



Product Bulletin:

NetApp Virtual Storage Console 1.0 for VMware vSphere (VSC)

Revision History

25 October 2009 - Initial version

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This PRODUCT bulletin informs NetApp sales and NetApp partners about new or changed NetApp™ products or services.

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1. Summary

This product bulletin announces the availability of Virtual Storage Console (VSC), part of the NetApp integrated virtual storage management portfolio. For VMware vSphere deployments, VSC will replace the functionality of the prior tool known as the ESX Host Utilities (EHU).

VSC provides a VMware administrator with an integrated storage management solution for both SAN and NAS configurations. Through VSC, the VMware administrator will be provided with visual indications of storage status and health information and storage utilization details; including deduplication savings and available and used storage all the way up into the VMware datastore. In addition to storage capacity and configuration details, the NetApp plugin ensures that host and path settings are optimized for NetApp storage systems.

The VSC software will be available for download at no charge (\$0) from the NOW site. All NetApp customers are entitled to download this storage management plug-in to VMware vSphere.

2. What's New?

This is the first release of the Virtual Storage Console. This release represents one of a series of integration points between NetApp and VMware, which in addition to VSC, includes such software offerings such as Rapid Cloning Utility and SnapManager –VI.

VSC provides a server administrator with the tools to leverage the storage and server efficiencies provided through joint NetApp and VMware solutions. VSC does this by providing critical storage configuration information directly to the VMware administrator in the vSphere user interface. This integrated solution also serves to ensure that VMware host settings are optimized for NetApp storage configurations. This release of VSC will replace the previous Host Utility model for ESX 4.0 and later configurations.

Note that this release of VSC works w/ NAS as well as SAN and also supports the 4.0 releases of ESXi as well as ESX.

3. Sales and Customer Ready Tools (Training, SE, Customer

Presentations, Datasheets, Sales Guides)

A recorded demo with voice-over is available on the Field Portal page [here](#) (search for Virtual Storage Console)

4. System Requirements

The VSC product support is outlined in the Virtual Storage Console Release Notes, which are included in the NOW site VSC download.

VSC support is optimized for ESX 4.0 and Data ONTAP™ 7.3.1.1 and later releases. Limited support is available for ESX 3.5. Storage details for these hosts are displayed, but none of the host settings can be changed by VSC (the necessary API interfaces are not available in this ESX release).

Credentials required – VMware vSphere:

VSC interface must be registered as a plug-in within vSphere which requires the Administrative User rights

Credential Required – NetApp Storage:

VSC requires privileged commands to collect data from the NetApp storage controller. At this time, root access is required for all NetApp controllers.

A Knowledge-Base (KB) article is being written to document and test a reduced, more refined set of storage privileges that will still meet the needs of the VSC plug-in interfaces.

5. Product Information

The Virtual Storage Console (VSC) software enables you to manage ESX and ESXi servers connected to NetApp storage systems. VSC is a plug-in to the VMware vCenter server.

VSC adds a NetApp tab to the vSphere Client GUI. Using VSC you can perform the following tasks:

- View the status of storage controllers
- View the status of ESX hosts, including ESX version and overall status
- Check at a glance whether the following are configured correctly, and if not, automatically set the correct values without needing to access the ESX console.
- You can select multiple ESX hosts and update settings for all hosts with a single command.
 - Storage adapter timeouts
 - Multipathing settings
 - NFS settings
- Set credentials to access storage controllers
- Launch the FilerView GUI to create LUNs and manage storage controllers
- Collect diagnostic information from the ESX hosts, storage controllers, and Fibre Channel switches
- Access tools to identify and correct misaligned disk partitions (MBR Scan / Align)

Downloading

For downloading software go to [NOW Download Software](#)

7. Warranty and Service

Support and services provided by NetApp NGS and is available to all customers on a valid support contract.

8. Additional Information

Contact Information: Please contact your NetApp sales or channel partner representative with questions concerning this bulletin.