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 A dark grey banner with a green curved background on the right side. It contains the text "Time to bring your infrastructure to the next level" in white. To the right are logos for "StarWind Hyperconvergence for SMB & ROBO" and "Intel Select Solutions". On the far right is a photograph of a server rack.

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VMware fix "Invalid OVF manifest entry" error

Paolo Valsecchi
 08/08/2017
 2 Comments
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Think your Office 365 data is being backed up? **Think again.**

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To deploy packaged VMs (appliances), VMware uses the **Open Virtualization Format (OVF)** standard that makes the VMs deployment quick and easy.

An OVF package is composed by three files:

- **.ovf** - is an XML file that contains the metadata for the OVF package: name, hardware requirements, references to the other files in the OVF package
- **.mf** - is a manifest file that contains the SHA1 hash codes of all the files in the package
- **.vmdk** - is the disk image of the virtual machine

These files can be further processed and packaged into a single file, known as an **OVA file**.

During the deployment of an .OVA file, can happen that the **procedure**

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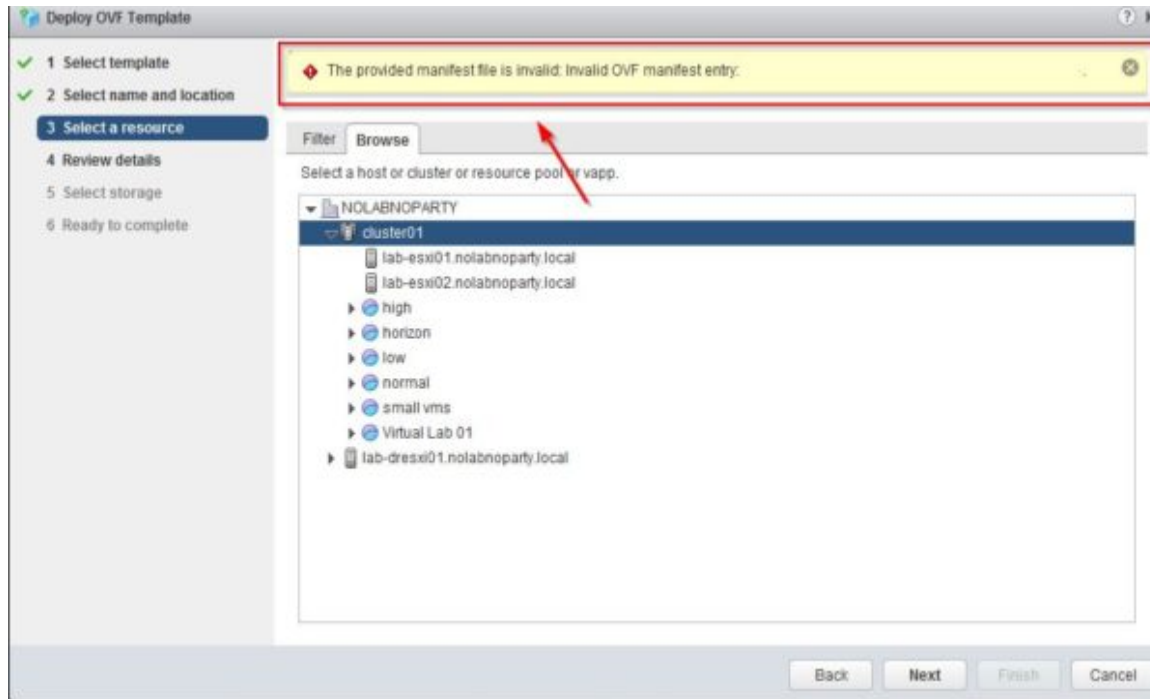
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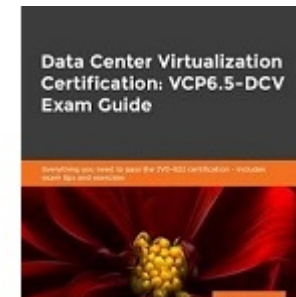
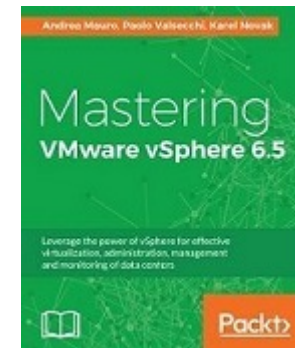
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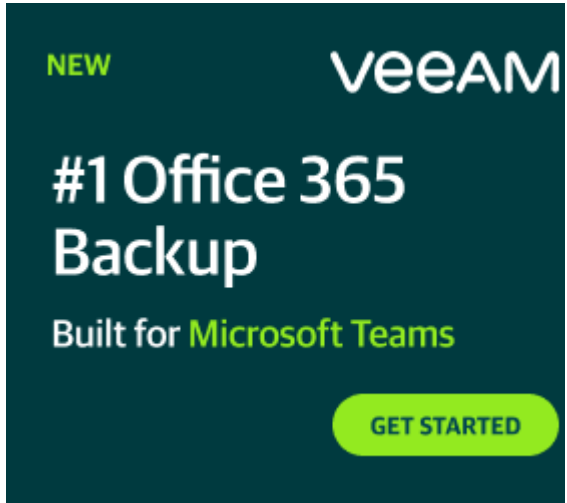
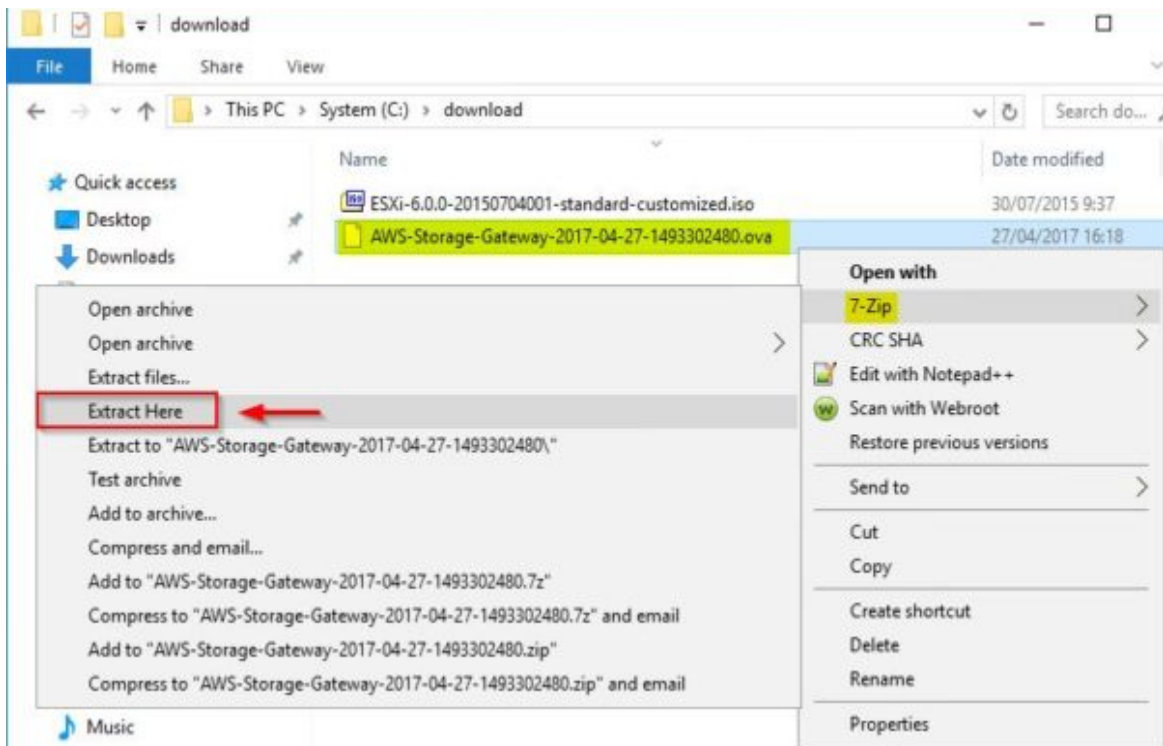


