Monitoring VMware Horizon View Composer

eG Innovations Product Documentation

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Total Performance Visibility

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Chapter 1: Introduction

VMware Horizon View Composer is a feature in Horizon View that gives administrators the ability to manage pools of desktops that share a common virtual disk.

In the VMware View Composer, you first create a single "master" virtual desktop, which is referred to as the Parent VM. A snapshot is taken of this Parent VM, and then a replica is generated. From this replica, linked clones are created. The reason they are called linked clones, is that fundamentally the source of clone's information comes from the read-only replica.

The difference in this approach to virtual desktop deployment is that rather than using the template process to create a virtual desktop – merely a "differences" or "delta" file is created. Additionally, when changes are made to the Parent VM, these are proliferated to each of the linked clones, in a process called VMware recomposing. This reduces storage costs and deployment time.

This means that where the VMware Horizon View Composer is used, any issue that slows down virtual desktop deployment or management - be it a resource contention at the OS-level or an error in VMware recomposing at the composer-level - will not be viewed kindly! This is because, such issues, if allowed to persist, can shake user confidence in the composer, compelling them to favor the traditional template approach over the modern composer approach to desktop deployment. To avoid such eventualities, it is good practice to keep an eye on the performance of the composer, capture issues proactively, and fix them before users notice and complain. This is where eG Enterprise helps!

eG Enterprise offers a specialized monitoring model for the VMware Horizon View Composer. By monitoring every layer of every tier of a composer, this model alerts administrators to anomalies affecting composer performance, much before they impact user experience.

This document elaborates on eG's VMware Horizon Composer model. With the hep of this document , you can understand how this model works, the steps to follow to get this model up and running, and what metrics this model reports.

1.1 How Does eG Enterprise Monitor the VMware Horizon View Composer?

eG Enterprise monitors the VMware Horizon View Composer in an agent-based manner. The eG agent deployed on the composer host employs a variety of mechanisms to pull a wealth of performance metrics from the composer. To collect statistics on the health of the composer

hardware and OS - eg., the status of CPU core sensors/GPU sensors on the composer host, resource usage of the composer host, the status of composer-related services, the status of TCP connections to the composer system etc. - eG Enterprise largely uses the Windows Perfmon utility. To detect and report errors in core composer operations such as desktop deployment, recomposing etc., eG Enterprise periodically scans the **vmware-viewcomposer.log** file in the <VIEW_COMPOSER_DIR>\Logs directory for error messages.

Chapter 2: How to Monitor the VMware Horizon View Composer Using eG Enterprise?

The broad steps for monitoring the VMware Horizon View Composer using eG Enterprise are as follows:

1. Install the eG agent on the composer host.
2. Manage the target composer using the eG admin interface.

To know how to perform step 1, refer to the *Deploying eG Enterprise* guide. . To know how to perform step 2, refer to Section **2.1** in this document.

2.1 Managing the VMware Horizon View Composer

eG Enterprise can automatically discover the VMware Horizon View Composers in your environment. To manage an auto-discovered composer, do the following:

1. Login to the eG administrative interface as a user who has been assigned the Admin role.
2. Follow the Infrastructure -> Components -> Manage/Unmanage/Delete menu sequence in the Admin tile menu.
3. Figure 2.1 will appear. Select *VMware Horizon View Composer* as the **Component type** from Figure 2.1 . The auto- discovered composers will then appear in the **Unmanaged components** list. To manage the discovered composer, select it from the **Unmanaged components** list and click the < button in Figure 2.1.

