

vCenter Configuration Manager Foundation Checker User's Guide

vCenter Configuration Manager 5.3

vCenter Configuration Manager Foundation Checker 3.0

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About This Book

This guide, *VCM Foundation Checker User's Guide*, describes the process of installing, running, and analyzing the prerequisite checks performed by VMware vCenter Configuration Manager (VCM) Foundation Checker. These checks are required before installing the VCM application. This document contains the following information:

- Foundation Checker overview
- Installing Foundation Checker
- Running Foundation Checker
- Reviewing the Foundation Checker system results

VCM Foundation Checker User's Guide covers VCM 5.3 and Foundation Checker 3.0.

Intended Audience

This document contains information intended for system administrators who are experienced Windows, UNIX/Linux, Mac, or VMware virtualization system administrators and who are familiar with installing VCM.

To use the information in this guide effectively, you must have a basic understanding of how to configure network resources, install software, and administer operating systems. You also need to fully understand your network's topology and resource naming conventions.

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Introduction to Foundation Checker

The Foundation Checker is a tool used to verify that the machine designated as a VCM Collector meets all the prerequisites necessary for installing VCM. The prerequisites are described in the *VCM Hardware and Software Requirements Guide*.

The Foundation Checker is comprised of a series of system checks run on the Collector machine. If the checks run without error, you can begin installing VCM. If the checks identify missing components or incorrect configurations, you are instructed where to verify the component or configuration, and how to remedy the errors.

NOTE Do not proceed with the installation of VCM until the Foundation Checker is able to run all the checks with no errors.

You will most commonly encounter the Foundation Checker as part of the Installation Manager. If you are using this manual in the context of installing VCM, see "[Reviewing the Foundation Checker System Checks](#)" on page 13 for information about evaluating the results. However, you can run the Foundation Checker as a standalone application. The most common scenarios for installing and running the standalone application are as follows:

- If you are checking a designated Collector machine in advance of VCM installation.
- If you are adding a Collector to your VCM configuration and want to check the new machine in advance of installation.

Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of this manual provides information about installing and running the standalone version of the Foundation Checker.

IMPORTANT If you install and run the Foundation Checker before installation, it is important to uninstall the Foundation Checker before running the Installation Manager. If you do not uninstall, the Installation Manager will generate errors or consider the installation an upgrade and fail.

Installing Foundation Checker

The Foundation Checker is run as part of the VCM Installation Manager application. However, you can install a standalone version on your designated Collector machine to verify a VCM-ready configuration in advance of the full VCM installation.

To use Foundation Checker as a standalone application, you can install the Foundation Checker tool using the Installation Manager or download the Foundation Checker application from the Download VMware vCenter Configuration Manager. Do not install a standalone version of Foundation Checker on a machine that is already running VCM.

NOTE If you received Foundation Checker from a source other than the Installation Manager, see ["Running Foundation Checker" on page 11](#) for instructions. Take care to use the version of the Foundation Checker that supports the specific version of VCM you are installing.

Installing the Standalone Version of Foundation Checker

1. Insert the installation CD into the machine on which you are installing Foundation Checker. The Installation screen appears.

NOTE If the **Installation** screen does not appear automatically or if you are installing from a network location, navigate to the root directory on the CD or share and double-click `setup.exe`.

2. Click **Run Installation Manager**. The **Introduction** page appears.
3. Click **Next**. The **License Agreement** appears.
4. Select **I accept the terms in the license agreement**, and also indicate that you are an authorized agent or end user and that you have read the terms of the agreement.
5. Click **Next**. After identifying any components already installed on the machine, the **Select Installation Type** page appears.
6. Select the **Advanced Installation** check box to expand the installation options.
7. To install only the Foundation Checker, clear all the check boxes and then select **Foundation Checker** in the **Tools** list.
8. Click **Next**. The **Gathering System Information** page appears. The Installation Manager verifies that the machine has sufficient resources to support the Foundation Checker.
9. Click **Next**. The **Configure Components** page appears.

