

Making Everything Easier!™

VMware vSphere™

FOR

DUMMIES®

Learn to:

- Design and deploy a reliable vSphere environment
- Work with the newest vSphere ESX 4.1 features
- Handle installation and configuration
- Manage vSphere infrastructure through vCenter Server

Dan Mitchell
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VMware vSphere™ For Dummies®

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**by Dan Mitchell & Thomas
Keegan**



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About the Authors

Dan Mitchell: Dan Mitchell is an early adopter. At age 11, he was the youngest beta tester for what is now America Online. By age 13, he had become a staff writer for the Boston Computer Society. And at the age of 19, Dan started his first technology consultancy and has been active in cutting-edge technology ever since.

In recent years, Dan served as Technical Director for Dunes Technologies (USA). After Dunes Technologies was acquired by VMware in September 2007, Dan joined VMware's Professional Services Organization. Dan departed from VMware in June 2008 to become Technical Director for DynamicOps, a software spinout from Credit Suisse specializing in Virtualization Management and Cloud Automation.

Dan lives in Ashland, Massachusetts, with his wife and four sons.

Thomas Keegan: Tom Keegan never intended to be a technology whiz. He first started programming at ten years old by following a BASIC program out of *321 Contact Magazine*. After many hours of typing and code modifications, he succeeded at showing a dot orbiting another dot on his Apple IIe and was understandably thrilled.

In college, Tom wanted to hook his Macintosh up to the campus network. After being told by campus computer services “Macs can’t access the Internet,” he proved them wrong and was immediately offered a job by the college. This put him on the track to solve business problems in creative ways, which he still does today. Virtualization, even in the early years was exciting, and Tom has been working with VMware products for ten years. He is certified as a VMware VCP and a Certified Advanced Professional on vSphere 4-Datacenter Design.

Tom currently is a Technical Director at Fresenius Medical Care and lives with his family in Massachusetts.

Dedication

From Dan: I dedicate this book to my grandparents, whom I love and admire. Thank you all for setting such strong examples of honesty, dedication, work ethic, humility, and selflessness. I will do my best to pass on these noble qualities to my own children and grandchildren.

From Tom: I dedicate this book to my children, Elizabeth and Andy. You continually amaze me with your wonderful perspective on the world!

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From Tom: Dan Mitchell, my coauthor, invited me to join him in this endeavor. I've written articles and chapters behind the scenes in the past, but this book is the first time I have been in the spotlight, and I thank him for his confidence in me and his support.

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I've worked in various roles in technology books for ten years, and it all started because Tony Northrup asked me to help edit a book he was writing. Thanks, Tony, for helping me to get my start!

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Introduction

Every so often, a technology comes along that changes the way we go about our everyday business. This technology is called a *disruptive technology* and has such a significant benefit or improvement that people are willing to change their normal way of doing things to incorporate the new technology.

Virtualization is one of those disruptive technologies, and vSphere leads the charge.

From the outside peering in, vSphere is intimidating. It appears to be this massive monster of complexity, able to span thousands of servers, connect to terabytes of storage, and even move around machines without turning them off. You probably feel like you're in over your head before you've even set foot in the pool, right? The reality is, vSphere can be as big or small as you want it to be. And once you get into it, you'll wonder how you ever got by without it. Not so scary after all.

This book is packed with real-world experience, compiled from our day-to-day adventures working with VMware technology. It gives you the know-how to get vSphere up and running, and stay that way. Use this book to get the most out of vSphere and enjoy all the benefits we've enjoyed over the years thanks to VMware virtualization.

About This Book

This book is a comprehensive introduction to VMware vSphere 4. It gives you the information you need to plan, install, and manage a vSphere virtual infrastructure. The book covers the most common elements of vSphere and how to make them work for you. While you're welcome to read this book from cover to

cover, each chapter sticks to a specific topic, making the book a reference guide as well. Chapters are further divided into sections, so you can quickly get to the information you need.

This book isn't a vSphere manual. In fact, it's the vSphere anti-manual, meant to give you as much or as little information as you need about vSphere in plain English, without all the mumbo-jumbo and limited use of TLAs (Three Letter Acronyms).

There are no exams or quizzes, so you don't need to memorize the contents of this book. Put what you use from this book into your head, and leave the rest right here between the pages. If you need to look something up, you should have no problem finding this bright yellow book in your desk drawer. The whole point of the *For Dummies* series is to help you find the information you need to figure something out and get you back to your life.

How to Use This Book

This book is an introduction to a complex technology, written in the *For Dummies* conversational manner. Some of the concepts we describe talk about how and why things work the way they do. Other concepts are based on a process or a comparison. To keep it as simple as possible, we break them out like this:

- ✓ In bulleted lists, often you will find the concept name in bold, followed by the definition of the concept.
- ✓ A simple list of information is just regular text.
- ✓ Numbered steps of a process are shown in bold, followed by additional details and descriptions shown in regular text.