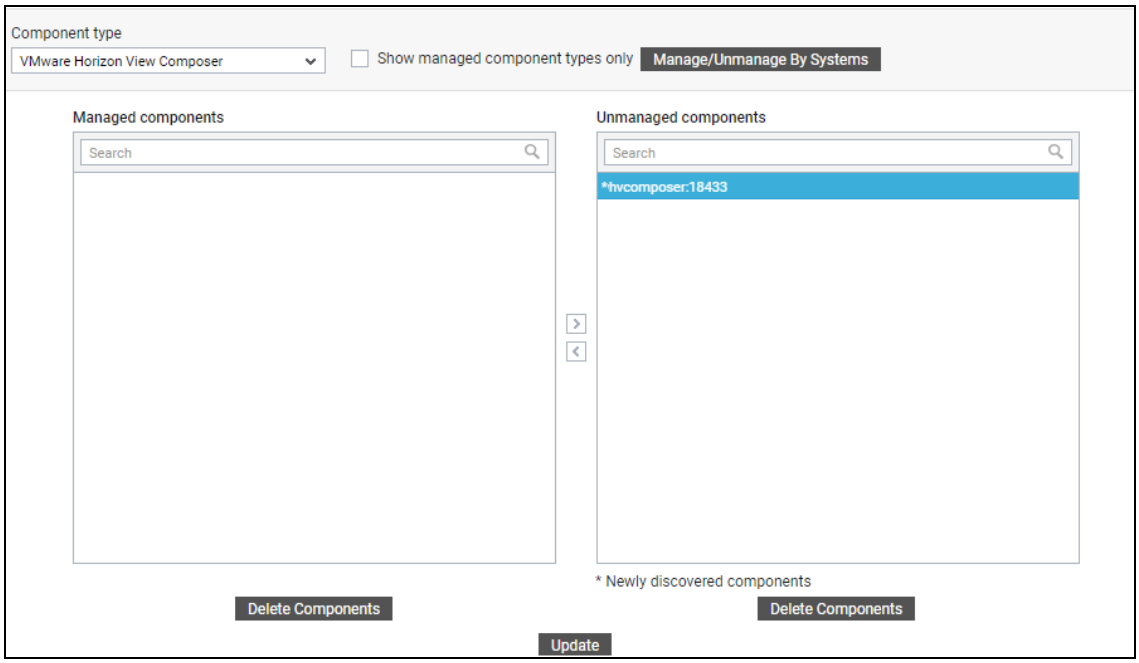

Figure 2.1: Selecting the composer component to be managed

4. This will transfer your selection to the **Managed components** list (see Figure 2.2). Click the **Update** button in Figure 2.2 to save the changes.

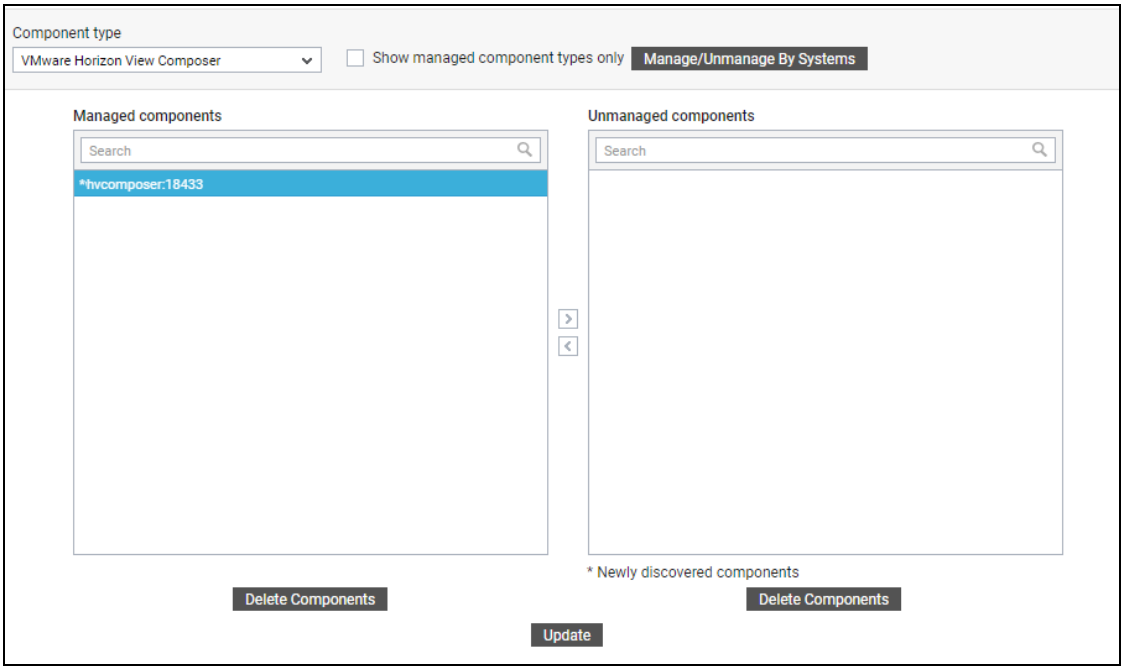

Figure 2.2: Managing the selected composer

If for some reason eG Enterprise is unable to auto-discover the composer, you will have to manually add the composer to the eG Enterprise system. For this, follow the steps below:

1. Login to the eG administrative interface as a user who has been assigned the Admin role.
2. Follow the Infrastructure -> Components -> Add/Modify menu sequence in the Admin tile menu.
3. In the page that appears next, select *VMware Horizon View Composer* as the **Component type**, and click the **Add New Component** button.
4. Figure 2.3 will then appear.

