

2019 **VMWARE**
USER

vTRAIL MAP

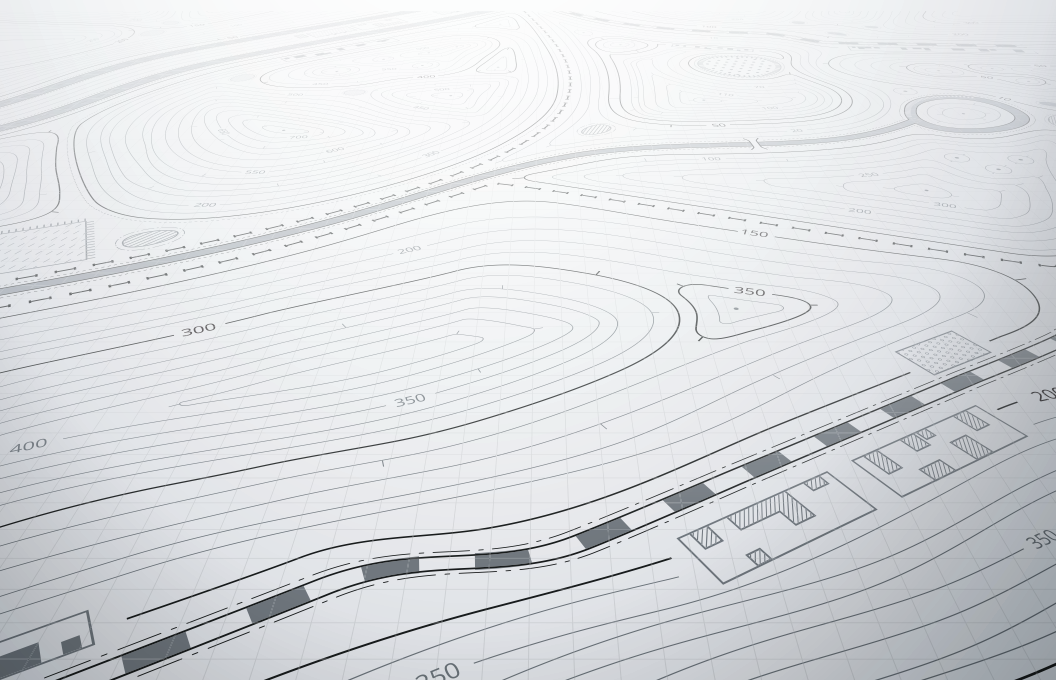
THE COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR YOUR
VIRTUALIZATION JOURNEY

EVENTS
COMMUNITY
PODCAST
CERTIFICATION
BLOG
VIDEOS





cohesity.com/levelup



The Level Up Project

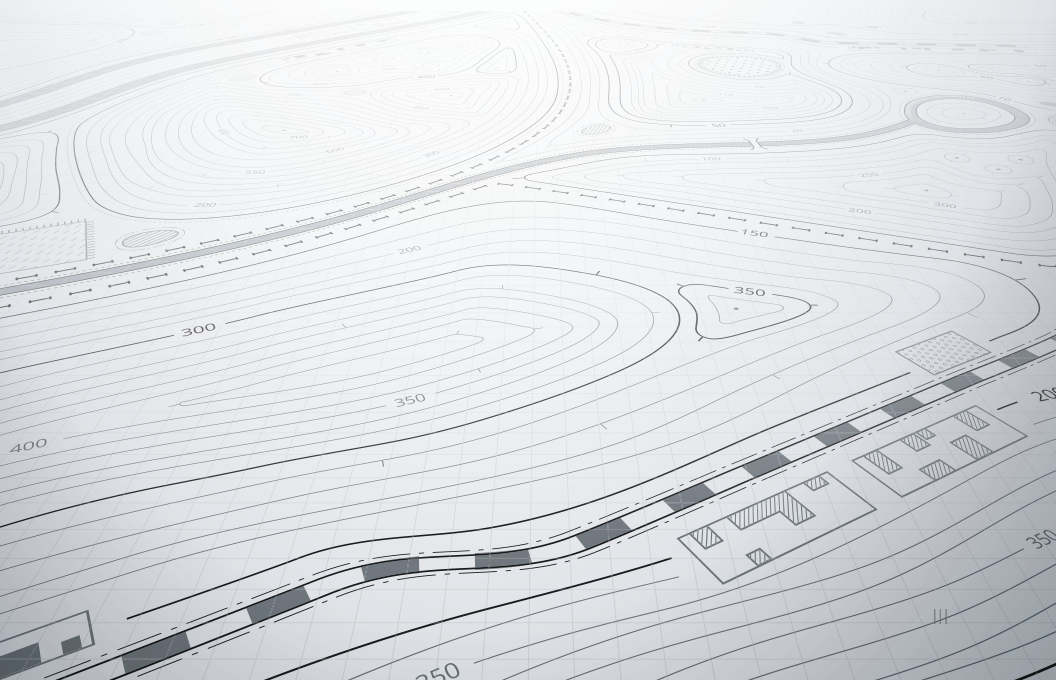
This document is created as a result of the Level Up project. Members of the technology community from all over the world have contributed to ensure that this guide will provide you with the information you need to help you make progress at the job you are trying to do at this stage of your career.

Much like a GitHub project, Level Up is a collection of contributors, but instead of creating code, we create useful assets in an “open source content” collaborative style with the sole purpose of helping the tech community.

The goal is to help people Level Up their skills so they can Level Up in their careers. Come join us in our efforts to give back to the community.

Join the Project

[@Tech_LevelUp](#)



WHAT'S INSIDE

• About the vTrail Map	V
• VMware Career Journey Map	2
• VMware Certification Tracks	3
• The Tech Career Journey	4
• Your VMware Career Journey Podcast	7
• VMware Communities	8
• vExpert Program	10
• Tech for Good - How to Make an Impact	12
• Social Media	13
• At the VMworld Conference	14
• Free Online VMware Training	19
• Paid VMware Training	20
• vBlogs	21
• Homelabs	22
• DevOps, Kubernetes, Containers...Oh My!	23
• VMware Cloud on AWS	25
• vSphere	26
• vCenter	27
• vSphere Resource Management	28
• vSAN	29
• VVols	30
• VMware vRealize Operations Manager	31
• NSX	32
• VMware End-User Computing	33
• Enterprise Applications on VMware	34
• The Tech Village Podcast	36

The vTrail Map

Get connected to the larger VMware User Community!

