), but you still use VMware software.

SOURCES

Official sources

9 official pages this guide is based on

Vendors change limits and features, so confirm details on the source before you rely on them. Last checked 4 Nov 2026.

- Broadcom: VMware by Broadcom business transformation
- Broadcom KB: End of General Support for vSphere 7.0
- Broadcom KB: End of General Support for vSphere 8.0
- Broadcom KB: VMware ESXi 8.0 Update 3e now available as a Free Hypervisor
- Proxmox VE wiki: Migrate to Proxmox VE
- Microsoft Learn: VM Conversion extension for Windows Admin Center

- Microsoft Learn: Migrate VMware VMs to Azure Local with Azure Migrate
- Microsoft Learn: Azure VMware Solution private cloud and cluster concepts
- Microsoft Learn: Migrate VMware VMs to Hyper-V in Windows Admin Center