VMware vCenter Configuration Manager
Foundation Checker User's Guide

vCenter Configuration Manager Foundation Checker 5.7
vCenter Configuration Manager 5.7

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About This Book

The VCM Foundation Checker User’s Guide describes the process of installing, running, and analyzing the prerequisite checks performed by VMware vCenter Configuration Manager (VCM) Foundation Checker. These checks are required before installing the VCM application. This document contains the following information:

- Foundation Checker overview
- Installing Foundation Checker
- Running Foundation Checker
- Reviewing Foundation Checker system results

The VCM Foundation Checker User’s Guide covers VCM 5.7 and Foundation Checker 5.7.

Intended Audience

This document contains information intended for system administrators who are experienced Windows system administrators who are familiar with installing VCM.

To use this information effectively, you must have a basic understanding of how to configure network resources, install software, and administer operating systems. You also need to fully understand your network topology and resource naming conventions.

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VMware VCM Documentation


Technical Support and Education Resources

The following technical support resources are available to you. To access the current version of this book and other books, go to http://www.vmware.com/support/pubs.

Online and Telephone Support
To use online support to submit technical support requests, view your product and contract information, and register your products, go to http://www.vmware.com/support.
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Foundation Checker verifies that a machine designated as a VCM Collector meets all the prerequisites necessary for installing VCM. The prerequisites are described in the *VCM Advanced Installation Guide*.

Foundation Checker is comprised of a series of system checks run on the machine on which you plan to install VCM. If the checks run without error, you can begin installing. If the checks identify missing components or incorrect configurations, you are instructed where to verify the component or configuration and how to remedy the errors.

You will most commonly encounter Foundation Checker as part of the classic VCM Installation Manager. If you are using this manual in the context of installing VCM, see "Reviewing Foundation Checker System Checks" on page 13 for information about evaluating the results. However, you can run Foundation Checker as a standalone application. The most common scenarios for installing and running the standalone application are as follows:

- If you are evaluating a prospective VCM Collector in advance of VCM installation.
- If you are adding another Collector to an existing VCM configuration and want to check the new machine in advance of installation.

Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of this manual provide information about installing and running the standalone version of Foundation Checker.
Installing Foundation Checker

Foundation Checker is run as part of VCM installation. However, you can install a standalone version on a proposed Collector to verify that it is a VCM-ready machine.

To use Foundation Checker as a standalone application, install the Foundation Checker tool using Installation Manager, or download Foundation Checker from the Download VMware vCenter Configuration Manager Web site. Do not install a standalone version of Foundation Checker on a machine that is already running VCM.

**NOTE**  If you have downloaded and run Foundation Checker independent from Installation Manager, see "Running Foundation Checker" on page 11 for instructions. Take care to use the version of Foundation Checker that supports the specific version of VCM that you are installing.

**Installing the Standalone Version of Foundation Checker**

1. Insert the installation media into the machine on which you are installing Foundation Checker. The Installation screen appears.

   **NOTE**  If the Installation screen does not appear, or if you are installing from a network location, navigate to the root directory on the media or share, and double-click Setup.exe.

2. Click **Advanced Installation**. The Introduction page appears.

3. Click **Next**. The **License Agreement** appears.

4. Select **I accept the terms in the license agreement**, and also indicate that you are an authorized agent or end user and that you have read the terms of the agreement.

5. Click **Next**. After identifying any components already installed on the machine, the **Select Installation Type** page appears.

6. To install only Foundation Checker, clear all the check boxes and then select **Foundation Checker** in the **Tools** list.

7. Click **Next**. The **Gathering System Information** page appears. The Installation Manager verifies that the machine has sufficient resources to support Foundation Checker.

8. Click **Next**. The **Configure Components** page appears.

9. Use the default location, or, to change the location where Foundation Checker is to be installed, type a
new path in the text box, or click Change to browse to the new location.

10. Click Next. The Install Components page appears.

11. Click Install.

12. When you are notified that the process is completed, click Finish.

**Downloading the Standalone Foundation Checker**

The standalone Foundation Checker is accessible from the VMware vCenter Configuration Manager Tools download from the VMware Web site.

**IMPORTANT** You must run the version of Foundation Checker associated with the version of VCM you are planning to install.

**Procedure**

1. Log in to the Download VMware vCenter Configuration Manager at:
   http://downloads.vmware.com/d/info/datacenter_downloads/vmware_vcenter_configuration_manager/5_0

2. Select the Drivers & Tools tab.

3. Select VMware vCenter Configuration Manager Tools.
   The download includes multiple tools. Click Show Details to view a summary of the content of the components in the download.

4. Click Download, and log in to the portal. A summary of the download options appears.

5. Select Use Download Manager, and click the Foundation Checker executable.

6. Create a new folder, place the downloaded executable in the new folder, and double-click the executable to self-extract the files into the new folder.
   If the file does not self-extract and run, unzip the downloaded file.

7. Open a command prompt, and browse to the location of the FoundationChecker.console.exe file. See "Running Foundation Checker" on page 11 for more information.
Running Foundation Checker

After Foundation Checker has been downloaded and installed, you can run it on the machine to be validated.

