

Get Out of the Data Center and into the Cloud

Skytap makes it easy to harness the benefits of the cloud for traditional applications, virtual training, and business continuity in both IBM Power and x86 environments.

Picture being able to take your traditional applications out of the data center and gain the agility, flexibility, and scalability the public cloud provides. What if your business could innovate, scale, and become more responsive to customers' needs, not just with cloud-native applications, but with the traditional applications that form the backbone of your business? Consider the possibilities if all this could be done without having to rearchitect or rewrite these applications.

Skytap was designed to run your traditional applications in the public cloud, whether you prefer Microsoft Azure or IBM Cloud. Skytap is the only cloud service that supports AIX, IBM i, and Linux on IBM Power Systems alongside x86 workloads. You can migrate your Power-based applications and workloads directly

into Skytap in their native format without rewriting. Once applications are running in Skytap, you can start harnessing the benefits of core cloud capabilities, including capacity on-demand, self-service provisioning, and high availability.

Our customers use Skytap throughout their businesses, from improving the reliability of production environments and ensuring business continuity to accelerating application development and providing replica environments for virtual training labs, sales demos, and proofs of concept (POCs).

The Skytap Solution

Skytap functions like a software-defined data center (SDDC), providing the compatibility and simplicity your business needs to move traditional applications from on-premises data centers to a multi-cloud environment. It runs on IBM Power Systems hardware in Azure and IBM data centers, so that your organization can migrate and run applications natively in your cloud of choice.

Here's where Skytap can help:



Production and Disaster Recovery

Data center hardware continues to become more powerful, but it's also more expensive to keep up to date. Skytap helps reduce or eliminate investments in new hardware, data center facilities, and the staff needed to manage them. Once applications have been moved out of the data center and into the cloud, you can modernize them at your pace to improve functionality, reliability, and performance.

To ensure business continuity, use Skytap to provide high availability (HA) and faster, more automated disaster recovery (DR) for data center-based applications. Skytap's scalable architecture and powerful API allow you to continue using your existing on-premises HA, DR and backup tools natively in the cloud of your choice, while moving away from inefficient solutions like tape backup systems.



Application Development and Test

Developers and testers in traditional software environments compete for finite physical resources. Dev and test systems often fail to accurately represent what's currently in production due to configuration drift. The result is infrequent, poor quality software releases and fragile applications.

Skytap provides replicas of production environments that your developers and testers can copy immediately and as often as desired, paving the way to agile development and a modern software development lifecycle (SDLC). Agile, along with the adoption of DevOps practices, improves business agility, drives innovation, and enables the continuous delivery of customer-facing applications and services.



Virtual Training

Global remote working has driven an explosive demand for virtual training and self-paced offerings that on-premises infrastructure can't support. Physical labs only support in-person participation and maintaining them is often time-consuming, expensive, and technically challenging. Skytap, through its Course Manager subscription add-on, allows you to deliver easy to use, high-performance virtual lab environments that are essential for providing successful virtual technical education to a global workforce.

Training teams can quickly provision labs, distribute access details, and share training assets. Students gain access to their training labs and assets from wherever they're connected, whether for self-paced, on-demand courses or instructor-led training. Instructors can create virtual classrooms for multiple students, easily adding or removing attendees up to the last minute. Operations staff and instructors have full visibility and control, with comprehensive administrative tools and over-the-shoulder access. Support for the LTI standard provides straightforward integration with existing Learning Management Systems (LMSs), making it easy to add virtual labs to both instructor-led and on-demand classes.



Demo and Proofs of Concept

Prospective customers need to see products in action with well-executed product demos or POCs tailored to their specific needs. However, sales teams often lack the requisite infrastructure and resources to configure custom environments for each demo, often resulting in a poor, unpredictable user experience.

Course Manager by Skytap lets your sales teams deliver end-to-end demos and POCs that mirror production environments without building costly infrastructure. Demo teams can build and clone easy-to-use templates that let your customers learn, understand, and test drive products from wherever they are, using just a web browser. Give prospects access to self-guided, on-demand demos so they can get hands-on experience with your offerings at their convenience.

Skytap Features

Skytap delivers a rich feature set that enables powerful development, test, and business continuity capabilities. At the same time, its simplicity and friendly user interface makes it ideal for training, demos, and POCs. Skytap replicates even the most complex application environments, including middleware, operating system, and Level 2 and 3 network connections, and allows users to clone and discard multiple production-quality environments as needed.

Software-defined data center

Skytap establishes an exact replica of on-premises data center environments on Power Systems or x86 virtual machines residing in either Azure or IBM Cloud, including infrastructure, storage, networking, OS, middleware, memory state, and applications.

Support for Power and x86 workloads

Skytap is the only cloud service to support AIX, IBM i, and Linux on Power running together with x86 VMs.

Consumption-based pricing

Pay only for actual resources used, reducing CAPEX. Skytap offers reserve capacity pricing incentives for consistent capacity use.

