



Migrate Workloads to Cloud Volume Service NFS datastore using VMware HCX

NetApp Solutions

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Migrate workloads to NetApp Cloud Volume Service datastore on Google Cloud VMware Engine using VMware HCX - Quickstart guide

Author(s): NetApp Solutions Engineering

Overview: Migrating virtual machines with VMware HCX, NetApp Cloud Volume Service datastores, and Google Cloud VMware Engine (GCVE)

One of the most common use cases for the Google Cloud VMware Engine and Cloud Volume Service datastore is the migration of VMware workloads. VMware HCX is a preferred option and provides various migration mechanisms to move on-premises virtual machines (VMs) and its data to Cloud Volume Service NFS datastores.

VMware HCX is primarily a migration platform that is designed to simplify application migration, workload rebalancing, and even business continuity across clouds. It is included as part of Google Cloud VMware Engine Private Cloud and offers many ways to migrate workloads and can be used for disaster recovery (DR) operations.

This document provides step-by-step guidance for provisioning Cloud Volume Service datastore followed by downloading, deploying, and configuring VMware HCX, including all its main components in on-premises and the Google Cloud VMware Engine side including Interconnect, Network Extension, and WAN optimization for enabling various VM migration mechanisms.



VMware HCX works with any datastore type as the migration is at the VM level. Hence this document is applicable to existing NetApp customers and non-NetApp customers who are planning to deploy Cloud Volume Service with Google Cloud VMware Engine for a cost-effective VMware cloud deployment.

High-level steps

This list provides the high-level steps necessary to pair & Migrate the VMs to HCX Cloud Manager on the Google Cloud VMware Engine side from HCX Connector on-premises:

1. Prepare HCX through the Google VMware Engine portal.
2. Download and deploy the HCX Connector Open Virtualization Appliance (OVA) installer in the on-premises VMware vCenter Server.
3. Activate HCX with the license key.
4. Pair the on-premises VMware HCX Connector with Google Cloud VMware Engine HCX Cloud Manager.
5. Configure the network profile, compute profile, and service mesh.
6. (Optional) Perform network extension to avoid re-IP during migrations.
7. Validate the appliance status and ensure that migration is possible.
8. Migrate the VM workloads.

Prerequisites

Before you begin, make sure the following prerequisites are met. For more information, see this [link](#). After the prerequisites, including connectivity, are in place, download HCX license key from the Google Cloud VMware Engine portal. After the OVA installer is downloaded, proceed with the installation process as described below.

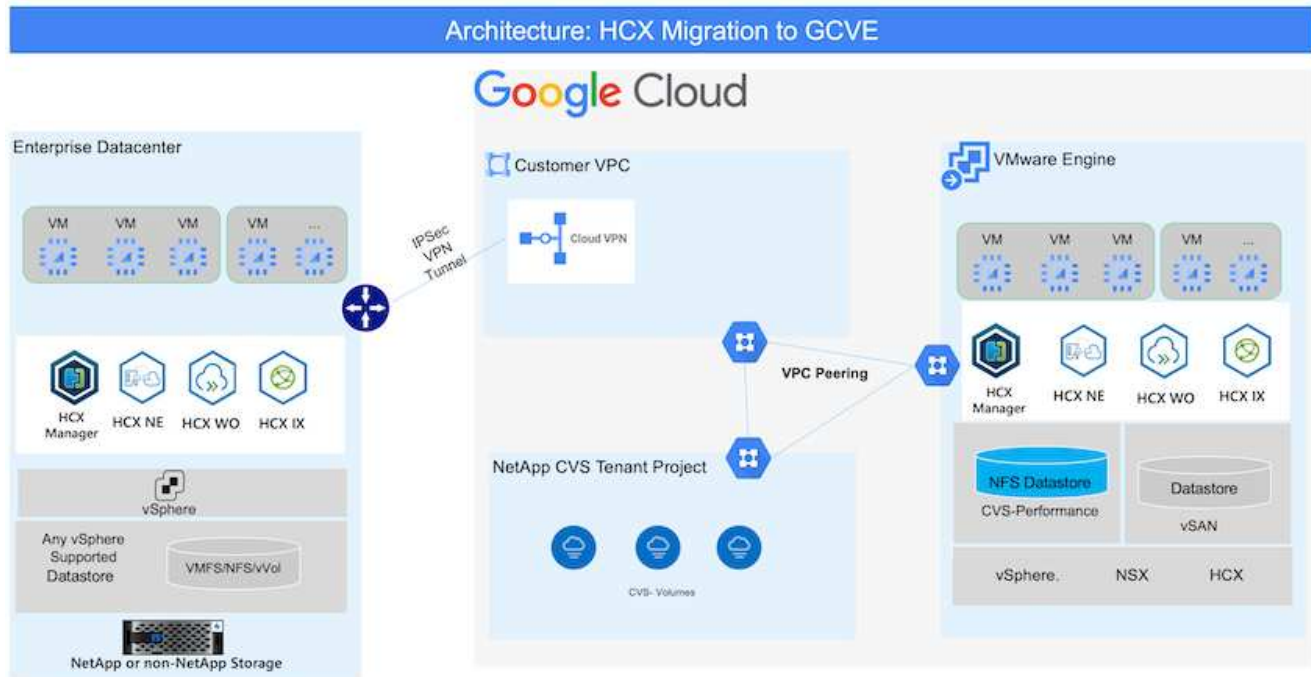


HCX advanced is the default option and VMware HCX Enterprise edition is also available through a support ticket and supported at no additional cost. Refer [this link](#)

