



Securing The Virtual Data Center

Peter A. Starceski and James A. Kelly

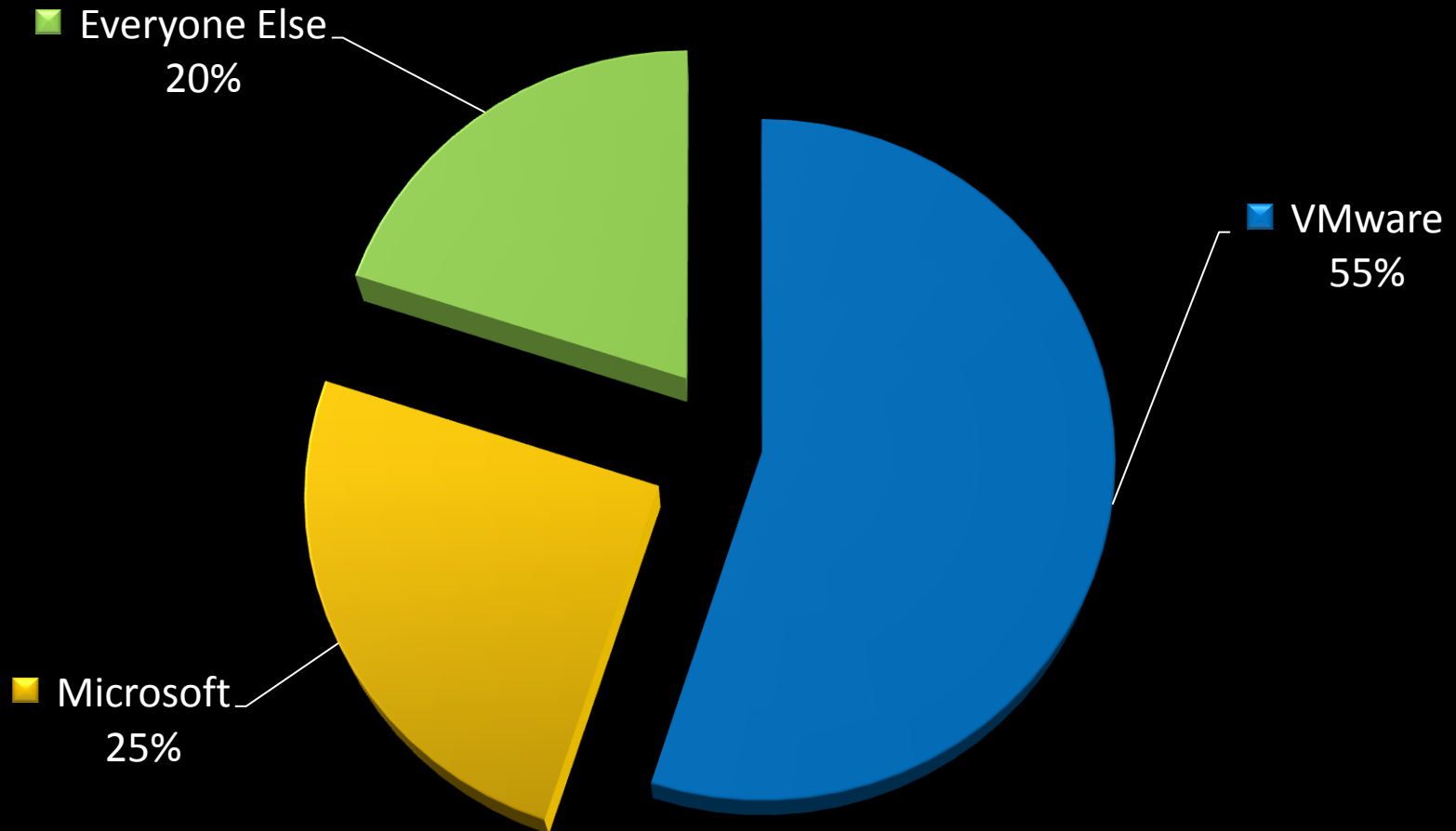
Principal Security Engineers

Challenges With Virtualization

Guest Virtual Machine Pain Points

- Heavy resource usage from Security Applications
 - #1 - Disk IO
 - Memory and CPU also important
 - Amount of time it take to scan is important
 - Network IO not as important
 - Customers willing to tradeoff between Disk I/O & Network I/O

Enterprise Hypervisor Market Share



Virtualization Use Cases

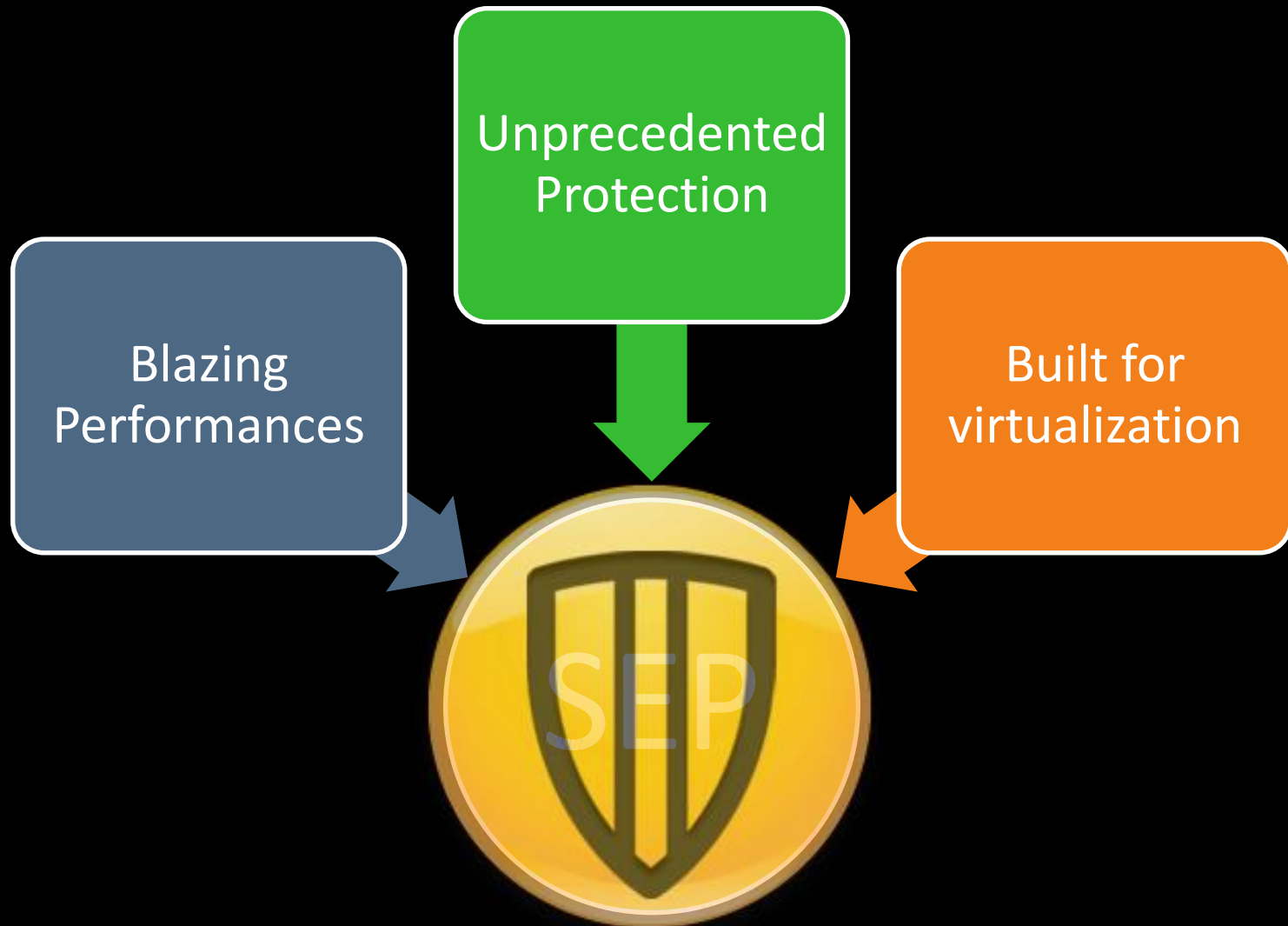
- Persistent Desktops
- Non-Persistent Desktops (VDI)
 - This is the fastest growing use case

Limitations of Endpoint Security Solutions

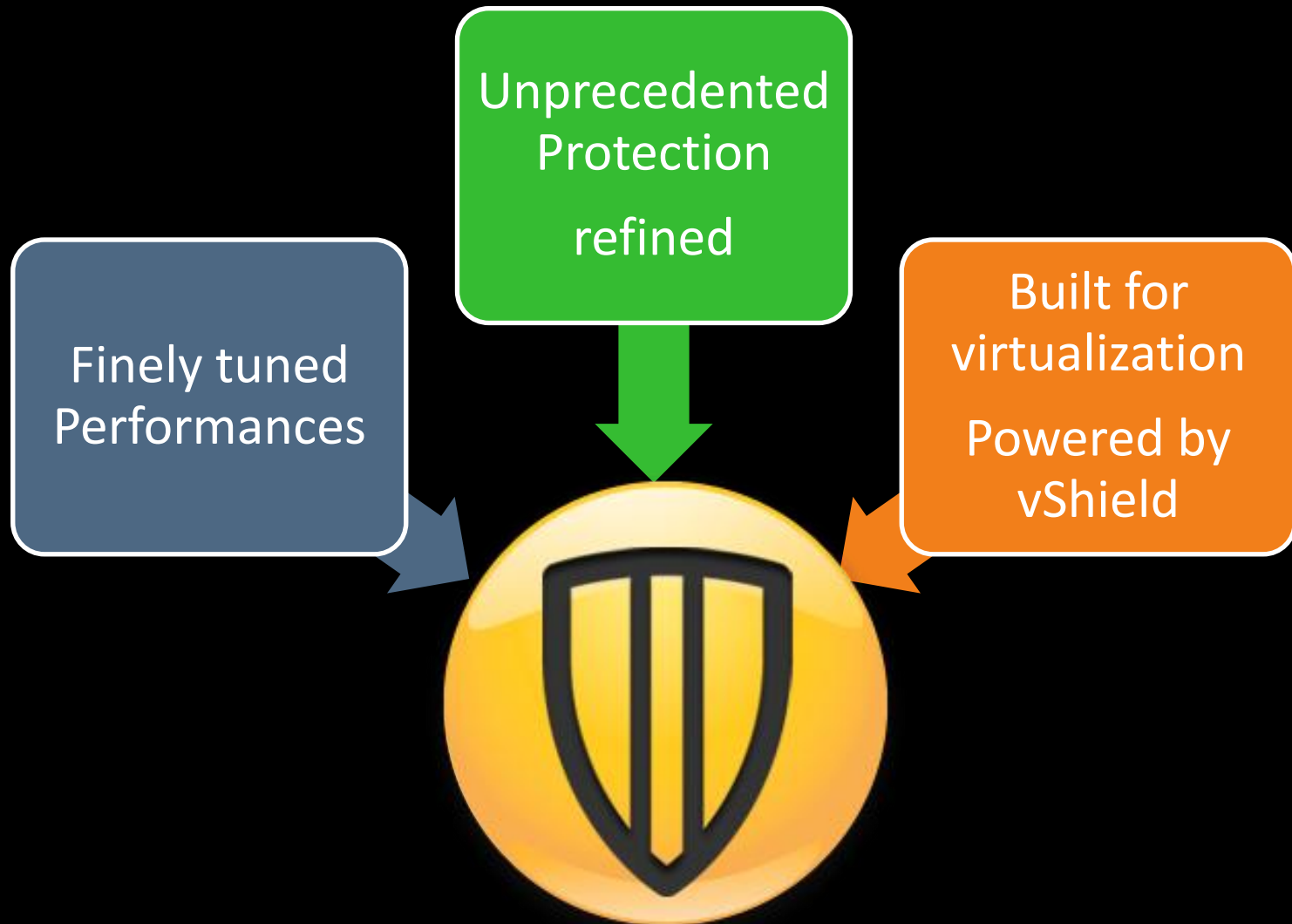
- Most solutions are designed for physical machines
- Heavy resource usage from security operations
 - AV and definition update “storms”
 - Disk IO due to shared storage
 - Activity on one VM can affect all the VMs in the cluster
 - Memory and CPU usage is a concern
 - Baseline memory usage
 - Peak usage during scanning
 - Network IO is less of a concern
- VMs come and go quickly
 - Hard to keep track of them
 - Need to be able to secure all VMs

