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VCP-DCV for vSphere 7.x

Exam 2V0-21.20

JOHN A. DAVIS
STEVE BACA
OWEN THOMAS

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VCP-DCV for vSphere 7.x (Exam 2V0-21.20) Official Cert Guide

John A. Davis, Steve Baca, Owen Thomas

Pearson

VCP-DCV for vSphere 7.x (Exam 2V0-21.20) Official Cert Guide

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Dedications

Dedicated to Madison, Emma, Jaxon, Ethan, Eli, and Robbie, the six wonderful children to whom I am blessed to be known as "Grampy." They fill my days with joy and fun, especially after a hard day of writing or working for their namesake, MEJEER, LLC.

—John Davis

First and foremost, I would like to dedicate this book to my loving wife, Sharyl. Without your support, I would not be able to commit the time necessary to co-author a book. Thank you for believing in me and allowing me to have the time for my many endeavors. I would also like to dedicate this book to my children: Zachary, Brianna, Eileen, Susan, Keenan, and Maura.

—Steve Baca

I would like to dedicate this book to my wife, Angela, and our daughter, Emma. May it be a reminder of pushing for bigger and brighter things in life. I love you both with all of my heart.

—Owen Thomas

About the Authors

John A. Davis, now an independent contractor and senior integration architect at MEJEER, LLC, became a VMware Certified Instructor (VCI) and VMware Certified Professional (VCP) in 2004. Since then, all of his work has focused on VMware-based technologies. He has experience in teaching official VMware curriculum in five countries and delivering VMware professional services throughout the United States. Recently, his work has involved designing and implementing solutions for hybrid clouds, cloud automation, disaster recovery, and virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). He has authored several white papers and co-authored *VCP6-DCV Cert Guide* and *VCAP5-DCA Cert Guide* (VMware Press). He holds several advanced certifications, including VCIX6-DCV, VCAP5-DTD, VCAP5-CID, and VCIX6-NV. He has been a vExpert since 2014. He is the author of the vLoreBlog.com and can be found on Twitter @johnnyadavis.

Steve Baca, VCAP, VCI, VCP, and NCDA, has been in the computer industry for more than 20 years. Originally a computer programmer and a system administrator working on Unix and Windows systems, he migrated over to technical training and wrote a course for Sun Microsystems. After teaching various courses for Sun, he eventually transitioned to VMware about 10 years ago, to do technical training. Currently he is a badged employee for VMware and lives in Omaha, Nebraska. He thoroughly enjoys teaching and writing and believes that the constant evolution of the computer industry requires continuously learning to stay ahead. Steve can be found on Twitter @scbaca1.

Owen Thomas holds a number of VMware certifications and has taught more than 400 authorized VMware classes for vSphere, Horizon, vCloud, and vRealize products. He has operated as a VMware Solutions Provider and performed a number of VMware partner services for customers across the United States.

About the Reviewer

Joseph Cooper is a Principal Instructor and a member of America's Tech Lead Team with VMware's Education Department. Joe has spoken at several VMworld conferences, VMUG events, and vForum events, and is a featured instructor in the VMware Learning Zone. Prior to joining VMware, Joe was an instructor at the State University of New York, College at Cortland, where he taught technology courses to Sport Management and Kinesiology students.

You can find him on Twitter @joeicooper and on the newly launched YouTube channel https://youtube.com/channel/UCYrPi0AqS8f8QxChAgZa5Sg.

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—John Davis

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—Steve Baca

Thank you to my wife, Angela, and our daughter, Emma, for your patience with me while I worked on this book. Thank you, John Davis, for working with me yet again. It is always a pleasure, and I hope to work with you more in the future. Thank you, Pearson, for letting us write another version of this book and for all of the awesome support. And thank you, VMware, for continuing to trailblaze.

—Owen Thomas

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Foreword

Certification exams aren't easy. They're not supposed to be. If they were, they wouldn't mean much.

Certifications validate a specific minimum level of expertise of an individual, and in the case of VMware certifications, that means we, as a company, stand behind those individuals earning the certification. We create exams that are aimed at real job skills, that align to actual job roles that exist in the industry, and that properly test the baseline expertise required to perform those roles.

The authors of this book have multiple certifications among themselves, equaling decades of hands-on experience. They are teachers, learners, administrators, and architects of key IT technologies. Their combined knowledge provides them the ability to share their expertise through this book, which in turn allows you, as the reader and prospective certification holder, to be better prepared to pass that hard certification exam.

This study guide is a great asset and tool for you to use in your study and preparation. Take advantage of the practice exams, the suggestions and tips, and the content in the book. By using this guide and thoroughly preparing yourself, getting hands-on practice through labs and sandbox or production environments, and paying close attention to the objectives the exam will cover, you will be prepared to not only pass the exams on your way to getting certified but add real value to your organizations through a software-defined approach to business and IT.

I wish you the best of luck in your study and subsequent exam attempt. And when you earn that certification, remember: You've just done something hard. And that means something to VMware, to the industry, and to you. Well done!

Karl Childs

Senior Manager, VMware Certification

Introduction

This book focuses on one major goal: helping you prepare to pass the Professional VMware vSphere 7.0 (2V0-21.20) exam, which is a key requirement for earning the VCP-DCV 2021 certification. This book may be useful for secondary purposes, such as learning how to implement, configure, and manage a vSphere environment or preparing to take other VCP-DCV qualifying exams.

The rest of this introduction provides details on the VCP-DCV certification, the 2V0-21.20 exam, and this book.

VCP-DCV Requirements

The primary objective of the VCP-DCV 2021 certification is to demonstrate that you have mastered the skills to successfully install, configure, and manage VMware vSphere 7 environments. You can find the exam requirements, objectives, and other details on the certification web portal, at http://mylearn.vmware.com/portals/certification/. On the website, navigate to the Data Center Virtualization track and to the VCP-DCV certification. Examine the VCP-DCV 2021 requirements based on your qualifications. For example, if you select that you currently hold no VCP certifications, then the website indicates that your path to certification is to gain experience with vSphere 7.0, attend one of the following required training courses, and pass the Professional vSphere 7.0 (2V0-21.20) exam:

- VMware vSphere: Install, Configure, Manage [V7]
- VMware vSphere: Optimize and Scale [V7]
- VMware vSphere: Troubleshooting [V7]
- VMware vSphere: Fast Track [V7]

If you select that you currently hold a VCP6-DCV certification, the website indicates that your path includes a recommendation, but not a requirement, to take a training course.

VMware updates the VCP-DCV certification requirements each year. So, the requirements for the VCP-DCV 2021 certification may differ slightly from VCP-DCV 2020 certification. Likewise, VMware updates the qualifying exams. Each year, as VMware updates the Professional VMware vSphere 7.x exam, the authors of this book will create an appendix to supplement the original book. To prepare for a future version of the exam, download the corresponding online appendix from the book's companion website and use it to supplement the original book.

After you identify your path to certification, you can select the Professional VMware vSphere 7.x (2V0-21.20) exam to closely examine its details and to download the Exam Preparation Guide (also known as the exam blueprint).

Details on the 2V0-21.20 Exam

The 2V0-21.20 exam blueprint provides details on exam delivery, minimum qualifications for candidates, exam objectives, recommended courses, and references to supporting VMware documentation. It also contains 10 sample exam questions. The 2V0-21.20 exam is a proctored exam delivered through Pearson VUE. See Chapter 15, "Final Preparation," for details on registering and taking the exam.

A minimally qualified candidate (MQC) has 6 to 12 months of hands-on experience implementing, managing, and supporting a vSphere environment. The MQC has knowledge of storage, networking, hardware, security, business continuity, and disaster recovery concepts.

The exam characteristics are as follows:

- Format: Proctored exam
- Question type: Multiple choice
- Number of questions: 70
- Duration: 130 minutes
- Passing score: 300
- Cost: $250 (in the United States)

2V0-21.20 Exam Objectives

The 2V0-21.20 exam blueprint lists the exam objectives, which are summarized here:

Section 1: Architectures and Technologies

- Objective 1.1: Identify the prerequisites and components for a vSphere implementation
- Objective 1.2: Describe vCenter Server topology
- Objective 1.3: Identify and differentiate storage access protocols for vSphere (NFS, iSCSI, SAN, etc.)
    - 1.3.1: Describe storage datastore types for vSphere
    - 1.3.2: Explain the importance of advanced storage configuration (vSphere Storage APIs for Storage Awareness (VASA), vSphere Storage APIs Array Integration (VAAI), etc.)

- 1.3.3: Describe storage policies
- 1.3.4: Describe basic storage concepts in K8s, vSAN and vSphere Virtual Volumes (vVols)

- Objective 1.4: Differentiate between vSphere Network I/O Control (NIOC) and vSphere Storage I/O Control (SIOC)
- Objective 1.5: Describe instant clone architecture and use cases
- Objective 1.6: Describe ESXi cluster concepts
  - 1.6.1: Describe Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
  - 1.6.2: Describe vSphere Enhanced vMotion Compatibility (EVC)
  - 1.6.3: Describe how Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS) scores virtual machines
  - 1.6.4: Describe vSphere High Availability
  - 1.6.5: Describe datastore clusters
- Objective 1.7: Identify vSphere distributed switch and vSphere standard switch capabilities
  - 1.7.1: Describe VMkernel networking
  - 1.7.2: Manage networking on multiple hosts with vSphere distributed switch
  - 1.7.3: Describe networking policies
  - 1.7.4: Manage Network I/O Control (NIOC) on a vSphere distributed switch
- Objective 1.8: Describe vSphere Lifecycle Manager concepts (baselines, cluster images, etc.)
- Objective 1.9: Describe the basics of vSAN as primary storage
  - 1.9.1: Identify basic vSAN requirements (networking, disk count + type)
- Objective 1.10: Describe the vSphere Trust Authority architecture
- Objective 1.11: Explain Software Guard Extensions (SGX)

Section 2: VMware Products and Solutions

- Objective 2.1: Describe the role of vSphere in the software-defined data center (SDDC)
- Objective 2.2: Identify use cases for vCloud Foundation

- Objective 2.3: Identify migration options
- Objective 2.4: Identify DR use cases
- Objective 2.5: Describe vSphere integration with VMware Skyline

Section 3: Planning and Designing (There are no testable objectives for this section.)