To fix the problem we need to extract the files from the OVA package using a free tool like [7-Zip](#) and re-create the package using the **VMware OVF Tool**, a command-line utility that helps users import and export OVF packages.

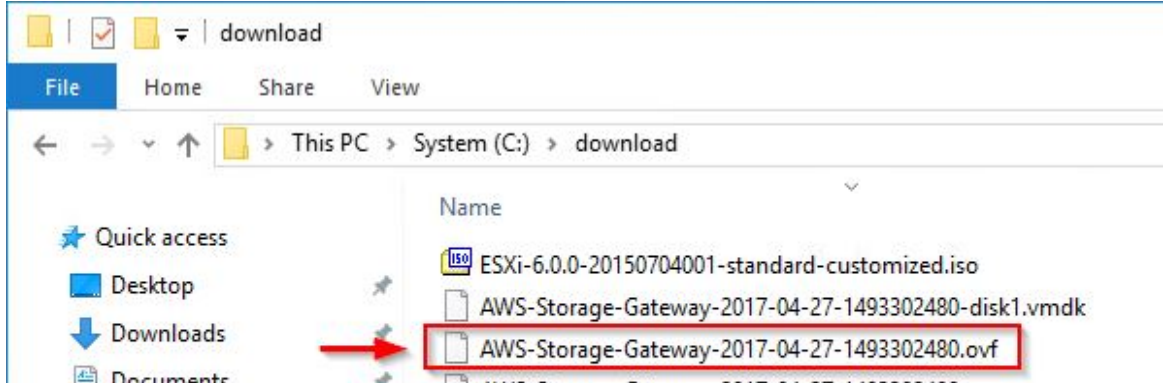
Install the 7-Zip tool, right click the .OVA file to process then select **7-Zip > Extract Here**.

