VATES

Open Infrastructure made simple

Migrating from VMware with fewer than 10 hosts

A field guide for small IT teams



Vates | October 2026

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Who this guide is for

> **Leaving VMware, at small scale.** 3 to 10 hosts · one or two people · no project team required.

If you run 3 to 10 hosts and a few dozen to a couple hundred VMs, with an IT team of you and perhaps one colleague, this guide is written for your scale rather than for an enterprise with a migration project team. It covers a VMware-to-Vates migration end to end: what to check first, what a realistic calendar looks like, where the time goes, and what can bite you.

Why small structures are looking at this now

The changes at VMware since the Broadcom acquisition hit small estates hardest:

- Perpetual licenses are gone; everything is a subscription now.
- Pricing is per core, with a 16-core minimum billed per CPU. A host with two 10-core processors is billed for 32 cores. The floor works against exactly the hardware small structures run.
- The catalog was collapsed into bundles built for large estates, so you pay for components (vSAN, NSX, Aria) you have never deployed.
- In late 2025, the VVF bundle was withdrawn from sale in several European countries, a change that affected smaller customers first.
- vSphere 7 has been out of support since October 2025, and vSphere 8 follows in October 2027, so staying where you are comes with a deadline of its own.
- Moving from vSphere 7 to 8 is often not a software upgrade alone: vSphere 8 dropped support for a number of older CPU generations and I/O devices, so many small estates discover they need new servers on top of the new subscription.

At three hosts, the percentage increase is brutal even when the absolute numbers look small next to an enterprise renewal, and you have no procurement department to negotiate it down. If a hardware refresh is due anyway, the question changes shape: those new servers can just as well be your first XCP-ng hosts.

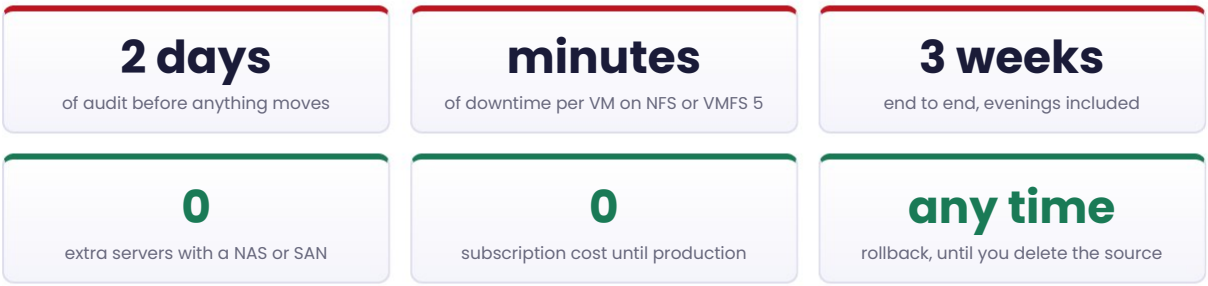
The short version

For a typical estate of 3 to 6 hosts and 30 to 80 VMs:

- **The preparation is two days.** One day of inventory, one day of constraints, covered in chapter 3. It is the part that determines whether the rest goes smoothly.
- **The downtime depends on where your VMs are stored.** On NFS and VMFS 5 datastores, the migration wizard copies each VM while it keeps running and serving users, then

transfers only what changed during a short cutover window: minutes per VM. On VMFS 6 and vSAN, the VM has to be shut down for the whole copy, so the downtime follows the size of its disks; chapter 5 shows how to plan for it.

- **The rollback is free at every step.** The original VM stays intact on the ESXi side until you decide to delete it, so an unhappy VM on Tuesday morning means starting the old one again, not an incident.
- **You usually need no additional hardware.** With a NAS or SAN, the lab machine becomes your first production host and each ESXi host you empty gets reinstalled as the next one. vSAN on the source side or XOSTOR as the target changes that, as chapter 4 explains.
- **The whole project runs about three weeks**, or 8 to 12 working days of your time, most of it in evenings and quieter moments rather than in one continuous block.
- **You pay nothing until you go to production.** On a 5-host estate with 16-core CPUs, the three-year difference between VMware VVF and Vates VMS comes to roughly 79 020€ at resellers' public list prices, with the calculation set out in chapter 9.
- **Things can still go wrong**, and chapter 7 lists the six failure modes we see most often at this scale, each with its fix.



