Pure Storage vSphere Web Client Plugin 3.0 Release Notes

General

Version 3.0 of the Pure Storage vSphere Web Client Plugin supports vSphere (vCenter and ESXi) version 5.5 and later and Purity version 4.6 and later.
Users can upgrade to this version of the plugin from previous release version 2.1 or higher.

What's New

VVols Support

This release of the plugin includes support for managing VVol virtual disks when used with vSphere version 6.5 and Purity version 5.0.
The plugin supports the following new functionality:

- VASA storage provider registration
- Importing of VM storage policies from Purity protection groups to vSphere
- Creation of VVol datastores on FlashArray running Purity version 5.0 or higher
- Displaying information about the FlashArray volumes backing VVol virtual disks
- Recovery of an accidentally deleted VVol virtual disk
- Creation of new VVol virtual disks from snapshots or copies of disks of other virtual machines
- Snapshot creation of single VVol virtual disks
- Replacement of existing VVol virtual disks with snapshots or copies of other VVol virtual disks
- Full RBAC support for all VVol operations through the plugin

For further details please see the Pure Storage Plugin User Guide version 3.0.

VMFS6 Support

This release of the plugin now provides support for VMFS6 when using vSphere version 6.5 or higher. When using the plugin to create a datastore, the UI dialog will provide an option to format the filesystem using VMFS6 if the attached hosts are running ESXi version 6.5 or higher.

iSCSI Auto-configuration

This release of the plugin supports the auto-configuration of iSCSI on the ESX host bus adapter to connect to the specified FlashArray. This feature will create the iSCSI software HBA on the ESX host(s) if they do not exist, and will add all necessary target address information to the HBA to connect to the FlashArray.

Multi-select Host and HostCluster Datastore Mounting

This version of the plugin provides a menu action to select a list of hosts to connect and mount to a specified datastore. This allows the user to bulk mount a specified datastore to a series of hosts, or all hosts in a cluster with one action.

Updated End User License Agreement

This version of the plugin contains an updated EULA. Please review the contents of the updated EULA and contact sales or support should you have any questions or concerns.

What's Fixed

Plugin installation failure messages

In previous versions, the plugin would incorrectly install in environments which were unsupported, such as vSphere 5.1. The plugin would also not provide useful error messages when a vSphere user with insufficient privileges would attempt to install the plugin.

In this version, the plugin installer verifies both the vSphere version and the user privilege level before installation, providing a useful user message in the event of a failure.

Remove *'Sample Flash Array'* and introduce global and context-specific actions

This version of the plugin removes the 'Sample Flash Array' default entry in the list of FlashArray objects in the plugin view. The dialog now relies on global actions for the object list to allow the user to add a FlashArray to the plugin without requiring an empty placeholder entry.

Returned volume space utilization graph to datastore views

The previous version of the plugin removed the volume size graph from the datastore view and the resize datastore dialog. This version returns the bar graph which shows the total number of bytes written to the specified volume.

Host bus adapter scanning

In previous releases, when a change to the FlashArray or connection required a rescan of the host bus adapter, the plugin would initiate a rescan of all host bus adapters. This process can take a very long time depending on the current state of all controllers. This version of the plugin will selectively scan HBAs depending on the type of configuration

change. This version also scans the minimal set of HBAs in parallel, further speeding up plugin operations.

Lun ID -1 is showing under Pure Storage tab under Storage in vSphere for a datastore on ESXi 6.0 and later

When browsing datastore information in the *'Pure Storage'* tab datastore view of datastores mounted on an ESXi version 6.0 or later host, the informational pop-up message would incorrectly show the LUN ID for the datastore as -1 and number of paths as 0. This issue has been fixed in this release, and the LUN ID and paths will now display correctly for all datastores residing on a FlashArray.

Compliance with OSGi best practices

For this release, the plugin now complies with all OSGi best practices. When the plugin is loaded into vSphere 6.5, there are no errors or warnings for all automated OSGi runtime compliance checks.

Schedule Datastore Space Reclamation fails if datastore name is too long

When creating a scheduled space reclamation task through the plugin, the action would not adjust the name of the scheduled task if the datastore name was long. The result would cause the scheduled task to not be created and the action would fail silently. The scheduled task name is now correctly sized and the scheduled task will be correctly created under these circumstances, or the dialog will return an appropriate error.

Resizing a datastore does not check maximum datastore size bounds

When resizing a datastore, the Plugin now verifies the requested size against VMware datastore size limitations and issues an appropriate error.

Resizing a VMFS datastore sometimes does not expand the datastore on ESXi 6.5

The Plugin running under vSphere 6.5 may silently fail to resize a datastore on an ESXi 6.5 host through the UI. The Plugin will now verify all datastores are successfully resized or issue an appropriate error.

vSphere plugin create datastore dialog includes hosts in maintenance mode

The Plugin did not correctly filter out hosts which are in maintenance mode in the list of hosts when creating a datastore using the Plugin 'Create Datastore' menu. The plugin now correctly filters out hosts which cannot be configured with a new datastore.