Dynamic environments

Create and discard clones of production-quality environments, each of which is a SDDC that contains everything an application needs to run.

Self-service capabilities

Users can instantly access and self-provision as many production-quality environments as they need, on demand.

Automation and tool integration

Automate managed VMs and environments using automation tools through REST APIs, CLI, or automation packs. Integrate existing development, test, and DevOps tools via REST APIs or open source integration.

Management and control

Manage and control user roles, tags and usage labels, alerts, usage quotas, and automatic shut down or suspend/resume. Control and automate management functions with REST APIs.

Reliable, flexible global infrastructure

- » 99.95% availability SLA
- » Multi-tenant architecture using choice of public or private data center regions
- » Global reach, local presence in North America, EMEA, and APAC regions

Infrastructure

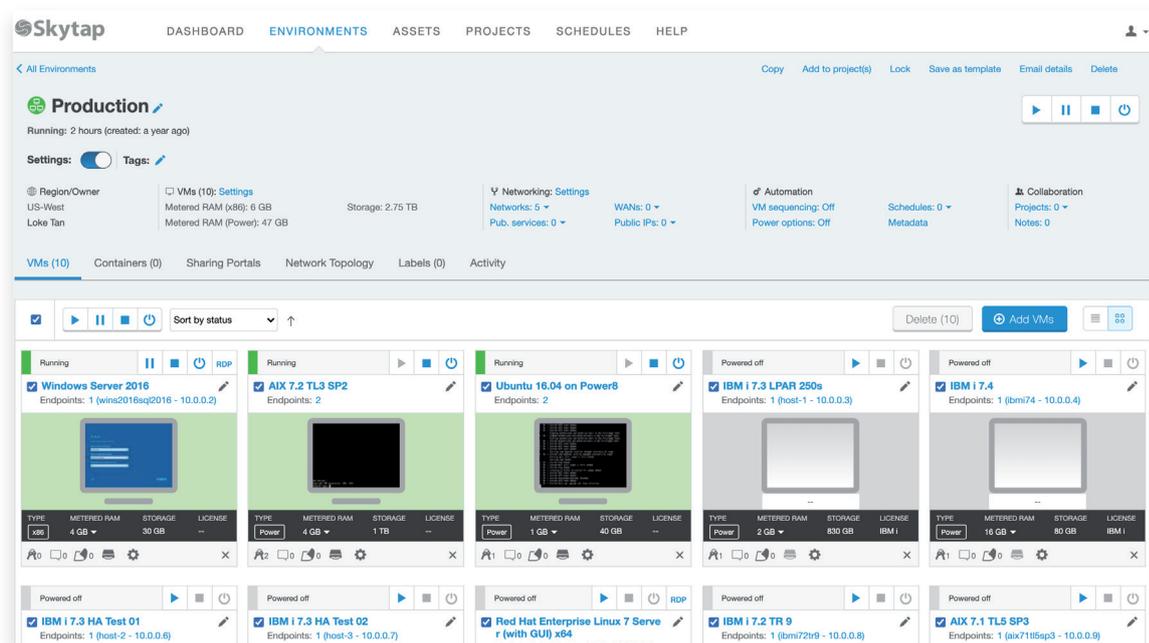
Highly Available	Traditional Application Support	Public or Private Option	Global Reach, Local Presence
99.95% availability SLA	AIX/IBM i/Linux on IBM Power Systems or x86 VMs	Choice of public or private data center regions	North America, EMEA, and APAC regions

Software-Defined Data Center Environments

Complex Application Environment Support	Software-defined Networking	Flexible Resources
Individual clone-able environments combine compute, networking, and storage for a full stack application	Unique support for complex Layer-2 and Layer-3 networking, along with secure VPN and NAT connections to external environments	Highly customizable compute, networking, storage, and OS resources, as well as BIOS access
Self-service Capabilities	Templates	Environment Cloning
Instant, on-demand provisioning and access to production-quality environments	Read-only templates of configured environments allow instant provisioning	Exact copies of complete application environments prevent configuration drift
Environment/VM Automation	Easy Migration	Straightforward Integration
Support for popular tools via REST APIs, CLI, and automation packs allows automation of managed VMs and environments	Skytap's container-based Advanced Import Appliance helps validate and import VMs to Skytap environments	REST APIs and open-source integration allow the use of existing tools

Why Choose Skytap?

Public cloud providers largely focus on cloud-native applications and workloads and, as such, typically require significant configuration and rewriting or rearchitecting in order to migrate traditional applications, workloads, or complex environments. Skytap abstracts many of the complexities found in cloud environments so that traditional applications operate in their native format, while retaining all their environmental configurations, including infrastructure, storage, networking, OS, middleware, and memory state. Your teams can use and work with applications and workloads as they always have, while gaining access to cloud capabilities they didn't have before.



Here's what makes Skytap the right choice for any use case that benefits from moving to the cloud:

Unique technical capabilities allow traditional Power workloads to run in the cloud as they exist in data centers, including network configurations. During the process of importing VMs, vApps, and LPARs, Skytap captures information to replace an application's complete, on-premises configuration, ensuring the integrity of complex, often fragile applications.

