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**Pros and cons of using VMware as opposed to Microsoft**

While new IT trends in backup, storage, and more are emerging, virtualization continues to become the data center norm. More than half of all server workloads are currently virtualized. That number is expected to rise to 86 percent this year. VMware and Microsoft came in as number one and number two on the leaderboard.

**VM Setup:**

As it goes in virtualization, the hypervisor creates the guest operating systems or virtual machines you need to test your apps, consolidate your hardware or whatever you have to do. vSPhere, vmWare’s current flagship hypervisor, has an intuitive interface that aims to make administration simple for all experience levels. After finishing the built-in Virtual Machine wizard, the new VMs will be up and running in minutes.

Hyper V basically gives you two ways to create new VMs. With the default option, you can assign your VMs a predetermined amount of memory, and save them in a predetermined location. The second option allows you to customize the creation process to meet your specific needs.

**Resource Management:**

The similarities between VMware and Hyper V can be seen as deep as their approach to resource management. Although they use slightly different methods, both dynamically allocate resources by borrowing from idle VMs and giving to those in need. Administrators no longer have to manually allocate resources. The biggest difference is that while VMware “overcommits” by allowing a VM to retain more memory and storage than it needs to be on the safe side, Hyper V actually lets you control how those resources are dynamically distributed in exact numbers. This has been highlighted as an advantage crafty administrators can use to maximize the potential and performance of their virtual server infrastructure.

**Cost and Availability:**

VMware has a range of products, but if you want to use vSphere, you’ve pretty much got three options:

1. Buy it outright
2. Download the free trial
3. Use the free version

If you were somehow able to guess that the free and trial editions of vSphere are missing a little something, then you’re spot on the money. They let you virtualize your servers, but you’ll be minus features that are essential to optimizing centralization, performance, and availability. When you purchase a VMware license, you unlock fuctionality that can further improve your IT infrastructure in the process.

Microsoft takes a much different approach to availability. You can use its Hyper V product in two ways:

1. Buy Windows Server 2012
2. Use the free version

Hyper V comes bundled in Windows Server 2012, an enterprise-grade operating system many businesses have running on their servers. Boasting features that allow you to manage company devices, optimize storage, and build custom applications, it’s a nice product to have, but unlike the standalone version of Hyper V, it’s not free. Unloaded and ready to go, this edition provides the full functionality right off the bat, eliminating the need to make an upgrade later. In a tightly contested battle, the deciding factor often comes down to aspects such as price value and cost effectivenessm, two areas where Hyper V scores big.

These virtualization giants are pretty evenly matched. IT administrators have their favorites, of course, but as the game’s two biggest players, you really can’t go wrong with either.