

# Microsoft SharePoint 2010 on VMware Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the advantages of running Microsoft SharePoint 2010 on VMware vSphere®?

Multi-tiered applications such as SharePoint 2010 are ideal candidates for virtualization. By virtualizing SharePoint you can efficiently use the compute power available in large commodity servers. The operational advantages of virtualizing SharePoint servers are quickly realized with the use of snapshots and clones for testing and development, and by optimizing deployment using templates. Additional benefits include the ability to use vSphere features such as VMware High Availability (HA), VMware vSphere® vMotion® and VMware Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS), along with disaster recovery enhancements.

- **Cost Control:**
  - Consolidate servers onto fewer physical hosts.
  - Co-locate test, development, and disaster recovery servers.
  - Use Distributed Power Management to reduce power and cooling.
- **Dynamic Scalability:**
  - Rapidly provision new SharePoint servers.
  - Hot-add processor and memory to running SQL Servers.
  - Monitor performance with VMware vCenter AppSpeed™.
  - Intelligently monitor capacity with VMware vCenter CapacityIQ™.
- **High Availability:**
  - Protect from planned and unplanned downtime.
  - Expanded application-specific HA support.
  - Reduce impact of backup and recovery.
- **Enhanced Security:**
  - Protect SharePoint data from external threats.
  - Co-locate SharePoint sites without compromising security.
  - Offload antivirus scanning.

### How can running SharePoint 2010 on vSphere save me money?

By consolidating SharePoint virtual machines onto fewer physical servers, you save on server hardware investments, administrative expenses, and deployment and recovery costs. Running test/development and disaster recovery servers on vSphere can help to reduce costs significantly by eliminating the need to maintain costly 1:1 server ratios and identical hardware to replicate the production environment.

### What are my support options for SharePoint 2010 on vSphere?

There are various support options for SharePoint running in VMware virtual machines. For detailed support information, go to: [http://www.vmware.com/solutions/business-critical-apps/sharepoint\\_server/support.html](http://www.vmware.com/solutions/business-critical-apps/sharepoint_server/support.html).

### What are my licensing options for SharePoint 2010 on vSphere?

SharePoint 2010 is licensed per running instance of the server software. Client access licenses (CALs) are required for user and/or device access to the SharePoint instance. Windows Server and SQL Server licenses are also required. For licensing information and guidance please consult your Microsoft representative.

### **What are the performance implications?**

SharePoint 2010 is an excellent candidate for virtualization and typically runs at 90-95% of native performance. VMware and our partners have conducted several performance studies with heavy workloads and aggressive consolidation densities to demonstrate the high performance of SharePoint and SQL Server virtual machines. Performance white papers and blogs can be found on our Business Critical Applications webpage at [http://www.vmware.com/solutions/business-critical-apps/sharepoint\\_server/index.html](http://www.vmware.com/solutions/business-critical-apps/sharepoint_server/index.html) for SharePoint and at <http://wwwvmware.com/solutions/business-critical-apps/sql/index.html> for SQL Server.

### **How about deployment and coexistence? What's the upside?**

Multi-tiered applications often require more, smaller server instances. The reduced cost of large commodity servers can drive organizations to deploy multiple tiers or services on a single server to maximize compute power usage. By creating multiple virtual machines to run on the same physical servers you can maintain service and tier isolation while utilizing your compute power more efficiently.

### **How difficult is this solution to manage?**

Management is simple. VMware vCenter provides a single user-friendly interface to manage virtual machines, physical servers, network, and storage components.

### **How do I properly size my environment for virtualization?**

Sizing for a virtualized SharePoint environment is no different than sizing a physical deployment. The multi-tier architecture of SharePoint 2010 typically requires more, smaller application servers. Commodity servers make sizing these roles more difficult and often lead to underutilized physical hardware. Size your virtual machines according to actual requirements, not what the physical server contains.

### **How long does it take to deploy and configure SharePoint 2010 virtual machines?**

Using virtual machine libraries and templates you can provision new, preconfigured SharePoint 2010 virtual machines in just minutes.

### **Is this solution scalable?**

Yes. Virtualization allows the flexibility to initially size servers on the conservative side, and then scale quickly to meet the growing demands of your business. Virtual machines can quickly be granted additional compute power by increasing the number of virtual CPUs and increasing the memory allocation. If a scaled-out approach is required you can quickly deploy more virtual machines. When workloads outpace the capacity of your hardware, vSphere features enable you to migrate to newer hardware with no interruption in service to your application users.

### **Will running my SharePoint 2010 environment on vSphere improve availability?**

Yes. VMware HA provides built-in protection from hardware failure that covers every virtual machine running in the VMware cluster. Even planned downtime can be avoided through the use of vMotion, allowing server hardware maintenance that does not interrupt service to your end users.

### **I'm concerned about disaster recovery. How can this solution help?**

By running SharePoint 2010 on vSphere you can achieve a much more reliable and disaster-tolerant infrastructure. With your SharePoint servers encapsulated into virtual machines, there are many storage-based and software options for replicating to a disaster recovery site. These methods are also very cost-effective, allowing you to avoid costly 1:1 disaster recovery server ratios and eliminating the need for identical hardware.

### **Where can I get more information?**

VMware has a public website dedicated to SharePoint virtualization. For more information, go to [http://www.vmware.com/solutions/business-critical-apps/sharepoint\\_server/](http://www.vmware.com/solutions/business-critical-apps/sharepoint_server/).

See how to make your SharePoint 2010 environment more flexible, more reliable, and more cost-effective. Contact your VMware Account Manager today!