FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VMWARE Cloud Foundation

General FAQ
Cloud Foundation 4.0.1 – Version 1.2

VMWARE CLOUD FOUNDATION 4.0.1

Q1. What’s New with VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0.1?

A1. Here are the new features in Cloud Foundation 4.0.1:

- NSX-T cluster-level upgrade support: Users can upgrade specific host clusters within a workload domain so that the upgrade can fit into their maintenance windows.
- Kubernetes in the management domain: vSphere with Kubernetes is now supported in the management domain. With VMware Cloud Foundation Workload Management, you can deploy vSphere with Kubernetes on the management domain default cluster with only 4 hosts.
- Multi-pNIC/multi-vDS during bring-up: The deployment parameter workbook now provides three vSphere Distributed Switch (vDS) profiles that allow you to perform bring-up of hosts with two or four physical NICs (pNICs) and to create up to two vSphere Distributed Switches for isolating VMkernel traffic. More options are continued via the VMware Cloud Foundation API.

Q3. How can customers deploy the new vSphere with Kubernetes functionality?

A3. This is included in VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 Standard, Advanced and Enterprise editions. The VMware Cloud Foundation Starter edition does NOT include vSphere 7 with Kubernetes. The vSphere 7 with Kubernetes functionality is not supported by previous releases (3.X) of VMware Cloud Foundation.

Q4. Will existing VMware Cloud Foundation 3.X deployments be able to upgrade to VMware Cloud Foundation 4.X?

A4. No. At this time, VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 is to be deployed in ‘greenfield’ Cloud Foundation deployments only, so upgrades from 3.9.X to Cloud Foundation release 4.0 are not supported at this time.

Q5. Does VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 support automated deployment of vRealize Suite?

A5. VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 supports automated deployment for vRealize Suite Lifecycle Manager (vRSLCM) and then vRLCM provides deployment of the underlying vRealize components as well as ongoing life cycle management of the vRealize Suite. VMware provides manual guidance to ensure that the vRealize Suite updates are successful.

Q6. Is VMware PKS Supported on VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0?

A6. No. VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 is not supported by VMware PKS (rebranded to VMware TKG). VMware Cloud Foundation versions 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10 provide support for VMware PKS. Customers requiring container orchestration with VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 should deploy vSphere with Kubernetes.

Q2. What was delivered in Cloud Foundation 4.0?

A2. VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 provides hybrid cloud infrastructure with consistent management for both VM-based and container-based applications. By integrating vSphere 7 with Kubernetes, container orchestration is now delivered natively within the Cloud Foundation SKU. VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 includes the following components:

- vSphere 7.0 including vSphere with Kubernetes which delivers Tanzu Runtime Services and Hybrid Infrastructure Services for Kubernetes container orchestration.
- vSAN 7.0 supporting enhanced cloud native storage, integrated file services.
- vRealize Suite 2019 provides numerous enhancements to vRealize log insight and vRealize Operations 8.1 and vRealize Automation 8.1. Note: VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 only provides prescriptive (manual) guidance for vRealize, then vRSLCM provides ongoing life cycle management.

- NSX-T 3.0 operating in both management and workload domains, giving VMware Cloud Foundation better consolidation and efficiencies for cloud scale deployments.
**Q7.** Is VMware Horizon VDI integration supported on VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0?

**A7.** VMware Horizon 7 automation is not supported with VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0, VMware Horizon 7 is supported via prescriptive guidance only. VMware Horizon automation is supported with previous versions of VMware Cloud Foundation (3.x).

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**GENERAL**

**Q8.** Where can I find more information and resources?

**A8.** You can find additional Cloud Foundation information here:

- Product Page: [vmware.com/go/cloudfoundation](http://vmware.com/go/cloudfoundation)
- Documentation: [vmware.com/go/cloudfoundation-docs](http://vmware.com/go/cloudfoundation-docs)
- Community: [vmware.com/go/cloudfoundation-community](http://vmware.com/go/cloudfoundation-community)
- Talk to your VMware Partner or VMware Sales team.

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**Q9.** What is VMware Cloud Foundation?

