**VMware**

[VM](http://searchdatacenter.techtarget.com/definition/VM), which stands for "Virtual Machine" (not to be confused with the broader term [virtual machine](http://searchservervirtualization.techtarget.com/definition/virtual-machine)), is a widely-installed [operating system](http://searchcio-midmarket.techtarget.com/definition/operating-system) for IBM-compatible computers and servers that can host other operating systems in such a way that each operating system behaves as if it were installed on a self-contained computer with its own set of programs and hardware resources.

VMware, Inc. is a software company, well known in the field of system virtualization and cloud computing. VMware's software allows users to create multiple virtual environments, or virtual computer systems, on a single computer or server. Essentially, one computer or server could be used to host, or manage, many virtual computer systems, sometimes as many as one hundred or more. The software virtualizes hardware components such as the [video card](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/v/videadap.htm), [network adapters](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/n/nic.htm), and [hard drive](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/h/harddriv.htm). For businesses, this is especially useful for setting up multiple server systems without having to purchase separate hardware for each of them. They can create virtual servers using VMware's software to save time and money.

**VMware** released it's first software program, called VMware Workstation, in May [1999](http://www.computerhope.com/history/1999.htm). In 2001, they entered the server market by releasing VMware GSX Server and VMware ESX Server. In April 2011, VMware entered the cloud computing market by releasing Cloud Foundry, an open source platform-as-a-service software system. This cloud computing system was designed to support applications build on [Java](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/j/java.htm), [Ruby on Rails](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/r/ruby.htm), Sinatra, and others, as well as provide support for [MySQL](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/mysql.htm), MongoDB, and other database platforms. Today, VMware develops and markets many virtualization software programs, mostly aimed towards business use, but home users can use some of their software as well. Notable software titles include VMware ESX and VMware ESXi, VMware vCloud, VMware ACE, and VMware ThinApp.

Ben Benefits of Virtualization

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Virtualization can increase IT agility, flexibility, and scalability while creating significant cost savings. Workloads get deployed faster, performance and availability increases and operations become automated, resulting in IT that's simpler to manage and less costly to own and operate. Additional benefits include:

* Reduce capital and operating costs.
* Minimize or eliminate downtime.
* Increase IT productivity, efficiency, agility and responsiveness.
* Provision applications and resources faster.
* Enable business continuity and disaster recovery.
* Simplify data center management.
* Build a true Software-Defined Data Center

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