



HBI1576BU

A Year in the Life of an HCI Admin

Nigel Hickey, VMware, Inc.
John Nicholson, VMware, Inc.

#vmworld #HBI1576BU

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your
mark

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Pricing and packaging for any new features/functionality/technology discussed or presented, have not been determined.

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Agenda

Introductions

Day 0 through Day 365

Demo Time!

Resources

Q& A

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Speaker Introduction



Nigel Hickey

Technical Marketing Architect | vCenter Server

Personal Blog: www.nigelhickey.com

vSphere Blog: blogs.vmware.com/vsphere

Twitter: [@vCenterNerd](https://twitter.com/vCenterNerd)

Speaker Introduction



John Nicholson

Senior Technical Marketing Architect | vSAN

Personal Blog: thenicholson.com

vSAN Blog: blogs.vmware.com/virtualblocks

Twitter: [@Lost_Signal](https://twitter.com/Lost_Signal)

HCI Admin Life



Day 0 Setup

Excitement of a new cluster gives way to tedium



Design decisions

Multiple teams

200+ clicks per host

Chicken/Egg storage dependencies

Scale and consistency concerns

These people are bored/tired

vCenter Server “HCI Install”

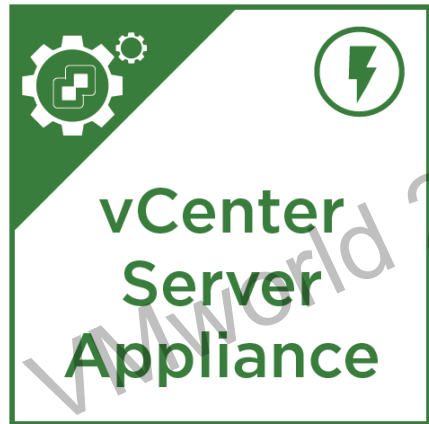
Creating a VSAN datastore during VCSA Deployment



External PSC Deprecation



DEPRECATED

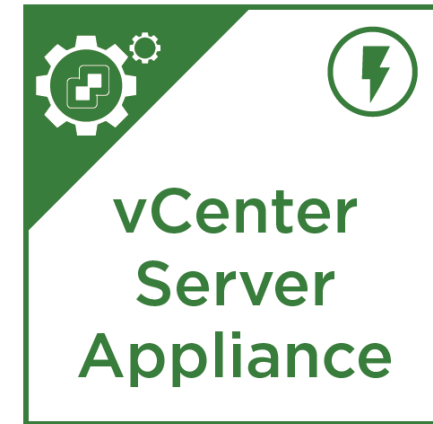


Recommended Deployment Model



Converge Tool

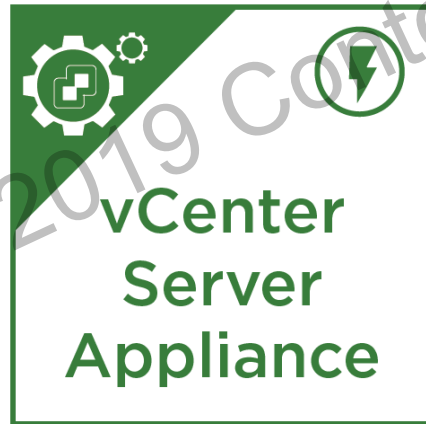
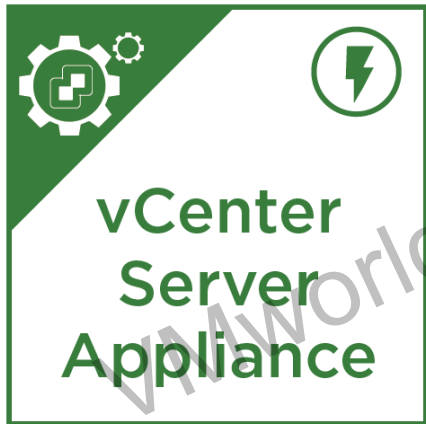
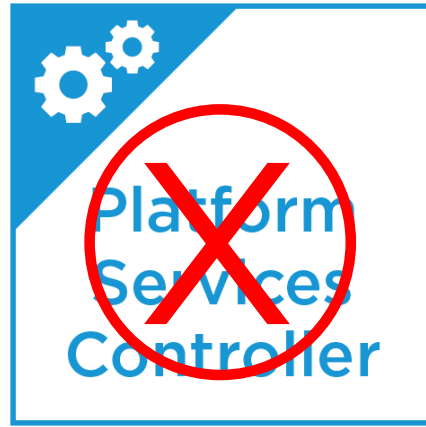
Embedded Deployment



