



**VMware, Inc.  
3401 Hillview Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94304, USA**

**Prospectus for the public offer of**

**4,748,141 shares of VMware, Inc. common stock  
each with a par value of US\$0.01  
under the VMware, Inc. Amended and Restated 2007 Employee Stock Purchase Plan  
to the employees of the European Economic Area subsidiaries of VMware, Inc.**

**March 23, 2016**

**International Securities Identification Number (ISIN): US9285634021  
German Securities Code Number (Wertpapier-Kenn-Nummer): A0MYC8  
Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures Number (CUSIP): 928563402**

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## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

### Note to the reader

Summaries are made up of disclosure requirements known as “elements.” These elements are numbered in Sections A – E (A.1 – E.7).

This summary contains all the Elements required to be included in a summary for this type of securities and issuer. Because some Elements are not required to be addressed, there may be gaps in the numbering sequence of the Elements.

Even though an Element may be required to be inserted in the summary because of the type of securities and issuer, it is possible that no relevant information can be given regarding the Element. In this case a short description of the Element is included in the summary with the mention of “not applicable” together with a short explanatory statement.

<b>Section A. — Introduction and Warnings</b>		
<b>A.1</b>		This summary should be read as an introduction to the prospectus. Any decision to invest in the securities should be based on consideration of the prospectus as a whole by the investor. Where a claim relating to the information contained in the prospectus is brought before a court, the plaintiff investor might, under the national legislation of the member states of the European Economic Area (“EEA”), have to bear the costs of translating the prospectus before the legal proceedings are initiated. Civil liability attaches to those persons who have assumed responsibility for the contents of the summary or presented the summary including any translations thereof, but only if the summary is misleading, inaccurate or inconsistent when read together with the other parts of the prospectus or it does not provide, when read together with the other parts of the prospectus, the required key information.
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Use of the prospectus for subsequent resale or final placement of securities by financial intermediaries.</b>	Not applicable. The issuer has not consented to the use of the prospectus for subsequent resale or final placement of securities.
<b>Section B — Issuer</b>		
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Legal and Commercial Name of the Issuer</b>	The legal and commercial name of the issuer is VMware, Inc. References in this summary to “VMware” or the “Company” means VMware, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise.
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Domicile and Legal Form of VMware, the Legislation under which the Issuer operates and its Country of Incorporation</b>	VMware is a corporation incorporated and existing under the laws of Delaware. VMware’s principal offices are located at 3401 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94304, USA. The Company incorporated in Delaware in 1998 and is registered with the Delaware Department of State, under registration number 2853894.
<b>B.3</b>	<b>Description of the Nature of VMware’s current Operations and its principal Activities and identification</b>	VMware pioneered the development and application of virtualization technologies with x86 server-based computing, separating application software from the underlying hardware. VMware is a leader in virtualization and cloud infrastructure solutions that enable businesses to transform the way they build, deliver and consume Information Technology (“IT”) resources in a manner that is evolutionary and based on their specific needs. The benefits to the Company’s customers include lower IT costs and a more automated and resilient systems infrastructure capable of responding dynamically to variable business demands.

**of the principal markets in which the issuer competes**

Over the years, the Company has increased its product offerings beyond compute virtualization to include offerings that allow organizations to manage IT resources across private clouds and complex multi-cloud, multi-device environments by leveraging synergies across these three product groups:

- SDDC or Software-Defined Data Center
- Hybrid Cloud Computing
- End-User Computing

VMware was the first company to articulate a vision for the SDDC, where increasingly infrastructure is virtualized and delivered as a service, enabling control of the data center to be entirely automated by software.

VMware incorporated in Delaware in 1998, was acquired by EMC Corporation (“EMC”) in 2004 and conducted its initial public offering of its Class A common stock in August 2007. EMC holds approximately 81.3% of the Company’s outstanding common stock, including 43 million shares of its Class A common stock as of December 31, 2015, and all of the Company’s Class B common stock, and VMware is considered a “controlled company” under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. On October 12, 2015, Dell Inc. (“Dell”), Denali Holding Inc. (“Denali”) and EMC entered into a definitive agreement under which Denali has agreed to acquire EMC. Under the terms of the agreement, VMware will continue to operate as a publicly traded company. Upon closing of the transaction, a portion of the merger consideration that EMC shareholders will receive will include shares of Class V common stock that will be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and issued by Denali. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, it is expected that approximately 0.111 shares of Class V common stock will be issued by Denali for each EMC share. Denali has disclosed that the Class V common stock will be a publicly traded tracking stock that, upon issuance, is intended to track the performance of an approximately 53% economic interest in the Company’s business. The closing of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement is subject to approval of the EMC shareholders as well as various regulatory approvals.

Total revenues in 2015 increased 9% to \$6,571 million. This is primarily comprised of license revenues of \$2,720 million and services revenues of \$3,927 million. Of the Company’s total services revenues in 2015, 87% comprised software maintenance revenues and the remaining 13% was comprised of professional services revenues, including training. Historically, the majority of the Company’s license sales have been from VMware vSphere, which is included in the Company’s compute product category within its SDDC product group. However, over the last two years, VMware vSphere license sales have declined. As the transformation of the IT industry continues, the Company expects that its growth will be increasingly derived from sales of its newer products, suites and services solutions across its three product groups. For example, the Company has experienced continued growth in sales volumes, production use and number of customers who have purchased VMware NSX, the Company’s network virtualization solution. In addition, the Company’s end-user computing solutions continue to grow driven in part by enterprise mobile management offerings.

Revenues by geographic area for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were as follows (table in millions):

	<b>For the Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
United States	\$ 3,311	\$ 2,912	\$ 2,485
International	3,260	3,123	2,722
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,571</b>	<b>\$ 6,035</b>	<b>\$ 5,207</b>

<b>B.4a</b>	<b>Recent Trends</b>	<p>The virtualization, cloud computing, end-user computing and software-defined data center industries are inter-related and rapidly evolving, and the Company faces intense competition across all the markets for its products and services. The Company faces competition from, among others, providers of public cloud infrastructure and SaaS-based offerings. As businesses increasingly utilize public cloud and SaaS-based offerings, they are building more of their new compute workloads off-premises. As a result, the demand for on-premises IT resources is expected to slow, and the Company's products and services will need to increasingly compete for customers' IT workloads with off-premises public cloud and SaaS-based offerings. The Company also faces competition from large, diversified enterprise software and hardware companies, companies offering competing platforms based on open source technologies, other industry alliances and its partners and members of its developer and technology partner ecosystem. The Company believes that the key factors in its ability to successfully compete include the level of reliability, interoperability and new functionality of its product and service offerings; the ability of its product offerings to support multiple hardware platforms, operating systems, applications frameworks and public cloud platforms; its ability to anticipate customer needs in rapidly evolving markets for IT resources; the pricing of its product and service offerings; the ability to integrate open source technologies that are critical in private and public cloud computing architectures; the ability to attract and retain key employees; and the ability to maintain and expand its ecosystem of technology partners, service providers and sales channel partners.</p>																																																							
<b>B.5</b>	<b>Organizational Structure</b>	Not applicable, because information regarding the organizational structure of VMware is not required to be provided elsewhere in the prospectus.																																																							
<b>B.6</b>	<b>Interests in VMware's Capital</b>	Not applicable, because information regarding VMware's capital structure is not required to be provided elsewhere in the prospectus.																																																							
<b>B.7</b>	<b>Selected Financial Information regarding VMware and subsequent material changes</b>	<p>The following selected financial data is derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 as published in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 which can be accessed as described in the section "Documents Available for Inspection" of this prospectus. The Company's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").</p> <p>Table in millions, except per share amounts, and shares in thousands</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1406 1396 2036"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">For the Year Ended December 31,</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">2015</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2014</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2013</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>Summary of Operations:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Revenues:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>License</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,720</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,591</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,270</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,927</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,444</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,937</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GSA Settlement</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(76)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total revenues</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6,571</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6,035</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 5,207</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,197</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,027</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,093</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">997</td> <td style="text-align: right;">886</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net income per weighted average share, basic, for Class A and Class B</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.35</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.06</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net income per weighted average share, diluted, for Class A and Class B</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.34</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.04</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weighted average shares, basic, for Class A and Class B</td> <td style="text-align: right;">424,003</td> <td style="text-align: right;">430,355</td> <td style="text-align: right;">429,093</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weighted average shares, diluted, for Class A and Class B</td> <td style="text-align: right;">426,547</td> <td style="text-align: right;">434,513</td> <td style="text-align: right;">433,415</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		For the Year Ended December 31,			2015	2014	2013	<b>Summary of Operations:</b>				Revenues:				License	\$ 2,720	\$ 2,591	\$ 2,270	Services	3,927	3,444	2,937	GSA Settlement	(76)	-	-	Total revenues	\$ 6,571	\$ 6,035	\$ 5,207	Operating income	1,197	1,027	1,093	Net income	997	886	1,014	Net income per weighted average share, basic, for Class A and Class B	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.06	\$ 2.36	Net income per weighted average share, diluted, for Class A and Class B	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.34	Weighted average shares, basic, for Class A and Class B	424,003	430,355	429,093	Weighted average shares, diluted, for Class A and Class B	426,547	434,513	433,415
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		December 31,		
		2015	2014	2013
		<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>		
	Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 7,509	\$ 7,075	\$ 6,175
	Working capital <sup>(1)</sup>	5,231	4,886	4,198
	Total assets	15,746	15,216	12,327
	Total unearned revenues	5,076	4,833	4,092
	Long-term obligations <sup>(2)</sup>	1,500	1,500	450
	Stockholders' equity	7,923	7,586	6,816
		<b>Cash Flow Data:</b>		
	Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,180	\$ 2,535
		<p>(1) During the fourth quarter of 2015, VMware early-adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-17, Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes, using retrospective application. This standard requires that all deferred tax assets and liabilities, and any related valuation allowance, be classified as non-current on the balance sheets. The updated standard has been applied retrospectively to all periods presented.</p> <p>(2) On January 21, 2014, in connection with the Company's agreement to acquire A.W.S. Holding, LLC ("AirWatch Holding"), the sole member and equity holder of AirWatch LLC ("AirWatch"), VMware and EMC entered into a note exchange agreement providing for the issuance of three promissory notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,500 million. The total debt of \$1,500 million includes \$450 million that was exchanged for the \$450 million promissory note outstanding in prior years.</p>		
<b>B.8</b>	<b>Pro Forma Financial Information</b>	Not applicable, because no historical financial information is required to be provided in the prospectus.		
<b>B.9</b>	<b>Profit Forecast</b>	Not applicable. This prospectus does not contain any profit forecast.		
<b>B.10</b>	<b>Qualifications in the Audit Report on the historical Financial Information</b>	Not applicable. There are no such qualifications in the auditors' report.		
<b>B.11</b>	<b>Working Capital Statement</b>	VMware believes that its working capital (i.e. its ability to access cash and other available liquid resources in order to meet its liabilities as they fall due) is sufficient to meet its present requirements for at least the next twelve months.		
<b>Section C — Securities</b>				
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Type and Class of the Securities being offered, including the Security Identification Code</b>	<p>The shares offered under the VMware, Inc. Amended and Restated 2007 Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP") are Class A common stock of VMware, par value US\$0.01.</p> <p>The International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) for the Company's common stock is US9285634021. The U.S. security identification (CUSIP) number for the Company's common stock is 928563402.</p>		
<b>C.2</b>	<b>Currency of the Securities Issue</b>	The United States Dollar is the currency of the securities issue.		
<b>C.3</b>	<b>Number of Shares Issued</b>	The Company had 421,946,696 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2015, with a par value of US\$0.01 per share, of which 121,946,696 shares were Class A common stock and 300,000,000 were Class B common stock.		

C.4	<b>Rights attached to the Securities</b>	<p>No participating employee will have any voting, dividend, or other shareholder rights with respect to any offering under the ESPP until the purchase rights have been exercised and the shares have been purchased and delivered to the participating employee. Following such purchase and delivery, the participating employee will be entitled to the rights attached to the shares, as further described below:</p> <p><i>Classes of Common Stock.</i> VMware has two classes of authorized common stock: Class A common stock and Class B common stock. Only Class A common stock is the subject of this prospectus.</p> <p><i>Dividend Rights.</i> Subject to preferences that may apply to shares of preferred stock outstanding at the time, the holders of outstanding shares of VMware’s Class A common stock and Class B common stock are entitled to receive dividends, out of assets legally available, sharing equally in all such dividends on a per share basis, at the times and in the amounts that VMware’s board of directors (“Board”) may determine from time to time. Dividend rights attach when shares of common stock are issued. However, stockholders do not become entitled to dividends until (and if) the Board declares a dividend. If dividends are declared, all stockholders of record as of a certain date set forth by the Board will be entitled to such dividends. If someone is not a stockholder of record on such date, he or she will not be entitled to any dividend payments.</p> <p>Under §1197 of Title 12 of the Delaware Code, dividends that are unclaimed for 3 years escheat to the State of Delaware. Specifically, dividends become subject to escheat after a period of dormancy which is the full and continuous period of 3 years during which an owner has ceased, failed or neglected to assert a right of ownership or possession.</p> <p>There are no dividend restrictions and no special procedures for stockholders resident in the European Union and the EEA.</p> <p><i>Conversion Rights for Class B common stock.</i> Each share of Class B common stock is convertible while held by EMC or its successor-in-interest at the option of EMC or its successor-in-interest into one share of Class A common stock.</p> <p>All conversions will be effected on a share-for-share basis.</p> <p><i>Voting Rights.</i> Except that holders of Class A common stock are entitled to one vote per share while holders of Class B common stock are entitled to 10 votes per share on all matters to be voted on by VMware’s stockholders and except with respect to the election of directors, conversion, certain actions that require the consent of holders of Class B common stock and other protective provisions, the holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock have identical rights.</p> <p>The holders of VMware Class B common stock, voting separately as a class, are entitled to elect 80% of the total number of directors on VMware’s Board which it would have if there were no vacancies on the Board at the time.</p> <p>Subject to any rights of any series of preferred stock to elect directors, the holders of VMware Class A common stock and the holders of VMware Class B common stock, voting together as a single class, are entitled to elect the remaining directors, which at no time will be less than one director. In any such election, the holders of Class A common stock and the holders of Class B common stock are entitled to one vote per share.</p> <p>Generally, all other matters to be voted on by stockholders must be approved by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at a meeting by all shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock present in person or represented by proxy, voting together as a single class, subject to any voting rights granted to holders of any preferred stock.</p> <p><i>No Preemptive or Redemption Rights.</i> VMware’s Class A common stock and Class B common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights to acquire shares of the Company’s common stock and are not subject to redemption or sinking fund</p>
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		provisions.  <i>Right to Receive Liquidation Distributions.</i> Upon VMware's liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of VMware's Class A common stock and Class B common stock are entitled to share equally in all of VMware's assets remaining after payment of all liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any outstanding preferred stock.
<b>C.5</b>	<b>Transferability</b>	The offering of shares under the ESPP has been registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on a registration statement on Form S-8 and the issued and outstanding shares of common stock are generally freely transferable.  A participant may sell shares purchased under the ESPP at any time he or she chooses, subject to compliance with any applicable securities laws, insider trading policies and applicable blackout periods. The participant assumes the risk of any market fluctuations in the price of the shares.
<b>C.6</b>	<b>Admission to Trading on a Regulated Market</b>	Not applicable. The Company's shares are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), which is not a regulated market within the meaning of the Directive 2004/39/EC, under the symbol "VMW." In Germany, the shares are traded on the unofficial market segment ("Freiverkehr") on the exchanges in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich and Berlin as well as on Tradegate under the symbol "BZF1". They will not be admitted for trading on any regulated market.
<b>C.7</b>	<b>Dividend Policy</b>	Subsequent to VMware's IPO in August 2007, the Company has not declared or paid cash dividends on its common stock. VMware currently does not anticipate declaring any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

#### **Section D — Risks**

Employees should carefully consider the risks described below, which are described in more detail under the caption "Risk Factors", and other information contained in this prospectus, and take these factors into account in making their investment decision. The occurrence of one or more of these risks alone or in combination with other circumstances may have a material adverse effect on the business and financial condition of the Company and cause the market price of the Company's shares to decline. In such case, employees could lose all or part of their investment. The prospectus contains all risks which the Company deems material. However, the risks described below may turn out to be incomplete and therefore may not be the only risks to which the Company is exposed. Additional risks and uncertainties could have a material adverse effect on the business and financial condition of the Company. The order of presentation of the risk factors below does not indicate the likelihood of their occurrence or the extent or the significance of the individual risks.

<b>D.1</b>	<b>Risks related to VMware or its Industry</b>	<p>Risks Related to VMware's Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMware's success depends increasingly on customer acceptance of its emerging products and services.</li> <li>• A significant decrease in demand for VMware's server virtualization products would adversely affect VMware's operating results.</li> <li>• VMware faces intense competition that could adversely affect its operating results.</li> <li>• The loss of key management personnel could harm VMware's business.</li> <li>• Competition for VMware's target employees is intense and costly, and VMware may not be able to attract and retain highly skilled employees.</li> <li>• Adverse economic conditions may harm VMware's business.</li> <li>• VMware may not be able to respond to rapid technological changes with new solutions and services offerings.</li> <li>• VMware is exposed to foreign exchange risks.</li> <li>• VMware's operating results may fluctuate significantly.</li> <li>• Breaches of VMware's cybersecurity systems could seriously harm VMware's</li> </ul>
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		<p>business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMware operate a global business that exposes it to risks resulting from the involvement of foreign jurisdictions and markets.</li> <li>• VMware’s current research and development efforts may not produce significant revenues for several years, if at all.</li> <li>• VMware may not be able to adequately protect its intellectual property rights.</li> <li>• VMware’s use of “open source” software in its products could negatively affect its ability to sell its products and subject VMware to litigation.</li> <li>• The evolution of VMware’s business requires more complex go-to-market strategies, which involve significant risk.</li> <li>• VMware’s success depends upon its ability to develop appropriate business and pricing models.</li> <li>• VMware’s products and services are highly technical and may contain errors, defects or security vulnerabilities.</li> <li>• Failure to effectively manage VMware’s product and service lifecycles could harm VMware’s business.</li> <li>• VMware’s success depends on the interoperability of its products and services with those of other companies.</li> <li>• Disruptions to VMware’s distribution channels could harm its business.</li> <li>• VMware’s vCloud Air and SaaS offerings rely on third-party providers for data center space and colocation services.</li> <li>• Joint ventures may not yield expected benefits and outcomes.</li> <li>• SaaS offerings, which involve compliance and data security risks, constitute an important part of VMware’s business.</li> <li>• VMware is involved in litigation and regulatory inquiries and proceedings that could negatively affect it.</li> <li>• Improper disclosure of personal data could result in liability and harm VMware’s reputation.</li> <li>• If VMware fails to comply with its customer contracts or government contracting regulations, VMware’s business could be adversely affected.</li> <li>• Acquisitions could harm VMware’s business and operating results.</li> <li>• If VMware’s goodwill or amortizable intangible assets become impaired, VMware may be required to record a significant charge to earnings.</li> <li>• Problems with VMware’s information systems could interfere with its business and could adversely impact VMware’s operations.</li> <li>• VMware may have exposure to additional tax liabilities, and its operating results may be adversely impacted by higher than expected tax rates.</li> <li>• Catastrophic events or geo-political conditions could disrupt VMware’s business.</li> <li>• Changes in accounting principles and guidance could result in unfavorable accounting charges or effects.</li> </ul> <p>Risks Related to VMware’s Relationship with EMC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMware’s stock price has declined significantly since the announcement of the Dell Acquisition, and its continuing pendency and potential completion may adversely impact VMware’s business and stock price in the future.</li> <li>• Holders of VMware’s Class A common stock have limited ability to influence</li> </ul>
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		<p>matters requiring stockholder approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMC has the ability to prevent VMware from taking actions that might be in VMware's best interest.</li> <li>• EMC has the ability to prevent a change in control transaction and may sell control of VMware without benefiting other stockholders.</li> <li>• If EMC's level of ownership significantly increases, EMC (or Denali, if the Dell acquisition is completed) could unilaterally effect a merger of VMware into EMC without a vote of VMware stockholders or the VMware board of directors at a price per share that might not reflect a premium to then-current market prices.</li> <li>• VMware engage in related persons transactions with EMC that may divert its resources, create opportunity costs and prove to be unsuccessful.</li> <li>• VMware's business and EMC's business overlap, and EMC and Dell may compete with VMware, which could reduce VMware's market share.</li> <li>• EMC's and Dell's competition in certain markets may affect VMware's ability to build and maintain partnerships.</li> <li>• VMware could be held liable for the tax liabilities of other members of EMC's consolidated tax group.</li> <li>• VMware has limited ability to resolve favorably any disputes that arise between VMware and EMC.</li> <li>• VMware's CEO, its CFO and some of its directors have potential conflicts of interest with EMC.</li> <li>• EMC's ability to control VMware's board of directors may make it difficult for VMware to recruit independent directors.</li> <li>• VMware's historical financial information as a majority-owned subsidiary of EMC may not be representative of the results of a completely independent public company.</li> </ul>
<b>D.3</b>	<b>Key Risks related to the Shares</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The price of VMware's Class A common stock has fluctuated substantially in recent years and may fluctuate substantially in the future.</li> <li>• If securities or industry analysts change their recommendations regarding the Company's stock adversely, its stock price and trading volume could decline.</li> <li>• Anti-takeover provisions in Delaware law and VMware's charter documents could discourage takeover attempts.</li> </ul>
<b>Section E — Offer</b>		
<b>E.1</b>	<b>Net Proceeds and Estimate of total Expenses</b>	<p>Assuming that each of the eligible employees uses the maximum of his or her accumulated contributions to purchase shares, the gross proceeds of VMware in connection with the offer under the ESPP pursuant to this prospectus would be US\$278,923,346.</p> <p>The costs of this offering consist of legal expenses in an amount approximately US\$40,000. After deduction of such costs the net proceeds, based on the above assumptions, would be approximately US\$278,883,346.</p>
<b>E.2a</b>	<b>Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds</b>	<p>The ESPP is intended to provide a method by which eligible employees of the Company and its subsidiaries may purchase shares of VMware's Class A common stock and therefore acquire an interest in the future of the Company.</p> <p>The Company may use the proceeds from the exercise of the purchase rights for any corporate purpose.</p>

E.3	<b>Description of the Terms and Conditions of the Offer</b>	<p>VMware has decided to offer eligible employees of its designated subsidiaries the opportunity to buy shares of VMware Class A common stock (“purchase rights”) under the ESPP.</p> <p>The ESPP is administered by VMware’s Board or a committee appointed by the Board (the “Compensation Committee”). VMware has designated E*TRADE Securities Inc. (“E*TRADE”) as the service provider for the ESPP. E*TRADE assists VMware with administration of the ESPP. Shares of Class A common stock to be delivered to a participant under the ESPP will be registered in the name of the participant or in the street name in the participant’s account at E*TRADE.</p> <p><i>Offered Shares</i></p> <p>The offered shares are the Class A common stock of VMware, par value US\$0.01. The total number of shares reserved for purchase under the ESPP is 14,300,000. As of December 31, 2015, 4,748,141 shares were available for purchase under the ESPP.</p> <p><i>Offering Period</i></p> <p>Offering periods are generally twelve months long but are subject to change at the discretion of the Board or the Compensation Committee. For the period covered by this prospectus, the offering periods will begin February 1, 2016, August 1, 2016 and February 1, 2017, whereby the first offering period begins prior to the approval of this prospectus and is covered by the prospectus dated March 24, 2015 and approved on March 26, 2015 and its supplement dated January 12, 2016 and approved on January 15, 2016. Each of these offering periods will last for twelve months and consist of two consecutive embedded six-month option periods. Shares are purchased at the end of each embedded option period using employee contributions made by way of payroll deductions during the embedded option period. The participant’s right to purchase Class A common stock under the ESPP will be exercised automatically on the last day of the respective six-month embedded option period, with respect to the amounts credited to the participant’s ESPP account.</p> <p><i>Contributions</i></p> <p>Participants contribute a percentage of their compensation towards the purchase of shares by way of payroll deductions. At the time a participant files his or her enrollment form, the participant indicates the percentage of compensation to be contributed to the ESPP which must be between two (2%) and fifteen percent (15%) of the employee’s eligible compensation. Contributions for the purchase of Class A common stock may not exceed US\$7,500 per six-month embedded option period (or an amount prorated for longer or shorter option periods). All payroll deductions authorized by a participant will be credited for his or her benefit under the ESPP. A participant may decrease or increase the rate of contributions by filing a written notice with VMware at least one business day prior to the first day of each six-month embedded option period of the offering period. The change in rate will become effective as soon as practicable thereafter.</p> <p><i>Eligibility to Participate</i></p> <p>Only employees of VMware or its designated subsidiaries that have completed two (2) months or more of continuous service prior to commencement of an option period are eligible to participate in the ESPP. Only employees whose customary employment is more than 20 hours per week are eligible to participate in the ESPP (unless otherwise required under applicable law) and whose customary employment is for more than five months in any calendar year. Employees elect to participate in the ESPP by filing an enrollment form with VMware. Participation is voluntary and may be terminated by the employee at any time. Participants who wish to withdraw from a particular period may do so anytime until 15 days before the end of the embedded option period. If a participant terminates employment with VMware or its subsidiaries for any reason, participation in the ESPP will be immediately terminated and any accumulated contributions to the ESPP will be returned to the terminated employee.</p>
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		<p><i>Purchase Price</i></p> <p>For a participant's first embedded option period, the purchase price is eighty-five percent (85%) of the stock's fair market value at the first or last trading day of the first embedded option period (<i>i.e.</i>, the purchase date), whichever price is lower, provided, however, that each twelve-month offering will expire early (on the first day of the second embedded option period) if the fair market value of the Company's Class A common stock on the first day of the second embedded option period is lower than the fair market value of the Company's Class A common stock on the first day of the first embedded option period, and all participants in the expired twelve-month offering will automatically be granted a new twelve-month offering commencing on the same day that the second embedded option period was scheduled to commence. If the twelve-month offering does not expire early, for a participant's second embedded option period, the purchase price is eighty-five percent (85%) of the stock's fair market value (i) at the first trading day of the second embedded option period or (ii) at the last trading day of the second embedded option period or (iii) at the first trading day of the first embedded option period, whichever price is lowest. The fair market value will be the closing price per share on the NYSE for the applicable date or if there is no such sale on the relevant date, then on the last previous day on which a sale was reported.</p> <p><i>Amendment and Termination of the ESPP</i></p> <p>The Board may at any time amend or terminate the ESPP, provided that no amendment will adversely affect a participant's outstanding purchase rights during an offering period without his or her consent. Stockholder approval may be required for certain amendments. Whether stockholder approval is required will be determined by the Board or the Compensation Committee and consistent with the rules and laws in effect at the time the ESPP amendment becomes effective.</p> <p><i>Commission</i></p> <p>E*TRADE has a commission fee of Euro 19.99 per online transaction in Germany and France and of £ 9.99 in the UK upon a sale of shares purchased under the ESPP.</p>
<b>E.4</b>	<b>Description of material Interest to the Offer including Conflict of Interests</b>	Not applicable, because information regarding such interests is not required to be provided elsewhere in the prospectus.
<b>E.5</b>	<b>Name of the Entity offering to sell the Security</b>	VMware, Inc.
<b>E.6</b>	<b>Maximum Dilution</b>	<p>The book value of the stockholders' equity of the Company (defined as total assets less total liabilities) as reflected in the consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP amounted to approximately US\$7,923,488,000 as of December 31, 2015. This is equivalent to approximately US\$18.78 per share (calculated on the basis of Class A and Class B shares totaling 421,946,696 outstanding shares as of December 31, 2015).</p> <p>Assuming net proceeds of US\$278,883,346, and the purchase of 6,670,972 shares, the implementation of the offering would lead to a direct increase in the book value of shareholders' equity of approximately US\$0.36 per share for the existing shareholders and an average dilution of approximately US\$22.67 per share for the eligible employee who purchased the shares and, thus, investors who acquire shares at the purchase price of US\$41.81 are diluted by about 54%.</p>
<b>E.7</b>	<b>Estimated Expenses charged to the</b>	Not applicable. There are no such expenses.

	<b>Investor by the Issuer</b>	
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## PROSPEKTZUSAMMENFASSUNG

### Hinweis an den Leser

Zusammenfassungen bestehen aus verschiedenen Offenlegungselementen, die als „Angaben“ bezeichnet werden. Diese Angaben sind unten in den Abschnitten A – E enthalten (A.1 – E.7).

Diese Zusammenfassung enthält alle Angaben, die in einer Zusammenfassung für die angebotene Art von Wertpapieren und diesen Emittenten erforderlich sind. Da bestimmte Angaben in der Zusammenfassung nicht enthalten sein müssen, können in der Nummerierung der Angaben Lücken auftreten.

Es kann vorkommen, dass im Hinblick auf eine bestimmte Angabe keine relevanten Informationen zur Verfügung gestellt werden können, obwohl die entsprechenden Informationen aufgrund der Art der angebotenen Wertpapiere und des Emittenten eigentlich zwingend in die Zusammenfassung aufzunehmen sind. In einem solchen Fall wird die entsprechende Angabe in der Zusammenfassung mit der Bezeichnung „entfällt“ und einer kurzen Begründung versehen.

<b>Abschnitt A – Einleitung und Warnhinweise</b>		
<b>A.1</b>		Diese Zusammenfassung sollte als Einführung zum Prospekt verstanden werden. Der Anleger sollte jede Entscheidung zur Anlage in die betreffenden Wertpapiere auf die Prüfung des gesamten Prospektes stützen. Für den Fall, dass vor einem Gericht Ansprüche auf Grund der in einem Prospekt enthaltenen Informationen geltend gemacht werden, könnte der als Kläger auftretende Anleger in Anwendung der einzelstaatlichen Rechtsvorschriften der Staaten des Europäischen Wirtschaftsraums („EWR“) die Kosten für die Übersetzung des Prospekts vor Prozessbeginn zu tragen haben. Diejenigen Personen, die die Verantwortung für die Zusammenfassung einschließlich etwaiger Übersetzungen hiervon übernommen haben oder von denen der Erlass ausgeht, können zivilrechtlich haftbar gemacht werden, jedoch nur für den Fall, dass die Zusammenfassung irreführend, unrichtig oder widersprüchlich ist, wenn sie zusammen mit den anderen Teilen des Prospektes gelesen wird, oder sie, wenn sie zusammen mit den anderen Teilen des Prospektes gelesen wird, nicht alle erforderlichen Schlüsselinformationen vermittelt.
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Verwendung des Prospekts für die spätere Weiterveräußerung oder endgültige Platzierung von Wertpapieren durch Finanzintermediäre.</b>	Entfällt. Der Emittent hat der Verwendung des Prospekts für die spätere Weiterveräußerung oder endgültige Platzierung von Wertpapieren nicht zugestimmt.
<b>Abschnitt B – Emittent</b>		
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Juristische und kommerzielle Bezeichnung des Emittenten</b>	Die juristische und kommerzielle Bezeichnung des Emittenten lautet VMware, Inc. In dieser Zusammenfassung beziehen sich Verweise auf „VMware“ oder die „Gesellschaft“ auf die VMware, Inc. und ihre in den Konzernabschluss einbezogenen Tochtergesellschaften, sofern sich aus dem Zusammenhang nichts anderes ergibt.
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Sitz und Rechtsform des Emittenten, das für den Emittenten geltende Recht und Land der Gründung der Gesellschaft</b>	VMware ist eine nach dem Recht von Delaware gegründete und bestehende Kapitalgesellschaft. Die Hauptniederlassung von VMware befindet sich in 3401 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, Kalifornien 94304, USA. Die Gesellschaft wurde im Jahre 1998 in Delaware gegründet und ist beim <i>Delaware Department of State</i> unter der Registernummer 2853894 eingetragen.

