



VMware vSphere and Entrust CloudControl

Integration Guide

2024-12-20

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Chapter 1. Introduction

Entrust CloudControl integrates with VMware vSphere by protecting your vCenters and ESXi hosts. CloudControl organizes your vSphere inventory into categories to help you find information about your vSphere deployment. With vSphere, you must keep insiders such as virtual administrators in their “swim lanes.” CloudControl uses role and asset-based access control to help you define who can do what to which objects. It also uses workflows supporting secondary approval for sensitive and high impact operations. Entrust CloudControl identifies configuration errors in VMware vSphere hosts using pre-built assessment frameworks. It uses active remediation and proactive monitoring ensuring ongoing compliance.

1.1. Product configurations

Entrust has successfully tested the integration of Entrust CloudControl with VMware vSphere in the following configurations:

System	Version
VMware vSphere	7.0.3 and 8.0.0
Entrust CloudControl	6.6.0

1.2. Requirements

Before starting the integration process, familiarize yourself with:

- The documentation and setup process for VMware vSphere.
- The documentation and setup process for Entrust CloudControl. The [online documentation](#) contains everything needed to successfully install and deploy CloudControl.



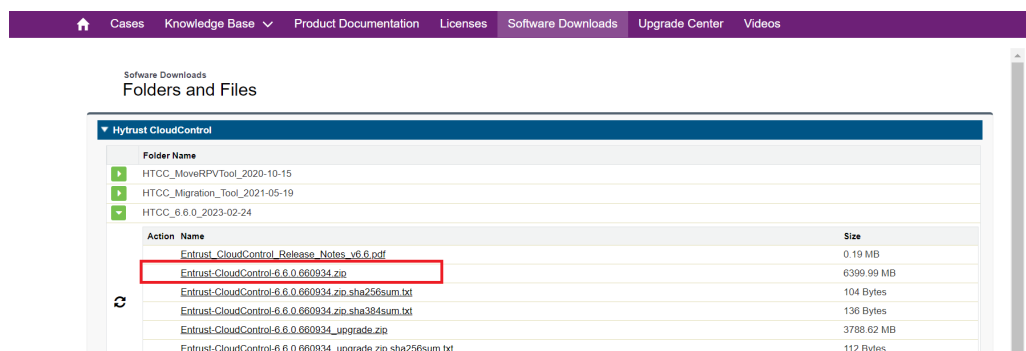
Entrust recommends that you allow only unprivileged connections unless you are performing administrative tasks.

Chapter 2. Procedures

It is important to note that this guide uses a standalone CloudControl deployment and does not use Active Directory. Users are local to the system. CloudControl was not configured to use Active Directory. CloudControl also supports a cluster environment and this will be documented in the [installation guide](#).

2.1. Download the CloudControl software

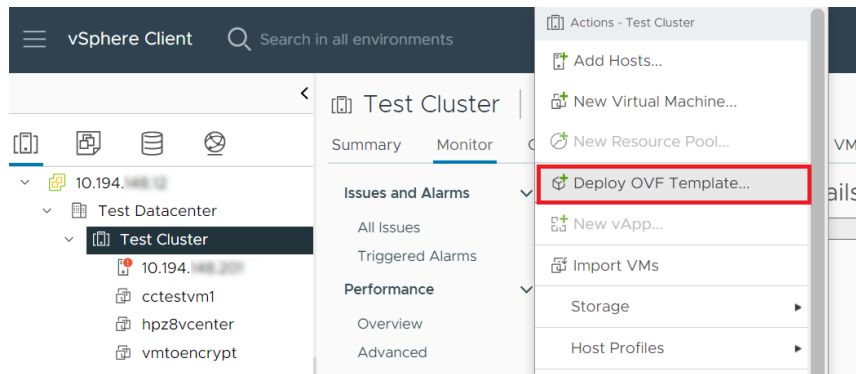
1. Go to <https://my.hytrust.com/s/software-downloads>.
2. Log in and select **HyTrust CloudControl**.
3. Open the folder `HTCC_6.6.0_2023-02-24`. This folder contains version 6.6.0 that was used in this guide.
4. Select the `Entrust-CloudControl-6.6.0.660934.zip` link to download the file.



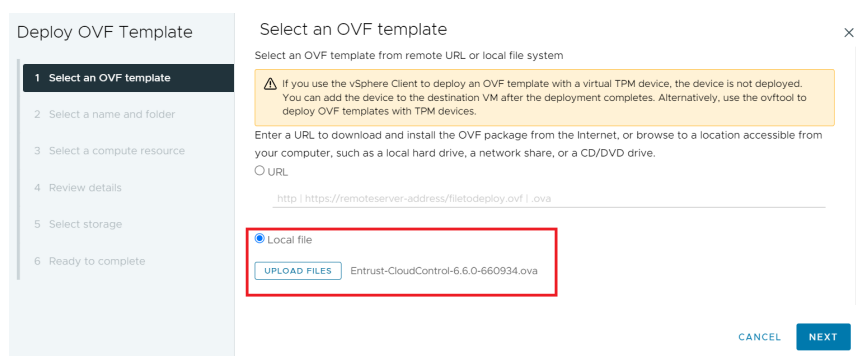
5. Once the file has been downloaded, open the ZIP file to access to the OVA file.

2.2. Deploy the CloudControl VM from the OVA

1. Log in to vCenter.
2. Navigate to **Inventories > Hosts and Clusters**.
3. Select the resource pool where you plan to deploy CloudControl.
4. Select **Actions > Deploy OVF Template** from vSphere Web Client.



5. On the Select an OVF Template page, select **Local File** and upload the **Entrust-CloudControl-6.6.0-660934.ova** file.



Follow the instructions on [Deploying CloudControl](#) as required.



For more information refer to [Installing CloudControl from an OVA](#) in the online documentation.

2.3. Power on the appliance

1. Log in to the vSphere Client.
2. Locate the Entrust CloudControl virtual machine in the inventory.
3. Right-click the CloudControl virtual machine and select **Power > Power On**.

2.4. Configure the CloudControl virtual appliance

This guide uses a Standalone Node setup. Follow the online documentation for instructions for [Creating a Standalone Node](#).

2.5. Set up the CloudControl GUI

Once the standalone node has been configured, you must finish the setup using the GUI. Follow the online documentation instructions on [Setting Up the CloudControl GUI](#).

2.6. Add vCenters to CloudControl

You can now add the VMware vSphere inventory into CloudControl.

2.6.1. Add a vCenter to CloudControl

To add a vCenter to CloudControl:

1. From the Home tab, select **Inventory > vSphere**.
2. On the vSphere page, select **Actions > Add vCenter**.

Add vCenter @ 10.194.148.12

1. About 2. Configure 3. Details 4. Onboard Hosts 5. Host Credentials

IP/FQDN*
10.194.148.12

Port*
443

Service Account Managed Credentials Account

Service Account*
administrator@ipfsc.local

Service Account Password*

Adding vCenter
All linked vCenters will be discovered starting from the IP/FQDN provided.

Service Account
The vCenter service account to be used for CloudControl. The same account must be used across all vCenter Servers, and it must have administrator privileges.

Managed Credentials Account
Access service account credentials from a stored credential management account. View or add an account in [credentials management](#).

Continue

2.6.2. Configure CloudControl after adding a vCenter

To configure CloudControl after adding a vCenter:

1. On the **Configure** page, view and approve the certificates for the Platform Services Controller (PSC) and all vCenters that were discovered.
2. The **Approve** checkbox must be checked for all certificates before you can add the vCenter.
3. Certificates from a trusted source have the **Approve** checkbox checked automatically.
4. Select the **Certificate** link to view the certificate details.

Certificates without a certificate authority are displayed with a warning icon. Select the link in the tool tip to add a CA. You can manually approve these certificates by checking the **Approve** checkbox. Certificates that are invalid or expired are displayed with an error icon. These certificates cannot be

approved. All vCenter and PSC certificates are displayed on the **Certificate Authorities** tab on the **Certificates** page.

5. Select **Approve** to populate the approve checkbox for the certificate, or select the **x icon** to close the window.

6. Determine if you want to use a single Published IP for each vCenter or a Published IP Range to be used for all current and future vCenters in this ELM.

If you plan to use Access Control, you must have a Published IP address or range.

7. For a Published IP, select the **Configure** link in the **Published IP** column of the vCenter table, enter the Published IP Address and Netmask, and select **Apply**.

8. For a Published IP Range, enter the **Published IP Address** and **Netmask** in the **Published IP Range** section.

9. Enable **Tag Sync** if you want vCenter Tags in CloudControl.

The screenshot shows the 'Add vCenter' configuration page in the Entrust CloudControl interface. The page is titled 'Add vCenter' and has a progress bar with five steps: 1. About, 2. Configure (active), 3. Details, 4. Onboard Hosts, and 5. Host Credentials. Below the progress bar, there are several sections:

- Platform Services Controller:** A table with columns for Name, Certificate, and an Approve checkbox. The Name is '10.194' and the Certificate is '10.194'. The Approve checkbox is checked.
- vCenters:** A section with the heading 'Approve certificates and, optionally, configure an individual Published IP or IP range for access control protection for each vCenter.' Below this is a table with columns for vCenter, Published IP, and Certificate. The vCenter is '10.194', the Published IP is '10.194', and the Certificate is '10.194'. The Approve checkbox is checked.
- Published IP Range:** A section with the heading 'Published IP Range' and a sub-heading 'If you want to use a Published IP Range instead of providing an individual Published IP for each vCenter, enter the IP range and netmask here.' Below this are input fields for IP Range and Netmask.
- Tag Sync:** A section with a toggle switch labeled 'Tag Sync' and a sub-heading 'Choose whether or not to sync vCenter tags with CloudControl. This setting can be changed anytime within System Jobs.'

