

What's New - Last updated 11-03-22

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# **Getting Started**

Welcome to the Nutanix Enterprise Private Cloud Bootcamp! This workbook accompanies an instructor-led session that introduces Nutanix Core technologies, and many common management tasks.

You will explore Prism Central, and become familiar with its features and navigation. You will use Prism to perform basic cluster administration tasks, including storage and networking. You will also walk through basic VM deployment and management tasks with Prism and AHV. The instructor explains the exercises, and answers any additional questions that you may have.

At the conclusion of the bootcamp, attendees should understand the Core concepts and technologies that comprise the Nutanix Enterprise Cloud stack. They should also be well-prepared for a proof-of-concept (POC) engagement.

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Labs are updated for the following software versions:

- AOS 6.5 LTS
- PC pc.2022.6

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- Introductions
- Nutanix Presentation
- A Day in the Life

# Introductions

- Name
- Familiarity with Nutanix

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Configuring Storage & Networking, Creating VMs →





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# Configuring Storage & Networking, Creating VMs

In this lab, you will follow along with Kara O'Kay, a ten-year veteran of administrating virtual environments on 3-tier architecture, who has recently deployed her first Nutanix cluster. The Nutanix cluster is being used for a mix of production IT workloads, including its primary application, an inventory management solution called Fiesta, which is vital to their retail storefronts.

### Note

If multiple people utilize the same Nutanix cluster to complete this lab, specific steps may have already been completed. If this occurs, skip that particular step, and continue with the lab after you've verified the action was completed correctly.

# **Configuring Storage**

In this exercise, you will experience how to provision and monitor primary storage for virtualized environments through Prism - in just a few clicks. In stark contrast to what is typically required regarding time investment and specialized skills to planning and managing traditional SAN storage.

- 1. In a browser, type in the IP address for *Prism Element*, and log in.
  - **Username** admin
  - Password HPOC-PASSWORD



2. Select Storage from the drop-down menu.



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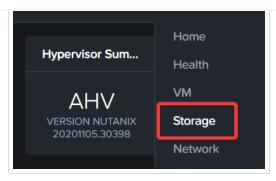
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3. Mouse over the *Storage Summary* and *Capacity Optimization* widgets to see an explanation of what each is displaying. This is also demonstrated below.

It's important to understand that Nutanix considers the *Data Reduction* ratio as savings only from compression, deduplication, and erasure coding. The *Overall Efficiency*, comparable to what other vendors believe "Data Reduction" is, incorporates the data efficiency and avoidance features like thin provisioning, intelligent cloning, and zero suppression.

0:00 / 0:26

## Note

Within the *Storage Summary* widget, you will notice a gear icon and a drop-down that displays *Logical*. The gear icon allows you to set a custom warning threshold for resilient capacity, and above which, the widget will turn amber. The drop-down will enable you to display either the *Logical* (replication factor included) or *Physical* (raw disk capacity).

## 4. Click + Storage Container.

Storage Containers represent logical policies for storage, allowing you to create reservations, enable/disable data efficiency features like compression, deduplication, and erasure coding, and configure the Redundancy Factor (RF). Every Storage Container on a Nutanix cluster still leverages all physical disks, referred to as the Storage Pool. A typical Nutanix cluster will have a small number of



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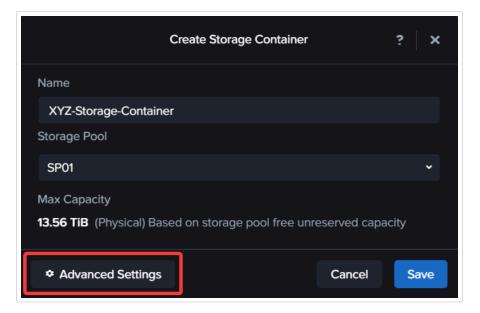
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Simply put, think of Containers as how we assign settings to VMs.



5. Provide Initials -Storage-Container as the name for the Storage Container, and then click Advanced Settings to explore additional configuration options.



#### Note

Nutanix provides different ways to optimize storage capacity that are intelligent and adaptive to workload's characteristics. Nutanix uses native data avoidance (thin provisioning, intelligent cloning, and zero suppression) and data reduction (compression, deduplication, and erasure coding). All data reduction optimizations are performed at the container level, so different containers can use different settings.

## Compression

Nutanix provides two choices - inline or post-process data compression. Irrespective of inline or post-process compression, write data coming into OpLog that is >4k and shows good compression will be written compressed in OpLog. For inline compression (Delay=0), sequential streams of data or large size I/Os (>64K) will be compressed when writing to the Extent Store. For post-process (Delay>0), data is compressed after being drained from OpLog to the Extent Store after compression delay is met.

Compression provides on-disk space savings for databases applications, resulting in fewer writes being written to storage. Post-process compression is turned on by default on all containers. Starting with AOS 5.18, inline compression will be turned on by default on all containers. We recommend turning on inline compression for almost all use cases. Workloads not ideal for compression are encrypted datasets or already compressed datasets.

### **Erasure Coding**

To provide a balance between availability and the amount of storage required, the Nutanix Distributed Storage Fabric (DSF) provides the ability to encode data using erasure codes (EC). Similar to RAID (levels 4, 5, 6, etc.), where parity is calculated, EC encodes a strip of data blocks across different nodes and calculates parity. The parity data is used to calculate any missing data blocks (decoding) in a host or disk failure. In the case of DSF, the data block must be on a different node and belong to a different vDisk. EC is always a post-process operation, only



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the number of nodes and configured failures to tolerate.

Turn on EC for non-mission-critical workloads and workloads with a significant amount of write-cold data since erasure coding works on write-cold data to provide more usable storage. For more information, refer to application-specific best practice guides ...

### Deduplication

Capacity-tier and performance-tier deduplication are both options. Data is fingerprinted on ingesting using an SHA-1 hash, which is then stored as metadata. A background process removes the duplicates when duplicate information is detected (multiple copies with the same fingerprint). When deduplicated data is read, it is placed in a unified cache, and any subsequent requests for data with the same fingerprint are satisfied directly from the cache.

Deduplication is recommended for full virtual desktop clones, physical to virtual (P2V) migrations, and persistent virtual desktops.

## **Redundancy Factor**

Redundancy Factor controls the number of data copies. Observe that the Redundancy Factor cannot be configured for this particular cluster due to this cluster having four nodes, and the minimum number of nodes required to support RF3 is 5.

- 6. Click **Save** to create the container, which will also mount it to all available hosts within the cluster.
  - In a vSphere or Hyper-V environment, creating the Storage Container will also automate mounting the storage to the hypervisor.
- 7. Click Table and select your Initials -Storage-Container. Review the individual savings from different data reduction/avoidance features and the Effective Capacity, a projection of available storage based on the overall efficiency. These values are found in the Storage Container Details table.

# **Provisioning A New Network**

In this exercise, Kara will use Prism to configure a new VM Network for the cluster.

AHV leverages Open vSwitch (OVS) for all VM networking. OVS is an open-source software switch implemented in the Linux kernel and designed to work in a multi-server virtualization environment. Each AHV server maintains an OVS instance, and all OVS instances combine to form a single logical switch. Each node is typically uplinked to a physical switch port trunked/tagged to multiple VLANs, exposed as virtual networks.

