

Microsoft and Dell Team Up in Azure-in-a-Box

Written by Marco Attard
23 October 2015

Dell and Microsoft join forces to reveal the Cloud Platform System Standard-- a hybrid cloud in-a-box combining Dell hardware hardware with pre-configured Microsoft software.



“A core part of our mission to empower every organization on the planet requires us to build world-class platforms and forge deeper partnerships that help businesses of all sizes transform with digital technology,” Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella says. “By expanding our longstanding partnership with Dell to offer a truly integrated hybrid cloud, we will make the cloud more accessible to organizations of all sizes with the choice and flexibility to best meet their needs.”

The Cloud Platform System Standard is a stripped-down followup to a 2014 Microsoft-Dell collaboration, the Cloud Platform System Premium. The latest version is smaller, with a "starter pack" starting at 4 compute nodes scaling to a maximum of 16 (the original has a minimum of 32 nodes).

Hardware includes a Dell PowerEdge C6320 rack server, x2 top of rack switches and 64TB storage, while software includes Windows Server 2012 R2, System Centre 2012 R2 and Windows Azure Pack. It ships ready to install the Azure stack, and according to the two companies the basic configuration handles around 100 virtual machines, with scaling capability reaching up to 400.

In addition Microsoft announces Dell is now a Microsoft Cloud Solution Provider program member. As such will sell Microsoft cloud solutions across Azure, the Microsoft Enterprise Mobility Suite (EMS) and Office 365, together with EMS- and Azure Active Directory-based end-to-end enterprise mobility mobility and identity solutions.

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