At the bottom right of the page, there is a blue 'Continue' button.

10. When all certificates are approved, select **Continue**.

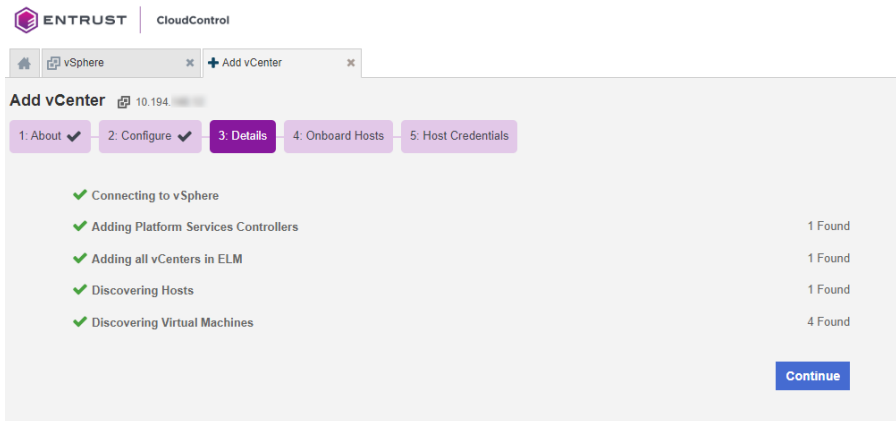


You cannot select **Continue** until all of the Approve checkboxes are checked.

Check the online documentation instructions for more detail on [Adding vCenters to CloudControl](#).

2.6.3. View Details

On the **Details** page, you can monitor the process as all of your vSphere information is collected.

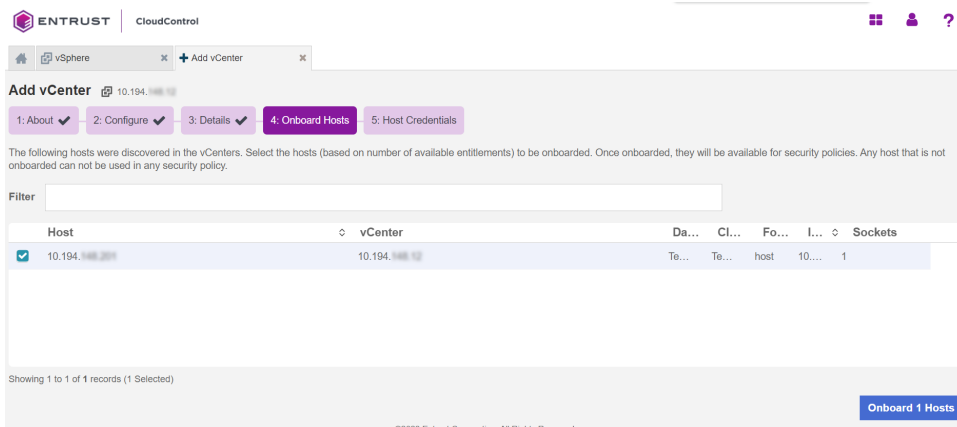


2.6.4. Onboard the hosts

On the **Onboard Hosts** page, you can view the hosts that were discovered, remove hosts, or add additional hosts to be added to CloudControl. Select the hosts that you want to add and select **Onboard Hosts**.



You must add hosts before you can run Configuration Hardening policies (assessment and remediation) against your hosts.



2.6.5. Host credentials

On the **Hosts Credentials** page, you can add or import the credentials for your ESXi hosts.

2.6.5.1. Add credentials

To add credentials:

1. Select one or more ESXi hosts that share the same credentials and select the **Missing** link in the Credentials column.

2. In the **Add Host Credentials** window, enter the User Name and Password for the ESXi hosts and select **Apply**.

Edit Host Credentials ✕

Host 10.194.100.200
Status ✖ Missing - Credentials have not been added
Last Updated Mar 15, 2023, 2:05:56 PM

Service Account
Provide a privileged service account to access the selected ESXi host.

Service Account Credentials
Add service account username and password

Managed Credentials Account
Access service account credentials from a stored credential management account

Service Account *
root

Service Account Password *
.....

Cancel Apply

The **Credentials** column for each host shows the host status. This can be one of the following:

- Missing
- Valid
- Invalid



You may encounter an Invalid Certificate when adding the Host Credentials. To resolve this issue, the vCenter root CA must be imported into the CloudControl's Certificate Authorities. Check [\[procedures:::certificate-invalid\]](#) for troubleshooting.

2.6.5.2. Import credentials

To import credentials, you must upload a CSV file in the following format:
ESXINAME FQDN, PASSWORD, USERNAME:

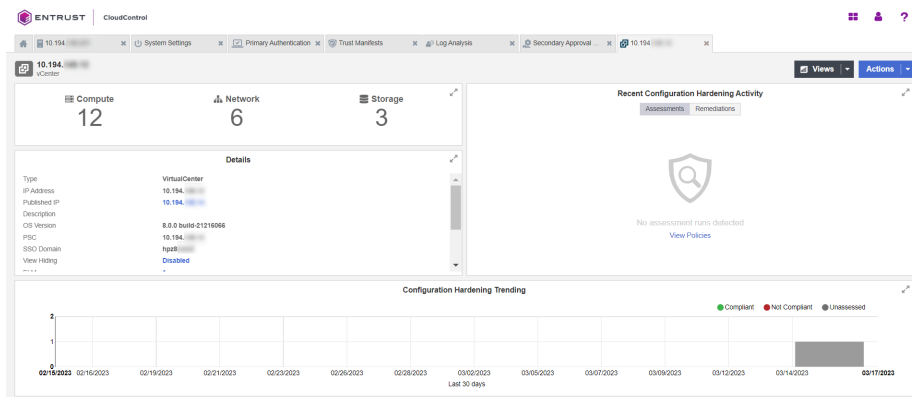
1. Select one or more ESXi hosts that share the same credentials and select **Import Credentials**.
2. Select the file that you want to import and select **Continue**.
3. Review the summary on the **Discovered** page.
4. Select **Apply**.



If you do not add the credentials, then you cannot run Configuration Hardening policies (assessment and

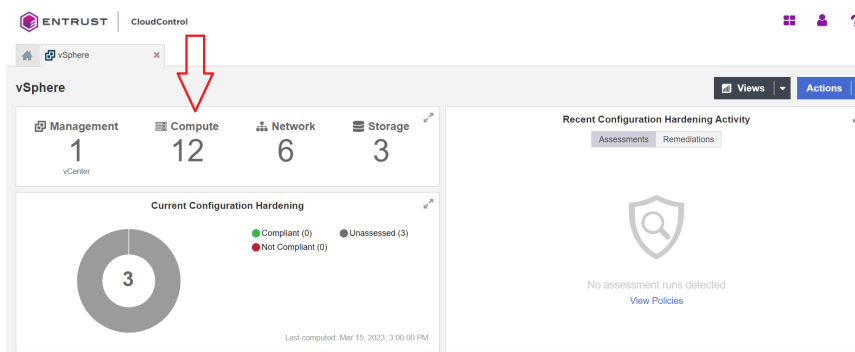
remediation) against your hosts.

- 5. After you have added the credentials, you can enable Global PIP. Global PIP is disabled by default. For more information, see [Enable Global PIP](#).
- 6. Select **Continue**.
- 7. Select **Done** to view the dashboard for the newly added vCenters.

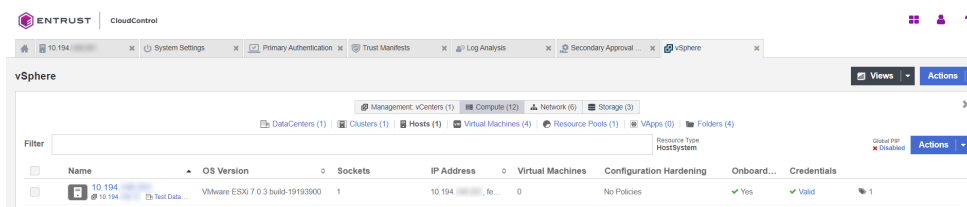


2.7. Enable Global PIP

- 1. From the **Home** tab, select **Inventory > vSphere**.
- 2. On the vSphere page, select the **Compute** link.



- 3. On the **Compute** tab, select the **Hosts** link.



- 4. On the **Hosts** page, next to the **Actions** button, select the **Global PIP Disabled** link.

Global PIP
✘ Disabled **Actions** ▾

Credentials

✔ Valid 🔒 0

5. Alternatively, you can select one or more hosts and select **Actions > Manage Global PIP**.
6. In the **Manage Global PIP** window, do the following:
 - a. Set the **Status** to **Enabled**.
 - b. For **Global PIP / FQDN**, enter the IP address or FQDN to use for the Global PIP.
 - c. Enter the **Netmask**.
 - d. Check the **confirmation** checkbox.
 - e. Select **Apply**.

Manage Global PIP ✕

With Global PIP, instead of individual IP addresses, one IP address is created for all of your ESXi hosts. Once added to CloudControl, the hosts are automatically assigned four ports to distinguish them from other hosts. The Range of ports to be used is from 49152 to 65535.