This guide features resources, both physical and virtual, that serve as helpful places to progress on your virtualization career journey — and ultimately discover more. Professionals in the VMware ecosystem are trying to move forward with their projects and their careers. With countless blogs, white papers, events, and podcasts, it's not always easy to tell where the best places are to get information or to know who to reach out to with questions. This guide is intended to help get you started.



Ambassadors

Throughout the vTrail Map, you will see images of people with the “Ambassador” badge. These are members of the community who have agreed to be featured here as someone who can answer your questions regarding the topic covered in that section and help get you started. Reach out to them on Twitter if you get stuck or want help getting started.

Enjoy!

VMware CAREER JOURNEY MAP

Your journey will take you in many directions. One path is through certifications, but the options are not limited to this chart. Reach out to one of the career section Ambassadors to explore all the opportunities that are out there.

Access the VMUG career videos on gotstage.com

Foundational knowledge of vSphere is required to work through any VMware track. A vSphere Install Configure Manage course, and a Data center Virtualization (DCV) track would benefit all VMware disciplines. That being said, VMware offers training for multiple career disciplines.

For traditional networking professionals new to VMware Technologies, the best curriculum is NSX training on the “Network Virtualization” tree of the certification chart, starting with the VCA exam or VCP Foundations exam.

For traditional desktop support roles, exposure to VMware End User Computing, Desktop Management or Digital Workspace curriculum and certification offerings may be better suited. These are focused on Horizon and Workspace VMware solutions.

For cloud-related disciplines, VMware offers the CMA (cloud management & automation) curriculum and certification path which is currently heavily focused on the vRealize Automation Product suite.



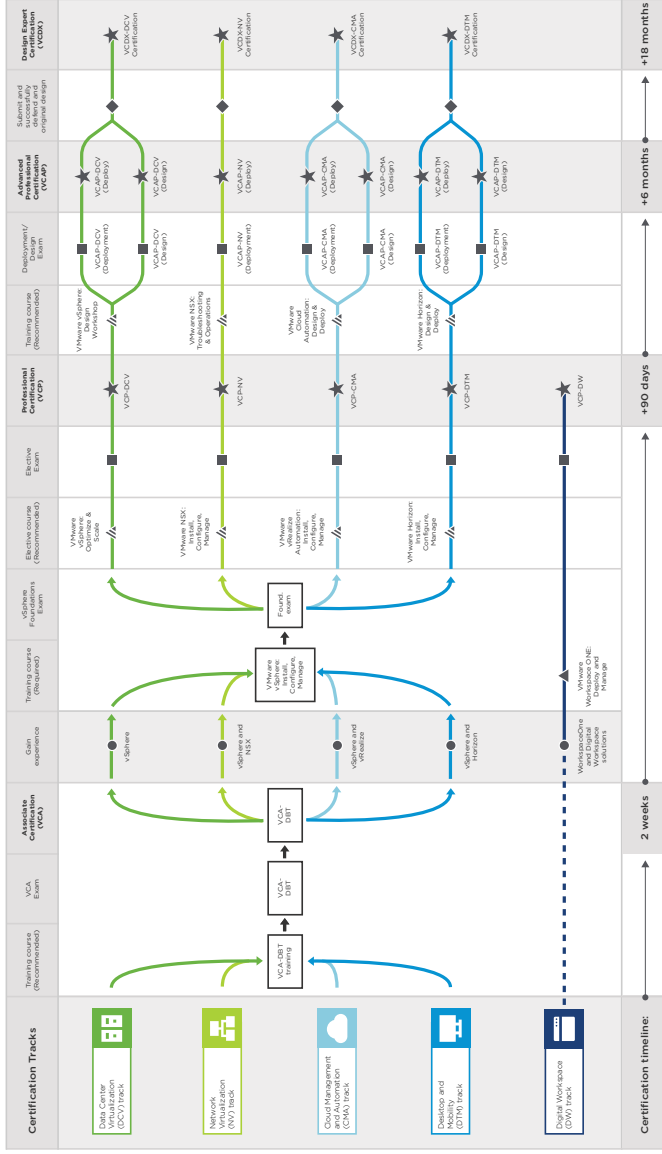
Brett Guarino: [@Brett_Guarino](https://twitter.com/Brett_Guarino)

VCDX6-DCV #256, Senior VMware Certified Instructor at VMware with a focus on Cloud and Datacenter Virtualization technologies. He is a subject matter expert and content contributor for VMware Certification and VMware Center for Advanced Learning.

VMware CERTIFICATION TRACKS

VMware Certification Tracks

VMware EDUCATION SERVICES



For a list of certification training courses, please visit: [vmware.com/certification](https://www.vmware.com/certification). Click on the certification of your choice for the list of recommended courses.

● Hands-On Experience
 ★ Certification
 ▲ Required Training
 ■ Exam (required)
 ▲ Recommended Training
 ◆ Application and Defense

For complete details on certification requirements and exam objectives, please visit [vmware.com/certification](https://www.vmware.com/certification) or contact your local VMware Education Services representative. Time to completion of any certification will vary based upon many factors—including, but not limited to, product experience, course completions, and time/effort.

August 2018

THE TECH CAREER JOURNEY

The tech career journey is your career plan and the goals that you need to set for yourself. It's your career story through the many phases of your life that gets you where you want to go.



Phoummala Schmitt: [@ExchangeGoddess](#)

Sr Cloud Advocate at Microsoft, with a background in messaging and collaboration, virtualization, and storage. She is a vExpert and co-hosts The [Current Status Podcast](#). In her current role, she advocates for customers and the community on the power of Azure.

You own your life. Your career. You are the author of your story. Build it and good things will come. Don't let someone own that position in your life.

The journey of your career doesn't have to be a refined plan written on a piece of paper but it certainly helps if you have a clear set plan and some directions. Planning and defining your career goals is important because at some point in your working career you will want a raise or promotion. You **WILL** want **more**, you will want to take on more than just going to work and pushing buttons.

- **Defining your goals**, your wants for career and where you yourself in 1 year, 3 years, 5 years helps you achieve more but it also helps you know what your next steps are.
- **Seek mentors** and ask for guidance on related career paths.
- **Use your network** of career professionals, they can provide additional support.

The professional coaches will tell you to set long term goals it can be difficult to do for some given the type of industry we are in. Technology moves so fast that what you are doing now may not be relevant in a few years. Make some short goals and long-term goals.

Determine what success means to you. Success means different things to different people. Envision yourself in 1 year or 5 years, and ask yourself what I do I see myself doing.

- Is it working remotely?
- Leading a team?
- Specializing in a type of technology?

