VCF TechCon

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Unlock Your Potential with VMware Role-Based Certifications

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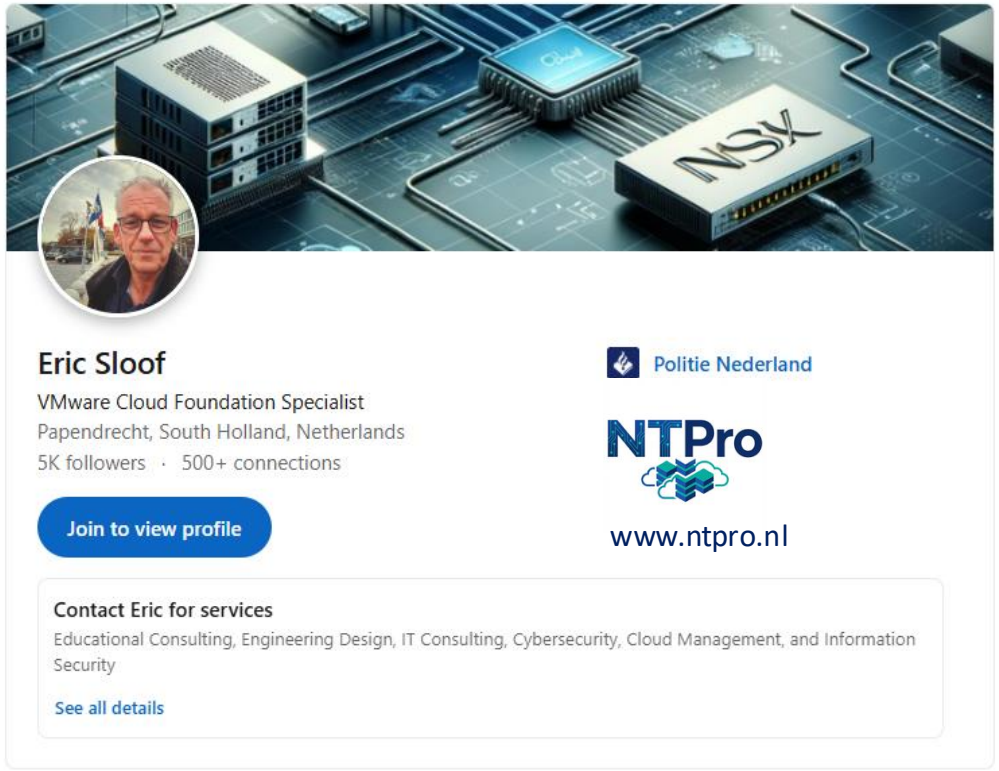
About me



I'm a VMware expert specializing in architecting VCF 9, NSX, and Avi Load Balancer solutions for enterprise environments.

With decades of experience in virtualization, cloud infrastructure, and IT training, I've led high-impact projects across industries, including roles at the Atos/National Dutch Police and VMware authorized training centers.

- VMware Certified Instructor of the Year – EMEA 2023
- Specialist in VMware NSX, Private Cloud Solutions, and Infrastructure Automation
- Expert in Cybersecurity, Vulnerability Management, and Cloud Operations
- Delivering World-Class VMware Training Globally

Agenda

- Free Training and licenses
- VMware Certification Paths
- VCF Accreditations and Certifications
- The VCAPS's are back
- Announcing the Evolution of VCDX
- What Is the Broadcom Knights Program?
- AI is reshaping exam preparation

Free Training and licenses

Free Training

Core Technical Skills

Complimentary VCF Learning Entitlement

Digital Learning

On Demand Content

Extensive Catalogue

Guided Labs

Instructor-Led Training

VCF Certified Instructors + Live Labs

Non-VMUG and VMUG General Members

Get vSphere Standard Edition 32 cores for 1 year

VMUG Advantage Members

128 cores for 3 years

128 cores for VMware Firewall with ATP

12 Service Units of VMware Avi Load Balancer

50% discount on exams

1 Start Here

1. Access your role-based library
2. Register for On Demand or Instructor-Led Course
3. Complete certifications

2 Dive Deep

4. Receive a free license upon getting certified

VCF TechCon Powered by VMUG

VMware Certification Paths

Professional Level - VMware Certified Professional (VCP)
Role Focused - Architect, Implement and Support

