

VSPHERE DATA PROTECTION

End of Availability

Q. What are you announcing today?

A. We are announcing the End of Availability (EOA) for VMware vSphere® Data Protection™, a general-purpose backup product available with every vSphere license. VMware vSphere 6.5 is the last release that includes vSphere Data Protection. Future vSphere releases will no longer include vSphere Data Protection.

Q. Why is VMware announcing End of Availability for vSphere Data Protection?

A. Customers have told us that they are interested in consolidating their backup and recovery solutions in support of their overall software-defined data center (SDDC) efforts. Moving forward, VMware will focus its investments on VMware vSphere Storage APIs – Data Protection to further strengthen the vSphere backup partner ecosystem, providing our customers with a choice of solution providers.

Today, Dell EMC is introducing a newly available option to help vSphere Data Protection customers protect their existing investments. vSphere Data Protection is based on Dell EMC Avamar Virtual Edition, a key solution for protecting and recovering workloads across the SDDC. Dell EMC is offering current vSphere Data Protection customers a free migration to the more robust and scalable Avamar Virtual Edition for backup and recovery of their overall SDDC environments.

Q. Will the existing releases/installations continue to be supported by VMware?

A. All existing vSphere Data Protection installations with active support and subscription (SnS) will continue to be supported until their End of General Support (EOGS) date. EOGS dates for vSphere Data Protection are listed on the VMware [Lifecycle Product Matrix](#) for versions 5.1, 5.5/5.8, 6.0, and 6.1. For information on what is provided during General Support and Technical Guidance, refer to the [VMware Lifecycle Policies](#).

Q. What are the data protection options for my VMware virtualized infrastructure after the EOA date?

A. VMware and Dell EMC are committed to minimizing any disruptions to customers and to enabling them to better protect their SDDC environments.

After the EOA date, customers can continue using their existing vSphere Data Protection installations until their EOGS dates.

Alternatively, since the product is based on Dell EMC Avamar Virtual Edition, Dell EMC is offering a more scalable solution, at no cost, that takes advantage of existing vSphere Data Protection capabilities. Customers can leverage this “limited time” promotional offer from Dell EMC to migrate from their existing vSphere Data Protection to Avamar Virtual Edition using the vSphere Data Protection UI. Additional information on vSphere Data Protection and the migration can be found [here](#).

Customers also have the option to switch to third-party data protection solutions that integrate with vSphere and VMware vCenter Server® by using the vSphere Storage APIs – Data Protection framework.

Q. Will this affect vSphere Storage APIs – Data Protection?

A. No, VMware continues to be committed to investing in the vSphere Storage APIs – Data Protection framework and will continue to enrich its feature set.

Q. What is the Dell EMC special offer to transition vSphere Data Protection to Dell EMC Avamar Virtual Edition?

A. Dell EMC has introduced an offer that enables existing vSphere Data Protection customers to transition to Avamar Virtual Edition. The offer includes the following:

- Three years of free licensing of Avamar Virtual Edition up to the first 4TB of protected data. Maintenance costs will continue to apply during this three-year period.
- A detailed migration guide for customers who wish to migrate any existing vSphere Data Protection backup data, backup jobs, and automated backup verification jobs to Dell EMC Avamar Virtual Edition or Dell EMC Data Protection Suite for VMware.

Q. How long will the Dell EMC special offer last?

A. The special offer will last for six months from the beginning of today's (insert date) EOA public announcement.

Q. What if I have more than 4TB of protected data?

A. Additional Dell EMC Avamar Virtual Edition licenses will need to be purchased to protect data beyond 4TB. Dell EMC also offers Data Protection Suite for VMware (which includes Avamar Virtual Edition) for protection needs beyond 4TB.

Q. What is Avamar Virtual Edition?

A. Avamar backup software is a virtual appliance that you deploy on vSphere. Avamar Virtual Edition delivers all the same features as vSphere Data Protection with more scalability including, but not limited to, application-consistent recovery and data protection extensions for VMware vRealize® and VMware vCloud Director®.

Q. What is Data Protection Suite for VMware?

A. The suite offers the same features as Avamar Virtual Edition with added features to accommodate tighter recovery point objectives and recovery time objectives (RPOs/RTOs). Features include backup and recovery, continuous data protection, monitoring and analysis, and Google-like search capabilities.

Q. The Dell EMC special offer will provide free licensing of Avamar Virtual Edition for three years. What happens after that?

A. After three years, customers will be required to purchase licenses to continue using Avamar Virtual Edition.

Q. What is the process for taking advantage of the Dell EMC special offer?

- A. Customers interested in the Dell EMC special offer should take the following steps:
1. They should reference the Dell EMC microsite (www.dellemc.com/vdpeoa) expressing their interest.
 2. Dell EMC sales will then qualify the customer further, provide the Avamar Virtual Edition licenses to enable the free offer, provide migration procedures, and so on.
 3. The migration process itself will be customer driven. The customer will install Avamar Virtual Edition and perform migration steps as outlined in the migration guide.

Q. Who should I contact if I have technical issues during the migration process for the Dell EMC special offer?

A. Any technical issues related to vSphere Data Protection, and the Avamar Migration feature that is built in to the product, should be directed to VMware technical support.

Any migration-oriented technical issues related to Avamar Virtual Edition or Dell EMC Data Protection Suite for VMware should be directed to Dell EMC technical support.

Q. Is the migration procedure similar for customers migrating from vSphere Data Protection to Dell EMC Data Protection Suite for VMware?

A. Yes, the procedure is the same, and customers can use the same migration procedure and guide to migrate to Avamar Virtual Edition, which is included in Data Protection Suite for VMware.

Q. Is there a similar migration to other backup products?

A. No, customers migrating vSphere Data Protection to other third-party backup products will use any migration procedures supported by those backup products.

Q. I currently use vSphere Data Protection to protect my VMware vCenter Servers. What are my options after the EOA date?

A. vSphere 6.5 introduces a new built-in backup and restore feature for Linux-based VMware vCenter Server® Appliance™. It is highly recommended that customers use this built-in backup and restore feature to continue protecting their vCenter Server® Appliance™. For more details on this feature, please see VMware.com for “what’s new” information for the vSphere 6.5 release.

If you are currently using vSphere Data Protection to protect vCenter Server for Windows, please consider migrating the data protection to Avamar Virtual Edition using the Dell EMC special offer.

Q. Will VMware introduce a new data protection solution to replace vSphere Data Protection?

A. There are currently no plans to introduce a vSphere native backup solution. Instead, VMware continues to invest in enriching the vSphere backup ecosystem using vSphere Storage APIs.