<http://vmwa.re/goodbye-external-psc>

External PSC Deprecation

DEPRECATED

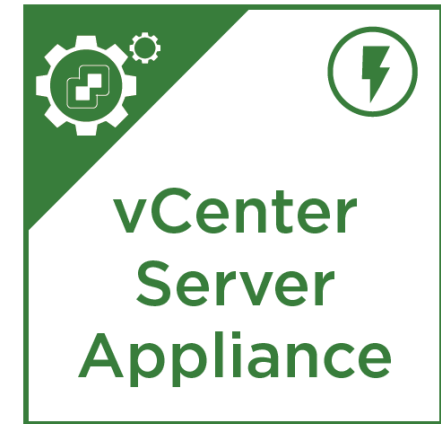


Recommended Deployment Model



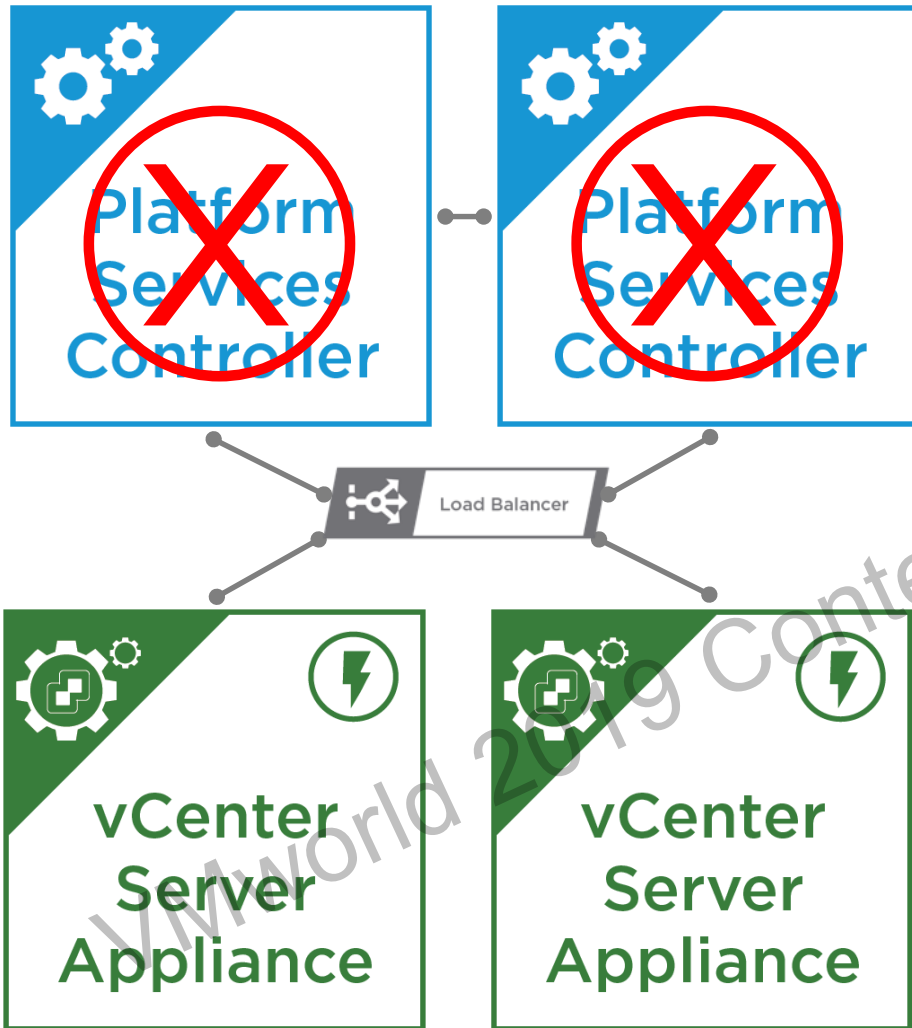
Converge Tool

Embedded Deployment



External PSC Deprecation

DEPRECATED

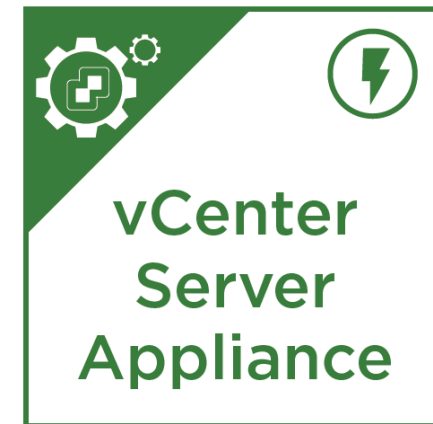


Recommended Deployment Model



Converge Tool

Embedded Deployment



External Platform Services Controller

Deprecated PSC Warnings (Installer UI)

External PSC Deployments

- Deprecated as of vSphere 6.7GA
- [KB 60229](#)
- Not available in a future vSphere Release (not update release)

Deprecation Warning

- Within UI & CLI

vm Install - Stage 1: Deploy appliance

- 1 Introduction
- 2 End user license agreement
- 3 Select deployment type
- 4 Appliance deployment target
- 5 Set up appliance VM
- 6 Select deployment size
- 7 Select datastore
- 8 Configure network settings
- 9 Ready to complete stage 1

