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DESIGN STUDY

Hospital group off vSphere onto AHV: 420 VMs in Sunday-night windows, 228 retired drives to sanitize

Complete design on current platforms

CAPABILITY	INDUSTRY	SETTING
Implementation Services	Healthcare	Regional hospital group
DOCUMENT	**VERSION**	**DATE**
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Document control

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Sign-off	"An engagement under this design is signed by the practice lead before any build proceeds."		

Contents

1 · Scope 3
1c · Public implementations this design follows 4
2 · Requirements register 5
3 · Architecture overview 6
4 · Design by subsystem 6
5 · Failure behavior 7
6 · Limits 8
7 · Lessons learned 8
8 · The author 8

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CONVENTIONS

Source tags. [S] figure read from the vendor's or publisher's own current page between Sep 24, 2026 and Sep 28, 2026 · [S*] figure from the publisher's summary or a secondary report, where the publisher's full text could not be read on that date · [A] design assumption, to be confirmed by the signing engineer · [T] design target: the record's outcome figure and anything derived from it. No figure comes from any engagement, file or asset. A row with more than one tag is counted once: as a published figure if any tag is [S] or [S*], otherwise as an assumption if any tag is [A], otherwise as a design target.

Table 1. Revision history

Date	Version	Change
Sep 27, 2026	1.0	First issue.
Sep 29, 2026	1.1	Target release recorded: the plan proceeds on AOS 7.6; the Projects 2.0 construct named.
Oct 10, 2026	1.2	Approval line now reads: approved by the Founder, issued by Symbeeo. Steve Phillips remains the author.

1 · Scope

Who it is for. The head of infrastructure of a hospital group that has already chosen Nutanix AHV as its next hypervisor and now has to move every clinical and business VM onto it without a downtime that reaches a ward, then get the old hosts, and the patient data on their disks, out of the building on the record.

Typical buyer [A]. A regional hospital group, three hospitals, one primary data center. 420 VMs: 60 % Windows, 40 % Linux; 150 TB of VM disk; 38 ESXi 7.0 hosts on 6 local drives each, 228 drives in total. The electronic health record, laboratory, imaging archive and pharmacy systems are among the 420. Clinical downtime procedures exist and are rehearsed. The target AHV cluster is installed and tested before this work starts.

What is in. Application grouping and dependency order; the Nutanix Move deployment; pre-seed and test migration per group; the window plan, go/no-go and rollback; decommissioning and media sanitization of the 38 hosts; handover.
What is out. The design and build of the AHV cluster (SDD-DC-001 path); upgrades of any clinical application; backup redesign; certification of each clinical application on AHV, which is the application vendor's to give.

Assumptions. Nutanix is the target platform vendor, decided before this work (SRA-IMP-001 D4) [A]. The group's change authority grants Sunday 00:00–05:00 windows, with clinical downtime procedures invoked for the systems in the window [A]. Retired drives may not leave the building unsanitized, and the group's security officer witnesses sanitization [A]. Target AOS 7.6, the newest AOS family (7.6.0.6, Aug 2026), maintained to the end of Oct 2027 and supported to the end of Jul 2028 [S]. Nutanix no longer designates long-term-support releases: every AOS family is maintained for 15 months after its release, then troubleshooting only for 9 months [S], so the newest family gives the longest maintained life. AOS 7.3 leaves maintenance at the end of Sep 2026, before window 1, and AOS 7.5 at the end of Mar 2027, about two months after the last window [S]; neither is chosen.

Related documents, read Sep 24, 2026.

- SRA-IMP-001, SDD-IMP-001, STP-IMP-001 — this capability's reference architecture, design and test plan
- Nutanix Move 6.3 release post, Jul 29, 2026 — https://next.nutanix.com/product-updates/nutanix-move-6-3-45782
- Nutanix blog, Supercharge your VM migrations to Nutanix AHV, Mar 16, 2026 — https://www.nutanix.com/blog/supercharge-your-vm-migrations-to-nutanix-ahv
- NIST, SP 800-88r2 Guidelines for Media Sanitization, Sep 26, 2025 — https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2025/09/guidelines-media-sanitization-nist-publishes-sp-800-88r2