Section 4: Installing, Configuring, and Setup

- Objective 4.1: Describe single sign-on (SSO) deployment topology
  - 4.1.1: Configure a single sign-on (SSO) domain
  - 4.1.2: Join an existing single sign-on (SSO) domain
- Objective 4.2: Configure VSS advanced virtual networking options
- Objective 4.3: Set up identity sources
  - 4.3.1: Configure Identity Federation
  - 4.3.2: Configure Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) integration
  - 4.3.3: Configure Active Directory integration
- Objective 4.4: Deploy and configure vCenter Server Appliance
- Objective 4.5: Create and configure VMware High Availability and advanced options (Admission Control, Proactive High Availability, etc.)
- Objective 4.6: Deploy and configure vCenter Server High Availability
- Objective 4.7: Set up content library
- Objective 4.8: Configure vCenter Server file-based backup
- Objective 4.9: Analyze basic log output from vSphere products
- Objective 4.10: Configure vSphere Trust Authority
- Objective 4.11: Configure vSphere certificates
  - 4.11.1: Describe Enterprise PKIs role for SSL certificates
- Objective 4.12: Configure vSphere Lifecycle Manager/VMware Update Manager (VUM)
- Objective 4.13: Securely Boot ESXi hosts
- Objective 4.14: Configure different network stacks
- Objective 4.15: Configure Host Profiles

- Objective 4.16: Identify boot options
  - 4.16.1: Configure Quick Boot

Section 5: Performance-tuning, Optimization, Upgrades

- Objective 5.1: Identify resource pools use cases
  - 5.1.1: Explain shares, limits, and reservations (resource management)
- Objective 5.2: Monitor resources of vCenter Server Appliance and vSphere environment
- Objective 5.3: Identify and use tools for performance monitoring
- Objective 5.4: Configure Network I/O Control (NIOC)
- Objective 5.5: Configure Storage I/O Control (SIOC)
- Objective 5.6: Explain the performance impact of maintaining virtual machine snapshots
- Objective 5.7: Plan for upgrading various vSphere components

Section 6: Troubleshooting and Repairing (There are no testable objectives for this section.)

Section 7: Administrative and Operational Tasks

- Objective 7.1: Create and manage virtual machine snapshots
- Objective 7.2: Create virtual machines using different methods (Open Virtual Machine Format (OVF) templates, content library, etc.)
- Objective 7.3: Manage virtual machines
- Objective 7.4: Manage storage (datastores, storage policies, etc.)
  - 7.4.1: Configure and modify datastores (expand/upgrade existing datastore, etc.)
  - 7.4.2: Create virtual machine storage policies
  - 7.4.3: Configure storage cluster options
- Objective 7.5: Create Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS) affinity and anti-affinity rules for common use cases
- Objective 7.6: Configure and perform different types of migrations
- Objective 7.7: Configure role-based user management
- Objective 7.8: Configure and manage the options for securing a vSphere environment (certificates, virtual machine encryption, virtual Trusted Platform Module, lock-down mode, virtualization-based security, etc.)

- Objective 7.9: Configure and manage host profiles
- Objective 7.10: Utilize baselines to perform updates and upgrades
- Objective 7.11: Utilize vSphere Lifecycle Manager
  - 7.11.1: Describe Firmware upgrades for ESXi
  - 7.11.2: Describe ESXi updates
  - 7.11.3: Describe component and driver updates for ESXi
  - 7.11.4: Describe hardware compatibility check
  - 7.11.5: Describe ESXi cluster image export functionality
- Objective 7.12: Configure alarms

NOTE Sections 3 and 6 currently do not apply to the 2V0-21.20 exam, but they may be used for other exams.

NOTE For future exams, download and examine the objectives in the updated exam blueprint. Be sure to use the future Pearson-provided online appendix specific to the updated exam.

Who Should Take This Exam and Read This Book?

The VCP-DCV certification is the most popular certification at VMware; more than 100,000 professionals around the world hold this certification. This book is intended for anyone who wants to prepare for the 2V0-21.20 exam, which is a required exam for VCP-DCV 2021 certification. The audience includes current and prospective IT professionals such as system administrators, infrastructure administrators, and virtualization engineers.

Book Features and Exam Preparation Methods

This book uses several key methodologies to help you discover the exam topics on which you need more review, to help you fully understand and remember those details, and to help you prove to yourself that you have retained your knowledge of those topics. This book does not try to help you pass the exam only by memorization but by truly learning and understanding the topics.

The book includes many features that provide different ways to study so you can be ready for the exam. If you understand a topic when you read it but do not study

it any further, you probably will not be ready to pass the exam with confidence. The features included in this book give you tools that help you determine what you know, review what you know, better learn what you don't know, and be well prepared for the exam. These tools include:

- **"Do I Know This Already?" Quizzes**: Each chapter begins with a quiz that helps you determine the amount of time you need to spend studying that chapter.
- **Foundation Topics**: These are the core sections of each chapter. They explain the protocols, concepts, and configuration for the topics in that chapter.
- **Exam Preparation Tasks**: This section of each chapter lists a series of study activities that should be done after reading the "Foundation Topics" section. Each chapter includes the activities that make the most sense for studying the topics in that chapter. The activities include the following:
  - **Key Topics Review**: The Key Topics icon appears next to the most important items in the "Foundation Topics" section of the chapter. The "Key Topics Review" section lists the key topics from the chapter and their page numbers. Although the contents of the entire chapter could be on the exam, you should definitely know the information listed for each key topic. Review these topics carefully.
  - **Memory Tables**: To help you exercise your memory and memorize some important facts, memory tables are provided. The memory tables contain only portions of key tables provided previously in the chapter, enabling you to complete the table or list. Appendix B, "Memory Tables," provides the incomplete tables, and Appendix C, "Memory Tables Answer Key," includes the completed tables (answer keys). These appendixes are also provided on the companion website that is provided with your book.
  - **Define Key Terms:** The VCP-DCV exam requires you to learn and know a lot of related terminology. This section lists some of the most important terms from the chapter and asks you to write a short definition and compare your answer to the Glossary.
- **Practice Exams**: The companion website contains an exam engine.

Book Organization

The chapters in this book are organized such that Chapters 1 through 7 provide in-depth material on vSphere concepts, and Chapters 8 through 14 describe procedures for the installation, configuration, and management of vSphere components and features. The authors recommend that you read the entire book from cover to cover at least once. As you read about any topic in Chapters 1 to 7, keep in mind that you can find corresponding "how to" steps in Chapters 8 to 14. As you read about any

specific procedure in Chapters 8 to 14, keep in mind that you can find associated details (concepts) in Chapters 1 to 7.

Optionally, you can prepare for the exam by studying for the exam objectives in order, using Table I-1 as your guide. As you prepare for each exam objective, you can focus on the most appropriate chapter and section. You can also refer to related chapters and sections. For example, as you prepare for Objective 1.2 (Describe vCenter Server topology), you should focus on the "vCenter Server Topology" section in Chapter 1, but you may also want to review the "Deploying vCenter Server Components" section in Chapter 8 and the "vSphere Managed Inventory Objects" section in Chapter 5.

When preparing for a specific exam objective, you can use Table I-1 to identify the sections in the book that directly address the objective and the sections that provide related information.

Table I-1 Mapping of Exam Objectives to Book Chapters and Sections

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
1	**Architectures and Technologies**		
1.1	Identify the pre-requisites and components for a vSphere implementation	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ Infrastructure Requirements ■ Other Requirements	8—vSphere Installation ■ Installing ESXi Hosts ■ Deploying vCenter Server Components
1.2	Describe vCenter Server topology	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ vCenter Server Topology	8—vSphere Installation Deploying vCenter Server Components 5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machines ■ vSphere Managed Inventory Objects
1.3	Identify and differentiate storage access protocols for vSphere (NFS, iSCSI, SAN, etc.)	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Storage Virtualization—Traditional Model	

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
1	**Architectures and Technologies**		
1.3.1	Describe storage datastore types for vSphere	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Software-Defined Storage Models ■ Datastore Types	11—Managing Storage ■ Manage Datastores
1.3.2	Explain the importance of advanced storage configuration (VAAI + VASA, multipathing)	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ VASA ■ VAAI	11—Managing Storage ■ VASA: Register a Storage Provider ■ VASA: Manage Storage Providers
1.3.3	Describe storage policies	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Storage Policies	11—Managing Storage ■ Managing Storage Policies
1.3.4	Describe basic storage concepts in K8s, vSAN and vVOLs	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Storage Virtualization—Traditional Model ■ Software-Defined Storage Models ■ Datastore Types ■ Storage in vSphere with Kubernetes	11—Managing Storage ■ Managing vSAN ■ Managing Datastore ■ Configuring and Managing vVols
1.3.5	Identify use cases for RDMs, PMEMs, VVOLs, and NVMe	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Raw Device Mappings (RDMs) ■ vVols ■ VMware NVMe	11—Managing Storage ■ Managing RDMs ■ Managing Storage Policies ■ Managing VMware NVMe ■ Managing PMEM
1.4	Differentiate between NIOC and SIOC	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ NIOC, SIOC, and SDRS	3—Network Infrastructure ■ Network I/O Control 9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Configuring Network I/O Control (NIOC) 11—Managing Storage ■ Configuring and Managing SIOC

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
1	**Architectures and Technologies**		
1.5	Describe instant clone architecture and use cases	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machines ■ Instant Clone	
1.6	Describe ESXi cluster concepts	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Cluster Concepts and Overview ■ Distributed Resources Scheduler (DRS) ■ High Availability (HA)	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere Cluster ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere DRS Cluster ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere HA cluster
1.6.1	Describe VMware Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Cluster Concepts and Overview ■ Distributed Resources Scheduler (DRS)	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere DRS Cluster
1.6.2	Describe Enhanced vMotion Compatibility (EVC)	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Enhanced vMotion Compatibility (EVC)	10— Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ EVC Mode
1.6.3	Describe how DRS scores VMs	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ How DRS Scores VMs	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere DRS Cluster
1.6.4	Describe vSphere HA	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ vSphere High Availability (HA)	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere HA Cluster
1.6.4.1	Describe how vSphere HA calculates slot size	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ vSphere HA Admission Control	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere HA Cluster

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
1	**Architectures and Technologies**		
1.6.5	Describe datastore clusters	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Storage DRS (SDRS)	11—Managing Storage ■ Configuring and Managing SDRS
1.7	Identify vSphere Distributed Switch (VDS) and vSphere Standard Switch (VSS) capabilities	3—Network Infrastructure ■ vSphere Standard Switch (vSS) ■ vSphere Distributed Switch (vDS) ■ vDS Settings and Features	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Creating and Configuring vSphere Standard Switches ■ Creating and Configuring vSphere Distributed Switches
1.7.1	Describe VMkernel Networking	3—Network Infrastructure ■ VMkernel Networking and TCP/IP Stacks	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Configuring and Managing VMkernel Adapters ■ Configuring TCP/IP Stacks
1.7.2	Managing Networking on multiple hosts with vSphere Distributed Switch (vDS)	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Managing Host Networking with vDS	3—Network Infrastructure ■ vSphere Distributed Switch (vDS)
1.7.3	Describe networking policies	3—Network Infrastructure ■ vSS Networking Policies ■ vDS Networking Policies	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Networking Policies and Advanced Features
1.7.4	Managing Network I/O Control (NIOC) on a Distributed Switch (vDS)	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Configuring Network I/O Control (NIOC)	3—Network Infrastructure ■ Network I/O Control
1.8	Describe vSphere Lifecycle Manager concepts (baselines, cluster images, etc)	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecyle Manager Implementation

