



Systems Compatibility Guide for ESX Server 3.0 RC

VMware ESX Server is tested for compatibility with a variety of major guest operating systems running in virtual machines. Additionally, VMware ESX Server is tested for compatibility with currently shipping platforms from the major server makers in pre-release testing. Our goal is to support a variety of storage and network adapters used as standard options for these platforms as they come to market.

This chapter includes information about ESX Server 2.5 and ESX Server 3.0 in the following sections:

- [32-bit Guest Operating Systems on page 2](#)
- [Experimental Support for 64-Bit Guest Operating Systems on page 3](#)
- [Servers on page 4](#)
- [Systems Management Applications on page 10](#)

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32-bit Guest Operating Systems

The following operating systems are scheduled to be supported for ESX Server 3.0.

VMware ESX Server supports the following guest operating systems running in virtual machines, with either uniprocessor or multi-processor support:

Operating System	Version	ESX Server 2.5.3		ESX Server 3.0	
		UP	MP	UP	MP
Microsoft Windows	Windows Server 2003 Standard, Enterprise, Web, or Small Business Server	X sp1	X sp1	X sp1	X sp1
	Windows Server 2003 Standard, Enterprise, Web, or Small Business Server R2			X	X
	Windows 2000 Advanced Server, Server, or Terminal Services Edition (Service Pack 3 or 4)	X	X	X	X
	Windows XP Professional (Service Pack 1 and 2)	X		X	
	Windows NT 4.0 Server (Service Pack 6a and higher)	X		X	
Red Hat Linux	Enterprise Linux AS/ES/WS 2.1	X up5	X up5	X up6/7	X up6/7
	Enterprise Linux AS/ES/WS 3.0	X up4	X up4	X up6/7	X up6/7
	Enterprise Linux AS/ES/WS 4.0			X up2/3	X up2/3
	Enterprise Server (SLES) 8.0	X sp3	X sp3	X sp4	X sp4
SuSE Linux	Enterprise Server (SLES) 9.0	X sp2	X sp2	X sp3	X sp3
	OES	X sp1	X sp1	X sp1/2	X sp1/2
	Novell Netware ¹ Version 5.1	X sp7		X sp7/8	
Novell Netware ¹	Version 6.0	X sp5		X sp5	
	Version 6.5	X sp2		X sp3	
	Sun Solaris			X u1	X u1

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Experimental Support for 64-Bit Guest Operating Systems

The following operating systems are scheduled for experimental support for ESX Server 3.0.

This ESX Server 3.0 release candidate offers experimental support for the following 64-bit guest operating systems:

- Windows 2003 64-bit (Standard, Enterprise)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 64-bit (UP6, UP7)¹
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 64-bit (UP2, UP3)
- SuSE Linux Server (SLES) 9 64-bit (SP3)
- Solaris 10 x86 64-bit (No tools available)(U1)

Please refer to the release notes for an explanation of what experimental support comprises.

¹Use of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 guests with more than 4GB of memory on AMD processors requires use of a *.ia32e.rpm package.

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Servers

Note: The minimum CPU clock speed has increased from ESX Server 2.x to 3.0.

Recommended CPU Clock Speed

	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
Minimum CPU clock speed	700 MHz	1500 MHz
Minimum CPU clock speed, Virtual SMP	900 MHz	1500 MHz

Servers Planned to be Supported with ESX Server 3.0

The following servers are planned to be supported with ESX Server 3.0. Release candidate users are encouraged to use these servers in conjunction with this release candidate, but should be aware that all of these have not yet been tested by VMware Inc. or its partners.

These servers are not guaranteed to be supported with ESX Server 3.0.

More information about additional tested versions will become available in later versions of this compatibility guide.

- [Dell Server Support on page 5](#)
- [Fujitsu Siemens Server Support on page 5](#)
- [Hewlett Packard Server Support on page 6](#)
- [IBM Server Support on page 7](#)
- [Intel Server Support on page 8](#)
- [NEC Server Support on page 8](#)
- [Sun Server Support on page 8](#)
- [Unisys Server Support on page 9](#)

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Dell Server Support

Product	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
PowerEdge	1550	X	
	1650	X	
	1750	X	X
	1850	X ¹	X ²
	1855 MC	X	X
	2550	X	
	2600	X	X
	2650	X	X
	2850	X	X ²
	4600	X	
	6450	X	
	6600	X	
	6650	X	X
	6800		X
	6850	X ¹	X ²

¹ Both single and dual-core Intel processors are supported.