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- HHS, Guidance to Render Unsecured Protected Health Information Unusable, Unreadable, or Indecipherable to Unauthorized Individuals, content last reviewed Jul 26, 2013, read Sep 27, 2026 — https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/breach-notification/guidance/index.html
- NetBox v4.6 release notes — https://netboxlabs.com/docs/netbox/release-notes/version-4.6
- Nutanix, End of Support Life Information, AOS software releases, read Sep 27, 2026 — https://portal.nutanix.com/page/documents/eol/list?type=aos
- Nutanix, Support Policies and FAQs, §2.1 AOS maintenance and troubleshooting, read Sep 27, 2026 — https://www.nutanix.com/support-services/support-policies-and-faqs
- Nutanix Move 6.3 User Guide, Requirements (ESXi to AHV), last updated Sep 25, 2026, read Sep 27, 2026 — https://portal.nutanix.com/page/documents/details?targetId=Nutanix-Move-v6_3:top-requirements-r.html

1c · Public implementations this design follows

Table 2. Public implementations this design follows

Implementation	Who published it · date	What it settles for this design	URL
A US nonprofit healthcare provider moved its seven-hospital system from VMware software onto the Nutanix Cloud Platform (AOS and Prism Central), with the switch made between September 2023 and March 2024	Nutanix, The Forecast, article on a hospital system's move from VMware to Nutanix · Jul 18, 2025 · public deployment	That a multi-hospital estate has been moved off vSphere onto Nutanix on a months-long schedule, the shape of §4.4; the article names no migration tool and no window, so R2 and R6 do not rest on it	https://www.nutanix.com/theforecastbynutanix/industry/legacy-health-turns-from-broadcom-vmware-to-nutanix
Move migration to AHV: data pre-seeded, delta syncs, cutover with minimal disruption; test VMs created on the target in an air-gapped network before cutover	Nutanix blog · Mar 16, 2026 · vendor documentation, used to build our own design	The pre-seed, test and cutover sequence in §4.3–§4.4, and R5's test boot before every window	https://www.nutanix.com/blog/supercharge-your-vm-migrations-to-nutanix-ahv
Move 6.3: ESXi-to-AHV migration, zero-copy migration from ESXi to AHV with supported external storage, partial migration completion despite individual VM failures	Nutanix Community · Jul 29, 2026 · vendor documentation, used to build our own design	The tool version in R2 and §3; zero-copy is not used because the source hosts carry local disks (§4.2)	https://next.nutanix.com/product-updates/nutanix-move-6-3-45782
Electronic media cleared, purged or destroyed consistent with NIST SP 800-88 render protected health information unusable to unauthorized individuals	HHS, breach notification guidance · content last reviewed Jul 26, 2013 · published standard, used to build our own design	Why R11 names SP 800-88r2 for the 228 retired drives	https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/breach-notification/guidance/index.html

The dated HHS guidance page above was read in full, and R11 carries it at [S]. The hospital-system article was read in full on Sep 27, 2026.

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2 · Requirements register

Table 3. Requirements register

#	Requirement	Value	Source
R1	VM estate	420 VMs · 150 TB · 38 source hosts · 228 drives	[A]
R2	Migration tool	Nutanix Move 6.3, ESXi source to AHV target	[S] Move 6.3 release post
R3	Version fit	source ESXi 7.0: Move 6.3 requires ESXi 6.5 or later. Target AOS 7.6 (7.6.0.6): maintained to Oct 2027, supported to Jul 2028. The plan proceeds on AOS 7.6 on the evidence in §6; the Move release notes are read again before window 1, as for every version pin	[S] Move 6.3 user guide, Requirements, Sep 25, 2026; [S] Nutanix AOS EOL table, read Sep 27, 2026; [S*] Move 6.3 built for the 7.6 release, read Sep 28, 2026
R4	Migration method	data pre-seeded while the VM runs; delta syncs; final sync at cutover	[S] Nutanix blog Mar 16, 2026
R5	Test before window	every VM of a group test-booted on AHV in an isolated network in the week before its window	[S] test VMs in an air-gapped network; [T] every group
R6	Windows	Sunday 00:00–05:00; one application group per window	[A]; SRA-IMP-001 D5
R7	Group size	≤ 40 VMs; one pilot group of 12 non-clinical VMs first	[T]
R8	Outage per group	inside the 5 h window; clinical application owner signs the data-and-function check	[T]; SRA-IMP-001 R14
R9	Rollback	trigger at 03:30 if the owner's check has not passed; source VM powered off and held 14 days	[A]
R10	Rollback rehearsal	pilot group cut over and rolled back end to end once in a rehearsal slot at least a week before window 1; pilot re-migrated for good in window 1; first clinical group in window 2	[T]; SRA-IMP-001 R13
R11	Media sanitization	every retired drive sanitized to NIST SP 800-88r2, method per IEEE 2883, certificate per serial, before it leaves the building	[S] NIST; [S] HHS guidance
R12	Record	every VM, group, owner, host serial and drive serial in one source of truth	[S] NetBox 4.6; [A] tool choice
R13	Handover	as-built and sanitization record delivered ≤ 10 working days after the last window	[T]; SRA-IMP-001 R16

