

# VMware vSphere Storage Appliance

Shared Storage Software that Enables High Availability for Any Small Environment

## AT A GLANCE

Application availability is a top priority for any small environment, but traditional solutions are complex and expensive. VMware vSphere® Storage Appliance™ (VSA) is software that transforms the internal storage of your servers into a single shared storage resource that enables continuous application availability for any small environment—ranging from the smallest branch office to growing small and midsize businesses (SMBs)—with no shared storage hardware. With VSA, small environments can still achieve the full benefits of virtualization without the cost and complexity of deploying shared storage hardware.

## KEY BENEFITS

- Deploy and manage cost-effective, software-based shared storage easily
- Get High Availability without shared storage hardware
- Enable business continuity protection for any small environment

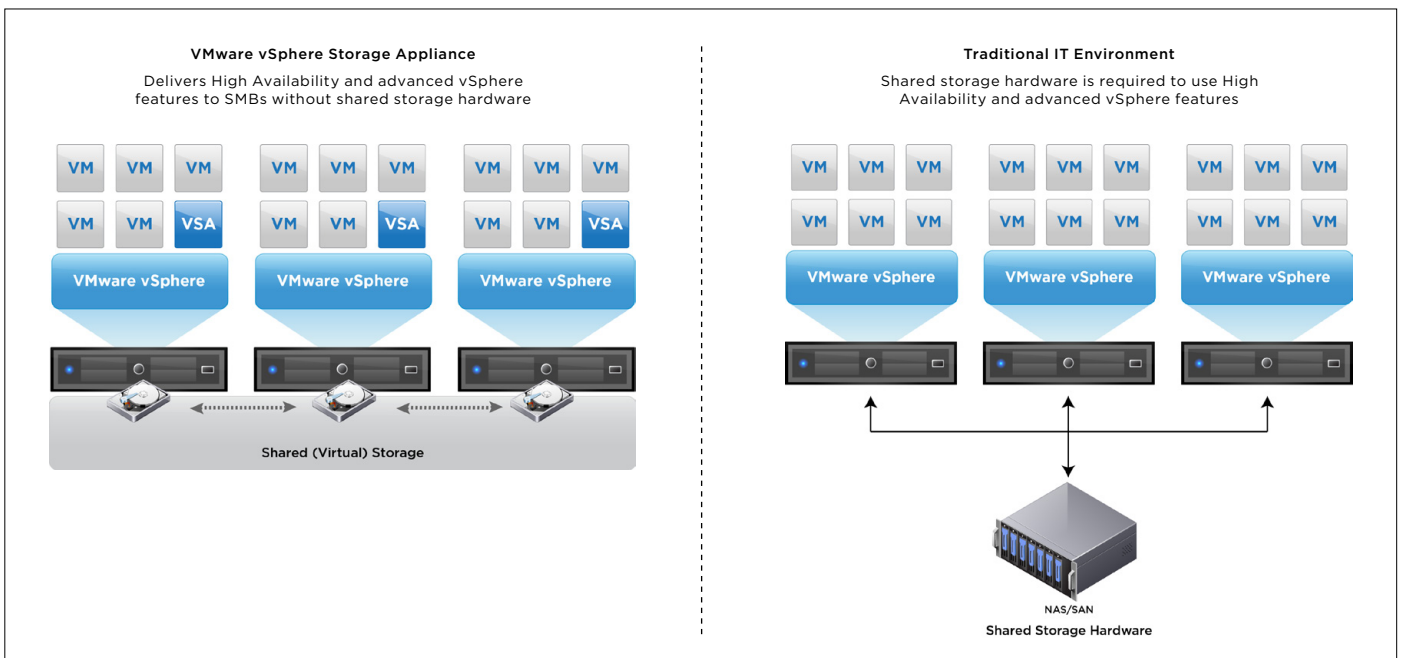
## What Is VMware vSphere Storage Appliance?

vSphere Storage Appliance (VSA) is software that delivers shared storage capabilities without the cost and complexity of shared storage hardware. It installs with just a few mouse clicks and is centrally managed in VMware vCenter™ Server. With shared storage capabilities, you'll be able to use the business continuity features of vSphere without shared storage hardware.

