

FAQ FOR VMWARE SERVER 2.0 RELEASE CANDIDATE 1 – JUNE, 2008

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 1st 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 1.0, we've had more than 3 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 2.0 Release Candidate 1?

New enhancements and functionality include:

- **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.
- **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 SCSI pass-through (generic) devices:** Allows for SCSI devices such as tape backup devices to be connected to virtual machines.
- **Expand disk capacity on the fly:** Allows for adding new SCSI hard disks and controllers to a running virtual machine.
- **Firefox 3 as a supported browser for the management interface.**
- **Remote Client Devices:** Access devices such as CD-ROMs that are not physically connected to the host via VMware Remote Console

What are the other new features of VMware Server 2.0?

- **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 in 32-bit and 64-bit versions.
- **64-bit guest operating system support:** Use 64-bit guest operating systems on 64-bit hardware to enable more scalable and higher performing computing solutions.
- **VMware Infrastructure (VI) Web Access management interface:** With the faster performance, improved stability and broader range of configuration options, the VI Web Access management interface provides a simple, flexible, intuitive and productive management experience. In addition, embedded help files are context sensitive based on the task being performed.
- **Independent virtual machine console:** With the new VMware Remote Console, you can access your virtual machine consoles independent of the VI Web Access management interface plus resize the virtual machine console windows as needed.
- **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 and up to two virtual SMP (vSMP) processors per virtual machine.
- **Support for USB 2.0 devices:** Transfer data at faster data rates from USB 2.0 devices.
- **Multi-tiered permissions:** Configure different levels of permissions to access virtual machines in different ways, including browsing, interacting, configuring and administering virtual machines.
- **New hardware editors:** Edit and add devices such as USB 2.0 devices and legacy devices such as floppy drives, serial and parallel ports.
- **Automatically start your virtual machines:** Select which virtual machines that you want to automatically start when VMware Server starts. In addition, there is also an option to boot the virtual machine directly into the BIOS Setup Screen.
- **Link to Virtual Appliance Marketplace:** Access thousands of pre-built, pre-configured, ready-to-run enterprise applications packaged with an operating system inside a virtual machine. This speeds up time to value and simplifies software development, distribution, and management.
- **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.
- **Support for VIX API 1.5:** This feature provides a programming interface for automating virtual machine and guest operations.

What is new about the virtual machine remote console?

The VMware Remote Console that is included with Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 allows access to the virtual machine consoles independent of the VI 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 2.0 Release Candidate 1 host?

Yes, this is supported. In addition, VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 provides a direct link to the Virtual Appliance Marketplace on vmware.com to easily access the thousands of virtual machines available.

Can I import OVF formatted virtual appliances?

No, OVF formatted are not currently supported.

How many snapshots can I take with Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 hosts?

Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 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 2.0 Release Candidate 1?

VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 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. The complete list of supported host operating systems can be found in the VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 User Guide.

What new guest operating systems are supported?

VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 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. The complete list of supported guest operating systems can be found in the VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 User Guide.

Can I install VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 on a Core installation of Windows Server 2008 host operating system?

No, VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 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.

Can I install VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 on a PC running either Windows XP or Windows Vista?

Even though both Windows XP and Windows Vista are not supported host operating systems, customers have successfully installed VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 on both operating systems. However, some modifications to the Windows Vista personal firewall may be required. On Windows Vista, the installer does not add the VMware host agent or the VMware authorization service to the Windows firewall exceptions list. As a workaround, enter the following commands on your Windows host:

```
netsh firewall add allowedprogram "[INSTALLDIR]vmware-authd.exe" "VMware authd" ENABLE
netsh firewall add allowedprogram "[INSTALLDIR]vmware-hostd.exe" "VMware hostd" ENABLE
```

Why is the operating system that I am using (either host or guest) not on the supported list?

VMware attempts to test and validate installation of VMware Server on as many operating systems as possible to maximize the addressable market for the product. We use customer feedback and market share data to determine the priority of operating systems that are validated and supported. We are consistently adding new operating systems to our supported operating system matrix.

