

VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment Guide

09 FEB 2021

VMware Cloud Foundation 4.2

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

<https://docs.vmware.com/>

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

Copyright © 2015 - 2021 VMware, Inc. All rights reserved. [Copyright and trademark information.](#)

Contents

About the VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment Guide	4
1 Preparing your Environment for VMware Cloud Foundation	6
2 Deploying VMware Cloud Foundation	7
Deploy VMware Cloud Builder Appliance	8
Prepare ESXi Hosts for VMware Cloud Foundation	10
Create a Custom ISO Image for ESXi	11
Create a Custom ESXi ISO Image Using VMware PowerCLI	11
Create a Custom ESXi ISO Image Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager	13
Install ESXi Interactively and Configure Hosts for VMware Cloud Foundation	13
Install ESXi on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts Using the ISO	14
Configure the Network on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts	14
Configure the Virtual Machine Network Port Group on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts	15
Configure SSH and NTP on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts	16
Install ESXi Using the VMware Imaging Appliance	16
Download ESXi Software and VIBs	18
Provide Network Information for Imaging	18
Upload ISOs and VIBs to the VMware Imaging Appliance service	19
Image Servers with ESXi and VIBs	20
Post-Imaging Tasks	22
Regenerate the Self-Signed Certificate on All Hosts	23
Configure ESXi Hosts with Signed Certificates	23
Deploy the Management Domain Using VMware Cloud Builder	24
Download and Complete the Deployment Parameter Workbook	25
About the Deployment Parameter Workbook	25
Upload the Deployment Parameter Workbook and Deploy the Management Domain	42
Deploy the Management Domain Using ESXi Hosts with External Certificates	43
3 Troubleshooting VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment	45
Using the SoS Utility on VMware Cloud Builder	45
VMware Cloud Builder Log Files	50
4 VMware Cloud Foundation Glossary	51

About the VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment Guide

The *VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment Guide* provides information about installing VMware ESXi™ software on VMware Cloud Foundation™ servers and deploying the management domain using the VMware Cloud Builder appliance™.

Intended Audience

The *VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment Guide* is intended for data center cloud administrators who deploy a VMware Cloud Foundation system in their organization's data center. The information in this guide is written for experienced data center cloud administrators who are familiar with:

- Concepts of virtualization and software-defined data centers
- Networking and concepts such as uplinks, NICs, and IP networks
- Hardware components such as top-of-rack (ToR) switches, inter-rack switches, servers with direct attached storage, cables, and power supplies
- Methods for setting up physical racks in your data center
- Using the VMware vSphere® Client™ to work with virtual machines

Related Publications

The *Introducing VMware Cloud Foundation* document provides a high-level overview of the VMware Cloud Foundation product

The *Planning and Preparation Workbook* provides detailed information about the software, tools, and external services that are required for Cloud Foundation.

The *VMware Cloud Foundation Operations and Administration Guide* contains detailed information about how to administer and operate a VMware Cloud Foundation system in your data center.

Your VMware Cloud Foundation system includes various VMware software products and components. You can find the documentation for those VMware software products at docs.vmware.com.

VMware Cloud Foundation Glossary

The VMware Cloud Foundation Glossary defines terms specific to VMware Cloud Foundation.

Preparing your Environment for VMware Cloud Foundation

1

Before you start the automated deployment of the management domain using VMware Cloud Builder, your environment must meet target prerequisites and be in a specific starting state.

Prepare the platform by deploying and configuring the necessary infrastructure components. For detailed prerequisites, see the *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.

Deploying VMware Cloud Foundation

2

You begin the VMware Cloud Foundation deployment process by deploying the VMware Cloud Builder appliance. The VMware Cloud Builder appliance includes the VMware Imaging Appliance service, which you can use to image your servers with ESXi software. After imaging your servers, you download and complete the deployment parameters workbook from the VMware Cloud Builder appliance to define your network information, host details, and other required information. During the deployment process, this workbook is uploaded to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance, where a JSON file is generated to drive the bring-up process. The provided information is validated, and the automated phase of the bring-up process begins.

You can perform bring-up with certificates generated by an external CA, in which case ESXi certificates are not replaced with vCenter Server signed certificates. If you use external certificates for ESXi hosts in the management domain, hosts added after bring-up must also be added with external certificates. This feature is supported only through APIs. For more information, see [Deploy the Management Domain Using ESXi Hosts with External Certificates](#).

Prerequisites

You must prepare your environment for deploying VMware Cloud Foundation. See the *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.

Procedure

1 Deploy VMware Cloud Builder Appliance

VMware Cloud Builder is a virtual appliance that is used to deploy and configure the first cluster of the management domain and transfer inventory and control to SDDC Manager. During the deployment process, the VMware Cloud Builder appliance validates network information you provide in the deployment parameter workbook such as DNS, network (VLANs, IPs, MTUs), and credentials.

2 Prepare ESXi Hosts for VMware Cloud Foundation

Before you can begin the process of deploying VMware Cloud Foundation you must prepare a minimum of four ESXi hosts that will form the management domain. To create a new VI workload domain, you must prepare a minimum of three ESXi hosts.

3 Deploy the Management Domain Using VMware Cloud Builder

The VMware Cloud Foundation deployment process is referred to as bring-up. You specify deployment information specific to your environment such as networks, hosts, license keys, and other information in the deployment parameter workbook and upload the file to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance to initiate bring-up. During bring-up, the management domain is created on the ESXi hosts specified in the workbook. The VMware Cloud Foundation software components are automatically deployed, configured, and licensed using the information provided.

Deploy VMware Cloud Builder Appliance

VMware Cloud Builder is a virtual appliance that is used to deploy and configure the first cluster of the management domain and transfer inventory and control to SDDC Manager. During the deployment process, the VMware Cloud Builder appliance validates network information you provide in the deployment parameter workbook such as DNS, network (VLANs, IPs, MTUs), and credentials.

You must deploy the VMware Cloud Builder appliance on a suitable platform. This can be on a laptop running VMware Workstation or VMware Fusion, or on an ESXi host. The VMware Cloud Builder appliance must have network access to all hosts on the management network.

This procedure describes how to deploy the VMware Cloud Builder appliance directly to an ESXi host.

Prerequisites

Before you deploy the VMware Cloud Builder appliance, verify that your environment fulfills the requirements for this process.

Prerequisite	Value
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Verify that your environment is configured for deployment of VMware Cloud Builder and the management domain. ■ Verify that you have available virtual infrastructure that has access to the management network that will be used by the management domain. You deploy VMware Cloud Builder on that virtual infrastructure.
Resource Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4 CPUs ■ 4 GB of Memory ■ 150 GB of Storage
Installation Packages	Verify that you download the OVA file(s) for VMware Cloud Builder.
Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Verify that the static IP address and FQDN for the VMware Cloud Builder appliance are available. ■ Verify that connectivity is in place from the VMware Cloud Builder appliance and the management VLAN used in the deployment.

To image servers and automate the deployment, the VMware Cloud Builder appliance must be on the same management network as the hosts to be used. It must also be able to access all required external services, such as DNS and NTP.

Procedure

- 1 In a web browser, log in to the ESXi host using the VMware Host Client.
- 2 In the navigation pane, select **Host**, and click **Create/Register VM**.
- 3 Click **Actions > Deploy OVF Template**
- 4 On the Select creation type dialog box, select **Deploy a virtual machine from an OVF or OVA file** and click **Next**.
- 5 On the Select OVF and VMDK files page, enter a name for the virtual machine, select the VMware Cloud Builder.ova file, and click **Next**.
- 6 On the Select Storage page, select a datastore and click **Next**.
- 7 On the License agreements dialog box, click **I agree** and then click **Next**.
- 8 On the Select networks dialog box, enter the following values and click **Next**.

Setting	Value
Network mappings	<i>your_portgroup</i>
Disk provisioning	Thin
Power on automatically	Selected

- 9 On the Additional settings dialog box, expand **Application**, enter the following values, and click **Next**.

Setting	Details
Admin Username	Accept the default admin user name, admin .
Admin Password/Admin Password confirm	The admin password must be a minimum of 8 characters and include at least one uppercase, one lowercase, one digit, and one special character.
Root password/Root password confirm	The root password must be a minimum of 8 characters and include at least one uppercase, one lowercase, one digit, and one special character.
Hostname	Enter the hostname for the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.
Network 1 IP Address	Enter the IP address for the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.
Network 1 Subnet Mask	Enter the subnet mask for the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.
Default Gateway	Enter the default gateway for the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.
DNS Servers	Enter the IP address of the primary and secondary DNS servers (comma separated). Do not specify more than two servers.
DNS Domain Name	Enter the DNS domain name. For example, <code>vsphere.local</code> .

Setting	Details
DNS Domain Search Paths	Enter the DNS domain search path(s). Use a comma if entering multiple search paths. For example <code>vsphere.local, sfo.vsphere.local</code> .
NTP Servers	Enter the NTP server(s). Use a comma if entering multiple NTP servers. NTP servers can be entered using FQDNs or IP addresses.

- 10 On the Ready to complete page, review the virtual machine configuration and click **Finish**.

Note Make sure your passwords meet the requirements specified above before clicking **Finish** or your deployment will not succeed.

- 11 After the VMware Cloud Builder appliance is deployed, SSH in to the VM with the admin credentials provided in step 9.
- 12 Ensure that you can ping the ESXi hosts.
- 13 Verify that the VMware Cloud Builder appliance has access to the required external services, such as DNS and NTP by performing forward and reverse DNS lookups for each host and the specified NTP servers.

Prepare ESXi Hosts for VMware Cloud Foundation

Before you can begin the process of deploying VMware Cloud Foundation you must prepare a minimum of four ESXi hosts that will form the management domain. To create a new VI workload domain, you must prepare a minimum of three ESXi hosts.

Preparing the ESXi hosts involves installing the correct version of ESXi and performing some basic configuration tasks. VMware Cloud Foundation supports two methods for preparing these ESXi hosts, either interactively or through the use of the VMware Imaging Appliance service (VIA) which is bundled within VMware Cloud Builder. For the supported ESXi version, see the Bill of Materials (BOM) section of the *VMware Cloud Foundation Release Notes*.

- [Create a Custom ISO Image for ESXi](#)

When your environment requires a custom ISO file for ESXi, you can create one using VMware PowerCLI or vSphere Lifecycle Manager.

- [Install ESXi Interactively and Configure Hosts for VMware Cloud Foundation](#)

You can interactively install ESXi on all the hosts that will form the first cluster in the management domain, then you configure the management network, DNS, NTP, and SSH services. You can use the same process to add more hosts to the management domain later, or to install and configure hosts for VI workload domains.

- [Install ESXi Using the VMware Imaging Appliance](#)

You can use the VMware Imaging Appliance service (VIA) included with the VMware Cloud Builder appliance to image servers for use in the management domain and VI workload domains. For the supported ESXi version, see the BOM section of the *VMware Cloud Foundation Release Notes*.

- [Regenerate the Self-Signed Certificate on All Hosts](#)

Once you have configured the ESXi hosts' identity by providing a hostname you must regenerate the self-signed certificate to ensure the correct common name is defined.

- [Configure ESXi Hosts with Signed Certificates](#)

If corporate policy requires that you use external CA-signed certificates instead of VMCA-signed certificates for ESXi hosts, you can manually add external certificates to the hosts.

