vizioncore

vFoglight™ v.5.0

Cartridge for Chargeback

DELL

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Introducing the vFoglight Cartridge for Chargeback

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Chargeback Overview

Customers who move to virtualized infrastructures discover that determining and allocating costs in their environment is much more difficult than when they operated in the pricing operations of a physical realm. Organizations can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars procuring high end hosts, virtualization software, and storage area network (SAN) disk storage. Virtual machines can be added very quickly and appear to be free of cost. As customers add additional workloads to their virtual environments, determining the true cost of each virtual machine is an important component in managing server sprawl.

vFoglight Cartridge for Chargeback Overview

The vFoglight Cartridge for Chargeback provides the ability for IT managers to monitor and report on costs associated with Virtual machine (VM) or Physical machine (PM) usage within their datacenters. The chargeback cartridge currently supports only the Tiered Flat Rate Model of calculating costs. Other models, such as measured resource usage or direct cost, will follow in subsequent releases.

Tiered Flat Rate Model

In the vFoglight Cartridge for Chargeback, the Tiered Flat Rate Model divides IT costs into levels of expense. A tier is a level of expense for a host. For example, an organization has decided to build a new virtual infrastructure, mandating that any new server requested by the various business units of the company must first be created as a virtual machine. Only after verifying that a VM cannot properly handle the application workload would physical server options be explored.

To simplify the budgetary process for new systems, the organization could create three core configurations and assign the following fixed cost to each:

- Tier 1, $900/Month - Single Proc, 1 GB Memory, 10GB Storage
- Tier 2, $1500/Month - Dual Proc, 2 GB Memory, 20GB Storage
- Tier 3, $2500/Month - Quad Proc, 4 GB Memory, 40GB Storage

Business units may customize the configuration and pay an additional cost per MB of memory or GB of storage space based on the cost units for the particular resource in question.

Common Tasks

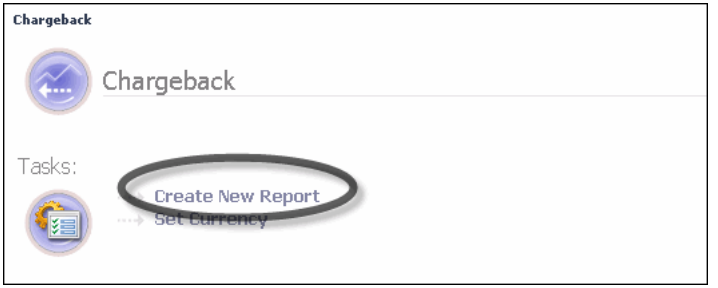
Note Please refer to the vFoglight Cartridge for Chargeback Reference Guide for complete procedures.

The following provides common tasks used to generate and view chargeback reports:

- Creating Reports Using the Create New Report Wizard
- Creating a New Tier
- Manually Running a Report
- Viewing An Existing Report
- Chargeback Alerts

Creating Reports Using the Create New Report Wizard

From the Chargeback dashboard, select **Create New Report**. This starts the Create New Report wizard to guide you through the process of creating a new report.



The Create New Report wizard allows you to:

- Enter a report name
- Select a service
- Verify Host Tier Configuration (change as necessary)
- Enter a report title
- Select report templates
- Configure advanced options

- Create the report

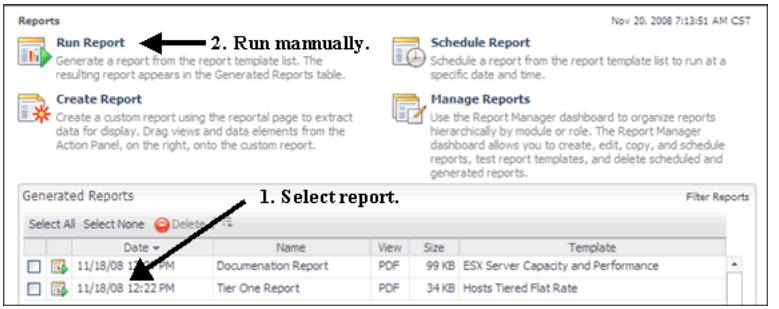
The Create New Reports wizard creates a new report as specified. The report is now scheduled, but possibly scheduled for a future time. You can wait for the report to run as scheduled, or enter the Reports area of vFoglight and run the report manually.

Creating a New Tier

The vFoglight Cartridge for Chargeback wizard allows you to create and edit tiers to define various levels of host cost. This is done in step two of New Reports Wizard.

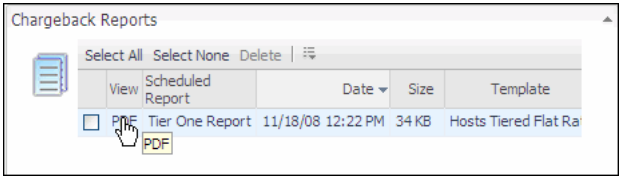
Manually Running a Report

If the report is created and scheduled, but not yet run, the report can be accessed from the Reports area of vFoglight. In this area, the report can be run manually if needed.



Viewing An Existing Report

If the report is run, it appears in the Chargeback Reports area of the chargeback start page. To view the report, click the **PDF** field for the report you want to open.



Chargeback Alerts

The vFoglight Cartridge for Chargeback uses vFoglight Alarms to alert users to critical severity levels. Status indicators are used to show specific alarms raised within the virtual infrastructure. Four status indicators, similar to those displayed below, are used throughout all of the vFoglight dashboards.

The status indicators may be displayed as round and colored with the number off to the side, or they might be displayed as rectangular and colored with the number in the center of the indicator. The vFoglight alarm types respond to thresholds that are defined. As metrics change and move through thresholds, alarms are raised. As a metric moves through thresholds, the severity of an alarm changes, which causes the associated status indicator to change.

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