⚠ Making a change to the Global PIP will update the Global PIP for all ESXi hosts.

Status ENABLED

Global PIP / FQDN *

Netmask *

I understand the risks of updating the Global PIP

Cancel Apply

Global PIP is now enabled for all hosts that have been added to CloudControl.

Select **Download CSV** to download a CSV file that contains the details of all assigned ports.

Follow the online documentation [to view the assigned ports for Global IP](#).



For more details, view the online documentation on [Enabling Global PIP](#).

2.8. Add local users to the system

If you are not using AD, you can add local users to the system so they can be used to log in to vCenter and ESXi hosts using the Published IP address for the vCenter and GPIIP for the ESXi hosts.

To create a local user to the following:

1. From the **Home** tab, select **System > Primary Authentication**.
2. Select the **Add** button.
3. In the **Add Local User** window, fill the information accordingly:

Add Local User ✕

First Name *

Last Name *

User Name *

Must be at least 6 characters long, and can only contain letters, digits and the following special characters: "-", "_", ".", and "@"

Password *

A valid password must be at least 8 characters, contain at least one lower case letter, one upper case letter, one digit and one special character.

Re-enter Password *

Groups *

ASC_NetworkAdmin ✕ ASC_SecurityAdmin ✕ | ▼

Cancel Add



You can select one or more groups for the user.

For more details, view the online documentation on [Adding Local Users](#).

2.9. Test the vCenter Published IP (PIP) and ESXi Hosts Global IP (GPIP) address and ports

2.9.1. vCenter Published IP (PIP)

Once the vCenter Published IP is set/enabled, you can test it by pointing your browser to:

```
https://PIP
```

2.9.2. ESXi Global IP (GPIP) and ports

When you know the ports that were assigned when you enabled GPIP, you can log in to any ESXi using the GPIP and the https_port:

```
https://GPIP:https_port
```

2.9.3. More information

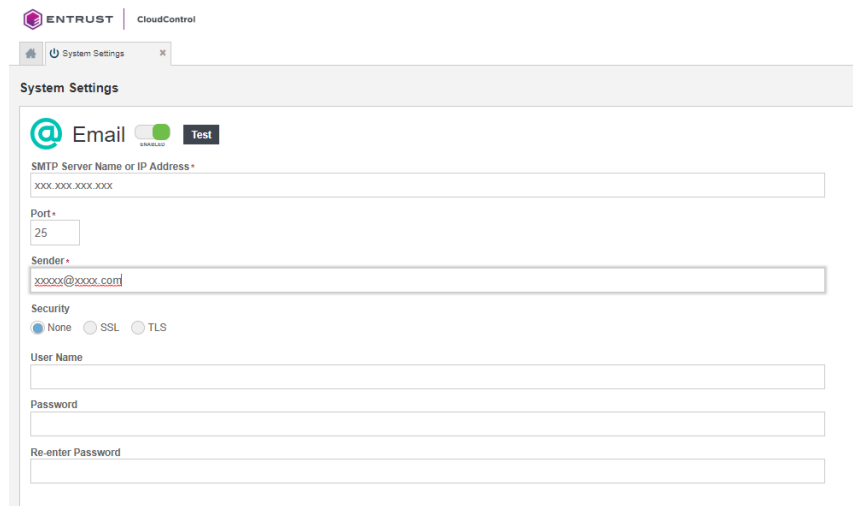
Check the online documentation for more details on [connecting to the ESXi hosts using the GPIP](#).

If CloudControl is not in AD mode, use one of the local users in CloudControl. If local users have not been created you can use the **superadminuser** local account with the password set during CloudControl configuration. Initially users must be in the **ASC_SuperAdmin** group to be able to log in using GPIP and PIP. You can change this when you implement your own access control policy.

2.10. Configure email

It is important to setup your email settings so the system can provide notification to users when required. Your SMTP and email information settings are configured during installation. You can modify them at any time.

1. From the **Home** tab, select **System > System Settings**.
2. On the **System Settings** page, select **Settings > Email**.
3. On the **Email** page, select **ON** or **OFF** to enable SMTP.
4. Fill in the information according to your settings:



The screenshot shows the 'System Settings' page in the Entrust CloudControl interface. The 'Email' section is active, indicated by a green toggle switch and a 'Test' button. The configuration fields are as follows:

- SMTP Server Name or IP Address***: A text input field containing 'xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx'.
- Port***: A text input field containing '25'.
- Sender***: A text input field containing 'xxxx@xxxx.com'.
- Security**: Radio buttons for 'None' (selected), 'SSL', and 'TLS'.
- User Name**: An empty text input field.
- Password**: An empty text input field.
- Re-enter Password**: An empty text input field.

Check the online documentation for more details on [how to modify your email settings](#).



Email notification to users is only available when Active Directory settings are enabled. This integration was performed with local users. Active Directory was not configured.

2.11. View the vSphere inventory

Now that the VMware inventory has been catalogued by CloudControl, check the online documentation on [Viewing the vSphere Inventory](#) inside CloudControl.

2.12. Logs

You can look at the logs in the system in the following places:

1. Log Analysis.
2. System Logs.

2.12.1. Log analysis

Go to the **Home** tab, select **Security > Log Analysis**.

Check the online documentation for more information on [log analysis](#).

2.12.2. System logs

To view the system logs page, from the **Home** tab, select **System > System Logs**.

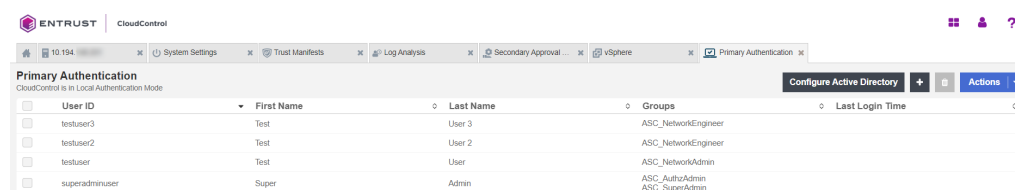
Check the online documentation for more information on [system logs](#).

2.13. Access Control

This section will show how you can use an Access Control Policy to control access to VMware resources in the system. This example creates an access control policy that will allow anyone that belongs to the **ASC_NetworkAdmin** or **ASC_SuperAdmin** group to log in to ESXi hosts in CloudControl. Anyone that doesn't belong to these groups will be denied access. Keep in mind that you also can use tags to constrain the access control policy to only resources that have the specified tags.

2.13.1. Users

Three users were created in the system that will allow to implement and demonstrate the access control policy in action.



User ID	First Name	Last Name	Groups	Last Login Time
testuser3	Test	User 3	ASC_NetworkEngineer	
testuser2	Test	User 2	ASC_NetworkEngineer	
testuser	Test	User	ASC_NetworkAdmin	
superadminuser	Super	Admin	ASC_AuthAdmin ASC_SuperAdmin	

Two users belonging to the **ASC_NetworkEngineer**. One user belonging to the **ASC_NetworkAdmin** group. And lastly, the **superadminuser** (which already existed) which belongs to the **ASC_SuperAdmin** group.

2.13.2. Tags

Tags will not be used in the example but here is an example of how to create a tag and assign it to a resource in the system. For instance, once assigned, you could use tags to constrain the access control policy to resources that have the tag.

Check the online documentation for more information on [tags](#).

1. Create a tag called **ESXi_Host**. This will be used to tag the ESXi Hosts in the system.

2. Tag the ESXi Hosts with the tag created.
3. Now tag the ESXi Hosts in the system with the **ESXi_Host** tag created.

2.13.3. Create and validate the access control policy

1. From the **Home** tab, select **Security > Trust Manifests**.
2. On the **Manage Trust Manifests** page, select **Actions > Create Trust Manifest**.
3. On the **Details** tab of the **Create Trust Manifest** page, enter the name and optional description for the trust manifest.
4. For **Policy Type**, select **Access Control**.
5. In the **Access Control Policy** section, create a rule for the NetworkAdmin Group:

Create Trust Manifest My Access Control Policy Details YAML ✕

Name *
My Access Control Policy

Description 358 Characters
This policy allows access to any ESXi Host in the system using the GPIP to only users who are in the ASC_NetworkAdmin or ASC_SuperAdmin groups

Policy Type *
Access Control

Access Control Rules Expand All | Collapse All

Name * ✕
NetworkAdmin Rule

Description 192 Characters
Give access to anyone who is in the ASC_NetworkAdmin group

Rule Type
Choose to either allow or deny this rule. A deny rule will always override an allow rule.
 ALLOW DENY

Role *
Specify the role that this rule will apply to
ASC_HostAdmin

Subjects *
Specify one or many groups and/or users that this rule will apply to
 [local] ASC_NetworkAdmin ✕

Constraints

Resource Tag + Add
Provides selection criteria based on tags applied to a resource

Subject + Add
Provides selection criteria for the user allowed to perform the action

6. Select **Add Another Rule** and add the rule for the SuperAdmin group to the policy.

Name * ✕
SuperAdmin Rule

Description 194 Characters
Give access to anyone who is in the ASC_SuperAdmin group

Rule Type
Choose to either allow or deny this rule. A deny rule will always override an allow rule.
 ALLOW DENY

Role *
Specify the role that this rule will apply to
ASC_HostAdmin

Subjects *
Specify one or many groups and/or users that this rule will apply to
 [local] ASC_SuperAdmin ✕