**A9.** VMware Cloud Foundation™ provides the simplest path to hybrid cloud through an integrated software platform that is the foundation for both private and public cloud environments. Cloud Foundation provides a complete set of software-defined services for compute, storage, network and security, along with cloud management capabilities. The result is simple, secure and agile cloud infrastructure that can be can deployed on premises and consumed as a service from public cloud.

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**Q10.** How can I use Cloud Foundation in the public cloud?

**A10.** Select service providers from the VMware Cloud Provider program offer cloud services powered by VMware Cloud Foundation, including CenturyLink, OVH and Rackspace. Reach out to the specific service providers for more information.

VMware Cloud on AWS is an on-demand service operated, managed and sold by VMware. VMware Cloud on AWS is powered by VMware Cloud Foundation.

Additional solutions such as Azure VMware Solutions by CloudSimple and Google Cloud VMware Solution by CloudSimple are also powered by VMware Cloud Foundation.

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**Q11.** What types of OEM integrated systems are available with Cloud Foundation from OEMs?

**A11.** Integrated Systems from OEMs can be either:

- **Jointly Engineered Solutions** VMware Cloud Foundation on Dell EMC VxRail
- **Global Partner Appliances** which includes Fujitsu PRIMEFLEX and the Hitachi Unified Compute Platform UCP-RS, HPE and Lenovo.
- **Composable** Cloud Foundation on HPE Synergy and Cloud Foundation on Dell MX
- **VMware Ready Nodes** available from 15 OEMs

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**Q12.** What is the unique integration of a jointly engineered solution?

**A12.** Jointly engineered systems, such as Cloud Foundation on VxRail, provide unique integration with Cloud Foundation components. VxRail integration with Cloud Foundation includes, but is not limited to, lifecycle management of the hardware and software sub-systems using native SDDC Manager orchestrated workflows integrated with VxRail Manager. Note that VxRail does require Dell professional services for installation.

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**Q13.** How does VMware Cloud Foundation integrate with composable systems?

**A13.** Composable systems, such as Dell MX and HPE Synergy integrate with Cloud Foundation through the Redfish API that enables the ability to compose and decompose hardware resources under control of VMware Cloud Foundation.

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**Q14.** Who supports Cloud Foundation software and hardware?

**A14.** When purchasing an OEM Solution, the OEM partner will be the single point of contact for support of both hardware and software. When Cloud Foundation software is purchased from VMware, the support model will follow the standard practice of VMware products with VMware Technical Support delivering support for the Cloud Foundation software.

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**Q15.** What are the recommended VMware Technical Support options for Cloud Foundation?
A15. The VMware Technical Support matrix lists the following support options for VMware Cloud Foundation:

- Basic
- Production
- Business Critical
- Healthcare Critical
- Mission Critical
- U.S. Federal Production

We recommend purchasing at least Production support, or better Business Critical or Mission Critical with VMware Cloud Foundation.

Q16. How can I purchase Cloud Foundation software?

A16. There are four ways to purchase Cloud Foundation software:

1. directly from VMware,
2. from VMware channel partners,
3. as part of an integrated system from OEM vendors and
4. as a subscription service from a public cloud service provider.

Q17. Can I install the Cloud Foundation software myself?

A17. Yes. VMware provides documentation for customers to deploy the Cloud Foundation software on their own. It is highly recommended that you work with VMware Professional Services or your Solution Provider to receive assistance with your deployment. Visit the Documentation page for more information on how to deploy Cloud Foundation.

Q18. What is the difference between SDDC Manager and vRealize Automation?

A18. SDDC Manager and vRealize Automation automate different aspects of building and running private and public clouds. SDDC Manager automates the installation and lifecycle management of the vSphere, vSAN, and NSX from bring-up and configuration to patching and upgrading, making it simple for the cloud admin to build and maintain the SDDC. For VCF 3.X, SDDC Manager also automates the installation and configuration of vRealize Log Insight, vRealize Operations, and vRealize Automation. (not supported in VCF 4.0)

On the other hand, vRealize Automation automates the delivery and management of the virtual machines and apps, enabling end users to consume these as services and at scale. vRealize Automation also has integration with SDDC Manager via quickstart.

Q19. Does SDDC Manager replace other existing management tools, such as vCenter Server?

A19. No. SDDC Manager complements vCenter Server by delivering new functionality that helps cloud admins build and maintain the SDDC. The cloud admin will continue to use vCenter Server as the primary management interface for the virtualized environment.

