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VMware announces the latest version of the vSAN software-defined storage offering-- vSAN 6.6, the first to include native hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI) security.

Native HCI security is a software-defined data-at-rest encryption solution. It features simplified key management and protects against unwanted data access. It is hardware agnostic, meaning admins can select any vSAN-certified hardware, without need for specialised self-encrypting drives (SEDs).

vSAN Encryption is compatible with all vSAN all-flash space efficiency features, such as inline deduplication and compression, and is virtual machine agnostic. It is available in all-flash and hybrid configurations, and integrates with KMIP 1.1 compliant key management technologies.

VMware adds vSAN 6.6 is enhanced with new optimisations to the core software, increasing performance by up to 50% while reducing latency. It is also optimised for use with Intel Optane NVMe storage technology for further performance boosts, while proactive cloud analytics improve health monitoring and management.

In case of site and local component failures vSAN 6.6 features enhanced Stretched Clusters with local protection. The highliy available clusters can be deployed for up to 50% than traditional storage solutions. Hardware maintenance is automated, with intelligent operations and lifecycle management.

"Since the initial release of vSAN in 2014, customers have turned to vSAN because of its TCO

savings and the simplicity of managing compute and storage together," VMware says. "vSAN 6.6 is packed with innovations featuring several industry firsts, and will further drive mainstream adoption of HCI by helping customers modernize their data centers to gain a competitive edge through newfound agility."

vSAN 6.6 is available from May 2017.

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