The whole project in six numbers, for an estate of 3 to 6 hosts.

WHAT THIS GUIDE ASSUMES

The guide assumes a working vSphere environment on 3 to 10 hosts, shared storage on a NAS or small SAN (or local disks), and standard workloads: Windows and Linux servers, a database or two, file services, perhaps a small business application. If that sounds like your setup, everything that follows applies directly.

What you are migrating to

Vates VMS is a complete, open source virtualization platform from Vates, the French vendor behind XCP-ng and Xen Orchestra. Three of its components do most of the work at your scale:

- **XCP-ng** replaces ESXi: a type-1 bare-metal hypervisor built on the Xen Project, in production from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies, with LTS releases and monthly security updates.
- **Xen Orchestra (XO)** replaces vCenter and your backup product at once: VM management, scheduled backups, replication and restore in one web console, with no agents inside your VMs.
- **XO Lite** has no VMware equivalent, and you will like it: a management UI embedded in every XCP-ng host. No appliance to deploy, no server to maintain. Browse to the host's IP and manage VMs. For a 3-host shop it can even be the primary interface while you settle in.

The parts of the model that matter at your size

The subscription is per host. Not per core, not per socket, not per VM. Three hosts means three, whatever CPUs you put in them. Entry-level support plans are sized precisely for small estates, and multi-year terms carry discounts. For an exact figure, one short conversation with Vates sales settles it: host count, support tier, done.

An expired subscription never stops your VMs. The entire stack is open source. If you let support lapse, you lose the safety net, not your infrastructure. For a small structure whose renewals sometimes slip through the cracks, this is not a detail.

The vendor is reachable. Support is staffed by the engineers who build the product, up to 24/7 coverage with a one-hour response commitment on critical incidents, including direct SSH assistance. When you are the whole IT department, having the people who wrote the hypervisor on the other end of a ticket changes what "support" means.

Vates has been listed in the Gartner Market Guide for Server Virtualization since 2022, and the same stack that KDDI France, Biocoop or the Festival de Cannes run in production runs unchanged on your three hosts. There are no crippled small-business editions: live migration, high availability and the full security feature set are in the software everyone gets.

Before you start: the two-day audit

At your scale the audit is two focused days, and it stays the cheapest insurance on the whole migration. The list below is complete: work through it as it stands.

Day 1: inventory.

- List every VM: name, OS, vCPU, RAM, disk sizes, and above all who uses it. At small scale the forgotten VM is the classic surprise; the one nobody claims is the one that matters to accounting at month-end.
- Flag any disk larger than 2 TB. These migrate fine, since the platform supports virtual disks up to 16 TB now that the QCOW2 format has gone GA, but you want to know where they are and check their target storage type in advance.
- Note the datastore type of every VM (NFS, VMFS 5, VMFS 6 or vSAN), because it decides whether the VM can migrate warm or has to be shut down for the whole copy.
- Note where snapshot chains have built up, because long chains slow the migration considerably and are best consolidated or deleted before each VM moves.
- List the software that touches the hypervisor directly: backup agent, monitoring probe, antivirus console, UPS shutdown tool. Each needs a plan: replaced by XO, reconfigured, or verified against XCP-ng.

Day 2: constraints.

- Write down your backup obligations: retention periods, offsite copies, anything an auditor or insurer expects. The backup chain must survive the migration intact.
- Sketch the network: VLANs, the management network, anything with a hardcoded IP pointing at a VM. You will replicate this on the XCP-ng side before moving anything.
- Check your current servers against the XCP-ng hardware compatibility list. Hosts that vSphere 8 no longer supports are often perfectly usable here, which can remove the refresh from the budget altogether.
- Identify the two or three VMs that genuinely cannot take an evening of downtime, along with the large majority that can, since this split is what drives the whole calendar.
- Check your renewal date, because finishing before it is worth real money and the calendar in chapter 8 should be built backwards from it.

> **ONE THING TO DO RIGHT NOW, BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE**
>
> Test-restore one backup today, on your current platform. The reason has less to do with the migration than with the fact that a migration is exactly the moment you find out whether your backups actually restore, and that is far better learned this week than mid-project.

