

## FAQ FOR VMWARE SERVER 2 - MARCH, 2010

### What is VMware Server?

VMware Server is a free, easy-to-use Windows and Linux application that provides a superior introductory experience to server virtualization for businesses to optimize utilization of their technology assets.

### What are the top three use cases for VMware Server?

VMware Server is typically used in the following scenarios:

- a) Assessing virtualization for the first time
- b) Evaluating software using virtual machines
- c) Test and development of software and IT environments

### Why is VMware releasing a new version of VMware Server?

Since the introduction of VMware Server, we've had more than 4 million downloads and received great feedback from our customers. In this next generation of our free hosted platform, VMware has included features and functionality that customers have requested. We are committed to providing the best virtualization solutions for our customers, whether they are using our free product to test virtualization in their IT environments, or purchasing our award-winning, market-leading enterprise-class solutions for a more comprehensive and robust virtualization experience.

### Will VMware Server continue to be free of charge?

Yes, VMware Server continues to be free of charge.

### What is new in VMware Server 2?

New enhancements and functionality include:

- **New operating system support:** The broadest operating system support of any host-based virtualization platform currently available, including support for Windows Vista Business Edition and Ultimate Edition (guest only), Windows Server 2008, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 and Ubuntu 8.04.
- **64-bit operating system support:** Use 64-bit guest operating systems on 64-bit hardware to enable more scalable and higher performing computing solutions. In addition, Server 2 will run natively on 64-bit Linux host operating systems.
- **Web Access management interface:** The Web Access management interface provides a simple, flexible, secure, intuitive and productive management experience. Plus, access thousands of pre-built, pre-configured, ready-to-run enterprise applications packaged with an operating system inside a virtual machine using the link to the Virtual Appliance Marketplace.
- **Independent virtual machine console:** With the new VMware Remote Console, you can access your virtual machine consoles independent of the Web Access management interface.
- **More scalable virtual machines:** Support for up to 8 GB of RAM (up from 3.6 GB in Server 1.0) per virtual machine, 10 virtual network interface cards, transfer data at faster data rates from USB 2.0 devices plus add new SCSI hard disks and controllers to a running virtual machine.

- **Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS):** Properly backup the state of the Windows virtual machines when using the snapshot feature to maintain data integrity of the applications running inside the virtual machine.
- **Support for Virtual Machine Interface (VMI):** This feature enables transparent paravirtualization, in which a single binary version of the operating system can run either on native hardware or in paravirtualized mode to improve performance in specific Linux environments.
- **Virtual Machine Communication Interface (VMCI):** Support for fast and efficient communication between a virtual machine and the host operating system and between two or more virtual machines on the same host.
- **Support for VIX API 1.6:** This feature provides a programming interface for automating virtual machine and guest operations.

### **What is VMware Remote Console?**

The VMware Remote Console allows access to the virtual machine consoles independent of the Web Access management interface. A separate window is opened for every virtual machine console that is initiated and the window can be resized as required by the user. Finally, VMware Remote Console can be accessed directly from a desktop shortcut providing independent and instantaneous access to the virtual machine console.

### **Can I import virtual appliances into VMware Server 2 hosts?**

Yes, this is supported. In addition, VMware Server 2 provides a direct link to the Virtual Appliance Marketplace to easily access thousands of available virtual machines.

### **Can I import OVF formatted virtual appliances?**

No, OVF formatted virtual appliances are not supported.

### **How many snapshots can I take with Server 2 hosts?**

Server 2 hosts support a single snapshot per virtual machine. In order to take a new snapshot, the previous snapshot needs to be overwritten.

### **What host operating systems can install and run VMware Server 2?**

VMware Server 2 is supported on a wide variety of Linux and Windows host operating systems, including 64-bit operating systems. Based on customer feedback, we are also expanding the range of host operating systems to include those that were previously only experimentally supported, as well as new operating systems such as Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 Server, Microsoft Windows Server 2008, Ubuntu 7.10 and Ubuntu 8.04. Please refer to the technical documentation for VMware Server 2 for the up to date list.

