

# vSphere 6 Webcast – Web Client

Overview of features

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vmware®

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# Agenda

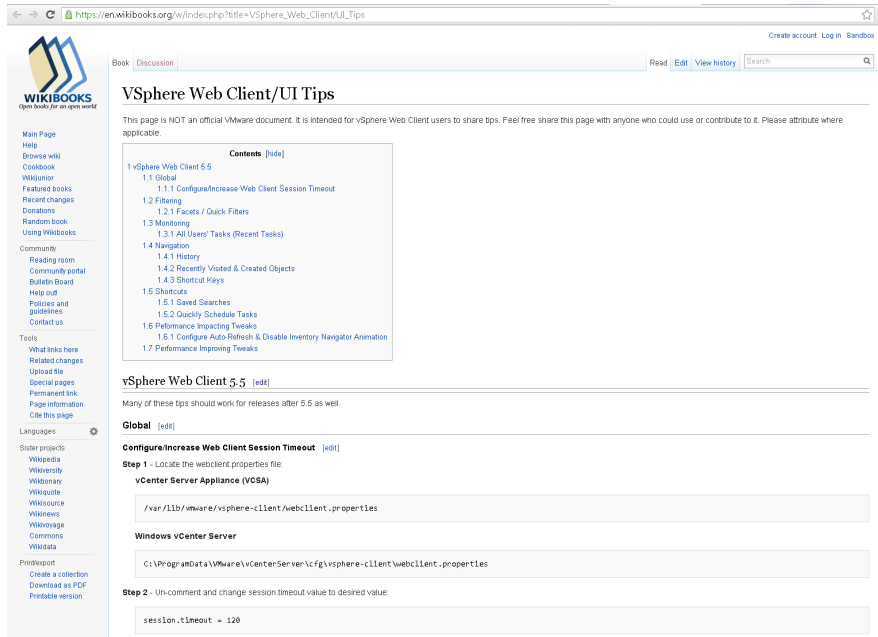
- Notes
- Wikibook
- Performance improvements
- Lots of UI Features and Tweaks

# Quick Notes

- **Firefox, Chrome, IE11 are all around the same performance.** Performance testing on vSphere 6 shows no browser beating others. IE11 works better with compatibility mode.
- vSphere 6 Web Client can be used to manage vSphere 5.5 vCenter(s) in a mode called **“Mixed-Version”** environments
- Many new settings are available in the webclient.properties file.

# \*\*UNOFFICIAL\*\* Wiki

- [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/VSphere\\_Web\\_Client](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/VSphere_Web_Client)

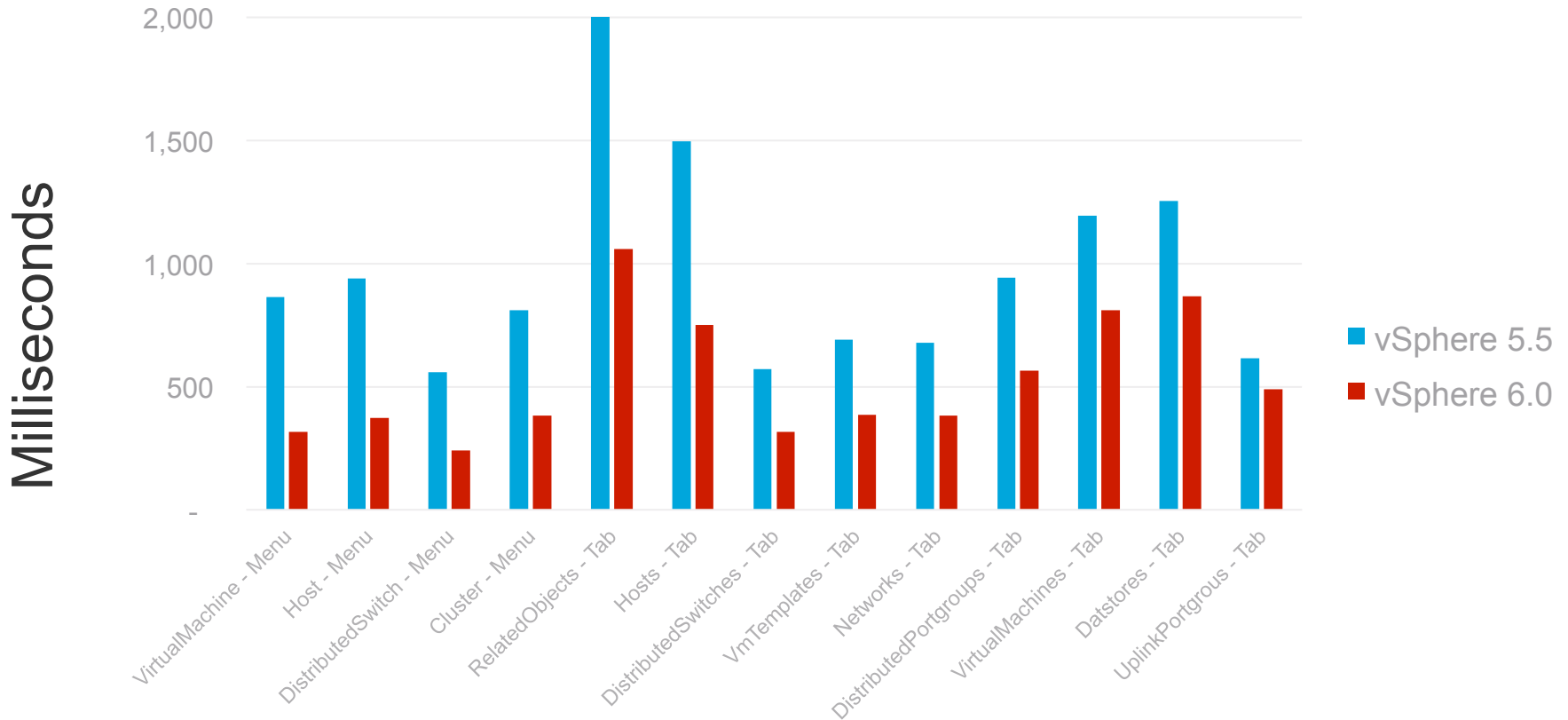


The screenshot shows the Wikibooks page for "vSphere Web Client/UI Tips". The page title is "vSphere Web Client/UI Tips" and it includes a navigation menu with options like "Book", "Discussion", "Read", "Edit", "View history", and "Search". The main content area features a table of contents with sections such as "1 vSphere Web Client 5.5", "1.1 Global", "1.1.1 Configure/Increase Web Client Session Timeout", "1.2 Filtering", "1.2.1 Facets / Quick Filters", "1.3 Monitoring", "1.3.1 All Users' Tasks (Recent Tasks)", "1.4 Navigation", "1.4.1 History", "1.4.2 Recently Visited & Created Objects", "1.4.3 Shortcut Keys", "1.5 Shortcuts", "1.5.1 Saved Searches", "1.5.2 Quickly Schedule Tasks", "1.6 Performance Impacting Tweaks", "1.6.1 Configure Auto-Refresh & Disable Inventory Navigator Animation", and "1.7 Performance Improving Tweaks". Below the table of contents, there is a section titled "vSphere Web Client 5.5" with an "edit" link. The text states: "Many of these tips should work for releases after 5.5 as well." Under the "Global" section, there is a sub-section "Configure/Increase Web Client Session Timeout" with an "edit" link. It includes a "Step 1" instruction: "Locate the webclient.properties file:" followed by a code block for "vCenter Server Appliance (VCSA)" showing the file path: `/var/lib/vmware/vsphere-client/webclient.properties`. Below that, there is a section for "Windows vCenter Server" with a code block showing the file path: `C:\ProgramData\VMware\vCenterServer\cfg\vsphere-client\webclient.properties`. A "Step 2" instruction follows: "Uncomment and change session timeout value to desired value:" followed by a code block showing the configuration: `session.timeout = 120`.

Short URL:  
[tiny.cc/webclientwiki](https://tiny.cc/webclientwiki)

- Contains many tips/tricks for using vSphere Web Client. Consider contributing! This is a publically accessible website, so do be careful with what you add.
- Very useful tips are marked with a \*
- “Learning Web Client” section highlights differences between Desktop client and Web Client, helping you in the switchover.