1. Select VM from the drop-down menu, and then click on Network Config.



- 2. Click + Create Subnet, and then fill out the following fields, using the details from your cluster assignment:
  - Name Initials -Network-IPAM
  - o VLAN ID A value (< 4096) other than your Primary or Secondary network VLANs
  - o Select Enable IP Address Management
  - o Network IP Address / Prefix Length 10.0.0.0/24



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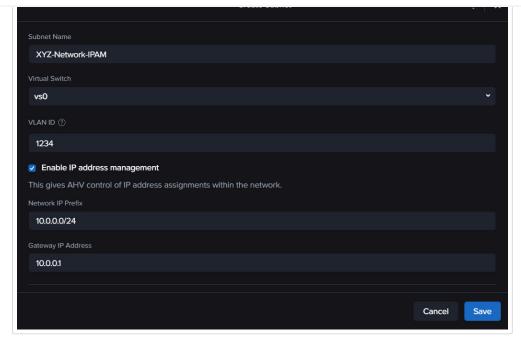
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## Select + Create Pool

- Start Address 10.0.0.100
- End Address 10.0.0.150



■ Click Submit

## Note

AHV can provide integrated DHCP services via IP Address Management (IPAM), allowing virtualization administrators to allocate IPs to VMs from a configured pool or easily specifying IPs as DHCP reservations when adding virtual NICs to VMs.

#### 3. Click Save.

The configured virtual network will now be available across all nodes within the cluster. Virtual networks in AHV behave like Distributed Virtual Switches in ESXi, meaning you do not need to configure the same settings on each host within the cluster. Instead, you create this network, and it exists on every AHV host.

4. Close the Network Configuration window.

# **Responding to VM Creation Requests**

Virtualization administrators are commonly tasked with the deployment of new VMs. In this exercise, Kara walks through the deployment of two VMs in Prism as a Nutanix administrator.

1. Click + Create VM.



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- 2. Fill out the following fields to complete the user VM request:
  - Name Initials -WinToolsVM
  - o Description Manually deployed Windows Tools VM
  - o vCPU(s) 2
  - Number of Cores per vCPU 1
  - o Memory 4 GiB
  - Select + Add New Disk
    - Type DISK
    - Operation Clone from Image Service
    - Image WinToolsVM-Q1CY21.qcow2
    - Select Add
  - ∘ Select + Add New NIC
    - Subnet Name Secondary
    - Select Add
- 3. Click Save to create the Windows Tools VM.

### Note

Nutanix AHV provides an *Image Service* feature that allows you to build a store of imported files that you can use to mount a CD-ROM device from an ISO image or an operating system disk from a disk image when creating a VM. The Image Service supports raw, vhd, vhdx, vmdk, vdi, iso, and qcow2 disk formats.

The VM creation wizard also provides the ability to specify an *Unattend.xml* file for Windows Sysprep automation or a *cloud-init* file for Linux OS configuration.

- 4. Click + Create VM.
- 5. Fill out the following fields to complete the user VM request:
  - Name Initials -LinuxToolsVM
  - o Description Manually deployed Linux Tools VM
  - o vCPU(s) 2
  - Number of Cores per vCPU 1
  - o Memory 4 GiB
  - Select + Add New Disk
    - Type DISK
    - Operation Clone from Image Service
    - Image Linux\_ToolsVM
    - Select Add
  - ∘ Select + Add New NIC
    - Subnet Name Secondary
    - Select Add
- 6. Click Save to create the Linux Tools VM.

### Note

Many VM operations, including VM creation, can be scripted using the AHV CLI, acli . The ACLI Reference Guide can be found here ☑.



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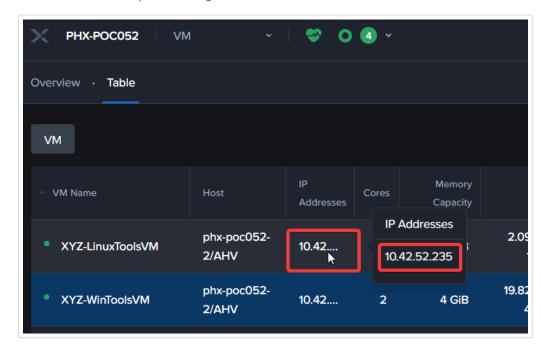
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Repeat for the Initials -LinuxToolsVM VM.

8. Once the VMs have completed booting, note their IP addresses.



In the past, Kara has experienced issues with newly created VM networks not working as expected and has had to engage in lengthy troubleshooting sessions with her network administrator counterpart to identify the source of the issue. This situation required additional unplanned time, taking them both away from other projects and adding a level of frustration and uncertainty. With AHV, Kara can easily visualize the complete network path of the virtual machine that she's provisioned and can complete many tasks without attention from the network administrator.

9. Select **Network** from the drop-down menu, and then **Group by VM Type**. This diagram illustrates the path to and from the VM, including the host ports traversing and the network switch.



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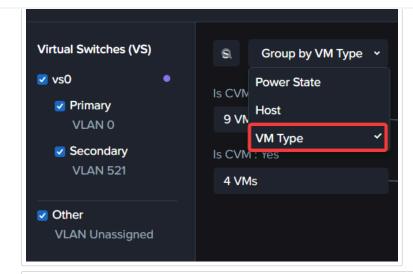
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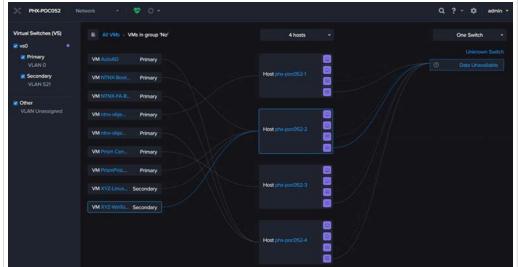
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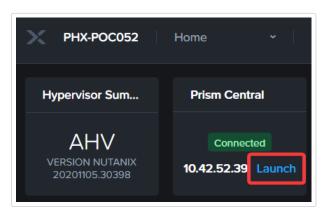
# Self-Service, Categories, Roles & Projects

# **Enabling User Self Service**

While Prism and acli provide simple workflows for creating VMs, Kara is regularly inundated with these requests. She would love to focus more of her time on modernizing other parts of her organization's aging infrastructure and maybe even attending her son's soccer games for a change.

In the following exercises, Kara will level up her Private Cloud game by providing Infrastructure as a Service (laaS) self-service capabilities to her users by leveraging the native capabilities in *Prism Central*.

- 1. Select **Home** from the drop-down menu.
- 2. Access Prism Central by clicking the Launch button and logging in with the following credentials:
  - o User Name admin
  - Password HPOC-PASSWORD



# **Exploring Categories**

A *Category* is a key-value pair. Categories are assigned to entities (ex. VMs, networks, or images) based on some criteria (ex. location, production level, app name). Policies can then be mapped to those entities that are assigned a specific category value.

For example, you might have a department category that includes engineering, Finance, and HR values. In this case, you could create one backup policy that applies to Engineering and HR and a separate (more stringent) backup policy that applies to just Finance. Categories allow you to implement various policies across entity groups, and Prism Central will enable you to view any established relationships quickly.

In this exercise, you'll create a custom category for Kara to help align access to the proper resources for the Fiesta app team.