Start with a lab on spare hardware

The lab is where the project stops being theoretical, and it costs nothing but a machine you already own. Any 64-bit server with virtualization extensions will do: a decommissioned host, the desktop under your bench, or the oldest of your production hosts if you have already emptied it. XCP-ng installs from a USB stick in about fifteen minutes, and Xen Orchestra deploys as a VM from the XCP-ng console in a few clicks, though you can also start with XO Lite, which is already running the moment the host boots.

Take as long as you need: some people get through the list below in two long sessions, others spread it over a few weeks, an hour at a time. What matters is having handled the platform under no pressure before the first production VM depends on it.

There are three things worth validating, in this order:

1. **Import one real VM.** Not a test VM: a copy of one of yours, via the V2V wizard (next chapter). A Windows one, because Windows is where driver questions live, and the XCP-ng Windows drivers are Microsoft-signed, so the install follows the standard path your policies expect.
2. **Break something on purpose.** Reboot the host mid-operation, pull the network cable, restore the VM from a backup you just made. You are not testing the platform, you are training the person who will run it: you.
3. **Set up one backup job to your NAS** and run a full restore, since the pattern you validate here is exactly the one you will use in production.

None of this costs anything: XCP-ng and Xen Orchestra are open source, and you only subscribe when you move to production.



With a NAS or SAN, no additional server is needed at any point.

Each host you empty becomes the next one you migrate onto.

THE LAB DOUBLES AS YOUR FIRST PRODUCTION HOST

A pattern worth planning for from the start: once validated, the lab machine becomes your first production XCP-ng host. You migrate a first batch of VMs onto it, which frees an ESXi host, which you then reinstall as the second XCP-ng host, and so on. With storage on a NAS or SAN, the migration consumes no extra hardware at all.

WHEN THE ROTATION DOES NOT WORK: VSAN AND XOSTOR

Rotating hosts one at a time assumes your VMs live on storage outside the hosts, on a NAS or a SAN. Two setups break that assumption. On the source side, emptying and decommissioning hosts one by one from a vSAN cluster is difficult, because a small vSAN cluster rarely has the spare capacity and redundancy to lose a node halfway through the project. On the target side, XOSTOR needs at least three hosts to start and is not something you grow comfortably one host at a time. In either case, plan the XCP-ng side as a block: new servers if a refresh is due anyway, temporary hardware, or an interim NFS repository where migrated VMs land before moving onto XOSTOR once three hosts are ready.

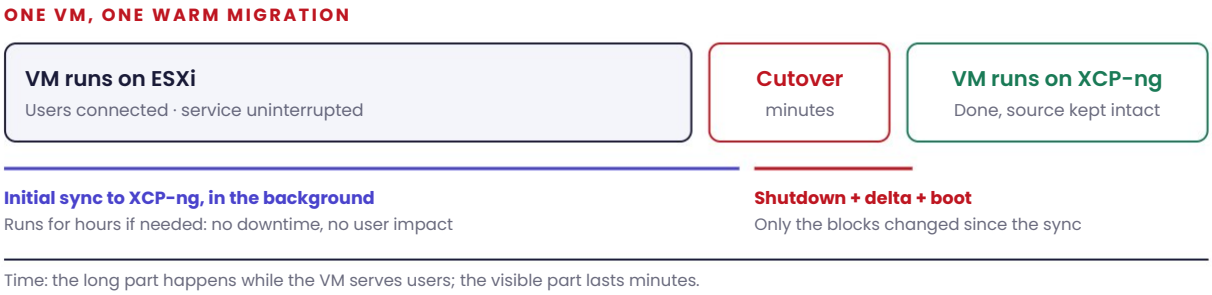
The migration itself, VM by VM

Here is exactly what happens.