- Use an existing Google Cloud VMware Engine software-defined data center (SDDC) or create a private cloud by using this [NetApp link](#) or this [Google link](#).
- Migration of VMs and associated data from the on-premises VMware vSphere- enabled data center requires network connectivity from the data center to the SDDC environment. Before migrating workloads, [set up a Cloud VPN or Cloud Interconnect connection](#) between the on-premises environment and the respective private cloud.
- The network path from on-premises VMware vCenter Server environment to the Google Cloud VMware Engine private cloud must support the migration of VMs by using vMotion.
- Make sure the required [firewall rules and ports](#) are allowed for vMotion traffic between the on-premises vCenter Server and SDDC vCenter.
- Cloud Volume Service NFS volume should be mounted as a datastore in Google Cloud VMware Engine. Follow the steps detailed in this [link](#) to attach Cloud Volume Service datastores to Google Cloud VMware Engines hosts.

High Level Architecture

For testing purposes, the lab environment from on-premises used for this validation was connected through a Cloud VPN, which allows on-premises connectivity to Google Cloud VPC.



For more detailed diagram on HCX, please refer [VMware link](#)

Solution Deployment

Follow the series of steps to complete the deployment of this solution:

Step 1: Prepare HCX through the Google VMware Engine Portal

HCX Cloud Manager component automatically gets installed as you provision private cloud with VMware Engine. To prepare for site pairing, complete the following steps:

1. Log in to the Google VMware Engine Portal and sign-in to the HCX Cloud Manager.

You can login to HCX Console either by clicking on the HCX version link

The screenshot shows the 'Summary' tab for a private cloud resource named 'gcve-cvs-hw-eu-west3'. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation options like Home, Resources, Network, Activity, and Account. The main content area displays various metrics and links:

- Basic Info:** Name (gcve-cvs-hw-eu-west3), Status (Operational), Primary Location (europe-west3), Private Cloud DNS Servers (10.0.16.8, 10.0.16.9), vCenter login info (View, Reset password), Clusters (1), Secondary Location, vSphere/vSAN subnets CIDR range (10.0.16.0/24), NSX-T login info (View, Reset password).
- Capacity:** Total nodes (3), Total storage capacity (57.6 TB Raw, 9.6 TB Cache, All-Flash), Total CPU capacity (108 cores), Total RAM (2304 GB).
- Technology Stack:** vSphere version (7.0u2), NSX-T Edition (NSX-T Advanced), HCX Manager Cloud version (4.5.2).

or clicking on HCX FQDN under vSphere Management Network tab.

The screenshot shows the 'vSphere Management Network' tab for the same private cloud resource. It displays a table of network components:

Type	Version	FQDN	IP Address
vCenter Server Appliance	7.0.2.19272205	vcenter-579012745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.8
NSX Manager	--	nsx-580421745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.11
HCX	--	hcx-580421745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.13
ESXi	7.0.2.18026573	esxi-578954745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.15
ESXi	7.0.2.18026573	esxi-718444745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.19
ESXi	7.0.2.18026573	esxi-579021745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.14
DNS Server 2	--	ns2-579001745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.9
DNS Server 1	--	ns1-578991745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	10.0.16.8

2. In HCX Cloud Manager, go to **Administration > System Updates**.
3. Click **Request download link** and download the OVA file.

The screenshot shows the 'System Updates' page in the VMware HCX console. The left sidebar contains navigation options like Dashboard, Infrastructure, Site Pairing, Interconnect, Transport Analytics, Services, Compute, Network Extension, Migration, Disaster Recovery, Administration, System Updates, Troubleshooting, Audit Logs, Activity Logs, Alerts, DICE, and Support. The main content area includes a 'Pair your remote data center with VMware HCX' section with a 'REQUEST DOWNLOAD LINK' button, a 'LOG IN HCX' section with a 'CHECK FOR UPDATES' button, and two tables:

Current Version	System Name	Status	Info	System Type	NSX Version	VC Version	Copy To Clipboard
4.5.2.0	hcx-580421745bdf.europe-west3.gcp.google	Operational	Info	HCX Cloud	8.1.2.0.29061730.18026573	7.0.2.19272205	Copy To Clipboard

Current Version	System Name	Status	Info	System Type	Copy To Clipboard
4.5.2.0	HCX-RTF	Operational	Info	HCX Connector	Copy To Clipboard

4. Update HCX Cloud Manager to the latest version available from the HCX Cloud Manager UI.

Step 2: Deploy the installer OVA in the on-premises vCenter Server

For the on-premises Connector to connect to the HCX Manager in Google Cloud VMware Engine, make sure the appropriate firewall ports are open in the on-premises environment.

To download and install HCX Connector in the on-premises vCenter Server, complete the following steps:

1. Have the ova downloaded from the HCX Console on Google Cloud VMware Engine as stated in previous step.
2. After the OVA is downloaded, deploy it on to the on-premises VMware vSphere environment by using the **Deploy OVF Template** option.

