

VMware vSphere 7 Boot Camp

Course Summary

Description

This powerful 5-day extended hours class is an intensive introduction to VMware vSphere including VMware ESXi 7 and vCenter 7. This course has been completely updated to reflect the most recent changes introduced in vSphere 7.

Assuming no prior virtualization experience, this class starts with the basics and rapidly progresses to advanced topics. With 45+% of class time is devoted to labs, students learn the skills they need to become effective vSphere administrators.

Students use dedicated labs that start with installation and configuration of stand-alone ESXi servers and progress to shared storage, networking and centralized management. The class continues to advanced topics including resource management, high availability, replication, performance, disaster preparedness, rapid deployment and VM cold, hot and storage migration. This class is unique in its approach; which is to identify and eliminate common IT pain points using vSphere. Students learn how to deliver business value; not just the technical or mechanical aspects of the software. By the end of the class, attendees will have learned the skills, and best practices of virtualization. Attendees will be able to design, implement, deploy, configure, monitor, manage and troubleshoot vSphere 7.

Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the many significant benefits of virtualization
- Install ESXi Server according to best practices
- Using Host Client to manage standalone ESXi hosts
- Configure and manage local storage resources
- Create virtual and virtual to physical network configurations
- Configure and used Advanced vSwitch features including Teaming, Security and Jumbo Frames
- Define and use file share (NAS / NFS) datastores
- Create virtual machines, install operating systems and applications
- Install, configure and upgrade VMware Tools
- Install, configure and update the Platform Service Controller and vCenter Server Appliance
- Rapidly deployment of VMs using golden-master templates
- Create clones – one-time copies of virtual machine
- Use Guest OS customization to rapidly configure new VMs according to requirements
- Configure and use hotplug hardware to upgrade VM hardware with zero downtime
- Configure, manage, monitor and secure users and groups
- Work with roles and permissions to implement access controls to vCenter
- Understand the benefits and trade offs of network attached storage and Fibre, iSCSI SANs
- Configure and use shared SAN storage including Fibre SAN, iSCSI SAN
- Configure direct VM to SAN volume storage with Raw Device Maps
- Add and grow VM virtual disks including system disks and secondary volumes
- Use vCenter alarms to monitor ESXi, VM, storage and network health, performance, state
- Use Resource Pools to bulk delegate resource to meet Service Level Agreements
- Perform VM cold migrations, hot VMotion migrations and Storage VMotion
- Configure and manage server CPU and Memory capacity and maintain VM responsiveness with Distributed Resource Schedule load balanced clusters
- Deliver high VM service availability using VMware High Availability clusters
- Provide zero unplanned VM downtime using vSphere Fault Tolerance
- Use HA to successfully minimize VM down time caused by ESXi host failures, storage network failures or SAN volume failures
- Implement a disaster preparedness strategy using VMware Replication
- Patch and update ESXi servers using vCenter Update Manager
- Create Distributed Virtual Switches. Migrate VM and VMkernel networking over to dvSwitches
- Monitor and tune both ESXi and virtual machine performance
- Understand how VMware and third party products, including operating systems, are impacted by virtualization
- Troubleshoot common problems

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Course Summary (cont'd)

Topics

- Virtualization Infrastructure Overview
- How to Install, Configure ESXi 7 (HoL1)
- Virtual and Physical Networking (HoL)
- Advanced Virtual Networking (HoL)
- NAS Shared Storage(HoL)
- Virtual Hardware and Virtual Machines (HoL)
- Install and Configure vCenter Server Appliance (HoL)
- VM Rapid Deployment using Templates, Clones (HoL)
- Advanced Virtual Hardware – Hot Plug CPU/Memory (HoL)
- ESXi and vCenter Permission Model (HoL)
- Using Fibre and iSCSI Shared Storage (HoL)
- Direct VM to SAN Volume access with Raw Device Maps (HoL)
- VMFS – The VMware Cluster File System (HoL)
- ESX and vCenter Alarms (HoL)
- Resource Management and Resource Pools (HoL)
- VM Hot VMotion, Cold Migration and Storage VMotion (HoL)
- Load Balancing w. Distributed Resource Scheduling Clusters (HoL)
- Failure Recovery with High Availability Clusters (HoL)
- Deliver Zero VM Unplanned Downtime with Fault Tolerance (HoL)
- Patch Management with VMware Lifecycle Manager (HoL)
- Introduction to Distributed Virtual Switches (HoL)
- Managing Scalability and Performance (HoL)
- Final Thoughts

