



VCE Continues to Evolve, Launches VxRack for Scale-Out Hyperconvergence

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VCE has aggressively expanded its solutions portfolio since transitioning from a joint venture to an EMC company in fall 2014. At EMC World on May 4, 2015, [VCE announced the VxRack Systems](#), the newest integrated infrastructure offering, which is a massive scale-out hyperconverged system. The VCE VxRack joins a VCE portfolio that now includes Vblock, VxBlock, and EMC's VSPEX BLUE Hyper-Converged.

Integrated Systems Are Drivers of Growth in IT Infrastructure Industry

The integrated systems market has gained significant traction in recent years, as customers adopt these solutions to drive datacenter efficiency and speed time to deploy new services. [IDC is forecasting the integrated systems market](#) to grow to \$17.9 billion in 2018 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 19.6%. This growth is substantial when compared with the overall IT hardware market; the combined networking, server, and external storage systems market is only forecast to grow at a CAGR of 2.1% to \$96.2 billion in 2018. According to IDC's Worldwide Quarterly Integrated Infrastructure and Platforms Tracker, in 2014, VCE was the market leader with 25.4% revenue share in the integrated infrastructure category. Up until 2014, the VCE Vblock accounted for the all of VCE's revenue; with the recent announcement,s it is clear VCE intends to expand the portfolio to address broader market opportunities.

VxRack: A Hyperconverged System for Large Scale-Out Environments

Where the VCE Vblock and VxBlock integrate networking, server, and external storage components, the VxRack leverages hyperconverged technologies to collapse compute and storage onto a single system. The VxRack is a modular architecture with a base system of 4 nodes that can then scale to more than a 1,000 nodes — all still managed as a single system. Primarily designed to run next-generation cloud workloads and tier 2 applications for enterprise and service providers, the VxRack complements the other systems, which are all engineered, delivered, and supported as a single system from VCE.

The first available VxRack will be built using ScaleIO software-defined storage technology that was acquired by EMC in 2013. In addition, later in the year, VCE will launch a VxRack solution based on VMware's EVO:RACK technology and VMware Virtual SAN. ScaleIO software converges the compute and storage resources into single-layer architecture, running directly on the same industry standard x86 servers that run the applications and hypervisors. The ScaleIO software pools the internal storage capacity within each server into a virtual storage area network (SAN). This gives VxRack the ability to eliminate the complexity and cost of a traditional SAN deployment while also helping to reduce power, cooling, and floor space. First iterations of VxRack will scale to 1,000 hosts nondisruptively and support vSphere and KVM hypervisors and bare metal environments. This enables VxBlock Rack to meet the IT requirements for larger organizations and service providers.

VCE Is Continuing to Evolve

After initially forming as a joint venture in November 2009 between Cisco, EMC, and VMware, [VCE became an EMC company](#) during the fourth quarter of 2014. The move to bring VCE into the EMC fold was followed quickly by an expansion of VCE's family of integrated systems beyond the traditional Vblocks. By March 2015, the company launched its VxBlock family of integrated systems, which provided customers

with a choice of software-defined networking technologies (Cisco's Application Centric Infrastructure or VMware's NSX technology), among other advancements. That announcement was only the first product expansion for VCE that may not have been possible as a joint venture rather than an EMC federation. Within a joint venture, there typically exist both direct and indirect requirements to consider all investors equally and include their technologies in all solutions the joint venture brings to market. No longer under the structure of a joint venture, VCE can now more freely take a customer-centric view to product design.

The announcement of VxRack represents further product expansion that gives VCE a solution for the rapidly growing hyperconverged systems market. To date, most hyperconverged installations have been within midsize enterprises or limited installations of select applications within larger organizations. With the highly scalable capabilities of ScaleIO in the VxRacks, VCE can bring hyperconverged adoption to larger organizations — both further expanding the hyperconverged systems segment and differentiating itself in the integrated systems market.

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