Write those goals down. Then start a plan on how to achieve them. Remember to create milestones that are more attainable and realistic. Be the executive producer of your story.

Ask yourself these simple questions:

- **What** – What are my goals?
- **Who** – Who else will it take to help me get there?
- **How** – How will I do it?
- **Where** – Do I need to move or change jobs?
- **When** – When does it happen?

The old saying “you don’t do it until you try it” holds very true even when speaking about careers. You may realize that specializing in something isn’t what you like and decide to change course.

Remember to maintain balance. As part of your career journey, you **will need** to find balance. Balance between life and work. You are no good to anyone if you are constantly stressed, overworked and on edge every day. The relationships, our families and loved ones, are affected by how we work. Working 24x7 does not help your family or your career even though we may have in our minds it will. No matter how much you tell yourself it’s for success, **IT IS NOT.**

Take time off and use your vacations. Learn new hobbies and perhaps learn something that is outside of technology. We all need sleep, some more than others, but we still need a break. Our **brains need to shut off** and take some time to recoup to be refreshed.

THE TECH CAREER JOURNEY

The Power of AWS Certification

It's no secret that Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud is a heavyweight contender in the public cloud space. Getting certified as an AWS Solutions Architect, Developer, or DevOps (or all 3!) can be a huge boon to your career in IT.



Chris Williams: [@mistwire](#)

Cloud Architect helping design the next generation of enterprise cloud solutions, specializing in AWS and VMware. Blogs at [mistwire.com](#). Active community leader, helping to run [vtug.com](#), [awspug.org](#) and [vBrownBag.com](#)

Certs: AWS-PSA, VCIX6, VCAP5-DCD, VCAP5-DCA, VCP4-6, MCSE, VCP-NV

Start With This Blog Post

[Studying for the AWS Solutions Architect Associate exam](#)

By Chris Williams

This article will give you the basics of how to study for the exam, additional resources, plus my notes from when I studied for it!

Start With This Podcast

[The AWS Podcast](#)

Hosted by Simon Elisha & Jeff Barr

This podcast is the defacto standard in staying up to date on all things AWS



Start With This Video

[The vBrownBag AWS exam series](#)

This is a series of webinars created by AWS experts to help viewers with topics and study techniques to pass their AWS exams!



YOUR VMware CAREER JOURNEY PODCAST

Real Job Talk Podcast: Real Job Talk is a podcast about jobs, careers and what isn't said at the water cooler. Co-hosted by veteran recruiters and career coaches, Kat Troyer and Liz Bronson. Liz and Kat provide practical advice for navigating career changes and challenges.
<https://realjobtalk.com/>



AMBASSADOR

Host: Kat Nelson Troyer [@dailykat](#)

Organizational Development Consultant and Career Coach. Co-founder of the Influence Marketing Council and TechReckoning, 15+ years in staffing and HR in tech. Kat believes we are all the CEO of our own careers. Start with what you have and continue to learn throughout your career. Help others and give back where you can.



AMBASSADOR

Host: Liz Bronson [@Lizbconsult](#)

Liz Bronson is a career coach and the owner of Liz Bronson Consulting- a recruiting company helping teams grow by finding the right people while maximizing their hiring processes by identifying the right roles and asking the right questions. Liz is passionate about authentic, candidate-centric recruiting processes that match a company's culture.

VMUG



VMware User Group (VMUG) is an independent, global, customer-led organization created to maximize members' use of VMware through knowledge sharing, training, collaboration, and events.

What They Do: VMUG has a global network of 150,000+ members worldwide, including 200+ local groups that connect you with peers and experts. They offer a wide variety of virtual events, 400+ local events, and 40+ UserCons and Product Roadshows.

www.vmug.com



Steve Athanas: [@asteveathanas](https://twitter.com/asteveathanas)

VMUG President, responsible for leading the volunteer customer board and helping members grow in the community.

VMTN

VMware Technology Network is an ecosystem of more than 100 forums where about 3 million VMware enthusiasts and customers connecting to share knowledge, resources, opinions, and experiences globally, 24/7. communities.vmware.com



Corey Romero: [@avCommunityGuy](https://twitter.com/avCommunityGuy)

VMTN + vExpert Ambassador

VMware vExpert & VMware Community Manager.

vLadies

Our mission for vLadies is a VMUG community focused on leadership development and the empowerment of women within the VMware community. Our goal is to bring awareness and participation to local user groups giving a place to gather and talk in a friendly and supportive environment. It provides inspiration through networking and social events, builds confidence, and become visible in the community. [@vLadies2018](#)



What They Do: We are actively trying to work with local communities to promote women to get more involved with their VMUG communities. Who knows, you could be asked to tell your story on the next panel, so keep a lookout for the Women RockStars of VMUG at your local UserCon!



Lindy Collier: [@indyindy22](#)

VMUG leader for the largest community in the world, IndyVMUG. Founder of vLadies, host of Hello From My Homelab for VMUG Advantage, vExpert class of 18, 19, with more to come! Community evangelist, an aspiring IT geek.

The vExpert program is VMware's global evangelism and advocacy program.



This program is designed to recognize community members who exemplify the best traits of sharing and service to fellow community members. VMware offers promotion of your articles, exposure at VMware's global events, co-op advertising, traffic analysis, and early access to beta programs and VMware's roadmap. This program is awarded to individuals, not companies, and lasts for one year. Employees of both customers and partners can receive this award. vexpert.vmware.com

Becoming a vExpert involves going above and beyond to give back to the community. Examples of activities that count toward the vExpert program are blogging, book authoring, magazine articles, CloudCred task writing, Facebook group activity, VMTN forum activity, public speaking, VMUG leadership, public videos, and more. If you feel that you are doing something which contributes to the community but it is not on the list, include it in your application! Applications are accepted twice yearly, once in November and once in June. Existing members need to apply yearly to maintain membership regardless of previous involvement.

The vExpert program includes solution specialties as well. Beyond becoming a standard vExpert there are also vExpert Cloud, vExpert vSAN, vExpert NSX, and vExpert Pro. These program subsets require independent applications from the base program and nominations from either someone within the VMware Business Unit or an existing program subset member. vExpert Pro program is a specialized group of individuals who excel in their local region at adding value to the program and giving back to the community. Recruiting, mentoring, and training community members to join the vExpert program. Think of them as vExpert Ambassadors!