## What Does vSphere Storage Appliance Deliver?

For many small environments (ranging from the smallest branch office to growing SMBs), virtualizing servers has required them to deal with the complexities of shared storage for the first time. Not anymore. VSA provides High Availability and automation capabilities of vSphere to any small environment without shared storage hardware. Get business continuity for all your applications, eliminate planned downtime due to server maintenance, and use policies to prioritize resources for your most important applications. VSA enables you to do all this, without shared storage hardware.

**Easy to deploy and cost-effective** - Cut costs by deploying VSA on existing server hardware instead of using expensive shared storage hardware to achieve the benefits of virtualization. VSA can be installed on new or existing vSphere environments in just a few steps.



VSA provides a cost-effective and simple alternative to the traditional IT environment approach, delivering High Availability and advanced vSphere features to small environments without shared storage hardware.

**Enable High Availability** - Transform the internal storage of your servers into a single shared storage resource that enables continuous application availability to bypass the cost and complexity of deploying shared storage hardware. With VSA, you can also enable vSphere vMotion® to migrate applications from host to host to eliminate any service disruption due to hardware maintenance. The resilient data protection provided by VSA eliminates any single point of failure within your IT environment.

**Ideal for any small environment** - Get business continuity protection for any small environment. Customers looking to provide business continuity at a network of branch offices (ROBO environments) can turn to VSA as an affordable and easy-to-deploy solution. With VSA, you can enable High Availability across all your branch offices and use vCenter Server Standard to centrally manage these distributed environments.

**How does vSphere Storage Appliance Work?**

VSA is a virtual appliance software that allows vSphere administrators to utilize server storage space by presenting it as shared storage. Managed as a single instance from vCenter Server, VSA is installed on a cluster of servers and resides on a virtual machine on each server. The cluster enables the virtual machines to access the shared storage without the need for dedicated external storage.

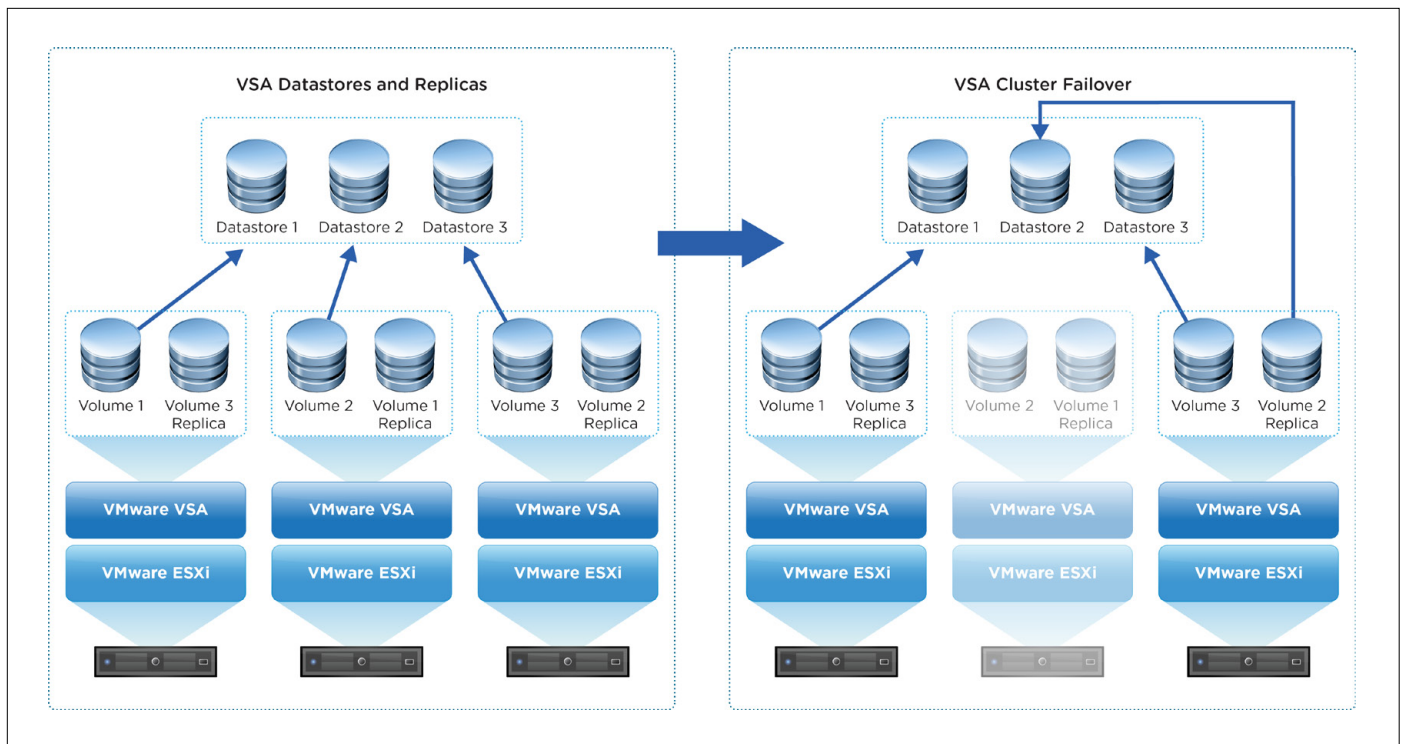
vSphere administrators can simply allocate and provision this storage via vCenter Server. Once storage is allocated, managing it is the same as managing any shared storage—even simpler, because the storage resource is managed through vCenter Server.

