

What's new in VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4?

Overview questions

Q. What has been announced?

A. VMware has announced General Availability of VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4.

Q. What is VMware Cloud Director Availability?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability is a powerful solution used by VMware Cloud Providers to offer simple, secure, and cost-effective Onboarding, Migration, and Disaster Recovery as a Service to or between multi-tenant VMware clouds.

Q. What are the core capabilities of VMware Cloud Director Availability?

A. Intuitive, Disaster Recovery as a service protection and wizard-driven workflows to protect virtual machines (VM) or vApps. Replication and Recovery of VMs and vApps between VMware Cloud Director (cloud to Cloud) or on-premises to VMware Cloud Director and vice versa. The offering is now available for on-premises vSphere to protect and migrate workloads from dedicated on-premises vCenter site to Cloud vCenter.

A. Single on-premises appliance installation for ease of deployment and simplicity for customers replicating to provider vCenter or VMware Cloud Director cloud endpoints. Supports a migration path and DR functionality from vSphere 6.5 U3.

A. The capability of each deployment to serve as both source and recovery endpoints (synchronous sites). There are no dedicated source and destination sites; symmetrical replication flow can be started and managed from either the source or the recovery site meaning the UI can be accessed from anywhere with the correct context.

A. Migration, Protection, and control over retained replications (stored instances) as well as flexible RPO Policy controls for providers to apply to one Virtual Data Centers (VDC) or individual replications via predefined or flexible SLA policies. This helps to control storage costs and provide tiered services to customers. With the latest release providers have the option to enable 1-min RPO for mission-critical applications. In 4.4, the RPO

compliance reporting feature has been introduced to keep Cloud Providers informed about RPO violations to allow both parties to track, monitor and audit RPO best practices and aid troubleshooting.

A. Cold or Warm Migration to provider VMware Cloud Director based Cloud from on-premises via vSphere plugin or via VMware Cloud Director Availability interface in the provider cloud. Cloud Providers and Tenants can carry out a fast-track migration with the new 1-click migration feature that automatically replicates using static, basic replication settings.

A. Warm one-way Migration from vSphere plugin or VMware Cloud Director provider cloud to VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC under Cloud Director service management.

A Layer 2 stretch networking for simpler migrations (and/or Disaster Recovery) from on-premises to VMware Cloud Director as well as VMware Cloud on AWS.

A. Secure tunnelling through TCP proxy between sites with built-in encryption and optional compression availability. Cloud to Cloud replicant encryption is also supported using Cloud Director encrypted storage policies at the target.

A. Multi-tenant support native within the VMware Cloud Director hierarchy and in-context DRaaS providing administrative simple views and actions directly in VMware Cloud Director. In case of vSphere (v2v) DR & Migration multi-tenancy will be offered in the future, for the moment this is supported for dedicated vCenter endpoints only.

Q. What use cases does VMware Cloud Director Availability support?

A. On-Premises to Cloud migration (and vice versa*), On-Premises to Cloud DR (and vice versa), Cloud-to-Cloud DR, Cross version VMware Cloud Director migration.

*vice versa not available from/to Cloud Director org VDC on VMware Cloud on AWS, this is a one-way migration only.

What's new in VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4?

A. Starting from version 4.4, Cloud Providers using VMware Cloud Director Availability can protect and migrate dedicated on-premise vCenter workloads to vSphere cloud (and vice versa).

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability can be leveraged through Cloud Director service to delivery DR and migration services for Google Cloud VMware Engine using a dedicated SDDC endpoint, with the VMware Cloud Director Availability stack deployed into the tenant domain.

Q. What are the main new capabilities for VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4?

A. vSphere DR and Migration

In 4.4 Cloud Providers can leverage VCDA to protect and replicate dedicated on-premises vCenter workloads and migrate them to cloud based dedicated vCenter. This can be managed directly through vSphere UI through VMware Cloud Director Availability plug-in or VMware Cloud Director Availability portal. After pairing an on-premises site to a cloud, the tenant can seamlessly migrate or protect their workloads. In case of failover, the protected VMs can also be reversed to the source site when it is restored to operation. This feature offers more Cloud Providers the full flexibility to expand their services to tenants who do not use VMware Cloud Director.

