General

Q. What is VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery is an easy-to-use, on-demand disaster recovery (DR) solution, delivered as SaaS, with cloud economics.

Q. What is the difference between VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery, VMware Site Recovery, and VMware Site Recovery Manager?
A. VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery is a Disaster Recovery as-a-service (DRaaS) solution that can be used to cost-effectively protect a broad set of your virtualized applications, with fast recovery capabilities. VMware Site Recovery is also a DRaaS solution that can be used to protect mission-critical applications that have a very low RPO and RTO. VMware Site Recovery Manager is an enterprise software solution, deployed and managed by you in your data center to facilitate DR protection to a secondary DR datacenter that you manage yourself.

Q. How is VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery a cost-effective DRaaS solution?
A. There are three key ways in which VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery is cost-effective. First, you no longer need to own and continuously maintain a secondary DR site. Second, you can utilize an efficient cloud storage layer provided by the service to store your backups during the steady state and only consume failover compute and primary storage capacity when a disaster event occurs. Finally, this service provides an operationally consistent and familiar vSphere experience across the production and DR sites, so your IT staff doesn’t need to learn new tools.

Q. What regions are currently supported?
- US West (Oregon)
- US East (N. Virginia)
- US West (N. California)
- US East (Ohio)
- Canada (Central)
- S. America (Sao Paulo)
- Europe (Ireland)
- Europe (London)
- Europe (Milan)
- Europe (Frankfurt)
- Europe (Paris)
- Europe (Stockholm)
- Asia Pacific (Singapore)
- Asia Pacific (Mumbai)
- Asia Pacific (Sydney)
- Asia Pacific (Tokyo)
- Asia Pacific (Seoul)
- Asia Pacific (Osaka)

Getting Started

Q. How do I get started?
A. Getting started is easy. Simply reach out to us by going to VMware Cloud DR’s website and clicking on “Get in touch”.

Q. How do I learn more about VMware Cloud DR before purchasing the service?
A. You can learn more about VMware Cloud DR by accessing Launchpad directly from VMware Cloud Console and access step-by-step guidance, relevant tools, and a rich set of resources. Click on “Learn More” under “Disaster Recovery” to navigate to launch your DR journey. This experience is available to everyone without requiring login to VMware Cloud.

Q. Do I need to learn new tools?
A. You use the same consistent, familiar vCenter management console and vSphere constructs on both your production and DR sites. For the DR service itself, you use an easy-to-use, SaaS-based management console.

Q. Do I need VMware Site Recovery to use VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. You do not need to enable VMware Site Recovery to use VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery.

Q. Do I need Site Recovery Manager (SRM) or vSphere Replication (VR) on my on-premises site to use VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. You do not need to deploy Site Recovery Manager (SRM) or vSphere Replication (VR) on your on-premises protected site to use VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery.

Q. What do I need to deploy on my source site?
A. You need to deploy one or more DRaaS Connector virtual machines on your source site vSphere environment to connect to the VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery components. DRaaS Connector is available as an easy-to-deploy OVA. You do not need to deploy any other appliance or hardware to connect to the VMware Cloud DR components in the cloud.

Q. Can I bring my own existing AWS account for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery to use for the cloud storage?
A. The AWS account will be owned and managed by VMware, so you cannot bring your own AWS account.
Q. Can I setup Site Recovery Manager (SRM) style protection groups and recovery plans?

A. VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery supports grouping VMs into protection groups as well as creating DR plans managed by its SaaS Orchestrator component, similar to Site Recovery Manager. Protection groups can be based on VM names patterns or VM folder selection.

Q. Do I need a VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC in the steady state when I am only replicating to the cloud?

A. You do not need a VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC to be provisioned in the steady state. However, for customers that value low recovery times, we recommend a “pilot light” SDDC, which can currently be as small as a two host SDDC. Having a pilot light SDDC allows you to avoid the additional time needed to deploy an SDDC at the time of an outage and makes it possible to get alerts on the full set of automated DR health checks. Depending on your environment, it may also be helpful in pre-configuring the networking for your recovery SDDC and running foundational components such as Domain Controllers.

