Dell EMC VPLEX

VPLEX™ delivers continuous data availability, transparent data mobility, and non-disruptive data migration for mission-critical applications

VPLEX Overview

IT organizations worldwide are rapidly moving to all flash storage to take advantage of the performance, workload consolidation, and the rich data services that lower the total cost of ownership. Nevertheless, availability of business-critical workloads is still a huge challenge. Planned and unplanned downtime continues to cause undesirable disruption to operations with severe business impact.

Dell EMC VPLEX maximizes the returns on investments in all-flash infrastructure or hybrid arrays by providing continuous availability to the business-critical workloads. VPLEX also creates a flexible storage architecture that gives IT teams the agility they need to respond to rapid business and technology changes while maximizing asset utilization across active-active datacenters.

VPLEX enables IT organizations to build datacenter infrastructure that is always available and non-disruptive. VPLEX’s unique implementation of distributed cache coherency allows the exact same data to be read/write accessible across two storage systems at the same time. This in turn ensures uptime for business-critical application scenarios and enables seamless data mobility across host arrays without host disruption. The storage systems can be in a single datacenter (VPLEX Local), or separated by distance, (VPLEX Metro).

Here are some of the features that won the trust of IT organizations to deploy it successfully over thousands of datacenters.

- **Flash-optimized**: Performance optimization for all flash arrays, support for thin provisioning space reclamation using UNMAP. XCOPY support on all flash.
- **Scale-out**: VPLEX scales up to four VPLEX engines in a single cluster that can support multiple all flash storage systems.
- **Dedicated**: VPLEX requires no compute resources from the application hosts or on the underlying array to maximize data availability.
- **No single point of failure**: All connectivity between VPLEX cluster nodes and across VPLEX Metro configurations is fully redundant, ensuring protection against single points of failure.
- **Storage Monitoring and Reporting (M&R)**: Storage M&R™ for VPLEX is included with VPLEX systems, providing in depth views of all VPLEX components as well as trending data. It is easy to visualize and analyze the utilization, capacity, health and performance of the VPLEX system.
VPLEX Use Cases

Continuous Availability for Applications
Mission-critical workloads have very low tolerance for downtime and require non-stop operations. There are many factors that can cause applications to go down: power, tech refresh, unexpected failures or human errors. VPLEX gives unmatched protection and availability to applications through automatic failover and failback between arrays and datacenters.

Data Mobility for agile storage management
Today’s datacenters are overloaded with data and applications. IT staff are facing huge challenges to frequently adjust and reconfigure their environments, often causing application downtime. Storage that is decoupled from compute gives IT staff much more flexibility to move workloads without host disruption:
- Non-disruptively move virtual server and storage resources within and across datacenters including VMware vMotion and Microsoft Hyper-V Live Migration
- Transparently balance and relocate workloads in anticipation of planned events and maintenance
- A VPLEX enabled data infrastructure shields IT teams from storage activities that cause host disruption, delivering flexibility for IT data management

Technology Refresh made easy
Data migration with VPLEX is performed without application downtime, saving IT teams countless weekends of maintenance downtime and migration service costs. VPLEX accelerates adoption of flash technology, trims migration costs by up to 80% and enables data center modernization that is efficient and non-disruptive.

Datacenter Consolidation and Relocation
For some customers, modernizing data center infrastructure involves moving and consolidating data centers. Migrating hundreds of applications is a daunting task that can stretch to months in implementation. With VPLEX, customers can move petabytes of data non-disruptively and realize the benefits of operating multiple datacenters.

Deep Ecosystem Integration
Server Virtualization and Clustering
With VPLEX the benefits of server virtualization can be extended across datacenters. Virtual machine or application clusters can be stretched across data centers to ensure application uptime even in the event of a complete site failure. Surviving nodes at either of the active-active data centers can continue to run with virtual volume presented by VPLEX.

VMware features like vMotion, DRS, High Availability (HA) work seamlessly across active-active data centers giving vAdmins unprecedented control and flexibility for workload deployment. VPLEX supports Microsoft Hyper-V server virtualization deployment as well as Oracle RAC cluster technologies.

Storage Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) for VPLEX
Storage M&R for VPLEX is included with all VPLEX systems for monitoring and reporting for just VPLEX. If you want to manage your entire data center, Dell EMC Storage Resource Manager™ (SRM) manages storage environments in a hybrid cloud environment and generates insights for the IT staff to act on. SRM provides end-to-end visualization, analysis and reporting for your data center.

**RecoverPoint: Any point in time recovery**

Dell EMC RecoverPoint™ offers continuous data protection for Dell EMC storage products that ensures operational and disaster recovery to any point in time. Together VPLEX Metro and RecoverPoint enable MetroPoint, a three-site configuration that delivers continuous availability and operational recovery at active-active data centers at metro distances as well as long distance disaster recovery for both the active-active data centers with a single DR copy.

**Copy Data Management with Dell EMC AppSync**

Dell EMC AppSync™ simplifies copy data management across multiple applications and storage systems. With AppSync support for VPLEX, application owners have the flexibility to create copies of production data for various consumption purposes in VPLEX Local and Metro data centers depending on the business requirements.

**Storage Provisioning Workflows Made Simple**

VPLEX Integrated Array Services (VIAS) drastically simplify workflows like storage provisioning for Dell EMC Arrays. VPLEX also supports VAAI commands like UNMAP, ATS, XCOPY, and WRITESAME for XtremIO™ to enable vAdmins to administer various storage level tasks.

**Modernize now with VPLEX**

The VPLEX platforms:
- Optimize all flash storage with improved IOPS and reduced latency
- Scale up to four engines with support for up to 12000 volumes on both Local and Metro
- Provide simultaneous read-write access across two arrays or locations locally or over sync distances

**VPLEX All Flash**

VPLEX for all flash is an all-inclusive solution for Dell EMC all flash storage products: PowerMax™, VMAX AF™, XtremIO, Dell EMC Unity™ all flash, Dell EMC Unity XT all flash and the SC Series all flash systems. The price of this offering includes software license for unlimited capacity for any number of Dell EMC all-flash arrays. You can grow your flash environment and utilize VPLEX functionality for continuous availability and data mobility by adding additional engines as needed without purchasing additional software licenses.