Solution overview



HPE Morpheus Software: Start anywhere. Scale everywhere.

Power any workload across any platform—managed through a single control plane built for agility, governance, and scale.

Enable developers and other IT consumers to move fast with self-service provisioning of applications while still assuring IT, security, and finance guardrails to provision workloads up to 150x faster and lower cost by up to 30%.[1]

HPE Morpheus Software unifies virtualization, private cloud, and hybrid cloud platform operations. It helps organizations provision workloads faster, reduce tool sprawl, and govern infrastructure consumption across private and public cloud environments.

Whether you're reducing the cost and complexity of virtualization with the VM essentials version, deploying a private cloud on-prem with the advanced version, or orchestrating complex multi-cloud environments with the enterprise version, HPE Morpheus Software simplifies cloud operations while accelerating business innovation.

As business demands rise, IT teams are expected to do more with less

Today's tech teams are at a point of contention regarding how they operate. IT teams are expected to deliver cloud-like speed across legacy infrastructure, private clouds, public clouds, and Kubernetes—while maintaining security, operational control, and cost discipline. How are they able to rapidly deliver their applications and enable developer self-service, all while ensuring security compliance AND optimizing their IT spend?

These challenges are compounded by several factors:

— Slow provisioning cycles due to siloed tools and operations

— Fragmented platforms creating operational inefficiencies and shadow IT

— Limited visibility, governance, and cost control across hybrid estates

— Rising IT costs

The result is slower delivery, higher costs, and more operational drag at the very moment businesses need IT to move faster.

HPE helps IT teams operate with greater speed, control, and efficiency

HPE Morpheus Software extends that strategy across virtualization, private cloud, and hybrid cloud platform operations—giving customers an open, practical path forward.

Furthermore, the dynamic nature of the Broadcom/VMware® environment has led to increased demand for alternative virtualization stacks. In a recent report by Rimini Street 98%[2] of respondents are already using, are planning to use, or are considering alternatives for at least a part of their VMware estate.

HVM is the KVM-based hypervisor included with HPE Morpheus Software, providing an open foundation for enterprise virtualization. By leveraging this open-source solution, vendors can enhance their offerings with proprietary management layers built on top of KVM. It was already a practical alternative, offering greater cost efficiency and flexibility than VMware, but lacked legacy value.

[1] Average cloud cost optimization savings based on HPE Morpheus Software guidance implemented in installed-base accounts.

[2] Rimini Street: Current and Future State of Your VMware Strategy

In a shifting virtualization landscape, the VM essentials version of HPE Morpheus Software offers a cost-effective, robust VMware alternative—supporting both ESXi and KVM with unified orchestration and enterprise-grade governance.

HPE Morpheus Software is a comprehensive platform that includes a mature KVM-based hypervisor designed to work seamlessly alongside VMware vCenter®, offering robust support for VMware environments. In response to evolving virtualization needs and industry uncertainty, HPE introduced the VM essentials version (formerly HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software) in late 2024. This solution delivers enterprise-grade virtualization capabilities, enabling organizations to quickly modernize their infrastructure with confidence.

Today, HPE offers a full spectrum of hybrid cloud solutions built from the Morpheus foundation, empowering businesses worldwide to manage, automate, and scale their IT environments across private and public clouds.

Different organizations need different outcomes—and different operating models

HPE Morpheus Software offers organizations quick solutions to streamline their operations, so here's a breakdown of how the three offerings differ based on size and use case.

HPE Morpheus Software is available in three editions to meet distinct operational needs—from cost-effective virtualization to private cloud operations to governed hybrid and multi-cloud platform operations.

HPE Morpheus Software — VM essentials is a virtualization software solution that allows customers to provision and manage both HVM (KVM-based) and VMware ESXi™-based VMs from a single intuitive interface. The solution comes with the KVM-based HVM hypervisor that is enhanced to include enterprise-grade cluster management with capabilities such as high availability, live migration, distributed workload placement, integrated data protection, secure hardening, and external storage support. To enable flexibility for those continuing to host VMware-based applications, VM essentials can also be used to connect and manage existing VMware clusters.

As an independent software solution, customers are able to deploy it on either existing or new hardware, without being limited to a private cloud package. The product offers compatibility with HPE ProLiant Server and HPE Alletra Storage MP, along with a number of third-party server and storage arrays; and is also available as part of HPE Private Cloud PC3000.

HPE Morpheus Software—advanced delivers a practical private cloud operating experience for on-premises environments by extending foundational virtualization with standardized, self-service delivery of both VM and container-based workloads through a built-in service catalogue. Building on the capabilities of VM essentials, the advanced version adds:

— Integrated Kubernetes support with HKS for enterprise container platforms across HVM, VMware, and bare metal.

— An enterprise automation toolchain spanning Ansible, Chef/Puppet, Python/Groovy, and VMware vRealize® Orchestrator™ alongside native workflows. Custom instance types.

