

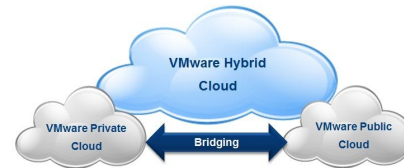
VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011

In this issue

- **vCloud Connector launches**
- **End User Computing update**
- **Healthcare changes at VMware**
- **vSphere 4.1 Update 1 overview**
- **Oracle and VMware news**
- **vCenter Operations launches**
- **BC/DR Info**
- **A vFabric acquisition announced**

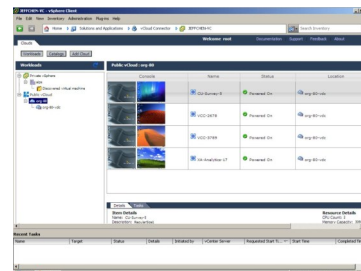
Cloud Corner - Chris Everett



Announcing the vCloud Connector plug-in for vSphere. vSphere admins use the vSphere client to monitor and manage VMs running in their vSphere infrastructure. With vCloud Connector, admins can now also monitor and manage VMs running in any vCloud – whether private (internal) or public (external).

At VMware, we talk about cloud computing as a way of delivering IT as a service, rather than a place (or destination) where computing is done. vCloud Connector follows this philosophy. As a vSphere administrator, your job is to make sure IT service is being delivered by your cloud, regardless of whether those compute resources are internal or external, on a vSphere host or a private or public cloud.

Administrators can quickly and easily transfer VMs to the best place for them to run – regardless of whether that's vSphere or a vCloud. Before anyone gets too excited, we're not talking about transferring running VMs – this is not long-distance vMotion. But it's a major step forward in the journey to the hybrid cloud. A screen shot is below of how vCloud connector gives Administrators a view across the hybrid cloud.



vCloud Connector uses the vCloud API to do its magic in monitoring vClouds and managing transfers between vSphere and any vCloud. This means that any service that provides the full vCloud API v1.0 and OVF upload/download will work – whether that's an internal vCloud Director deployment, or one at a service provider.

Welcome to a Wealth of Information

- Bob Good

Welcome to the Central Region Newsletter. VMware is a fast moving company these days. We have evolved from much more than just a hypervisor solution.

We cover Cloud, End User Compute, DR and Backup and recovery, Application Development and life cycle to name a few. We also decided to provide some color on Tier 1 applications and the health care market. It's a lot to keep on top of. So, some of the guys have decided to compile the following news letter to help keep people aware of activities, announcements, challenges, and trends we may be seeing. We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Please provide us feedback good or bad!

-Bob

[VMworld 2011](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[Due!](#)

VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011



End User Computing - Josh Spencer

What's New?

- * VMware View 4.6 is now available!
- * Learn more about View here: <http://www.vmware.com/products/view/>
- * See what's new in version 4.6: <http://www.vmware.com/support/view46/doc/view-46-release-notes.html>
- * VMware ThinApp 4.6.1 is now available!
- * Learn more about ThinApp here: <http://www.vmware.com/products/thinapp/>
- * See what's new in version 4.6.1: <http://blogs.vmware.com/thinapp/2011/02/vmware-thinapp-461-whats-new.html>
- * Zimbra Collaboration Server 7.0 is now available!
- * Learn more about Zimbra here: <http://www.zimbra.com>
- * See what's new in version 7.0: http://www.zimbra.com/products/whats_new.html



Promotions

- * Have you been thinking about buying standalone ThinApp licenses to reduce complexity and administrative overhead of your Windows-based applications? Our ThinApp \$10 per seat promotion has been extended to April 30, 2011!