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From the .OVA file, three files are extracted: .ovf, .mf, and .vmdk.



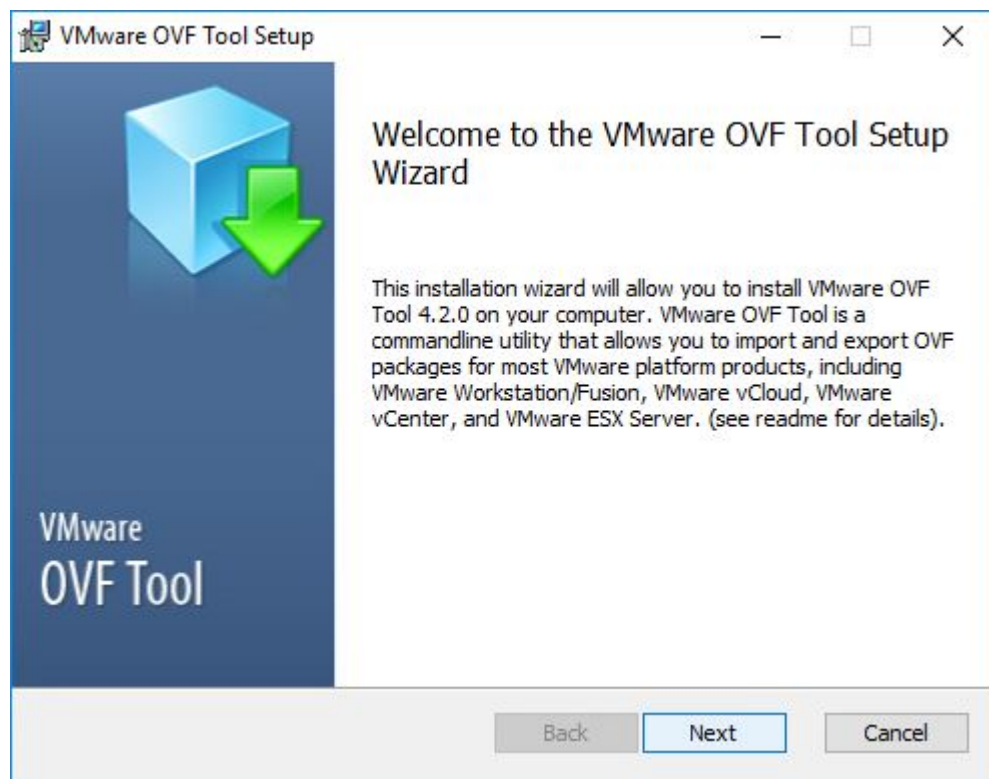
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Install VMware OVF Tool

Download the [VMware OVF Tool](#) from VMware website and run the installer.

Click **Next** to begin.

