

# Virtualize More While Improving Your Risk Posture: The 4 “Must Haves” of Virtualization Security

- Hemma Prafullchandra, CTO & SVP Products, HyTrust
- Mike Foley, Sr Technical Manager, Platform Security, VMware
- Evelyn de Souza, Sr Data Center Security Strategists, Cisco
- Steve Orrin, Chief Security Architect, Intel

Governance, Risk & Compliance – G11



2013 Fall Conference – “Sail to Success”

**CRISC**  
**CGEIT**  
**CISM**  
**CISA**

# Agenda



- Security & Compliance Challenges
- The “4 Must Haves” & Solutions
- Key Take-aways
- Resources

# Security and Compliance challenges



## CIO security concerns for cloud

Top CIO challenges to implementing a cloud computing strategy:

1. Security
2. Access to information
3. Information Governance
4. Ability to meet enterprise standards

Source: 2010 IDG Enterprise Cloud-based Computing Research, November 2010



## Compliance standards

Virtualization/Cloud

- Increases impact of any compromise
- Creates a more complex environment—additional layers require new controls
- Creates a new attack surface that must be hardened
- Impacts roles and responsibilities

2013 Fall Conference – “Sail to Success”  
September 30 – October 2, 2013

### Shionogi & Co:

\$3.2B pharmaceutical company laid off IT admin who then:

- Logged in remotely to vSphere from local McDonald’s WIFI
- Deleted 88 virtual production servers
- Took down email, order entry, payroll, BlackBerry, & other services
- Caused \$800K damage

## Access control and management

- **87%** of companies have experienced a data breach  
— IT Compliance Institute
- **<10%** Companies with Controls to Govern Unauthorized Access  
— SANS Critical Security Controls Survey, 2013
- **>50%** Security breaches due to stolen credentials  
— Verizon report, 2013

# How Virtualization Security is Impacted by Cloud?

Gartner predicts 17.9%  
CAGR in cloud services usage  
through 2016



**Shift: Verify then Trust versus Trust then Verify**

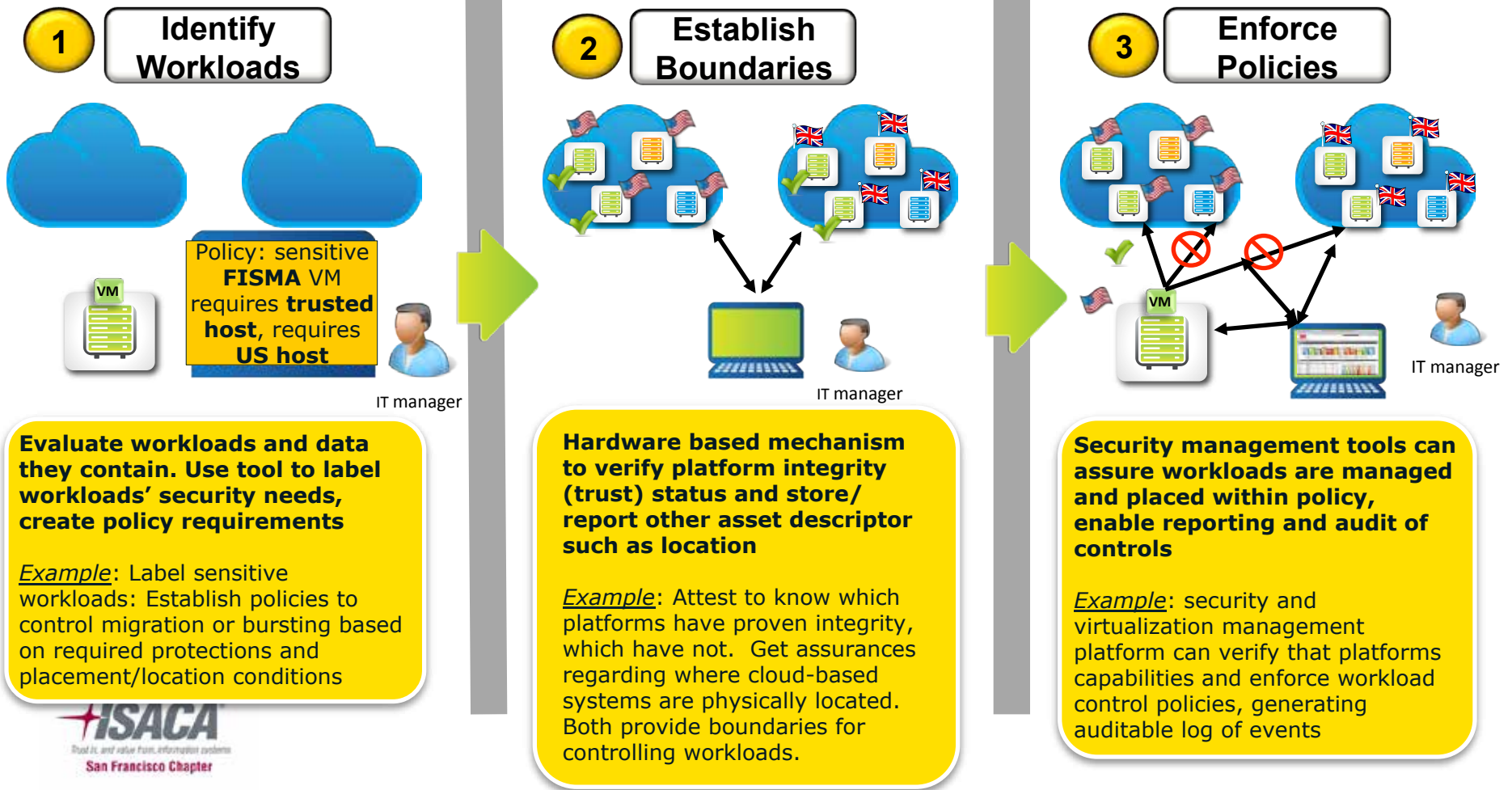
# Where is My Workload? The USG *Example*