Create a Custom ISO Image for ESXi

When your environment requires a custom ISO file for ESXi, you can create one using VMware PowerCLI or vSphere Lifecycle Manager.

You might need to create a custom ISO image for ESXi in the following situations:

- The ESXi version specified in the VMware Cloud Foundation BOM does not have an associated ISO file on VMware Customer Connect. This can be the case for ESXi patch releases.
- You need an async patch version of ESXi.
- You need a vendor-specific (OEM) ISO file.

Prerequisites

Download the zip files for the following:

- ESXi patch for the ESXi version specified in the VMware Cloud Foundation BOM or in the list of supported sync patches in [KB 88287](#). You can download patches from <https://customerconnect.vmware.com/patch#search>.
- OEM add-on for ESXi from VMware Customer Connect. If the ESXi version specified in the BOM is not available in the **Select Version** drop-down menu, contact your vendor to determine which OEM add-on version to use.
- [Create a Custom ESXi ISO Image Using VMware PowerCLI](#)
You can use VMware Power CLI to create a custom ISO.
- [Create a Custom ESXi ISO Image Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager](#)
If you have access to a vCenter Server 7.0 environment, you can use vSphere Lifecycle Manager to create and export a custom ISO.

Create a Custom ESXi ISO Image Using VMware PowerCLI

You can use VMware Power CLI to create a custom ISO.

Prerequisites

VMware PowerCLI 12.0 or later.

Procedure

- 1 Gather the required information for the software spec that is used to create the custom ISO.

- a In VMware PowerCLI, use the `Get-DepotBaseImages` cmdlet to get the base image version from the zip file for the ESXi patch that you downloaded from the patches portal.

For example:

```
Get-DepotBaseImages "c:\temp\VMware-ESXi-7.0U1d-17551050-depot.zip"
```

- b Use the `Get-DepotAddons` cmdlet to get the add-on name and version from the zip file for the OEM add-on for ESXi that you downloaded from My VMware. (if applicable)

For example:

```
Get-DepotAddons "c:\temp\HPE-701.0.0.10.6.5.12-Jan2021-Synergy-Addon-depot.zip"
```

- 2 Create the software spec using the information you gathered in step 1.

The software spec is a JSON file that contains information about the ESXi version and vendor add-on (if applicable). For example:

```
{
  "add_on": {
    "name": "HPE-Custom-Syn-AddOn",
    "version": "701.0.0.10.6.5-12"
  },
  "base_image": {
    "version": "7.0.1-0.30.17551050"
  },
  "components": null,
  "hardware_support": null,
  "solutions": null
}
```

- 3 In VMware PowerCLI, use the `New-IsoImage` cmdlet to generate a custom ISO.

For example:

```
New-IsoImage -SoftwareSpec "c:\temp\HPE-70U1d-custom.JSON" -Depots "c:\temp\VMware-ESXi-7.0U1d-17551050-depot.zip" , "c:\temp\HPE-701.0.0.10.6.5.12-Jan2021-Synergy-Addon-depot.zip" -Destination "c:\temp\HPE-70U1d-custom.iso"
```

Provide the path to the software spec you created in step 2.

The depot(s) include the path to the zip files for the supported ESXi version and vendor add-on.

The destination include the path and file name for the custom ISO file.

For more information about the `New-IsoImage` cmdlet, see <https://code.vmware.com/docs/11794/cmdletreference/doc/New-IsolImage.html>.

Create a Custom ESXi ISO Image Using vSphere Lifecycle Manager

If you have access to a vCenter Server 7.0 environment, you can use vSphere Lifecycle Manager to create and export a custom ISO.

Prerequisites

Import the ESXi patch and vendor add-on (if applicable) zip files to the vSphere Lifecycle Manager depot. See [Import Updates to the vSphere Lifecycle Manager Depot](#).

Procedure

- 1 Log in to vCenter Server using the vSphere Client.
- 2 Create a new temporary cluster, selecting the **Manage all hosts in the cluster with a single image** check box.
- 3 Select the ESXi version and vendor add-on (optional) and click **OK**.
- 4 Export the vSphere Lifecycle Manager image as an ISO.
See [Export an Image](#).
- 5 Delete the temporary cluster.

Install ESXi Interactively and Configure Hosts for VMware Cloud Foundation

You can interactively install ESXi on all the hosts that will form the first cluster in the management domain, then you configure the management network, DNS, NTP, and SSH services. You can use the same process to add more hosts to the management domain later, or to install and configure hosts for VI workload domains.

Prerequisites

- Download the ESXi ISO from My VMware. For the supported ESXi version, see the Bill of Materials (BOM) section of the *VMware Cloud Foundation Release Notes*. If the required version of ESXi does not have an ISO available on My VMware, you can create one. See [Create a Custom ISO Image for ESXi](#).
- Make sure that you have a host machine for SDDC access. You use this host to connect to the data center and perform configuration steps.
- Verify that you have the completed *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.
- Verify the Prerequisite Checklist sheet in the *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.

Procedure

- 1 [Install ESXi on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts Using the ISO](#)

Install ESXi on all hosts in the first cluster in the management domain interactively. You can use the same process to install ESXi on additional hosts for the management domain, or on hosts for a VI workload domain.

2 Configure the Network on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts

After the initial boot, use the ESXi Direct Console User Interface (DCUI) for host network configuration and administrative access.

3 Configure the Virtual Machine Network Port Group on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts

You perform configuration of the Virtual Machine Network port group for each ESXi host by using the VMware Host Client.

4 Configure SSH and NTP on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts

Complete the initial configuration of all ESXi hosts by enabling the TSM-SSH service and configuring the NTP service to avoid time synchronization issues in the SDDC.

Install ESXi on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts Using the ISO

Install ESXi on all hosts in the first cluster in the management domain interactively. You can use the same process to install ESXi on additional hosts for the management domain, or on hosts for a VI workload domain.

Repeat this procedure for all hosts in the first cluster in the management domain.

Procedure

- 1 Power on the ESXi host.
- 2 Mount and boot from ESXi ISO.
- 3 On the **Welcome to the VMware ESXi Installation** screen, press Enter to start the installation.
- 4 On the **End User License Agreement (EULA)** screen, press F11 to accept the EULA.
- 5 On the **Select a Disk to Install or Upgrade** screen, select the internal disk to install ESXi on and press Enter.
- 6 On the **Please select a keyboard layout** screen, select the keyboard layout and press Enter.
- 7 On the **Enter a root password** screen enter the **esxi_root_user_password**, enter the password a second time to confirm the spelling, and press Enter.
- 8 On the **Confirm Install** screen, press F11 to start the installation.
- 9 On the **Installation Complete** screen, press Enter to reboot the host.
- 10 Repeat this procedure for all remaining hosts.

Configure the Network on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts

After the initial boot, use the ESXi Direct Console User Interface (DCUI) for host network configuration and administrative access.

Perform the following tasks to configure the host network settings:

- Configure the network adapter (vmk0) and VLAN ID for the Management Network.
- Configure the IP address, subnet mask, gateway, DNS server, and FQDN for the ESXi host.

Repeat this procedure for all hosts that you are adding to the first cluster of the management domain. Enter the respective values from the completed *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.

Procedure

- 1 Open the DCUI of the ESXi host.
 - a Open a console window to the host.
 - b Press F2 to enter the DCUI.
 - c Log in by using the **esxi_root_user_password**.
- 2 Configure the network.
 - a Select **Configure Management Network** and press Enter.
 - b Select **VLAN (Optional)** and press Enter.
 - c Enter the VLAN ID for the Management Network and press Enter.
 - d Select **IPv4 Configuration** and press Enter.
 - e Select **Set static IPv4 address and network configuration** and press the Space bar.
 - f Enter the IPv4 Address, Subnet Mask and Default Gateway and press Enter.
 - g Select **DNS Configuration** and press Enter.
 - h Select **Use the following DNS Server address and hostname** and press the Space bar.
 - i Enter the Primary DNS Server, Alternate DNS Server and Hostname and press Enter.
 - j Select **Custom DNS Suffixes** and press Enter.
 - k Ensure that there are no suffixes listed and press Enter.
- 3 Press Escape to exit and press Y to confirm the changes.
- 4 Repeat this procedure for all remaining hosts.

Configure the Virtual Machine Network Port Group on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts

You perform configuration of the Virtual Machine Network port group for each ESXi host by using the VMware Host Client.

You configure the VLAN ID of the VM Network port group on the vSphere Standard Switch. This configuration provides connectivity to the Management network to allow communication to the vCenter Server Appliance during the automated deployment.

Repeat this procedure for all hosts in the first cluster of the management domain. Enter the respective values from the completed *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.

Procedure

- 1 In a web browser, log in to the ESXi host using the VMware Host Client.
- 2 Click **OK** to join the Customer Experience Improvement Program.

- 3 Configure a VLAN for the VM Network port group.
 - a In the navigation pane, click **Networking**.
 - b Click the **Port groups** tab, select the **VM network** port group, and click **Edit Settings**.
 - c On the **Edit port group - VM network** page, enter the Management Network VLAN ID, and click **Save**.
- 4 Repeat this procedure for all remaining hosts.

Configure SSH and NTP on VMware Cloud Foundation Hosts

Complete the initial configuration of all ESXi hosts by enabling the TSM-SSH service and configuring the NTP service to avoid time synchronization issues in the SDDC.

Repeat this procedure for all hosts in the first cluster of the management domain. Enter the respective values from the completed *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.

Procedure

- 1 In a web browser, log in to the ESXi host using the VMware Host Client.
- 2 Configure and start the TSM-SSH service.
 - a In the navigation pane, click **Manage** and click the **Services** tab.
 - b Select the **TSM-SSH** service, and click the **Actions** menu.
 - c Select **Policy** and click **Start and stop with host**.
 - d To start the service, click **Start**.
- 3 Configure and start the NTP service.
 - a In the navigation pane, click **Manage**, and click the **System** tab.
 - b Click **Time & date** and click **Edit NTP Settings**.
 - c On the **Edit NTP Settings** page, select the **Use Network Time Protocol (enable NTP client)** radio button, and change the NTP service startup policy to **Start and stop with host**.
 - d In the **NTP servers** text box, enter the NTP Server FQDN or IP Address, and click **Save**.
 - e To start the service, click **Actions**, select **NTP service**, and click **Start**.
- 4 Repeat this procedure for all remaining hosts.

Install ESXi Using the VMware Imaging Appliance

You can use the VMware Imaging Appliance service (VIA) included with the VMware Cloud Builder appliance to image servers for use in the management domain and VI workload domains. For the supported ESXi version, see the BOM section of the *VMware Cloud Foundation Release Notes*.

The default root credentials for servers imaged with VIA are user **root**, password **EvoSddc!2016**.

Prerequisites

The servers that you image must meet certain prerequisites:

- PXE Boot is configured as primary boot option
- Install device is configured as the second boot option
- Legacy boot mode configured in BIOS

Note Although the VMware Imaging Appliance service does not support UEFI boot mode, VMware Cloud Foundation does support it for servers configured outside of VIA.