<p><b>B.3</b></p>	<p><b>Art der derzeitigen Geschäftstätigkeit und Hauptaktivitäten des Emittenten sowie die Hauptmärkte, auf denen der Emittent tätig ist</b></p>	<p>Durch Abtrennen der Anwendungssoftware von der zugrundeliegenden Hardware hat VMware den Weg für die Entwicklung und Anwendung von Virtualisierungstechnologien mit x86 serverbasierter EDV bereitet. VMware, Inc. ist führend in Virtualisierungs- und Cloud-Infrastruktur-Lösungen, die es Unternehmen ermöglichen, auf eine evolutionäre Weise und nach ihren besonderen Bedürfnissen die Art und Weise des Aufbaus, der Bereitstellung und der Inanspruchnahme von Informationstechnologie („IT“)-Ressourcen zu verändern. Für die Kunden der Gesellschaft bedeutet dies Vorteile in Form von geringeren IT-Kosten und einer stärker automatisierten und belastbareren Systeminfrastruktur, die auf die unterschiedlichen geschäftlichen Anforderungen dynamisch reagieren kann.</p> <p>Über die Jahre hat die Gesellschaft ihre Warenangebote über Compute-Virtualisierung auf Angebote erweitert, die es Organisationen ermöglichen, IT-Ressourcen über Private Clouds und komplexe Multi-Cloud- und Multi-Geräte-Umgebungen zu verwalten, indem Synergien aus folgenden drei Produktgruppen gehoben werden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Softwaredefiniertes Rechenzentrum (SDDC bzw. Software-Defined Data Center)</li> <li>• Hybrides Cloud-Computing</li> <li>• Endnutzer-Computing</li> </ul> <p>VMware war das erste Unternehmen, das eine Vision für das SDDC artikuliert hat, bei der zunehmend Infrastruktur virtualisiert und als ein Dienst geliefert wird, was die vollständige Automatisierung der Steuerung des Datenzentrums durch Software ermöglicht.</p> <p>Die 1998 in Delaware gegründete VMware wurde in 2004 von EMC Corporation („EMC“) erworben und hat ihren Börsengang mit ihren Stammaktien der Gattung A im August 2007 durchgeführt. EMC hält etwa 81,3 % der ausstehenden Stammaktien der Gesellschaft, einschließlich 43 Mio. Stammaktien der Gattung A (Stand: 31. Dezember 2015) sowie sämtlicher Stammaktien der Gattung B der Gesellschaft, und VMware wird gemäß den Bestimmungen der New Yorker Börse als ein „kontrolliertes Unternehmen“ angesehen. Am 12. Oktober 2015 haben Dell Inc. („Dell“), Denali Holding Inc. („Denali“) und EMC eine endgültige Vereinbarung getroffen, gemäß der Denali bereit ist, EMC zu erwerben. Gemäß den Bestimmungen der Vereinbarung wird VMware weiter als börsennotiertes Unternehmen operieren. Nach Abschluss der Transaktion wird ein Teil der Gegenleistung, die EMC-Aktionäre im Zuge der Verschmelzung erhalten werden, in Stammaktien der Gattung V bestehen, die bei der Börsenaufsichtsbehörde (<i>Securities and Exchange Commission</i>) registriert und von Denali ausgegeben werden. Gemäß den Bestimmungen der Vereinbarung wird erwartet, dass etwa 0,111 Stammaktien der Klasse V von Denali für jede EMC-Aktie ausgegeben werden. Denali hat bekannt gegeben, dass die Stammaktien der Gattung V öffentlich gehandelte Geschäftsbereichs-Aktien (<i>tracking stock</i>) sein werden, die nach Ausgabe das Ergebnis einer wirtschaftlichen Beteiligung von etwa 53 % am Geschäft der Gesellschaft abbilden sollen. Der Abschluss der Transaktionen, die im Verschmelzungsvertrag beabsichtigt sind, unterliegt der Zustimmung der EMC-Aktionäre sowie verschiedenen behördlichen Genehmigungen.</p> <p>Die Umsatzerlöse sind im Jahre 2015 um 9 % auf USD 6.571 Mio. gestiegen. Sie bestehen in erster Linie aus Lizenzeinnahmen von USD 2.720 Mio. und Dienstleistungseinnahmen von USD 3.927 Mio. Vom Gesamtdienstleistungsumsatz der Gesellschaft im Jahre 2015 waren 87 % Softwarewartungseinnahmen und die restlichen 13 % Einnahmen aus Professional Services, einschließlich Schulung. Historisch ist der Großteil der Lizenzverkäufe bei VMware vSphere angesiedelt gewesen, welches zur Compute-Produktkategorie innerhalb der SDDC-Produktgruppe der Gesellschaft gehört. Über die letzten zwei Jahre ist jedoch der Umsatz aus VMware vSphere-Lizenzverkäufen zurückgegangen. Im Lichte der anhaltenden Transformation der IT-Industrie erwartet die Gesellschaft, dass ihr Wachstum</p>
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		<p>zunehmend aus dem Vertrieb ihrer neueren Produkte, Programmpakete und Dienstleistungslösungen über ihre drei Produktgruppen generiert wird. Zum Beispiel hat die Gesellschaft ein anhaltendes Wachstum von Umsatzmenge, Produktionsverwendung und der Zahl der Kunden, die VMware NSX, die Netzwerk-Virtualisierungslösung der Gesellschaft, gekauft haben, erfahren. Zudem wachsen die Endnutzer Computing-Lösungen der Gesellschaft weiter, teilweise durch mobile Unternehmensverwaltungsangebote getrieben.</p> <p>In den zum 31. Dezember 2015, 2014 und 2013 endenden Jahren betragen die Umsatzerlöse, aufgeschlüsselt nach geografischen Gebieten (Tabelle in Millionen):</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><b>Für die Geschäftsjahre endend zum 31. Dezember</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>2015</b></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>2014</b></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>2013</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Vereinigte Staaten</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 3.311</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.912</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2.485</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.260</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.123</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.722</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gesamt</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 6.571</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 6.035</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 5.207</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Für die Geschäftsjahre endend zum 31. Dezember</b>				<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	Vereinigte Staaten	\$ 3.311	\$ 2.912	\$ 2.485	International	3.260	3.123	2.722	Gesamt	<u>\$ 6.571</u>	<u>\$ 6.035</u>	<u>\$ 5.207</u>
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<b>B.4a</b>	<b>Geschäftsgang und Aussichten/Trends</b>	<p>Die Industrien der Virtualisierung, des Cloud-Computing, des Endnutzer-Computing und der Softwaredefinierten Rechenzentren sind miteinander verknüpft und entwickeln sich schnell, und die Gesellschaft ist in allen Märkten starker Konkurrenz für ihre Produkte und Dienstleistungen ausgesetzt. Die Gesellschaft steht unter anderem in Konkurrenz zu Anbietern öffentlicher Cloud-Infrastruktur und SaaS-basierten Angeboten. Da Unternehmen zunehmend öffentliche Cloud- und SaaS-basierte Angebote benutzen, lagern sie einen größer werdenden Teil ihrer Compute-Workloads aus. Es wird erwartet, dass sich infolgedessen die Nachfrage nach „Vor-Ort“-IT-Ressourcen verlangsamen wird, und dass die Produkte und Dienstleistungen der Gesellschaft zunehmend um IT-Workloads von Kunden mit jeweils externen Angeboten öffentlicher Clouds und SaaS-basierten Angeboten konkurrieren. Die Gesellschaft steht ebenfalls im Wettbewerb mit großen, diversifizierten Unternehmens-Software- und -Hardwaregesellschaften, Gesellschaften, die konkurrierende Plattformen mit Open-Source-Technologien anbieten, anderen Industrieallianzen und ihren Partnern und Mitgliedern ihres Entwickler- und Technologiepartnersystems. Die Gesellschaft ist der Ansicht, dass die wichtigsten Faktoren, die es der Gesellschaft ermöglichen, im Wettbewerb zu bestehen, die folgenden sind: Der Grad der Zuverlässigkeit, Interoperabilität und neuen Funktionalität ihrer Produkt- und Dienstleistungsangebote, die Fähigkeit ihrer Produktangebote verschiedene Hardwareplattformen, Betriebssysteme, Anwendungs-Frameworks und öffentliche Cloud-Plattformen zu unterstützen, ihre Fähigkeit Kundenbedürfnisse auf sich rapide wandelnden Märkten für IT-Ressourcen vorzusehen, die Preispolitik ihrer Produkt- und Dienstleistungsangebote, die Fähigkeit Open-Source-Technologien zu integrieren, welche in der privaten und der öffentlichen Cloud Computing-Architektur besonders kritisch sind und die Fähigkeit Schlüsselarbeitskräfte zu gewinnen und zu halten und die Fähigkeit ihr Umfeld von Technologiepartnern, Dienstleistern und Vertriebswegpartnern aufrechtzuerhalten und zu erweitern.</p>																				
<b>B.5</b>	<b>Organisationsstruktur</b>	Entfällt, da bezüglich der Organisationsstruktur von VMware keine Informationen in diesem Prospekt enthalten sein müssen.																				
<b>B.6</b>	<b>Darstellung der Beteiligungen am Kapital der Gesellschaft</b>	Entfällt, da bezüglich der Beteiligungen am Kapital von VMware keine Informationen in diesem Prospekt enthalten sein müssen.																				
<b>B.7</b>	<b>Ausgewählte Finanzinformationen</b>	Die nachfolgend dargestellten ausgewählten Finanzdaten sind aus den geprüften Konzernabschlüssen der Gesellschaft für die zum 31. Dezember 2015, 31.																				

**n bezüglich  
VMware und  
erhebliche  
nachfolgende  
Veränderungen**

Dezember 2014 und 31. Dezember 2013 endenden Geschäftsjahre entnommen wie diese im Jahresbericht (*Annual Report*) der Gesellschaft nach Formular 10-K für das Geschäftsjahr zum 31. Dezember 2015 veröffentlicht wurden. Dieser Jahresbericht kann, wie im Abschnitt „Verfügbare Unterlagen“ („*Documents Available for Inspection*“) dieses Prospekts dargestellt, eingesehen werden. Die Konzernabschlüsse der Gesellschaft wurden in Übereinstimmung mit den in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika allgemein anerkannten Grundsätzen ordnungsgemäßer Buchführung („*U.S.-GAAP*“) erstellt.

Tabelle in Millionen, außer Beträgen pro Aktien und Aktien in Tausend

	Für die Geschäftsjahre endend zum 31. Dezember		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Betriebsergebnis:</b>			
Umsatzerlöse:			
Lizeneinnahmen	\$ 2.720	\$ 2.591	\$ 2.270
Dienstleistungen	3.927	3.444	2.937
GSA Vergleichsvereinbarung	(76)	-	-
Gesamtumsatzerlöse	\$ 6.571	\$ 6.035	\$ 5.207
Operatives Ergebnis	1.197	1.027	1.093
Jahresüberschuss	997	886	1.014
Jahresüberschuss pro gewichteter durchschnittlicher Aktie, unverwässert, der Gattungen A und B	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.06	\$ 2.36
Jahresüberschuss pro gewichteter durchschnittlicher Aktie, verwässert, der Gattungen A und B	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.34
Gewichtete durchschnittlicher Anzahl von Aktien, unverwässert, der Gattungen A und B	424.003	430.355	429.093
Gewichtete durchschnittlicher Anzahl von Aktien, verwässert, der Gattungen A und B	426.547	434.513	433.415
<b>31. Dezember</b>			
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Bilanzdaten:</b>			
Liquide Mittel und kurzfristige Investitionen	\$ 7.509	\$ 7.075	\$ 6.175
Betriebskapital <sup>(1)</sup>	5.231	4.886	4.198
Bilanzsumme	15.746	15.216	12.327
Summe abgegrenzte Umsatzerlöse	5.076	4.833	4.092
Langfristige Verbindlichkeiten <sup>(2)</sup>	1.500	1.500	450
Eigenkapital	7.923	7.586	6.816
<b>Kapitalflussrechnung:</b>			
Netto-Kapitalfluss aus betrieblicher Tätigkeit	\$ 1.899	\$ 2.180	\$ 2.535

(1) Während des vierten Quartals 2015 hat VMware vorzeitig die Aktualisierung Nr. 2015-2017 der Rechnungslegungsgrundsätze (*Accounting Standards*), Bilanzielle Behandlung von Latenten Steuern, angewendet (mit Rückwirkung). Dieser Grundsatz erfordert, dass sämtliche aktive und passive latente Steuern und dazugehörige Wertberichtigungen in der Bilanz als langfristig ausgewiesen werden. Der aktualisierte Grundsatz ist rückwirkend auf die ausgewiesenen Zeiträume angewendet worden.

(2) Am 21. Januar 2014 schlossen der alleinige Gesellschafter und Anteilseigner von AirWatch LLC ("AirWatch"), VMware und EMC im Zusammenhang mit dem Erwerb der A.W.S. Holding, LLC ("AirWatch Holding") durch die Gesellschaft eine Vereinbarung über den Tausch von Schuldverschreibungen, die die Ausgabe von drei Schuldscheinen in Höhe von insgesamt USD 1.500 Mio. Nennbetrag vorsieht. Die Gesamtverschuldung von USD 1.500 Mio. beinhaltet einen Betrag von USD 450 Mio., der gegen den in den Vorjahren bestehenden Schuldschein in Höhe von USD 450 Mio. ausgetauscht wurde.

<b>B.8</b>	<b>Pro Forma Finanzinformationen</b>	Entfällt, da keine historischen Finanzinformationen in diesem Prospekt enthalten sein müssen.
<b>B.9</b>	<b>Gewinnprognose</b>	Entfällt. Dieser Prospekt enthält keine Gewinnprognose.
<b>B.10</b>	<b>Beschränkungen im Bestätigungsvermerk zu den historischen Finanzinformationen</b>	Entfällt. Es gibt keine entsprechenden Beschränkungen im Bestätigungsvermerk.
<b>B.11</b>	<b>Erklärung zum Geschäftskapital</b>	VMware geht davon aus, dass ihr Geschäftskapital (das heißt ihre Fähigkeit auf Barmittel oder andere liquide Mittel zuzugreifen, um ihre Verbindlichkeiten bei Fälligkeit zu erfüllen) zur Deckung ihrer derzeitigen Bedürfnisse in den nächsten zwölf Monaten ausreicht.
<b>Abschnitt C – Wertpapiere</b>		
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Beschreibung von Art und Gattung der angebotenen Wertpapiere, einschließlich der Wertpapierkennnummer</b>	Bei den im Rahmen des Geänderten und Neugefassten VMware Inc. Mitarbeiteraktienkaufplan von 2007 ( <i>VMware, Inc. Amended and Restated 2007 Employee Stock Purchase Plan</i> : „ESPP“) angebotenen Aktien handelt es sich um VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A im Nennwert von USD 0,01.  Die Internationale Wertpapier-Identifikationsnummer (ISIN) für die Stammaktien der Gesellschaft lautet US9285634021. Die US-Wertpapier-Identifikationsnummer (CUSIP) für die Stammaktien der Gesellschaft lautet 928563402.
<b>C.2</b>	<b>Währung der Wertpapieremission</b>	Die Wertpapiere werden in US-Dollar ausgegeben.
<b>C.3</b>	<b>Anzahl der ausgegebenen Aktien</b>	Zum 31. Dezember 2015 befanden sich 421.946.696 Stammaktien im Nennwert von USD 0,01 pro Aktie im Umlauf; davon 121.946.696 Stammaktien der Gattung A und 300.000.000 Stammaktien der Gattung B.
<b>C.4</b>	<b>Beschreibung der mit den Wertpapieren verbundenen Rechte</b>	Ein teilnehmender Mitarbeiter hat solange keine Stimm-, Dividenden- oder anderen Aktionärsrechte im Hinblick auf die im Rahmen des ESPP erfolgenden Angebote, bis die Kaufrechte ausgeübt und die Aktien von dem teilnehmenden Arbeitnehmer erworben und an diesen geliefert wurden. Nach Kauf und Lieferung der Aktien stehen dem teilnehmenden Mitarbeiter die mit den Aktien verbundenen Rechte wie nachfolgend beschrieben zu:  <i>Gattungen von Stammaktien.</i> VMware hat zwei genehmigte Gattungen von Stammaktien: Stammaktien der Gattung A und Stammaktien der Gattung B. Gegenstand dieses Prospektes sind lediglich die Stammaktien der Gattung A.  <i>Dividendenrechte.</i> Vorbehaltlich von Vorzügen für etwaige Vorzugsaktien sind die Inhaber ausgegebener VMware-Stammaktien der Gattungen A und B berechtigt, Dividenden zu beziehen, die aus den gesetzlich zur Verfügung stehenden Mitteln ausgeschüttet werden. Sie sind jeweils nach Anzahl ihrer Aktien, gleichberechtigt; Zeitpunkt und Höhe der Dividendenausschüttung werden jeweils vom Verwaltungsrat von VMware festgelegt. Stammaktien werden bei ihrer Ausgabe Dividendenrechte zugeordnet. Aktionäre sind jedoch erst dividendenberechtigt, wenn (und soweit) der Verwaltungsrat die Ausschüttung einer Dividende beschließt. Werden Dividenden beschlossen, sind alle bis zu einem bestimmten, vom Verwaltungsrat festgelegten Stichtag eingetragenen Aktionäre entsprechend dividendenberechtigt. Sind Aktionäre zu diesem Stichtag nicht als solche eingetragen, erhalten sie keinerlei Dividendenzahlungen.  Ansprüche auf Dividendenzahlungen, die nicht innerhalb von drei Jahren geltend gemacht werden, fallen gemäß § 1197 Title 12 <i>Delaware Code</i> dem

		<p>Staat Delaware zu. D. h., nach einer Verfallsperiode, die mindestens drei volle und zusammenhängende Jahre betragen muss und während der der Inhaber die Geltendmachung sein Eigentums- oder Besitzrecht nicht weiter verfolgt hat oder dieses Recht nicht geltend gemacht hat bzw. ihre Geltendmachung versäumt hat, fallen Dividenden ausdrücklich dem Staat zu.</p> <p>Für in der Europäischen Union und im EWR wohnhafte Aktionäre bestehen keine Dividendenbeschränkungen und keine besonderen Verfahren.</p> <p><i>Umwandlungsrechte für Stammaktien der Gattung B.</i> Alle Stammaktien der Gattung B können, soweit sie sich im Eigentum von EMC oder deren Rechtsnachfolger befinden, nach Ermessen von EMC oder deren Rechtsnachfolger in Stammaktien der Gattung A umgewandelt werden.</p> <p>Die Umwandlung von Stammaktien erfolgt immer im Verhältnis eins zu eins.</p> <p><i>Stimmrechte.</i> Die Inhaber von Stammaktien der Gattungen A und B besitzen identische Rechte, außer dass die Inhaber von Stammaktien der Gattung A pro Aktie ein (1) Stimmrecht und die Inhaber von Stammaktien der Gattung B pro Aktie zehn (10) Stimmrechte in allen Angelegenheiten, über die die VMware Hauptversammlung abstimmt, haben und außer in Bezug auf die Wahl der Verwaltungsratsmitglieder, Umwandlung, bestimmte Maßnahmen, die der Zustimmung der Inhaber von Stammaktien der Gattung B bedürfen, sowie andere Schutzbestimmungen.</p> <p>Inhaber von VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung B sind berechtigt in gesonderter Abstimmung 80% der Gesamtzahl der Mitglieder des Verwaltungsrats von VMware zu wählen, die dieser haben würde, wenn es zu diesem Zeitpunkt keine Vakanzen gäbe.</p> <p>Vorbehaltlich etwaiger Rechte etwaiger Serien von Vorzugsaktien, Verwaltungsratsmitgliedern zu wählen, sind die Inhaber von VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A und die Inhaber von VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung B, die zusammen als eine Gattung abstimmen, berechtigt, die verbleibenden Verwaltungsratsmitglieder zu wählen, jedoch immer mindestens ein Verwaltungsratsmitglied. Bei einer solchen Wahl haben die Inhaber von Stammaktien der Gattung A und die Inhaber von Stammaktien der Gattung B jeweils ein (1) Stimmrecht pro Aktie.</p> <p>Generell müssen alle Angelegenheiten, über die von den Aktionären abgestimmt wird, von einer Mehrheit der auf der Hauptversammlung anwesenden oder vertretenen Stimmen aus den Stammaktien der Gattung A und Stammaktien der Gattung B, die zusammen als eine Gattung abstimmen, beschlossen werden, vorbehaltlich etwaiger Stimmrechte, die Inhabern von Vorzugsaktien zustehen.</p> <p><i>Keine Bezugs- oder Einziehungsrechte.</i> VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A und der Gattung B haben keine Bezugsrechte auf den Kauf von Stammaktien der Gesellschaft und unterliegen nicht Einziehungs- oder Rückzahlungsbestimmungen.</p> <p><i>Recht auf Liquidationserlös.</i> Im Falle der Liquidation, Auflösung oder Abwicklung von VMware, sind die VMware-Aktionäre mit Stammaktien der Gattung A und der Gattung B nach Abzug der Zahlung aller Verbindlichkeiten und der Vorrechte aus ausgegebenen Vorzugsaktien, berechtigt, die verbleibenden Vermögensgegenstände von VMware zu gleichen Teilen zu erhalten.</p>
C.5	<b>Übertragbarkeit</b>	<p>Das Angebot zum Bezug von Aktien im Rahmen des ESPP wurde per Registrierungserklärung auf Formblatt S-8 bei der U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (US-amerikanische Börsenaufsicht) registriert. Die ausgegebenen und im Umlauf befindlichen Stammaktien sind grundsätzlich frei übertragbar.</p> <p>Den Teilnehmern bleibt es überlassen, Aktien, die im Rahmen des ESPP gekauft wurden, in Übereinstimmung mit den anwendbaren Wertpapiergesetzen, Richtlinien zum Insiderhandel sowie den anwendbaren Handelssperrezeiten,</p>

		jederzeit wieder zu verkaufen. Der Teilnehmer trägt die Risiken von Marktschwankungen, die sich im Preis der Aktien abbilden können.
<b>C.6</b>	<b>Zulassung zum Handel an einem geregelten Markt</b>	Entfällt. Die Aktien sind unter dem Symbol „VMW“ an der New York Stock Exchange („NYSE“), die kein geregelter Markt im Sinne der Richtlinie 2004/39/EG ist, notiert. In Deutschland werden die Aktien im Freiverkehr an den Börsen in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, München und Berlin sowie an der Tradegate unter dem Kürzel „BZF1“ gehandelt. Sie werden nicht zum Handel an einem geregelten Markt zugelassen.
<b>C.7</b>	<b>Dividendenpolitik</b>	Seit dem IPO von VMware im August 2007 hat die Gesellschaft auf ihre Stammaktien keine Bardividenden beschlossen bzw. ausgezahlt. VMware geht derzeit nicht davon aus, dass in absehbarer Zeit Bardividenden beschlossen werden.

#### **Abschnitt D – Risiken**

Mitarbeiter sollten vor ihrer Anlageentscheidung die nachfolgend beschriebenen Risiken, die im Abschnitt „Risikofaktoren“ (Risk Factors) näher beschrieben sind, und die übrigen in diesem Prospekt enthaltenen Informationen sorgfältig lesen und bei ihrer Anlageentscheidung berücksichtigen. Der Eintritt dieser Risiken kann, einzeln oder zusammen mit anderen Umständen, die Geschäftstätigkeit und die Finanzlage der Gesellschaft wesentlich beeinträchtigen und dazu führen, dass der Börsenkurs der Aktien der Gesellschaft fällt. In diesem Fall könnten Mitarbeiter ihr eingesetztes Kapital ganz oder teilweise verlieren. Der Prospekt enthält alle Risiken, die die Gesellschaft für wesentlich erachtet. Allerdings könnten sich die nachfolgend aufgeführten Risiken rückwirkend betrachtet als nicht abschließend herausstellen und daher nicht die einzigen Risiken sein, denen die Gesellschaft ausgesetzt ist. Weitere Risiken könnten die Geschäftstätigkeit und die Finanzlage der Gesellschaft wesentlich beeinträchtigen. Die gewählte Reihenfolge der Risikofaktoren enthält weder eine Aussage über die Eintrittswahrscheinlichkeit noch über das Ausmaß bzw. die Bedeutung der einzelnen Risiken.

<b>D.1</b>	<b>Risiken im Hinblick auf VMware oder ihr Branchenumfeld</b>	<p>Risiken in Bezug auf das Geschäft von VMware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMwares Erfolg hängt zunehmend von der Akzeptanz neuer Produkte und Dienstleistungen durch den Kunden ab.</li> <li>• Ein erheblicher Rückgang der Nachfrage nach VMware-Virtualisierungsprodukten würde sich nachteilig auf das Betriebsergebnis von VMware auswirken.</li> <li>• VMware ist intensivem Wettbewerb ausgesetzt, der sich nachteilig auf ihr Betriebsergebnis auswirken könnte</li> <li>• Der Verlust von Schlüsselpersonal könnte VMwares Geschäftstätigkeit beeinträchtigen.</li> <li>• Der Wettbewerb um die von VMware benötigten Mitarbeiter ist intensiv und kostenträchtig, und VMware könnte außerstande sein, hochqualifizierte Mitarbeiter zu gewinnen und an sich zu binden.</li> <li>• Eine ungünstige Wirtschaftslage könnte VMwares Geschäftstätigkeit beeinträchtigen.</li> <li>• VMware könnte nicht in der Lage sein, mit neuen Lösungen und Dienstleistungsangeboten auf den schnellen technologischen Wandel zu reagieren.</li> <li>• VMware ist Risiken aus Wechselkursschwankungen ausgesetzt.</li> <li>• Die operativen Ergebnisse von VMware können erheblichen Schwankungen unterliegen.</li> <li>• Verletzungen von VMwares Cyber-Sicherheitssystemen könnten VMwares Geschäftstätigkeit schwer schädigen.</li> <li>• Durch ihre Geschäftstätigkeit auf der globalen Ebene ist VMware Risiken ausgesetzt, die sich daraus ergeben, dass fremde Jurisdiktionen und Märkte</li> </ul>
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		<p>betroffen sind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMwares gegenwärtige Anstrengungen im Bereich Forschung und Entwicklung könnten für mehrere Jahre nur unwesentliche oder sogar keine Erlöse generieren.</li> <li>• VMware könnte außerstande sein, ihre gewerblichen Schutz- und Urheberrechte ausreichend zu schützen.</li> <li>• VMwares Verwendung von „Open Source“-Software in ihren Produkten könnte nachteilige Auswirkungen auf ihre Fähigkeit zum Verkauf ihrer Produkte haben oder VMware möglichen Rechtsstreitigkeiten aussetzen.</li> <li>• Die Entwicklung von VMwares Geschäft erfordert mehr komplexe Go-To-Market-Strategien, die mit erheblichen Risiken verbunden sind.</li> <li>• VMwares Erfolg ist von ihrer Fähigkeit abhängig, geeignete Geschäfts- und Preismodelle entwickeln zu können.</li> <li>• Bei den Produkten von VMware handelt es sich um technisch aufwändige Produkte, die Fehler, Mängel oder Sicherheitslücken enthalten können.</li> <li>• Gelingt es VMware nicht, den Lebenszyklus ihrer Produkte und Dienstleistungen effektiv zu managen, könnte dies VMwares Geschäftstätigkeit beeinträchtigen.</li> <li>• VMwares Erfolg hängt davon ab, dass ihre Produkte und Dienstleistungen mit denen anderer Unternehmen kompatibel sind.</li> <li>• Störungen von VMwares Vertriebskanälen könnten ihre Geschäftstätigkeit beeinträchtigen.</li> <li>• VMwares Angebot des vCloud Air und SaaS sind von einigen Drittanbietern von Rechenzentrumskapazitäten und Kollokationsdienstleistungen abhängig.</li> <li>• Joint Ventures können möglicherweise nicht die erwarteten Gewinne und Ergebnisse erbringen.</li> <li>• Das Angebot von SaaS, welches mit Compliance- und Datensicherheits-Risiken verbunden ist, stellt einen wichtigen Teil von VMwares Geschäft dar.</li> <li>• VMware ist in Rechtsstreitigkeiten und aufsichtsbehördliche Untersuchungen und Verfahren verwickelt, die für sie nachteilige Auswirkungen haben könnten.</li> <li>• Die unsachgemäße Offenlegung persönlicher Daten könnte zu einer Haftung führen und VMwares Ruf schädigen.</li> <li>• Falls VMware die mit ihren Kunden geschlossenen Verträge oder die Vorschriften für staatliche Aufträge nicht einhält, könnte dies nachteilige Auswirkungen auf ihren Geschäftsbetrieb haben.</li> <li>• Akquisitionen könnten VMwares Geschäft und Betriebsergebnis beeinträchtigen.</li> <li>• Für den Fall, dass VMwares Firmenwert oder abschreibbare immateriellen Vermögensgegenstände an Wert verlieren, könnte VMware zu einer erheblichen buchhalterischen Belastung der Ertragsposition gezwungen sein.</li> <li>• Probleme, die an den Informationssystemen von VMware auftreten, könnten zu Störungen ihres Geschäfts führen und sich nachteilig auf ihren Geschäftsbetrieb auswirken.</li> <li>• VMware könnte zusätzlichen Steuerverbindlichkeiten ausgesetzt sein und ihr Betriebsergebnis könnte durch höhere als die erwarteten Steuersätze beeinträchtigt werden.</li> <li>• Katastrophenereignisse oder geopolitische Bedingungen können VMwares</li> </ul>
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		<p>Geschäft stören.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Änderungen der Buchführungsgrundsätze oder deren Auslegung könnten zu nachteiligen Buchungen oder Auswirkungen führen.</li> </ul> <p>Risiken in Bezug auf das Verhältnis zwischen VMware und EMC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMware's Börsenkurs ist seit der Ankündigung der Dell Akquisition erheblich gesunken und ihr Andauern und potenzieller Abschluss könnten sich in Zukunft negativ auf VMware's Geschäft und Börsenkurs auswirken.</li> <li>• Inhaber von VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A sind nur eingeschränkt in der Lage, auf Angelegenheiten, die einer Zustimmung der Aktionäre bedürfen, Einfluss zu nehmen.</li> <li>• EMC ist in der Lage, VMware daran zu hindern, Maßnahmen zu ergreifen, die im Interesse von VMware liegen könnten.</li> <li>• EMC ist in der Lage, eine Transaktion mit Kontrollwechsel zu verhindern und könnte eine Kontrollmehrheit an VMware verkaufen, ohne dass andere Aktionäre davon profitieren.</li> <li>• Wenn der Anteilsbesitz von EMC sich stark erhöht, könnte EMC (oder Denali, falls die Dell Akquisition abgeschlossen ist) einseitig eine Verschmelzung von VMware auf EMC ohne eine Abstimmung der Aktionäre oder des Verwaltungsrats von VMware zu einem Preis pro Aktie herbeiführen, der womöglich keinen Aufschlag auf den dann aktuellen Marktpreis bedeutet.</li> <li>• VMware geht Transaktionen mit EMC ein, die Geschäfte mit nahestehenden Personen darstellen und die Ressourcen abziehen, Opportunitätskosten produzieren und sich als erfolglos erweisen können.</li> <li>• Bei den Geschäftsbereichen von VMware und EMC kommt es zu Überschneidungen, und EMC und Dell könnten in den Wettbewerb mit VMware treten, was eine Verringerung von VMware's Marktanteil zur Folge haben könnte.</li> <li>• Der Wettbewerb mit EMC und Dell in bestimmten Märkten kann die Fähigkeit von VMware beeinträchtigen, Partnerschaften zu begründen und aufrechtzuerhalten.</li> <li>• VMware könnte für Steuerverbindlichkeiten anderer Unternehmen, die Teil der steuerlichen Organschaft mit der EMC-Gruppe sind, haftbar gemacht werden.</li> <li>• VMware ist nur begrenzt in der Lage, Streitigkeiten, die mit EMC auftreten, mit günstigem Ergebnis beizulegen.</li> <li>• VMware's Chief Executive Officer, ihr Chief Financial Officer und einige Mitglieder ihres Verwaltungsrates unterliegen potenziellen Interessenskonflikten bezüglich EMC.</li> <li>• Die Beherrschung des Verwaltungsrats von VMware durch EMC könnte es für VMware schwierig gestalten, unabhängige Verwaltungsratsmitglieder zu gewinnen.</li> <li>• Die historischen Finanzinformationen von VMware als mehrheitlich im Besitz von EMC befindliche Tochtergesellschaft sind möglicherweise nicht repräsentativ für die Ergebnisse einer vollständig unabhängigen börsennotierten Gesellschaft.</li> </ul>
<b>D.3</b>	<b>Wertpapierbezogene Risiken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Der Kurs der VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A unterlag in den letzten Jahren beträchtlichen Schwankungen, was sich auch in Zukunft fortsetzen kann.</li> <li>• Verändern Wertpapier- oder Branchenanalysten ihre Empfehlungen in Bezug</li> </ul>

