FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VMware vCloud Director
The Leading Cloud Services Platform for Cloud Providers

Q. What is vCloud Director?
A. VMware vCloud Director is VMware’s flagship cloud services platform for Cloud Providers. It is a pervasive cloud infrastructure control plane for cloud providers’ service-delivery needs, and the management entity for a global VMware cloud estate. vCloud Director is used by some of the world’s most popular cloud providers to operate and manage successful cloud-service businesses.

vCloud Director allows seamless provisioning and consumption of cloud computing resources and services to geographically distributed lines of business and IT teams in an API-driven approach. It helps cloud providers derive maximum efficiency from their cloud infrastructure and enables the creation and provisioning of differentiated and value-added cloud services. vCloud Director is available globally 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 infrastructure 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.

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

• Deep Automation: vCloud Director delivers unparalleled infrastructure efficiencies with context-aware automation across workflows. The Terraform provider for vCloud Director enables complete provisioning of compute and network resources as code, and integration with Cloud Provider Pod enables 1-click deployment of a service-ready cloud stack.

• Service suite and service stitching: vCloud Director has an extensible form-factor that is leveraged by leading data protection, storage, network, security, and other cloud software vendors to natively integrate their offerings vCloud Director UI. Moreover, cloud providers can offer each of their customers bespoke user experiences by publishing their own custom services and user-views.

• Policy-driven approach to Cloud Management: 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. Moreover, intelligent workload-placement allows cloud providers to drive higher efficiency from their cloud infrastructure while delivering outstanding performance and exceeding SLAs.

• 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.

• 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 granular costs of virtual infrastructure required to support business services.

Q. Why would a cloud provider want VMware vCloud Director?
A. vCloud Director offers the following benefits:

• Operational Efficiency: vCloud Director enables cloud providers to squeeze extreme operational efficiencies out of their cloud infrastructure, and also reduces operational overheads that come with maintaining silo’d private and multi-cloud environments. vCloud Director significantly reduces time-to-market for cloud providers’ services, and scales these services globally without external dependencies and ballooning costs.

• Service-expansion and Monetization: vCloud Director enables cloud providers to spin up new cloud services on Day 1. Cloud providers can drive more revenue by publishing their own service suite, or integrate ISV-provided backup, DR, security, migration, and other leading cloud services that are tenant and site-aware. vCloud Director forms a unified management plane for the entire service portfolio of a cloud provider. vCloud Director is a key element to getting the ‘Cloud Verified’ certification, a mark of the most capable and differentiated VMware Cloud Providers in the world.

• Developer-Readiness: vCloud Director provides an open platform for cloud providers and customer developers 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 help them get to application-building faster.
Q. What’s new with vCloud Director?
A. You will always find the latest updates in vCloud Director here. The latest demos, walkthroughs, and tutorials are available here.

Q. What are the benefits that vCloud Director offers to enterprise end-customers?
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: Experience a single access point for all your virtual datacenters via an intuitive UI or APIs. Enjoy easy, self-service consumption and provisioning of cloud services, including 3rd-party services through a single pane of glass. Leverage simplified workflows and container services to build better and faster
   - Easy Workload Migration Across Virtual Datacenters: Backup, evacuate, or replicate VMs or entire datacenters in a few clicks to a resilient vCD-powered cloud
   - Fast Path to Hybrid Services: vCloud Director provides a feature-rich, self-service and modern cloud environment 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 My VMware.

Q. Are there any customer success stories on vCloud Director?
A. vCloud Director has been part of many Cloud Provider and customer successes. Check out what Cloud Providers say about vCloud Director here! Please visit the vCloud Director product page on vmware.com, or visit vcpp.cloud to see more.

Q. How much does 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, so as to eliminate shelf-ware 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.