

VMware vSphere & ESXi License Comparison

1. Overview

This document provides a detailed comparison of VMware ESXi and vSphere license types, including free, Essentials, Standard, Enterprise Plus, and subscription-based models such as vSphere+. It also covers vCenter licenses and VMware's support offerings.

2. vSphere Editions Comparison

Edition	vCenter	HA	DRS	Lifecycle	vMotion	Use Case
Essentials	Yes	No	No	No	No	Small Office
Essentials Plus	Yes	Yes	No	Partial	Yes	Small Production
Standard	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Entry-Level Production
Enterprise Plus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Enterprise Data Center
vSphere+	Yes (Cloud)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Modern/Hybrid Infra

3. vCenter Server Licenses

License Type	Max Hosts	Support	Use Case
Foundation	4	Basic	Small Deployments
Standard	Unlimited	GSS	Medium to Large Infra

4. VMware Support Levels

Support Level	Availability	Response Time (Severity 1)	Access to Updates
Basic	12x5	4 Hours	Yes
Production	24x7	30 Minutes	Yes
Premier	24x7 + TAM	Custom SLA	Yes