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# Nutanix Certified Services Consultant (NCSC): Level 1

## Nutanix NCSC-Level-1

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QUESTION NO: 1

An existing Nutanix customer has several clusters in production and is adding a new cluster. The customer wants to create an AHV cluster that has already been racked and powered on remotely, with the factory image, using Prism Central.

Which step should the consultant take next?

**A.** Build the cluster with the Foundation Applet

**B.** Build the cluster with the Foundation VM.

**C.** Bare metal image the nodes with the Foundation VM.

**D.** Build the cluster with Foundation Central.

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

Build the cluster with Foundation Central. Foundation Central is the appropriate deployment mechanism when a consultant needs to create and image a new Nutanix cluster remotely through Prism Central. It centralizes Foundation operations, allowing an administrator to initiate the cluster deployment workflow from Prism Central rather than requiring physical access to the rack or a locally connected workstation. This is particularly suited to nodes that have been racked, cabled, powered on, and remain at their factory state.

Using Foundation Central, the consultant can discover or supply the target-node details, provide the required IPMI and network configuration, select AHV as the target hypervisor, and apply the Nutanix software images and cluster configuration. The workflow then performs the required imaging and cluster-creation tasks remotely, resulting in a managed AHV cluster that can subsequently be registered and administered in Prism Central. Nutanix describes Foundation as its deployment and imaging toolset, while Foundation Central extends those capabilities for centralized, remote operations. See the Nutanix Foundation overview and the Foundation Central documentation for deployment guidance.

**QUESTION NO: 2**

A customer needs to meet the following requirements for their business critical application:

* SQL Servers must be on specific hosts to lower licensing costs.

* Oracle RAC servers must be on separate hosts for licensing reasons

Which policy or policies should be implemented to meet these requirements?

**A.** Configure VM-VM anti-affinity policy.

**B.** Configure VM-VM affinity policy.

**C.** Configure both VM-Host and VM-VM affinity policy.

**D.** Configure VM-Host affinity policy.

**E.** Configure VM-Host affinity and VM-VM anti-affinity policies.

**ANSWER: E**

**Explanation:**

Configure VM-Host affinity and VM-VM anti-affinity policies. VM-Host affinity is the appropriate placement control for the SQL Server virtual machines because it constrains the selected VMs to a defined set of AHV hosts. This enables the customer to limit SQL Server workloads to hosts that are included in its software-license scope, while allowing normal scheduling and maintenance operations to work within that permitted host set. VM-VM anti-affinity is required for the Oracle RAC virtual machines because it directs the scheduler to place the specified VMs on different hosts. Keeping RAC members apart improves host-level resilience and meets the stated licensing-driven separation requirement. These policies address two distinct placement objectives, so both must be configured: the SQL workload needs an allowed-host constraint, and the RAC

workload needs member-to-member host separation. Nutanix describes AHV as providing VM placement and availability capabilities integrated with the platform; affinity rules are administered as VM placement policies in Prism. See the Nutanix AHV Administration Guide and Nutanix's AHV virtualization overview for platform context and administration documentation.

## QUESTION NO: 3

A consultant plans to apply updates using Life Cycle Manager.

Which two actions should be completed before applying the updates? (Choose two.)

**A.** Run an inventory

**B.** Run the pre-upgrade checks

**C.** Manually reboot all Controller VMs

**D.** Place every host into maintenance mode before starting LCM

## ANSWER: A B

**Explanation:**

**Run an inventory** and **run the pre-upgrade checks**. An LCM inventory identifies the software and firmware entities that are available for lifecycle management and determines whether updates are available. Pre-upgrade checks validate the environment for conditions that could prevent the update workflow from completing successfully.

Any reported issues should be reviewed and resolved before updates are applied. The consultant should not manually reboot Controller VMs or place every host into maintenance mode before LCM begins, because LCM coordinates supported maintenance operations as part of its workflow. See the Nutanix Life Cycle Manager documentation for release-specific update procedures.

## QUESTION NO: 4

A consultant is performing a Nutanix Cluster installation on Dell XC Core hardware. The consultant decides to use Foundation Portable for Mac to perform the installation. When the consultant arrives onsite, Foundation Portable is unable to locate the new nodes.

Which log should the consultant check to troubleshoot this issue?

**A.** /home/nutanix/foundation/log

**B.** ~/data/logs/foundation.out

**C.** foundation.app/contents/resouces/log

**D.** ~/data/logs/foundation

## ANSWER: B

**Explanation:**

The correct log to review is `~/data/logs/foundation.out`. Foundation Portable writes its primary runtime and workflow output to this file under the current macOS user's home-directory data path. It records the Foundation service startup activity, network-interface selection, node-discovery attempts, IPMI communication, and errors returned while attempting to detect platform nodes. Because the problem occurs before imaging or cluster creation—during discovery—the entries in `foundation.out` are especially useful for confirming whether the Mac is using the expected NIC and VLAN, whether discovery packets are being sent and received, and whether the nodes' management interfaces are reachable.