Benefits include

- Exclusive Slack channel access
- Private VMTN Forum access
- Access to private Betas
- Software licenses for Home Lab
- Exclusive VMworld Party at US and EMEA VMworlds
- Exclusive webinars
- Access to vExpert logo usage
- 3rd Party NFR Licensing

Apply at the VMware Communities page and learn more about the benefits of being a vExpert. vexpert.vmware.com/apply

Engage one of the vExpert Pro ambassadors which can be found at blogs.vmware.com/vexpert/meet-the-vexpert-pro/



Aaron Bolthouse: [@Bhouse563](https://twitter.com/Bhouse563)

VMware Core Solutions Engineer working with enterprise customers in the Chicagoland area. Previously a co-leader for the Wisconsin VMUG and over a decade in the IT industry as a customer before moving over to VMware. vExpert since 2015. vramblings.com

Good vExperts to Follow on Twitter

Matt Crape - Canada - [@MattThatITGuy](https://twitter.com/MattThatITGuy)

Ariel Sanchez Mora - US - [@arielsanchezmor](https://twitter.com/arielsanchezmor)

Valdecir Carvalho - Brazil - [@homelaber](https://twitter.com/homelaber)

Lars Troen - Norway - [@larstr](https://twitter.com/larstr)

Harjit Singh - India - [@pmlogs](https://twitter.com/pmlogs)

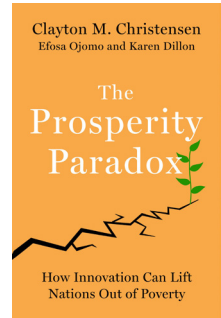
Larry Gonzalez - [@virtualizer](https://twitter.com/virtualizer)

Wee Kiong Tan - [@atanwk3](https://twitter.com/atanwk3)

Donate your attention

Read: *The Prosperity Paradox*

Clayton M. Christensen and co-author Karen Dillon reveal why so many investments in economic development fail to generate sustainable prosperity. Global poverty is one of the world's most vexing problems and this book reveals how investment in innovative technology projects can forever change the economic trajectory of poor countries.



Karen Dillon: [@KarDillon](#)

A New York Times best-selling author and former editor of the Harvard Business Review, Karen is a 3-time co-author with Clayton Christensen, the father of disruptive innovation.

Donate your time

Mentor with: War Child

1 in every 6 children on the planet lives in a "conflict zone," losing their access to education and personal safety. War Child helps children get back into school, and trains older children so they can, one day, provide for themselves. Find out how, with just a donation of your time and expertise, you can become a "virtual mentor" and help to break the cycle of poverty.



Yadin Porter de Leon: [@porterdeleon](#)

vExpert, founder of the Level Up Project, Silicon Valley VMUG leader, homebrewer and relentlessly curious. I get my laptops from VMware.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Want to find out how to use Twitter and other social media platforms to connect with others in the community? Reach out to one of these ambassadors who can get you started.



Stu Miniman: [@Stu](#)

Host @theCUBE and Analyst @Wikibon. Networking and virtualization background, focus on cloud and disruptive tech with passion for innovation and communities. See Stu's exec interviews at VMworld 2019 here: <https://www.thecube.net/vmworld-2019>



Luigi Danakos: [@NerdBlurt](#)

@NerdBlurt Follows you

I have a lot of interests but mainly Tech, Video games and stuff to do w/my Family. #vExpert VMware SR SE vSAN/HCI & Host TechStandup podcast Tweets are my own



Gabby Buckles: [@letsGab_](#)

Curious @VMware SE looking to talk about tech • @UCF Alum • #womenintech • Let's Gab!

VMworld



From its humble beginnings in 2005, with 1,500 attendees at the first show in San Diego, this global virtualization user conference has grown to over 23,000 attendees from around the world. It starts with general sessions, then goes deeper into breakout sessions, group discussions, expert panels, Hands-On Labs, and VMware Certification opportunities, as well as one-on-one appointments with leading subject-matter experts.

No matter what path you're on, you'll discover the technology, learn the trends, and meet the people that are shaping the future of digital business and taking IT to the next level.

This year VMworld US is back in San Francisco at the all-new Moscone center, then back to Barcelona, so head over to VMworld 2019 and make your mark. vmworld.com

Don't forget to visit The Square (aka VMvillage as it was named last year) in the South Hall, one level down. Check out the blogger table in the VMTN lounge, meet the #vCommunity and stock up on laptop stickers!

Reach out to this ambassador to learn more about what to do while you're there.



Craig Waters: [@acswaters1](https://twitter.com/acswaters1)

Craig Waters is a senior product manager working for Pure Storage in Silicon Valley. He owes his my career development path to contributing to the #vCommunity, "seriously!" <http://craigwaters.org>

VMunderground

This event has taken place the day before the US VMworld show starts for the last 13 years. VMunderground's Opening Acts has grown into the biggest community-organized event at VMworld. It's proven to be a great way to hear from expert panels in a less formal setting, start talking with others about what they're doing with the technology and relax after a long day of travel. vmunderground.com





AMBASSADOR

Brian Knudtson: [@bknudtson](#)

Brian has become VMunderground's project manager and a member of the VMware community from the very first VMworld. Also, an early member of the VMTN forum, co-founding the Omaha-area VMUG, attaining vExpert status every year, and speaking at numerous VMUG and VMware events.

vBrownBag stage

In VMware village, in the social media area, you'll find the vBrownBag stage, which hosts a fantastic series of intimate tech talks and live streams them on their website. Access the sessions via the podcast as well.

vbrownbag.com



AMBASSADOR

Ariel Sanchez [@arielsanchezmor](#)

Sr TAM @VMware vExpert vBrownbag host in English and Spanish. Come hang out at the vBB stage, and reach out through the most important resource in VMworld: Twitter!

vFit Run

Attention runners! Started by Eric Wright, the vFit Run has become a fitness tradition at the VMworld conference. Get your day started before the sessions by meeting early for a 3 mile run around the city. Monitor the activity on twitter [#vFitRun](#)



AMBASSADOR

Eric Wright: [@Discoposse](#)

He holds the role of Technology Evangelist and has been in technology for 20 years. He specializes in VMware virtualization, OpenStack, AWS, Microsoft Azure, PowerShell, HashiCorp tools and all things leading towards automation.

Spousetivities



SPOUSETIVITIES, LLC
The fun side of conferences

These great activities are designed for the spouses of those attending the conference. Crystal Lowe, wife of Scott Lowe, discovered that she was not the only one who found herself alone while her spouse was working at the VMworld conference. Since 2008, Spousetivities has organized events for spouses, significant others, families, parents, siblings, or whoever joins the conference participants. spousetivities.com

Crystal Lowe: [@crystal_lowe](https://twitter.com/crystal_lowe)

Founder of Spousetivities, which organizes activities for conference attendee spouses and partners.

