VMware vSphere Product Line Comparision

VMware vSphere is available in two standalone editions, VMware vSphere Standard and VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus, and is also included as a component in VMware Cloud Foundation and VMware vSphere Foundation. Note that vSphere Standard and vSphere Enterprise Plus are only available as versions up to the 8 Update 3 release. Currently, vSphere 9.1 features are only available as part of VMware vSphere Foundation 9.1 and VMware Cloud Foundation 9.1.

vSphere Product Line Comparison			
Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Key Attributes			
vCenter Edition	vCenter Standard	vCenter Standard	vCenter Standard
vCenter Lifecycle Management Service	✓	✓	✓
Kubernetes Runtime and Supervisor Services			
vSphere Kubernetes Service (VKS)			✓
VM Service			✓
Storage Service			✓[1]
Network Service			✓[1]
Local Harbor Registry			✓
vSphere Pod Service			✓
Foundational Load Balancing			✓
Service Mesh			✓
External DNS			✓

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vSphere Product Line Comparison			
Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Data Services			✓
Workload Availability Zones			✓
Build Your Own Image (BYOI)			✓
Supervisor Independent Updates			✓
Operations Management			
vSphere Lifecycle Manager	✓	✓	✓
Live Patching for ESX	✓	✓	✓
vCenter Quick Patching			✓
vCenter Server Profiles	✓	✓	✓
vCenter Update Planner	✓	✓	✓
Content Library	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Configuration Profiles		✓	✓
Host Profiles		✓	✓
Auto Deploy		✓	✓
vSphere Elastic Provisioning (Zero Touch Provisioning)			✓
Green Metrics	✓	✓	✓
Built-in Security			
Identity Federation	✓	✓	✓
Hardware TPM 2.0 Support	✓	✓	✓
Virtual TPM 2.0	✓	✓	✓

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Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
FIPS 140-2 Common Criteria Certification	✓	✓	✓
TLS 1.2	✓	✓	✓
TLS 1.3	✓[2]	✓[2]	✓[2]
Virtual Machine Encryption		✓	✓
Standard Key Provider (External KMS)	✓	✓	✓
Native Key Provider	✓	✓	✓
File Integrity Monitoring			✓
EDR Integration for ESX			✓
Application Performance			
Per-VM Enhanced vMotion Compatibility (EVC)		✓	✓
Instant Clone		✓	✓
Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)		✓	✓
Storage DRS		✓	✓
Distributed Power Management (DPM)		✓	✓
Storage Policy-Based Management	✓	✓	✓
I/O Controls (storage)		✓	✓
Single Root I/O Virtualization (SR-IOV)		✓	✓
vSphere persistent memory/memory tiering		✓	✓
Memory Tiering		✓	✓
NVIDIA GRID vGPU		✓	✓

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Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Accelerated Graphics for VMs		✓	✓
Dynamic DirectPath IO	✓	✓	✓
Enhanced DirectPath I/O		✓	✓
Vendor Device Group		✓	✓
Heterogeneous vGPU profiles on same GPU		✓	✓
DRS automation for vGPU workloads		✓	✓
Business Continuity			
vMotion	✓	✓	✓
Cross-vCenter vMotion	✓	✓	✓
Encrypted vMotion	✓	✓	✓[3]
vCenter Enhanced Linked Mode	✓	✓	✓[4]
vSMP	✓	✓	✓
High Availability (HA)	✓	✓	✓
Proactive HA		✓	✓
Storage vMotion	✓	✓	✓
Fault Tolerance	✓ (only 2 vCPU)	✓	✓
vSphere Replication	✓	✓	✓
Support for 4k Native Storage	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Quick Boot	✓	✓	✓
vCenter File-Based Backup and Restore	✓	✓	✓

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Cross vCenter Mixed Version Provisioning	✓	✓	✓
Hot and Cold Migration to the Cloud	✓	✓	✓
Policy-based Governance		✓	✓
Kubernetes Automation			✓
Workload Lifecycle Management		✓	✓
vCenter Orchestration & Extensibility	✓	✓	✓
Storage – vSAN/HCI			
vSAN Express Storage Architecture (ESA)			✓
vSAN Original Storage Architecture (OSA)			✓
All-Flash Hardware			✓
Data Compression			✓
Basic Compression and Deduplication			✓ (OSA Only)
Advanced Compression and Global Deduplication			✓ (ESA Only)
Data at-Rest Encryption			✓
Data in-Transit Encryption			✓
Storage Policy-Based Management			✓
Software Checksum			✓
vSAN over RDMA			✓
Quality of Service (QoS) – IOPS Limit			✓
Erasure Coding (RAID-5/6)			✓