How V2V works

Xen Orchestra ships a built-in V2V (VMware to Vates) wizard. It talks to your ESXi or vCenter over the network (HTTP access to the API is enough; no agent, no direct storage access) and reads the disks whatever the datastore type. On NFS datastores, and usually on VMFS 5, it uses warm migration:

1. **Initial sync.** A snapshot of the running VM is exported and written to XCP-ng storage. It takes as long as your network and disks need, and the VM keeps serving users throughout.
2. **Cutover.** The VM is shut down on the VMware side. Only the blocks that changed since the snapshot are transferred: a small delta.
3. **Boot.** The VM starts on XCP-ng, so the downtime you actually pay for is the delta transfer plus one boot, which for most VMs means minutes.



Warm migration (NFS and most VMFS 5 datastores): the heavy lifting runs in the background, the downtime is the delta.

Warm migration is not available everywhere. It needs at least one snapshot of the VM, and the type of datastore the VM sits on decides the rest:

Datastore on the ESXi side	Migration mode	Downtime for the VM
NFS	Warm	Minutes: the delta plus one boot
VMFS 5	Warm in most cases; cold if the warm import fails	Minutes, or the full copy time
VMFS 6	Cold: the VM is shut down before the import	The full copy time
vSAN	Cold: the VM is shut down before the import	The full copy time

VMFS 6 has been the default datastore format since vSphere 6.5, so many estates will be on the cold path for most of their VMs. For a cold import, the downtime is the time the disks take to cross your network: size each evening window from the disk sizes in your inventory, and keep the largest VMs for a weekend.

The per-VM routine

For each VM, the checklist is short and quickly becomes muscle memory:

1. Consolidate or remove snapshots on the VMware side.
2. Uninstall VMware Tools.
3. Launch the import in the V2V wizard; let the initial sync run during the day.
4. At the agreed time (end of day, lunch break), trigger the cutover.
5. Boot on XCP-ng, install the XCP-ng guest tools, check the application with its owner.
6. Update anything pointing at the VM if its address changed (usually nothing: the VM keeps its IP configuration).

On VMFS 6 and vSAN, steps 3 and 4 become one: at the start of the window, shut the VM down, take a fresh snapshot, then launch the import, and the VM stays off until it boots on XCP-ng.

The wizard handles several VMs at once, so batch by service: all of accounting one evening, the file servers the next. And vSAN users are covered: the wizard imports directly from vSAN datastores, with the VM powered off.

Before launching the largest VMs, estimate how long their first transfer will take. Xen Orchestra imports run as XAPI tasks, which time out after 24 hours by default, so any disk that will take longer than a day needs that limit raised beforehand. The procedure is in the 24h task timeout section of the XCP-ng migration documentation.

If the calendar is tight, you can also run several Xen Orchestra instances in parallel, XOA or XO built from sources, each importing from a different cluster. The transfers then add up

instead of queuing behind a single appliance.

> **YOUR ROLLBACK COSTS NOTHING**
>
> The migration does not delete the source VM: until you decide otherwise it sits on the ESXi side, stopped but intact. If a migrated VM misbehaves on Tuesday morning, you shut it down on XCP-ng, start the original on ESXi, and you are back where you were. Keep the sources until each batch has survived a full business cycle, including a month-end if one applies.

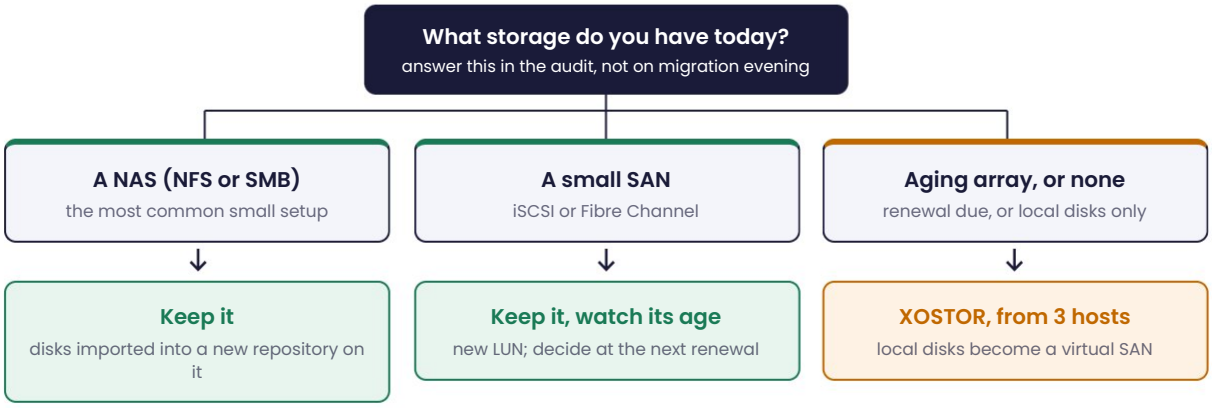
Storage: the small-structure decision

At fewer than 10 hosts, storage is usually one of three situations, and each has a clean answer.