Constraints

Resource Tag + Add
Provides selection criteria based on tags applied to a resource

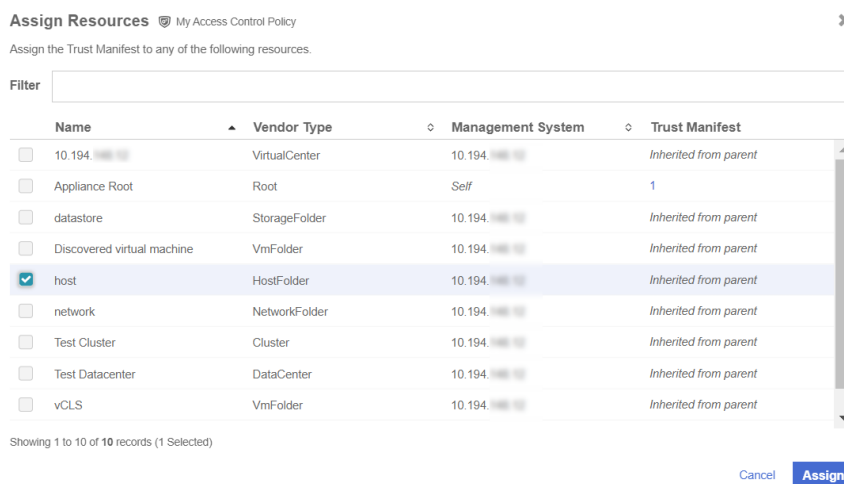
Subject + Add
Provides selection criteria for the user allowed to perform the action

[+ Add Another Rule](#)

Cancel Validate Save Publish

7. Select **Validate** to validate the policy.

8. Select **Save** to save the policy.
9. Select **Publish** to publish the policy. When you publish the policy it will ask you to assign resources to the policy. Select **host** and select **Assign**.



10. Select **Close**.

Check the online documentation for more details on [Creating an Access Control Trust Manifest from the CloudControl GUI](#).

2.13.4. Test the Access Control Policy

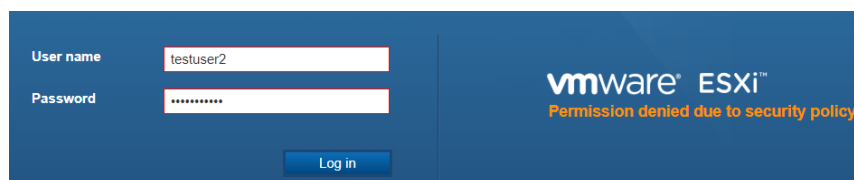
When the access control policy is in place, point your browser to the GPIIP address of the ESXi host and see if you can log in.

- Success:

Login should be successful for the **superadminuser** and **testuser**.

- Failure:

Login should fail for the **testuser2** and **testuser3** local users.



2.13.5. Logs

You can use the Logs in the system to check why access has been denied to a user. In the example, **testuser2** has been denied access. You can view the logs to

see the reasons.

1. From the **Home** tab, select **Security > Log Analysis**.

The screenshot shows the 'Log Analysis' dashboard. It includes a filter, a statistics chart for the last 7 days, and a table of log entries. The table has columns for Time, Priority, User, Action, Resources, and Status. The entry for 'testuser2' at '12:15:59 PM' is highlighted in red, showing a 'Deny' status for the 'Compute.Hostsystem.Login' action on resource '10.194. (HostSystem)'.

2. Select the record that shows the **Deny** status to see the reason for the denial.

The screenshot shows the details of a log entry for 'Mar 17, 2023, 12:15:59 PM'. The status is 'Deny' and the reason is 'Authorization denied due to no rules applying to the user via the configured access control policy for the resource(s) with name(s) [10.194. (HostSystem)]'. The 'My Access Control Policy' is listed as the policy used.

3. You will be able to see the **My Access Control Policy** was used to control the access.

2.14. Secondary Approval

Use Secondary Approval to configure CloudControl to require additional approval before users can perform selected disruptive operations on a resource. For example, you can require secondary approval before deleting or powering off a virtual machine or vApp, editing a firewall, or creating an Edge gateway service.

When a user attempts to perform a vSphere operation that requires secondary approval, the operation fails with a notification that secondary approval is required, and that a request was generated.



If you have SMTP configured, and the users or groups have an email address in AD, then email messages are generated.

This example will require the user **testuser** a secondary approval to log in to any ESXi host.

2.14.1. Create a Secondary Approval Trust Manifest from the CloudControl GUI

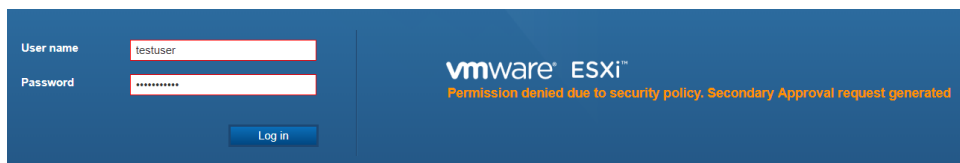
1. From the **Home** tab, select **Security > Trust Manifests**.
2. On the **Manage Trust Manifests** page, select **Create Trust Manifest** (The Plus sign in the GUI).
3. On the **Details** tab of the **Create Trust Manifest** page, enter the name and optional description for the trust manifest.
4. For **Policy Type**, select **Secondary Approval**.

5. In the **Secondary Approval Policy** section, complete according to the image below:
 - a. Select the **testuser** as the subject.
 - b. Select the **superadminuser** as the approver.
 - c. Select the **Compute.Hostsystem.Login** as the operation.

6. **Publish** the policy.
7. When you publish the policy you must assign resources to it. Select **host** as the resource. This will make policy applicable to any ESXi host in the system.

2.14.2. Validate Secondary Approval Policy

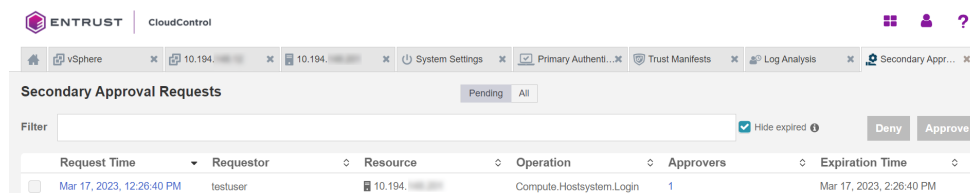
When the secondary approval policy is in place, point your browser to the GPIIP address of the ESXi host and see if you can log in. Log in with the user that you used in the policy definition. The attempt should fail.



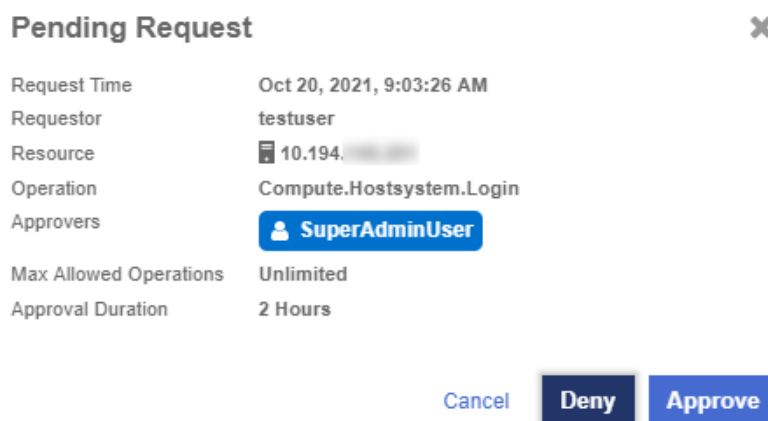
2.14.3. Approve the secondary approval request

Approve the secondary approval so that the user can log in to the ESXi Host.



1. From the **Home** tab, select **Security > Secondary Approval Requests**.
2. On the **Secondary Approval Requests** page, select a tab to view **Pending** or **All** requests.




3. (Optional) Select **Approve** for a pending request to approve the request.



Approve Pending Request ✕

Request Time	Mar 17, 2023, 12:26:40 PM
Requestor	testuser
Resource	 10.194.148.201
Operation	Compute.Hostsystem.Login
Approvers	 superadminuser
Max Allowed Operations	Unlimited (Change)
Approval Duration	2 Hours (Change)

Start Time Window
Time to start the window that user can perform approved operation. Length of the window is based on the approval duration

✕ 
Cancel Approve

4. (Optional) Select **Deny** for a pending request to reject the request.

2.14.4. Attempt to log in after approval

After the secondary approval request is approved, log in:

Point your browser to the GPIIP address of the ESXi host and see if you can log in. Log in with the user that you used in the policy definition. The attempt should be successful.

2.15. Configuration Hardening

Configuration hardening allows you to improve the security posture of your vSphere environment by hardening the configuration to meet either your company's specific security policy, industry best practices such as CIS or NIST, or compliance standards such as PCI or HIPAA. By automating the hardening process, you can reduce your operational burden during a compliance audit.

With CloudControl, you can:

- Create and customize templates to use in configuration hardening checks.
- Assess and remediate your environments against the configuration hardening checks defined in the templates.
- Review dashboards, reports and alerts to monitor the results of assessments and remediations.