10. Use the default location or to change the location where the Foundation Checker tool is to be installed, type a new path in the text box or click **Change** to browse to the new location.
11. Click **Next**. The **Install Components** page appears.
12. Click **Install**.
13. When you are notified that the process is completed, click **Finish**. The application is installed.

Downloading the Standalone Foundation Checker

1. Log on to the Download VMware vCenter Configuration Manager (http://downloads.vmware.com/d/info/datacenter_downloads/vmware_vcenter_configuration_manager/5_0).
2. Download the Foundation Checker file. You must run the version of Foundation Checker associated with the version of VCM you are planning to install.
3. If the file does not self-extract and run, unzip the downloaded file.
4. Open a command prompt and browse to the location of the FoundationChecker.console.exe. See ["Running Foundation Checker" on page 11](#) for more information.

Running Foundation Checker

After Foundation Checker has been installed, you can run it on the machine you are validating. The standalone Foundation Checker is run from a command prompt.

1. Open a command prompt window.
2. At the command prompt, go to the directory where VCM Foundation Checker is installed. For example, `c:\Program Files\VMware\VCM\Tools\FoundationChecker`. Or, if you are working with downloaded and unzipped files from the Download VMware vCenter Configuration Manager web site, go to the directory where the unzipped files reside.
3. Type `FoundationChecker.console.exe -v -dispXform`. The `-v` command directs the application to run in verbose mode, displaying status of the checks as they run. The `-dispXform` command launches the Foundation Checker Results page, providing information about any changes you may need to make to prepare your machine for an installation. See ["Evaluating the Results" on page 14](#) for more information.

Command Prompt Parameters

Table 3-1. Foundation Checker Command Parameters

Parameter	Description
-help	Use this run-time parameter to display a complete list of available parameters.
-v	Use this parameter to run the application in verbose mode. You are presented with all application details while performing system checks.
-dispxform	Use this parameter to display the HTML page which presents the results of your checks after the Foundation Checker has run.
-cat	Use this parameter to check a particular category of checks. A list of check categories can be found in the Categories.xml file in the Datafiles\Input directory where you installed Foundation Checker.
-outputfile	Use this parameter with an output file name to output the results to a file. An example parameter is -outputfile c:\program files\VMware\VCM\Tools\FoundationChecker\results.txt. A .txt file is created in the folder where Foundation Checker is installed. This parameter is identical to the -so parameter.
-so	Use this parameter with an output file name to output the results to a file. An example parameter is -so c:\program files\VMware\VCM\Tools\FoundationChecker\results.txt. A .txt file is created in the folder where Foundation Checker is installed. This parameter is identical to the -outputfile parameter.
-xformresult <filename>	Changes the name of the results .xsl file. Defaults to ViewFCResults.xsl if not provided. The output file will be located in the Datafiles\Output directory where you installed the application. Changes the name of the results .xsl file. Defaults to ViewFCResults.xsl if not provided.
-inputfile	Use this parameter to use an custom input file used to check the machine. As part of the customer support process, VMware may provide a custom input file.
-configfile <filename>	Changes the name of the config XML file. Defaults to Config.xml if not provided.
-indir	Use this parameter to specify the root directory for data input.
-outdir	Use this parameter to specify the output directory for data.
-mach	Use this parameter to specify the name of the machine on which you want to run the application.
-debug	Use this parameter to provide a larger list of debug options from running Foundation Checker. The output file is located in the Datafiles\Output directory where you installed the application.

Reviewing the Foundation Checker System Checks

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To ensure a successful VCM installation, Foundation Checker performs a series of system checks to verify the existence of various applications and system prerequisites.

Components

The system checks evaluate the machine for the following component prerequisites.