Q. Can I use the pilot light SDDC for running other VMs in the steady state, i.e. while I am only replicating?

A. Yes, the pilot light SDDC can be used for any purpose as it is a standard VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC in all respects.

Q. Can I use an existing VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC deployed from VMware Cloud console for recovery?

A. Yes, you can leverage an existing VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC deployed from VMware Cloud console for recovery. Clusters and hosts added from VMware Cloud console to this SDDC are automatically recognized by VMware Cloud DR.

Q. What are the bandwidth requirements with VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?

A. The bandwidth required for replication would depend on the number, size, change rate, and RPO of the VMs that you are protecting. Upon recovery, you only need as much bandwidth to the cloud as needed to communicate with your live workloads from your other sites and user endpoints.

Q. What are the connectivity requirements with VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?

A. Connectivity between your protected site and VMware Cloud DR components can be over Internet, Direct Connect (DX) public and private Virtual Network Interface (VIF).

Q. Can I failover my workloads to an existing cluster of my pilot light SDDC?

A. At the time of outage, you can expand your existing cluster of your pilot light SDDC to recover your workloads. You need to make sure that the cluster can accommodate the new hosts that might get added to accommodate recovery of your workloads. Once your production site is back up, you can failback, after which the VMs on your recovery SDDC will be turned off, the hosts will be undeployed and cluster will be scaled down. Scaling down from a 3-node to a 2-node pilot light SDDC must be done from the VMware Cloud Console.

Q. How does VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery work?

A. Using a simple, cloud-based UI you can configure backup policies protect your VMs and DR plans to orchestrate recovery of those VMs. Backups are encrypted and stored in the native vSphere VM format in a highly efficient cloud storage layer called the Scale-out Cloud File System (SCFS) instead of primary storage in a VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC. When disaster strikes, with a few clicks you can recover your VMs to VMware Cloud on AWS using your pre-tested DR plans. The service can be used to quickly provision VMware resources and SDDCs in VMware Cloud on AWS. The recovered VMs can be immediately powered-on using the stored backups via a “live mount”, i.e. an NFS datastore automatically mounted to all hosts in that SDDC.

Q. How can I be sure that my disaster recovery plan will work when I need it?

A. DR compliance checks are automatically run every 30 minutes to increase your confidence that your DR plan will work when you need it. Additionally, SLA Status view shows status for items related to Protection and Recoverability, including DR plans. You will be notified should an item require attention.

Q. How do I achieve fast recovery times?

A. The “live mount” capability of VMware Cloud DR provides fast recovery without a time-consuming rehydration of the backup data from cloud storage to VMware Cloud on AWS hosts. The backed-up data is immediately made available in the recovery SDDC via an NFS datastore mounted to the SDDC hosts. Having a small deployment of pre-provisioned pilot light hosts makes the recovery process even faster.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery convert the VMs to a different format for backup and recovery?

A. Unlike many other cloud-based data protection solutions, VMware Cloud DR keeps your protected VMs in their native vSphere VM format which eliminates the need for brittle VM conversions that slow down recovery and make failback error-prone.

Q. Technical
Q. Does VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery support failback?
A. Yes, VMware Cloud DR supports an efficient, delta-based orchestrated failback back of the recovered VMs to your protected site when it becomes available again.

Q. How does failback work?
A. When you are ready, you can use the VMware Cloud DR management console to initiate failback. The changed data is compressed, encrypted, and automatically sent back to the original protected site.

Q. Does VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery support multiple backups for a single VM?
A. Yes, both VMware Site Recovery and VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery support the ability to retain multiple point-in-time snapshots for any protected VM. VMware Site Recovery allows you to retain up to 24 copies per VM. VMware Cloud DR allows you to retain more than 24 point-in-time snapshots for every VM. You can configure multiple schedules for each VM, and each schedule can have a different retention period.

Q. Can I recover from an older point-in-time snapshot?
A. You can recover from any point-in-time snapshot that is available based on your configured retention policies. Any of these snapshots – including the most recent one – can be used to immediately power-on your VMs, using the “live mount” capability.

Q. What storage options do you support for protection with VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. VMware Cloud DR supports the protection of vSphere VMs running on any vSphere compatible storage on a VMFS, NFS, vVol or vSAN datastore.