		<p>auf die Aktien der Gesellschaft ins Negative, könnte dies zu einem Kursrückgang und zum Rückgang des Handelsvolumens führen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bestimmungen zur Verhinderung von Unternehmensübernahmen im Recht von Delaware und in der Satzung von VMware könnten Unternehmensübernahmeversuche verhindern.</li> </ul>
<b>Abschnitt E – Das Angebot</b>		
<b>E.1</b>	<b>Nettoemissionserlöse und geschätzte Gesamtkosten der Emission</b>	<p>Unter der Annahme, dass jeder teilnahmeberechtigte Mitarbeiter das Maximum seiner kumulierten Beiträge zum Kauf von Aktien einsetzt, beträgt der Bruttoemissionserlös von VMware in Verbindung mit dem Angebot im Rahmen des ESPP gemäß diesem Prospekt USD 278.923.346.</p> <p>Die Kosten dieses Angebots bestehen aus Rechtsberatungskosten in Höhe von ungefähr USD 40.000. Nach Abzug dieser Kosten beträgt der Nettoemissionserlös auf Basis der vorstehenden Annahmen ungefähr USD 278.883.346.</p>
<b>E.2a</b>	<b>Gründe für das Angebot und Verwendung des Emissionserlöses</b>	<p>Mit dem ESPP ist beabsichtigt, teilnahmeberechtigten Mitarbeitern der Gesellschaft und ihrer Tochtergesellschaften, die Möglichkeit zu geben, VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A zu erwerben und sie so an der Zukunft der Gesellschaft zu beteiligen.</p> <p>Die Gesellschaft kann den Erlös aus der Ausübung der Kaufrechte für jegliche Geschäftszwecke verwenden.</p>
<b>E.3</b>	<b>Beschreibung der Angebotsbedingungen</b>	<p>VMware hat sich dazu entschlossen, teilnahmeberechtigten Mitarbeitern ausgewählter Tochtergesellschaften die Möglichkeit anzubieten, VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A gemäß dem ESPP zu erwerben („Kaufrechte“).</p> <p>Der ESPP wird vom Verwaltungsrat von VMware (der „Verwaltungsrat“) oder einem vom Verwaltungsrat bestimmten Ausschuss (der „Vergütungsausschuss“) verwaltet. VMware hat die E*TRADE Securities Inc. („E*TRADE“) als Service Provider für den ESPP benannt. E*TRADE unterstützt VMware bei der Verwaltung des ESPP. Stammaktien der Gattung A, die dem Teilnehmer gemäß dem ESPP geliefert werden, werden auf den Namen des Teilnehmers oder auf den auf dem Konto des Teilnehmers vermerkten Namen (<i>street name</i>) bei E*TRADE gebucht.</p> <p><i>Angebotene Aktien</i></p> <p>Bei den angebotenen Aktien handelt es sich um VMware-Stammaktien der Gattung A im Nennwert von USD 0,01 pro Aktie. Insgesamt sind im Rahmen des ESPP 14.300.000 Aktien zum Erwerb reserviert. Zum 31. Dezember 2015 standen davon noch 4.748.141 Aktien für den Kauf im Rahmen des ESPP zur Verfügung.</p> <p><i>Angebotszeitraum</i></p> <p>Generell erstrecken sich die Angebotszeiträume über jeweils zwölf Monate; es liegt jedoch im Ermessen des Verwaltungsrates bzw. des Vergütungsausschusses, diese Zeiträume zu ändern. Für den von diesem Prospekt abgedeckten Zeitraum beginnen die Angebotszeiträume am 1. Februar 2016, 1. August 2016 und 1. Februar 2017, wobei der erste Angebotszeitraum vor Billigung dieses Prospekts beginnt und von dem vom 24. März 2015 datierenden und am 26. März 2015 gebilligten Prospekt und seinem vom 12. Januar 2016 datierenden und am 15. Januar 2016 gebilligten Nachtrag abgedeckt ist. Die Angebotszeiträume umfassen jeweils zwölf Monate und bestehen jeweils aus zwei aufeinanderfolgenden eingebetteten Optionszeiträumen von je sechs Monaten. Aktienkäufe finden jeweils am Ende jedes eingebetteten Optionszeitraums statt, und zwar unter Verwendung der von der Vergütung der betreffenden Mitarbeiter während des eingebetteten Optionszeitraums einbehaltenen Beträge. Das Recht eines Teilnehmers zum Kauf von Stammaktien der Gattung A im Rahmen des ESPP wird automatisch</p>

		am letzten Tag des jeweiligen sechsmonatigen eingebetteten Optionszeitraums für die dem ESPP-Konto des Teilnehmers gutgeschriebenen Beträge ausgeübt.
		<p><i>Beiträge</i></p> <p>Die Teilnehmer verwenden einen bestimmten Prozentsatz ihrer Vergütung in Form von Gehaltseinbehalten für den Kauf von Aktien. Bei Abgabe des Registrierungsformulars legt der Teilnehmer den Prozentsatz seiner Vergütung fest, den er für den ESPP verwenden möchte; dieser Prozentsatz muss mindestens zwei Prozent (2%) und darf höchstens fünfzehn Prozent (15%) der maßgeblichen Vergütung des Mitarbeiters betragen. Pro sechsmonatigem eingebetteten Optionszeitraum dürfen die Beiträge zum Kauf von Stammaktien der Gattung A einen Betrag von USD 7.500 (oder einen für einen längeren oder kürzeren Optionszeitraum entsprechend anteilmäßig berechneten Betrag) nicht übersteigen. Alle vom Teilnehmer genehmigten Beiträge werden im Rahmen des ESPP zu seinen Gunsten gutgeschrieben. Ein Teilnehmer kann den für den Gehaltseinbehalt vereinbarten Prozentsatz durch entsprechende schriftliche Mitteilung an VMware, spätestens einen Geschäftstag vor dem ersten Tag jedes sechsmonatigen eingebetteten Optionszeitraums erhöhen oder verringern. Die Änderung des Prozentsatzes tritt sodann so schnell wie praktisch möglich in Kraft.</p> <p><i>Berechtigung zur Teilnahme</i></p> <p>Zur Teilnahme am ESPP sind nur solche Mitarbeiter von VMware oder ihren dazu bestimmten Tochtergesellschaften berechtigt, die mindestens zwei (2) Monate vor Beginn eines Optionszeitraums fortlaufend beschäftigt waren. Berechtigt zur Teilnahme am ESPP sind nur Mitarbeiter mit einer regelmäßigen Arbeitszeit von über 20 Wochenstunden (soweit anwendbare Gesetze nichts Anderslautendes vorschreiben) und einer regelmäßigen Beschäftigung von mehr als fünf Monaten in einem Kalenderjahr. Mitarbeiter entscheiden sich zur Teilnahme am ESPP durch Abgabe eines Registrierungsformulars bei VMware. Die Teilnahme ist freiwillig und kann von den Mitarbeitern jederzeit beendet werden. Teilnehmer, die nicht an einem bestimmten Angebotszeitraum teilnehmen möchten, können ihre Teilnahme jederzeit bis 15 Tage vor Ablauf des eingebetteten Optionszeitraums zurückziehen. Beendet ein Teilnehmer sein Beschäftigungsverhältnis mit VMware oder mit einer ihrer Tochtergesellschaften, gleich aus welchem Grund, so endet seine Teilnahme am ESPP sofort; alle ggf. im Rahmen der Teilnahme am ESPP aufgelaufenen Beiträge werden dem ausscheidenden Mitarbeiter zurückerstattet.</p> <p><i>Kaufpreis</i></p> <p>Für den ersten eingebetteten Optionszeitraum eines Teilnehmers beträgt der Kaufpreis fünfundachtzig Prozent (85%) des Marktwertes der Stammaktien am ersten oder letzten Handelstag des ersten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums (d.h. dem Kaufdatum), je nachdem, welcher Preis niedriger ist, jedoch mit der Maßgabe, dass jedes zwölfmonatige Angebot vorzeitig endet (am ersten Tag des zweiten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums), wenn der Marktwert der Stammaktien der Gesellschaft der Gattung A am ersten Tag des zweiten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums niedriger ist als der Marktwert der Stammaktien der Gesellschaft der Gattung A am ersten Tag des ersten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums und alle Teilnehmer des vorzeitig beendeten zwölfmonatigen Angebots automatisch ein neues zwölfmonatiges Angebot erhalten, welches am selben Tag beginnt, an dem der Beginn des zweiten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums vorgesehen war. Sofern das zwölfmonatige Angebot nicht vorzeitig endet, beträgt für den zweiten eingebetteten Optionszeitraum der Kaufpreis fünfundachtzig Prozent (85%) des Marktwertes der Stammaktien (i) am ersten Handelstag des zweiten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums, (ii) am letzten Handelstag des zweiten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums oder (iii) am ersten Handelstag des ersten eingebetteten Optionszeitraums, je nachdem, welcher Preis der niedrigste ist. Der Marktwert entspricht dem Schlusskurs der Aktie an der NYSE an dem betreffenden Tag oder, wenn an diesem Tag kein</p>

		<p>Handel stattfindet, dem entsprechenden Schlusskurs des letzten Handelstages, an dem ein Geschäft stattgefunden hat.</p> <p><i>Änderungen und Beendigung des ESPP</i></p> <p>Der Verwaltungsrat kann den ESPP jederzeit ändern oder beenden, allerdings darf dies die ausstehenden Kaufrechte der Teilnehmer während eines Kaufzeitraums ohne deren Zustimmung nicht einschränken. Bestimmte Änderungen erfordern ggf. die Genehmigung der Aktionäre. Ob eine Genehmigung der Aktionäre erforderlich ist entscheidet der Verwaltungsrat oder der Vergütungsausschuss in Einklang mit den Regelungen und Gesetzen, die zu dem Zeitpunkt anwendbar sind, zu dem die Änderung am ESPP wirksam wird.</p> <p><i>Provision</i></p> <p>Wenn Aktien, die gemäß ESPP erworben wurden, online verkauft werden, stellt E*TRADE in Deutschland und Frankreich eine Provision in Höhe von Euro 19,99 in Rechnung, im Großbritannien eine Provision in Höhe von £ 9,99.</p>
<b>E.4</b>	<b>Beschreibung aller für das Angebot wesentlichen Interessen, einschließlich von Interessenskonflikten</b>	Entfällt, da bezüglich derartiger Interessen keine Informationen in diesem Prospekt enthalten sein müssen.
<b>E.5</b>	<b>Name des Unternehmens, das die Wertpapiere zum Verkauf anbietet</b>	VMware, Inc.
<b>E.6</b>	<b>Maximale Verwässerung</b>	<p>Der Buchwert des Eigenkapitals der Gesellschaft (definiert als gesamtes Vermögen minus gesamte Verbindlichkeiten) wie im Konzernabschluss nach GAAP wiedergegeben betrug zum 31. Dezember 2015 ungefähr USD 7.923.488.000. Dies entspricht ungefähr USD 18,78 pro Aktie (errechnet auf Basis von insgesamt 421.946.696 zum 31. Dezember 2015 ausgegebenen Aktien der Gattungen A und B).</p> <p>Ausgehend von einem Nettoemissionserlös von USD 278.883.346 und dem Kauf von 6.670.972 Aktien würde die Durchführung des Angebots zu einer unmittelbaren Erhöhung des Eigenkapitals um USD 0,36 pro Aktie für die bestehenden Aktionäre führen und zu einer durchschnittlichen Verwässerung von ungefähr USD 22,67 pro Aktie für den teilnahmeberechtigten Arbeitnehmer, der Aktien erworben hat. Investoren, die Aktien zu einem Kaufpreis von USD 41,81 erwerben, werden daher zu ungefähr 54 % verwässert.</p>
<b>E.7</b>	<b>Schätzung der dem Anleger vom Emittenten in Rechnung gestellten Ausgaben</b>	Entfällt. Es gibt keine derartigen Ausgaben.

## RISK FACTORS

*Before enrollment in the VMware, Inc. Amended and Restated 2007 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “ESPP”), employees should carefully consider the risks described below and other information contained in this prospectus, and take these factors into account in making their investment decision. The occurrence of one or more of these risks alone or in combination with other circumstances may have a material adverse effect on the business and financial condition of the Company and cause the market price of the Company’s shares to decline. In such case, employees could lose all or part of their investment. The prospectus contains all risks which the Company deems material. However, the risks described below may turn out to be incomplete and therefore may not be the only risks to which the Company is exposed. Additional risks and uncertainties could have a material adverse effect on the business and financial condition of the Company. The order of presentation of the risk factors below does not indicate the likelihood of their occurrence or the extent or the significance of the individual risks.*

*In this section “we”, “us”, “our”, “VMware” or the “Company” means VMware, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context indicates otherwise.*

The risk factors that appear below could materially affect VMware’s business, financial condition and results of operations. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only risks and uncertainties facing the Company. The Company’s business is also subject to general risks and uncertainties that affect many other companies. Specific risk factors related to VMware’s relationship with EMC Corporation (“EMC”) are also included below.

### ***Risks Related to Our Business***

#### **Our success depends increasingly on customer acceptance of our emerging products and services.**

Our products and services are primarily based on server virtualization and related compute technologies used for virtualizing on-premise data center servers, which form the foundation for private cloud computing. As the market for server virtualization continues to mature, sales of our vSphere hypervisor product have begun to decline, and we are increasingly directing our product development and marketing efforts toward products and services that enable businesses to utilize virtualization as the foundation for private, public and hybrid cloud-based computing and mobile computing, including our vSphere-based software-defined data center (“SDDC”) products such as our management and automation and network virtualization (“NSX”) offerings, our Horizon client virtualization offerings, our AirWatch mobile device management offerings and our Virtual SAN (“vSAN”) storage virtualization offerings. We have also been introducing software-as-a-service (“SaaS”) versions of our on-premises products, including our vRealize and Horizon Suite and certain AirWatch offerings, and are working to extend our SDDC and NSX offerings into the public cloud. These initiatives present new and difficult technological and compliance challenges, and significant investments will be required to develop or acquire solutions to address those challenges. Our success depends on our current and future customers perceiving technological and operational benefits and cost savings associated with adopting our private and hybrid cloud solutions and our client virtualization and mobile device management solutions. As the market for our server virtualization products continues to mature, and the scale of our business has increased, our rate of revenue growth increasingly depends upon the success of our newer product and service offerings. To the extent that our emerging products and services are adopted more slowly than revenue growth in our established server virtualization offerings declines, our revenue growth rates may slow materially or our revenue may decline substantially and our operating results could be materially adversely affected.

#### **A significant decrease in demand for our server virtualization products would adversely affect our operating results.**

The large majority of our revenues is derived, and will for the foreseeable future continue to be derived, from our server virtualization products. As more and more businesses achieve high levels of virtualization in their data centers, the market for our VMware vSphere product has matured. Additionally, as businesses increasingly utilize public cloud and SaaS-based offerings, they are building more of their new compute workloads off-premises and may also shift some of their existing workloads to public cloud providers, thereby limiting growth, and potentially reducing, the market for on-premises deployments of VMware vSphere. Although sales of VMware vSphere have declined as a portion of our overall business, and we expect this trend to continue, VMware vSphere remains key to our future growth, as it serves as the foundation for our newer SDDC and network virtualization offerings. Although we are developing products to extend our vSphere-based SDDC

offerings to the public cloud due to our product concentration, a significant decrease in demand for our server virtualization products would adversely affect our operating results.

**We face intense competition that could adversely affect our operating results.**

The virtualization, cloud computing, end-user computing and software-defined data center industries are inter-related and rapidly evolving, and we face intense competition across all the markets for our products and services. Many of our current or potential competitors have longer operating histories, greater name recognition, larger customer bases and significantly greater financial, technical, sales, marketing and other resources than we do.

We face competition from, among others:

*Providers of public cloud infrastructure and SaaS-based offerings.* As businesses increasingly utilize public cloud and SaaS-based offerings, they are building more of their new compute workloads off-premises and may also shift some of their existing workloads. As a result, the demand for on-premises IT resources is expected to slow, and our products and services will need to increasingly compete for customers' IT workloads with off-premises public cloud and SaaS-based offerings. If we fail to develop products and services that address evolving customer requirements and that complement and or compete with off-premises compute resources offered by competitors, the demand for VMware's virtualization products and services may decline, and we could experience lower growth. Additionally, vCloud Air Network offerings from our partners and certain vCloud Air offerings may compete directly with infrastructure-as-a service ("IaaS") offerings from various public cloud providers such as Amazon and Microsoft.

*Large, diversified enterprise software and hardware companies.* These competitors supply a wide variety of products and services to, and have well-established relationships with, our current and prospective end users. For example, small to medium sized businesses and companies in emerging markets that are evaluating the adoption of virtualization-based technologies and solutions may be inclined to consider Microsoft solutions because of their existing use of Windows and Office products. Some of these competitors have in the past and may in the future take advantage of their existing relationships to engage in business practices that make our products and services less attractive to our end users. Other competitors have limited or denied support for their applications running in VMware virtualization environments. In addition, these competitors could integrate competitive capabilities into their existing products and services and make them available without additional charge. For example, Oracle provides free server virtualization software intended to support Oracle and non-Oracle applications, and Microsoft offers its own server virtualization software packaged with its Windows Server product and offers built-in virtualization in the client version of Windows. As a result, existing and prospective VMware customers may elect to use products that are perceived to be "free" or "very low cost" instead of purchasing VMware products and services for certain applications where they do not believe that more advanced and robust capabilities are required.

*Companies offering competing platforms based on open source technologies.* Open source technologies for virtualization, containerization and cloud platforms such as Xen, KVM, Docker, Rocket and OpenStack provide significant pricing competition and enable competing vendors to leverage these open source technologies to compete directly with our SDDC initiative. Enterprises and service providers have shown significant interest in building their own clouds based on open source projects such as OpenStack, and other companies have indicated their intention to expand offerings of virtual management and cloud computing solutions as well. Additionally, a number of enterprise IT hardware vendors have released solutions based on OpenStack including HP, IBM and Cisco.

*Other industry alliances.* Many of our competitors have entered into or extended partnerships or other strategic relationships to offer more comprehensive virtualization and cloud computing solutions than they individually had offered. We expect these trends to continue as companies attempt to strengthen or maintain their positions in the evolving virtualization infrastructure and enterprise IT solutions industry. These alliances may result in more compelling product and service offerings than we offer.

*Our partners and members of our developer and technology partner ecosystem.* We face competition from our partners. For example, third parties currently selling our products and services could build and market their own competing products and services or market competing products and services of other vendors. Additionally, as formerly distinct sectors of enterprise IT such as software-based virtualization and hardware-based server, networking and storage solutions converge, we also increasingly compete with companies who are members of

our developer and technology partner ecosystem. Consequently, we may find it more difficult to continue to work together productively on other projects, and the advantages we derive from our ecosystem could diminish.

This competition could result in increased pricing pressure and sales and marketing expenses, thereby materially reducing our operating margins, and could also prevent our new products and services from gaining market acceptance, thereby harming our ability to increase, or causing us to lose, market share.

**The loss of key management personnel could harm our business.**

We depend on the continued services of key management personnel. We generally do not have employment or non-compete agreements with our employees, and, therefore, they could terminate their employment with us at any time without penalty and could pursue employment opportunities with any of our competitors. In addition, we do not maintain any key-person life insurance policies. The loss of key management personnel could harm our business.

**Competition for our target employees is intense and costly, and we may not be able to attract and retain highly skilled employees.**

To execute on our strategy, we must continue to attract and retain highly qualified personnel. Competition for these personnel is intense, especially for senior sales executives and engineers with significant experience designing and developing software and cloud offerings. We may not be successful in attracting and retaining qualified personnel. We have in the past experienced, and we expect to continue to experience in the future, difficulty in hiring and retaining highly skilled employees with appropriate qualifications. Many of the companies with which we compete for experienced personnel have greater resources than we have. Research and development personnel are also aggressively recruited by startup and emerging growth companies, which are especially active in many of the technical areas and geographic regions in which we conduct product and service development. Competition for our key personnel results in increased costs in the form of cash and stock-based compensation and can have a dilutive impact on our stock. If we fail to attract new personnel or fail to retain and motivate our current personnel, our business and future growth prospects could suffer.

**Adverse economic conditions may harm our business.**

Our business depends on the overall demand for information technology and on the economic health of our current and prospective customers. The purchase of our products and services is often discretionary and may involve a significant commitment of capital and other resources. Weak economic conditions or significant uncertainty regarding the stability of financial markets could adversely impact our business, financial condition and operating results in a number of ways, including by lengthening sales cycles, affecting the size of enterprise agreements (“EAs”) that customers will commit to, reducing the level of our non-EA transactional sales, lowering prices for our products and services, reducing unit sales and reducing the rate of adoption of our products and services by new customers and the willingness of current customers to purchase upgrades to our existing products and services. For example, a recurrence of the sovereign debt crisis in Europe or that region’s failure to recover from recession would threaten to suppress demand and our customers’ access to credit in that region, which is an important market for our products and services. In addition, recent economic instability in Brazil, China and Russia has adversely affected our operating results in these countries, and our operating results may be further adversely affected if this economic instability continues or spreads to neighboring markets. In response to sustained economic uncertainty, many national and local governments that are current or prospective customers for our products and services, including the U.S. federal government, have made, or threatened to make, significant spending cutbacks which could reduce the amount of government spending on IT and the potential demand for our products and services from the government sector.

Regional economic uncertainty can also result in general and ongoing tightening in the credit markets, lower levels of liquidity, increases in the rates of default and bankruptcy and significant volatility in the credit, equity and fixed income markets. As a result, current or potential customers may be unable to fund software purchases, which could cause them to delay, decrease or cancel purchases of our products and services. Even if customers are willing to purchase our products and services, if they do not meet our credit requirements, we may not be able to record accounts receivable or unearned revenues or recognize revenues from these customers until we receive payment, which could adversely affect the amount of revenues we are able to recognize and our cash flows in a particular period.

**We may not be able to respond to rapid technological changes with new solutions and services offerings.**

The virtualization, cloud computing, end-user computing and SDDC industries are characterized by rapid technological change, changing customer needs, frequent new software product introductions and evolving industry standards. The introduction of third-party solutions embodying new technologies and the emergence of new industry standards could make our existing and future software solutions obsolete and unmarketable. Cloud computing has proven to be a disruptive technology that is altering the way that businesses consume, manage and provide physical IT resources, applications, data and IT services. We may not be able to establish or sustain our thought leadership in the cloud computing and enterprise software fields, and our customers may not view our products and services as innovative and best-of-breed, which could result in a reduction in market share and our inability to command a pricing premium over competitor products and services. We may not be able to develop updated products and services that keep pace with technological developments and emerging industry standards, that address the increasingly sophisticated needs of our customers or that interoperate with new or updated operating systems and hardware devices.

Our ability to react quickly to new technology trends and customer requirements is negatively impacted by the length of our development cycle for new products and services and product and service enhancements, which has frequently been longer than we originally anticipated. This is due in part to the increasing complexity of our product offerings as we increase their interoperability, introduce them into product suites and maintain their compatibility with multiple IT resources utilized by our customers, which can significantly increase the development time and effort necessary to achieve the interoperability of product suite components while maintaining product quality. If we are unable to evolve our solutions and offerings in time to respond to and remain ahead of new technological developments, our ability to retain or increase market share and revenues in the virtualization, cloud computing, end-user computing and SDDC industries could be materially adversely affected. With respect to our SDDC products, if we fail to introduce compelling new features in future upgrades to our VMware vSphere product line, manage the transition to hybrid cloud platforms, develop new or tightly integrate existing applications for our virtualization technology that address customer requirements for integration, automation and management of their IT systems with public cloud resources, overall demand for products and services based on VMware vSphere may decline.

**We are exposed to foreign exchange risks.**

Because we conduct business in currencies other than the U.S. dollar but report our operating results in U.S. dollars, we face exposure to fluctuations in currency exchange rates. In 2015, approximately 30% of our sales were invoiced and collected in non-U.S. dollar denominated currencies. The realized gain or loss on foreign currency transactions is dependent upon the types of foreign currency transactions that we enter into, the exchange rates associated these transactions and changes in those rates, the net realized gain or loss on our foreign currency forward contracts, and other factors. Although we hedge a portion of our foreign currency exposure, a significant fluctuation in exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies may adversely affect our operating results. For example, we experienced a measurable negative impact to our revenues in 2015 due to exchange rate fluctuations, and we expect a further negative impact to 2016 revenues and unearned revenues and cash flows. The further weakening of foreign currency exchange rates against the U.S. dollar would likely result in additional adverse impact on our revenues.

**Our operating results may fluctuate significantly.**

Our operating results may fluctuate due to a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control. As a result, comparing our operating results on a period-to-period basis may not be meaningful, and our past results should not be relied upon as an indication of our future performance. In addition, a significant portion of our quarterly sales typically occurs during the last two weeks of the quarter, which generally reflects customer buying patterns for enterprise technology. As a result, our quarterly operating results are difficult to predict even in the near term. If our revenues or operating results fall below the expectations of investors or securities analysts or below any guidance we may provide to the market, the price of our Class A common stock would likely decline substantially.

Factors that may cause fluctuations in our operating results include, among others, the factors described elsewhere in this risk factors section and the following:

- fluctuations in demand, adoption rates, sales cycles (which have been increasing in length) and pricing levels for our products and services;

- changes in customers' budgets for information technology purchases and in the timing of their purchasing decisions;
- the timing of recognizing revenues in any given quarter, which can be affected by a number of factors, including product announcements, beta programs and product promotions that can cause revenue recognition of certain orders to be deferred until future products to which customers are entitled become available;
- the timing of announcements or releases of new or upgraded products and services by us or by our competitors;
- the timing and size of business realignment plans and restructuring charges;
- our ability to maintain scalable internal systems for reporting, order processing, license fulfillment, product delivery, purchasing, billing and general accounting, among other functions;
- our ability to control costs, including our operating expenses;
- credit risks of our distributors, who account for a significant portion of product revenues and accounts receivable;
- our ability to process sales at the end of quarter;
- seasonal factors such as the end of fiscal period budget expenditures by our customers and the timing of holiday and vacation periods;
- renewal rates and the amounts of the renewals for EAs as original EA terms expire;
- the timing and amount of internally developed software development costs that may be capitalized;
- unplanned events that could affect market perception of the quality or cost-effectiveness of our products and solutions; and
- our ability to accurately predict the degree to which customers will elect to purchase our subscription-based offerings in place of licenses to our on-premises offerings.

**Breaches of our cybersecurity systems could seriously harm our business.**

We increasingly depend upon our IT systems to conduct virtually all of our business operations, ranging from our internal operations and product development activities to our marketing and sales efforts and communications with our customers and business partners. Unauthorized parties have penetrated our network security and our website in the past and may do so in the future. These cyberattacks threaten to misappropriate our proprietary information, cause interruptions of our IT services and commit fraud. Because the techniques used by unauthorized persons to access or sabotage networks change frequently and may not be recognized until launched against a target, we may be unable to anticipate these tactics. Further, if unauthorized access or sabotage remains undetected for an extended period of time, the effects of such breach could be exacerbated. In addition, sophisticated hardware and operating system software and applications that we produce or procure from third parties may contain defects in design or manufacture, including "bugs" and other problems that could unexpectedly interfere with the operation of our systems and processes. Our exposure to cybersecurity threats and negative consequences of cybersecurity breaches will likely increase as our customers conduct more purchase and service transactions online, and we store increasing amounts of customer data and host or manage parts of customers' businesses in cloud-based IT environments.

