

Dell EMC expands our Microsoft partnership in offering ‘Dell EMC Solutions for Microsoft Azure Stack HCI’

With the recent announcement of Microsoft Windows Server 2019 along with the upcoming expiration of Windows Server 2008 extended support, many companies are unsure of how to leverage new technologies to solve their business demands. The options can be overwhelming as businesses address aging infrastructures and the desire to implement hybrid cloud modernization initiatives.

At Dell EMC, we have leadership positions in converged, hyperconverged, virtualized, and cloud IT infrastructures covering several platforms, including being a launch partner with Microsoft’s WSSD (Windows Server Software Defined) program. Our years of history with Microsoft provides insight and expertise to our customers in determining the best value on their path to achieving a hybrid datacenter.

Today, Dell EMC provides an entire Microsoft portfolio of offerings that addresses business requirements from small operations to the largest global industries. Starting with a single PowerEdge server running Windows Server 2019, all the way to hybrid cloud that connects directly into Azure, Dell EMC offers enablement resources that focuses on customer goals, overcomes problems, and satisfies their needs.

Microsoft has announced newly aligned solutions to help meet customer’s workloads in a model that their requirements dictate - whether on premises, in the cloud, or hybrid environments in-between. Continuing the software defined architectures presented in Windows Server 2016 WSSD program, Microsoft announced a Windows Server 2019 based **Azure Stack HCI** solution. Azure Stack HCI is the Microsoft hyper converged architecture for customers that wish to run Windows and Linux virtual machines on premise and at the edge using existing skills and tools, with the ability to extend to Azure for hybrid capabilities such as backup, site recovery, storage, monitoring, and more (via Windows Admin Center). Now customers have more options to address application use cases; from leveraging Azure on demand services (public cloud), to using those services on premises (Azure Stack), to updating existing virtualized applications with connections to Azure cloud management services (Azure Stack HCI and Windows Admin Center).

“I can deploy Ready Nodes and spend less time on configuration and those sorts of things. And I don’t have to go through the validation testing because I know that they’re already validated for the aggregated throughput.” — Antonio Cisternino, University of Pisa CIO

In continuing partnership with Microsoft, today Dell EMC announces our enablement of Azure Stack HCI with our updated offerings of Storage Spaces Direct Ready Nodes now supporting Windows Server 2019. This offering leverages the Windows Server Data Center license to provide software defined storage using Hyper V virtualization down to the storage level. These multi-node clusters provide cost effective volumes with high performance and low latency using common ease of management tools. In addition to our previous 15 use case driven configurations under WSSD, Dell EMC has added –

- Windows Server 2019 to all these 15 configurations
- Our newly released storage dense R740xd2 as a new chassis platform
- 25G switches to further increase network throughput
- A new upgrade service taking customers from existing Storage Spaces Direct Ready Node architectures to Windows Server 2019 with continued support entitlement.

To solve operational and budgetary challenges, many customers are turning to Microsoft Azure Stack HCI, allowing them to blend physical and virtual infrastructures through software defined compute, storage, and network technologies. Dell EMC Ready Solutions for Azure Stack HCI can help your customers adopt or add to their software defined environments with the confidence, convenience, and customer support that sets Dell EMC apart from the competition.

Software defined doesn't mean the hardware doesn't matter. In fact, the opposite is true. The performance and reliability of the software depends heavily on the performance and reliability of the hardware. And not all hardware is created equal. Even with the right infrastructure, you still need a partner you can trust to deliver reliable solutions in optimized, tested, and validated configurations with a customer support experience that keeps you up and running. With Dell EMC Ready Solutions for Azure Stack HCI, you can leverage Dell EMC hyperconverged infrastructure that has been Microsoft certified at both component and solution levels. It has also been Dell EMC engineering-tested to deliver the confidence of known good configurations. The Dell EMC Fabric Design Center helps automate the planning, design, and deployment of network fabrics, aligning with best practices for responsiveness and uptime. Dell EMC Ready Solutions for Azure Stack HCI provide the confidence and convenience of configurations that are tested and validated by Dell EMC and Microsoft, delivered with the ease of solution-level support.

We invite you to further explore the Dell EMC Ready Solution for Azure Stack HCI offerings. Learn more at www.dell.com/azurestackhci or contact our solution team directly at s2d_readynode@dell.com