XenServer

# XenServer 8.4 feature matrix

XenServer 8.4 is available in Premium and the new Trial Edition.

| | XenServer 8.4 | |
|---|---|---|
| Feature | Premium Edition | Trial Edition |
| **Production use**<br>Supported for production use. | ✓ | |
| **Time limitation**<br>Allows up to 90 days of testing. | | ✓ |
| **Citrix workloads**<br>Supported by Premium Edition only. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Non-Citrix workloads**<br>Supported by Premium Edition only. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Support for SNMP**<br>XenServer alerts are available as SNMP traps | ✓ | ✓ |
| **NRPE support for Nagios monitoring**<br>Support for NRPE enabling the use of Nagios for monitoring. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **64-bit hypervisor**<br>The Xen Project hypervisor upon which all workloads run. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **64-bit control domain**<br>The 64-bit control domain manages the pooling of resources and workloads running on the host.. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Hardware compatibility list (HCL) support**<br>Citrix actively works with hardware OEMs to ensure all commonly used hardware types are tested and supported with XenServer. The HCL of supported hardware can be found at: hcl.xenserver.com. | ✓ | ✓ |

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| **Multi-server management with XenCenter GUI**<br>The XenCenter GUI is a Windows based interface that allows for the management of servers and resource pools (collections of servers) in a simple to use scalable manner. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Active directory integration**<br>For support of multiple user accounts on a server or pool, utilize Microsoft Active Directory services to authenticate. This lets XenServer users log into a pool of XenServer hosts using their Windows domain credentials. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Role Based Access Control (RBAC)**<br>RBAC allows you to assign users, roles and permissions to control who has access to XenServer hosts. XenServer RBAC maps individual or groups of users to defined roles, which in turn have associated XenServer permissions. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **XenServer vApps**<br>vApps provide the ability to group multiple VMs together, to startup, shut down, set HA and recovery order policies, all at the vApp level. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Dynamic memory control (DMC)**<br>DMC automatically adjusts the amount of memory available for use by a guest VM's operating system. By specifying minimum and maximum memory values, a greater density of VMs per host server is permitted. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Performance reporting and alerting**<br>XenCenter provides the ability to monitor VM workload and host infrastructure performance, for compute, memory, network and disk metrics. Administrative alerts can also be defined. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Live VM migration**<br>The live migration of VM compute workloads between two different hosts within a resource pool, allows administrators to manually manage the spread of load across their infrastructure and eliminate any outages from planned infrastructure downtime. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Heterogenous resource pools**<br>When expanding existing resource pools, it is not always possible to obtain exactly the same hardware or CPUs. This feature enables new hosts and CPU versions to be added to existing pools, with support for all the VM-level features such as live migration you expect. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Live patching**<br>Live patching enables infrastructure admins to patch the XenServer hypervisor without needing to migrate VMs from the host, shut down or suspend VMs. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Apply updates via XenCenter**<br>XenServer will be updated to include all the latest available hotfixes. Updates are delivered via a new CDN based mechanism directly to the Pool. Customers can choose to use XenCenter (recommended), or the command line. | ✓ | ✓ |

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| **Evergreen XenCenter**<br>XenCenter will inform you when a new version of XenCenter becomes available and can download and install the update for you. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Scheduled snapshots**<br>Scheduled snapshots enables admins to schedule hourly, daily, or weekly snapshots on a VM or group of VMs. It also includes the ability to configure the maximum number of scheduled snapshots, in which the oldest snapshot will be deleted in a rolling fashion, to aid in the lifecycle of snapshot management. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **VM tools for Windows Driver update**<br>Automated delivery and patching of Citrix VM Tools for Windows drivers via Windows Update (WSUS), dramatically simplifying management of large scale VM deployments. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **XenServer Conversion Manager**<br>With a separately downloadable virtual appliance, IT admins are able to batch migrate VMs from VMware vSphere infrastructures to XenServer. Windows and Linux operating systems can be migrated with minimal steps and effort. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Dynamic workload balancing & audit reporting (WLB)**<br>WLB gives system administrators deep insight into system performance, allowing infrastructure optimization, host power management and audit reporting. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Export pool resource list**<br>This allows for the export to a spreadsheet, of all objects within the infrastructure view of XenCenter. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Rolling Pool Upgrade (RPU)**<br>A XenCenter feature that eliminates downtime when upgrading XenServer hosts. RPU autonomously patches all hosts within a pool, evacuating and repatriating VMs with live migration as needed. | ✓ | |
| **Maximum pool size**<br>XenServer supports a maximum pool size of 64 hosts, but recommends a maximum of 32 for Citrix workloads. If you are using a clustered pool with GFS2 storage, the pool size is limited to 16.<br>XenServer Trial Edition is limited to 3 hosts per pool. | 64* | 3 |
| **Microsoft Windows Server 2025 guest support**<br>Support for running VMs with Microsoft's newest server operating system. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Microsoft Windows 11 support**<br>Support for running VMs with Microsoft's newest desktop operating system. | ✓ | ✓ |