SEP 12.1.2 (Jaguar): Protection and Performance

SEP 12.1x



SEP 12.1.2 (Jaguar)



Virtualization

Powered by vShield Endpoint

VMware vShield is:

vShield Edge

- VPN
- Load Balancer
- Firewall

vShield App

- Protects against Network Based Threats
- Improved Compliance (PCI, HIPPA)

vShield Endpoint

- **Enable antivirus offload**

What is vShield Endpoint? (VMware definition)

- Goal - Optimize endpoint security in VMware virtual environments
 - Offloads antivirus and anti-malware agent processing to a dedicated secure virtual appliance
 - Streamline antivirus and anti-malware deployment and monitoring in VMware environments

vShield endpoint components

vShield Endpoint plugs directly into vCenter and consists of three components:

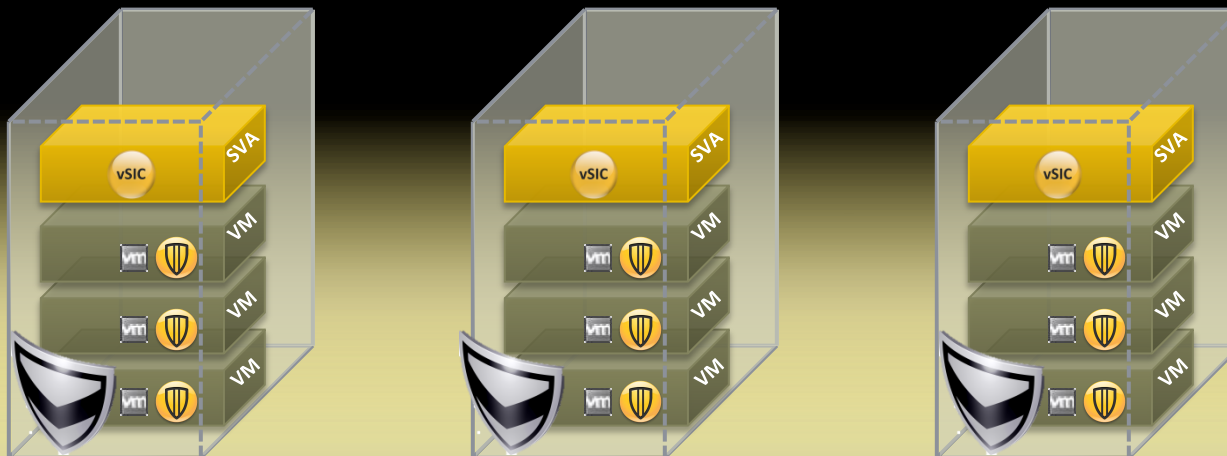
- Hardened security virtual appliances, delivered by VMware partners
- Thin agent for virtual machines to offload security events (included in VMware Tools)
- VMware Endpoint ESX® hypervisor module to enable communication between the thin agent and the security virtual appliance at the hypervisor layer



Solving Performance Issues on the Endpoint

vShield Endpoint Integration

Symantec Endpoint Protection



Virtual Client
Tagging

Offline Image
Scanning

Resource
Leveling

Virtual Image
Exception

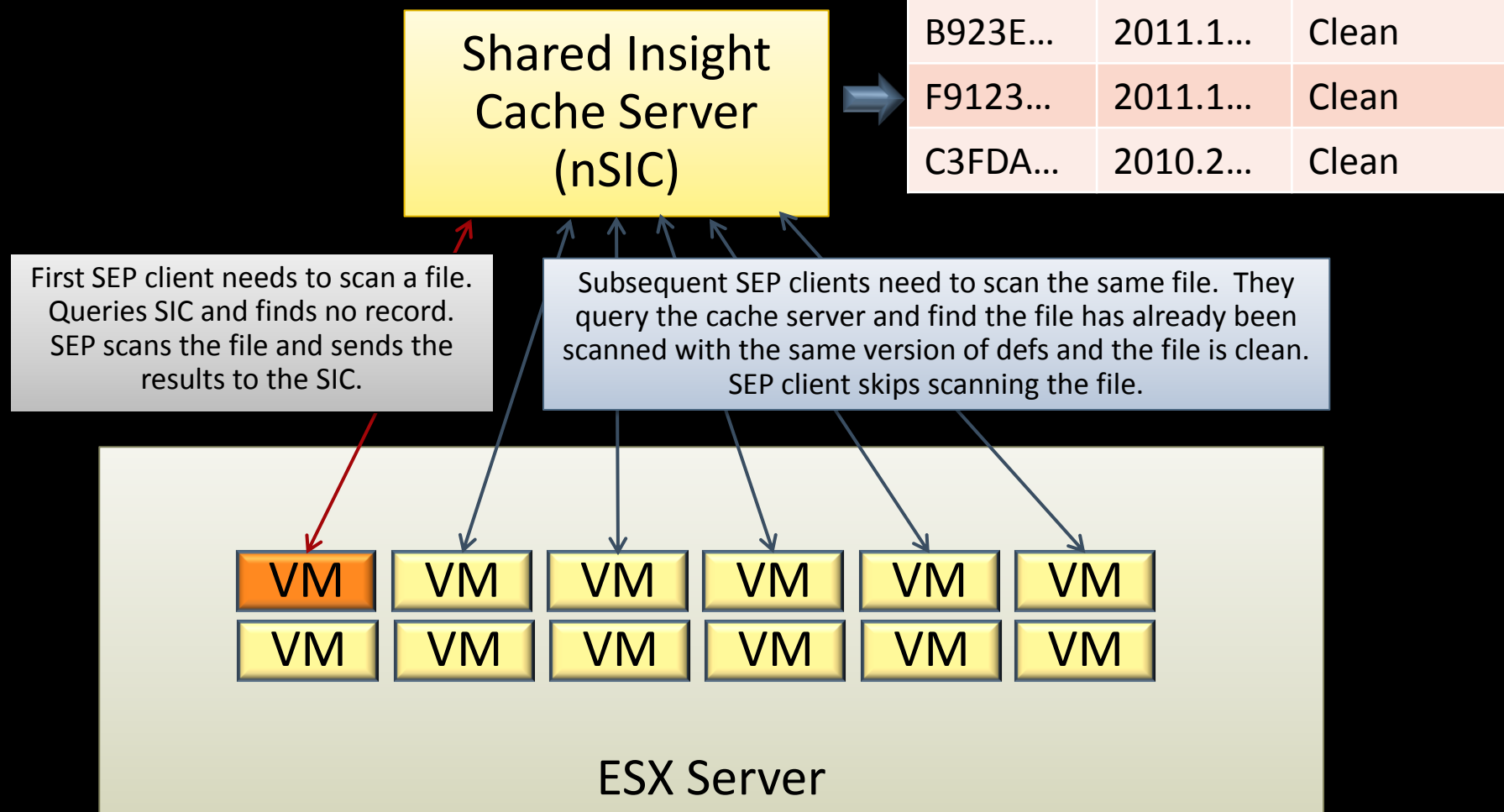
Shared
Insight Cache

vShield-enabled Shared Insight Cache

Introducing SIC

- Goal - Optimize endpoint security in VMware virtual environments
 - De-duplicate On-demand and Scheduled scan resource usage.
 - Prevent AV-STORM

Shared Insight Cache - High Level



Shared Insight Cache

The Shared Insight Cache provides a shared cache across multiple virtual machines to reduce I/O by preventing different VMs from scanning similar files

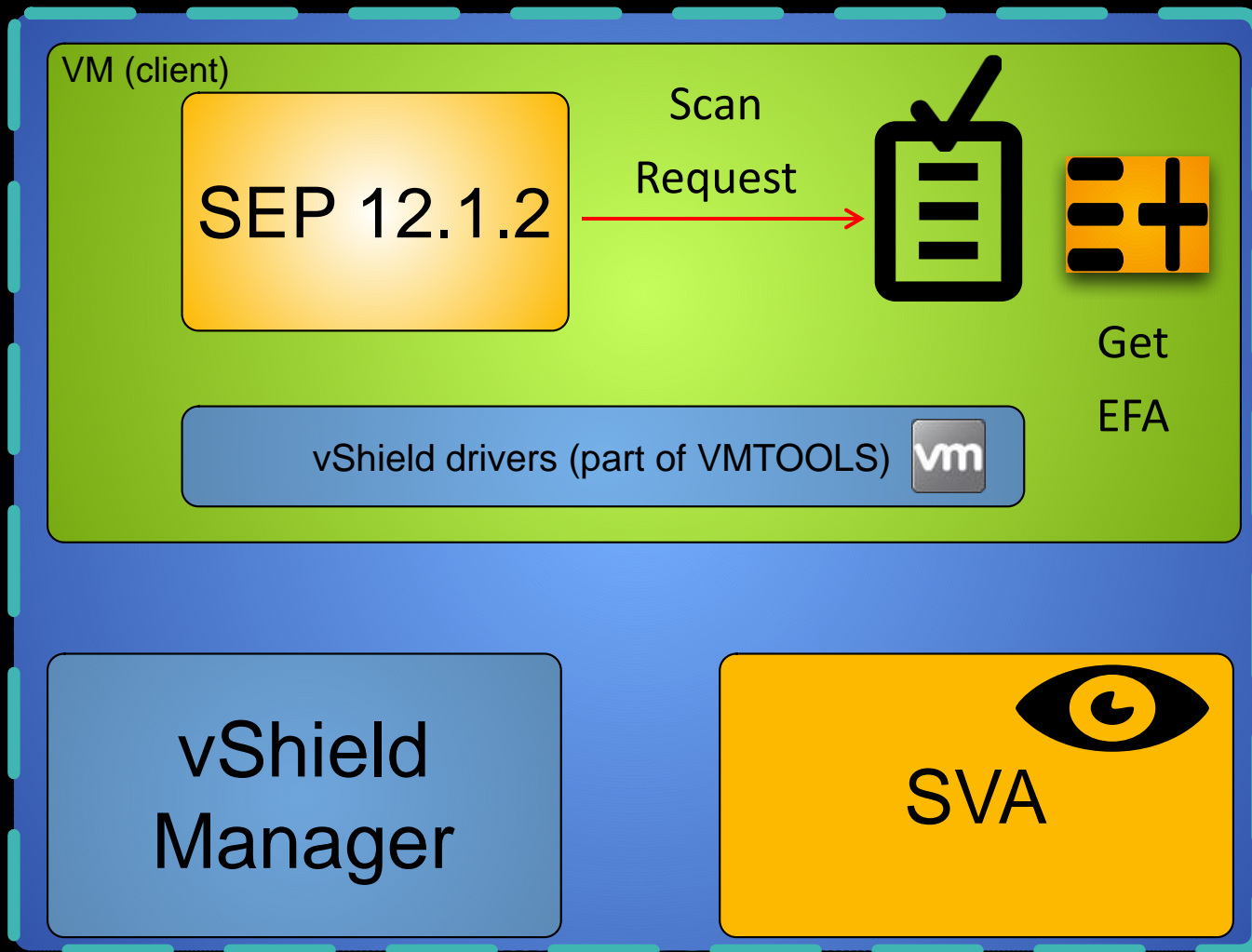
- Applies to all On-Demand Scans (User Initiated, Scheduled, Admin Defined). **Does not apply to auto-protect**
- Scalable to thousands of clients per server
- Applies to all files (Not just Binary Executables)
- Data is keyed off of file hash and definition version. Latest definition version wins
 - Definitions can be updated in the middle of a scan
- Cache Server runs with all data completely in memory. Disk is only used for logging
- Not available on SBE version.