You have a NAS (NFS or SMB). Keep it, but do not expect the VMs to stay where they are. XCP-ng mounts the NAS as a storage repository, and the import converts each VMware disk and writes it into that repository: a new share, which can sit on the same NAS as the VMware datastore. The hardware stays, the data is copied once. Check the free space beforehand, since the array holds both copies of a VM until you delete the source. This is the most common small-structure setup and the shortest migration path: no new storage to buy.

You have a small SAN (iSCSI or Fibre Channel). Also supported directly, with the same rule: the disks are imported into a new LUN set up as an XCP-ng repository, not reused in place, so plan the space for both copies. The real question is the SAN's age: if its support renewal is coming up, the migration is the natural moment to decide whether the next storage is a SAN at all.

Your SAN or NAS is dying, or you never had shared storage. This is the case where **XOSTOR** earns its place, pooling the local disks of your XCP-ng hosts into a replicated virtual SAN from as few as 3 hosts. Built on DRBD technology with LINBIT, deployed and managed entirely from Xen Orchestra. Data is replicated across hosts, so losing one host does not lose storage, and there is no array to buy, power, or renew support on. For a 3-host structure, replacing an end-of-life SAN with disks in the servers you already own is frequently the single largest saving of the whole project. The catch is timing: XOSTOR starts at three hosts and is awkward to grow one host at a time, so it fits best when the three XCP-ng hosts are available together, as the callout in chapter 4 explains.



Two of the three answers keep your current array: only the disks are copied into a new repository on it.

The storage decision at this scale usually takes about five minutes.

One planning note either way: disks larger than 2 TB are supported up to 16 TB on almost all repository types, with two exceptions at the moment (XOSTOR and SMB repositories). If

your audit flagged a very large disk headed for one of those, decide its placement now rather than on migration evening.

Backup: sorted from day one

In a small structure, backup is usually a paid product bolted on the side, with its own agents and its own renewal. On Vates VMS it is a feature of the console.

Xen Orchestra includes incremental backups with changed block tracking (after the first full, only modified blocks move, so the nightly window stays short), replication of your critical VMs, restore of a full VM or a single file, and backup targets on NFS, SMB, or S3-compatible object storage, which gives you an offsite copy without any extra product. Health checks can automatically boot-test a backup in isolation, so a bad backup is discovered by a scheduled job instead of by an incident.

The transition rule is simple and non-negotiable: **run both backup chains in parallel** during the migration. Your old backups keep covering the VMs still on ESXi; XO covers each VM from the day it lands on XCP-ng. Retire the old product only when its last retention window has aged out, and keep any archives your obligations require.

If you are attached to Veeam, note that Veeam Data Platform 13 lists XCP-ng among its supported hypervisors, with official plugin support announced for 2026; check its status when you decide. For most sub-10-host estates, though, XO's built-in backup covers the need and removes a renewal line entirely.

