



Citrix **XenServer** feature matrix

This feature matrix compares the capabilities of XenServer 9 and XenServer 8.4 at a glance. It helps you understand what's new, what's evolved, and where XenServer 9 takes Citrix virtualization further.

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Core Hypervisor and Platform

Feature	Citrix XenServer version	
	8.4	9
Hypervisor version The Xen Project hypervisor your workloads run on.	Xen 4.13.4	Xen 4.21
64-bit hypervisor and control domain Modern foundation for stable, scalable workload pooling.	✓	✓
Hardware compatibility list (HCL) support Tested with leading OEMs to ensure all commonly used hardware types. See hcl.xenserver.com .	✓	✓
Maximum pool size Scale to 64 hosts per pool (32 recommended for Citrix; 16 with GFS2).	64*	64*
Dom0 kernel Modernized kernel for better performance and broader hardware support.	Linux 4.19	Linux 6.6
Control domain OS Refreshed base OS for a modern, secure platform stack.	Existing base OS	New base OS

Workloads and Guest OS Support

Feature	Citrix XenServer version	
	8.4	9
Citrix DaaS workloads Purpose-built optimization and full support for Citrix DaaS environments.	✓	✓
Non-Citrix workloads Flexibility for broader virtualization use cases.	✓	✓
Windows Server 2025 and Windows 11 guest support Run the latest Microsoft server and desktop OS as guests.	✓	✓

Management and Operations

Feature	8.4	9
Multi-server management with XenCenter GUI Single Windows-based console to manage hosts and pools at scale.	✓	✓
Active directory integration For support of multiple user accounts on a server or pool. Use Windows domain credentials to log into XenServer pools.	✓	✓
Role based access control (RBAC) Granular, role-based access to enforce least-privilege admin. XenServer RBAC maps individual or groups of users to defined roles, which in turn have associated XenServer permissions.	✓	✓
XenServer vApps Group VMs together for startup, shutdown, HA, and recovery policies.	✓	✓
Performance reporting, alerting and WLB Deep visibility into compute, memory, network and disk, plus dynamic workload balancing, host power management and audit reporting.	✓	✓
Monitoring integrations (SNMP and NRPE) Send XenServer alerts as SNMP traps and monitor via Nagios.	✓	✓
Export pool resource list One-click spreadsheet export of all XenCenter infrastructure objects.	✓	✓



Performance and VM Optimization

Feature	8.4	9
NUMA-aware scheduling Enabled by default in XS 9: lower latency and higher VM density without manual tuning.	Limited / manual	NUMA-aware (default)
Dynamic memory control (DMC) Higher VM density per host through automatic memory adjustment. DMC automatically adjusts the amount of memory available for use by a guest VM's operating system.	✓	✓
Live VM migration Move running VMs between hosts with zero planned downtime.	✓	✓
Shared-nothing and storage live migration Migrate compute and/or storage live across hosts, pools and storage types. This allows administrators complete flexibility to manually retire storage and eliminate planned infrastructure outages.	✓	✓
Heterogenous resource pools Mix hardware and CPU generations in the same pool without losing live migration.	✓	✓
Citrix workload caching (IntelliCache, MCS read cache, PVS-Accelerator) Cut IOPS, network load and infrastructure cost for Citrix workloads: • IntelliCache—offloads shared-storage reads to local SSDs • MCS read cache—serves repeated VM reads from host memory • PVS-Accelerator—caches PVS streaming traffic on the hypervisor. Result: fewer storage arrays, faster boot/logon, lower TCO for DaaS.	✓	✓

Storage

Feature	8.4	9
Broad storage connectivity Connectivity to all types of local and shared storage, including EXT3/EXT4, NFS v3/v4, iSCSI, FC HBA, open-FCoE and SMB.	✓	✓
Software-boot-from-iSCSI Boot hosts via software iSCSI in Cisco UCS fabrics.	✓	✓
GFS2 storage repository (incl. >2TB VDIs) Thin-provisioned block storage and large virtual disks to cut storage cost.	✓	✓
Changed Block Tracking (CBT) Enables efficient incremental backups by 3rd-party vendors.	✓	✓

Networking

Feature	8.4	9
Open vSwitch (OVS) and basic security groups Programmable networking (OpenFlow/sFlow) plus tenant isolation.	✓	✓
SR-IOV capable network cards High-performance networking by exposing one PCI device as many. XenServer enables the use of Single Root I/O Virtualization (SR-IOV) to allow a single PCI device to appear as multiple PCI devices on the physical system.	✓	✓
Efficient multicast support IGMP snooping delivers multicast only to subscribed VMs.	✓	✓
Predictable network interface naming Systemd-based naming instead of legacy ethX: more stable automation and scripting.	Legacy ethX	systemd naming

Drivers and Hardware Lifecycle

Feature	8.4	9
Multi-version driver management Install and run multiple driver versions in parallel for simpler hardware lifecycle management and rollbacks.	Single version	Multi-version

Security and High Availability

Feature	8.4	9
Host Secure Boot (UEFI) Trusted boot chain enforced at the host level, not just for guest VMs.		✓
UEFI Secure boot for Windows VMs Hardened boot chain and faster Windows VM boot times.	✓	✓
Host failure protection (HA) Automatic VM/vApp recovery and pool coordinator re-election.	✓	✓
Disaster Recovery Recover VMs and/or vApps from catastrophic hardware failure of the compute, storage and/or network layers.	✓	✓

GPU and Graphics

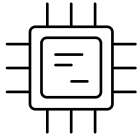
Feature	8.4	9
GPU pass-through and vGPU virtualization High-end 3D graphics for VMs/VDI (Intel, AMD, NVIDIA), dedicated or shared.	✓	✓
vGPU live migration and snapshots Live-migrate and snapshot GPU-enabled VMs with no user disruption during maintenance.	✓	✓
Multiple NVIDIA vGPUs per VM Assign several vGPUs to one VM for graphics and compute workloads. These additional vGPUs can be used to perform computational processing.	✓	✓

Updates and Lifecycle

Feature	8.4	9
Live patching Apply hypervisor patches without migrating, shutting down or suspending VMs.	✓	✓
CDN-based updates via XenCenter Streamed, incremental fixes and features instead of disruptive patch cycles.	Patch-based	Continuous (CDN)
Evergreen XenCenter XenCenter auto-notifies, downloads, and installs its own updates.	✓	✓
Scheduled snapshots Hourly/daily/weekly VM snapshots with rolling retention.	✓	✓
VM Tools for Windows via WSUS Automated driver delivery and patching at scale via Windows Update.	✓	✓
XenServer conversion manager Batch-migrate Windows and Linux VMs from VMware vSphere with minimal effort.	✓	✓
Rolling pool upgrade (RPU) Zero-downtime pool upgrades with auto-evacuation and live migration.	✓	✓
License Activation Service Cloud-based activation model, consistent across both versions.	✓	✓

Why move to XenServer 9?

A modern hypervisor, built for Citrix workloads—delivering more performance, simpler updates, and stronger security from day one.



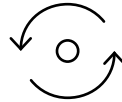
Modern platform

updated hypervisor and OS, ready for what's next



More performance, less tuning

NUMA-aware by default for higher VM density



Always up to date

continuous updates instead of big-bang upgrades



Secure by design

UEFI Secure Boot built into the foundation



Interested in evaluating XenServer 9? Contact your [Citrix representative](#) to discuss activation options and get started with up to 10,000 sockets included in your subscription.

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