

VMware Certified Advanced Professional 5 – Data Center Administration

Exam Blueprint

VCAP5-DCA Certification exam code: VDCA550
Exam Blueprint Version 3.3
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Disclaimer:

This blueprint is intended to provide information about the objectives covered by this exam, related resources, and recommended courses. The material contained within this blueprint is not intended to guarantee that a passing score will be achieved on the exam. VMware recommends that a candidate thoroughly understands the objectives indicated in this guide and utilizes the resources and courses recommended in this guide where needed to gain that understanding.

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1. The Exam

1.1 Purpose of Exam

The **VMware Certified Advanced Professional 5 – Data Center Administration** exam tests certification candidates on their skills and abilities installing, configuring and administering large and/or more complex virtualized environments.

1.2 Number of Questions

The VCAP5-DCA Exam consists of approximately 23 live lab activities and a short pre-exam survey consisting of 9 questions. Live lab activities consist of multiple tasks, where each task is scored. The total number of activities provided is based on the total number of tasks. Because of this, the actual number of lab activities may vary slightly between exams.

1.3 Passing Score

The passing score for this exam is 300. The scale is from 100-500. Scaled scores are calculated using a mathematical formula that considers a variety of factors, including the number and type of exam questions included in a specific version of the exam. Because this combination may vary in different versions of the same examination, scaled scores provide a fair score for each individual based on the version of the exam taken.

Points are awarded for the successful completion of each lab task. Most items on the exam are composed of several tasks, and partial credit is awarded for those tasks that are completed successfully. Candidates can choose to complete a task using different methods, as points are awarded based on successful completion, not on the steps used to complete the task unless stated in the question.

1.4 How Objectives Relate to Questions on the Exam

Objectives summarize what the test is designed to measure. Objectives are developed by Exam Developers and Subject Matter Experts based on identified tasks that relate to the job of administering a VMware vSphere® environment. Once the initial development process is complete, these objectives are verified using an external group of individuals in the actual job role. The external survey determines the number of questions for each objective, which relates directly to the criticality of the task in the job role.

1.5 Languages

The exam is available in English.

1.6 Time Limit

The total time for this exam is 180 minutes. Candidates who take the VCAP5-DCA Exam and have a home address in a country where English is not a primary language will have an additional 30 minutes added to the exam time. This time extension is automatic, no additional action is required from the candidate. For the purposes of this exam, countries where English is considered one of the primary languages are Australia, Belize, Bermuda, Canada, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Ireland, Jersey, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. An additional 15 minutes is provided to complete the survey questions and agreements.

The **VMware Certified Advanced Professional 5 – Data Center Administration** exam is a live exam in which candidates at a Pearson VUE testing center connect directly to VMware equipment specially configured for their use in the exam. There is a limited amount of equipment available for these exams and to ensure a candidate has the required equipment, the equipment is scheduled and partitioned for each VCAP5-DCA exam. After each exam is given, the exam is automatically scored and then equipment is made available for the next exam. The equipment for each candidate is partitioned and made available in a limited time window corresponding to the candidate's scheduled exam time. As a result, candidates can only be seated not more than **15** minutes before and **45** minutes after the scheduled time.

1.7 Scheduling and Taking the Exam

This exam is administered through Pearson VUE. For details on the rules and procedures associated with registering for and taking the exam, which exams are available, latest certification news and more, please visit the VMware page on Pearson VUE's website at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/vmware>.

Pearson VUE's website can also be used to locate a testing center in your area, schedule a VMware exam, and review exam history information.

1.8 Certification Tracks

The VCAP5-DCA Exam is a core component of the VCAP5-DCA certification. The certification requires a passing score on the exam, and the candidate must have achieved the VCP5-DCV, VCP-Cloud or VCP5-Desktop certification as prerequisite to this certification. There is no course requirement for this exam, though courses are available that cover the objectives in the exam.

The VCAP5-DCA certification is a component of the [VCDX5-DCV](#) certification track.

Note: VCP5 and VCDX5 have been renamed VCP5-DCV (VMware Certified Professional 5 – Data Center Virtualization) and VCDX5-DCV (VMware Certified Design Expert 5 – Data Center Virtualization) respectively.