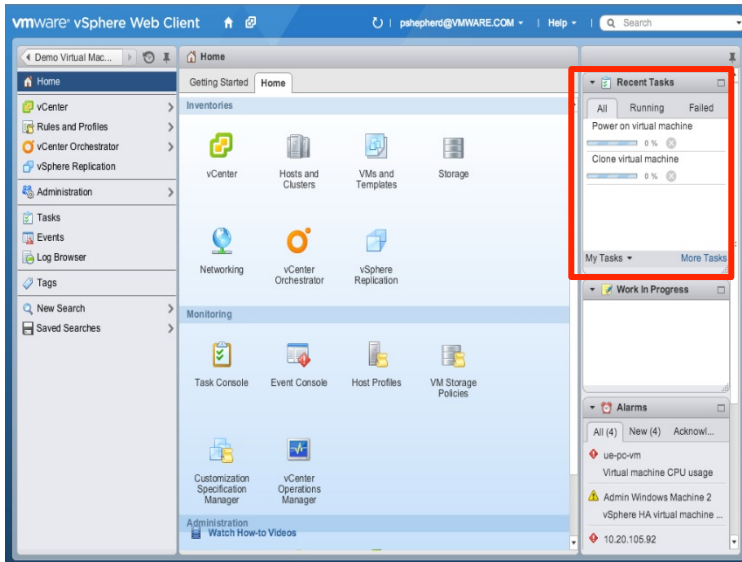
# Performance Improvements



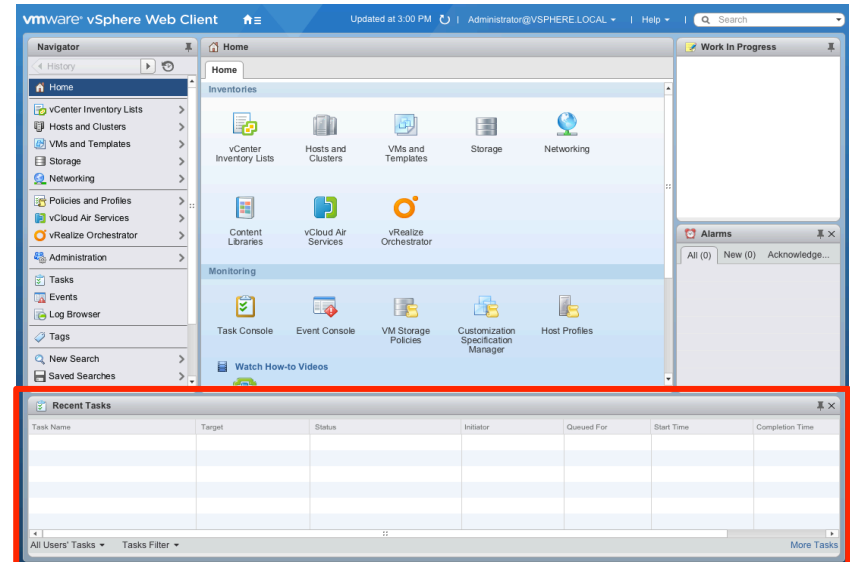
**Problem:** Everything is slow.

**Fix:** Performance improvements made in as many common actions as possible

# Putting tasks back in their place



Before (5.5)

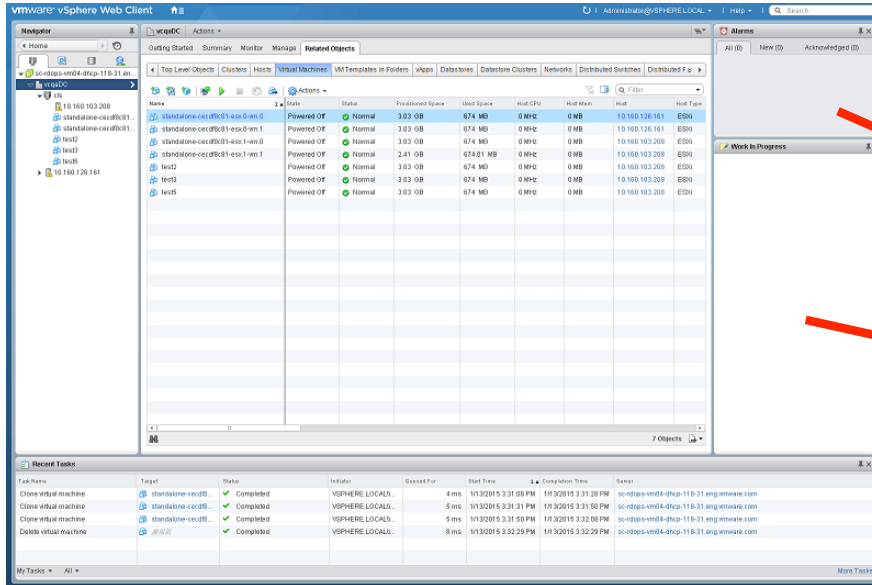


After (6.0)

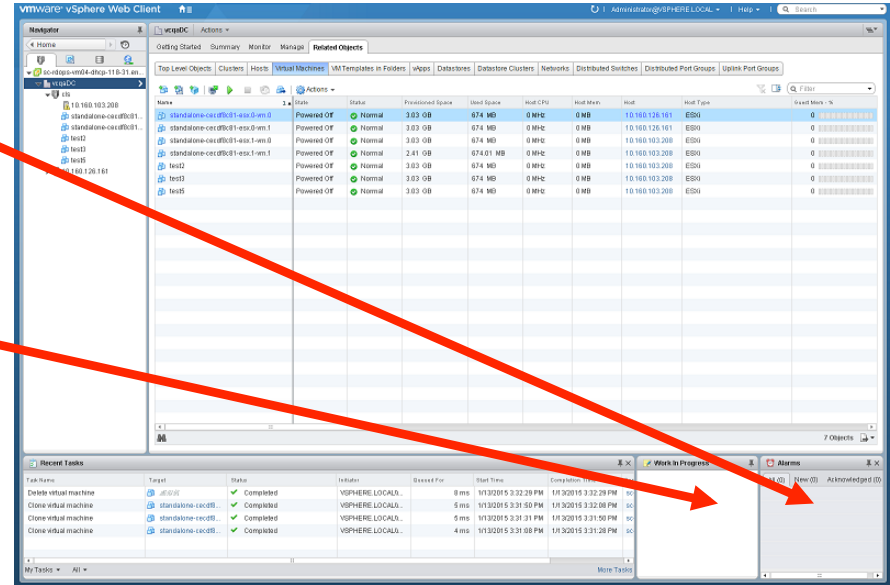
**Problem:** Hard to troubleshoot using Recent Tasks due to limited screen real estate.