Architect

VCP-VCF Architect

VMware Cloud Foundation: Solution Architecture and Design

Exam: 2V0-13.25

Implement

VCP-VVF Administrator

vSphere Foundation: Build, Manage and Secure

Exam: 2V0-16.25

VCP-VCF Administrator

VMware Cloud Foundation: Build, Manage, and Secure

VMware Cloud Foundation: Automate and Operate

Exam: 2V0-17.25

Support

VCP-VVF Support

VMware Cloud Foundation: Troubleshooting

Exam: 2V0-18.25

VCP-VCF Support

VMware Cloud Foundation: Troubleshooting

Exam: 2V0-15.25

VCAP - Advanced Skills, Real-World Expertise

- **Higher-level credential** beyond VMware Certified Professional
- **Deep specialization** in **Design**, **Deploy**, and **Troubleshooting**
- **Role and discipline aligned** for admins, engineers, architects, and support
- **Validated expertise** in building, designing, implementing, and resolving issues in VCF
- **Real-world capability** — not badges, but proven operational skills

The VCAPS’s are back

VMware Certified Advanced Professional - VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0 vSphere Kubernetes Service (3V0-24.25)

VMware Certified Advanced Professional - VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0 Automation (3V0-21.25)

VMware Certified Advanced Professional - VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0 Operations (3V0-22.25)

These exams consist of **60 questions** and have a duration of **135 minutes**. The question types are varied and may include multiple-choice, drag-and-drop, and **hands-on lab simulations**, providing a comprehensive assessment of a candidate's knowledge and skills. Price € 215,00 passing score 300.

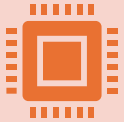
VMware Certified Advanced Professional - VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0 vSphere Kubernetes Service (3V0-24.25)

This certification is designed for professionals who work with containerized workloads and modern applications.

The exam validates the skills required to deploy, manage, and secure vSphere with Tanzu, enabling the delivery of Kubernetes-as-a-Service on the VCF platform.

Candidates for this certification should have hands-on experience with Kubernetes, container networking, and storage.

VMware Certified Advanced Professional - VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0 Automation (3V0-21.25)



This certification focuses on the automation and orchestration capabilities of VMware Cloud Foundation.

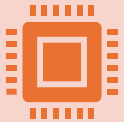
The exam assesses a candidate's ability to design, implement, and manage automation workflows using VCF Automation (formerly Aria Automation).

This certification is ideal for professionals who are responsible for automating the delivery of infrastructure and application services.

VMware Certified Advanced Professional - VMware Cloud Foundation 9.0 Operations (3V0-22.25)

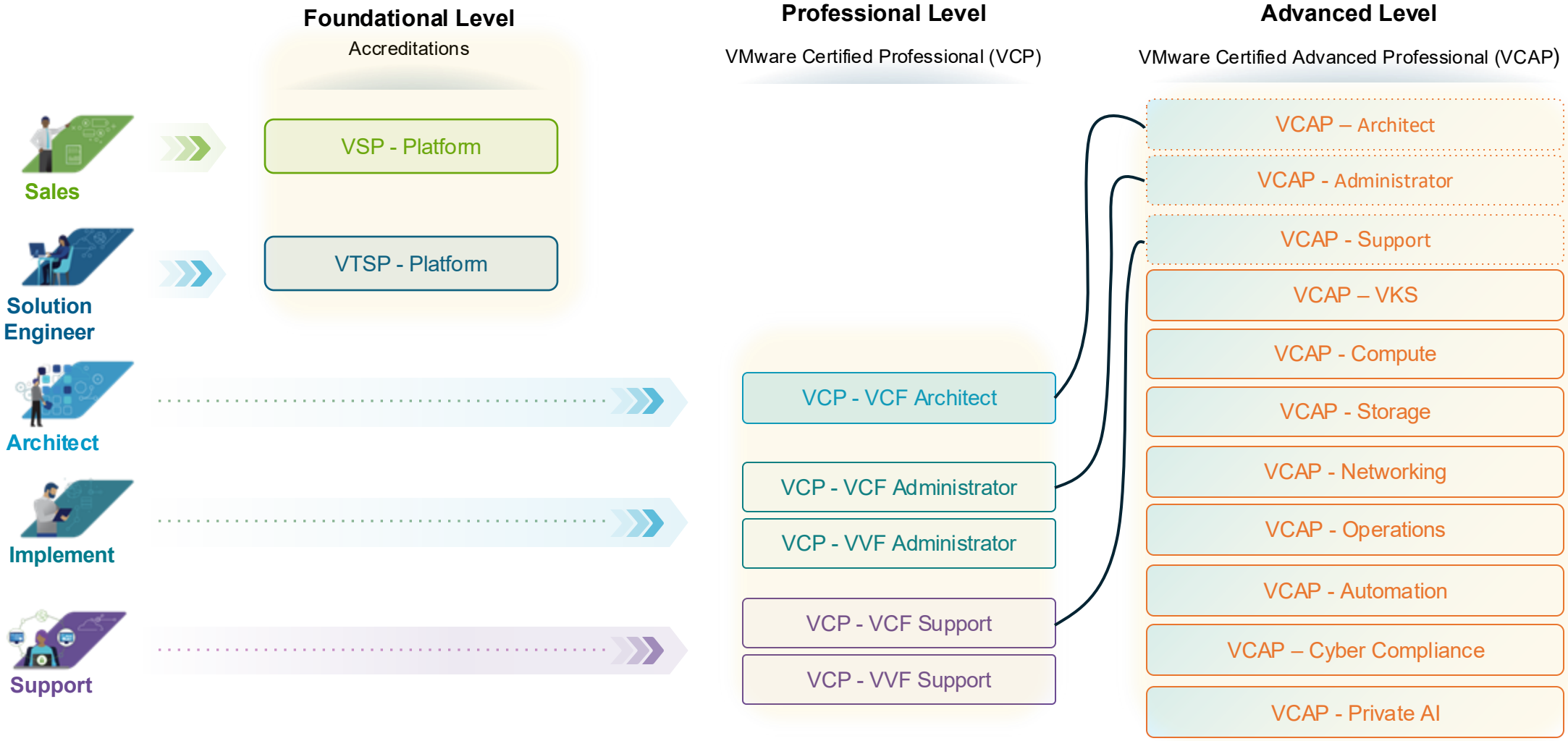
This certification is geared towards professionals who are responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of a VMware Cloud Foundation environment.