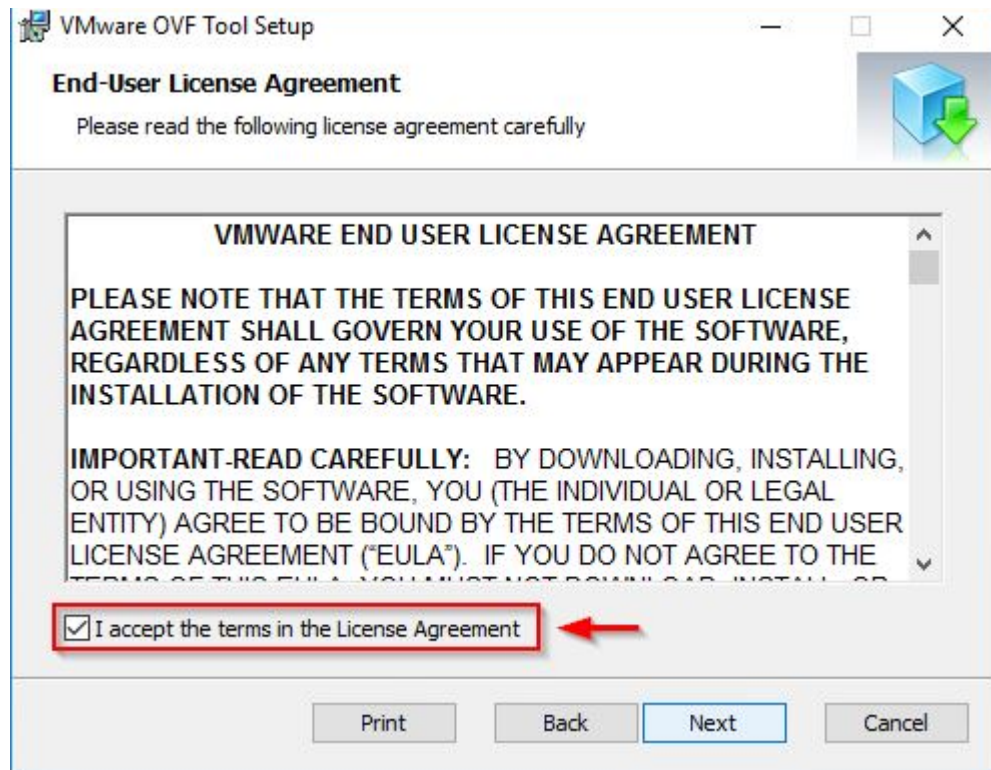


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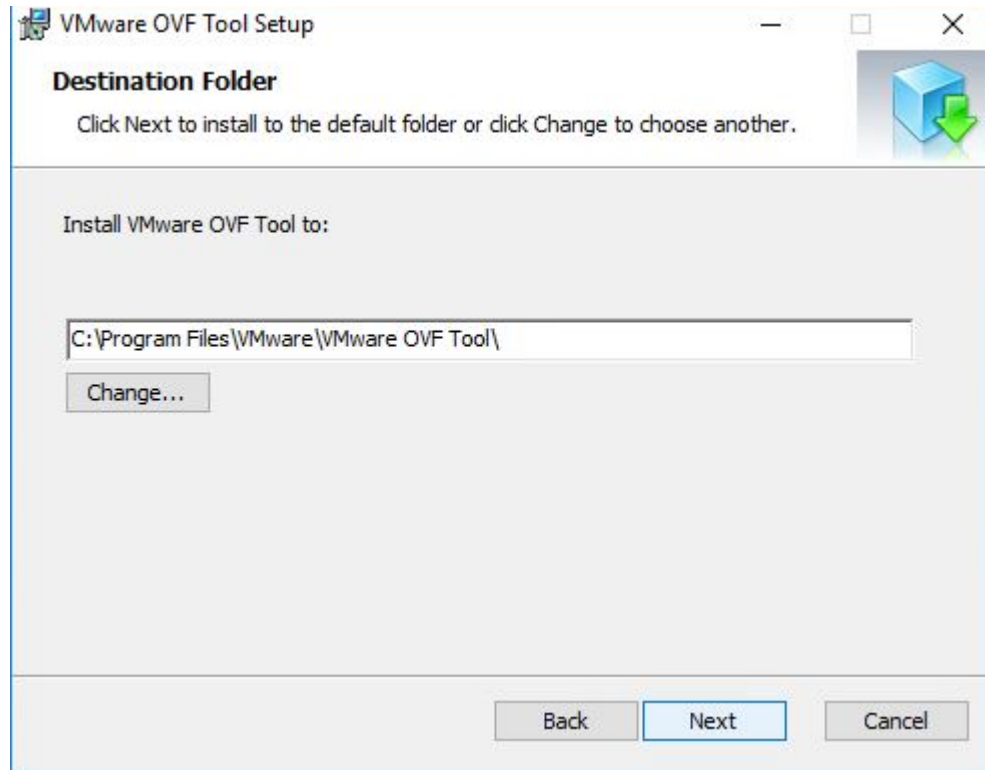
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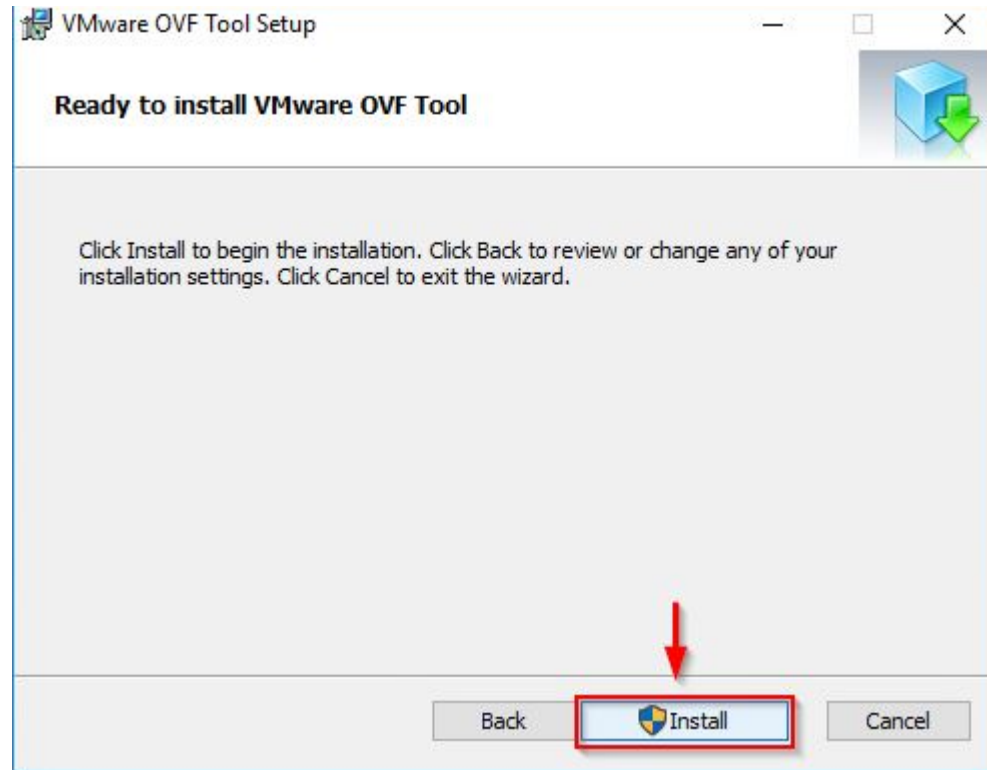


