

VMware vCenter Chargeback

Gain Cost Visibility and Policy-Driven Accountability

AT A GLANCE

VMware vCenter™ Chargeback enables accurate cost measurement, analysis, and reporting of virtual machines. With vCenter Chargeback, line-of-business owners and IT teams can gain visibility into the actual cost of the virtual infrastructure required to support business services. vCenter Chargeback provides the ability to map IT costs to business units, cost centers, or external customers—enabling a better understanding of how much resources cost and what can be done to optimize resource utilization. vCenter Chargeback also allows organizations to support policy-driven accountability for self-service environments so that business owners can “pay as they go” for IT resources.

KEY BENEFITS

- Improve resource utilization by gaining accurate visibility into the true costs of virtualized workloads.
- Enable line-of-business owners to have full transparency and accountability for self-service resource requests.
- Model infrastructure costs in a flexible way that fits organizational processes and policies.

How is vCenter Chargeback Used?

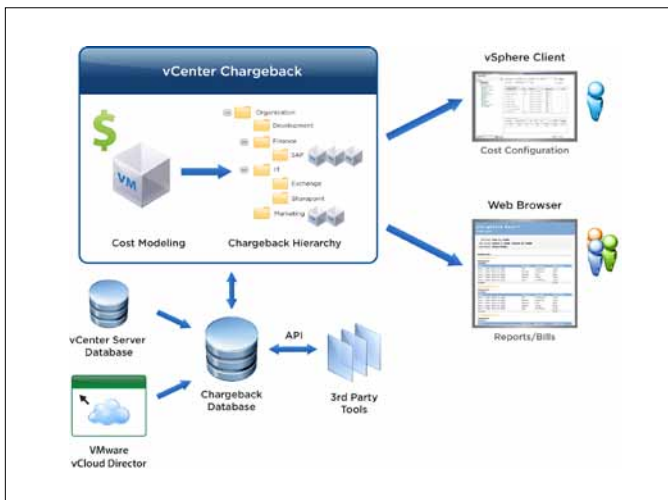
VMware vCenter Chargeback enables administrators to deliver IT as a service with a simple, flexible, and accurate chargeback model. Using vCenter Chargeback, administrators can:

- **Create customized cost models and metrics to suit organizational needs** – Flexible cost models allow IT to measure fixed costs, allocated costs, actual utilization or a mix of all three, tracking costs by business unit or group.
- **Gain accurate visibility over virtualization costs** – vCenter Chargeback captures accurate cost metrics for virtual environments, giving you insight into the true costs of provisioned systems. vCenter Chargeback takes into account many different factors, ranging from hardware costs (CPU, memory, storage, etc.) to additional elements such as power and cooling.
- **Enable the delivery of IT as a service** – vCenter Chargeback provides a charging foundation for enabling cloud computing. Used in conjunction with a self-service catalog, business owners can now have complete transparency into and accountability for the services they are consuming.

How Does vCenter Chargeback Work?

A Chargeback Hierarchy Makes it Easy to Manage Chargeback Models

Administrators create a chargeback hierarchy that provides the basis for determining cost structures and delivery of reports. The hierarchy can span multiple vCenter Server instances for organization-wide chargeback. Cost templates simplify and standardize the process of adding costs for virtual machines to the chargeback hierarchy. Any number of cost templates can be created to support different cost structures across the organization.



VMware vCenter Chargeback accurately identifies costs associated with virtual resources and automatically ties those costs back to the business. Chargeback maintains a database of cost and usage metrics gathered from vCenter Server, and integrates with VMware vSphere™ Client to simplify cost configuration.

Multiple Cost Models Provide Flexibility in Measuring Costs

vCenter Chargeback supports three different cost models:

1. **Fixed cost** – specific per virtual machine instance costs such as floor space, power/cooling, software or administrative overhead
2. **Allocation-based costing** – Variable costs per virtual machine based on allocated resources, such as the amount of memory, CPU or storage allocated or reserved for the virtual machine in vCenter Server
3. **Utilization-based costing** – Variable costs per virtual machine based on actual resources used, including average memory, disk and CPU usage, network I/O and disk I/O

Cost models can be combined in a cost template, making it easy to start with a simple chargeback model and align with organizational requirements.

Flexible Cost Accounting Allows Costs To Be Captured Accurately

Administrators can define base rates associated with metered elements (e.g. CPU, memory, disk, disk I/O or network I/O). Rate multipliers can be applied to different costing models at run-time, allowing IT organizations to account for use of higher-end storage or servers, or higher SLAs (e.g. DR or backup included, production vs. dev systems). Metered elements that are not needed can also be easily disabled.

Key Features of vCenter Chargeback

vCenter Chargeback allows administrators to gain visibility into infrastructure costs and deliver IT as a service with a simple, flexible and accurate chargeback model.

Create Customizable Cost Models

Administrators can customize their chargeback model with unique cost information and flexible cost models. vCenter Chargeback:

- Supports allocation-based costing, utilization-based costing, or a combination of both to fit an organizations unique costing policies.
- Maintains reusable cost templates that allow the process of adding cost models to VM's to be standardized.
- Allows for entry of base costs, fixed costs, one-time costs, multiple rate factors, and overage fees to model true costs.

Report Infrastructure Costs Accurately

vCenter Chargeback automatically creates detailed reports that can be submitted to business units within an organization or used by IT for decision-making and planning. This provides organizations a clear view of resources consumed and their associated costs, eliminating the perception that virtual machines are “free.” vCenter Chargeback:

- Generates cost reports that can provide comparison of cost models and resource usage for specified periods of time.
- Allows for customizable report templates allow reports that contain unique header, footer, logo, title, etc. to fit company or business unit brand standards.
- Reports on the most used and most expensive virtual machines, allowing organizations to gain visibility into the largest contributors to datacenter costs, which in turn makes it easier to drive and prioritize efficiency efforts.

Drive Accountability in Cloud Environments

Administrators have a key building block for delivering IT as a service. vCenter Chargeback:

- Meter resources managed in VMware vCloud Director, including broadband network traffic, public IP addresses, and other services such as DHCP, NAT, and firewalling.
- Automate creation of vCloud Director chargeback hierarchies based on vCloud Director organization virtual datacenters and vApps.
- Support vCloud Director resource management models and enables pay-as-you-go, reservation pool, and allocation pool charging for resources.

Find Out More

For information or to purchase VMware products, call 1-877-4-VMWARE (outside of North America dial +1-650-427-5000), visit www.vmware.com/products, or search online for an authorized reseller. For detailed product specifications and systems requirements, please refer to the VMware vCenter Server Chargeback documentation.