**Fix:** Display more information by moving Recent Tasks to the bottom of the screen.

# Dockable UI (customizable UI)



Default 6.0

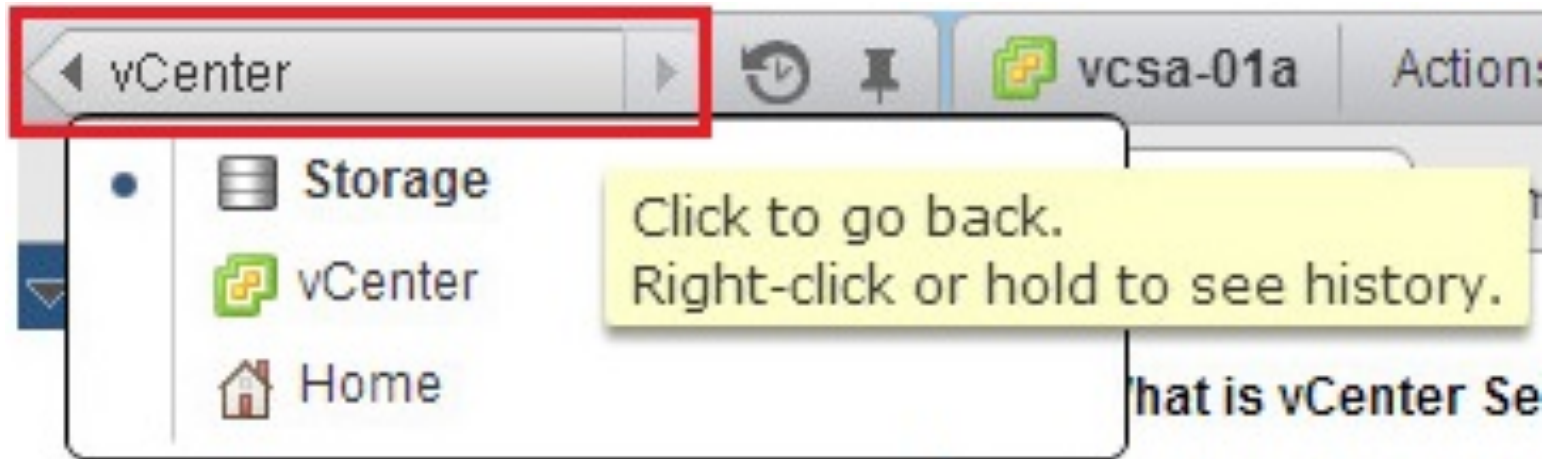


Customized for more workspace

**Problem:** Workspace (or another pane) needs to be wider to display more information, or panes need to be

**Fix:** Customizable UI. Every pane but the central work space can be dragged like a window to different locations. Reset by: Click on your Username on the top right -> Layout Settings... -> Reset to Default

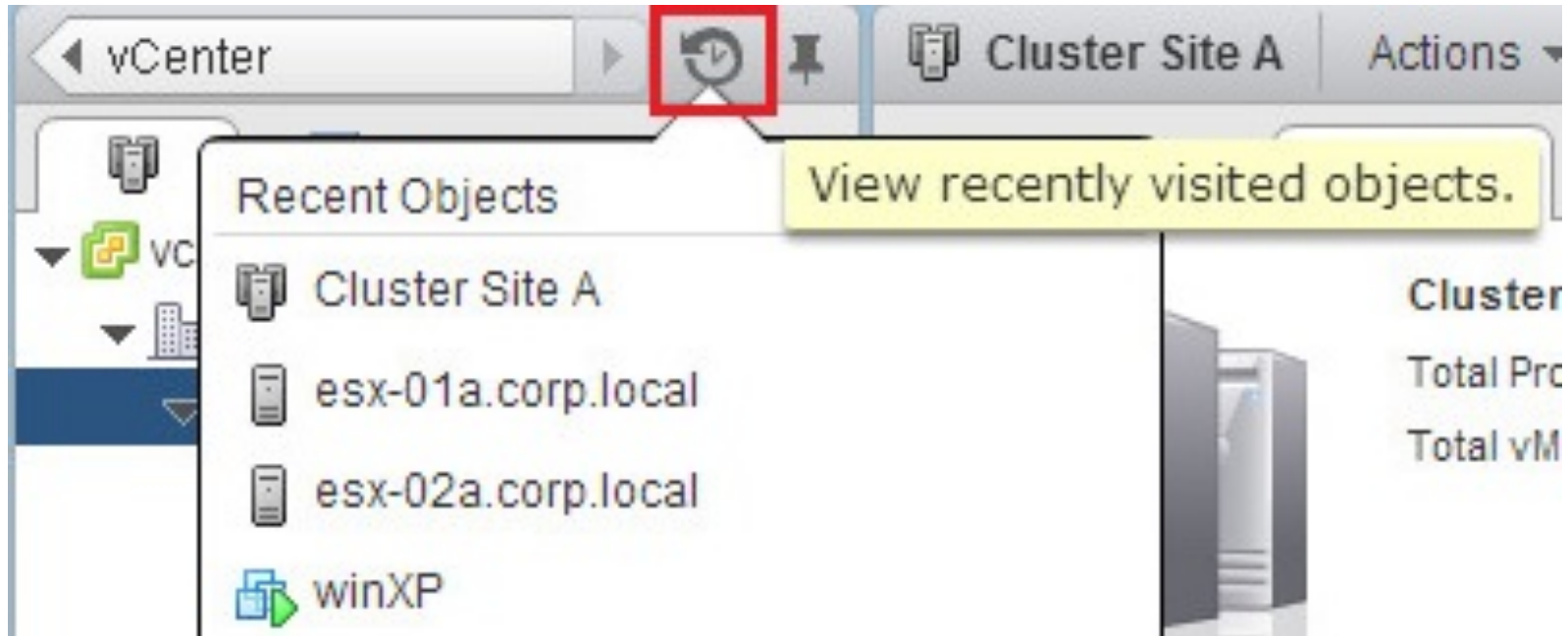
# History



Fast way to get back to previous views. Works just like a browser back button.

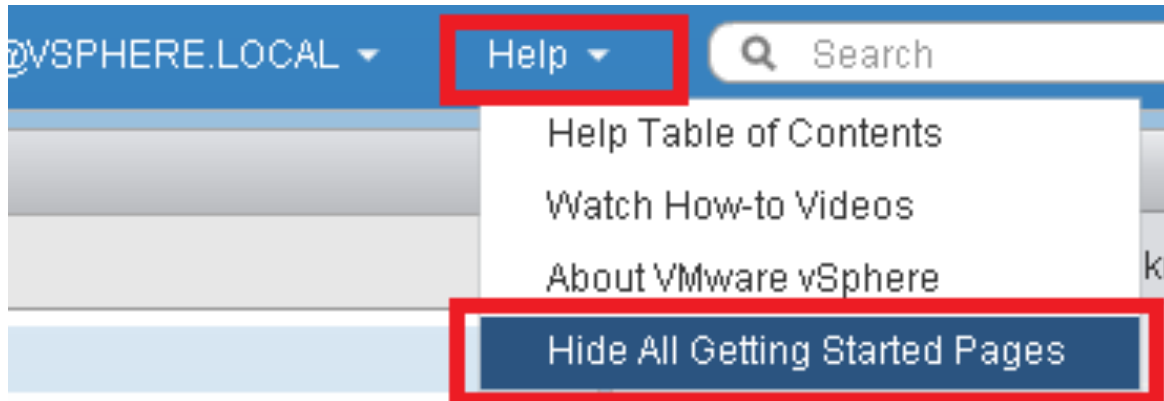


# Recently Visited & Created Objects



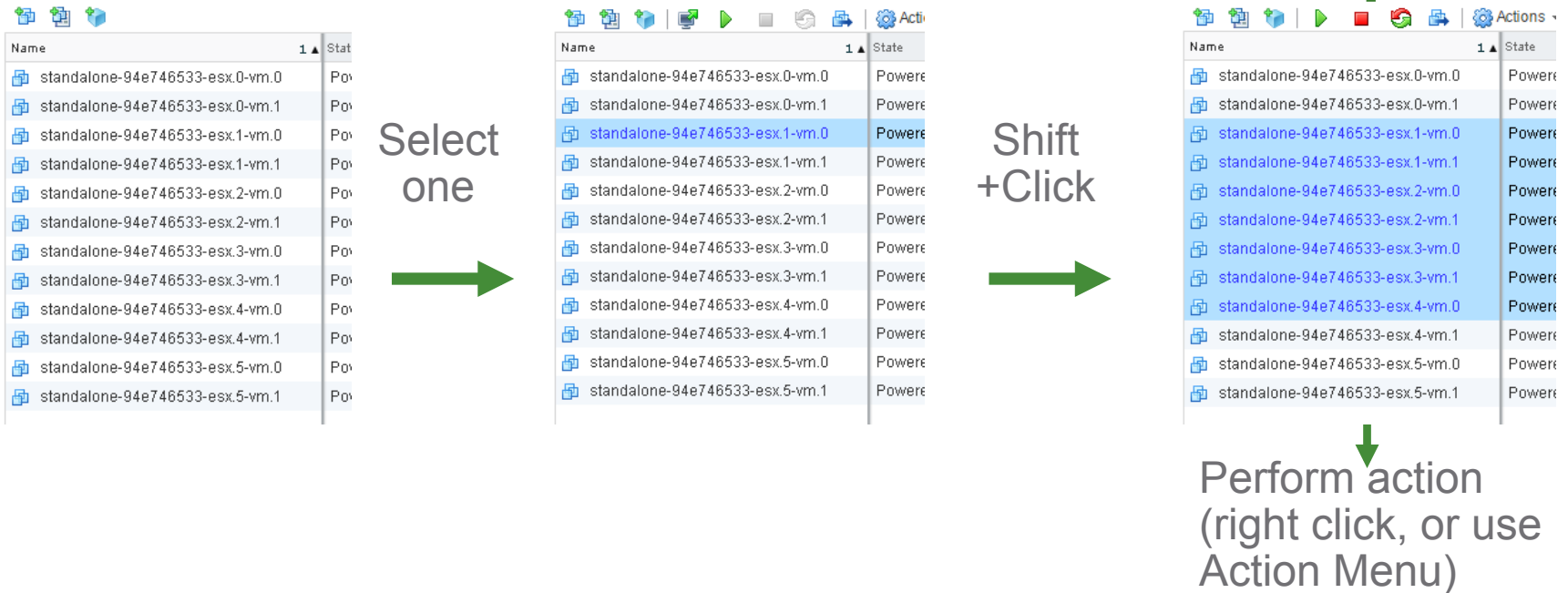
Super fast way to get to objects you've recently worked on. This is great for jumping between a group of objects you're working on collectively, while saving a lot of navigating time.