Select deployment type

Embedded Platform Services Controller

vCenter Server with an Embedded Platform Services Controller

External Platform Services Controller Deprecating soon

Platform Services Controller

vCenter Server (Requires External Platform Services Controller)

⚠ The external Platform Services Controller deployment (PSC) is deprecated in this release of vSphere and will not be available in future releases. Deploy vCenter Server Appliance with an embedded Platform Services Controller. For more information, see <https://kb.vmware.com/s/article/60229>

CANCEL BACK NEXT

System Configuration Enhancements

System Configuration

- Table View
- Topology View
- VAMI Login

Converge in vSphere Client

- View Replication Partners
- Converge To Embedded
- Decommission PSC

The screenshot displays the vSphere Client interface for System Configuration. The left sidebar shows the navigation menu with 'System Configuration' selected. The main content area shows a table of nodes with the following data:

Node	Node health	Type	Version	Uptime
upg-dhcp-1570-vm-011.cpbu.lab	Good	PSC node	6.7.0.30000	3 days
upg-dhcp-1570-vm-012.cpbu.lab	Good	vCenter Server with external PSC	6.7.0.30000	3 days
upg-dhcp-1570-vm-013.cpbu.lab	Good	PSC node	6.7.0.30000	3 days
upg-dhcp-1570-vm-014.cpbu.lab	Good	vCenter Server with external PSC	6.7.0.30000	3 days

The 'CONVERGE TO EMBEDDED' button is highlighted in red. The 'vCenter Server with external PSC' node is selected, showing details:

- Node: upg-dhcp-1570-vm-012.cpbu.lab
- Version: 6.7.0.30000
- External Platform Services Controller: upg-dhcp-1570-vm-011.cpbu.lab
- Appliance management: LOGIN

