



Solution Brief Intel® Modular Server Intel® ESAA



"We want to provide a fully integrated system to our customers. That integration needs to be in place before we get involved, and VMware and Intel have done an excellent job of showing us how that integration was already in place. It really put us at ease in recommending this solution to our customers."

— David Endicott,
Neotech Solutions, Inc.

Simplified Virtualization for Small and Medium Businesses

Reduce the cost and complexity of virtualization deployments with server solutions from Intel and VMware

The Intel® Modular Server platform supports VMware capabilities, such as High Availability (HA) and VMware VMotion*, and includes compute, storage area network (SAN) storage, Ethernet switching, and management in a single integrated unit—reducing the cost and complexity of building the hardware structure for virtualization.

Pre-certified configuration recipes from the Intel® Enabled Server Acceleration Alliance (Intel® ESAA) simplify the process of bringing Intel Modular Server-based solutions to market, making them more cost-effective and helping to build value-added reseller profitability. With pass-through certification from Intel ESAA, resellers can get their Intel Modular Server-based branded solutions listed on the VMware Hardware Certification List (HCL) at no additional cost, saving substantial expense, time, and effort.¹

FEATURE	BENEFIT
Scalable server compute capacity	Supports up to six dual-core Intel® Xeon® processor 5500 or 5400 series-based server compute modules
Virtual, integrated shared storage	Diskless server compute modules utilize the integrated SAN with virtual drives to increase flexibility, maximize storage capacity, and support live virtual machine migration capabilities such as VMware VMotion*
Virtual presence GUI management	Allows robust, simple management of remote systems
Full redundancy and hot-swap capabilities	Increase storage and compute capacity on-demand; improve IT availability with redundant modules and hot-spare options

Business in a Box

The Intel Modular Server integrates compute, networking, and storage functions into a single system, making it easy and inexpensive for small and medium businesses (SMBs) to build the hardware infrastructure they need for a virtualized IT environment. The system is configurable as a 6U rack mount or a pedestal base for added flexibility, and advanced features reduce management complexity while providing the basis for future growth.



VMware SMB Solutions and the Intel Modular Server Platform Make a Great Match

To serve the needs of smaller IT environments, VMware vSphere* delivers enterprise-class capabilities in a cost-effective solution package for organizations that want to optimize and protect their IT assets with minimal up-front investment. This flexible, multi-level approach is a logical accompaniment to the building-block design of the Intel Modular Server. Customers can choose the package that best meets their requirements today, knowing that as their business grows and IT demands increase, VMware vSphere provides a simple upgrade path:

- **Essentials** provides an all-in-one solution for small offices to consolidate and manage many application workloads while reducing hardware and operating costs with a low up-front investment.
- **Essentials Plus** adds high application availability and data protection for a complete server consolidation and business continuity solution for the small office IT environment.
- **Standard** offers an entry solution for basic consolidation of applications, reducing hardware costs while accelerating application deployment.
- **Advanced** provides a strategic consolidation solution, protecting business-critical applications against planned and unplanned downtime, providing superior application availability.
- **Enterprise Plus** delivers the full range of VMware vSphere features, transforming datacenters into dramatically simplified environments, offering the next generation of flexible, reliable IT services.

VMware has developed an industry-leading set of capabilities that makes it faster and easier for SMBs to virtualize their IT environments:

- **VMware HA** provides rapid and automated restart and failover of virtual machines (VMs) without the cost or complexity of solutions used with physical infrastructure.
- **VMware Fault Tolerance** enables critical applications to run with zero downtime and data loss in spite of hardware failures and is integrated with VMware HA.
- **VMware VMotion** reduces planned downtime from server maintenance activities by enabling the live migration of running VMs from one server to another with no disruption or downtime.

- **VMware Data Recovery** delivers quick, simple, and complete data protection for VMs and is fully integrated with VMware vCenter Server to enable centralized and efficient management of backup jobs.
- **VMware vShield* Zones** enables IT administrators to more easily secure and manage virtual networks and provides easier maintenance of security policies throughout the shared computing resource pool.

Self-Contained Infrastructure Provides the Ideal Virtualization Environment

Because of its flexibility as a self-contained compute infrastructure, the Intel Modular Server platform is ideally suited to the needs of the SMB virtualized environment. For example, VM failover using VMware HA and live migration using VMotion both require the functionality of a SAN. In a conventional network scenario, that requires dedicated server adapters and switching infrastructure, in addition to the SAN itself.

The Intel Modular Server plug-and-play integrated SAN provides full hardware support for live VM migration and automatic failover. The SAN physically separates the storage from the servers and allows for the creation of storage pools and virtual drives. This capability makes excellent use of the overall hardware resources, providing the ability to use only the amount of storage that is needed per server.



Take the Next Step

Intel and VMware make it easy for you to deploy a flexible, expandable virtualized server and storage solution in a range of environments. Get started today.

To learn more about the Intel® Modular Server platform, visit: www.intel.com/go/mft

To learn more about pre-certified Intel® server solutions from Intel ESAA, visit: www.intel.com/go/esaa

To learn more about the VMware System Builder Program, visit: www.vmware.com/partners/programs/system-builder

Solution provided by:



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