A. vSphere DR & Migration Metering

vCenter to vCenter (v2v) manager service mimics the cloud appliance Usage Meter APIs to meter vSphere replications and migration from on premises. Usage meter 4.4 and above can be installed a dedicated vCenter server to track the v2v consumption. This also allows Cloud Providers to run diagnostic and scan the health of the overall process. With the help of mapping capability Cloud Providers can differentiate between the types of v2v replication use cases. This feature is a part of the flex core bundle and adopts the same pricing i.e., 10 points per VM and 0 points for migration.

A. 1-Click Migration

With a single click, Cloud Providers and tenant users can trigger migration with pre-defined replication functionality. This feature takes self-service capability to the next level as it eliminates the effort of having to redefine replication settings and can also be accessed instantly from vSphere Plug-in.

A. Recovery Plans Execution Report and Monitoring

In the previous release Cloud Providers were only able to create DR & migration plans by defining exact steps to

perform during failover or migration. And with version 4.4 execution report offers granular information on the status of the plan, outcome along with error and warning in case of any failover.

A. RPO Compliance

The latest release of VMware Cloud Director Availability allows Cloud Providers to generate RPO reports identifying all the violations of the existing protections. This report can be extracted in JSON, HTML & TSV format.

4.4 Feature: vSphere DR & Migration Feature

Q. Who can use VMware Cloud Director Availability's vSphere DR & Migration feature?

A. This feature is available to VMware Cloud Provider Partners who offer dedicated vCenter based Cloud. With 4.4 we have introduced support for on-premises to Cloud vCenter replication using its underlying technology.

Q. Is it true that VMware Cloud Director is not required for this feature to work?

A. Correct. VMware Cloud Director Availability now offers vSphere as its target endpoint for DR & Migration. Cloud Providers can leverage VMware Cloud Director Availability for DR & Migration of dedicated On-premises vCenter workloads to Cloud Provider vSphere Cloud.

Q. How is this service metered?

A. To accelerate quick adoption, tiering and monetization of vSphere DR & Migration metering is implemented in such way that already released vCloud Usage Meter 4.4 and 4.5 can be used. For metering a provider must register each cloud side vCenter Replication Management Appliance the same way as the Cloud Replication Management Appliance. Replications are reported in the following cases:

- vCenter Cloud-to-vCenter Cloud migrations and protection where the registered VMware Cloud Director Availability appliance is the destination.
- vCenter-to-vCenter Cloud migrations and protection where the registered VMware Cloud Director Availability appliance is the destination.
- vCenter Cloud-to-vCenter migrations and protections where the registered VMware Cloud Director Availability is the source.

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In vCloud Usage Meter 4.4 and 4.5 vSphere DR & Migration replications are easily mapped to the old use cases in the Monthly Usage Report, for example - Cloud-to-Cloud replication is mapped to vCenter Cloud-to-vCenter Cloud replication and etc. All the use cases will be separately reported in the post-vCloud Usage Meter 4.5 version. Furthermore, with the help of Usage Meter Cloud Providers can get visibility on diagnostic and health of the overall process.

Q. What services are included in the installation; do I need to configure vSphere Replication somehow?

A. For vSphere Based Cloud (v2v) - Cloud Providers will need to use the vCenter Replication Management Appliance. It is a new role available while deploying the VCDA OVA template and is a single appliance that runs on one virtual machine. It currently doesn't utilize existing tunnels or replicators.

Q. How does the pricing work?

A. There is no cost associated with the adoption of VMware Cloud Director Availability. However, vSphere DR and Migration feature is a part of the flex core bundle and it is priced the same, i.e., 10 points per VM & 0 points for migration.

Q. Does it support multi-tenancy?

A. No, multi-tenancy is currently not supported for vSphere DR and Migration. Nevertheless, multi-tenancy is supported on VMware Cloud Director based clouds.

Q. Is scheduling supported for vSphere DR and migration?

A. No, scheduling will be supported in the future.

Q. Is throttling supported in the future?

A. No, throttling is currently not supported for (v2v) vSphere DR & Migration.

Q. Is 1Min RPO supported for this feature?

A. Yes, 1-minute RPO is achievable however, it is worth noting that this capability requires significant resource, and this will in turn mean cost, that is why a 1 min RPO should be used for mission-critical applications. For more, please refer to our [guidelines](#).

Q. Is 1-Click migration available for this feature?

A. Yes, this feature is easily accessible for Cloud Providers and tenants from vSphere Client plug-in and VMware Cloud Director Availability portal.

Q. Is licensing necessary?

A. Yes, licensing is mandatory for cloud v2v appliances.

4.4 Feature: RPO compliance

Q. Can RPO compliance reports be extracted?

A. Yes, RPO compliance feature produces a list of all the RPO violations which can be extracted in HTML as well as CSV format.