Converge Tool UI

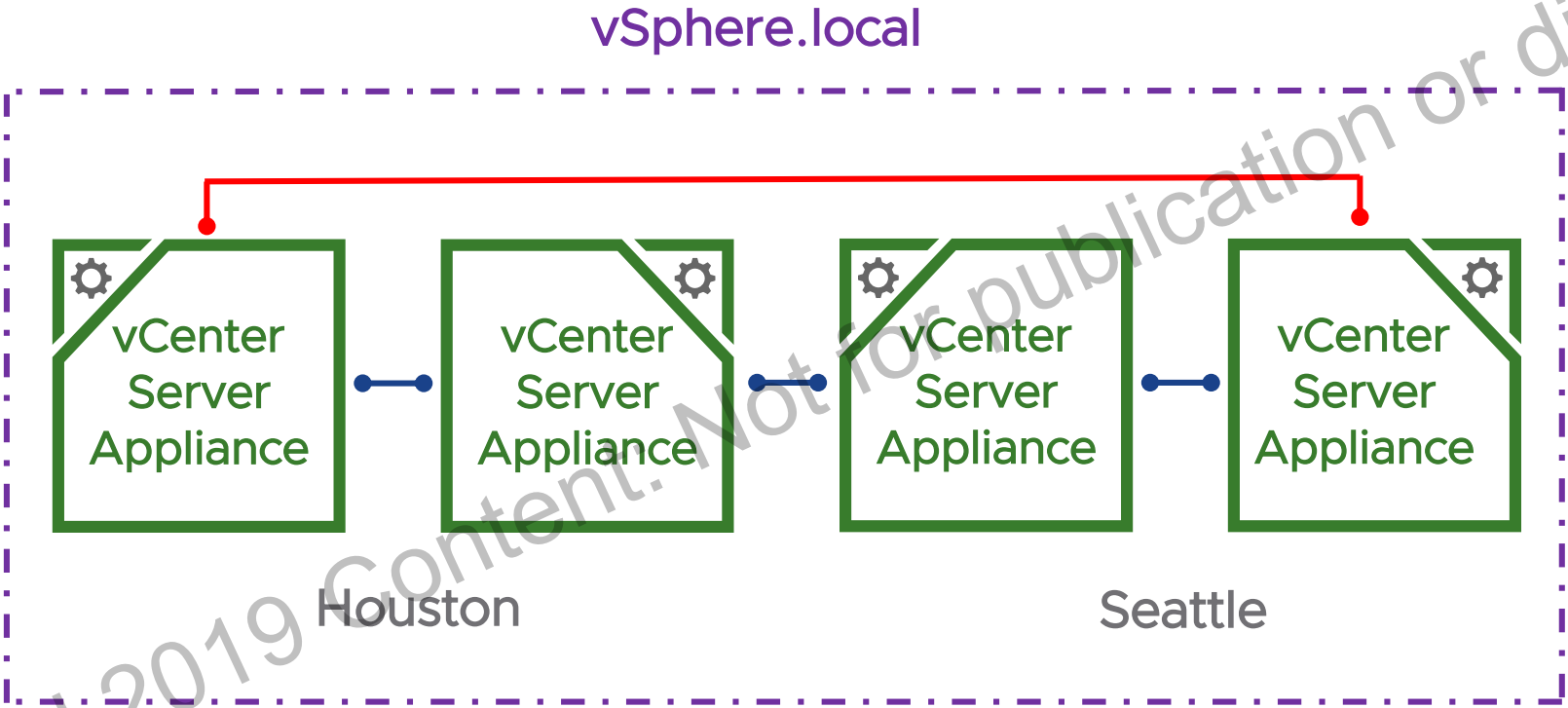
Animated Demo

The screenshot shows the vSphere Client interface with the 'System Configuration' page selected. The left sidebar contains navigation options under 'Administration', 'Deployment', and 'Support'. The main content area displays a table of nodes with columns for Node, Node health, Type, Version, and Uptime. The second node is expanded to show detailed configuration information.

Node	Node health	Type	Version	Uptime
upg-dhcp-1570-vm-091.cpbu.lab	Good	PSC node	6.7.0.30000	15 hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> upg-dhcp-1570-vm-096.cpbu.lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Node: upg-dhcp-1570-vm-096.cpbu.lab Version: 6.7.0.30000 External Platform Services Controller: upg-dhcp-1570-vm-095.cpbu.lab Appliance management: LOGIN 	Good	vCenter Server with external PSC	6.7.0.30000	14 hours
upg-dhcp-1570-vm-095.cpbu.lab	Good	PSC node	6.7.0.30000	15 hours
upg-dhcp-1570-vm-092.cpbu.lab	Good	vCenter Server with embedded PSC	6.7.0.30000	15 hours

4 Items

Simplified SSO Architecture



* SSO Sites will be going away and will no longer be required in the future

Change the FQDN of vCenter Server appliance (VCSA)

New in vSphere 6.7 Update 3

- Edit the FQDN/IP of vCenter Server

- Use Cases

- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Migrations from Windows to the Appliance
- Naming mistakes during deployment

- vCenter Server appliance ONLY

- Embedded Deployments

The screenshot displays the vCenter Appliance Management interface. The top navigation bar includes the VMware logo, 'Appliance Management', the date and time 'Mon 07-08-2019 03:53 PM UTC', and user options for 'English', 'Help', 'Actions', and 'root'. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Summary' selected, and other options like 'Monitor', 'Access', 'Networking' (highlighted with a red box), 'Firewall', 'Time', 'Services', 'Update', 'Administration', 'Syslog', and 'Backup'. The main content area shows the 'Summary' tab with a blue cube icon and a table of system details: Hostname (upg-dhcp-1570-vm-059.cpbu.lab), Type (vCenter Server with an embedded Platform Services Controller), Product (VMware vCenter Server Appliance), Version (6.7.0.40000), and Build number (14075911). Below this is the 'Health Status' section with a table showing 'Overall Health' as Good (last checked Jul 8, 2019, 10:53:25 AM) and individual components (CPU, Memory, Database, Storage, Swap) all in Good status. To the right is the 'Single Sign-On' section with a table showing 'Domain' as vsphere.local and 'Status' as Running.

Component	Status
Overall Health	Good (Last checked Jul 8, 2019, 10:53:25 AM)
CPU	Good
Memory	Good
Database	Good
Storage	Good
Swap	Good

Property	Value
Domain	vsphere.local
Status	Running

Cluster Quickstart

Hyperconverged Cluster Configuration

- Available in vSphere Client during new install or upgrade
- Multi host add
 - Validation
- Create & extend clusters
- Cluster and Network configuration
 - vSAN datastore
 - HA / DRS / EVC
 - VDS
 - NTP