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
1	**Architectures and Technologies**		
1.9	Describe the basics of vSAN as primary storage	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ vSAN Concepts	
1.9.1	Identify basic vSAN requirements (networking, disk count + type)	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ vSAN Requirements	11—Managing Storage ■ Configuring and Managing vSAN
1.10	Describe the vSphere Trust Authority architecture	7—vSphere Security ■ vSphere Trust Authority (vTA)	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Configuring and Managing vSphere Trust Authority (vTA)
1.11	Explain Virtual SGX—Software Guard Extensions	7—vSphere Security ■ Securing Virtual Machines with Virtual Intel Software Guard Extension (vSGX)	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Securing Virtual Machines with Intel Software Guard Extensions (SGX)
2	**VMware Products and Solutions**		
2.1	Describe the role of vSphere in the software-defined data center	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ VMware SDDC	
2.2	Identify use cases for vCloud Foundation	6—VMware Product Integration ■ VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF)	
2.3	Identify migration options	6—VMware Product Integration ■ Inbound and Outbound vSphere Migration	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Virtual Machine Migration
2.4	Identify DR use cases	6—VMware Product Integration ■ vSphere Replication ■ Site Recovery Manager (SRM)	

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
2	**VMware Products and Solutions**		
2.5	Describe vSphere integration with VMware Skyline	6—VMware Product Integration ■ VMware Skyline Integration	
3	**Planning and Designing**		
4	**Installing, Configuring, and Setup**		
4.1	Plan SSO deployment topology	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ vCenter Server Topology	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Managing SSO
4.1.1	Configure an SSO domain	8—vSphere Installation ■ Deploying vCenter Server Components ■ Configuring Single Sign-On (SSO)	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ vCenter Server Topology 12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Managing SSO
4.1.2	Join an existing SSO domain	8—vSphere Installation ■ Deploying vCenter Server Components ■ Configuring Single Sign-On (SSO)	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ vCenter Server Topology 12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Managing SSO
4.2	Configure VSS advanced virtual networking options	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Creating and Configuring vSphere Standard Switches ■ Creating and Configuring Standard Port Groups	3—Network Infrastructure ■ vSphere Standard Switch (vSS)
4.3	Set up identity sources	8—vSphere Installation ■ Adding, Editing, and Removing SSO Identity Sources	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Managing SSO

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
4	**Installing, Configuring, and Setup**		
4.3.1	Configure Identity Federation	8—vSphere Installation ■ Configuring Identity Federation	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Managing SSO
4.3.2	Configure LDAP integration	8—vSphere Installation ■ Adding, Editing, and Removing SSO Identity Sources ■ Adding an LDAP Authentication Source	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Managing SSO
4.3.3	Configure Active Directory integration	8—vSphere Installation ■ Adding an Active Directory Identity Source 12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Using Active Directory to Manage ESXi Users	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Managing SSO
4.4	Deploy and configure vCenter Server Appliance (VCSA)	8—vSphere Installation ■ vCenter Server Appliance	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ vCenter Server Topology 13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Upgrading to vSphere 7.0 ■ Repointing a vCenter Server to Another Domain
4.5	Create and configure VMware HA and DRS advanced options (Admission Control, Proactive HA, etc.)	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere DRS Cluster ■ Creating and Configuring a vSphere HA Cluster	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS) ■ vSphere High Availability (HA)

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
4	**Installing, Configuring, and Setup**		
4.6	Deploy and configure vCenter Server High Availability	8—vSphere Installation ■ Implementing VCSA HA	1—vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements ■ vCenter Server Topology ■ vCenter High Availability Requirements 4—Clusters and High Availability ■ vCenter Server High Availability 13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Managing the vCenter HA Cluster
4.7	Set up content library	14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Content Library	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Content Library
4.8	Configure vCenter Server file-based backup	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ vCenter Server Backup	
4.9	Analyze basic log output from vSphere products	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Logging in vSphere	10—Monitoring and Managing Clusters and Resources ■ Viewing the System Event Log ■ System Logs Files
4.10	Configure vSphere Trust Authority	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Configuring and Managing vSphere Trust Authority (vTA)	7—vSphere Security ■ vSphere Trust Authority (vTA)

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
4	**Installing, Configuring, and Setup**		
4.11	Configure vSphere certificates	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Configuring and Managing vSphere Certificates	7—vSphere Security ■ ESXi Host Certificates 13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Verifying SSL Certificates for Legacy Hosts
4.11.1	Describe enterprise PKIs role for SSL certificates	7—vSphere Security ■ vSphere Certificates Overview	12—Manage vSphere Security ■ Configure and Manage vSphere Certificates
4.12	Configure vSphere Lifecycle Manager/ VMware Update Manager (VUM)	8—vSphere Installation ■ vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager ■ About VMware Update Manager ■ Update Manager Download Service (UMDS)
4.13	Securely Boot ESXi hosts	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Configuring UEFI Secure Boot for ESXi Hosts	7—vSphere Security ■ ESXi Secure Boot and TPM ■ vSphere Trusted Authority (vTA)
4.14	Configure different network stacks	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Configuring TCP/IP Stacks	3—Network Infrastructure ■ VMkernel Networking and TCP/IP Stacks
4.15	Configure Host Profiles	8—vSphere Installation ■ Configuring ESXi Using Host Profiles	
4.16	Identify boot options	8—vSphere Installation ■ ESXi Kernel Options	
4.16.1	Configure Quick Boot	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ ESXi Quick Boot	

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
5	**Performance-tuning and Optimization**		
5.1	Identify resource pools use cases	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Resource Pools	10—Monitoring and Managing Clusters and Resources ■ Creating a Resource Pool ■ Monitoring and Managing Resource Pool Resources
5.1.1	Explain shares, limits and reservations (resource management)	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Shares, Limits, and Reservations	10— Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Shares, Limits, and Reservations ■ Creating a Resource Pool ■ Monitoring and Managing Resource Pool Resources
5.2	Monitor resources of vCenter Server Appliance (VCSA) and vSphere environment	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Monitoring and Managing vSphere Resources ■ Monitoring and Managing vCenter Server Services 13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Monitoring and Managing vCenter Server	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Cluster Concepts and Overview ■ Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
5.3	Identify and use tools for performance monitoring	10—Managing and Monitoring Clusters and Resources ■ Monitoring and Managing vSphere Resources	

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
5	**Performance-tuning and Optimization**		
5.4	Configure Network I/O Control	9—Configuring and Managing Virtual Networks ■ Configuring Network I/O Control (NIOC)	3—Network Infrastructure ■ Network I/O Control
5.5	Configure Storage I/O Control	11—Managing Storage ■ Configuring and Managing SIOC	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ NIOC, SIOC, and SDRS
5.6	Explain the performance impact of maintaining VM snapshots.	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Virtual Machine Snapshots	14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Creating and Managing Virtual Machine Snapshots
5.7	Plan for upgrading various vSphere components	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using Lifecycle Manager ■ Upgrading to vSphere 7.0	
6	**Troubleshooting and Repairing**		
7	**Administrative and Operational Tasks**		
7.1	Create and manage VM snapshot (consolidate, delete, etc.)	14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Creating and Managing Virtual Machine Snapshots	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Virtual Machine Snapshots
7.2	Create VMs using different methods (OVF templates, content library, and so on)	14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Managing VMs Using PowerCLI ■ Deploying OVF and OVA Templates ■ Deploying VMs Using Content Library	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Virtual Machine Cloning 14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Managing OVF Templates ■ Content Library

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
7	**Administrative and Operational Tasks**		
7.3	Manage VMs (modifying VM settings, etc.)	14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Creating and Configuring Virtual Machines ■ Managing Virtual Machines	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Virtual Machine Settings
7.4	Manage storage (datastores, storage policies, etc.)	11—Managing Storage ■ Managing Datastores ■ Managing Storage Policies ■ Managing Multipathing ■ Changing Path Selection Policy	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Datastore Types ■ Storage Policies ■ Storage Multipathing and Failover
7.4.1	Configure and modify datastores (expand/upgrade existing datastore, etc)	11—Managing Storage ■ Managing Datastores	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Datastore Types
7.4.2	Create VM storage policies	11—Managing Storage ■ Managing Storage Policies	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ Storage Policies
7.4.3	Configure storage cluster options	11—Managing Storage ■ Configuring and Managing Storage DRS ■ Configuring and Managing VSAN	2—Storage Infrastructure ■ SDRS
7.5	Create DRS affinity and anti-affinity rules for common use cases.	10—Monitoring and Managing Clusters and Resources ■ Creating Affinity and Anti-Affinity Rules	4—Clusters and High Availability ■ DRS Rules

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
7	**Administrative and Operational Tasks**		
7.6	Configure and perform different types of migrations (all types)	14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Migrating Virtual Machines	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Virtual Machine Migration ■ vMotion Details ■ Storage vMotion Details
7.7	Configure role-based user management (custom permissions, on datastores, clusters, vCenter Servers, and hosts etc)	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Configuring and Managing Authentication and Authorization	7—vSphere Security ■ vSphere Permissions 8—vSphere Installation ■ Applying Permissions to ESXi Hosts Using Host Profiles
7.8	Configure and manage the options for securing a vSphere environment (certificates, VM encryption, virtual TPM, lock-down mode, VBS, etc)	12—Managing vSphere Security ■ Configuring and Managing Authentication and Authorization ■ Configuring and Managing ESXi Security ■ Configuring and Managing vSphere Certificates ■ Other Security Management	7—vSphere Security ■ ESXi and vCenter Server Security
7.9	Configure and manage host profiles	8—vSphere Installation ■ Configuring ESXi Using Host Profiles	5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ Host Profiles
7.10	Utilize VUM (create baselines, applying baselines, notifications, download, remediate)	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager ■ About VMware Update Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
7	**Administrative and Operational Tasks**		
7.11	Describe vSphere Lifecycle Manager	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation 14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Installing and Upgrading VMware Tools
7.11.1	Describe Firmware upgrades for ESXi	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation
7.11.2	Describe ESXi updates	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation
7.11.3	Describe component and driver updates for ESXi	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation
7.11.4	Describe hardware compatibility check	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation ■ 5—vCenter Server Features and Virtual Machine ■ VM Hardware and Compatibility 14—Managing Virtual Machines ■ Configuring Virtual Machine Hardware
7.11.5	Describe ESXi cluster image export functionality	13—Managing vSphere and vCenter Server ■ Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	8—vSphere Installation ■ VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager Implementation 4—Clusters and High Availability ■ Cluster Concepts and Overview

Objective	Description	Chapter/Section	Related (Supporting) Chapters/Sections
7	**Administrative and Operational Tasks**		
7.12	Configure alarms	10—Monitoring and Managing Clusters and Resources ■ Advanced Use Cases for Alarms	

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CHAPTER 4

Clusters and High Availability

This chapters provides details on clusters and high availability in vSphere 7.0.

"Do I Know This Already?" Quiz

The "Do I Know This Already?" quiz allows you to assess whether you should study this entire chapter or move quickly to the "Exam Preparation Tasks" section. In any case, the authors recommend that you read the entire chapter at least once. Table 4-1 outlines the major headings in this chapter and the corresponding "Do I Know This Already?" quiz questions. You can find the answers in Appendix A, "Answers to the 'Do I Know This Already?' Quizzes and Review Questions."