Introducing vSIC: vShield enabled Shared Insight Cache

- Automated vSIC association : simpler administration
- Reduces the scanning of identical files by VM's on the same hypervisor
- Reduces I/O and CPU usage over non shared insight cache enabled endpoints
- Lighter virtual network usage than the concurrence (hash Vs File)
- Allows higher VM density
- Does not apply to auto-protect

Securing The Virtual Data Center

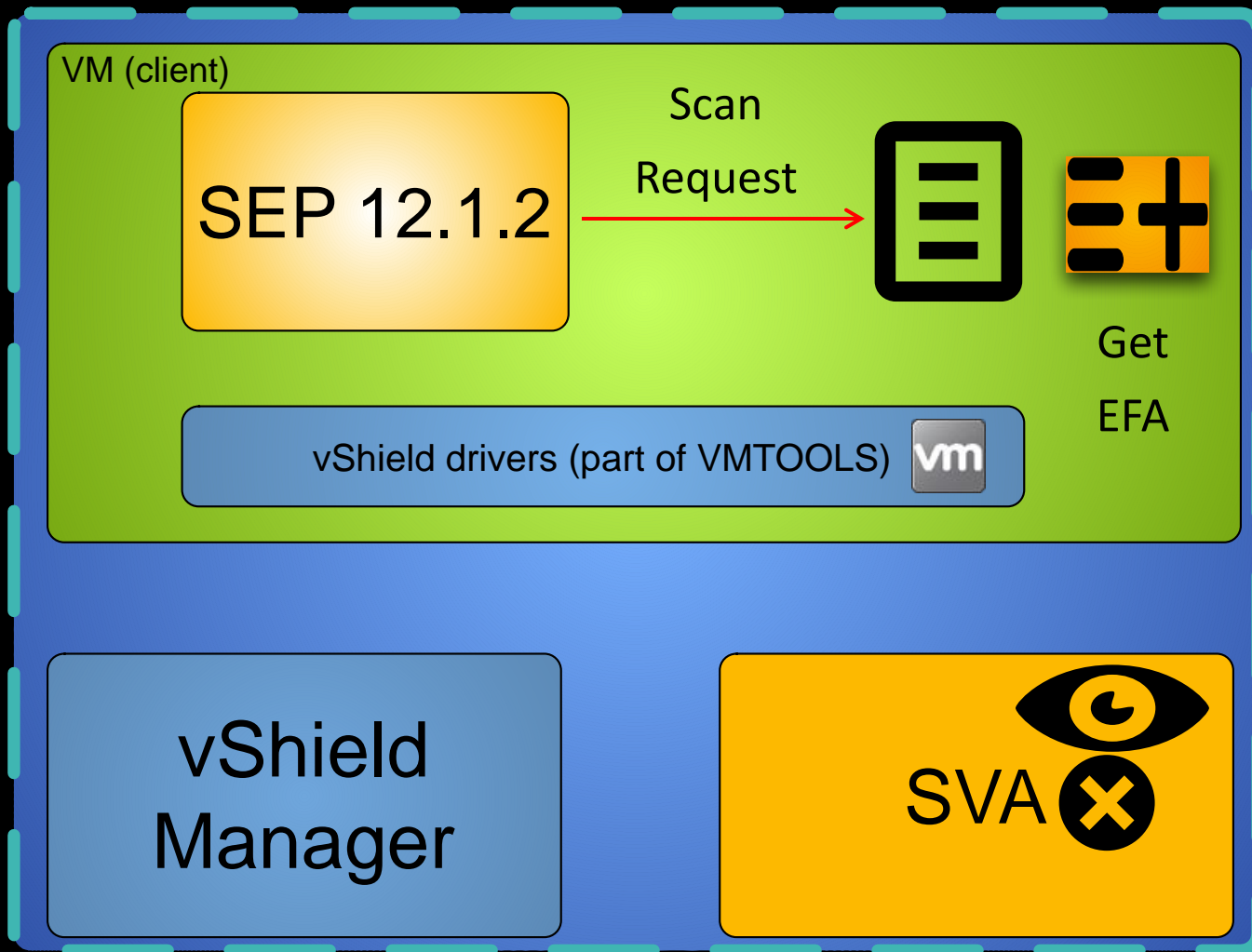
vSIC communication flow: Unknown file



Scan the file:

Proceed with the AV scan

vSIC communication flow: known file



Skip the file:

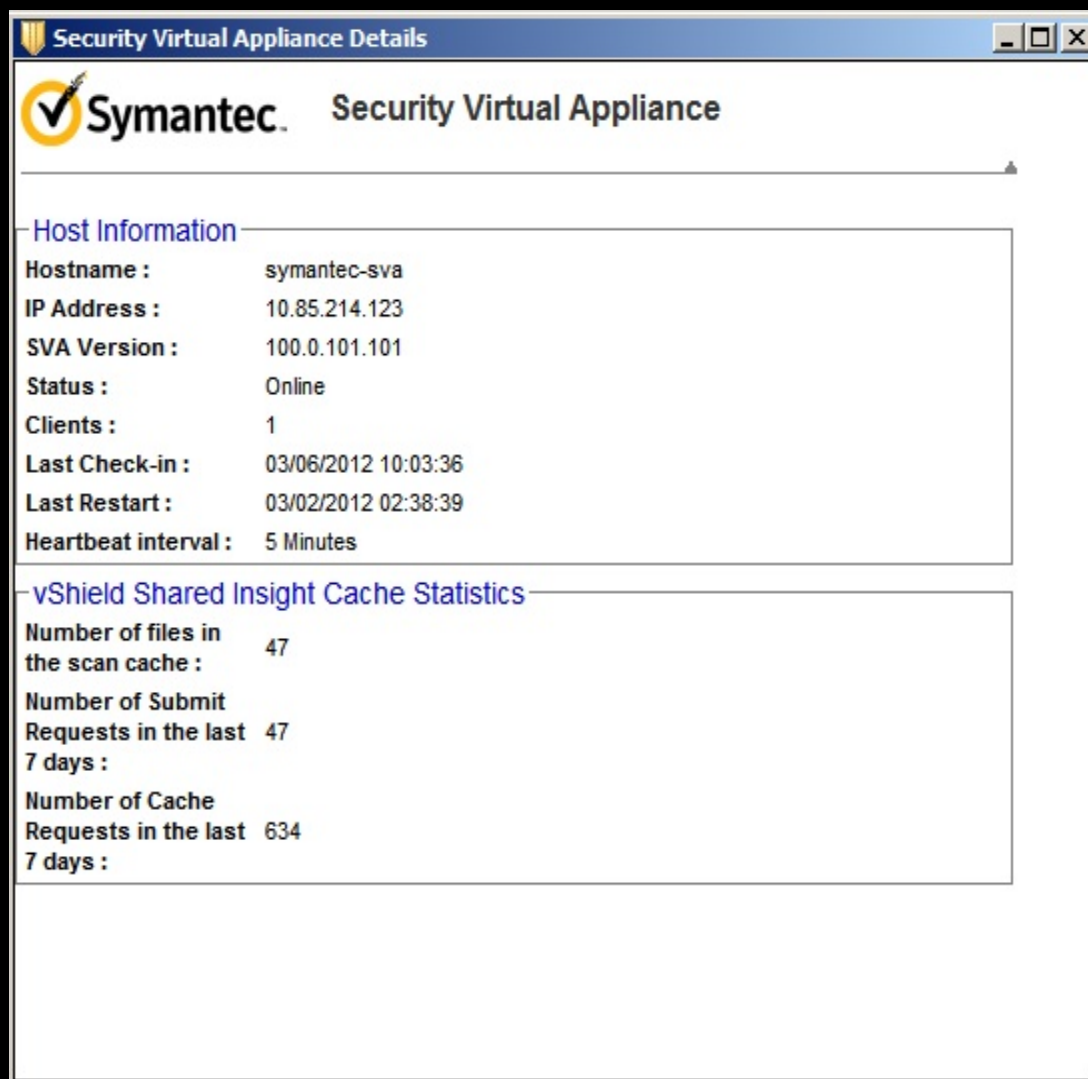
AV kills the scan request and moves to the next file.

SEPM – Security Virtual Appliance Monitor

The screenshot displays the Symantec Endpoint Protection Manager (SEPM) console. The main window title is "Symantec Endpoint Protection Manager". The top navigation bar includes "Refresh", "Help", and "Log Off" links. The left sidebar contains icons for "Home", "Monitors", "Reports", "Policies", "Clients", and "Admin". The main content area is titled "Security Virtual Appliance" and includes tabs for "Summary", "Logs", "Command Status", "Notifications", and "Security Virtual Appliance". Below the tabs, there is a "Tell me more..." link and an "Auto-refresh" dropdown set to "Every 30 seconds". The status "Last updated at: 03/06/2012 10:07:06" is displayed. The main content area features a table with columns: Status, Hostname, Version, Clients, Last Check-in, and Last Restart. The table contains one row with the following data: Status: Online, Hostname: symantec-sva, Version: 100.0.101.101, Clients: 1, Last Check-in: 03/06/2012 10:03:36, Last Restart: 03/02/2012 02:38:39. There are also "Export", "Details", and "Delete" links above the table.