- 1. Within Prism Central, select  $\equiv$  > Administration > Categories.
- 2. Click New Category, fill out the following fields, and click Save:
  - $\circ$  Name Initials -Team
  - o Purpose Allows resource access based on application team
  - o Values Fiesta



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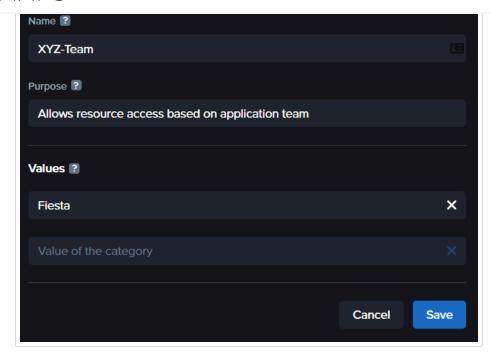
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3. Click on the **Environment** category, and note the available values. *Environment* is a system category, and while you can add additional values, you cannot modify or delete the category or any out-of-the-box values.



- 4. Select ≡ > Compute & Storage > VMs.
- 5. Select both the AutoAD and Initials -LinuxToolsVM VMs and then click Actions > Manage Categories. You will have to scroll down to see Manage Categories.



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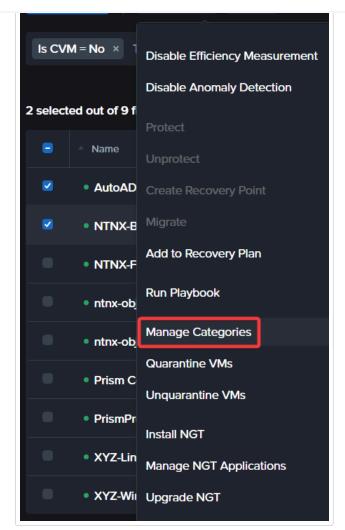
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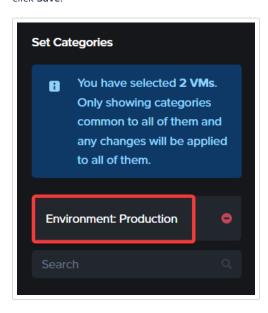
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### Note

Depending on the number of participants, some of the VMs you need to select could be on another page. You may either search for your VM(s), click to view additional pages to select the VM, or choose to show other rows. Any of these techniques can be accomplished at the upper right-hand portion of the interface.

6. In the *Search for a category* field, enter Environment . Select the **Environment: Production** value, and click **Save**.





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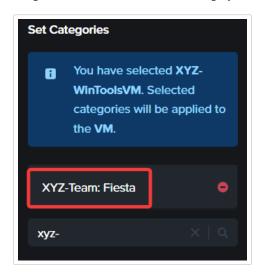
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For categories tied to Security, Protection, or Recovery policies, related policies will appear in this window to show the impact of applying a category to an entity.

- 7. Using the checkboxes, de-select both the AutoAD and Initials -LinuxToolsVM VMs.
- 8. Using the checkbox, select the Initials -WinToolsVM, and then click Actions > Manage Categories.
- 9. Assign the Initials -Team: Fiesta category, and click Save.



# **Exploring Roles**

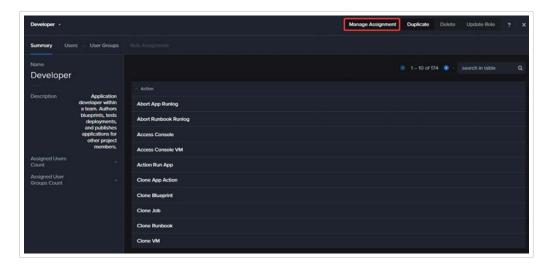
By default, Prism Central ships with several roles that map to typical user personas. Roles define which actions a user can perform and are mapped to categories or other entities.

Kara needs to support two types of users working on the Fiesta team:

- Developers who need to provision VMs for test environments
- Operators who monitor multiple environments within the organization have minimal capabilities to modify each environment.
- 1. Within Prism Central, select ≡ > Administration > Roles.

The built-in Developer role allows users to create and modify VMs, create, provision, and manage Calm Blueprints, and more.

2. Click on the built-in **Developer** role, review the approved actions for the role, and then click **Manage**Assignment.





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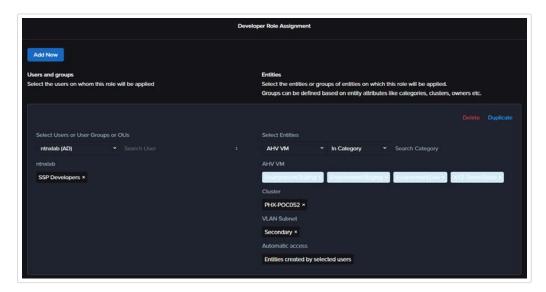
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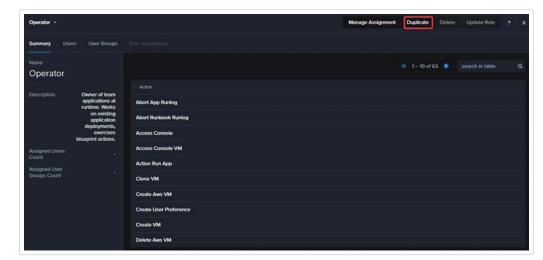
- 4. Within the Select Entities section, use the drop-down menu to specify the following resources:
  - Cluster > Individual entity YOUR-CLUSTER
  - VLAN Subnet > Individual entity Secondary
  - AHV VM > In Category Environment:Testing, Environment:Staging, Environment:Dev, Initials Team:Fiesta



5. Click **Save**. Close this screen by clicking on the **X** at the top right-hand corner, and then choose **Yes** for the confirmation dialog. Click the **X** once more on the *Developer* role screen.

The default *Operator* role includes deleting VMs and applications deployed from Blueprints, which isn't desired in our environment. Rather than building a new role from scratch, we can clone an existing role and modify it to suit our needs. The desired operator role should only have the rights to view VM metrics, perform power operations, and update VM configurations such as vCPU or memory to address application performance issues.

6. Click the built-in Operator role, and then click Duplicate.



- 7. Fill out the following fields, and then click **Save** to create your custom role.
  - Role Name Initials -SmoothOperator
  - o Description Limited operator account
  - o App No Access
  - o VM Edit Access



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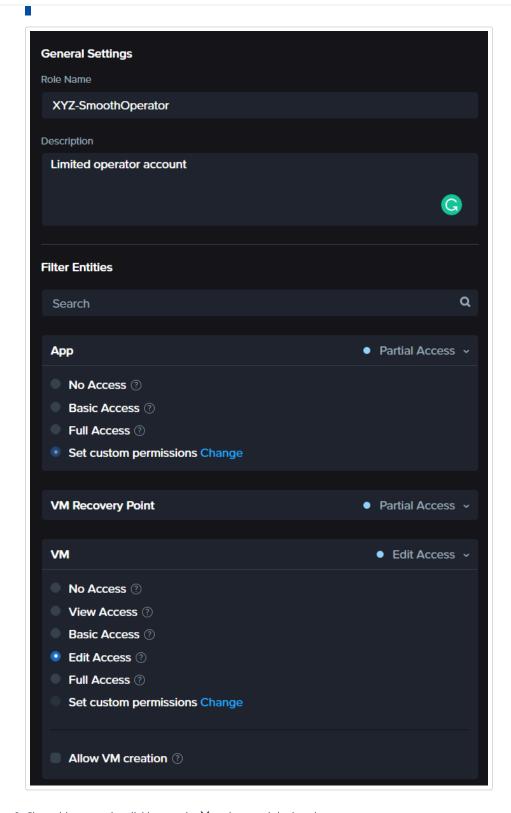
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- 8. Close this screen by clicking on the  $\boldsymbol{X}$  at the top right-hand corner.
- 9. Select your Initials -SmoothOperator role, and click Manage Assignment.
- 10. Click on Add New.
- 11. Create the following assignment:
  - o Select Users or Groups operator01@ntnxlab.local
  - Select Entities > AHV VM > In Category Environment:Production, Environment:Testing,
     Environment:Staging, Environment:Dev



