What is VMware vSphere Essentials?

Designed especially for small IT environments with fewer than 20 physical servers, the Essentials and Essentials Plus editions of VMware vSphere™ 4 ("vSphere") deliver enterprise-class capabilities in a cost-effective package for organizations that want to optimize and protect their IT assets with minimal up-front investment.

By adopting vSphere Essentials, customers can more effectively utilize server, network and storage resources dynamically as a single pool or "internal cloud" to protect business-critical applications and data. The result is an Always On IT environment that is more cost-effective, resilient and responsive to business needs.

Customers use VMware vSphere Essentials to:

- **Reduce IT hardware and operating costs**
- **Simplify management and boost IT staff productivity**
- **Ensure business continuity, delivering Always On IT**
- **Improve service levels and application quality**
- **Strengthen security and data protection**

Key benefits:

- Contain and consolidate server hardware. Achieve consolidation ratios of well over 15:1, and improve hardware utilization from 5-15 percent to as much as 80 percent or more—without sacrificing application performance or throughput.
- Maximize application availability and protect information assets. Ensure “always on” continuity of IT operations with the rock-solid reliability of VMware® ESX™ and ESXi, along with integrated backup, recovery and failover features.
- Streamline management and enhance productivity. Provision new applications in minutes instead of days or weeks, monitor virtual machine performance, and automate patch and update management.
- Optimize software testing and development. Safely test complex multitier configurations in a secure, isolated sandbox environment while allowing test and development teams to share server, network and storage infrastructure.

What are the Key Components of VMware vSphere Essentials Editions?

- **VMware ESX and VMware ESXi** provide a robust, production-proven, high performance virtualization layer that allows multiple virtual machines to share the computing, networking and storage resources of a single physical server.
- **VMware vCenter™ Server for Essentials** provides rapid provisioning, centralized management and performance monitoring, with physical-to-virtual (P2V) machine conversion, wizard-based deployment and a host of other features.
- **VMware vCenter Update Manager** provides automated patch and update management for VMware ESX hosts, as well as for virtual machines running select versions of Windows and Linux.
- **VMware High Availability (HA)** provides hardware-independent failover for virtual machines on VMware ESX hosts without the cost or complexity of traditional solutions for physical systems.
- **VMware Data Recovery** provides simple, cost effective, agentless backup and recovery for virtual machines that optimizes backup storage usage and complements existing data protection solutions for backup and archival to tape.
Key Features

High-Performance Server Virtualization
- Record-breaking performance for resource-intensive workloads
- Ability to configure virtual machines with up to four virtual CPUs each
- Advanced virtual machine memory management capabilities
- Support for 64-bit server hardware with up to 512GB of physical RAM

Integrated High Availability and Data Protection
- Hardware-independent virtual machine failover with VMware HA
- NIC teaming and HBA multipathing to protect against hardware failures
- Efficient, integrated backup and restore with VMware Data Recovery
- Support for all major third-party backup solutions

Centralized Management Capabilities
- Rapid wizard-based provisioning and virtual machine templates
- Automated patch management with VMware vCenter Update Manager
- Operational automation with task scheduling and alerts
- Integrated physical-to-virtual machine conversion capabilities

Security and Control
- VMware VMsafe™ security APIs for third-party security products
- Role-based access control and integration with Microsoft Active Directory
- SSL encryption for secure remote access to VMware ESX and ESXi hosts

Broad Hardware and Software Interoperability
- Compatibility with the widest range of server hardware in the industry
- Certified support for SATA, NAS, iSCSI and Fibre Channel storage equipment
- Support for broadest range of 32- and 64-bit x86 server operating systems
- Ability to run any standard software application without modification

Find Out More

How Can I Purchase VMware vSphere Essentials?
The rich capabilities of vSphere are packaged into two editions designed exclusively for small office deployment:

- **vSphere Essentials** provides an all-in-one solution for small offices to consolidate and manage many application workloads while reducing hardware and operating costs with a low up-front investment.
- **vSphere Essentials Plus** adds high application availability and data protection for a complete server consolidation and business continuity solution for the small office IT environment.

Both editions are all-inclusive packages that enable you to virtualize and consolidate many application workloads onto three physical servers (up to two processors each) running vSphere and centrally manage them with vCenter Server for Essentials. **vSphere Essentials** includes a one year license subscription. Support is optional and available on a per incident basis. **vSphere Essentials Plus** has several Support and Subscription (SnS) offerings that are sold separately. A minimum of one year of SnS is required.

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### VMware vSphere Essentials Editions

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<th>FEATURE/COMPONENT</th>
<th>ESSENTIALS</th>
<th>ESSENTIALS PLUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost-Effective Virtualization with Centralized Management</td>
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<td>VMware ESX or ESXi</td>
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<td>VMware Virtual SMP</td>
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<td>VMware vCenter Agent</td>
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