VMworld US - San Francisco



VMworld Hall Crawl

When: Tuesday, Aug 27, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: VMworld Solutions Exchange

Cost: FREE to Attendees

VMworld Fest (Customer Appreciation Party)

When: Wednesday, Aug 28, 7:00pm - 10:30pm

Location: Yerba Buena Gardens

Cost: FREE to Attendees. Must bring your full conference VMworld badge.

VMworld Europe - Barcelona



VMworld Hall Crawl

When: Wednesday, Nov 6, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Location: VMworld Solutions Exchange

Cost: FREE to Attendees

VMworld Fest (Customer Appreciation Party)

When: Wednesday, Nov 6, 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Location: Fira Barcelona Gran Via

Cost: FREE to Attendees. Must bring your full conference VMworld badge.

Podcasts

Virtually Speaking Podcast: Each week Pete and John bring in subject matter experts to dive into various topics concerning storage and availability in the Software Defined Data Center. [Subscribe on iTunes](#)



Host | Pete Flecha: [@vPedroArrow](#)

Technical Marketing for VMware's storage and availability products. Host of the Virtually Speaking Podcast. vExpert 2014-2016



Host | John Nicholson: [@Lost_Signal](#)

Technical Marketing VSAN at VMware — Storage and Availability. Virtually Speaking Podcast Expert. vExpert 2013-2016

The CTO Advisor Podcast: A conversation geared toward the CTO or Infrastructure Architect. Topics focus on future technologies and keeping today's infrastructure in-line with business requirements.



Get in-depth interviews with prominent members of the VMware community and the broader tech community. [Subscribe on iTunes](#)



Keith Townsend: [@CTOAdvisor](#)

Keith is an IT architect with over 20 years of experience helping organizations optimize IT infrastructures and has founded the CTO Advisor firm. www.ctoadvisor.com

Open TechCast: Since 2016, the Open TechCast crew have been sharing community stories and interviews, learning and development tips and providing views on industry trends & developments. Subscribe on: [iTunes](#), [Stitcher](#), or go to opentechcast.com



OPENTECHCAST

Podcasts



Host | Alex Galbraith: [@AlexGalbraith](#)

A passionate technology agnostic, by day, Alex leads the EMEA Cloud Architecture function at Rackspace. By night, he dons his headphones, mic and cape, to share his view on life, the universe and everything!



Host | Kev Johnson: [@kev_johnson](#)

OpenTechCast's Northern Correspondent, and Tech Marketing Engineer for vSphere at VMware. Got drawn into the podcast game via a drunken chat on Twitter, and the rest is history.



Host | Ather Beg: [@AtherBeg](#)

Ather is a Solutions Architect at Rackspace. His natural habitat is tech events and he thrives on meeting people. He's friendly and not dangerous at all so please interact with him whenever you spot him in such surroundings.



Host | Amit Panchal: [@amitpanchal76](#)

Amit is a VMware Technology Lead at Dell Technologies. His passion for technology, business, psychology and finance is what drives him to learn and share more with the community. Always open for a chat and a nice bite to eat.



Host | Gareth Edwards: [@GarethEdwards86](#)

Gareth is an infrastructure engineer at Ecotricity. He is a passionate technologist and a keen vCommunity member who enjoys mentoring people as a vExpert Pro.

VMware Education

VMware currently offers free self-paced eLearning courses in several languages, with more releasing soon. mylearn.vmware.com/mgrReg/plan.cfm?plan=33611



vBrownBag: Formed in 2010 this is a community of people who believe in helping other people. Specifically, they work in IT infrastructure and help other people in the IT industry to be better at their jobs by learning more about IT. Subscribe on [YouTube](#) or [iTunes](#) or got to vbrownbag.com



What They Do: The most frequent activity is producing the vBrownBag podcasts, and they also produce TechTalks at conferences.



AMBASSADOR

Alastair Cooke: [@DemitasseNZ](#)

Alastair is the chief enabler at vBrownBag, and coordinator of the vBrownBag TechTalks. His day job includes writing about data center technology as well as developing and delivering training.

Tim's Tech Thoughts

Tim provides a list of resources online that offer free training. Not just companies and organizations but also individual bloggers who share our knowledge and experience with the community.

tsmith.co/free-vmware-training

Reach out on Twitter: [@tsmith_co](#)



VMware Certification



A great way to quickly come up to speed on VMware technologies is to attend a VMware Education Services training class. They're taught by VMware certified instructors, are based on the latest material, fulfill the training requirements for VMware's certification, and most are offered online or live and can be completed in a week or less.

mylearn.vmware.com/portals/certification/

Start With This Blog Post

[7 Tips from a Pro on How to Prepare \(and Pass\) Any VMware Certification Exam](#) via blogs.vmware.com/services-education-insights

By Jill Liles

Pluralsight



PLURALSIGHT

Through this popular online learning platform, you can explore several VMware certification course options led by members of the VMware Community to evaluate your technical abilities or those of your teams, align learning to key business objectives and close skills gaps. pluralsight.com

A Cloud Guru



A CLOUD GURU

Founded by brothers Ryan and Sam Kroonenberg to solve the problem of AWS training being prohibitively expensive, acloud.guru delivers high-quality training for public cloud at affordable prices. So far, over 135,000 students have taken Ryan's AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate course. acloud.guru

24x7ITConnection

This blog started as a way for Theresa to share information with others even though her audience was initially non-existent. We all have to start somewhere! Today the site serves as a community blog for sharing information about technology with perspectives from around the world.

24x7itconnection.com



AMBASSADOR

Theresa Miller: [@a24x7itconnect](https://twitter.com/a24x7itconnect)

Theresa Miller has been working as an IT professional and technical expert for over 20 years. She holds an MBA, and is a Citrix CTP, VMware vExpert, and Microsoft MVP. Her areas of expertise include virtualization, Exchange, Office 365, and general IT. Theresa is routinely selected to speak at industry events and webinars, including Citrix Synergy, VMWorld, IT Dev Connections conferences and more.

virtuallyGhetto

A personal blog about virtualization, primarily focused on VMware automation, integration and operations for the everyday virtualization administrator. In addition to these topics, William also provides many tips and tricks for the various products within the VMware portfolio.

virtuallyghetto.com



AMBASSADOR

William Lam: [@alamw](https://twitter.com/alamw)

Staff Solutions Architect in the VMware Cloud on AWS team within the Cloud Platform Business Unit (CPBU) at VMware. Primarily focused on automation, integration and operation of our the Software Defined Data center (SDDC).

