

BlueCat vRO™ Plug-in

Simplify complex IT tasks and workflows for VMware solutions

BlueCat's vRO™ Plug-In enables easy integration of VMware™ vRealize Orchestrator (vRO) functionality, allowing implementation, management and automation of numerous workflows within BlueCat's centralized and automated infrastructure. With complete integration into BlueCat Address Manager through the vRO Plug-In, IT can easily streamline tasks through a principal control point. This centralized management ability drives more reliable service delivery and enables greater agility while providing complete visibility into all network activity.

Connecting your BlueCat-enabled IT environment and processes with vRealize Orchestrator allows for implementation of comprehensive, automated user self-service which can dramatically improve IT operational efficiency for your VM environments. Employ pre-defined workflows from BlueCat Address Manager and the vRealize Orchestrator library, or build your own workflows in VMware to perform other provisioning tasks.

Automate VM Provisioning

BlueCat's vRO Plug-in provides an automated solution for assigning IP addresses and updating DNS information. You can configure the Plug-in to use pre-defined VMware workflows, or build your own custom versions to perform other provisioning tasks. The vRO Plug-in is designed to drop into an existing VMware environment and automate the 'IP-ing' of VMs, to simplify the IP and DNS naming for automated resource creation and deletions, while keeping all IP information centralized and up-to-date in the IP Address Manager.

Eliminate the Need for Reserved VMware IP Blocks

The usage of the block of IPs for virtualization is typically invisible to the network administrator. The practice also violates the basic purpose of elastic resources. VMware has the capability to reserve a pool of IP addresses for use with VM deployments which works well for the VMware administrator. However, it is not uncommon for the pool to run out before the VMware administrator requests additional space, which creates a "fire drill" moment that can stall the business. Getting this information requires the VM team to work with the network team – which often incurs delays. With BlueCat's Plug-in, vRealize Orchestrator is able to make direct calls against the IP Address Manager by BlueCat to secure IP addresses and DNS hosts to associate with deployed VMs or vApps.

Optimize Utilization of Scarce IP Addresses

Highly dynamic virtualized environments can very quickly use IP addresses, and are generally not as efficient at releasing unused addresses. Many organizations optimize their usage of IPv4 addresses before they move to IPv6, which can result in unexpected VM provisioning errors as IP addresses become unavailable. BlueCat's vRO Plug-in ensures optimal utilization of increasingly scarce IPv4 network space in highly dynamic VM environments including allocating and returning addresses quickly and efficiently.

Simplified Auditing and Powerful IP Oversight

The BlueCat vRO Plug-in allows the network team to understand what has happened to the IP addresses associated with virtualization. It also allows for centralized auditing of all IP related changes whether virtual or physical. This is an important consideration in organizations concerned with compliance and security related audits.

Policy Administration

BlueCat's vRO plug-in enables centrally managed policy administration to ensure newly deployed VMs are configured into the correct network with proper permissions access to ensure order, security and consistency.

BlueCat vRO Plug-in Highlights

The BlueCat vRO Plug-in is certified 'VMware Ready' and can easily be used with VMware's vRealize Orchestrator, vCloud Director and vRealize Automation. The Plug-in is transparent to virtualization admins – they do not need to change their approach or learn a new tool. It also enables virtualization admins to continue to easily provision new VMs and ensure that they are connected to the network, while providing the network team with the visibility and control they need over the organization's IP and DNS spaces.

Provisioning

Allow users to easily provision new VMs so that they are network ready and immediately usable.

- Leverages the VMware interface that users are already using
- Automatically assigns IP based on chosen networks
- Provisions DNS names so that the VM is instantly usable
- Allows simultaneous provisioning of VMs for multiple environments and tenants

Visibility

Users can track and audit provisioned addresses and hosts from a single point of control.

- Ensure IP addresses and DNS hosts are properly allocated
- Track all IP and DNS hosts centrally, whether virtual or physical
- See detailed audit history on every change
- Quickly see the relationships between IPs, VMs (MAC addresses) and DNS names

Control

Limit access to virtualization networks and ensure that admins can only modify their environment.

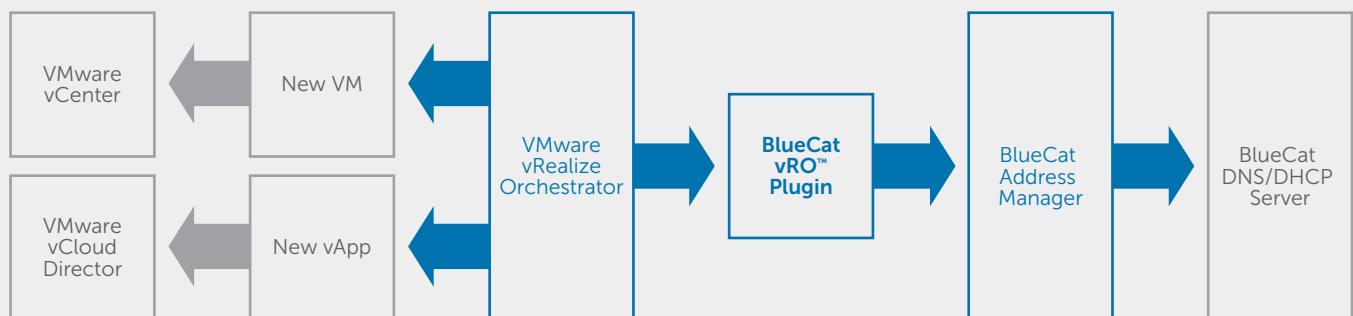
- Use role-based access controls to assign change, view or block access to networks, IPs or DNS zones & records
- Allow only virtualization networks to be modified by VMware
- Prevent physical assets from being provisioned in virtual networks
- Ensure new addresses and hosts do not conflict with existing VMs



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How it works

The vRO Plug-in provides integration between VMware vCenter Orchestrator to IP Address Management. It installs directly in vCenter Orchestrator and allows users to continue to work in the VMware interfaces they are accustomed to with the benefit of direct access to the IP Address Management stack.



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