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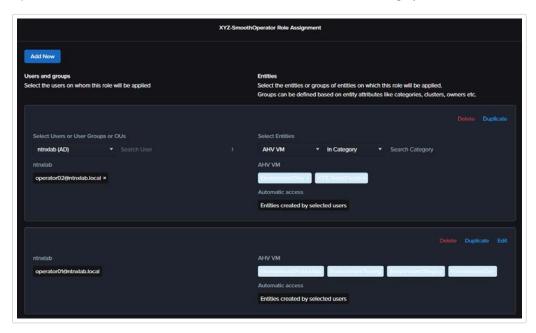
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- 12. Click on Add New to add an additional assignment to the same role:
  - o Select Users or Groups operator02@ntnxlab.local
  - Select Entities > AHV VM > In Category Environment:Dev, Initials -Team:Fiesta

Operator02 will have access to VMs within the Environment: Dev or Fiesta category.



- 13. Click **Save**, and then close this screen by clicking on the **X** at the top right-hand corner.
- 14. For infrastructure administrators such as Kara, you can map AD users to the *Prism Admin* or *Super Admin* roles through selecting ≡ > Prism Central Settings > Users and Roles > Role Mapping and adding a new *Cluster Admin* or *User Admin* mapping to AD accounts.

## Note

This is for illustration purposes only. No action is required



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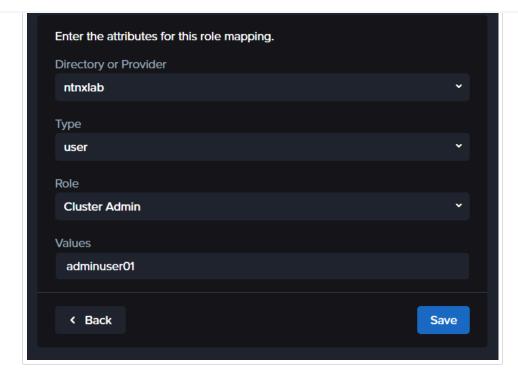
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# **Exploring Projects**

The previous exercises are sufficient to provide essential VM creation self-service to Kara's users, but much of their work involves applications that consist of multiple VMs. Manual deployment of numerous VMs for a single development, testing, or staging environment is slow and subject to inconsistency and user error. To provide a better experience for her users, Kara will introduce Nutanix Calm into the environment.

Nutanix Calm allows you to build, provision, and manage your applications across private (AHV, ESXi) and public cloud (AWS, Azure, GCP) infrastructure.

For non-infrastructure administrators to access Calm, allowing them to create or manage applications, users or groups must first be assigned to a *Project*, which acts as a logical container to define user roles, infrastructure resources, and resource quotas. Projects represent users with a standard set of requirements or a typical structure and function, such as engineers collaborating on the Fiesta project.

Achievement Unlocked: I wear my sunglasses at night

Calm does not currently support Dark Theme.

- 1. Within Prism Central, select  $\equiv$  > Services > Calm.
- 2. Select **Projects** from the left-hand menu, and then click **+ Create Project**.



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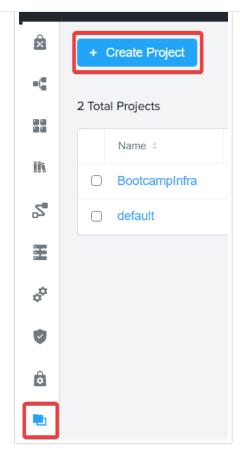
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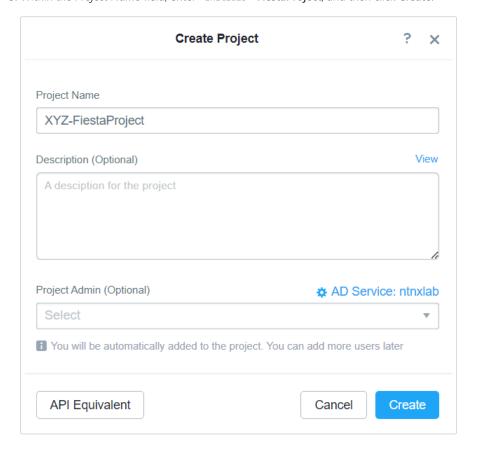
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3. Within the *Project Name* field, enter Initials -FiestaProject, and then click Create.



4. Click + Add Infrastructure and fill out the following fields:



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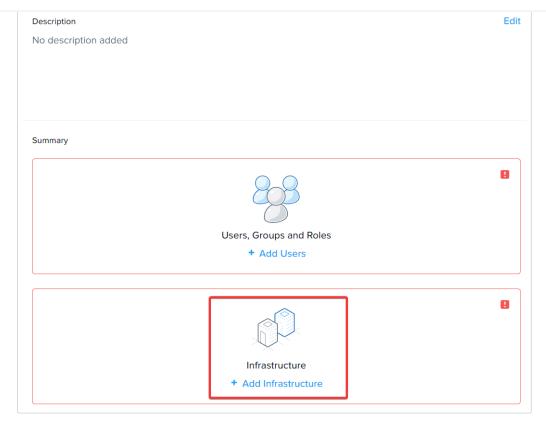
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- o Click on the Select Infrastructure drop-down, and choose NTNX\_LOCAL\_AZ.
- o Click the Configure Resources button, and select your cluster from the drop-down.
- Click + Select VLANs. Check the Secondary box. Click Confirm and Select Default > > Confirm.
- Click the \* for Secondary within the Default column and click Confirm.
- Within the Quotas (optional) section, specify the following:
- o vCPUs 100
- o Memory 100
- o Click Save
- 5. Click Environments from the top menu, click Create Environment and fill out the following fields:
  - Enter Initials Environment, and then click Next.
  - Click on the Select Infrastructure drop-down, and choose NTNX\_LOCAL\_AZ.
  - o Click anywhere in the VM Configuration box to expand it.
  - o Perform the following for the *Windows* section.
    - Within the *Cluster* drop-down, choose your cluster.
    - Within the VM Configuration section, specify the following:
      - vCPUs 2
      - Cores per vCPU 1
      - Memory (GiB) 4
    - Scroll down to the *Disks* section, and choose **Windows2016.qcow2** from the *Image* drop-down.
    - Scroll down to the *Network Adapters (NICs)* section, and click the **①**.
    - Choose **Secondary** from the *NIC 1* drop-down.
  - Perform the following within the *Linux* section.
    - Within the *Cluster* drop-down, choose your cluster.
    - Within the VM Configuration section, specify the following:
      - vCPUs 2
      - Cores per vCPU 1



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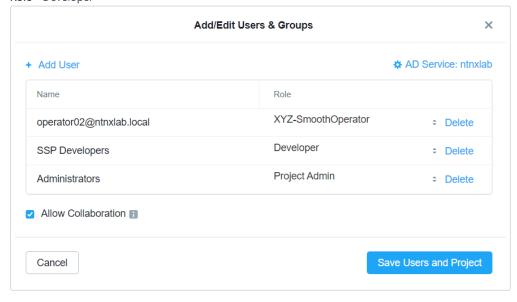
- Scroll down to the NETWORK ADAPTERS (NICs) section, and click the •
- Choose **Secondary** from the *NIC 1* drop-down.
- o Click Next.
- Click + Add Credential, and specify the following:
  - Credential Name CENTOS
  - Username centos
  - Secret Type Password
  - Password nutanix/4u
- o Click Save Environment & Project.
- 6. Click Users & Groups from the top menu, click Add/Edit Users & Groups and fill out the following fields:

Click + Add User before entering each entry.