The screenshot shows the 'Deploy OVF Template' wizard in vSphere. The wizard is at step 1: 'Select an OVF template'. The left sidebar shows the steps: 1. Select an OVF template (active), 2. Select a name and folder, 3. Select a compute resource, 4. Review details, 5. Select storage, and 6. Ready to complete. The main area shows the 'Select an OVF template' section with a close button (X) in the top right. Below the title, it says 'Select an OVF template from remote URL or local file system'. Then, it says 'Enter a URL to download and install the OVF package from the Internet, or browse to a location accessible from your computer, such as a local hard drive, a network share, or a CD/DVD drive.' There are two radio buttons: 'URL' (unselected) and 'Local file' (selected). Below the 'URL' radio button is a text input field with the placeholder 'http | https://remoteserver-address/filetoinstall.ovf | .ova'. Below the 'Local file' radio button is an 'UPLOAD FILES' button and a file list showing 'VMware-HCX-Connector-4.5.2.0-20914338.ova'. At the bottom right, there are 'CANCEL' and 'NEXT' buttons.

3. Enter all the required information for the OVA deployment, click **Next**, and then click **Finish** to deploy the VMware HCX connector OVA.



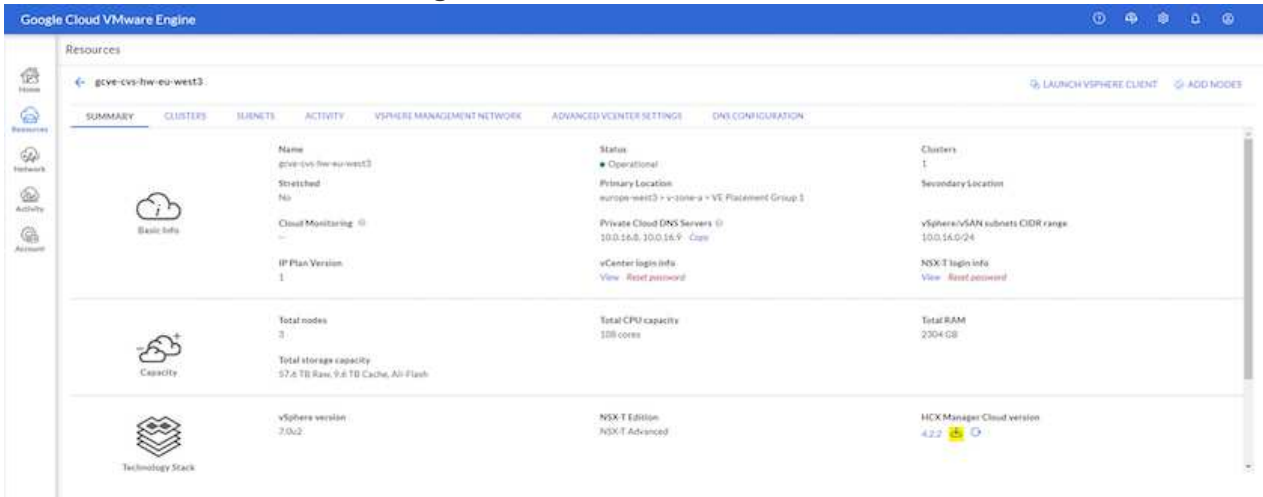
Power on the virtual appliance manually.

For step-by-step instructions, see the [VMware HCX User Guide](#).

Step 3: Activate HCX Connector with the license key

After you deploy the VMware HCX Connector OVA on-premises and start the appliance, complete the following steps to activate HCX Connector. Generate the license key from the Google Cloud VMware Engine portal and activate it in VMware HCX Manager.

1. From the VMware Engine portal, Click on Resources, select the private cloud, and **click on download icon under HCX Manager Cloud Version**.



Open Downloaded file and copy the License Key String.

2. Log into the on-premises VMware HCX Manager at <https://hcxmanagerIP:9443> using administrator credentials.



Use the hcxmanagerIP and password defined during the OVA deployment.

3. In the licensing, enter the key copied from step 3 and click **Activate**.



The on-premises HCX Connector should have internet access.

4. Under **Datacenter Location**, provide the nearest location for installing the VMware HCX Manager on-premises. Click **Continue**.
5. Under **System Name**, update the name and click **Continue**.
6. Click **Yes, Continue**.
7. Under **Connect your vCenter**, provide the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) or IP address of vCenter Server and the appropriate credentials and click **Continue**.



Use the FQDN to avoid connectivity issues later.

8. Under **Configure SSO/PSC**, provide the Platform Services Controller's(PSC) FQDN or IP address and click **Continue**.



For Embedded PSC, Enter the VMware vCenter Server FQDN or IP address.

9. Verify that the information entered is correct and click **Restart**.
10. After the services restart, vCenter Server is displayed as green on the page that appears. Both vCenter Server and SSO must have the appropriate configuration parameters, which should be the

same as the previous page.



This process should take approximately 10 to 20 minutes and for the plug-in to be added to the vCenter Server.