# Hide All Getting Started Pages



The “Getting Started” pages are great in the beginning. But they can be easily hidden by going to the Help menu, and clicking “Hide All Getting Started Pages”. This becomes “Show All Getting Started Pages” if you want to bring them back later.

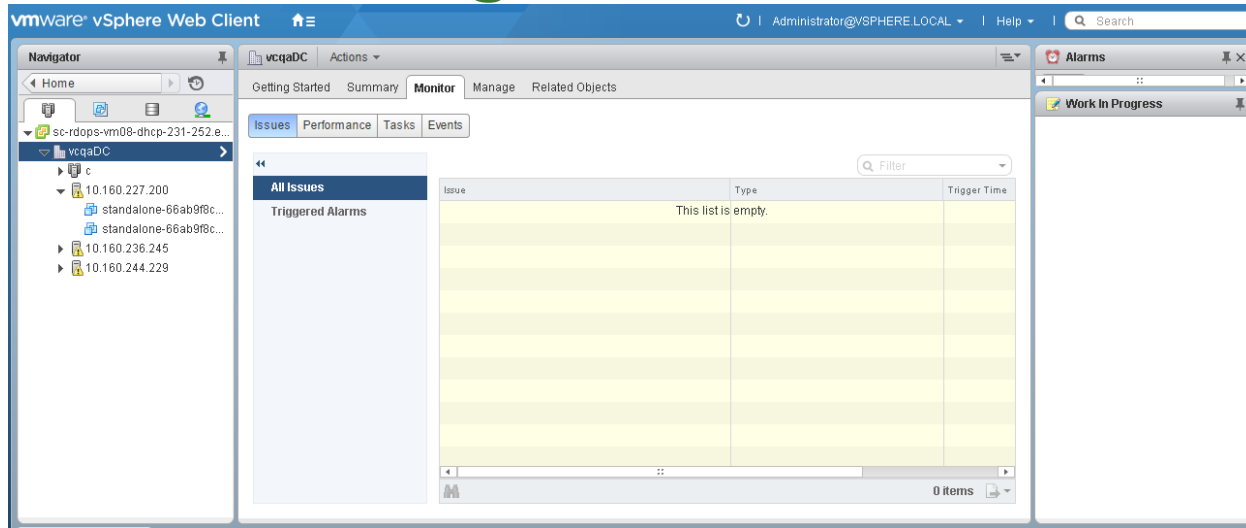
# Batch Actions – Shift+click to select multiple



Many Batch Actions are available in vSphere Web Client (Migrate, VM power on/off, Host power on/off, etc).

One improvement over Desktop Client, you can select a mix of objects (some on, some off) and apply the “Power On” action, and you will get a dialog notifying you only the applicable subset will be acted on.

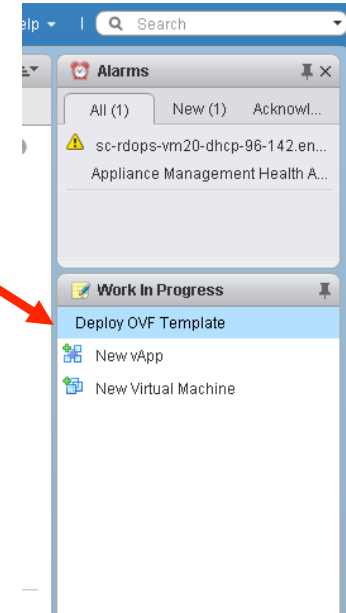
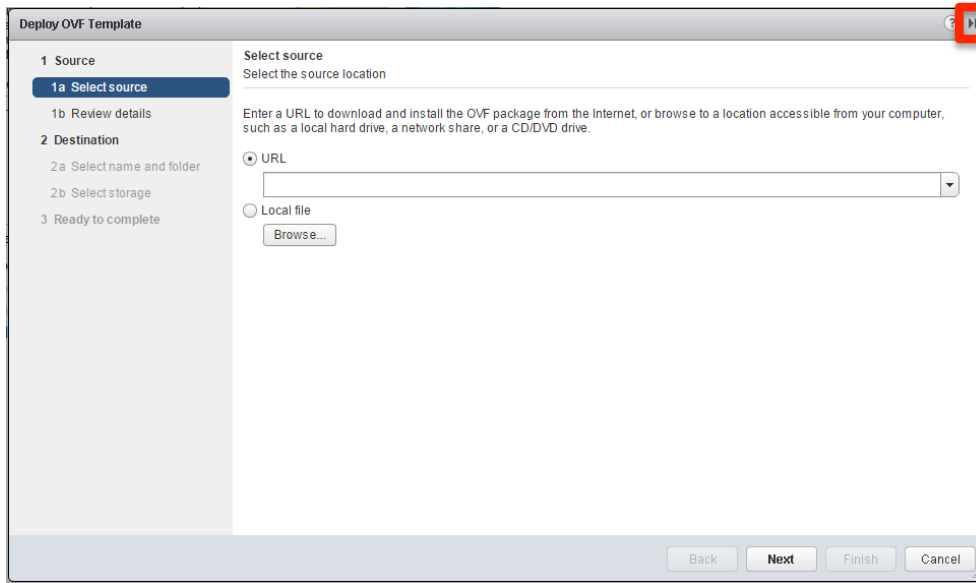
# Bookmarks – sharing URLs



The URL for any view in Web Client, objects, administrative views, can be reused. You can bookmark Datacenter -> Monitor -> Issues and use that as your homepage, for example.

This may be especially useful for support cases that span multiple calls or people. At the end of a call, bookmark a certain view post the link into the support ticket, which can be used for the next call or by the next person.

