# VMware Transition Guide

Empowering Your Virtualization Journey Through Recent Industry Changes

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**This guide serves as a roadmap for VMware users and partners amidst the turbulent industry shifts triggered by Broadcom's acquisition of VMware. It outlines strategic alternatives and offers practical advice, ensuring a seamless transition to innovative virtualization solutions and fostering resilience and growth in a changing landscape.**

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WHITE PAPER

# Steering Through the Broadcom
## Acquisition Aftermath

In the dynamic world of IT where advancement and disruption go hand in hand, change remains a constant factor. In a significant move, VMware has unveiled a series of comprehensive and transformative changes to its product offerings, licensing models, and commercial agreements. These updates are a direct consequence of VMware's acquisition by Broadcom in November 2023, marking a pivotal moment in the tech landscape.

This period of transition presents an opportune moment for VMware customers and partners to re-evaluate their virtualization strategy. Given the scope of these changes, it's crucial to consider how they might impact your current operations and future plans.

This juncture serves as your catalyst for exploring alternative virtualization platforms and technologies. Diversifying your strategy could not only mitigate potential risks associated with the acquisition but also unlock new efficiencies and capabilities. As the VMware ecosystem undergoes this remarkable transformation, staying informed and agile will be indispensable for maintaining a competitive edge and ensuring sustained success in the realm of virtualization.

**READ BLOG**

*Explore the pivotal changes transforming the VMware landscape.*

# Two Major Licensing Changes
## Reshaping the VMware Landscape

### 1   VMware vSphere

Effective February 1, 2024, all editions of VMware vSphere except subscription-only versions of vSphere Standard and the Essentials Plus Kit are at their end of life. All other 10+ vSphere versions or packages are no longer available for purchase.

This includes the vSphere versions covering enterprise capabilities which are not available for standalone consumption any longer. Instead, the vSphere enterprise features are bundled as part of VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) or VMware vSphere Foundation (VVF). These are licensed per core (with a 16-core minimum per CPU) and available as 1-, 3-, or 5-year subscription only.

### 2   VMware vSAN

In parallel, VMware announced that all former standalone vSAN licenses, including vSAN Advanced, vSAN Standard, vSAN ROBO, vSAN Desktop, vSAN Max, and vSAN+, have reached their end of life. The new single edition of vSAN is licensed per capacity in TiB with a minimum of 8 TiB per CPU and is available for subscription for 1-, 3-, or 5-years only.

Moreover, vSAN now mandatorily requires VCF or VVF licenses as it can only be procured and used with these bundles. vSAN is exclusively available as an add-on license to VCF and VVF. It is to be noted that VCF includes a 1 TiB vSAN capacity license per licensed core.

# Questions You Should
# Ask Yourself

Here are some key questions to ponder as you navigate through shifts in licensing, product offerings, and partner agreements following the Broadcom-VMware deal.

**1** How can we offset **potential cost surges** with new licensing bundles and vSAN capacity-based pricing?

**2** How do we navigate the **loss of standalone product choices** to keep our technology stack optimized?

**3** How will Broadcom's strategy and staff cuts at VMware **affect technology innovation and product development?**

**4** In light of the new licensing consolidations, how can we **avoid paying for superfluous features?**

**5** Can we expect **continued support for our VMware systems** after all the changes?

**6** What is the **path beyond VMware** if we were to look at **alternative solutions** and diversify our tech stack

It's all about what you can do to ensure continuous operations and potentially open doors to future-proof your infrastructure against further technological and industry shifts.

# DataCore: Offering a Reliable Datastore for VMware while Enabling a Seamless VMware Transition



As VMware reshapes its offerings and strategic direction, **DataCore** emerges as a cost-effective and agile partner in your virtualization stack. Tailored to empower you in these times of change, we offer a dependable and streamlined option for your evolving virtualization needs – regardless of whether you start or continue with VMware virtualization, or plan to migrate away now or in the future. Discover how our software-defined storage platform, **SANsymphony**, can come to your aid.