1.9 Recertification

Earning a VCAP certification has the additional benefit of recertifying existing VCP certifications. Recertification helps ensure that all VCP holders are current in their VMware training, and encourages certified professionals to expand the depth and breadth of their knowledge by recertifying in a different track or at a higher level.

For more information on the certification program or to register for our recommended courses, please visit vmware.com/go/recertification or contact certification@vmware.com.

1.10 Retake Policy

If a candidate fails an exam on the first attempt, he or she must wait 14 calendar days from their original appointment time before he or she can register to retake the exam. If a candidate fails the exam twice or more, there is a 30 calendar day period before being able to take the exam again. If a candidate passes the exam, they cannot take the exam again until a new major revision of the product and certification is released.

1.11 Exam Security

VMware reserves the right to refuse certifying a candidate who violates exam security policies. This includes copying and redistribution of exam material, using any type of study material during the exam itself, attempting to photograph exam items and taking an exam using a false identity. VUE testing centers will take your photo and capture your digital signature upon arrival to take the exam.

1.12 Exam Environment

The exam consists of a number of tasks that are performed using an environment consisting of five ESXi 5.5 hosts, two vCenter 5.5 Servers, vCOPS 5.6 Foundation, vCenter Orchestrator 5.5 and vSphere Replication 5.5 appliances plus an Active Directory domain controller and shared storage. A number of pre-configured virtual machines will also be present for use with certain tasks.

The VCAP5-DCA Exam includes troubleshooting tasks. As a result, some components may not be correctly configured, or may not have been configured at all, which is entirely intentional. In addition, some lab tasks are dependent on the successful completion of previous tasks. Every task can be completed successfully, and knowledge of how the task is completed is essential to determine what component or components must be configured or re-configured.

1.13 Documentation available

Documentation on the products covered by the VCAP5-DCA are available during the exam and can be used at any point without penalty. The exam environment includes http links to the [vSphere 5.5 documentation](#) as well as the [VMware Knowledge Base](#). Also included in the kit are the following documentation files:

[vCenter Orchestrator v5.5 Developers Guide](#)
[vCenter Orchestrator v5.5 Install and Configuration Guide](#)
[vCenter Orchestrator v5.5 Using the Client Guide](#)
[vSphere Management Assistant Guide v5.5](#)
[VMware KB Creating and using a Service Principal Account in vCenter Single Sign-On 5.5](#)
[Configuring and Troubleshooting N-Port ID Virtualization](#)
[VMware vSphere PowerCLI User's Guide](#)
[vSphere Single Host Management Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Availability Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
[Getting Started with vSphere Command-Line Interfaces v5.5](#)
[Command-Line Management in vSphere 5 for Service Console Users v5.5](#)
[vCenter Server and Host Management Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Host Profiles v5.5](#)
[vSphere Installation and Setup Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Monitoring and Performance Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Networking Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Resource Management Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Security Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Storage Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Troubleshooting Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Upgrade Guide v5.5](#)
[vSphere Virtual Machine Administration Guide v5.5](#)
[VMware vSphere Replication Administration Guide v5.5](#)
[Installing and Administering VMware vSphere Update Manager v5.5](#)
[Reconfiguring VMware vSphere Update Manager v5.5](#)

2. Intended Audience

2.1 Intended Audience

A candidate should have approximately two years of experience administering a VMware virtual environment. The individual is capable of working with large and/or more complex virtualized environments. Large environments are those that require cooperative administration among the members of a team of administrators. Complex environments are those managed in a hierarchical manner, with different policies applied at different levels of the hierarchy.

Candidates demonstrate technical leadership with vSphere technologies. They are capable of using automation tools, implementing virtualized environments, and administering all vSphere enterprise components as detailed in the exam blueprint. The successful candidate will most likely have additional industry-recognized general IT certifications or the equivalent experience (typically 4-7 years). A current VCP-level certification is a pre-requisite to this certification.

3. Objectives covered in the VCAP5-DCA Exam

3.1 Introduction

It is recommended that candidates have the knowledge and skills necessary to install, configure and administer a vSphere 5.5 environment before taking the VCAP5-DCA Exam. While there is no course requirement for this exam, several courses are available that can help provide knowledge on objectives that are covered by this exam. It is recommended that the candidate utilize these courses and/or other materials where needed to provide background information on the objectives in the exam.

