



Manage virtual machines

ONTAP tools for VMware vSphere 9.8

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Manage virtual machines

Considerations for migrating or cloning virtual machines

You should be aware of some of the considerations while migrating existing virtual machines in your datacenter.

Migrate protected virtual machines

You can migrate the protected virtual machines to:

- Same vVols datastore in a different ESXi host
- Different compatible vVols datastore in same ESXi host
- Different compatible vVols datastore in a different ESXi host

If virtual machine is migrated to different FlexVol volume, then respective metadata file also gets updated with the virtual machine information. If a virtual machine is migrated to a different ESXi host but same storage then underlying FlexVol volume metadata file will not be modified.

Clone protected virtual machines

You can clone protected virtual machines to the following:

- Same container of same FlexVol volume using replication group

Same FlexVol volume's metadata file is updated with the cloned virtual machine details.

- Same container of a different FlexVol volume using replication group

The FlexVol volume where the cloned virtual machine is placed, the metadata file gets updated with the cloned virtual machine details.

- Different container or vVols datastore

The FlexVol volume where the cloned virtual machine is placed, the metadata file gets updated virtual machine details.

VMware presently does not support virtual machine cloned to a VM template.

Clone-of-Clone of a protected virtual machine is supported.

Virtual Machine Snapshots

Presently only virtual machine Snapshots without memory are supported. If virtual machine has Snapshot with memory, then the virtual machine is not considered for protection.

You also cannot protect unprotected virtual machine that has memory Snapshot. For this release, you are expected to delete memory snapshot before enabling protection for the virtual machine.

Migrate traditional virtual machines to vVols datastores

You can migrate virtual machines from traditional datastores to Virtual Volumes (vVols) datastores to take advantage of policy-based VM management and other vVols capabilities. vVols datastores enable you to meet increased workload requirements.

What you will need

You must have ensured that VASA Provider is not running on any of the virtual machines that you plan to migrate. If you migrate a virtual machine that is running VASA Provider to a vVols datastore, you cannot perform any management operations, including powering on the virtual machines that are on vVols datastores.

About this task

When you migrate from a traditional datastore to a vVols datastore, the vCenter Server uses vStorage APIs for Array Integration (VAAI) offloads when moving data from VMFS datastores, but not from an NFS VMDK file. VAAI offloads normally reduce the load on the host.

Steps

1. Right-click the virtual machine that you want to migrate, and then click **Migrate**.
2. Select **Change storage only**, and then click **Next**.
3. Select a virtual disk format, a VM Storage Policy, and a VVol datastore that matches the features of the datastore that you are migrating, and then click **Next**.
4. Review the settings, and then click **Finish**.

Migrate virtual machines with older storage capability profiles

If you are using the latest version of ONTAP tools for VMware vSphere, then you should migrate your virtual machines that are provisioned with the “MaxThroughput MBPS” or “MaxThroughput IOPS” QoS metrics to new VVol datastores that are provisioned with the “Max IOPS” QoS metrics of the latest version of ONTAP tools.

About this task

With the latest version of ONTAP tools, you can configure QoS metrics for each virtual machine or virtual machine disk (VMDK). The QoS metrics were earlier applied at the ONTAP FlexVol volume level and were shared by all of the virtual machines or VMDKs that were provisioned on that FlexVol volume.

Starting with the 7.2 version of ONTAP tools, the QoS metrics of one virtual machine is not shared with other virtual machines.



You must not modify the existing VM Storage Policy as the virtual machines might become non-compliant.

Steps

1. Create vVols datastores by using a new storage capability profile with the required “Max IOPS” value.

2. Create a VM Storage Policy, and then map the new VM Storage Policy with the new storage capability profile.
3. Migrate the existing virtual machines to the newly created VVol datastores by using the new VM Storage Policy.

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