



IS YOUR VIRTUAL INFRASTRUCTURE STILL HEALTHY?

10-minute checklist · VMware ESXi, Hyper-V and similar hypervisors

VMware alert: Broadcom's acquisition changed licensing and support timelines. Verify your exact support status before assuming continued coverage.

PLATFORM

- ☐ Hypervisor product and version recorded
- ☐ Vendor support confirmed — receiving security updates
- ☐ Licensing model confirmed and compliant
- ☐ Management interface functional and patched
- ☐ Last patch applied within the past 12 months

HARDWARE

- ☐ Host age and warranty status confirmed
- ☐ Firmware and BIOS current
- ☐ CPU, RAM and storage reviewed vs workload
- ☐ Disk health — RAID status, SSD wear, error counts
- ☐ UPS / power protection in place and battery verified
- ☐ Vendor hardware support confirmed (not end-of-life)

VIRTUAL MACHINES

- ☐ All VMs inventoried — no orphaned VMs
- ☐ Each VM's purpose and owner documented
- ☐ VM tools / guest agent installed and current
- ☐ Snapshot policy reviewed — stale snapshots removed
- ☐ Resource allocation reviewed vs actual usage
- ☐ Guest OS within vendor support lifecycle

SECURITY

- ☐ Hypervisor management access restricted to admins
- ☐ Default or shared credentials changed
- ☐ Management interface not exposed to the internet
- ☐ Security patches applied within defined timescales
- ☐ Guest VMs patched and running supported OS
- ☐ Network segmentation between VMs reviewed

BACKUPS

- ☐ VM-level backups active and completing successfully
- ☐ App-aware backup for Exchange, SQL, AD VMs
- ☐ Backup target separate from the host hardware
- ☐ Offsite or immutable copy confirmed
- ☐ Retention period reviewed and appropriate
- ☐ Backup credentials and encryption keys documented

RECOVERY

- ☐ VM restore tested successfully in the past 12 months
- ☐ Recovery time objective (RTO) defined
- ☐ Recovery procedure documented — who does what
- ☐ Alternative host for recovery identified
- ☐ Bare-metal / rebuild procedure documented for host

IF THE HOST FAILED TODAY, WHERE WOULD YOUR VMs RUN TOMORROW?

If you cannot answer clearly, recovery planning takes priority.



LICENSING

- ☐ Current licence terms reviewed and understood
- ☐ Renewal cost and timeline confirmed
- ☐ Guest OS licences valid and compliant
- ☐ Per-VM or per-core licence terms reviewed
- ☐ Cost of continuing vs alternatives assessed

FUTURE PLAN

- ☐ Decision on platform direction documented
- ☐ Migration alternatives assessed if EoL or unaffordable
- ☐ Cloud / hybrid options assessed for suitable workloads
- ☐ Budget and timeline agreed if change is needed
- ☐ Project owner identified and accountable

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

Work through all sections. Any unchecked item is a gap. Use the outcome framework to decide your next step. Review annually or before any renewal conversation.

COMMON MIGRATION PATHS — if MIGRATION REVIEW or URGENT REVIEW applies

Proxmox VE

Open-source KVM · no per-VM licence cost

Microsoft Hyper-V

Included with Windows Server licences

Cloud (IaaS)

Azure, AWS or GCP for suitable workloads

SaaS / Retire

Replace or decommission outright

OUTCOME FRAMEWORK

KEEP

Platform supported · Hardware healthy · Backups tested · Licensing clear

UPGRADE

Platform or hardware approaching limits · Plan within 12 months

MIGRATION REVIEW

End-of-life software · Ageing hardware · Major licensing change · Assess now

URGENT REVIEW

Unsupported platform · Failed backups · No recovery plan · Act this month

If the host failed today, where would your VMs run tomorrow?
This is the single most important question for any business running on-premises virtual infrastructure.

