



# From virtualization to full-stack automation: Realize the power of HPE Morpheus Software

Learn how the HPE Morpheus Software family helps IT teams simplify hybrid cloud management, lower expenses, and accelerate innovation—whether using HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software or the more comprehensive HPE Morpheus Enterprise Software.



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%.<sup>1</sup>

HPE Morpheus Software named a leader in the GigaOm Radar Report for Cloud Management Platforms

[Learn more at HPE Morpheus Enterprise Software webpage.](#)



HPE Morpheus Software is a family of hybrid cloud management and virtualization software solutions that empowers IT organizations to orchestrate the rapid provisioning of application workloads, reduce application hosting costs, and govern how teams consume private and public cloud infrastructure.

Whether you're reducing the cost and complexity of virtualization with HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software or managing complex multicloud environments with HPE Morpheus Enterprise, HPE Morpheus Software simplifies cloud operations while accelerating business innovation.

Built on a shared software foundation and proven in the world's most demanding enterprises and service providers, you can choose the right solution for your immediate need and easily expand or upgrade with a simple license change.

## As businesses evolve, IT teams everywhere are expected to do more with less

Today's tech teams are at a point of contention regarding how they operate. They are expected to deliver cloud-like agility across a mix of environments—including legacy infrastructure, private and public clouds, and containers—that are only getting increasingly complex, which places businesses in a tough position. 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 across hybrid estates
- Rising IT costs

The disconnected tooling burdening teams, along with tried and failed homegrown solutions, are hindering the hope of a well-functioning business.

<sup>1</sup> Average cloud cost optimization savings based on HPE Morpheus Enterprise guidance implemented in installed-base accounts.

# HPE empowers teams to reach their full and effective IT potential

HPE Morpheus Enterprise is the orchestration engine behind HPE Private Cloud Business Edition and Enterprise—making it a foundational pillar of HPE CloudOps Software Suite.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise has been a long-standing provider of private cloud since the inception of HPE GreenLake in 2017 as an as-a-service model, through to the expansion of offerings, including HPE Private Cloud Enterprise (fully-managed private cloud platform) and HPE Private Cloud Business Edition (self-managed private cloud with HPE hardware).

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% of respondents are already using, are planning to use, or are considering alternatives for at least a part of their VMware estate.<sup>2</sup>

Kernel-based virtual machine (KVM), introduced in 2006, distinguishes itself from VMware by being directly integrated into the Linux® kernel. 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.

HPE Morpheus Software is a comprehensive platform that includes a mature KVM-based hypervisor designed to work seamlessly alongside VMware ESXi™, offering robust support for VMware environments. In response to evolving virtualization needs and industry uncertainty, HPE introduced **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 HPE Morpheus Software foundation, empowering businesses worldwide to manage, automate, and scale their IT environments across private and public clouds.

## Different types of organizations demand different business outcomes—and so do their IT teams

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

The HPE Morpheus Software family offers organizations quick solutions to streamline their operations. Here is a breakdown of how the two offerings differ based on size and use case.

**HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software** is a virtualization software solution that allows customers to provision and manage 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 the HPE Private Cloud Business Edition solution.

<sup>2</sup>“[New Survey of VMware Customers Reveals Strong Desire to Maximise the Value of Perpetual Licenses](#),” Rimini Street, January 8, 2025.

**HPE Morpheus Enterprise** Software elevates agile platform operations to the next stage. Building on the comprehensive capabilities of VM Essentials, HPE Morpheus Enterprise 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:** Simplify hybrid operations and mitigate tool sprawl with a unified control plane across VMs, containers, bare metal, and public clouds.



- **Policy-driven governance:** Ensure compliance and operational maturity at scale—from day 0 provisioning to day 2 operations, with policy-driven governance and full lifecycle automation.



- **Developer experience:** Accelerate developer velocity with infrastructure-as-code and automated provisioning, integrating with CI/CD pipelines, Git repositories, and DevOps toolchains.



- **AI-ready platform:** Accelerate your journey to AI readiness with an orchestration backbone that supports containerized ML workloads, GPU provisioning, and integration with low-code AI platforms.



- **Ecosystem:** With 90+ built-in plug-ins and support for custom integrations—including HPE Alletra Storage, HPE Aruba Networking, and third-party IT service management (ITSM), source control management (SCM), and monitoring tools—HPE Morpheus Enterprise fits seamlessly into your existing ecosystem.



- **Security and compliance:** Automated security and compliance enforcement with policy engines, role-based access control (RBAC), and approval workflows—ensuring consistent governance across clouds and teams.



- **Cost optimization 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.



- **Sustainability:** HPE Morpheus Enterprise supports GreenOps initiatives with policy-driven workload placement and infrastructure optimization—helping reduce energy consumption and carbon footprint across hybrid estates.



- **Multitenancy & delegated admin:** ideal for service providers and large enterprises managing multiple business units or customer environments.

HPE Morpheus Enterprise 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 and Nutanix, while also facilitating management of access to public cloud platforms, including AWS, Azure, and GCP™.



