FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VMware vCloud Director
The Leading Cloud Management Platform for Cloud Providers

Q. What is vCloud Director?

A. VMware vCloud Director® (vCD) is a leading cloud service-delivery platform used by some of the world’s most popular cloud providers to operate and manage successful cloud-service businesses. vCloud Director has a core suite of cloud operations and management capabilities such as multi-tenancy, elasticity, cloud-native application templating and deep integration with the VMware software-defined datacenter stack that Cloud Providers use to stand up differentiated and value-added cloud services, making them the most capable candidates to host vSphere-based workloads. vCloud Director is available to over 4,000 Cloud Providers through the VMware Cloud Provider Program.

Q. What are the core capabilities of vCloud Director?

A. vCloud Director facilitates:

• Multi-tenant resource pooling: vCloud Director helps create virtual datacenters from common or distributed infrastructures to cater to heterogeneous enterprise customer needs. With vCloud Director, a Cloud Provider can host and serve multiple customers from a single vCenter that may be stretched across distributed physical servers.

• Policy-driven approach: vCloud Director ensures enterprises have secure, isolated virtual resources, independent role-based authentication at the levels of Cloud Providers and their customers, and fine-grained access control across datacenters, sites, virtual machines and applications.

• Global hybrid cloud management: vCloud Director helps Cloud Providers manage and gain deep visibility into datacenters across sites and geographies and monitor cloud resources across sites from a single pane of glass. vCloud Director is proven to scale seamlessly across thousands of sites.

• Service publication and differentiation: vCloud Director has an extensible form factor that is leveraged by leading data protection, network, security and other cloud software vendors to natively integrate their offerings into vCloud Director’s UI. Moreover, Cloud Providers can offer each of their customers bespoke user experiences by publishing customized services and user views.

• Cloud migration and availability: vCloud Director helps enable simple, secure VM migration and data center extension with vCloud Availability. This allows for secure hybridity, simple connectivity and cold or warm migrations. The integration with VMware vCloud Availability makes it easy for cloud providers to run data protection offerings compatible with enterprise environments.

• Operational visibility and insights: Leveraging integration with VMware vRealize Operations’ tenant app for vCloud Director, Cloud Providers can use multi-layer analytics and predictive remediation to better serve their enterprise customers. The integration also provides visibility into virtual machine costs and accountability to understand the granular costs of virtual infrastructure required to support business services.

• Cloud-native offerings: vCloud Director provides an easy on-ramp to cloud-native application development for enterprise DevOps by delivering Kubernetes and VMs within the same virtual infrastructure environment.

• Workflow Automation: Leveraging context-aware integration with VMware vRealize Orchestrator, one-click deployment with VMware Cloud Provider and the Hashicorp Terraform provider for vCloud Director, Cloud Providers can automate infrastructure deployment and complex workflows, while maintaining access control and visibility across the Cloud Providers’ infrastructure estate.

Q. Why would a Cloud Provider want VMware vCloud Director?

A. vCloud Director offers the following benefits:

• Operational Efficiency: vCloud Director delivers secure, isolated-but-fluid resource pools to teams and organizations through native multi-tenancy and multi-site capabilities. This enables Cloud Providers to squeeze extreme operational efficiencies out of their cloud infrastructure. With single-pane-of-glass, self-service global cloud management capabilities, vCloud Director also reduces operational overheads that come with maintaining silo’d infrastructures. vCloud Director also significantly reduces time-to-market for Cloud Providers’ services by automating infrastructure provisioning and workflows. vCloud Director scales globally without significant dependencies and licensing costs for external databases, further driving down the costs of standing up VMware-based infrastructure.

• Service-expansion and monetization: vCloud Director enables Cloud Providers to spin up new cloud services almost instantaneously or deliver managed services across cloud environments. Cloud Providers can now integrate their own service suite, or backup, DR, security, migration and other capabilities from leading cloud software vendors that integrate with vCloud Director at tenant and site-aware levels. vCloud Director forms a single cloud infrastructure plane for all of the Cloud Provider’s services.