We have also outsourced a number of our business functions to third parties, and we rely upon distributors, resellers, system vendors and systems integrators to sell our products and services. Accordingly, if our cybersecurity systems and those of our contractors, partners and vendors fail to protect against breaches, our ability to conduct our business could be damaged in a number of ways, including:

- sensitive data regarding our business, including intellectual property and other proprietary data, could be stolen;

- our electronic communications systems, including email and other methods, could be disrupted, and our ability to conduct our business operations could be seriously damaged until such systems can be restored and secured;
- our ability to process customer orders and electronically deliver products and services could be degraded, and our distribution channels could be disrupted, resulting in delays in revenue recognition;
- defects and security vulnerabilities could be exploited or introduced into our software products or our hybrid cloud and SaaS offerings, thereby damaging the reputation and perceived reliability and security of our products and services and potentially making the data systems of our customers vulnerable to further data loss and cyber incidents; and
- personally identifiable or confidential data of our customers, employees and business partners could be stolen or lost.

Should any of the above events occur, we could be subject to significant claims for liability from our customers, we could face regulatory actions from governmental agencies, our ability to protect our intellectual property rights could be compromised, our reputation and competitive position could be significantly harmed and we could incur significant costs in order to upgrade our cybersecurity systems and remediate damages. Consequently, our business, financial condition and operating results could be adversely affected.

**We operate a global business that exposes us to risks resulting from the involvement of foreign jurisdictions and markets.**

Our international activities account for a substantial portion of our revenues and profits, and we plan to further expand internationally. In addition, our investment portfolio includes investments in non-U.S. financial instruments and holdings in non-U.S. financial institutions, including European institutions. In addition to the risks described elsewhere in these risk factors, our international operations subject us to risks resulting from the involvement of foreign jurisdictions and markets which can lead to the following difficulties for VMware:

- difficulties in enforcing contracts and collecting accounts receivable and longer payment cycles, especially in emerging markets;
- difficulties in delivering support, training and documentation in certain foreign markets;
- tariffs and trade barriers and other regulatory or contractual limitations on our ability to sell or develop our products and services in certain foreign markets;
- economic or political instability and security concerns in countries that are important to our international sales and operations;
- difficulties in transferring funds from certain countries;
- increased compliance risks, particularly in emerging markets; and
- difficulties in maintaining appropriate controls relating to revenue recognition practices.

For example, recent economic instability in Brazil, China and Russia has adversely affected our operating results in these countries, and our operating results may be further adversely affected if this economic instability continues or spreads to neighboring markets. Additionally, the Chinese government is working to implement new network security standards that will require IT systems being sold into certain key sectors to be certified as “secure and controllable”. As part of that effort, in December 2014, standards were implemented in the banking sector requiring IT companies selling to Chinese banks to submit their software and other technology to intrusive security testing, include indigenous Chinese intellectual property and encryption technology in their software and disclose source code and other proprietary information to the Chinese government. Implementation of these standards was subsequently suspended in light of concerns communicated by banks and other parties. However, in 2015, the government has continued to enact or propose additional laws and regulations to address information and network security. For example, in July 2015, China enacted a State Security Law authorizing the government to implement a system for maintaining the security of networks and information, and it also published a draft cyber security law that proposed various specific information security and network security measures to enhance “cyber sovereignty.” In November 2015, the insurance regulator in China issued draft insurance cyber rules that would require insurance companies to have compliant encryption tools, secure and

compliant hardware and software products, and data storage. In December 2015, China enacted an Anti-Terrorism Law that gives local public security and state security authorities the broad discretionary authority to require companies to provide access to their equipment and decryption support in particular cases. Failure to comply with such requests can result in fines and imprisonment. In addition, a broad range of businesses will be required to verify the identities of customers and prohibit the provision of services to customers whose identities are unclear or who refuse to cooperate in the verification process. If we are not able to, or choose not to, comply with these and other information and network security standards that the Chinese government might implement in the future, our business in China may suffer.

Furthermore, if we fail to comply with legal and regulatory requirements covering the foreign activities of U.S. corporations, such as export control requirements and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, as well as with local regulatory requirements in non-U.S. jurisdictions, we may be exposed to significant fines and penalties and reputational harm. These risks will increase as we expand our operations in locations with a higher incidence of corruption and fraudulent business practices.

In addition, potential fallout from past disclosures related to the U.S. Internet and communications surveillance and possible efforts to enable increased surveillance could make foreign customers reluctant to purchase products and services from U.S.-based technology companies and impair our growth rate in foreign markets.

Our failure to manage any of these risks successfully could negatively affect our reputation and adversely affect our operating results.

**Our current research and development efforts may not produce significant revenues for several years, if at all.**

Developing our products and services is expensive. In particular, developing and launching disruptive technologies in new areas, as we are continuing to do with our VMware NSX virtual networking and vSAN virtual storage initiatives, requires significant investments of resources and often entails greater risk than incremental investments in existing products and services. Our investment in research and development may not result in marketable products or services or may result in products and services that generate less revenues than we anticipate. Our research and development expenses were approximately 20% of our total revenues during the year ended December 31, 2015. Our future plans include significant investments in software research and development and related product opportunities. We believe that we must continue to dedicate a significant amount of resources to our research and development efforts to maintain our competitive position. However, we may not receive significant revenues from these investments for several years, if at all.

**We may not be able to adequately protect our intellectual property rights.**

We depend on our ability to protect our proprietary technology. We rely on trade secret, patent, copyright and trademark laws and confidentiality agreements with employees and third parties, all of which offer only limited protection. As such, despite our efforts, the steps we have taken to protect our proprietary rights may not be adequate to prevent misappropriation of our proprietary information or infringement of our intellectual property rights, and our ability to police such misappropriation or infringement is uncertain, particularly in countries outside of the United States. In addition, we rely on confidentiality or license agreements with third parties in connection with their use of our products and technology. There is no guarantee that such parties will abide by the terms of such agreements or that we will be able to adequately enforce our rights.

Detecting and protecting against the unauthorized use of our products, technology proprietary rights and intellectual property rights is expensive, difficult and, in some cases, impossible. Litigation is necessary from time to time to enforce or defend our intellectual property rights, to protect our trade secrets or to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. Despite our efforts, we may not be able to prevent third parties from infringing upon or misappropriating our intellectual property, which could result in a substantial loss of our market share.

**Our use of “open source” software in our products could negatively affect our ability to sell our products and subject us to litigation.**

Many of our products and services incorporate so-called “open source” software, and we may incorporate open source software into other products and services in the future. Open source software is generally licensed by its authors or other third parties under open source licenses. Open source licensors generally do not provide warranties or assurance of title or controls on origin of the software, which exposes us to potential liability if the software fails to work or infringes the intellectual property of a third party.

We monitor our use of open source software in an effort to avoid subjecting our products to conditions we do not intend and avoid exposing us to unacceptable financial risk. However, the processes we follow to monitor our use of open source software could fail to achieve their intended result. In addition, although we believe that we have complied with our obligations under the various applicable licenses for open source software that we use, there is little or no legal precedent governing the interpretation of terms in most of these licenses, which increases the risk that a court could interpret the license differently than we do.

From time to time, we receive inquiries or claims from authors or distributors of open source software included in our products regarding our compliance with the conditions of one or more open source licenses. An adverse outcome to a claim could require us to:

- pay significant damages;
- stop distributing our products that contain the open source software;
- revise or modify our product code to remove alleged infringing code;
- release the source code of our proprietary software; or
- take other steps to avoid or remedy an alleged infringement.

In March 2015, a software developer who alleges that software code he wrote is used in a component of our vSphere product filed a lawsuit against us in Germany alleging copyright infringement for failing to comply with the terms of an open source license General Public License v.2 (“GPL v.2”) and seeking an order requiring us to comply with the GPL v.2 or cease distribution of any affected code within Germany. Although we believe that the claims in this lawsuit lack merit and intend to vigorously defend the lawsuit, an adverse outcome to this or other claims could have a material adverse impact on our intellectual property rights, our operating results and financial condition.

**The evolution of our business requires more complex go-to-market strategies, which involve significant risk.**

Our increasing focus on developing and marketing IT management and automation and IaaS (including software-defined networking, vCloud Air, vCloud Air Network and integrated virtual desktop and mobile device) offerings that enable customers to transform their IT systems requires a greater focus on marketing and selling product suites and more holistic solutions, rather than selling on a product-by-product basis. Consequently, we have developed, and must continue to develop, new strategies for marketing and selling our offerings. Additionally, the duration of sales cycles for our offerings has increased as our customers’ purchasing decisions become more complex and require additional levels of approval. In addition, marketing and selling new technologies to enterprises requires significant investment of time and resources in order to educate customers on the benefits of our new product offerings. These investments can be costly and the additional effort required to educate both customers and our own sales force can distract from their efforts to sell existing products and services.

**Our success depends upon our ability to develop appropriate business and pricing models.**

If we cannot adapt our business models to keep pace with industry trends, including the industry-wide transition to cloud-based computing, our revenues could be negatively impacted. Certain of our new product initiatives, such as our vCloud Air and SaaS offerings, have a subscription model. As we increase our adoption of subscription-based pricing models for our products, we may fail to set pricing at levels appropriate to maintain our revenue streams or our customers may choose to deploy products from our competitors that they believe are priced more favorably. In addition, we may fail to accurately predict subscription renewal rates or their impact on operating results, and because revenues from subscriptions are recognized for our services over the term of the subscription, downturns or upturns in sales may not be immediately reflected in our results. Additionally, as customers transition to our hybrid cloud and SaaS products and services, our revenue growth rate may be adversely impacted during the period of transition as we will recognize less revenue up front than we would otherwise recognize as part of the multi-year license arrangements through which we typically sell our established offerings. Finally, as we offer more services that depend on converting users of free services to users of premium services and converting purchasers of our on-premises products to our SaaS offerings, and as such services grow in size, our ability to maintain or improve and to predict conversion rates will become more important.

**Our products and services are highly technical and may contain errors, defects or security vulnerabilities.**

Our products and services are highly technical and complex and, when deployed, have contained and may contain errors, defects or security vulnerabilities. Some errors in our products or services may only be discovered after a product or service has been installed and used by customers. Undiscovered vulnerabilities in our products or services could expose our customers to hackers or other unscrupulous third parties who develop and deploy viruses, worms and other malicious software programs that could attack our products or services. In the past, VMware has been made aware of public postings by hackers of portions of our source code. It is possible that the released source code could expose unknown security vulnerabilities in our products and services that could be exploited by hackers or others. We may also inherit unknown security vulnerabilities when we integrate the products or services of other companies into VMware products or services. Actual or perceived errors, defects or security vulnerabilities in our products or services could harm our reputation and lead some customers to return products or services, reduce or delay future purchases or use competitive products or services.

**Failure to effectively manage our product and service lifecycles could harm our business.**

As part of the natural lifecycle of our products and services, we periodically inform customers that products or services will be reaching their end of life or end of availability and will no longer be supported or receive updates and security patches. To the extent these products or services remain subject to a service contract with the customer, we offer to transition the customer to alternative products or services. Failure to effectively manage our product and service lifecycles could lead to customer dissatisfaction and contractual liabilities, which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

**Our success depends on the interoperability of our products and services with those of other companies.**

The success of our products depends upon the cooperation of hardware and software vendors to ensure interoperability with our products and offer compatible products and services to end users. In addition, we intend to extend the functionality of various products to work with native public cloud applications, which may require the cooperation of public cloud vendors. To the extent that hardware, software and public cloud vendors perceive that their products and services compete with ours or those of our controlling stockholder, EMC or Dell Inc. (“Dell”), which has signed an agreement to acquire EMC, they may have an incentive to withhold their cooperation, decline to share access or sell to us their proprietary APIs, protocols or formats, or engage in practices to actively limit the functionality, compatibility and certification of our products. In addition, vendors may fail to certify or support or continue to certify or support our products for their systems. If any of the foregoing occurs, our product development efforts may be delayed or foreclosed and it may be difficult and more costly for us to achieve functionality and service levels that would make our services attractive to end users, any of which could negatively impact our business and operating results.

**Disruptions to our distribution channels could harm our business.**

Our future success is highly dependent on our relationships with distributors, resellers, system vendors and systems integrators, which account for a significant portion of our revenue. Recruiting and retaining qualified channel partners and training them in the use of our technology and product offerings requires significant time and resources. Our failure to maintain good relationships with channel partners would likely lead to a loss of end users of our products and services, which would adversely affect our revenue. We generally do not have long-term contracts or minimum purchase commitments with our distributors, resellers, system vendors and systems integrators, and our contracts with these channel partners do not prohibit them from offering products or services that compete with ours.

Three of our distributors each accounted for 10% or more of our consolidated revenues during 2015. Although we believe that we have in place, or would have in place by the date of any such termination, agreements with replacement distributors sufficient to maintain our revenues from distribution, if we were to lose the distribution services of a significant distributor, such loss could have a negative impact on our operating results until such time as we arrange to replace these distribution services with the services of existing or new distributors.

**Our vCloud Air and SaaS offerings rely on third-party providers for data center space and colocation services.**

Our vCloud Air and SaaS offerings rely upon third-party providers to supply data center space, equipment maintenance and other colocation services. Although we have entered into various agreements for the lease of data center space, equipment maintenance and other services, third parties could fail to live up to the contractual obligations under those agreements. The failure of a third-party provider to prevent service disruptions, data

losses or security breaches may require us to issue credits or refunds or indemnify or otherwise be liable to customers or third parties for damages that may occur. Additionally, if these third-party providers fail to deliver on their obligations, our reputation could be damaged, our customers could lose confidence in us and our ability to maintain and expand our vCloud Air and SaaS offerings would be impaired.

**Joint ventures may not yield expected benefits and outcomes.**

As we expand our offerings into new technologies such as the public cloud and seek more efficient methods of marketing our products and services in regions where local partners can operate more easily, we sometimes rely upon joint ventures with established providers of IT products and services in particular regions, for example as service providers. Joint ventures are inherently risky and the requirements for close ongoing cooperation and commitments from the joint venture partners and agreement to devote adequate resources often present significant challenges. Joint ventures can also be difficult to manage, given the potentially different interests of joint venture partners. Accordingly, there can be no guarantee that our joint ventures will achieve their intended objectives. If we are unable to continue our strategic alignment with joint venture partners or obtain the cooperation and commitments we are relying upon, our ability to successfully expand our offerings globally and in certain regions may diminish.

**SaaS offerings, which involve compliance and data security risks, constitute an important part of our business.**

As we continue to develop and offer SaaS versions of our products, we will need to continue to evolve our processes to meet a number of regulatory, intellectual property, contractual and service compliance challenges. These challenges include compliance with licenses for open source and third party software embedded in our SaaS offerings, maintaining compliance with export control and privacy regulations, including HIPAA, protecting our services from external threats, maintaining the continuous service levels and data security expected by our customers, preventing the inappropriate use of our services and adapting our go-to-market efforts.

**We are involved in litigation and regulatory inquiries and proceedings that could negatively affect us.**

From time to time, we are involved in various legal, administrative and regulatory proceedings, claims, demands and investigations relating to our business, which may include claims with respect to commercial, product liability, intellectual property, breach of contract, employment, class action, whistleblower and other matters. In the ordinary course of business, we also receive inquiries from and have discussions with government entities regarding the compliance of our contracting and sales practices with laws and regulations.

We have been, and expect to continue to be, subject to intellectual property infringement claims, including claims by entities that do not have operating businesses of their own and therefore limit our ability to seek counterclaims for damages and injunctive relief. In addition to monetary judgments, a judgment could also include an injunction or other court order that could prevent us from offering our products. In addition, we might be required to seek a license for the use of such intellectual property, which may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Alternatively, we may be required to develop non-infringing technology, which could require significant effort and expense and may ultimately not be successful. Third parties may also assert infringement claims against our customers and channel partners, which could require us to initiate or defend potentially protracted and costly litigation on their behalf, regardless of the merits of these claims, because we generally indemnify our customers and channel partners from claims of infringement of proprietary rights of third parties in connection with the use of our products. These matters can be time-consuming, divert management's attention and resources and cause us to incur significant expenses. Allegations made in the course of regulatory or legal proceedings may also harm our reputation, regardless of the merit of such claims. Furthermore, because litigation and the outcome of regulatory proceedings are inherently unpredictable, our business, financial condition or operating results could be materially affected by an unfavorable resolution of one or more of these proceedings, claims, demands or investigations.

**Improper disclosure of personal data could result in liability and harm our reputation.**

Our business is subject to a wide variety of federal, state and international laws and regulations regarding privacy and protection of personal data. We collect contact and other personal or identifying information from our customers, and our customers increasingly use our services to store and process personal information and other regulated data, including protected health information subject to stringent data privacy laws. In the course of providing employee compensation and benefits, we also maintain personal data of our employees and share

that information with third party payroll and benefits providers. Our hybrid cloud computing service offerings, pursuant to which we offer hybrid cloud services and enable third-party service providers to offer hybrid cloud services built on our technology, expose us to particularly significant risks. The application of U.S. and international data privacy laws to cloud computing vendors is evolving and uncertain, and our existing contractual provisions may prove to be inadequate to protect us from claims for data loss or regulatory noncompliance made against cloud computing providers who we may partner with. Any failure by us or our business partners to comply with posted privacy policies, other federal, state or international privacy-related or data protection laws and regulations, or the privacy commitments contained in contracts could result in proceedings against us by governmental entities or others and significant fines, which could have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results and harm our reputation. Further, any systems failure or compromise of our security that results in the release of our customers' and employees' data could (i) subject us to substantial damage claims, (ii) expose us to costly regulatory remediation and (iii) harm our reputation and brand.

**If we fail to comply with our customer contracts or government contracting regulations, our business could be adversely affected.**

Contracts with many of our customers include unique and specialized performance requirements. In particular, our contracts with federal, state, local and non-U.S. governmental customers and our arrangements with distributors and resellers who may sell directly to governmental customers are subject to various procurement regulations, contract provisions and other requirements relating to their formation, administration and performance. Any failure by us to comply with provisions in our customer contracts or any violation of government contracting regulations could result in the imposition of various civil and criminal penalties, which may include termination of contracts, forfeiture of profits, suspension of payments and, in the case of our government contracts, fines and suspension from future government contracting. Further, any negative publicity related to our customer contracts or any proceedings surrounding them, regardless of its accuracy, may damage our business and affect our ability to compete for new contracts. In the ordinary course of business, we also receive inquiries from and have ongoing discussions with government entities regarding the compliance of our contracting and sales practices with laws and regulations. In June 2015, we reached an agreement with the Department of Justice ("DOJ") and the General Services Administration ("GSA") to pay \$76 million to resolve allegations that our government sales practices between 2006 and 2013 had violated the federal False Claims Act. As set forth in the settlement agreement, VMware denied the allegations and did not admit liability. A failure in the future to comply with federal and state governmental contracting requirements could result in the termination of customer contracts, our suspension from government work, the imposition of fines or other government sanctions or an inability to compete for new contracts, any of which could adversely affect our business, operating results or financial condition.

**Acquisitions could harm our business and operating results.**

We have acquired in the past, and plan to acquire in the future, other businesses, products or technologies. Acquisitions could harm our business and operating results by leading to the following significant difficulties and uncertainties:

- disrupting our ongoing operations, diverting management from day-to-day responsibilities, increasing our expenses, and adversely impacting our business, financial condition and operating results;
- failure of the acquired business to further our business strategy;
- uncertainties in achieving the expected benefits of an acquisition, including enhanced revenues, technology, human resources, cost savings, operating efficiencies and other synergies;
- reducing cash available for operations, stock repurchase programs and other uses and resulting in potentially dilutive issuances of equity securities or the incurrence of debt;
- incurring amortization expense related to identifiable intangible assets acquired that could impact our operating results;
- difficulty integrating the operations, systems, technologies, products and personnel of the acquired businesses effectively;
- difficulty achieving expected business results due to a lack of experience in new markets, products or technologies or the initial dependence on unfamiliar distribution partners or vendors;

- difficulty retaining and motivating key personnel from acquired companies;
- assuming the liabilities of the acquired business, including acquired litigation-related liabilities and regulatory compliance issues, and potential litigation or regulatory action arising from a proposed or completed acquisition;
- difficulty maintaining good relationships with customers or business partners of the acquired business or our own customers as a result of any integration of operations;
- unidentified issues not discovered during the diligence process, including issues with the acquired business's intellectual property, product quality, security, privacy practices, accounting practices, regulatory compliance or legal contingencies;
- difficulty maintaining or establishing acceptable standards, controls, procedures or policies with respect to the acquired business;
- difficulty relating to the challenges and costs of closing a transaction; and
- the need to later divest acquired assets at a loss if the acquisition does not meet our expectations.

**If our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets become impaired, we may be required to record a significant charge to earnings.**

We may not realize all the economic benefit from our acquisitions of other companies, which could result in an impairment of goodwill or intangibles. As of December 31, 2015, goodwill and amortizable intangible assets were \$3,993 million and \$616 million, respectively. We review our goodwill and amortizable intangible assets for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. We test goodwill for impairment at least annually. Factors that may lead to impairment include a substantial decline in stock price and market capitalization or cash flows, reduced future cash flow estimates related to the assets and slower growth rates in our industry. We may be required to record a significant charge in our financial statements during the period in which any impairment of our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets is determined, which would negatively impact our operating results.

**Problems with our information systems could interfere with our business and could adversely impact our operations.**

We rely on our information systems and those of third parties for processing customer orders, delivering products, providing services and support to our customers, billing and tracking our customers, fulfilling contractual obligations and otherwise running our business. If our systems fail, our disaster and data recovery planning and capacity may prove insufficient to enable timely recovery of important functions and business records. Any disruption in our information systems and those of the third parties upon whom we rely could have a significant impact on our business. In addition, we continuously work to enhance our information systems. For example, we are in the midst of a multi-year project to replace our enterprise resource planning software. The implementation of these types of enhancements is frequently disruptive to the underlying business of an enterprise, which may especially be the case for us due to the size and complexity of our business. Implementation may disrupt internal controls and business processes and could introduce unintended vulnerability to error. Additionally, our information systems may not support new business models and initiatives and significant investments could be required in order to upgrade them. Any disruptions relating to our systems enhancements, particularly any disruptions impacting our operations during the implementation period, could adversely affect our business in a number of respects. Additionally, delays in adapting our information systems to address new business models could limit the success or result in the failure of such initiatives and impair the effectiveness of our internal controls. Even if we do not encounter these adverse effects, the implementation of these enhancements may be much more costly than we anticipated. If we are unable to successfully implement the information systems enhancements as planned, our operating results could be negatively impacted.

**We may have exposure to additional tax liabilities, and our operating results may be adversely impacted by higher than expected tax rates.**

As a multinational corporation, we are subject to income taxes as well as non-income based taxes, such as payroll, sales, use, value-added, net worth, property and goods and services taxes, in both the United States and various foreign jurisdictions. Our domestic and international tax liabilities are subject to the allocation of

revenues and expenses in different jurisdictions and the timing of recognizing revenues and expenses. Significant judgment is required in determining our worldwide provision for income taxes and other tax liabilities. We are subject to income and indirect tax examinations. The Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) is currently auditing the EMC consolidated group’s federal tax returns for tax years 2009 through 2011. While we believe we have complied with all applicable income tax laws, a governing tax authority could have a different interpretation of the law and assess us with additional taxes. Any assessment of additional taxes could materially affect our financial condition and operating results.

Our future effective tax rate may be affected by such factors as changes in tax laws, changing interpretation of existing laws or regulations, the impact of accounting for stock-based compensation, the impact of accounting for business combinations, changes in the composition of global earnings, the expiration of statute of limitations, settlements of audits, changes in our international organization and changes in overall levels of income before tax.

In addition, in the ordinary course of our global business, there are many intercompany transactions, including the transfer of intellectual property, where the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. Although we believe that our tax estimates are reasonable, the final determination of tax audits or tax disputes may differ from what is reflected in our historical income tax provisions and accruals.

Our rate of taxation in foreign jurisdictions is lower than our U.S. tax rate. Our international income is primarily earned by our subsidiaries organized in Ireland, and, as such, our effective tax rate can be impacted by the composition of our earnings in the U.S. and foreign jurisdictions. During October 2014, Ireland announced revisions to its tax regulations that will require foreign earnings of our subsidiaries organized in Ireland to be taxed at higher rates. We will be impacted by the changes in tax regulations in Ireland beginning in 2021, and we may proactively make structural changes that impact our tax rates prior to that date. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development issued guidelines and proposals during October 2015 that also may change how our tax obligations are determined in many of the countries in which we do business. These potential changes could also adversely affect our effective tax rate.

**Catastrophic events or geo-political conditions could disrupt our business.**

Our corporate headquarters are located in the San Francisco Bay Area, a region known for seismic activity. A significant natural disaster, such as an earthquake, fire, flood or other act of God, could have a material adverse impact on our business and operating results. Abrupt political change, terrorist activity and armed conflict pose a risk of general economic disruption in affected countries, and disease pandemics could temporarily sideline a substantial part of our or our customers’ workforce at any particular time, any of which could disrupt our business. Furthermore, some of our new product initiatives and business functions are hosted and carried out by third parties that may be vulnerable to disruptions of these sorts, many of which may be beyond our control. Unanticipated disruptions in services provided through localized physical infrastructure, such as utility or telecommunication outages, can curtail the functioning of local offices as well as critical components of our information systems, and adversely affect our ability to process orders, provide services, respond to customer requests and maintain local and global business continuity. To the extent that such disruptions result in delays or cancellations of customer orders, or the deployment or availability of our products and services, our revenues would be adversely affected. Additionally, any such catastrophic event could cause us to incur significant costs to repair damages to our facilities, equipment and infrastructure.

**Changes in accounting principles and guidance could result in unfavorable accounting charges or effects.**

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. These principles are subject to interpretation by the SEC and various bodies formed to create and interpret appropriate accounting principles and guidance. A change in these principles or guidance, or in their interpretations, may have a significant effect on our reported results, as well as our processes and related controls, and may retroactively affect previously reported results. For example, during May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). The updated standard is effective for us in the first quarter of 2018 and permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. Early adoption is permitted, but not earlier than the first quarter of 2017. We have not selected a transition method and are currently evaluating the effect that ASU 2014-09 will have on our consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

### ***Risks Related to Our Relationship with EMC***

**Our stock price has declined significantly since the announcement of the Dell Acquisition, and its continuing pendency and potential completion may adversely impact our business and stock price in the future.**

On October 12, 2015, EMC and Dell announced the Dell Acquisition, pursuant to which Dell's parent company, Denali Holding Inc. ("Denali"), would acquire EMC while maintaining VMware as an independent publicly traded company and issuing a tracking stock, Class V common stock, intended to reflect VMware's economic performance as partial consideration to the EMC shareholders. Upon issuance, the Class V common stock is expected to track the performance of an approximately 53% economic interest in the VMware business.

Our stock price has declined significantly following the announcement of the Dell Acquisition and following subsequent announcements of our financial results and our guidance for future operating results. The period since the announcement of the Dell Acquisition has also coincided with a general downturn in share prices of technology companies. A number of factors relating to the Dell Acquisition could adversely affect our business or our stock price during the pendency or following the closing of the Dell Acquisition, including:

- If the Dell Acquisition is completed, Denali will be able to control matters requiring our stockholders' approval, including the election of a majority of our directors and the other matters over which EMC currently has control, as described in the risk factors below.
- Following the closing of the acquisition, Denali could implement changes to our business, including changing our commercial relationship with EMC or taking other corporate actions that our other stockholders may not view as beneficial.
- We have arrangements with a number of companies that compete with Dell, and the pendency or completion of the Dell Acquisition could adversely affect our relationship with these companies or other customers, suppliers and partners.
- During the pendency of the Dell Acquisition, Denali has a right of consent to matters requiring EMC's approval under our certificate of incorporation, including acquisitions or investments in excess of \$100 million, and Denali may choose not to consent to matters that our board of directors and EMC believe are in the best interests of VMware.
- We anticipate certain synergies and benefits from the Dell Acquisition that may not be realized.
- The Class V common stock to be issued by Denali, while not a VMware issued security, would increase the supply of publicly traded securities that track VMware's economic performance and could create the perception that the Class V common stock dilutes the holdings of our public stockholders, both of which could put downward pressure on our stock price.
- Following the closing of the Dell Acquisition, Denali will be highly leveraged and may be required to commit a substantial portion of its cash flows to servicing its indebtedness. While Denali has publicly stated that it plans to leave VMware free to use its cash to invest in the VMware business, Denali's significant debt could create the perception that Denali may exercise its control over us to limit our growth in favor of its other businesses or cause us to transfer cash to Denali. In addition, if Denali defaults, or appears in danger of defaulting, on its indebtedness, the trading price of the Class V common stock issued by Denali would be adversely affected, which could negatively impact the price of our Class A common stock, and uncertainty as to the impact of such a default on VMware could disrupt our business.
- Some of our products compete directly with products sold or distributed by Dell, which could result in reduced sales during the pendency or following the closing of the Dell Acquisition.
- The pendency of the Dell Acquisition creates uncertainty for our employees, which could make it difficult to attract and retain employees.
- The pendency of the Dell Acquisition could distract management's focus from executing on other strategic initiatives.
- With respect to our stock repurchase program, we are currently subject to a number of legal and regulatory constraints resulting from Dell's proposed acquisition of EMC, which impacts the timing and ability to

execute repurchases of our shares and may continue to curtail our ability to repurchase our shares throughout the pendency of the Dell Acquisition.

- The Dell Acquisition creates potential litigation risk. Various lawsuits have been filed against EMC and others in connection with the Dell Acquisition, including one in which the Company and our directors are named as defendants. It is possible that we or our Company's directors may be named in other lawsuits.

**Holders of our Class A common stock have limited ability to influence matters requiring stockholder approval.**

As of December 31, 2015, EMC owned 43,025,000 shares of our Class A common stock and all 300,000,000 shares of our Class B common stock, representing 81.3% of the total outstanding shares of common stock or 97.5% of the voting power of outstanding common stock. Through its ownership of the Class B common stock, which is generally entitled to 10 votes per share, EMC controls the vote to elect all of our directors and to approve or disapprove all other matters submitted to a stockholder vote.