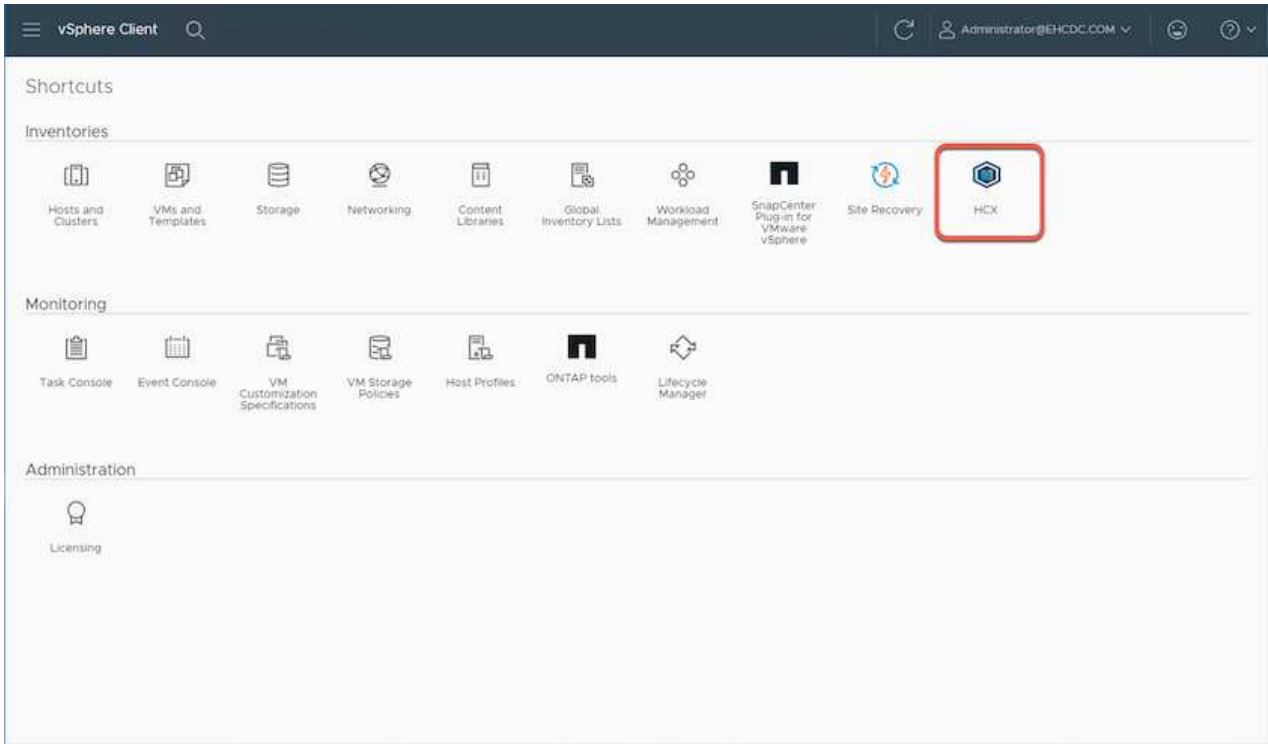
The screenshot displays the HCX Manager dashboard. The top navigation bar includes 'vm HCX Manager', 'Dashboard', 'Appliance Summary', 'Configuration', and 'Administration'. The top right corner shows the IP address '172.21.254.155', version '4.5.2.0', type 'Connector', and a user dropdown 'admin'. The main content area is titled 'HCX-RTP' and provides system details: IP Address (172.21.254.155), Version (4.5.2.0), Uptime (13 days, 21 hours, 6 minutes), and Current Time (Thursday, 16 February 2023 05:59:00 PM UTC). On the right, resource usage is shown: CPU (26% used, 1543 MHz free), Memory (79% used, 2472 MB free), and Storage (9% used, 76G free). Below this, three panels represent connected components: NSX, vCenter, and SSO. Each panel shows a URL and a 'MANAGE' button. A red oval highlights the vCenter and SSO panels, both of which show the URL 'https://a300-vcsa01.ehcdc.com' and a green status indicator.

Component	URL	Status
NSX		
vCenter	https://a300-vcsa01.ehcdc.com	Online
SSO	https://a300-vcsa01.ehcdc.com	Online

Step 4: Pair on-premises VMware HCX Connector with Google Cloud VMware Engine HCX Cloud Manager

After HCX Connector is deployed and configured on on-premises vCenter, establish connection to Cloud Manager by adding the pairing. To configure the site pairing, complete the following steps:

1. To create a site pair between the on-premises vCenter environment and Google Cloud VMware Engine SDDC, log in to the on-premises vCenter Server and access the new HCX vSphere Web Client plug-in.



2. Under Infrastructure, click **Add a Site Pairing**.



Enter the Google Cloud VMware Engine HCX Cloud Manager URL or IP address and the credentials for user with Cloud-Owner-Role privileges for accessing the private cloud.

Connect to Remote Site



Remote HCX URL

https://hcx-58042.f7458c8f.europe-west3.g



Username

cloudowner@gve.local



Password

.....

CANCEL

CONNECT

3. Click **Connect**.





VMware HCX Connector must be able to route to HCX Cloud Manager IP over port 443.

4. After the pairing is created, the newly configured site pairing is available on the HCX Dashboard.

vsphere Client

Site Pairing

ADD A SITE PAIRING

	HGX-RTP https://172.21.254.155:443 Durham	→		hcx-58042.f7458c8f.europe-west3.gvc.google-cloud https://70.0.16.13 Frankfurt
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1 Interconnect(s)

