

HPE SYNERGY: WHY IT MATTERS

(when you want the best of both public and private cloud)

Our role at Veristor is simple, to ensure technology delivers value for our customers, speeding time to value while saving time and money. We have encountered quite a few questions from customers regarding *composable infrastructure*: What is it, how does it work and can it deliver value for them? We have been working with HPE's Synergy platform since it was first released and have insider knowledge to answer those questions.

What is Synergy?

Synergy is a key enabler that allows IT administrators and developers to implement and use the concept of "infrastructure as code." The unified API integrates management tools that aggregate and host internal IT resources. Those resources can be provisioned on-demand, or "composed" without requiring a detailed understanding of the underlying physical elements. Additionally, when the application no longer needs those resources, they can be de-provisioned and added back to the resource pools in an automated fashion.

It is a significant step forward in infrastructure that can support virtually any application workload regardless of whether it is bare metal, a virtual machine or an application container. It brings the speed and flexibility of public cloud to your private cloud, enabling a cloud operating model while maximizing governance, security and customization of resources to specific application needs, usually at a fraction of the cost of running production workloads in the public cloud. The future of the infrastructure landscape is a hybrid model – a blend of public cloud and private cloud. Synergy gives you the best of both worlds by truly enabling your private cloud to operate with the agility and elasticity of public cloud models.

I am due for a blade refresh. Why should I look to Synergy?

A client recently asked Veristor to assist with an analysis of current compute platforms with a number of HPE C7000s approaching a refresh cycle. The choice they faced was to continue to work with their existing platform for another three years or move forward with the next generation Synergy platform. The client is in an industry with significant compliance requirements so they do not take moves like this lightly. In the end, they concluded that Synergy's ability to facilitate a secure private cloud provided enhanced capabilities for compliance while also improving business agility.

Do I have to swap out the underlying tools?

For HPE customers, you are just adding a robust and easy to use management console on top of existing tools. OneView remains as the primary tool used to

deploy and manage infrastructure through templates and API driven automation. If you are not an HPE customer, Veristor can quickly and seamlessly help you implement the tools and provide the training you need to master composable architecture from day one.

How is governance and security impacted?

Public cloud infrastructure does not have the rigorous oversight potential of an on-premises installation; security concerns still exist when using native public infrastructure. Shadow IT can introduce vulnerabilities into a company when users who are not knowledgeable on IT security best practices, stand up environments on their own. That is a risk many users unknowingly take for the sake of speed and agility. Synergy can eliminate the need to take that risk by providing similar speed and agility when combined with the right orchestration and automation tools in a private cloud environment. Synergy paves the way to cloud-like performance that remains entirely under your control.

How exactly does Synergy improve operational speed and agility?

With Synergy, infrastructure teams can automatically provision any combination of virtual machines, bare metal servers or containers to developers via a universal REST API and pre-defined templates. Instead of the provisioning of resources causing production bottlenecks, resources can be made available as needed – even as the code is developed. Designed with the speed and flexibility of cloud infrastructure in mind, Synergy provides a way to make both private cloud and DevOps speed a reality – directly from the controlled environment of the on-premises data center. Finally, when development teams no longer need those resources they can automatically be de-provisioned and returned to the storage and compute pools to be used for other workloads. Without over-simplifying, if you are currently considering a renewal of your existing hardware, it is in your best interest to consider a forward-looking solution and stay ahead of the game.

How much time and effort will it take to learn Synergy?

For HPE adopters, the Synergy platform is similar to the tools and compute infrastructure of which you are accustomed since it leverages the already familiar OneView management console. HPE currently offers a full suite of tools so clients can get started quickly and easily with Synergy. Veristor's architects work closely with every customer to outline and implement a roadmap fully backed by the support teams from our partners at HPE. As one of the first companies to successfully implement Synergy, we have the resources and experience to lead Synergy implementations from start to finish.

I have other DevOps tools and initiatives in the pipeline. Will HPE Synergy work with those too?

Synergy operates on the principle of offering a flexible API integration point with an ecosystem of lightweight, interoperable tools. For example, Ansible and Puppet can be used in conjunction with HPE Composer to provision bare metal installations and Chef “recipes” can be used to automate infrastructure deployments and updates. Additionally, Synergy is designed to evolve. By being “composable,”

it is ready for the modular addition of storage, compute, memory and networking as needed. While prior compute platforms were designed with virtualization and IT as a Service in mind, Synergy is truly designed for the DevOps world.

We are not entirely invested in HPE, why make an effort to move to Synergy?

HPE is, quite simply, rapidly adapting to the future of infrastructure demands with the Synergy platform. They are the first to bring the concept of composable infrastructure to market. By leveraging the OneView management console, administrators can work with existing tools on more flexible, powerful and composable infrastructure. With Synergy, infrastructure can be both current and future-proof. With other vendors, you will likely find a cumbersome API stack, requiring multiple layers of management on top of the hardware to obtain functionality comparable to OneView. HPE brings it all together into one interface.

We need a roadmap for overall development plans for our infrastructure. How does Synergy help?

While the Synergy solution is a next generation solution designed for the DevOps and “Infrastructure as Code” world, proper integration unleashes its power. Veristor adds critical value by assisting our clients with mapping resources to their big picture plan. We work closely with clients to build a comprehensive roadmap, ready and able to work with the speed of both current and future development efforts.

If you have questions about Synergy, composable infrastructure or the future of the data center, the account management teams and solution architects at Veristor are here for you. Visit veristor.com for more information.