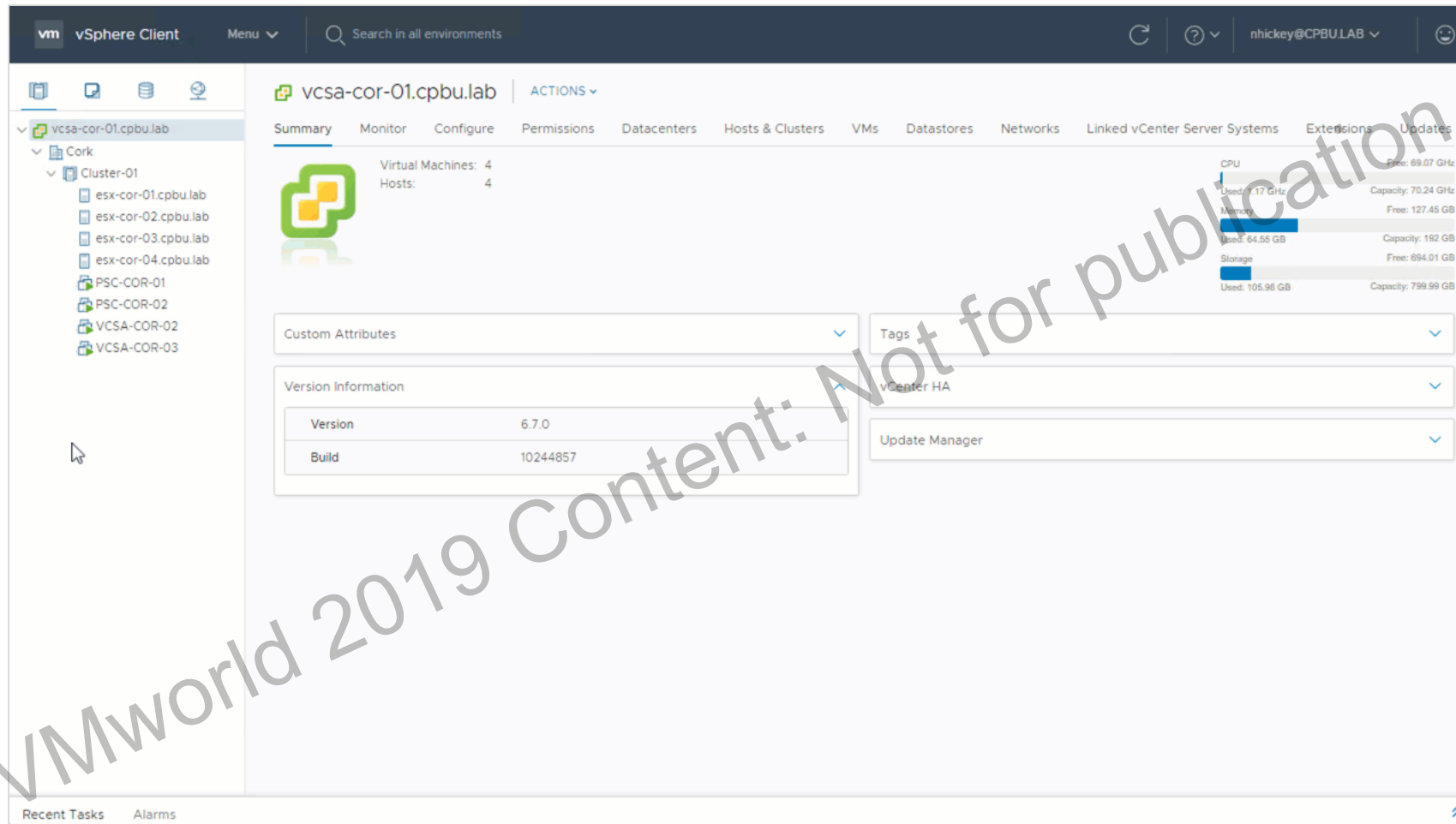
The screenshot shows the vSphere Client interface for configuring a cluster. The left-hand navigation pane shows a tree view with 'Cluster-01' selected under 'San Francisco'. The main content area is titled 'Cluster-01' and has tabs for 'Summary', 'Monitor', 'Configure', 'Permissions', 'Hosts', 'VMs', 'Datastores', 'Networks', and 'Updates'. The 'Configure' tab is active, showing the 'Cluster quickstart' wizard. The wizard has three steps: 1. Cluster basics (marked as complete with a green checkmark), 2. Add hosts, and 3. Configure cluster. Each step has a description and action buttons. A 'SKIP QUICKSTART' button is located in the top right corner of the wizard area.

Day 30

Are we running at our best?

Day 30

Are We Still Healthy?