Table 4-1 "Do I Know This Already?" Section-to-Question Mapping

Foundation Topics Section	Questions
Cluster Concepts and Overview	1
Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)	2–4
vSphere High Availability (HA)	5–7
Other Resource Management and Availability Features	8–10

1. You are configuring EVC Mode in a vSphere cluster that uses Intel hardware. Which of the following values should you choose to set the EVC Mode to the lowest level that includes the SSE4.2 instruction set?
   a. Merom
   b. Penryn
   c. Nehalem
   d. Westmere

2. In vSphere 7.0, you want to configure the DRS migration threshold such that it is at the minimum level at which the virtual machine happiness is considered. Which of the following values should you choose?

a. Level 1
b. Level 2
c. Level 3
d. Level 4
e. Level 5

3. Which of the following is not a good use for resource pools in DRS?
   a. To delegate control and management
   b. To impact the use of network resources
   c. To impact the use of CPU resources
   d. To impact the use of memory resources

4. You need your resource pool to use a two-pass algorithm to allocate reservations. In the second pass, excess pool reservation is allocated proportionally to virtual machines (limited by virtual machine size). Which step should you take?
   a. Ensure that vSphere 6.7 or higher is used.
   b. Ensure that vSphere 7.0 or higher is used.
   c. Enable scalable shares.
   d. Enable expandable reservations.

5. You are configuring vSphere HA in a cluster. You want to configure the cluster to use a specific host as a target for failovers. Which setting should you use?
   a. Host Failures Cluster Tolerates
   b. Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Cluster Resource Percentage
   c. Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Slot Policy (Powered-on VMs)
   d. Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Dedicated Failover Hosts
   e. Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Disabled

6. You are enabling VM Monitoring in a vSphere HA cluster. You want to set the monitoring level such that its failure interval is 60 seconds. Which of the following options should you choose?
   a. High
   b. Medium
   c. Low
   d. Normal

7. You are configuring Virtual Machine Component Protection (VMCP) in a vSphere HA cluster. Which of the following statements is true?
   a. For PDL and APD failures, you can control the restart policy for virtual machines by setting it to Conservative or Aggressive.
   b. For PDL failures, you can control the restart policy for virtual machines by setting it to Conservative or Aggressive.
   c. For APD failures, you can control the restart policy for virtual machines by setting it to Conservative or Aggressive.
   d. For PDL and APD failures, you cannot control the restart policy for virtual machines.

8. You want to use Predictive DRS. What is the minimum vSphere version you need?
   a. vSphere 6.0
   b. vSphere 6.5
   c. vSphere 6.7
   d. vSphere 7.0

9. You are configuring vSphere Fault Tolerance (FT) in a vSphere 7.0 environment. What is the maximum number of virtual CPUs you can use with an FT-protected virtual machine?
   a. One
   b. Two
   c. Four
   d. Eight

10. You are concerned about service availability for your vCenter Server. Which of the following statements is true?
    a. If a vCenter service fails, VMware Service Lifecycle Manager restarts it.
    b. If a vCenter service fails, VMware Lifecycle Manager restarts it.
    c. If a vCenter service fails, vCenter Server HA restarts it.
    d. VMware Service Lifecycle Manager is a part of the PSC.

Foundation Topics

Cluster Concepts and Overview

A vSphere cluster is a set of ESXi hosts that are intended to work together as a unit. When you add a host to a cluster, the host's resources become part of the cluster's resources. vCenter Server manages the resources of all hosts in a cluster as one unit. In addition to creating a cluster, assigning a name, and adding ESXi objects, you can enable and configure features on a cluster, such as vSphere Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS), VMware Enhanced vMotion Compatibility (EVC), Distributed Power Management (DPM), vSphere High Availability (HA), and vSAN.

In the vSphere Client, you can manage and monitor the resources in a cluster as a single object. You can easily monitor and manage the hosts and virtual machines in the DRS cluster.

If you enable VMware EVC on a cluster, you can ensure that migrations with vMotion do not fail due to CPU compatibility errors. If you enable vSphere DRS on a cluster, you can allow automatic resource balancing using the pooled host resources in the cluster. If you enable vSphere HA on a cluster, you can allow rapid virtual machine recovery from host hardware failures, using the cluster's available host resource capacity. If you enable DPM on a cluster, you can provide automated power management in the cluster. If you enable vSAN on a cluster, you use a logical SAN that is built on a pool of drives attached locally to the ESXi hosts in the cluster.

You can use the Quickstart workflow in the vSphere Client to create and configure a cluster. The Quickstart page provides three cards: Cluster Basics, Add Hosts, and Configure Cluster. For an existing cluster, you can use Cluster Basics to change the cluster name and enable cluster services, such as DRS and vSphere HA. You can use the Add Hosts card to add hosts to the cluster. You can use the Configure Cluster card to configure networking and other settings on the hosts in the cluster.

In addition, in vSphere 7.0 you can configure a few general settings for a cluster. For example, when you create a cluster, even if you do not enable DRS, vSphere, HA, or vSAN, you can choose to manage all hosts in the cluster with a single image. With this option, all hosts in a cluster inherit the same image, which reduces variability between hosts, improves your ability to ensure hardware compatibility, and simplifies upgrades. This feature requires hosts to already be ESXi 7.0 or above. It replaces baselines. Once it is enabled, baselines cannot be used in this cluster.

NOTE Do not confuse a vSphere cluster with a datastore cluster. In vSphere, datastore clusters and vSphere (host) clusters are separate objects. Although you can directly enable a vSphere cluster for vSAN, DRS, and vSphere HA, you cannot directly enable it for datastore clustering. You create datastore clusters separately. See Chapter 2, "Storage Infrastructure," for details on datastore clusters.

Enhanced vMotion Compatibility (EVC)

EVC is a cluster setting that can improve CPU compatibility between hosts for supporting vMotion. vMotion migrations are live migrations that require compatible instruction sets for source and target processors used by the virtual machine. The source and target processors must come from the same vendor class (AMD or Intel) to be vMotion compatible. The clock speed, cache size, and number of cores can differ between source and target processors. When you start a vMotion migration or a migration of a suspended virtual machine, the wizard checks the destination host for compatibility; it displays an error message if problems exist. Using EVC, you can allow vMotion between some processors that would normally be incompatible.

The CPU instruction set that is available to a virtual machine guest OS is determined when the virtual machine is powered on. This CPU feature set is based on the following items:

- The host CPU family and model
- Settings in the BIOS that might disable CPU features
- The ESX/ESXi version running on the host
- The virtual machine's compatibility setting
- The virtual machine's guest operating system

EVC ensures that all hosts in a cluster present the same CPU feature set to virtual machines, even if the actual CPUs on the hosts differ. If you enable the EVC cluster setting, you can configure the EVC Mode with a baseline CPU feature set. EVC ensures that hosts in a cluster use the baseline feature set when presenting an instruction set to a guest OS. EVC uses AMD-V Extended Migration technology for AMD hosts and Intel FlexMigration technology for Intel hosts to mask processor features; this allows hosts to present the feature set of an earlier generation of processor. You should configure EVC Mode to accommodate the host with the smallest feature set in the cluster.

The EVC requirements for hosts include the following.

- ESXi 6.5 or later is required.
- Hosts must be attached to a vCenter Server.

- CPUs must be from a single vendor (either Intel or AMD).
- If the AMD-V, Intel-VT, AMD NX, or Intel XD features are available in the BIOS, they need to be enabled.
- Check the *VMware Compatibility Guide* to ensure that CPUs are supported for EVC Mode.

NOTE You can apply a custom CPU compatibility mask to hide host CPU features from a virtual machine, but VMware does not recommend doing so.

You can configure the EVC settings by using the Quickstart > Configure Cluster workflow in the vSphere Client. You can also configure EVC directly in the cluster settings. The options for VMware EVC are Disable EVC, Enable EVC for AMD Hosts, and Enable EVC for Intel Hosts.

If you choose Enable EVC for Intel Hosts, you can set the EVC Mode to one of the options described in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2 EVC Modes for Intel

Level	EVC Mode	Description
L0	Intel Merom	Smallest Intel feature set for EVC mode.
L1	Intel Penryn	Includes the Intel Merom feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including SSE4.1.
L2	Intel Nehalem	Includes the Intel Penryn feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including SSE4.2 and POPCOUNT.
L3	Intel Westmere	Includes the Intel Nehalem feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including AES and PCLMULQDQ.
L4	Intel Sandy Bridge	Includes the Intel Westmere feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including AVX and XSAVE.
L5	Intel Ivy Bridge	Includes the Intel Sandy Bridge feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including RDRAND, ENFSTRG, FSGSBASE, SMEP, and F16C.
L6	Intel Haswell	Includes the Intel Ivy Bridge feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including ABMX2, AVX2, MOVBE, FMA, PERMD, RORX/MULX, INVPCID, and VMFUNC.
L7	Intel Broadwell	Includes the Intel Haswell feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including Transactional Synchronization Extensions, Supervisor Mode Access Prevention, Multi-Precision Add-Carry Instruction Extensions, PREFETCHW, and RDSEED.

Level	EVC Mode	Description
L8	Intel Skylake	Includes the Intel Broadwell feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including Advanced Vector Extensions 512, Persistent Memory Support Instructions, Protection Key Rights, Save Processor Extended States with Compaction, and Save Processor Extended States Supervisor.
L9	Intel Cascade Lake	Includes the Intel Skylake feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including VNNI and XGETBV with ECX=1.

If you choose Enable EVC for AMD Hosts, you can set EVC Mode to one of the options described in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3 EVC Modes for AMD

Level	EVC Mode	Description
A0	AMD Opteron Generation 1	Smallest AMD feature set for EVC mode.
A1	AMD Opteron Generation 2	Includes the AMD Generation 1 feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including CPMXCHG16B and RDTSCP.
A3	AMD Opteron Generation 3	Includes the AMD Generation 2 feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including SSE4A, MisAlignSSE, POPCOUNT, and ABM (LZCNT).
A2, B0	AMD Opteron Generation 3 (without 3DNow!)	Includes the AMD Generation 3 feature set without 3DNow support.
B1	AMD Opteron Generation 4	Includes the AMD Generation 3 no3DNow feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including SSSE3, SSE4.1, AES, AVX, XSAVE, XOP, and FMA4.
B2	AMD Opteron Piledriver	Includes the AMD Generation 4 feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including FMA, TBM, BMI1, and F16C.
B3	AMD Opteron Steamroller	Includes the AMD Piledriver feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including XSAVEOPT RDFSBASE, RDGSBASE, WRFSBASE, WRGSBAS, and FSGSBASE.
B4	AMD Zen	Includes the AMD Steamroller feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including RDRAND, SMEP, AVX2, BMI2, MOVBE, ADX, RDSEED, SMAP, CLFLUSHOPT, XSAVES, XSAVEC, SHA, and CLZERO.
B5	AMD Zen 2	Includes the AMD Zen feature set and exposes additional CPU features, including CLWB, UMIP, RDPID, XGETBV with ECX = 1, WBNOINVD, and GMET.

vSAN Services

You can enable DRS, vSphere HA, and vSAN at the cluster level. The following sections provide details on DRS and vSphere HA. For details on vSAN, see Chapter 2.

Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)

DRS distributes compute workload in a cluster by strategically placing virtual machines during power-on operations and live migrating (vMotion) VMs when necessary. DRS provides many features and settings that enable you to control its behavior.

You can set DRS Automation Mode for a cluster to one of the following:

- **Manual**: DRS does not automatically place or migrate virtual machines. It only makes recommendations.
- **Partially Automated**: DRS automatically places virtual machines as they power on. It makes recommendations for virtual machine migrations.
- **Fully Automated**: DRS automatically places and migrates virtual machines.

You can override Automation Mode at the virtual machine level.

Recent DRS Enhancements

VMware added many improvements to DRS beginning in vSphere 6.5. For example, in vSphere 7.0, DRS runs once every minute rather than every 5 minutes, as in older DRS versions. The newer DRS versions tend to recommend smaller (in terms of memory) virtual machines for migration to facilitate faster vMotion migrations, whereas older versions tend to recommend large virtual machines to minimize the number of migrations. Older DRS versions use an imbalance metric that is derived from the standard deviation of load across the hosts in the cluster. Newer DRS versions focus on virtual machine happiness. Newer DRS versions are much lighter and faster than the older versions.

Newer DRS versions recognize that vMotion is an expensive operation and account for it in their recommendations. In a cluster where virtual machines are frequently powered on and the workload is volatile, it is not necessary to continuously migrate virtual machines. DRS calculates the gain duration for live migrating a virtual machine and considers the gain duration when making recommendations.

The following sections provide details on other recent DRS enhancements.

Network-Aware DRS

Key Topic

In vSphere 6.5, DRS considers the utilization of host network adapters during initial placement and load balancing, but it does not balance the network load. Instead, its goal is to ensure that the target host has sufficient available network resources. It works by eliminating hosts with saturated networks from the list of possible migration hosts. The threshold used by DRS for network saturation is 80% by default. When DRS cannot migrate VMs due to network saturation, the result may be an imbalanced cluster.

In vSphere 7.0, DRS uses a new cost modeling algorithm that is flexible and balances network bandwidth along with CPU and memory usage.

Virtual Machine Distribution

Starting in vSphere 6.5, you can enable an option to distribute a more even number of virtual machines across hosts. The main use case for this is to improve availability. The primary goal of DRS—to ensure that all VMs are getting the resources they need and that the load is balanced in the cluster—remains unchanged. But with this new option enabled, DRS also tries to ensure that the number of virtual machines per host is balanced in the cluster.

Memory Metric for Load Balancing

Historically, vSphere has used the Active Memory metric for load-balancing decisions. In vSphere 6.5 and 6.7, you have the option to set DRS to balance the load based on the Consumed Memory metric. In vSphere 7.0, the Granted Memory metric is used for load balancing, and no cluster option is available to change the behavior.

Virtual Machine Initial Placement

Starting with vSphere 6.5, DRS uses a new initial placement algorithm that is faster, lighter, and more effective than the previous algorithm. In earlier versions, DRS takes a snapshot of the cluster state when making virtual machine placement recommendations. In the algorithm, DRS does not snapshot the cluster state, which allows for faster and more accurate recommendations. With the new algorithm, DRS powers on virtual machines much more quickly. In vSphere 6.5, the new placement feature is not supported for the following configurations:

- Clusters where DPM, Proactive HA, or HA Admission Control is enabled
- Clusters with DRS configured in Manual Mode
- Virtual machines with the Manual DRS Override setting enabled

- Virtual machines that are FT enabled
- Virtual machines that are part of a vApp

In vSphere 6.7, the new placement is available for all configurations.

Enhancements to the Evacuation Workflow

Prior to vSphere 6.5, when evacuating a host entering Maintenance Mode, DRS waited to migrate templates and powered off virtual machines until after the completion of vMotion migrations, leaving those objects unavailable for use for a long time. Starting in vSphere 6.5, DRS prioritizes the migration of virtual machine templates and powered-off virtual machines over powered-on virtual machines, making those objects available for use without waiting on vMotion migrations.

Prior to vSphere 6.5, the evacuation of powered-off virtual machines was inefficient. Starting in vSphere 6.5, these evacuations occur in parallel, making use of up to 100 re-register threads per vCenter Server. This means that you may see only a small difference when evacuating up to 100 virtual machines.

Starting in vSphere 6.7, DRS is more efficient in evacuating powered-on virtual machines from a host that is entering Maintenance Mode. Instead of simultaneously initiating vMotion for all the powered-on VMs on the host, as in previous versions, DRS initiates vMotion migrations in batches of eight at a time. Each vMotion batch is issued after the previous batch completes. The vMotion batching makes the entire workflow more controlled and predictable.

DRS Support for NVM

Starting in vSphere 6.7, DRS supports virtual machines running on next-generation persistent memory devices, known as non-volatile memory (NVM) devices. NVM is exposed as a datastore that is local to the host. Virtual machines can use the datastore as an NVM device exposed to the guest (Virtual Persistent Memory [vPMem]) or as a location for a virtual machine disk (Virtual Persistent Memory Disk [vPMemDisk]). DRS is aware of the NVM devices used by virtual machines and guarantees that the destination ESXi host has enough free persistent memory to accommodate placements and migrations.

How DRS Scores VMs

Historically, DRS balanced the workload in a cluster based on host compute resource usage. In vSphere 7.0, DRS balances the workload based on virtual machine happiness. A virtual machine's DRS score is a measure of its happiness, which, in turn, is a measure of the resources available for consumption by the virtual

machine. The higher the DRS score for a VM, the better its resource availability. DRS moves virtual machines to improve their DRS scores. DRS also calculates a DRS score for a cluster, which is a weighted sum of the DRS scores of all the virtual machines in the cluster.

In Sphere 7.0, DRS calculates the core for each virtual machine on each ESXi host in the cluster every minute. Simply put, DRS logic computes an ideal throughput (demand) and an actual throughput (goodness) for each resource (CPU, memory, and network) for each virtual machine. The virtual machine's efficiency for a particular resource is a ratio of the goodness over the demand. A virtual machine's DRS score (total efficiency) is the product of its CPU, memory, and network efficiencies.

When calculating the efficiency, DRS applies resource costs. For CPU resources, DRS includes costs for CPU cache, CPU ready, and CPU tax. For memory resources, DRS includes costs for memory burstiness, memory reclamation, and memory tax. For network resources, DRS includes a network utilization cost.

DRS compares a virtual machine's DRS score for the host on which it currently runs. DRS determines whether another host can provide a better DRS score for the virtual machine. If so, DRS calculates the cost for migrating the virtual machine to the host and factors that score into its load-balancing decision.

DRS Rules

You can configure rules to control the behavior of DRS.

A VM–host affinity rule specifies whether the members of a selected virtual machine DRS group can run on the members of a specific host DRS group. Unlike a virtual machine–to–virtual machine (VM–VM) affinity rule, which specifies affinity (or anti-affinity) between individual virtual machines, a VM–host affinity rule specifies an affinity relationship between a group of virtual machines and a group of hosts. There are *required* rules (designated by "must") and *preferential* rules (designated by "should").

A VM–host affinity rule includes the following components:

- One virtual machine DRS group
- One host DRS group
- A designation of whether the rule is a requirement ("must") or a preference ("should") and whether it is affinity ("run on") or anti-affinity ("not run on")

A VM–VM affinity rule specifies whether selected individual virtual machines should run on the same host or be kept on separate hosts. This type of rule is used to create affinity or anti-affinity between individual virtual machines. When an affinity

rule is created, DRS tries to keep the specified virtual machines together on the same host. You might want to do this, for example, for performance reasons.

With an anti-affinity rule, DRS tries to keep the specified virtual machines apart. You can use such a rule if you want to guarantee that certain virtual machines are always on different physical hosts. In that case, if a problem occurs with one host, not all virtual machines are at risk. You can create VM–VM affinity rules to specify whether selected individual virtual machines should run on the same host or be kept on separate hosts.

VM–VM affinity rule conflicts can occur when you use multiple VM–VM affinity and VM–VM anti-affinity rules. If two VM–VM affinity rules are in conflict, you cannot enable both of them. For example, if one rule keeps two virtual machines together and another rule keeps the same two virtual machines apart, you cannot enable both rules. Select one of the rules to apply and disable or remove the conflicting rule. When two VM–VM affinity rules conflict, the older one takes precedence, and the newer rule is disabled. DRS tries to satisfy only enabled rules and ignores disabled rules. DRS gives higher precedence to preventing violations of anti-affinity rules than violations of affinity rules.

NOTE A VM–VM rule does not allow the "should" qualifier. You should consider these as "must" rules.

DRS Migration Sensitivity

Prior to vSphere 7.0, DRS used a migration threshold to determine when virtual machines should be migrated to balance the cluster workload. In vSphere 7.0, DRS does not consider cluster standard deviation for load balancing. Instead, it is designed to be more virtual machine centric and workload centric rather than cluster centric. You can set the DRS Migration Sensitivity parameter to one of the following values:

Key Topic

- **Level 1**: DRS only makes recommendations to fix rule violations or to facilitate a host entering Maintenance Mode.
- **Level 2**: DRS expands on Level 1 by making recommendations in situations that are at or close to resource contention. It does not make recommendations just to improve virtual machine happiness or cluster load distribution.
- **Level 3**: DRS expands on Level 2 by making recommendations to improve VM happiness and cluster load distribution. This is the default level.
- **Level 4**: DRS expands on Level 3 by making recommendations for occasional bursts in the workload and reacts to sudden load changes.

- **Level 5**: DRS expands on Level 4 by making recommendations dynamic and greatly varying workloads. DRS reacts to the workload changes every time.

Resource Pools

Resource pools are container objects in the vSphere inventory that are used to compartmentalize the CPU and memory resources of a host, a cluster, or a parent resource pool. Virtual machines run in and draw resources from resource pools. You can create multiple resource pools as direct children of a standalone host or a DRS cluster. You cannot create child resource pools on a host that has been added to a cluster or on a cluster that is not enabled for DRS.

You can use resource pools to organize VMs. You can delegate control over each resource pool to specific individuals and groups. You can monitor resources and set alarms on resource pools. If you need a container just for organization and permission purposes, consider using a folder. If you also need resource management, then consider using a resource pool. You can assign resource settings such as shares, reservations, and limits to resource pools.

Use Cases

You can use resource pools to compartmentalize a cluster's resources and then use the resource pools to delegate control to individuals or organizations. Table 4-4 provides some use cases for resource pools.

Table 4-4 Resource Pool Use Cases

Use Case	Details
Flexible hierarchical organization	Add, remove, modify, and reorganize resource pools, as needed.
Resource isolation	Use resource pools to allocate resources to separate departments, in such a manner that changes in a pool do not unfairly impact other departments.
Access control and delegation	Use permissions to delegate activities, such as virtual machine creation and management, to other administrators.
Separation of resources from hardware	In a DRS cluster, perform resource management independently of the actual hosts.
Managing multitier applications.	Manage the resources for a group of virtual machines (in a specific resource pool), which is easier than managing resources per virtual machine.

