

# vCenter Server

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vCenter server is a product from VMware that allows the centralized management of multiple ESXi servers. From time to time, various features also allow vCenter to manage other hypervisor platforms, but support tends to come and go for that. Regardless, this centralized management of ESXi servers, along with all of the VMs and infrastructure that goes with, allows for significantly simplified management. Once central page to access everything, plus the ability to automate and script repetitive tasks makes centralized management platforms a huge win!

## ToDo

You should have an environment already operational with ESXi servers and an Active Directory environment

- Ensure your DNS configuration is correct
  - Create a forward/reverse DNS lookup record for vcenter.yourdomain.lan <>10.1.1.100 (or substitute whichever subnet you may be using)
- Access the vCenter installer via <http://share.ialab.dsu.edu> and select the CSC437/In-Class folder. Inside you'll find the ISO with the vCenter installer
- Download the installer and mount the ISO in Windows.
- Deploy the vCenter Appliance to your ESXi server using appropriate configuration
  - Tiny scaling/sizing will be all you need
  - Ensure you're using THIN disk provisioning
  - Use the correct hostname, vcenter.yourdomain.lan (or whichever domain matches the records you've created)
  - Use an IP of 10.1.1.100 (or substitute the subnet you're using)
  - Use the default sign-on domain of vsphere.local
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Once the vCenter Server Appliance is completely deployed & both phases are complete, you'll want to configure your server to centralize your environment. Although our environment is small, imagine if you had to manage hundreds of ESXi servers when you consider that having a single interface makes life much easier.

- Create a new Datacenter in vCenter
- Add *all* of your ESXi servers to your vCenter server, preferably by hostname (such as esx01.yourdomain.lan)
- Convert your extra Windows server to a template (ONLY do this if it's a base windows install with nothing else on it. If that's not the case, you'll need to install a new copy of Windows)
- Join your vCenter server to Active Directory. If needed, create a group in Active Directory, then import that group as an administrator. Log in using your integrated Active Directory credentials.

## Submissions

- **Submit one screenshot proving that you've logged into your vCenter server's web interface, have connected all of your ESXi servers, and have logged in using your active directory credentials (all of this should be able to fit in a single screenshot)**