EDIT CONNECTION DISCONNECT

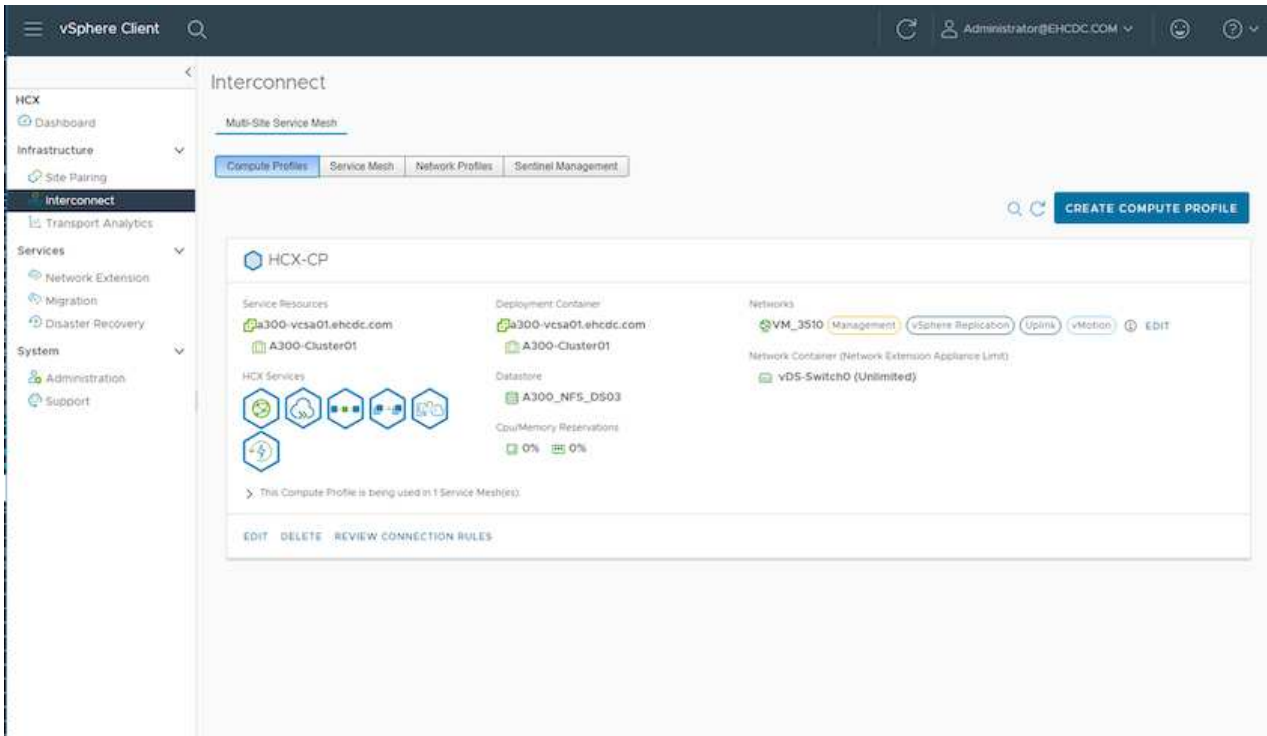
Step 5: Configure the network profile, compute profile, and service mesh

The VMware HCX Interconnect service appliance provides replication and vMotion-based migration capabilities over the internet and private connections to the target site. The interconnect provides encryption, traffic engineering, and VM mobility. To create an Interconnect service appliance, complete the followings steps:

1. Under Infrastructure, select **Interconnect > Multi-Site Service Mesh > Compute Profiles > Create Compute Profile**.



The compute profiles define the deployment parameters including the appliances that are deployed and which portion of the VMware data center are accessible to HCX service.

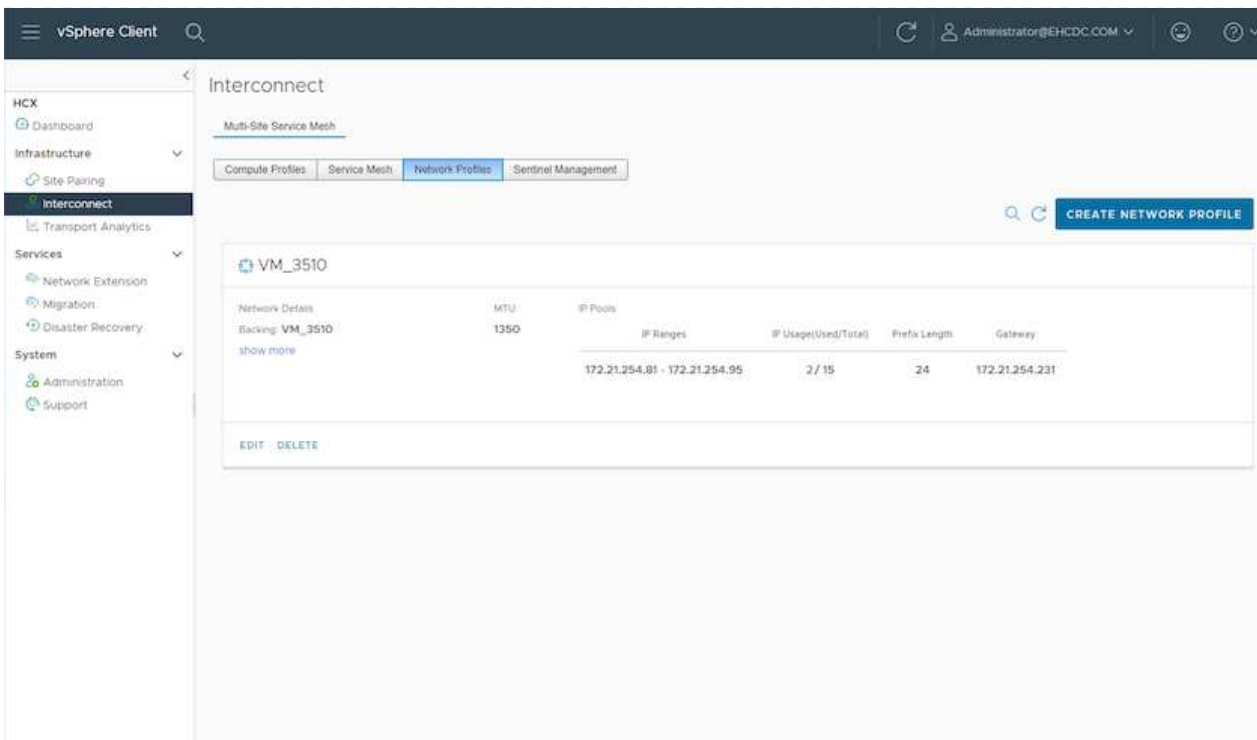


2. After the compute profile is created, create the network profiles by selecting **Multi-Site Service Mesh > Network Profiles > Create Network Profile**.