— Persona-based access within a single-tenant environment.

— Built-in private cloud networking capabilities to simplify connectivity, segmentation, and service delivery.

— AI-assisted operations with MCP and AI workflows to support bring-your-own-model automation, monitoring, and faster operational decision-making.

— The advanced version retains support for both HVM and VMware hypervisors for consistent private cloud operations while introducing operational governance through personas, workload monitoring, reporting, and automation.

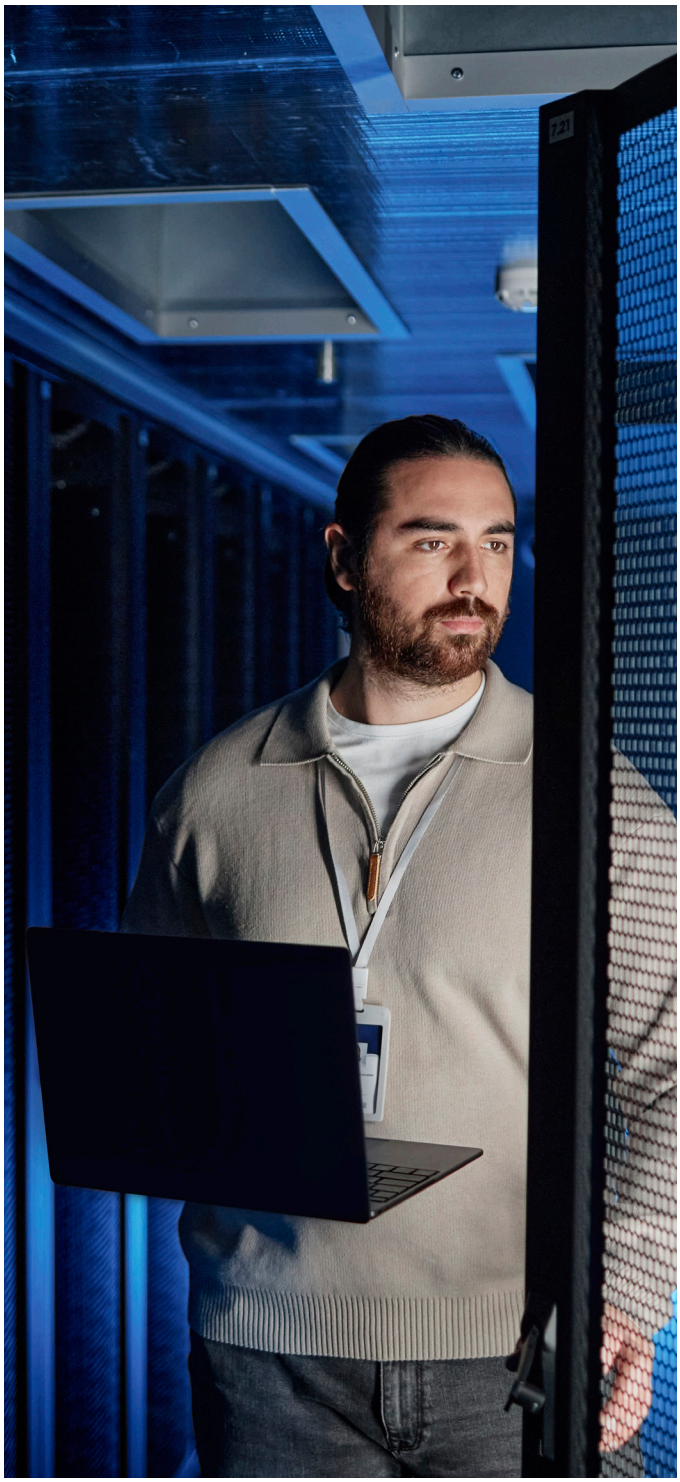
Any workload. Any platform. One control plane.

— 90+ codeless integrations—no tool sprawl

— Run VMware + HVM side-by-side—no forced re-platforming

— Open MCP server—adopt AI your way

— Unified control across VMs, Kubernetes, and clouds



HPE Morpheus Software—enterprise elevates agile platform operations to the next stage. Building on the comprehensive capabilities of the VM essentials and advanced versions. The enterprise version serves as an application-centric orchestrator, offering a self-service catalog for provisioning applications across bare-metal servers, virtual machines, containers, and public cloud services. Additionally, it delivers complete application lifecycle management, supporting day-2 operations and ongoing maintenance.