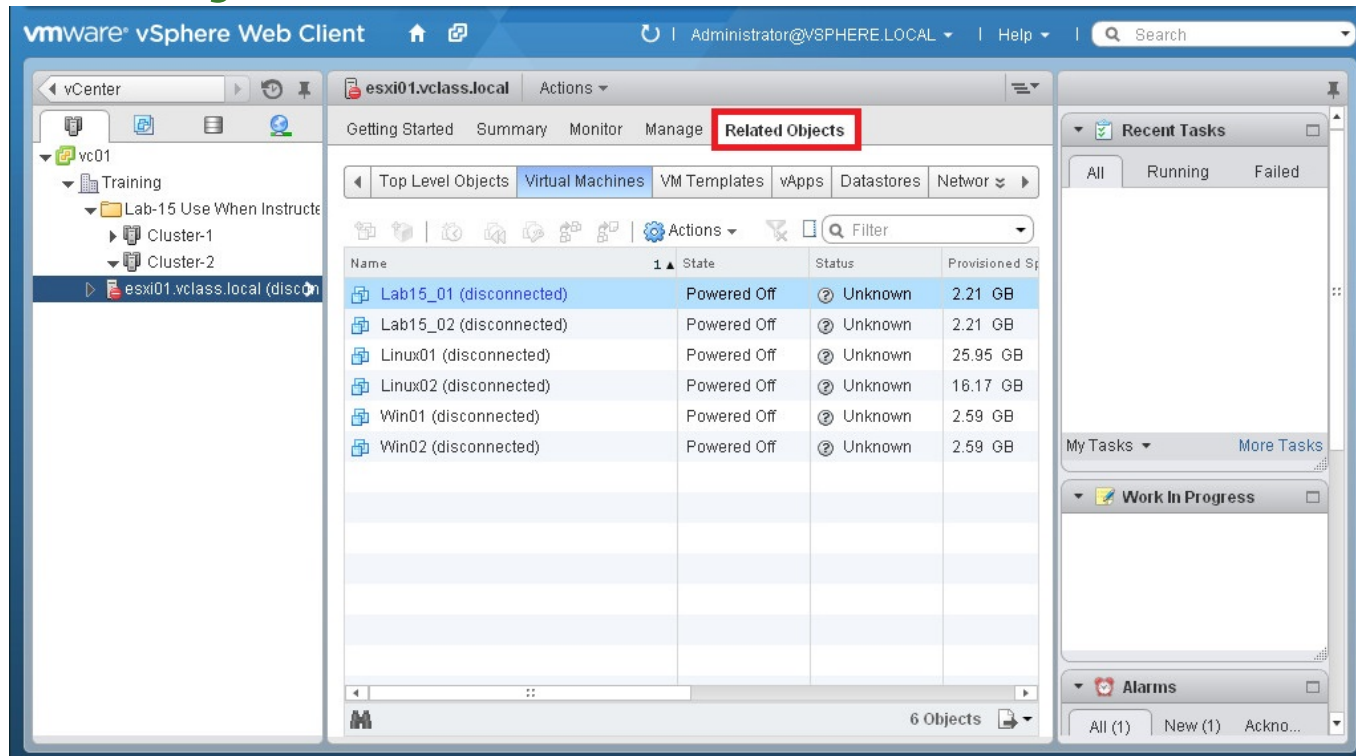
# Work in Progress – Save Wizards



This allows you to minimize wizards, saving your work. This is great for long wizards (some of the networking ones), pausing in the middle of your work to complete another task, or find some information. You can then resume by clicking on the entry in the Work In Progress pane. This is also saved and persists across sessions.

\*You can also click and drag the title bar to move it, double click it to maximize it, and resize using the bottom right corner

# Related Objects



Related Objects – This is a new tab, and is somewhat hard to understand and use. Related Objects collects all of the object tabs into one parent tab.

Instead of a “VMs” tab showing the VMs on a host, or a “Hosts” tab on a cluster, these objects (and more!) are clustered under “Related Objects”

# Saved Searches

Search for: Simple Search

Everything that satisfy all of the following criteria:

Virtual Machine Power State is Powered On

Add new criteria...

Search **Save...** Add another object type

Search results: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 4:55:12 PM

**Virtual Machines**

Name	State	Status	Provisioned Space	Used Space	Host CPU	Host Mem
standalone-66ab9f8c6-esx.3-vm.0	Powered On	✓ Normal	2.42 GB	1.07 GB	0 MHz	0 MB
standalone-66ab9f8c6-esx.3-vm.1	Powered On	✓ Normal	2.42 GB	1.07 GB	0 MHz	0 MB
standalone-66ab9f8c6-esx.4-vm.0	Powered On	✓ Normal	2.42 GB	1.07 GB	0 MHz	0 MB

3 Objects

Search

**Saved Searches**

- First Search
- Another Search
- More Searches

Create a new search

Our advanced search dialog allows you to create very complicated searches, and then you can save them and quickly access them.

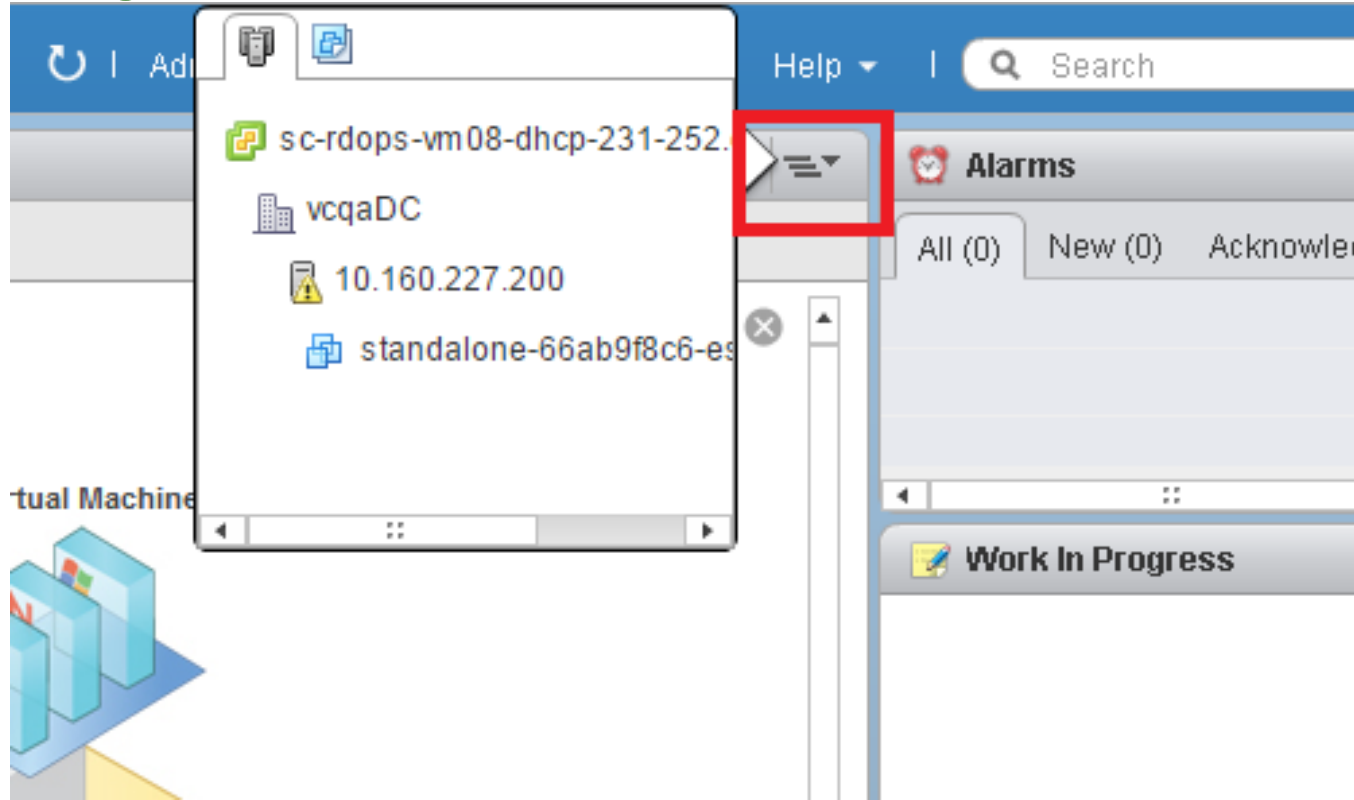
# Shortcut Keys for Navigation

Keyboard Combination*	Action
Ctrl+Alt+s	Quick Search
Ctrl+Alt+Home OR Ctrl+Alt+1	Home Screen
Ctrl+Alt+2	Virtual Infrastructure Inventory
Ctrl+Alt+3	Hosts and Clusters Inventory
Ctrl+Alt+4	VMs and Templates Inventory
Ctrl+Alt+5	Datastores and Datastore Clusters Inventory
Ctrl+Alt+6	Networking Inventory

\*On a Mac, substitute Command for Ctrl



# Hierarchy



This button allows you to view how your object sits in the various hierarchies, including folders. This can be extra helpful when you're in the "List" view, where you are not navigating in the trees.