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 2.0 Release Candidate 2 will also run natively on 64-bit Linux host operating systems.

What browsers are supported for the VI 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.

Is Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 Beta browsers supported?

Very limited testing has been done with the beta release of this browser, so they are currently not supported. Browsers will not be supported until they have reached General Availability status.

I am familiar with managing VMware Server using the VMware Server Console. Will I be able to manage VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 with the same VMware Server 1.0.x Server Console?

The VI Web Access management interface in Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 replaces the VMware Server Console in Server 1.0.x. The VI Web Access management interface provides a simple, flexible, intuitive and productive management experience for both local and remote management and monitoring.

How is the new VMware Server 2.0 VI Web Access management interface different from the web based Management User Interface (MUI) that ships with VMware Server 1.0.x?

While both of these management interfaces are web based, the VMware Server 2.0 VI Web Access has more configuration and monitoring features compared to VMware Server 1.0.x MUI.

Can I use VMware Infrastructure Client to manage Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 hosts?

Limited testing has been done with VMware Infrastructure Client 2.5.0 managing Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 hosts. At this point, it is highly recommended that Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 hosts be managed using the VI Web Access management interface.

Can I manage VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 release using an existing version of Virtual Center such as VirtualCenter for VMware Server?

No, VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 cannot be managed by VirtualCenter for VMware Server, or VirtualCenter 2.0.x. While VMware VirtualCenter 2.5 will allow you to add VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 hosts, very limited testing has been done to date with this combination and it is currently not supported. Note that VMware VirtualCenter 2.5 Update 1 will NOT allow you to add any VMware Server 2.0 host.

What version of VirtualCenter will support VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1?

A future version of VMware VirtualCenter will concurrently manage both ESX and Server 2.0 hosts.

Will I have to reinstall VMware Server?

It is recommended that you install VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 on different hosts from your production VMware Server 1 hosts. If you are installing VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 on an existing VMware Server 1.0.x host, the instance of VMware Server 1.0.x will be uninstalled.

Should I run VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 for production workloads?

It is not recommended that you run VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 for production workloads. However, when VMware Server 2.0 reaches its General Availability (GA) milestone, all fully supported features will be production ready.

Can I import existing virtual machines from VMware Server 1.0.x?

Yes, importing of existing virtual machines from VMware Server 1.0.x is supported. In addition, you can create new virtual machines in VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 that allows for up 8GB of RAM per virtual machine.

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.

Why are my USB 2.0 devices only being recognized as USB 1.1 devices on my virtual machines?

In order to recognize USB 2.0 devices, you must upgrade the version of the virtual machine to version 6.

Why doesn't my USB device appear?

On unsupported Windows host systems, when you connect to a USB device by selecting it in the USB toolbar menu, it won't appear as connected until you complete the VMware USB driver installation on the host system, and accept any unsigned driver prompts.

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 2.0 interfaces
- d. Virtual machines to support paravirtualization

How do I ensure that new virtual machines created in Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 hosts can be successfully migrate to ESX hosts?

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

When performing a Physical to Virtual (P2V) conversion using VMware Converter, what destination option should I choose if I intend to import the virtual machine into a VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate host?

Select a VMware Server 1.x type of virtual machine.

Are raw disks supported in VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1?

No, raw disks are not supported.

When will the general release of VMware Server 2.0 be available?

VMware Server 2.0 is expected to be generally available in 3rd quarter of 2008. Support and subscription services for VMware Server 2.0 will be available for purchase upon general availability.

How do I report issues to VMware?

Post your questions, problems, experience and suggestions to the below discussion at your convenience:

VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 discussion forum at:
<http://communities.vmware.com/community/beta/server2.0>

Technical Support is available through the Support Request (RS) system. Go to:
<http://www.vmware.com/support/> and click on Create Support Request.

Is the VMware Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 available to customers worldwide?

Yes. However, the installer, VI Web Access management interface, and documentation for Server 2.0 Release Candidate 1 are only available in English.