Important Study Links in the VCAP5-DCD Blueprint

A technical architect will spend a large amount of time reviewing information from various sources and digesting the important or relevant information. The skill of reviewing and understanding technical information is extremely valuable for the working IT architect, but also very useful when preparing for the VCAP5-DCD exam.

Within the VCAP5-DCD blueprint there are a selection of recommended reading materials (compiled and listed below). It is advisable to review this documentation from the architect perspective before the exam.

Some of this information is also recommended for the VCP5-DCV exam. I would still recommend revisiting the documentation, but review them with relevant vSphere layer component design considerations, rather than just looking at technical information.

Section 1 – Create a vSphere Conceptual Design

Objective 1.1 – Gather and analyze business requirements

- VMware Virtualization Case Studies
- Five Steps to Determine When to Virtualize Your Servers
- Functional vs. Non-Functional Requirements
- Conceptual, Logical, Physical: It is Simple

Objective 1.2 – Gather and analyze application requirements

- VMware Cost-Per-Application Calculator
- VMware Virtualizing Oracle Kit
- VMware Virtualizing Exchange Kit
- VMware Virtualizing SQL Kit
- VMware Virtualizing SAP Kit
- VMware Virtualizing Enterprise Java Kit
- Business and Financial Benefits of Virtualization: Customer Benchmarking Study

Objective 1.3 – Determine Risks, Constraints, and Assumptions

Developing Your Virtualization Strategy and Deployment Plan

Section 2 – Create a vSphere Logical Design from an Existing Conceptual Design

Objective 2.1 –Map Business Requirements to the Logical Design

- Conceptual, Logical, Physical: It is Simple
- VMware vSphere Basics Guide
- What's New in VMware vSphere 5
- Functional vs. Non-Functional Requirements

Objective 2.2 – Map Service Dependencies

- Datacenter Operational Excellence Through Automated Application Discovery & Dependency Mapping

Objective 2.3 – Build Availability Requirements into the Logical Design

- Improving Business Continuity with VMware Virtualization Solution Brief
- VMware High Availability Deployment Best Practices
- vSphere Availability Guide

Objective 2.4 – Build Manageability Requirements into the Logical Design

- Optimizing Your VMware Environment
- Four Keys to Managing Your VMware Environment
- Operational Readiness Assessment
- Operational Readiness Assessment Tool

Objective 2.5 – Build Performance Requirements into the Logical Design

Proven Practice: Implementing ITIL v3 Capacity Management in a VMware environment
vSphere Monitoring and Performance Guide

Objective 2.6 – Build Recoverability Requirements into the Logical Design

VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager Evaluation Guide
A Practical Guide to Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery with VMware Infrastructure
Mastering Disaster Recovery: Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Whitepaper
Designing Backup Solutions for VMware vSphere

Objective 2.7 – Build Security Requirements into the Logical Design

vSphere Security Guide
Developing Your Virtualization Strategy and Deployment Plan
Achieving Compliance in a Virtualized Environment
Infrastructure Security: Getting to the Bottom of Compliance in the Cloud
Securing the Cloud

Section 3 – Create a vSphere Physical Design from an Existing Logical Design
Objective 3.1 – Transition from a Logical Design to a vSphere 5 Physical Design

Conceptual, Logical, Physical: It is Simple
vSphere Server and Host Management Guide
vSphere Virtual Machine Administration Guide

Objective 3.2 – Create a vSphere 5 Physical Network Design from an Existing Logical Design

vSphere Server and Host Management Guide
vSphere Installation and Setup Guide
vMotion Architecture, Performance and Best Practices in VMware vSphere 5
VMware vSphere™: Deployment Methods for the VMware® vNetwork Distributed Switch
vNetwork Distributed Switch: Migration and Configuration
Guidelines for Implementing VMware vSphere with the Cisco Nexus 1000V Virtual Switch
VMware® Network I/O Control: Architecture, Performance and Best Practices

Objective 3.3 – Create a vSphere 5 Physical Storage Design from an Existing Logical Design

Fibre Channel SAN Configuration Guide
iSCSI SAN Configuration Guide
vSphere Installation and Setup Guide
Performance Implications of Storage I/O Control–Enabled NFS Datastores in VMware vSphere® 5.0
Managing Performance Variance of Applications Using Storage I/O Control
VMware Virtual Machine File System: Technical Overview and Best Practices

Objective 3.4 – Determine Appropriate Compute Resources for a vSphere 5 Physical Design

- vSphere Server and Host Management Guide
- vSphere Installation and Setup Guide
- vSphere Resource Management Guide

Objective 3.5 – Determine Virtual Machine Configuration for a vSphere 5 Physical Design

- vSphere Server and Host Management Guide
- Virtual Machine Administration Guide
- Best Practices for Performance Tuning of Latency-Sensitive Workloads in vSphere VMs
- Virtualizing a Windows Active Directory Domain Infrastructure
- Guest Operating System Installation Guide

Objective 3.6 – Determine Datacenter Management Options for a vSphere 5 Physical Design

- vSphere Monitoring and Performance Guide
- vCenter Server and Host Management Guide
- VMware vCenter Update Manager 5.0 Performance and Best Practices

Section 4 – Implementation Planning

Objective 4.1 – Create an Execute a Validation Plans

- vSphere Server and Host Management Guide
- Validation Test Plan
- Product Documentation

Objective 4.2 – Create an Implementation Plan

- vSphere Server and Host Management Guide
- Operational Test Requirement Cases

Objective 4.3 – Create an Installation Guide

- vSphere Server and Host Management Guide
- Deployment Guide