

Wind River and Black Box Solution Brief

Modernizing Distributed Compute with Black Box and Wind River: Private Cloud for Core-to-Edge Infrastructure as a VMware Alternative

VMware licensing changes and rising operational complexity are forcing enterprises to reconsider distributed infrastructure, particularly where IT manages legacy virtual machines and container workloads across locations. Black Box and Wind River deliver a migration path to private cloud that reduces VMware dependence, standardizes operations from core to edge, and positions infrastructure for next-generation applications.

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

Enterprises must modernize infrastructure while containing costs, avoiding lock-in, and meeting higher demands for uptime, security, and compliance across distributed operations. The pressure is greatest at organizations with large site footprints, strict SLAs, and mixed IT/OT environments, where the public cloud cannot satisfy data residency, latency, or local autonomy requirements.

IT leaders need a migration path that lets them deploy private cloud along with the existing VMware environments and transition workloads on their own schedule, without another disruptive rip-and-replace.

THE JOINT SOLUTION: PRIVATE CLOUD FOR CORE-TO-EDGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Wind River lays the foundation for modern, distributed private cloud and intelligent edge environments, including Wind River Cloud Platform and related technologies. These are built for mission-critical, highly available deployments across core data centers and far-edge sites. The platform supports containerized and virtual machine workloads in a common architecture. It enables running the existing applications alongside new cloud-native and AI/ML services, while delivering resilient, high-performance digital infrastructure tailored especially for companies with operational and regulatory needs.

Black Box delivers solution design, integration, deployment, and lifecycle support services across enterprise, branch, plant, store, and edge locations bringing experience across IT, OT, and converged infrastructure. Network, cybersecurity, edge, and digital infrastructure integration services are backed by 24x7 managed services and lifecycle governance. This combination of global reach and domain depth is why Wind River selected Black Box as its deployment and services partner. Black Box helps organizations across manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, retail, and financial services modernize distributed infrastructure, addressing the unique challenges of multi-site operations, IT/OT convergence, and regulatory compliance with resilient private cloud solutions.

Together, Wind River and Black Box deliver a private cloud foundation that can be introduced alongside existing VMware infrastructure, deployed consistently across distributed sites, and supported through its full lifecycle.

CUSTOMER CHALLENGES

Enterprises facing VMware transitions and distributed growth encounter:

- VMware licensing and support costs that erode infrastructure economics.
- Vendor lock-in that limits flexibility for modern architectures and hybrid strategies.
- Operational complexity across distributed sites, branches, plants, stores, or edge locations.
- Inconsistent management of VM-based and container-based workloads across a unified operating model.
- Pressure to improve resiliency, security, compliance, and lifecycle management without expanding operational overhead.

VMWARE ALTERNATIVE: A STRATEGIC MODERNIZATION PATH

Wind River Cloud Platform reduces VMware licensing burden, simplifies management, and preserves vendor flexibility across vendors and locations. The solution fits best where organizations require a reduced footprint, deployment flexibility, and a platform consistent across core data centers and edge environments—while also supporting data-intensive and latency-sensitive workloads.

This becomes a modernization path enables customers to:

- Deploy private cloud infrastructure with existing VMware environments.
- Migrate VMs and services to Wind River based infrastructure as priorities evolve.
- Maintain performance, reliability, and operational control throughout transition.

PRIVATE CLOUD FOR DISTRIBUTED ENVIRONMENTS

The joint Black Box and Wind River solution provides an on-premises platform optimized for cost efficiency, predictable performance, high availability, and multi-site scalability. A unified operating model supports containers and virtual machines, enabling phased modernization aligned with application roadmaps.

This approach becomes relevant when:

- Data must stay local to meet residency or sovereignty requirements.
- Latency-sensitive workloads require processing close to the data source.
- Uptime, safety, and compliance requirements favor distributed private cloud.
- A consistent cloud operating model is needed across core and edge environments.

Better Together: Business Outcomes You Can Expect

With the Wind River and Black Box partnership, customers can gain value across four key areas:

- **Lower total cost of ownership**
Replacing VMware dependency with Wind River infrastructure reduces licensing and support costs while improving resource utilization across distributed sites.
- **Trusted, faster deployment and lower risk**
Black Box solution design, integration, and managed services compress rollout timelines and reduce transition risk in complex, multi-site environments.
- **Higher operational consistency**
A unified platform from core to edge enables centralized management of VM and container workloads, with standardized operations across sites.
- **Mission-critical performance and compliance**
Wind River Cloud Platform is engineered for high availability, resiliency, and compliance across IT and OT environments.

Wind River provides the private cloud and intelligent edge platform while Black Box designs, deploys, and supports the solution globally. Together, they give enterprises a structured path to reduce VMware dependence, lower operational complexity, and sustain mission-critical performance across distributed infrastructure.

Schedule a VMware modernization and private cloud readiness assessment with Black Box and Wind River. Our joint team will evaluate your existing virtualization environment, identify migration opportunities, assess edge and distributed infrastructure requirements, and develop a phased modernization roadmap.