Shares, Limits, and Reservations

You can configure CPU and memory shares, reservations, and limits on resource pools, as described in Table 4-5.

Table 4-5 Shares, Limits, and Reservations

Option	Description
Shares	Shares specify the relative importance of a virtual machine or a resource pool. If a virtual machine has twice as many shares of a resource as another virtual machine, it is entitled to consume twice as much of that resource when these two virtual machines are competing for resources. Shares can be thought of as priority under contention. Shares are typically set to High, Normal, or Low, and these values specify share values with a 4:2:1 ratio. You can also select Custom and assign a specific number of shares (to express a proportional weight). A resource pool uses its shares to compete for the parent's resources and is allocated a portion based on the ratio of the pool's shares compared with its siblings. Siblings share the parent's resources according to their relative share values, bounded by the reservation and limit. For example, consider a scenario where a cluster has two child resource pools with normal CPU shares, another child resource pool with high CPU shares, and no other child objects. During periods of contention, each of the pools with normal shares would get access to 25% of the cluster's CPU resources, and the pool with high shares would get access to 50%.
Reservations	A reservation specifies the guaranteed minimum allocation for a virtual machine or a resource pool. A CPU reservation is expressed in megahertz, and a memory reservation is expressed in megabytes. You can power on a virtual machine only if there are enough unreserved resources to satisfy the reservation of the virtual machine. If the virtual machine starts, then it is guaranteed that amount, even when the physical server is heavily loaded. For example, if you configure the CPU reservation for each virtual machine as 1 GHz, you can start eight VMs in a resource pool where the CPU reservation is set for 8 GHz and expandable reservations are disabled. But you cannot start additional virtual machines in the pool. You can use reservations to guarantee a specific amount of resources for a resource pool. The default value for a resource pool's CPU or memory reservation is 0. If you change this value, it is subtracted from the unreserved resources of the parent. The resources are considered reserved, regardless of whether virtual machines are associated with the resource pool.

Option	Description
Expandable reservations	You can enable expandable reservations to effectively allow a child resource pool to borrow from its parent. Expandable reservations, which are enabled by default, are considered during admission control. When powering on a virtual machine, if the resource pool does not have sufficient unreserved resources, the resource pool can use resources from its parent or ancestors. For example, say that in a resource pool where 8 GHz is reserved and expandable reservations is disabled, you try to start nine virtual machines each with 1 GHz, but the last virtual machine does not start. If you enable expandable reservation in the resource pool, and its parent pool (or cluster) has sufficient unreserved CPU resources, you can start the ninth virtual machine.
Limits	A limit specifies an upper bound for CPU or memory resources that can be allocated to a virtual machine or a resource pool. You can set a limit on the amount of CPU and memory allocated to a resource pool. The default is unlimited. For example, if you power on multiple CPU-intensive virtual machines in a resource pool, where the CPU limit is 10 GHz, then, collectively, the virtual machines cannot use more than 10 GHz CPU resources, regardless of the pool's reservation settings, the pool's share settings, or the amount of available resources in the parent.

Table 4-6 provides the CPU and memory share values for virtual machines when using the High, Normal, and Low settings. The corresponding share values for a resource pool are equivalent to those of a virtual machine with four vCPUs and 16 GB memory.

Table 4-6 Virtual Machine Shares

Setting	CPU Share Value	Memory Share Value
High	2000 per vCPU	20 per MB
Normal	1000 per vCPU	10 per MB
Low	500 per vCPU	5 per MB

For example, the share values for a resource pool configured with normal CPU shares and high memory shares are 4000 (that is, 4×1000) CPU shares and 327,680 (that is, $16 \times 1024 \times 20$) memory shares

NOTE The relative priority represented by each share changes with the addition and removal of virtual machines in a resource pool or cluster. It also changes as you increase or decrease the shares on a specific virtual machine or resource pool.

Enhanced Resource Pool Reservation

Starting in vSphere 6.7, DRS uses a new two-pass algorithm to allocate resource reservations to children. The old allocation model does not reserve more resources than the current demand, even when the resource pool is configured with a higher reservation. When a spike in virtual machine demand occurs after resource allocation is complete, DRS does not make the remaining pool reservation available to the virtual machine until the next allocation operation occurs. As a result, a virtual machine's performance may be temporarily impacted. In the new allocation model, each allocation operation uses two passes. In the first pass, the resource pool reservation is allocated based on virtual machine demand. In the second pass, excess pool reservation is allocated proportionally, limited by the virtual machine's configured size, which reduces the performance impact due to virtual machine spikes.

Scalable Shares

Another new DRS feature in vSphere 7.0 is scalable shares. The main use case for scalable shares is a scenario in which you want to use shares to give high-priority resource access to a set of virtual machines in a resource pool, without concern for the relative number of objects in the pool compared to other pools. With standard shares, each pool in a cluster competes for resource allocation with its siblings, based on the share ratio. With scalable shares, the allocation for each pool factors in the number of objects in the pool.

For example, consider a scenario in which a cluster with 100 GHz CPU capacity has a high-priority resource pool with CPU Shares set to High and a low-priority resource pool with CPU Shares set to Normal, as shown in Figure 4-1. This means that the share ratio between the pools is 2:1, so the high-priority pool is effectively allocated twice the CPU resources as the low-priority pool whenever CPU contention exists in the cluster. The high-priority pool is allocated 66.7 GHz, and the low-priority pool is effectively allocated 33.3 GHz. In this cluster, 40 virtual machines of equal size are running, with 32 in the high-priority pool and 8 in the low-priority pool. The virtual machines are all demanding CPU resources, causing CPU contention in the cluster. In the high-priority pool, each virtual machine is allocated 2.1 GHz. In the low-priority pool, each virtual machine is allocated 4.2 GHz.

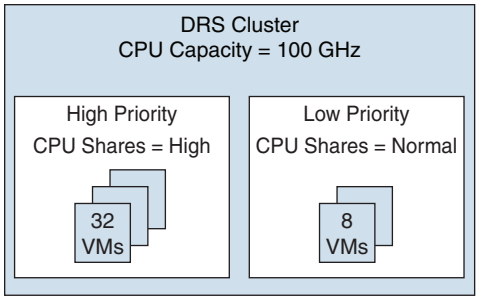

FIGURE 4-1 Scalable Shares Example

If you want to change the resource allocation such that each virtual machine in the high-priority pool is effectively allocated more resources than the virtual machines in the low-priority pool, you can use scalable shares. If you enable scalable shares in the cluster, DRS effectively allocates resources to the pools based on the Shares settings and the number of virtual machines in the pool. In this example, the CPU shares for the pools provide a 2:1 ratio. Factoring this with the number of virtual machines in each pool, the allocation ratio between the high-priority pool and the low-priority pool is 2 times 32 to 1 times 8, or simply 8:1. The high-priority pool is allocated 88.9 GHz, and the low-priority pool is allocated 11.1 GHz. Each virtual machine in the high-priority pool is allocated 2.8 GHz. Each virtual machine in the low-priority pool is allocated 1.4 GHz.

vSphere High Availability (HA)

vSphere HA is a cluster service that provides high availability for the virtual machines running in the cluster. You can enable vSphere High Availability (HA) on a vSphere cluster to provide rapid recovery from outages and cost-effective high availability for applications running in virtual machines. vSphere HA provides application availability in the following ways:

- It protects against server failure by restarting the virtual machines on other hosts in the cluster when a host failure is detected, as illustrated in Figure 4-2.
- It protects against application failure by continuously monitoring a virtual machine and resetting it if a failure is detected.
- It protects against datastore accessibility failures by restarting affected virtual machines on other hosts that still have access to their datastores.
- It protects virtual machines against network isolation by restarting them if their host becomes isolated on the management or vSAN network. This protection is provided even if the network has become partitioned.

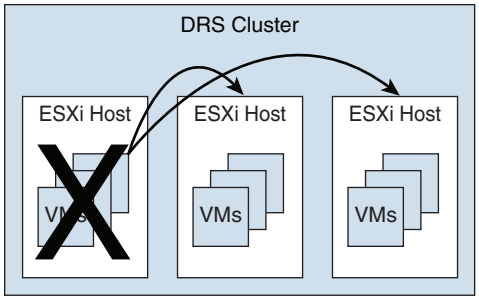

FIGURE 4-2 vSphere HA Host Failover

Benefits of vSphere HA over traditional failover solutions include the following:

- Minimal configuration
- Reduced hardware cost
- Increased application availability
- DRS and vMotion integration

vSphere HA can detect the following types of host issues:

- **Failure**: A host stops functioning.
- **Isolation**: A host cannot communicate with any other hosts in the cluster.
- **Partition**: A host loses network connectivity with the primary host.

When you enable vSphere HA on a cluster, the cluster elects one of the hosts to act as the primary host. The primary host communicates with vCenter Server to report cluster health. It monitors the state of all protected virtual machines and secondary hosts. It uses network and datastore heartbeating to detect failed hosts, isolation, and network partitions. vSphere HA takes appropriate actions to respond to host failures, host isolation, and network partitions. For host failures, the typical reaction is to restart the failed virtual machines on surviving hosts in the cluster. If a network partition occurs, a primary host is elected in each partition. If a specific host is isolated, vSphere HA takes the predefined host isolation action, which may be to shut down or power down the host's virtual machines. If the primary host fails, the surviving hosts elect a new primary host. You can configure vSphere to monitor and respond to virtual machine failures, such as guest OS failures, by monitoring heartbeats from VMware Tools.

NOTE Although vCenter Server is required to implement vSphere HA, the health of an HA cluster is not dependent on vCenter Server. If vCenter Server fails, vSphere HA still functions. If vCenter Server is offline when a host fails, vSphere HA can fail over the affected virtual machines.

vSphere HA Requirements

When planning a vSphere HA cluster, you need to address the following requirements:

Key Topic

- The cluster must have at least two hosts, licensed for vSphere HA.
- Hosts must use static IP addresses or guarantee that IP addresses assigned by DHCP persist across host reboots.
- Each host must have at least one—and preferably two—management networks in common.
- To ensure that virtual machines can run any host in the cluster, the hosts must access the networks and datastores.
- To use VM Monitoring, you need to install VMware Tools in each virtual machine.
- IPv4 or IPv6 can be used.

NOTE The Virtual Machine Startup and Shutdown (automatic startup) feature is disabled and unsupported for all virtual machines residing in a vSphere HA cluster.

vSphere HA Response to Failures

You can configure how a vSphere HA cluster should respond to different types of failures, as described in Table 4-7.

Key Topic

Table 4-7 vSphere HA Response to Failure Settings

Option	Description
Host Failure Response > Failure Response	If Enabled, the cluster responds to host failures by restarting virtual machines. If Disabled, host monitoring is turned off, and the cluster does not respond to host failures.
Host Failure Response > Default VM Restart Priority	You can indicate the order in which virtual machines are restarted when the host fails (higher priority machines first).