**Table 1.** HPE Morpheus Software family feature comparison chart

Feature/capability	HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software	HPE Morpheus Enterprise Software
<b>Use case</b>	VM hosting to provide cost-effective options to diversify VMware ESXi & utilize KVM	Hybrid cloud management and developer self-service for governance of VMs, containers, and apps as a service
<b>Recommended for</b>	Mid-size orgs or simple enterprise needing basic virtualization solutions	Large enterprises invest in platform hosting teams or service providers developing hybrid cloud solutions
<b>Licensing &amp; pricing</b>	Stand-alone at a suggested US list of \$600/socket/year <sup>3</sup> or bundled with HPE Private Cloud Business Edition	Standalone at a suggested US list of \$2500/socket/year, or bundled with HPE Private Cloud Enterprise
<b>Provisioning scope</b>	VMs on VM Essentials and VMware vSphere®	VMs, containers, bare metal, public & private cloud
<b>Included runtime</b>	HVM hypervisor	HVM hypervisor & HKS (Kubernetes service)
<b>Automation &amp; orchestration</b>	Bash & PowerShell tasks	Extensive task type support, Provisioning workflows, Operational workflows, scheduled & ad-hoc jobs
<b>Self-service experience</b>	Basic virtual machine vending through wizard	Virtual machines, containers, application services, and technology stacks. Instance or catalog roles. GUI and infrastructure as code blueprints.
<b>Governance &amp; RBAC</b>	Fine-grained RBAC	Multitenancy, fine-grained RBAC, Policy engine, approvals
<b>Built-in FinOps tools</b>	Not included	Cost management, chargeback, show-back, and budgeting across both on-prem and public clouds
<b>Containers</b>	n/a	HKS, EKS/AKS/GKE™, Brownfield, OpenShift, Rancher, etc.
<b>Exposed integrations</b>	IPAM, DNS, Backup	IPAM, DNS, Backup, load balancers, ITSM, SCM, Logs, monitoring, network, storage, trust management
<b>Plug-in capabilities</b>	Selected plug-ins available	90+ built-in plug-ins & custom plug-in framework using scripting (Python, Bash, etc.)

<sup>3</sup> The suggested price is not a guaranteed selling price and doesn't account for local tax and regional variations. Actual end-user price may vary. Authorized partners are free to set their own prices.



## In today's hybrid cloud reality, complexity is inevitable—but chaos is not.




The HPE Morpheus Software family offers a powerful continuum of solutions that meet organizations where they are and help them get to where they need to go. Whether you're a fast-moving team looking to streamline VM provisioning with HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software, or an enterprise driving toward full-stack automation and multicloud governance with HPE Morpheus Enterprise, the path is clear.

Available as an independent software solution for your existing hardware & clouds, within a customized HPE GreenLake Flex Solution as a service, or packaged within one of a number of HPE private cloud solutions.

**Why settle for fragmented tools or vendor uncertainty when you can reclaim control, accelerate innovation, and simplify your operations—all with the global coverage and enterprise support offered by HPE?**

For both VM Essentials and HPE Morpheus Enterprise, you have the option to bundle your products with HPE offerings that will only amplify your hybrid estate.

**Table 2.** Software availability and packaging

Integration	HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software	HPE Morpheus Enterprise Software
<b>Software only</b> 	<b>HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software</b> is available exclusively through qualified HPE Partner Ready partners.	<b>HPE Morpheus Enterprise</b> is available from HPE and our HPE Partner Ready partners.  Upgrade available from VM Essentials to access the comprehensive features of <b>HPE Morpheus Enterprise</b> .
<b>Self-managed private cloud solutions</b> 	<b>HPE Private Cloud Business Edition</b> , integrated with <b>HPE Alletra</b> , provides scalable disaggregated hyperconverged infrastructure (dHCI) solutions.  <b>HPE SimpliVity</b> provides the streamlined simplicity of hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI).	Upgrade available from <b>HPE Private Cloud Business Edition</b> or <b>HPE SimpliVity</b> to enable the comprehensive features of <b>HPE Morpheus Enterprise</b> .  <b>HPE Private Cloud AI</b> is a turnkey solution operated through HPE GreenLake, with built-in AI tools and low-code features, allowing rapid deployment of AI solutions with minimal IT support (some elements under development).
<b>Fully managed private cloud solutions</b> 	<b>HPE Managed Services</b> can provide a <b>managed-for-you</b> overlay for any of the above solutions.	<b>HPE Private Cloud Enterprise</b> is a fully managed public cloud experience on-premises for your VMs, containers, and bare metal.

## Ready to simplify your hybrid cloud?

For a free trial of HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software, visit [HPE Morpheus VM Essentials Software webpage](#).

Visit [HPE.com](#)

Request a demonstration of HPE Morpheus Enterprise Software. [hpe.com/us/en/events/morpheus-demo.html](https://hpe.com/us/en/events/morpheus-demo.html)

## Learn more at

[HPE.com/us/en/Morpheus-Enterprise-Software.html](https://hpe.com/us/en/Morpheus-Enterprise-Software.html)



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