#### Note

You may need to utilize more than one scroll bar along the right-hand side.

- Name Administrators (group)
- o Role Project Admin
- Name Operator02 (person)
- Role Initials -SmoothOperator
- o Name SSP Developers (group)
- o Role Developer



7. Click Save Users and Project.

Note that we've only granted *Operator02* to the *Calm* Project, rather than all *Operator* accounts.

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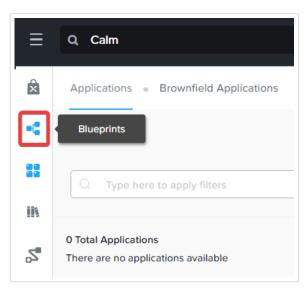
# **Staging Blueprints**

A Blueprint is a framework for every application that you model by using Nutanix Calm. Blueprints are templates that describe all the steps required to provision, configure, and execute tasks on the services and applications created. A Blueprint also defines the lifecycle of an application, and its underlying infrastructure, starting from the creation of the application to the actions carried out on an application (updating software, scaling out, etc.), all the way through the termination of the application.

You can use Blueprints to model applications of various complexities, from simply provisioning a single VM to provisioning and managing a multi-node, multi-tier, multi-cloud application.

While developers will create and publish their Blueprints, Kara wants to provide a standard Fiesta Blueprint available for the team.

- 1. Download the Fiesta-Multi Blueprint to your desktop by clicking **here**. Save the *Fiesta-Multi.json* file in your **Downloads** folder.
- 2. Within Prism Central, select **\equiv** Services > Calm, and then select Blueprints from the left-hand menu.
- 3. Click **Upload Blueprint**.



- 4. Select Fiesta-Multi.json.
- 5. Update the *Blueprint Name* to include your initials. Even across different projects, Calm Blueprint names must be unique.
- 6. Select Initials -FiestaProject, and then click Upload.



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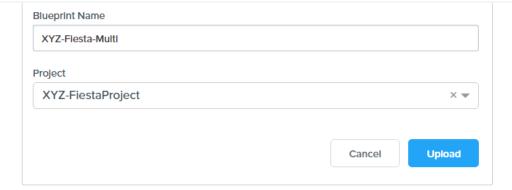
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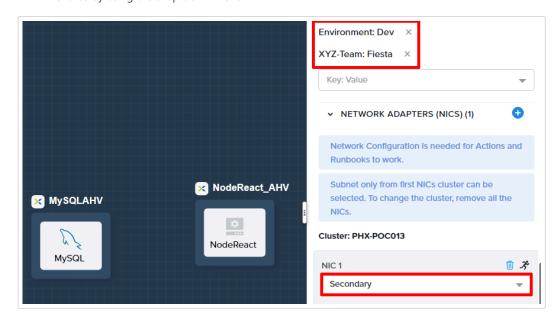
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- 7. Within the right-hand pane, expand the **db\_password** selection by clicking >. Enter **nutanix/4u** within the *Value* text field.
- 8. Click P Credentials from the top pane.
- 9. Within the CENTOS (Default) entry, click Edit.
- 10. Enter nutanix/4u within the Password text field.
- 11. Click Done and then click Back.
- 12. Select the NodeReact\_AHV service within the main window.
- 13. Click the VM tab within the right-hand pane.
- 14. Scroll down to the *Disks* section, and choose **CentOS7.qcow2** from within the *Disk Images* section of the *Image* drop-down. Do not select **CentOS7** entry within the *Downloadable Images* section.
- 15. Scroll down to the *NETWORK ADAPTERS (NICS) (1)* section, choose **Secondary** from the *NIC 1* drop-down.
- 16. Within the *Categories* section (directly above) add both Initials -Team: Fiesta and Environment: DEV entries by using the drop-down menu.



- 17. Repeat steps 13 through 16 for the MySQLAHV service.
- 18. Click Save.

Within minutes, Kara has laid the groundwork to provide virtual infrastructure and application self-service directly to her end users.



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# **Developer Workflow**

Meet Dan. Dan is a member of the Fiesta Engineering team. He's behind on testing a new feature, as his request to IT to deploy the virtual infrastructure he requires to perform the testing are several days overdue.

Dan has resorted to deploying VMs on a public cloud service outside of the heavily-secured corporate network and its security oversight. Dan is inexperienced with the public cloud, so he's putting the company at risk of having their intellectual property stolen because he's desperate to finish this project on time.

Kara is made aware of this and encourages Dan to follow the exercise below, which will allow him to deploy the resources he securely needs for his project quickly.

- 1. Within the admin drop-down at the top right-hand corner of the screen, choose Sign Out
- 2. Log in to Prism Central with Dan's credentials:
  - User Name devuser01@ntnxlab.local
  - o Password nutanix/4u
- 3. Click = and observe that you now have restricted access to the environment.
- 4. Within *Compute & Storage > VMs* your Initials -WinToolsVM is available to be managed by Dan. Click on the VM, and within the lower pane, observe that Dan can view basic metrics associated with this VM. He can also control the VM configuration, power operations, and even delete the VM.



Two workflows could be followed for self-service creation of VMs: Traditional VM creation wizard and Calm. Dan's requirement is a Linux virtual machine that runs multiple tools required for his development workflow.

- 5. Close this screen by clicking on the **X** at the top right-hand corner.
- 6. Click Create VM, and then fill out the following fields to provision a virtual machine.

This is similar to the manual VM deployment process Kara followed earlier in the lab.

- o Click Create VM from Catalog Item
- o Select Linux\_ToolsVM.qcow2 from the Catalog Item drop-down
- o Click Begin
- Name Initials -LinuxToolsVM
- o Within the VM Properties section set the following:
  - CPU 2
  - Cores Per CPU 1
  - Memory 4 GiB



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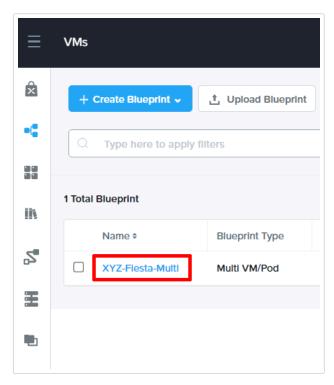
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- Select **Secondary** from the *Subnet* drop-down
- Click Save
- Click Next
- Within the Categories field enter Environment: Dev
- o Click Next
- Click Create VM

In addition to the tools VM, Dan also desires to deploy infrastructure that can be used to test new builds of the Fiesta application. Having end-users deploy multi-tier applications through single-VM provisioning and manual integration is slow, inconsistent, and doesn't result in high user satisfaction. Luckily, we can leverage the pre-created Blueprint for Fiesta, which was previously staged to our project by Kara.

- 7. Select ≡ > Services > Calm.
- 8. Select Blueprints from the left-hand menu and click on the Initials -Fiesta-Multi Blueprint.