The network profile defines a range of IP address and networks that are used by HCX for its virtual appliances.



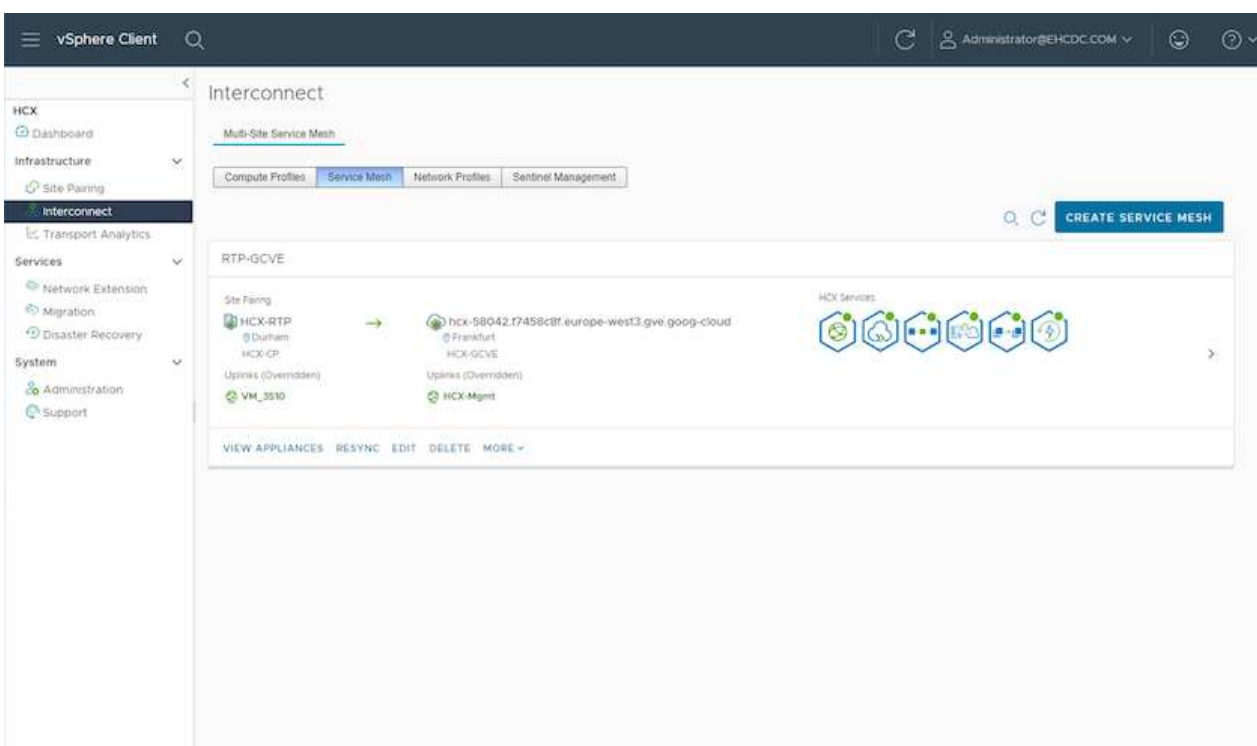
This step requires two or more IP addresses. These IP addresses are assigned from the management network to the Interconnect Appliances.



- At this time, the compute and network profiles have been successfully created.
- Create the Service Mesh by selecting the **Service Mesh** tab within the **Interconnect** option and select the on-premises and GCVE SDDC sites.
- The Service Mesh specifies a local and remote compute and network profile pair.



As part of this process, the HCX appliances are deployed and automatically configured on both the source and target sites in order to create a secure transport fabric.



Step 6: Migrate workloads

Workloads can be migrated bidirectionally between on-premises and GCVE SDDCs using various VMware HCX migration technologies. VMs can be moved to and from VMware HCX-activated entities using multiple migration technologies such as HCX bulk migration, HCX vMotion, HCX Cold migration, HCX Replication Assisted vMotion (available with HCX Enterprise edition), and HCX OS Assisted Migration (available with the HCX Enterprise edition).

To learn more about various HCX migration mechanisms, see [VMware HCX Migration Types](#).

The HCX-IX appliance uses the Mobility Agent service to perform vMotion, Cold, and Replication Assisted vMotion (RAV) migrations.



The HCX-IX appliance adds the Mobility Agent service as a host object in the vCenter Server. The processor, memory, storage and networking resources displayed on this object do not represent actual consumption on the physical hypervisor hosting the IX appliance.