**What Makes vSphere Storage Appliance Easy to Deploy?**

VSA is easy to deploy because the wizard-based installation handles many configuration tasks—such as network setup and vSphere High Availability deployment. Even first-time vSphere users find it easy to deploy. As your storage needs grow, you can also add more hard disk drives to your VSA cluster without disruption.

**How does vSphere Storage Appliance Protect Data?**

VSA is resilient. If a vSphere server within the VSA cluster goes down, VSA automatically and seamlessly fails over to another vSphere server in the cluster, protecting your data. With VSA, you eliminate any single point of failure within your IT environment.



VSA eliminates any single point of failure, ensuring protection of your data. If a server failure occurs within your VSA cluster, VSA automatically fails over to another server in the cluster.

## Key Features of vSphere Storage Appliance

### Affordable Shared Storage

- Turn internal server storage into fully virtualized, clustered, shared and highly available datastores at a lower cost than networked, external shared storage
- Create VSA clusters of up to three nodes

### Easy Installation and Deployment

- Use installation wizard to automate install and configure vCenter Server, vSphere and VSA in just a few clicks
- Run vCenter Server within VSA cluster
- Add more hard disk drives as your storage needs expand without disruption

### Simplified and Centrally Managed IT Environment

- Simplify your IT footprint – run your applications and use shared storage, all on existing servers
- Centrally manage multiple VSA clusters from one vCenter Server Standard instance
- Monitor, maintain, and troubleshoot a VSA cluster via VSA Manager plug-in to vCenter Server

### Storage Resilience and Availability

- Enable continuous application availability (99.9 percent availability using High Availability)
- Eliminate any single point of failure within IT environment via synchronous mirroring of datastores (VSA uses RAID 1 protection across servers and RAID 5/6/10 protection within each server)

### Flexibility with hardware-based storage solutions

- Use Storage vMotion to transfer VMs between VSA and shared storage hardware with no service disruption
- Pool local disk drives within your servers to create additional shared storage, augmenting the capacity provided by your existing shared storage hardware

### Hardware Compatibility

- Full compatibility with fast-growing hardware compatibility list (see [www.vmware.com/go/hcl](http://www.vmware.com/go/hcl) for latest supported server models)