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Click **Install** to proceed with the installation.

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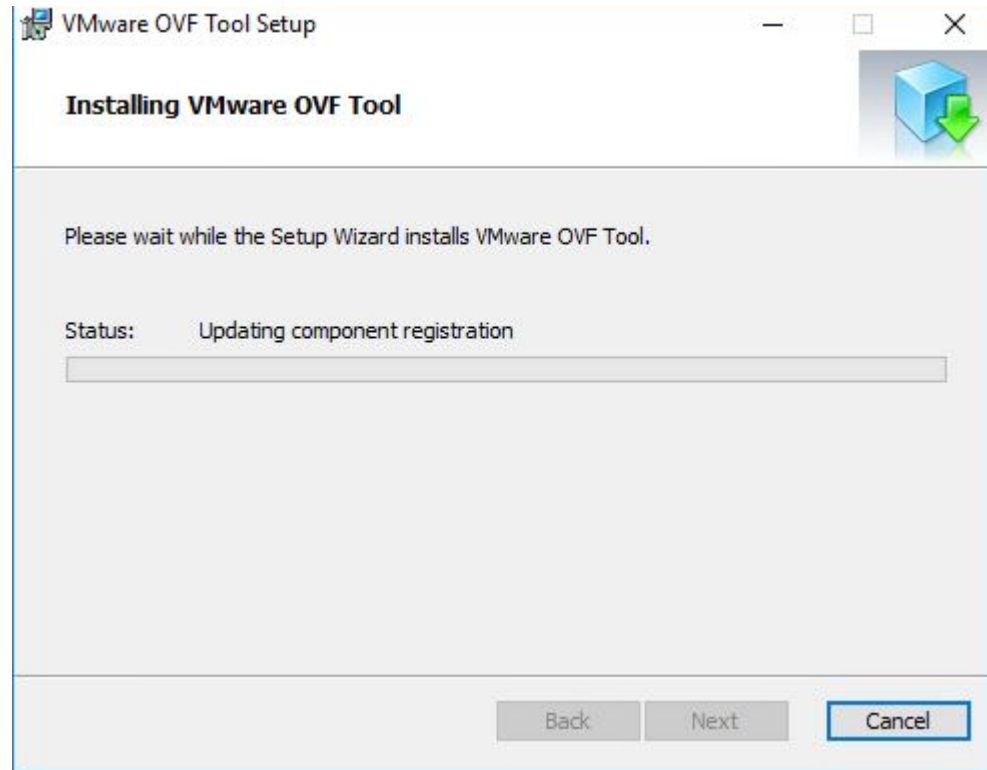
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The tool is being installed in the system.

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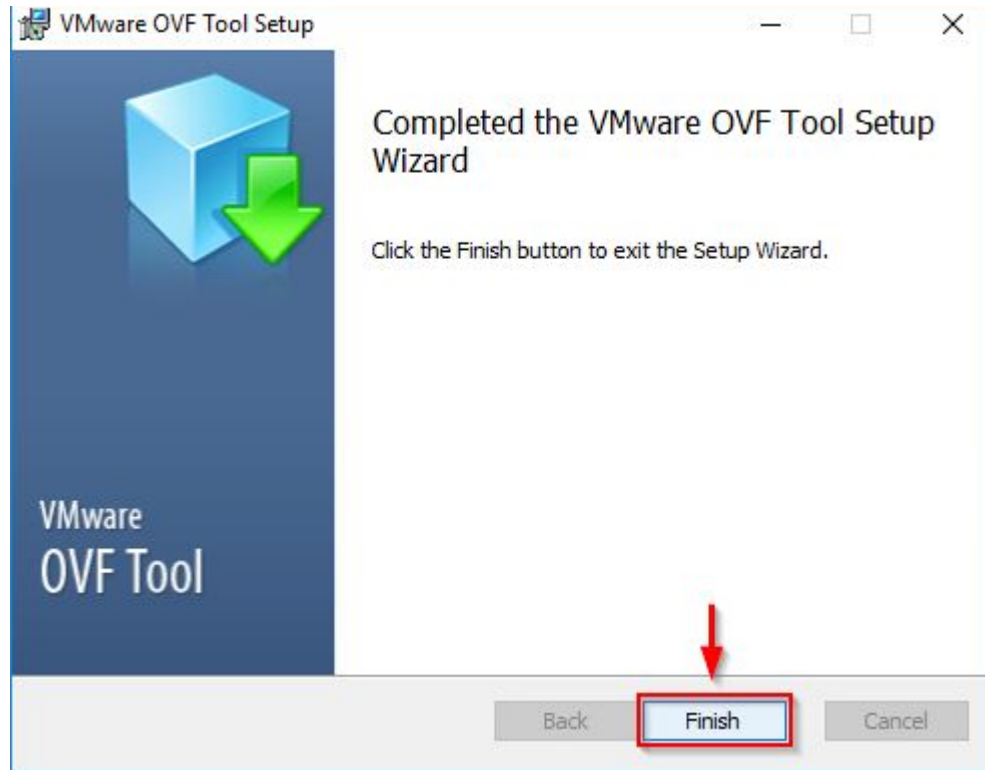
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When the installation has completed successfully, click **Finish**.