• Differentiation: vCloud Director provides an open platform for Cloud Providers to build on. Using the programmatic interfaces, automation tools and extensibility frameworks of vCloud Director, Cloud Providers can not only differentiate themselves by providing unique experiences to their customers but also achieve the ‘Cloud Verified’ certification, which marks the most elite and differentiated VMware Cloud Providers in the world.
Q. What are the core updates of vCloud Director 9.7?
A. vCloud Director 9.7 features:

• Centralized Global Cloud Management
• Deep visibility, ease of service delivery and seamless hybridity across:
  • Customers’ on-premises vSphere environments
  • Co-located datacenters
  • Cloud Provider infrastructure
  • 3rd-party vSphere clouds
• Onboarding customers’ on-premises infrastructure under the same management plane, expand into on-prem managed private cloud offerings
• Scalability of Services to Thousands of Sites
• Software-appliance form factor eliminates the need for external database licensing, setup and overhead costs
• Deeper integration with VMware NSX ensures enhancements for cloud provisioning and management at edge clouds and endpoints
• Validation against VMware Validated Designs for Cloud Providers ensures scale and performance across thousands of sites
• Capabilities to Differentiate Cloud Offerings
  • Enhance customer and developer experiences leveraging deep customizability to the UI, service portfolio and workflows
  • Provisioning infrastructure with a single click or as code
  • Leverage an increasingly wide ecosystem of cloud software vendors to open up more managed cloud services opportunities

Q. What are the benefits that vCloud Director offers to Enterprises?
A. vCloud Director facilitates:

• VMware Cloud-as-a-Service: Consume turnkey cloud services, including the full VMware Software-Defined Datacenter, as a service from a trusted VMware Cloud Provider
• Easy-to-provision and easy-to-consume VMware cloud resources: Experience a single access point for all your virtual datacenters via an intuitive HTML5-based user interface. Enjoy easy, self-service consumption and provisioning of cloud services, including 3rd-party services through a single pane of glass. Leverage simplified workflows, APIs including container services extensions to orchestrate Kubernetes clusters and programmatic interfaces such as CLI and Python SDK for DevOps agility.
• Easy workload migration across Virtual Datacenters: Cross-VDC networking enables easier migrations across virtual data centers
• Fast path to hybrid services: vCloud Director provides a feature-rich, self-service and modern cloud environment that enterprises know and trust for a full-fledged private or public cloud experience with on-demand elasticity, streamlined on-boarding and hybrid cloud operations

Q. How is vCloud Director packaged and how may it be purchased?
A. vCloud Director licenses are fulfilled through the VMware Cloud Provider Program, with a specific number of licenses available at each contract level. Once enrolled in the program, the product can be downloaded from myVMware.

Q. What are some customer successes for vCloud Director?
A. vCloud Director has been part of many Cloud Provider and customer successes. Please visit the vCloud Director product page on vmware.com, or visit vcpp.cloud to see more. You could also check out the VMware Cloud Provider and Solutions channel on YouTube for partner and customer testimonials.

Q. How much will vCloud Director cost?
A. vCloud Director is fulfilled through the VMware Cloud Provider Program. Please reach out to your VMware rep for pricing and to learn how to enroll. vCloud Director is charged by consumption, as metered by VMware vCloud Usage Meter, to eliminate shelf-wear and unused license volumes.

Q. Will vCloud Director be supported by VMware on an ongoing basis?
A. Yes. vCloud Director is VMware’s flagship Cloud Management Platform for Cloud Providers and is key to VMware’s cloud strategy.

Q. Where can I learn more about vCloud Director?

Q. Is VMware vCloud Director compatible with other VMware products? Which ones? Can it be applied to large VMware environments?
A. vCloud Director is fully-compatible with VMware’s core software-defined datacenter products, as well as with most other VMware products and offerings. For a compatibility matrix, please visit: https://www.vmware.com/resources/compatibility/sim/interop_matrix.php.

vCloud Director also has compatibility with 3rd-party software vendors, which are maintained on the VMware Solutions Exchange.

vCloud Director is purpose-built for large Cloud Provider environments and is extensively tested for scale and interoperability. vCloud Director is an integral part of the VMware Validated Designs for Cloud Providers.