## Challenge:

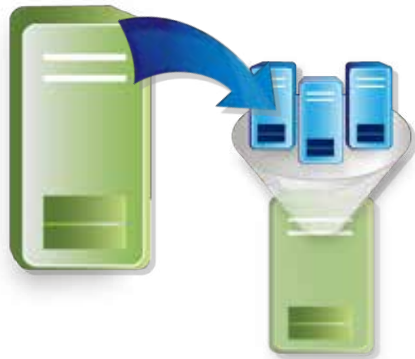
Where workloads run really matters. In many cases you must:

- Assure that the platform has integrity – capable to protect my data
- Make multitenancy safe – keep my workloads separate from others of different profiles
- Allow me to constrain workloads to specific geographical areas
- Provide audit capabilities to meet compliance mandates

**NIST IR 7904 solution allows these capabilities for workload control, with critical steps including:**

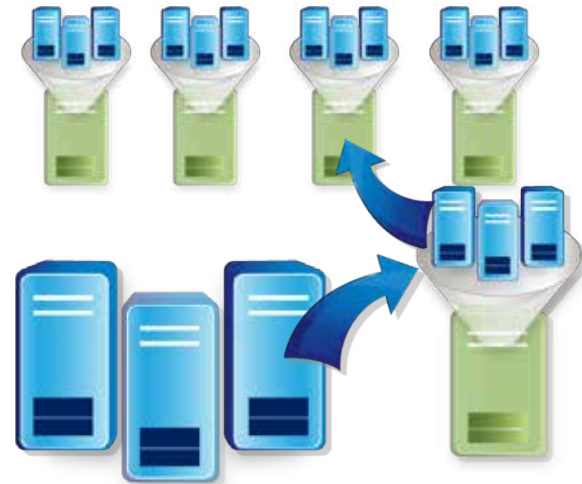


# Virtualization Platform and Security



## Abstraction and Consolidation

- ↑ Capital and Operational Cost Savings
- ↓ New infrastructure layer to be secured and subject to compliance
- ↓ Greater impact of attack or misconfiguration