Blog Watch

- * This is a great write up about leveraging the new PCoIP Secure Gateway for remote access to your VMware View environment. Be sure to watch the video at the bottom of the page for more detail.
- * <http://communities.vmware.com/docs/DOC-14974>
- * Check out the latest ThinApp blog about packaging Office 2010.
- * <http://blogs.vmware.com/thinapp/>

Other News

- * Have a unique or intriguing story to tell about your virtualization journey? Want to share it with your peers at the greatest virtualization conference around? Submit your story and get a pass to VMworld 2011 in Las Vegas!
- * <http://bit.ly/hiG6vZ>
- * See what VMware View and PCoIP are doing for healthcare.
- * <http://www.teradici.com/pcoip/pcoip-markets/healthcare-industry.php>

Just for Fun

- * [Eight monitors from a single blade workstation](#) using a remote display protocol? PCoIP rocks!

Dan Dulick - Events for the Region

03/01/11	Hybrid Cloud Knowledge Series	Detroit	MI
03/02/11	Hybrid Cloud Knowledge Series	Columbus	OH
03/03/11	VMUG - OH SLED	Columbus	OH
03/08/11	Cloud Computing Seminar	Lansing	MI
03/16/11	VMUG - Toledo	Toledo	OH
03/16/11	VMUG (Lansing)	Ann Arbor	MI
03/17/11	VMUG - Cincinnati	Cincinnati	OH
03/23/11	Ohio Higher Education Computing Council	Ohio	OH
03/23/11	VMUG - Cleveland	Cleveland	OH

VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011

VMware and Healthcare - A Match Made in the Clouds - Scott Jobe

Since this is the first edition of an Ohio Valley Customer Newsletter, it's only appropriate that I take a few minutes to talk about some changes to the territory. Recently, VMware announced the creation of a dedicated healthcare team.

The team in the Ohio Valley is supported by a strong national team within VMware. This team was created in response to customer demands in the clinical space. For those that have worked, or are currently working in healthcare, you understand the unique needs of operating within a clinical environment. VMware understands these needs as well and has responded by creating a dedicated team to support clinical customers. Within the Ohio Valley, Chuck Thiel has taken the roll of the Ohio Valley Healthcare Sales Manager. Chuck is supported by three engineers throughout the region, Gary Coburn in Michigan and Northwest Ohio, Scott Jobe in Northeast and Central Ohio, as well as Western Pennsylvania, and Scott Sauer in Southern Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. With a large number of healthcare providers in this region, we are already busy.

With this new team in place, VMware took the recent HiMSS conference by storm. The annual HiMSS conference was held in Orlando, Florida this year and drew around 28,000 visitors! With clinician-specific solutions such as follow-me desktop and location-based services to showcase, VMware set up shop in booth #4079. The traffic to the booth was fantastic! The booth offered visitors an opportunity to see our technology at work, understand our corporate vision for healthcare, and learn how our partners are integrating into our robust platform. Of particular interest was our integration with authentication and access management companies, such as Imprivata.



The Ohio Board of Pharmacy places some strict guidelines regarding authentication so integration at this level is very important. Visitors to our booth also spent a lot of time learning how the PCoIP protocol delivers the best end-user experience for clinical applications. Overall, the HiMSS conference was a great success.

I look forward to writing about our successes and direction within the healthcare team at VMware. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Check out RSS Feed

PlanetV12N

The #1 VMware Blog aggregator
Make sure you sign up for the weekly top 5 picks!

[VMTN Blog](#)

VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011

From the Core - Tom MacKay

On February 10th, we launched ESXi 4.1 Update 1 and VC 4.1 U1 is now also available. Here is a look at the details...

Things of note with these releases:

- * ESX and ESXi 4.1 U1 now support 160 logical processors
- * ESX Resolved Issues – In addition, this release delivers a number of bug fixes that are documented in the Resolved Issues <http://www.vmware.com/support/vsphere4/doc/vsp_esxi41_u1_rel_notes.html#resolvedissues> section.
- * ESX Inclusion of additional drivers — ESXi 4.1 Update 1 includes the 3ware SCSI 2.26.08.036vm40 and Neterion vxge 2.0.28.21239-p3.0.1.2 drivers. For earlier releases, these drivers are only available as separate downloads.
- * ESX and ESXi 4.1 U1 now support RHEL 6, RHEL 5.6, SLES 11 SP1 for VMware, Ubuntu 10.10, and Solaris 10 Update 9 guest operating systems
- * ESXi 4.1 U1 supports trusted boot using Intel Trusted Execution Technology, available with the XEON 5600 processors. More info: <http://bit.ly/gpCNF7>
- * vCenter now supports guest customization on Windows 7/2008 R2 SP1, RHEL 5.5, and RHEL 6.0
- * vCenter now supports updated versions of previously supported databases (SQL 2005 & 2008, Oracle 11g, DB2)
- * Update Manager support for guest remediation will no longer be supported after this release
- * For a complete list of guest operating systems supported in this release, see the VMware Compatibility Guide <<http://www.vmware.com/resources/compatibility/search.php>>.

