

Entertainment / Leisure / Sport

Accelerating game-changing player performance analytics

Carolina Hurricanes

Ice hockey team the Carolina Hurricanes upgrades its IT with hyperconverged infrastructure from Lenovo and VMware—tripling the performance of key analytics workloads for faster insight into puck and player tracking data.



Lenovo

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Who are the Carolina Hurricanes?

The Carolina Hurricanes are a professional ice hockey team based in Raleigh, NC, competing in the National Hockey League (NHL). With a passionate fan base, the Hurricanes have a rich history that includes winning the Stanley Cup in the 2005-2006 season. Under the ownership of Tom Dundon and the guidance of General Manager Don Waddell, the team is committed to building a winning culture and engaging with the local community.

The Hurricanes play their home games at the PNC Arena, where they strive to create an electric atmosphere for fans. The organization aims to continue their on-ice success, foster community involvement, and provide an exceptional fan experience as they strive to bring another Stanley Cup championship to Raleigh.



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The Challenge

Since the 2021-2022 season, the Carolina Hurricanes have been using the NHL EDGE system to track the movement of the puck and on-ice players during every game. This innovative technology utilizes infrared cameras—positioned to cover all points on the ice—to track movement via sensors embedded in the puck and in players’ jerseys. The system generates almost one million 3D coordinates and data points over the course of a regulation game, offering insights into everything from player skating speed and distance skated to shot speed and shot/save locations.

With both the volume and velocity of data increasing season by season, pressure was building on the Hurricanes’ IT infrastructure.

“Our existing data center infrastructure was seven years old, and simply could not deliver the level of performance needed to support these cutting-edge puck and player tracking analytics workloads,” says Glenn Johnson, CIO at the Carolina Hurricanes. “We looked to increase our compute and storage resources to meet those demands—now and for the seasons to come.”



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“As NHL EDGE technology improves, we generate more and more data each season. We want to ensure that our analytics team has the resources to crunch all this data and get even deeper insights into player performance.”

Glenn Johnson

CIO, Carolina Hurricanes

Modernizing IT with **HCI**

The Hurricanes chose to replace its aging three-tier data center architecture with a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution based on Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated Systems powered by VMware vSAN™.

The Hurricanes' IT team installed four Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated Systems, configured as a single software-defined cluster using VMware virtualization. The team successfully completed a live migration of 50 virtual machines to the new cluster with zero downtime and no disruption to users. And with VMware vCenter® and Lenovo XClarity Integrator for VMware vCenter, the organization can manage its entire infrastructure through a single pane of glass.

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated Systems

Software

Lenovo XClarity Integrator for VMware vCenter
VMware vCenter®
VMware vSAN™
VMware vSphere®

Services

Lenovo Premier Support



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“We evaluated several different options, including the public cloud, but Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated Systems offered the optimal balance of price, performance, and scalability. As a long-time user of VMware vSphere® for server virtualization, we felt very confident choosing VMware HCI.”

Glenn Johnson

CIO, Carolina Hurricanes

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Results

Today, the Lenovo ThinkAgile VX platform underpins the entirety of the Hurricanes' IT operations—from file and print servers to business applications to the organization's NHL EDGE analytics workloads.

“We've seen a significant boost in performance right across the board, but nobody feels the difference more than the analytics team,” says Johnson. “The Lenovo and VMware solution enables them to process data much more rapidly and efficiently, with some jobs running three-times quicker than before. This means that they can develop new insights into player performance faster and create new tools for coaches and players to use when strategizing about tactics for the next game. These insights also inform decisions around injury prevention and player recruitment.”

- ✓ 3x faster analytics
- ✓ Rapid insight into player performance
- ✓ 3.7-year ROI
- ✓ Single-pane-of-glass management

Easy scalability, high availability, and rock-solid hardware reliability ensure that the Hurricanes can keep IT operations running smoothly. “The Lenovo ThinkAgile VX platform just runs, which from my perspective as CIO is the most important thing,” says Johnson. “We’re very happy with how the Lenovo and VMware HCI is running, and how easy it is to manage.”



“Our partnership with Lenovo goes back many years, and we’re excited to keep exploring how we can use Lenovo technology to improve performance—both on and off the ice.”

Glenn Johnson
CIO, Carolina Hurricanes

Why **Lenovo**?

For the Carolina Hurricanes, Lenovo is a trusted leader in technology solutions.

“We have used Lenovo PCs for many years, so we know from experience how reliable both Lenovo’s hardware and support services are,” says Johnson. “We trusted Lenovo to deliver an infrastructure solution that met our needs, and the ThinkAgile VX platform does just that.”



How can sports teams harness data to improve success on the pitch?

Boosting the performance of data analytics workloads for 3x faster insights with Lenovo and VMware technology.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series](#)

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