

VMware® ESX Server™ 2.5.x Software for Dell™ PowerEdge™ Servers - Release Notes

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Purpose

This document contains important or additional information regarding the 2.5.2 and above (excluding ESX 3.x) releases of ESX Server software for Dell servers.

Known Issues and Resolutions

Issue	Description	Resolution
Drivers for add-on cards Broadcom 5701/5703 fails to load on ESX 2.5.x	This issue is seen when add-on card BCM 5701/5703 is installed on ESX 2.5.x system	Using add-on Broadcom 5701/5703 is not recommended with ESX 2.5.x systems
Dell PowerEdge 2970 intermittently hangs at bootup when Dell OpenManage Storage Services is installed	This issue is seen when Dell OpenManage 5.2 is installed on a Dell PowerEdge 2970 system	Dell OpenManage 5.2 is not supported on Dell PowerEdge 2970 with ESX 2.5.5. For OpenManage 5.2 support on Dell PowerEdge Servers with ESX 2.5.5, Please refer <i>Installing Dell OpenManage in a VMware ESX Server Software Environment</i> in Support Documents at www.dell.com/vmware website
Mouse not detected during Graphical Installation on Dell PowerEdge 9th Generation Servers with ESX 2.5.5	The issue is seen only if the servers are used in KVM switching environment and while performing graphical installation of ESX 2.5.5	Issue is not encountered when you directly connect the keyboard, mouse, & monitor to the server.
PXE-based Installation of ESX 2.5.5 without kickstart file fails	Installation of ESX 2.5.5 through PXE gets aborted with the following error "failed to read /modules/module-info" if there is no kickstart file specified.	Proper kickstart file is required for PXE-based installation of ESX 2.5.x

Issue	Description	Resolution
<p>Various errors logged in /var/log/vmkernel after installation of ESX 2.5.x</p>	<p>After installing ESX 2.5.x error/failure messages get logged to /var/log/vmkernel like</p> <pre>vmkernel: TSC: 170430976 cpu0) IDT: 954: 0xfe exclusive, flags 0x0 and vmkernel: 0:00:00:17.736 cpu2)WARNING: LinSCSI: 389: SCSI MODE SENSE command failed with status = I/O error for vmhba0:0:0</pre>	<p>These errors will not impact the normal working of ESX. You can safely ignore these messages.</p>
<p>BMC SOL console redirection fails on Dell PowerEdge 9th generation Servers with OM 5.0 and ITA 8.0</p>	<p>Unable to start Console Redirection session as the session does not respond to any input.</p>	<p>Specify correct baud rate in /etc/inittab file and /etc/lilo.conf as shown in the example entries below.</p> <p>In /etc/inittab add the following line to the end of "Run gettys in standard runlevels" section</p> <pre>co:2345:respawn:/sbin/agetty ttyS1 115200 vt100 init q</pre> <p>In /etc/lilo.conf add following parameters to the append line under esx label</p> <pre>console=ttyS1,115200 console=tty0</pre>
<p>VMs and ESX may become unresponsive and Virtual Center may lose connectivity.</p>	<p>This issue is seen in ESX 2.5.2 Patch 2 or before. This behavior occurs when OpenManage Storage Services triggers a timing issue with these older versions of the Megaraid2 driver.</p>	<p>This issue can be corrected by applying ESX 2.5.2 Patch 3 or Patch 4 release, available at no cost for ESX Server Support and Subscription (SnS) holders.</p> <p><u>Dell strongly recommends that customers apply this software update to ESX Server 2.5, 2.5.1, and 2.5.2 software.</u></p> <p>Additional information about the patch releases can be found in: http://www.vmware.com/download/esx/</p>
<p>Unable to boot to 'Linux' in ESX 2.5.x on PE6850</p>	<p>When the ESX Server is booted to Linux, after choosing the Linux option from the LILO menu, the server hangs after "changing kernel parameters". This has only been observed on a PE6850 with four processors.</p>	<p>ESX Server's Linux multi-processor boot option on the PE6850 is not supported. Since Linux boot is intended for troubleshooting of the ESX Server environment, boot to the Linux Uni-processor kernel instead. Do this by selecting the 'linux-up' option from the LILO menu.</p>

