



What's new in vCommander 5.2?

by **Helen Abbott**, on Mar 15, 2015 8:00:00 AM

Release Date: November 4, 2014

Support for Microsoft Azure

This release introduces support for managing a Microsoft® Azure subscription with vCommander. With vCommander, you can integrate your Microsoft Azure public cloud environment with your private cloud infrastructure. vCommander allows you to create and manage workloads on the virtualization and cloud platform that is best for that workload, using criteria such as price, availability and technology.

vCommander supports a wide range of features with Azure, including inventory and reporting, change and configuration management, policy automation, cost visibility and chargeback, and self service and provisioning automation.

Cost Visibility and Chargeback

vCommander Release 5.2 provides major enhancements to cost reporting and analytics.

You can now specify that certain VM costs are calculated only when VMs are running, so that reports more accurately represent VM costs. This can apply to public clouds that do not charge for CPU and memory when a VM is powered off, and you can also optionally reflect this same behaviour for your on-prem costs.

You can now use formulas to calculate custom costs right in vCommander. For example, you might want to calculate total backup costs using total provisioned storage, the number of backups required, the compression ratio and the cost of backup storage. You can then easily extend this level of cost visibility to your end consumers of IT services.

For VMs that provide service to multiple lines of business (LOBs), you can now allocate costs to the LOBs that use the service. For example, if you provide an application as a service to three LOBs, you can allocate a percentage of the cost of the service to each LOB. This then more accurately reflects the true cost of service delivery in your environment.

Per-Tier Storage Quotas

Your storage capacity is likely divided into a few tiers with varying capabilities and cost. vCommander now allows you to set quota for each storage tier, at the organization level and the member level. You can set an overall storage limit, storage tier limits, or both, for both organizations and members.



Networking Configuration

To support richer networking topologies and to enable multiple NIC/network VM provisioning automation, vCommander Release 5.2 introduces enhanced network visibility and placement.

You can now tag networks and subnets with zones – simple labels that describe the network’s purpose within your infrastructure, such as DMZ, Storage and Production. Network zones enable your users to select a network when requesting a new service, without requiring an understanding of the underlying infrastructure. This also helps administrators keep track of a large list of networks. It also provides for more simplified automated deployment in multi-tenant environments.

Organization Assignment and Migration

vCommander Release 5.2 provides powerful orchestration capabilities, allowing end users to transfer workloads among organization members, organizations, and compute resources. IT admins configure the necessary controls, so that the underlying infrastructure details are hidden from the end user. Example scenarios include promotion from staging to production, hand-off between developers and testers, and migration between high-end and lower-end

compute clusters. Note that migrations are targeted to an individual on-prem hypervisor today, with plans for hybrid cloud migrations in the future.

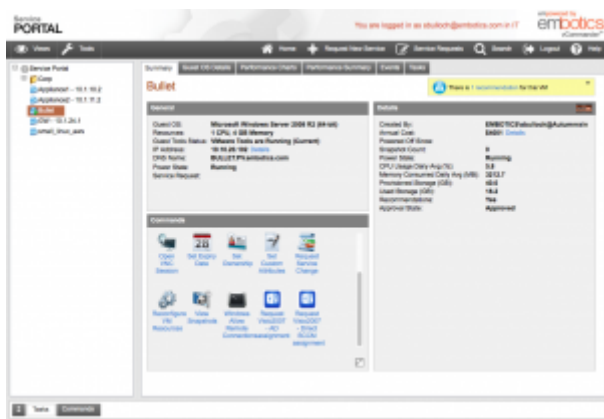
Integration with Puppet

You can configure vCommander to use the Puppet Labs® IT automation system, Puppet. This integration allows vCommander to identify VMs as Puppet nodes. You can then set up workflows to create a Puppet node, authorize a node, and assign Puppet classes, groups and variables to VMs provisioned with vCommander.

User Experience Enhancements

We've made several enhancements to improve the user experience for both Service Portal users and vCommander administrators.

The Service Portal has a sharp, clean new look:



The Service Catalog in both the Service Portal and vCommander now has more screen real estate, making it easier to browse. We've also made it simpler for users to fill out a service request by merging the previous tabbed view into a single page for all components in the service.

Service Portal users can now drag VMs and virtual services into folders from the tree and from a table in order to more quickly organize their workloads. Administrators can also specify what properties appear in the VM Details pane for Service Portal users, thereby customizing the self-service experience specific to their own environment.

For vCommander customers with larger deployments, we've added a quick search capability to easily filter and administer the following lists: Organizations, Users, Policies, IP pools, and

all types of workflows. We've also made it easier to onboard new customers or departments, by providing copy existing automated deployment destinations, service catalog entries, requests forms, and workflows. These same capabilities can also be configured with the vCommander REST API.

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