

VMware NSX

Product line comparison



VMware NSX® and VMware NSX+™ provide networking, security and advanced load balancing for multi-cloud environments. This document outlines the features available with each edition.

	NSX Professional	NSX Advanced	NSX Enterprise Plus	NSX+ Standard	NSX+ Advanced	NSX+ Enterprise
Distributed security						
Distributed firewall for NSX and VMware vSphere® Distributed Switch™ (VDS) ports	.	.	.	.	.	.
Stateful and stateless L2 and L3 rules	.	.	.	.	.	.
Distributed FQDN filtering		.	.		.	.
Basic L7 application identification rules		.	.		.	.
Advanced L7 application identification rules	Please refer to the VMware NSX Distributed Firewall™ datasheet.					
Malicious IP filtering	.	.	.		.	.
Distributed flood protection	.	.	.	.	.	.
Agent-based enforcement for physical servers	.	.	.	.	.	.
Stateful and stateless L2 and L3 rules with DPU support			.			.
Distributed identity firewall using guest introspection or Active Directory event server		.	.		.	.

	NSX Professional	NSX Advanced	NSX Enterprise Plus	NSX+ Standard	NSX+ Advanced	NSX+ Enterprise
Distributed identity firewall using third-party log sources	Please refer to the VMware NSX Distributed Firewall datasheet.					
Distributed threat prevention and advanced threat prevention – intrusion detection system/intrusion prevention system (IDS/IPS), malware prevention, sandboxing, network detection and response (NDR), network traffic analysis (NTA)	Please refer to the VMware NSX Distributed Firewall datasheet.					
Policy, tagging and grouping	.	.	.	.	.	.
Firewall operations	.	.	.	.	.	.
Distributed service insertion integrations						
Distributed endpoint protection	.	.	.	.	.	.
Distributed network introspection		.	.		.	.
Gateway security						
Stateful and stateless L3 rules	.	.	.	.	.	.
Basic L7 application identification rules	.	.	.	.	.	.
Advanced L7 application identification rules	Please refer to the VMware NSX Gateway Firewall™ datasheet.					
URL filtering	Please refer to the VMware NSX Gateway Firewall datasheet.					
Gateway flood protection	.	.	.	.	.	.
Gateway network introspection	.	.	.	.	.	.
Gateway user identity firewall ¹	Please refer to the VMware NSX Gateway Firewall datasheet.					
Gateway threat prevention and advanced threat prevention ¹	Please refer to the VMware NSX Gateway Firewall datasheet.					

1. Additional security capabilities are available with NSX security add-on licenses. Please refer to the VMware NSX Distributed Firewall and VMware NSX Gateway Firewall datasheets.

	NSX Professional	NSX Advanced	NSX Enterprise Plus	NSX+ Standard	NSX+ Advanced	NSX+ Enterprise
Gateway firewall high availability						
Active-active gateway firewall services – firewall, network address translation (NAT), IDS/IPS, VPN, malware detection
Advanced desktop management			.			.
NAT						
NAT on north-south and east-west logical routers
Source NAT, destination NAT, NAT N:N, stateless NAT
NAT logging
NAT64	
Active-active NAT services			.			.
VPN						
L2 VPN
IPv4 L3 VPN
IPv6 L3 VPN	
Switching						
vSphere Distributed Switch
VLAN-backed and overlay-backed logical switching

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Multiple tunnel endpoint (TEP) support, SpoofGuard, LACP (edge and host)	•	•	•	•	•	•
L2 multicast	•	•	•	•	•	•
L3 multicast		•	•		•	•
Enhanced datapath – standard and performance		•	•		•	•
Enhanced datapath – standard for DPUs		•	•		•	•
Enhanced datapath – performance for DPUs			•			•
Uniform passthrough for DPUs			•			•
Quality of service (QoS)						
QoS marking and DSCP trust boundary	•	•	•	•	•	•
QoS rate limit northbound traffic on tier-1 gateway		•	•		•	•
L2 bridging to physical environment						
Software-based L2 bridge to physical environments	•	•	•	•	•	•
Routing						
Distributed and multitier routing	•	•	•	•	•	•
Active-active dynamic routing with ECMP	•	•	•	•	•	•
Active-standby redundancy for routing	•	•	•	•	•	•

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Virtual routing and forwarding (VRF) – tier-0 gateway VRFs		•	•		•	•
Ethernet VPN (EVPN)			•			•
OSPF v2	•	•	•	•	•	•
BGP – IPv4 unicast	•	•	•	•	•	•
BGP – IPv6 unicast		•	•		•	•
Static routing – IPv4	•	•	•	•	•	•
Static routing – IPv6	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other routing						
Route maps	•	•	•	•	•	•
High availability virtual IP (HA VIP), route redistribution, IP prefix lists, per-interface reverse path forwarding (RPF) check	•	•	•	•	•	•
DNS, DHCP and IPAM						
IP address management (IPAM)	•	•	•	•	•	•
IP blocks, IP subnets, IP pools	•	•	•	•	•	•
IPv4 DHCP server, relay, and static bindings/fixed addresses	•	•	•	•	•	•
IPv6 DHCP server, relay, and static bindings/fixed addresses		•	•		•	•
IPv4 DNS relay/DNS proxy	•	•	•	•	•	•