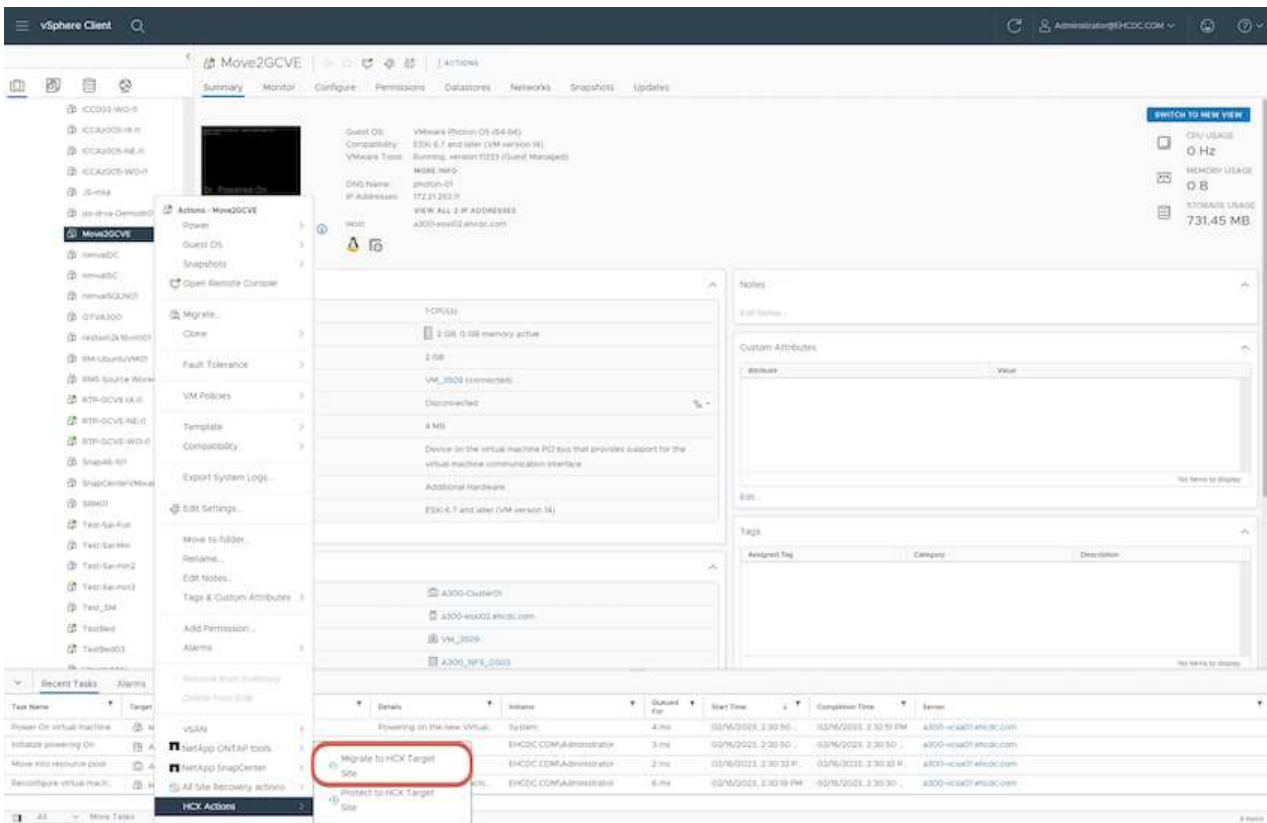
HCX vMotion

This section describes the HCX vMotion mechanism. This migration technology uses the VMware vMotion protocol to migrate a VM to GCVE. The vMotion migration option is used for migrating the VM state of a single VM at a time. There is no service interruption during this migration method.



Network Extension should be in place (for the port group in which the VM is attached) in order to migrate the VM without the need to make an IP address change.

1. From the on-premises vSphere client, go to Inventory, right-click on the VM to be migrated, and select HCX Actions > Migrate to HCX Target Site.



2. In the Migrate Virtual Machine wizard, select the Remote Site Connection (target GCVE).

HCX: Migrate Virtual Machine

Remote Site Connection:

Source: HCX-RTP / VC: a300-vcsa01.ehcdc.com
Destination: hcx-58042.f7458c8f.europe-west3.gve.goog-cloud / VC: vcsa-57901.f7458c8f.europe-west3.gve.goog
<https://10.0.16.13>

Transfer and Placement:

(Mandatory: Compute Container) (Mandatory: Storage) (Migration Profile)
(Specify Destination Folder) Same format as source (Optional: Switchover Schedule)

Switchover:

Extended Options:
[Edit Extended Options](#)

VM for Migration	Disk / Memory / vCPU	Migration Info
Move2GCVE	2 GB / 2 GB / 1 vCPU	(Migration profile is not specified)

[GO](#) [VALIDATE](#) [CLOSE](#)

3. Update the mandatory fields (Cluster, Storage, and Destination Network), Click Validate.

HCX: Migrate Virtual Machine

Remote Site Connection:

Source: HCX-RTP / VC: a300-vcsa01.ehcdc.com
Destination: hcx-58042.f7458c8f.europe-west3.gve.goog-cloud / VC: vcsa-57901.f7458c8f.europe-west3.gve.goog
<https://10.0.16.13>

Transfer and Placement:

Workload gcp-ve-4 (807.6 GB / 1 TB) vMotion
(Specify Destination Folder) Same format as source (Optional: Switchover Schedule)

Switchover:

Extended Options:
[Edit Extended Options](#) [Retain MAC](#)

VM for Migration	Disk / Memory / vCPU	Migration Info
Move2GCVE	2 GB / 2 GB / 1 vCPU	
Workload	gcp-ve-4 (807.6 GB / 1 TB)	vMotion
(Specify Destination Folder)	Same format as source	
<input type="checkbox"/> Force Power-off VM <input type="checkbox"/> Enable Seed Checkpoint Edit Extended Options Retain MAC		
Network adapter 1 (VM_3509) → L2E_VM_3509-3509-a0041a8d		

