



First Mile Automation Accelerates and Secures VMware Private Clouds

Enterprises eliminate weeks of effort with Autonomous and Secure Cluster

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Executive Summary

VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) dramatically shortens the path to a true hybrid cloud and improves admin productivity. Before VCF takes over, administrators must prepare the hardware precisely to the VMware Compatibility List (HCL) for each VCF cluster to be installed. **RackN offers unmatched VMware bootstrapping capabilities; creating fully functioning VCF clusters in minutes and extending the productivity gains.**

One Fortune 50 Global Financial Institution uses RackN to successfully deploy multiple VCF clusters to more than 10,000 physical servers a month, with a goal of extending that management to 100,000 servers. This helps the customer save time and money on VCF installations, all while maintaining security compliance required of financial institutions.

Problem

The customer has a requirement to deploy large numbers of VCF clusters reliably and repeatedly to support their banking application requirements. Several challenges were met:

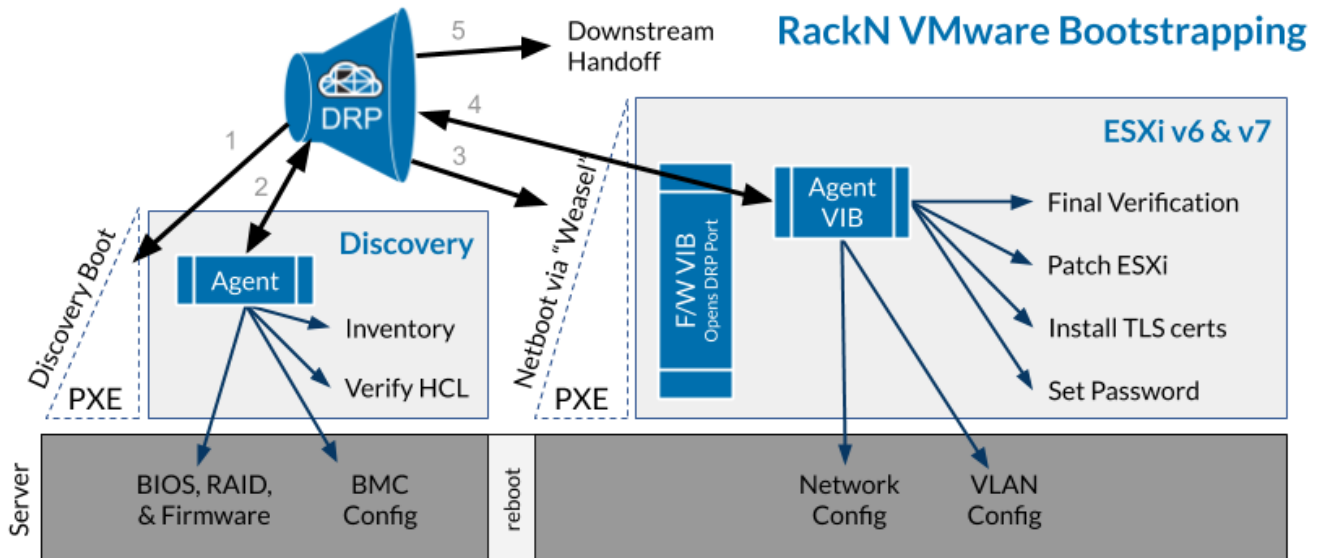
- **Multi-site Requirements:** Global scale mandated an automated, no-touch way to prepare the thousands of servers supporting their private cloud for VCF installation. This automated method had to tightly integrate with VCF management and the HCL.
- **Enterprise Scale:** Deploying thousands of VCF clusters monthly required an incredible amount of server infrastructure, and hardware spend was not normalized.
- **Time to Market:** New server hardware often spent 6 months on the datacenter floor before VCF clusters were deployed, wasting time and money.

VMware and RackN partnered to roll-out a highly automated and repeatable VMware VCF deployment process, accelerating time to deploy new servers for clusters from months to **60 minutes**.

Solution

RackN eliminates manual steps to fully automate VMware infrastructure from bare metal. The solution uses the VMware Hardware Compatibility List (HCL) to create automation and eliminates weeks of onboarding effort for new clusters. This enterprise solution achieves scale and multisite demands as well as achieves requirements outlined by VMware Hardware compatibility, VCF compliance for hardware configuration and VMware Cloud Foundation.

The solution provides a full lifecycle management of the hardware platform with complete customization of vSphere ESXi in preparation for VCF HCL conversions. All entirely delivered with minimal training and deployable within hours.



Key Features

The enterprise client has specific requirement enterprise scale requirements which are standard in the RackN offering.

- vSphere functional within 60 minutes from first boot
- Achieve a cadences of 30 racks per week with 100,000+ server scale
- Roll-out with zero human touch to multiple sites across globe
- Support multi-vendor, heterogeneous environments to enable flexibility
- Run validation and compliance checks as well as security features such as certificate management for TLS, enforce and generate passwords words and patch configurations
- Meet pre-specified ingest from Bill of Materials (BoM)
- Deliver complete Infrastructure as Code

Achieving & Measuring Success

The financial institution reports wins in time, security/compliance and financial. Repeat automation brings forth targets for deal configurations and ushers in CIDC best practices.

- **Financial:** Millions saved by controlling 1 specification across multiple vendors
- **Security:** Automating security settings, reducing human touch and deep validation of the solution.

- **Time to Market:** 6 months to 60 minutes for fully operational clusters

For more information, www.rackn.com or sales@rackN.com.