Thirteen rows; six carry a publisher figure (R2, R3, R4, R5, R11, R12), three are design assumptions (R1, R6, R9), four are design targets (R7, R8, R10, R13).

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3 · Architecture overview

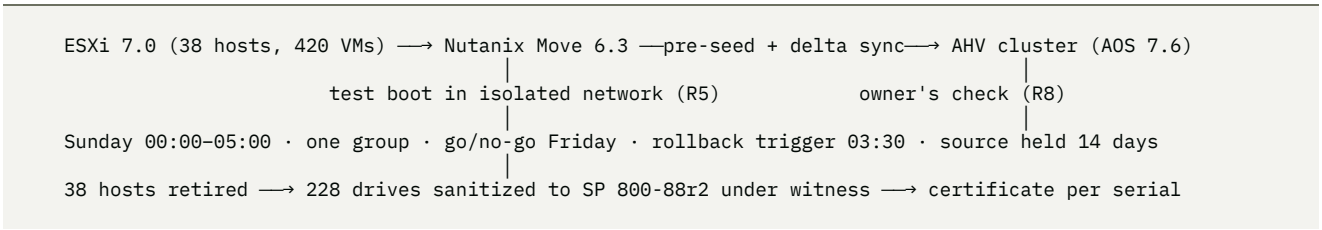


Figure 1. Hypervisor migration and host retirement

One migration tool, one window per group, one record from the first inventory to the last sanitization certificate. The platform is already chosen and built; what this design sells is the move and the disposal.

Table 4. Architecture overview

Role	Product (exact version)	Qty	Capacity used	Why this unit
Migration tool	Nutanix Move 6.3	1 appliance [A]	420 VMs in 12 groups [T]	ESXi to AHV; pre-seed, delta sync, test VMs [S]
Source	VMware ESXi 7.0 hosts	38	150 TB of VM disk [A]	the estate being left
Target	Nutanix AHV, AOS 7.6	1 cluster	420 VMs [A]	built and tested under the DC capability before window 1 [A]; newest AOS family, maintained to Oct 2027 [S]
Source of truth	NetBox 4.6	1	VMs, groups, owners, host and drive serials [A]	v4.6.0 released May 5, 2026; v4.6.10 on Sep 1, 2026 [S]
Sanitization	tool and method per media type, per IEEE 2883	per drive	228 drives [A]	SP 800-88r2 points to IEEE 2883 in place of technique tables [S]

4 · Design by subsystem

4.1 Grouping.

The 420 VMs are grouped from the group's own application inventory by dependency: interface engines move with the systems they feed; a database moves with, or before, every application that reads it [A]. Twelve groups: a pilot of 12 non-clinical VMs, then eleven groups of at most 40 (R7). Each group has a named clinical or business owner who signs its check [T]. The electronic health record and its interfaces take a group of their own [A]. Rejected: grouping by host — a host holds VMs of unrelated applications, and a rollback would then reverse systems that did not fail.

4.2 Move deployment.

One Move 6.3 appliance, the vCenter as source, the AHV cluster as target, network mappings set per VLAN before the pilot [A]. Move 6.3 adds zero-copy ESXi-to-AHV migration with supported external storage [S]; the 38 source hosts run on local drives, so every byte is copied over the network and zero-copy is not used here [A]. VirtIO drivers are installed in each guest before its test boot [A].

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4.3 Pre-seed and test.

In the week before a window, Move pre-seeds the group's disks while the VMs run and keeps them current by delta sync [S]. Each VM is then booted as a test VM on AHV in an isolated network [S]; the owner confirms the application starts and reads its data, with no route to production [T]. A VM that fails its test boot leaves the group and is re-planned; the group's window does not carry it [A].