- Servers are in the same L2 domain as the VMware Cloud Builder appliance
- Servers are reachable over an untagged VLAN/Network (VLAN ID 0)
- The VMware Cloud Builder appliance is deployed on an untagged VLAN/Network
- Server hardware/firmware should be configured for virtualization and vSAN and match the VMware Cloud Foundation BOM as described in the Release Notes
- Physical hardware health status should be "healthy" without any errors
- Any onboard NICs are inactive on the servers and only the two 10 GbE NICs reserved for use with VMware Cloud Foundation are active in BIOS

Procedure

1 Download ESXi Software and VIBs

In order to image your servers, you need to download an ESXi ISO and any vSphere Installation Bundles (VIBs) required to get the servers to a supported version of ESXi. See the BOM section of the VMware Cloud Foundation Release Notes for information about ESXi support.

2 Provide Network Information for Imaging

You must provide the VMware Imaging Appliance service with certain network information specific to your environment before you can image your servers. This information is contained in the `via.properties` file on the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.

3 Upload ISOs and VIBs to the VMware Imaging Appliance service

After you have downloaded the required software and updated `via.properties` with your network information, you can upload ISOs and VIBs to the VMware Imaging Appliance service.

4 Image Servers with ESXi and VIBs

Once you have uploaded the required ESXi and VIB packages to the VMware Imaging Appliance service, you can begin imaging servers. You can image an individual server, or multiple servers at the same time.

5 Post-Imaging Tasks

After you image your servers with ESXi and VIBs, you must perform some post-imaging tasks, depending on whether you use an untagged or a tagged management VLAN.

Download ESXi Software and VIBs

In order to image your servers, you need to download an ESXi ISO and any vSphere Installation Bundles (VIBs) required to get the servers to a supported version of ESXi. See the BOM section of the VMware Cloud Foundation Release Notes for information about ESXi support.

You can download the ISO and VIBs from My VMware (<https://my.vmware.com>) to any location on the Windows machine that is connected to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance. Make sure to record the MD5 or SHA-1 checksums. You will need them when you upload the ISO/VIB to the VMware Imaging Appliance service.

If the required version of ESXi does not have an ISO available on My VMware, you can create one. See [Create a Custom ISO Image for ESXi](#). In order to upload a user-created custom ISO for use with the VMware Imaging Appliance, you must provide an MD5 checksum. You can use an MD5 utility to generate a checksum for user-created custom ISOs.

Provide Network Information for Imaging

You must provide the VMware Imaging Appliance service with certain network information specific to your environment before you can image your servers. This information is contained in the `via.properties` file on the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.

Procedure

- 1 SSH into the VMware Cloud Builder appliance using the credentials specified when you deployed the VM. See [Deploy VMware Cloud Builder Appliance](#).
- 2 Type **su** to switch to the root user.
- 3 Navigate to the `/opt/vmware/evorack-imaging/config/` directory.

4 Update the `via.properties` file with your network information.

- a If the VMware Cloud Builder appliance is using the `eth0` interface (default), then you do not need to modify any of the properties in Section A. If the VMware Cloud Builder appliance has multiple network interfaces and is not using `eth0`, you must update the following properties.

Property	Description
<code>via.network.interface</code>	Interface of the VMware Cloud Builder appliance configured in management network.
<code>via.web.url</code>	The IP address used to access the VMware Imaging Appliance service UI. Update this with the IP address of VMware Cloud Builder appliance in the management network.
<code>via.network.ifaceaddr</code>	Update this with the IP address of VMware Cloud Builder appliance in the management network.
<code>via.dhcp.esxi.tftpServer</code>	IP address of the server where TFTP is running. Update this with the IP address of VMware Cloud Builder appliance in the management network.
<code>via.config.remote.pxe=false</code>	Do not modify.

- b Update Section B with the network information for your environment.

Property	Description
<code>via.dhcp.netmask</code>	Netmask of the management network.
<code>via.dhcp.subnet</code>	Subnet of the management network.
<code>via.dhcp.routers</code>	Gateway IP of the management network.
<code>via.esxi.firewall.allowed.network</code>	CIDR notation for subnet IP of the management network.

5 Type `systemctl restart imaging.service` to restart the imaging service.

Wait for the imaging service to restart.

6 Type `systemctl status imaging.service` to verify that the imaging service is running.

What to do next

Log in to the VMware Imaging Appliance service and upload software.

Upload ISOs and VIBs to the VMware Imaging Appliance service

After you have downloaded the required software and updated `via.properties` with your network information, you can upload ISOs and VIBs to the VMware Imaging Appliance service.

Procedure

- 1 In a web browser on the Windows machine that is connected to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance, navigate to `https://Cloud_Builder_VM_IP:8445/via`.

The VMware Imaging Appliance service page displays.

- 2 Enter the admin credentials you provided when you deployed the VMware Cloud Builder appliance and click Log in.
- 3 Click **Bundle** and then click the **ESXi ISOs** tab.
- 4 Click **Browse** to locate and select the ISO.

- 5 Select the checksum type and enter the checksum.
If you are uploading a user-created custom ISO, you can use an MD5 utility to generate a checksum to enter here.
- 6 Click **Upload ISO**.
- 7 When the uploaded ISO appears, select **Activate** to use the ISO for imaging servers.
- 8 Click the **Modify ViBs** tab.
The steps for uploading ViBs are optional.
- 9 Click **Browse** to locate and select the ViB.

- 10 Click **Upload ViB**.
- 11 When the uploaded ViB appears, select **In use** to use the ViB for imaging servers.

What to do next

Use the selected ISO and ViB(s) to image servers for use with VMware Cloud Foundation.

Image Servers with ESXi and ViBs

Once you have uploaded the required ESXi and ViB packages to the VMware Imaging Appliance service, you can begin imaging servers. You can image an individual server, or multiple servers at the same time.

You can use VIA to image servers for use in the management domain and VI workload domains. The management domain requires a minimum of four servers. See the *Planning and Preparation Workbook* for more information about requirements.

Note When you image servers, VIA uses the ESXi ISO that you activated and the VIB(s) that you marked as **In use**.

Procedure

- 1 In a web browser on the Windows machine that is connected to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance, navigate to `https://Cloud_Builder_VM_IP:8445/via`.

The VMware Imaging Appliance service page displays.

- 2 Enter the admin credentials you provided when you deployed the VMware Cloud Builder appliance and click Log in.
- 3 Click Imaging.
- 4 Enter the required information.

Name

MGMT Domain

Description

Servers for the management domain

NOTE : Please ensure that the user guidelines and pre requisites are followed as per product documentation before proceeding.

ESXI SERVER

NTP Server: 10.0.0.250

Number: 4

1 IP: 10.0.0.100 MAC: 00:50:56:ad:7a:1b Host FQDN: esxi-1.vrack.vsphere.local

2 IP: 10.0.0.101 MAC: 00:50:56:ad:75:26 Host FQDN: esxi-2.vrack.vsphere.local

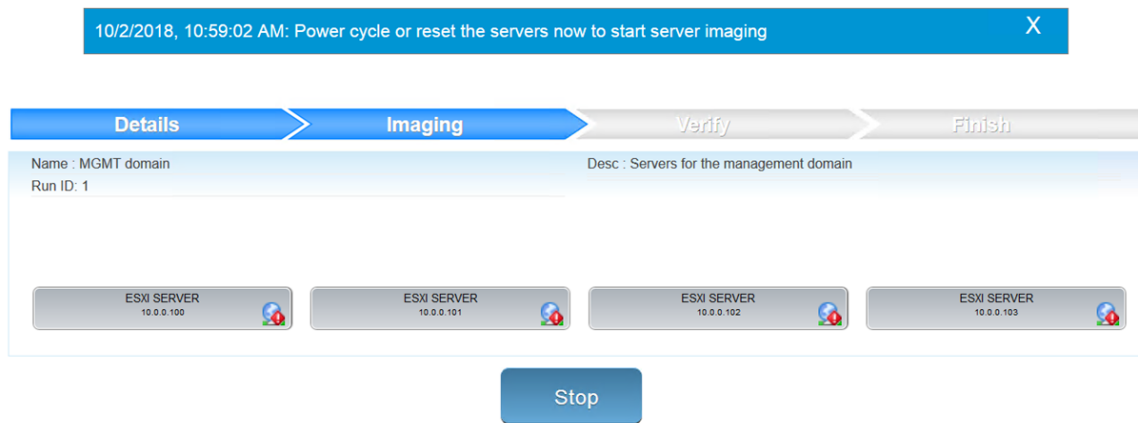
3 IP: 10.0.0.102 MAC: 00:50:56:ad:28:35 Host FQDN: esxi-3.vrack.vsphere.local

4 IP: 10.0.0.103 MAC: 00:50:56:ad:24:18 Host FQDN: esxi-4.vrack.vsphere.local

Option	Description
Name	Enter a name for the imaging job.
Description	Enter a description for the imaging job.
NTP Server	Enter the IP address for the NTP server.
Number	Enter the number of servers you want to image with the selected ISO and VIBs.
IP	Enter the IP address for the server.
MAC	Enter the MAC address for the server.
Host FQDN	Enter the FQDN for the server.

- 5 Click **Start Imaging**.

- 6 When prompted, power cycle the server(s) to continue imaging.



VIA displays information about the progress of imaging. Click a server to view details. Once imaging is complete, VIA performs verification of the servers.

- 7 When verification is finished, click **Complete**.

What to do next

Perform post-imaging tasks before you download the deployment parameter workbook and begin the bring-up process.

Post-Imaging Tasks

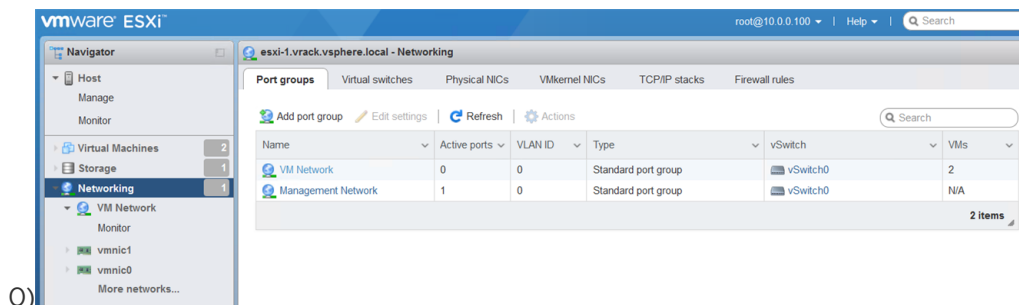
After you image your servers with ESXi and VIBs, you must perform some post-imaging tasks, depending on whether you use an untagged or a tagged management VLAN.

For imaging servers, the VMware Imaging Appliance service requires an untagged VLAN. You can continue to use an untagged VLAN for management, or you can use a tagged VLAN.

Untagged Management VLAN

In this scenario, you use the same network for provisioning and management.

- Ensure that the Management Network and VM Network port groups on each host use the untagged VLAN (VLAN ID



- Verify that your DNS and NTP server are routable to the management network and ESXi hosts can reach them. To configure a default gateway or static routes on your ESXi hosts, see <https://kb.vmware.com/kb/2001426>.

Tagged Management VLAN

In this scenario, you use an untagged VLAN for provisioning and a tagged VLAN for management.

- Modify the Management Network and VM Network port groups on each host to use the tagged VLAN
- Migrate the hosts from the provisioning network to the management network on the TOR switches
- Verify that your DNS and NTP server are routable to the management network and ESXi hosts can reach them. To configure a default gateway or static routes on your ESXi hosts, see <https://kb.vmware.com/kb/2001426>.