Status▼	Hostname▲	Version▼	Clients▼	Last Check-in▼	Last Restart▼
Online	symantec-sva	100.0.101.101	1	03/06/2012 10:03:36	03/02/2012 02:38:39

SEPM – Security Virtual Appliance Details



Security Virtual Appliance Details

Symantec Security Virtual Appliance

Host Information

Hostname :	symantec-sva
IP Address :	10.85.214.123
SVA Version :	100.0.101.101
Status :	Online
Clients :	1
Last Check-in :	03/06/2012 10:03:36
Last Restart :	03/02/2012 02:38:39
Heartbeat interval :	5 Minutes

vShield Shared Insight Cache Statistics

Number of files in the scan cache :	47
Number of Submit Requests in the last 7 days :	47
Number of Cache Requests in the last 7 days :	634

SEPM – Clients View

The screenshot shows the Symantec Endpoint Protection Manager (SEPM) interface. The title bar reads "Symantec Endpoint Protection Manager". The main header area displays "Symantec™ Endpoint Protection Manager" on the left and "Refresh", "Help", and "Log Off" buttons on the right. The left sidebar contains navigation icons for Home, Monitors, Reports, Policies, Clients, and Admin. The "Clients" view is active, showing a tree structure under "My Company" with a "Default Group" sub-item. Below the tree is a "Tasks" list with options like "Add a client", "Edit the client properties", "Delete the clients", "Move the clients", "Enable as Unmanaged Detected", "Run a command on computers", "Add a group", "Add computer account", and "Add user account". The main content area is titled "My Company" and shows a "Policy serial number: 8736-03/02/2012 11:21:53 500". It features tabs for "Clients", "Policies", "Details", and "Install Packages". The "Clients" tab is selected, displaying a table of clients. The table has columns for "Name", "Security Virtual Appliance", "Health State", "Logon User or Computer", and "Last Time Sync". One client is listed: "symantec" with a "symantec-sva" appliance, "Online" health state, "Administrator" logon user, and a last sync time of "March 6, 2012 9". A "View: Default view" dropdown and a "Filter" button are also present. The bottom of the main content area shows a scrollbar and pagination controls indicating "1 of 1".

Symantec Endpoint Protection Manager

Symantec™ Endpoint Protection Manager Refresh Help Log Off

Clients

My Company

Policy serial number: 8736-03/02/2012 11:21:53 500

View: Default view All users and computers Filter

Name	▲ Security Virtual Appliance	Health State	Logon User or Computer	Last Time Sync
symantec	symantec-sva	Online	Administrator	March 6, 2012 9

Tasks

- Add a client
- Edit the client properties
- Delete the clients
- Move the clients
- Enable as Unmanaged Detected
- Run a command on computers
- Add a group
- Add computer account
- Add user account

1 of 1

SEPM – Clients Details

Edit Properties for symantec

General Network Clients User Info

Description:

Computer Name: symantec

Logon User Name: Administrator

Group: My Company

Domain or Workgroup: WORKGROUP

Computer Description:

Processor: x86 Family 6 Model 15 Stepping 11 1862 MHz

Memory: 255.48 MB (267,894,784 bytes)

BIOS Version: INTEL - 6040000 PhoenixBIOS 4.0 Release 6.0

Operating System: Windows XP Professional

Service Pack: Service Pack 3

TPM Device: No TPM device

Unique ID: 1C27F00F0A55D66B01EAE775BEE4B038

Hardware Key: 77FA816C6511089BCC27B83F6A5C10C7

Operating System Language: English

Total Disk Space: 8,181.51 MB (8,578,932,736 bytes)

Group Update Provider: False

Deployment status: Install successful.

Deployment message:

Deployment target version: 93.1.274.274

Deployment running version: 93.1.274.274

Last deployment time: March 6, 2012 9:37:39 AM PST

Virtualization Platform: VMware

Security Virtual Appliance: symantec-sva

OK Cancel

SVA – Security Profile

- PEN Tests
 - CCS Vulnerability Scan
 - Nessus Scan
- Login Settings
 - Root account login disabled
 - 'sudo' subsystem to elevate privileges is required
 - SSH disabled by default
- Cent OS minimal install
 - Packages updated prior to Release
 - Customers should not be updating packages

SVA – Virtual Machine Settings

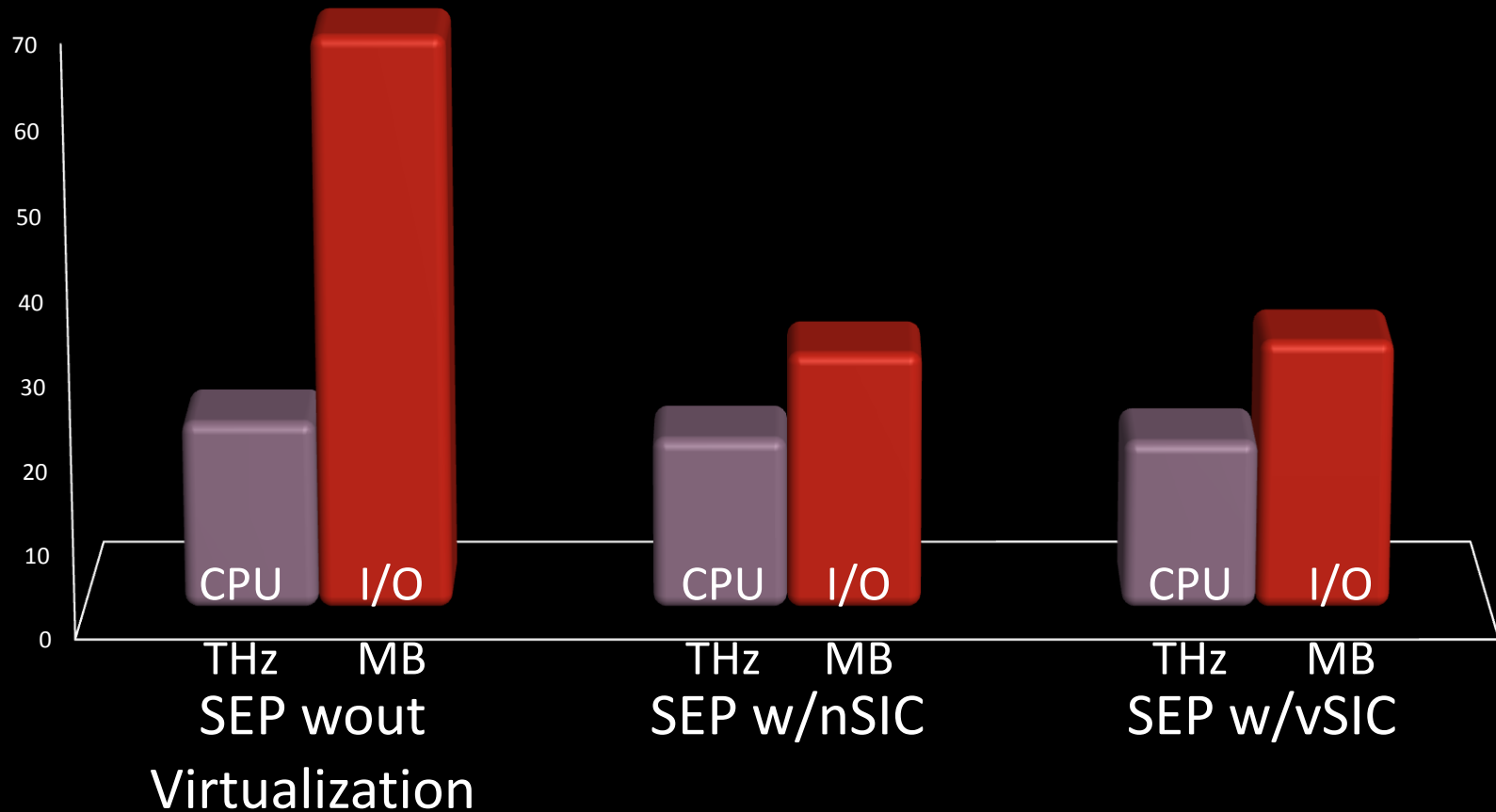
- Settings based upon VMware Hardening Guidelines
 - Prevent virtual disk shrinking
 - `isolation.tools.diskWiper.disable=TRUE`
 - `isolation.tools.diskShrink.disable=TRUE`
 - Prevent other users from spying on administrator remote consoles
 - `RemoteDisplay.maxConnections=1`
 - Prevent unauthorized removal, connection and modification of devices
 - `isolation.device.connectable.disable=TRUE`
 - `isolation.device.edit.disable=TRUE`
 - Disable VM-to-VM communication through VMCI
 - `vmci0.unrestricted=FALSE`
 - Limit VM log file size and number
 - `logging=FALSE`
 - `log.rotateSize=1000000`
 - `log.keepOld=10`

SVA – Virtual Machine Settings

- Settings based upon VMware Hardening Guidelines, Continued...
 - Limit informational messages from the VM to the VMX file
 - `tools.setInfo.sizeLimit=1048576`
 - Disable certain unexposed features
 - `isolation.tools.unity.push.update.disable=TRUE`
 - `isolation.tools.ghi.launchmenu.change=TRUE`
 - `isolation.tools.memSchedFakeSampleStats.disable=TRUE`
 - `isolation.tools.getCreds.disable=TRUE`
 - `isolation.tools.hgfsServerSet.disable = TRUE`
 - Disable remote operations within the guest
 - `guest.command.enabled=FALSE`
 - Do not send host performance information to guests
 - `tools.guestlib.enableHostInfo=FALSE`

Performance Comparison – Internal Tests*

Chart Title



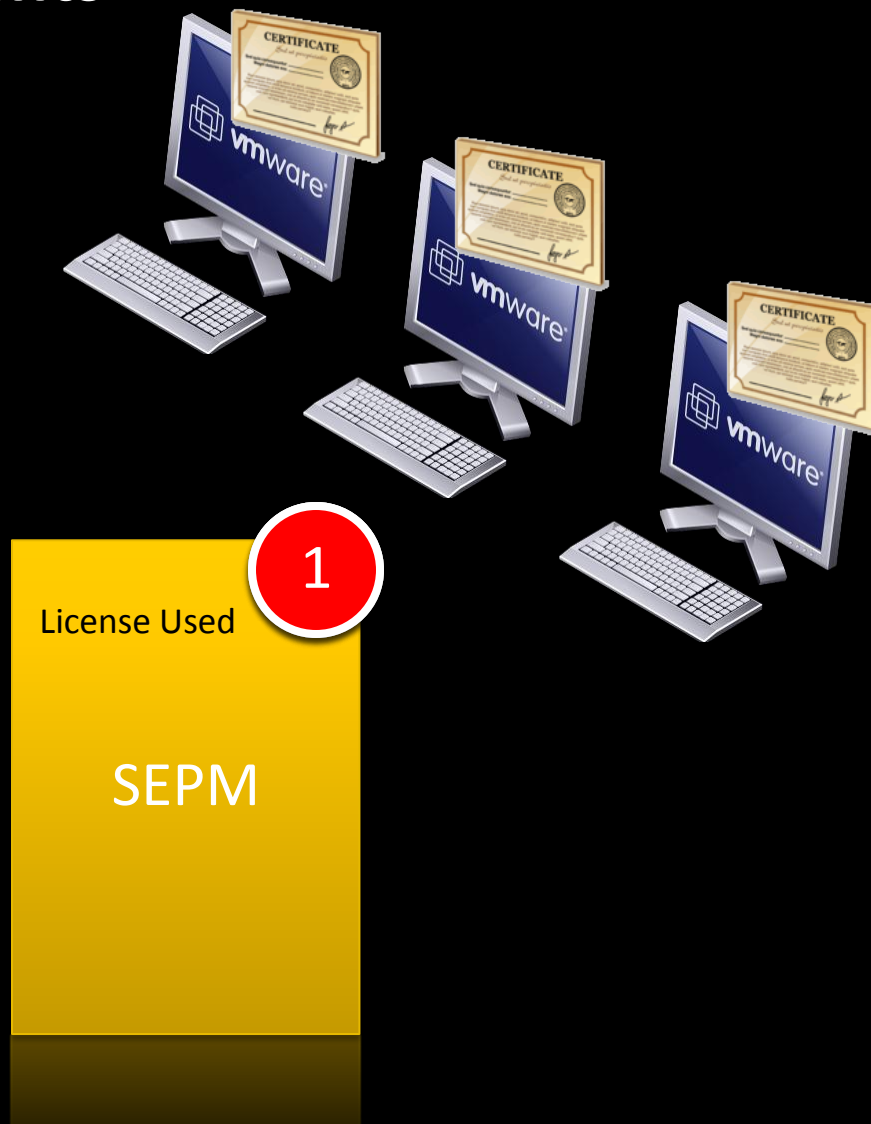
vSIC VS nSIC

Use case	vSIC	nSIC
Few ESX, large amount of VM	Flexible, easy to manage and install.	Require a large dedicated server with lots of RAM
Large amount of ESX	Need to deploy the SVA on each ESX node.	Can use one SIC server, higher maintenance cost as additional grouping on the console is required.
Use Motion/DRS	Automatic vSIC detection	Static mapping

