

VMware vRealize Orchestrator

Executing Complex IT Operations Faster and at Lower Cost

AT A GLANCE

VMware vRealize™ Orchestrator™ 5.5 (formerly vCenter™ Orchestrator™) is a drag-and-drop workflow software that simplifies the automation of complex IT tasks. It integrates with VMware vCloud Suite™ components to adapt and extend service delivery and operational management, thereby effectively working with existing infrastructure, tools and processes. It enables administrators to develop complex automation tasks, then quickly access and launch workflows from the VMware vSphere® client, various components of VMware vCloud Suite, or other triggering mechanisms.

KEY BENEFITS

- Integrate VMware solutions into your IT environment and processes to rapidly accelerate IT operations
- Reduce IT Operating expenses and total cost of ownership of VMware solutions
- Automate management and operational tasks across both VMware and third-party applications, tools and infrastructure

How does VMware vRealize Orchestrator work?

vRealize Orchestrator is a powerful automation tool designed for system administrators and IT operations staff who must streamline tasks and remediation actions and integrate these functions with third-party IT operations software. vRealize Orchestrator comprises the following features and components:

Workflow development and management

Workflow designer - Easy-to-use, drag-and-drop workflow elements produce simple or complex workflows. Available on Windows, Linux and Mac OS, the redesigned interface enables building complex automation routines with just a few clicks.

Workflow engine - Create workflows either by using custom building blocks initiated by the user, or by using plug-ins from vRealize Orchestrator and from [VMware Solution Exchange](#).

Built-in workflow library - Use tasks in the vRealize Orchestrator library of workflows to:

- Assign an IP Address from an IP Address Management tool
- Generate a work order ticket
- Update a CMDB
- Configure a load balancer
- Initiate a system backup

Scripting engine - Create new building blocks for the vRealize Orchestrator platform. The scripting engine is enhanced with basic version control, variable type checking, namespace management and exception handling. It can be used in the building blocks for actions, workflows and policies.

Versioning - All vRealize Orchestrator workflows have version history, packaging and rollback capabilities, which allow basic change management during distribution of processes to different project stages and locations.

Checkpointing Content Database - Each step in the workflow is saved in a content database, enabling server restarts without loss of state and context. This feature is especially useful for long-running processes.

Central Management - vRealize Orchestrator provides a central way to manage your processes and ensure that administrators use version-controlled scripts. This provides proper change control across the environment.

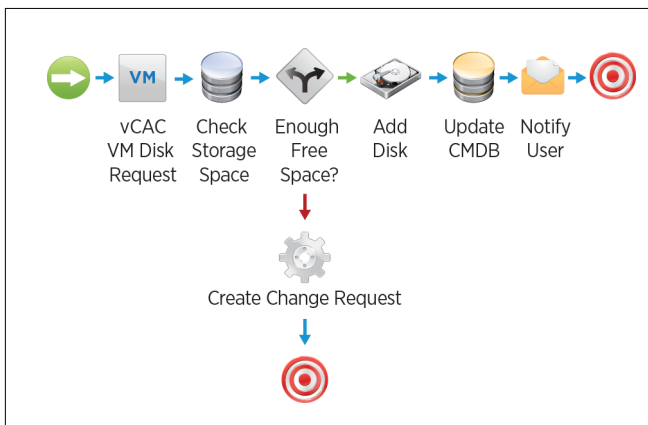


Figure 1: vRealize Orchestrator workflow visualizer

Plug-in SDK

The vRealize Orchestrator Plug-in Software Development Kit (SDK) jump-starts those who are new to vRealize Orchestrator plug-in development. It also enables advanced developers to integrate key SDK features into their existing development environments. The SDK provides an Eclipse add-on for plug-in development.

Performance and scalability - The software can execute hundreds or thousands of concurrent workflows on single or distributed architectures.

Powerful Management Features

vRealize Orchestrator provides the following exciting capabilities

- Extend plug-ins by adding custom types in vRealize Orchestrator without waiting for a plug-in update
- Create Inventory Objects through workflows and define relations within the object hierarchy
- Collaborate content across the team by directly exporting workflows to a file system and saving them in a repository

Integration

- **Cloud-readiness** - vRealize Orchestrator provides 100 percent coverage of the vSphere and VMware vCloud Director® APIs, and is integrated with other VMware solutions such as vRealize Automation, vRealize Operations and vCenter Update Manager™. With this type of coverage, administrators or developers can automate virtually any task in their cloud and virtual infrastructure.
- **Ecosystem** - Use plug-ins and workflows published on [VMware Solution Exchange](#), a marketplace of extensible solution plug-ins, to connect to multiple VMware and third-party applications.
- **Virtual appliance** - The vRealize Orchestrator virtual appliance significantly reduces the time and skill required to deploy vRealize Orchestrator and provides a low-cost alternative to the traditional Windows-based installation. Distributed in OVF (Open Virtualization Format), the appliance is prebuilt and preconfigured with all of the components included in the traditional installation. Additionally, the product can use either the prebuilt directory services and database or external ones such as Active Directory or Oracle Database.
- **REST API** - vRealize Orchestrator provides a REST API to enable other applications to execute workflows.

What's New in vRealize Orchestrator 5.5?

New Management Features - Extend vRealize Orchestrator plug-ins by adding own types in vRealize Orchestrator without requiring a plug-in update. Collaborate better by exporting workflows to a file system and versioning them. Enable Dynamic XaaS by leveraging custom types within vRealize Automation.

New Diagnostics - The vRealize Orchestrator client's new debugging and failure-diagnostic capabilities provide infrastructure and operations workflow developers with a simpler, more efficient development experience.

Improved scalability and high availability - By using the out-of-the-box clustering capabilities, architects can plan vRealize Orchestrator deployments with cloud scalability in mind. The new cluster mode provides greater availability and enables dynamic scale-up and scale-down of orchestration capacity when used with external load balancers.

REST API Enhancements - Release 5.5 facilitates use of the vRealize Orchestrator REST API with enhanced JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) support. These enhancements are configured to rapidly deploy vRealize Orchestrator instances for test and development purposes.

Find Out More

For information or to purchase VMware products, call 877-4-VMWARE (outside North America, +1-650-427-5000), visit <http://www.vmware.com/products> or search online for an authorized reseller. For detailed product specifications and system requirements, refer to the VMware vRealize Orchestrator installation and configuration guide.