## Faster Deployment in Shared Environment

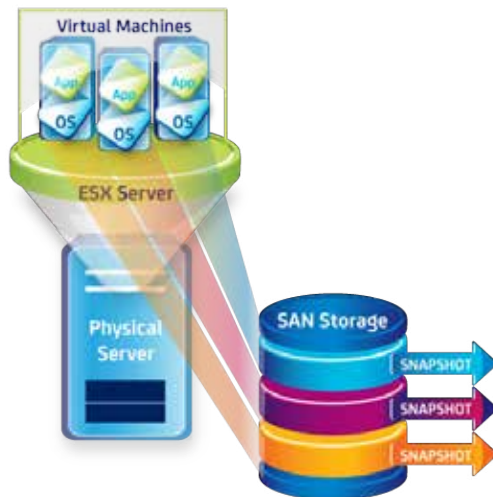
- ↑ IT responsiveness
- ↓ Inconsistencies in configuration
- ↓ Physical change processes ineffective
- ↓ Inadequate tenant segmentation



## Collapse of Switches and Servers into One Device

- ↑ Flexibility
- ↑ Cost-savings
- ↓ Lack of visibility and control for virtual network and storage
- ↓ No separation of church and state (network, security, storage administration)

# Virtualization Containers and Security



## Fuzzy Time Boundaries

- ↑ Great availability / recovery mechanism
- ↓ Security and audit events can be lost if not configured
- ↓ Changes in time are not visible from inside the virtual server



## VM Encapsulation

- ↑ Ease DR
- ↑ Hardware Independence
- ↓ Outdated offline systems
- ↓ Unauthorized copy
- ↓ Reconfiguring virtual hardware and console access are over in network operations



## VM Mobility

- ↑ Improved Service Levels
- ↓ Identity divorced from physical location
- ↓ Policies may not follow virtual machine