Q20. Which Cloud Foundation Editions include the vSphere with Kubernetes capabilities (Cloud Foundation with Tanzu)?

A20. The Standard, Advanced and Enterprise Editions of VMware Cloud Foundation 4.0 include the vSphere with Kubernetes functionality. The Cloud Foundation Starter edition does not include the vSphere with Kubernetes functionality. Contact your VMware account team for more information.

Q21. What happened to the VMware Cloud Foundation Platinum and Basic Editions?

A21. VMware announced the End of Availability (EOA) of vSphere Platinum, Cloud Foundation Platinum, and vCloud Suite Platinum product editions, effective April 2, 2020. The Cloud Foundation Basic edition was also discontinued. After this date, the Platinum portfolio will no longer be available for purchase. VMware will continue to support the components of the above bundles through their respective published support periods. Where do I go for additional information on Cloud Foundation Pricing and Packaging?

Q22. Where can I go for additional information on Cloud Foundation Pricing and Packaging?

A22. Consult with your VMware Sales Representative, channel partner or qualified OEM partner for more pricing and packaging information.

Q23. What is VMware SDDC Manager?

A23. SDDC Manager is the centralized management software in Cloud Foundation used to automate the lifecycle of
vSphere, vSAN, NSX Data Center and vRealize Suite*, from bring-up, to configuration, to infrastructure provisioning to upgrades/patches. (* limitations noted)

Q24. Can I use the SDDC Manager with existing deployments?

A24. No. To benefit from SDDC Manager’s automation capabilities you do a fresh install of the full SDDC software stack.

Q25. What is the Cloud Builder?

A25. Cloud Builder is a Photon OS VM that is delivered as an OVA file and includes a virtual imaging appliance (VIA). It contains all code and product bits to automate the deployment of the full SDDC stack for the management domain for your VMware Cloud Foundation instance. The VM can be deployed on any physical device that has connectivity with the ESXi hosts, including laptops and external hosts. Follow the Cloud Builder UI on the VM to deploy the SDDC stack. Input parameters are passed in via a deployment parameters file import.

Q26. What is Multi-Instance Management?

A26. Multi-instance Management allows the ability to have multiple Cloud Foundation instances managed within a single management plane.

Q27. Can Cloud Foundation Multi-instance Management be used in a deployment based upon a consolidated architecture?

A27. Yes, Multi-instance Management is supported in both a consolidated and standard architecture. The management cluster within a consolidated architecture is managed using resource pools. A standard architecture can be scaled easily by adding more compute and storage.

Q28. What are the physical server requirements?

A28. Cloud Foundation is supported on vSAN ReadyNode server hardware which meets the minimum requirements regarding memory, disk types and capacity, and network interfaces. See the vSAN Compatibility Guide and the Cloud Foundation product documentation for details.

Q29. What switching hardware is supported?

A29. You can use those Enterprise-grade network switches that meet the requirements of vSAN and which are capable of meeting the scale demands of a highly-connected set of vSAN hosts.

Q30. How does Cloud Foundation leverage Composable Infrastructure?

A30. Composable Infrastructure allows building physical servers on the fly using an API. Cloud Foundation has a composability plug-in which uses the “RedFish API” to do this integration. This API talks to the composable hardware manager to request physical infrastructure on demand.

Q31. Which Composable Infrastructure systems are supported?

A31. VMware Cloud Foundation supports Dell MX and HPE Synergy as composable infrastructure systems.

Workload Domains

Q32. What is a workload domain?

A32. Workload Domains are a logical abstraction of private Cloud capacity that is provisioned automatically by SDDC Manager and administered and patched independently. Workload Domains provide a unit of consumption at the SDDC level by presenting an integrated selection of compute, storage and network resources for business workloads to run in.

Q33. Why would a user create another workload domain?

A33. In order to scale deployments, assign unique characteristics and maintain workload isolation, it is a best practice to create additional workload domains for new workloads.

Q34. What is a management domain?

A34. The management domain is a special purpose workload domain that is used to host the infrastructure components needed to instantiate, manage, and monitor the Cloud Foundation infrastructure. The management domain is automatically created using the Cloud Builder appliance when it is initially configured.

