



# PilotHosts Installation Guide

OVA Appliance Deployment Guide

## Customer Deployment Guide

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Centralized visibility, operations and governance for hybrid infrastructure

## 1. Overview

PilotHosts is delivered as an OVA virtual appliance for VMware vSphere / ESXi environments. It provides centralized visibility, operations, governance and analysis for VMware infrastructure, with optional Kubernetes/OpenShift visibility.

## 2. System Requirements

Before deployment, make sure the VMware environment has sufficient CPU, memory, storage and network resources.

Appliance Size	Environment Scope	Recommended Resources
Medium	1-5 vCenter servers / fewer than 1,000 VMs	4 vCPU, 16 GB RAM
Large	5+ vCenter servers / fewer than 10,000 VMs	8 vCPU, 32 GB RAM

## 3. Storage Recommendation

Required disk capacity depends on inventory size, sync frequency, enabled modules, log retention and historical data retention.

Appliance Size	Recommended Disk
Medium	250 GB minimum / 500 GB recommended
Large	500 GB minimum / 1 TB recommended

## 4. Deployment Prerequisites

- VMware vCenter or ESXi access
- Datastore with enough free capacity
- Port group or network for the appliance
- Static IP information or DHCP availability
- DNS, gateway and NTP information
- Web browser access to the appliance IP
- PilotHosts license file or activation method, if applicable

## 5. Deploying the OVA Appliance

- Log in to the VMware vSphere Client.
- Right-click the target datacenter, cluster, host or folder.
- Select Deploy OVF Template.
- Choose the PilotHosts OVA file.
- Enter a VM name, such as pilothosts-appliance.
- Select compute resource, datastore and network.
- Accept the license agreement.
- Use Thin Provision unless your storage policy requires otherwise.
- Finish the wizard and power on the appliance.

## 6. Network Configuration

PilotHosts supports DHCP and static IP configuration through OVF properties. If DHCP is available, the appliance obtains an IP address during first boot. If OVF network properties are provided, PilotHosts applies the static configuration automatically.

```
IP Address : 10.10.1.50 Netmask : 255.255.255.0 Gateway : 10.10.1.1 DNS : 10.10.1.1 Hostname : pilothosts.local
```

## 7. First Boot Behavior

On first boot, PilotHosts detects the active network adapter, applies OVF static IP settings if provided, falls back to DHCP if needed, prepares local services, initializes the database and starts the web interface. Do not power off the appliance during first boot.

## 8. Accessing the Web Interface

After the appliance has booted and obtained an IP address, open a browser and access the web interface. A certificate warning may appear if a self-signed certificate is used.

```
https://<PilotHosts-IP> Example: https://10.10.1.50
```

## 9. Initial User Creation

When the web interface is opened for the first time, the setup screen prompts you to create the initial administrator account. This first account becomes the single initial superadmin user. The setup flow is locked after the first user is created.

- Use a strong password.
- Store the credentials securely.
- Additional users, if supported by the deployed edition, are managed from the administration interface.

## 10. Login

After creating the initial superadmin user, log in with the credentials created during setup. Once logged in, continue with license and environment configuration.

## 11. Initial Configuration

- Review the license page.
- Activate or upload the license, if required.
- Add the first VMware vCenter environment.
- Test the vCenter connection.
- Start the first inventory sync.
- Review discovered vCenter, ESXi host, VM, datastore and cluster data.

## 12. Adding a vCenter Environment

Go to Administration > Environments and click Add Environment. Enter the vCenter FQDN or IP address, username, password and SSL verification preference. Save the environment and run a sync operation.

## 13. Post-Deployment Checklist

- Appliance is powered on.
- Appliance has a valid IP address.
- Web UI is reachable.
- Initial superadmin user is created.
- Login works.
- License status is valid.
- vCenter connection test succeeds.
- First inventory sync completes.
- Dashboard and inventory pages load correctly.
- Time, DNS and NTP configuration are correct.
- Backup strategy is defined.

## 14. Backup Recommendation

PilotHosts should be backed up regularly using a VMware image-level backup solution or another approved appliance backup method. Snapshots should be used only for short-term maintenance and should not be treated as a backup strategy.

## 15. Upgrade and Maintenance Notes

- Back up the PilotHosts appliance.
- Confirm available disk space.
- Review release notes.
- Apply the update package.
- Restart services if required.
- Validate web UI, background services and vCenter sync.

## 16. Troubleshooting

- No IP address: check port group, connected network adapter, DHCP or OVF static IP properties.
- Web UI not reachable: check IP address, HTTPS access, firewall rules and appliance services.
- Setup screen missing: the initial superadmin may already exist or the appliance may be restored from a configured state.
- vCenter connection fails: verify credentials, DNS, SSL settings and vCenter permissions.

## 17. Support Information

- PilotHosts version
- Appliance size
- vCenter and ESXi versions
- Number of vCenters, hosts and VMs
- Screenshot or error message
- Relevant logs, if requested

## 18. Summary

PilotHosts OVA deployment is simple: deploy the OVA, configure network through DHCP or OVF static properties, open the web interface, create the initial superadmin user, add vCenter, run the first sync and start using PilotHosts.