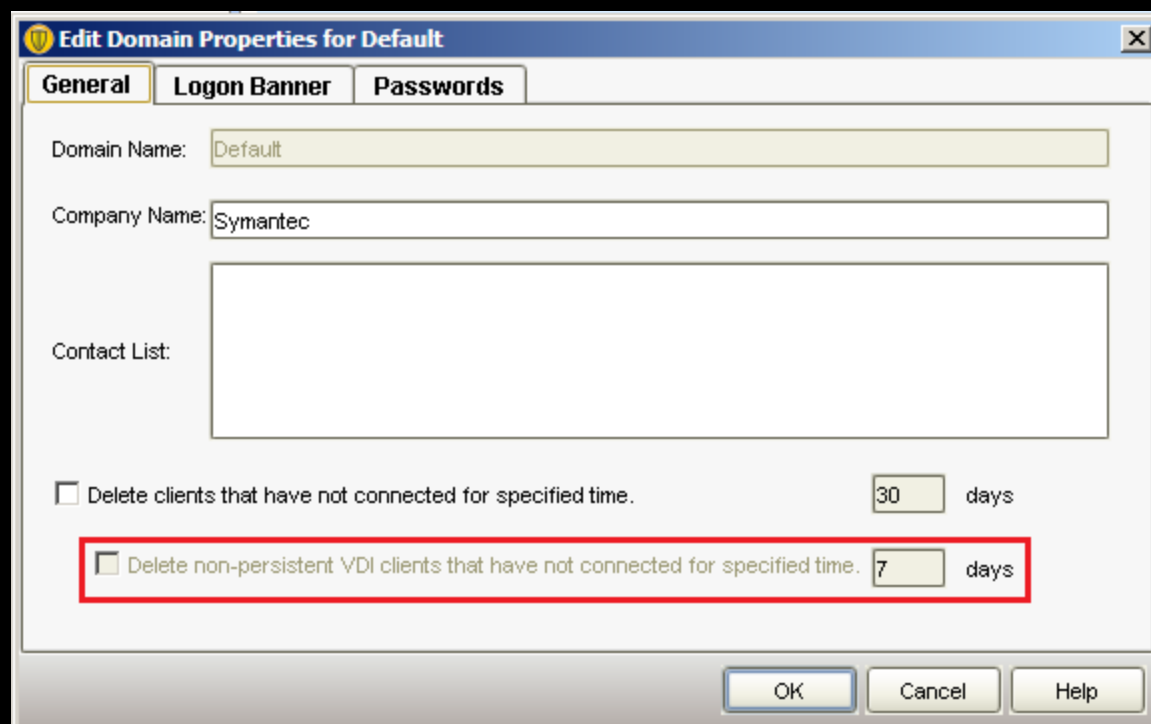
Non-Persistent VDI refinements

Solving licensing issues

- Registry setting to identify a VM as a Non-persistent VDI
- Customer should set this in the base image
- Non-Persistent VDI Aging policy in SEPM
- Licensing Change: Only Online Non-Persistent VDI clients are counted
- Client view filter



SEPM – Non-persistent VDI aging setting & Filtering



Edit Domain Properties for Default

General | Logon Banner | Passwords

Domain Name: Default

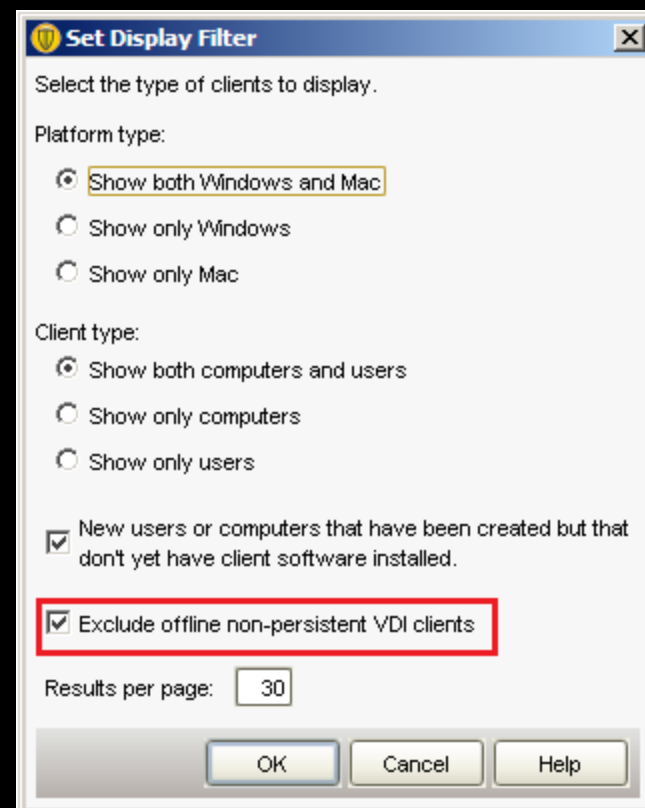
Company Name: Symantec

Contact List:

☐ Delete clients that have not connected for specified time. 30 days

☒ Delete non-persistent VDI clients that have not connected for specified time. 7 days

OK Cancel Help



Set Display Filter

Select the type of clients to display.

Platform type:

- ☒ Show both Windows and Mac
- ☐ Show only Windows
- ☐ Show only Mac

Client type:

- ☒ Show both computers and users
- ☐ Show only computers
- ☐ Show only users

☒ New users or computers that have been created but that don't yet have client software installed.

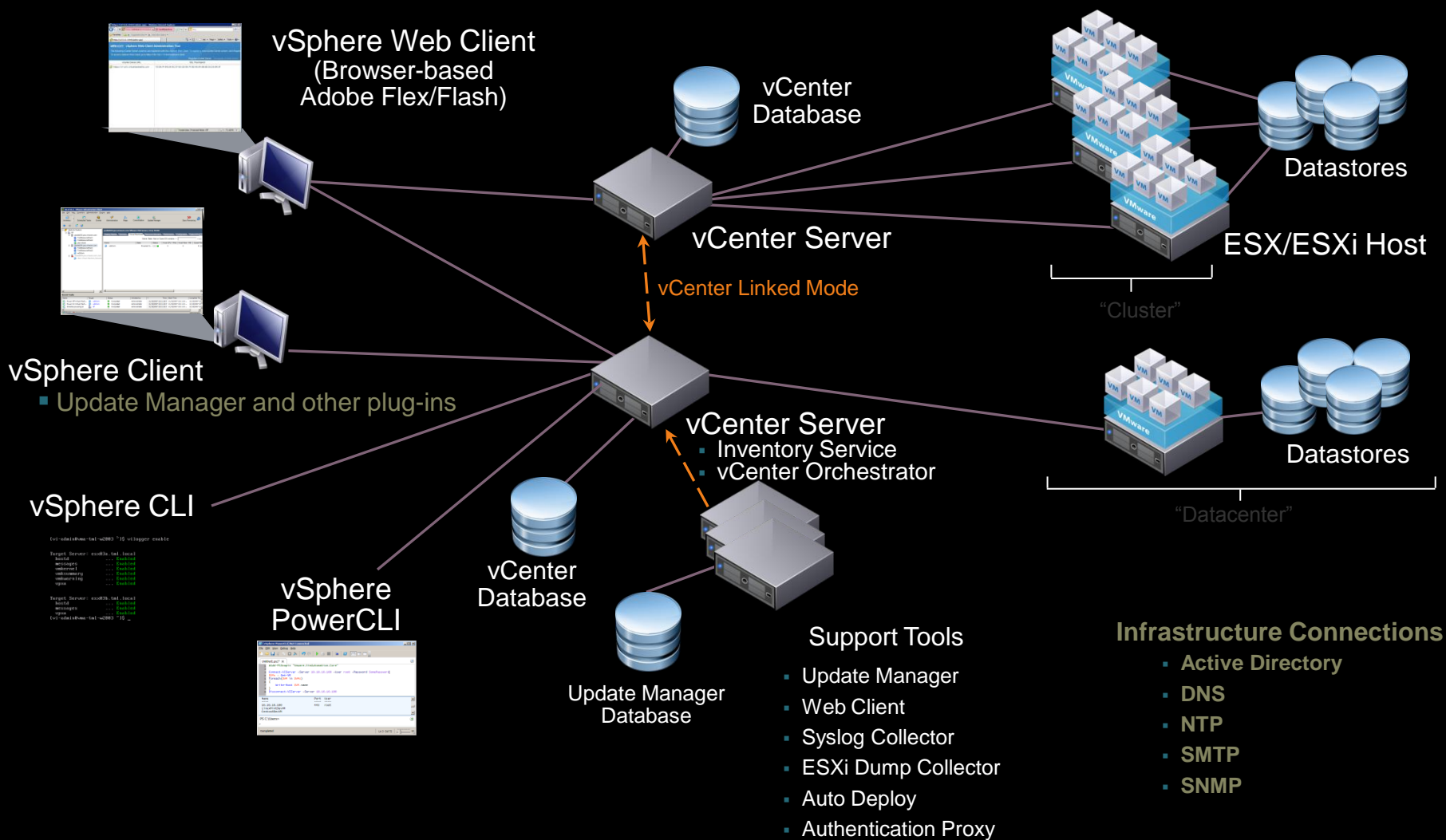
☒ Exclude offline non-persistent VDI clients

Results per page: 30

OK Cancel Help

Critical System Protection (CSP): Securing and Monitoring the Virtual Data Center

The Virtual Infrastructure



Importance? Virtual Infrastructure Attacks



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

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Article [Talk](#)

Blue Pill (software)

Subverting the Xen hypervisor

Rafal Wojtczuk
rafal.wojtczuk@invisiblethingslab.com

SYMANTEC ADVANCED THREAT RESEARCH 1

[CNET](#) › [News](#) › [Security & Privacy](#) › ['Crisis' malware targets VMware virtual machines](#)

'Crisis' malware targets VMware virtual machines

Abstract As commonplace in the world, it has started to fight against the most widespread virtual machines (and VirtualPC). It attacks on other QEMU, and Xen),

Index Terms
virtualization, Virtual machine

Single piece of malware targets both Windows and OSX users and is capable of spreading to VMware virtual machines and Windows Mobile devices.

Virtual Infrastructure Security Guidelines

NIST

National Institute
Standards and Technology

U.S. Department of Commerce

**Guide
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Techr**

**Recommen
of Stand**

vmware

vSphere 5.0 Security Hardening Guide

v1.1

August 6, 2012

Scope of Guide

This guide covers the f

Everything else is out c

Description of fields

Each guideline is unqi

When referring to guid

as and rec

PCI Security Standards Council Releases Guidelines for Virtual Environments

Posted on June 26, 2011 by Nicolai Schurko, Esq.