Q35. How many nodes are required for the management domain?
A35. The management domain leverages vSAN for storage and requires a minimum of 4 nodes.

Q36. How many vCenter Server instances can be deployed in a workload domain?

A36. Each workload domain has one dedicated vCenter Server instance. (Note: Only one vCenter Server license is needed per Cloud Foundation instance or 15 workload domains)

Q37. What is the minimum number of vSphere hosts that can be in a Virtual Infrastructure Workload Domain?

A37. Workload domains require a minimum of three hosts.

Q38. Can I extend/delete a workload domain after it has been created?

A38. Yes, Cloud Foundation provides a fully automated process for creating, extending, and deleting workload domains using SDDC Manager.

Q39. Can I reduce the size of a workload domain?

A39. Yes, Cloud Foundation allows removing hosts and clusters from workload domains.

Storage

Q40. Is vSAN required with Cloud Foundation?

A40. vSAN is required for the Cloud Foundation management domain. It is possible however to deploy VI workload domains using either vSAN or external FC or NFS storage.

Q41. Does VMware Cloud Foundation support external Fibre Channel Storage Arrays as a principal (primary) storage within a Cloud Foundation Workload Domain?

A41. Yes, while vSAN is always the default preferred storage choice within a workload domain, administrators have the option to provision external FC storage systems as the principal (primary) storage system. For management domains, vSAN is the only storage option that may be assigned.

Q42. Does Cloud Foundation support all-flash vSAN storage?

A42. Yes, Cloud Foundation supports both the Hybrid and All-Flash vSAN configurations. Note that clusters within a multi-cluster workload domain can have both Hybrid and All-Flash vSAN configurations, mixing Hybrid and All-Flash nodes within a single cluster is not supported.

Q43. What is the difference between Principal storage and Supplemental storage within VMware Cloud Foundation?

A43. Principal storage is the primary storage configured during bring up for the management domain and utilizes vSAN. Principal storage is configured when creating a new VI workload domain. Supplemental storage can be added to the management domain or any VI workload domain for the purposes of workload migration, backup and archive purposes.

Q44. Which principal storage options are supported with VMware Cloud Foundation?

A44. VMware Cloud Foundation can consume and is validated against vSAN, NFS (v3 and 4.1) and VMFS on FC. The management domain uses vSAN for principal storage.

VMware recommends using vSAN as the principal storage for all VI workload domains to leverage the benefits of managing and maintaining a full software defined stack. vSAN is also updated and patched through SDDC Manager LCM.

Updating and patching non-vSAN storage is a manual task and falls outside of SDDC Manager LCM. To ensure supportability, the storage and HBAs will need to be validated against the vSphere HCL.

Q45. Which supplemental storage options are supported with VMware Cloud Foundation?

A45. VMware Cloud Foundation supports the use of NFS (v3, or v4.1), VMFS on FC, iSCSI and vVols as supplemental storage. Supplemental storage sits outside of SDDC Manager LCM.

Q46. Can I use Network Attached Storage (NAS) with Cloud Foundation?

A46. Yes, you can create VI workload domains with NFS storage. iSCSI storage can be connected manually as supplemental storage to a workload domain.
Q47. Can I use any server to create a VI Workload Domain utilizing external NFS storage?

A47. Yes, the servers can be any vSphere-compatible rack or blade system. You do not need vSAN ReadyNodes for the VI Workload Domain in this case.

Q48. Can I change an VMFS-FC or NFS Workload Domain to use vSAN later?

A48. No, you need to create a new vSAN-based workload domain and vMotion the VMs over.

Q49. Does Cloud Foundation 4.0 support Stretched Clusters?

A49. VMware Cloud Foundation provides an API to perform automation of NSX-T stretch cluster operations for the management and VI workload domains.

Q50. Is stretched clustering supported for a workload domains configured for Kubernetes?

A50. No. Stretched Cluster for workload domains configured for Kubernetes Workload Management is currently not supported.

Networking

Q51. Can I connect the NSX-T Manager in Cloud Foundation to other non-Cloud Foundation infrastructure?

A51. No. This is not supported. NSX-T is only aware of the corresponding Cloud Foundation Workload Domains.