The tilde character represents the home directory of the user who launched Foundation Portable. For example, if Foundation is run by a user named `consultant`, the effective path is `/Users/consultant/data/logs/foundation.out`. Review the most recent timestamped entries while reproducing node discovery, then use the reported networking or connectivity

condition to validate the workstation connection and node management-network configuration. Nutanix publishes Foundation documentation through the Nutanix Support Portal documentation library; the portal also provides access to product guides and support resources at portal.nutanix.com.

## QUESTION NO: 5

To prepare for a new Nutanix installation, a consultant downloads the Foundation VM, imports the VM to their Desktop Virtualization Solution, and powers on the VM. The IPv4 static address on the host workstation and the Foundation VM have been configured, but pings between them fail.

Which two troubleshooting steps should the consultant perform? (Choose two.)

**A.** Remove and re-import the Foundation VM to ensure the virtual NIC is set to Host-Only.

**B.** Verify the virtual NIC in the Foundation VM is bound to the correct physical Host adapter.

**C.** Confirm the IP addresses and subnet masks are correct.

**D.** Verify the virtual NIC in the Foundation VM is bound to the correct wireless network adapter.

## ANSWER: B C

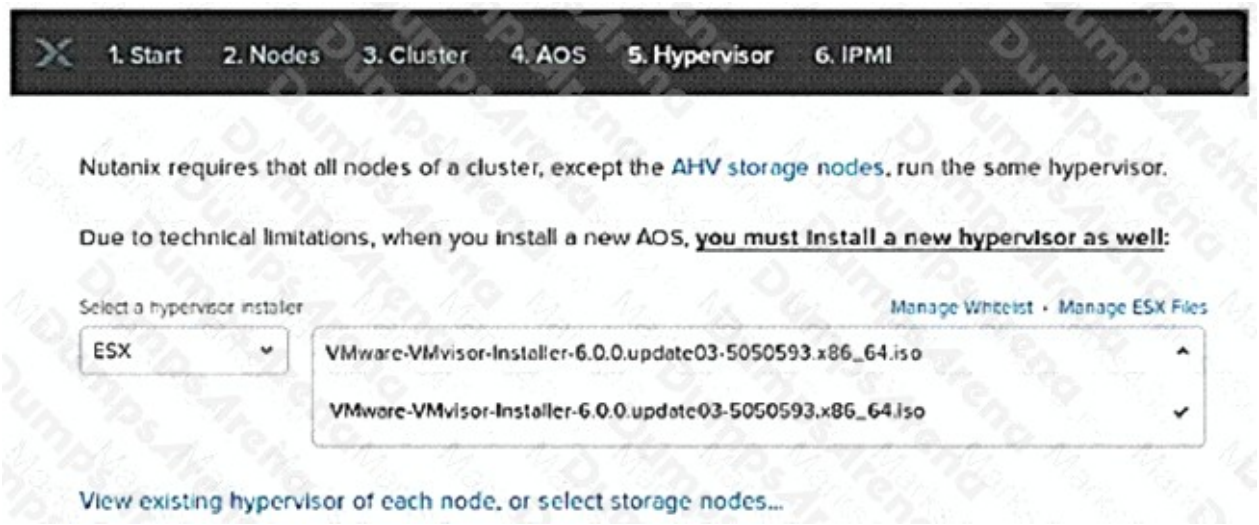
**Explanation:**

“Verify the virtual NIC in the Foundation VM is bound to the correct physical Host adapter” is a required check because the Foundation VM must be connected through the desktop hypervisor to the network interface that can reach the workstation and the target deployment network. An imported VM can retain an unsuitable virtual-switch or adapter mapping, so confirming that its NIC is attached to the intended active physical host Ethernet adapter establishes the correct Layer 2 path for traffic.

“Confirm the IP addresses and subnet masks are correct” is also essential. For direct communication without routing, the workstation and Foundation VM need valid, unique IPv4 addresses in the same subnet, as determined by their subnet masks. A typo, duplicate address, or mismatched mask can prevent the hosts from identifying each other as locally reachable, causing ICMP ping to fail even when the virtual NIC is connected. These checks isolate the fundamental network prerequisites before starting Foundation-based imaging or cluster deployment. Nutanix Foundation documentation describes the network connectivity requirements for using the Foundation VM, and Nutanix deployment guidance emphasizes validating host and network configuration before imaging nodes. See the Nutanix Foundation User Guide and Foundation network requirements.

## QUESTION NO: 6

Refer to the exhibit.



A consultant is installing AOS 5.10 and ESXi 6.5 on three nodes. During the Foundation process, ESXi 6.5 is not available as one of the choices for hypervisor.