2.15.1. About Templates

CloudControl uses templates to support all Configuration Hardening activities. CloudControl supports the following types of templates:

- **Catalog templates**—Read-only collection of hardening operations. There is a vSphere operations catalog of templates that you can use.
- **System templates**—Read-only collection of operations derived from a catalog template for a given compliance standard. For example, the vSphere - HIPAA Security Standards template is derived from the vSphere operations catalog template.
- **Custom templates**—Templates created by users. In most cases, they are copied or cloned from existing system or catalog templates. Custom templates can be modified and used in configuration hardening policies.



CloudControl also includes sample custom templates that can immediately be used in a policy.

Templates can contain both assessment and remediation hardening operations. It is recommended that you review all operations in the template to ensure that any parameter values are set to those that appropriate for your infrastructure requirements.

2.15.2. About Policies

Configuration Hardening Policies are used to run custom templates. Each policy associates a template with one or more resources or tag-based resource configurations, and can be run manually or as a scheduled activity. Policies can either assess or remediate a resource, but cannot do both.

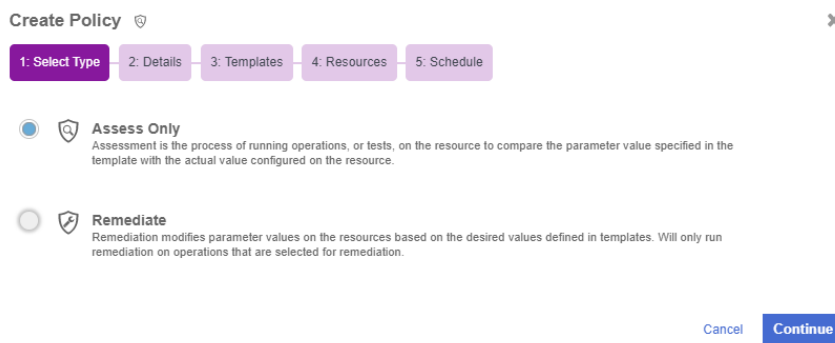
2.15.3. More information

Consult the online documentation for more information on [Configuration Hardening](#).

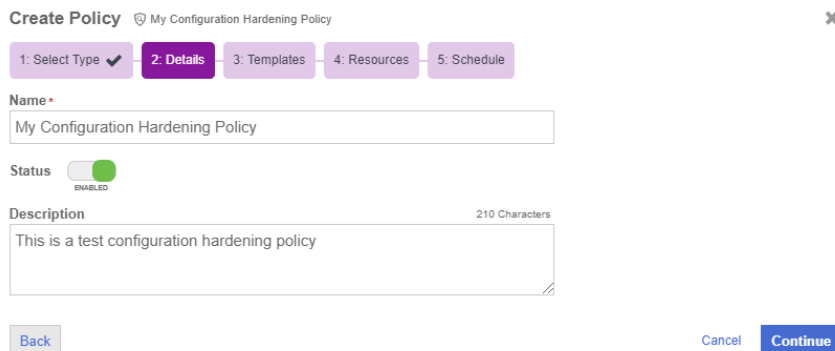
2.15.4. Creating a Configuration Hardening Policy Example

For this guide a configuration hardening policy will be created based on one of the templates available. Enforcement will be based on a rule in the template to check and make sure the ESXi vSphere version is at least version 7 and above.

1. From the **Home** tab, select **Security > Configuration Hardening**.
2. On the **Configuration Hardening Management** page, select the **Policies** tab.
3. Select the **Create (+)** button.
4. In the **Create Policy** wizard on the **Select Type** page, select the type of policy that you want to create. This can be one of the following:
 - **Assess Only** - Runs operations on the host to compare the parameter values specified in the template with the actual values on the host.
 - **Remediate Only** - Modifies the parameter values on the host in order to match the values specified in the templates.
5. Select **Assess Only**.



6. Select **Continue**.
7. On the **Details** page, enter the name and optional description of the policy, and specify whether the policy is enabled.



8. Select **Continue**.
9. On the **Templates** page, select the **resource type** for the policy. This can be one of the following:
 - **AWS Account** - Runs AWS-related templates against your AWS environment.
 - **ESXi** - Runs vSphere related templates against your ESXi hosts.

- **Kubernetes** - Runs Kubernetes related templates against your Kubernetes environment.
- **NSXDataCenter** - Runs NSX-T related templates against your NSX-T environment.

10. Select **ESXi** as the template to run against your environment.

11. The template list displays the name, description and type of operations Select a template that contains the type of operations that you selected for the policy.

12. Select **vSphere - HyTrust Best Practice** template. This template is used in the example.

Create Policy My Configuration Hardening Policy

1: Select Type ✓ 2: Details ✓ 3: **Templates** 4: Assignments 5: Resource Constraints 6: Schedule

Resource Type: ESXi

Select a Template vSphere - HyTrust Best Practice with HyTrust default values

The following is a list of templates for the selected resource type. If a system template is selected, a clone of the template will be created and used in this policy.

Filter

Template Name	Description	Type	Operations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vSphere - HyTrust Best Practic...	This template is based on HyTr...	Custom	70 Assess, 66 Remediate
<input type="checkbox"/> vSphere - Configuration Template	This template consists of opera...	System	45 Assess, 45 Remediate
<input type="checkbox"/> vSphere 7.0 - VMware Security...	This template contains all the o...	System	105 Assess, 94 Remediate
<input type="checkbox"/> vSphere - PCI Data Security St...	Payment Card Industry Data S...	System	146 Assess, 136 Remediate
<input type="checkbox"/> vSphere - VM - DISA STIG 6.7	DISA VMware vSphere Version...	System	22 Assess, 21 Remediate
<input type="checkbox"/> vSphere - VM - DISA STIG 6.0	DISA VMware vSphere Version...	System	42 Assess, 41 Remediate
<input type="checkbox"/> vSphere - NIST SP 800-53r5	NIST Special Publication 800-5...	System	161 Assess, 153 Remediate

Showing 1 to 8 of 17 records (1 Selected)

Back Cancel Continue



See the online documentation for more information on [Creating a Custom Template](#).

13. Select **Continue**.

14. On the **Assignments** page, select one of the following and choose what resources to which you want to apply the policy:

- **Tags** - Select the Tags radio button and then choose a tag or tags assigned to the resource. Select the + icon if you want to assign more tags to the resource. If there are no tags assigned, you can select the Assign Tags Now link.
- **Resources** - Select **Specific Resources** and then choose one or more resources.

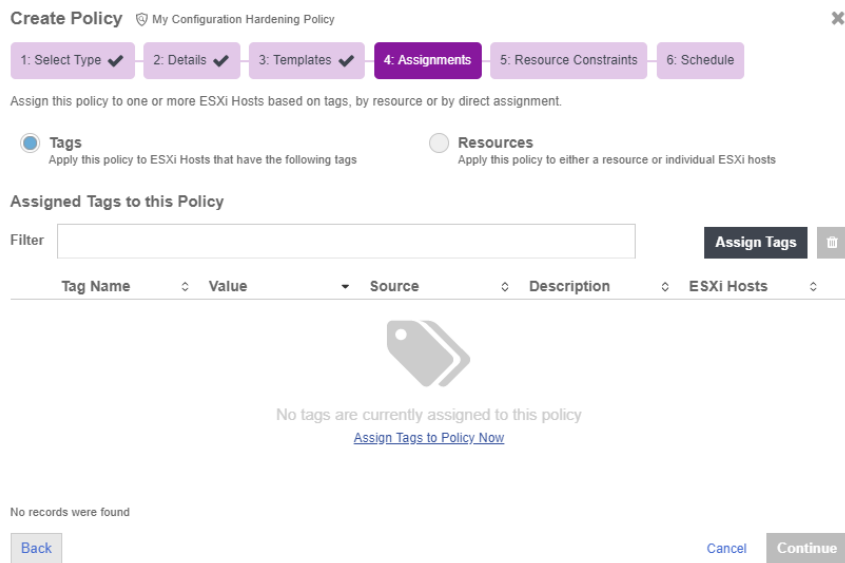
For vSphere only, you can choose a parent for the resource type. This can

be one of the following:

- **vCenter** - Allows you to select all ESXi hosts in the selected vCenter. All onboarded ESXi hosts in the selected vCenter will be considered for hardening. You can select multiple vCenters. When the Configuration Hardening policy is run, CloudControl retrieves all onboarded ESXi hosts from the vCenter inventory to ensure the list of ESXi hosts is always current.
- **Appliance Root** - Allows you to select all ESXi hosts under Appliance Root. All onboarded ESXi hosts will be considered for hardening. When the Configuration Hardening policy is run, CloudControl retrieves all onboarded ESXi hosts from the vCenter inventory to ensure the list of ESXi hosts is always current.
- **DataCenter** - Allows you to select all ESXi hosts in the selected DataCenter. All onboarded ESXi hosts in the selected vCenter will be considered for hardening. You can select multiple DataCenters. When the Configuration Hardening policy is run, CloudControl retrieves all onboarded ESXi hosts from the vCenter inventory to ensure the list of ESXi hosts is always current.
- **Cluster** - Allows you to select all ESXi hosts in the selected Cluster. All onboarded ESXi hosts in the selected Cluster will be considered for hardening. You can select multiple Clusters. When the Configuration Hardening policy is run, CloudControl retrieves all onboarded ESXi hosts from the vCenter inventory to ensure the list of ESXi hosts is always current.
- **ESXi Host** - Allows you to choose which individual ESXi hosts that you want to use as a resource. If additional ESXi hosts are onboarded, they will not be included.