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Re-create the packaged .OVA file

From the Windows machine, open the **Command Prompt** and go to the default VMware OVF Tool location.

```
C:\>cd "\Program Files\VMware\VMware OVF Tool"
```

To re-create the .OVA file, run the following command:

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Depending on the size of your .OVF file, time to process the file may vary from seconds up to minutes.

```
C:\>cd "\Program Files\VMware\VMware OVF Tool"

C:\Program Files\VMware\VMware OVF Tool>ovftool.exe \download\AWS-Storage-Gateway-2017-04-27-1493302480.ovf \download\fix\AWS-Storage-Gateway.oVa
Opening OVF source: \download\AWS-Storage-Gateway-2017-04-27-1493302480.ovf
The manifest validates
Opening OVA target: \download\fix\AWS-Storage-Gateway.oVa
Writing OVA package: \download\fix\AWS-Storage-Gateway.oVa
Disk progress: 18%
```

When the procedure completes successfully, the new .OVA file is created in the **specified path**.

```
C:\>cd "\Program Files\VMware\VMware OVF Tool"

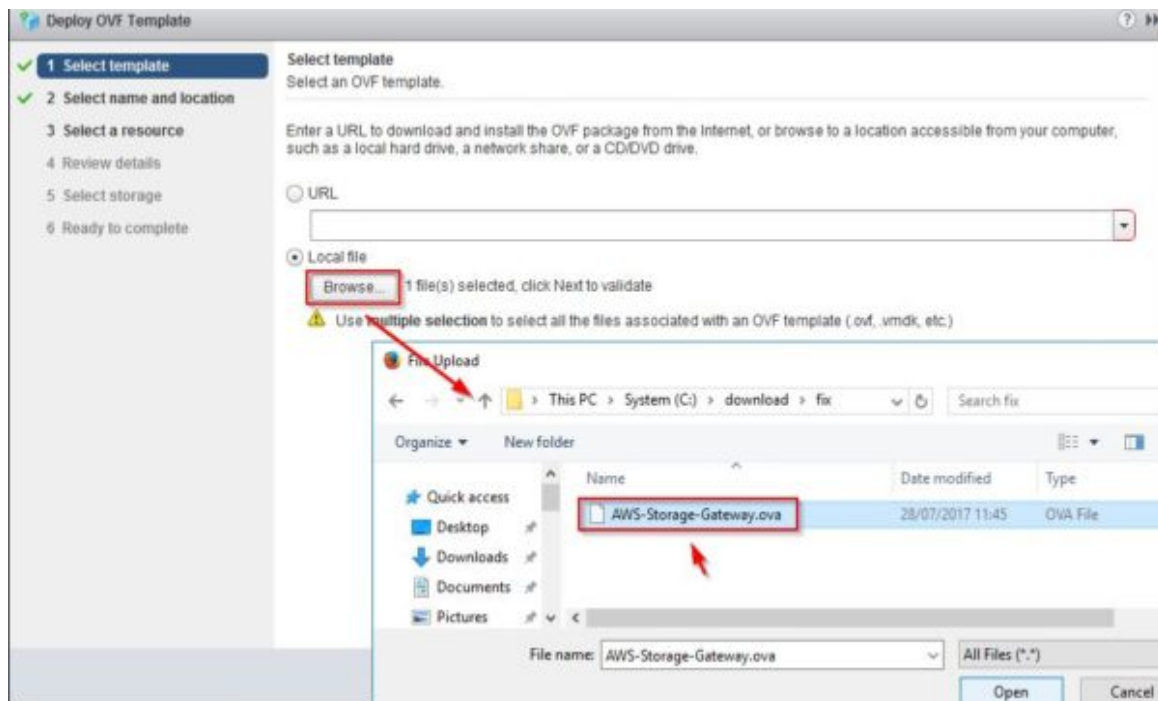
C:\Program Files\VMware\VMware OVF Tool>ovftool.exe \download\AWS-Storage-Gateway-2017-04-27-1493302480.ovf \download\fix\AWS-Storage-Gateway.oVa
Opening OVF source: \download\AWS-Storage-Gateway-2017-04-27-1493302480.ovf
The manifest validates
Opening OVA target: \download\fix\AWS-Storage-Gateway.oVa
Writing OVA package: \download\fix\AWS-Storage-Gateway.oVa
Transfer Completed
Warning:
- No manifest entry found for: 'AWS-Storage-Gateway-2017-04-27-1493302480.ovf'.
- File is missing from the manifest: 'AWS-Storage-Gateway-2017-04-27-1493302480.ovf'.
Completed successfully

C:\Program Files\VMware\VMware OVF Tool>_
```