# Improve Tasks Liveness (faster refresh time)

Change the “tasks.refresh.rate” setting in webclient.properties

vCenter Server Appliance (vSphere 6):

- /etc/vmware/vsphere-client/webclient.properties

Windows vCenter Server:

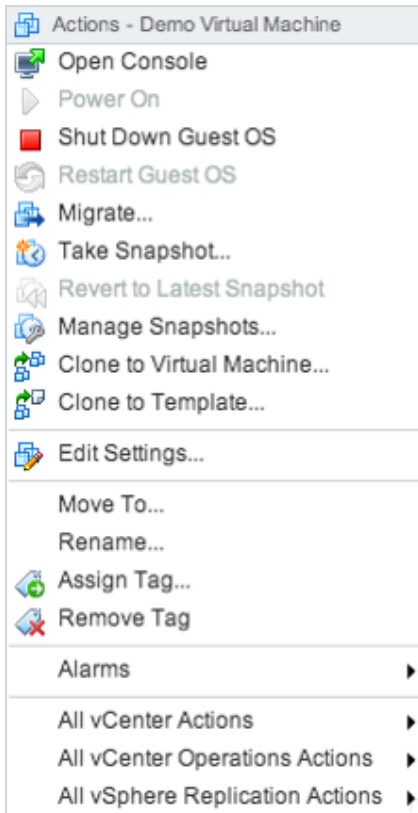
- C:\ProgramData\VMware\vCenterServer\cfg\vsphere-client\webclient.properties

```
# This value configures the auto-refresh rate of the Recent Tasks list
when displaying all users' tasks, in seconds.
# Default is 60, value can be between 10 and 600 seconds, or use -1 to
disable auto-refresh.
tasks.refresh.rate = 60
```

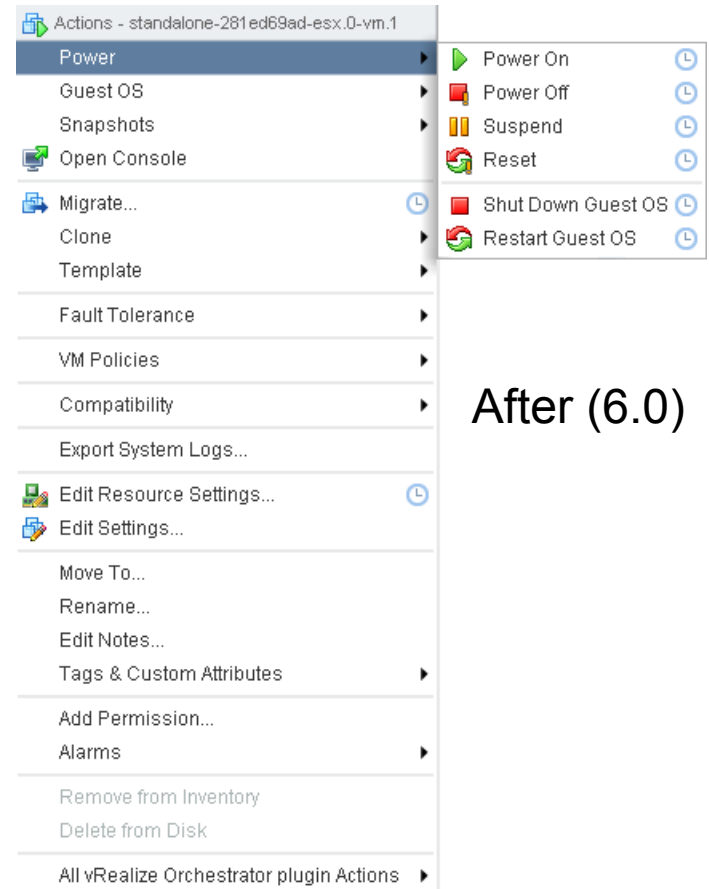
**Problem:** Tasks take too long to show up

**Fix:** Separate the refresh/polling timer for Tasks from the global refresh.

# Making right-click work like it did before



Before (5.5)

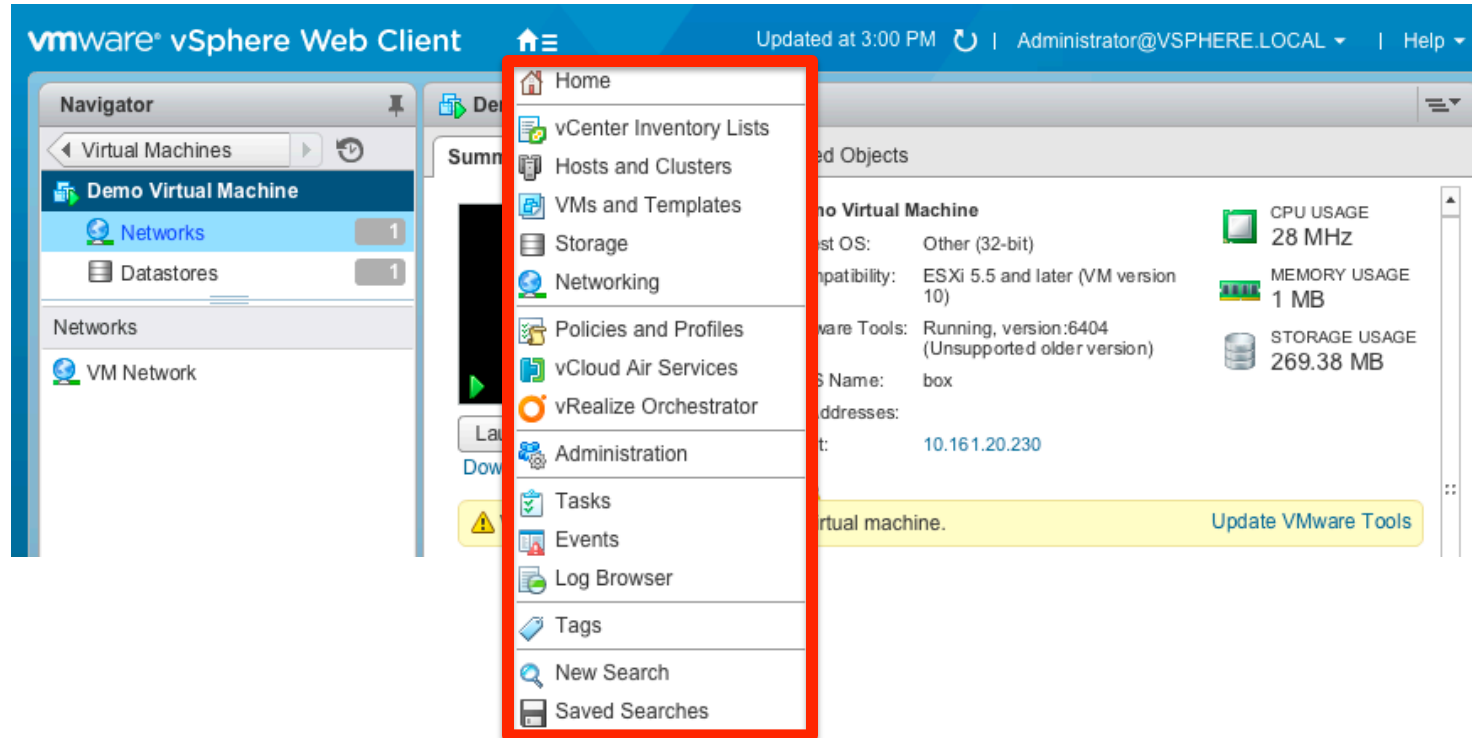


After (6.0)

**Problem:** Too slow to navigate to frequent actions.

**Fix:** Flatten the right-click menus, make them closer to Windows Client

# Improving Lateral Navigation – Home menu



**Problem:** Lots of up and down navigation via Home.

**Fix:** Add menu for navigation across functions.

# Object Aggregation

Before (5.5)

▼  (119) Virtual Machines  
Aggregates at 20

After (6.0)

```
# Aggregation thresholds in the navigation tree for different
objects like virtual machines, hosts, clusters, etc.
# If there are more objects than the threshold number the
list is rolled up. Use 0 to disable aggregation.
aggregationThreshold.VirtualMachine = 100
aggregationThreshold.HostSystem = 50
aggregationThreshold.Datastore = 50
aggregationThreshold.Network = 50
aggregationThreshold.OpaqueNetwork = 50
aggregationThreshold.DistributedVirtualPortgroup = 50
```