### **What new guest operating systems are supported?**

VMware Server 2 supports a wide variety of Linux, NetWare, Solaris x86 and Windows guest operating systems, including desktop and 64-bit operating systems. Based on customer feedback, we are also expanding the range of guest operating systems to include support for Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 Server and Desktop, Windows Vista Business Edition and Ultimate Edition, Windows Server 2008 and Ubuntu 7.10. Please refer to the technical documentation for VMware Server 2 and the VMware Guest OS Support for an update to date list

**Can I install VMware Server 2 on a Core installation of Windows Server 2008 host operating system?**

No, VMware Server 2 can only be installed on a Full installation of Windows Server 2008 host operating system. However, both Core and Full installations of Windows Server 2008 are supported as guest operating systems.

**What does 64-bit operating system support mean?**

It means that 64-bit guest operating systems will run on supported 64-bit hardware independent of the type of host operating system. Refer to the following table for supported combinations.

CPU	Host OS	32-bit Guest OS	64-bit Guest OS
32-bit CPU	32-bit Host OS	Supported	Unsupported
	64-bit Host OS	Unsupported	Unsupported
64-bit CPU	32-bit Host OS	Supported	Supported
	64-bit Host OS	Supported	Supported

In addition, VMware Server 2 will also run natively on 64-bit Linux host operating systems.

**What browsers are supported for the Web Access management interface?**

On both Windows and Linux, Mozilla Firefox 2 and 3 are supported. Additionally on Windows, Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 and 7 are also supported, but Internet Explorer 7 is recommended.

**I am familiar with managing VMware Server using the VMware Server Console. Will I be able to manage VMware Server 2 with the same VMware Server 1.0.x Server Console?**

The Web Access management interface in Server 2 replaces the VMware Server Console in Server 1.0.x. The Web Access management interface provides a simple, flexible, intuitive and productive management experience for both local and remote management and monitoring.

**Can I manage VMware Server 2 release using an existing or new version of Virtual Center?**

No, VMware Server 2 cannot be managed by VirtualCenter for VMware Server, VirtualCenter 2.5 or vCenter Server 4. There are no centralized (multi-host) management options available for VMware Server 2.

**Should I run VMware Server 2 for production workloads?**

Yes, VMware Server 2 can be used for production workloads. VMware also provides other virtualization solutions such as VMware ESXi and VMware vSphere that provide higher performance, better scalability and automation capabilities.

**Can I upgrade to VMware Server 2 and reuse my existing serial numbers from VMware Server 1.0.x installation?**

Yes, you will be able to upgrade to VMware Server 2 and reuse existing serial numbers from VMware Server 1.0.x installations. This is true whether performing an upgrade on an existing VMware Server host or a new installation on a different host.

### **Can I upgrade existing Server 1.0.x virtual machines to support new functionality such as 8GB RAM?**

Yes, you can. However, note that once you upgrade the version of a virtual machine, you will not be able to revert back to an older version. So a best practice is to perform a snapshot before performing the upgrade to easily revert back to the previous state.

### **What features require the virtual machine version to be upgraded?**

Any of the following features require a virtual machine version upgrade

- a. Virtual machines to have between 3.6GB to 8GB of RAM
- b. Virtual machines to have between 4 to 10 virtual NICs
- c. Virtual machines to have USB 2 interfaces
- d. Virtual machines to support paravirtualized operating systems
- e. Adding new SCSI hard disks and controllers to a running virtual machine.

### **How do I ensure that new virtual machines created in Server 2 hosts can be successfully migrate to ESX and ESXi hosts?**

When creating new virtual machine in Web Access, expand the Product Compatibility option and select the setting to allow ESX host compatibility. In addition, ensure that the virtual machine does not contain devices such as IDE hard disks and SCSI CD-ROM drive.

### **Are raw disks supported in VMware Server 2?**

No, raw disks are not supported since changes to the disk emulation code have generally reduced the performance difference between raw and regular flat disks for disk intensive workloads.

### **Is the VMware Server 2 available to customers worldwide?**

Yes. However, the installer, Web Access management interface, and documentation for Server 2 are only available in English.

### **Are there Support and Subscription options available for VMware Server?**

No. Support and Subscription is not available for VMware Server. However, VMware provides self-help resources such as:

- VMware Server Documentation — User's Guide
- VMware Server Discussion Forums — Users can share their information and experiences with others.