

# VMware HCX Licensing and Packaging Overview

## Executive summary

This document provides an overview of the licensing, pricing and packaging for VMware HCX®.

## HCX overview

VMware HCX, an application mobility platform, simplifies application migration, rebalances workloads and optimizes disaster recovery across data centers and clouds. HCX enables high-performance, large-scale app mobility across VMware vSphere® and non-vSphere cloud and on-premises environments to accelerate data center modernization and cloud transformation.

## Licensing overview

HCX is licensed on a per-socket basis. Each physical socket at the destination needs to have at least one license key assigned to be able to run HCX. There are no limits or restrictions on the number of virtual machines or migrations.

## Restrictions

All VMware ESXi™ hosts under the control of the destination VMware vCenter® must be licensed with a package that includes HCX Advanced. If an HCX Enterprise license is required, it must be applied to all ESXi hosts under the control of the destination vCenter. A prerequisite is that these hosts are already licensed with a package that includes HCX Advanced (i.e., VMware NSX® Data Center Enterprise Plus).

## Packaging overview

VMware offers several packaging options designed for customers to meet specific requirements for scalability, size of environment and use cases. Customers can choose from two editions of HCX: HCX Advanced and HCX Enterprise (see Figure 1). A support and subscription contract is required for every edition purchase. HCX Advanced provides an entry-level solution for basic connectivity and migration services to simplify and accelerate application migration, workload mobility and disaster protection. HCX Enterprise offers add-on functionality for scalability and performance when transforming large data centers or moving large quantities of virtual machines to cloud infrastructures.

## HCX editions

The HCX service features are available based on the installed license. Today, the HCX platform and its licenses are primarily delivered as additional functionality bundled into VMware data center and cloud solution stacks to enable application migration and mobility.

### HCX Advanced

HCX Advanced delivers basic connectivity and mobility services to enable hybrid interconnect and migration services within VMware Cloud™ on AWS, VMware Cloud Foundation™, metal-as-a-service offerings from cloud provider partners, and through the VMware Cloud Provider™ Program. HCX Advanced is included in NSX Data Center Enterprise Plus.

### HCX Enterprise

HCX Enterprise is available as an add-on license. Today, this package can be purchased by customers with an NSX Data Center Enterprise Plus license.

### HCX evaluation licenses

Evaluation and trial license activation keys are available for both Advanced and Enterprise functionality. Contact your VMware sales team for demos/proofs of concept.

HCX LICENSE	DESCRIPTION
Advanced	Activates standard HCX services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid interconnect</li> <li>• WAN optimization</li> <li>• Legacy vSphere to modern mobility</li> <li>• Bulk migration</li> <li>• Live migration</li> <li>• Cloud-to-cloud migration</li> <li>• Disaster protection</li> </ul>
Enterprise	Activates premium HCX services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCX Replication Assisted vMotion® (bulk, no-downtime migration)</li> <li>• Migrations from KVM and Hyper-V to vSphere</li> <li>• VMware Site Recovery Manager™ readiness</li> <li>• Traffic engineering</li> <li>• Mobility groups</li> <li>• Mobility-optimized networking</li> </ul>

FIGURE 1: HCX licenses.

### Feature descriptions and details

For complete details on features and functionality, please see the [VMware HCX documentation](#) and the [HCX release notes](#).

### HCX bundles and availability

VMware HCX is primarily delivered as a bundled set of functionality in VMware software-defined data center (SDDC) offerings on premises and in the cloud. See Figure 2 for details on how HCX is made available today within the various bundled SDDC solutions.

PRODUCT BUNDLE	HCX ADVANCED	HCX ENTERPRISE
VMware Cloud on AWS	Tiering not applicable <sup>1</sup>	
VMware NSX Data Center	Included in NSX Data Center Enterprise Plus	Add-on license
VMware Cloud Foundation	Included in VMware Cloud Foundation Enterprise and VMware Cloud Foundation Platinum through its inclusion of NSX Data Center Enterprise Plus Included in the VMware Cloud Foundation Starter Kit	Add-on license
VMware Cloud Provider Program	Included with VMware Cloud Foundation for the VMware Cloud Provider Program Available in flex model	Add-on license Available in flex model
Metal-as-a-service offering (for example, Azure VMware Solutions)	Included	Available

FIGURE 2: HCX packaging and availability.

1. Please refer to VMware Cloud on AWS documentation for available enterprise-level HCX features.