Option	Description
Host Failure Response > VM Restart Priority Condition	This condition must be met before HA restarts the next priority group.
Response for Host Isolation	You can indicate the action that you want to occur if a host becomes isolated. You can choose Disabled, Shutdown and Restart VMs, or Power Off and Restart VMs.
VM Monitoring	You can indicate the sensitivity (Low, High, or Custom) with which vSphere HA responds to lost VMware Tools heartbeats.
Application Monitoring	You can indicate the sensitivity (Low, High, or Custom) with which vSphere HA responds to lost application heartbeats.

NOTE If multiple hosts fail, the virtual machines on the failed host migrate first in order of priority, and then the virtual machines from the next host.

Heartbeats

The primary host and secondary hosts exchange network heartbeats every second. When the primary host stops receiving these heartbeats from a secondary host, it checks for ping responses or the presence of datastore heartbeats from the secondary host. If the primary host does not receive a response after checking for a secondary host's network heartbeat, ping, or datastore heartbeats, it declares that the secondary host has failed. If the primary host detects datastore heartbeats for a secondary host but no network heartbeats or ping responses, it assumes that the secondary host is isolated or in a network partition.

If any host is running but no longer observes network heartbeats, it attempts to ping the set of cluster isolation addresses. If those pings also fail, the host declares itself to be isolated from the network.

vSphere HA Admission Control

vSphere uses admission control when you power on a virtual machine. It checks the amount of unreserved compute resources and determines whether it can guarantee that any reservation configured for the virtual machine is configured. If so, it allows the virtual machine to power on. Otherwise, it generates an "Insufficient Resources" warning.

vSphere HA Admission Control is a setting that you can use to specify whether virtual machines can be started if they violate availability constraints. The cluster reserves resources so that failover can occur for all running virtual machines on the specified number of hosts. When you configure vSphere HA admission control, you can set options described in Table 4-8.

Table 4-8 vSphere HA Admission Control Options

Option	Description
Host Failures Cluster Tolerates	Specifies the maximum number of host failures for which the cluster guarantees failover
Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Cluster Resource Percentage	Specifies the percentage of the cluster's compute resources to reserve as spare capacity to support failovers
Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Slot Policy (powered-on VMs)	Specifies a slot size policy that covers all powered-on VMs
Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Dedicated Failover Hosts	Specifies the designated hosts to use for failover actions
Define Host Failover Capacity By set to Disabled	Disables admission control
Performance Degradation VMs Tolerate	Specifies the percentage of performance degradation the VMs in a cluster are allowed to tolerate during a failure

If you disable vSphere HA admission control, then you enable the cluster to allow virtual machines to power on regardless of whether they violate availability constraints. In the event of a host failover, you may discover that vSphere HA cannot start some virtual machines.

In vSphere 6.5, the default Admission Control setting is Cluster Resource Percentage, which reserves a percentage of the total available CPU and memory resources in the cluster. For simplicity, the percentage is calculated automatically by defining the number of host failures to tolerate (FTT). The percentage is dynamically changed as hosts are added to or removed from the cluster. Another new enhancement is the Performance Degradation VMs Tolerate setting, which controls the amount of performance reduction that is tolerated after a failure. A value of 0% indicates that no performance degradation is tolerated.

With the Slot Policy option, vSphere HA admission control ensures that a specified number of hosts can fail, leaving sufficient resources in the cluster to accommodate the failover of the impacted virtual machines. Using the Slot Policy option, when

you perform certain operations, such as powering on a virtual machine, vSphere HA applies admission control in the following manner:

Step 1. HA calculates the slot size, which is a logical representation of memory and CPU resources. By default, it is sized to satisfy the requirements for any powered-on virtual machine in the cluster. For example, it is sized to accommodate the virtual machine with the greatest CPU reservation and the virtual machine with the greatest memory reservation.

Step 2. HA determines how many slots each host in the cluster can hold.

Step 3. HA determines the current failover capacity of the cluster, which is the number of hosts that can fail and still leave enough slots to satisfy all the powered-on virtual machines.

Step 4. HA determines whether the current failover capacity is less than the configured failover capacity (provided by the user).

Step 5. If the current failover capacity is less than the configured failover capacity, admission control disallows the operation.

If a cluster has a few virtual machines that have much larger reservations than the others, they will distort slot size calculation. To remediate this, you can specify an upper bound for the CPU or memory component of the slot size by using advanced options. You can also set a specific slot size (CPU size and memory size). The next section describes the advanced options that affect the slot size.

vSphere HA Advanced Options

You can set vSphere HA advanced options by using the vSphere Client or in the fdm.cfg file on the hosts. Table 4-9 provides some of the advanced vSphere HA options.

Table 4-9 Advanced vSphere HA Options

Option	Description
das.isolationaddress*X*	Provides the addresses to use to test for host isolation when no heartbeats are received from other hosts in the cluster. If this option is not specified (which is the default setting), the management network default gateway is used to test for isolation. To specify multiple addresses, you can set das.isolationaddress*X*, where *X* is a number between 0 and 9.
das.usedefaultisolationaddress	Specifies whether to use the default gateway IP address for isolation tests.

Option	Description
das.isolationshutdowntimeout	For scenarios where the host's isolation response is to shut down, specifies the period of time that the virtual machine is permitted to shut down before the system powers it off.
das.slotmeminmb	Defines the maximum bound on the memory slot size.
das.slotcpuinmhz	Defines the maximum bound on the CPU slot size.
das.vmmemoryminmb	Defines the default memory resource value assigned to a virtual machine whose memory reservation is not specified or is zero. This is used for the Host Failures Cluster Tolerates admission control policy.
das.vmcpuminmhz	Defines the default CPU resource value assigned to a virtual machine whose CPU reservation is not specified or is zero. This is used for the Host Failures Cluster Tolerates admission control policy. If no value is specified, the default of 32 MHz is used.
das.heartbeatdsperhost	Specifies the number of heartbeat datastores required per host. The default is 2. The acceptable values are 2 to 5.
das.config.fdm. isolationPolicyDelaySec	Specifies the number of seconds the system delays before executing the isolation policy after determining that a host is isolated. The minimum is 30. A lower value results in a 30-second delay.
das. respectvmvmantiaffinityrules	Determines whether vSphere HA should enforce VM–VM anti-affinity rules even when DRS is not enabled.

Virtual Machine Settings

To use the Host Isolation Response Shutdown and Restart VMs setting, you must install VMware Tools on the virtual machine. If a guest OS fails to shut down in 300 seconds (or a value specified by das.isolationshutdowntimeout), the virtual machine is powered off.

You can override the cluster's settings for Restart Priority and Isolation Response for each virtual machine. For example, you might want to prioritize virtual machines providing infrastructure services such as DNS or DHCP.

At the cluster level, you can create dependencies between groups of virtual machines. You can create VM groups, host groups, and dependency rules between the groups. In the rules, you can specify that one VM group cannot be restarted if another specific VM group is started.

VM Component Protection (VMCP)

Virtual Machine Component Protection (VMCP) is a vSphere HA feature that can detect datastore accessibility issues and provide remediation for affected virtual machines. When a failure occurs such that a host can no longer access the storage path for a specific datastore, vSphere HA can respond by taking actions such as creating event alarms or restarting a virtual machine on other hosts. The main requirements are that vSphere HA is enabled in the cluster and that ESX 6.0 or later is used on all hosts in the cluster.

The failures VMCP detects are permanent device loss (PDL) and all paths down (APD). PDL is an unrecoverable loss of accessibility to the storage device that cannot be fixed without powering down the virtual machines. APD is a transient accessibility loss or other issue that is recoverable.

For PDL and APD failures, you can set VMCP to either issue event alerts or to power off and restart virtual machines. For APD failures only, you can additionally control the restart policy for virtual machines by setting it to Conservative or Aggressive. With the Conservative setting, the virtual machine is powered off only if HA determines that it can be restarted on another host. With the Aggressive setting, HA powers off the virtual machine regardless of the state of other hosts.

Virtual Machine and Application Monitoring

VM Monitoring restarts specific virtual machines if their VMware Tools heartbeats are not received within a specified time. Likewise, Application Monitoring can restart a virtual machine if the heartbeats from a specific application in the virtual machine are not received. If you enable these features, you can configure the monitoring settings to control the failure interval and reset period. Table 4-10 lists these settings.

Table 4-10 VM Monitoring Settings

Setting	Failure Interval	Reset Period
High	30 seconds	1 hour
Medium	60 seconds	24 hours
Low	120 seconds	7 days

The Maximum per-VM resets setting can be used to configure the maximum number of times vSphere HA attempts to restart a specific failing virtual machine within the reset period.

vSphere HA Best Practices

You should provide network path redundancy between cluster nodes. To do so, you can use NIC teaming for the virtual switch. You can also create a second management network connection, using a separate virtual switch.

When performing disruptive network maintenance operations on the network used by clustered ESXi hosts, you should suspend the Host Monitoring feature to ensure that vSphere HA does not falsely detect network isolation or host failures. You can reenable host monitoring after completing the work.

To keep vSphere HA agent traffic on the specified network, you should ensure that the VMkernel virtual network adapters used for HA heartbeats (enabled for management traffic) do not share the same subnet as VMkernel adapters used for vMotion and other purposes.

Use the das.isolationaddress*X* advanced option to add an isolation address for each management network.

Proactive HA

Proactive High Availability (Proactive HA) integrates with select hardware partners to detect degraded components and evacuate VMs from affected vSphere hosts before an incident causes a service interruption. Hardware partners offer a vCenter Server plug-in to provide the health status of the system memory, local storage, power supplies, cooling fans, and network adapters. As hardware components become degraded, Proactive HA determines which hosts are at risk and places them into either Quarantine Mode or Maintenance Mode. When a host enters Maintenance Mode, DRS evacuates its virtual machines to healthy hosts, and the host is not used to run virtual machines. When a host enters Quarantine Mode, DRS leaves the current virtual machines running on the host but avoids placing or migrating virtual machines to the host. If you prefer that Proactive HA simply make evacuation recommendations rather than automatic migrations, you can set Automation Level to Manual.

The vendor-provided health providers read sensor data in the server and provide the health state to vCenter Server. The health states are Healthy, Moderate Degradation, Severe Degradation, and Unknown.

Other Resource Management and Availability Features

This section describes other vSphere features related to resource management and availability.

Predictive DRS

Predictive DRS is a feature in vSphere 6.5 and later that leverages the predictive analytics of vRealize Operations (vROps) Manager and vSphere DRS. Together, these two products can provide workload balancing prior to the occurrence of resource utilization spikes and resource contention. Every night, vROps calculates dynamic thresholds, which are used to create forecasted metrics for the future utilization of virtual machines. vROps passes the predictive metrics to vSphere DRS to determine the best placement and balance of virtual machines before resource utilization spikes occur. Predictive DRS helps prevent resource contention on hosts that run virtual machines with predictable utilization patterns.

The following prerequisites are needed to run Predictive DRS:

- vCenter Server 6.5 or later is required.
- Predictive DRS must be configured and enabled in both vCenter Server and vROps.
- The vCenter Server and vROps clocks must be synchronized.