[#Homelab](#) and [#HomeDC](#) playing an important role in personal development as well as helping customers with specific problems. The following homelabers are building labs to learn, implement, troubleshoot or showcasing different solutions.



Manfred "Fred" Hofer: [@Fred_vBrain](#)

Fred is a Senior Technical Account Manager @ VMware and sole creator of www.vbrain.info and the Backup Interoperability Matrix. vExpert and vExpert Pro, CiscoChampion, Technology and certification junkie.

HomeLab Overview: <http://www.vbrain.info/homelab/>



Marc Huppert: [@MarcHuppert](#), [#HomeLabKing](#)

Marc Huppert is a Principal Architect with 19 years of experience serving as the technical leadership of VMware Solutions at Computacenter. VCDX (5+6), VCP2-6.7, VCIX-NV, VCIX6.5-DCV, VCI Level 2, Specialist vSAN, VMConAWS-SDDC, VxRail, vExpert(2012-2019), vExpert NSX(2016-2018) and vExpert vSAN (2016-2019).

Start Here: <https://www.vcdx181.com/stage-i-the-beginning.html>

Marc's Site: <https://www.vcdx181.com/actual-state.html>



Matt Mancini: [@vmexplorer](#)

The vmexplorer.com blog is run by Matt Mancini. As the Phoenix VMUG Leader, Matt wrote the '[HOME LABS: A Definitive Guide](#)', covering all things Matt has used to help others with their home labs. His blog has always been straight to the point to help his readers who are trying to solve real problems. Working at VMware since 2011, he's always willing to help and has inspired many others to build up their labs.

Home Lab Guide: <https://vmexplorer.com/home-labs-a-definitive-guide/>

DEVOPS, KUBERNETES, CONTAINERS...OH MY!



Joe Houghes: [@jhoughe](#)s

Solutions Architect @Veeam focused on Automation, with a special love for PowerShell. @AustinVMUG & @ATXPowerShell Co-Leader, vExpert, CiscoChampion, ex-TFD Delegate

#DevOps

The DevOps culture shift: It's all about working toward a common goal and enabling work in production while achieving stability, reliability, availability, and security.

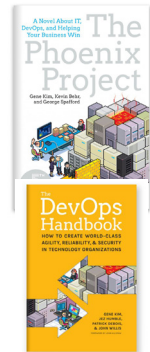
Start With These Books

The Phoenix Project

The Phoenix Project is a fictional story about the pains of legacy IT, and the transformation of an organization to a DevOps culture.

The DevOps HandBook

The DevOps Handbook is the non-fictional follow-up which tells where to start.



Start With This Blog Post

How To Become a DevOps Engineer In Six Months or Less

Explains concepts, tools & fundamentals of a DevOps pipeline.

Start With This Podcast

DevOps Cafe

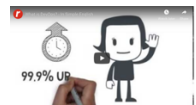
This podcast regularly interviews the best minds in the industry, and it has become one of the best-known resources for learning DevOps.



Start With This Video

7 DevOps Videos You Need to Watch

Good collection explaining DevOps, culture and processes.

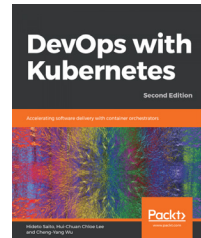


[#Docker](#) [#Kubernetes](#) [#Containers](#)

Start With This Book

[DevOps with Kubernetes - 2nd Ed.](#)

Simple container deployment to Kubernetes on AWS/GCP/Azure.



Start With This Blog

[A Kubernetes quick start for people who know just enough about Docker to get by](#)

Breaks down Kubernetes platform, and walks through a deployment of local or cloud cluster.

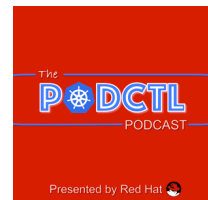


kubernetes

Start With This Podcast

[PodCTL Podcast](#)

Weekly technology podcast focused on Containers, Kubernetes, Cloud Native Applications, DevOps, etc. Start with Episode #38 - A Beginner's Guide to Kubernetes



Start With This Video

[Kubernetes -The VMware Admin's Ticket Onboard the DevOps Voyage](#)

Great vBrownBag session with Chris Porter (@uprightvinyl) from 2018 which covers the relevance of DevOps & containers to the VMware admin.



VMware CLOUD ON AWS

VMware and AWS have partnered to provide the new VMware vSphere-based cloud service running on AWS. This service will make it easier to run any application, using a common set of familiar software and tools in a consistent hybrid cloud environment.



Frances Wong: [@afrances_wong](https://twitter.com/afrances_wong)

Cloud Partner Solution Architect in VMware's Partner Organization, vExpert, Silicon Valley VMUG Leader, VMware HOL Captain, CTOA Ambassador. Focused on enabling our US Partners on VMware Cloud on AWS.

Start With This Blog Post

[VMware Cloud™ on AWS – What is it?](#)

By Frances Wong

This post goes over the basics of what VMware Cloud on AWS is as a product and service. This is a great starting point for exploring the service.



Start With This Podcast

[VMTN Community Podcast #419: VMC on AWS](#)

John and Eric interview VMware Senior Technical Marketing Manager for VMware Cloud, Brian Graf regarding VMware Cloud on AWS and why it applies to so many companies.



Start With This Video

[Cloud Field Day: VMware Cloud on AWS - Overview and Strategy](#)

Narayan Bharadwaj, Senior Director of Product Management, on VMware Cloud on AWS - Overview and Strategy during Field Tech Day 2019.



VMware vSphere is the brand name for VMware's suite of virtualization products. Before 2009, VMware vSphere was known as VMware Infrastructure.



Melissa Palmer: [@vmiss33](#)

Product Strategy Technologist @Veeam #VCDX-236.
CreativeDirector @VDMChallenge. Author @ITArchJourney.
vExpert. NetAppATeam. CiscoChampion. Rockets.
NASASocial.

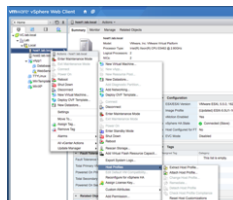
Blog: <https://vmiss.net>

Start With This Blog Post

vMiss.net: [Getting Started with VMware vSphere](#)

By Melissa Palmer

This article walks you through different options that are available to help you get started with vSphere, from Hands on Labs to book recommendations.



Start With This Podcast

[Datanauts: Diving Deep Into vSphere Host Resources](#)

Niels Hagoort and Frank Denneman discuss the depths of vSphere 6.5 host resources in order to help you maximize the performance of your virtual infrastructure and provide a deeper understanding of essentials such as CPU, memory, and storage.