The exam covers topics such as performance monitoring, capacity management, troubleshooting, and lifecycle management.

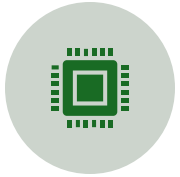


This certification is well-suited for system administrators, cloud operators, and reliability engineers.

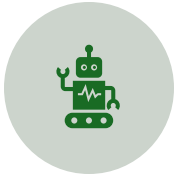
VCF Accreditations and Certifications



VMware Certified Distinguished Expert



What's Changing? **New name**: from VMware Certified Design Expert



VMware Certified Distinguished Expert (VCDX)Expanded audience: **no longer design-only**

Architects, Administrators, and Support specialists

Broader mission: leadership in private cloud, not just solution design documents

Why the Evolution?

Modern private cloud adoption has accelerated

VMware experts now operate across design, operations, automation, lifecycle, and support

The program now targets professionals **shaping the future of private cloud**

Key Differences

Old: VMware Certified Design Expert

Design-centric certification

Heavy emphasis on **architectural documentation, review, and defense**

Primarily targeted **solution architects**

New: VMware Certified Distinguished Expert

Multi-role approach: Architect • Administrator • Support Specialist

Platform-centered: VMware Cloud Foundation as core

Broader recognition of **leadership, innovation, and real-world expertise**

Defense remains, but aligned with **role-based mastery and problem-solving**

Announcing the Evolution of VCDX

Expert Level Certification by Role

VMware Certified **Distinguished** Expert (VCDX)