Regenerate the Self-Signed Certificate on All Hosts

Once you have configured the ESXi hosts' identity by providing a hostname you must regenerate the self-signed certificate to ensure the correct common name is defined.

During the installation of ESXi, the installer generates a self-signed certificate for each ESXi host but the process is performed prior to the ESXi identity being configured. This means all ESXi hosts have a common name in their self-signed certificate of `localhost.localdomain`. All communication between VMware Cloud Builder and the ESXi hosts is performed securely over HTTPS and as a result it validates the identity when making a connection by comparing the common name of the certificate against the FQDN provided within the VMware Cloud Builder configuration file.

To ensure that the connection attempts and validation does not fail, you must manually regenerate the self-signed certificate after hostname has been configured.

Note VMware Cloud Foundation supports the use of signed certificates. If your organization's security policy mandates that all ESXi hosts must be configured with a CA-signed certificate, see [Configure ESXi Hosts with Signed Certificates](#).

Procedure

- 1 Log in to the ESXi host using an SSH client such as Putty.
- 2 Regenerate the self-signed certificate by executing the following command:

```
/sbin/generate-certificates
```

- 3 Restart the `hostd` and `vpixd` services by executing the following command:

```
/etc/init.d/hostd restart && /etc/init.d/vpxd restart
```

- 4 Repeat this procedure for all remaining hosts.

Configure ESXi Hosts with Signed Certificates

If corporate policy requires that you use external CA-signed certificates instead of VMCA-signed certificates for ESXi hosts, you can manually add external certificates to the hosts.

When you install ESXi software on a server to create an ESXi host, the host initially has an autogenerated certificate. By default, when the host is added to a vCenter Server system during bring-up of the management domain or other operations involving hosts (for example, host commissioning, VI workload domain creation, and so on), the autogenerated certificate is replaced with a certificate that is signed by the VMware Certificate Authority (VMCA).

When you use external certificates during bring-up, they are not replaced by VMCA-signed certificates. Once you perform bring-up with external certificates for ESXi hosts, all future hosts added to VMware Cloud Foundation must also use external certificates.

Prerequisites

External CA-signed certificate and key are available.

Procedure

- 1 Log in to the ESXi Shell for the first host, either directly from the DCUI or from an SSH client, as a user with administrator privileges.
- 2 In the directory `/etc/vmware/ssl`, rename the existing certificates using the following commands:

```
mv rui.crt orig.rui.crt
```

```
mv rui.key orig.rui.key
```

- 3 Copy the external certificate and key that you want to use to `/etc/vmware/ssl`.
- 4 Rename the external certificate and key to `rui.crt` and `rui.key`.
- 5 Restart the host management agents by running the following commands:

```
/etc/init.d/hostd restart
```

```
/etc/init.d/vpxa restart
```

- 6 Repeat for all the ESXi hosts that you are adding to VMware Cloud Foundation.

What to do next

See [Deploy the Management Domain Using ESXi Hosts with External Certificates](#).

Deploy the Management Domain Using VMware Cloud Builder

The VMware Cloud Foundation deployment process is referred to as bring-up. You specify deployment information specific to your environment such as networks, hosts, license keys, and other information in the deployment parameter workbook and upload the file to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance to initiate bring-up. During bring-up, the management domain is created

on the ESXi hosts specified in the workbook. The VMware Cloud Foundation software components are automatically deployed, configured, and licensed using the information provided.

The following procedures describe how to perform bring-up of the management domain using the deployment parameter workbook. You can also perform bring-up using a custom JSON specification. See the [VMware Cloud Foundation API Reference Guide](#) for more information.

Some use cases are only available using a custom JSON specification. For example, using custom CA-signed certificates for ESXi hosts. See [Deploy the Management Domain Using ESXi Hosts with External Certificates](#).

Download and Complete the Deployment Parameter Workbook

The deployment parameter workbook provides a mechanism to specify infrastructure information specific to your environment. This includes information about your networks, hosts, license keys, and other information. The workbook is downloaded from the VMware Cloud Builder appliance and the completed workbook is uploaded back to the VM. The deployment parameter workbook can be reused to deploy multiple Cloud Foundation instances of the same version.

Procedure

- 1 In a web browser on the Windows machine that is connected to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance, navigate to `https://Cloud_Builder_VM_IP`.
- 2 Enter the admin credentials you provided when you deployed the VMware Cloud Builder appliance and then click **Log In**.
- 3 Read the End-User License Agreement and accept it. Click **Next**.
- 4 Select **VMware Cloud Foundation** on the Supported Platform page and click **Next**.
- 5 Review the prerequisites checklist and ensure the requirements are met before proceeding. If there are any gaps, ensure they are fixed before proceeding to avoid issues during the bring-up process.

Select the check box at the bottom of the page to acknowledge that your environment meets the listed requirements. You can download or print the prerequisite list as well.
- 6 Click **Next**.
- 7 In the Download Deployment Parameter Workbook section, click **Download**.
- 8 Complete the workbook. See [About the Deployment Parameter Workbook](#).

About the Deployment Parameter Workbook

The deployment parameter workbook contains tabs categorizing the information required for deploying VMware Cloud Foundation. The information provided is used to create the management domain.

The fields in yellow contain sample values that you should replace with the information for your environment. If a cell turns red, the required information is missing, or validation has failed.

Prerequisites Checklist Tab

This tab is a summary of infrastructure configuration requirements that need to be satisfied before deploying Cloud Foundation.

The VMware Cloud Builder runs a platform audit before starting deployment to check if the requirements listed on this tab are met. If the audit fails, you cannot proceed with the deployment.

For detailed planning guidance, see the *Planning and Preparation Workbook*.

Physical Network

- Top of Rack switches are configured. Each host and NIC in the management domain must have the same network configuration. No Ethernet link aggregation technology (LAG/VPC/LACP) is being used.
- IP ranges, subnet mask, and a reliable L3 (default) gateway for each VLAN.
- Jumbo Frames (MTU 9000) are recommended on all VLANs. At a minimum, an MTU of 1600 is required on the NSX-T Host Overlay (Host TEP) and NSX-T Edge Overlay (Edge TEP) VLANs end-to-end through your environment.
- VLANs for management, vMotion, vSAN, NSX-T Host Overlay (Host TEP), NSX-T Edge Overlay (Edge TEP), and NSX uplink networks are created and selectively tagged to host ports based on the vSphere Distributed Switch profile you select. Each VLAN is 802.1q tagged. NSX-T Host Overlay (Host TEP) VLAN and NSX-T Edge Overlay (Host TEP) VLAN are routed to each other.
- Management IP is VLAN-backed and configured on the hosts. vMotion and vSAN IP ranges are configured during the bring-up process.
- If using DHCP for NSX-T Host Overlay TEPs: DHCP with an appropriate scope size (one IP per physical NIC per host) is configured for the NSX Host Overlay (Host TEP) VLAN.
- If using a static IP pool for NSX-T Host Overlay TEPs: Make sure you have enough IP addresses available for the number of hosts that will use the static IP Pool. Each host requires an IP address for each physical NIC (pNIC) that is used for the vSphere Distributed Switch that handles host overlay traffic. For example, a host with four pNICs that uses two pNICs for host overlay traffic requires two IP addresses in the static IP pool.
- To use Application Virtual Networks (AVNs) for vRealize Suite components you also need:
 - Top of Rack (ToR) switches configured with the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP), including Autonomous System (AS) numbers and BGP neighbor passwords, and interfaces to connect with NSX-T Edge nodes.
 - Two VLANs configured and presented to all ESXi hosts to support the uplink configuration between the (ToR) switches and NSX-T Edge nodes for outbound communication.

Physical Hardware and ESXi Hosts

- All servers are vSAN-compliant and certified on the [VMware Compatibility Guide](#), including BIOS, HBA, SSD, HDD, and so on.

- Identical hardware (CPU, Memory, NICs, SSD/HDD, and so on) within the management cluster is highly recommended. Refer to vSAN documentation for minimum configuration.
- Hardware and firmware (including HBA and BIOS) is configured for vSAN.
- One physical NIC on each host is configured and connected to the vSphere Standard switch. The second physical NIC is not configured.
- Physical hardware health status is "healthy" without any errors.
- The ESXi version matches the build listed in the Cloud Foundation Bill of Materials (BOM). See the *VMware Cloud Foundation Release Notes* for the BOM.
- The default port group, VM Network, is configured with the same VLAN ID as the management network.
- A static IP address assigned to the management interface (vmk0) for each ESXi host.
- TSM-SSH service is running on each ESXi host with the policy configured to `Start and stop with host`.
- All hosts are configured and in synchronization with a central time server (NTP). NTP service policy set to `Start and stop with host`.
- Each ESXi host is running a non-expired license. The bring-up process will configure the permanent license.

If you used the VMware Imaging Appliance service to install ESXi on your hosts and you completed the [Post-Imaging Tasks](#), then your hosts are already configured properly and are ready for bring-up.

DNS Configuration

Host names for the following components must be resolvable for forward, reverse, short name, and long name resolution.

- ESXi hosts
- vCenter Server
- NSX-T Management cluster
- SDDC Manager
- NSX Edge VMs (if AVN is enabled)

Management Workloads Tab

This tab provides an overview of the components deployed by the VMware Cloud Builder appliance. The sizes and versions are not editable and are provided for reference only.

Input required:

- In column L, update the red fields with your license keys. Ensure the license key matches the product and version listed in each row. The license key audit during bring-up validates both the format of the key entered and the validity of the key.

During the bring-up process, you can provide the following license keys:

- ESXi
- vSAN
- vCenter Server
- NSX-T Data Center
- SDDC Manager

Note The ESXi license key is the only mandatory key that must be provided. If the other license keys are left blank, then VMware Cloud Builder applies a temporary OEM license for vSAN, vCenter Server, and NSX-T Data Center.

If you do not enter license keys for these products, you will not be able to create or expand VI workload domains.

Users and Groups Tab

This tab details the accounts and initial passwords for the VMware Cloud Foundation components. You must provide input for each yellow box. A red cell may indicate that validations on the password length has failed.

Input Required

Update the Default Password field for each user (including the automation user in the last row). Passwords can be different per user or common across multiple users. The tables below provide details on password requirements.

Table 2-1. Password Complexity

Password	Requirements
ESXi Host root account	This is the password which you configured on the hosts during ESXi installation.
Default Single-Sign on domain administrator user	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 8-20 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of upper-case and lower-case letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? Must not include * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; : . < >
vCenter Server virtual appliance root account	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 8-20 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of upper-case and lower-case letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; : . < >

Table 2-1. Password Complexity (continued)

Password	Requirements
NSX-T virtual appliance root account	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 12-127 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of uppercase and lowercase letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? ■ at least five different characters Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; . < >
NSX-T user interface and default CLI admin account	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 12-127 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of uppercase and lowercase letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? ■ at least five different characters Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; . < >
NSX-T audit CLI account	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 12-127 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of uppercase and lowercase letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? ■ at least five different characters Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; . < >
SDDC Manager	
SDDC Manager appliance root account	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 8-20 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of uppercase and lowercase letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; . < >
SDDC Manager super user	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 8-20 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of uppercase and lowercase letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; . < >

Table 2-1. Password Complexity (continued)

Password	Requirements
Local user	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 12-20 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of uppercase and lowercase letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; : . < >
SDDC Manager REST API user	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Length 8-20 characters Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mix of uppercase and lowercase letters ■ a number ■ a special character, such as @ ! # \$ % ^ or ? Must not include: * { } [] () / \ ' " ` ~ , ; : . < >

Hosts and Networks tab

In this tab, specify details of your existing networking infrastructure. This information is configured on the appropriate VMware Cloud Foundation components.