# The Real Risks of Virtualization



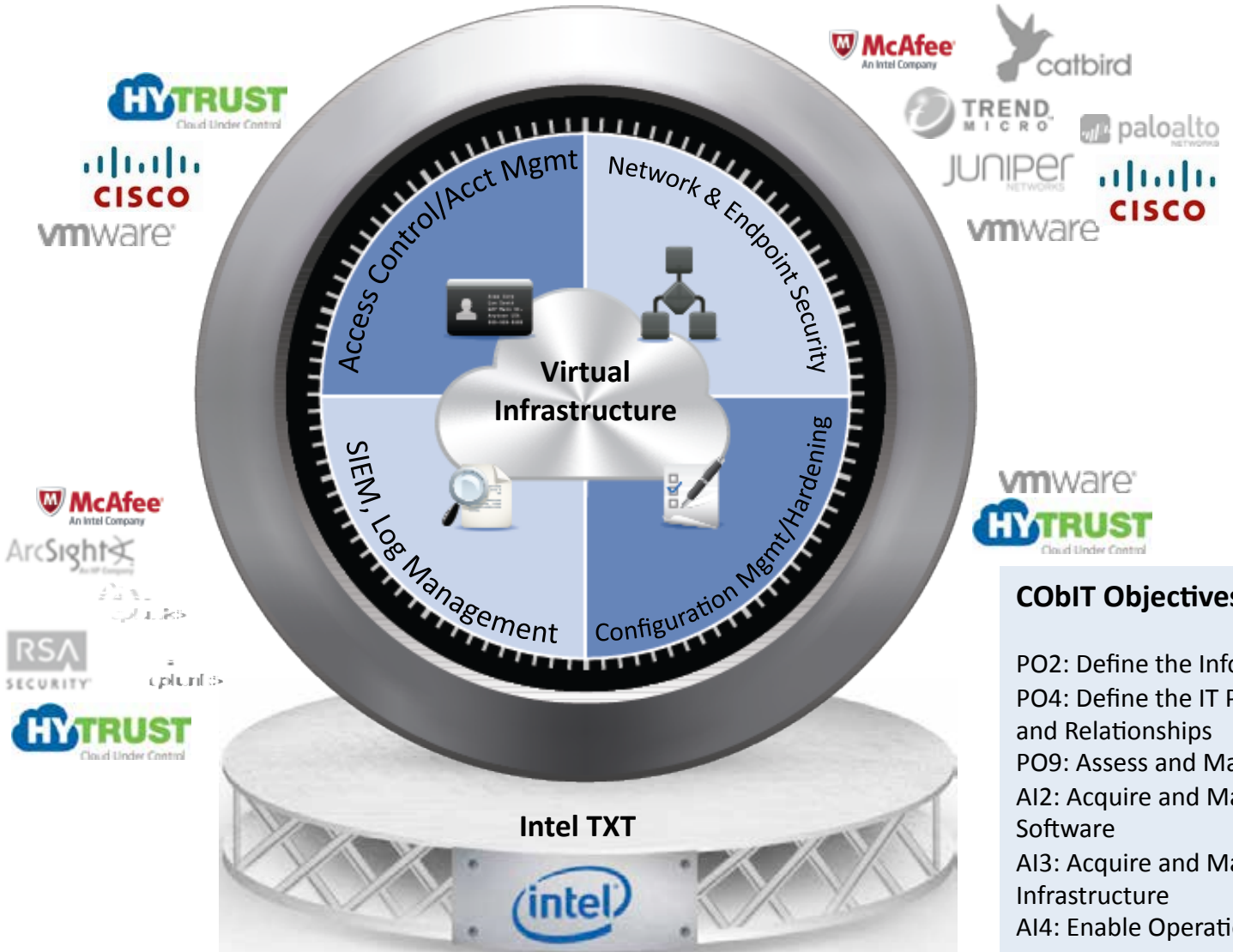
**VM/VM or Hypervisor  
Breakout**



**Compromised Admin  
Account**



# 4 “Must Haves” - Solutions



- COBIT Objectives**
- PO2: Define the Information Architecture
  - PO4: Define the IT Processes, Organization and Relationships
  - PO9: Assess and Manage IT Risks
  - AI2: Acquire and Maintain Application Software
  - AI3: Acquire and Maintain Technology Infrastructure
  - AI4: Enable Operation and Use
  - DS5: Ensure Systems Security
  - DS9: Manage Service Desk and Incidents

# Ubiquitous Security Value from Intel Xeon-based Data Center Systems

## Trusted Platforms

- Minimize vulnerabilities in Hardware and Software
- Robust malware prevention and detection
- Enhanced recovery



## Data Protection

- Flexible, high-performance encryption (storage, network)
- Platform trust at all layers of the stack, and through time



## Cloud Security

- Enable security appliances in the virtual environment
- Deliver trusted mechanisms to expose platform security posture



Many already have a large estate of these systems!  
Ubiquity & granularity to address changing scope and threats

# Cisco: End user and Network

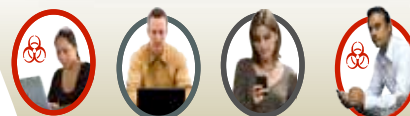
Focus on what matters most!

Business Policy



Destination	HR Database	Prod CRM	Storage
Source			
VD HR Users	✓	✗	✗
VPN HR User	✗	✗	✗
IT Ops	✓	✓	✓
Test Server	Test-ACL	✗	✓