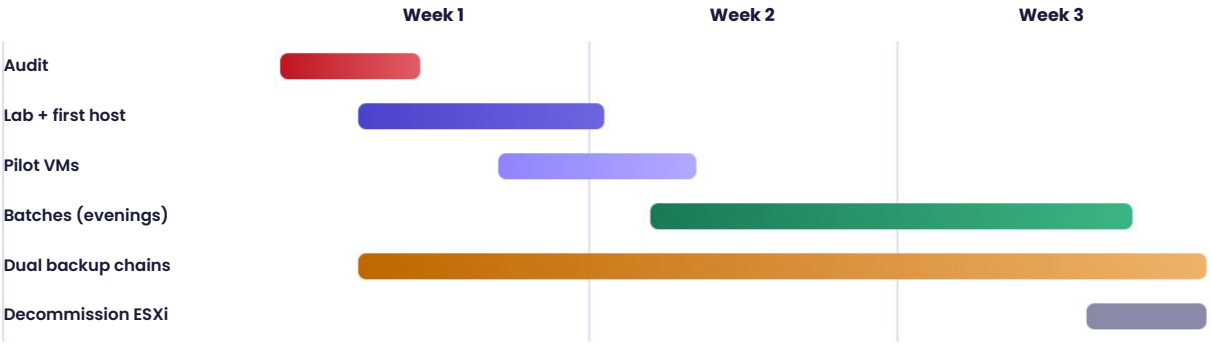
What can go wrong, honestly

Here is the real list at this scale, with the fix for each case.

What you hit	Why	What you do
A VM will not boot after migration	A driver or boot-mode question, nearly always on older Windows	Install the guest tools in safe mode, or match the boot mode (BIOS vs UEFI) to the source. The rollback is sitting on ESXi, so revert, investigate calmly, retry
The initial sync is slow	It moves at the speed of your network and your slowest storage, and a multi-terabyte VM on a gigabit link takes what it takes	XAPI tasks time out after 24 hours by default, so raise that limit before starting any disk whose first transfer will take longer (see the 24h task timeout section of the XCP-ng migration docs). With it raised, very long transfers do complete: large VMs on poor links have gone through after eight days, while the source VM kept running
A snapshot chain sabotages the transfer	Long chains make migration slow and fragile	Consolidate on the VMware side first, which is why the audit flags them. If you hit one mid-flight, stop, consolidate, restart the import
An appliance VM resists	Black-box appliances such as phone systems or badge controllers sometimes cannot have tools removed or added	Migrate as-is and test, which often works; otherwise redeploy fresh on XCP-ng and restore the config, or leave it on one remaining ESXi host until end of life
A hidden dependency surfaces	A monitoring probe, a UPS shutdown script, one PowerCLI task in a scheduled job	Audit day 1 exists to catch these. When one slips through, the equivalents exist in XO's API, PowerShell module and alerting, and it is an hour of reconfiguration
You get stuck	At this scale there is no colleague to rubber-duck with	Take a support plan from the first production day rather than after the first incident. The community forum is unusually active, and Vates migration packages cover the whole project at a fixed cost

A realistic three-week calendar

Here is what the whole project looks like for a typical estate of 3 to 6 hosts and 30 to 80 VMs, run by one or two people alongside their normal job. Larger estates within our scope stretch the middle phase, not the structure.



Each freed ESXi host is reinstalled as an XCP-ng host and absorbs the next batch.

An example calendar for 30 to 80 VMs. The structure holds; only the batch phase stretches with VM count.

Phase	Effort	Notes
Audit	2 days	Chapter 3, done once, saves its cost several times over
Lab and first host	A few sessions, at your pace	Chapter 4; the lab machine becomes production host 1
Pilot VMs	2-3 evenings	Two or three low-stakes VMs, watched for a few days
Migration batches	1-2 evenings per batch	Syncs run in daytime, cutovers at end of day
Parallel backups	No active effort	Both chains run scheduled; retire the old one later
Decommission	1-2 days	Final checks, wipe, subscriptions closed before renewal

Three practical rules keep this calendar honest. The first is to build it backwards from your VMware renewal date, because finishing before that date is worth real money. The second is to migrate your two critical VMs mid-project rather than first or last, when the routine is sharp and the calendar is still calm. The third is to let one full business cycle pass after each batch before deleting anything on the source side.

What it costs, all in

No price list here: your host count and support tier make it a one-conversation quote. But here is the shape of the budget.

- **The project itself costs nothing.** The platform is open source, so you can evaluate it and run the migration before any subscription starts.
- **The subscription** starts when production does: per host, entry tiers sized for 3-host estates, multi-year discounts. One line, flat, predictable, and it replaces up to three renewals (hypervisor, backup product, and possibly the monitoring add-on).
- **Your own time**, as set out in the table above: 8 to 12 working days over three to four weeks for a 3-to-6-host estate.
- **Optional**: a Vates migration package if you want the project run for you, or a training workshop. Both are small fixed amounts at this scale, and training pays for itself quickly when the IT team is one person deep.