- **Unified control plane:** A unified control plane across VMs, containers, bare metal, and public clouds—eliminating tool sprawl and simplifying hybrid operations.
- **Policy-driven governance:** Policy-driven governance and full lifecycle automation—from day 0 provisioning to day 2 operations—ensure compliance and operational maturity at scale.
- **AI-driven operations:** Accelerate your journey to AI readiness with an orchestration backbone that supports containerized machine learning workloads, GPU provisioning, and seamless integration with low-code AI platforms.
- **Ecosystem:** With 90+ built-in plugins and support for custom integrations—including HPE Alletra Storage, HPE Aruba Networking, and third-party ITSM (IT Service Management), SCM (Source Control Management), and monitoring tools—HPE Morpheus Software fits seamlessly into your existing ecosystem.
- **Security and compliance:** Automated security and compliance enforcement with policy engines, RBAC (Role Based Access Control), and approval workflows—ensuring consistent governance across clouds and teams.
- **FinOps advantage:** Built-in FinOps capabilities such as show back, budgeting, and policy enforcement help organizations optimize spend across hybrid environments—turning cost visibility into actionable savings.
- **Multi-tenancy & delegated admin:** Ideal for service providers and large enterprises managing multiple business units or customer environments.

The enterprise version provides comprehensive capabilities for discovery, governance, reporting, and automation. It enables rapid creation and consumption of on-premises private clouds leveraging established hypervisors such as VMware ESXi and Nutanix AHV, while also facilitating management of access to public cloud platforms including AWS, Azure, and GCP™.



Table 1. HPE Morpheus Software feature comparison chart

Feature/capability	VM essentials	Advanced	Enterprise
Use case	Server virtualization with VM hosting providing cost-effective options to manage both ESXi & HVM hypervisors	Private Cloud including VM hosting on HVM and vSphere and container hosting on HKS	Multi-cloud management and developer self-service for governance of any workload including VMs, containers, and Apps as a Service
Recommended for	Mid-size orgs or simple enterprise needing basic virtualization solutions	Mid-size orgs or simple enterprise needing a mix of VM and containers	Large enterprises invest in platform hosting teams or service providers developing hybrid cloud solutions
Provisioning scope	VMs on HVM and VMware vSphere®	VMs on HVM and VMware vSphere, containers on HKS, and the ability to provision from an instance catalog	Any cloud, any workload, anywhere across VMs, containers, bare metal, public & private cloud
Included runtime	HVM hypervisor	HVM hypervisor + HKS (Kubernetes)	HVM hypervisor & HKS (Kubernetes service)
Automation & orchestration	Bash & PowerShell Tasks	Multi tool automation tasks including scripts, integrations, and operational workflows	Extensive task type support, Provisioning workflows, Operational workflows, scheduled & ad-hoc jobs
Networking	OVS	Shared private networking (VXLAN via OVS)	SDN overlay networking with micro-segmentation and firewalling
Governance	Fine-grained RBAC	Operational governance features including personas, monitoring, reporting, and distributed workers	Multi-tenancy, fine-grained RBAC, Policy engine, approvals
FinOps	Not included	Not included	Cost management, chargeback, show-back, and budgeting across both on prem and public clouds

In hybrid cloud, complexity is inevitable—but chaos is not

HPE Morpheus Software meets organizations where they are and helps them get to where they need to go. Whether you're a fast-moving team looking to streamline VM provisioning, or an enterprise driving toward full-stack automation and multi-cloud governance, the path is clear.

Available as an independent software solution for your existing hardware and clouds, within a customized HPE Flex Solution as-a-service, or packaged within a HPE Private Cloud solution.

With HPE Morpheus Software, organizations can reduce complexity, strengthen control, and accelerate delivery with the backing of HPE enterprise support.

HPE Morpheus Software can be used on its own with your current infrastructure or bundled together with infrastructure optimized for specific workloads as part of a HPE Private Cloud solutions.

Table 2. Software availability and packaging

Integration	VM essentials / Advanced	Enterprise
Software only 	**HPE Morpheus Software — VM essentials** is exclusively available via qualified HPE Partner Ready partners. **HPE Morpheus Software—advanced** is available from HPE as well as through qualified HPE Partner Ready partners.	**HPE Morpheus Software—enterprise** is available from HPE and our HPE Partner Ready partners. Upgrades available from the VM essentials or advanced versions to the **enterprise** version.
Self-managed Private Cloud solutions 	**HPE Private Cloud PC3000**, integrated with **HPE Alletra Storage**, provides scalable disaggregated hyperconverged infrastructure (dHCI) solutions. **HPE SimpliVity** provides the streamlined simplicity of hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI).	Upgrade available from **HPE Private Cloud PC3000** or **HPE SimpliVity** for the comprehensive features of the **enterprise** version. **HPE Private Cloud AI** is a turnkey solution operated through GreenLake, with built-in AI tools and low-code features, allowing rapid deployment of AI solutions with minimal IT support (some elements under development)
Fully managed Private Cloud solutions 	**HPE Managed Services** can provide a "managed-for-you" overlay for any of the above solutions.	**HPE Private Cloud PC7000** is a fully managed public cloud experience on-premises for your VMs, containers, and bare metal.



Ready to simplify your hybrid cloud?

Start a free 60-day trial of HPE Morpheus Software — VM essentials

Request for a demo of HPE Morpheus Software

Learn more at

HPE.com/Morpheus



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