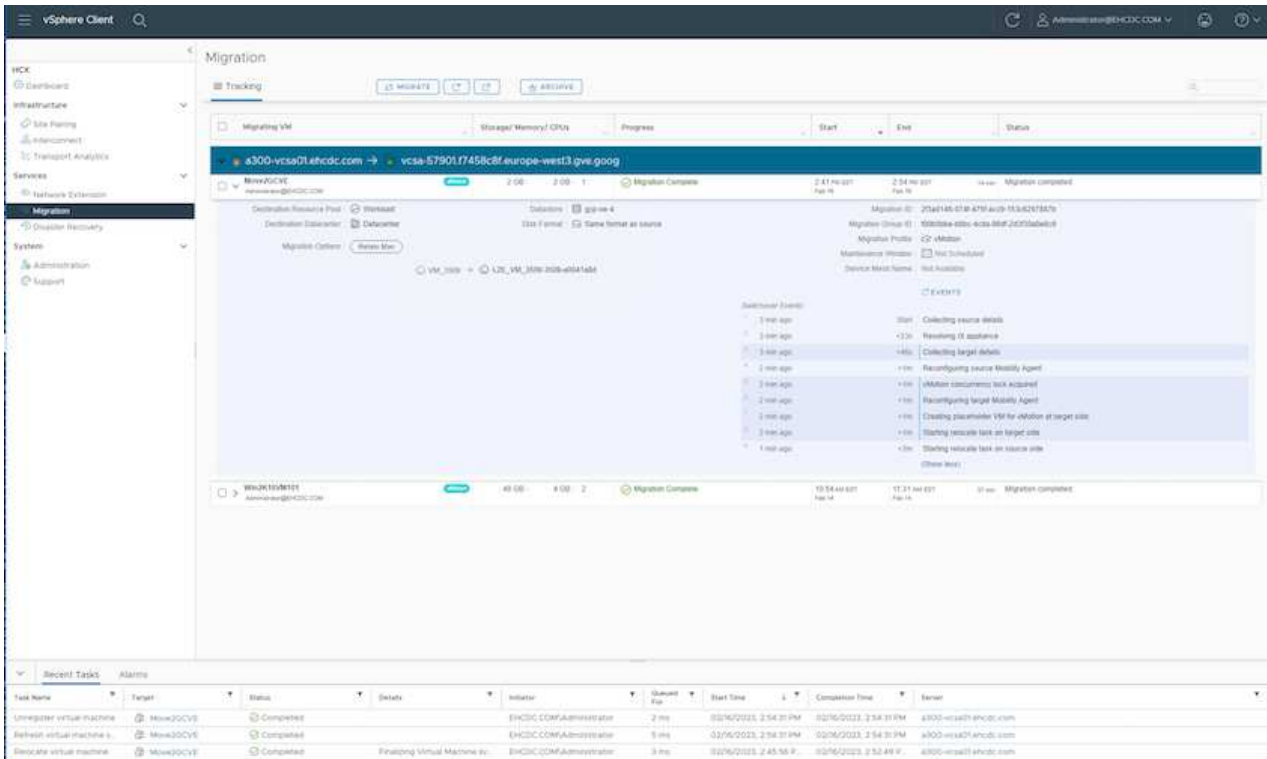
[GO](#) [VALIDATE](#) [CLOSE](#)

4. After the validation checks are complete, click Go to initiate the migration.



The vMotion transfer captures the VM active memory, its execution state, its IP address, and its MAC address. For more information about the requirements and limitations of HCX vMotion, see [Understanding VMware HCX vMotion and Cold Migration](#).

5. You can monitor the progress and completion of the vMotion from the HCX > Migration dashboard.



The target CVS NFS datastore should have sufficient space to handle the migration.

Conclusion

Whether you're targeting all-cloud or hybrid cloud and data residing on any type/vendor storage in on-premises, Cloud Volume Service and HCX provide excellent options to deploy and migrate the application workloads while reducing the TCO by making the data requirements seamless to the application layer. Whatever the use case, choose Google Cloud VMware Engine along with Cloud Volume Service for rapid realization of cloud benefits, consistent infrastructure, and operations across on-premises and multiple clouds, bidirectional portability of workloads, and enterprise-grade capacity and performance. It is the same familiar process and procedures used to connect the storage and migrate VMs using VMware vSphere Replication, VMware vMotion, or even network file copy (NFC).

Takeaways

The key points of this document include:

- You can now use Cloud Volume Service as a datastore on Google Cloud VMware Engine SDDC.
- You can easily migrate data from on-premises to Cloud Volume Service datastore.

- You can easily grow and shrink the Cloud Volume Service datastore to meet the capacity and performance requirements during migration activity.

Videos from Google and VMware for reference

From Google

- [Deploy HCX Connector with GCVE](#)
- [Configure HCX ServiceMesh with GCVE](#)
- [Migrate VM with HCX to GCVE](#)

From VMware

- [HCX Connector deployment for GCVE](#)
- [HCX ServiceMesh configuration for GCVE](#)
- [HCX Workload Migration to GCVE](#)

Where to find additional information

To learn more about the information described in this document, refer to the following website links:

- Google Cloud VMware Engine documentation

<https://cloud.google.com/vmware-engine/docs/overview>

- Cloud Volume Service documentation

<https://cloud.google.com/architecture/partners/netapp-cloud-volumes>

- VMware HCX User Guide

<https://docs.vmware.com/en/VMware-HCX/index.html>

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