4.4 Feature: Network Extension to VMware Cloud on AWS

Q. Does this feature need Cloud Director service to work?

A. Yes, in order to stretch L2 network for a SDDC in VMC on AWS, Cloud Providers will need to leverage Cloud Director service and follow the existing process for stretching on-premises Layer 2 networks in the Cloud.

Replication features

Q. What is the VM/vAPP migration feature?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability allows end-users to protect and migrate virtual machines and vApps from on-premises to VMware Cloud and between different VMware Cloud environments. End-users can select an organization virtual data center (org VDC) as a destination and migrate virtual machines from source data center in a few simple steps including assigning destination networks. This provides for a predictable way to migrate workloads in a self-service manner. Migration in version 4.2 and above also covers Cloud Director service [VMware Cloud on AWS](#) & [Google Cloud VMware Engine](#) SDDC endpoints.

Q. Can you replicate to multiple destinations at the same time?

A. No, VMware Cloud Director Availability only supports replicating to one target at a time.

Q. How is failover (migration) performed?

A. To perform a migration a virtual machine or virtual app it must first be protected (replicated) between the source and target locations. Once replicated, an optional resync can be initiated prior to failover (migration) to get real-time data migrated before failover to the destination site. This ensures that the latest changes of the source vApp/VM are present in the recovered instance.

If you are migrating a vAPP, it is important to manage the

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state of all VMs in the vAPP for a stable state; this can be validated simply in the UI and corrective actions can be taken. Migration jobs additional conditioning to allow for customization post failover of IP and other characteristics such as networks to join.

Q. How are VMs initially replicated between clouds?

A. During the configuration or replication workflow, a user can choose to configure replication from seed or to perform full initial sync, which can be scheduled. Once the workflow is configured to start VM or vAPP replication, the VMware Cloud Director Availability vApp Replication Manager ensures that only delta information is sent from one ESXi host to another ESXi host. Management and monitoring information for the replication is available from the vApp Replication Manager portal and APIs.

Q. What is a test failover?

A. Test failovers allow you to verify whether the source data is replicated correctly on the destination. You can test network connectivity and application (VM) behavior. vAPP can also be powered on to test.

Q. What is the minimum Recovery Point Objective (RPO) supported by VMware Cloud Director Availability?

A. As of 4.3, the minimum RPO is 1 minute, note that this shouldn't be offered as default as there is considerable architectural requirements to meet the volume of delta images created. Therefore, the changes in the protected virtual machine can be replicated every 1 minutes to a selected destination. It is worth noting that at each given RPO timeslot, for which the fastest is a maximum of 1 minute, a delta image is created, only the data changed from the previous delta will be written and a maximum of 24 delta Point In Time instances is permitted. Using Advanced Retention Policies, these can be spread over differing durations.

Q. How many restore points can be configured?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability uses vSphere Replications and hence scheduled block restore points are used the maximum is 24 that can be retained for 12 months. If a user wishes to keep a restore point for longer, they can use the "stored instance" feature to take an adhoc restore point and move it out of the cycle for however long they wish to keep it (note that this will not affect the number of restore points).

Q. What actions can be taken by users?

A. By using the Actions pane in the DR Workloads page, you can perform the following tasks:

- Failover workloads among to-destination sites
- Failback workloads among from-destination sites
- Reverse Failover workloads to synchronize data between source and destination sites
- Reverse Failback workloads to synchronize data between source and destination sites
- Test replication tasks and Clean-up test data

Q. What functionality is available to monitor DR operations?

A. You can monitor the overall VMware Cloud Director Availability status by using the VMware Cloud Director Availability Portal home page in VMware Cloud Director or in the native VMware Cloud Director event window. 4.x introduced a syslog feature to be able to send syslog event data about replications and status to a central syslog server. All this information is also available from the API. Additionally, email can be conditioned for events a tenant can select (self-serve) to send emails when events are triggered.

Q. How are vApp configurations transferred from source to destination?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability supports vApp aware migration and DR. Automated transfer of vApp settings and configurations such as vApp networks, guest OS customization and properties etc. happens from source to destination.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support VM grouping for accelerated recovery?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability provides intelligent recovery of the entire VM group accelerating recovery. You can also prioritize boot order of critical machines over less critical VMs.

Policy Control Features

Q. What policies can be used to control / limit functionality?

A. Cloud Providers can assign replication policies to local one to-many VDC organizations:

- Allow migrations or protections or both

What's new in VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4?

