

TECH TOOLS

Citrix Announces XenServer 6.1

Citrix has announced version 6.1 of XenServer – a complete server virtualization platform built on the powerful open source Xen hypervisor. Enhancements include advanced virtual machine migration, increased vendor compatibility, and automated virtual machine conversion tools.

XenServer 6.1 offers enhanced integration with leading cloud platforms. According to the announcement, direct integration with Apache CloudStack and Citrix CloudPlatform makes it easy to partition firewalls, balance workloads, and prevent attacks on systems in both public and private cloud environments.

XenServer 6.1 also includes new Storage XenMotion technology that lets admins move running virtual machines without the need for shared storage. With Storage XenMotion, live migration occurs using a “shared nothing” archi-

ture, whereby the storage used for the virtual disks can be moved freely within and across pools for optimized storage utilization.

Additionally, the latest version provides the XenServer Conversion Manager tool, which automates batch conversions of VMware virtual machines into XenServer virtual machines.

XenServer 6.1 is available now in four versions – free, Advanced, Enterprise, and Platinum. The free edition of XenServer starts with a 64-bit hypervisor, centralized management, live migration, and conversion tools. All versions of XenServer include XenCenter management and are available on a per-server licensing structure with premium editions starting at US\$ 1,000 per server.



For more information, see: <http://www.citrix.com/products/xenserver/overview.html>.

Red Hat Updates Enterprise MRG

Red Hat has updated its messaging, real-time, and grid platform, Red Hat Enterprise MRG,



to version 2.2. Enhancements across the three components include greater security, better manageability through integration with LDAP, and more boot options by allowing the real-time kernel to act as a diskless client.

According to the announcement, Red Hat Enterprise MRG 2.2 offers increased performance, reliability, and interoperability and faster computing for enterprise customers.

Red Hat Enterprise MRG Grid has also added support for Apache Deltacloud. With support for Deltacloud, the platform gains additional flexibility to enable easy deployment of open hybrid clouds in concert with the full portfolio of Red Hat Cloud solutions. It also includes the ability to run and manage multiple HA schedulers on a cluster via the configuration tool called Walaby. Red Hat Enterprise MRG Messaging features improved Java performance and SSL support with client authentication.

Red Hat Enterprise MRG 2.2 is available now. Please see the release notes at: https://access.redhat.com/knowledge/docs/en-US/Red_Hat_Enterprise_MRG/2/html/MRG_Release_Notes/index.html for a list of all new features and bug fixes. For more information, visit: <http://www.redhat.com>.

Xen.org Releases Xen 4.2

Xen.org has announced the availability of version 4.2 of its open source hypervisor – a fast, secure codebase for operating system virtualization. This version includes new features and improvements in areas of security, scalability, performance, and documentation.



According to the announcement, significant effort has gone into the XL toolstack for this release, and it is now the default. Additionally, the underlying libxl library has been improved and now supports the majority of the most common toolstack features, and the API has been declared stable.

Xen 4.2 now supports even larger systems, with up to 4,095 host CPUs and up to 512 guest CPUs. According to the company, toolstack features such as the ability to create automatically a CPUPOOL per NUMA node and more intelligent placement of guest VCPUs on NUMA nodes have further improved the Xen experience on large systems. Additionally, security and documentation have been improved, with the XSM/Flask subsystem seeing several enhancements, including improved support for disaggregated systems and a rewritten example policy.

Xen 4.2 also supports a wide range of guest operating systems including Windows, Linux, Solaris, and various versions of the BSD operating systems. For more information, visit <http://www.xen.org>.