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## **The Future of VDI in 60 Seconds** by Alicia Haines Davis

Virtualization technology has taken the IT world by storm, with VMware leading the pack with Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI). So what's coming next from their inventive, world-class software development lab? Get ready for VMware's new virtualization innovation: vSphere 4, the industry's first cloud operating system.

Formerly known as VI 4.0, vSphere made its initial debut on April 21 with much anticipation from the IT community. But it's not just another nifty name rebranding scheme. This software will serve as the first look into the inner workings of the latest Virtual Datacenter Operating System. By converting IT infrastructures into a "private cloud" (a number of internal clouds connected to external clouds), vSphere offers IT infrastructure as a service.

### **VMware vSphere**

Now available to the general public, vSphere is composed of elements you may already be aware of such as VMware ESX Server and VMware Virtual Center, as well as new and existing management products. New features abound, including:

- Fault Tolerance for mainframe-class availability
- Distributed vSwitches
- VMsafe and vShield Zones, third-party API's for added security
- VMware Data Recovery, providing "agentless" backup and recovery for virtual machines in smaller environments
- Host profiles
- Thin-provisioned virtual disks

Geared towards small and mid-sized businesses, the idea is that the vSphere product family will build upon what customers already have and provide further power, efficiency, and control, all while fulfilling the user's customization requirements.

### **Where Can You Expect To See Savings?**

VMware is proud to announce that vSphere will be able to help save the enterprise much needed cash by:

- Reducing capital costs
- Decreasing processor overhead
- Reducing operational expenses for application load
- Significantly decreasing lost revenue caused by downtime, outages, and system failures

What's more, in the process of creating this virtual cloud OS, VMware provides a solution that can greatly increase the power efficiency of any enterprise.

### **Is vSphere Truly Distinctive Or Just Hype?**

At this point in time, that call is still up for debate. However, vSphere is exciting in that it brings organizational infrastructure ever nearer to a truly seamless and united computing resource. Regardless of your position on the subject, this product evolution is a genuine attempt to move business and technology forward.