

Zerto

a Hewlett Packard
Enterprise company

Maximizing IT Mobility with Zerto for Migrations

October 2024

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	2
TRADITIONAL CHALLENGES	2
Knowledge.....	2
Technology Lock-in.....	2
Cloud Adoption	2
Migration Window	2
ZERTO OVERVIEW	2
THE ZERTO DIFFERENCE.....	4
Knowledge.....	4
Technology Lock-in.....	4
Cloud Adoption	4
USING ZERTO FOR MIGRATIONS TO PROVIDE TRUE MOBILITY.....	4
Migration Window	4
WRAP-UP	4

Introduction

Migrating IT infrastructure to adapt to ever-evolving IT strategies has long been a challenge for any business. Factors such as in-house knowledge of applications, the speed of technological change in the IT industry, as well as constant emerging cloud technologies means that these migrations can quickly become complex and challenging to implement.

Zerto delivers a standardized approach to handling these challenges, providing an agnostic offering capable of providing enterprises with a truly resilient IT infrastructure. This means IT services can be implemented and adapted around strategic business objectives rather than the infrastructure investments which have traditionally been the limiting factor.

Traditional Challenges

Knowledge

The first key challenge is the in-house knowledge of the applications you are running. For example, the average employee turnover rate in the UK is approximately 15% according to Monster. With IT refreshes traditionally occurring every three to seven years, this knowledge can be lost in between transitions. This results in lengthy and expensive migrations or perhaps worse, leaving the application in situ.

Technology Lock-in

One thing for certain in IT is that the pace of change is relentless; new ideas, concepts, and platforms are constantly coming to market. Ultimately this means that it is very unlikely that any CIO or CTO is going to replace like for like, resulting in that age-old conundrum of how to coalesce your existing environment with your new infrastructure or solution.

Cloud Adoption

With many companies implementing a cloud-first strategy, a key challenge is how to move to a completely new platform without incurring huge outages or overheads. This presents you with something resembling a game of Tetris, many offerings with many ways to integrate. Considering the overhead of re-architecting applications, moving into the cloud should nearly always be the first step. Combine this with a hybrid cloud strategy, where not all your services run on a single cloud platform, and the complexities of being able to migrate workloads should not be underestimated. The last point that should be mentioned here is the exit plan. It is often much easier to get your data into the cloud rather than out, so having a route back out can help your management team sleep well at night.

Migration Window

Traditional migrations often require the data to be moved during the actual migration window, with the migration of the VMs occurring at the completion of this data move. This presents a few challenges, namely the migration window required to complete the migration, which is often very lengthy.

The second factor is if the data move has not been completed within this time, it results in the migration being cancelled and the whole process being repeated in another window. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there is no control as to when VMs will appear on the target site and be available as there are many variables, such as bandwidth and disk performance, which can alter this time considerably.

Zerto Overview

Zerto is built from the ground-up to be a simple yet powerful workload mobility solution, including all replication, orchestration, and automation in one simple software solution.