- Assign an vCD organization as a replication source and/or destination
- Minimum Recovery Point Objective (RPO)
- Maximum number of VM replications
- Maximum number of point-in-time instances per VM replication
- Maximum number of stored instances per VM replication

Out of the box VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.x installs 3 default SLA policies. Cloud Administrators and Users who have permissions can option to modify these policies:

- Gold: RPO 30m, retention 14 instances over 2 weeks, Quiescing off, Compression enabled, initial sync no delay.
- Silver: RPO 2h, retention 7 instances over 1 weeks, Quiescing off, Compression enabled, initial sync no delay.
- Bronze: RPO 4h, retention Disabled, Quiescing off, Compression enabled, initial sync no delay.

All policies can control:

- Allow or deny migration
- Allow or deny replication protections
- Outgoing and incoming replications
- Maximum incoming replications
- Maximum stored instances
- Maximum throughput
- All custom SLA setting (this allows a user to modify the setting for a replication job).

Q. Can a provider understand a tenant compute resources and storage usage and limit it?

A. A cloud provider can monitor a tenant's storage consumption reporting by organization and individual workloads. Equally they can see the tenant org compute requirements and disk capacity to ensure they have enough to start workloads at the target site.

A tenant can view their own disk usage over time and for every replication from within VMware Cloud Director Availability.

Pricing and Packaging

Q. For cloud providers: How is VMware Cloud Director Availability packaged and how may it be purchased?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability is available as a Pay-As-You-Go service to Cloud Providers in the VMware Cloud Provider Program. The service is metered monthly based on number of VMs protected, migrations are free. Detailed information is available in the [Product Usage Guide](#).

Q. I am a Cloud Provider and am not currently enrolled as a VMware Cloud Provider in the Partner Connect Program. Can I purchase this product directly from VMware?

A. You must be enrolled in the Partner Connect program as a VMware Cloud Provider in order to purchase VMware Cloud Director Availability. To learn more about the VMware Cloud Provider Program, please visit <http://www.vmware.com/partners/service-provider.html>.

Q. For Enterprise Customers: How is VMware Cloud Director Availability packaged and how may it be purchased?

A. Enterprise customers must consume this offering through a VMware Cloud Provider Partner that is offering this service in their VMware Cloud Director and vSphere VMware clouds. All prices for these services will be quoted by the VMware Cloud Provider Partner. To find a VMware Cloud Provider Partner offering DRaaS please use the assisted search here: <https://cloud.vmware.com/providers/guided-search>.

Q. How does Flex Core services work for VMware Cloud Director Availability?

A. VMware Flex Core is the VMware Cloud Provider baseline to deliver streamlined cloud infrastructure services for customers, with flexible baseline and add-on solutions made affordable and easy in your datacenter. Partners can migrate customer VMs and vApps inclusive in their Flex Core bundle, using Disaster Recovery protection partners can also sell Disaster Recovery services, but this is charged per protected VM per month. Learn more about the [Flex Core Update](#) for VMware Cloud Director Availability.

Architecture

Q. What services are included in the installation; do I need to configure vSphere Replication somehow?

A. For VMware Cloud. Director Based Cloud - The architecture of the solution uses a VMware Cloud Director Availability Replicator appliance, a Replication Manager and a vApp Replication Service/Manager

together to support replication, secure communication, and storage of the replicated data. Each service provider can support recovery for multiple customer Org Virtual Data Center environments that can scale to handle increasing loads for each tenant, and for multiple tenants.

For vSphere Based Cloud (v2v) - Cloud Providers will need to use the vCenter Replication Management Appliance. It is a new role available while deploying the VCDA OVA template and is a single appliance that runs on one virtual machine. It currently doesn't utilize existing tunnels or replicators.

All replication matters are handled within the VMware Cloud Director Availability user interface (or API) and are simple workflow configuration driven tasks for one-to-many VMs and vAPP.

Q. I am a cloud provider using a single VMware Cloud Director across multi data centers. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support this architecture?

A. Yes. The centralized topology provides simpler management to control replication across multiple data centers. Please refer to the technical documentation for more information.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support MPLS, VPN, etc.?

A. Yes it does and multi homes tunnel and replicator appliances can be configured to allow traffic management over specific links.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support bandwidth throttling for vSphere to Cloud (v2c) replications?

A. Yes, since version 3.x. If enabled, the bandwidth maximum is pushed down and enforced at the on-prem replicator.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support bandwidth throttling for incoming replications (both v2c and Cloud to Cloud)?