Prior to a distribution by EMC to its stockholders under Section 355 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (a "355 Distribution"), shares of Class B common stock transferred to any party other than a successor-in-interest (such as Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) or a subsidiary of EMC automatically convert into Class A common stock. EMC's voting control over VMware will continue so long as the shares of Class B common stock it owns continue to represent at least 20% of our outstanding stock. If EMC's ownership falls below 20% of the outstanding shares of our common stock, all outstanding shares of Class B common stock will automatically convert to Class A common stock. If EMC effects a 355 Distribution at a time when it holds shares of Class B common stock, its shareholders will receive Class B common stock. These shares will remain entitled to 10 votes per share, holders of these shares will remain entitled to elect 80% of the total number of directors on our board of directors and the holders of our Class A common stock will continue to have limited ability to influence matters requiring stockholder approval and have limited ability to elect members of our board of directors. Following a 355 distribution, shares of Class B common stock may convert to Class A common stock if such conversion is approved by VMware stockholders after the 355 distribution and we have obtained a private letter ruling from the Internal Revenue Service. In January 2014, the IRS announced in Revenue Procedure 2014-3 that, generally, it would no longer issue private letter rulings on 355 distributions.

**EMC has the ability to prevent us from taking actions that might be in our best interest.**

Under our certificate of incorporation and the master transaction agreement we entered into with EMC, we must (subject to certain exceptions) obtain the consent of EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed), as the holder of our Class B common stock, prior to taking specified actions, such as acquiring other companies for consideration in excess of \$100 million, issuing stock or other VMware securities, except pursuant to employee benefit plans (provided that we obtain Class B common stockholder approval of the aggregate annual number of shares to be granted under such plans), paying dividends, entering into any exclusive or exclusionary arrangement with a third party involving, in whole or in part, products or services that are similar to EMC's or amending certain provisions of our charter documents. In addition, we have agreed that for so long as EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) continues to own greater than 50% of the voting control of our outstanding common stock, we will not knowingly take or fail to take any action that could reasonably be expected to preclude the ability of EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) to undertake a tax-free spin-off. Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, or another acquirer or successor, if the Dell Acquisition is not completed and EMC is subsequently acquired or otherwise undergoes a change of control, will be entitled to exercise the voting control and contractual rights of EMC, and may do so in a manner that could vary significantly from EMC's historic practice. If EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) does not provide any requisite consent allowing us to conduct such activities when requested, we will not be able to conduct such activities. As a result, we may have to forgo capital raising or acquisition opportunities that would otherwise be available to us, and we may be precluded from pursuing certain growth initiatives.

By becoming a stockholder in our company, holders of our Class A common stock are deemed to have notice of and have consented to the provisions of our certificate of incorporation and the master transaction agreement with respect to the limitations that are described above.

**EMC has the ability to prevent a change in control transaction and may sell control of VMware without benefiting other stockholders.**

EMC's voting control and its additional rights described above gives EMC (or Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) the ability to prevent transactions that would result in a change of control of VMware, including transactions in which holders of our Class A common stock might otherwise receive a premium for their shares over the then-current market price. In addition, EMC (or Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) is not prohibited from selling a controlling interest in us to a third party and may do so without the approval of the holders of our Class A common stock and without providing for a purchase of any shares of Class A common stock held by persons other than EMC. Accordingly, shares of Class A common stock may be worth less than they would be if EMC did not maintain voting control over us or if EMC did not have the additional rights described above.

**If EMC's level of ownership significantly increases, EMC (or Denali, if the Dell acquisition is completed) could unilaterally effect a merger of VMware into EMC without a vote of VMware stockholders or the VMware board of directors at a price per share that might not reflect a premium to then-current market prices.**

As of December 31, 2015, EMC held approximately 81.3% of VMware's outstanding common stock, and EMC's percentage ownership of VMware common stock could increase as a result of repurchases by VMware of our Class A common stock or purchases by EMC (or Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed). Section 253 of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits a parent company, when it owns 90% or more of each class of a subsidiary's stock that generally would be entitled to vote on a merger of that subsidiary with the parent, to unilaterally effect a merger of the subsidiary into the parent without a vote of the subsidiary's board or stockholders. Accordingly, if EMC or Denali (after the Dell Acquisition is completed) becomes the holder of at least 90% of VMware's outstanding stock, neither VMware's board of directors nor VMware's stockholders would be entitled to vote on a merger of VMware into Denali (the "short-form merger"). Moreover, a short-form merger is not subject to the stringent "entire fairness" standard and the parent company is not required to negotiate with a special committee of disinterested directors that would serve to approximate arm's length negotiations designed to ensure that a fair price is paid. Rather, a minority stockholder's sole remedy in the context of a short-form merger is to exercise appraisal rights under Delaware law. In such a proceeding, petitioning stockholders may be awarded more or less than the merger price or the amount they would have received in a merger negotiated between the parent and a disinterested special committee advised by independent financial and legal advisors. Denali has publicly stated that from the completion of the Dell Acquisition through the two-year anniversary of its completion, it will not acquire any shares of common stock of VMware if such acquisition would cause the common stock of VMware to no longer be publicly traded on a U.S. securities exchange or VMware to no longer be required to file reports under Sections 13 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, in each case, unless such acquisition of VMware common stock is required in order for VMware to continue to be a member of the affiliated group of corporations filing a consolidated tax return with Denali.

**We engage in related persons transactions with EMC that may divert our resources, create opportunity costs and prove to be unsuccessful.**

We currently engage in a number of related persons transactions with EMC (and, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, we may in the future engage in related persons transactions with Dell) that include joint product development, go-to-market, branding, sales, customer service activities, real estate and various support services. Additionally, we contributed technology and transferred employees to Pivotal Software, Inc. ("Pivotal") in 2013 and continue to hold a significant ownership interest in Pivotal.

We believe that these related persons transactions provide us a unique opportunity to leverage the respective technical expertise, product strengths and market presence of EMC and its subsidiaries for the benefit of our customers and stockholders while enabling us to compete more effectively with competitors who are much larger than us. However, these transactions (or other transactions we may enter into with Dell if the Dell Acquisition is completed) may prove not to be successful and may divert our resources or the attention of our management from other opportunities. Negotiating and implementing these arrangements can be time consuming and cause delays in the introduction of joint product and service offerings and disruptions to VMware's business. We cannot predict whether our stockholders and industry or securities analysts who cover us will react positively to announcements of new related persons transactions with EMC, and such announcements could have a negative impact on our stock price. Our participation in these transactions may also cause certain of our other vendors and ecosystem partners who compete with EMC and its subsidiaries (or, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, Denali and its subsidiaries) to also view us as their competitors. Additionally, if Pivotal requires additional funding, we

may be asked to contribute capital resources to Pivotal or accept dilution in our ownership interest, and we may be unable to realize any value from the technology and resources that we contributed to Pivotal.

**Our business and EMC's business overlap, and EMC and Dell may compete with us, which could reduce our market share.**

We and EMC are IT infrastructure companies providing products and services that overlap in various areas, including software-based storage, hyper-converged infrastructure products and cloud computing services. Dell, which will indirectly control our company if the Dell Acquisition is completed, also provides products and services that overlap with ours in various areas, including in management and hyper-converged infrastructure products. EMC and Dell compete with us in these areas now and may engage in increased competition with us in the future. In addition, the intellectual property agreement that we have entered into with EMC provides EMC the ability to use our source code and intellectual property, which, subject to limitations, it may use to produce certain products that compete with ours. EMC's rights in this regard extend to its majority-owned subsidiaries, which could include joint ventures where EMC holds a majority position and one or more of our competitors hold minority positions.

EMC or, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, Denali could assert control over us in a manner that could impede our growth or our ability to enter new markets or otherwise adversely affect our business. Further, EMC or, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, Denali could utilize its control over us to cause us to take or refrain from taking certain actions, including entering into relationships with channel, technology and other marketing partners, enforcing our intellectual property rights or pursuing business combinations, other corporate opportunities (which EMC is expressly permitted to pursue under the circumstances set forth in our certificate of incorporation) or product development initiatives that could adversely affect our competitive position, including our competitive position relative to that of EMC and Dell in markets where we compete with them. In addition, EMC and Dell maintain significant partnerships with certain of our competitors, including Microsoft.

**EMC's and Dell's competition in certain markets may affect our ability to build and maintain partnerships.**

Our existing and potential partner relationships may be negatively affected by our relationship with EMC and the pendency of the Dell Acquisition. We partner with a number of companies that compete with EMC or Dell in certain markets in which EMC or Dell participate. EMC's majority ownership in us, and Denali's potential majority ownership in us if the Dell Acquisition is completed, may affect our ability to effectively partner with these companies. These companies may favor our competitors because of our relationship with EMC and our potential relationship with Dell.

EMC and Dell compete with certain of our significant channel, technology and other marketing partners, including IBM and Hewlett-Packard. Pursuant to our certificate of incorporation and other agreements that we have with EMC, EMC and, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, Dell may have the ability to impact our relationship with those of our partners that compete with EMC or Dell, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and our ability to pursue opportunities which may otherwise be available to us.

**We could be held liable for the tax liabilities of other members of EMC's consolidated tax group.**

We have historically been included in EMC's consolidated group for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as well as in certain consolidated, combined or unitary groups that include EMC Corporation or certain of its subsidiaries for state and local income tax purposes. Pursuant to our agreement with EMC, we and EMC generally will make payments to each other such that, with respect to tax returns for any taxable period in which we or any of our subsidiaries are included in EMC's consolidated group for U.S. federal income tax purposes or any other consolidated, combined or unitary group of EMC Corporation or its subsidiaries, the amount of taxes to be paid by us will be determined, subject to certain consolidated return adjustments, as if we and each of our subsidiaries included in such consolidated, combined or unitary group filed our own consolidated, combined or unitary tax return. When we become subject to federal income tax audits as a member of EMC's consolidated group, the tax sharing agreement provides that EMC has authority to control the audit and represent EMC and VMware's interests to the IRS. Accordingly, if we and EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) differ on appropriate responses and positions to take with respect to tax questions that may arise in the course of an audit, our ability to affect the outcome of such audits may be impaired. In addition, if EMC effects a 355 Distribution or other transaction that is subsequently determined to be taxable, VMware could be liable for all or a portion of the tax liability, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

We have been included in the EMC consolidated group for U.S. federal income tax purposes since our acquisition by EMC, and expect to continue to be included in such consolidated group for periods in which EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) owns at least 80% of the total voting power and value of our outstanding stock. Each member of a consolidated group during any part of a consolidated return year is jointly and severally liable for tax on the consolidated return of such year and for any subsequently determined deficiency thereon. Similarly, in some jurisdictions, each member of a consolidated, combined or unitary group for state, local or foreign income tax purposes is jointly and severally liable for the state, local or foreign income tax liability of each other member of the consolidated, combined or unitary group. Accordingly, for any period in which we are included in the EMC consolidated group for U.S. federal income tax purposes or any other consolidated, combined or unitary group of EMC Corporation and its subsidiaries, we could be liable in the event that any income tax liability was incurred, but not discharged, by any other member of any such group.

We are still evaluating the potential impact of the pending Dell Acquisition on our tax sharing agreement with EMC and expect to amend the agreement following or in conjunction with the completion of the acquisition. If the pending Dell Acquisition is completed and it is subsequently determined that the tracking stock issued in connection with the Dell Acquisition constitutes a taxable distribution, VMware could be liable for all or a portion of the tax liability, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

**We have limited ability to resolve favorably any disputes that arise between us and EMC.**

Disputes may arise between EMC and us in a number of areas relating to our ongoing relationships, including our reseller, technology and other business agreements with EMC, areas of competitive overlap, strategic initiatives, requests for consent to activities specified in our certificate of incorporation and the terms of our intercompany agreements. We may not be able to resolve any potential conflicts with EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed), and even if we do, the resolution may be less favorable than if we were dealing with an unaffiliated party.

The agreements we enter into with EMC may be amended upon agreement between the parties, and then in some cases only with the consent of Denali under the terms of the Dell Acquisition Agreement. While we are controlled by EMC and during the pendency of the Dell Acquisition, we may not have the leverage to negotiate amendments to these agreements if required on terms as favorable to us as those we would negotiate with an unaffiliated third party, if at all.

**Our CEO, our CFO and some of our directors have potential conflicts of interest with EMC.**

Our CEO, our CFO and some of our directors, namely Michael Brown, Donald Carty, John Egan, Paul Sagan and Joseph Tucci, own EMC common stock or equity awards to purchase EMC common stock that will accelerate upon completion of the Dell Acquisition. In addition, our CEO, our CFO and some of our directors, namely Michael Brown, Donald Carty, John Egan, Paul Maritz, Paul Sagan and Joseph Tucci, are executive officers or directors of EMC, and EMC, as the sole holder of our Class B common stock, is entitled to elect 7 of our 8 directors. Ownership of EMC common stock and equity awards to purchase EMC common stock by our directors and the presence of executive officers or directors of EMC on our board of directors could create, or appear to create, conflicts of interest with respect to matters involving both us and EMC that could have different implications for EMC than they do for us. Provisions of our certificate of incorporation and the master transaction agreement between EMC and us address corporate opportunities that are presented to our directors or officers that are also directors or officers of EMC. These provisions may not adequately address potential conflicts of interest or ensure that potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in our favor. As a result, we may not be able to take advantage of corporate opportunities presented to individuals who are officers or directors of both us and EMC or, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, Denali, and we may be precluded from pursuing certain growth initiatives.

**EMC's ability to control our board of directors may make it difficult for us to recruit independent directors.**

So long as EMC or, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, Denali beneficially owns shares of our common stock representing at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of outstanding voting stock, EMC or, if the Dell Acquisition is completed, Denali can effectively control and direct our board of directors. Further, the interests of EMC, Denali and our other stockholders may diverge. Under these circumstances, persons who might otherwise accept our invitation to join our board of directors may decline.

**Our historical financial information as a majority-owned subsidiary of EMC may not be representative of the results of a completely independent public company.**

The financial information covering the periods included in this report does not necessarily reflect what our financial condition, operating results or cash flows would have been had we been a completely independent entity during those periods. In certain geographic regions where we do not have an established legal entity, we contract with EMC subsidiaries for support services and EMC personnel who are managed by us. The costs incurred by EMC on our behalf related to these employees are passed on to us and we are charged a mark-up intended to approximate costs that would have been charged had we contracted for such services with an unrelated third party. These costs are included as expenses on our consolidated statements of income. Additionally, we and EMC engage in intercompany transactions, including agreements regarding the use of EMC's and our intellectual property and real estate, agreements regarding the sale of goods and services to one another and to Pivotal, and an agreement for EMC to resell our products and services to third party customers. If EMC were to distribute its shares of our common stock to its stockholders or otherwise divest itself of all or a significant portion of its VMware shares, there would be numerous implications to VMware, including the fact that VMware could lose the benefit of these arrangements with EMC. There can be no assurance that VMware would be able to renegotiate these arrangements with EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) or replace them on the same or similar terms. Additionally, our business could face significant disruption and uncertainty as we transition from these arrangements with EMC. Moreover, our historical financial information is not necessarily indicative of what our financial condition, operating results or cash flows will be in the future if and when we contract at arm's length with independent third parties for the services we have received and currently receive from EMC. During 2015, we recognized revenues of \$428 million, and as of December 31, 2015, \$306 million of sales were included in unearned revenues from such transactions with EMC. For additional information, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

***Risks Related to Owning Our Class A Common Stock***

**The price of our Class A common stock has fluctuated substantially in recent years and may fluctuate substantially in the future.**

The trading price of our Class A common stock has fluctuated significantly in the past and could fluctuate substantially in the future due to the factors discussed in this Risk Factors section and elsewhere in this report. In particular, our stock price declined significantly following the announcement of the Dell Acquisition and following subsequent announcements of financial results and our guidance for future operating results. The period since the announcement of the Dell Acquisition has also coincided with a general downturn in share prices of technology companies. Future announcements concerning these matters, as well as continuing volatility in technology company share prices, could also lead to volatility in our stock price.

EMC, which holds 81.3% of our outstanding stock is not restricted from selling its shares and is entitled to certain registration rights. If a significant number of shares enters the public trading markets in a short period of time, the market price of our Class A common stock may decline. In addition, if our Class B common stock is distributed to EMC stockholders and remains outstanding, it would trade separately from and potentially at a premium to our Class A common stock, and could thereby contribute additional volatility to the price of our Class A common stock.

Broad market and industry factors may also decrease the market price of our Class A common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance. The stock market in general and technology companies in particular have often experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. Our public float is also relatively small due to EMC's holdings, which can result in greater volatility in our stock compared to that of other companies with a market capitalization similar to ours. In addition, in the past, following periods of volatility in the overall market and the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been instituted, including against us, and, if not resolved swiftly, can result in substantial costs and a diversion of management's attention and resources.

**If securities or industry analysts change their recommendations regarding our stock adversely, our stock price and trading volume could decline.**

The trading market for our Class A common stock is influenced by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us, our business, our market or our competitors. If any of the analysts who cover

us change their recommendation regarding our stock adversely, or provide more favorable relative recommendations about our competitors, our stock price would likely decline.

**Anti-takeover provisions in Delaware law and our charter documents could discourage takeover attempts.**

As our controlling stockholder, EMC has the ability to prevent a change in control of VMware. Provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may also have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control or changes in our management. These provisions include the following:

- the division of our board of directors into three classes, with each class serving for a staggered three-year term, which prevents stockholders from electing an entirely new board of directors at any annual meeting;
- the right of the Board of Directors to elect a director to fill a vacancy created by the expansion of the Board of Directors;
- following a 355 Distribution of Class B common stock by EMC to its stockholders, the restriction that a beneficial owner of 10% or more of our Class B common stock may not vote in any election of directors unless such person or group also owns at least an equivalent percentage of Class A common stock or obtains approval of our board of directors prior to acquiring beneficial ownership of at least 5% of Class B common stock;
- the prohibition of cumulative voting in the election of directors or any other matters, which would otherwise allow less than a majority of stockholders to elect director candidates;
- the requirement for advance notice for nominations for election to the Board of Directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon at a stockholders' meeting;
- the ability of the Board of Directors to issue, without stockholder approval, up to 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock with terms set by the Board of Directors, which rights could be senior to those of common stock; and
- in the event that EMC or its successor-in-interest (including Denali, if the Dell Acquisition is completed) no longer owns shares of our common stock representing at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors, stockholders may not act by written consent and may not call special meetings of the stockholders.

In addition, we have elected to apply the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. These provisions may prohibit large stockholders, in particular those owning 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock, from merging or combining with us. These provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and under Delaware law could discourage potential takeover attempts and could reduce the price that investors might be willing to pay for shares of our common stock.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Responsibility for Contents of the Prospectus

VMware, a corporation incorporated in the U.S. State of Delaware with principal executive offices located at 3401 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94304, USA, assumes responsibility for the contents of this prospectus pursuant to section 5, paragraph 4 of the German Securities Prospectus Act (“*Wertpapierprospektgesetz*”) and declares that to the best of its knowledge the information given in this prospectus is correct and that no essential circumstances have been omitted.

### Subject Matter of the Offering

This prospectus relates to the offering of VMware shares of Class A common stock, par value US\$0.01 per share, under its ESPP. The total number of shares made available for purchase under the ESPP is 14,300,000.

### Forward-Looking Statements

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements about VMware’s business and prospects. The forward-looking statements do not include the potential impact of future events, including any mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, securities offerings or business combinations or other developments in VMware’s business that may be announced or consummated after the date hereof. Any statements contained herein that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, the words “outlook”, “believes,” “plans,” “intends,” “expects,” “goals,” “potential,” “continues,” “may,” “will,” “should,” “seeks,” “predicts,” “estimates,” “anticipates,” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these words. VMware’s future results may differ materially from its past results and from those projected in the forward-looking statements due to various uncertainties and risks, including those described in the section “Risk Factors” starting on page 27. The forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus and undue reliance should not be placed on these statements. VMware disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained herein after the date of this prospectus.

### Currency References

In this prospectus and any documents included herein, unless otherwise indicated, all dollar amounts and references to “US\$” or “\$” are to U.S. Dollars.

### Documents Available for Inspection

The Company’s internet address is <http://www.vmware.com>. The following documents, along with all other reports and amendments filed with or furnished to the SEC, are publicly available free of charge during the entire validity period of this prospectus on the Investor Relations section of VMware’s website at <http://ir.vmware.com/> in subsection “SEC Filings”:

- the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 including its audited consolidated financial statements;
- the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 including its audited consolidated financial statements; and
- the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 including its audited consolidated financial statements.

These documents are also available on the SEC website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). This prospectus can be downloaded on VMware’s website at: [www.vmware.com/de/help/ESPP\\_Prospectus.html](http://www.vmware.com/de/help/ESPP_Prospectus.html).

The Company’s amended and restated Certificate of Incorporation and amended and restated Bylaws are on file at the Company’s headquarters in Palo Alto, California. Both documents are also available publicly available free of charge during the entire validity period of this prospectus on the Investor Relations section of VMware’s website at <http://ir.vmware.com/> in subsection “Governance” and further “Governance Documents”.

## THE OFFERING

VMware has decided to offer employees of its designated subsidiaries the opportunity to buy shares of VMware Class A common stock under the ESPP.

### Information Concerning the Shares to be Offered

The shares offered under the ESPP are shares of VMware's Class A common stock, which is regulated by the 1933 Act and the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "1934 Act"). The Class A common stock par value is US\$0.01. When issued, Class A common stock must be fully paid. VMware's Class A common stock is listed on the NYSE, which is not a regulated market within the meaning of the Directive 2004/39/EC, and is quoted in U.S. Dollars. The International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) for VMware Class A common stock is US 9285634021, the U.S. security identification (CUSIP) number is 928563402, and its trading symbol at the NYSE is "VMW." In Germany, the stock is traded on the unofficial market segment ("*Freiverkehr*") on the exchanges in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich and Berlin as well as on Tradegate. There are no plans that the shares offered are or will be the object of an application for admission to trading, with a view to their distribution in a regulated market in the EU.

All of the outstanding shares of VMware Class A common stock are registered under the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act and freely transferable. As of the date of issuance, each share of Class A common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters for which Class A stockholders are entitled to vote in annual or special meetings of the Company. It should be noted that VMware also issues Class B common stock, although those shares are not the subject to the offer under this prospectus. Except that holders of Class A common stock are entitled to one vote per share while holders of Class B common stock are entitled to 10 votes per share on all matters for which VMware's Class A stockholders are entitled to vote and except with respect to the election of directors, conversion, certain actions that require the consent of holders of Class B common stock and other protective provisions as set forth in this prospectus, the holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock have identical rights.

VMware is authorized to issue up to 3,500,000,000 shares of common stock. As of December 31, 2015, the number of shares of VMware's common stock, par value US\$0.01 per share, outstanding was 421,946,696, of which 121,946,696 shares were Class A common stock and 300,000,000 were Class B common stock.

The total number of shares reserved for purchase under the ESPP is 14,300,000. As of December 31, 2015, the total number of shares available for purchase under the ESPP was 4,748,141. This is also the number of shares offered under this prospectus.

A participant will have no interest or voting right in the shares covered by his or her purchase rights under the ESPP (referred to as "Options to Purchase Stock" in the ESPP) until such purchase right has been exercised.

### Transferability

No purchase right granted under the ESPP will be assignable or transferable by a participant other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution. The shares issued upon exercise of the purchase right are freely transferable so long as the shares so issued are registered pursuant to an effective registration statement under the 1933 Act.

### Administration of the Plans

The ESPP is administered by VMware's Board or a committee appointed by VMware's Board ("the Compensation Committee"). The Board and/or the Compensation Committee has full power and authority, subject to the express provisions in the ESPP, to interpret the ESPP, to decide all questions and to resolve all disputes which may arise in relation to the ESPP. The Compensation Committee or the Board may establish rules or regulations necessary for the administration of the ESPP.

The ESPP's service provider assists the Company with administration of the ESPP. VMware has engaged E\*TRADE Securities Inc. ("E\*TRADE"), P.O. Box 1542, Merrifield, Virginia 22116-1542, USA, as the service provider for the ESPP. Individual participants will be notified if VMware selects a different service provider to help administer the participant's account.

## **The Offering under the ESPP**

### *General Information*

On June 5, 2007, the Company's Board adopted the ESPP. The ESPP was subsequently amended several times, most recently on November 14, 2013, and, with respect to the administration of the Plan, modified by the Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company most recently on December 18, 2015. The ESPP is intended to provide a method by which eligible employees of VMware and its subsidiaries may use voluntary, systematic payroll deductions to purchase VMware's Class A common stock and thereby acquire an interest in the future of VMware.

Currently, 14,300,000 shares of the Company's Class A common stock are authorized to be issued to VMware's employees under the ESPP.

As of December 31, 2015, approximately 4,748,141 common shares of Class A common stock remained available for issuance under the ESPP.

### *Eligibility to Participate and Subscription*

Only employees of VMware or its eligible subsidiaries that are employed on the first day of the applicable offering period (referred to as "Option Period" in the ESPP) and who were continuously employed by VMware or one of its eligible subsidiaries for two (2) months prior to the first day of the offering period (or any lesser number of months established by the Compensation Committee (if required under local law)) are eligible to participate in the ESPP. Only employees whose customary employment is more than 20 hours per week are eligible to participate in the ESPP (unless otherwise required under applicable law) and whose customary employment is for more than five months in any calendar year. Employees elect to participate in the ESPP by filing an enrollment form with VMware. The enrollment form must be submitted no later than one day before the offering period begins.

### *Contributions*

Participants contribute a percentage of their compensation (subject to a maximum of US\$7,500 per six-month embedded option period, and pro-rated for longer or shorter periods, at the Compensation Committee's discretion) towards the purchase of shares by way of payroll deductions. The maximum amount of contribution per offering may be reduced by any amount remaining in a participant's account that was rolled-over from the prior six-month embedded option period (related to fractional share amounts that were not used to purchase shares). At the time a participant files his or her enrollment form, he or she indicates the percentage of compensation to be contributed to the ESPP between two (2%) and fifteen percent (15%) of the employee's compensation (subject to the maximum described above). All payroll deductions authorized by a participant will be credited to his or her account under the ESPP. A participant may decrease or increase the rate of contributions by completing and filing with VMware (or its designated agent) a written notice at least one business day prior to the first day each six-month embedded option period of the offering period. Following delivery to VMware of any enrollment form or any election to change the contribution rate, appropriate payroll deductions or changes thereto will commence as soon as reasonably practicable.

### *Offering Periods*

Offering periods are generally twelve months long but are subject to change at the discretion of the Board or the Compensation Committee. New offering periods generally begin on February 1 and August 1 each year. For the period covered by this prospectus, the offering periods will begin February 1, 2016, August 1, 2016 and February 1, 2017, whereby the first offering period begins prior to the approval of this prospectus and is covered by the prospectus dated March 24, 2015 and approved on March 26, 2015 and its supplement dated January 12, 2016 and approved on January 15, 2016. Each of these offering periods will last for twelve months and consist of two consecutive embedded six-month option periods. Shares are purchased at the end of each six-month embedded option period using employee contributions made by way of payroll deductions during the embedded option period. The participant's right to purchase shares under the ESPP will be exercised automatically on the last trading day of the embedded option period, with respect to the amounts credited to the participant's ESPP account. No fractional shares will be issued. Therefore, if any amount remains in a participant's contribution account after purchase at the end of an embedded option period, these funds are rolled over to the opening balance in a participant's contribution account for the next option period.

### *Purchase Price*

For a participant's first embedded option period, the purchase price of each share is eighty-five percent (85%) of the Class A common stock's fair market value on either the first or last trading day of the offering period, whichever price is lower, provided, however, that each twelve-month offering will expire early (on the first day of the second embedded option period) if the fair market value of the Company's Class A common stock on the first day of the second embedded option period is lower than the fair market value of the Company's Class A common stock on the first day of the first embedded option period, and all participants in the expired twelve-month offering will automatically be granted a new twelve-month offering commencing on the same day that the second embedded option period was scheduled to commence. If the twelve-month offering does not expire early, for a participant's second embedded option period, the purchase price is eighty-five percent (85%) of the Class A common stock's fair market value (i) at the first trading day of the second embedded option period or (ii) at the last trading day of the second embedded option period or (iii) at the first trading day of the first embedded option period, whichever price is the lowest. The fair market value will generally be the closing price on the NYSE for the applicable date or, if there is no such sale on the relevant date, then on the last previous day on which a sale was reported.

### *Purchase Limitations*

Participants may contribute no more than fifteen percent (15%) of their eligible compensation toward the purchase of stock under the ESPP. In addition, participants may purchase no more than US\$25,000 worth of stock (determined at the time the purchase rights are granted) per calendar year and any purchase right granted to an employee will be limited so that immediately after the grant, such employee would not own stock possessing five percent (5%) or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of stock of VMware or of any participating subsidiary of VMware (including shares which the employee may purchase under outstanding purchase rights and shares, the ownership of which is attributed to the employee under Section 424(d) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

In no event will the number of shares that a participant may purchase during any six-month embedded option period exceed 750 shares of Class A common stock (as prorated for longer and shorter periods, at the Compensation Committee's discretion). Further, no purchase right may be granted that would permit a participant to withhold more than \$7,500 in each six-month embedded option period (as prorated for longer or shorter periods at the Compensation Committee's discretion).

If the number of shares available under the ESPP is not sufficient to satisfy the participation in any offering period, the Company will make a pro rata allocation of the shares remaining.

### *Delivery*

At the end of each six-month embedded option period, the purchase of shares of Class A common stock will be exercised automatically for the number of whole shares which the accumulated contributions in each participant's account could purchase at the applicable purchase price. The first purchase date under this prospectus will be on the last day of the embedded option period ending on July 31, 2016. As promptly as practicable after the last day of each embedded option period the purchased shares will be delivered to and will be registered in the street name in the participant's account at E\*TRADE.

The account information is given to each employee via an email from E\*TRADE after the account is established. Once the shares are purchased and posted to the participants' E\*TRADE account, the employee can then log into the E\*TRADE system to view the shares. Shares of Class A common stock are generally available to the employees on the ninth (9th) or tenth (10th) business day following the end of the embedded option period, although the timing may vary.

### *Termination of Participation*

Participation is voluntary and employees may withdraw from participation in the ESPP at any time but no later than by 15 days before the last day of an embedded option period by submitting a written notice to VMware (or such other date as specified by the Compensation Committee). All of the participant's funds credited to his or her ESPP account will be returned as soon as reasonably possible upon receipt of notice of withdrawal and no shares will be purchased. No further payroll deductions will be made until such employee re-enrolls in the ESPP by submitting a new subscription agreement for a subsequent offering period. Withdrawal from an option period will not affect an employee's ability to choose to participate in future periods under the ESPP.