Issue	Description	Resolution
Unable to create System LUN/Disk when "Use Metadata" option is selected	Unable to create a System LUN/Disk when the "Use Metadata" checkbox is selected. This is seen when ESX Server is "booted from SAN."	Raw Disk Mapping (RDM) is not supported with Boot-from-SAN configurations. To use RDM and "Metadata" LUNs, ESX Server must be installed on a local disk and use SAN-connected HBAs which are dedicated to the vmkernel.
vmotion not allowed between some processors	For certain combinations of processors, especially those in which one processor of the pair is very new, VirtualCenter may refuse to allow VMotion between two ESX Server systems, giving the following or similar error message: "Error: Cannot migrate between hosts with different CPUs. Supported extended features differ. (Source: 0x0000019d, 0x0000001d)."	Unless previously tested and specifically enabled in a specific version of Virtual Center, VMotion between processors with different settings and features is not supported. For more information refer to the following VMware Knowledge Base articles: http://www.vmware.com/support/kb/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1991 (Answer ID 1991) and http://www.vmware.com/support/kb/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1993 (Answer ID 1993).
Unsupported kernel version and non-RAID SCSI driver error message in OpenManage logs	When OpenManage is installed, the following error message is displayed in the log: "Unsupported kernel version and non-RAID SCSI drivers."	OpenManage Storage Services installation checks for specific versions of Linux and generates warning messages if an unexpected version is detected. Since the ESX Server service console is a customized version of Linux, OpenManage does not recognize it. The warning messages are harmless and may be safely ignored. Dell OpenManage software is supported in the ESX Server service console as described in the Dell VMware ESX Server 2.5.2 Deployment Guide located the Resource Archive at www.dell.com/vmware .
Poor Graphics in remote installation through Console Redirect in DRAC IV	When ESX Server is installed using Console Redirection in DRAC IV, the installation has poor graphics quality.	When using DRAC IV's Console Redirection function, use switch to the text based ESX Server installation interface. This is done by typing "text" in the installation options menu.
Unable to use remote floppy disk and CD-ROM in VMs using DRAC Remote media	When using DRAC IV, remote media like floppy disks and CD-ROMs can be mounted by the Service Console but they cannot be accessed by VMs. When using Avocent Digital KVM Access Module in PE 1855, remote floppy media cannot be accessed by VMs.	Accessing remote floppy disks and CD-ROMs from VMs is not supported. Only devices directly connected to an ESX server or a floppy or CD-ROM ISO image present in the ESX Service Console can be made accessible to the VMs. Avoid this issue by creating an image of the floppy or CDROM and copying it to the Service Console.

Issue	Description	Resolution
Unable to delete virtual RAID disks using OpenManage Storage Services	When virtual RAID disks are deleted using OpenManage Storage Services, the operation fails and reports the following error "Delete virtual disk failed."	Creating and deleting virtual RAID disks through OpenManage Storage services is not supported with ESX 2.5.x. To create and delete RAID disks, use the boot menu of the PERC controller, which can be invoked by pressing <Ctrl+M> during boot-up.
Newly created RAID Virtual Disks using OpenManage Storage Services (OMSS) map to the same device name	All newly created RAID virtual disks using Open Manage Storage Services map to /dev/sda.	Creating and deleting virtual RAID disks through OMSS is not supported with ESX 2.5.x. To create and delete RAID disks, use the boot menu of the PERC controller, which can be invoked by pressing <Ctrl+M> during boot-up.
OpenManage diagnostics are not available when OpenManage 4.5 is installed in ESX	After OpenManage is installed, online diagnostics are not available and cannot be performed.	Online diagnostics are not supported in ESX. Offline diagnostics must be used. When installing OM 4.5 on ESX 2.5.2, do not install the diagnostics portion. For more information, refer to the document "Installing OpenManage 4.5 in a VMware ESX Server Software 2.5.x Environment" in the "Resource Center" section of www.dell.com/vmware .
Kernel panic during reboot after adding or removing adapters from ESX Server	<p>When new adapters are added or existing adapters are removed and the server is subsequently rebooted, the server may experience a kernel panic during the reboot process.</p> <p>This issue is seen with Intel dual port PCIe NICs on a PE6850 but may also appear when adding or removing other adapters.</p>	Boot the server to Linux mode, by selecting 'linux -up' from the LILO boot menu. Run the command 'vmkpcidivv -i' to ensure the devices are allocated as required and then reboot the server. For more information on the vmkpcidivv command, refer to: VMware KB article 863 at http://www.vmware.com/support/kb .
Installing a new NIC and dedicating it to the console results in no connectivity with VirtualCenter	When a new network adapter is added after installation of ESX, and the adapter is set to be dedicated to the console operating system, the system may lose connectivity with VirtualCenter.	Modify the alias and driver of the PCI NICs in <i>/etc/modules.conf</i> . For example, if the new NIC is the first device on the PCI bus, ensure the text 'alias eth0' is followed by the correct driver for that NIC. Reboot after making any changes to <i>/etc/modules.conf</i> .
Fibre HBA's not configured correctly on PE6950	When installing ESX 2.5.4 on PE6950, the Fibre HBA's are configured for access by the service console only.	To assign the HBA's to the vmkernel, run the command 'vmkpcidivv -i' and set control of the HBA's to 'v'.

Additional References

1. VMware Knowledge Base - <http://www.vmware.com/kb/>
2. VMware Community Access - <http://www.vmware.com/communities/content/>
3. ESX 2.5.x Documents - <http://www.vmware.com/support/pubs/>
4. Virtual Center 1.3 Support – <http://www.vmware.com/support/vc14/>