## Note

If you're unfamiliar with Calm Blueprints, take a moment to explore the following critical components of the *Fiesta-Multi* Blueprint:

 Select either the NodeReact or MySQL service and review the VM configuration in the configuration pane on the right-hand of the screen.



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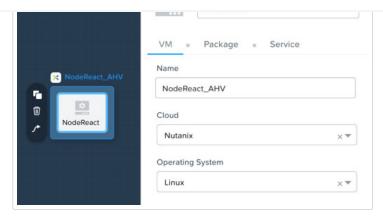
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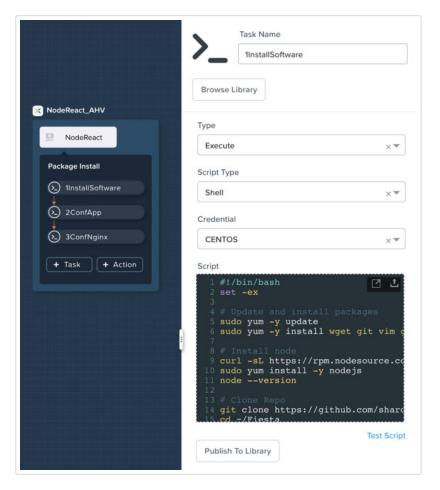
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 Select the Package tab, and then click Configure Install to view the installation tasks for the selected service. These are the scripts and actions associated with the configuration of each Service or VM.



Under Application Profile, select AHV and view the variables defined for the Blueprint.
 Variables allow for runtime customization and can also be used on a per-application profile basis to build a single application Blueprint, enabling you to provision an application to multiple environments, including AHV, ESXi, AWS, GCP, and Azure.



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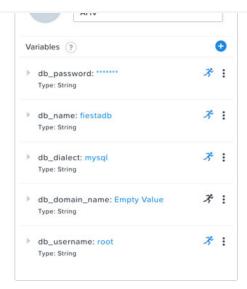
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 Select the Create action under Application Profile to visualize dependencies between services. Dependencies can be defined explicitly, but Calm will also identify implicit dependencies depending on the assignment of variables. In this Blueprint, you see the web tier installation process will not begin until the MySQL database is running.



Click Credentials in the toolbar at the top of the Blueprint editor, and then expand the
existing CENTOS credential. Blueprints can contain multiple credentials, authenticating to
VMs to execute scripts or securely passing credentials directly into scripts.



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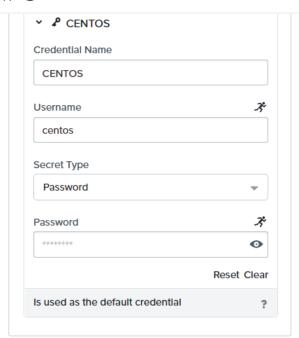
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If you've made any changes, you may have noticed that the *Launch* button is now greyed out. You must click **Save** to capture your changes, before you will be able to launch the Blueprint.

- 9. Click Launch to provision an instance of the Blueprint.
- 10. Fill out the following fields, and then click **Deploy**.
  - $\hspace{3.5cm} \circ \hspace{3.5cm} \textbf{Name of the Application} \hspace{3.5cm} \textbf{-} \hspace{3.5cm} \textbf{Initials} \hspace{3.5cm} \textbf{-} \textbf{FiestaMySQL} \\$
  - Initials Initials



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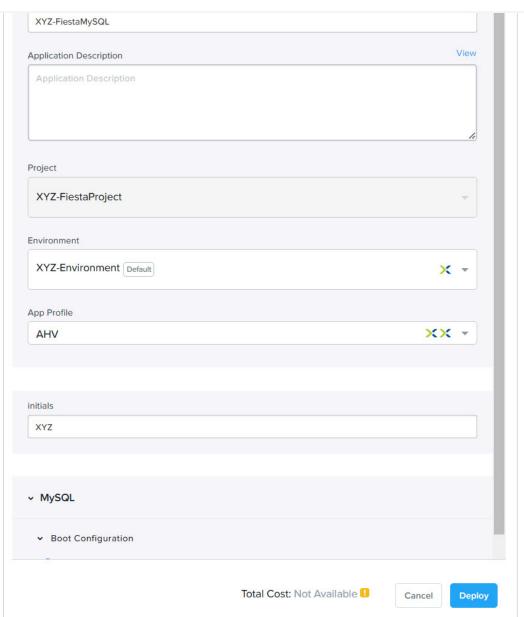
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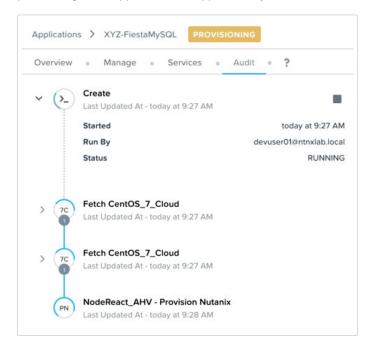
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11. Select the **Audit** tab to monitor the deployment of the Fiesta development environment. The provisioning of the app should take approximately 5 minutes.





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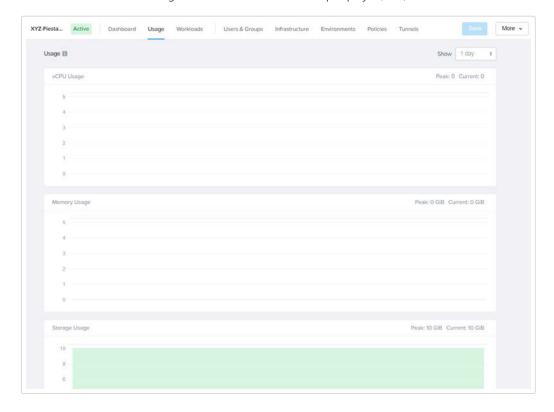
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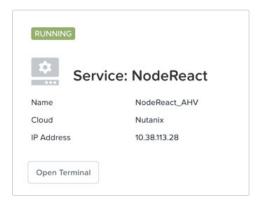
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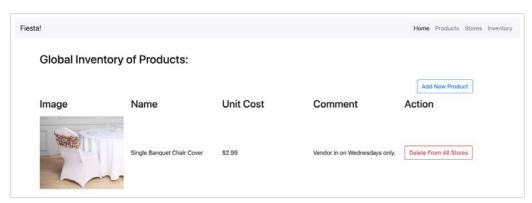
breakouts make understanding the resources consumed on a per-project, VM, or user level.



- 14. Return to Calm > Applications > Initials -FiestaMySQL and wait for the application to move from *Provisioning* to *Running*.
- 15. Select the Services tab, and then select the NodeReact service to obtain the IP of the web tier.



16. Open <nodereact-ip> in a new browser tab to validate that the app is running.





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# **Operator Workflows**

Meet Ronald and Elise. Ronald works as a Level 3 engineering with the corporate IT helpdesk, and Elise works as a QA intern on the Fiesta team. In the brief exercise below, you will explore and contrast their access levels based on the roles defined and categories assigned by Kara.

- 1. Log out of the devuser01 account, and log back into Prism Central with Ronald's credentials:
  - User Name operator01@ntnxlab.local
  - o Password nutanix/4u
- 2. As expected, all VMs with Environment category values assigned are available. Note that you cannot create or delete VMs, but the ability to manage power and change VM configurations is still present.

What else can be accessed by this user? Is Calm available?