Q. How does the DRaaS Connector get updated?
A. The DRaaS Connector will be updated automatically and seamlessly without your intervention so that it stays compatible with the cloud service.

Q. Can I run my recovered workloads on SCFS instead of VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC?
A. You can choose to run recovered VMs directly from the SCFS. If you select this option, failover is faster and there is no dependency on SDDC hosts for storage capacity. With this option, the SDDC can be substantially smaller in size because VMs are kept on the SCFS, eliminating the vSAN storage capacity constraints. This configuration can be more cost effective, however there is a potential performance degradation for workloads running on SCFS. Please note that this feature is in Preview. To request access to this feature, please reach out to VMware support.

Support & Additional Resources

Q. How can I get support when using VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. You can contact VMware Support for any issues you face while using VMware Cloud DR.

Q. Where can I see a demo of VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. You can view pre-recorded demos here, which cover key VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery capabilities. Please reach out to your VMware Cloud Sales representative if you are interested in a live demo of the service.

Q. Is there a Hands-on-Lab that I can use?
A. A Hands-on-Lab for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery is available in VMware HOL catalog here.

Q. Is there technical documentation available?
A. You can find the official technical documentation for VMware Cloud DR here.

Q. Where can I find operational limits for VMware Cloud DR?
A. You can find the operational limits for VMware Cloud DR here. Select “VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery” under “Select Product” and check all options under “All Categories” to view all the operational limits for VMware Cloud DR.

Q. Where can I find the datasheet for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. You can find the datasheet for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery here.

Q. What versions of other VMware software such as vCenter Server and ESXi work with VMware Cloud DR?
A. You can find the versions of VMware software that interop with VMware Cloud DR here.

Q. Where can I learn about the product roadmap for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. The product roadmap for VMware Cloud DR is available under the “Disaster Recovery” category here.

Q. What service level agreement (SLA) do you offer for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. Please refer to the Service Level Agreement document for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery available here.
Q. Where can I find the terms and conditions for using VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. Please refer to the VMware Terms of Service for cloud service offerings, and the Service Description for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery available here.

Q. Where can I find information about the most recent updates to VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. For information about the latest features and updates to the service, please refer to the release notes here.

Pricing

Q. Where can I find the price for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. You can find the pricing for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery on our pricing page.

Q. How can I purchase VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. Please refer to the “Business Operations” section of the Service Description for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery available here.

Q. What currencies are supported for purchasing VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. The following six currencies are now supported for purchasing VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery: USD, GBP, EURO, JPY, AUD and CNY. You can transact in these currencies and protect your workloads in one of the AWS regions where VMware Cloud DR is available.

Q. How do I pay for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. If you purchased VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery directly through VMware, you could pay for the service by redeeming SPP (Subscription Purchasing Program) credits, including SPP credits specifically applicable to VMware Cloud on AWS. Refer to the VMware Subscription Purchasing Program guide for further information on SPP credits.

As an alternative to SPP credits, you can also purchase VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery through Pay by Invoice, by using a credit card, or through a 2-tier commerce model where distributors will receive the opportunity to enable a significant volume discount for a specific reseller/end customer combination. Distributors make payments monthly on their upfront commitment by signing a Commitment Based Contract (CBC) with VMware and committing to spend a certain amount of money on behalf of the reseller/end customer combination over a specified period. The distributor will be charged monthly by VMware based on your associated consumption of VMware Cloud DR. You have the complete freedom of self-service to configure your service and purchase VMware Cloud DR subscriptions.

If you purchased VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery through AWS, the payment instruments, terms of service, region, currency, and so on, are determined by your relationship with AWS and the Enterprise Discount Program (EDP) credits that you purchased through them. Contact your AWS sales team for all questions related to pricing and billing.

Q. When will I pay for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery service?
A. You will be charged for the service at the following points:

• When you purchase a 1-year or 3-year committed term subscription, you will be charged upfront for the full amount of the one- or three-year subscription. You can also choose to pay monthly for the one- or three-year subscription, in which case you will be charged every month until the end of your subscription term.

• Every month, you will be charged in arrears for any metered data capacity usage and/or protected VM count that exceeds your active committed term subscriptions.