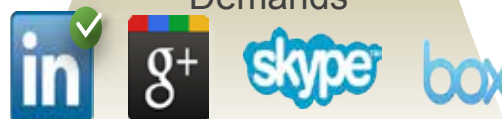
Dynamic Context



User and Devices



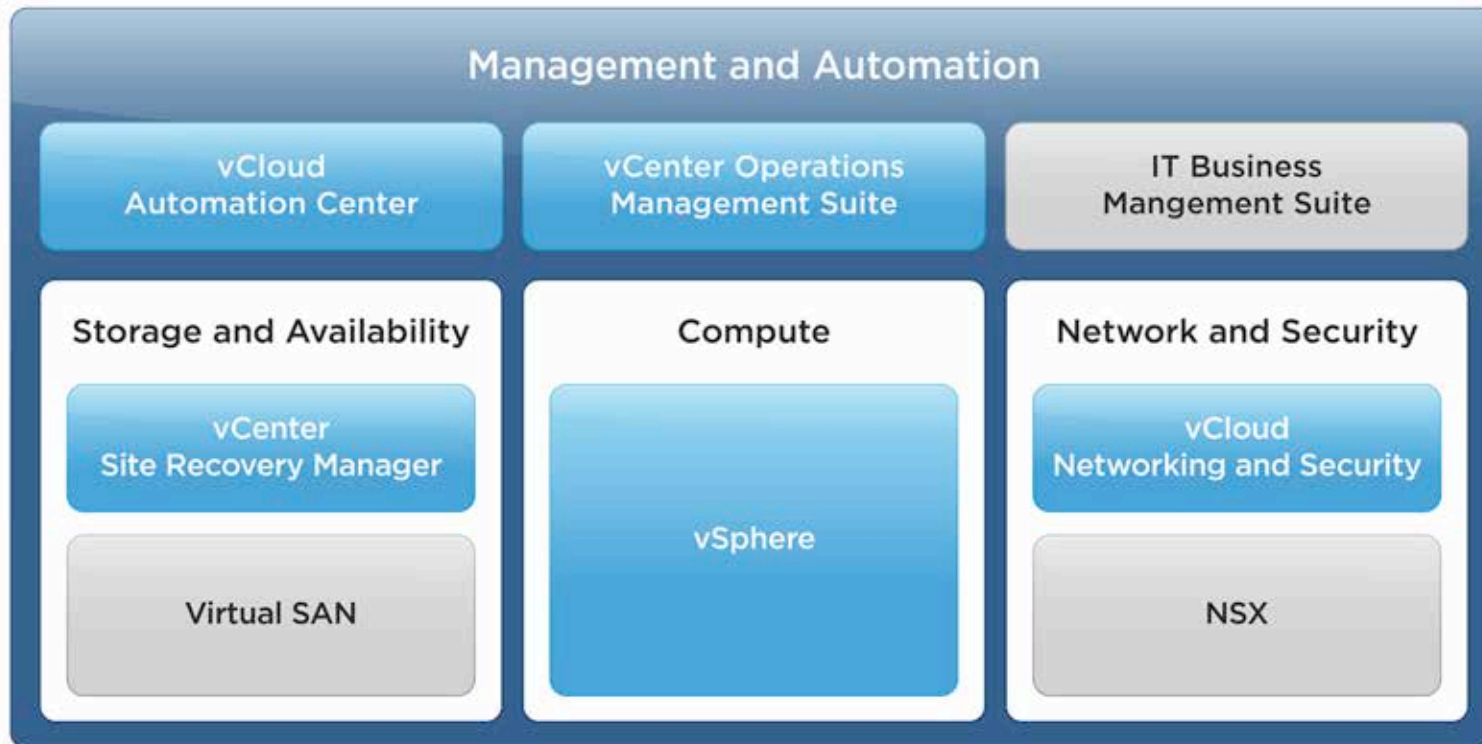
Resources and Demands



# VMWare Solutions

## vCloud Suite

The First Step to a Software-Defined Data Center Architecture



# vSphere 5.x Hardening Guide

## ESXi-apply-patches

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Keep ESXi system properly patched.