Start the **Deploy OVF Template** wizard once again and specify the **new create .OVA** file as source.

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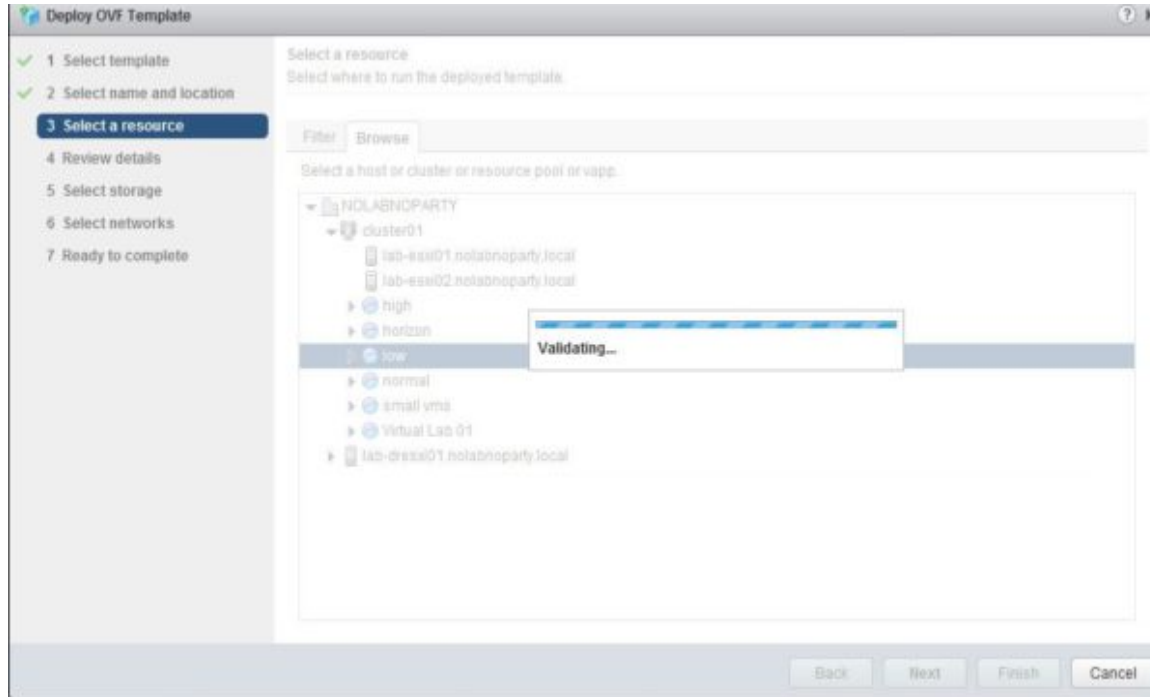
Ok



In step 3 **Select a resource**, the system tries to **validate the new package**.

