

Comprehensive VCE Vblock Management with Cisco UCS Director

What You Will Learn

Chief information officers (CIOs) and IT managers are looking for ways to create real IT transformation that can enhance business agility and data center responsiveness. But this transformation requires IT organizations to build more flexible infrastructure to support a service orientation across the data center.

Organizations are shifting from siloed IT architecture models to converged infrastructure solutions that preintegrate computing, network, and storage components. This approach reduces costs while enhancing IT responsiveness and agility.

VCE, formed by Cisco and EMC with investments by Intel and VMware, accelerates the adoption of converged-infrastructure computing models that dramatically reduce the cost of IT, while improving IT flexibility and agility. VCE™ Vblock™ Systems deliver the industry's only converged infrastructure solution that is both fully integrated and fully virtualized (Figure 1).

Vblock Systems are designed with a single architecture that is reflected in the entire portfolio of Vblock solutions and uses leading technologies from Cisco, EMC, and VMware. Vblock systems are based on Cisco UCS with EMC VNX and VMAX storage, and VMware-based virtualization. Vblock Systems eliminate data center silos and improve IT productivity, helping to deliver the performance and application availability your business needs.

Solution

Cisco UCS Director is a vital companion for Vblock Systems. Cisco UCS Director allows holistic management with centralized automation and orchestration from a single-view portal. When Vblock Systems and Cisco UCS Director are combined, the efficiency gains free IT to shift time and energy away from managing infrastructure to delivering new service innovation.

Figure 1. High-Level View of Vblock System 700 and Its Components

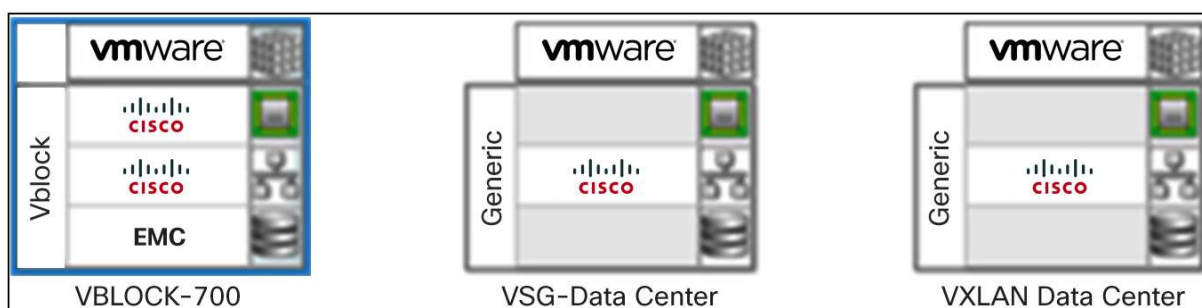
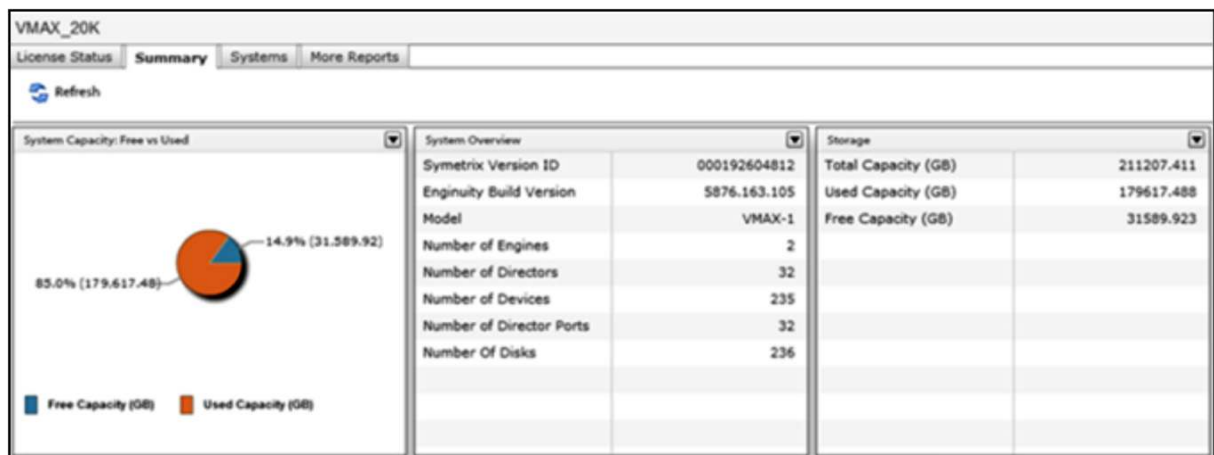