A. Yes, since version 3.x. If enabled, the bandwidth maximum is centralized and enforced at the Cloud Provider target.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support multi-NIC appliances?

A. Yes, for the replicator and tunnel role only.

Minimum Requirements

Q. What are the minimum requirements for VMware Cloud Director Availability?

A. For system requirements and interoperability, see VMware Cloud Director Availability documentation. <https://docs.vmware.com/en/VMware-Cloud-Director-Availability/index.html>.

Service Deployment

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability require any agents to be deployed at the customer site?

A. No, the solution is agentless and uses host-based replication, inherent in the VMware vSphere hypervisor. All that is required at the client site is the deployment of a replicator and tunnel appliance and configuration to connect to the provider cloud.

Q. How is the product installed in the provider data center?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability can be deployed using the VMware OVF Tool. Alternatively, you can use the vSphere Web Client to install the VMware Cloud Director Availability service; all DR services are deployed via a single installation VMware-Cloud-Director-Availability-OnPrem-release.number-xxxx-build_number_OVF10.ova package.

Q. Why would a provider need multiple VMware Cloud Director Availability replicators?

A. Replication in terms of volume will impact the capacity and performance of the appliance. When each VM is compressed and encrypted there is an overhead on CPU. Whilst encryption is mandatory, compression can be optional, and both tax system resources. It is advised to always start with compression enabled but monitor RPOs and if there are RPO windows missed, turn off compression for more binary orientated workloads i.e., media files.

Multiple replicators can be added to your DR environment to suite processing needs while scaling out supported workloads to protect or migrate.

Q. What are the tested scale limits for a deployment?

A. Please check the 4.4 [configuration maximums](#) for the latest guidelines.

Q. What versions of vSphere are supported?

What's new in VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4?

A. Cloud Director Availability 4.4 supports version 6.5U3 up to 7.0 U3. Each release of VMware Cloud Director Availability will impact the interoperability, please check the latest [here](#).

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability work with NSX-T?

A. As of version 4.x of VMware Cloud Director Availability NSX-T 3.0.2 and beyond is supported. 4.3 interop has been validated up to 3.1.3 of NSX-T Data Center. Each release of VMware Cloud Director Availability will impact the interoperability, please check the latest [here](#).

Management

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support bandwidth monitoring?

A. VMware Cloud Director Availability has natively integrated bandwidth monitoring and reporting on historical bandwidth consumption, allowing providers to analyze the volume of transferred data per org for provider, and for own data as a tenant.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support Usage Meter for automatic metering?

A. Yes, VMware Cloud Director Availability has supported automatic metering from [Usage Meter 3.6.1. Hot Patch 3](#).

There is an indication in the management interface that vCloud Usage Meter is configured to meter the Cloud service instance. When vCloud Usage Meter has not requested metering information for more than three days, you now see a warning message in the management interface. To collect product consumption data and generate reports for the VMware Cloud Provider Program, see [Add vCloud Availability](#) in the vCloud Usage Meter documentation.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Director Availability support event forwarding?

A. As of 4.0 you could configure syslog event forwarding regarding the following notifications: RPO violations and certificate expiry, Events are also supported in VMware Cloud Director portal, where a system admin can monitor all events if required. Events are either on-demand system events or user-initiated events. Please check the [documentation](#) for a complete list of possible event notifications. In versions 4.1 and up events can also be sent by email, these are naturally not intended to be as many as syslog and hence are

conditioned and can be restricted by the provider for each tenant.

Q. What's new with vRealize Operation Management pack for VMware Cloud Director 1.1?

A. The latest management pack collects information about the replication jobs in your VMware Cloud Director Availability instances and provides replication-specific properties and metrics that allow service providers to easily see the key insights about the state of the replication jobs and the replications resource consumption. The new pack available to download via [marketplace](#) and requires vRealize Operations to be available in the provider data center.

Resources

Q. Where can I find more about VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4?

A. For more information: [Please visit](#)

A. 4.4 Release Notes: [Read now](#)

A. Provider download: [Access now](#)

A. Tenant download: [Access now](#)

A. Upgrade VMware Cloud Director Availability 4.4 supports an in-place upgrade directly from 4.2.1 and 4.3.1. For the exact upgrade steps or in case you need to upgrade from an older version, [download the official document now](#)

If you would like to connect with the VMware Cloud Director Availability team, please use [Slack](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#).