Against that, put your VMware renewal quote, projected over three years with per-core terms and your next hardware refresh factored in.

A worked example

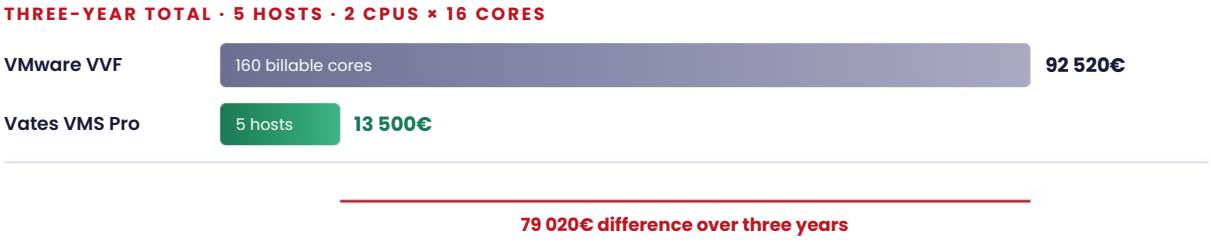
Take a typical estate at this scale: **5 hosts, 2 CPUs each, 16 cores per CPU**. VMware bills per physical core, so that estate is 5 × 2 × 16 = **160 billable cores**. Vates VMS bills per host, so the same estate is **5 units**. On a 3-year term, with no negotiated discount applied on either side:

Over 3 years	VMware VVF	Vates VMS (Pro)
Billing units	160 cores	5 hosts
Annual	30 840€ / $35,184	4 500€ / $4,500
3-year total	92 520€ / $105,552	13 500€ / $13,500

A WORD OF CAUTION

Broadcom does not publish a price list for vSphere Foundation, so the VMware figures above are the lowest public list prices we could find at authorized resellers, checked on 5 August 2026, for a one-year subscription per core, excluding tax. They are neither a Broadcom quotation nor a price Vates can offer or guarantee, and what organizations actually pay is generally lower once volume, term and negotiation come into play. The only multi-year VMware prices publicly advertised are strictly linear, so the three-year figure is the annual rate multiplied by three, whereas the Vates column applies our published 10% three-year discount. Every source, reseller SKU and assumption is listed on the calculator page, and any error reported to us is checked and corrected.

The difference is **79 020€ (or $92,052) over three years**, roughly 26 340€ per year, on an estate of five servers. Both columns include vendor support, and both exclude hardware, power, migration effort and staff time.



Lowest public reseller list prices, no negotiated discount. Vendor support included on both sides. See the methodology in the notes.

The same estate, billed two different ways.

Even at half the list price, the gap on this estate stays above 3x. The comparison also moves with your hardware: the more cores per CPU you run, the more the per-core side grows while the Vates line stays flat at five hosts. Refreshing those same five servers with 32-core CPUs would double the VMware bill and change nothing on the Vates side.

Run your own configuration through the Vates VMS vs VMware cost calculator: host count, CPUs per host, cores per CPU, VMware edition, and the discount your renewal quote actually shows.

For nearly every sub-10-host structure that runs this comparison, the migration effort is repaid within the first year, and everything after that is margin.

> **NEXT STEP**
>
> Book the two-day audit in your own calendar this month and set a spare machine aside for the lab. Everything else follows from those two decisions. For a quote or a scoping call: **vates.tech**. Documentation and community: **xcp-ng.org** and **xen-orchestra.com**.

Appendix: the migration checklist

This page is meant to be printed and pinned next to your screen. Work through it in order; each block maps to a chapter of this guide.