Configuration Drift

Outdated
Drivers/Firmware

Finding issues can
be difficult

vSphere & vSAN
Health

vSAN and vSphere Update Manager Integration

Update software and firmware in a single maintenance cycle

MANAGEMENT

vSAN IO Controller
Firmware Tool now
integrated into VUM

Retrieves and
updates firmware
for the vSAN
Cluster

Can use vendor or
local repositories

Included in system-
managed baselines

VSAN-Cluster | ACTIONS ▾

Summary Monitor Configure Permissions Hosts VMs Datastores Networks Updates

Overview

Host Updates

UPDATE MANAGER HOME

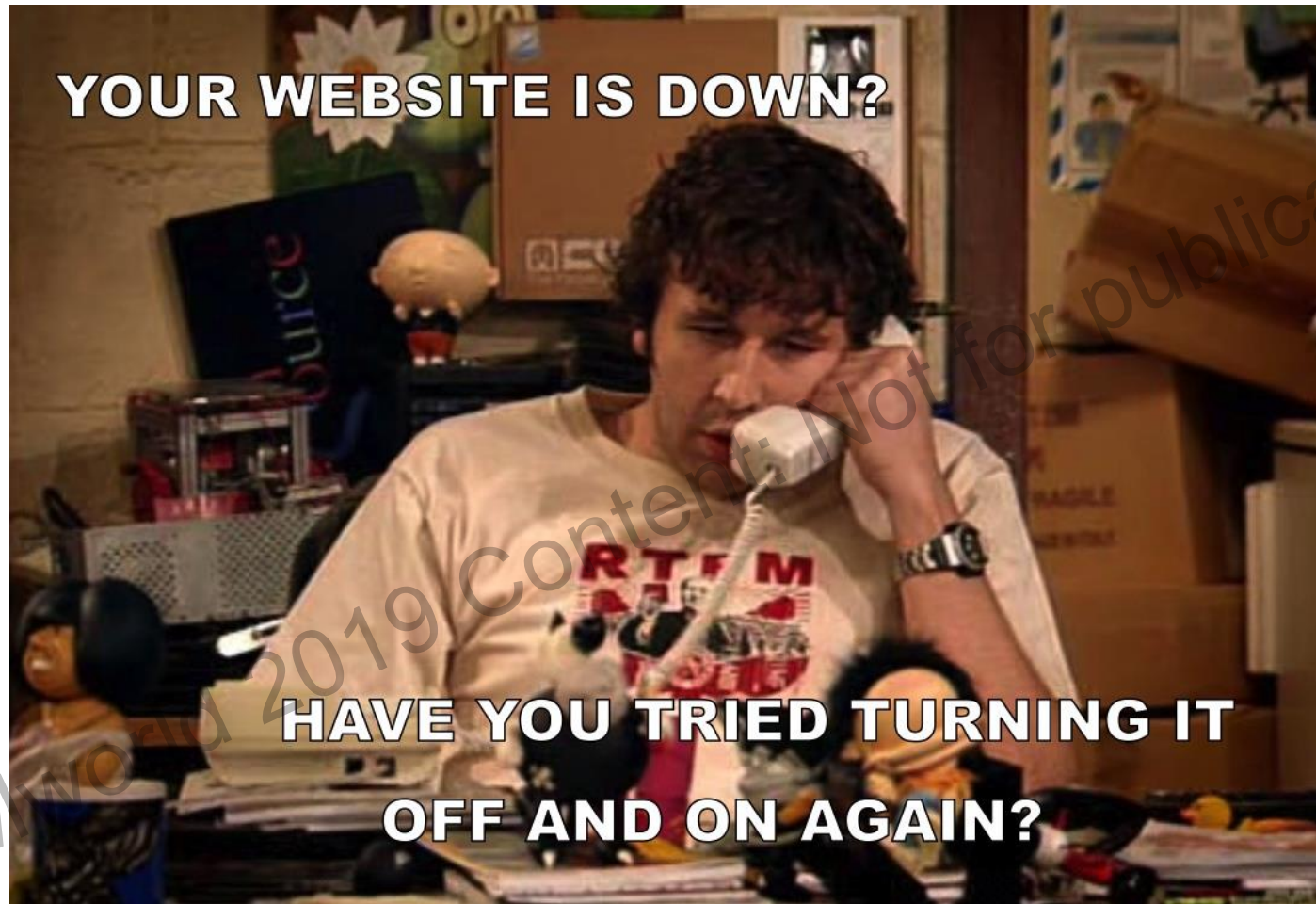
ATTACH DETACH REMOVE IMPORT FIRMWARE REMEDIATE

Attached Baselines and Baseline Groups

	Compliance	Content
<input type="radio"/> Host Security Patches (Predefined)	⚠ Not Compliant	Patch
<input type="radio"/> Critical Host Patches (Predefined)	⚠ Not Compliant	Patch
<input type="radio"/> VMware ESXi 6.5.0 U1 (vSAN 6.6.1, build 5969303) with vSAN recommended patches ESXi650-201712401-BG	⚠ Not Compliant	Patch
<input type="radio"/> vSAN Cluster 'VSAN-Cluster'	⚠ Not Compliant	Group

Day 180

EVERYTHING IS ON FIRE!



Status Quo

Logs

Configuration

Health

History

Things That Can Impact the Support Experience

Lost Logs

Embedded ESXi Installs
Log Rollover/age out

Communication

A customer in an outage may be stressed and not communicate correctly.
Human memory of when something happened may be poor
Blame games

Context and Completeness

Storage, Networking, Compute fault domains
Did this ever work?
History matters
Have to wait for issue to happen to troubleshoot

Enter a VC UUID to get all the data from VMware Analytics Cloud. By default the data is fetched from production server. Optionally, we can also fetch data from staging server by toggling the switch.

