

# WHAT'S ALL THE HYPE AROUND HYPER-CONVERGENCE?

is it right for you? we bet it is.

Hyper-convergence is next-generation, software-defined infrastructure technology that combines storage, compute, virtualization and networking capabilities all into one appliance. With hyper-convergence, commodity servers provide virtualized building blocks of computing power and storage - an efficient and flexible means to deploy clusters of highly available infrastructure. By being virtualized, this infrastructure can then be managed from anywhere, offering ease of setup, improved performance and above all, simplicity. Hyper-convergence is an effective way for companies to quickly spin up new infrastructure, build out development environments, support remote locations and branch offices or to deploy virtual desktop infrastructure.

In this article, we will provide a brief overview of hyper-converged infrastructure and help you decide if the solution is right for you by asking the right questions and providing the answers.

## Is IT becoming a bottleneck?

In today's Agile development environments, flexibility, responsiveness and scalability in IT have become paramount to keeping up with the competition. Falling behind is simply not an option. As we embrace the power of DevOps, businesses are finding that as data center complexity increases, infrastructure constraints have become the bottleneck to faster development times. IT is losing the ability to rapidly respond to market demands.

In response, hyper-converged technologies have emerged to replace hardware defined data center amalgamations that have become overly complicated, expensive and difficult to manage. Hyper-convergence addresses this problem by providing a means to simplify data center environments and alleviate bottlenecks in IT operations.

## How does it work?

Hyper-converged infrastructure offers management controls from a streamlined, central management interface. By providing a unique ability to deploy discrete pods of infrastructure you can quickly build your own cloud just by installing new appliances.

This proves particularly useful for remote locations or branch offices that lack a dedicated support staff. The entire operation is then managed by primary IT or data center staff, from anywhere in the world.

To up the ante, hyper-converged solutions can also have additional functionality built right in that may include WAN optimization, deduplication, disaster recovery, backup and inline compression/de-duplication.

## Sounds too good to be true. How do I know if it is right for our organization?

As with all technology solutions, there are certain sweet spots to best capture the benefits of hyper-converged solutions. Considerations for making a case for hyper-convergence include the following:

### You are deploying greenfield infrastructure

Hyper-convergence's very nature makes it an excellent choice for organizations who need to rapidly spin up a data center from scratch. The ability to create template driven deployments based on application requirements means fast access to functional virtual infrastructure.

### You have multiple branch offices or remote locations

Hyper-convergence is a very powerful tool for organizations with multiple data centers, remote locations or branch offices. Rather than manage at each co-location, hyper-convergence allows for the sharing of resources across multiple physical locations, all managed from a single, centralized interface.

### You are launching Virtual Desktop Infrastructure

In environments with a fixed relationship between requirements for compute, memory and storage, choosing a hyper-converged infrastructure can be a solid approach to tackling VDI.

### You need a dedicated development environment

By offering rapid deployment in an undifferentiated virtual infrastructure, this approach is perfect for bringing up a dedicated development environment, anywhere, hassle-free.

### You are consolidating servers and data centers

For those organizations looking to update or expand data centers, hyper-converged solutions allow for a controlled implementation of new infrastructure. With it, you can phase in new architecture while you phase out the old, expanding as the IT budget allows. There is no need to make excessive upfront financial investments with a hyper-converged solution waiting years on a return.

### You need simplified procurement

By choosing to work with a single vendor, support and purchasing options are streamlined into a one-stop shopping approach, thus simplifying your buying strategy.

*If you are looking to boost your infrastructure with virtualized, software-based technology and break the chains of your hardware defined infrastructure, a hyper-converged solution may be the right choice. Be sure to consider all your options when deciding on next steps and contact your local VeriStor sales representative for a complete network assessment to get you started. Our experienced consultants will thoroughly examine your existing environment and offer our expert advice so that you may better understand the benefits of a hyper-converged approach.*