- VCDX - VCF Architect
- VCDX - VCF Administrator
- VCDX - VCF Support

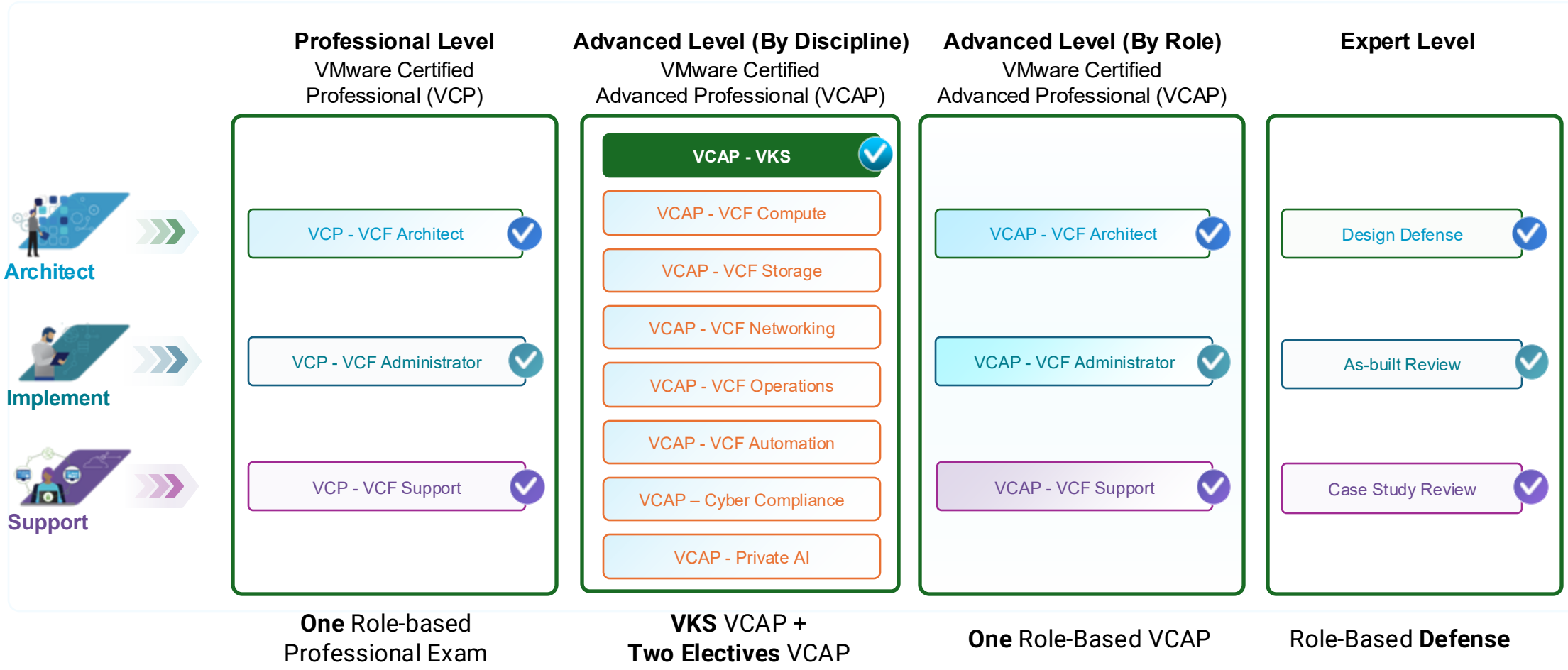
Summary of Changes

- Aligns to three roles: Architect, Implement, Support.
- VCAP certifications align to discipline and role-based specializations.
- VCAP path required for VCDX candidates for platform expertise.

VCDX Certification Benefits

- Industry-recognized, elite certification.
- Early bird access to future product beta releases.
- Exclusive participation in PTAB/CTAB,community events, and more!

New Role-based VCDX Path



The Path to Distinguished Expert

Role-based VCP → foundational VCF platform knowledge

3 advanced and 1 role based VCAP → specialization in key technologies (Kubernetes VCAP mandatory)

Live Defense → proof of:

- **Deep architectural understanding**
- **Advanced troubleshooting & problem-solving**
- **Strategic leadership and impact in real environments**

What Is the Broadcom Knights Program?

- **Elite, Invite-Only Technical Vanguard**
- Individuals, not companies — awarded to top partner professionals
- Focused on **deep technical mastery**, customer impact, and ecosystem leadership
- Exclusive access to Broadcom contacts, roadmap insights, and early enablement
- **Core Objectives**
- Strengthen advanced partner capabilities on Broadcom software & VMware Cloud
- Enable faster, higher-quality delivery to enterprise customers
- Build a trusted group of field experts who represent best practices

Core Elements of the Program

Invite Only

- You cannot apply — nomination & acceptance required
- Based on proven expertise, contribution, and real-world performance

Design

- Architectural leadership: end-to-end solution design, not just deployment
- Focus on validated reference architecture & best-practice implementation

Certification

- Structured competency validation (role-based + advanced levels)
- Path toward Distinguished Expert tier recognition

Walkthrough (Hands-on)

- Lab access, demo environments, PoC simulations
- Technical walk-through style enablement with Broadcom engineers

Sponsor

- Candidate must be sponsored by partner organization or Broadcom leadership
- Membership is personal and revalidated periodically

BROADCOM KNIGHTS

Exam question

A VMware Cloud Foundation 9 architect is designing a **vSAN Stretched Cluster** for mission-critical workloads. The customer wants two availability zones approximately **120 km apart**, connected via **dark fiber**, and asks if the **site-to-site latency** is acceptable. They also propose to use their existing **Fibre Channel SAN and NFS arrays** to support the same protected workload domain.

Which design recommendation is correct?

