

# VMware vCenter Lifecycle Manager

## Track and Control Virtual Machines Across the Virtual Infrastructure

### AT A GLANCE

VMware vCenter Lifecycle Manager allows customers to implement a consistent, automated workflow for provisioning, operating and decommissioning virtual machines. Lifecycle Manager automates the steps within the workflow to improve efficiency and productivity, and to ensure strict corporate compliance with company policies.

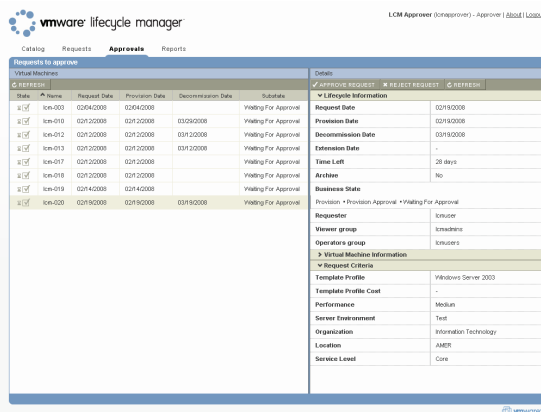
### BENEFITS

- Employ standardization and best practices for tracking and managing virtual machine deployment and use.
- Eliminate manual and repetitive administrative tasks through automation.
- Prevent virtual machine sprawl and ensure corporate IT compliance.
- Leverage existing tools such as VMware vCenter Server, change management software and IT Process/Runbook automation tools.

### How is Lifecycle Manager Used in the Enterprise?

VMware vCenter Lifecycle Manager enables administrators to track and control virtual machines through a consistent approval process throughout the entire lifecycle. With Lifecycle Manager, administrators can:

- **Create a catalog of standard IT services.** Users can select from a group of pre-defined virtual machines. This allows the virtual infrastructure administrator to maintain control over what types of resources are deployed into the IT environment.
- **Associate Chargeback Metrics.** Lifecycle Manager enables IT staff to associate chargeback metrics to specific virtual machine deployments and resource pools. These chargeback metrics can be assigned to specific business groups, or tie in to existing financial systems.
- **Streamline the request and approval process.** Lifecycle Manager establishes a consistent and scalable mechanism to route and approve all requests for virtual machines, ensuring compliance with internal policies.
- **Track and control virtual machines.** Tracking who owns virtual machines in a virtual environment or keeping record of when a virtual machine is created, deployed or decommissioned can be challenging. Lifecycle Manager tracks virtual machine deployments with a web-based request log, so IT staff knows exactly when the request is made, approved or denied. IT staff also knows when the machine is deployed and how long it has been in operation.
- **Eliminate manual, repetitive, and error-prone tasks.** As deployments grow, automation becomes a critical factor in helping IT staff do more with less. Lifecycle Manager automates each step in the virtual machine lifecycle based on predefined policies.
- **Integrate with existing management tools.** Many organizations have existing tools to handle various aspects of IT, such as change management, asset management, networking or storage. Lifecycle Manager can be used in conjunction with existing IT operational or management tools.



All virtual machine requests can be routed to an approver within the business. The approver can view each request and approve or reject it based on specific business requirements such as cost, length of request or amount of available resources.

### How Does Lifecycle Manager Work?

Lifecycle Manager provides an easy-to-use web interface for managing the interactions among everyone involved in the lifecycle of a virtual machine. There are four main roles and functions in the product:

## KEY FEATURES

- 1. User:** Requests virtual machines and can track the status of any pending requests.
- 2. Approver:** Approves or denies requests for virtual machines. The Approver can be from any department.
- 3. IT Staff:** Decides where virtual machines are placed.
- 4. IT Administrator:** Configures Lifecycle Manager, including parameters such as interactions between user roles.

During setup, the IT administrator creates a catalog of virtual machine templates that users can view and select. The templates help the user determine the characteristics of available virtual machines (machine size, memory, storage, backup services, etc.). The IT administrator also defines what types of approvals are required prior to virtual machine deployment.

After the IT administrator completes setup and defines the catalog of templates, the user can log into Lifecycle Manager and make a request for a virtual machine. During the request process, the user enters information to help Lifecycle Manager select the specific resources that best support the request. The user can log back into Lifecycle Manager any time to check on the request status. Requests are only visible to the user who made them.

Once submitted, requests are routed to the approver. If the request is approved, the virtual machine is deployed automatically, based on the user-defined criteria and the way in which IT staff has mapped those criteria to existing computing resources. For example, a request for a production virtual machine requiring high performance will be mapped to the highest performing server, network and storage resources available in the virtualized environment. If several choices exist to support the user request, IT staff will be notified by email and can make a determination about where to deploy the virtual machine in the environment.

Users follow the same request and approval process to change resource specifics for existing virtual machines.

The final step within Lifecycle Manager is to decommission the virtual machine. The decommission process, which consists of archiving and ultimately deleting a virtual machine, provides better resource utilization by ensuring resources come back into the resource pool for future use. The virtual machine will be decommissioned based on the end date the user enters when first submitting a request. This date represents that length of time the user will need the resource. The user can request more time within the web interface or let the virtual machine go into the decommission process. The archive function, prior to deletion, is useful for IT staff, because a virtual machine can be moved to lower-cost storage.

## Key Features of Lifecycle Manager by Role

### User

- **Self-service portal.** Easily request virtual machines and determine request status. Through the easy-to-use portal, users can select the best virtual machine type to suit their needs.
- **Catalog of existing virtual machines.** Access virtual machines with basic virtual machine controls (power on, shut down, suspend, snapshot, revert to snapshot, etc.).

### Approver

- **Approve or reject requests.** View detailed information about any request and determine whether to accept or deny the request.

### IT Staff

- **Intelligent placement.** Complete approved requests by deciding where virtual machines will be placed within the environment.

### IT Administrator

- **Leverage catalog of standard IT services.** Setup several pre-defined virtual machine templates that the end user can select from that shows what each virtual machine offers (machines size, memory, storage, services, etc.).
- **Policy-based deployment.** Leverage automation by setting up key criteria for the user to specify in a request. Criteria are used to automatically place or configure a virtual machine for the environment. For example, production virtual machines will use tier 1 storage and may have a feature such as DRS turned on by default.
- **Security policies.** Assign groups of users to specific virtual machine resources.
- **Infrastructure optimization.** Optimize resource pools and virtual machine folders, and help associate chargeback metrics to virtual machine deployments.

## Find Out More

For information or to purchase VMware products, call 1-877-4VMWARE (outside of North America dial +1-650-427-5000), visit [www.vmware.com/products](http://www.vmware.com/products), or search online for an authorized reseller. For detailed product specifications and systems requirements, please refer to the Lifecycle Manager install and configure guide.