3.2 Objectives

Prior to taking this exam, candidates should understand each of the following objectives. Each objective is listed below; along with related tools the candidate should have experience with, and related documentation that contains information relevant to the objective. All objectives may also be referenced in other product documentation not specifically highlighted below. The candidate should be familiar with all relevant product documentation or have an equivalent skillset.

Section 1 – Implement and Manage Storage

Objective 1.1 – Implement Complex Storage Solutions

Skills and Abilities

- Determine use cases for and configure VMware DirectPath I/O
- Determine requirements for and configure NPIV
- Understand use cases for Raw Device Mapping
- Configure vCenter Server storage filters
- Understand and apply VMFS re-signaturing
- Understand and apply LUN masking using PSA-related commands
- Configure Software iSCSI port binding
- Configure and manage vSphere Flash Read Cache
- Configure Datastore Clusters
- Upgrade VMware storage infrastructure

Tools

- [vSphere Installation and Setup Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Storage Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Management Assistant Guide v5.5](#)
- [Configuring and Troubleshooting N-Port ID Virtualization](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- vSphere CLI
 - [esxtop/resxtop](#)
 - [vscsiStats](#)
 - esxcli
 - vifs
 - vmkfstools

Objective 1.2 – Manage Complex Storage Solutions

Skills and Abilities

- Analyze I/O workloads to determine storage performance requirements
- Identify and tag SSD and local devices
- Administer hardware acceleration for VAAI
- Configure and administer profile-based storage
- Prepare storage for maintenance
- Apply space utilization data to manage storage resources
- Provision and manage storage resources according to Virtual Machine requirements
- Understand interactions between virtual storage provisioning and physical storage provisioning
- Configure datastore Alarms
- Create and analyze datastore alarms and errors to determine space availability

Tools

- [vSphere Storage Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- [vCenter Server and Host Management Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- vdf/df
- vSphere CLI
 - esxcli
 - vmkfstools

Objective 1.3 – Troubleshoot complex storage solutions

Skills and Abilities

- Perform command line configuration of multipathing options
- Change a multipath policy
- Troubleshoot common storage issues

Tools

- [vSphere Installation and Setup Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Storage Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- vSphere CLI
 - esxcli
 - vifs
 - vmkfstools

Section 2 – Implement and Manage Networking

Objective 2.1 – Implement and manage virtual standard switch (vSS) networks

Skills and Abilities

- Create and Manage vSS components
- Create and Manage vmkernel ports on standard switches
- Configure advanced vSS settings

Tools

- [vSphere Installation and Setup Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Networking Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client

Objective 2.2 – Implement and manage virtual distributed switch (vDS) networks

Skills and Abilities

- Determine use cases for and applying VMware DirectPath I/O
- Migrate a vSS network to a hybrid or full vDS solution
- Configure vSS and vDS settings using command line tools
- Analyze command line output to identify vSS and vDS configuration details
- Configure NetFlow
- Determine appropriate discovery protocol
- Determine use cases for and configure PVLANS
- Use command line tools to troubleshoot and identify VLAN configurations

Tools

- [vSphere Installation and Setup Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Networking Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- vSphere CLI
 - esxcli

Objective 2.3 – Troubleshoot virtual switch solutions

Skills and Abilities

- Understand the NIC Teaming failover types and related physical network settings
- Determine and apply Failover settings
- Configure explicit failover to conform with VMware best practices
- Configure port groups to properly isolate network traffic
- Given a set of network requirements, identify the appropriate distributed switch technology to use
- Configure and administer vSphere Network I/O Control
- Use command line tools to troubleshoot and identify configuration items from an existing vDS

Tools

- [vSphere Installation and Setup Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Networking Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Troubleshooting Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- vSphere CLI
 - esxcli

Section 3 – Implement and Manage Host Clusters

Objective 3.1 – Implement and Maintain Complex VMware HA Solutions

Skills and Abilities

- Calculate host failure requirements
- Configure customized isolation response settings
- Configure HA redundancy
 - Management Network
 - Datastore Heartbeat
 - Network partitions
- Configure HA related alarms and monitor an HA cluster
- Create a custom slot size configuration
- Understand interactions between DRS and HA
- Analyze vSphere environment to determine appropriate HA admission control policy
- Analyze performance metrics to calculate host failure requirements
- Analyze Virtual Machine workload to determine optimum slot size
- Analyze HA cluster capacity to determine optimum cluster size

