

Getting Started with Cisco Intersight: Overview



I've been presenting about the integration of Pure Storage® technology with Cisco Intersight at events across the globe. So It's time to hit the blog and share more details here. Most importantly, I want to show you how to get started using the Pure Storage integration into Cisco Intersight.

CISCO INTERSIGHT & PURE: CLOUD-BASED MANAGEMENT IS THE FUTURE



Cisco Intersight is a Software as a Service (SaaS) infrastructure management platform. Intersight removes the difficulties of supporting infrastructure across geographically dispersed locations. It also solves the complexities of infrastructure management tools providing: -

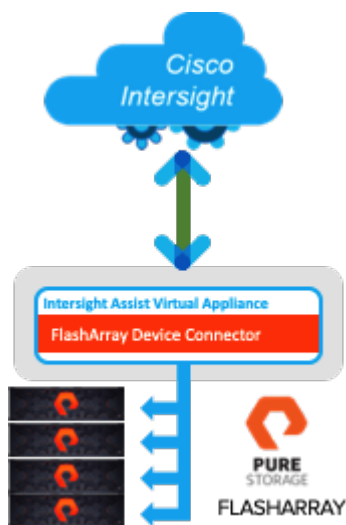
- Simplified deployment
- Management at scale
- The ability to frequently add updates/enhancement without impacting operation.

Learn more about cloud-based management with Cisco Intersight and Pure Storage from the presentation I delivered at this year's Cisco Live US event:



Pure Storage provides self-driving storage via our Pure1® SaaS platform.

CISCO INTERSIGHT & PURE STORAGE INTEGRATION

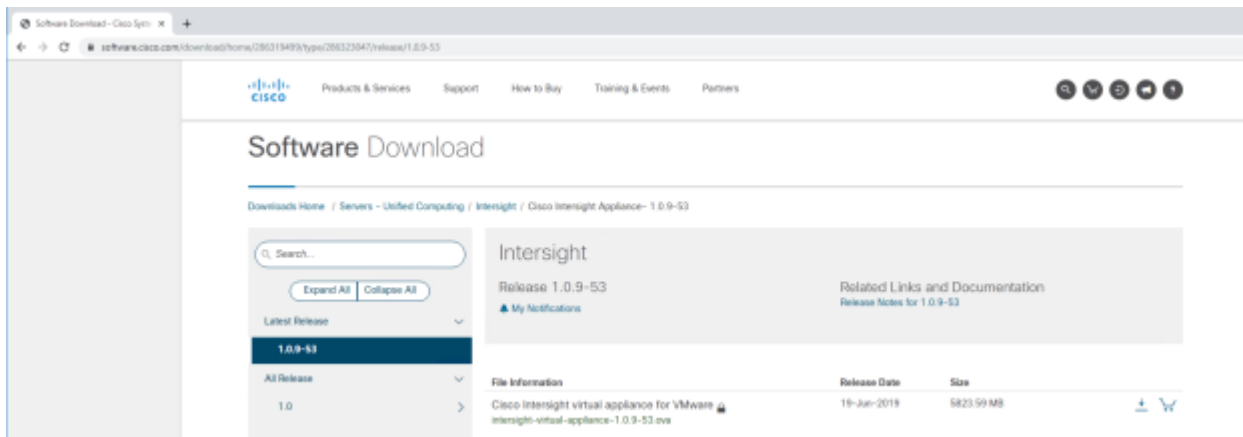


Cisco and Pure Storage have jointly developed the first third-party integration into Cisco Intersight to give you the ability to manage Pure products from within Cisco Intersight. The first integration is with FlashArray

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, our block-based all-flash storage array.

To access the FlashArray Integration, download the Cisco Intersight Assist Virtual Appliance and deploy it on-premises in your data center. Intersight Assist acts as a proxy between all your on-prem FlashArray devices and Cisco Intersight via a single 443 SSL connection. It translates all Cisco Intersight information requests using the Pure Storage Purity//FA API.



