What is the Dell EMC VxRail Appliance?
Dell EMC VxRail™ Appliance combines compute, networking, storage, and management resources together with VMware’s industry-leading infrastructure virtualization and management products and Dell EMC’s integrated cloud extension and disaster recovery products to form a hyper-converged infrastructure appliance that simplifies and extends your VMware environment.

What software runs on the Dell EMC VxRail Appliance?
- VMware Data Protection
- VMware vSphere ESXi
- VMware Virtual Distributed Switch (VDS)
- VMware vCenter Server® Standard™ edition
- VMware vSAN™ (Enterprise edition)
- VMware vRealize® Log Insight™
- Dell EMC VxRail Manager
- Dell EMC RecoverPoint® for Virtual Machines
- Dell EMC CloudArray™

The VMware software titles running on the VxRail Appliance are not included in the price of the VxRail Appliance for vCAN Service Providers. The VMware software titles found in the VMware vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure and the Horizon for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundles (see below) are paid separately on a monthly usage basis through the VMware vCloud Air Network (vCAN) program and are compatible with the VxRail Appliance.

VxRail Appliances are VMware vSphere® ready but do not include the vSphere licenses. To activate the appliance, Service Providers must bring their own vSphere license provisioned by the vCloud Air Network (vCAN) program.

Is the VxRail Appliance available to vCAN partners now? How is it priced?
The VMware vCAN software titles that run on the VxRail Appliance are available through VMware vCloud Air Network (vCAN) program.

The VMware vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure is priced per GB Reserved RAM per month. The VMware vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure contains the following software: vSphere Enterprise Plus, vCenter Server Standard and vRealize Log Insight.

vSAN is available as a standalone product in the vCAN program, priced per GB of Used Capacity per month. vSAN is reported through the vCAN program as either vSAN Standard + Enterprise Add-on for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure, or vSAN Advanced + Enterprise Add-on for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure.

The VMware Horizon for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundles are priced per Concurrent Connection (CCU) and are available only through the vCAN program.


The Dell EMC software and hardware and all support costs for the VxRail Appliance are required to be paid up front (Capex Model) directly to Dell EMC. Costs are dependent upon the selected configuration.
Can Service Providers use vSAN on VxRail as well as existing physical SAN?

Service Providers who deploy VxRail Appliances can leverage the onboard vSAN pooled storage that is created using the physical storage contained in each node within a VxRail Appliance. VxRail Appliances use all standard vsphere components and management, so Service Providers can manage a VxRail cluster like they would a typical vsphere cluster and mount external datastores from external storage systems to it (both iSCSI and NFS) using vCenter. External Fiber Channel connected storage is not supported since the VxRail hardware does not support Fiber Channel Host Bus Adapters. External datastores, however, are not included in the VxRail Appliance lifecycle management and support provided by Dell EMC.

What are the vCAN requirements for the Dell EMC VxRail Appliance?

The VMware vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure and the Horizon for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundles are available only to VMware vCAN Service Providers. These software bundles are hardware independent but are compatible with the VxRail Appliance. When used in combination with the VxRail Appliance, vCAN Service Providers will be eligible for a discount on the VxRail Appliance from Dell EMC.

When the vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure and the Horizon for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundles are used in combination with the VxRail Appliance, vCAN Service Provider partners must fulfill the following requirements:

- Payments against vCAN rental contract are current
- Agree to Dell EMC as the single point of contact for both hardware and software support on the VxRail Appliance.
- Agree to report monthly usage through the vCAN program for the appropriate products: VMware vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure, VMware Horizon Advanced for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundle, VMware Horizon Enterprise for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundle, VMware vSAN Standard + Enterprise Add-on for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure, VMware vSAN Advanced + Enterprise Add-on for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure.

Can Service Providers use their existing VMware vCAN vSphere licenses with their Dell EMC VxRail Appliance?

Yes. VMware vCAN partners need only install their VMware vSphere software license key provisioned by the vCAN program. However, usage reporting against the vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure, or the Horizon for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundles is available to pre-approved Service Providers only.

Instructions for activating the Dell EMC software license keys are provided by Dell EMC during the ordering process.

The Horizon software and software license keys will need to be installed separately if using the VxRail Appliance to deliver virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) services.

Can Service Providers add the Dell EMC VxRail Appliance to an existing vsphere cluster? Would the existing vCenter detect the VxRail nodes and automatically add them to the pool?

No. VxRail Appliances must be deployed as their own cluster of hardware and cannot be mixed with existing non-VxRail hardware in the Service Provider’s environment. Service Providers can, however, integrate VxRail clusters into an existing vCenter managed environment such that the VxRail cluster is managed by an existing external vCenter Server that meets the minimum supportability requirements to manage a VxRail cluster. The process of adding a VxRail cluster to an existing vCenter Server occurs during the initial configuration of the VxRail Appliance. The cluster then appears in vCenter as its own separate vSphere cluster managed by that vCenter Server. All CPU, memory, and storage resources within a VxRail Appliance are cluster level pools of resources and are only pooled within the hardware that makes up the VxRail Appliance. VxRail Appliances are not supported to be run as part of an existing cluster of third-party hardware.
Can I use VxRail in my vCloud Director (vCD) environment?
Yes. VxRail has been certified for interoperability with vCD.

Will vCloud Usage Meter automatically collect usage data for the VMware software titles running on the VxRail Appliance?
At the time of GA, Usage Meter will only be able to automatically detect and report usage for the vSAN software that runs on the VxRail Appliance. The vCloud SP Bundle for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure, and the Horizon for Hyper-Converged Infrastructure bundles will have to be manually reported. See the vCAN Product Usage Guide for reporting instructions.