Audience

This class is suitable for anyone who want to learn how to extract the maximum benefit from their investment in Virtual Infrastructure, including:

- System architects or others who need to design virtual infrastructure
- Security specialists responsible for administering, managing, securing Virtual Infrastructure
- Operators responsible for day-to-day operation of Virtual Infrastructure
- Performance analysts who need to understand, provision, monitor Virtual Infrastructure
- Business Continuity specialists responsible for disaster recovery and high availability
- Storage administrators who work with Fibre / iSCSI SAN volumes and NAS datastores
- Managers who need an unbiased understanding of virtualization before committing their organization to a virtual infrastructure deployment

Prerequisites

Attendees should have user, operator or administrator experience on common operating systems such as Microsoft Windows, Linux, UNIX, etc. Experience installing, configuring and managing operating systems, storage systems and or networks is useful but not required. We assume that all attendees have a basic familiarity with PC server hardware, disk partitioning, IP addressing, O/S installation, networking, etc.

Duration

Five days

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Course Outline

I. Virtualization Infrastructure Overview

- A. Virtualization explained
- B. How VMware virtualization compares to traditional PC deployments
- C. Common pain points in PC Server management
- D. How virtualization effectively addresses common IT issues
- E. VMware vSphere software products
- F. Hyperconverged Storage with VMware vSAN
- G. Hyperconverged Networking with VMware NSX
- H. What's New and Improved in vSphere 7

II. How to Install, Configure ESXi 7

- A. Understanding ESXi
- B. Selecting, validating and preparing your server
- C. Storage controllers, disks and partitions
- D. Software installation and best practices
- E. Join ESXi to a Domain
- F. Local User Management and Policies
- G. First look at VMware Host Client

III. Virtual and Physical Networking

- A. vNetwork standard and distributed virtual Switches
- B. Virtual Switches, Ports and Port Groups
- C. Creating VMkernel NICs
- D. Creating, sizing and customizing Virtual Switches

IV. Advanced Virtual Networking

- A. Explore advanced vSwitch properties
- B. Explain vSwitch Security properties and their use cases
- C. Explain the five NIC Teaming strategies, their implementation, pros, cons and use cases
- D. Explore Jumbo frames including how to test, configure and verify Jumbo frames
- E. Identify Jumbo frame use cases and where to avoid using Jumbo frames

V. Connecting to and Using NAS Shared Storage

- A. Benefits Shared Storage offer to Virtual Infrastructure
- B. NFS Overview
- C. Configuring ESX to use NFS Shares
- D. Configuring NFS for performance and redundancy
- E. NFS Use Cases
- F. Troubleshooting NFS connections

VI. Virtual Hardware and Virtual Machines

- A. VM virtual hardware, options and limits
- B. Sizing and creating a new VM
- C. Assigning, modifying and removing Virtual Hardware
- D. Working with a VM's BIOS
- E. VMware remote console applications
- F. Installing an OS into a VM
- G. Driver installation and customization

VII. vCenter Server Appliance

- A. The need for Identity Source management
- B. Installing and configuring vCenter Server Appliance with an embedded Platform Service Controller
- C. Connecting Single Sign On (SSO) to Active Directory and other identity sources
- D. vCenter feature overview and components
- E. Organizing vCenter's inventory views
- F. Importing ESX hosts into vCenter management
- G. Administering vCenter Server with HTML 5 Client

VIII. VM Rapid Deployment using Templates, Clones

- A. Templates – Virtual Machine Golden Master images
- B. Creating, modifying, updating and working with Templates
- C. Patching, and refreshing Templates
- D. Cloning, one time copies of VMs
- E. Best practices for cloning and templating
- F. Adding and resizing virtual disks
- G. Hotplug VM virtual CPUs and Memory

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Course Outline (cont'd)

IX. Configuring and Using VM Hotplug Hardware

- A. Upgrade VM vHardware with no downtime with hotplug virtual hardware
- B. Preparing to hotplug vCPUs and vRAM into a running VM
- C. Hotplugging vNICs and vDisks into a running VM
- D. Hotplug Hardware and Guest OS support

