VMware vCenter Converter

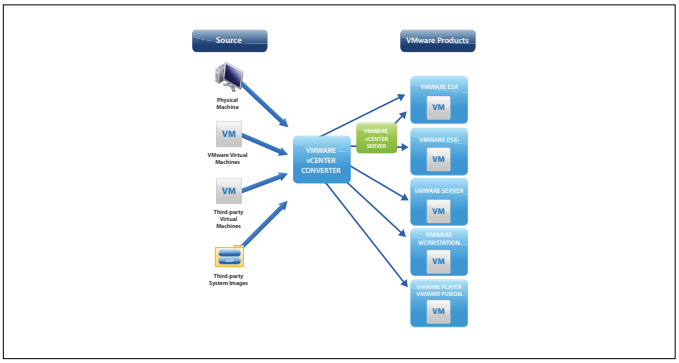
Enterprise-class migration tool for converting physical machines to VMware virtual machines

AT A GLANCE

VMware vCenter™ Converter is a highly robust and scalable enterprise-class migration tool that automates the process of creating VMware virtual machines from physical machines, other virtual machine formats and third-party image formats. Through an intuitive wizard-driven interface and a centralized management console, VMware vCenter Converter can quickly and reliably convert multiple local and remote physical machines—without any disruptions or downtime.

BENEFITS

- Minimize downtime by converting physical machines running Windows® and Linux operating systems to VMware® virtual machines quickly, reliably and without any disruption.
- Simplify integration by converting third-party formats such as Parallels Desktop, Symantec Backup Exec System Recovery, Norton Ghost, Acronis, StorageCraft and Microsoft Virtual Server/ Virtual PC to VMware virtual machines.
- Save time and money with centralized management of remote conversions of multiple physical servers or virtual machines.
- Ease provisioning by populating new virtual machine environments quickly from a large directory of virtual machine appliances.
- Ensure conversion reliability by taking quiesced snapshots of the guest OS on the source machine before data migration.
- Eliminate source server downtime and reboot with non-disruptive conversions through hot cloning.



How is VMware vCenter Converter Used?

VMware vCenter Converter reduces the amount of time IT professionals spend on migrating to a virtual infrastructure by enabling fast, reliable and non-disruptive conversions from physical to virtual machines, and from older virtual machines to newer formats.

- Convert dozens or even hundreds of physical machines VMware virtual machines during a server consolidation project. VMware vCenter Converter automates this process and reduces the time and effort required to manage these multiple large-scale conversions.
- Convert between multiple types or generations of VMware virtual machines. For example, virtual machines created by VMware Server in a lab environment can be directly migrated to VMware vSphere™ 4 in production environments.
- Create virtual machine clones of physical or virtual machines and archive them to a file server at an alternative site for disaster recovery. In the event of a disaster, the cloned virtual machines can be deployed on VMware Server or VMware vSphere to provide end users with access to their files or applications.

How Does VMware vCenter Converter Work?

VMware vCenter Converter is managed through a simple, task-based user interface that enables users to convert physical machines, third-party disk image formats or VMware Consolidated Backup images of virtual machines to VMware virtual machines in three easy steps:

- Step 1: Specify the source physical server, virtual machine or third-party format to convert.
- Step 2: Specify the destination format, virtual machine name, and location for the new virtual machine to be created.
- Step 3: Create/convert virtual machines to a new destination and configure them. VMware vCenter Converter achieves faster conversion speeds using sector-based copying (vs. file-level copying in other products). VMware vCenter Converter first takes a snapshot of the source machine before migrating the data, resulting in fewer failed conversions and no downtime on the source server.

VMware vCenter Converter communicates directly with the guest OS running on the source physical machine for hot cloning these machines, without any downtime and, as such, has no direct hardware-level dependencies.

With cold cloning, the VMware vCenter Converter Boot CD provides a Windows PE boot environment that provides support

for the latest hardware and is thus able to recognize most physical server systems. For instances where the VMware vCenter Converter BootCD does not recognize the source physical hardware, VMware provides a utility that helps administrators download the necessary storage/ network adapter drivers from the vendors' website and inject those drivers into the BootCD distribution. This capability can be used to create a new BootCD image that will help recognize the system hardware.

What Version of VMware vCenter Converter Should I Use?

The following table lists the high-level product specifications for both VMware vCenter Converter versions.

How Do I Get VMware vCenter Converter?

VMware vCenter Converter Standalone is available as a free software download at: http://www.vmware.com/products/converter/get.html

VMware vCenter Converter (integrated version) is built-in as a module of VMware vCenter Server.

Find Out More

For information or to purchase VMware products, call 1-877-4VMWARE (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 Converter documentation.com/products, or search online for an authorized reseller. For detailed product specifications and systems requirements, please refer to the VMware vCenter Converter documentation.

	VMWARE VCENTER CONVERTER STANDALONE	VMWARE VCENTER CONVERTER (MODULE OF VMWARE VCENTER)
Product description	Feature-rich FREE product for physical to virtual (P2V), virtual to virtual (V2) migration	Enterprise-class product for managing and automating large scale P2V, V2V conversions
Support available?	✓ Needs to be purchased on a per incident basis	✓ Included in support for VMware vCenter Management Server
Target use	P2V, V2V migration projects	Large-scale server consolidation using VMware Infrastructure Centrally schedule and manage periodic conversion tasks
CORE CONVERSION FEATURES		
Hot cloning (convert physical machines while they are still running)	✓ Supports both local and remote* hot cloning options	✓ Supports both local and remote* hot cloning options
Hot cloning – P2V Synchronization	✓	
Hot cloning - Source OS	Windows 2K, 2K3, 2K8, XP, Vista, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 2.1, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, Red Hat Linux Advanced Server 2.x, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 8, 9, 10, Ubuntu 5.x, 6.x, 7.x	Windows 2K, 2K3, 2K8, XP, Vista
Local conversions	✓	✓
Remote conversion	✓	✓
Multiple simultaneous conversions	✓	✓
P2V Source / Destination	Supports conversion from physical machines, third-party images (Acronis, StorageCraft, Symantec) and virtual machines VMware ESX™, VMware ESXi, VMware vCenter, VMware Workstation, VMware Fusion™ can be a source or destination	Supports conversion from physical machines, third-party images (Acronis, StorageCraft, Symantec) and virtual machines VMware vCenter / VMware ESX / VMware ESXi should be either a source or a destination
ADVANCED AUTOMATION AND CONVERSION FEATURES		
Scheduled Conversions		✓
Recurring Conversions		✓
CLI		✓
VMware vCenter Integration		✓
Cold cloning (using a BootCD)		✓

vmware®

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