Management Domain Networks

This section covers the VLANs, gateways, MTU, and expected IP ranges and subnet mask for each network you have configured on the Top of Rack switches in your environment.

Table 2-2. Input Required

VLAN	Portgroup Name	CIDR Notation	Gateway	MTU
Enter VLAN ID for management network. The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094. Note Enter 0 if you imaged the servers with VIA. VLAN 0 means the management network is untagged.	Enter a portgroup name for the management network.	Enter CIDR notation for management network	Enter gateway IP for management network	Enter MTU for management network. The MTU can be between 1500 and 9000.
Enter VLAN ID for vMotion network The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094.	Enter a portgroup name for the vMotion network.	Enter CIDR notation for vMotion network	Enter gateway IP for vMotion network	Enter MTU for vMotion network The MTU can be between 1500 and 9000.
Enter VLAN ID for vSAN network The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094.	Enter a portgroup name for the vSAN network.	Enter CIDR notation for vSAN network	Enter gateway IP for vSAN network	Enter MTU for vSAN network The MTU can be between 1500 and 9000.

Table 2-2. Input Required (continued)

VLAN	Portgroup Name	CIDR Notation	Gateway	MTU
Enter VLAN ID for the first uplink. The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094.	Enter a portgroup name for the first uplink.	Enter CIDR notation for the first uplink	Enter gateway IP for the first uplink	Enter MTU for the first uplink The MTU can be between 1500 and 9000.
Enter VLAN ID for the second uplink. The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094.	Enter a portgroup name for the second uplink.	Enter CIDR notation for the second uplink	Enter gateway IP for the second uplink	Enter MTU for the second uplink The MTU can be between 1500 and 9000.
Enter VLAN ID for the NSX-T Edge overlay network The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094.	Enter a portgroup name for the NSX-T Edge overlay network.	Enter the CIDR notation for the NSX-T Edge overlay network	Enter the gateway IP for the NSX-T Edge overlay network	Enter the MTU for the NSX-T Edge overlay network. The MTU can be between 1600 and 9000.

NSX-T Host Overlay Network

By default, VMware Cloud Foundation uses DHCP for the management domain Host Overlay Network TEPs. For this option, a DHCP server must be configured on the NSX-T host overlay (Host TEP) VLAN of the management domain. When NSX creates TEPs for the VI workload domain, they are assigned IP addresses from the DHCP server.

Caution For L3 aware or stretch clusters, DHCP is required for Host Overlay Network TEP IP assignment.

For the management domain and VI workload domains with uniform L2 clusters, you can choose to use static IP addresses instead. Make sure the IP range includes enough IP addresses for the number of hosts that will use the static IP Pool. The number of IP addresses required depends on the number of pNICs on the ESXi hosts that are used for the vSphere Distributed Switch that handles host overlay networking. For example, a host with four pNICs that uses two pNICs for host overlay traffic requires two IP addresses in the static IP pool..

Caution If you use static IP addresses for the management domain Host Overlay Network TEPs, you cannot stretch clusters in the management domain or any VI workload domains.

Table 2-3. DHCP Settings

Parameter	Value
VLAN ID	Enter a VLAN ID for the NSX-T host overlay network. The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094.
Configure NSX-T Host Overlay Using a Static IP Pool	Select No to use DHCP.

Table 2-4. Static IP Pool Settings

Parameter	Value
VLAN ID	Enter a VLAN ID for the NSX-T host overlay network. The VLAN ID can be between 0 and 4094.
Configure NSX-T Host Overlay Using a Static IP Pool	Select Yes to use a static IP pool.
Pool Description	Enter a description for the static IP pool.
Pool Name	Enter a name for the static IP pool.
CIDR Notation	Enter CIDR notation for the NSX-T Host Overlay network.
Gateway	Enter the gateway IP address for the NSX-T Host Overlay network.
NSX-T Host Overlay Start IP	Enter the first IP address to include in the static IP pool.
NSX-T Host Overlay End IP	Enter the last IP address to include in the static IP pool.

Management Domain ESXi Hosts

Specify the IP addresses of the ESXi hosts for the management domain. In a standard deployment, only four hosts are required in the management domain. VMware Cloud Foundation can also be deployed with a consolidated architecture. In a consolidated deployment, all workloads are deployed in the management domain instead of to separate workload domains. As such, additional hosts may be required to provide the capacity needed. In this section, only enter values for the number of hosts desired in the management domain.

Table 2-5. Input Required

Host Name	IP Address
sfo01m01esx01	Enter IP address of first ESXi host where VMware Cloud Foundation is to be deployed.
sfo01m01esx02	Enter IP address of second ESXi host
sfo01m01esx03	Enter IP address of third ESXi host
sfo01m01esx04	Enter IP address of fourth ESXi host

Inclusion Ranges

Specify IP inclusion ranges for the vSAN and vMotion networks of the management domain. IP addresses from the specified range are automatically assigned to hosts. Ensure that the IP ranges include sufficient IP addresses for the initial deployment. The number of IP addresses must be at least equal to the number of hosts deployed as part of VMware Cloud Foundation.

As an example, if you specify the range start value as 192.168.1.1 and end as 192.168.1.20, a total of 20 IP addresses would be used.

Do not use special IP addresses, such as the network or broadcast address.

IPs for the vMotion range must be part of the VLAN configured with the vMotion portgroup. IPs for the vSAN range must be part of the VLAN configured for the vSAN portgroup. All IPs within the range must be available for use or IP conflicts will occur. It is a good practice to validate this prior to starting a deployment.

Table 2-6. Input Required

Network	Start IP	End IP
vMotion	Enter start of IP address range for vMotion network.	Enter end of IP address range.
VSAN	Enter start of IP address range for vMotion network.	Enter end of IP address range.

Security Thumbprints

If you want bring-up to validate the SSH fingerprint and SSL thumbprints of the ESXi hosts before connecting to them to reduce the chance of Man In The Middle (MiTM) attack, select **Yes** in the **Validate Thumbprints** field.

If you set **Validate Thumbprints** to **Yes**, follow the steps below.

- 1 Connect to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance using an SSH client such as Putty.
- 2 Enter the admin credentials you provided when you deployed the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.
- 3 Retrieve the SSH fingerprint by entering the following command replacing *hostname* with the FQDN of your host:

```
ssh-keygen -lf <(ssh-keyscan hostname 2>/dev/null)
```

- 4 Retrieve the SSL thumbprint by entering the following command replacing *hostname* with the FQDN of your host:

```
openssl s_client -connect hostname:443 < /dev/null 2> /dev/null | openssl x509 -sha256 -fingerprint -noout -in /dev/stdin
```

- 5 Repeat for each ESXi host and then enter the information in the deployment parameter workbook.

Virtual Networking

The deployment parameter workbook provides three vSphere Distributed Switch profiles that allow you to perform bring-up of hosts with two or four pNICs and to create up to two vSphere Distributed Switches for isolating VMkernel traffic. The information that you are required to provide depends on the profile that you select.

Note You can use the VMware Cloud Foundation API to perform bring-up with other combinations of vSphere Distributed Switches and pNICs that are not available using the vSphere Distributed Switch profiles.

vSphere Distributed Switch Profile	Description
Profile 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ One vSphere Distributed Switch (vDS): Traffic for Management, vMotion, vSAN, Host Overlay, Edge Overlay, and Uplink networks using specified pNICs. ■ Two or four physical NICs (pNICs)
Profile 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two vSphere Distributed Switches (vDS) ■ Four physical NICs (pNICs) ■ Primary vDS: Traffic for Management, vMotion, and vSAN networks using specified pNICs. ■ Secondary vDS: Traffic for Host Overlay, Edge Overlay, and Uplink networks using specified pNICs.
Profile 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two vSphere Distributed Switches (vDS) ■ Four physical NICs (pNICs) ■ Primary vDS: Traffic for Management, vMotion, Host Overlay, Edge Overlay, and Uplink networks using specified pNICs. ■ Secondary vDS: Traffic for vSAN network using specified pNICs.

After you select a vSphere Distributed Switch Profile, enter the required information for that profile.

vSphere Standard Switch Name	Enter a name for the vSphere Standard Switch.
Primary vSphere Distributed Switch - Name	Enter a name for the primary vSphere Distributed Switch (vDS). You can modify the portgroup names of the management domain networks to make it clear which vDS each network uses.
Primary vSphere Distributed Switch - pNICs	Select the physical NICs to assign to the primary vDS.
Primary vSphere Distributed Switch - MTU Size	Enter the MTU size for the primary vDS. Default value is 9000.
Secondary vSphere Distributed Switch - Name	Enter a name for the secondary vSphere Distributed Switch (vDS). You can modify the portgroup names of the management domain networks to make it clear which vDS each network uses. Note If you are not creating a secondary vDS, enter n/a .
Secondary vSphere Distributed Switch - pNICs	Select the physical NICs to assign to the secondary vDS.
Secondary vSphere Distributed Switch - MTU Size	Enter the MTU size for the secondary vDS. Default value is 9000.

Deploy Parameters Tab: Existing Infrastructure Details

Your existing DNS infrastructure is used to provide forward and reverse name resolution for all hosts and VMs in the VMware Cloud Foundation SDDC. External NTP sources are also utilized to synchronize the time between the software components.

Table 2-7. Infrastructure

Parameter	Value
DNS Server #1	Enter IP address of first DNS server.
DNS Server #2	Enter IP address of second DNS server. If you have only one DNS server, enter n/a in this cell.
NTP Server #1	Enter IP address or FQDN of first NTP server.
NTP Server #2	Enter IP address or FQDN of second NTP server. If you have only one NTP server, enter n/a in this cell.

Table 2-8. DNS Zone

Parameter	Value
DNS Zone Name	Enter root domain name for your SDDC management components.

Table 2-9. Customer Experience Improvement Program

Parameter	Value
Enable Customer Experience Improvement Program ("CEIP")	Select an option to turn on or off CEIP across vSphere, NSX-T, and vSAN during bring-up.

Deploy Parameters Tab: vSphere Infrastructure

Specify details for the vSphere infrastructure.

This section of the deployment parameter workbook contains sample host names, but you can update them with names that meet your naming standards. This host name is one part of the FQDN - the second part of the FQDN is the root or child DNS zone name provided above.

The specified host names and IP addresses must be resolvable using the DNS servers provided earlier, both forward (hostname to IP) and reverse (IP to hostname), otherwise the bring-up process will fail.