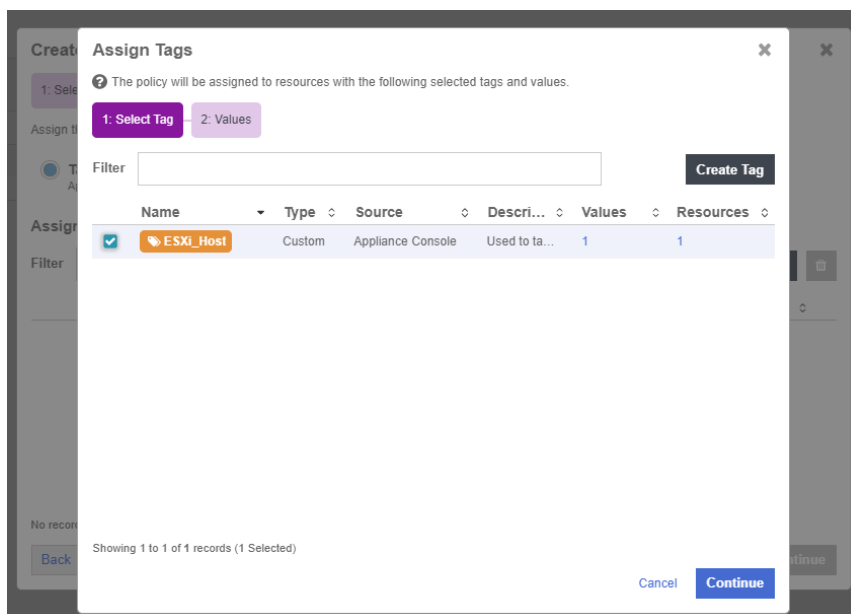
15. Select **Tags** for the resources you want to apply the policy.

16. Select the **Assign Tags to Policy Now** link to select the tags.



The **Assign Tags** dialog appears.

17. Select the **ESXi_Host** tag created earlier.



18. Select **Continue**.

19. Select the Tag value **True** that applies to the **ESXi_Host** tag.

Assign Tags ESXi_Host

The policy will be assigned to resources with the following selected tags and values.

1: Select Tag ✓ 2: Values

Filter

Value	Source	Description	Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> True	Appliance Console	True states the object ...	1

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 records (1 Selected)

Back Cancel Assign

20. Select **Assign**.

21. Select **Continue**.

22. (Optional) For vSphere only. On the **Resource Constraint** page, choose which tag-based resource constraints that you want to use for your ESXi hosts. This option is not described in detail.

23. Select **Continue**.

24. On the **Schedule** page, select if you want to enable a recurring schedule.

If enabled, select the type of schedule that you want to use to run the policy, and then specify the start date. This can be one of the following:

- **Daily** - The policy will run every day at the time that you specify.
- **Hourly** - The policy will run periodically throughout the day, based on the schedule you define.
- **Weekly** - The policy will run on every day that you select at the time that you specify.

Create Policy My Configuration Hardening Policy ✕

1: Select Type ✓ 2: Details ✓ 3: Templates ✓ 4: Assignments ✓ 5: Resource Constraints ✓ 6: **Schedule**

Recurring Schedule

Status **ENABLED**

Frequency
 Daily

Every day at 09 : 00 **AM**

Start Date
 Today

25. Select **Create**.

26. The newly created policy will be displayed on the **Policies** tab.

Configuration Hardening Management Policies Templates Global Compliance Threshold: 100% (change)

Filter

Name	Description	Template	Resource Type	Schedule	Last Event	Status
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My Configuration Hardening Policy	This is a test configuration harde...	vSphere - HyTrust Best Practice ...	ESXi	Daily at 09:00 AM		ENABLED

27. Edit the **Check ESXi Patch Version** Rule in the template. Select the **vSphere - HyTrust Best Practice** link in the **Template** Column. The template details appears.

vSphere - HyTrust Best Practice with HyTrust default values Views Actions

Operations Severity Summary

33 HIGH 14 MEDIUM 23 LOW

Category Type

Management (3) Compute (5) Network (6)

Summary of Operations

70 Total Operations 68 Configured 2 Not Configured 66 Remediation 1 Remediation Disabled

Check ESXi Patch Version 11 02 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0002 HIGH

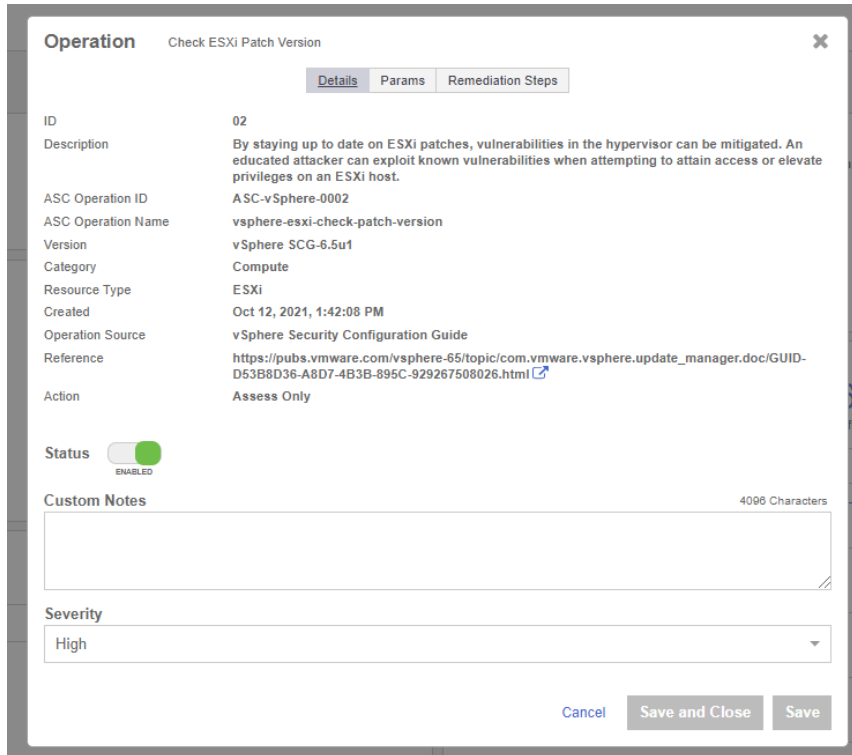
Revisions

1 Mar 15, 2023, 12:42:00 PM System

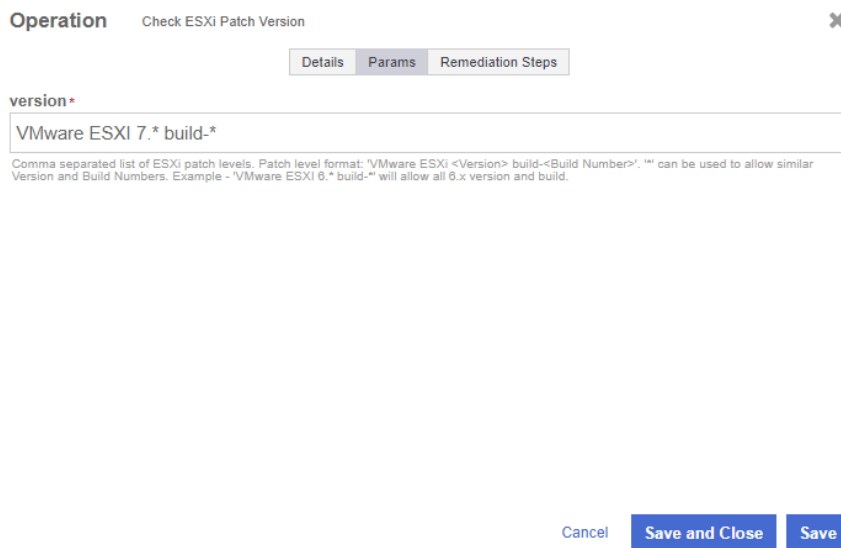
28. Under **Summary of Operations** look for **Check ESXi Patch Version**.

Check ESXi Patch Version
ID: 02 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0002

29. Once you find it, select the **Check ESXi Patch Version** link to edit the rule.



30. Select the **Params** tab and enter the version according to the image below.

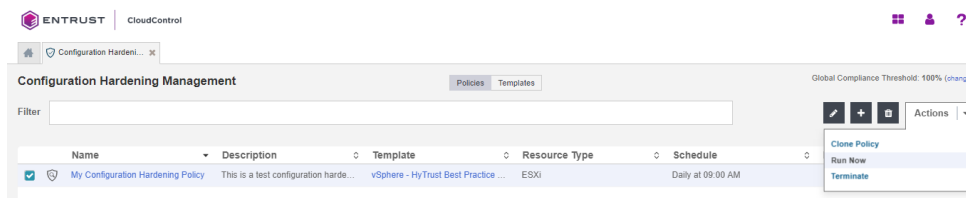


31. Select **Save and Close**.

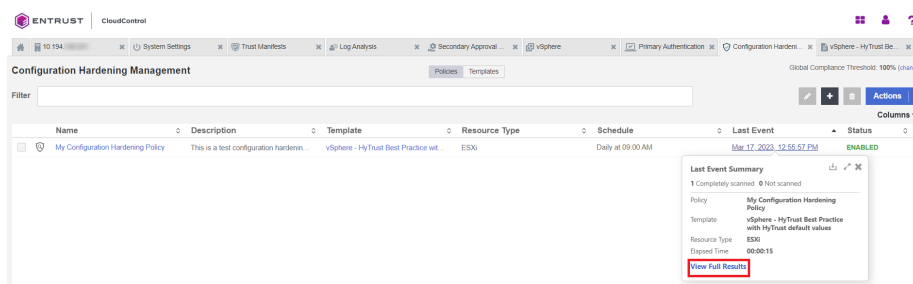
Now when the Configuration Hardening Policy runs, this rule will check to see if the version of the ESXi Host will match what is on the version field of the rule.