- Operating System
- SQL Server 2005
- .NET Framework (3.5.1)
- Internet Information Services
- SQL Server Reporting Services
- Internet Explorer
- Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC)
- SQL XML

Displayed Information

The displayed information includes:

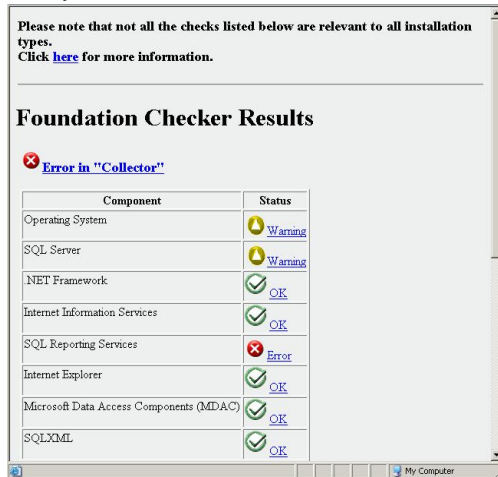
- **Component:** System check name.
- **Status:** Severity level (OK, Warning, or Error).
 - **OK:** Indicates the check was successful. No further action is required.
 - **Warning:** Indicates that a non-mandatory check has failed. VCM may not install or, if installed, it may not run optimally.
 - **Error:** Indicates that a required check has failed and VCM will not install.
- **Problem:** Provides a short description of the problem Foundation Checker identified during the assessment.
- **Fix:** Provides a short description of the remediation steps needed to fix the problem. This field also contains a link to a Help file describing steps you can take to remedy the problem.
- **Message:** Provides a description of what the expected values are for this System Check.

Evaluating the Results

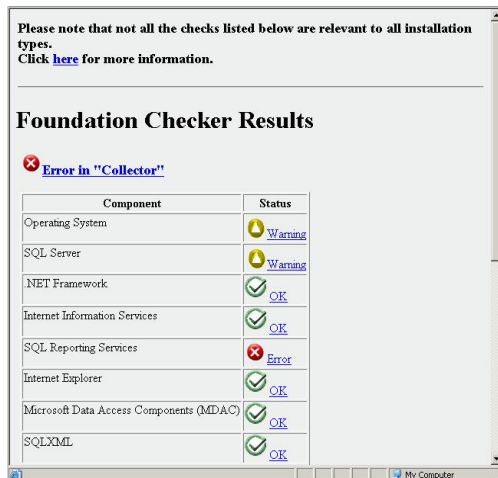
The system check results are saved as an HTML file. The HTML file is automatically displayed at the end of the checking process when the Foundation Checker is run with the `-dispxform` parameter.

You can also view the file using the following procedure.

1. Open the `FCResult.htm` file. The default location for the file is the `Datafiles\Output` directory where you installed Foundation Checker.



2. Click any of the **OK**, **Error**, or **Warning** links to expand the list of displayed checks for each component. Click on **Click here** for more information to view the steps for correcting any errors or warnings. See the following example:



NOTE VMware recommends that you address all **Errors** and review all **Warnings**. Warnings provide valuable information regarding configuration settings that may impact VCM performance.

IMPORTANT If you install and run the Foundation Checker before installation, it is important to uninstall the Foundation Checker before running the Installation Manager. If you do not uninstall, the Installation Manager will generate errors or consider the installation an upgrade and fail.

Other Troubleshooting Options

Additional troubleshooting options are as follows.

Table 4-1. Other Troubleshooting Options

Problem	Resolution
After running the Foundation Checker, the results file displays a large number of errors.	Carefully review and apply the configuration settings provided in the Hardware and Software Requirements, "Chapter 4: Software and Operating System Requirements – Collector Machines". Run the Foundation Checker again.
I receive errors when I run the Foundation Checker on a machine that has previously run the Foundation Checker without errors.	Reboot the machine and run Foundation Checker again.

Escalating Issues

If the steps provided to resolve the system check failures do not solve the warnings or errors, contact VMware Customer Support. Be prepared to provide the contents of the following folders.

- FoundationChecker
- _csi_installation

The Support team will use these files to evaluate your system checking errors. The folders are located in the installing user's Documents and Settings temporary folder, located under `C:\Documents and Settings\john.doe\Local Settings\Temp`, or use `%Temp%`.