Figure 2. Vblock System 720 Storage Utilization Details

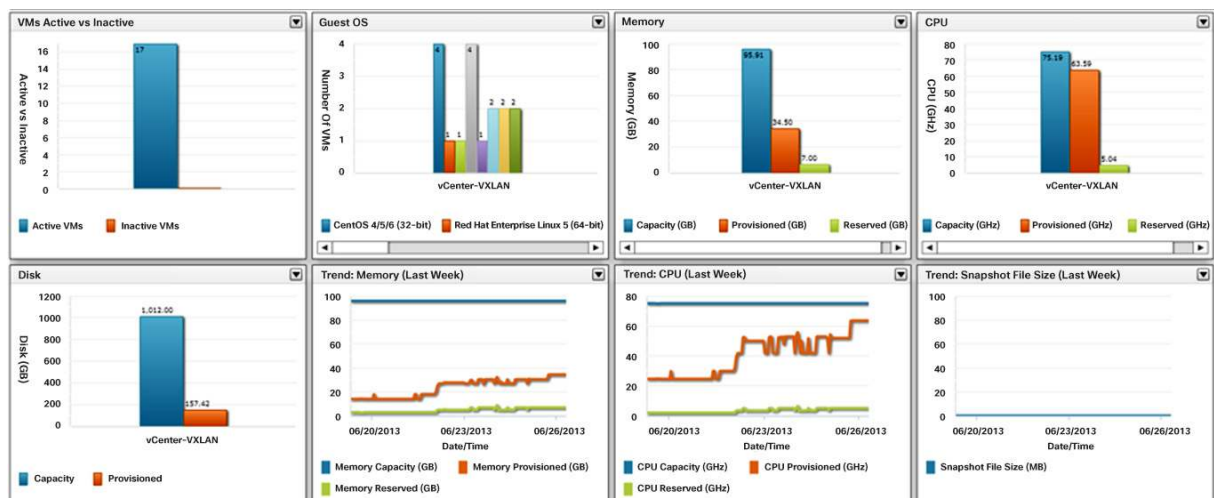


Business Benefits

Cisco UCS Director delivers the following benefits for Vblock Systems:

- Single-view management for Vblock System 200, Vblock System 300, and Vblock 720
- Dramatically reduced capital and operating expenses through centralized management of the Vblock System with real-time reporting of utilization and consumption (Figure 2 and Figure 3) based on trends set to customer-specific time frames
- Enhanced collaboration between computing, network, storage, and virtualization teams, which helps simplify daily operations
- Policies and processes defined by subject-matter experts, which relieves staff of time-consuming, manual tasks when resources are consumed

Figure 3. Summary Dashboard for Easier Tracking and Management



Cisco UCS Director Support

Cisco UCS Director supports:

- Vblock System 200 with EMC VNX storage
- Vblock System 300 with EMC VNX storage
- Vblock System 720 with EMC VMAX storage

The extensive Cisco UCS Director task library lets you quickly assemble, configure, and manage workflows for Vblock 200, Vblock 300, and Vblock 720. You can use the workflows immediately or publish them in an infrastructure catalog. Specific workflows can be assigned to the entire organization or specific groups based on your organizational structure, which can be imported from Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

During installation of Cisco UCS Director, its model-based orchestration conducts an infrastructure discovery that maps the physical and logical relationships of each component layer within Vblock Systems. This information is stored in a Microsoft SQL Server or Oracle database and used to validate workflows before they go into production. It is also used to deliver detailed status, utilization, and consumption reporting.

Cisco UCS Director and Vblock Systems aid in data center transformation with unified hardware and comprehensive holistic management that delivers IT efficiency and flexibility.

For More Information

Learn more about Cisco UCS Director at <http://www.cisco.com/go/ucsdirector>.

View an animated video showing how Cisco UCS Director works on the Cisco YouTube channel at <http://youtu.be/q-NX772MR78>.

Learn more about VCE and Vblock solutions at <http://www.vce.com>.



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