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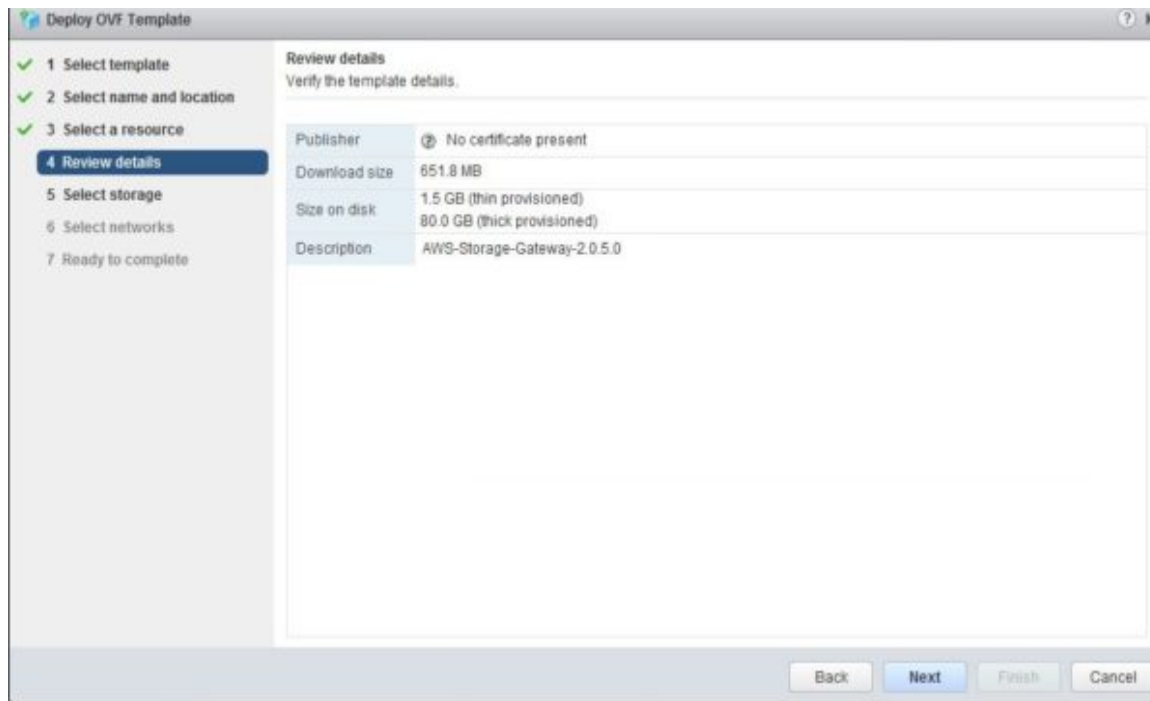
Ok



This time everything worked with no errors and the **deployment of the package** can be completed successfully.

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With few steps the .OVA package can be **recovered** and used for new deployments.

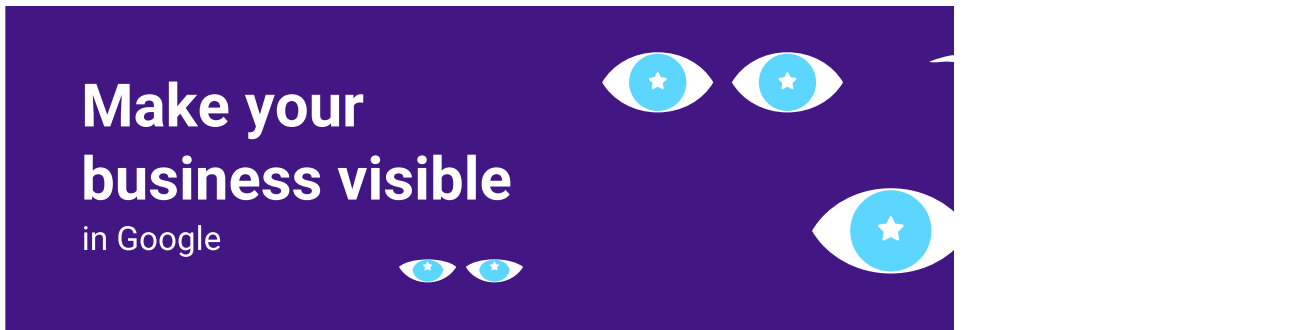
by Paolo Valsecchi



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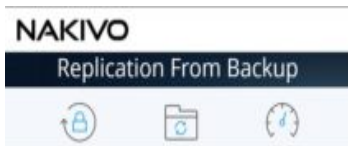
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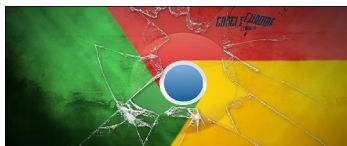
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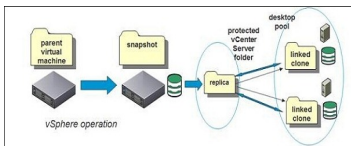
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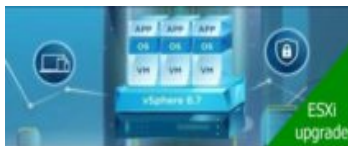
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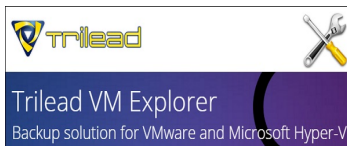
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About The Author

Paolo Valsecchi

System Engineer, VCP-DCV, vExpert, VMCE, Veeam Vanguard, PernixPro. Working experience focused on VMware vSphere, Microsoft Active Directory, and backup/DR solutions.

2 Comments



DavidD 23/07/2018

Thanks man, this worked a treat. I'm trying to export a VM (an old Windows 2003 DC) from a Vsphere 4.0 cluster to deploy into a 6.5 cluster. The export OVF worked fine with the old Vsphere client, but when deploying I got the message about the problems with the manifest. The ovftool did the trick - I just deleted the .MF file and ran it. The deployment worked fine then.



Robert E Lee 25/01/2019

Followed above instructions, but then got below error:

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66:10:VALUE_ILLEGAL: Value "3" of Parent element does not refer to a ref of type DiskControllerReference.

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