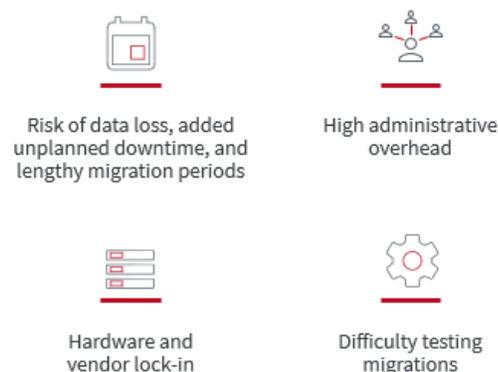


Figure 1. Migration Pain Points

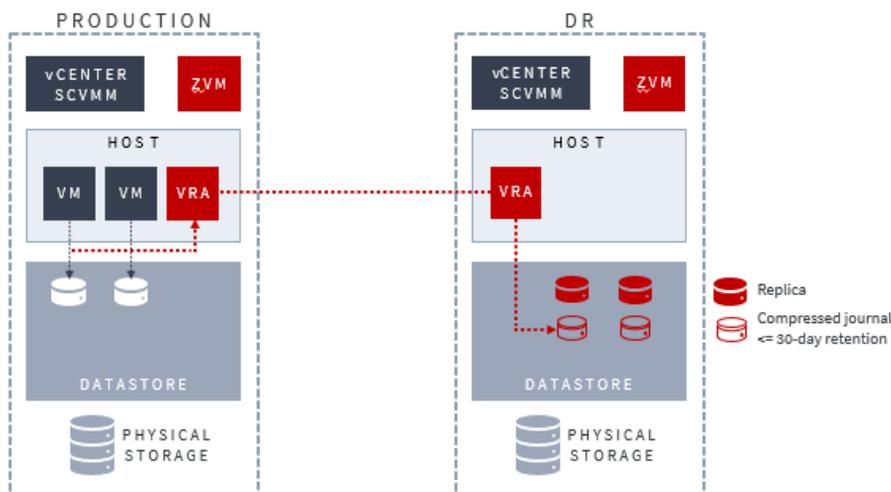


Figure 2. Zerto Architecture

In fact, a Zerto deployment is so simple it typically consists of just two components. The first is the management server, the Zerto Virtual Manager (ZVM), which installs on a standard Windows Virtual Machine (VM). This will integrate with the local hypervisor manager, vCenter in a vSphere deployment or SCVMM in a Hyper-V deployment. The second component, and where the replication occurs, is the Virtual Replication Appliances (VRAs). These are deployed from within the ZVM interface via a template to every hypervisor host where you have VM workloads to be replicated from or to.

Of course, in a public cloud deployment, access to the hypervisor is not possible, so the deployment then only requires a single component to be installed, a Zerto Cloud Appliance (ZCA). The ZCA integrates with the relevant public cloud APIs, managing all the VRAs for replication, orchestration, and automation configured. This simplicity means Zerto can be deployed and start protecting your virtual instances within hours, drastically reducing resource overheads.

Zerto operates at the hypervisor layer, meaning there are no agents installed in your VMs or snapshots utilized, minimizing impact. Because of this, Zerto can replicate any OS or application capable of being virtualized, while adding next to no performance overhead on the production site. With all the various platforms supported by Zerto, you may expect to see a different interface for each one, making management clunky and cumbersome to say the least. However, Zerto maintains the same look and feel regardless of which platform you are replicating to or from.

