

# VMware Cloud Foundation License Portability

Policy

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Broadcom has introduced enhanced VCF license portability to any customers who have purchased the new VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) subscription offering. This document sets forth Broadcom's policies and requirements for customers taking advantage of License Portability, and thus customers should carefully review portability terms and conditions to ensure compliance.

### License Portability Definition

License Portability is an entitlement offered to customers who have purchased the new VCF subscription offering (qualifying version purchased after December 13, 2023), enabling them to deploy and utilize their VCF licenses across a range of compatible environments whether that's in their own data center, a hosting provider, a cloud service provider or a public cloud hyperscaler.

Customers will have improved mobility to and from their on-premises environment to any VCF based cloud services. In all License Portability scenarios, customers continue to be the licensee of VCF and will have full control of their licenses and compliance requirements outlined in the [VMware Cloud Foundation Specific Program Documentation \(SPD\)](#). For clarity, Customers do have the ability to port VCF licenses purchased directly from Broadcom to those cloud provider environments that have a VCF integrated offering if partners supporting those environments choose to participate. The License Portability entitlement does not apply to VCF licenses purchased by, or consumed through, cloud service providers (where provider is the licensee) or purchased by the customer through a value-added OEM partner.

Customers porting their eligible VCF licenses to bare metal / Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) offerings are encouraged to verify that the underlying infrastructure of the endpoint they choose is technically capable to run VCF per the [Broadcom Compatibility Guide](#). Customers porting their eligible VCF licenses to integrated VCF offerings provided by cloud service providers or public cloud hyperscalers, should review the [List of Certified Cloud Providers](#) or reach out to a Broadcom sales representative for more information.

### License Portability Benefits

- **Investment Protection:** License Portability provides software investment protection so that subscriptions to VCF, and associated add-ons, are not rendered obsolete when customers transition from one deployment model to another (e.g., from on-premises to public-cloud destinations, from one public cloud to another public cloud, or self-managed to third party managed).
- **Simplicity:** A single, consistent VCF software subscription model and pricing applicable to any deployment model of choice, and
- **Flexibility:** Platform/destination-agnostic private cloud infrastructure software where customers are entitled to the same software innovation, updates/upgrades & support, irrespective of the deployment destination (subject to adherence to hardware compatibility requirements)

### License Portability Prerequisites

For customers to take advantage of License Portability, they must meet the following requirements:

- Subscription license must be for the new VCF offering purchased after December 13th, 2023.
- VCF licenses purchased through VMware's Value-Added OEM (VAO) partner program are not eligible for this benefit. VMware's Value-Added OEM (VAO) partner offerings refer to an engineered or attached offering where VCF is sold with the partner hardware as a single offering including support and this may not be disaggregated for portability despite the end customer being the licensee.

- The purchased VCF licenses must meet the license quantities, minimums and other licensing requirements as outlined in the [VMware Cloud Foundation Specific Program Documentation \(SPD\)](#).
- The customer is responsible for all license compliance requirements, including consumption within the number of cores purchased.
- All applicable Add-ons deployed with VCF are also eligible for license portability provided they are being used with the same eligible VCF entitlement.
- Current list of software subscriptions qualified for license portability as of February 2025

Product
VMware Cloud Foundation
Add-On
vSAN
VMware vDefend Firewall
VMware vDefend Firewall with Advanced Threat Prevention (or Add-On)
VMware Avi Load Balancer (SaaS or term)

## License Portability Models

Customers can execute License Portability to either bare metal offerings or integrated VCF offerings.

### Key Definitions

- **Infrastructure-as-a-Service (does not include VCF)** – infrastructure-as-a-service offerings refer to the “bare metal” cloud provider offerings where there is no operating system and/or control plane between the virtualization software and the hardware, and the end customer is the sole tenant of the environment. The virtualization software resides directly on the “bare metal” or the hard disk of the hardware, where the operating system is usually installed. For License Portability, the environment should be minimally configured (i.e., VCF has not been pre-loaded) without any workflow to facilitate the deployment of VCF such that the end customer, or third party working on their behalf, has the full responsibility of deploying VCF into the environment.
- **Integrated VCF Offering** - Integrated VCF Offering refers to cloud provider offerings which incorporate VCF into the cloud provider infrastructure as a single offering that customers can consume both VCF and underlying infrastructure as a seamless integrated experience. The Integrated VCF offerings include technical support from the cloud provider with different lifecycle and day two operational management options.

Based on the type of environments that customers execute License Portability to, VCF consumption models may be different.

**Portability to bare metal OR Infrastructure-as-a-Service providers:** With bare metal offerings, there are no changes in relationships that customers maintain with Broadcom, including directly receiving technical support from Broadcom. Furthermore, customers can self-manage the VCF environment or contract with third parties to ensure that the management options meet the organizational requirements in performance and security.

**Portability to integrated VCF offerings:** When porting to integrated VCF offerings, customers will receive integrated VCF offerings from the service provider including the support services. Different cloud providers may provide different management options of integrated VCF offerings and customers should work directly with cloud providers to ensure that management options meet the

organizational requirements in performance and security. With the integrated VCF solution customers receive out-of-the-box enterprise grade compute, storage and network virtualization stack and accelerate time to value through integrated VCF offerings from configuration to management. In addition, providers ensure a VCF ready environment to on-board critical VCF workloads with minimal friction and secure / enterprise grade environments.

To successfully port to a Integrated VCF Offer, the following steps should be taken:

1. Ensure that the Integrated VCF Offer is provided from one of the Certified Partners (see link below)
2. When porting VCF to Integrated VCF Offerings from Certified Partners, customers need to provide their proof of purchase and license keys of VCF to Certified Partners providing Integrated VCF Offerings.
3. Engage a Certified Partner to purchase Integrated VCF Offers eligible for license portability with the new VCF entitlements (purchased after December 13, 2023).
4. Certified Partner validates the proof of purchase
5. After successful verification of the customer VCF license eligibility, the customer uses their entitlements on Integrated VCF Offers. All original license entitlements remain with the customer and the Certified Partner provides the technical support of the Integrated VCF Offers.
6. License Portability will be enabled for the full-term subscriptions of 3 Years only and the mismatch between Broadcom subscription duration and cloud provider subscription duration will be allowed (e.g., porting a VCF license for 3Y commit, January 2024 through January 2027, to an Integrated VCF Offer subscription ending before or after January 2027).

### VCF License Portability Certified Cloud Providers

For the latest list of certified cloud providers please refer to the following [List of Certified Cloud Providers](#).