Start With This Video

[vBrownBag: What's New in vSphere 6](#)

Nick Marshall discusses changes in vSphere 6 with an overview of the enhancements and features new in vSphere 6 such as the Platform Services Controller, VVOLs, VSAN, NIOC, and more.



VMware vCenter Server is a centralized application for managing your vSphere environments.



Emad Younis: [@emad_younis](#)

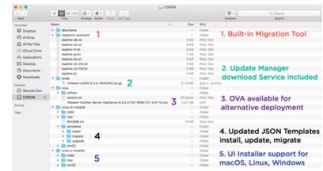
Senior Technical Marketing Engineer at VMware in the R&D organization responsible for the vCenter Server Appliance, vCenter Migrations, and VMware Cloud on AWS

Start With This Blog Post

[vCenter Server Appliance \(VCSA\) 6.5 What's New Rundown](#)

By Emad Younis

This post is a quick rundown of the VCSA 6.5.



Start With This Podcast

[Datanauts: Designing For The vCenter Server Appliance \(VCSA\)](#)

Emad Younis talks about what's new in the VCSA 6.5 release, examine the pros and cons of VCSA vs. a traditional deployment, and discuss the carrots and the sticks that VMware is using to encourage migration away from Windows-based vCenter servers.



Start With These Videos

[What's New in vSphere 6.5 – vSphere & vCenter Overview w Adam Eckerle](#)

[Follow-Up What's New in vSphere 6.5 – vCenter Server Appliance w Emad Younis](#)



vSphere Resource Management

This section covers vSphere resource allocation and resource management concepts. This information is for system administrators who want to understand how the system manages resources and how they can customize the default behavior.



Frank Denneman: [@FrankDenneman](#)

Chief Technologist Cloud Platform BU. Tech advisor [@EVOventurepartn](#). Co-author of vSphere technical deep-dive series.

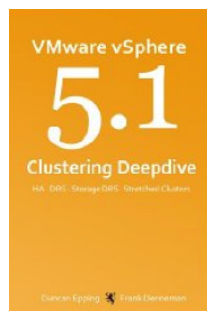
Start With These Books

Host Resources Deep Dive

By Frank Denneman

Clustering Deep Dive

By Frank Denneman



Start With This Podcast

vSpeaking Podcast Episode 67: Resource Management

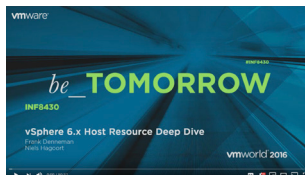
VMware Chief Technologist Cloud Platform Frank Denneman walks you through the details and use cases.



Start With This Video

VMworld 2016: INF8430 - vSphere 6 x Host Resource Deep Dive

Frank Denneman presents at VMworld 2016.



VMware vSAN (VMware Virtual SAN) is a storage feature integrated into the vSphere 5.5 kernel that pools disk space from multiple ESXi hosts.



Host | John Nicholson: [@Lost_Signal](#)

Technical Marketing vSAN at VMware — Storage and Availability. Virtually Speaking Podcast Expert. vExpert 2013-2016

Start With This Blog Post

[VMware Blogs: Introducing vSAN 6.7U1](#)

VMware announces the launch of vSAN 6.7U1. The post provides an overview of the updates. storagehub.vmware.com



Start With This Podcast Episode

[vSpeaking: Episode 40: vSAN 6.6 Part 1](#)

VMware announces vSAN 6.6 and Jase McCarty walks you through the details of the feature-packed release with advanced enterprise features that make vSAN faster, more cost-effective and more secure than ever before.



Start With This Video

[VMware vSAN Introduction](#)

Learn about VMware's vSAN, and especially the new vSAN 6.7U1 with John Nicholson.



VMware Virtual Volumes (VVol) is an integration and management framework for external storage that provides finer control at the VM-level, streamlines storage operation and offers flexibility of choice.



Andy Banta: [@andybanta](#)

Andy works on VMware integrations on the SolidFire-based products at NetApp. Previously he was the iSCSI tech lead at VMware. Andy regularly appears at VMworld, VMUGs and other tech conferences.

Start With This Blog Post

VMware Blogs: [VVols Getting Started Guide](#)

This is the comprehensive VMware resource.
storagehub.vmware.com



Start With This Podcast Episode

vSpeaking: Episode 32: VVols 2.0

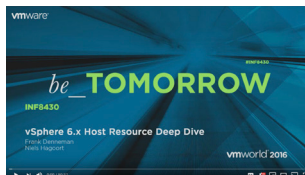
VMware Product Manager Ben Meadowcroft discusses Virtual Volumes and what's new in vSphere 6.5 aka VVol 2.0. In case you haven't heard, LUNs Suck.



Start With This Video

[VMworld 2016: Virtual Volumes Technical Deep Dive](#)

Learn about VVols and how they are changing storage through this deep dive with Pete Flecha.



VMware VREALIZE OPERATIONS MANAGER

VMware vRealize Operations Manager delivers intelligent operations management with application-to-storage visibility across physical, virtual, and cloud infrastructures using policy-based automation, operations teams automate key processes and improve IT efficiency.



Jodi Shely: [@jodishely](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jodishely/)

Principal Technical Account Manager - Office of the CTO Global Field. Focuses on delivering VMware's Vision and Strategy and driving Cloud Operations and Transformation on a global scale. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jodishely/>

Start With These Blog Posts

[VMware Cloud Management](#)

Covering Cloud Management from Use Cases to Technical Validation, this is the latest Cloud Management information right at your fingertips.



Start With This Podcast

[Cloud Insiders: VMware vRealize Operations](#)

This podcast is a Tech Focus on VMware vRealize® Operations™ - VMware's operations management and monitoring product. In this episode, Simon Eady chats to Cloud Insiders host Stuart Robinson about IT infrastructure management and monitoring and why organizations shouldn't underestimate its importance.



Start With This Video

[VMware vRealize Operations Manager: From Zero to Useful](#)

Thom Greene walks through configuration, design, and deployment of vRealize Operations Manager.



A virtual networking and security software product family created from VMware's vCloud Networking and Security



John Whitman: [@VCDX226](#)

John Whitman is a Staff NSX Systems Engineer at VMware and is an industry expert with over 10 years in data center design, business continuity solutions and cloud platform applications scaling beyond 50,000 servers.