After completing the virtual appliance deployment, claim the Intersight Assist virtual appliance from within Intersight. This enables you to claim any third-party on-premises device you wish to manage (e.g. FlashArray) using Intersight Assist as a proxy.

The beta integration covers the following capabilities and is supported across all FlashArray and Purity//FA versions: –

- FlashArray Inventory completeness: The full FlashArray object model has been mapped to Cisco Intersight.
- FlashArray Health status: The Health Status is visible on all components that make up a FlashArray.
- Active Management: Provides the ability to orchestrate the configuration of UCS/FlashArray/vSphere via Tasks and Workflows.

Cisco Intersight Active Management



FLASHARRAY ORCHESTRATION AND AUTOMATION

TASKS

- Volume (Create/Resize/Copy/Destroy)
- Host (Create/Delete/Connect/Disconnect [Volume/WWN/iQN])
- HostGroup (Create/Delete/Connect/Disconnect [Volume/Host/Protection Group])
- Protection Group (Create/Delete/Add/Remove [Host/Target/Volume])
- Snapshots (Create/Restore/Schedule/Disable/Destroy)
- Pod (Create/Delete/Move In/Out [Volume], Add/Remove [FlashArray])
- VolumeGroup (Create/Delete/Move In/Out [Volume])

WORKFLOWS

1. Create VMFS Datastore
2. Delete VMFS Datastore
3. Resize VMFS Datastore
4. Add Host to Pure Storage FlashArray
5. Delete host from Pure Storage FlashArray
6. Create/Delete/Rename Pure Storage FlashArray HostGroup
7. Remove Pure Storage FlashArray Host from HostGroup
8. vSphere OVF deployment.



The following Workflows have been initially pre-configured for the Beta, Keep in mind that these will be updated on a regular ongoing basis. The power of cloud-based management means new features/functions and capabilities can be included in the platform at any time without you having to take any action: -

- **Create VMFS Datastore:** Create a FlashArray volume, present it to a Host/HostGroup, rescan the ESXi host bus adaptor (HBAs), format the volume as a Virtual machine File System (VMFS) datastore and finally mount it on all ESXi hosts ready to deploy VMs.
- **Delete VMFS Datastore:** Unmount the VMFS datastore, remove the volume from the Host/HostGroup, rescan the ESXi host HBAs and destroy the FlashArray system. (remember, the volume has not been eradicated so is available to recover within 24 hours!)
- **Resize VMFS Datastore:** Resize a FlashArray Volume, rescan the ESXi HBAs and increase the capacity of the VMFS datastore to the same volume size.
- **Add Host to Pure Storage FlashArray:** Add a host object in Purity, including the UCS Server World Wide Name (WWN)/iSCSI Qualified Name (IQN).
- **Delete Host from Pure Storage FlashArray** - Delete a host object in Purity that matches the UCS Servers WWN/iQN
- **Create/Delete/Rename Pure Storage FlashArray HostGroup**
- **Remove Pure Storage FlashArray Host from HostGroup**
- **vSphere OVF deployment:** Deploy a VM using an Open Virtualization Format (OVF) image to a VMFS datastore.

JOIN THE BETA

You need to sign up for the beta program to get access to the Cisco Intersight Assist virtual appliance. **Please contact your Cisco sales team to request access.** As part of the beta process, you can try out the new integration if you already have a Cisco Intersight Essentials Subscription. If you haven't subscribed

to Cisco Intersight yet, you can sign up for an “all-you-can-eat” 90-day free trial that provides Essentials-level access, which enables you to try the integration.

STAY TUNED

This post is the first of a multi-part series. Future posts will cover:

- Intersight signup and initial device claim
- Intersight Assist Deployment and Configuration
- FlashArray device connector deployment and claim through Intersight Assist
- Inventory Visibility, Health Status and Active Management of Pure FlashArray.