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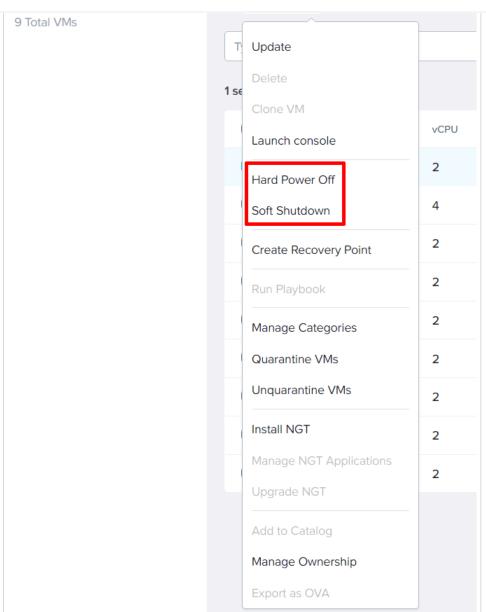
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- 3. Log out of the operator01 account, and log back into Prism Central with Elise's credentials:
  - o **User Name** operator02@ntnxlab.local
  - o Password nutanix/4u
- 4. Note that only resources tagged with the Initials -Team: Fiesta category are available to be managed.



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8 Total VMs	Type text to filter by  Viewing all 8 VMs		
		▲ Name	vCPU
		<ul><li>XYZ-LinuxToolsVM</li></ul>	2
	0	<ul><li>XYZ-MYSQL</li></ul>	2
		XYZ-MYSQL	2
		XYZ-MYSQL	2
		<ul><li>XYZ-WebServer</li></ul>	2
		<ul><li>XYZ-WebServer</li></ul>	2
		<ul> <li>XYZ-WebServer</li> </ul>	2
		<ul><li>XYZ-WinToolsVM</li></ul>	2

# Using Entity Browser, Search, and Analysis

Now that Kara has freed up time to focus on replacing additional legacy infrastructure, she must understand how a large, diverse environment can all be managed and monitored within Prism Central. In the exercise below, you will explore common workflows for working with entities across multiple clusters in a Nutanix environment.

- 1. Log out of the operator02 account, and then log back into Prism Central with Kara's credentials:
  - User Name adminuser01@ntnxlab.local
  - o Password nutanix/4u
- Within Prism Central, select ≡ > Compute & Storage > VMs. Prism Central's Entity Browser provides a
  robust UI for sorting, searching, and viewing entities such as VMs, Images, Clusters, Hosts, Alerts, and
  more.
- 3. Select Modify Filters, and explore the available options.



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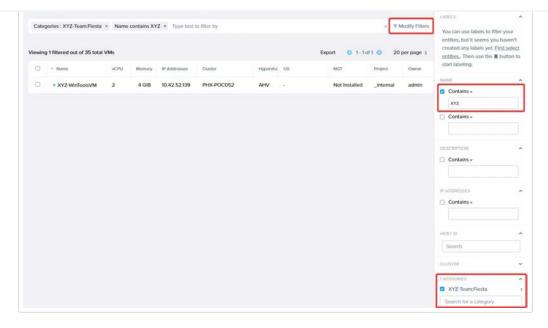
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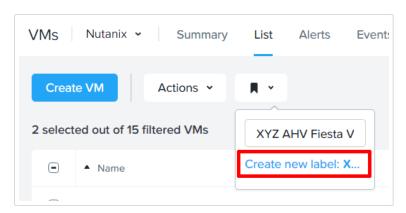
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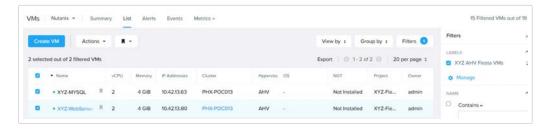
- 4. Specify the following example filters, and verify the corresponding box is checked:
  - Name Contains Initials
  - o Categories Initials -Team: Fiesta
  - o Hypervisor AHV
  - o Power State On

Take notice of other helpful filters available such as VM efficiency, memory usage, and storage latency.

5. Select the filtered VMs, and click the **Label** icon to apply a custom label to your group of filtered VMs (ex. Initials AHV Fiesta VMs). Click **Create new label** once you have typed the label name.



Clear all filters, and then select your new label to return to your previously identified VMs quickly.
 Labels provide an additional taxonomy for entities without tying them to specific policies as is with categories.



- 7. Select the **View by** dropdown to access the different out-of-box views. Which view should be used to understand if your VMs are included as part of a DR plan?
- 8. Click View by > + Add Custom to create a VM view (ex. XYZ-VM-View) that displays CPU Usage, CPU Ready Time, IO Latency, Working Set Size Read, and Working Set Size Write.



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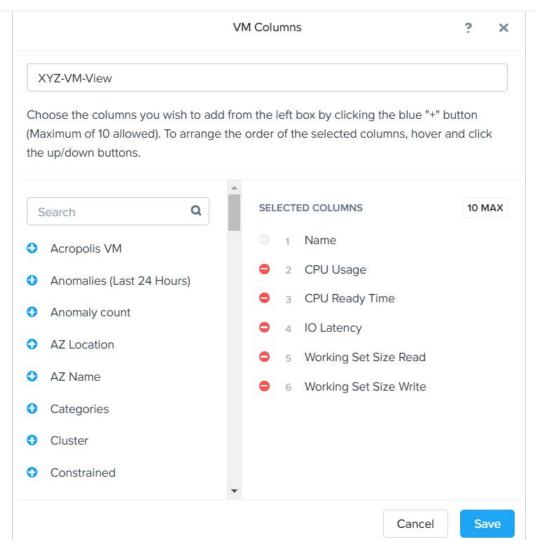
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# Life Cycle Manager

While not a daily activity, Kara previously dedicated 40% of her time planning and executing software and firmware updates to legacy infrastructure, leaving little time for innovation. In her Nutanix environments, Kara is leveraging the rules engine and rich automation in Life Cycle Manager (LCM) to take the hassle out of planning and applying her infrastructure software updates.

# Wrap-up & Next Steps

You've now seen for yourself how:

- Prism delivers a frictionless experience for virtual infrastructure administrators, including deploying storage, networks, workloads, monitoring, and updating this environment.
- Prism Central capabilities, combined with Active Directory, can control access and enable self-service
  for non-administrator personas. Additionally, you helped rich application automation capabilities for
  your Private Cloud through Nutanix Calm.



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# **Nutanix Core**

# **AOS**

AOS stands for Acropolis Operating System, and it is the OS running on the Controller VMs (CVMs).

### **Pulse**

Pulse provides diagnostic system data to Nutanix customer support teams so that they can deliver proactive, context-aware support for Nutanix solutions.

## **Prism Element**

Prism Element is the native management plane for Nutanix. Because its design is based on consumer product interfaces, it is more intuitive and easier to use than many enterprise application interfaces.

## **Prism Central**

Prism Central is the multi-cloud control and management interface for Nutanix. Prism Central can manage multiple Nutanix clusters and serves as an aggregation point for monitoring and analytics.

## Node

An industry-standard x86 server with server-attached SSD and optional HDD (All-Flash & Hybrid Options).

# **Block**

2U rackmount chassis contains 1, 2, or 4 nodes with shared power and fans and no shared backplane.

# **Storage Pool**

A storage pool is a group of physical storage devices, including PCle SSD, SSD, and HDD devices for the cluster.

# **Storage Container**

A container is a subset of available storage used to implement storage policies.