Limit configurable in `webclient.properties`

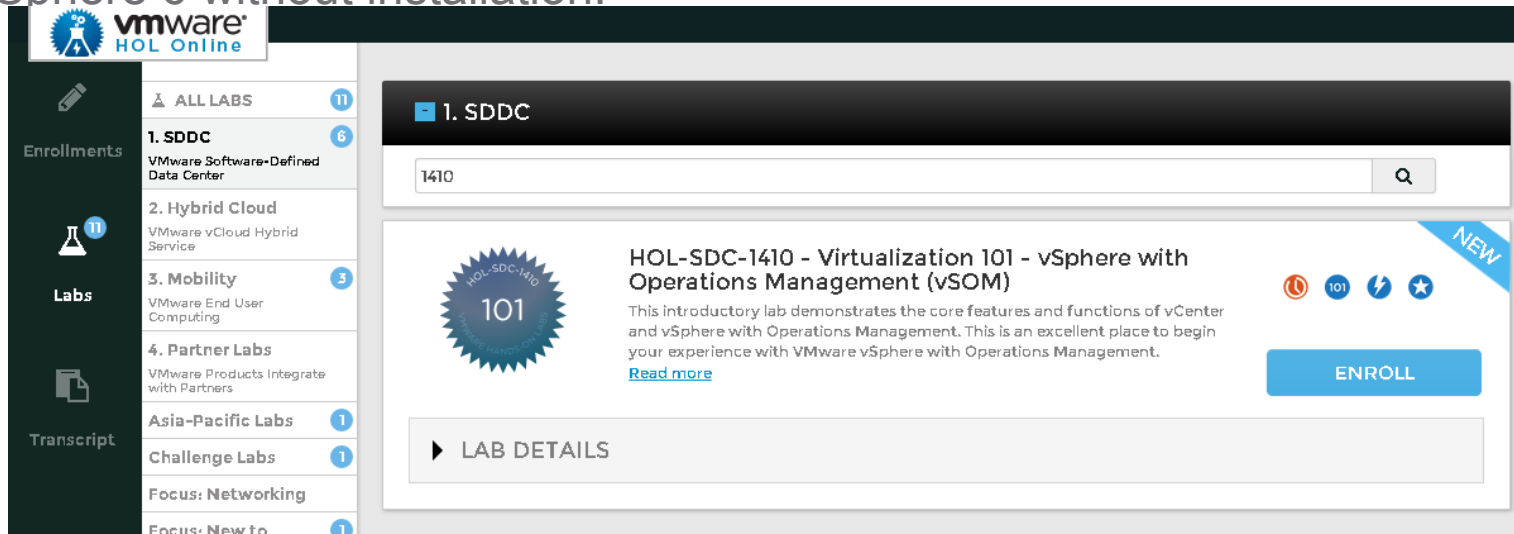
(Can also be disabled)

**Problem:** Aggregation of objects increases number of clicks, and are unintuitive

**Fix:** Make the aggregation limit configurable (per object type), and allow users to disable it entirely

# Hands on Lab – vSphere 6 – HOL-SDC-1410

Try vSphere 6 without installation!



1. Go to <http://labs.hol.vmware.com/>, Register/Login
2. Search for “**1410**”, the lab number of “HOL-SDC-1410 - Virtualization 101 - vSphere with Operations Management”, and **Enroll**
3. Open Firefox or Chrome, check “**Use Windows session authentication**”, and click “**Login**”

\*Recommend closing the “Manual” panel (click on the “x”), or popping it out (“More Options” -> Split Screen -> Open....In a new Window”)

# Fast feedback:

## VMware vSphere™ Web Client 6.0

**David Jennings** @davidjennings3 · Mar 14  
Just upgraded my lab to vSphere 6.0. Worked properly with no errors. Love the new, improved web client.

← ↻ 2 ★ 3 ...

**Andy Barnes** @vmadm1n · Mar 14  
The new vSphere 6.0 web client is much better and actually quite useable so far.

← ↻ 3 ★ 3 ...

**Christian Mohn**™ @h0bbe1 · Mar 13  
I do have to say though, the vSphere 6 Web Client: You can actually love this.

← ↻ 2 ★ 4 ...

**Mike Foley** @mikefoley · Mar 9  
Logged into my vSphere 5 lab. Missing the vSphere 6 web client speed already.

← ↻ 2 ★ 5 ...

**Matt Heldstab** @mattheldstab · Mar 14  
I just removed (yes, removed) the vSphere 6 C# client 1 day after I installed it. It is pretty cool that the vCSA install doesn't need it.

← ↻ 1 ★ ...

**AJ Kufcic** @ajkufcic · Mar 13  
Biggest improvement in vSphere 6 out of the gate? The improved Web Client performance. It's real.

← ↻ 5 ★ 4 ...

**Matt Haedo** @MattHaedo · Mar 12  
#VMware really nailed the #vSphere6 web client. Responsiveness is night and day. Right click is nearly instantaneous. Slick installer too.

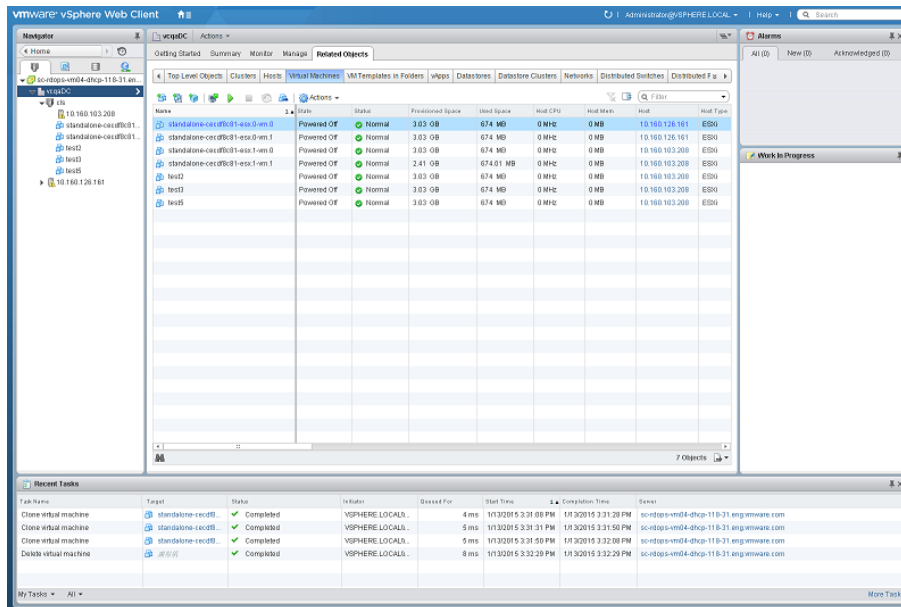
← ↻ 2 ★ 4 ...

**Duco Jaspars** @vConsult · Mar 12  
Huge improvements in web client performance in GA version vSphere 6 Think I can finally get used to the web client ....  
cc:// @vCenterGuy

← ↻ 7 ★ 4 ...

# Challenge: vSphere Web Client for a month

Spend one month using Web Client as your first, second, and third choice client



## Week 1 (Day 1):

1. Read [tiny.cc/webclientwiki](http://tiny.cc/webclientwiki)
2. Hide or Delete your Desktop client shortcut. When you have a problem, go search the Internet first for how to do it in Web Client. (VUM excepted, for now)

## Week 2:

1. Uninstall Desktop client.
2. Install it each day you want to use it, and uninstall at the end of the day.

## Week 3-4:

Uninstall Desktop client permanently. Immersion time is necessary to become accustomed to the differences

## End:

Discuss pros/cons with fellow admins, contact Web Client PM with feedback (positive or negative)



# Glossary

Some slides showing vSphere Web Client terms

# Naming

The screenshot shows the VMware vSphere Web Client interface. The top navigation bar includes a Home button (house icon), a Global Refresh button (circular arrow icon), a Username dropdown menu (Administrator@VSPHERE.LOCAL), and a Workspace dropdown menu. A search bar is also present. The main content area is divided into several panes: the Object Navigator on the left, the Home workspace in the center, the Alarms pane on the top right, the Work in Progress pane below it, and the Recent Tasks pane at the bottom. A red box highlights the Object Navigator and the Home workspace area.