- **(A)** A vSAN Stretched Cluster supports distances up to **150 km**, as long as the replication traffic uses FC and NFS to mitigate latency.
- **(B)** A vSAN Stretched Cluster is acceptable if site-to-site latency is < 5 ms (RTT). At 120 km this is typically too high, and Fibre Channel / NFS storage is not supported for vSAN stretched clusters.
- **(C)** The vSAN Stretched Cluster will function normally, because vSAN uses asynchronous replication and does not have latency restrictions.
- **(D)** A vSAN Stretched Cluster is not recommended only when latency is above **10 ms RTT**. Below 10 ms, FC or NFS storage can be used as secondary storage.

Correct Answer: B

Based on the requirements for a VMware vSAN Stretched Cluster:

The correct design recommendation is B.

🧐 Analysis of the Options

B. A vSAN Stretched Cluster is acceptable if site-to-site latency is <5 ms (RTT). At 120 km this is typically too high, and Fibre Channel / NFS storage is not supported for vSAN stretched clusters.

Latency Requirement: VMware's official guidance for vSAN Stretched Cluster site-to-site Round Trip Time (RTT) latency is a maximum of 5 ms. The statement correctly identifies this threshold.

Distance/Latency Conflict: A distance of 120 km over dark fiber will inherently have a minimum latency of approximately 1.2 ms (since light travels about 200 km per millisecond in fiber), plus switching/network overhead. However, achieving and maintaining a 5 ms RTT at 120 km for mission-critical workloads can be challenging, though it might be possible under ideal conditions. The statement notes this is "typically too high," which is a reasonable design caution.

Storage Support: This is the most crucial part. vSAN is a software-defined storage solution that uses the local direct-attached storage (DAS) of the ESXi hosts. It does not support using external Fibre Channel SAN or NFS arrays as its primary shared storage for the vSAN datastore. This makes the customer's proposal for storage unusable with the core vSAN technology. This option is the most technically accurate and complete.

A. A vSAN Stretched Cluster supports distances up to 150 km, as long as the replication traffic uses FC and NFS to mitigate latency.

Incorrect Latency/Distance: While 150 km can theoretically achieve the required latency, the 5 ms RTT limit is the hard rule, not the distance.

Incorrect Storage/Mitigation: This is false. vSAN does not use FC or NFS for its primary replication traffic. It uses the standard vSAN network over IP. Furthermore, external storage cannot "mitigate" the latency of the vSAN traffic itself.

C. The vSAN Stretched Cluster will function normally, because vSAN uses asynchronous replication and does not have latency restrictions.

Incorrect Replication: vSAN Stretched Cluster uses synchronous replication between the two sites to ensure zero data loss (RPO=0).

Incorrect Latency: This is absolutely false. vSAN Stretched Cluster has a strict latency restriction of ≤5 ms RTT.

D. A vSAN Stretched Cluster is not recommended only when latency is above 10 ms RTT. Below 10 ms, FC or NFS storage can be used as secondary storage.

Incorrect Latency Threshold: The maximum RTT latency is 5 ms, not 10 ms. Exceeding 5 ms can lead to performance degradation and split-brain scenarios.

Incorrect Storage: While FC/NFS could potentially be used for non-vSAN components (e.g., secondary storage for backups or specific non-vSAN VMs), the primary protected workload cluster must be on the vSAN datastore, and that datastore cannot be backed by FC/NFS. The question asks about supporting the same protected workload cluster, which must reside on vSAN.

AI Tools Comparison: Key Takeaways

Best Performers

- **Deepseek** and **Gemini** provided the most comprehensive and accurate reasoning:
- Correctly identified latency requirements
- Properly explained storage limitations
- Provided detailed technical justification

Be Cautious with AI for Exam Preparation

- Version Confusion: AI tools frequently mix up VCF version 5.2 and 9.0 specifications, despite significant differences between these releases.

The Real Value

Understanding the reasoning is far more valuable than just finding the correct answer

- The explanation teaches you the underlying principles
- You learn why other options are incorrect
- You develop critical thinking skills for real-world scenarios
- Memorizing answers won't help you in production environments

Recommendation

- Use AI as a learning tool, not just an answer key.
- Always verify information against official VMware documentation.
- Pay attention to version-specific requirements.
- Don't rely solely on AI for exam preparation

It’s Not About Exams, It’s About Roles

- The new VCF certification model **isn’t a checklist**.
- It’s a **career framework** built around **who you are** as an engineer.

- Shift from product badges → **real-world capabilit**y
- **Roles first**: Sales • Engineering • Architect • Implement • Support

- Tiered paths: Accreditation → VCP → VCAP → Distinguished Expert
- **Proof of experience**, not memorization