On June 14, the PCI Security Standards Council released new [guidelines](#) [pdf] directed to entities that process payment card data in virtual environments. These guidelines do not add additional requirements to the PCI-DSS 2.0 standard. Rather, they are an outline for applying the existing standard in the context of virtual platforms, including cloud computing.

In its latest release, the Council identifies several security risks unique to virtual environments, including:

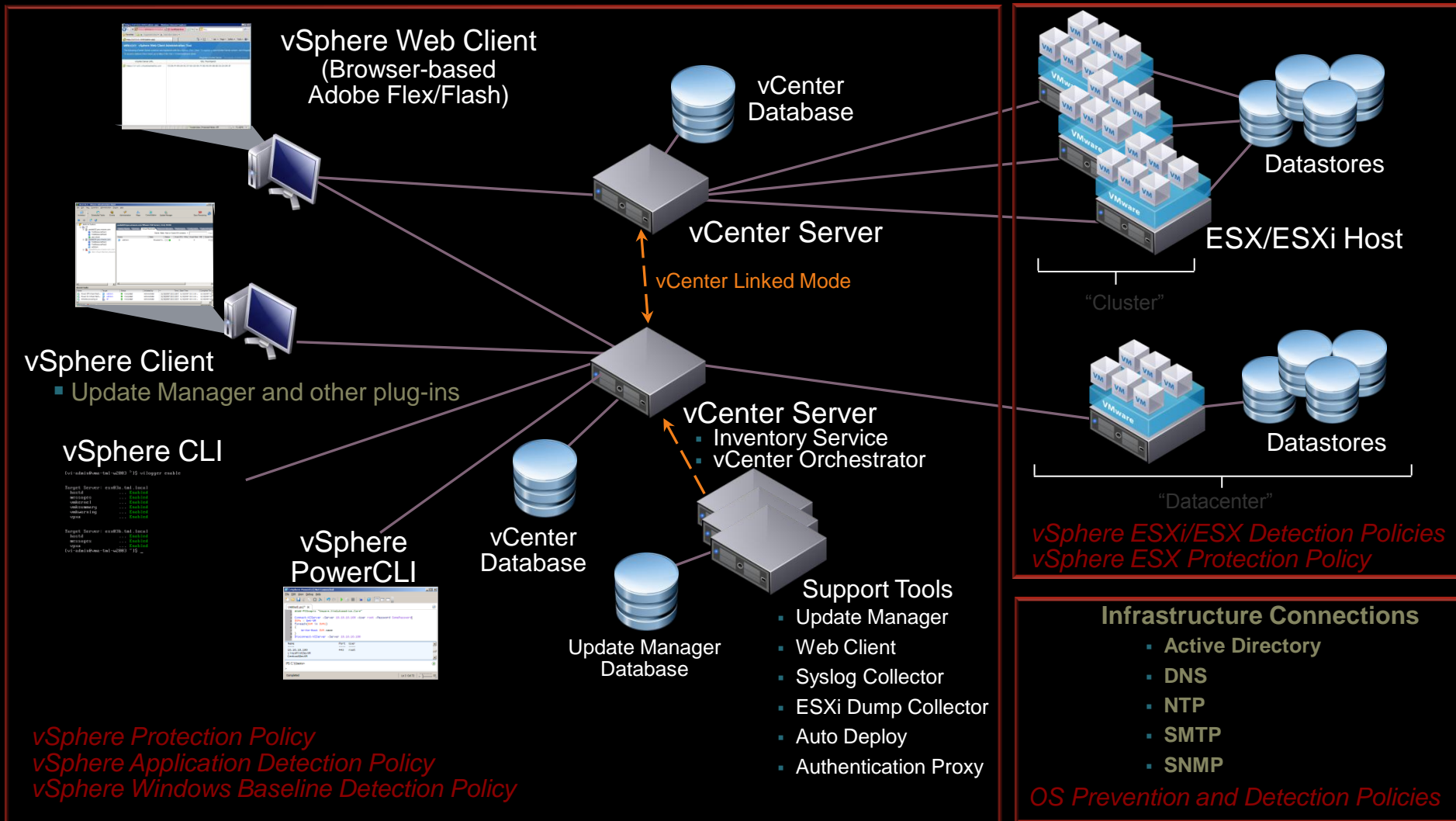
- Vulnerability of the “hypervisor”, i.e. the single program that allows multiple operating systems to run concurrently in the virtual environment and controls execution of these “guest” systems while users are navigating within the virtual environment;
- Configuration and security issues related to the multi-layered technological complexity of virtual environments;
- The possibility that the compromise of one virtual system function could lead to a compromise of other functions on the same system;

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VMware vSphere Architecture and SCSP Coverage



vSphere Policy Focus - Prevention

- Tamper Protection (no unauthorized modification)
 - vSphere binaries (more than traditional executables) tamper protection
 - vSphere configuration file tamper protection
 - vSphere data, log and SSL certificate tamper protection
 - Only vSphere programs (or trusted users/programs) can change contents
- SSL Certificate Protection (no unauthorized access)
 - Globally no access
 - Only trusted users/programs have access
- Network Firewall – Reduce Attack Surface for vSphere Apps
 - Limit inbound/outbound IP addresses vSphere programs can communicate with
- Policy Framework for easy customer modification
 - Complete policy ready to apply to vCenter servers (programs & resources pre-defined)
 - Re-Use Components for off-box utilities and client usage
 - Readily Configurable

vSphere Policy Focus - Detection

- Windows OS RT-FIM, Registry, Audit, Event and Log Monitoring
 - Pre-configured settings suitable for vCenter platform
 - Customer can customize further or choose to use their own Baseline Policy in use on other platforms
- vSphere Real-Time File Integrity Monitoring
 - vSphere binaries (more than traditional executables)
 - vSphere configuration files
- VMware unique hardening Requirements
 - vCenter SSL Certificate Files Usage Monitoring (**VSC02**)
 - vCenter Using Built-in Windows Account (**VSH05**)
- vSphere General Log Monitoring
 - Monitoring of vCenter vpxd log (primary web interaction log)
- Framework for easy customer modification
 - Complete policies (2) ready to apply to vCenter servers (programs & resources pre-defined)
 - Re-Use Components for off-box utilities
 - Readily Configurable

Vmware Hardening Guidelines

VSH01 – Maintain supported operating system, database, and hardware for vCenter

VSH02 – Keep VMware center system properly patched

VSH03 – Provide Windows system protection on VMware vCenter server host

VSH04 – Avoid user login to VMware vCenter server system

VSH06 – Restrict usage of vSphere administrator privilege

VSH10 – Clean up log files after failed installations of VMware vCenter server

VSC03 – Restrict access to SSL certificates

VSC05 – Restrict network access to VMware vCenter server system

VSC06 – Block access to ports not being used by VMware vCenter

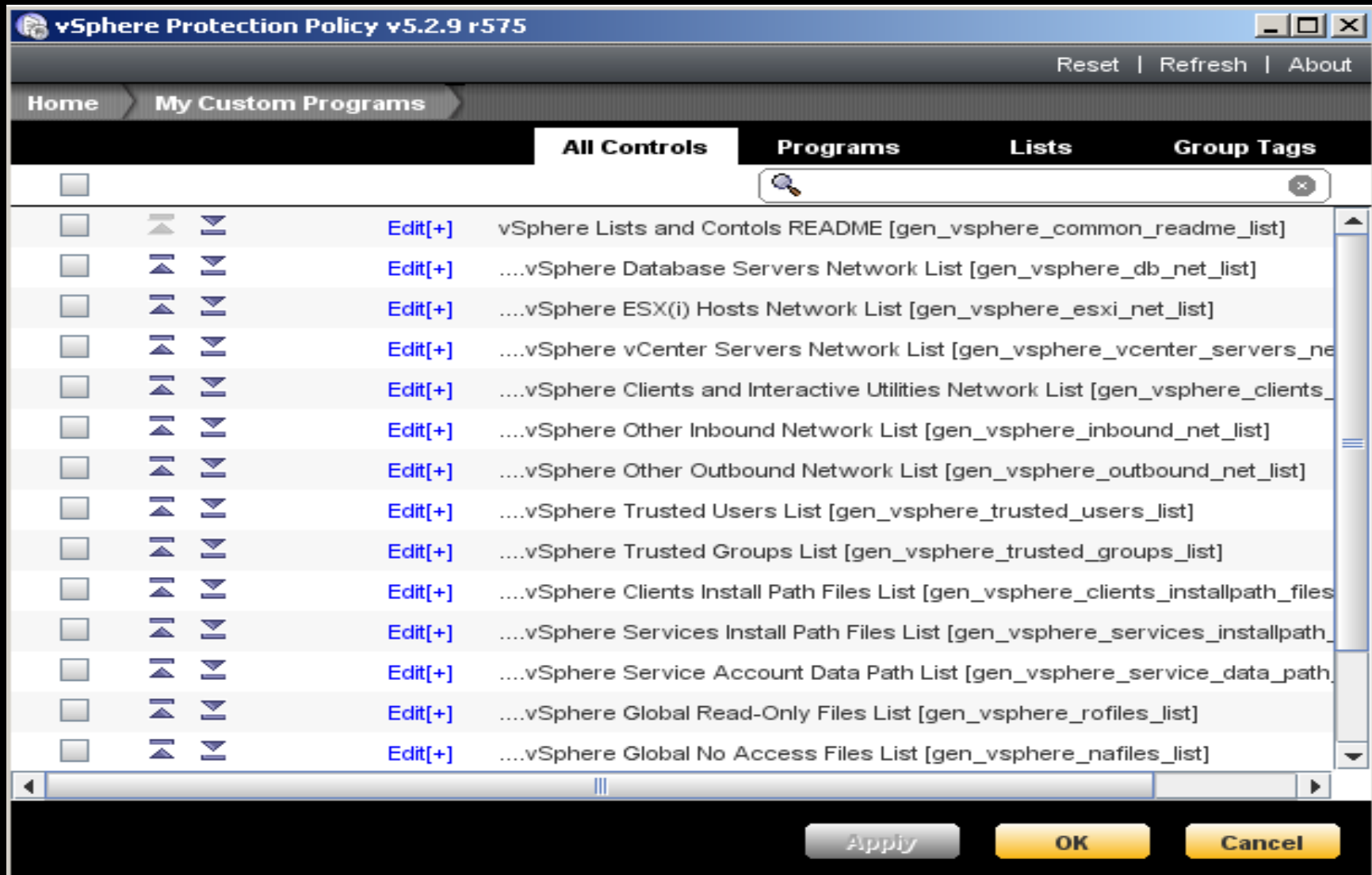
VUM03 – Provide Windows system protection on Update Manager system

VUM04 – Avoid user login to Update Manager system

HMT03 – Establish and maintain ESXi configuration file integrity

HMT15 – the “messages” kernel log file should be monitored for specific errors

vSphere Protection Policy



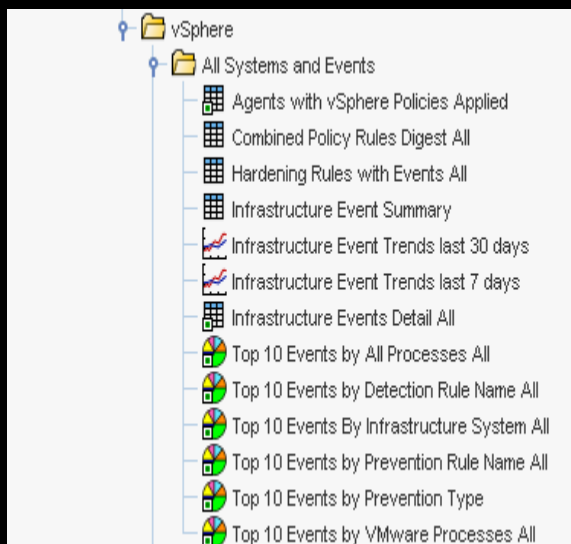
vSphere ESXi Detection Policy Screenshot – All Rules