# Anatomy of a Read I/O

Performance and Availability

- · Data is read locally
- Remote access only if data is not locally present

# Anatomy of a Write I/O



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### **Nutanix Flow**

#### **Application Security Policy**

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- Data is writter rocarry
- · Replicated on other nodes for high availability
- Replicas are spread across the cluster for high performance

# **Nutanix Flow**

# **Application Security Policy**

Use an application security policy to secure an application by specifying allowed traffic sources and destinations.

# **Isolation Environment Policy**

Use an isolation environment policy when you want to block all traffic, regardless of direction, between two groups of VMs identified by their category. VMs within a group can communicate with each other.

# **Quarantine Policy**

Use a quarantine policy when you want to isolate a compromised or infected VM and optionally wish to subject it to forensics. You cannot modify this policy, and the two modes to quarantine a VM are Strict or Forensic.

Strict: Use this value when you want to block all inbound and outbound traffic.

Forensic: Use this value when you want to block all inbound and outbound traffic except the traffic to and from categories that contain forensic tools.

## **AppTier**

Add values for the tiers in your application (ex. web, application\_logic, and database) to this category and use the values to divide the application into tiers when configuring a security policy.

# **AppType**

Associate the VMs in your application with the appropriate built-in application type such as Exchange and Apache\_Spark. You can also update the category to add values for applications not listed in this category.

#### **Environment**

Add values for environments that you want to isolate from each other and then associate VMs with the values.

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# **Accessing the Environment**

Nutanix employees are able to access the Hosted POC environment with the **corporate GlobalProtect VPN** , or via either method covered below.

# **Environment Details**

Nutanix Bootcamps are intended to be run within the Nutanix Hosted POC environment. Your cluster will be provisioned with all necessary images, networks, and VMs required to complete the exercises.

## Credentials

#### Note

The HPOC-PASSWORD is unique to each cluster and will be provided by the leader of the Bootcamp.

Credential	Username	Password
Prism Element	admin	HPOC-PASSWORD
Prism Central	admin	HPOC-PASSWORD
Controller VM	nutanix	HPOC-PASSWORD
Prism Central VM	nutanix	HPOC-PASSWORD

Each cluster has a dedicated domain controller VM (AutoAD), responsible for providing AD services for the NTNXLAB.LOCAL domain. The domain is populated with the following users and groups:

Group	Username(s)	Password
Administrators	Administrator	nutanix/4u
SSP Admins	adminuser01-adminuser25	nutanix/4u
SSP Developers	devuser01-devuser25	nutanix/4u
SSP Consumers	consumer01-consumer25	nutanix/4u
SSP Operators	operator01-operator25	nutanix/4u
SSP Custom	custom01-custom25	nutanix/4u
Bootcamp Users	user01-user25	nutanix/4u

## **Access Instructions**

The Nutanix Hosted POC environment can be accessed in several ways.

### **Lab Access User Credentials**

PHX Based Clusters:

Username: PHX-POCxxx-User01 through PHX-POCxxx-User20 Password: HPOC-PASSWORD



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### Frame VDI

## Log in here ☑

Nutanix Employees - Use your NUTANIXDC credentials Non-Employees - Use Lab Access User credentials

### Parallels VDI

**Nutanix Employees** - Use your **NUTANIXDC** credentials **Non-Employees** - Use **Lab Access User** credentials

# **Employee Pulse Secure VPN**

## Download the client

**Nutanix Employees** - Use your **NUTANIXDC** credentials **Non-Employees** - Use **Lab Access User** credentials

## Install the client

In Pulse Secure Client, Add a connection:

### PHX:

- Type Policy Secure (UAC) or Connection Server
- Name X-Labs PHX
- Server URL xlv-uswest1.nutanix.com

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# **Network Configuration**

The following tables detail the network IP Address assignments for multi-node and single-node environments.

# **Multi-Node Reservations**

IP Range	Service	Comments
10.x.x.7	Hyper-V Failover IP	
10.x.x.8 - 10.x.x.14	Files	
10.x.x.15	File Analytics	
10.x.x.16 - 10.x.x.21	Objects	
10.x.x.22		
10.x.x.23	Beam	
10.x.x.25 - 10.x.x.28	Hosts	
10.x.x.29 - 10.x.x.32	CVMs	
10.x.x.33 - 10.x.x.36	IPMI	
10.x.x.37	Cluster IP	
10.x.x.38	Data Services IP	
10.x.x.39	Prism Central	
10.x.x.40	VCSA	vCenter
10.x.x.41	AutoAD	Windows Domain Controller
10.x.x.42	PrismOpsLabUtilityServer	Used for Prism Ops Labs
10.x.x.44	Era	
10.x.x.45	Citrix DDC	
10.x.x.50 - 10.x.x.125	Primary Network IPAM	VLAN 0
10.x.x.126 - 10.x.x.254	Secondary Network IPAM	Secondary VLAN

# **Single Node Reservations**

Partition 1	Partition 2	Partition 3	Partition 4	Service	Comments
10.38.x.1	10.38.x.65	10.38.x.129	10.38.x.193	Gateway	
10.38.x.5	10.38.x.69	10.38.x.133	10.38.x.197	AHV Host	
10.38.x.6	10.38.x.70	10.38.x.134	10.38.x.198	CVM	
10.38.x.7	10.38.x.71	10.38.x.135	10.38.x.199	Cluster IP	



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10.38.x.8	10.38.x.72	10.38.x.136	10.38.x.200	Data Services	
10.38.x.9	10.38.x.73	10.38.x.137	10.38.x.201	Prism Central	
10.38.x.11	10.38.x.75	10.38.x.139	10.38.x.203	AUTOAD	Windows Domain Controller
10.38.x.12	10.38.x.76	10.38.x.140	10.38.x.204	Utility Server	Prism Ops Lab
10.38.x.14	10.38.x.78	10.38.x.142	10.38.x.206	Era	
10.38.x.15	10.38.x.79	10.38.x.143	10.38.x.207	Citrix DDC	
10.38.x.32 - 10.38.x.37	10.38.x.96 - 10.38.x.101	10.38.x.160 - 10.38.x.165	10.38.x.224 - 10.38.x.229	Objects	
10.38.x.38 - 10.38.x.58	10.38.x.102 - 10.38.x.122	10.38.x.166 - 10.38.x.186	10.38.x.230 - 10.38.x.250	Primary Network IPAM	6 IPs free for static assignment

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# **Active Directory User and Groups**

Each cluster has a dedicated domain controller VM - AUTOAD - responsible for providing Active Directory services for the *ntnxlab.local* domain. The domain is pre-populated with the following users and groups:

Group	Username(s)	Password
Administrators	Administrator	nutanix/4u
SSP Admins	adminuser01 -adminuser25	nutanix/4u
SSP Developers	devuser01 - devuser25	nutanix/4u
SSP Consumers	consumer01 - consumer-25	nutanix/4u
SSP Operators	operator01 - operator-25	nutanix/4u
SSP Custom	custom01 - custom25	nutanix/4u
Bootcamp Users	user01 - user25	nutanix/4u

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# **Getting Help**

# #rx-and-hpoc♂

The cluster (ex. RX, password not working, Foundation failed, cluster in a degraded state, etc.).

## #technology-bootcamps:

The lab content (ex. instructions incorrect or unclear, typos, feedback, etc.) or staging (ex. images or blueprints are missing).

Feedback and suggestions can also be submitted to **bootcamps@nutanix.com**.

#### #x-labs

Frame, Parallels VDI, or Pulse VPN access.

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