



VMware vSphere® Product Line Comparison

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
Container Registry Service			✓
Harbor Image Registry Service			✓
vSphere Pod Service			✓
Load Balancer Service			✓
External DNS			✓
Data Services			✓
AI Services			✓
Customizable base OS Images			✓

vSphere Product Line Comparison			
Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Operations Management			
vSphere Lifecycle Manager	✓	✓	✓
Live Patching for ESX	✓	✓	✓
vCenter Server Profiles	✓	✓	✓
vCenter Update Planner	✓	✓	✓
Content Library	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Configuration Profiles		✓	✓
Host Profiles		✓	✓
Auto Deploy		✓	✓
vSphere Elastic Provisioning(Zero Touch Provisioning)			✓
Virtual Volumes (vVols)	✓	✓	No ⁴
Green Metrics	✓	✓	✓
Built-in Security			
Identity Federation	✓	✓	✓
Hardware TPM 2.0 Support	✓	✓	✓
Virtual TPM 2.0	✓	✓	✓
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			✓

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Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
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		✓	✓
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	✓	✓	✓

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Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Fault Tolerance	✓ (only 2 vCPU)	✓	✓
vSphere Replication	✓	✓	✓
Support for 4k Native Storage	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Quick Boot	✓	✓	✓
vCenter File-Based Backup and Restore	✓	✓	✓
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 Storage and Network Layer Compression			✓ (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)			✓
vSAN storage clusters			✓
Remote Datastores			✓

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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			✓
Immutable Snapshots			✓
vSAN-to-vSAN Replication			✓
External Storage			
VMFS - Fibre Channel	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - iSCSI	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - FCoE	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - NVMe/FC	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - NVMe/TCP	✓	✓	✓
VMFS - NVMe/RDMA	✓	✓	✓
NFS - v3	✓	✓	✓
NFS - v4.1	✓	✓	✓
vVols - Fibre Channel	✓	✓	✓
vVols - iSCSI	✓	✓	✓
vVols - NVMe/FC	✓	✓	✓
vVols - NVMe/TCP	✓	✓	✓
vVols - NFS v3	✓	✓	✓
Storage I/O QoS Controls (SIOC)	✓	✓	✓
Storage Array Integration (VAAI) for Block Storage	✓	✓	✓

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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)		✓	✓
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		✓	✓

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Feature	VMware vSphere Standard	VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus	VMware vSphere Foundation
Cloud Management VCF Operations			
Install			✓
Lifecycle Management			✓
License Management			✓
Global inventory			✓
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 VM profiles			✓
Data Protection and Recovery			✓
Service Discovery and Application Dependency Mapping			✓
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			✓

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Logs Content Pack support vSphere, VKS, HCX, VCF Operations fleet management			✓
Supervisor Cluster monitoring(Metrics and Dashboard)			✓
vSphere Kubernetes Service Cluster monitoring (Telegraf Agent)			✓
Additional Storage Capacity - vSAN			✓
VMware Live Recovery			✓
VMware AVI Load Balancer			✓

(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