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Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
vSAN storage clusters			✓
Remote Datastores			✓
Stretched Cluster			✓
2-Node Cluster			✓
File Services			✓
iSCSI Target Service			✓
Cloud Native Storage (CNS) Control Plane			✓
vSphere Container Storage Interface (CSI) Driver			✓
Rack Awareness (Fault Domains)			✓
vSAN Data Persistence Platform			✓
Snapshot Manager with Flexible scheduling			✓
Immutable Snapshots			✓
Any-to-vSAN Replication			✓[5]
External Storage			
VMFS - Fibre Channel	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - iSCSI	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - FCoE	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - NVMe/FC	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - NVMe/TCP	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - NVMe/RDMA	✓	✓	✓

vSphere Product Line Comparison			
Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
NFS - v3	✓	✓	✓
NFS - v4.1	✓	✓	✓
vVols - Fibre Channel	✓	✓	✓
vVols - iSCSI	✓	✓	✓
vVols - NVMe/FC	✓	✓	✓
vVols - NVMe/TCP	✓	✓	✓
NFS - v3	✓	✓	✓
NFS – v4.1			✓
Storage I/O QoS Controls (SIOC)	✓	✓	✓
Storage Array Integration (VAAI) for Block Storage	✓	✓	✓
Storage Array Integration (VAAI) for NFS Storage	✓	✓	✓
Workload (VMDK) Clustering	✓	✓	✓
Auto config with NFS	✓	✓	✓
3rd party storage plugins	✓	✓	✓
Host commissioning and cluster management	✓	✓	✓
Networking			
vSphere Distributed Switch		✓	✓
Link Aggregation Control Protocol (LACP)		✓	✓
Load-Based Teaming		✓	✓
Network I/O QoS Control (NIOC)		✓	✓

vSphere Product Line Comparison			
Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Private VLAN		✓	✓
MAC Learning		✓	✓
BPDU Guard		✓	✓
Guest VLAN Tagging		✓	✓
VLAN Backed Networking	✓	✓	✓
L2 Multicast		✓	✓
Quality of Service (QoS)		✓ (NIOC)	✓ (NIOC)
Container Networking with Antrea			✓
Layer 4 Load Balancing for vSphere Supervisor (including VM Service, vSphere PODs, and VKS Clusters)			✓
Limited L7 Load Balancing for Supervisor Services			✓
Port Mirroring		✓	✓
Netflow/IPFIX		✓	✓
Packet Capture		✓	✓
Cloud Management			
VCF Operations			
Install			✓
Lifecycle Management			(VVF Customers utilize vLCM)
License Management (IPv4, IPv6)			✓
Global inventory			✓

vSphere Product Line Comparison			
Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Identity and Access Management, Single Sign-on (vSphere Interface)			✓
GPU and vGPU monitoring			✓
Audit events across vCenter, vSphere, vSAN and NSX			✓
Log Management			✓
VCF Health and Diagnostics			✓
Storage Operations (vSAN)			✓
Visualization (OOTB;Custom): Dashboards , Views, Reports, Heat Map, Performance Charts, Super Metrics, Metric Correlation, Relationship Mapping			✓
Performance Monitoring and Analytics			✓
Compliance Management, including regulatory compliance (CSA, DISA, FISMA, ISO, CIS, PCI, HIPAA), custom compliance templates, vSphere hardening			✓
Real-Time predictive capacity management, including trending(Workload What-If analysis), right-sizing, workload optimization (manual and automated)			✓
Troubleshooting with guided remediation			✓
Cost Management and Optimization with Fine-Grained Cost Analytics (Service and Data Center costs, Reclamation, Planning)			✓
Custom profiles for VMs			✓
Data Protection and Recovery			✓
Service Discovery and Application Dependency Mapping			✓

vSphere Product Line Comparison			
Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Extensibility via VMW & 3rd-Party Infrastructure Management Packs (SDDC, Compute, Storage, Network, K8s/ Container)			✓
Logs Alerting			✓
Logs Query API			✓
Logs Scheduled			✓
dashboard reports			✓
Logs Partitioning			✓
Logs Content Pack support			✓
vSphere, VKS, HCX, VCF Operations fleet management			✓
Supervisor Cluster monitoring (Metrics and Dashboard)			✓
vSphere Kubernetes Service Cluster monitoring (Telegraf Agent)			✓
Advanced Services (Add-ons)			
Additional Storage Capacity - vSAN			✓

(1) - Denotes features that are limited to the support of VM Service and VKS.

(2) - For more information about use of TLS 1.3 with FIPS 140-3 requirements consult the product documentation.

(3) – With Intel QAT offload

(4) – Deprecated in release 9.0

(5) – Requires VMware Site Recovery (SRM) License.

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