• When you elect to purchase data capacity and/or protected VM count on-demand, every month, you will be charged in arrears for your metered usage.

For additional details about this, please refer to the “Billing and Usage Metering” section of the Service Description for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery available here.

Q: Why has VMware Cloud DR in pilot mode been sunset?
A: We have introduced VMware Cloud DR in complete on-demand mode. With this new option, pilot mode has been sunset. If you are running or ran VMware Cloud DR in pilot mode, you should have received communications regarding next steps. If you have not yet received communications or have additional questions, please contact VMware Support.

Q. Can I try out the service before committing to a long-term subscription?
A. VMware Cloud DR in pilot mode has been sunset and, instead, the service can now be purchased completely on-demand. This means that every month you will be charged in arrears for your metered usage of data capacity and protected VM count. There is a 10 TiB minimum per Orchestrator Recovery Region, irrespective of actual usage. There are no limitations to how long to run VMware Cloud DR on-demand for.

Q. Does the VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery pricing include VMware Cloud on AWS hosts?
A. No, you must separately purchase the VMware Cloud on AWS hosts required for DR testing and recovery of your protected VMs. VMware Cloud on AWS hosts are not included in VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery.
Q. What do you consider excessive egress data transfers, for which I might be billed additional charges?
A. The VMware Cloud DR price includes the underlying cloud infrastructure used by the service including cloud storage, cloud compute instances, managed databases, cloud network devices, and cloud management tools. Additionally, egress data charges incurred during typical use of the service for replication from on-premises to the cloud and failback to the protected site over the internet are also covered by VMware Cloud DR price. However, VMware reserves the right to bill you for additional charges corresponding to excessive egress data transfers for failback.

Q. Are there any other costs that I should be aware about?
A. When using VMware Cloud DR to protect workloads on VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC, there will be replication traffic going out from the protected SDDC to VMware Cloud DR. Depending on the network connectivity and the location of your source and target site, you might get charged for data transfer. Data transfer charges show up on your VMware Cloud on AWS bill. Refer to this article to find your VMware Cloud on AWS data transfer costs.

Q. How will I get charged for data transfer costs?
A. VMware reserves the right to bill you for additional charges corresponding to excessive egress data transfers for failback. However, if none of the old data is available on the protected site, there might get charged for data transfer. Data transfer charges show up on your VMware Cloud on AWS bill. Refer to this article to find your VMware Cloud on AWS data transfer costs.

Q. Does the VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery price include egress data transfers for VMs running on the recovery SDDC in VMware Cloud on AWS?
A. No, you will be separately charged for egress data transfers incurred by the recovered VMs when they are running in a VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC at the applicable VMware Cloud on AWS rates.

Q. Is there a minimum purchase required for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. No, there are no minimum purchase requirements. However, there is a 10 TiB minimum per Orchestrator Recovery Region, irrespective of actual usage.

See example in table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery Region</th>
<th>Data capacity usage per Recovery Region</th>
<th>Total data capacity usage</th>
<th>Total minimum charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US West</td>
<td>20 TiB</td>
<td>26 TiB</td>
<td>3 Regions x 10TiB per Region = 30 TiB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US East</td>
<td>5 TiB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>1 TiB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. How is data capacity calculated?
A. Data capacity in TiB is calculated as the sum of the logical storage size of the protected VMs and all the incremental cloud backups you choose to retain (where 1 TiB is equal to $2^{20}$ or 1,099,511,627,766 bytes).
For an accurate calculation of data capacity, please engage your VMware Cloud Sales representative.

Q. Can I co-term VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery subscriptions with VMware Cloud on AWS host subscriptions or VMware Site Recovery subscriptions?
A. No, co-terming capabilities are not available. You will have to manage the terms of the different subscription offerings.

Q. How can Managed Service Providers (MSP) purchase VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery?
A. VMware cloud providers who have signed up for the MSP agreement and have a VMware Cloud on AWS commit contract can purchase VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery service. Service providers must have both a VMware Cloud on AWS commit contract and a VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery commit contract in place. See FAQ for VMware Cloud Disaster Recovery on Cloud Partner Navigator for further details.