Table 2-10. Management Cluster

Parameter	Host Name	IP Address																								
vCenter Server	Enter a host name for the vCenter Server.	Enter the IP address for the vCenter Server that is part of the management VLAN. This is the same VLAN and IP address space where the ESXi management VMKernels reside.																								
vCenter Server Appliance Size (Default Small)	<p>This parameter defines the size of the vCenter Server to be deployed. Default size is Small. Additional options are: Tiny, Medium, Large, and X-large.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Tiny deploys an appliance with 2 vCPUs and 12 GB of memory. Suitable for environments with up to 10 hosts or 100 virtual machines.■ Small deploys an appliance with 4 CPUs and 19 GB of memory. Suitable for environments with up to 100 hosts or 1,000 virtual machines.■ Medium deploys an appliance with 8 CPUs and 28 GB of memory. Suitable for environments with up to 400 hosts or 4,000 virtual machines.■ Large deploys an appliance with 16 CPUs and 37 GB of memory. Suitable for environments with up to 1,000 hosts or 10,000 virtual machines.■ X-Large deploys an appliance with 24 CPUs and 56 GB of memory. Suitable for environments with up to 2,000 hosts or 35,000 virtual machines.																									
vCenter Server Appliance Storage Size	<p>The amount of storage depends on the vCenter Server appliance size.</p> <table><tr><td>Storage Size Option</td><td>Tiny</td><td>Small</td><td>Medium</td><td>Large</td><td>X-Large</td></tr><tr><td>Default</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 315 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 380 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 600 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 965 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 1705 GB of storage.</td></tr><tr><td>Large</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 1390 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 1435 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 1600 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 1665 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 1805 GB of storage.</td></tr><tr><td>X-Large</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 3145 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 3195GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 3360 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 3425 GB of storage.</td><td>Deploys an appliance with 3565 GB of storage.</td></tr></table>		Storage Size Option	Tiny	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Default	Deploys an appliance with 315 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 380 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 600 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 965 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1705 GB of storage.	Large	Deploys an appliance with 1390 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1435 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1600 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1665 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1805 GB of storage.	X-Large	Deploys an appliance with 3145 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3195GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3360 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3425 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3565 GB of storage.
Storage Size Option	Tiny	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large																					
Default	Deploys an appliance with 315 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 380 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 600 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 965 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1705 GB of storage.																					
Large	Deploys an appliance with 1390 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1435 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1600 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1665 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 1805 GB of storage.																					
X-Large	Deploys an appliance with 3145 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3195GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3360 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3425 GB of storage.	Deploys an appliance with 3565 GB of storage.																					

Table 2-11. vCenter Datacenter and Cluster

Parameter	Value
Datacenter Name	Enter a name for the management datacenter.
Cluster Name	Enter a name for the management cluster.
Cluster EVC Setting	To enable EVC on the management cluster, select the CPU chipset that should be applied to enhance vMotion compatibility.

Select the architecture model you plan to use. If you choose **Consolidated**, specify the names for the vSphere resource pools. You do not need to specify resource pool names if you are using the standard architecture model. See *Introducing VMware Cloud Foundation* for more information about these architecture models.

Table 2-12. vSphere Resource Pools

Parameter	Value
Resource Pool SDDC Management	Specify the vSphere resource pool name for management VMs.
Resource Pool SDDC Edge	Specify the vSphere resource pool name for NSX-T VMs.
Resource Pool User Edge	Specify the vSphere resource pool name for user deployed NSX-T VMs in a consolidated architecture.
Resource Pool User VM	Specify the vSphere resource pool name for user deployed workload VMs in a consolidated architecture.

Table 2-13. vSphere Datastore

Parameter	Value
vSAN Datastore Name	Enter vSAN datastore name for your management components.
Enable vSAN Deduplication and Compression	Select Yes to turn on Dedupe and Compression capabilities of vSAN.

Table 2-14. Existing Single Sign-On Domain Configuration Details

Parameter	Value
Join Existing Single-Sign-On Domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Select No if you are deploying the first Cloud Foundation instance. ■ Select Yes if you are deploying the second Cloud Foundation instance. Then complete the remaining values in this section.
vCenter Server IP Address	Enter the IP address of the vCenter Server of the first instance.

Table 2-14. Existing Single Sign-On Domain Configuration Details (continued)

Parameter	Value
vCenter Server SSO Username	Enter the user name for the vCenter Server of the first instance.
vCenter Server SSO Password	Enter the password for the vCenter Server of the first instance.

Deploy Parameters Tab: NSX-T Data Center

Enter IP addresses and host names for NSX-T installation.

Table 2-15. NSX-T Management Cluster

Parameter	Value
NSX-T Management Cluster VIP	Enter the host name and IP address for the NSX Manager VIP. The host name can match your naming standards but must be registered in DNS with both forward and reverse resolution matching the specified IP. The IP address must be part of the management VLAN. This is the same VLAN and IP address space where the vCenter and ESXi management VMKernels reside.
NSX-T Virtual Appliance Node #1	Enter the host name and IP address for the first node in the NSX Manager cluster.
NSX-T Virtual Appliance Node #2	Enter the host name and IP address for the second node in the NSX Manager cluster.
NSX-T Virtual Appliance Node #3	Enter the host name and IP address for the third node in the NSX Manager cluster.
NSX-T Virtual Appliance Size	Select the size for the NSX Manager virtual appliances. The default is medium.

Application Virtual Networking

Application virtual networks (AVNs) are virtual networks, backed by overlay segments using the encapsulation protocol of NSX-T, that use a single IP network address space to span across data centers. By default, VMware Cloud Foundation deploys and configures AVNs during bring-up. If you do not want to deploy and configure AVNs, select **No** from the drop-down menu. Deselect AVNs if you want to deploy vRealize Suite components to VLAN-backed networks.

A two-node NSX-T Edge cluster routes traffic between the AVNs and the public network. Routing to the management network and external networks is dynamic and based on the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP).

Table 2-16. NSX-T Edge Nodes with ECMP

Parameter	Value
NSX-T Edge Cluster Name	Enter a name for the Edge cluster.
NSX-T Edge Nodes Autonomous System ID	Enter the AS ID of the Edge nodes to peer with ToR switches.
NSX-T Edge Node Appliance Size	The default size is medium.

Table 2-17. North-South Routing Edge Node 1

Parameter	Value
Edge Name Node 1	Enter a name for the first Edge node. The Edge node name must match the short hostname reserved for the VM. Combined with the DNS Zone Name this should match the FQDN reserved for the VM in the DNS server.
Edge Management IP Address Node 1	Enter a management IP address for the first node. The IP address must be part of the management VLAN.
Edge Uplink 1 IP Address Node 1	Enter the first uplink IP address to use for Node 1. This is the IP address connected to the first ToR switch. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Uplink 1 VLAN.
Edge Uplink 2 IP Address Node 1	Enter the second uplink IP address to use for Node 1. This is the IP address connected to the second ToR switch. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Uplink 2 VLAN.
Edge Overlay IP Address #01 Node 1	Enter the first Edge overlay IP address to use for Node 1. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Overlay VLAN.
Edge Overlay IP Address #02 Node 1	Enter the second Edge overlay IP address to use for Node 1. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Overlay VLAN.

Table 2-18. North-South Routing Edge Node 2

Parameter	Value
Edge Name Node 2	Enter a name for the second Edge node. The Edge node name must match the short hostname reserved for the VM. Combined with the DNS Zone Name this should match the FQDN reserved for the VM in the DNS server.
Edge Management IP Address Node 2	Enter a management IP address for the second node. The IP address must be part of the management VLAN.
Edge Uplink 1 IP Address Node 2	Enter the first uplink IP address to use Node 2. This is the IP address connected to the first ToR switch. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Uplink 1 VLAN.
Edge Uplink 2 IP Address Node 2	Enter the second uplink IP address to use for Node 2. This is the IP address connected to the second ToR switch. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Uplink 2 VLAN.

Table 2-18. North-South Routing Edge Node 2 (continued)

Parameter	Value
Edge Overlay IP Address #01 Node 2	Enter the first Edge overlay IP address to use for Node 2. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Overlay VLAN.
Edge Overlay IP Address #02 Node 2	Enter the first Edge overlay IP address to use for Node 2. The IP address must be part of the NSX-T Edge Overlay VLAN.

Prepare your top of rack (ToR) switches by configuring Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) on the switches, defining the Autonomous System (AS) number, BGP password, Router ID, and creating interfaces to connect with Edge nodes.

Table 2-19. Top of Rack Switches for BGP Peering

Parameter	Value
Top of Rack 1 - IP Address	Enter the IP address of the first ToR switch.
Top of Rack 1 - Autonomous System ID	Enter the AS ID for the first switch.
Top of Rack 1 - BGP Neighbor Password	Enter the BGP neighbor password for the first switch.
Top of Rack 2 - IP Address	Enter the IP address of the second ToR switch.
Top of Rack 2 - Autonomous System ID	Enter the AS ID for the second switch. This should match the AS ID for the first switch.
Top of Rack 2 - BGP Neighbor Password	Enter the BGP neighbor password for the second switch.

Prepare your top of rack (ToR) switches to announce the subnets configured on the logical segments over BGP to make the segments routable in the data center.

Table 2-20. Application Virtual Networks

Parameter	Value
Region A - Logical Segment	Enter a name to use for the Region A logical segment.
Region A - Networks	Enter the gateway IP and CIDR notation to use for the Region A network.
xRegion - Logical Segment	Enter a name to use for the xRegion logical segment.
xRegion - Networks	Enter the gateway IP and CIDR notation to use for the xRegion network.

The following example shows how the NSX-T Data Center parameters (with AVNs) that you specify in the deployment parameter workbook map to the network topology in NSX Manager.

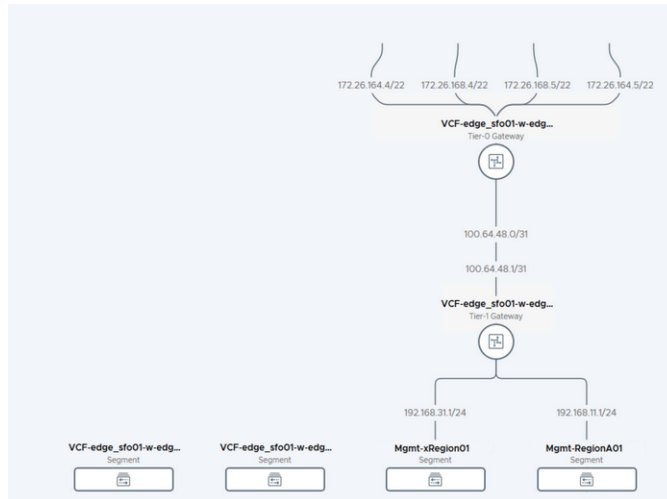
Figure 2-1. NSX-T Data Center Deployment Parameters

NSX-T Data Center on vSphere		NSX-T Management Cluster		Do you want to deploy and configure Application Virtual Networks? Yes	
<input type="checkbox"/> NSX-T Nodes - Resolvable in DNS		Hostname	IP Address		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSX-T Nodes - Hostnames and Static IPs Defined		nsx-mgmt	172.17.2.10.30		
		nsx-edge-1	172.17.2.10.31		
		nsx-edge-2	172.17.2.10.32		
		nsx-edge-3	172.17.2.10.33		
		NSX-T Virtual Appliance Size (Default Medium)	medium		

Application Virtual Networks - Used to Deploy Solutions on VMware Cloud Foundation		Top of Rack Switches for BGP Peering	
NSX-T Edge Cluster Name	sf001-w-edge-cluster01	Value	
NSX-T Edge Nodes Autonomous System ID	65003	Top of Rack 1 - IP Address	172.26.164.251
NSX-T Edge Node Appearance Size (Default Medium)	medium	Top of Rack 1 - Autonomous System ID	65001
North-South Routing Edge Node 1		Top of Rack 1 - BGP Neighbor Password	VMwareF
Edge Name Node 1	nsx-edge-node-1	Top of Rack 2 - IP Address	172.26.168.251
Edge Management IP Address Node 1	172.17.2.10.50	Top of Rack 2 - Autonomous System ID	65001
Edge Uplink 1 IP Address Node 1	172.26.164.4	Top of Rack 2 - BGP Neighbor Password	VMwareF
Edge Overlay IP Address #01 Node 1	172.26.160.12		
North-South Routing Edge Node 2			
Edge Name Node 2	nsx-edge-node-2		
Edge Management IP Address Node 2	172.17.2.10.51		
Edge Uplink 2 IP Address Node 2	172.26.164.5		
Edge Overlay IP Address #01 Node 2	172.26.160.14		
Edge Overlay IP Address #02 Node 2	172.26.160.15		

Application Virtual Networks		Gateway	CIDR Notation
Region Specific Application Virtual Nets			
Region A - Logical Segment	Mgmt-RegionA01		
Region A - Network	192.168.11.1	192.168.11.0/24	
Cross Region Specific Application Virtual			
iRegion - Logical Segment	Mgmt-iRegion01		
iRegion - Network	192.168.31.1	192.168.31.0/24	

Figure 2-2. Post-Deployment Network Topology Viewed in NSX Manager



Deploy Parameters Tab: SDDC Manager

Enter the host name, IP address, and subnet mask of the SDDC Manager VM.