Home Button      Global Refresh      Username      Workspace

Object Navigator

Alarms Pane

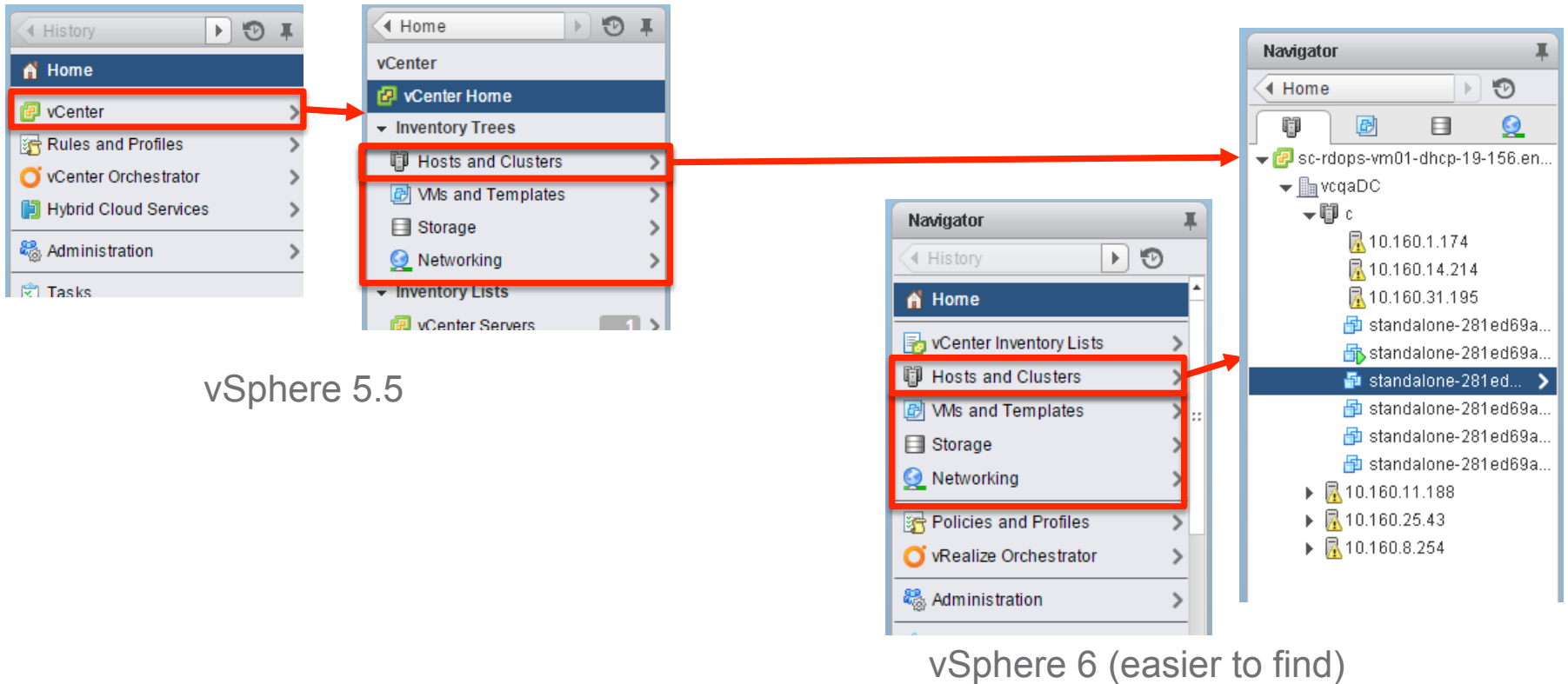
Work in Progress Pane

Recent Tasks Pane

Some of the items in Web Client are well labelled (Alarms pane, Work In Progress pane, Recent Tasks pane), or hopefully evident (username, help, search)

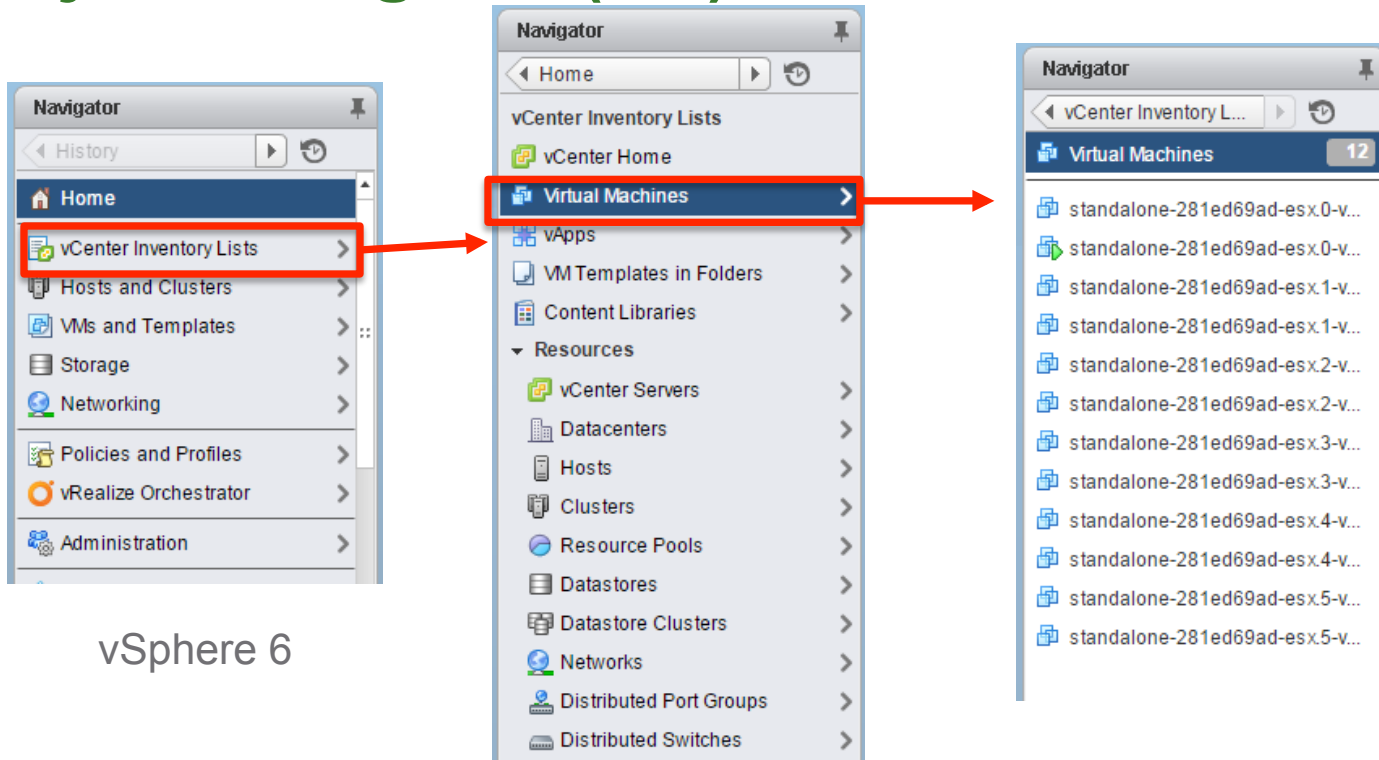
Some are not labelled. The main ones are shown above with their proper names attached.

# Object Navigator (1/2): Tree View



Clicking on “Hosts and Clusters” gets you to the familiar tree as in the Desktop Client  
Similarly with “VMs and Templates”, “Storage”, and “Networking”.

# Object Navigator (2/2): Lists



Clicking on “vCenter Inventory Lists” gets you the List views where you can view single types of objects in a flat list. This view is unique to vSphere Web Client and is especially helpful in very large environments, or for admins working with a small set of objects across many different Datacenters, Hosts, Folders, etc.