Q52. Does VMware Cloud Foundation support Bare Metal Edge Servers in NSX-T?

A52. Yes. The overwhelming majority of customers deployment use case can be fulfilled with VM form factor edge nodes. Support for Bare Metal Servers configured as NSX-T Edge Nodes is provided for customers specific use cases which cannot be supported on an VM form factor edge node.

Q53. Does VCF support Bare Metal Servers (i.e. Windows or Linux servers) or KVM as NSX-T transport nodes?

A53. No, VCF does not support hosts which are not managed by SDDC manager to be part of the NSX-T installation.

Today, SDDC manager does not support KVM or other NSX-T bare metal servers as transport nodes.

Patching and Upgrades

Q54. What software components can be patched/upgraded using SDDC Manager?

A54. VMware vSphere, vSAN, NSX, vCenter Server and SDDC Manager components are patched/upgraded

Q55. How am I notified when patches/upgrades become available?

A55. Users are automatically notified from the SDDC Manager user interface when patches and upgrades become available.

Q56. Can I schedule when patches and upgrades are applied?

A56. Yes, SDDC Manager allows patches and upgrades to be scheduled to coincide with regular maintenance windows.

Q57. Can I patch/upgrade workload domains independent of each other?

A57. Yes, patches and upgrades are scheduled on a per-workload domain basis allowing updates to be “rolled-in” over time.

With VMware Cloud Foundation 3.10, you can apply cluster level upgrades from version 3.9.x and parallel upgrades.

With VMware Cloud Foundation, you can only apply cluster level upgrades from Cloud Foundation 4.0.

Q58. Customers are given an option to choose vSphere Update Manager (VUM) or vSphere Lifecycle Manager (vLCM) when creating a workload domain. When should I use VUM vs. vLCM?

A58. VUM is the preferred solution when your hardware is not yet supported by vLCM. Note that VUM is required for the Management Domain and when running vSphere with Kubernetes. Use vLCM when supported by your hardware platform. vLCM supports firmware updates with more vendors to follow in coming releases. NSX-T Instances cannot be shared between VUM and vLCM.
VMWARE CLOUD FOUNDATION 4.0.1 – GENERAL FAQ

Configuration Minimums and Maximums

Q59. What is the minimum size of a Cloud Foundation environment with a consolidated deployment?

A59. You need at least 4 servers to run Cloud Foundation in a consolidated architecture. Workload VMs are placed in dedicated resource pools in the Management Domain. You can scale out a consolidated architecture deployment by adding more hosts to the initial cluster or move to a standard architecture by creating a workload domain.

Q60. What is the minimum size of a Cloud Foundation environment to use VI workload domains?

A60. With a standard architecture, you need at least 7 servers to run Cloud Foundation with a VI workload domain. 4 servers are used by the management domain, 3 servers is the minimum size of other workload domains.

Q61. What is the maximum size of a Cloud Foundation environment?

A61. Cloud Foundation inherits configuration maximums from the component products. For information on sizing VMware Cloud Foundation refer to https://configmax.vmware.com

Q62. How many workload domains can a Cloud Foundation instance have?

A62. Cloud Foundation always has 1 management domain and up to 14 VI workload domains. Each workload domain can contain multiple ESXi host clusters. This limit is imposed by the max number of vCenter Server instances that can be configured in enhanced linked mode which supports up to 15 vCenter Servers, and each workload domain has its own vCenter Server. See https://configmax.vmware.com for more information.

Q63. What is the maximum size of a workload domain?

A63. Each workload domain has its own vCenter Server and it can have as many hosts and clusters as a single vCenter Server can handle. Within Cloud Foundation 4.0.1, you may also size the vCenter Server instance during VI WLD creation via the API, or change the vCenter size after deployment. vCenter Server limits apply, see https://configmax.vmware.com for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Q64. Does SDDC Manager automate the deployment of other management components, such as vRealize Network Insight (vRNI)?

A64. vRNI can be manually deployed and externally integrated with VMware Cloud Foundation

Q65. What logs are sent to the vRealize Log Insight in the Cloud Foundation management cluster?

A65. Cloud Foundation can be configured to send event logs for vSphere, vSAN, NSX, SDDC Manager, vCenter and Horizon into vRealize Log Insight.