4.4 The window.

Friday: go/no-go against the SDD-IMP-001 P7 form, signed by the change authority [A]. Sunday 00:00: clinical downtime procedures invoked for the group's systems; final delta sync and cutover; VMs powered on in AHV; owner's data-and-function check (R8). 03:30: if the check has not passed, the group rolls back to its source VMs, which were only powered off (R9). 05:00: window closes. Twelve windows are twelve Sundays, about three months at one window a week [T].

4.4a Rollback rehearsal and the pilot's return.

The rollback is rehearsed on the pilot (R10) in a rehearsal slot of its own: a weeknight 22:00–03:00 change the change authority approves as a rehearsal, at least one week before window 1, and not one of the twelve windows [A]. The 12 pilot VMs are non-clinical, so no clinical downtime procedure is invoked [A]. The pilot is cut over to AHV, its owner runs the check, and the group is then rolled back end to end by the R9 steps: AHV copies powered off, source VMs powered on and checked [T]. Because the source VMs then run and change again, Move pre-seeds the pilot afresh in the following week (§4.3), and **window 1 moves the pilot for good**. Window 2 is the first clinical group; windows 2–12 carry the eleven groups of R7. Twelve windows in all: the pilot's once, and each of the eleven groups' once.

4.5 Decommissioning and sanitization.

A host is powered off once all its VMs have passed their check and held 14 days (R9). Its drives are then sanitized under the security officer's witness. SP 800-88r2 replaces the earlier technique tables with a pointer to IEEE 2883 and adds trust in the vendor's sanitize implementation [S]; the method per drive model is chosen from IEEE 2883 and recorded [A]. A drive that fails verification is destroyed and the destruction is recorded against its serial [A]. HHS guidance treats electronic media cleared, purged or destroyed consistent with SP 800-88 as rendering protected health information unusable to unauthorized individuals [S], which is why this record is the one the group's privacy officer keeps [A].

4.6 Handover.

The as-built is an export of the source of truth: every VM with its group, owner, window and check; every retired host and drive with its certificate (R12, R13). The operations team walks one runbook, restoring a VM on AHV, with the Symbeeo engineer before signing receipt [A]. Hypercare 10 working days [A].

5 · Failure behavior

Table 5. Failure behavior

Failure	Behavior	Source
Pre-seed fails for one VM	Move 6.3 completes the rest of the plan; the VM is re-seeded or re-planned	[S] partial migration completion; [A] re-plan
VM fails its test boot	VM removed from the group before go/no-go; source untouched	[A]
Final delta runs past 02:30	cutover stops for the unfinished VMs; they stay on ESXi and re-queue	[A]

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Failure	Behavior	Source
Owner's check fails	whole group rolls back at 03:30; source VMs powered on	[A] R9
Clinical downtime overruns 05:00	escalation to level 2 (SDD-IMP-001 §8.3); no further group that month until reviewed	[A]
Drive fails sanitization verification	drive destroyed under witness; record updated	[A]; [S] SP 800-88r2

6 · Limits

- Move 6.3's supported AOS versions are listed in the Move release notes on the Nutanix Support Portal, which needs a login and was not read; the Move 6.3 release post names Prism Central 7.6 support [S], and Move 6.3 shipped on Jul 29, 2026, two days after AOS 7.6 (Jul 27, 2026, Nutanix Community AOS 7.6 post [S]), with VM migration into Projects 2.0, the project construct Prism Central 7.6 introduced the same week (the unofficial Nutanix release timeline, timeline.ntnx.to, Move 6.3.0 and PC 7.6 entries [S*]; both read Sep 28, 2026) — strong evidence, but not the AOS list itself. **The plan proceeds on AOS 7.6.** The signing engineer reads the list again before window 1, as for every version pin; if it is absent, the plan either uses a later Move release that lists AOS 7.6 or targets AOS 7.5, maintained to Mar 2027 [S].
- The 40-VM group size assumes small final deltas; a database with heavy writes may need its own window.
- Clinical application support on AHV is each vendor's statement; this design does not hold them.
- Three months at one window a week assumes no clinical freeze; a freeze moves the calendar, not the method.
- Sanitization method depends on drive model; self-encrypting drives and spinning drives take different IEEE 2883 methods.

7 · Lessons learned

None yet — this is a design study; populated after the first build against it.

8 · The author

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SYMBEEO

Each vendor's tool shows you their option. We show you all of them against one requirement.

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Figures are as published by their sources on the dates given in this document; figures marked [A] are assumptions.

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