Host and hostgroup checking too strict

The Plugin would give an error when attempting to modify or create a datastore on a host or hostgroup if the vSphere cluster's list of ESX hosts did not match exactly to the list of hosts on the FlashArray within the hostgroup. The inventory matching has now been relaxed so that the host group on the FlashArray can contain additional hosts not present on the vSphere cluster.

Sorting on RBAC "Add User" dialog will only sort on the current page

When adding a user through the RBAC menu, the dialog would previously only sort the user names displayed on the current page. The dialog will now globally sort all users.

Confusing error message when attempting to delete a volume

The Plugin will fail to delete datastores backed by multiple extents. The previous error message would claim there were *'too many disks'*. The error message should have read: *'The VMFS datastore has multiple extents. Deletion is not supported with the plugin'*.

Toggling the check uncheck box in "Role Based Access Control" window activates the Submit button.

When attempting to add an RBAC user in the previous release, the 'Submit' button would not activate unless you toggled specific controls on the dialog. This issue has been resolved.

Host Group creation in plugin allows invalid characters for host group name

In previous releases, the Plugin would allow invalid characters to be used in the dialog for host and hostgroup creation, resulting in a failure of the operation. The dialog will now correctly check for invalid characters.

Binocular search does not work in FlashArray list view UI

In previous releases, the binocular search available in the FlashArray objects view did not work. This has been fixed in this version, allowing search and highlighting for all objects in this view.

Large datastore create fails silently

In previous releases, specifying a datastore size beyond the vSphere supported limit during creation would cause the datastore create operation to fail silently. This release of the plugin now validates the specified datastore size against vSphere maximum and minimum supported sizes and issues an appropriate error.

FlashArray snapshot creation times not displayed in client timezone

The creation time of FlashArray snapshots in the FlashArray Snapshots tab of the vSphere Web Client is now rendered in the timezone of the client web browser rather than the timezone of the vCenter server, and sorting the snapshots by creation time correctly sorts the list in ascending or descending chronological order.

Known Issues

Concurrent plugin operations may fail on linked-mode vCenter servers

All past and present versions of the plugin may exhibit failures when used simultaneously by 2 or more vSphere web client users on vSphere servers configured in linked-mode. Failures may report unrelated error messages and may require a retry. We reiterate that these failures only manifest when the plugin is used to manage vSphere servers in linked-mode and will not affect any standalone vSphere configuration.

Plugin installation may fail due to invalid TLS options set by third-party plugins

Plugin installation may fail because of the global TLS options configured by other third-party vSphere Web Client plugins installed on your vCenter server. Some plugins, such as Cisco UCS vSphere Web Client plugin versions prior to 2.0.2, set the global default TLS option to version 1.0, which is no longer supported on Pure Storage FlashArray due to security concerns. If the global TLS options have been set to version 1.0, the Pure Storage plugin will not be able to be downloaded from the FlashArray for installation into vCenter. To work around this issue, it may be necessary to disable or upgrade the Cisco UCS plugin and potentially other plugins which incorrectly set the default TLS option, restart the vSphere Web Client, and then install the Pure Storage vSphere Web Client plugin. Once the Pure Storage plugin is installed, the Cisco UCS plugin can be re-enabled.

Creating a VMFS Datastore from a snapshot does not always allow connection to same hosts

When creating a new VMFS datastore from a copy of a FlashArray snapshot in the datastore view, the dialog may not allow connecting the new datastore to all hosts which are connected to the original datastore the snapshot originates from if the original datastore is mounted on a subset of a host cluster. As a workaround, the datastore may created on a single selected host and then manually connected and mounted on additional hosts after creation. In a future version of the plugin, we intend to provide a full list of valid hosts to optionally connect the newly created datastore to.

vSphere plugin requires all linked vCenter instances to be online

It is currently necessary for all vCenter instances in a linked-mode configuration to be online and accessible for the Plugin to function correctly.. A single vCenter instance which is not online or accessible may cause some configuration operations to fail, including adding a new FlashArray to the plugin.

Iframe content in vSphere plugin fails to load until certificate is accepted

The Plugin displays the FlashArray UI and datastore IOPS/throughput/latency charts through an iframe created in the web client plugin. If the certificate of the array's web UI has not previously been accepted in the browser, the iframe may display the following message, *'The webpage at ... might be temporarily down or it may have moved permanently to a new web address'*. To clear this message, load the web UI of the

FlashArray directly in a browser window, accepting the certificate. Refresh the plugin browser window and the FlashArray UI should now display.

vCenter solution users are included as default users when enabling RBAC

When adding RBAC users through the Plugin, the default list of potential users to add will contain the set of vCenter server solution users. These users are invalid choices for RBAC and should be ignored.