

VMware vSphere Administration

vSphere Web Client / Desktop Comparison

Which vSphere client should I use?

With the release of vSphere 5.1 comes a new administration tool for managing your VMware vSphere 5.x environments, the vSphere Web Client. While the new web client has been given feature parity with that of previous vSphere Desktop Clients; the new features released with vSphere 5.1 are only managed via the vSphere Web Client.

To help understand the functionality of each client, below lists the new features that are only available via the web client and several features that remain available only in the desktop client. If a feature is not listed then that functionality is available in both the vSphere Web Client and the vSphere Desktop Client.

vSphere Web Client Only

- vCenter Single Sign-On
 - Authentication
 - Administration
- Navigation with Inventory Lists
- Inventory Tagging
- Work In Progress (Pause)
- Pre-emptive Searching
- Save Searches
- Enhanced read performance utilizing the Inventory Service
- vSphere Replication (not SRM)
- Virtual Infrastructure Navigator
- Enhanced vMotion (no shared storage)
- Integration with vCenter Orchestrator (vCO) Workflows (Extended Menus)
- Virtual Distributed Switch (vDS)
 - Health Check
 - Export/Restore Configuration
 - Diagram filtering
- Log Browser Plugin
- vSphere Data Protection (VDP)

vSphere Desktop Client Only

- VMware Desktop Plug-ins (VUM, SRM, etc)
- 3rd Party Desktop Plugins (various)
- VXLAN Networking
- Ability to change Guest OS on an existing virtual machine
- vCenter Server Maps
- Create and edit custom attributes
- Connect direct to a vSphere host
- Inflate thin disk option found in the Datastore Browser

Additional Information

- [VMware vSphere 5.0 Documentation Center](#)
- [What's New in VMware vCenter Server 5.1](#)
- [VMware vSphere Web Client Video's](#)
- [vSphere Blog](#)