ESX 4.1 U1 – Release Notes <http://www.vmware.com/support/vsphere4/doc/vsp_esx41_u1_rel_notes.html>

Download VMware ESXi 4.1 Update 1 here: <http://bit.ly/f5BQIA>

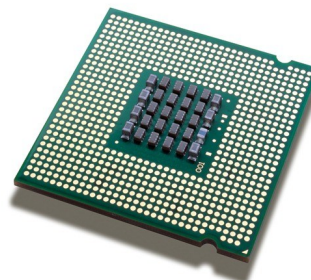
As concerning vCenter 4.1 U1 there are some new features as well. Mostly to support the release of Microsoft's Service packs 1 for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008R2. The final version of Microsoft's Service Pack 1 (SP1) for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 will be available Feb. 16, according to Microsoft.

* Additional Guest Operating System Customization Support: vCenter Server now supports customization of the following guest operating systems:

- * Windows 7 SP1 (x32 and x64)
- * Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 (x32 and x64)
- * RHEL 6.0 (x32 and x64)
- * RHEL5.5 (x32 and x64)
- * vCenter Server now supports the following databases:
- * Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2
- * Microsoft SQL Server 2005 SP3
- * Oracle 11g Standard/Enterprise Release 2, 11.2.0.1.0 or later
- * IBM DB2 9.7.2 Express C (x32 and x64)
- * IBM DB2 9.7.2 Enterprise (x32 and x64)

For more information about using IBM DB2 – 9.7.2 database with vCenter Server 4.1 Update 1, see KB 1033201 <<http://kb.vmware.com/kb/1033201>>.

* Get your copy of vCenter Server 4.1 Update 1 here: <http://bit.ly/fkflCP> <http://downloads.vmware.com/d/info/datacenter_downloads/vmware_vsphere_4/4_0>



Should you have any questions, as always, feel free to contact your SE!

vmware

VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011

Tier 1 Focus - Jeff Szastak



Oracle

There seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding Oracle's support stance regarding their software stack on VMware. If you are confused, don't be, it is really simple - Oracle fully supports Oracle on VMware, and yes this support statement includes RAC (versions 11.2.02 or newer)!

Well, what about the "support versus certified" language contained within the support statement? Oracle has historically certified against the Operating System and since VMware sits below the operating system and does not modify the kernel of the guest operating system VMware falls below this process for now. Therefore, VMware is no different than Server OEMs - Oracle does not certify hardware from Server OEMs. The My Oracle Support note you want to review for more information is: 249212.1

For more information, you can read a blog post from Chad Sakac discussing Oracle's Support of RAC on vSphere (btw, you can view the updated Oracle Support statement here): http://virtualgeek.typepad.com/virtual_geek/2010/11/oracle-and-vmware-a-major-milestone.html

And here is Larry Ellison's comments from an Oracle Financial Analyst Meeting when asked by an analyst, "So, if a customer has a problem running on VMware and --with Oracle databases, then call for Support, then support will be given in that kind of configuration"

"Yes, essentially yes" - Larry Ellison

Source: Thomson StreetEvents, Final Transcript, Oracle Analyst Meeting on 11/14/2007

In addition, to Oracle's support statement, did you know that VMware now has several Senior Oracle DBAs on staff to assist customer's who have virtualized Oracle to determine if the issue is related to the database or to VMware? Want more information on VMware's Oracle Support Statement: <http://www.vmware.com/support/policies/oracle-support.html>

Doesn't "virtualizing" Oracle make it MORE expensive? Not necessarily. Remember, Oracle states that on any X86 platform you have to license the entire host, regardless if it is running on a hypervisor or not. But then you also get the multiplier (currently 0.5) for Intel / AMD processors. We have had several customers who have saved significant CAPEX on their Oracle licensing when they moved to a virtualized platform because they are making the Oracle licensing work for them.