X. ESXi and vCenter Permission Model

- A. VMware Security model
- B. Configuring local users and groups
- C. Managing local permissions
- D. vCenter security model
- E. Local, Domain and Active Directory users and groups
- F. How permissions are applied

XI. Using Fibre and iSCSI Shared Storage

- A. Fibre SAN overview
- B. Identifying and using Fibre Host Bus Adapters
- C. Scanning and Rescanning Fibre SANs
- D. iSCSI overview
- E. Virtual and physical iSCSI adapters
- F. Connecting to iSCSI storage
- G. Scanning and rescanning iSCSI SANS
- H. Performance and redundancy considerations and best practices
- I. Understanding the benefits of VMware VAAI compliant storage

XII. Raw Device Maps

- A. Connecting VMs directly to SAN volumes using Raw Device Maps (RDM)
- B. RDM features, benefits and use cases
- C. Virtual and Physical RDMs explained
- D. How to set up and use RDMs
- E. How to correctly tear down RDMs

XIII. VMware File System (VMFS)

- A. Unique file system properties of VMFS 6
- B. Managing shared Volumes
- C. Creating new VMFS partitions
- D. Explanation of VMFS 6 features and capabilities

- E. Managing VMFS capacity with LUN spanning and LUN expansion
- F. Native and 3rd party Multipathing with Fibre and iSCSI SANs
- G. VMFS performance considerations
- H. VMFS scalability and reliability

XIV. Infrastructure Monitoring with vCenter Alarms

- A. Alarm categories and definitions
- B. Creating custom alarms and actions
- C. Configure vCenter so it can send E-mail and SNMP alerts
- D. Reviewing alarms and acknowledging them
- E. Work with alarm conditions, triggers and actions
- F. Identify most useful alarms to review and enable

XV. Resource Management and Resource Pools

- A. Delegate resources in bulk using Resource Pools
- B. How ESX delivers resources to VMs
- C. Shares, Reservations and Limits
- D. CPU resource scheduling
- E. Memory resource scheduling
- F. Resource Pools

XVI. VMotion Migration, Cold Migration, Storage VMotion

- A. Cold VM migrations to new ESX hosts, datastores
- B. Hot Migrations with VMotion
- C. VMotion requirements and dependencies
- D. How VMotion works – detailed explanation
- E. Troubleshooting VMotion
- F. How to test hosts for VMotion compatibility
- G. Storage VMotion for hot VM disk migrations

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Course Outline (cont'd)

XVII. Distributed Resource Scheduling Clusters

- A. CPU and Memory resource balanced clusters with VMware Distributed Resource Scheduler
- B. DRS Cluster configuration and tuning
- C. Per-VM cluster policy overrides
- D. Learn the features and benefits of DRS Power Management

XVIII. Failure Recovery with High Availability Clusters

- A. High Availability options to minimize unplanned down time
- B. How VMware HA protects against ESXi host, storage network and SAN volume failures
- C. Understand and review HA's many policies
- D. Introduction to continuous VM availability using VMware Fault Tolerance

XIX. Continuous VM Availability with Fault Tolerance

- A. Introduction to continuous VM availability using VMware Fault Tolerance
- B. Configuring host networking to support Fault Tolerance
- C. Fault Tolerant protected VMs restrictions and limitations
- D. Configuring and enabling VM Fault Tolerance protection
- E. Testing Fault Tolerance and demonstrating zero VM unplanned downtime

XX. Patch Management with VMware Lifecycle Manager

- A. Configure and enable VMware Lifecycle Manager
- B. Establishing a patch baseline
- C. Verifying compliance and patching ESXi hosts

XXI. Introduction to Distributed Virtual Switches

- A. Introduction to dvSwitch features and capabilities
- B. Create, configure a dvSwitch
- C. Migrating VMkernel NICs from standard to dvSwitches
- D. Bulk migrate VMs from standard to dvSwitches
- E. dvSwitch configuration backup and restore

XXII. Managing Scalability and Performance

- A. VMkernel CPU and memory resource management mechanisms
- B. Tuning VM storage I/O performance
- C. Identifying and resolving resource contention
- D. Monitoring VM and ESX host performance
- E. Performance and capacity planning strategies

XXIII. Final Thoughts

- A. Consolidation guidelines for VMs and Storage
- B. Determining which workloads to consolidate
- C. Useful books, white papers and online resources