Tools

- [vSphere Availability Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client

Objective 3.2 – Implement and manage complex DRS solutions

Skills and Abilities

- Explain DRS / storage DRS affinity and anti-affinity rules
- Identify required hardware components to support Distributed Power Management (DPM)
- Identify EVC requirements, baselines and components
- Understand the DRS / storage DRS migration algorithms, the Load Imbalance Metrics, and their impact on migration recommendations
- Properly configure BIOS and management settings to support DPM
- Test DPM to verify proper configuration
- Configure appropriate DPM Threshold to meet business requirements
- Configure EVC using appropriate baseline
- Change the EVC mode on an existing DRS cluster
- Create DRS and DPM alarms
- Configure applicable power management settings for ESXi hosts
- Properly size virtual machines and clusters for optimal DRS efficiency
- Properly apply virtual machine automation levels based upon application requirements

- Create and administer ESXi host and Datastore Clusters
- Administer DRS / Storage DRS

Tools

- [vSphere Resource Management Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / vSphere Web Client

Objective 3.3 – Troubleshoot vSphere clusters

Skills and Abilities

- Configure EVC using appropriate baseline
- Create and manage DRS and DPM alarms
- Properly size virtual machines and clusters for optimal DRS efficiency
- Properly apply virtual machine automation levels based upon application requirements

Tools

- [vSphere Resource Management Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Troubleshooting Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Monitoring and Performance Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / vSphere Web Client

Section 4 – Manage Virtual Machines and vSphere Resources

Objective 4.1 – Utilize Advanced vSphere Performance Monitoring Tools

Skills and Abilities

- Configure `esxtop/resxtop` custom profiles
- Determine use cases for and apply `esxtop/resxtop` Interactive, Batch and Replay modes
- Use `vscsiStats` to gather storage performance data
- Use `esxtop/resxtop` to collect performance data
- Given `esxtop/resxtop` output, identify relative performance data for capacity planning purposes

Tools

- [vSphere Resource Management Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Management Assistant Guide v5.5](#)

- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / vSphere Web Client
- vSphere CLI
 - [esxtop /resxtop](#)
 - [vscsiStats](#)

Objective 4.2 – Optimize Virtual Machine resources

Skills and Abilities

- Tune Virtual Machine memory configurations
- Tune Virtual Machine networking configurations
- Tune Virtual Machine CPU configurations
- Tune Virtual Machine storage configurations
- Calculate available resources
- Properly size a Virtual Machine based on application workload
- Modify large memory page settings
- Understand appropriate use cases for CPU affinity
- Configure alternate virtual machine swap locations

Tools

- [vSphere Resource Management Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Virtual Machine Administration Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Management Assistant Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
 - Performance Charts
- vSphere CLI
 - [esxtop /resxtop](#)
 - [vscsiStats](#)

Objective 4.3 – Manage advanced virtual machine configurations

Skills and Abilities

- Tune Virtual Machine disk controller configurations
- Configure .vmx file for advanced configuration scenarios
- Identify pre-requisites for Hot Add features
- Configure VMware Fault Tolerance
- Upgrade virtual machine hardware and VMware Tools

Tools

- [vSphere Virtual Machine Administration Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Availability Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client

Objective 4.4– Configure and manage vSphere Replication

Skills and Abilities

- Configure and manage a vSphere Replication infrastructure
- Configure and manage vSphere Replication of virtual machines
- Troubleshoot vSphere Replication

Tools

- [vSphere Virtual Machine Administration Guide v5.5](#)
- [VMware vSphere Replication Administration Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- virtual appliance management interface (VAMI)

Section 5 – Perform Operational Maintenance

Objective 5.1 – Implement and Maintain Host Profiles

Skills and Abilities

- Use Profile Editor to edit and/or disable policies
- Create sub-profiles
- Use Host Profiles to deploy vDS
- Use Host Profiles to deploy vStorage policies
- Import/Export Host Profiles
- Manage Answer Files

Tools

- [vSphere Host Profiles v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client