VC UUID: 150875eb-f28e-48c6-8cb5-f7bc0eb4a691

Fetch from VMware Analytics Cloud Staging

LOAD FROM VMWARE ANALYTICS CLOUD

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Download Obfuscation Map

Cluster → Monitor → vSAN → Support

cluster02 | ACTIONS ▾

Summary **Monitor** Configure Permissions Hosts VMs Datastores Networks Updates

- Recommendations
- Faults
- History
- CPU Utilization
- Memory Utilization
- Network Utilization
- ▼ vSphere HA
 - Summary
 - Heartbeat
 - Configuration Issues
 - Datastores under A...
- ▼ Resource Allocation
 - CPU
 - Memory
 - Storage
 - Utilization
 - Storage Overview

OBFUSCATION PERFORMANCE FOR SUPPORT

Download or view the translations of sanitized vSphere entities online in order to facilitate communication during the Support Request process between vSAN User and VMware Global Support.

More Info

[DOWNLOAD OBFUSCATION MAP](#) [VIEW ONLINE](#)

Support Tag	dc0eaa5c-3460-49ef-aeb2-09e886ad333a:52128e12-e85f-3073-d862-993bbab35101
CEIP Enabled	Enabled

Obfuscation Map

Txt file easy to read

```
"abacus-smithmill-vale": "10.198.16.244",  
"abbottstown-fanwood-bumpass": "[vsanDatastore] 2bd4815a-202c-7fdd-99e8-ecf4bbf0c380/VCSA-SFO-01_7.vmdk",  
"aberdeen-shohola-cora": "Local ATA Disk (naa.55cd2e404c17b6ce)",  
"abmps-senoia-woodhull": "fe80::250:56ff:fe60:3305",  
"abstract-mayhew-shavertown": "00:50:56:9c:e4:9c",  
"abundant-duxbury-glenham": "00:50:56:6c:2e:20",  
"acute-daviston-scranton": "9.2.2.0",  
"acute-quogue-harleigh": "Local VMware Disk (mpx.vmhba1:C0:T2:L0)",  
"acute-williams-rutherfordton": "[vsanDatastore] 0520835a-bc45-c29e-01f8-ecf4bbf0c1b0/sjc1.vmdk",  
"addison-coffeeville-corbin": "10.0.6.1",  
"adjacent-lenhartsville-rhodium": "Local ATA Disk (naa.55cd2e404c1664b4)",  
"adjacent-millheim-wayside": "NSX_Controller_73036424-aedd-418a-86ec-4d1608e8bf75",  
"advance-athol-maitland": "fe80::250:56ff:fe63:ccab",  
"afton-fultondale-bradshaw": "10.0.5.7:3260",  
"aggregate-bolivar-worcester": "00:50:56:67:b8:69",  
"airville-seoul-waltersburg": "ec:f4:bb:f0:c6:30",  
"albertson-krypton-devault": "255.255.192.0",  
"albion-lawn-colora": "[vsanDatastore] 8072605a-4408-a628-93d9-ecf4bbf0bb38/ibm-spp01_3.vmdk",  
"aleppo-metz-plainville": "[vsanDatastore] 2e26a859-1799-66e0-a287-ecf4bbf0af40/nfs01.vmdk",  
"algoma-goodspring-counce": "00:50:56:9c:2b:a6",  
"allentown-rixford-venango": "ec:f4:bb:f0:bd:aa",  
"allenwood-duncanville-aultman": "00:50:56:69:aa:3a",  
"allenwood-duncanville-aultman": "00:50:56:69:aa:3a",  
"allenwood-duncanville-aultman": "00:50:56:69:aa:3a"
```

Obfuscation Map

Upload file to Humbug to match

The screenshot shows the Humbug web interface for a vSAN cluster. The navigation bar includes 'Humbug', 'Home', 'Support / VAC', and 'Documentation'. Below it, a secondary navigation bar lists various support and reporting options. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar for cluster navigation and a central dashboard. The dashboard includes a date filter, action buttons, and several performance charts. A red box highlights the 'UPLOAD AN OBFUSCATION MAP' button in the top right of the dashboard area.

Showing data from 2018-02-13 15:32 UTC. [ASSOCIATE WITH SR](#) [REPORT HUMBUG/PRODUCT ISSUE!](#) **UPLOAD AN OBFUSCATION MAP**

General Performance Config VSAN Health VSAN Capacity VSAN Disks VSAN ISCSI VMs VSAN Objects Networkin

Overview

VMs	358
VC	6.6.0
ESXi	16 Hosts 16x vSAN 6.6 16x HP ProLiant XL170r Gen9 32x Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2680 v4 @ 2.40GHz 16x 384GB
vSAN	License: None found DG: 32x v5 Total: 95386.00 GB Used: 11682.61 GB (12 %) Objects: 3675 Components: 18500
Datstores	

vSAN Cluster Performance

Latency

latencyAvgRead latencyAvgWrite

iops

MBps

Alarms

- FAIL: Contr
- 2018-02-13 1
- The vSAN

Changes

Day 365: Time to Scale

How did we configure this?



It's been a year

When do we need to add capacity?

