

CRN

NEWS, ANALYSIS AND PERSPECTIVE FOR VARs AND TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATORS

2020 Products *of the* Year

The Best Of The Best

CRN's Products of the Year awards for 2020 honor the very best partner-friendly products and services that launched over the past year—as chosen by solution providers themselves.

To get things started, our editors selected product finalists in 23 key technology categories for the IT channel among offerings from September 2019 to September 2020. The categories ranged from big data, to cloud infrastructure and collaboration, to security, servers and storage. We then asked solution providers to choose winners based on how the products rate on technology, revenue and profit opportunities, and customer demand. The survey received more than 5,000 product ratings from solution providers, and the product receiving the highest overall score in each category was named the winner.

Notably, several companies took home multiple top prizes in this year's contest: Cisco (with three category wins) and Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Microsoft and Lenovo (with two category wins each).

By Kyle Alspach



HYPERCONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE

CISCO HYPERFLEX

WINNER: OVERALL

Built on Cisco's UCS server portfolio, Cisco's HyperFlex hyperconverged infrastructure system enables the benefits of cloud (such as agility and a pay-as-you-go model) while also supporting distributed computing across multiple sites. HyperFlex leverages data optimization technologies and integrated fabric networking to help enable many types of workloads and offers configuration options such as all-flash, all-NVMe, hybrid and edge. Key capabilities include comprehensive management via the Cisco Intersight platform, while recent updates have included the launch of the HyperFlex Application Platform. The platform enhances the combination of HyperFlex systems with Kubernetes container orchestration, addressing the issue of how to provide persistent storage to containers.