Distributed Power Management (DPM)

The vSphere Distributed Power Management (DPM) feature enables a DRS cluster to reduce its power consumption by powering hosts on and off, as needed, based on cluster resource utilization. DPM monitors the cumulative virtual machine demand for memory and CPU resources in the cluster and compares this to the available resources in the cluster. If sufficient excess capacity is found, vSphere DPM directs the host to enter Standby Mode. When DRS detects that a host is entering Standby Mode, it evacuates the virtual machines. Once the host is evacuated, DPM powers if off, and the host is in Standby Mode. When DPM determines that capacity is inadequate to meet the resource demand, DPM brings a host out of Standby Mode by powering it on. Once the host exits Standby Mode, DRS migrates virtual machines to it.

To power on a host, DPM can use one of three power management protocols: Intelligent Platform Management Interface (IPMI), Hewlett-Packard Integrated Lights-Out (iLO), or Wake-on-LAN (WoL). If a host supports multiple protocols, they are used in the following order: IPMI, iLO, WOL. If a host does not support one of these protocols, DPM cannot automatically bring a host out of Standby Mode.

DPM is very configurable. As with DRS, you can set DPM's automation to be manual or automatic.

NOTE Do not disconnect a host that is in Standby Mode or remove it from a DRS cluster without first powering it on. Otherwise, vCenter Server is not able to power the host back on.

To configure IPMI or iLO settings for a host, you can edit the host's Power Management settings. You should provide credentials for the Baseboard Management Controller (BMC) account, the IP address of the appropriate NIC, and the MAC address of the NIC.

Using WOL with DPM requires that the following prerequisites be met:

- ESXi 3.5 or later is required.
- vMotion must be configured.
- The vMotion NIC must support WOL.
- The physical switch port must be set to automatically negotiate the link speed.

Before enabling DPM, use the vSphere Client to request the host to enter Standby Mode. After the host powers down, right-click the host and attempt to power on. If this is successful, you can allow the host to participate in DPM. Otherwise, you should disable power management for the host.

You can enable DPM in a DRS cluster's settings. You can set Automation Level to Off, Manual, or Automatic. When this option is set to Off, DPM is disabled. When it is set to Manual, DPM makes recommendations only. When it is set to Automatic, DPM automatically performs host power operations as needed.

Much as with DRS, with DPM you can control the aggressiveness of DPM (that is, the DPM threshold) with a slider bar in the vSphere Client. The DRS threshold and the DPM threshold are independent of one another. You can override automation settings per host. For example, for a 16-host cluster, you might want to set DPM Automation to Automatic on only 8 of the hosts.

Fault Tolerance (FT)

If you have virtual machines that require continuous availability as opposed to high availability, you can consider protecting the virtual machines with ***vSphere Fault Tolerance (FT)***. FT provides continuous availability for a virtual machine (the primary VM) by ensuring that the state of a secondary VM is identical at any point in the instruction execution of the virtual machine.

If the host running the primary VM fails, an immediate and transparent failover occurs. The secondary VM becomes the primary VM host without losing network connection or in-progress transactions. With transparent failover, there is no data loss, and network connections are maintained. The failover is fully automated and occurs even if vCenter Server is unavailable. Following the failover, FT spawns a new secondary VM and reestablishes redundancy and protection, assuming that a host with sufficient resources is available in the cluster. Likewise, if the host running the secondary VM fails, a new secondary VM is deployed. vSphere Fault Tolerance can accommodate symmetric multiprocessor (SMP) virtual machines with up to eight vCPUs.

Use cases for FT include the following:

- Applications that require continuous availability, especially those with long-lasting client connections that need to be maintained during hardware failure
- Custom applications that have no other way of being clustered
- Cases in which other clustering solutions are available but are too complicated or expensive to configure and maintain

Before implementing FT, consider the following requirements:

- CPUs must be vMotion compatible.
- CPUs must support hardware MMU virtualization.
- A low-latency 10 Gbps network is required for FT Logging.
- Virtual machine files other than VMDK files must be stored on shared storage.
- A vSphere Standard License is required for FT protection of virtual machines with up to two virtual CPUs.
- A vSphere Enterprise Plus License is required for FT protection of virtual machines with up to eight virtual CPUs.
- Hardware Virtualization (HV) must be enabled in the host BIOS.
- Hosts must be certified for FT.
- The virtual memory reservation should be set to match the memory size.
- vSphere HA must be enabled on the cluster.
- SSL certificate checking must be enabled in the vCenter Server settings.
- The hosts must use ESXi 6.x or later.

You should also consider the following VMware recommendations concerning vSphere FT:

- VMware recommends a minimum of two physical NICs.
- VMware recommends that the host BIOS power management settings be set to Maximum Performance or OS-Managed Performance.
- You should have at least three hosts in the cluster to accommodate a new secondary VM following a failover.

The following vSphere features are not supported for FT-protected virtual machines:

- Snapshots (An exception is that disk-only snapshots created for vStorage APIs for Data Protection [VADP] backups are supported for FT but not for legacy FT.)
- Storage vMotion
- Linked clones
- Virtual Volumes datastores
- Storage-based policy management (However, vSAN storage policies are supported.)
- I/O filters
- Disk encryption
- Trusted Platform Module (TPM)
- Virtual Based Security (VBS)–enabled VMs
- Universal Point in Time snapshots (a NextGen vSAN feature)
- Physical raw device mappings (RDMs) (However, virtual RDMs are supported for legacy FT.)
- Virtual CD-ROMs for floppy drives backed by physical devices
- USB devices, sound devices, serial ports, and parallel ports
    - N_Port ID Virtualization (NPIV)
- Network adapter passthrough
- Hot plugging devices (Note that the hot plug feature is automatically disabled when you enable FT on a virtual machine.)
- Changing the network where a virtual NIC is connected

- Virtual Machine Communication Interface (VMCI)
- Virtual disk files larger than 2 TB
- Video devices with 3D enabled

You should apply the following best practices for FT:

- Use similar CPU frequencies in the hosts.
- Use active/standby NIC teaming settings.
- Ensure that the FT Logging network is secure (that is, FT data is not encrypted).
- Enable jumbo frames and 10 Gbps for the FT network. Optionally, configure multiple NICs for FT Logging.
- Place ISO files on shared storage.
- If vSAN is used for primary or secondary VMs, do not also connect those virtual machines to other storage types. Also, place the primary and secondary VMs in separate vSAN fault domains.
- Keep vSAN and FT Logging on separate networks.

In vSphere 6.5, FT is supported with DRS only when EVC is enabled. You can assign a DRS automation to the primary VM and let the secondary VM assume the same setting. If you enable FT for a virtual machine in a cluster where EVC is disabled, the virtual machine DRS automation level is automatically disabled. Starting in vSphere 6.7, EVC is not required for FT to support DRS.

To enable FT, you first create a VMkernel virtual network adapter on each host and connect to the FT Logging network. You should enable vMotion on a separate VMkernel adapter and network.

When you enable FT protection for a virtual machine, the following events occur:

- If the primary VM is powered on, validation tests occur. If validation is passed, then the entire state of the primary VM is copied and used to create the secondary VM on a separate host. The secondary VM is powered on. The virtual machine's FT status is Protected.
- If the primary VM is powered off, the secondary VM is created and registered to a host in the cluster but not powered on. The virtual machine FT Status setting is Not Protected, VM not Running. When you power on the primary VM, the validation checks occur, and the secondary VM is powered on. Then FT Status changes to Protected.

Legacy FT VMs can exist only on ESXi hosts running on vSphere versions earlier than 6.5. If you require legacy FT, you should configure a separate vSphere 6.0 cluster.

vCenter Server High Availability

vCenter Server High Availability (vCenter HA) is described in Chapter 1, "vSphere Overview, Components, and Requirements." vCenter HA implementation is covered in Chapter 8, "vSphere Installation." vCenter HA management is covered in Chapter 13, "Managing vSphere and vCenter Server."

VMware Service Lifecyle Manager

If a vCenter service fails, ***VMware Service Lifecycle Manager*** (vmon) restarts it. VMware Service Lifecycle Manager is a service running in a vCenter server that monitors the health of services and takes preconfigured remediation action when it detects a failure. If multiple attempts to restart a service fail, the service is considered failed.

NOTE Do not confuse VMware Service Lifecyle Manager with VMware vSphere Lifecycle Manager, which provides simple, centralized lifecycle management for ESXi hosts through the use of images and baselines.

Exam Preparation Tasks

As mentioned in the section "How to Use This Book" in the Introduction, you have some choices for exam preparation: the exercises here, Chapter 15, "Final Preparation," and the exam simulation questions on the companion website.

Review All Key Topics

Review the most important topics in this chapter, noted with the Key Topics icon in the outer margin of the page. Table 4-11 lists these key topics and the page number on which each is found.

Key Topic

Table 4-11 Key Topics for Chapter 4

Key Topic Element	Description	Page Number
Section	Network-aware DRS	135
Section	How DRS scores VMs	136
List	DRS migration sensitivity	138
Section	Scalable shares	142
List	vSphere HA requirements	145
Table 4-7	vSphere HA response to failure settings	145
List	vSphere FT requirements	154

Complete Tables and Lists from Memory

Print a copy of Appendix B, "Memory Tables" (found on the companion website), or at least the section for this chapter, and complete the tables and lists from memory. Appendix C, "Memory Tables Answer Key" (also on the companion website), includes completed tables and lists to check your work.

Define Key Terms

Define the following key terms from this chapter and check your answers in the glossary:

VMware Service Lifecycle Manager, vSphere Fault Tolerance (FT), Predictive DRS, Proactive High Availability (Proactive HA), Virtual Machine Component Protection (VMCP)

Review Questions

1. You are configuring EVC. Which of the following is not a requirement?
   a. A vSphere cluster
   b. A DRS cluster
   c. CPUs in the same family
   d. CPUs with the same base instruction set

2. In vSphere 7.0, you want to configure the DRS Migration Threshold such that it is at the maximum level at which resource contention is considered, but virtual machine happiness is not. Which of the following values should you choose?
   a. Level 1
   b. Level 2
   c. Level 3
   d. Level 4
   e. Level 5

3. In a vSphere cluster, which of the following statements is true if the primary host detects datastore heartbeats for a secondary host but no network heartbeats or ping responses?
   a. The primary host declares that the secondary host is isolated.
   b. The primary host assumes that the secondary host is isolated or in a network partition.
   c. The primary host takes the host isolation response action.
   d. The primary host restarts the virtual machines on the failed secondary host.

4. You want to configure vSphere HA. Which of the following is a requirement?
   a. IPv4 must be used for all host management interfaces.
   b. vMotion must be enabled on each host.
   c. The Virtual Machine Startup and Shutdown (automatic startup) feature must be enabled on each virtual machine.
   d. Host IP addresses must persist across reboots.

5. You are configuring vSphere Distributed Power Management (DPM) in your vSphere 7.0 environment. Which of the following is not a requirement for using Wake-on-LAN (WoL) in DPM?
   a. The management NIC must support WOL.
   b. vMotion is configured.
   c. The vMotion NIC must support WOL.
   d. The physical switch port must be set to auto negotiate the link speed.

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