Procedure
1. Open a command prompt as Administrator.
2. At the command prompt, change to the directory where Foundation Checker is installed.
   By default: C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VCM\Tools\FoundationChecker.
   If you are using downloaded and unzipped files from the Download VMware vCenter Configuration Manager Web site, change to the directory where you unzipped the files.
3. At the command prompt, type the following:
   
   ```
   FoundationChecker.console.exe -v -dispxform
   ```
   The -v option enables verbose mode, which displays the status of the system checks as they run. The -dispxform option opens the Foundation Checker Results page, which provides information about changes you might need to make before the machine will pass the checks. See “Evaluating the Results” on page 14 for more information.

Command Prompt Parameters

The following options are available for use with Foundation Checker.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-help</td>
<td>Display a complete list of available parameters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-v</td>
<td>Run the application in verbose mode. All application details are presented while system checks are performed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-dispxform</td>
<td>Display the HTML page that presents the results of the checks after Foundation Checker has run.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cat</td>
<td>Check a particular category of checks. A list of system check categories can be found in the Categories.xml file in the Datafiles\Input directory where you installed Foundation Checker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-outputfile</td>
<td>Save the check results to a TXT file that you specify. For example: -so C:\Program Files (x86) \VMware\VCM\Tools\FoundationChecker\results.txt. Identical to -so option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-so</td>
<td>Save the check results to a TXT file that you specify. For example: -so C:\Program Files (x86) \VMware\VCM\Tools\FoundationChecker\results.txt. Identical to -outputfile option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-xformresult</td>
<td>Change the name of the results XSL file. Defaults to ViewFCResults.xsl if not provided. The output file will be located in the Datafiles\Output directory where you installed the application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inputfile</td>
<td>Specify a custom input file to check the machine. As part of the Customer Support process, VMware may provide a custom input file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-configfile</td>
<td>Change the name of the config XML file. Defaults to Config.xml if not provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-indir</td>
<td>Specify the root directory for data input.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-outdir</td>
<td>Specify the output directory for data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-mach</td>
<td>Specify the name of the machine on which you want to run the application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-debug</td>
<td>Provide a larger list of debug options from running Foundation Checker. The output file is located in the Datafiles\Output directory where you installed Foundation Checker.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reviewing Foundation Checker System Checks

To ensure a successful VCM installation, Foundation Checker performs a series of system checks to verify the existence of various applications and system prerequisites.

Components

The system checks evaluate the machine for the following component prerequisites.

- Operating system
- SQL Server
- .NET Framework
- Internet Information Services
- SQL Server Reporting Services
- Internet Explorer
- Windows Data Access Components (WDAC)
- SQL XML
- Environment
- Non-VCM databases
- Windows Services
- Windows Firewall
- Active ports

Displayed Information

The displayed information includes:

- **Component.** System check name.
- **Status.** Severity level (OK, Warning, or Error).
  - **OK.** Indicates the check was successful. No further action is required.
  - **Warning.** Indicates that a non-mandatory check has failed. VCM may not install or, if installed, it may not run optimally.
  - **Error.** Indicates that a required check has failed and VCM will not install.
- **Problem.** Describes the problem that Foundation Checker identified during the assessment.
- **Fix.** Describes the steps required to fix the problem. This field also contains a link to a Help topic, which describes how to remedy the problem.
- **Message.** Describes the expected values for each system check.

### Evaluating the Results

After running Foundation Checker, the system check results are saved as an HTML file. The HTML file is automatically displayed at the end of the system check process when Foundation Checker is run with the `-dispxform` parameter. You can also view the results HTML file using the following steps.

#### Procedure

1. Open the `FCResult.htm` file. The default location for the file is the `Datafiles\Output` directory where you installed Foundation Checker. The Foundation Checker Results page appears. Errors and exceptions are displayed as shown.

![Foundation Checker Results](image)

An exception indicates that a system component was inaccessible. An error indicates that information was gathered but is not the value that is expected.

2. Click any of the links **OK**, **Error**, or **Warning** links to view more information about the displayed system check for each component, and then select the **Click here** link for information to correct any errors or warnings.

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**NOTE** VMware recommends that you correct all **Errors** and at least review all **Warnings**. Warnings provide valuable information regarding configuration settings that might impact VCM performance.

### Foundation Checker Troubleshooting

Additional troubleshooting options are as follows.
Table 4–1. Foundation Checker Troubleshooting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After running Foundation Checker, the results file displays a large number of errors.</td>
<td>Carefully review and apply the configuration settings provided in the VCM Advanced Installation Guide; see the chapter on Software and Operating System Requirements – Collector Machines. Run Foundation Checker again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I receive errors when I run Foundation Checker on a machine that has previously run the Foundation Checker without errors.</td>
<td>Restart the machine, and run Foundation Checker again.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Escalating Issues**

If the steps provided to resolve the system check failures do not resolve the warnings or errors, contact VMware Technical Support. Be prepared to provide the content of the following folders.

- FoundationChecker
- _csi_installation

The folders are located in the Documents and Settings temporary folder of the user who installed the application.

By default: C:\Documents and Settings\Users\{user}\AppData\Local\Temp

To access this folder, select **Start**, click **Run**, and type `\%temp\%

The VMware Technical Support will use the contents of these folders to evaluate your system check errors.