Table 2-21. SDDC Manager

Parameter	Value
SDDC Manager Host name	Enter a host name for the SDDC Manager VM. The specified host name must be registered with your DNS server for both forward and reverse resolution, and it must be resolvable from the VMware Cloud Builder.
SDDC Manager IP Address	Enter an IP address for the SDDC Manager VM. The IP address must be registered with your DNS server for both forward and reverse resolution, and must be part of the management VLAN.
Network Pool Name	Enter the network pool name for the management domain network pool.
Cloud Foundation Management Domain Name	Enter a name for the management domain. This name will appear in Inventory > Workload Domains in the SDDC Manager UI.

Upload the Deployment Parameter Workbook and Deploy the Management Domain

You upload the completed deployment parameter workbook to complete bring-up.

Procedure

- 1 In the Download Deployment Parameter Workbook section, click **Next**.
- 2 In the Complete Deployment Parameter Workbook section, click **Next**.
- 3 In the Upload File section, click **Select File**. Select the completed deployment parameter workbook and click **Open**.
- 4 After the file is uploaded, click **Next** to begin validation of the uploaded file. You can download or print the validation list.

To access the bring-up log file, SSH to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance as root and open the `/opt/vmware/bringup/logs/vcf-bringup-debug.log` file.

If there is an error during the validation and the Next button is grayed out, you can either make corrections to the environment or edit the JSON file and upload it again. Then click **Re-Try** to perform the validation again.

If any warnings are displayed and you want to proceed, click **Acknowledge** and then click **Next**.

- 5 Click **Deploy SDDC**.

During the bring-up process, the following tasks are completed.

- vCenter Server, vSAN, and NSX-T components are deployed.
- The management domain is created, which contains the management components - SDDC Manager, vCenter Server, and NSX-T components.

The status of the bring-up tasks is displayed in the UI.

After bring-up is completed, a green bar is displayed indicating that bring-up was successful. A link to the SDDC Manager UI is also displayed.

If there are errors during bring-up, see [Chapter 3 Troubleshooting VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment](#) for guidance on how to proceed.

- 6 Click **Download** to download a detailed deployment report. This report includes information on assigned IP addresses and networks that were configured in your environment.
- 7 After bring-up is completed, click **Finish**.
- 8 In the SDDC Deployment Completed dialog box, click **Launch SDDC Manager**.
- 9 Verify the following:
 - View management domain details.
 - Log in to vCenter Server and verify the management cluster, vSAN cluster, and deployed VMs.

10 Power off the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.

The VMware Cloud Builder appliance includes the VMware Imaging Appliance service, which you can use to install ESXi on additional servers after bring-up is complete. You can delete the VMware Cloud Builder appliance to reclaim its resources or keep it available for future server imaging.

Caution Do not modify or delete any vDS or port groups, or modify the default configuration.

Deploy the Management Domain Using ESXi Hosts with External Certificates

VMware Cloud Foundation supports vCenter Server's Custom Certificate Authority mode during bring-up using the VMware Cloud Foundation API. Use this mode if you want to use only external certificates that are signed by a third-party or enterprise CA. In this mode, you are responsible for managing the certificates. You cannot refresh and renew external certificates from the SDDC Manager or vSphere Client.

To use external ESXi certificates, you must create a custom JSON file for bring-up. You cannot use the deployment parameter workbook.

Deploying the management domain with external ESXi certificates enables Custom Certificate Authority mode, so all future hosts that you add to a workload domain (management or VI) must also use external ESXi certificates.

Prerequisites

See [Configure ESXi Hosts with Signed Certificates](#).

Procedure

- 1 Create a JSON file populated with the bring-up information for your environment.

You can see a sample JSON specification in the [VMware Cloud Foundation API Reference Guide](#).

- 2 Update the `securitySpec` section, choosing **Custom** for the `esxiCertsMode` and entering your signing CA chain for `certChain`.

For example:

```
"securitySpec" : {
  "esxiCertsMode" : "Custom",
  "rootCaCerts" : [ {
    "alias" : "Rainpole-CA",
    "certChain" : [ "-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDczCCAlugAwIBAgIQI9xwbTkI9J5GhMffcP5CHDANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsFADBM
MRIwEAYKCZImizPyLGQBGRYCaW8xGDAWBgoJkiaJk/IsZAEZFgghyYWlucG9sZTEc
MBoGA1UEAxMTcmFpbmBvbGUTZGMwMXJwbC1DQTAeFw0yMDAzMzAxNDQ2MTNaFw0y
NTAzMzAxNDU2MTNANEwxEjAQBgoJkiaJk/IsZAEZFgJpbzEYMBYGCgMSJomT8ixk
ARkWCHJhaW5wb2x1MRwwGgYDVQQDExNyYWlucG9sZS1kYzAxcnBsLUNBMIIBIjAN
BgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEApwkz7aPlQcfevcCelHc9DPswHkd
```

```

kjY96Vh3GvYlesavEcy/q/B0vvh3KgLMly8r7cy2cNPO3FANKOfqVdVx3ghfEUyL
g6lW9BskAlwryzJRMjhOJJVqvB8CWjy+eCp7MejHGdEud6WdEvK8CaBcPngEg0KM
eLRNLGe8OCw8yY4GTrjU+H7PYQZtyD0kxxy5f48ueaDXat4ENRGcAuHEfCoMGfaR
bDue1004diHd900bCym5ggBNX0jhRudNULXPTayZl2ksImV0+QkaVeptQImXfCgb
kgnHQJ5CxK26up7fB5eAsmGLAsJLbNhuM7P9xvV09EvWjFCgIX/oBBDYTQIDAQAB
o1EwTzALBgNVHQ8EBAMCAYYwDwYDVR0TAQH/BAUwAwEB/zAdBgNVHQ4EFgQU7oOq
QBK8yg8mHnAfb+u6/GO0ZUcwEAYJKwYBBAGCNxUBBAMCAQAwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEL
BQADggEBALYxZGj4vWjFDNlatOUsBx2jrmxbExgMAyRpNlSc2aj+7vzxHxUW5VbX
x9nc/BfkTiCK6c7Y9VYb+mgjb8z0kNv58st4arlyI1ln63VOCoyyLcaFB8HyEJpD
wUhZ4RNPoSijZMpm+M5EuSLfWlhEJo7N8sLqHgvvkldFpbK8fIHbPS5KJwJibbPe
w9UuNRdcxN9hFWKBC0SvfgX+1CJxVdvghi65rSHPuWinJzrXXdh999DfpDESrzwH
0pqE3GtMct1Ngalp2QJFdahbT+kxj7QWHTjUylSENDHjdln7a8WH8RGxvEy/97YZ
+crXmxvQ/bAgHk9vcRERbRjfyIs7v88=
-----END CERTIFICATE-----" ] } ] }

```

- 3 Follow the steps outlined in the VMware Cloud Foundation API Reference Guide to [deploy the management domain](#).

Troubleshooting VMware Cloud Foundation Deployment

3

You can run the Supportability and Serviceability (SoS) Utility and review bring-up log files to troubleshoot deployment issues.

This chapter includes the following topics:

- [Using the SoS Utility on VMware Cloud Builder](#)
- [VMware Cloud Builder Log Files](#)

Using the SoS Utility on VMware Cloud Builder

You can run the Supportability and Serviceability (SoS) Utility on the VMware Cloud Builder appliance to generate a support bundle, which you can use to help debug a failed bring-up of VMware Cloud Foundation.

Note After a successful bring-up, you should only run the SoS Utility on the SDDC Manager VM. See [Supportability and Serviceability \(SoS\) Tool](#) in the *VMware Cloud Foundation Operations and Administration Guide*.

The SoS Utility is not a debug tool, but it does provide health check operations that can facilitate debugging a failed deployment.

To run the SoS Utility in VMware Cloud Builder, SSH in to the VMware Cloud Builder appliance using the **admin** administrative account, then enter **su** to switch to the root user, and navigate to the `/opt/vmware/sddc-support` directory and type `./sos` followed by the options required for your desired operation.

```
./sos --option-1 --option-2 ... --option-n
```

SoS Utility Help Options

Use these options to see information about the SoS tool itself.

Option	Description
--help -h	Provides a summary of the available SoS tool options
--version -v	Provides the SoS tool's version number.

SoS Utility Generic Options

These are generic options for the SoS Utility.

Option	Description
--configure-sftp	Configures SFTP for logs.
--debug-mode	Runs the SoS tool in debug mode.
--force	Allows SoS operations from the VMware Cloud Builder appliance after bring-up. Note In most cases, you should not use this option. Once bring-up is complete, you can run the SoS Utility directly from the SDDC Manager VM.
--history	Displays the last twenty SoS operations performed.
--log-dir <i>LOGDIR</i>	Specifies the directory to store the logs.
--log-folder <i>LOGFOLDER</i>	Specifies the name of the log directory.
--setup-json <i>SETUP_JSON</i>	Custom setup-json file for log collection. SoS prepares the inventory automatically based on the environment where it is running. If you want to collect logs for a pre-defined set of components, you can create a <code>setup.json</code> file and pass the file as input to SoS. A sample JSON file is available on the VMware Cloud Builder in the <code>/opt/vmware/sddc-support/</code> directory.
--skip-known-host-check	Skips the specified check for SSL thumbprint for host in the known host.
--zip	Creates a zipped tar file for the output.

SoS Utility Log File Options

Option	Description
--api-logs	Collects output from APIs.
--cloud-builder-logs	Collects Cloud Builder logs.
--esx-logs	Collects logs from the ESXi hosts only. Logs are collected from each ESXi host available in the deployment.

Option	Description
<code>--no-clean-old-logs</code>	Use this option to prevent the tool from removing any output from a previous collection run. By default, before writing the output to the directory, the tool deletes the prior run's output files that might be present. If you want to retain the older output files, specify this option.
<code>--no-health-check</code>	Skips the health check executed as part of log collection.
<code>--nsx-logs</code>	Collects logs from the NSX Manager instances only.
<code>--rvc-logs</code>	Collects logs from the Ruby vSphere Console (RVC) only. RVC is an interface for ESXi and vCenter. Note If the Bash shell is not enabled in vCenter, RVC log collection will be skipped . Note RVC logs are not collected by default with <code>./sos log collection</code> .
<code>--sddc-manager-logs</code>	Collects logs from the SDDC Manager only.
<code>--test</code>	Collects test logs by verifying the files.
<code>--vc-logs</code>	Collects logs from the vCenter Server instances only. Logs are collected from each vCenter server available in the deployment.
<code>--vm-screenshots</code>	Collects screen shots from all VMs.