When you run a remediation policy, the assessment policy will automatically run immediately following its completion. This ensures that your compliance score is updated with the new percentage.

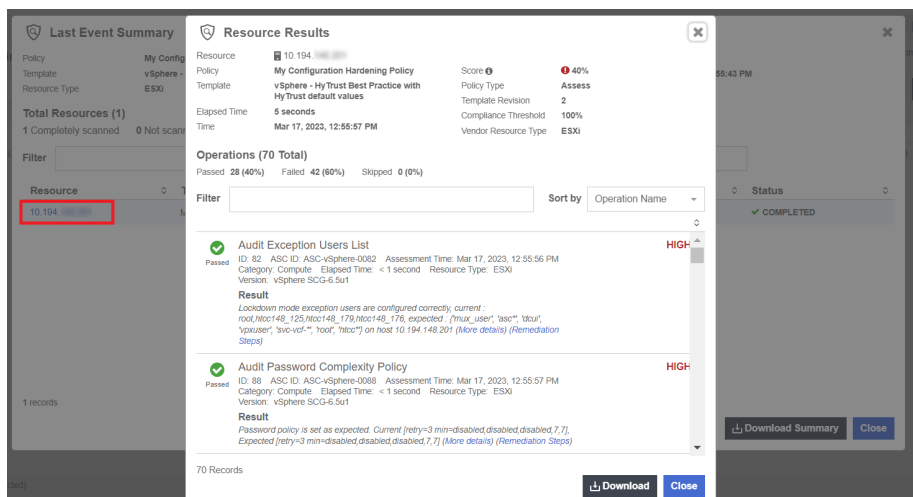
32. From the **Home** tab, select **Security > Configuration Hardening**.
33. On the **Configuration Hardening Management** page, select the **Policies** tab.
34. Select the Policy that you want to run.
35. Select **Actions > Run Now**.
36. In the confirmation window, select **Run Now**.



37. You can view the results by selecting the link in the Last Event column.
38. Select **View Full Results**.




39. In the **Last Event Summary** Tab, select **Resource**.



If you used resource constraints on your ESXi hosts, you can see which hosts were analyzed and which were skipped.

40. As you look to the results, you will be able to see that the ESXi Version test that was in the policy, **Passed**.

 **Check ESXi Patch Version**
 Passed ID: 02 ASC ID: ASC-vSphere-0002 Assessment Time: Mar 17, 2023, 12:55:53 PM
 Category: Compute Elapsed Time: < 1 second Resource Type: ESXi
 Version: vSphere SCG-6.5u1

Result
ESXi patch level already matches at least one of the patterns provided, Current VMware ESXi 7.0.3 build-19193900 and Expected patterns: VMware ESXi 7. build-* (More details) (Remediation Steps)*

If you enter the incorrect version in the Check ESXi Patch Version Params, the Configuration Hardening Policy will catch the failure. For example, if you enter VMware ESXi version 8 instead of 7:

Operation Check ESXi Patch Version ✕


Details Params Remediation Steps




version *

VMware ESXi 8.* build-*

Comma separated list of ESXi patch levels. Patch level format: 'VMware ESXi <Version> build-<Build Number>'. '*' can be used to allow similar Version and Build Numbers. Example - 'VMware ESXi 6.* build-*' will allow all 6.x version and build.


When you run the Configuration Hardening Policy, the system will catch the error and report a failed result.

 **Resource Results**

Resource	 10.194. [redacted]	Score 	 94%
Policy	My Configuration Hardening Policy	Policy Type	Assess
Template	vSphere - HyTrust Best Practice with HyTrust default values	Template Revision	3
Elapsed Time	3 seconds	Compliance Threshold	100%
Time	Mar 21, 2023, 10:38:57 AM	Vendor Resource Type	ESXi

Operations (70 Total)
 Passed **66 (94%)** Failed **4 (6%)** Skipped **0 (0%)**

Filter **Sort by** Operation Name ▾

 **Check ESXi Patch Version** **HIGH**

1/1 Failed ID: 02 ASC ID: ASC-vSphere-0002 Assessment Time: Mar 21, 2023, 10:38:54 AM
 Category: Compute Elapsed Time: < 1 second Resource Type: ESXi
 Version: vSphere SCG-6.5u1

Result
ESXi patch level does not match any of the patterns provided, Current VMware ESXi 7.0.3 build-19193900 and Expected patterns: VMware ESXi 8. build-* (More details) (Remediation Steps)*

2.16. Remediation Policy

Now that the Configuration Hardening Policy has been created, the same process will be used to create a Remediation Policy. The process is basically the same, with the exception that instead of selecting **Assess Only** as the type, the **Remediate** type will be selected during the policy creation process.

Create Policy ✕

1: Select Type | 2: Details | 3: Templates | 4: Resources | 5: Schedule

Assess Only
Assessment is the process of running operations, or tests, on the resource to compare the parameter value specified in the template with the actual value configured on the resource.

Remediate
Remediation modifies parameter values on the resources based on the desired values defined in templates. Will only run remediation on operations that are selected for remediation.

[Cancel](#) [Continue](#)

After the policy is created, edit the policy template to contain only the items you want to remediate.

You do this in the **Configuration Hardening Management** page, by selecting the template in the **Template** column of the policy you want to edit. On the **Template** page, under the **Summary of Operations**, select **Total Operations**. The **Manage Operations** page appears. This page is used to select the rules that you want in the template. You can also **Add** and **Delete** selected rules.

Now that the template has been defined with the wanted rules, perform the remediation. This example shows how to **Disable SSH** on the ESXi host just by running the remediation policy.

The following rules are in the template. (One of them is **Disable SSH**).

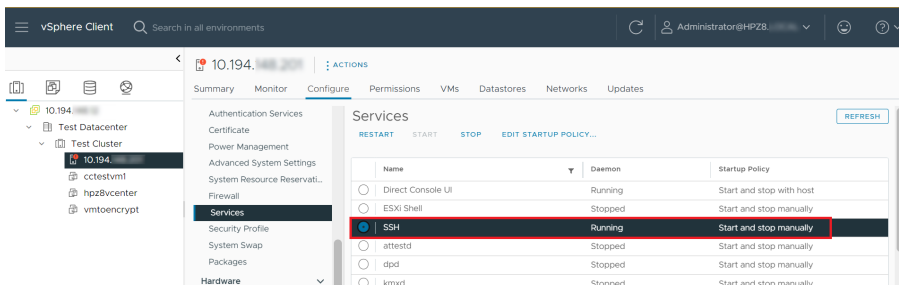
Matches Found (6)

0 Selected

Sort by: Name

<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit Exception Users List ID: 82 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0082 Description: In vSphere 8.0 and later, you can add users to the Exception Users list from the vSphere Web Client. These users do not lose their permissions when the host enters lockdown mode. Usually you may want ... more Resource Type: ESXi Category: Compute Version: vSphere SCG-8.5u1 Action: Assess Only Created: Oct 12, 2021, 1:39:24 PM Updated: Oct 13, 2021, 2:52:01 PM	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check ESXi Patch Version ID: 82 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0082 Description: By staying up to date on ESXi patches, vulnerabilities in the hypervisor can be mitigated. An educated attacker can exploit known vulnerabilities when attempting to attain access or elevate privileges on an ... more Resource Type: ESXi Category: Compute Version: vSphere SCG-8.5u1 Action: Assess Only Created: Oct 12, 2021, 1:39:24 PM Updated: Oct 13, 2021, 2:52:01 PM	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check Local Accounts on ESXi Host ID: 87 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0087 Description: Check local accounts on ESXi host. Resource Type: ESXi Category: Compute Version: vSphere SCG-8.5u1 Action: Assess Only Created: Oct 12, 2021, 1:39:24 PM Updated: Oct 13, 2021, 2:52:01 PM	HIGH Not Configured Remediation Outage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disable ESXi Shell ID: 11 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0011 Description: ESXi Shell is an interactive command line environment available from the DCUI or remotely via SSH. Access to this mode requires the root password of the server. The ESXi Shell can be turned on and off ... more Resource Type: ESXi Category: Compute Version: ESXi Version 8 STIG Version 1 Release 4 Action: Assess and Remediate Created: Oct 12, 2021, 1:39:24 PM Updated: Oct 13, 2021, 2:52:01 PM	MEDIUM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disable SSH ID: 12 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0012 Description: SSH is enabled by default on ESXi. The use of SSH to an ESXi host should be limited in scope and use. SSH enablement is controlled via the SSH service. This service is stopped by default. Resource Type: ESXi Category: Compute Version: vSphere SCG-8.5u1 Action: Assess and Remediate Created: Oct 12, 2021, 1:39:24 PM Updated: Oct 13, 2021, 2:52:01 PM	HIGH
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify PCI Passthrough ID: 75 ASC Operation ID: ASC-vSphere-0075	HIGH

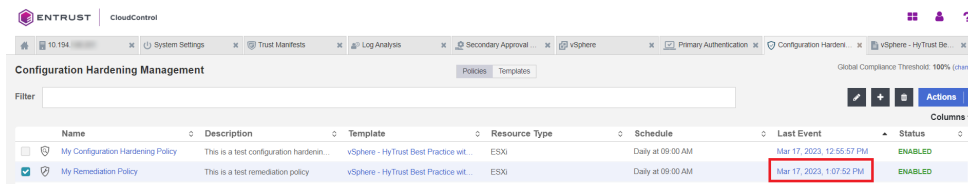
Before running the policy, go to the ESXi Host and validate that SSH service is running.