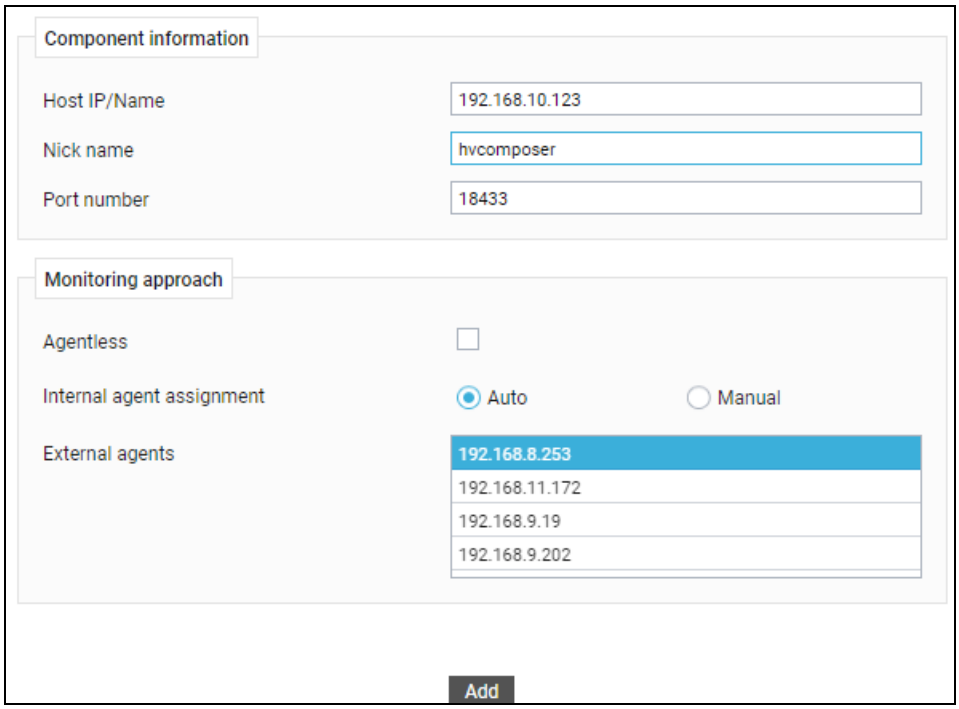

Figure 2.3: Adding a composer to the eG Enterprise system

5. In Figure 2.3, specify the **Host IP/Name** of the composer to be monitored and provide a unique **Nick name** to the composer. Then, select an **External agent** for monitoring the network connection to composer, and click the **Add** button to add the component to the eG Enterprise system.

After managing/manually adding the composer, sign out of the eG administrative interface.

Chapter 3: Monitoring the VMware Horizon View Composer

To monitor the managed VMware Horizon View Composer, login to the eG management console as a user with monitoring privileges.

Browse the **Components At-A-Glance** section of the Monitor Home page that appears, and locate the *VMware Horizon View Composer* component type. Click on the bar that corresponds to this component type. This will lead you to the **Layers** tab page, where you can view the monitoring model for the composer (see Figure 3.1).

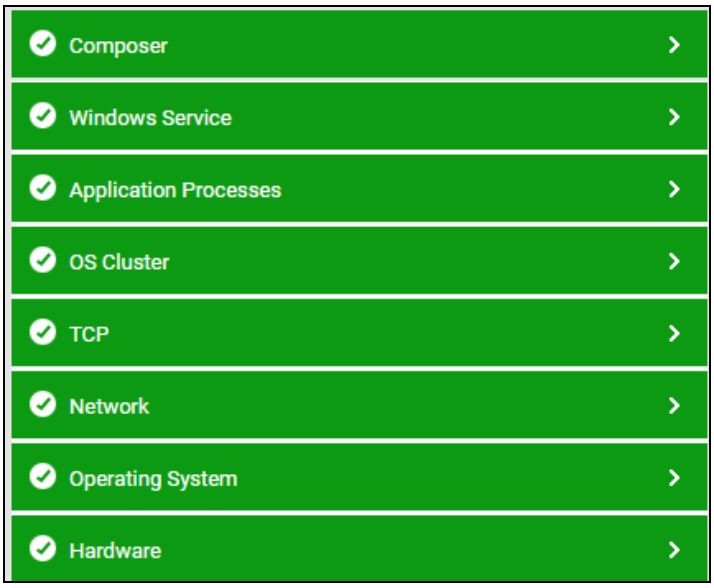

Figure 3.1: Layer model of the VMware Horizon View Composer

Each layer of Figure 3.1 is mapped to tests that report on the health of a particular KPI of the composer. Using the metrics reported, administrators can find quick and accurate answers to many persistent performance queries related to the composer:

- Is the composer available over the network? If so, how quickly is it responding the network requests?
- Is the network traffic to the composer optimal?
- Are all composer hardware in good health?
- Has the composer host been sized with adequate CPU, memory, and storage resources?
- Are all services critical to the functioning of the composer up and running?

