VMware vSphere® Version 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 9.0 features are only available as part of VMware vSphere Foundation 9.0 and VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0.

vSphere Version Comparison			
Key Features / Capabilities	Version 7.x	Version 8.x	Version 9.x
Key Attributes			
vCenter Lifecycle Management Service	✓	✓	✓
Kubernetes Runtime and Supervisor Services			
vSphere Kubernetes Service (VKS)	✓	✓	✓
VM Service	✓	✓	✓
Storage Service	✓	✓	✓
Network Service	✓	✓	✓
Container Registry Service	✓	✓	✓
Harbor Image Registry Service	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Pod Service	✓	✓	✓
Load Balancer Service	✓	✓	✓
Service Mesh			✓
External DNS	✓	✓	✓
ArgoCD			✓
Secret Service	✓	✓	✓
IaaS Policy Service	✓	✓	✓

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Data Services	✓	✓	✓
AI Services	✓	✓	✓
Workload Availability Zones		✓	✓
Simplified VKS cluster lifecycle Management		✓	✓
VKS cluster management		✓	✓
Customizable base OS Images		✓	✓
Supervisor Independent Updates			✓
Custom Zone Optimization			✓
Operations Management			
vSphere Lifecycle Manager	✓	✓	✓
Live Patching for ESX		✓	✓
vCenter Server Profiles	✓	✓	✓
vCenter Update Planner	✓	✓	✓
Content Library	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Configuration Profiles		✓	✓
Host Profiles	✓	✓	✓
Auto Deploy		✓	✓
Virtual Volumes (vVols)	✓	✓	✓
Green Metrics		✓	✓
Built-in Security			
Identity Federation	✓	✓	✓
Hardware TPM 2.0 Support	✓	✓	✓
Virtual TPM 2.0	✓	✓	✓
FIPS 140-2 and Common Criteria Certification	✓	✓	✓
TLS 1.2	✓	✓	✓
TLS 1.3		✓ *	✓ *

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Virtual Machine Encryption	✓	✓	✓
Standard Key Provider (External KMS)	✓	✓	✓
Native Key Provider	✓	✓	✓
Secure boot	✓	✓	✓
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			✓
NVIDIA GRID vGPU	✓	✓	✓
Accelerated Graphics for VMs	✓	✓	✓
Dynamic DirectPath IO	✓	✓	✓
Vendor Device Group		✓	✓
Heterogeneous vGPU profiles on same GPU		✓	✓
DRS automation for vGPU workloads		✓	✓
Support for NVIDIA NVSwitch and NVLink		✓	✓
Business Continuity			
vMotion	✓	✓	✓
Cross-vCenter vMotion[4]	✓	✓	✓

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vCenter Enhanced Linked Mode	✓	✓	✓
vSMP	✓	✓	✓
High Availability (HA)	✓	✓	✓
Proactive HA	✓	✓	✓
Storage vMotion	✓	✓	✓
Fault Tolerance	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Replication	✓	✓	✓
Support for 4k Native Storage	✓	✓	✓
vSphere Quick Boot	✓	✓	✓
vCenter File-Based Backup and Restore	✓	✓	✓
vCenter Server Appliance Migration	✓	✓	✓
Cross vCenter Mixed Version Provisioning	✓	✓	✓
Hot and Cold Migration to the Cloud	✓	✓	✓
Policy-based Governance		✓	✓

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

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