SoS Utility JSON Generator Options

The JSON generator options within the SoS Utility provide a method to execute the creation of the JSON file from a completed deployment parameter workbook. To run the JSON generator, you must provide, as a minimum, a path to the deployment parameter workbook and the design type using the following syntax:

```
./sos --jsongenerator --jsongenerator-input JSONGENERATORINPUT --jsongenerator JSONGENERATORDESIGN
```

Option	Description
<code>--jsongenerator</code>	Invokes the JSON generator utility.
<code>--jsongenerator-input</code> <i>JSONGENERATORINPUT</i>	Specify the path to the input file to be used by the JSON generator utility. For example: <code>/tmp/vcf-ems-deployment-parameter.xlsx</code> .
<code>--jsongenerator-design</code> <i>JSONGENERATORDESIGN</i>	Use vcf-public-ems for VMware Cloud Foundation.
<code>--jsongenerator-supress</code>	Supress confirmation to force cleanup directory. (optional)
<code>--jsongenerator-logs</code> <i>JSONGENERATORLOGS</i>	Set the directory to be used for logs. (optional)

SoS Utility Platform Audit Options

The Platform Audit options provide a method to execute validation tasks from the command line and offer the flexibility to validate individual tasks, or all tasks at once. Validating individual tasks helps accelerate the troubleshooting process, since you can validate that task repeatedly until it succeeds.

To run a platform audit, you must provide, as a minimum, a path to the JSON input file:

```
./sos --platformaudit --platformaudit-input FILE
```

Note The platform audit capabilities of the SoS Utility have been deprecated and will be removed in the next release of VMware Cloud Foundation. All functionality has been ported over to the new bring-up validation service. When you initiate validation through the VMware Cloud Builder administration interface, the bring-up validation service performs the validation tasks. All logging is directed to the `vcf-bringup.log` and `vcf-debug-bringup.log` files. You can use the SoS Utility platform audit options in this release, but this method may not contain enhancements to validation tasks that are available through the bring-up validation service.

Option	Description
<code>--platformaudit</code>	Invokes the platform audit operation.
<code>--platformaudit-dependency</code>	Executes audit tests with dependencies.
<code>--platformaudit-input FILE</code>	Specify the path to the JSON input file to be used by the platform audit utility.
<code>--platformaudit-stop</code>	Stops all running platform audit processes.
<code>--platformaudit-modules MODULE1,MODULE2,MODULE3</code>	Specify the specific audit tests to run. If specifying multiple tests, separate the modules with commas.
<code>--platformaudit-output OUTPUT</code>	Saves the output to the specified file.
<code>--platformaudit-reason</code>	Outputs reasons for failed or skipped tests.
<code>--platformaudit-tree</code>	Displays a list of available audit tests.

SoS Utility Health Check Options

The SoS Utility can be used to perform health checks on various components or services, including connectivity, compute, and storage.

Note The health check options are primarily designed to run on the SDDC Manager VM. Running them on the VMware Cloud Builder appliance requires the `--force` parameter, which instructs the SoS Utility to identify the SDDC Manager VM deployed by VMware Cloud Builder during the bring-up process, and then execute the health check remotely. For example:

```
./sos --health-check --force
```


Option	Description
--certificate-health	Verifies that the component certificates are valid (within the expiry date).
--connectivity-health	Performs a connectivity health check to inspect whether the different components of the system such as the ESXi hosts, vCenter Servers, NSX Manager VMs, and SDDC Manager VM can be pinged.
--compute-health	Performs a compute health check.
--general-health	Verifies ESXi entries across all sources, checks the Postgres DB operational status for hosts, checks ESXi for error dumps, and gets NSX Manager and cluster status.
--get-host-ips	Returns server information.
--health-check	Performs all available health checks.
--ntp-health	Verifies whether the time on the components is synchronized with the NTP server in the VMware Cloud Builder appliance.
--services-health	Performs a services health check to confirm whether services are running
--run-vsan-checks	Runs proactive vSAN tests to verify the ability to create VMs within the vSAN disks.

Sample Output

The following text is a sample output from an `--ntp-health` operation.

```
root@cloud-builder [ /opt/vmware/sddc-support ]# ./sos --ntp-health --skip-known-host --force
Welcome to Supportability and Serviceability(SoS) utility!
```

```
User passed --force flag, Running SOS from Cloud Builder VM, although Bringup is completed
and SDDC Manager is available. Please expect failures with SoS operations.
Health Check : /var/log/vmware/vcf/sddc-support/healthcheck-2020-02-11-23-03-53-24681
Health Check log : /var/log/vmware/vcf/sddc-support/healthcheck-2020-02-11-23-03-53-24681/
sos.log
SDDC Manager : sddc-manager.vrack.vsphere.local
NTP : GREEN
```

SL#	Area	Title	State
1	ESXi : esxi-1.vrack.vsphere.local	ESX Time	GREEN
2	ESXi : esxi-2.vrack.vsphere.local	ESX Time	GREEN
3	ESXi : esxi-3.vrack.vsphere.local	ESX Time	GREEN
4	ESXi : esxi-4.vrack.vsphere.local	ESX Time	GREEN
5	vCenter : vcenter-1.vrack.vsphere.local	NTP Status	GREEN

Legend:

```
GREEN - No attention required, health status is NORMAL
YELLOW - May require attention, health status is WARNING
RED - Requires immediate attention, health status is CRITICAL
```

```
Health Check completed successfully for : [NTP-CHECK]
```

The following text is sample output from a `--vm-screenshots` log collection operation.

```
root@cloud-builder [ /opt/vmware/sddc-support ]# ./sos --vm-screenshots
--skip-known-host --force
Welcome to Supportability and Serviceability(SoS) utility!

User passed --force flag, Running SOS from Cloud Builder VM, although Bringup is completed
and SDDC Manager is available. Please expect failures with SoS operations.
Logs : /var/log/vmware/vcf/sddc-support/sos-2018-08-24-10-50-20-8013
Log file : /var/log/vmware/vcf/sddc-support/sos-2018-08-24-10-50-20-8013/sos.log
Log Collection completed successfully for : [VMS_SCREENSHOT]
```

VMware Cloud Builder Log Files

VMware Cloud Builder has a number of components which are used during the bring-up process and each component generates a log file which can be used for the purpose of troubleshooting.

The components and their purpose are:

- **JsonGenerator:** Used to convert the deployment parameter workbook into the required configuration file (JSON) that is used by the Bringup Validation Service and Bringup Service.
- **Bringup Service:** Used to perform the validation of the configuration file (JSON), the ESXi hosts and infrastructure where VMware Cloud Foundation will be deployed, and to perform the deployment and configuration of the management domain components and the first cluster.
- **Supportability and Serviceability (SoS) Utility:** A command line utility for troubleshooting deployment issues.

The following table describes the log file locations:

Component	Log Name	Location
JsonGenerator	<i>jsongenerator-timestamp</i>	<i>/var/log/vmware/vcf/sddc-support/</i>
Bringup Service	<i>vcf-bringup.log</i>	<i>/var/log/vmware/vcf/bringup/</i>
	<i>vcf-bringup-debug.log</i>	<i>/var/log/vmware/vcf/bringup/</i>
	<i>rest-api-debug.log</i>	<i>/var/log/vmware/vcf/bringup/</i>
SoS Utility	<i>sos.log</i>	<i>/var/log/vmware/vcf/sddc-support/</i> <i>sos-timestamp/</i>

VMware Cloud Foundation Glossary

4

Term	Description
availability zone	Collection of infrastructure components. Each availability zone is isolated from other availability zones to prevent the propagation of failure or outage across the data center.
Application virtual networks (AVNs)	Virtual networks backed by overlay segments using the encapsulation protocol of NSX-T. Virtual Networks use a single IP network address space, to span across data centers.
bring-up	Initial configuration of a newly deployed VMware Cloud Foundation system. During the bring-up process, the management domain is created and the VMware Cloud Foundation software stack is deployed on the management domain.
cluster image	Precise description of the software, components, vendor add-ons, and firmware to run on a host. With this new functionality, you set up a single image and apply it to all hosts in a cluster, thus ensuring cluster-wide host image homogeneity.
commission host	Adding a host to VMware Cloud Foundation inventory. The host remains in the free pool until it is assigned to a workload domain.
composability	Ability to dynamically configure servers to meet the needs of your workloads without physically moving any hardware components. You bind disaggregated hardware components (compute, network, storage, and offload components) together to create a logical system based on the needs of your applications.
dirty host	A host that has been removed from a cluster in a workload domain. A dirty host cannot be assigned to another workload domain until it is decommissioned, reimaged, and commissioned again.
decommission host	Remove an unassigned host from the VMware Cloud Foundation inventory. SDDC Manager does not manage decommissioned hosts.
Edge cluster	A logical grouping of NSX-T Data Center Edge nodes. These nodes run on a vSphere cluster, and provide north-south routing and network services for the management and VI workload domains.
free pool	Hosts in the VMware Cloud Foundation inventory that are not assigned to a workload domain
host	An imaged server.
inventory	Logical and physical entities managed by VMware Cloud Foundation.
Kubernetes - Workload Management	With Kubernetes - Workload Management, you can deploy and operate the compute, networking, and storage infrastructure for vSphere with Tanzu workloads. A vSphere with Tanzu workload is an application with containers running inside vSphere pods, regular VMs, or Tanzu Kubernetes clusters.

Term	Description
Lifecycle Manager (LCM)	Automates patching and upgrading of the software stack.
management domain	Cluster of physical hosts that contains the management component VMs
network pool	Automatically assigns static IP addresses to vSAN and vMotion vmkernel ports so that you don't need to enter IP addresses manually when creating a VI workload domain or adding a host or cluster to a workload domain.
patch update bundle	Contains bits to update the appropriate Cloud Foundation software components in your management or VI workload domain.
region	Regions are geographically separate locations, that can provide disaster recovery between data centers. Latency between them must be 150 ms or lower. A region can consist of one or more VMware Cloud Foundation instances.
SDDC Manager	Software component that provisions, manages, and monitors the logical and physical resources of a VMware Cloud Foundation system.
SDDC Manager VM	Virtual machine (VM) that contains the SDDC Manager services and a shell from which command line tools can be run. This VM exposes the SDDC Manager UI.
server	Bare metal server in a physical rack. After imaging, it is referred to as a host.
unassigned host	Host in the free pool that does not belong to a workload domain.
vSphere Lifecycle Manager (vLCM)	A vCenter service, which is now integrated with Cloud Foundation, that enables centralized and simplified lifecycle management of ESXi hosts.
workload domain	A policy based resource container with specific availability and performance attributes that combines vSphere, storage (vSAN, NFS, or VMFS on FC) and networking (NSX-T) into a single consumable entity. A workload domain can be created, expanded, and deleted as part of the SDDC lifecycle operations. It can contain cluster(s) of physical hosts with a corresponding vCenter to manage them. The vCenter for a workload domain physically lives in the management domain.