General Settings	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi Host File Integrity Monitor (HMT03)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - Config.xml
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - ESX.conf
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - Hosts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - License Files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - Openwsman.conf
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - Proxy.XML
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - SSH Keys
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - SSL Key and Cert Files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Configuration Files - VMware Config
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi Login Activity and Access Monitor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	Failed Login Detection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	Failed Login threshold, time interval, and Severity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Record Individual Failed Login(s) to Console
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi Login Success Monitor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	Root Login Detection (Console)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	Root Login Detection (SSH)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	Root Login Detection (SSH public key)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	User Login Detection (Console)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	User Login Detection (SSH)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	User Login Detection (SSH public key)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	Login Detection Based On Time of Day or Week
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi Logoff Monitor
General Settings	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rule Restriction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Virtual Machine Configuration Monitor (VMXnn)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	VM Disk Shrinking Enabled (VMX01)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	VM Limit Console Connections (VMX02)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	VM Unrestricted Communications Enabled (VMX12)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	VM Logging Control (VMX20)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	VM SetInfo Memory Size Change (VMX21)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	VM Remote Operations in Guests Enabled (VMX30)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	VM Send Host Info to Guest Enabled (VMX31)
General Settings	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi Log Monitoring
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi Shell Log Monitoring
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Shell Session Started
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Shell Commands of Interest
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Shell Log Monitoring
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi SysLog Monitoring (HLG01)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Syslog error level Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Syslog hostd Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Syslog vpxa Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Syslog Generic Monitoring
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi Kernel Warning Log Monitoring (HMT15)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Unsigned Module Monitoring (HMT15)
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit[+]	ESXi Kernel Warning General Log Monitoring
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESXi VMkernel Observation Events Log Monitoring

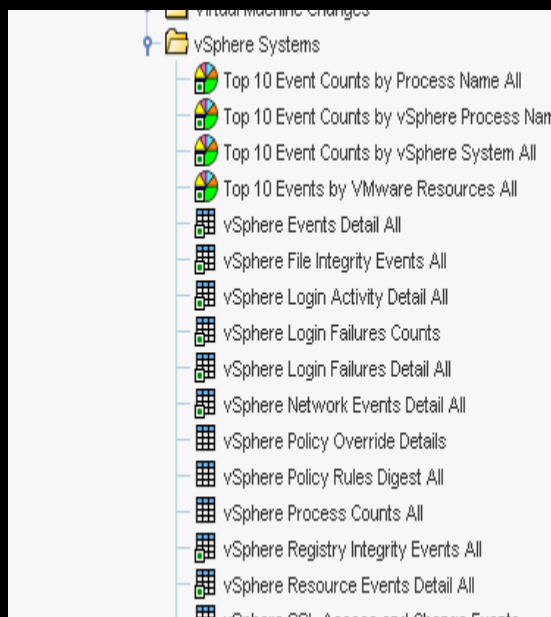
vSphere Reporting Content Overview

Queries

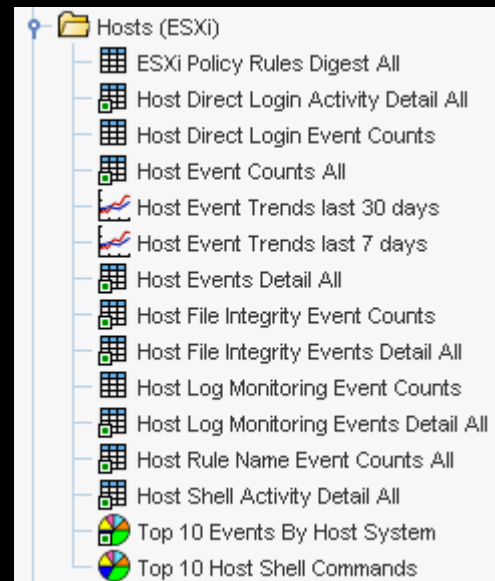
All VMware Systems



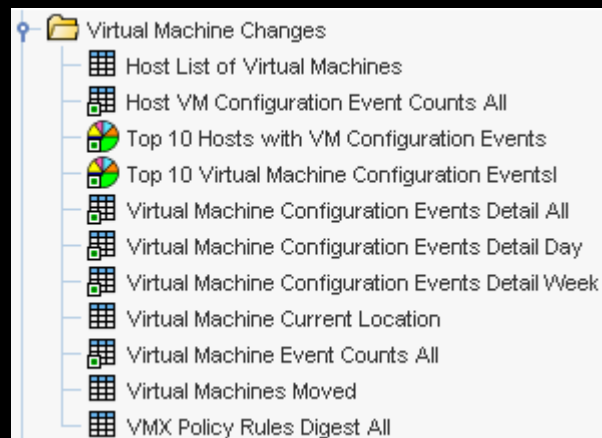
vSphere Mgt Systems



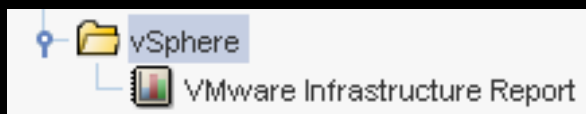
ESXi Hosts



Virtual Machines

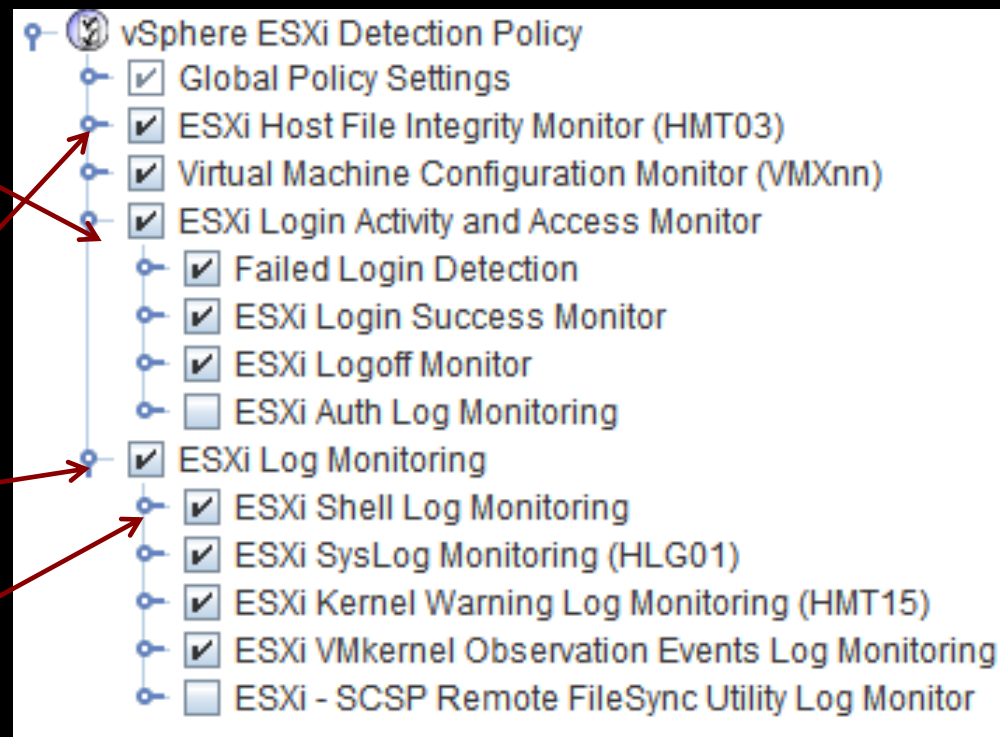
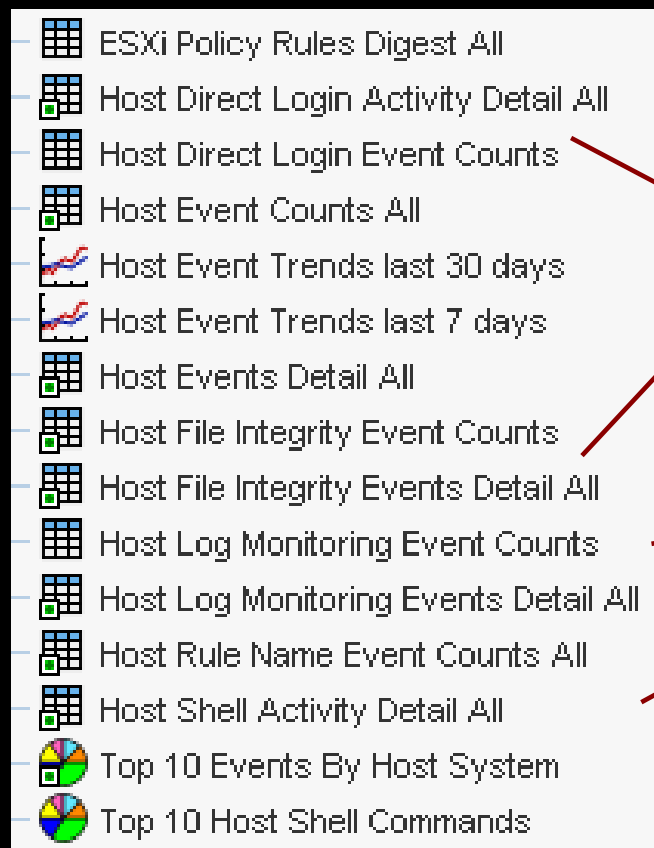


Dashboard Report



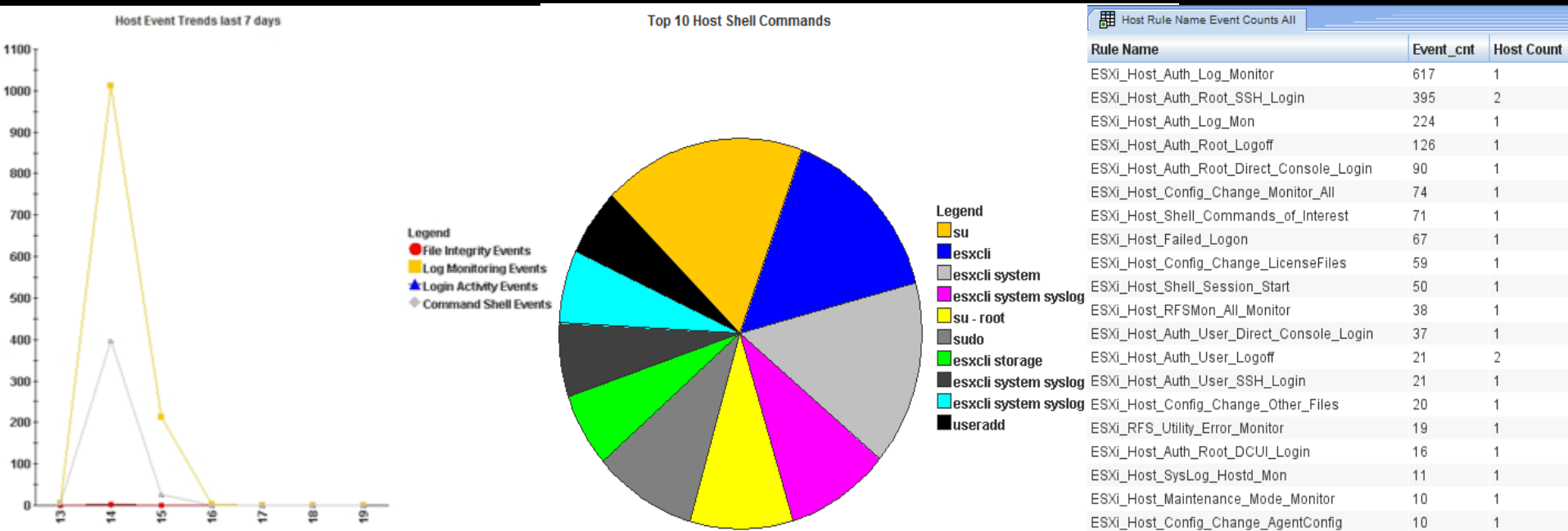
ESXi Hosts

- Filtered Queries for ESXi policy events (minus any VMX configuration changes) and drill downs to specific policy activity as shown below:



ESXi Trends, Top 10, Event Counts

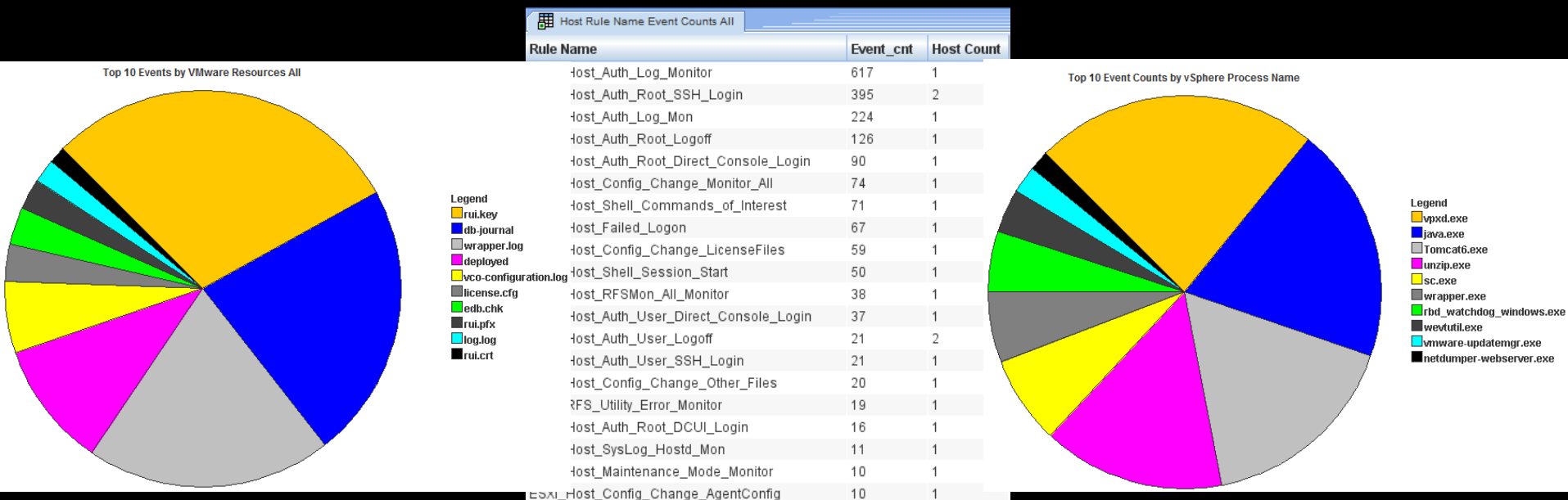
- Events specific to ESXi configuration changes and log monitoring including direct console logins and shell activity



Host Direct Login Event Counts							
Agent Name	Failed Logins	Successful Logins	Root Logins	User Logins	DCUI Logins	SSH Logins	After Hours Logins
ESXi 192.168.1.225	67	558	500	58	127	415	12
sles11-64bit-sp1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0

Top vSphere Resources and Processes and Event Counts

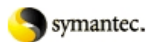
- Events related to vSphere configuration changes, resource accesses and log monitoring



Host Direct Login Event Counts							
Agent Name	Failed Logins	Successful Logins	Root Logins	User Logins	DCUI Logins	SSH Logins	After Hours Logins
ESXi 192.168.1.225	67	558	500	58	127	415	12
sles11-64bit-sp1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0

Multi-Page VMware Infrastructure Report Example

- Trends and Top n Dashboard View

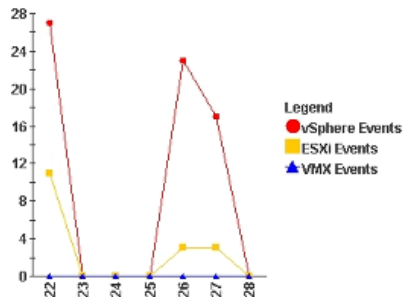


VMware Infrastructure Report

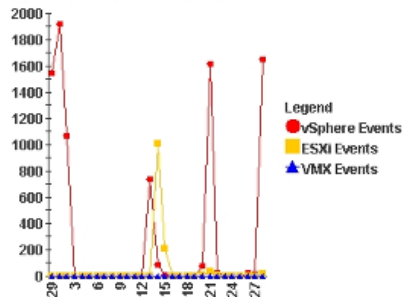
Thu, Mar 29, 2012

Infrastructure Event Trends

Infrastructure Event Trends last 7 days



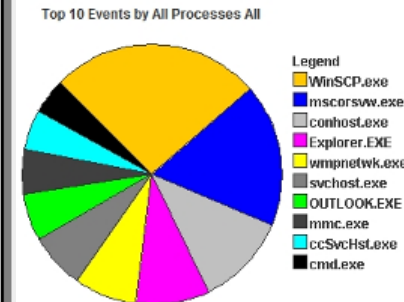
Infrastructure Event Trends last 30 days



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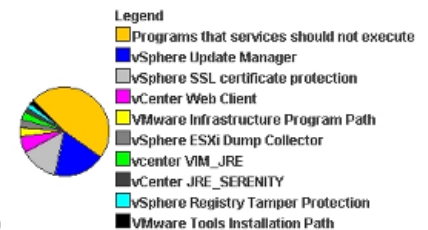
Top 10 Events by All Processes All



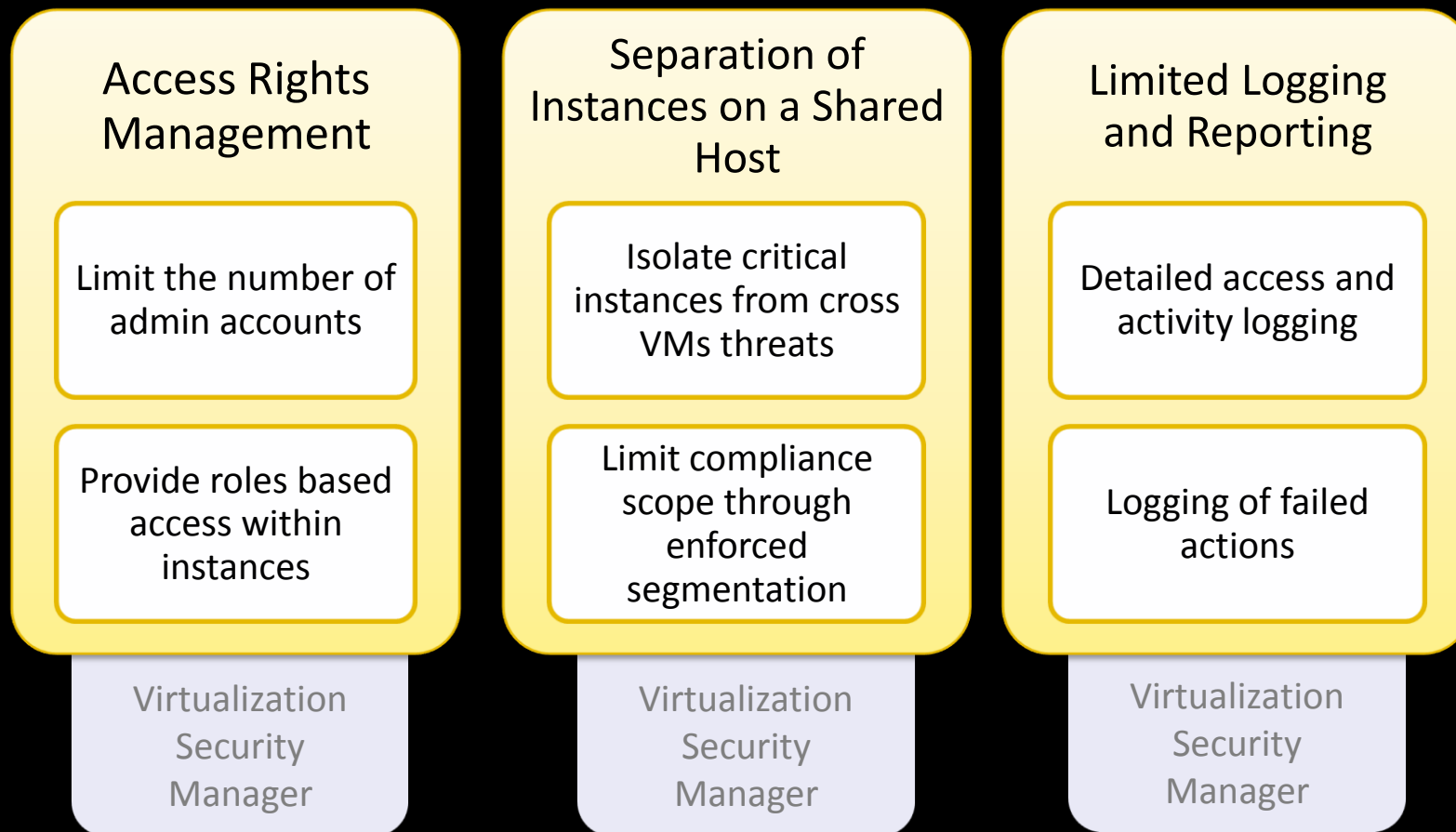
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Top 10 Events by Prevention Rule Name All



Control Compliance Suite Virtual Security Manager



Critical Systems Protection + CCS VSM

CSP: Protect & Prevent

- Exploit prevention of both internal and external threats
- Targeted protection based on data and function
- Ensure availability of critical systems
- Configuration and access change monitoring

CCS VSM: Comply & Report

- Regulatory and security guidelines
- Configuration assessment & reporting
- Logical separation to limit compliance scope
- Detailed activity reporting
- Single view of risk across physical & virtual assets
- Configuration assessment

Securing the Virtual Data Center: Key Takeaways

- Security Threats Continue To Evolve That Can Impact All Components That Are Part Of Your Virtual Data Center (e.g. Hosts/Hypervisors, Guests, Console/vCenter, etc.)
- Governmental, Regulatory And Manufacturer Virtual Infrastructure Guidelines Continue To Create Business Drivers For Securing All Elements Of A Virtual Data Center.
- Symantec Endpoint Protection v 12.1.2 Provides Features/Options To Secure Guest Virtual Machines For VMware And Other Virtual Guest Environments.
- Symantec Critical System Protection Provides Features/Options To Secure and Monitor All Components Of A Virtual Data Center.



Thank you!

Peter A. Starceski and James A. Kelly

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