VMware Glossary

EN-002140-00

vmware®

You can find the most up-to-date technical documentation on the VMware Web site at:

http://www.vmware.com/support/

The VMware Web site also provides the latest product updates.

If you have comments about this documentation, submit your feedback to:

docfeedback@vmware.com

VMware, Inc.
3401 Hillview Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304
www.vmware.com

VMware Glossary

The VMware Glossary primarily defines virtualization terms as used in VMware technical documentation and training. The glossary does not include industry terms or product-specific terms.

admission control	When you power on a virtual machine, the system checks the amount of CPU and memory resources that are not yet reserved. Based on the available unreserved resources, the system determines whether it can guarantee the reservation for which the virtual machine is configured.
alarm	A notification that is activated in response to an event, a set of conditions, or the state of an inventory object.
alert	A notification that is activated when an object or group of objects exhibits symptoms that are unfavorable for your environment.
base disk	The original virtual hard disk from which a virtual machine is derived.
bridged networking	In hosted products, a type of network connection between a virtual machine and the physical network of the host. With bridged networking, a virtual machine appears to be an additional computer on the same physical Ethernet network as the host.
cluster	A group of servers that host virtual machines in a virtual environment.
CPU compatibility masks	A vCenter Server capability of hiding certain CPU features from the virtual machine and potentially preventing migrations with vSphere vMotion from failing due to incompatible CPUs.
data center	A container for all the vCenter Server inventory objects required to complete a fully functional environment for operating virtual machines.
delta disk	A disk that represents the difference between the current state of the virtual disk and the state that existed when the delta disk was created. Virtual machine snapshot and linked-clone technologies use delta disks.
dependent disk	The default disk type for virtual machine disk (VMDK) files. When a snapshot of a virtual machine is taken, all its dependent disks are included in the snapshot. See also independent disk
distributed port	A port on a distributed switch that connects to the VMkernel in a host or to a network adapter in a virtual machine. See also distributed port group.

distributed port group	A port group that is associated with a distributed switch and that specifies port configuration options for each member port. Distributed port groups define how a connection is made through a distributed switch to the network.
distributed switch	A virtual networking device that is created and managed at the vCenter Server level. See also standard switch.
guest operating system	An operating system that runs in a virtual machine.
host	A physical computer that uses virtualization software to run virtual machines. Also called the host computer, host machine, or host system.
host agent	Software that performs actions on behalf of a remote client when that software is installed on a virtual machine host.
host operating system	An operating system that runs on the host machine. See also host.
independent disk	A type of virtual disk that is excluded from any snapshots taken of its virtual machine. You can configure independent disks in persistent and nonpersistent disk modes. See also dependent disk, nonpersistent disk mode, and persistent disk mode.
linked clone	A copy of a virtual machine that shares virtual disks with the parent virtual machine in an ongoing manner.
migration	The process of moving a virtual machine from one host or storage location to another.
nonpersistent disk mode	An independent disk mode in which all disk writes that are issued by the software running in a virtual machine are written to the independent disk. These disk writes are discarded after the virtual machine is powered off. As a result, a virtual disk or physical disk in independent nonpersistent disk mode is not modified by activity in the virtual machine. See also independent disk and persistent disk mode.
persistent disk mode	An independent disk mode in which all disk writes that are issued by the software running in a virtual machine are immediately and permanently written to a virtual disk that is configured as an independent disk. As a result, a virtual disk or physical disk in independent persistent disk mode behaves like a conventional disk drive on a physical computer. See also independent disk and nonpersistent disk mode.
port group	A construct for configuring virtual network options such as bandwidth limitations and VLAN tagging policies for each member port.
protected site	The data center that contains the virtual machines used to replicate data to the recovery site.
protection group	A group of virtual machines that are protected in the case of disaster recovery. Virtual machines in a protection group are failed over together to the recovery site.
quiescing	Bringing the data that is on the disk of a physical or virtual computer into a consistent state that is suitable for backups.
recovery site	The data center that contains the recovery virtual machines and applications that continue to operate when the protected site is unavailable. The recovery site supports critical business needs.

recovery virtual machine	A placeholder for a protected virtual machine. Placeholders represent the virtual machines that are replicated from the protected site.
resource pool	A logical abstraction of hierarchically managed CPU and memory resources. An administrator uses a resource pool to divide and allocate resources to virtual machines and other resource pools.
software-defined data center (SDDC)	A collection of business processes, organizational structures, and technologies that deliver end-to-end cloud computing services.
standard switch	A virtual networking device that is created and managed at the individual host level. See also distributed switch.
storage virtualizer	Software that abstracts and aggregates physical storage from a physical disk or storage array to support the storage needs of physical and virtual hosts and virtual machines.
virtual disk	A set of files that a guest operating system identifies as a physical disk drive. Also called VMDK.
virtual machine (VM)	A software computer that, like a physical computer, runs an operating system and applications. Multiple virtual machines can operate concurrently on a single host system.
virtual network	A software container that presents logical network services to connected workloads.
VMkernel	The ESXi hypervisor. The VMkernel provides a virtualization layer that abstracts the processor, memory, storage, and networking resources of the physical host and allocates them to multiple virtual machines.