	NSX Professional	NSX Advanced	NSX Enterprise Plus	NSX+ Standard	NSX+ Advanced	NSX+ Enterprise
Load balancing						
Protocols – TCP (L4–L7), UDP, HTTP		•	•			
Mechanism – round robin, source IP hash, least connections, L7 app rules with RegEx		•	•			
Health checks – TCP, ICMP, UDP, HTTP, HTTPS		•	•			
Monitoring – VIP/pool/server objects and statistics, global statistics VIP sessions		•	•			
Load balancing automation – pool members based on VMware vCenter® context or IP addresses		•	•			
Connection throttling		•	•			
High availability		•	•			
Modern apps						
Container networking and security		•	•		•	•
VMware Container Networking™ Enterprise with Antrea		•	•		•	•
Distributed load balancing (DLB)		•	•		•	•
Automation						
REST API and hierarchical policy API	•	•	•	•	•	•
JSON support	•	•	•	•	•	•

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OpenAPI/Swagger specification	•	•	•	•	•	•
Java SDK and Python SDK	•	•	•	•	•	•
Terraform provider	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ansible modules	•	•	•	•	•	•
Integration with VMware Aria Automation™, VMware Cloud Director™, and VMware Integrated OpenStack	•	•	•	•	•	•
Platform						
VMware ESXi™ support	•	•	•	•	•	•
Manager/controller clustering	•	•	•	•	•	•
vCenter integration		•	•	•	•	•
Multi-vCenter networking and security		•	•		•	•
Federation			•			
Edge in virtual machine (VM) form factor	•	•	•	•	•	•
Edge in bare-metal form factor for routing	•	•	•	•	•	•
Edge in bare-metal form factor for gateway firewall						
DPDK optimized forwarding	•	•	•	•	•	•
NSX application platform			•			

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Dual stack (IPv4/IPv6) external management for on-premises		•	•		•	•
Dual stack (IPv4/IPv6) external management for SaaS		•	•			
Authentication and authorization	•	•	•	•	•	•
VMware Aria Operations™ for Logs and Splunk integration (plug-in)	•	•	•	•	•	•
Manual and automated NSX Manager™ and NSX Edge™ deployment, automated host preparation by cluster	•	•	•	•	•	•
Multitenancy ² – projects, virtual private clouds (VPCs)	•	•	•	•	•	•
Operations						
Port mirroring, traceflow, NSX live traffic analysis, packet capture	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tunnel health monitoring, port connectivity tool, switch-based IPFIX, LLDP	•	•	•	•	•	•
Automated technical support bundles, backup and restore	•	•	•	•	•	•
SNMP v1/v2/v3 with traps	•	•	•	•	•	•
Time series metrics			•			
DPU-based network operations			•			•
Upgrade and Migration Coordinator, NSX Manager to policy promotion	•	•	•	•	•	•

2. Refer to the NSX or NSX+ datasheet for information on scale supported.

	NSX Professional	NSX Advanced	NSX Enterprise Plus	NSX+ Standard	NSX+ Advanced	NSX+ Enterprise
Product entitlement						
VMware Aria Operations for Logs (SaaS)				•	•	•
VMware Aria Operations for Logs	•	•	•			
VMware Aria Operations for Networks Advanced			•			•
VMware Aria Operations for Networks Enterprise						
VMware Aria Operations for Networks (SaaS)						
VMware HCX® Advanced			•			
VMware HCX+™						
VMware Workspace ONE® Access™	•	•	•	•	•	•
VMware NSX Advanced Load Balancer™ Enterprise ³		•	•			
VMware NSX Advanced Load Balancer Enterprise with Cloud services ³					•	•
VMware NSX Intelligence™ ⁴						
VM-to-VM traffic flow analysis			•			
Firewall visibility			•			
Automated security policy			•			
Rule and group recommendation analytics			•			

3. Refer to the NSX or NSX+ datasheet for information on scale supported.

4. Additional security capabilities are available with NSX security add-on licenses. Please refer to the VMware NSX Distributed Firewall and VMware NSX Gateway Firewall datasheets.

	NSX Professional	NSX Advanced	NSX Enterprise Plus	NSX+ Standard	NSX+ Advanced	NSX+ Enterprise
Network traffic analytics						
Multi-cloud						
Policy for local managers				•	•	•
Policy for VMware Cloud™ software-defined data centers (SDDCs)						
Multisite (on-premises) ⁵				•	•	•
VMware Cloud SDDCs						
Upgrade recommendations				•	•	•
Keyless activation		•		•	•	•
Cloud-based NSX infrastructure monitoring				•	•	•
NSX+ Intelligence™	Please refer to the VMware NSX Distributed Firewall datasheet.					
NSX+ NDR	Please refer to the VMware NSX Distributed Firewall datasheet.					

5. Refer to the NSX or NSX+ datasheet for information on scale supported.

Reference

[VMware NSX datasheet](#)

[VMware NSX+ datasheet](#)

[VMware NSX Distributed Firewall datasheet](#)

[VMware NSX Gateway Firewall datasheet](#)