Before anything else (chapter 3)

Done	Item
	One backup test-restored on the current platform, today
	Every VM listed: name, OS, resources, disk sizes, datastore type, and its actual owner
	Disks larger than 2 TB flagged, target storage type checked for each
	Snapshot chains noted, consolidation planned before each VM moves
	Hypervisor-touching software listed: backup agent, monitoring, UPS tool, antivirus console
	Backup obligations written down: retention, offsite copies, what the auditor expects
	Network sketched: VLANs, management network, hardcoded IPs
	The two or three zero-downtime VMs identified, and everything else confirmed as flexible
	VMware renewal date on the wall, calendar built backwards from it

Lab and first host (chapter 4)

Done	Item
	Spare machine identified, XCP-ng installed from USB
	Xen Orchestra deployed (or XO Lite used) and explored
	One real Windows VM imported through V2V, guest tools installed
	Something broken on purpose: host rebooted mid-operation, restore performed
	One backup job to the NAS configured and a full restore verified
	Decision made: lab machine promoted to production host 1, or dedicated hardware chosen

Migration batches (chapters 5 to 7)

Done	Item
	Storage decision made: keep the NAS/SAN, or XOSTOR from 3 hosts
	Free space checked on the NAS/SAN for the imported copies, which coexist with the sources until they are deleted
	If the source uses vSAN or the target is XOSTOR: staging planned (new or temporary hosts, or an interim NFS repository)
	Network replicated on the XCP-ng side: VLANs, bonds, management interfaces
	Pilot batch of 2-3 low-stakes VMs migrated and watched for several days
	Per-VM routine written down and followed: snapshots consolidated, VMware Tools removed, sync by day, cutover by evening, guest tools in, owner check
	Both backup chains running in parallel, each VM covered by XO from its landing day
	Critical VMs scheduled mid-project, neither first nor last
	After each batch: one full business cycle passed before touching the sources

Wrap-up (chapters 8 and 9)

Done	Item
	Each freed ESXi host reinstalled as XCP-ng and absorbed into the pool (NAS or SAN setups)
	Support subscription active from the first production day
	Old backup product retired only after its last retention window aged out
	Source VMs deleted batch by batch, archives kept where obligations require
	ESXi hosts wiped, VMware subscriptions closed before the renewal date
	One post-migration restore test performed from the XO chain

Notes and sources

Information on VMware licensing changes comes from public sources published between 2024 and 2026: official Broadcom announcements relayed through its distribution network, specialized press coverage (The Register, CRN, Techzine) and public analyses by licensing advisory firms. Documented facts cited here include the end of perpetual license sales in early 2024, per-core pricing with a 16-core minimum per CPU, the withdrawal of the VVF bundle from sale in several European countries in late 2025, and the end-of-support dates for vSphere 7 (October 2025) and vSphere 8 (October 2027).

Information on Vates VMS, including the V2V warm migration mechanism, its availability by datastore type (NFS and VMFS 5; VM powered off on VMFS 6 and vSAN) and the default 24-hour XAPI task limit, QCOW2 general availability in XCP-ng 8.3 with virtual disks up to 16 TB (2026), Microsoft-signed Windows PV drivers (2025), XOSTOR cluster characteristics, and XCP-ng's listing among supported hypervisors in Veeam Data Platform 13 with official plugin support announced for 2026, comes from official Vates documentation and announcements (vates.tech, xcp-ng.org, xen-orchestra.com, docs.xcp-ng.org, help.vates.tech).

Effort estimates in chapters 8 and 9 are illustrative orders of magnitude for typical sub-10-host estates; actual durations depend on VM count, data volumes, network throughput and maintenance windows.

The worked example in chapter 9 rests on the assumptions of the Vates VMS vs VMware cost calculator (vates.tech/en/pricing-and-support/vmware-cost-calculator). VMware is billed per physical core at a minimum of 16 cores per CPU. Because Broadcom does not publish a price list, the VMware vSphere Foundation rate is the lowest public list price found at authorized resellers on 5 August 2026 (192.75€ per core per year at Software-Express for the euro figures, $219.90 at Wiresoft for the dollar figures), for a one-year subscription, excluding tax; these are advertised reseller prices rather than a Broadcom quotation, and no negotiated discount is applied. The only publicly advertised multi-year VMware SKUs are priced linearly, so multi-year VMware figures are the annual rate multiplied by the term. Vates VMS is billed per host on the Pro plan at published list prices, excluding tax, including the 10% three-year commitment discount. Vendor support is included on both sides. Hardware, power, cooling, network, third-party backup targets, migration effort and internal staff time are excluded on both sides. Vates list prices are published at vates.tech.

Facts and product statuses were verified as of July 2026; fast-moving items should be re-checked against current vendor communications. This document is provided for information purposes.