# Non-Disruptive VMware vSAN Replacement with SANsymphony

In the wake of the Broadcom acquisition of VMware, it's become increasingly important for organizations to reassess their virtual storage solutions, especially if you are running VMware vSAN. Consider SANsymphony for a **versatile and affordable hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution.** It's perfectly suited for diverse environments – from edge computing and remote offices to data center deployments. What sets it apart are its ultimate flexibility, full functionality with just 2 nodes, and its unmatched data services including DRAM caching, parallel I/O processing, adaptive data placement powered by AI, and continuous data protection.

## Top Reasons to Consider SANsymphony as a Better Alternative to vSAN

**Any x86 Hardware Any Hypervisor**

**Full-Featured with Just 2 Nodes**

**Scale Out & Scale Up As Needed**

**Comprehensive Data Services**

**Leverage External Storage for HCI**

**Serve HCI Storage to Non-HCI Apps**
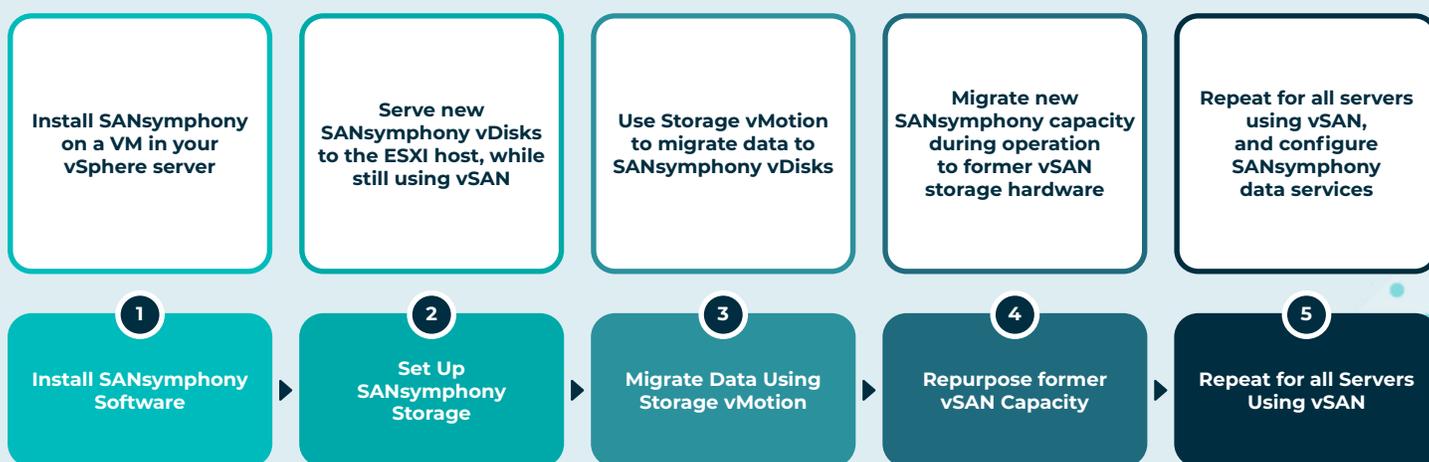
Designed for compatibility, it works seamlessly atop your existing or new hypervisor, supporting a range of platforms including VMware vSphere, Microsoft Hyper-V, Citrix Hypervisor, Proxmox Virtual Environment, or Red Hat Virtualization which could even be mixed within one HCI cluster. This adaptability makes SANsymphony an ideal choice for those seeking a robust, yet flexible, HCI solution.

# Simple Migration from vSAN to SANsymphony Without Disrupting Application Operations

In just a few steps you can switch from your current vSAN installation to SANsymphony seamlessly during the regular operation of your IT services. This transition involves merely a software change, enabling you to retain all other existing IT assets, thereby protecting your IT investments. This straightforward and non-disruptive shift grants access to more comprehensive data services, liberates you from the constraints of VMware Hardware Compatibility Lists (HCL), and reduces dependency on VMware vSphere.