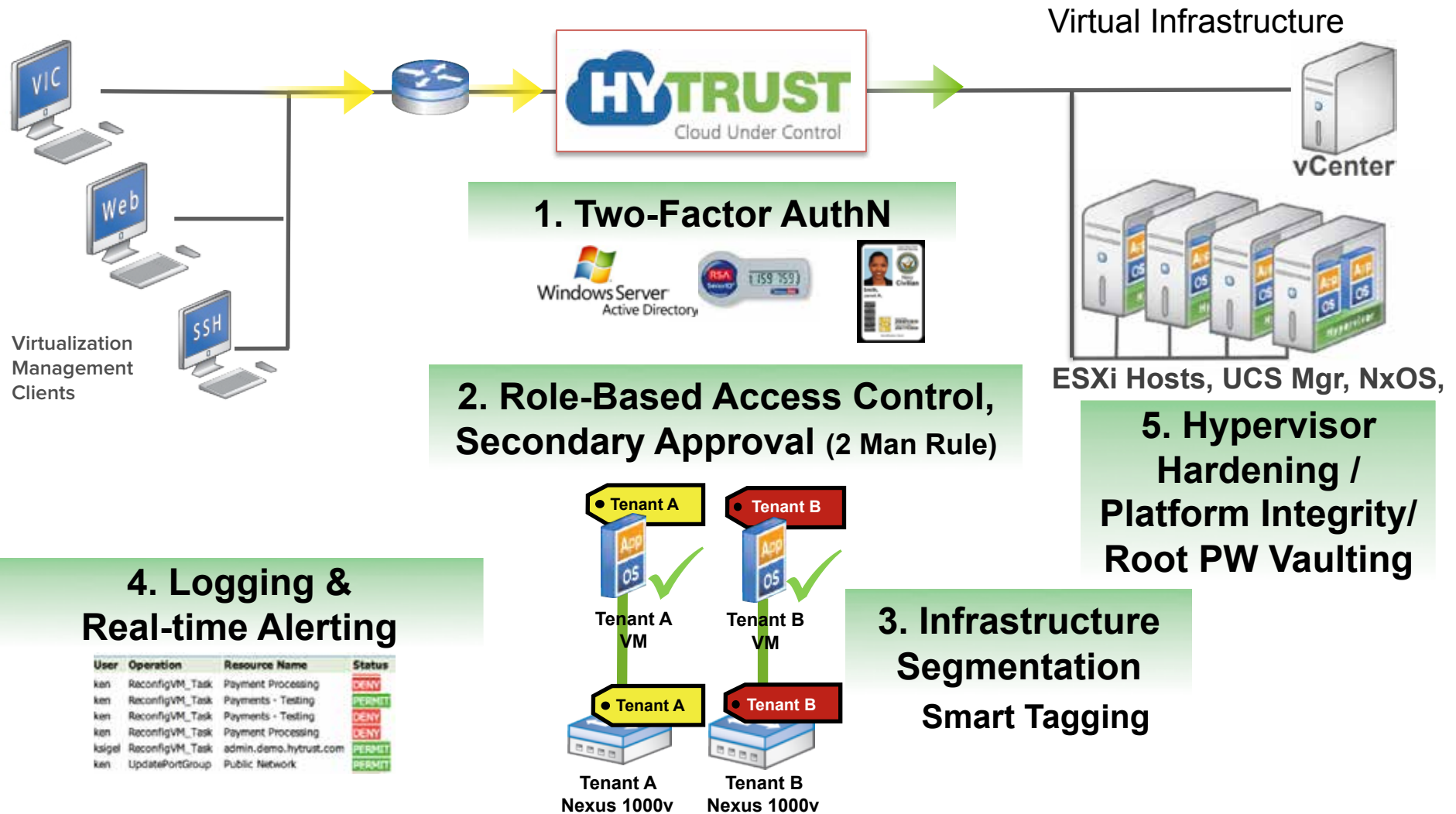
Product	Version	Component	Subcomponent	Profile
vSphere	5.1	ESXi	Install	1,2,3

**Vulnerability Procedure:** By staying up to date on ESXi patches, vulnerabilities in the hypervisor can be mitigated. An educated attacker can exploit known vulnerabilities when attempting to attain access or elevate privileges on an ESXi host.

**Assessment Procedure:** Employ a process to keep ESXi hosts up to date with patches in accordance with industry-standards and internal guidelines. VMware Update Manager is an automated tool that can greatly assist with this. VMware also publishes Advisories on security patches, and offers a way to subscribe to email alerts for them.

Control Type	Desired Value	Change Type	Is desired Value the Default	Able to set via Host Profiles
Operational	N/A	Update	N/A	NO

# HyTrust Appliance Capabilities



# Key Takeaways

- Understand security and compliance implications of virtualizing your Data Center or moving to the cloud
- Review and update existing processes and technologies
  - An ecosystem of technologies will be required to address even the minimum MUST HAVES
  - Look to vendors that are working together and have developed technologies that are virtualization-aware
- Verify, then Trust, then Verify Again
  - Validate that controls are configured correctly and generating the necessary 'evidence' (logs, reports, ...)
  - Continuously validate the ability to reproduce/trouble-shoot if an incident does occur



# Resources

- ISACA Virtualization Checklist -  
<http://www.isaca.org/Knowledge-Center/Research/Documents/Virtualization-Security-Checklist-26Oct2010-Research.pdf>
- <http://www.isaca.org/Knowledge-Center/Research/ResearchDeliverables/Pages/Virtualization-Benefits-and-Challenges.aspx>
- NIST: 800-53, 7904, 144, 145, 146
- HyTrust: <http://www.hytrust.com/resources/main>
- Cisco:  
[www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns340/ns394/ns224/ns376/index.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns340/ns394/ns224/ns376/index.html)
- VMWare:  
<https://www.vmware.com/solutions/datacenter/cloud-security-compliance/protect-critical-applications.html>
- Intel:  
<http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/enterprise-security/multi-level-enterprise-security.html>