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| **UEFI Secure boot for Windows VMs**<br>Support for UEFI boot on newly created 64-bit Windows and Windows Server VMs. UEFI boot provides a richer interface for the guest operating systems to interact with the hardware, which can significantly reduce Windows VM boot times | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Basic network security groups**<br>Available with an OVS network, security groups is a method of tenant isolation typically used by cloud management products, such as Accelerite CloudPlatform. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Open Virtual Switch (OVS)**<br>When used with a controller appliance, OVS networks are a programmable networking standard based on OpenFlow and sFlow for the collection of statistics. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **SR-IOV capable network cards**<br>Support for SR-IOV capable network cards delivers high performance networking for virtual machines. XenServer enables the use of Single Root I/O Virtualization (SR-IOV) to allow a single PCI device to appear as multiple PCI devices on the physical system. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Efficient multicast support**<br>The use of IGMP snooping to direct IPv4 multicast traffic only to those VMs that have registered to listen to that specific multicast. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Host failure protection high availability (HA)**<br>HA allows for the localized recovery of VMs and/or vApps due to infrastructure hardware failure. HA also ensures that a host re-election takes place, should a pool coordinator fail. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Disaster Recovery**<br>Designed to enable customers to recover VMs and/or vApps from catastrophic hardware failure of the compute, storage and/or network layers. This is typically the loss of significant portions, if not all, of the infrastructure at a given location. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Shared storage connectivity**<br>Connectivity to all types of local and shared storage, including EXT3/EXT4, NFS v3 & v4, iSCSI, and FC HBA & open-FCoE. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **SMB storage connectivity**<br>Create XenServer Storage Repositories (SRs) based on SMB storage, whether a hardware based array, or a Windows-based storage server. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Software-boot-from-iSCSI**<br>Boot XenServer hosts from software implemented iSCSI within Cisco UCS fabrics. | ✓ | ✓ |

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| **Shared nothing live VM migration**<br>Live migration of both a VM's compute and storage, between different hosts and storage types. This can be within or across different resource pools and allows administrators complete flexibility to manually retire storage and eliminate planned infrastructure outages. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Storage live migration**<br>The live migration of a VM's storage, enabling administrators to select a new target SR for each of VM's VDIs and moving these live without downtime and without moving the compute aspect of the VM. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Intellicache**<br>Leveraging local host storage, XenServer caches reads and nonpersistent writes when using a shared desktop image. This mitigates many of the off-host IOPS reducing the need for high-end arrays to support large scale infrastructures. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **MCS read cache**<br>When using Machine Creation Services (MCS) images for virtualized desktop and application workloads, the reads can be cached in host RAM, providing fast, scalable access and dramatically reducing off host IOPS, thereby reducing the need for high-end arrays to support large scale infrastructures. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **PVS-Accelerator**<br>The integration of Citrix Provisioning Services (PVS) host cache dramatically reduces solution network traffic, enabling fewer PVS servers to handle the same volume of VMs, yet with faster VM time to boot. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **GFS2 storage repository**<br>GFS2 is a Linux-based shared disk file system for block storage. Enabling the option for GFS2 as a Storage Repository delivers reduced storage costs with thin provisioning for block storage capabilities. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Changed block tracking**<br>Changed Block Tracking API's for XenServer enables backup vendors to develop more efficient backup solutions, so that only changed blocks are backed up after the initial VM backup. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Greater than 2TB VDI**<br>Ability to create virtual disk images larger than 2 TB on GFS2 SRs. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **GPU Pass-through**<br>Enables high-end 3D graphics within VMs and VDI deployments for variety of use cases. Hardware GPU providers include Intel, AMD & NVIDIA, with each GPU having a one-to-one relationship with a particular VM. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **GPU virtualization**<br>Enables virtualized 3D GPU support for multiple VMs per host GPU. Offering superior performance when compared to software emulation, many users can leverage enhanced graphics for all supporting applications types. | ✓ | ✓ |

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| **vGPU live migration**<br>Live migration of GPU-enabled running VMs. vGPU Live Migration improves user experience by enabling administrators to rebalance GPU-enabled VMs across pool hosts improving performance. Can also enhance user productivity, enabling users to remain productive during unexpected maintenance. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Disk and memory snapshots for vGPU enabled VMs**<br>When a disk and memory snapshot of a vGPU enabled VM is taken the state of the VM includes the vGPU state. | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Multiple NVIDIA vGPU support**<br>For NVIDIA GPUs and drivers that support multiple vGPU, you can configure a single VM to use multiple virtual GPUs concurrently. These additional vGPUs can be used to perform computational processing. | ✓ | ✓ |

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