**Just follow these 5 steps:**

| Install SANsymphony on a VM in your vSphere server | Serve new SANsymphony vDisks to the ESXI host, while still using vSAN | Use Storage vMotion to migrate data to SANsymphony vDisks | Migrate new SANsymphony capacity during operation to former vSAN storage hardware | Repeat for all servers using vSAN, and configure SANsymphony data services |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| Install SANsymphony Software | Set Up SANsymphony Storage | Migrate Data Using Storage vMotion | Repurpose former vSAN Capacity | Repeat for all Servers Using vSAN |

**Seamless migration without impact on application operations**

Please note that the first step requires having sufficient storage capacity available provisionally. This can easily be achieved by temporarily attaching capacity from JBODs, any direct attached storage (DAS), SAN capacity, or even from vSAN itself. Of course, this capacity is not needed after the transition took place, so it can be repurposed or simply returned.

## Enhanced Incentives for Migrating to SANsymphony

For customers considering a transition from their existing VMware vSAN to DataCore SANsymphony, we are currently offering attractive terms.

**CONTACT US** *for further details*

**PeerSpot** ★★★★⯪

**Gartner** **Peer Insights**™ ★★★★★

"SANsymphony allows you to virtualize storage via software and not at hardware level, allowing you to also **implement hyper-convergence and hardware-independent solutions.**"

- Emmanuele Ciscato
  TecnicoArray System S.r.l.

"Most hyperconverged products place restrictions on the hardware or hypervisors that your business can choose.

SANsymphony gives you the **freedom to deploy and grow your hyperconverged infrastructure the way you want.**"

- Analyst
  Services Industry

# Enabling a Path Beyond VMware vSphere, with SANsymphony

If you are currently navigating the changes in VMware's landscape and considering stepping away from vSphere, SANsymphony is tailored for your journey ahead. It's the solution you need for managing and migrating your ESXi data stores with ease. Picture a smooth transition to any hypervisor of your choice – Microsoft Hyper-V, Citrix Hypervisor, Proxmox Virtual Environment, or Red Hat Virtualization which could even be mixed within one HCI cluster. Additionally, if you are venturing into containerization, SANsymphony is also equipped to support you.

**Multi-Hypervisor Support**

**Any Storage Hardware**

**Unmatched Data Services**

With SANsymphony, you have the freedom to run your data storage in various deployment models, e.g., HCI or Server SAN while that can be changed at any time during normal business operations. This means you can keep your storage infrastructure flexible, adapting to your evolving needs without being tied down to a single-vendor ecosystem – even not us. In contrast to any other vendor, as smooth as we migrate in, you can SANsymphony migrate out.

## Simple Migration Path to Your Hypervisor of Choice

When you want to use another hypervisor, it just a takes few steps to exchange your current vSphere installation to any hypervisor of your choice by leveraging SANsymphony. Such a change allows you keeping all other existing IT assets, so your IT investments are protected. Just follow these steps:

### 1 Preparation

Serve SANsymphony vDisks to the new hypervisor, while ensuring sufficient storage capacity is available.

- Only temporarily needed
- Can be JBOD, SAN storage, etc.

### 2 Execution

Migrate all VMs one by one from the old hypervisor to the new one of your choice.

1 Shut down VM

2 Migrate VM using a conversion tool of the new hypervisor

3 Restart VM on the new hypervisor

After all VMs are migrated, you can delete old VMware datastores and use SANsymphony to migrate data – without any disruption – to the original storage hardware and then free up temporarily used capacity.

# Maximizing VMware Efficiency with SANsymphony

If your strategy involves continuing with VMware, rest assured, **SANsymphony is designed to excel within VMware environments**. With a proven track record of enhancing VMware storage capabilities, SANsymphony stands as a reliable and advanced solution that aligns perfectly with your VMware infrastructure needs.

## The Challenge

The diverse workloads within your vSphere environment necessitate a variety of storage solutions: from high-performance premium devices for critical applications to high-capacity, cost-effective options for less demanding tasks. These storage solutions vary not only in performance and cost but also in their levels of data protection and durability.

However, the challenge arises when the optimal models and suppliers, especially those offering the best value, may not align with VMware's Hardware Compatibility Lists (HCL). Limiting your choices to those on the HCL can introduce hardware incompatibilities, with errors stemming from device-specific processes and conflicting behaviors. The effort and resources spent troubleshooting these issues can lead to significant frustration.