Does anyone remember how they configured this?

Demo

VMworld 2019 Content: Not for publication or distribution

Additional Resources

VMworld 2019 Content: Not for publication or distribution

HCI1894PU

Virtually Speaking Podcast

The future of IT: How do you fit in?

Pete Flecha
@pedroarrow

John Nicholson
@lost_signal



Storage Hub

<https://storagehub.vmware.com>

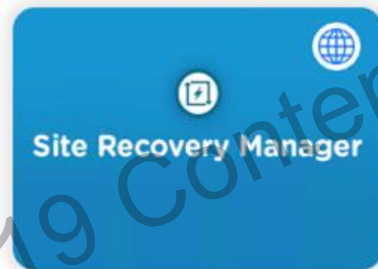
Storage and Availability Technical Documents

Q Search Site...

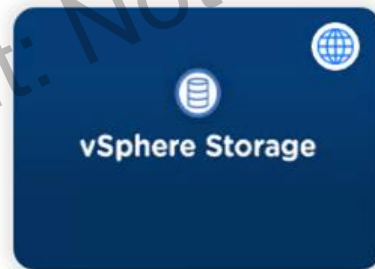
Categories



VMware vSAN



Site Recovery Manager



vSphere Storage

Repository of vSAN, SRM, and Storage resources including blogs, KBs, videos, and walkthroughs

Simple to access and a single URL to remember

Conveniently export resources to PDF for offline viewing

vSphere 6.7 Upgrade eBook! (Nigel Hickey & David Stamen)

<http://www.vmware.com/go/vsphere67-upgrade-ebook>



vSphere Central

<http://vspherecentral.vmware.com>

Curated repository of vSphere resources including blogs, KBs, videos, and walkthroughs

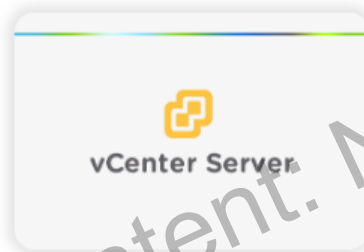
Simple to access and a single URL to remember

Conveniently export resources to PDF for offline viewing

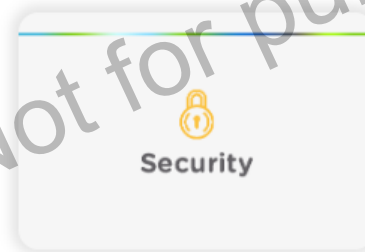
vSphere Central

Q Search Site...

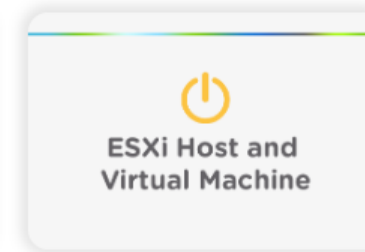
Categories



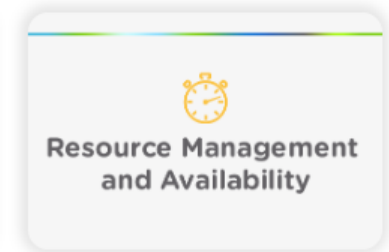
vCenter Server



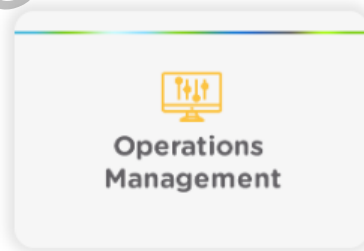
Security



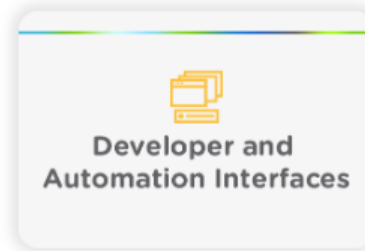
ESXi Host and Virtual Machine



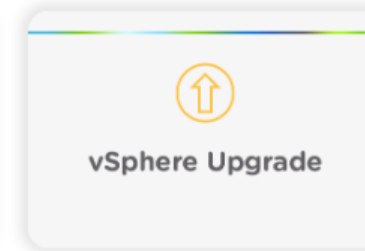
Resource Management and Availab...



Operations Management



Developer and Automation Interfac...



vSphere Upgrade

VMware Assessment Lounge

ASSESSMENT LOUNGE

Moscone West
Level 3 Lobby

HOURS

Sunday,	Aug. 25	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Monday,	Aug. 26	10:30 AM – 6:30 PM *
Tuesday,	Aug. 27	10:30 AM – 6:30 PM *
Wednesday,	Aug. 29	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday,	Aug. 30	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Closed for keynote 9:00 AM -10:30 AM

vSphere Assessment
Tool (vSAT)

Hyper-converged
Infrastructure (HCI)

Virtual Network
Assessment (VNA)

vSphere Optimization
Assessment (VOA)

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