

10 Reasons Why to Choose Apache CloudStack as a VMware Alternative

vmware



1 True Open-Source Freedom Without Vendor Lock In

Apache CloudStack is fully open-source and built on open standards. Unlike proprietary stacks, you retain full control of your infrastructure, roadmap, and costs without dependency on a single vendor or licensing model.

2 Major Cost Savings Compared To Proprietary Virtualization

CloudStack with KVM dramatically reduces licensing and support costs compared to VMware environments. Providers achieve significant savings by moving to open-source infrastructure without sacrificing enterprise capabilities.

3 Built for Service Providers And Multi-Tenant Clouds

CloudStack was designed from the ground up for MSPs, CSPs, and public cloud providers. Native multi tenancy, usage metering, and automation are included by default rather than requiring add ons or separate platforms.

4 Proven in Large-Scale Production Deployments

CloudStack runs some of the world's largest public clouds and telecom environments. It is not experimental infrastructure. It is a mature, production proven platform used by service providers managing thousands of hosts and customers.

5 No Disruptive "Rip And Replace" Migration Required

CloudStack enables phased migration from VMware environments. Providers can gradually move workloads, test services, and transition customers without a big bang migration or operational disruption.

6 Multi-Hypervisor Support And Flexibility

Apache CloudStack supports multiple hypervisors, giving service providers and enterprises flexibility in how they design and operate their cloud environments. Supported hypervisors include KVM, VMware vSphere, XenServer/XCP-ng and Hyper-V. This multi-hypervisor approach allows organisations to align infrastructure choices with customer requirements, commercial models and technical preferences while maintaining a consistent cloud management platform.

7 Enterprise-Grade Capabilities

A single Apache CloudStack deployment can consolidate multiple vSphere clusters that are traditionally deployed for separate business units or teams, bringing all infrastructure under a unified management plane. It provides a true single pane of glass with built-in multi-tenancy, role-based access control, and secure self-service capabilities. CloudStack integrates seamlessly with CI/CD pipelines and external automation tooling through its rich and well-documented API ecosystem, enabling full infrastructure-as-code workflows.

For performance-intensive workloads, CloudStack with KVM supports GPU passthrough and vGPU configurations, making it suitable for AI/ML, VDI, and high-performance computing use cases. Additionally, Kubernetes-as-a-Service enables enterprises to deliver managed container platforms alongside traditional virtual machines within the same cloud environment.

8 Strong Ecosystem And Commercial Support Available

CloudStack has an active global open-source community offering guidance via mailing lists, forums, and shared expertise. For organisations needing enterprise support, commercial vendors and service partners are available to provide SLAs, migration support, and ongoing assistance. ShapeBlue is the leading independent CloudStack integrator globally, providing design, migration, implementation and 24/7 support services for service providers and enterprises running production Apache CloudStack environments.

9 Unified Control Plane Across Every Environment

Apache CloudStack provides a unified platform to manage compute, storage, and networking resources through a single control plane. This enables providers to operate development, staging, and production environments with a consistent operational model — whether on-premises, at edge sites, or across multiple data centers.

The same APIs, templates, service offerings, networking constructs, and governance policies apply everywhere, eliminating operational drift between environments. Standardized automation and infrastructure-as-code workflows behave identically across the entire footprint, reducing operational complexity and accelerating workload promotion from dev to production.

10 Provides Long-Term Reliability And Sustainability

With tightening VMware licensing and partner requirements, many providers are seeking long term independence. CloudStack offers a stable, open, and economically sustainable platform for building future cloud services.

About ShapeBlue

ShapeBlue is the largest independent integrator of CloudStack technologies globally and are specialists in the design and implementation of IaaS cloud infrastructures for both private and public cloud implementations. We combine 100's of person-years of experience in designing and building complex network, storage and compute infrastructures with globally leading skills in Apache CloudStack.

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