### *Termination of Eligibility*

If a participant terminates employment with VMware or its eligible subsidiaries for any reason, his or her participation in the ESPP will be immediately terminated and any accumulated contributions to the ESPP will be returned to the terminated employee.

### *Amendment and Termination of the ESPP*

The Board may at any time amend or terminate the ESPP, provided that no amendment will adversely affect a participant's outstanding purchase rights during an offering period without his or her consent. Stockholder approval may be required for certain amendments. Whether stockholder approval is required will be determined by the Board or the Compensation Committee and consistent with the rules and laws in effect at the time the ESPP amendment becomes effective. In case of termination, all of the participant's funds credited to his or her ESPP account will be returned promptly and no shares will be purchased. No further contributions will be made. The ESPP has no set termination date, but will terminate automatically upon termination by the Board or upon purchase of all the shares authorized for purchase under the ESPP.

## **REASONS FOR THE OFFERING AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

### **Purpose of the ESPP**

The ESPP is intended to provide a method by which eligible employees of the Company and its subsidiaries may purchase shares of VMware's Class A common stock and therefore acquire an interest in the future of the Company.

### **Proceeds and Use of Proceeds**

As of December 31, 2015, shares under the ESPP are offered to approximately 18,634 eligible employees worldwide. The maximum amount of accumulated contributions for which employees may purchase shares may not exceed US\$7,500 per six-month embedded option period. Assuming that each of the approximately 18,634 eligible employees purchased the maximum amount of shares under the ESPP offered pursuant to this prospectus, that is, a total of US\$15,000 each, and on the basis of whole shares, then the gross proceeds of VMware in connection with the offer under the ESPP pursuant to this prospectus would be US\$278,923,346.

Please note that there are other limits on contributions including a 15% maximum of each employee's eligible compensation, a 750 maximum share purchase limit and a US\$25,000 purchase limit for each calendar year in which the purchase right is outstanding. This calculation assumes that none of these other limitations are triggered.

The costs of this offering consist of legal expenses in an amount approximately US\$40,000. After deduction of such costs the net proceeds, based on the above assumptions, would be approximately US\$278,883,346.

The Company may use the proceeds from the exercise of the purchase rights for any corporate purpose.

## DILUTION

The book value of the stockholders' equity of the Company (defined as total assets less total liabilities) as reflected in the consolidated financial statements in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP") amounted to approximately US\$7,923,488,000 as of December 31, 2015. This is equivalent to approximately US\$18.78 per share (calculated on the basis of Class A and Class B shares totaling 421,946,996 outstanding shares as of December 31, 2015).

If the Company had obtained net proceeds in the amount of US\$278,883,346 as of December 31, 2015, the book value of the shareholders' equity at that time would have been approximately US\$8,202,371,346 or US\$19.14 per share (based on the increased number of shares after the purchase of 6,670,972 shares and assuming a purchase price of US\$41.81, which is eighty-five percent of the stock's fair market value (US\$49.19) as of February 24, 2016. Consequently, under the above-mentioned assumptions, the implementation of the offering would lead to a direct increase in the book value of shareholders' equity of approximately US\$278,883,346 or US\$0.36 per share for the existing shareholders and an average dilution of approximately US\$22.67 per share for the eligible employee who purchased the shares and, thus, investors who acquire shares at the purchase price of US\$41.81 are diluted by about 54%.

## **DIVIDEND POLICY**

Subsequent to VMware's IPO in August 2007, the Company has not declared or paid cash dividends on its common stock. VMware currently does not anticipate declaring any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Any future determination to declare cash dividends will be made at the discretion of the Company's Board, subject to the consent of the holders of VMware Class B common stock pursuant to its certificate of incorporation. Holders of VMware Class A common stock and VMware Class B common stock will share equally on a per share basis in any dividend declared on VMware's common stock by the Company's Board.

## CAPITALIZATION

### Capitalization and Indebtedness

As of December 31, 2015, the Company's indebtedness was as follows (in millions, except per share amounts; the information is derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, except where marked as "unaudited" in which case the information is derived from internal accounting records):

<b>Total current debt</b>	
Guaranteed <sup>(1)</sup>	0
Secured <sup>(2)</sup>	0
Unguaranteed/Unsecured <sup>(3)</sup>	\$4,129
<b>Total non-current debt (excluding current portion of long-term debt)</b>	
Guaranteed <sup>(1)</sup>	0
Secured <sup>(2)</sup>	0
Unguaranteed/Unsecured <sup>(4)</sup>	\$3,694
Stockholders' equity:	
Class A common stock, par value \$.01; authorized 2,500,000 shares; issued and outstanding 121,947 and 129,359 shares	\$1
Class B convertible common stock, par value \$.01; authorized 1,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 300,000 shares	\$3
Additional paid-in capital	\$2,728
Accumulated other comprehensive income	\$(8)
Retained earnings	\$5,195
Non-controlling interests	\$4
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$7,923</b>

(1) Unaudited; as of December 31, 2015 the Issuer did not have any guaranteed debt.

(2) Unaudited; as of December 31, 2015 the Issuer did not have any secured debt.

(3) Shown as "Total current liabilities" in the Issuer's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

(4) Unaudited; amount represents non-current liabilities, derived as follows: Total liabilities (audited) of \$7,823 less current liabilities (audited) of \$4,129.

Net indebtedness in the short term and the medium-long term as of December 31, 2015 (in millions of US\$; the information is derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, except where marked as "unaudited" is derived from internal accounting records):

A. Cash	\$ 725
B. Cash equivalents	1,768
C. Short-term investments	5,016
<b>D. Liquidity (A)+(B)+(C)<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>7,509</b>
<b>E. Current financial receivable<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1,633</b>
F. Current bank debt <sup>(3)</sup>	0
G. Current portion of non-current debt <sup>(4)</sup>	4,129
H. Other current financial debt <sup>(5)</sup>	0
<b>I. Current financial debt (F)+(G)+(H)<sup>(6)</sup></b>	<b>4,129</b>
<b>J. Net current financial indebtedness (I)-(E)-(D)<sup>(7) (8)</sup></b>	<b>(5,013)</b>
K. Non-current bank loans <sup>(9)</sup>	0
L. Bonds issued <sup>(10)</sup>	0
M. Other non-current loans <sup>(11)</sup>	3,694
<b>N. Non-current financial indebtedness (K)+(L)+(M)<sup>(12)</sup></b>	<b>3,694</b>
<b>O. Net financial indebtedness (J)+(N)<sup>(13)(8)</sup></b>	<b>\$ (1,319)</b>

(1) Shown as "Total cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments" in the Issuer's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

(2) Shown as "Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2" in the Issuer's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

(3) Unaudited; as of December 31, 2015 the Issuer did not have any Current bank debt.

(4) Shown as "Total current liabilities" in the Issuer's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

(5) Unaudited; as of December 31, 2015 the Issuer did not have any Other current financial debt.

(6) Unaudited; derived from unaudited positions (F) and (H) and audited position (G) as follows: (F)+(G)+(H).

(7) Unaudited; derived from unaudited position (I) and audited positions (E) and (D) as follows: (I)-(E)-(D).

(8) Amount in brackets indicates negative indebtedness, i.e. positive capitalization.

(9) Unaudited; as of December 31, 2015 the Issuer did not have any Non-current bank loans.

(10) Unaudited; as of December 31, 2015 the Issuer did not have any Bonds issued.

(11) Unaudited; amount represents non-current liabilities, derived as follows: Total liabilities (audited) of \$7,823 less current liabilities (audited) of \$4,129.

(12) Unaudited; derived from unaudited positions as follows: (K)+(L)+(M).

(13) Unaudited; derived from unaudited positions as follows: (J)+(N).

## Commitments and Contingencies

### *Litigation*

Regarding commitments and contingencies in relation to legal and arbitration proceedings please refer to “Legal, Arbitration and Administrative Proceedings.”

### *Operating Lease and Other Contractual Commitments*

VMware leases office facilities and equipment under various operating arrangements. Rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$105 million, \$85 million and \$67 million, respectively. VMware’s minimum future lease commitments at December 31, 2015 were as follows (table in millions):

	<b>Future Lease Commitments</b>	<b>Purchase Obligations</b>	<b>Other Contractual Commitments <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
2016	\$ 90	\$ 32	\$ 7	\$ 129
2017	72	19	3	94
2018	56	16	3	75
2019	45	3	3	51
2020	34	—	3	37
Thereafter	572	—	13	585
Total	<u>\$ 869</u>	<u>\$ 70</u>	<u>\$ 32</u>	<u>\$ 971</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Consisting of various contractual agreements, which include commitments on the lease for VMware’s Washington data center facility and asset retirement obligations.

The amount of the future lease commitments after 2020 is primarily for the ground leases on VMware’s Palo Alto, California headquarter facilities, which expire in 2046. As several of VMware’s operating leases are payable in foreign currencies, the operating lease payments may fluctuate in response to changes in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the foreign currencies in which the commitments are payable.

In addition to the amounts above, \$1,500 million of notes payable to EMC was outstanding as of December 31, 2015.

### *Guarantees and Indemnification Obligations*

VMware enters into agreements in the ordinary course of business with, among others, customers, distributors, resellers, system vendors and systems integrators. Most of these agreements require VMware to indemnify the other party against third-party claims alleging that a VMware product infringes or misappropriates a patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, and/or other intellectual property right. Certain of these agreements require VMware to indemnify the other party against certain claims relating to property damage, personal injury, or the acts or omissions of VMware, its employees, agents, or representatives.

VMware has agreements with certain vendors, financial institutions, lessors and service providers pursuant to which VMware has agreed to indemnify the other party for specified matters, such as acts and omissions of VMware, its employees, agents, or representatives.

VMware has procurement or license agreements with respect to technology that it has obtained the right to use in VMware’s products and agreements. Under some of these agreements, VMware has agreed to indemnify the supplier for certain claims that may be brought against such party with respect to VMware’s acts or omissions relating to the supplied products or technologies.

VMware has agreed to indemnify the directors and executive officers of VMware, to the extent legally permissible, against all liabilities reasonably incurred in connection with any action in which such individual may be involved by reason of such individual being or having been a director or executive officer. VMware’s by-laws and charter also provide for indemnification of directors and officers of VMware and VMware subsidiaries to the extent legally permissible, against all liabilities reasonably incurred in connection with any action in which such individual may be involved by reason of such individual being or having been a director or executive officer. VMware also indemnifies certain employees who provide service with respect to employee

benefits plans, including the members of the Administrative Committee of the VMware 401(k) Plan, and employees who serve as directors or officers of VMware's subsidiaries.

In connection with certain acquisitions, VMware has agreed to indemnify the former directors and officers of the acquired company in accordance with the acquired company's by-laws and charter in effect immediately prior to the acquisition or in accordance with indemnification or similar agreements entered into by the acquired company and such persons. VMware typically purchases a "tail" directors' and officers' insurance policy, which should enable VMware to recover a portion of any future indemnification obligations related to the former officers and directors of an acquired company.

It is not possible to determine the maximum potential amount under these indemnification agreements due to the Company's limited history with prior indemnification claims and the unique facts and circumstances involved in each particular agreement. Historically, payments made by the Company under these agreements have not had a material effect on the Company's consolidated results of operations, financial position, or cash flows.

### **Working Capital Statement**

VMware believes that its working capital (i.e. its ability to access cash and other available liquid resources in order to meet its liabilities as they fall due) is sufficient to meet its present requirements for at least the next twelve months from the date of this prospectus.

## SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

### Selected Consolidated Financial Data

The following selected financial data is derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, as published in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 which can be accessed as described in the section "Documents Available for Inspection" of this prospectus. The Company's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP. The amounts in the table are in millions, except per share amounts, and shares in thousands.

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Summary of Operations:</b>			
Revenues:			
License	\$ 2,720	\$ 2,591	\$ 2,270
Services	3,927	3,444	2,937
GSA settlement	(76)	-	-
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 6,571</b>	<b>\$ 6,035</b>	<b>\$ 5,207</b>
Operating income	1,197	1,027	1,093
Net income	997	886	1,014
Net income per weighted average share, basic, for Class A and Class B	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.06	\$ 2.36
Net income per weighted average share, diluted, for Class A and Class B	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.34
Weighted average shares, basic, for Class A and Class B	424,003	430,355	429,093
Weighted average shares, diluted, for Class A and Class B	426,547	434,513	433,415

	December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>			
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 7,509	\$ 7,075	\$ 6,175
Working capital <sup>(1)</sup>	5,231	4,886	4,198
Total assets	15,746	15,216	12,327
Total unearned revenues	5,076	4,833	4,092
Long-term obligations <sup>(2)</sup>	1,500	1,500	450
Stockholders' equity	7,923	7,586	6,816
<b>Cash Flow Data:</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,180	\$ 2,535

- (1) During the fourth quarter of 2015, VMware early-adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-17, Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes, using retrospective application. This standard requires that all deferred tax assets and liabilities, and any related valuation allowance, be classified as non-current on the balance sheets. The updated standard has been applied retrospectively to all periods presented.
- (2) On January 21, 2014, in connection with the Company's agreement to acquire A.W.S. Holding, LLC ("AirWatch Holding"), the sole member and equity holder of AirWatch LLC ("AirWatch"), VMware and EMC entered into a note exchange agreement providing for the issuance of three promissory notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,500 million. The total debt of \$1,500 million includes \$450 million that was exchanged for the \$450 million promissory note outstanding in prior years.

## LEGAL, ARBITRATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

During the second quarter of 2015, VMware reached an agreement with the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and the General Services Administration (“GSA”) to pay \$76 million to resolve allegations that VMware's government sales practices between 2006 and 2013 had violated the federal False Claims Act. The settlement was paid and recorded as a reduction of VMware's total revenues during the year ended December 31, 2015.

On March 27, 2015, Phoenix Technologies (“Phoenix”) filed a complaint against VMware in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California asserting claims for copyright infringement and breach of contract relating to a version of Phoenix's BIOS software that VMware licensed from Phoenix. In the lawsuit, Phoenix is seeking injunctive relief and monetary damages. Trial is currently scheduled for November 2016. VMware believes that it has meritorious defenses in connection with this lawsuit, and currently a reasonably possible loss or range of loss cannot be estimated.

On March 4, 2015, Christoph Hellwig, a software developer who alleges that software code he wrote is used in a component of the Company's vSphere product, filed a lawsuit against VMware in the Hamburg Regional Court in Germany alleging copyright infringement for failing to comply with the terms of an open source General Public License v.2 (“GPL v.2”) and seeking an order requiring VMware to comply with the GPL v.2 or cease distribution of any affected code within Germany. VMware believes that it has meritorious defenses in connection with this lawsuit, and currently a reasonably possible loss or range of loss cannot be estimated.

VMware believes that it has valid defenses against each of the above legal matters. However, given the unpredictable nature of legal proceedings, an unfavorable resolution of one or more legal proceedings, claims, or investigations could have a material adverse effect on VMware's consolidated financial statements.

On November 17, 2015, Francis M. Ford, a VMware Class A stockholder, filed an action in the Delaware Chancery Court against certain current and former VMware directors, among others, alleging that the directors breached their fiduciary duties in connection with the proposed acquisition by Dell of EMC, and the proposed issuance of tracking stock that is intended to track the performance of VMware. The plaintiff does not assert claims directly against VMware, but purports to bring class claims on behalf of other VMware Class A stockholders and derivative claims on behalf of VMware. While VMware does not believe that the case represents a material adverse exposure, no assurances can be given that the litigation will not have any adverse consequences for the company or the directors named in the suit.

VMware accrues for a liability when a determination has been made that a loss is both probable and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. If only a range can be estimated and no amount within the range is a better estimate than any other amount, an accrual is recorded for the minimum amount in the range. Significant judgment is required in both the determination that the occurrence of a loss is probable and is reasonably estimable. In making such judgments, VMware considers the impact of negotiations, settlements, rulings, advice of legal counsel and other information and events pertaining to a particular matter. Legal costs are generally recognized as expense when incurred.

VMware is also subject to other legal, administrative and regulatory proceedings, claims, demands and investigations in the ordinary course of business or in connection with business mergers and acquisitions, including claims with respect to commercial, contracting and sales practices, product liability, intellectual property, employment, corporate and securities law, class action, whistleblower and other matters. From time to time, VMware also receives inquiries from and has discussions with government entities on various matters. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, amounts accrued relating to these other matters arising as part of the ordinary course of business were considered immaterial. VMware does not believe that any liability from any reasonably foreseeable disposition of such claims and litigation, individually or in the aggregate, would have a material adverse effect on its consolidated financial statements.

**SHAREHOLDINGS AND STOCK OPTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE,  
MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY BODIES**

The following table sets forth information, as of March 1, 2016, about the beneficial ownership of Class A common stock and Class B common stock by (i) EMC, (ii) each person who is known by us to own beneficially more than 5% of either class of our common stock, (iii) each of our directors and nominees for director, (iv) each of our executive officers and (v) all directors and executive officers of VMware as a group.

Applicable percentage ownership is based on 124,061,931 shares of Class A common stock and 300,000,000 shares of Class B common stock outstanding at March 1, 2016. In computing the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, the Company deemed outstanding shares of common stock subject to options, warrants, rights or conversion privileges held by that person that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016. The Company did not deem these shares outstanding, however, for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

Only EMC, its successor-in-interest or its majority owned or controlled subsidiaries may hold shares of Class B common stock unless and until such time as EMC distributes its shares of Class B common stock in a distribution under section 355 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), following which distribution the Class B common stock may be held by EMC, the distributees and their transferees. The rights of the holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock are identical, except with respect to voting, the election of directors, conversion and certain actions that require the consent of holders of Class B common stock and other protective provisions as set forth in our certificate of incorporation. Each share of Class B common stock is convertible into one share of Class A common stock at any time, at EMC's election. However, if EMC distributes its shares of Class B common stock in a distribution under section 355 of the Code (a "Distribution"), such right to convert Class B common stock into Class A common stock will terminate upon such distribution.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Class B Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup>	Percent of Outstanding Class B Shares	Percentage of Total Vote <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Five Percent Beneficial Owner</b> .....	300,000,000	100%	96.0%
EMC Corporation 176 South Street Hopkinton, MA 01748			

Five Percent Beneficial Owners	Number of Class A Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup>	Percent of Outstanding Class A Shares	Percentage of Total Vote <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>EMC Corporation</b> <sup>(3)</sup> .....	43,025,308	34.7%	1.4%

Name of Beneficial Owner Directors and Executive Officers	Number of Class A Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup>	Percent of Outstanding Class A Shares	Percentage of Total Vote <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Anthony Bates</b> .....	—	**	**
<b>Michael Brown</b> <sup>(4)</sup> .....	48,699	**	**
<b>Donald Carty</b> <sup>(5)</sup> .....	959	**	**
<b>Jonathan Chadwick</b> <sup>(6)</sup> .....	88,762	**	**
<b>Karen Dykstra</b> .....	—	**	**
<b>John Egan</b> <sup>(7)</sup> .....	14,085	**	**
<b>Carl Eschenbach</b> <sup>(8)</sup> .....	135,371	**	**
<b>Patrick Gelsinger</b> <sup>(9)</sup> .....	230,618	**	**
<b>Paul Maritz</b> * .....	27,221	**	**
<b>Sanjay Poonen</b> <sup>(10)</sup> .....	145,858	**	**
<b>Rangarajan (Raghu) Raghuram</b> <sup>(11)</sup> .....	121,263	**	**
<b>Zane Rowe</b> <sup>(12)</sup> .....	—	**	**

<b>Name of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Number of Class A Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Percent of Outstanding Class A Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Vote <sup>(2)</sup></b>
<b>Directors and Executive Officers</b>			
<b>Paul Sagan</b> <sup>*(13)</sup>	4,646	**	**
<b>Joseph Tucci</b> <sup>*(14)</sup>	—	**	**
<b>All directors and executive officers as a group (15 persons)</b> <sup>(15)</sup>	835,350	**	**

\* Nominee for director

\*\* Represents holdings of less than 1%

- (1) All amounts shown in this column include shares obtainable upon exercise of stock options currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of the date of this table and shares underlying restricted stock units vesting within 60 days of the date of this table. In addition to the amounts shown, each share of Class B common stock may be converted to one share of Class A common stock upon election of the holder.
- (2) Percentage of total voting power represents voting power with respect to all shares of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock, as a single class, calculated on the basis of 10 votes per share of Class B common stock and one vote per share of Class A common stock. Each holder of Class B common stock is entitled to 10 votes per share of Class B common stock, and each holder of Class A common stock is entitled to one vote per share of Class A common stock on all matters submitted to our stockholders for a vote, with the exception of the election of Group II directors, in which Class A common stock and Class B shares are each entitled to one vote per share. Additionally, following a Distribution, (i) Class B stockholders are entitled to only one vote per share on any proposal to require the conversion of all then-outstanding shares of Class B common stock to Class A common stock; and (ii) they may not vote in elections for our Board of Directors without obtaining the prior consent of our Board of Directors if they have acquired 10% or more of the then-outstanding shares of Class B common stock other than through the Distribution and do not also hold an equivalent percentage of shares of our then-outstanding Class A common stock, in each case as further set forth in our certificate of incorporation.
- (3) Based solely upon a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 12, 2016 by EMC. Does not include 300,000,000 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon conversion of the shares of Class B common stock held by EMC listed in the above table. Such shares of Class B common stock are convertible into Class A common stock at the election of EMC.
- (4) Includes 12,000 shares of Class A common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Excludes 136,900 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Brown of which 50,000 shares are subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Also excludes 8,900 restricted stock units of EMC that will vest on April 30, 2016.
- (5) Includes 959 shares of Class A common stock issuable under RSUs that will vest within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Excludes 23,100 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Carty. Also excludes 8,900 restricted stock units of EMC that will vest on April 30, 2016.
- (6) Includes 41,182 shares of Class A common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016 and 1,977 shares of Class A common stock issuable under RSUs that will vest within 60 days of March 1, 2016.
- (7) Excludes 1,142,117 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Egan. Also excludes 8,900 restricted stock units of EMC that will vest on April 30, 2016.
- (8) Includes 71,680 shares of Class A common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016 and 23,943 shares of Class A common stock issuable under RSUs that will vest within 60 days of March 1, 2016.
- (9) Includes 111,389 shares of Class A common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016 and 4,942 shares of Class A common stock issuable under RSUs that will vest within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Excludes 920,200 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Gelsinger of which 598,575 shares are subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016.
- (10) Includes 124,091 shares of Class A common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016 and 1,186 shares of Class A common stock issuable under RSUs that will vest within 60 days of March 1, 2016.
- (11) Includes 34,294 shares of Class A common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016 and 1,581 shares of Class A common stock issuable under RSUs that will vest within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Excludes 47,052 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Raghuram.
- (12) Excludes 48,129 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Rowe. Also excludes 296,681 restricted stock units of EMC.
- (13) Excludes 96,900 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Sagan of which 30,000 shares are subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Also excludes 8,900 restricted stock units of EMC that will vest on April 30, 2016.
- (14) Excludes 2,403,695 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Tucci of which 937,987 shares are subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Also excludes 576,069 restricted stock units of EMC.
- (15) Includes 405,219 shares of Class A common stock subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016 that are held by all executive officers and directors as a group and 35,280 shares of Class A common stock issuable under RSUs that will vest within 60 days of March 1, 2016. Excludes 4,818,093 shares of EMC common stock beneficially owned by such individuals of which 1,616,562 are shares subject to options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2016, as well as 35,600 shares subject to restricted stock units that will vest by April 30, 2016. Includes Mr. Rowe, who became Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President on March 1, 2016, and Ms. Dykstra, who joined the VMware Board of Directors on March 17, 2016.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON VMWARE

### Company Name

The Company's legal and commercial name is VMware, Inc.

### General Information about VMware, Inc. and its Business

VMware pioneered the development and application of virtualization technologies with x86 server-based computing, separating application software from the underlying hardware. VMware is a leader in virtualization and cloud infrastructure solutions that enable businesses to transform the way they build, deliver and consume Information Technology ("IT") resources in a manner that is evolutionary and based on their specific needs. The benefits to the Company's customers include lower IT costs and a more automated and resilient systems infrastructure capable of responding dynamically to variable business demands.

Over the years, the Company has increased its product offerings beyond compute virtualization to include offerings that allow organizations to manage IT resources across private clouds and complex multi-cloud, multi-device environments by leveraging synergies across these three product groups:

- SDDC or Software-Defined Data Center
- Hybrid Cloud Computing
- End-User Computing

VMware was the first company to articulate a vision for the SDDC, where increasingly infrastructure is virtualized and delivered as a service, enabling control of the data center to be entirely automated by software.

VMware incorporated in Delaware in 1998, was acquired by EMC Corporation ("EMC") in 2004 and conducted its initial public offering of its Class A common stock in August 2007. EMC holds approximately 81.3% of the Company's outstanding common stock, including 43 million shares of its Class A common stock as of December 31, 2015, and all of the Company's Class B common stock, and VMware is considered a "controlled company" under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. On October 12, 2015, Dell Inc. ("Dell"), Denali Holding Inc. ("Denali") and EMC entered into a definitive agreement under which Denali has agreed to acquire EMC. Under the terms of the agreement, VMware will continue to operate as a publicly traded company. Upon closing of the transaction, a portion of the merger consideration that EMC shareholders will receive will include shares of Class V common stock that will be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and issued by Denali. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, it is expected that approximately 0.111 shares of Class V common stock will be issued by Denali for each EMC share. Denali has disclosed that the Class V common stock will be a publicly traded tracking stock that, upon issuance, is intended to track the performance of an approximately 53% economic interest in the Company's business. The closing of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement is subject to approval of the EMC shareholders as well as various regulatory approvals.

Total revenues in 2015 increased 9% to \$6,571 million. This is primarily comprised of license revenues of \$2,720 million and services revenues of \$3,927 million. Of the Company's total services revenues in 2015, 87% comprised software maintenance revenues and the remaining 13% was comprised of professional services revenues, including training. Historically, the majority of the Company's license sales have been from VMware vSphere, which is included in the Company's compute product category within its SDDC product group. However, over the last two years, VMware vSphere license sales have declined. As the transformation of the IT industry continues, the Company expects that its growth will be increasingly derived from sales of its newer products, suites and services solutions across its three product groups. For example, the Company has experienced continued growth in sales volumes, production use and number of customers who have purchased VMware NSX, the Company's network virtualization solution. In addition, the Company's end-user computing solutions continue to grow driven in part by enterprise mobile management offerings.

Revenues by geographic area for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were as follows (table in millions):

	<b>For the Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
United States	\$ 3,311	\$ 2,912	\$ 2,485
International	3,260	3,123	2,722
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,571</b>	<b>\$ 6,035</b>	<b>\$ 5,207</b>

VMware is a corporation incorporated and existing under the laws of Delaware and is registered with the Delaware Department of State, under registration number 2853894. The mailing address of the Company's principal executive offices is 3401 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94304, USA, and the Company's telephone number is (001) 650-427-5000. The IRS Employer Identification Number is 94-3292913.

#### **Auditors**

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PwC"), 488 Almaden Boulevard, Suite 1800, San Jose, California 95110, USA.

PwC is an independent registered public accounting firm with the U.S. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). PwC has been the Company's independent auditors since December 2002. PwC audited the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013. The audits were performed by auditors licensed with the California Board of Accountancy who qualify as certified public accountants.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURITIES

### Type and the Class of the Securities being Offered, including the Securities Identification Code

As of December 31, 2015, VMware's authorized capital stock consisted of 2,500,000,000 shares of Class A common stock, par value of \$0.01 and 1,000,000,000 shares of Class B common stock, par value of \$0.01 per share.

VMware common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol "VMW." The U.S. security identification (CUSIP) number of the shares is 928563402. The CUSIP number is the U.S. equivalent of the international security identification number (ISIN).

### Stock Repurchase Programs

On January 27, 2015, VMware's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to one billion dollars of VMware's Class A common stock through the end of 2017. Stock will be purchased from time to time, in the open market or through private transactions, subject to market conditions. The timing of any repurchases and the actual number of shares repurchased will depend on a variety of factors, including VMware's stock price, cash requirements for operations and business combinations, corporate, legal and regulatory requirements and other market and economic conditions. VMware is not obligated to purchase any shares under its stock repurchase programs. Purchases can be discontinued at any time that VMware believes additional purchases are not warranted. All shares repurchased under VMware's stock repurchase programs are retired.

The following table summarizes stock repurchase authorizations, which were open or completed during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 (amounts in table in millions):

Authorization Date	Amount Authorized	Expiration Date	Status
January 27, 2015	\$1,000	December 31, 2017	Open
August 6, 2014	1,000	December 31, 2016	Completed in Q3'15
August 7, 2013	700	December 31, 2015	Completed in Q4'14
November 28, 2012	250	December 31, 2014	Completed in Q4'13
February 29, 2012	600	December 31, 2013	Completed in Q2'13

As of December 31, 2015, the cumulative authorized amount remaining for repurchase was \$835 million.

The following table summarizes stock repurchase activity during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 (aggregate purchase price in millions, shares in thousands):

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Aggregate purchase price	\$ 1,125	\$ 700	\$ 508
Class A common shares repurchased	13,495	7,642	6,636
Weighted-average price per share	\$ 83.36	\$ 91.61	\$ 76.58

The aggregate purchase price of repurchased shares includes commissions and is classified as a reduction to additional paid-in capital.

## **VMware Shares Repurchased for Tax Withholdings**

During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, VMware repurchased and retired or withheld 2.6 million, 1.8 million and 1.9 million shares, respectively, of Class A common stock, for \$173 million, \$162 million and \$126 million, respectively, to cover tax withholding obligations. These amounts may differ from the amounts of cash remitted for tax withholding obligations on the consolidated statements of cash flows due to the timing of payments. Pursuant to the respective award agreements, these shares were withheld in conjunction with the net share settlement upon the vesting of restricted stock and restricted stock units during the period. The value of the withheld shares, including restricted stock units, was classified as a reduction to additional paid-in capital.

## **Legislation under which the Securities have been Created/Regulation of the Shares**

The shares of stock were established in accordance with the DGCL. Except as otherwise expressly required under the laws of a country, the ESPP and all rights thereunder will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the U.S. State of Delaware.

VMware's common stock is regulated by the 1934 Act.

## **Form of Securities, Name and Address of the Entity in Charge of Keeping the Records**

In general, shareholders hold shares of the Company's common stock in book-entry form. The records are kept by the Company's transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, who serves as the depository agent for the purpose of this offer if the shareholders decide to register as record holder and hold physical certificates. The address of the depository agent is 59 Maiden Lane, Plaza Level, New York 10038, USA and the telephone number is +1-212-936-5100.