Current VMware Certifications include VCP6, VCIX-NV, VCDX #226, 4 year VMworld Speaker, Subject Matter Expert focused on NSX and SRM

Start With This Blog Post

[VirtualJad - NSX Series](#)

By Jad El-Zein

This a series of blogs on NSX for introductory to detailed implementation.



Start With This Podcast

[vSpeaking Episode 10: NSX Intro and Use Cases](#)

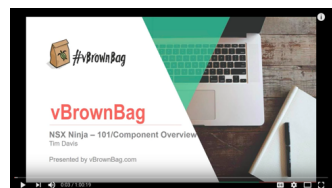
Pete and John bring in Engineering Architect Scott Lowe to introduce NSX and share some customer use cases.



Start With This Video

[VMware NSX Component Overview with Tim Davis](#)

Tim Davis from VMware kicks off the [vBrownBag NSX Ninja Series](#) with a focus on the components used by NSX to enable virtual networking.



VMware END-USER COMPUTING

VMware End-User Computing covers two main product sets - VMware Horizon and Workspace™ ONE™. These products provide enterprises with the ability to deliver and manage secure end-user computing solutions.

VMware Horizon is a suite of products for virtual desktop and application delivery. This platform can deliver to both on-premises data centers and in the public cloud.

VMware Workspace ONE is the simple and secure enterprise platform that delivers and manages any app on any smartphone, tablet, or laptop.



Sean Massey: [@seanpmassey](https://twitter.com/seanpmassey)

Staff Cloud Solutions Architect at VMware. VCDX-DTM #247 and NVIDIA GRID Community Advisor. Runs the Virtual Horizon blog at www.thevirtualhorizon.com.

Start With These Blog Posts

[Mobile Jon's Workspace ONE Deployment Guide](#)

This community blog walks through the steps of configuring Workspace ONE and integrating with an Active Directory environment.

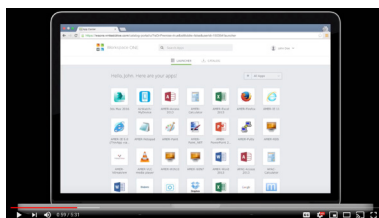
[Horizon 7.0 Part 1 - Introduction](#)

This community blog is the first in a series that walks people through installing and configuring VMware Horizon 7.x.

Start With This Video

[VMware Workspace ONE Overview](#)

This video reviews the overall functions of Workspace ONE, a unified digital workspace platform, showing the end user experience.



ENTERPRISE APPLICATIONS ON VMware

Reach out to the VMware Apps team to connect with them on things like Oracle, SAP, SQL, Microsoft, ML, HPC and VMC on AWS.



[Oracle] Sudhir Balasubramanian: [@vracdba](#)

Global Staff Solution Architect - Oracle Virtualization Practice Lead. VMware vExpert, Oracle ACE , co-author of 'Virtualizing Oracle Business Critical Databases on VMware SDDC' Blog:vracdba.com

Blog Post: [Oracle on VMware Collateral – One Stop Shop](#)

Podcast: [vSpeaking Podcast - Oracle RAC on VMware](#)

Video: [Oracle Real Application Clusters on VMware vSAN](#)



[Microsoft] Deji Akomolafe: [@Dejify](#)

VMware Global Solutions Architect, Microsoft Applications Virtualization Practice Lead and Program Manager for the "Virtualize Africa" Initiative - a VMware's CSR Program

Blog Posts: [VMware Apps - Microsoft](#)

Video: [Relocating Workloads from On-Premise vSphere](#)

Video: [Virtualize Active Directory, the Right Way!](#)



[SAP] Vas Mitra: [LinkedIn](#)

SAP Solutions Architect who has worked on SAP and business-critical applications at VMware over the past 10 yrs with experience including: SAP Basis Administrator; SAP ABAP developer; SAP Solutions Engineer.

Mitras Blogs: https://blogs.vmware.com/apps/author/vas_mitra

Blog Post: [DR of SAP HANA with VMware SRS](#)

Video: [Non-Prod SAP S/4HANA App Migration with VMC on AWS](#)



[SQL] Oleg Ulyanov: [LinkedIn](#)

Sr. Solution Architect, SQL Server Lead within the Cloud Platform Business Unit (CPBU) at VMware. Focused on everything SQL Server related, including day2 operations.

Blog Post: [Microsoft SQL Server Workloads and VMCI on AWS](#)

White Paper: [Architecting Microsoft SQL Server on VMware vSphere](#)

Video: [Migrate SQL Server workloads to VMware Cloud on AWS](#)



[ML & Big Data] Justin Murray [@johjustinmurray](#)

Sr Tech Marketing Solution Architect at VMware specializing in working with VMware's partners and customers on technical architecture and deploying machine learning and big data systems on vSphere.

Blog Posts: [VMware Apps - Machine Learning](#)

Article: [Machine Learning with H2O](#)

Video: [Machine Learning with H2O - the Benefits of VMware](#)



[HPC] Mohan Potheri: [LinkedIn](#)

VCDX#98, HPC Solution Architect with more than 20 years in IT infrastructure. He currently evangelizes "High Performance Computing (HPC)" and "Big Data" Virtualization on vSphere.

Blog Posts: [VMware Apps - HPC "Start with" blog post](#)

VMworld Session: [Virtualize and Accelerate HPC and Big Data](#)

Video: [VMware moves Virtualized HPC Forward at SC17](#)

THE TECH VILLAGE PODCAST

It takes a village. This show brings in members of the tech community (our village) to provide the listeners with their unique experience on a range of topics in order to help them advance in their careers. <https://soundcloud.com/techvillage>



Lauren Malhoit: [@Malhoit](#)

Tech. Product Marketing @Juniper. Co-host of @TechVillagePod. Published Author. PluralSight Author. Binge watcher.



Matt Oswalt: [@Mierdin](#)

Developer, author, and neteng; founder of <http://networkreliability.engineering/>. Passionate about Automation, Chaos, Networking, Go, and Python.



Yadin Porter de Leon: [@porterdeleon](#)

vExpert, Founder of the Level Up Project, Silicon Valley VMUG leader, founding member of the IMC, homebrewer and relentlessly curious

Thank you to all of the amazing people (over 100 contributors spread across several countries) who took time out of their extremely busy schedules to be a part of the 2019 Level Up vTrail Map.

A very special thanks goes to

Theresa Miller

Chris Colotti

Jon Hildebrand

Michael Letschin

Huge thanks to my amazing Creative Team at Cohesity as well for putting together such a beautiful finished product.

Level Up | Lead Advocate

Yadin Porter de León: @porterdeleon



COHESITY

COHESITY.COM