Objective 5.2 – Utilize Update Manager for patches and upgrades

Skills and Abilities

- Install and configure Update Manager Download Service
- Configure a shared repository
- Configure smart rebooting
- Manually download updates to a repository
- Perform orchestrated vSphere upgrades
- Create and modify baseline groups
- Troubleshoot Update Manager problem areas and issues
- Generate database reports using MS Excel or MS SQL
- Upgrade vApps using Update Manager
- Utilize Update Manager PowerCLI to export baselines for testing
- Utilize the Update Manager Utility to reconfigure vUM settings

Tools

- [Installing and Administering VMware vSphere Update Manager v5.5](#)
- [Reconfiguring VMware vSphere Update Manager v5.5](#)
- [vCenter Server and Host Management Guide v5.5](#)
- [VMware vSphere Update Manager PowerCLI Installation and Administration Guide v5.5](#)
- [VMware vSphere PowerCLI User's Guide](#)
- vSphere Client / WebClient
- vmware-umds

Objective 5.3 – Manage vCenter inventory

Skills and Abilities

- Apply vSphere tags
- Search vSphere inventory
- Troubleshoot the vSphere inventory infrastructure

Tools

- [vCenter Server and Host Management Guide v5.5](#)
- [VMware vSphere PowerCLI User's Guide](#)
- [vSphere Troubleshooting Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / WebClient

Objective 5.4 – Configure, manage, and analyze vSphere and SSO log files

Skills and Abilities

- Generate vCenter Server and ESXi log bundles
- Use `esxcli system syslog` to configure centralized logging on ESXi hosts
- Test centralized logging configuration
- Analyze log entries to obtain configuration information
- Analyze log entries to identify and resolve issues
- Install and configure VMware syslog Collector and ESXi Dump Collector

Tools

- [vSphere Monitoring and Performance Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Troubleshooting Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- VMware syslog Collector
- ESXi Dump Collector
- Esxcli

Section 6 – Secure a vSphere Environment

Objective 6.1 – Manage authentication and end-user security

Skills and Abilities

- Add/Edit Remove users/groups on an ESXi host
- Customize SSH settings for increased security
- Enable ESXi lockdown mode
- Enable strong passwords and configure password policies
- Identify methods for hardening virtual machines
- Analyze logs for security-related messages
- Manage Active Directory integration

Tools

- [vCenter Server and Host Management Guide v5.5](#)
- [VMware vSphere PowerCLI User's Guide](#)
- [vSphere Security Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere 5.5 Hardening Guide](#)
- vSphere Client / WebClient

Objective 6.2 – Manage SSL certificates

Skills and Abilities

- Enable/Disable certificate checking
- Generate ESXi host certificates
- Replace default certificate with CA-signed certificate
- Configure SSL timeouts
- Configure vSphere Authentication Proxy

Tools

- [vSphere Security Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Command-Line Interface Concepts and Examples v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Installation and Setup Guide v5.5](#)
- [vSphere Troubleshooting Guide v5.5](#)
- vSphere Client / Web Client
- vSphere CLI
 - esxcli
 - vifs

Section 7 – Perform Scripting and Automation

Objective 7.1 – Execute VMware Cmdlets and Customize Scripts Using PowerCLI

Skills and Abilities

- Identify vSphere PowerCLI requirements
- Identify Cmdlet concepts
- Identify environment variables usage
- Install and configure vSphere PowerCLI
- Install and configure Update Manager PowerShell Library
- Use basic and advanced Cmdlets to manage VMs and ESXi Hosts
- Use Web Service Access Cmdlets
- Use Datastore and Inventory Providers
- Given a sample script, modify the script to perform a given action

Tools

- [VMware vSphere PowerCLI User's Guide](#)
- [VMware vSphere PowerCLI Cmdlets Reference](#)
- [Scripting with Windows PowerShell](#)

Objective 7.2 – Utilize basic workflows using Orchestrator

Skills and Abilities

- Configure and manage vCenter Orchestrator
- Add Orchestrator to vCenter
- Create basic vCenter management workflows
- Troubleshoot existing workflows
- Import/export packages

Tools

- [vCenter Orchestrator v5.5 Developers Guide](#)
- [vCenter Orchestrator v5.5 Install and Configuration Guide](#)
- [vCenter Orchestrator v5.5 Using the Client Guide](#)
- The Orchestrator Client