The Company's designated ESPP service provider is E\*TRADE. The shares issuable under the ESPP to Eligible Employees participating in the ESPP are deposited into a designated brokerage account at E\*TRADE. Participants may obtain information about their accounts online at <http://www.etrade.com/stockplans> or by calling an E\*TRADE ESPP representative at +1(800) 838-0908 (from within the U.S.) or +1(650) 599-0125 (from outside the U.S.). Individual participants will be notified if VMware selects a different service provider to help administer the participant's account.

VMware does not currently engage a paying agent as it has not declared a cash dividend since its IPO and it does not anticipate declaring dividends in the foreseeable future.

## **Commission**

E\*TRADE has a commission fee of Euro 19.99 per online transaction in Germany and France and of £ 9.99 in the UK upon a sale of shares purchased under the ESPP.

## **Currency of the Securities Issue**

The United States Dollar is the currency of the security issue.

## **Rights attached to the Securities**

No participating employee will have any voting, dividend, or other shareholder rights with respect to any offering under the ESPP until the purchase rights or the options have been exercised and the shares have been purchased and delivered to the participating employee. Following such purchase and delivery, the participating employee will be entitled to the rights attached to the shares, as further described below:

### *Classes of Common Stock*

VMware has two classes of authorized common stock: Class A common stock and Class B common stock. Only Class A common stock is the subject of this prospectus.

### *Dividend Rights*

Subsequent to its IPO, VMware has not declared or paid cash dividends on its common stock and has no present intention to do so.

Subject to preferences that may apply to shares of preferred stock outstanding at the time, the holders of outstanding shares of VMware's Class A common stock and Class B common stock are entitled to receive dividends, out of assets legally available, sharing equally in all such dividends on a per share basis, at the times and in the amounts that VMware's Board may determine from time to time. Dividend rights attach when shares of common stock are issued. However, stockholders do not become entitled to dividends until (and if) the Board declares a dividend. If dividends are declared, all stockholders of record as of a certain date set forth by the Board will be entitled to such dividends. If someone is not a stockholder of record on such date, he or she will not be entitled to any dividend payments.

Under §1197 of Title 12 of the Delaware Code, dividends that are unclaimed for three years escheat to the State of Delaware. Specifically, dividends become subject to escheat after a period of dormancy which is the full and continuous period of three years during which an owner has ceased, failed or neglected to assert a right of ownership or possession.

There are no dividend restrictions and no special procedures for stockholders resident in the EU and the EEA.

### *Conversion Rights for Class B common stock*

Each share of Class B common stock is convertible while held by EMC or its successor-in-interest at the option of EMC or its successor-in-interest into one share of Class A common stock.

If VMware's Class B common stock is distributed to security holders of EMC in a transaction (including any distribution in exchange for shares of EMC's or its successor-in-interest's common stock or other securities) intended to qualify as a distribution under Section 355 of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding provision of any successor statute, shares of VMware's Class B common stock will no longer be convertible into shares of Class A common stock. Prior to any such distribution, all shares of Class B common stock will automatically be converted into shares of Class A common stock upon the transfer of such shares of Class B common stock by EMC other than to any of EMC's successors or any of its subsidiaries (excluding VMware). If such a distribution has not occurred, each share of Class B common stock will also automatically convert at such time as the number of shares of common stock owned by EMC or its successor-in-interest falls below 20% of the outstanding shares of VMware's common stock. Following any such distribution, VMware may submit to its stockholders a proposal to convert all outstanding shares of Class B common stock into shares of Class A common stock, provided that VMware has received a favorable private letter ruling from the Internal Revenue Service satisfactory to EMC to the effect that the conversion will not affect the intended tax treatment of the distribution. In a meeting of VMware stockholders called for this purpose, the holders of VMware Class A common stock and VMware Class B common stock will be entitled to one vote per share and, subject to applicable law, will vote together as a single class, and neither class of common stock will be entitled to a separate class vote.

All conversions will be effected on a share-for-share basis.

### *Voting Rights*

Except that holders of Class A common stock are entitled to one vote per share while holders of Class B common stock are entitled to 10 votes per share on all matters to be voted on by VMware's stockholders and except with respect to the election of directors, conversion, certain actions that require the consent of holders of Class B common stock and other protective provisions as set forth in this prospectus, the holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock have identical rights.

The holders of VMware Class B common stock, voting separately as a class, are entitled to elect 80% of the total number of directors on VMware's Board which it would have if there were no vacancies on the Board at the time.

Subject to any rights of any series of preferred stock to elect directors, the holders of VMware Class A common stock and the holders of VMware Class B common stock, voting together as a single class, are entitled to elect the remaining directors, which at no time will be less than one director. In any such election, the holders of Class A common stock and the holders of Class B common stock are entitled to one vote per share.

In the event that the rights of any series of preferred stock would preclude the holders of VMware Class A common stock and the holders of VMware Class B common stock, voting together as a single class, from electing at least one director, the Board will increase the number of directors prior to the issuance of that preferred stock to the extent necessary to allow these stockholders to elect at least one director.

Generally, all other matters to be voted on by stockholders must be approved by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at a meeting by all shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock present in person or represented by proxy, voting together as a single class, subject to any voting rights granted to holders of any preferred stock.

Additionally, following a distribution of VMware Class B common stock to security holders of EMC, any person or group that beneficially owns 10% or more of the Class B common stock will not have any right to vote their shares of Class B common stock in the election of directors unless that person or group of persons also beneficially owns at least an equivalent percentage of VMware Class A common stock with two exceptions:

- where such person or group obtains the consent of VMware's Board prior to acquiring beneficial ownership of at least 5% of VMware's common stock; or
- where such person or group acquires beneficial ownership of at least 5% of VMware's common stock solely as a result of a distribution of Class B common stock to EMC stockholders and, prior to acquiring one additional share of Class B common stock, such person or group obtains the consent of VMware's Board.

#### *No Preemptive or Redemption Rights*

VMware's Class A common stock and Class B common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights to acquire shares of the Company's common stock and are not subject to redemption or sinking fund provisions.

#### *Right to Receive Liquidation Distributions*

Upon VMware's liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of VMware's Class A common stock and Class B common stock are entitled to share equally in all of VMware's assets remaining after payment of all liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any outstanding preferred stock.

#### *Approval Rights of Holders of Class B Common Stock*

In addition to any other vote required by law or by VMware's certificate of incorporation, until the first date on which EMC ceases to beneficially own 20% or more of the outstanding shares of VMware's common stock, the prior affirmative vote or written consent of EMC as the holder of the Class B common stock is required (subject in each case to certain exceptions) in order to authorize VMware to:

- adopt any shareholder rights plan or similar takeover defense measure;
- consolidate or merge with any other entity;
- acquire the stock or assets of another entity in excess of \$100 million;
- issue any stock or securities except to VMware's subsidiaries or pursuant to this offering or VMware's employee benefit plans;
- dissolve, liquidate or wind VMware up;
- declare dividends on VMware's stock;
- enter into any exclusive or exclusionary arrangement with a third party involving, in whole or in part, products or services that are similar to EMC's; and
- amend, terminate or adopt any provision inconsistent with certain provisions of VMware's certificate of incorporation or bylaws.

### *Preferred Stock*

Subject to the approval of the Class B stockholders, and subject to any requirements of the NYSE, or any applicable national securities exchange, VMware's series preferred stock may be issued from time to time in one or more series, with such terms as VMware's Board may determine. Currently no preferred stock has been issued.

### **Change of Shareholders' Rights**

The rights of holders of the Company's common stock may be changed only by a formal amendment of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws, except that the Company's Board may issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series and may fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of each series of preferred stock. Any or all of the rights and preferences selected by the Company's Board for any series of preferred stock may be greater than the rights of the common stock. Some of the rights and preferences that the Board may designate include dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences and sinking fund terms.

### **Transferability**

The offering of shares under the ESPP has been registered with the SEC on a registration statement on Form S-8 and the issued and outstanding shares of common stock are generally freely transferable.

The ESPP is intended to provide shares for investment. The Company does not, however, intend to restrict or influence any employee in the conduct of his or her own affairs. A participant, therefore, may sell shares purchased under the ESPP at any time he or she chooses, subject to compliance with any applicable securities laws, insider trading policies and applicable blackout periods. The participant assumes the risk of any market fluctuations in the price of the shares.

### **Applicable Squeeze-Out and Sell-Out Rules**

Under Section 253 of the DGCL, a corporation owning at least 90% of the outstanding shares of each class of the stock of a subsidiary corporation may effect a "short form" merger in which the shares of the subsidiary held by minority stockholders are converted into cash, stock or other property and the subsidiary becomes wholly-owned by the parent corporation. A short form merger pursuant to Section 253 may be authorized by the board of directors of the parent corporation without a vote of the stockholders of the subsidiary corporation. The minority stockholders of the subsidiary corporation are, however, entitled to seek judicial appraisal of their shares in connection with short form merger transactions in accordance with Section 262 of the DGCL.

### **Stock Based Compensation Plans**

Beside the ESPP, VMware offers its Amended and Restated 2007 Equity and Incentive Plan (the "2007 Plan"). As of December 31, 2015, the number of authorized shares under the 2007 Plan was 121.6 million. The number of shares underlying outstanding equity awards that VMware assumes in the course of business acquisitions are also added to the 2007 Plan reserve on an as-converted basis. VMware has assumed 4.2 million shares, which accordingly have been added to authorized shares under the 2007 Plan reserve.

Awards under the 2007 Plan may be in the form of stock-based awards, such as restricted stock units, or stock options. Generally, restricted stock grants made under the 2007 Plan have a three-year to four-year period over which they vest and vest 25% the first year and semi-annually thereafter. VMware's Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee determines the vesting schedule for all equity awards. The exercise price for a stock option awarded under the 2007 Plan shall not be less than 100% of the fair market value of VMware Class A common stock on the date of grant. Most options granted under the 2007 Plan vest 25% after the first year and monthly thereafter over the following three years and expire between six and seven years from the date of grant. VMware utilizes both authorized and unissued shares to satisfy all shares issued under the 2007 Plan. At December 31, 2015, there were an aggregate of 18.4 million shares of common stock available for issuance pursuant to future grants under the 2007 Plan.

### VMware Stock Options

The following table summarizes option activity since January 1, 2013 for VMware stock options (shares in thousands):

<b>VMware Stock Options</b>		
	<b>Number of Shares</b>	<b>Weighted- Average Exercise Price (per share)</b>
Outstanding, December 31, 2012	10,133	\$ 34.36
Granted	1,434	71.53
Forfeited	(416)	36.25
Expired	(387)	105.81
Exercised	(5,009)	28.12
Outstanding, December 31, 2013	5,755	44.12
Granted	2,695	50.91
Forfeited	(220)	47.89
Expired	—	—
Exercised	(2,361)	35.58
Outstanding, December 31, 2014	5,869	50.54
Granted	21	54.23
Forfeited	(322)	70.42
Expired	—	—
Exercised	(2,404)	29.44
Outstanding, December 31, 2015	3,164	64.56

The above table includes stock options granted in conjunction with unvested stock options assumed in business combinations. As a result, the weighted-average exercise price per share may vary from the VMware stock price at time of grant.

Options outstanding that are exercisable and that have vested and are expected to vest as of December 31, 2015 were as follows:

<b>VMware Stock Options</b>				
	<b>Outstanding Options (in thousands)</b>	<b>Weighted Average Exercise Price</b>	<b>Weighted Average Remaining Term (in years)</b>	<b>Aggregate Intrinsic Value <sup>(1)</sup> (in millions)</b>
Exercisable, December 31, 2015	1,627	\$ 59.31	4.49	\$ 26
Vested and expected to vest, December 31, 2015	3,078	63.89	4.88	43

<sup>(1)</sup> The aggregate intrinsic values represent the total pre-tax intrinsic values based on VMware's closing stock price of \$56.57 as of December 31, 2015, which would have been received by the option holders had all in-the-money options been exercised as of that date.

The total fair value of VMware stock options that vested during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$60 million, \$64 million and \$60 million, respectively.

The options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 had a pre-tax intrinsic value of \$136 million, \$147 million and \$256 million, respectively.

### VMware Restricted Stock

VMware restricted stock primarily consists of restricted stock unit (“RSU”) awards granted to employees. RSUs are valued based on the VMware’s stock price on the date of grant. The shares underlying the RSU awards are not issued until the RSUs vest. Upon vesting, each RSU converts into one share of VMware Class A common stock.

VMware’s restricted stock also includes performance stock unit (“PSU”) awards, which have been granted to certain of VMware’s executives and employees. The PSU awards include performance conditions and, in certain cases, a time-based vesting component. Upon vesting, each PSU award will convert into VMware’s Class A common stock at various ratios ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 shares per PSU, depending upon the degree of achievement of the performance target designated by each individual award. If minimum performance thresholds are not achieved, then no shares will be issued. As of December 31, 2015, the number of PSUs outstanding includes certain PSUs for which performance conditions have concluded but that remain subject to certain service conditions.

The following table summarizes restricted stock activity since January 1, 2013 (units in thousands):

	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value (per unit)</b>
Outstanding, January 1, 2013	12,170	\$ 91.93
Granted	7,391	76.20
Vested	(4,399)	83.21
Forfeited	(2,306)	90.55
Outstanding, December 31, 2013	12,85	85.85
Granted	6,189	92.82
Vested	(5,166)	86.27
Forfeited	(1,294)	88.03
Outstanding, December 31, 2014	12,585	88.88
Granted	12,787	72.42
Vested	(4,855)	90.72
Forfeited	(1,824)	87.39
Outstanding, December 31, 2015	18,693	77.29

As of December 31, 2015, the 18.7 million units outstanding included 18.2 million of RSUs and 0.5 million of PSUs. The above table includes RSUs issued for outstanding unvested RSUs in connection with business combinations.

As of December 31, 2015, restricted stock that is expected to vest was as follows:

	<b>Number of Units (in thousands)</b>	<b>Weighted Average Remaining Term (in years)</b>	<b>Aggregate Intrinsic Value<sup>(1)</sup> (in millions)</b>
Expected to vest, December 31, 2015	16,206	2.47	\$ 917

<sup>(1)</sup> The aggregate intrinsic values represent the total pre-tax intrinsic values based on VMware's closing stock price of \$56.57 as of December 31, 2015, which would have been received by the RSU holders had the RSUs been issued as of December 31, 2015.

The total fair value of VMware restricted stock that vested during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$379 million, \$480 million and \$340 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2015, restricted stock representing 18.7 million shares of VMware’s Class A common stock were outstanding, with an aggregate intrinsic value of \$1,057 million based on VMware’s closing price as of December 31, 2015.

Except for the ESPP, the 2007 Plan does not trigger a prospectus requirement under the European Prospectus Directive. Therefore neither those awards nor the underlying shares for such awards form the subject matter of this prospectus. Such awards are not discussed in this prospectus.

## INFORMATION ON THE GOVERNING BODIES OF VMWARE

### VMware's Directors as of the Date of this Prospectus

#### **Donald Carty**

#### **Class III, Group II**

**Term expires: 2016 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Carty, age 69, was appointed to the VMware Board of Directors in December 2015. Mr. Carty is also a member of the EMC board of directors, on which he has served since January 2015. Mr. Carty is a member of EMC's Audit Committee and its Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Mr. Carty is currently a private investor. He served as Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Dell, Inc. from January 2007 to June 2008, and as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of AMR Corporation and American Airlines from May 1998 to April 2003. Mr. Carty is also Chairman of Virgin America Airlines, Inc. (where he is Chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and a member of the Audit Committee), and is a director of Canadian National Railway Company (where he is Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, the Environment, Safety and Security Committee, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee).

Mr. Carty is a seasoned executive who brings to the Board significant financial acumen, industry insight and strategic planning experience gained from his previous leadership positions. His service on other public company boards also provides him with valuable experience.

#### **Paul Maritz**

#### **Class III, Group I**

**Term expires: 2016 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Maritz, age 61, has been a Director of VMware since July 2008 when he joined VMware as Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Maritz was Chief Executive Officer at VMware through August 2012. Mr. Maritz also served as VMware's President from July 2008 to January 2011. Mr. Maritz has been Executive Chairman of Pivotal Software, Inc., a majority-owned subsidiary of EMC in which VMware has an ownership interest, since August 2015 and is also an executive officer of EMC. From September 2012 through March 2013, Mr. Maritz served as Chief Strategist at EMC. Prior to joining VMware, he was President of EMC's Cloud Infrastructure and Services Division after EMC acquired Pi Corporation, a software company focused on building cloud-based solutions, in February 2008. Mr. Maritz was a founder of Pi and served as its Chief Executive Officer. Before founding Pi, Mr. Maritz spent 14 years working at Microsoft Corporation, where he served as a member of the five-person Executive Committee that managed the overall company. As Vice President of the Platform Strategy and Developer Group, among other roles, he oversaw the development and marketing of System Software Products (including Windows 95, Windows NT, and Windows 2000), Development Tools (Visual Studio) and Database Products (SQL Server) and the complete Office and Exchange Product Lines. Prior to Microsoft, he spent five years working at Intel Corporation as a software and tools developer.

Mr. Maritz's experience serving in various executive positions at VMware, EMC and other global technology companies provides him an in depth knowledge of the Company's business and the issues the Company faces. In addition, Mr. Maritz's substantial experience in the IT sector ranging from development of software products to founding a company developing cloud computing software provides the Board of Directors with significant expertise on a variety of issues important to the Company's business.

#### **Paul Sagan**

#### **Class III, Group I**

**Term expires: 2016 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Sagan, age 57, has been a Director of VMware since April 2014 and was appointed VMware's Lead Director in February 2015. Mr. Sagan is also a member of the board of directors of EMC, on which he has served since 2007. Mr. Sagan is a member of EMC's Leadership and Compensation Committee. Mr. Sagan has been an Executive in Residence (XIR) at General Catalyst Partners, a venture capital firm, since January 2014. From April 2005 to January 2013, Mr. Sagan served as Chief Executive Officer of Akamai Technologies, Inc. ("Akamai"), a provider of services for accelerating the delivery of content and applications over the Internet, and was President from May 1999 to September 2010 and from October 2011 to December 2012. Mr. Sagan joined Akamai in October 1998 as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. In December 2010, President Barack Obama appointed Mr. Sagan as a member of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory

Committee. From July 1997 to August 1998, Mr. Sagan was Senior Advisor to the World Economic Forum, a Geneva, Switzerland-based organization that provides a collaborative framework for leaders to address global issues. Previously, Mr. Sagan held senior executive positions at global media and entertainment companies Time Warner Cable and Time Inc., affiliates of Time Warner, Inc., as well as at CBS, Inc. Mr. Sagan is also a director of Akamai.

As the former President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer of a fast-growing, industry-leading S&P 500 company, Mr. Sagan has significant experience leading a complex, international technology enterprise, extensive knowledge of internet-based technologies and business acumen. During his career, Mr. Sagan has led visionary technology and media companies and consulted with the World Economic Forum. In addition, Mr. Sagan's service on other public company boards enables him to bring valuable experience from those directorships to his service on the Company's Board.

**Information concerning the Company's continuing directors (directors not standing for election in 2016) is presented below:**

**Anthony Bates**

**Class I, Group II**

**Term expires: 2017 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Bates, age 48, was appointed to the VMware Board of Directors in February 2016. Mr. Bates has served as President of GoPro, Inc. a maker of video and photo capture devices, and as a member of its board of directors since June 2014. From June 2013 until March 2014, Mr. Bates was the Executive Vice President, Business Development and Evangelism of Microsoft Corporation, a software company. Mr. Bates was the Chief Executive Officer of Skype Inc., a provider of software applications and related Internet communications products, from October 2010 until its acquisition by Microsoft in 2011, subsequent to which Mr. Bates served as the President of Microsoft's Skype Division until June 2013. From 1996 to October 2010, Mr. Bates served in various roles at Cisco Systems, Inc., a networking equipment provider, most recently as Senior Vice President and General Manager of Enterprise, Commercial and Small Business. Mr. Bates currently serves on the board of directors of Ebay Inc., a global ecommerce website, and Sirius X.M. Holdings Inc., a satellite radio system operator and broadcaster.

Mr. Bates has extensive executive leadership experience in the technology industry, including in managing worldwide operations, sales, service and support areas. His previous leadership positions and current service as the President of GoPro, Inc. and on the board of directors of other companies brings to our Board of Directors strong leadership expertise and unique industry insight.

**Michael Brown**

**Class II, Group I**

**Term expires: 2018 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Brown, age 70, has been a Director of VMware since April 2007. Mr. Brown is also a member of the board of directors of EMC, on which he has served since 2005. Mr. Brown is a member of EMC's Audit Committee and is chair of EMC's Finance Committee. From August 1994 until his retirement in July 1997, Mr. Brown served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Microsoft Corporation. He was Vice President, Finance, of Microsoft from April 1993 to August 1994. He joined Microsoft in December 1989. After retiring from Microsoft, Mr. Brown served as Chair of the NASDAQ Stock Market board of directors and as a governor of the National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD"). Prior to joining Microsoft, Mr. Brown spent 18 years with Deloitte & Touche LLP in various positions. Mr. Brown is also a director of Insperty, Inc., where he is a member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Compensation Committee. He is also a director of Stifel Financial Corp, where he serves on the Risk Management/Corporate Governance Committee.

Mr. Brown brings to the Board of Directors substantial financial expertise that includes extensive knowledge of the complex financial and operational issues facing large companies, and a deep understanding of accounting principles and financial reporting rules and regulations. He acquired this knowledge in the course of serving as the chief financial officer of a global technology company, working with a major international accounting and consulting firm for 18 years and serving as a member of the audit committees of other public company boards. Mr. Brown's experience at Microsoft and on the boards of other technology companies also provides insight into the IT industry. His experience as an independent auditor provides the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee with significant insight into the preparation of financial statements and knowledge of audit

procedures. Through his many senior management positions, including as former Chair of The NASDAQ Stock Market and as a governor of the NASD, Mr. Brown has demonstrated his leadership and business acumen.

**Karen Dykstra**

**Class II, Group I**

**Term expires: 2018 Annual Meeting**

Ms. Dykstra, age 57, has been a director of VMware since March 2016. Ms. Dykstra served as Chief Financial Officer and Administrative Officer of AOL, Inc., a global media technology company, from November 2013 until July 2015, and as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of AOL from September 2012 until November 2013. Ms. Dykstra previously served on the Board of Directors of AOL from 2009 until September 2012, including service as Chair of the Audit Committee during her last two years on the AOL board. From January 2007 until December 2010, Ms. Dykstra had been a Partner of Plainfield Asset Management LLC (“Plainfield”), an asset management company, and she served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Plainfield Direct LLC, Plainfield’s business development company, from May 2006 to 2010, and as a director from 2007 to 2010. She previously spent over 25 years with Automatic Data Processing, Inc., a provider of human capital management solutions to employers, from 1981 through 2006, serving most recently as Chief Financial Officer from January 2003 to May 2006, and previously as Vice President – Finance, Corporate Controller and in other capacities.

Ms. Dykstra is also a director of Gartner, Inc. where she currently serves on its Audit Committee. Ms. Dykstra brings to the Board of Directors substantial financial expertise that includes extensive knowledge of the complex financial and operational issues facing large companies, and a deep understanding of accounting principles and financial reporting rules and regulations. She acquired this knowledge in the course of serving as the chief financial officer of two global companies, working with a major business services firm for 25 years and serving as a member of the audit committee of several other public company boards.

**John Egan**

**Class I, Group I**

**Term expires: 2017 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Egan, age 58, has been a Director of VMware since April 2007. Mr. Egan is also a member of the board of directors of EMC, on which he has served since May 1992. Mr. Egan is a member of EMC’s Finance Committee and chair of EMC’s Mergers and Acquisitions Committee. Mr. Egan has been a managing partner and general partner in Egan-Managed Capital, a venture capital firm, since October 1998. From May 1997 to September 1998, Mr. Egan served as Executive Vice President, Products and Offerings of EMC. From January 1992 to June 1996, he served as Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing of EMC. From October 1986 to January 1992, he served in a number of executive positions with EMC, including Executive Vice President, Operations and Executive Vice President, International Sales. Mr. Egan resigned as an executive officer of EMC in September 1998 and as an employee of EMC in July 2002. Mr. Egan is also a director of NetScout Systems, Inc., where he is Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee and a member of the Audit Committee and Finance Committee, Verint Systems Inc., where he is Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee and a member of the Compensation Committee, and Progress Software Corporation, where he is the Non-Executive Chairman of the Board and a member of the Compensation Committee.

Mr. Egan has spent his entire career in the IT industry. His broad experience ranges from venture capital investments in early-stage technology companies to extensive sales and marketing experience to executive leadership and management roles. Mr. Egan brings to the Board business acumen, substantial operational experience and expertise in corporate strategy development, as well as a deep understanding of IT products acquired over many years of involvement with EMC. In addition, Mr. Egan’s service on other public company boards provides him with valuable experience.

**Patrick Gelsinger**

**Class II, Group I**

**Term expires: 2018 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Gelsinger, age 55, has been the Chief Executive Officer and a Director of VMware since September 2012. Prior to joining VMware, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer, EMC Information Infrastructure Products at EMC from September 2009 to August 2012. Mr. Gelsinger joined EMC from Intel Corporation, a designer and manufacturer of advanced integrated digital technology platforms, where he was Senior Vice

President and Co-General Manager of Intel Corporation's Digital Enterprise Group from 2005 to September 2009 and served as Intel's Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer from 2002 to 2005. Prior to this, Mr. Gelsinger led Intel's Desktop Products Group.

As Chief Executive Officer of VMware, Mr. Gelsinger has in-depth knowledge of the Company's business and brings to the Board of Directors insight and knowledge of its operations and strategic opportunities. In addition, Mr. Gelsinger's extensive experience as part of executive management teams for global IT companies provides the Board with significant expertise on a variety of issues important to the Company's business.

**Joseph Tucci**

**Class I, Group I**

**Term expires: 2017 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Tucci, age 68, has been Chairman of the Board of VMware since April 2007. Mr. Tucci has been the Chairman of the board of directors of EMC since January 2006 and has been Chief Executive Officer and a director since January 2001. He has served as President of EMC since February 2014, and also from January 2000 to July 2012. He also served as EMC's Chief Operating Officer from January 2000 to January 2001. Prior to joining EMC, Mr. Tucci served as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Getronics N.V., an IT services company, from June 1999 through December 1999 and as Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Wang Global, an IT services company, from December 1993 to June 1999. Mr. Tucci is a member of EMC's Finance Committee and EMC's Mergers and Acquisitions Committee. Mr. Tucci also serves as a director of Paychex, Inc., a provider of payroll, human resources and benefits outsourcing solutions, where he is Lead Independent Director and Chairman of the Governance and Compensation Committee.

Mr. Tucci has spent more than 40 years in the technology industry in senior roles at large, complex, and global technology companies. Mr. Tucci's deep knowledge of all aspects of EMC's business, combined with his drive for innovation and excellence, position him well to serve on the Company's Board of Directors. In addition, Mr. Tucci's service on other public company boards provides him with valuable experience.

## VMware's Executive Officers as of the Date of this Prospectus

Name	Age	Position(s)
Patrick Gelsinger	54	Chief Executive Officer and Director
Carl Eschenbach	49	President and Chief Operating Officer
Zane Rowe	45	Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President
Sanjay Poonen	46	Executive Vice President and General Manager, End-User Computing
Rangarajan (Raghu) Raghuram	53	Executive Vice President, Software-Defined Data Center Division
S. Dawn Smith	52	Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary

**Patrick Gelsinger** has been the Chief Executive Officer and a Director of VMware since September 1, 2012. Prior to joining VMware, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer, EMC Information Infrastructure Products at EMC, VMware's parent company and controlling stockholder, from September 2009 to August 2012. Mr. Gelsinger joined EMC from Intel Corporation, a designer and manufacturer of advanced integrated digital technology platforms, where he was Senior Vice President and Co-General Manager of Intel Corporation's Digital Enterprise Group from 2005 to September 2009 and served as Intel's Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer from 2002 to 2005. Prior to this, Mr. Gelsinger led Intel's Desktop Products Group.

**Carl Eschenbach** has served as President and Chief Operating Officer since December 2012. He had previously been appointed Co-President and Chief Operating Officer in April 2012. Mr. Eschenbach had previously served as VMware's Co-President, Customer Operations from January 2011 to April 2012 and as VMware's Executive Vice President of Worldwide Field Operations from May 2005 to January 2011. Prior to joining VMware in 2002, he was Vice President of North America Sales at Inktomi from 2000 to 2002. He also held various sales management positions with 3Com Corporation, Lucent Technologies Inc. and EMC. Mr. Eschenbach currently serves on the board of Palo Alto Networks.

**Zane Rowe** has served as VMware's Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President since March 2016. Prior to joining VMware, Mr. Rowe was EMC's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from October 2014 until February 2016. Prior to joining EMC, Mr. Rowe was Vice President of North American Sales of Apple Inc., a technology company that designs, develops, and sells consumer electronics, computer software, online services, and personal computers, from May 2012 until May 2014. He was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of United Continental Holdings, Inc., an airline holdings company, from October 2010 until April 2012 and was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Continental Airlines from August 2008 to September 2010. Mr. Rowe joined Continental in 1993.

**Sanjay Poonen** has served as VMware's Executive Vice President and General Manager, End-User Computing since August 2013. Prior to joining VMware, he spent more than seven years at SAP AG, serving as President and Corporate Officer of Platform Solutions and the Mobile Division from April 2012 until July 2013, prior to that as President of Global Solutions from November 2010 to March 2012, as Executive Vice President of Performance Optimization Apps from June 2008 to September 2009 and Senior Vice President of Analytics from April 2006 to May 2008. Mr. Poonen's over 20 years of technology industry experience also included executive-level positions with Symantec and Veritas, and product management and engineering positions with Alphablox, Apple, Inc. and Microsoft Corporation.

**Rangarajan (Raghu) Raghuram** has served as VMware's Executive Vice President, Software-Define Data Center Division since April 2012. Mr. Raghuram joined VMware in 2003 and has held multiple product management and marketing roles. Mr. Raghuram served as Senior Vice President and General Manager, Cloud Infrastructure and Management, Virtualization and Cloud Platforms, and Enterprise Products, from December 2009 through March 2012. Mr. Raghuram previously served as Vice President of VMware's Server Business Unit and of Product and Solutions Marketing from September 2003 through December 2009. Prior to VMware, Mr. Raghuram held product management and marketing roles at Netscape and Bang Networks.

**S. Dawn Smith** has served as VMware's Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary at VMware since December 2015. She joined VMware as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary in September 2009 and was also appointed as Chief Compliance Officer in August 2010. Prior to joining VMware, Ms. Smith was a partner at Morrison & Foerster LLP, a law firm. Prior to joining Morrison & Foerster LLP, she was an attorney at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati P.C.