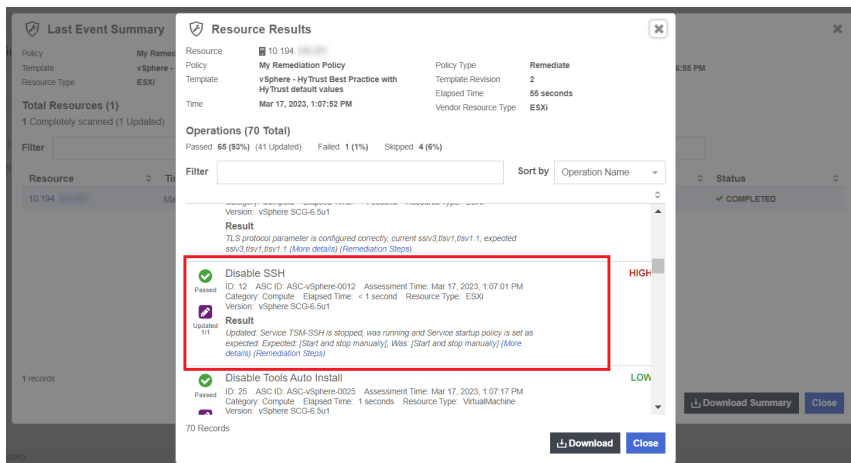
Run the remediation policy and see what happens to SSH in the ESXi Host.

In the Entrust CloudControl VM do the following:

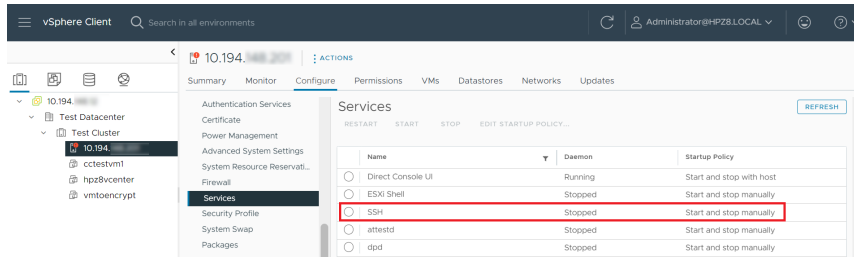
- 1. From the **Home** tab, select **Security > Configuration Hardening**.
- 2. On the **Configuration Hardening Management** page, select the **Policies** tab.
- 3. Select the remediation policy that you want to run.
- 4. Select **Actions > Run Now**.
- 5. In the confirmation window, select **Run Now**.
- 6. Once it finishes running, you can view the results by selecting the link in the Last Event column.



7. Locate the **Disable SSH** result and validate that it **Passed**.



8. Now go back to the ESXi Host and check if the SSH service is running. It should be set to **Stopped**.



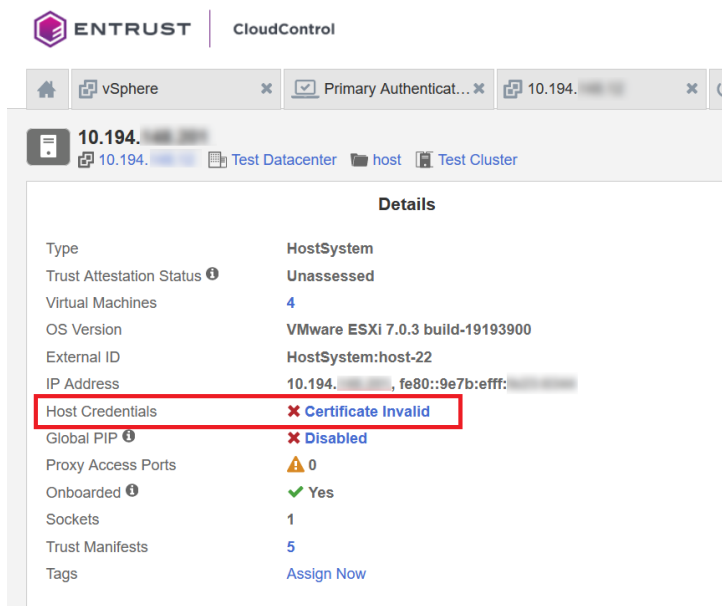
This example shows how you can use the remediation policy to automatically enforce configuration settings on your vSphere environment.

Chapter 3. Troubleshooting

The following are errors that might appear during the procedures described in this guide.

3.1. Host Credentials: Certificate Invalid

When adding the host credentials you may encounter the error **Host Credentials: Certificate Invalid**. For example:



To resolve this issue, the vCenter root CA must be imported into the CloudControl's Certificate Authorities:

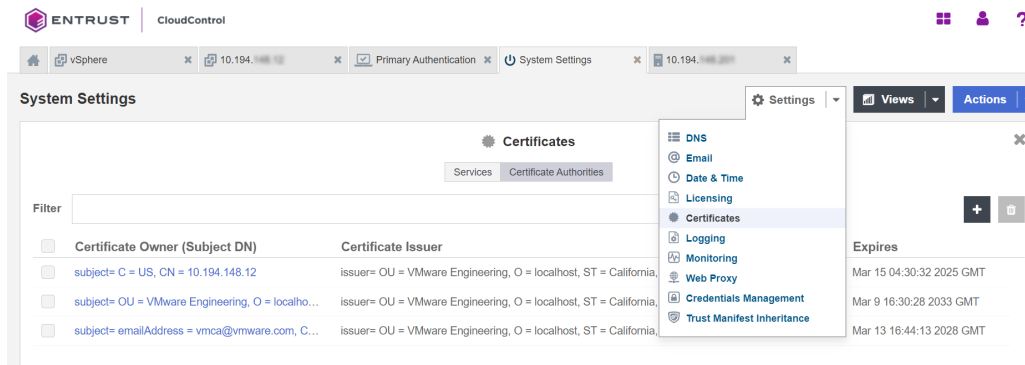
1. Launch a Linux Terminal and use `openssl` to pull the root CA from vCenter. Where it shows IP, enter the vCenter IP address.

```
% echo | openssl s_client -connect <IP>:443 -showcerts
```

2. Enter the commands below to view the certificate:

```
% curl -k https://<IP>/certs/download.zip -o  
% root_ca.zip  
% unzip root_ca.zip  
% cd certs  
% cd lin  
% cat 93a87255.0
```

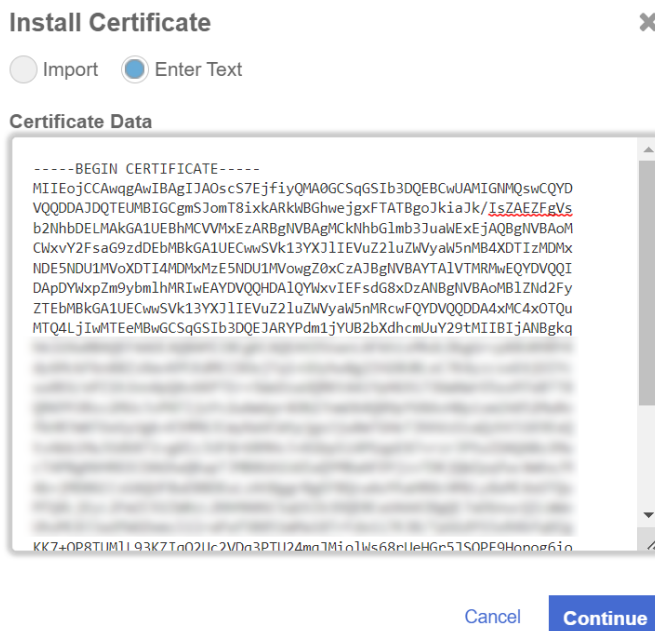
- Copy the certificate from the `cat 93a7255.0` command. Start from `-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----` and end with `-----END CERTIFICATE-----`.
- Login to your Cloud Control node as superadminuser.
- From **Home**, select **System > System Settings > Settings Drop-Down Menu > Certificates**.



- Select **Certificate Authorities**.
- Select **Add** on the top right.

The **Install Certificate** page appears.

- Select **Enter Text** and paste the certificate.



- Select **Continue**.
- Select **Install**.
- On the Cloud Control node, check the onboarded host **Details**.

12. Select **Certificate Invalid** and re-enter the host credentials.

Host Credentials will update to **Valid**.

Details	
Type	HostSystem
Trust Attestation Status ⓘ	Unassessed
Virtual Machines	4
OS Version	VMware ESXi 7.0.3 build-19193900
External ID	HostSystem:host-22
IP Address	10.194. . . . , fe80::9e7b:efff:
Host Credentials	✓ Valid
Global PIP ⓘ	✓ Enabled (10.194. . . .)
Proxy Access Ports	4
Onboarded ⓘ	✓ Yes
Sockets	1
Trust Manifests	5
Tags	ESXi_Host: True

Chapter 4. Additional resources and related products

4.1. [CloudControl](#)

4.2. [Entrust products](#)

4.3. [nShield product documentation](#)