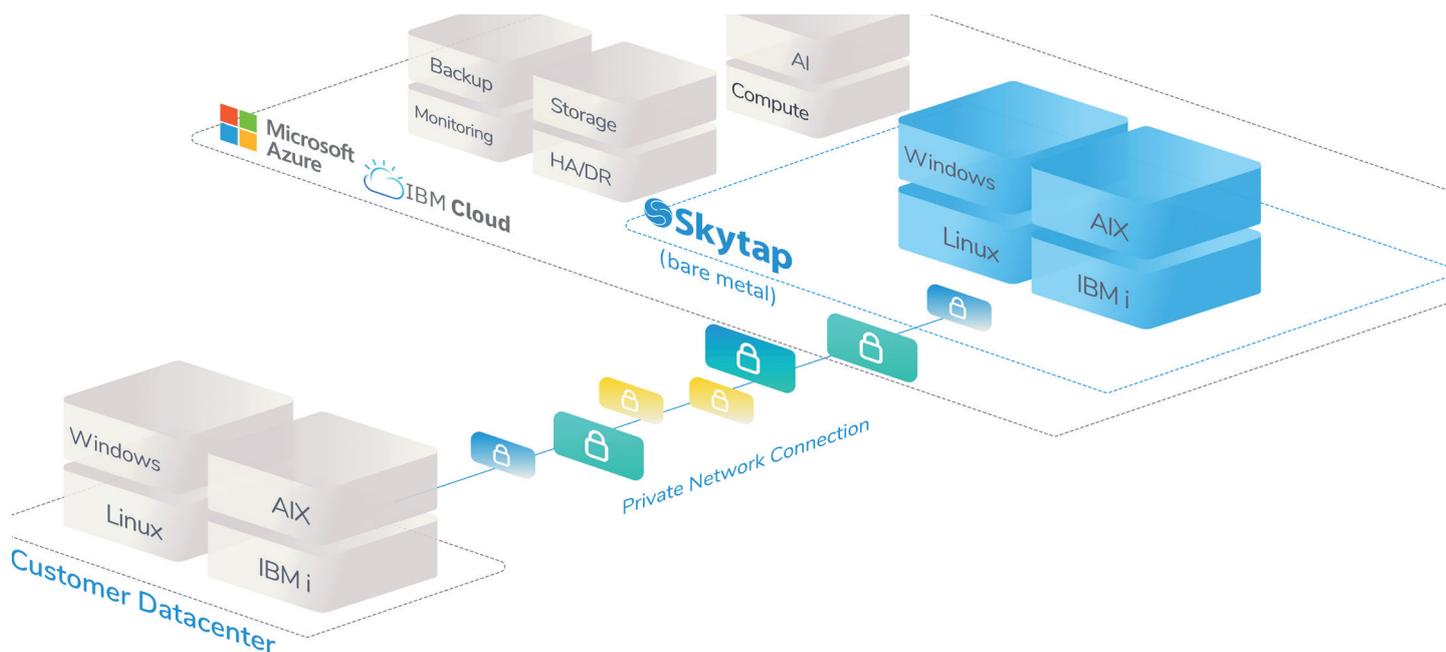
Production-quality environments that users can quickly replicate and delete when needed allow developers, testers, trainers, and demo teams to dramatically increase the pace, quality, and scalability of their work.

Easy access to cloud capabilities including a rich, easy-to-use portal, environment self-provisioning, and REST APIs make it easy for users to start being productive right away, and put a full range of cloud services within reach for traditional applications.

How Skytap Works

1. Create environments by importing VMs, vApps, or LPARs. Skytap mirrors an application's complete, on-premises configuration, allowing it to be migrated without change.
2. View environments, which include everything the application needs from VMs to network and development resources.
3. View and manage networks, which are replicated during import. Software-defined networks replicate on-premises topologies down to layers 2 and 3. Configurations can include VPN connections to external clouds or data centers.
4. Save templates – once environment and network configurations are complete, each can be saved as a single read-only template that can be easily shared.
5. Enable self-service access to templates so users can deploy a new, running environment with a single click.
6. Create template library of personal, company, or Skytap public templates
7. Manage access and usage quotas by users, group, or department
8. Track usage by resource, region, department, groups, or users

Take the [Skytap Product Tour](#) to learn more.



Get Started Today

Your organization no longer has to undertake a major overhaul to bring your traditional applications into the cloud. With Skytap, you can easily move your applications and workloads as they exist, and take advantage of the cloud's scalability, flexibility, and agility. Your business can innovate and become more responsive to customers, while scaling to address changing business needs.

Skytap is readily available on Azure Marketplace and in the IBM Cloud catalog, along with a global network of cloud service partners and systems integrators, so you can quickly and easily begin taking advantage of cloud capabilities with little up-front investment and minimal risk.



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