- Were any TCP connections to the composer host dropped?
- Have any errors been logged recently in the composer log? Are there any fatal errors? What are those errors?

This chapter will discuss the **Composer** layer alone, as all other layers have been dealt with elaborately in the *Monitoring Unix and Windows Servers* document.

3.1 The Composer Layer

This layer is mapped to the Composer Log test. This test periodically scans the vmware-viewcomposer.log file and reports errors that were recently logged in the file.

3.1.1 Composer Log Test

To enable administrators to quickly capture errors encountered by the VMware Horizon View Composer, administrators can use the Composer Log test. This test scans the **vmware-viewcomposer.log** file for errors and reports the number of errors logged in that log file. The detailed diagnostics of the test describe the errors and also reveal when the erors were captured and logged, so as to ease troubleshooting and hasten problem resolution.

Target of the test : VMware Horizon View Composer

Agent deploying the test : An internal agent

utputs of the test : One set of results for the composer being monitored

Configurable parameters for the test

Parameters	Description
Test period	How often should the test be executed.
Host	The host for which the test is to be configured.
Port	The port on which the **HOST** listens.
Log File Path	This test reports metrics by parsing a **vmware-viewcomposer.log** file that is by default created in the <VIEW_COMPOSER_INSTALL_DIR>\Logs folder on the target server. Since this test, by default, looks for the **vmware-viewcomposer.log** file in the aforesaid directory only, the **LOG FILE PATH** parameter is set to *none* by default. However, if you have configured this log file to be created in a different directory in your environment, then you will have to explicitly specify the full path to this directory in the **LOG FILE PATH** text box. For instance, your path specification can be: *C:\LogFiles\CompsrLog*

Parameters	Description
DD Frequency	Refers to the frequency with which detailed diagnosis measures are to be generated for this test. The default is *1:1*. This indicates that, by default, detailed measures will be generated every time the test runs, and also every time the test detects a problem. You can modify this frequency, if you so desire. Also, if you intend to disable the detailed diagnosis capability for this test, you can do so by specifying *none* against **DD FREQUENCY**.
Detailed Diagnosis	To make diagnosis more efficient and accurate, the eG Enterprise suite embeds an optional detailed diagnostic capability. With this capability, the eG agents can be configured to run detailed, more elaborate tests as and when specific problems are detected. To enable the detailed diagnosis capability of this test for a particular server, choose the **On** option. To disable the capability, click on the **Off** option. The option to selectively enabled/disable the detailed diagnosis capability will be available only if the following conditions are fulfilled: • The eG manager license should allow the detailed diagnosis capability • Both the normal and abnormal frequencies configured for the detailed diagnosis measures should not be 0.

Measurements made by the test

Measurement	Description	Measurement Unit	Interpretation
Number of fatals	Indicates the number of fatal errors that were logged in the log file during the last measurement period.	Number	Errors with high severity levels are typically categorized as fatal. These errors could stall the operations of the VMWare Horizon View Composer server. This is why, the value 0 is desired for this measure. In the event that this measure reports a non-zero value, you can use the detailed diagnosis of this measure to view what fatal errors occurred and when.
Number of errors	Indicates the number of errors, which are neither fatal errors nor exceptions, that were logged in the log file during the last measurement period.	Number	Ideally, the value of this measure should be zero. A non-zero value is therefore a cause for concern. The detailed diagnosis of this measure reveals what errors occurred and when.

About eG Innovations

eG Innovations provides intelligent performance management solutions that automate and dramatically accelerate the discovery, diagnosis, and resolution of IT performance issues in on-premises, cloud and hybrid environments. Where traditional monitoring tools often fail to provide insight into the performance drivers of business services and user experience, eG Innovations provides total performance visibility across every layer and every tier of the IT infrastructure that supports the business service chain. From desktops to applications, from servers to network and storage, from virtualization to cloud, eG Innovations helps companies proactively discover, instantly diagnose, and rapidly resolve even the most challenging performance and user experience issues.

eG Innovations is dedicated to helping businesses across the globe transform IT service delivery into a competitive advantage and a center for productivity, growth and profit. Many of the world's largest businesses use eG Enterprise to enhance IT service performance, increase operational efficiency, ensure IT effectiveness and deliver on the ROI promise of transformational IT investments across physical, virtual and cloud environments.

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