### **Good Standing of Directors and Executive Officers**

For at least the previous five years none of the directors or executive officers of VMware has been associated with any bankruptcy, receivership or liquidation of a company when acting in their capacity as members of the administrative, management or supervisory board or senior manager of this company or has been subject to any official public incrimination and/or sanctions by statutory or regulatory authorities (including designated professional bodies). None of the directors or executive officers of the Company has ever been disqualified by a court from acting as a member of the administrative, management or supervisory bodies of an issuer or from acting in the management or conduct of the affairs of any issuer or has been convicted in relation to fraudulent offences.

The Company's directors and executive officers may be contacted at the Company's business address, 3401 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94304, USA.

### **Any Arrangement or Understanding with Major Shareholders pursuant to which a Director of VMware was selected as a Member of the Board**

As described under "VMware's Directors as of the date of the prospectus" starting on page 73, the chairman of VMware's Board, Joseph M. Tucci, is the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of EMC, and a member of VMware's board, Mr. Paul Maritz is an executive officer of EMC. The following directors of VMware are also directors of EMC: Michael W. Brown, Donald J. Carty, John R. Eagan and Paul Sagan. See "Description of Securities – Rights attached to the Securities – Voting Rights" for more information regarding the voting rights of Class A common stock and Class B common stock in the election of directors.

### **Potential Conflicts between any Duties to the Issuer of Directors or Executive Officers of VMware and their Private Interests and/or Other Duties**

Potential Conflicts between any duties to the Issuer of directors or executive officers of VMware and their private interests and/or other duties are described in the risk factor "Our CEO, our CFO and some of our directors have potential conflicts of interest with EMC." on page 44. Other than this, the Issuer is not aware of any potential conflicts between any duties to the issuer of directors or executive officers of VMware and their private interests and/or other duties.

In addition to the above disclosure of potential conflicts of interest, the information provided below includes a summary of the transactions entered into with EMC and EMC's consolidated subsidiaries (collectively "EMC"). EMC acquired the controlling interest in VCE Company LLC ("VCE") during the fourth quarter of 2014. Transactions with VCE from the date EMC acquired VCE have been included in the tables below.

#### *Transactions with EMC*

VMware and EMC engaged in the following ongoing intercompany transactions, which resulted in revenues and receipts and unearned revenues for VMware:

- Pursuant to an ongoing reseller arrangement with EMC, EMC bundles VMware's products and services with EMC's products and sells them to end users.
- EMC purchases products and services from VMware for internal use.
- VMware provides professional services to end users based upon contractual agreements with EMC.
- From time to time, VMware and EMC enter into agreements to collaborate on technology projects, and EMC pays VMware for services that VMware provides to EMC in connection with such projects.
- Pursuant to an ongoing distribution agreement, VMware acts as the selling agent for certain products and services of Pivotal Software, Inc. ("Pivotal"), a subsidiary of EMC, in exchange for an agency fee.

Under this agreement, cash is collected from the end user by VMware and remitted to Pivotal, net of the contractual agency fee.

- VMware provides various services to Pivotal. Support costs incurred by VMware are reimbursed to VMware and are recorded as a reduction to the costs incurred by VMware.

Information about VMware's revenues and receipts from such arrangements with EMC during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 and unearned revenues as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 consisted of the following (table in millions):

	<b>Revenues and Receipts from EMC</b>			<b>Unearned Revenues from EMC</b>	
	<b>For the Year Ended December 31,</b>			<b>As of December 31,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Reseller revenues	\$ 301	\$ 205	\$ 141	\$ 292	\$ 290
Internal-use revenues	17	21	32	11	18
Professional services revenues	100	85	72	3	9
Collaborative technology project receipts	—	—	7	n/a	n/a
Agency fee revenues	6	5	5	—	—
Reimbursement for services to Pivotal	4	2	12	n/a	n/a

VMware and EMC engaged in the following ongoing intercompany transactions, which resulted in costs to VMware:

- VMware purchases and leases products and purchases services from EMC.
- From time to time, VMware and EMC enter into agreements to collaborate on technology projects, and VMware pays EMC for services provided to VMware by EMC related to such projects.
- In certain geographic regions where VMware does not have an established legal entity, VMware contracts with EMC subsidiaries for support services and EMC personnel who are managed by VMware. The costs incurred by EMC on VMware's behalf related to these employees are charged to VMware with a mark-up intended to approximate costs that would have been incurred had VMware contracted for such services with an unrelated third party. These costs are included as expenses on VMware's consolidated statements of income and primarily include salaries, benefits, travel and rent expenses. EMC also incurs certain administrative costs on VMware's behalf in the U.S. that are recorded as expenses on VMware's consolidated statements of income.
- From time to time, VMware invoices end users on behalf of EMC for certain services rendered by EMC. Cash related to these services is collected from the end user by VMware and remitted to EMC.

Information about VMware's costs from such arrangements with EMC for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 consisted of the following (table in millions):

	<b>For the Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Purchases and leases of products and purchases of services	\$ 63	\$ 71	\$ 63
Collaborative technology project costs	5	12	13
EMC subsidiary support and administrative costs	100	137	128

VMware also purchases EMC products through EMC's channel partners. Purchases of EMC products through EMC's channel partners were \$36 million, \$25 million and \$6 million during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

In the fourth quarter of 2013, VMware and EMC modified an existing technology licensing arrangement. Pursuant to the modified arrangement, VMware received certain rights to developed technology for a lump-sum payment of \$26 million, which was included in amounts due to related parties, net on the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2013. The license of technology was accounted for as a transaction by entities under common control. Accordingly, an intangible asset of \$2 million was recognized and was derived by allocating the value ascribed to the licensed technology based upon the relative fair market values of the technology to each party. The difference between the asset recorded and the consideration due was primarily recognized as a reduction in capital from EMC on the statements of stockholders' equity. In addition to the license of the technology, VMware will pay EMC for support and for development collaboration. These amounts are included in collaborative technology project costs in the table above.

#### *Certain Stock-Based Compensation*

Effective September 1, 2012, Pat Gelsinger was appointed Chief Executive Officer of VMware. Prior to joining VMware, Mr. Gelsinger was the President and Chief Operating Officer of EMC Information Infrastructure Products. Mr. Gelsinger retains certain of his EMC equity awards that were held as of September 1, 2012 and he continues to vest in such awards. Stock-based compensation related to Mr. Gelsinger's EMC awards are being recognized on VMware's consolidated statements of income over the awards' remaining requisite service periods.

#### *Due To/From Related Parties, Net*

As a result of the related-party transactions with EMC described above, amounts due to and from related parties, net as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 consisted of the following (table in millions):

	<b>As of December 31,</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Due to related parties	\$ (68)	\$ (76)
Due from related parties	142	125
Due (to) from related parties, net	\$ 74	\$ 49
Income tax due (to) from related parties	\$ (18)	\$ (40)

Balances due to or from related parties, which are unrelated to tax obligations, are generally settled in cash within 60 days of each quarter-end. The timing of the tax payments due to and from related parties is governed by the tax sharing agreement with EMC.

#### *Notes Payable to EMC*

VMware and EMC entered into a note exchange agreement on January 21, 2014 providing for the issuance of three promissory notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,500 million. The total debt of \$1,500 million includes \$450 million that was exchanged for the \$450 million promissory note issued to EMC in April 2007, as amended and restated in June 2011.

The three notes issued may be prepaid without penalty or premium, and outstanding principal is due on the following dates: \$680 million due May 1, 2018, \$550 million due May 1, 2020 and \$270 million due December 1, 2022. The notes bear interest, payable quarterly in arrears, at the annual rate of 1.75%. During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, \$26 million, \$24 million and \$4 million, respectively, of interest expense was recognized.

**Disposal Restrictions agreed by the Company's Directors and Officers**

VMware does not allow directors and officers to trade VMware securities while they are in possession of material non-public information other than pursuant to a trading plan compliant with Rule 10b5-1 under the 1934 Act and are not allowed to engage in hedging transaction in VMware securities. Directors and officers who are subject to Section 16 of the 1934 Act must pre-clear any transactions in VMware securities. VMware's directors and officers are not allowed to trade shares around the end of each fiscal quarter until the Company announces its earnings for that quarter, unless pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan.

## TAXATION IN AUSTRIA

The following summary is based on the laws in effect in Austria as of February 2016. However, laws are complex and can change frequently. As a result, the information below may be out of date at the time the participant enrolls in the ESPP or purchases or sells shares.

The following applies to participants who are subject to Austrian tax. If the participant is a citizen or resident of another country for local law purposes or if the participant moves, the information below may not be applicable. Furthermore, this information is general in nature and does not discuss all of the various laws and interpretations that may apply, nor their impact on each participant's particular tax or financial situation. VMware is not in a position to assure any participant of any particular tax result. The participant should consult his or her personal tax advisor to address any particular questions.

### **Enrollment in the ESPP**

The participant is not subject to tax when he or she enrolls in the ESPP or when a new purchase offering begins.

### **Purchase of Shares**

The participant will be subject to income tax on the difference (or discount) between the fair market value of the shares on the date of purchase and the actual purchase price and transaction cost paid by the participant. Social contributions will also apply to the extent the participant's applicable annual contribution ceiling has not been met. The decisive date for the determination of the fair market value of shares for tax purposes is the date on which legal ownership or, if differing, beneficial ownership (*wirtschaftliches Eigentum*) in the Shares is transferred to the participant; for simplification purposes the date on which the shares are debited from the Company's or agent's account can be regarded as the date of transfer.

A small tax-free amount might be available if the ESPP meets certain requirements. The availability of the tax-free amount, in principle, requires that the participation in the ESPP is offered to all employees or a group of employees of the Austrian subsidiary and that the shares are held at least five years. Whether or not the tax-free amount is available in the case at hand requires a more detailed analysis of the ESPP and its implementation. The Company recommends that the participant confirms the availability of this tax-free amount with his personal tax advisor.

### **Sale of Shares**

Any gain realized from sale of shares is subject to a flat rate tax on investment income irrespective of the holding period of the shares. The capital gain will be taxed at a flat rate of 25%. The participant may in certain circumstances elect a personal assessment to apply the participant's personal income tax rate if the flat rate exceeds the participant's personal income tax rate. The participant has to declare the capital gain in his or her personal income tax return as taxable income and pay the resulting tax.

### **Withholding and Reporting**

The participant's employer will withhold income tax, if applicable, on the discount upon the purchase of shares. In any event, it is the participant's responsibility, in his annual income tax declaration, to report any income from the acquisition of shares at a discount and to pay any taxes exceeding withheld tax amounts. It is also the participant's responsibility to report therein any taxes applicable when the participant sells shares acquired under the ESPP and when the participant receives dividends.

## **TAXATION IN BULGARIA**

The following summary is based on the laws in effect in Bulgaria as of February 2016. However, laws are complex and can change frequently. As a result, the information below may be out of date at the time the participant enrolls in the ESPP or purchases or sells shares.

The following applies only to participants who are Bulgarian tax residents. If the participant is a citizen or resident of another country for local law purposes, or if the participant moves, or if the participant is subject to tax in more than one jurisdiction, the information below may not be applicable. Furthermore, this information is general in nature and does not discuss all of the various laws and interpretations, that may apply nor their impact on each participant's particular tax or financial situation. VMware is not in a position to assure any participant of any particular tax result.

The participant should consult his or her personal tax advisor to address any particular questions.

### **ESPP**

#### **Enrollment in the ESPP**

The participant will not be subject to tax when he or she enrolls in the ESPP or when a new offering period begins.

#### **Purchase of Shares**

When shares are purchased under the ESPP the participant likely will not be subject to income tax or social contributions on the difference (or discount) between the market value of the shares on the purchase date and the purchase price. However, Bulgarian tax law is not clear on this subject, and the participant is advised to consult with his or her personal tax advisor with regard to any income tax or social contributions which may be due.

#### **Sale of Shares**

When the participant sells shares acquired under the ESPP, he or she may be subject to tax. The total taxable base is calculated by aggregating all profits from securities transactions realized by the participant during the year and subtracting all losses from such transactions during the same period. The resulting amount, if positive, is included in the annual taxable income of the participant and subject to a 10% flat rate tax. The profit or loss on each separate securities transaction is determined as the difference between the sale price and the documentarily evidenced acquisition price of the securities (in the case of the ESPP, the purchase price).

#### **Withholding and Reporting**

The participant's employer will not withhold or report any income tax or social contributions at purchase. It is the participant's responsibility to report and pay any and all taxes applicable, including arising from the sale of shares or receipt of any dividends in accordance with Bulgarian law. In addition, the participant must report the acquisition of shares in his or her annual tax return for the year of purchase and in any subsequent annual tax return while he or she owns those shares.

## TAXATION IN FRANCE

The following summary is based on the laws in effect in France as of February 2016. However, laws are complex and can change frequently. As a result, the information below may be out of date at the time the participant enrolls in the ESPP or purchases or sells shares.

The following applies only to participants who are subject to French tax. If the participant is a citizen or resident of another country for local law purposes or if the participant moves, the information below may not be applicable. Furthermore, this information is general in nature and does not discuss all of the various laws and interpretations that may apply, nor their impact on each participant's particular tax or financial situation. VMware is not in a position to assure any participant of any particular tax result.

The participant should consult his or her personal tax advisor to address any particular questions.

### **Enrollment in the ESPP**

The participant will not be subject to tax when he or she enrolls in the ESPP or a when new offering period begins.

### **Purchase of Shares**

When shares are purchased under the ESPP, the participant will be subject to income tax on the difference (or discount) between the market value of the shares on the purchase date and the purchase price, less any tax-deductible social contributions. The discount will be treated as a salary and the participant will be subject to income tax on this amount at his or her marginal tax rate.

The participant will also be subject to social contributions on the discount (which includes the general social insurance contribution ("CSG") and the contribution for the reimbursement of social insurance debt ("CRDS")) when shares are purchased under the ESPP.

### **Sale of Shares**

When the participant sells shares acquired under the ESPP, he or she will be subject to capital gains tax. The taxable amount will be calculated as the sale price less the market value of the shares on the purchase date and certain broker's fees. Any capital gain the participant realizes is subject to personal income tax at the progressive rates and to 15.5% additional social taxes. (5.1% of the 15.5% social taxes paid may be tax-deductible in the following year.) The participant may benefit for a reduction of his or her taxable basis for personal income tax purposes only (but not for social taxes) as follows:

- If the shares sold were held at least for two years and less than eight years, the capital gain basis will be reduced by an allowance of 50%.
- If the shares sold were held at least for eight years, the capital gain basis will be reduced by an allowance of 65%.

If the participant realizes a capital loss, it may be offset against capital gains arising from the sale of securities realized by the participant and his or her household during the same year or during the ten following years. This capital loss may not be offset against other types of income.

### **Surtax and Wealth Tax**

An additional 3% surtax applies on all types of income exceeding €250,000 for a single person and 4% for income exceeding €500,000. For a couple filing jointly, the taxation thresholds are €500,000 and €1 million, respectively. This surtax applies to all types of income received in a year (including the ESPP discount, capital gain at sale of the shares, and dividends, if any). Certain reductions may be available. Note additional taxes may apply to high-income individuals. .

### **Withholding and Reporting**

For French tax residents, the participant's employer is generally not required to withhold income tax at the time the shares are purchased or sold. The discount will be characterized as additional salary under French law and the participant's employer will therefore report the discount on its annual declaration of salaries which is filed with the tax and labor authorities, report it on the participant's monthly pay slip and withhold and pay

employee's applicable social insurance contributions. It is the participant's responsibility to report and pay any taxes resulting from the purchase or the sale of shares, or the receipt of any dividends, and any wealth tax.

## **TAXATION IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

The following summary is based on the laws in effect in Germany as of February 2016. However, laws are complex and can change frequently. As a result, the information below may be out of date at the time the participant enrolls in the ESPP or purchases or sells shares, or exercises stock options.

The following applies to participants who are subject to German tax. If the participant is a citizen or resident of another country for local law purposes or if the participant moves, the information below may not be applicable. Furthermore, this information is general in nature and does not discuss all of the various laws and interpretations that may apply nor their impact on each participant's particular tax or financial situation. VMware is not in a position to assure any participant of any particular tax result.

The participant should consult his or her personal tax advisor to address any particular questions..

### **Enrollment in the ESPP**

The participant is not subject to tax when he or she enrolls in the ESPP or when a new purchase offering begins.

### **Purchase of Shares**

The participant will be subject to income tax, solidarity surcharge and church tax, if applicable, on the difference (or discount) between the fair market value of the shares on the date of purchase and the actual purchase price and transaction cost paid by the participant.

A small tax-free amount might be available if the ESPP meets certain requirements. The availability of the tax-free amount in principle requires that the participation in the ESPP is offered to all employees of the German subsidiary, who have been employed for one year or more at the time when the participation in the ESPP is offered. Whether or not the tax-free amount or other deduction is available in the case at hand requires a more detailed analysis of the ESPP and its implementation. The Company recommends that the participant confirms the availability of deduction with the participant's tax advisor.

The participant also will be subject to social insurance contributions on the discount to the extent he or she has not already exceeded the applicable contribution ceilings.

### **Sale of Shares**

Generally and subject to the participant acquiring legal and beneficial title to the shares upon the purchase any gain realized from sale of shares acquired after December 31, 2008 is subject to a flat rate withholding tax on investment income irrespective of the holding period of the shares. The capital gain will be taxed at a flat rate of 25% (plus solidarity surcharge and church tax, if applicable). The withholding at source, however, only applies if the shares were held in a deposit of securities at a German bank or other German financial institution. VMware does not assume any responsibility to withhold German income tax, etc. on the capital gain. A limited tax-free amount will be deducted from the entire investment income (including dividend income and capital gains from the sale of shares acquired after December 31, 2008 or other capital income from bonds, etc.) earned in the particular tax year. The participant may elect a personal assessment to apply the participant's personal income tax rate if the flat rate exceeds the participant's personal income tax rate. If the capital gain is not subject to the withholding tax on investment income, e.g. because the shares are not held in a deposit of securities at a German bank or other German financial institution, the participant has to declare the capital gain in his or her personal income tax return as taxable income and pay the resulting tax at the same flat tax rate as if withholding had been applied or, if lower, at the participant's personal income tax rate.

### **Withholding and Reporting**

The participant's employer will withhold income tax, solidarity surcharge and church tax, if applicable on the discount upon the purchase of shares. It is the participant's responsibility to report any income from the acquisition at a discount and to pay any taxes exceeding withheld tax amounts, which are potentially deriving from the acquisition at a discount because of the participant's personal tax characteristics in its annual income tax declaration. It is also the participant's responsibility to report therein any taxes attracted when the participant sells shares acquired under the ESPP and when the participant receives dividends.

## **TAXATION IN IRELAND**

The following summary is based on the laws in effect in Ireland as of February 2016. However, laws are complex and can change frequently. As a result, the information below may be out of date at the time the participant enrolls in the ESPP or purchases or sells shares.

The following applies only to participants who are subject to Irish tax. If the participant is a citizen or resident of another country for local law purposes or if the participant moves, the information below may not be applicable. Furthermore, this information is general in nature and does not discuss all of the various laws and interpretations that may apply nor their impact on each participant's particular tax or financial situation, and VMware is not in a position to assure any participant of any particular tax result.

The participant should address any particular questions to a specialized advisor.

### **Enrollment in the ESPP**

The participant will not be subject to tax when he or she enrolls in the ESPP or a when new offering period begins.

### **Purchase of Shares**

When shares are purchased under the ESPP, the participant will be subject to income tax on the difference (or discount) between the market value of the shares on the purchase date and the purchase price. The participant will also be subject to a Universal Social Charge ("USC") and employee Pay Related Social Insurance ("PRSI") on the discount at purchase.

Income tax payable is calculated based on the higher marginal income tax rate in effect for the year of purchase. The participant may apply to Revenue in advance to make a payment at the lower rate if he or she is a lower rate taxpayer. However, if the participant does not receive permission by the time the tax payments are due (within 30 days from the purchase date), the participant must pay income tax at the higher rate and seek a refund on any overpayment. USC and PRSI must be paid at the applicable marginal rate. The participant must account for all taxes due (income tax, USC and employee PRSI) within 30 days of the purchase date along with the prescribed tax return, Form RTSO1.

### **Sale of Shares**

When the participant sells shares acquired under the ESPP, he or she may be subject to capital gains tax. The taxable amount will be calculated as the sale price less the sum of (i) the purchase price for the shares (ii) the amount on which taxes were paid at purchase and (iii) broker's fees. This amount is subject to capital gains tax to the extent it exceeds the participant's annual capital gains tax exemption amount.

### **Withholding and Reporting**

The participant's employer is currently not required to withhold income tax, USC or PRSI at the time the shares are purchased or sold. However, the participant's employer will report the grant of purchase rights and the purchase of shares under the ESPP to the Revenue Commissioners. The participant is solely responsible for paying the income tax, USC and PRSI within 30 days of purchase along with Form RTSO1. The participant will also be responsible for filing a tax return for the year in which shares are purchased under the ESPP and for reporting any income or gains arising in connection with the sale of shares or the receipt of any dividends, as well as paying the related taxes due in accordance with self-assessment rules for capital gains tax and income tax.

## TAXATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following general summary is based on the laws in effect in the United Kingdom as of February 2016. However, laws and their interpretation are complex and can change frequently. As a result, the information below may be out of date at the time the participant enrolls in the ESPP or purchases or sells shares.

The following applies only to participants who are resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom and will remain so up to the date shares they received pursuant to any stock based award are sold. If the participant is a citizen or resident of another country for local law purposes or if the participant moves, or if they are not treated as resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom, the information below may not be applicable. Furthermore, this information is general in nature and does not discuss all of the various laws and interpretations that may apply, nor their impact on each participant's particular circumstances, tax or financial situation, and therefore VMware is not in a position to assure them of any particular tax result. This summary does not constitute tax advice.

The participants are strongly advised to consult their own independent personal tax advisor as to how the tax or other laws in the United Kingdom apply to their specific situation.

### **Enrollment in the ESPP**

The participant is not subject to income tax or NICs when he or she enrolls in the ESPP or when a new offering period begins.

### **Purchase of Shares**

When shares are purchased under the ESPP, the participant will be subject to income tax on the difference (or discount) between the market value of the shares on the purchase date and the purchase price. In addition, the participant will be required to pay employee NICs on this amount. The participant will be liable for the employer NICs, if this is provided for in the participant's ESPP enrollment documents.

The participant's employer will calculate the income tax and NICs due when shares are purchased under the ESPP and will account for these amounts to HM Revenue & Customs on the participant's behalf. The employer will be required to withhold income tax and NICs when shares are purchased for the participant under the ESPP, by deductions from the participant's salary or by any other method permitted in the participant's ESPP enrollment documents. Such methods could include withholding from other payments due to the participant from the employer or the sale of shares. However, the participant is ultimately responsible for the payment of any income tax and NICs due.

In the event there is no such withholding, the participant is required to reimburse the employer for the income tax and employee NICs due (in excess of the amount withheld from the participant's salary or covered by the sale of shares, if any). The reimbursement must be made before the date that falls 90 days after the end of the tax year in which the shares are purchased. If the participant fails to pay this amount to the employer within that time limit, the participant may be treated as having received a deemed benefit in kind equal to the amount of tax not paid to the employer and the participant may have to pay further tax and employee NICs on this benefit. In such case, the employer is not required to withhold tax on the benefit in kind, and the participant must report this benefit on his or her self-assessment tax return for the tax year in which the purchase occurs and pay the applicable taxes directly to HM Revenue & Customs and reimburse his or her employer for any employee NICs due on this benefit.

### **Sale of Shares**

When the participant subsequently sells the shares acquired under the ESPP, any capital gain (*broadly* the difference between the sale price and the market value of the shares on the purchase date) may be subject to capital gains tax to the extent that the total capital gain realized for the tax year exceeds the annual personal exempt amount (which can vary each year). The specific capital gains tax rate will depend on the participant's income level. The participant will be personally responsible for reporting any taxable capital gains arising upon the sale or disposition of the shares through his or her self-assessment tax return and paying the applicable taxes directly to HM Revenue & Customs. The participant's employer has no responsibility in respect of the participant's capital gains tax liabilities. The capital gains tax and employee income tax rules are complex and their impact will vary according to the participant's own circumstances. It is also possible, in certain circumstances, for an element of any disposal proceeds to be treated as employee income tax (with obligations

on the employer to make withholding on account of any related income tax and NIC). The participant should obtain independent tax advice prior to any acquisition or sale of shares.

### **Withholding and Reporting**

As mentioned above, the participant's employer will report and withhold income tax and NICs on the taxable amount when shares are purchased under the ESPP. If the amount withheld is not sufficient to cover the participant's actual liability, the participant will be responsible for paying the difference and should do so within before the date that falls 90 days after the end of the tax year in which the purchase of the shares under the ESPP took place to avoid further tax consequences (as discussed above). The participant's employer is also required to report the details of the grant of purchase rights and the acquisition of shares pursuant to the ESPP to HM Revenue & Customs for the applicable tax year. The participant will be personally responsible for paying and reporting any taxes due as a result of the sale of shares acquired under the ESPP or the receipt of any dividends.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK

### Recent Developments

There has not been any significant change in the financial or trading position of VMware that has occurred since the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

### Trend Information

The virtualization, cloud computing, end-user computing and software-defined data center industries are inter-related and rapidly evolving, and the Company faces intense competition across all the markets for its products and services. The Company faces competition from, among others, providers of public cloud infrastructure and SaaS-based offerings. As businesses increasingly utilize public cloud and SaaS-based offerings, they are shifting more of their compute workloads off-premises. As a result, the demand for on-premises IT resources is expected to slow, and the Company's products and services will need to increasingly compete for customers' IT workloads with off-premises public cloud and SaaS-based offerings. The Company also faces competition from large, diversified enterprise software and hardware companies, companies offering competing platforms based on open source technologies, other industry alliances and its partners and members of its developer and technology partner ecosystem. The Company believes that the key factors in its ability to successfully compete include the level of reliability, interoperability and new functionality of its product and service offerings; the ability of its product offerings to support multiple hardware platforms, operating systems, applications frameworks and public cloud platforms; its ability to anticipate customer needs in rapidly evolving markets for IT resources; the pricing of its product and service offerings; the ability to integrate open source technologies that are critical in private and public cloud computing architectures; the ability to attract and retain key employees; and the ability to maintain and expand its ecosystem of technology partners, service providers and sales channel partners.

### Outlook

#### *Revenues*

As the transformation of the IT industry continues, the Company expects that its growth rates will be increasingly derived from sales of its newer products, suites and services solutions across its three product groups. For example, the Company has experienced continued growth in sales volumes, production use and number of customers who have purchased VMware NSX, its network virtualization solution. In addition, the Company's end-user computing solutions continue to grow driven in part by enterprise mobile management offerings.

VMware's success depends on its current and future customers perceiving technological and operational benefits and cost savings associated with adopting its private and hybrid cloud solutions and its client virtualization and mobile device management solutions. As the market for the Company's server virtualization products continues to mature and the scale of its business has increased, its rate of revenue growth increasingly depends upon the success of its newer product and service offerings.

While the Company is seeing strong growth across its portfolio of emerging products, its compute products are reaching maturity and the sales of these products are expected to represent a decreasing percentage of the Company's total business going forward. Taking this into account, the Company expects its total revenue growth in 2016 to slow as sales growth transitions to its emerging products.

For 2016, the Company expects sales of its emerging products, which includes NSX and vSAN, to continue to increase as a percentage of total revenues and overall license revenue growth in 2016 is expected to be flat when compared with 2015.

As the Company continues to invest in its partners and expand its ecosystem of third-party professionals with expertise in its offerings to independently provide professional services to its customers, the Company's professional services revenue will vary based on the delivery channels used in any given period as well as the timing of engagements.

#### *Cost of Revenues and Operating Expenses*

VMware's cost of services revenues and operating expenses were primarily impacted by increasing headcount, net of realignment activities. Headcount during the year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 continued to increase. The increased headcount has resulted in higher cash-based employee-related expenses across most of

the Company's expense categories when compared to the same period in 2014 and 2013, and the Company expects this trend to continue.

#### *Research and Development*

VMware has made, and expects to continue to make, significant investments in research and development ("R&D"). The Company has assembled an experienced group of developers with system level, systems management, desktop, mobile devices, security, application development, collaborative applications, networking, storage and open source software expertise. It also has strong ties to leading academic institutions around the world, and it invests in joint research with academia.

#### *Selling and Marketing*

The Company raises awareness of its company and brands, markets its products and generates sales leads through VMware and industry events, public relations efforts, marketing materials, advertising, direct marketing, social media initiatives, free downloads and its website. VMware has invested in multiple online communities that enable customers and partners to share and discuss sales and development resources, best practices implementation, and industry trends among other topics. VMware's annual user conference, VMworld, is held in both the U.S. and Europe. The Company also offers management presentations, seminars, and webinars on its products of virtualization and cloud computing. VMware believes the combination of these activities strengthens its brand and enhances its leading market position in the Company's industry.

#### *Tax Rates*

VMware's future effective tax rate may be affected by such factors as changes in tax laws, changing interpretation of existing laws or regulations, the impact of accounting for stock-based compensation, the impact of accounting for business combinations, changes in the composition of global earnings, the expiration of statute of limitations, settlements of audits, changes in the Company's international organization, and changes in overall levels of income before tax.

VMware's rate of taxation in foreign jurisdictions is lower than its U.S. tax rate. The Company's international income is primarily earned by its subsidiaries organized in Ireland and as such, its effective tax rate can be impacted by the composition of its earnings in the U.S. and foreign jurisdictions. During October 2014, Ireland announced revisions to its tax regulations that will require foreign earnings of the Company's subsidiaries organized in Ireland to be taxed at higher rates. The Company will be impacted by the changes in tax regulations in Ireland beginning in 2021, and the Company may proactively make structural changes that impact its tax rates prior to that date. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development issued guidelines and proposals during October 2015 that also may change how the Company's tax obligations are determined in many of the countries in which the Company does business. These potential changes could also adversely affect the Company's effective tax rate.

The Company is subject to income and indirect tax examinations. The Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") is currently auditing the EMC consolidated group's federal tax returns for tax years 2009 through 2011. While the Company believes it has complied with all applicable income tax laws, a governing tax authority could have a different interpretation of the law and assess the Company with additional taxes. Any assessment of additional taxes could materially affect the Company's financial condition and operating results.

#### *Cash from Operating Activities*

Cash flows from operations will continue to be impacted by installment payments of approximately \$29 million to certain key employees of AirWatch through the first quarter of 2016.

Palo Alto, California 94304, USA  
March 23, 2016

VMware, Inc.  
Signed by:

Craig Norris  
Assistant Secretary