

Microsoft Hyper-V narrows the gap

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Abstracts

Within the next two to three years, bare-metal X64 hypervisors will likely become near-commodities. However, they are not there yet, as demonstrated by the launch of Release 2 of Microsoft's Hyper-V hypervisor. Hyper-V still does not match important qualities and functions of its biggest rivals, VMware's ESX/ESXi and Citrix's XenServer, and is not yet suitable for large or sophisticated virtualization projects.

Despite this, the upgrade is significant. Previously, Hyper-V was mostly suitable only as a means of consolidating servers. Now it can also deliver the even greater benefits of improved application availability and flexible use of hardware.

Small and medium-sized customers should note that the management tools needed to handle Hyper-V deployments are significantly cheaper to buy than those needed for VMware's ESX/ESXi. We are also certain that Microsoft's continuing development of Hyper-V will eventually close the gap between it and its rivals.

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