Here is a video in which Richard McDougall, VMware's CTO of Application Infrastructure, interviews House of Brick's CTO David Welch in which he discusses the benefits of virtualizing Oracle (HoB is a VMware Partner with extensive Oracle experience): <http://communities.vmware.com/docs/DOC-14361>

In addition to the video referenced above, House of Brick has generated some excellent content regarding information on Oracle Support for VMware, and Oracle licensing, and virtualizing Oracle on VMware: <http://www.houseofbrick.com/oracle-on-vmware>

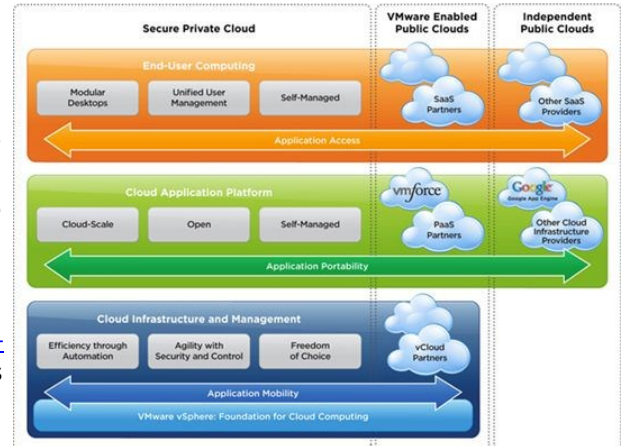
VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011

vFabric ... it's not just for knitting anymore - Aaron Sweemer

If you're a VMware fan, you have probably already seen the graphic above, or some variation thereof. And you're also probably already pretty familiar with the blue layer, or the Infrastructure layer of the cloud computing "stack." In addition, you're probably well versed in the orange layer, or the End User Computing layer. But what about that green layer?

That green layer is commonly referred to as cloud middleware, or the [vFabric Cloud Application Platform](#). It's the ooey-goey middle layer that leaves most of us in IT scratching our heads. It's where software developers live and breathe, but for rest of us, it's the layer we have traditionally avoided like Charlie Sheen avoids sanity.



I'll be talking more about vFabric quite a bit in future newsletters, but today I'd like to focus on [WaveMaker](#), because it's an exciting piece for those of us that aren't software developers. It may be just the tool that gets us to dip our toes into that ooey-goey green later.

So what's the deal with WaveMaker? The official news blurb is ...

"VMware closed its acquisition of WaveMaker on Friday March 4, 2011. WaveMaker is a widely used graphical tool that enables non-expert developers to build web applications quickly. This acquisition furthers VMware's cloud application platform strategy by empowering additional developers to build and run modern applications that share information with underlying infrastructure to maximize performance, quality of service and infrastructure utilization."

What does this mean for readers of this newsletter? WaveMaker is a tool built just for us! It is the tool that will enable us to build web applications very quickly and deploy them to the cloud (that ooey-goey green layer of the cloud) with a single mouse click. WaveMaker eliminates 98% of code, cuts the web development learning curve by 92% and reduces software maintenance by 75%. Here are a couple of other bullet points you'll find interesting ...

- WaveMaker eliminates Java coding for building Web 2.0 applications

- WaveMaker Studio generates standard Java apps

- One-click deployment eliminates the complexity of deploying web apps to enterprise or cloud based hosting.

For more information, be sure to check out Rod Johnson's blog post [VMware acquires WaveMaker](#). And of course make sure you visit the [WaveMaker](#) website. While you're there, download the software and give it test drive!

VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011

BC/DR Updates - Jeff Hunter

Uptime Blog - Thoughts on delivering data protection, availability, business continuity, and disaster recovery with VMware:

<http://blogs.vmware.com/uptime/>

Site Recovery Manager now uses a per-VM licensing model. We often get questions around this change so VMware has posted a list of frequently asked questions (and answers) - what you need to know about Per VM Licensing:

<http://www.vmware.com/support/licensing/per-vm/index.html>

A Practical Guide to Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery with VMware Infrastructure 3. Now this document is a bit dated, but still offers very good information around improving uptime and recoverability of applications in a virtualized environment:

http://www.vmware.com/files/pdf/practical_guide_bcdr_vmb.pdf

How to use trusted certificates with VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager:

<http://communities.vmware.com/docs/DOC-11411>

Automating Network Setting Changes and DNS Updates on Recovery Site Using VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager:

<http://communities.vmware.com/docs/DOC-11517>

Yellow Bricks VMware HA Deep Dive:

<http://www.yellow-bricks.com/vmware-high-availability-deepdiv/>

If you are not already running VMware ESXi on your hosts, I highly recommend this link for planning your migration to ESXi.

<http://www.vmware.com/products/vsphere/esxi-and-esx/>



VMware Central Region Customer Newsletter

March 2011

Improving your VMware Performance and Operations

- Scott Sauer

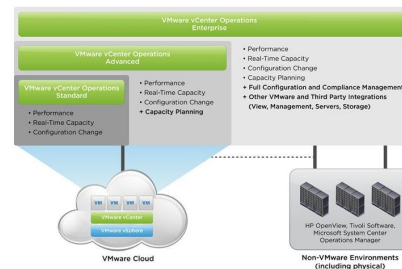


I spend a majority of my time talking with customers trying to help understand their needs and how we can help them with some of their internal IT business challenges. I would say a majority of the problems and issues discussed are typically based around internal politics and the IT landscape changing, but their second largest concern is around performance and growth (capacity). VMware and virtualization in general, has been such a powerful driver for many organizations over the past several years. It has allowed IT organizations to run more efficiently, save capital expenditure costs, and ease administrative overhead, all in the midst of an economic downturn.

Capital expenditure costs savings are great, and very visible to the organization from a high level, but VMware needs to help customers with the next step. Now that we are moving so much of our infrastructure to a more elastic and flexible solution, (vSphere) we need to provide tools to help you manage this infrastructure because the same methodologies no longer apply as they did in the physical world. The more we can help automate and manage your virtual infrastructure; we can now begin to help with step two which is save your IT organization operational costs. A recent Gartner study determined that the average cost for a Windows server is \$10,200 per year. Of that expense ~ 70% is on OPEX. Gartner also estimates that with automation and management that up to 80% of the OPEX could be saved.

VMware has made several acquisitions around management and automation, and I wanted to focus on one which was recently announced. VMware Operations is a “new” product that was released this past week. It’s actually not all that new of a product but a re-branding of a key acquisition announced at VMworld 2010. Integrien was an analytics and statistical based software company with a focus on management software. Notice that their primary focus was not management but analytics, a completely different approach to several other software companies out there trying to get to the same end result.

Rather than simply creating metrics to monitor and then setting thresholds on those metrics, Integrien will actually analyze the information that it’s gathering and understand when there is an actual problem. One of the coolest features about the full blown enterprise version is you can feed multiple data sources into the analytics engine. The more data it gets, the more accurate it’s able to predict when a problem is likely to occur. This isn’t just your standard run of the mill monitoring software. Those of you that have experience with enterprise monitoring software will know that it take a lot of effort to get these systems up and “fine tuned”. It takes a tremendous effort to begin sifting through all of the white noise alerts that come in and then adjust the threshold alerts to something that is tangible so it becomes useable data. VMware Operations removes that manual effort by dropping in an intelligent analytical engine that can understand what’s really going on behind the scenes.



Here are the different versions of the product, and how each version differs. I would suggest pulling down the virtual appliance and check out how awesome this product is. If you don’t feel like going to the effort, check out this video, it gives a great walk through of vCenter Operations and explains a lot of the same concepts I just wrote about.