Which solution should the consultant use?

**A.** Upload ESXi image to /home/Nutanix/foundation/nos/hypervisor/esx.

**B.** Restart Foundation VM and refresh Foundation page.

**C.** Update the Foundation whitelist from the support portal.

**D.** Upload ESXi image to /home/Nutanix/foundation/isos/hypervisor/esx.

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

Upload ESXi image to /home/Nutanix/foundation/isos/hypervisor/esx. Foundation populates the selectable ESXi versions by discovering valid installation media in its designated hypervisor ISO repository. When the required ESXi 6.5 image is absent from that repository, it will not appear in the Foundation web interface as an available hypervisor choice. Copying the supported ESXi installer ISO to `/home/Nutanix/foundation/isos/hypervisor/esx` on the Foundation VM places it in the location Foundation uses for ESXi image selection. After the upload completes, the Foundation interface can refresh its inventory of available images and make that ESXi version available for use during node imaging. The consultant should also ensure that the selected ESXi build is supported with the target AOS release and hardware platform before beginning the deployment. Nutanix documents Foundation workflows and required installation media handling in its Foundation Guide; supported AOS, hypervisor, and platform combinations should be validated through the Nutanix Compatibility and Interoperability Matrix.

## QUESTION NO: 7

A consultant creates a new AHV VM network for VLAN 125. VMs connected to the network cannot reach devices outside the AHV cluster.

Which two configuration items should the consultant verify? (Choose two.)

**A.** Confirm that the Prism VM network uses VLAN 125.

**B.** Confirm that VLAN 125 is allowed on the AHV uplink switch ports.

**C.** Assign a second static IP address to every guest VM.

**D.** Change the CVM IP address to VLAN 125.

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

The VM network in Prism must be configured with the intended **VLAN ID**, which causes AHV to apply the required 802.1Q tag to guest traffic. The physical switch ports connected to the AHV host uplinks must also be configured to **allow VLAN 125 on the trunk**. Both the virtual and physical network configuration must match for guest traffic to reach the external network.

Assigning a static IP address inside a guest VM does not create a Layer 2 path for the selected VLAN. Similarly, changing the CVM IP address is not required to make a guest VLAN available. Review AHV networking guidance in the Nutanix Documentation portal.

## QUESTION NO: 8

A customer wants VM network addresses to be assigned automatically from an AHV network in Prism Element without using an external DHCP server.

Which two network settings should the consultant configure? (Choose two.)

**A.** An IP address pool

**B.** The subnet and gateway information

**C.** A storage container

**D.** A Controller VM affinity policy

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

**An IP address pool** and **the subnet and gateway information** must be configured for AHV IP address management (IPAM). The IP address pool defines the addresses that Prism can assign to VMs connected to the network. The subnet and gateway settings provide the network configuration that is delivered to those VMs.

DNS servers can also be configured when required by the customer design, but DNS alone does not provide address assignment. The physical switch configuration must still carry the VLAN associated with the AHV network. Nutanix AHV networking documentation is available through the Nutanix Documentation portal.

## QUESTION NO: 9

A consultant creates a new storage container on a Nutanix cluster running VMware ESXi. The customer needs the ESXi hosts to use the container for virtual machine storage.

Which action should the consultant take next?

**A.** Create a datastore from the storage container

**B.** Create a Protection Domain for the storage container

**C.** Enable AHV on the storage container

**D.** Convert the storage container to an Image Configuration

**ANSWER: A**

**Explanation:**

**Create a datastore from the storage container** is the correct action. A storage container defines the Nutanix storage policy and capacity boundary, but ESXi requires a datastore presentation before it can create and store virtual-machine files. The datastore exposes storage from the container to the ESXi hosts using the configured Nutanix storage protocol.

After the datastore is created, the consultant should verify that it is visible to all intended ESXi hosts and that the datastore configuration aligns with the customer's vSphere cluster design. Nutanix storage administration documentation is available through the Nutanix Documentation portal.

## QUESTION NO: 10

A customer needs to replicate a group of business-critical VMs from a primary Nutanix cluster to a second Nutanix cluster for disaster recovery.

Which two items must be configured to meet this requirement? (Choose two.)

**A.** A remote site

**B.** A protection policy with a replication schedule

**C.** A VM category

**D.** A storage container with deduplication enabled

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

**A remote site** and **a protection policy with a replication schedule** are required for remote VM protection. The remote site defines the relationship and connectivity to the recovery Nutanix cluster. The protection policy defines the workloads to protect and the schedule used to create recovery points and replicate them to the remote site.

VM categories and storage containers can be used for workload organization and placement, but they do not independently establish inter-cluster replication. The consultant should also validate network reachability, compatible software versions, and sufficient capacity at the recovery location before enabling protection. Nutanix data-protection documentation is available through the Nutanix Documentation portal.