4. VCAP5-DCA Paths and Suggested Courses

4.1 VCAP5-DCA Path Options

IF YOU ARE...	NEXT STEP	EXAM	CERTIFICATION
Currently VCP5-DCV, VCP-Cloud, or VCP5-DT certified	<i>RECOMMENDED TRAINING</i> VMware vSphere: Optimize and Scale [V5.x]	Pass the VCAP5-DCA Exam	VCAP5-DCA
Currently VCAP4-DCA certified	<i>RECOMMENDED TRAINING</i> VMware vSphere: What's New [V5.x]	Pass the VCAP5-DCA Exam	VCAP5-DCA

If you do not already hold the VCP5-DCV certification, upon passing the VCAP5-DCA Exam, you will be granted the VCP5-DCV certification as well. VCP5 has been renamed VCP5-DCV (VMware Certified Professional 5 – Data Center Virtualization). Certification requirements are subject to change and may not be retroactive to previous versions. Please check vmware.com/certification for updates.

4.2 Recommended Courses

[VMware vSphere: Optimize and Scale \[v5.x\]](#)

This course, for experienced VMware vSphere® personnel, teaches advanced skills for configuring and maintaining a highly available and scalable virtual infrastructure. The course includes focus on advanced storage and networking configuration, advanced cluster configuration, performance troubleshooting and optimization and the use of advanced management tools. The course is based on VMware ESXi™ 5.5 and VMware vCenter Server™ 5.5.

- Configure and manage ESXi networking and storage for a large and sophisticated enterprise.
- Manage changes to the vSphere environment.
- Optimize the performance of all vSphere components.
- Troubleshoot operational faults and identify their root causes.
- Use VMware vSphere® ESXi™ Shell and VMware vSphere® Management Assistant (vMA) to manage vSphere.
- Use VMware vSphere® Auto Deploy™ to provision ESXi hosts.

This course provides training on the majority of objectives covered in the VCAP5-DCA Exam and is recommended for candidates that wish to gain additional insight into one or more of the objective areas covered in the exam.

[VMware vSphere: What's New \[v5.x\]](#)

A two-day, hands-on training course that explores new features in VMware vCenter™ Server 5.x and VMware® ESXi™ 5.x. Topics include VMware vSphere® 5 installation and how to upgrade from vSphere 4.x to vSphere 5.x. vSphere 5.x is the first version of vSphere to include only the ESXi hypervisor. The course covers the following objectives:

- List and describe key enhancements in vSphere 5
- Describe the upgrade process from vSphere 4.x to vSphere 5.5
- Use VMware® vCenter™ Server Appliance™ and the VMware vSphere® Web Client to manage the vSphere platform
- Understand how VMware® vCenter™ Single Sign-On™ works
- Upgrade and manage a VMware vSphere® VMFS-5 datastore
- Create a port mirroring session
- Configure virtual machine storage policies
- Create a datastore cluster and configure VMware vSphere® Storage DRS™
- Monitor VMware vSphere® High Availability cluster activity
- Use VMware vSphere® Auto Deploy™ to provision an ESXi host

This course is designed for candidates that already have obtained their VCP4 certification and are looking for the information relevant to new vSphere 5.x features. To determine if this course satisfies the course requirement, refer to the diagram in section 4.1.

5. Additional Resources

5.1 Interactive Exam Simulation

VMware provides an interactive exam simulation for the VCAP5-DCA Exam. The simulation uses a sample question and lab activity to demonstrate the exam environment.

The interactive exam simulation is located [here](#).

5.2 VCAP Community

VMware provides an online community for VCAP5-DCA candidates. This community contains valuable information from other candidates and senior VCAPs, and is moderated by VMware certification staff.

The community is located at: <http://communities.vmware.com/community/vmtn/certedu/certification/vcap>

5.3 Building a vSphere Test Environment

All VMware products, including vSphere 5.5, can be downloaded and evaluated for 60 days. If you have the equipment to install a copy of ESXi 5.5, you can install additional ESXi 5.5 hosts as virtual machines. This would allow you to install multiple copies of ESXi and a copy of vCenter Server. For shared storage, obtain a virtual appliance that contains an iSCSI target. Several of these are available on the [appliance marketplace](#).

Version	Date	Change Notes
3.3	2014-05-06	Updated section 1.6: Time Limit