



# Hypervisor Flexibility with FlexPod

Run enterprise applications with freedom of choice, seamless migration, and no operational trade-offs



## Modernize your private cloud strategy

Organizations are reevaluating their private cloud strategies beyond VMware to reduce cost, increase agility, and avoid platform lock-in. This has led many to adopt Hyper-V, KVM, and Kubernetes-based platforms as alternatives. For organizations that choose to explore alternatives, FlexPod helps them seamlessly manage these mixed environments, without architectural compromise, allowing them to reduce complexity, retain control, and minimize risk during transitions.

FlexPod—combining Cisco compute and network with NetApp ONTAP® storage—provides a consistent, enterprise-grade full stack infrastructure to minimize risk and guide the transition to an organization’s hypervisor of choice. With integrated backup, disaster recovery, and fast VM migration with NetApp® Shift Toolkit, FlexPod enables a seamless transition while preserving operational simplicity, performance, and resilience.

## A similar FlexPod experience for every hypervisor

Transitioning to a new hypervisor doesn’t have to mean starting over. With FlexPod, every component needed to run your virtual workloads is supported by the most popular hypervisors on the market, creating a smooth, consistent experience.

- Cisco Intersight provides the infrastructure management needed to reduce operational retraining and tool sprawl. Deployable as a virtual machine, it can be run on VMware vSphere, Microsoft Hyper-V and KVM.
- [NetApp Backup and Recovery](#) provides granular backup capabilities that deliver modern data protection services to datastores, volumes, and virtual machines. It is compatible with vSphere, Hyper-V, KVM, and Kubernetes to back up to Amazon Web Services, Azure NetApp Files, and StorageGRID with no additional plug-ins required.

This consistency reduces retraining needs, tooling sprawl, and operational risk, which allows organizations to accelerate adoption and help future-proof operations.

## NetApp Shift Toolkit converts VMs in minutes

[NetApp Shift Toolkit](#) simplifies and accelerates the migration of virtual machines from VMware vSphere to Microsoft Hyper-V, and Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization using a robust GUI.

NetApp FlexClone® technology enhances this by rapidly cloning files or volumes without copying data.

NetApp ONTAP® software uses multiple protocols for single volumes, which allows an NFS share to be mounted on one hypervisor while Hyper-V accesses the same volume using CIFS/SMB.

The Shift Toolkit can then easily and quickly migrate VMware VMDKs into Microsoft VHDX files, and vice versa. Once migration is complete, NetApp SMI-S Provider acts as a plug-in for SCVMM, providing storage management capabilities in a single pane of glass. Shift Toolkit also supports disk level migration for Hyper-V, OpenShift Virtualization, and Linux KVM.

## Next-generation storage provisioning

FlexPod provides a simple, flexible, and consistent solution across every major virtualization platform without adding new tools or workflows. NetApp offers deep integrations across virtualization and container platforms to streamline storage operations and manage protection.

- For VMware vSphere, ONTAP® Tools for VMware vSphere provide simplified datastore provisioning, vVols support, and automated disaster recovery.
- For Microsoft environments, the SMI-S Provider for Hyper-V exposes ONTAP® via the industry-standard SMI-S interface so SCVMM can discover arrays, provision and mask LUNs, and orchestrate snapshots and clones at scale.
- In cloud-native stacks, NetApp® Trident™ (the NetApp CSI driver) delivers dynamic persistent volumes, snapshots, clones, expansion, and encryption, with StorageClasses tuned to workload needs.

## Flexible

- **Avoid costly vendor lock-in** by choosing the hypervisor that best fits your business needs
- **Streamline operations** with centralized management and automated tasks across mixed hypervisor environments that reduce operational silos and IT overhead
- **Accelerate innovation** by consistently deploying and scaling containerized workloads in Kubernetes, including OpenShift, with dynamic, persistent provisioning

## Secure

- **Protect critical data** across supported hypervisors with crash-consistent backups that minimize the risk of data loss
- **Recover entire VMs and critical applications** quickly and reduce downtime from unexpected disruptions or cyber incidents
- **Retain business continuity** with automated data replication and disaster recovery readiness that minimizes data loss and downtime

## Simple

- **Reduce migration complexity and risk** when moving workloads between different hypervisors using NetApp Shift Toolkit for cloud or hybrid
- **Simplify business operations** with automated storage provisioning and management in Hyper-V environments using Microsoft SCVMM, freeing your team to focus on strategic projects

- For Linux virtualization (KVM), NetApp works with libvirt for KVM—providing high-performance NFS or iSCSI storage and leveraging ONTAP® efficiencies like thin provisioning, dedupe, and compression, all managed programmatically through standard libvirt tooling.

No matter the platform, FlexPod streamlines storage management and protection.

Get started with [FlexPod](#) or contact your sales representative:

- [Explore FlexPod validated designs](#)
- [See how to deploy FlexPod for Hyper-V and OpenShift](#)

For over 30 years, NetApp, the Intelligent Data Infrastructure company, has helped leading organizations turn data into a catalyst for innovation, resilience, and growth. At our core is the NetApp data platform—a unified, intelligent foundation built on proven solutions—that connects, protects, and activates data across every cloud and on-premises environment. With a unique native design that integrates with the world's largest clouds, NetApp helps build an intelligent data infrastructure with our customers to provide the freedom to modernize without vendor lock-in, ensuring consistent performance and governance everywhere. That's why the world's most forward-thinking enterprises trust NetApp to maximize your data into a true driver of transformation. Our AI-ready foundation translates complex data into proactive insights and automated actions, simplifying customer operations and freeing IT teams to focus on driving business innovation. Learn more at [www.netapp.com](http://www.netapp.com) or follow us on X, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram.

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