Virgo Application Server Replacement

In the VMware vSphere 6.7 Update 2 release the vSphere Client includes changes to the Application server to provide better security compliance in the product without impact on the backward compatibility of the plugin ecosystem.

Former vSphere releases exposed a limitation of the Virgo application server: whenever security vulnerabilities within certain libraries are addressed the Virgo release comes with new versions of the whole technology stack. Sometimes this includes major versions which cause backward compatibility breakages (for example, the Spring upgrade in the vSphere 6.7 release).

To prevent such scenarios in the future, starting from version 6.7 Update 2, the vSphere Client no longer runs Virgo (which builds on top of Apache Tomcat, Equinox and Spring).

Instead, the vSphere Client is directly based on the same technologies:

- Apache Tomcat 8.5
- Equinox 3.11
- Spring 4.3

This application server stack untangles the library version dependencies enforced by Virgo and allows a separate upgrade of each library.

The change is transparent for all HTML plugins for the vSphere Client and increases their stability across security updates in the future.

As always, the vSphere Client team welcomes any feedback and questions on this change.

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