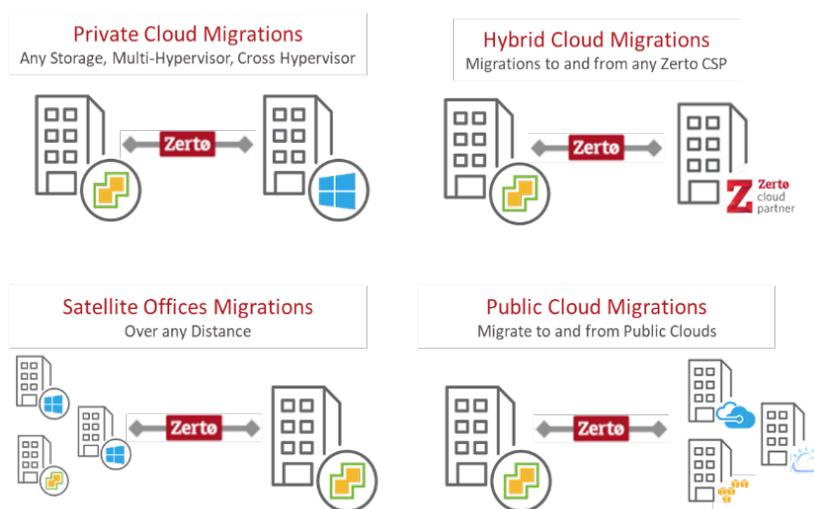


Figure 3. Zerto Migration Use Cases

The Zerto Difference

Knowledge

As mentioned, one of the key aspects to the Zerto solution is that no agent needs to be installed in any of the protected guest VMs. When tied with the hardware- and hypervisor-agnostic approach this is a key differentiator. The lack of an agent means there is no overhead on the guest VM itself. Furthermore, our agnostic capabilities mean we can move entire applications made up of multiple VMs as is, without the need for extensive deep application knowledge. On top of this, our failover test allows you to ratify any migration many times before committing to the move, at which point a one-click rollback is available until you are completely happy and have committed the move. All of this adds up to a highly capable migration solution that is as simple as it sounds.

Technology Lock-in

By replicating at the hypervisor layer, Zerto not only allows replication and recovery between any storage, but it also includes multiple hypervisors, in private, hybrid, and public clouds. This market-leading technology delivers the best of breed migration solution irrespective of underlying hypervisor or storage, providing true application mobility and removing any hardware lock-in that may exist.

Cloud Adoption

With Zerto's support for multiple cloud offerings, whether it's AWS, Azure, or one of our 350 managed service providers, Zerto can enable you to move workloads between these with ease, performing any conversion as they are replicated. Coupled with the ability to replicate back in the opposite direction, Zerto becomes the market-leading tool for enabling a true hybrid cloud strategy, providing unparalleled workload mobility and future-proofing your business's IT strategy.

Using Zerto for Migrations to Provide True Mobility

Migration Window

Reducing migration time is central to Zerto's capabilities. With Zerto, the mass data migration is a background task, moving your virtual disks to the target without downtime and next to no impact for your production environment. Zerto has a bandwidth throttle built in to manage bandwidth use, which enables the process to be performed outside of any migration window. Once the initial data has been synchronized to the target site, Zerto ensures continuous data protection (CDP), maintaining near-zero synchronization between source and target at all times. This puts the control completely in your hands. Because there is no large data move to be completed, it takes just minutes to move your VMs with zero data loss.

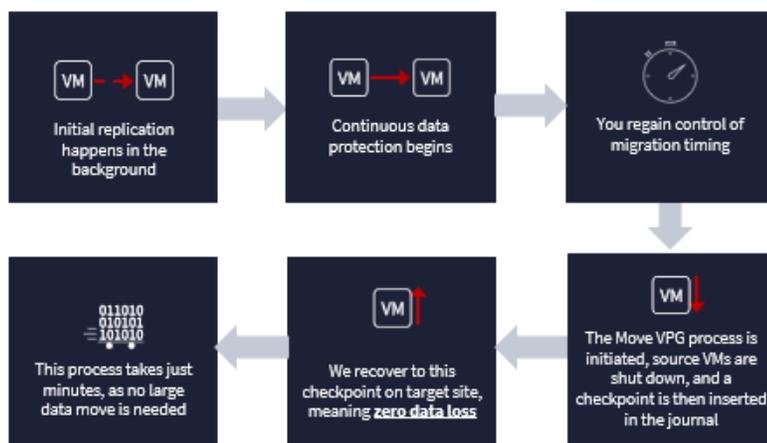


Figure 4: Background Migration Workflow

Wrap-up

Zerto removes limitations that have traditionally made migrations lengthy, challenging, and impactful. By presenting an agnostic approach to replication, hardware, hypervisor, and cloud, lock-in is removed, enabling true workload mobility across competing platforms without the need for manual conversions or implementations. Leveraging CDP, the traditional migration window can be reduced from days to just a few minutes, with next to no impact on the production environment until the migration is performed. Finally, Zerto does not rely on any additional tools, providing replication, orchestration, and automation together in one consistent interface. Taken together, these capabilities make Zerto the industry standard for fast and seamless datacenter migrations.