## The Solution: Storage for VMware

SANsymphony addresses these challenges by enhancing the synergy between VMware environments and underlying storage infrastructure, streamlining storage management operations and meeting the varied requirements of your workloads. It extends your options for storage hardware through its VMware Ready certification and functions as a **universal storage proxy**. This flexibility allows for the use of existing storage hardware not listed on VMware HCLs, ensuring advantageous pricing negotiations and ease in acquiring new hardware.

**PeerSpot**  ★ ★ ★ ★ ⯪

"The great thing about DataCore is that they keep their product on VMware's approved HCL. So even if you have a SAN (backend storage) that falls off the HCL with VMware, because it's virtualized storage behind DataCore, you're covered. If you put the storage behind DataCore then **you won't have to worry about VMware's HCL any longer.**

It is true 'storage virtualization' at its finest. It has all the features of any high-end SAN such as fiber channel, iSCSI, thin provisioning, storage tiering, snapshots, continuous data protection/recovery, synchronous and asynchronous mirroring, performance reporting/graphing, and true HA design."

- Damon Dawson
   System Engineering, Patriot LLC

**Easy Storage Provisioning**

**VMware Ready Certified**

**Simplified Management**

**Offload Storage Tasks from ESXi**

**Free Choice of Storage Hardware**

**Modernize Without Disruption**

SANsymphony, being a **hardware-agnostic software-defined storage solution**, offers comprehensive data services including DRAM caching, parallel I/O processing, adaptive data placement powered by AI, and continuous data protection. It guarantees high data availability, facilitates business continuity, and supports disaster recovery. Opting for SANsymphony enables a seamless modernization of your storage infrastructure, allowing for changes in deployment models and the integration of new technologies without disruption.

To reinforce this commitment to your VMware infrastructure's success, we ensure all our **6 VMware-certified integrations** are continually updated. Our dedication to compatibility and performance means you can trust in a smooth, reliable operation that leverages the full potential of your VMware environment.

| | |
|---|---|
| **vSphere (8.0) Certification for iSCSI and FC** | Ensures compatibility with iSCSI and Fibre Channel protocols in vSphere 8.0 environments. |
| **vSphere Storage APIs for Array Integration (VAAI)** | Offers enhanced storage operation efficiency through advanced API integration with vSphere. |
| **vSphere APIs for Storage Awareness (VASA 3.0) with Storage Policy-Based Management (SPBM) for vVols** | Enables detailed storage array insights and advanced management through VASA 3.0, integrated with SPBM to apply storage policies directly to virtual volumes. |
| **vCenter Plug-In for SANsymphony** | Enables management of SANsymphony within the vCenter interface for streamlined operations. |
| **SANsymphony's vCenter Integration** | Allows ESXi storage provisioning from the SANsymphony console, enhancing storage management efficiency. |
| **Storage Replication Adapters (SRA) on Photon OS for Site Recovery Manager (SRM)** | Supports site recovery and business continuity strategies by integrating SANsymphony with VMware SRM through adapters running on Photon OS. |

**EXPLORE SOLUTION**

# Futureproof Your VMware Strategy **with DataCore**

It's clear that the landscape of virtualization is undergoing significant changes in the wake of Broadcom's VMware takeover. Whether you are contemplating replacing vSAN, seeking alternatives to vSphere, or intending to continue leveraging VMware's powerful ecosystem, DataCore stands ready to support your journey. In these uncertain times, let us be your beacon of stability, guiding you through the complexities of VMware transitions with ease and confidence.

**CONTACT DATACORE** *to find the right solution to support your IT strategy.*

SANsymphony™
## Futureproof IT

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**DATACORE**™

**GET STARTED**

### Discover the Ultimate Flexibility of DataCore Software

DataCore Software delivers the industry's most flexible, intelligent, and powerful software-defined storage solutions for the core, edge, and cloud. With a comprehensive product suite, intellectual property portfolio, and unrivaled experience in storage virtualization and advanced data services, DataCore has helped over 10,000 customers worldwide modernize how they store, protect, and access data.

**www.datacore.com**