² Both single and dual-core Intel processors are planned for support.

Fujitsu Siemens Server Support

Product	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
Primergy	BX620	X	
	BX 620 S2	X	X
	BX660	X	X
	R450	X	
	RX300	X	
	RX300 S2	X	X
	RX600	X	X
	RX600 S2	X	X
	RX800	X	X
	RX800 S2	X ¹	X
	T850	X	
	TX300 S2	X	X
	TX600	X	X
	TX600 S2		X

¹ For more information, refer to the *Systems Compatibility Guide for ESX Server 2.5.x* on www.vmware.com.

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Hewlett Packard Server Support

Model	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
Proliant	DL360	X	
	DL360 G2	X	
	DL360 G3	X	X
	DL360 G4	X	X
	DL360 G4p	X	X
	DL380	X	
	DL380 G2	X	
	DL380 G3	X	X
	DL380 G4	X	X ²
	DL385	X ¹	X ¹
	DL560	X	
	DL580	X	
	DL580 G2	X ²	X
	DL580 G3	X	X ²
	DL585	X ¹	X ¹
	DL740	X	X
	DL760	X	
	DL760 G2	X	X
	ML370 G3	X	X
	ML370 G4	X ²	X ²
ML570 G2	X	X	
ML570 G3	X ²	X ²	
Blade Servers	BL20p	X	
	BL20p G2	X	X
	BL20p G3	X	X ²
	BL25p	X ¹	X ¹
	BL30p	X	X
	BL35p		X ¹
	BL40p	X	X
	BL45p		X ¹

For more information on configuring HP Proliant servers for use with ESX Server, refer to knowledge base article 1081, available at http://www.vmware.com/support/kb/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1081.

¹ Both single and dual-core Opteron support.

² Both single and dual-core Intel processor support.

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IBM Server Support

Product	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
BladeCenter	HS20-8678	X	
	HS20-8832 (32 bit)	X	X
	HS20-8843	X	X
	HS40-8839	X	X
	LS20-8850	X ^{1,2}	X
xSeries	226	X	X
	235	X	X
	236 - 8841		X
	255	X	
	260 - 8865		X
	330	X	
	335	X	
	336 - 8837	X	X
	345	X	
	346 - 8840	X	X
	360	X	
	365	X	X
	366	X	X ⁴
	440 (up to 16 CPUs with hyperthreading)	X	
	445 (up to 16 CPUs with hyperthreading)	X	X
	445 EXA (up to 16 CPUs with hyperthreading)	X	X
	460 - 8872 (up to 32 CPUs without hyperthreading or up to 16 CPUs with hyperthreading)		X ⁴
Opteron	e325	X ³	X
	e326	X ²	X ^{2,5}
	e326-7969		X ⁶

The recommended minimum CPU speed for Virtual SMP is 1500 MHz.

RAID configurations are supported only on the ServeRAID 7K cards and not on the onboard Adaptec SCSI card at this time.

The IBM x346 ServeRAID 7K card either needs to be terminated or attached to external storage.

¹ No fiber HBA has been certified yet on this server.

² Certified single and dual-core Opteron.

³ Only single-core Opteron systems.

⁴ Both single and dual-core Intel processor support.

⁵ During installation of ESX Server 3.0 on the IBM e326 server, USB keyboards can become unresponsive. For a workaround, see the [release notes](#).

⁶ Supported only in dual-core configurations with SCSI disks.

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Intel Server Support

Product	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
Intel Server Compute Blade	SBX44	X	X
	SBX82	X	X
	SBXL52	X	X
	SPSH4		X
Intel Whitebox	SRS4	X	X
	SE7520JR2	X	
	SE7520AF2	X	
	s5000PAL/XAL		X
	SR4850HW4 (800 T)		X
	SR4850HW4 (800 T SAS)		X
	SR6850HW4 (800 T SAS)		X

NEC Server Support

Product	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
NEC	120 Ba-4	X	X
	120 Lh	X	X
	120 Re-1	X	X
	120 Rf-1	X	X
	120 Rf-2	X	X
	120 Rh-2	X	X
	140 Hd	X	X
	140 He	X	X
	140 Rc-4	X	X
	140 Rd-4	X ¹	X
	180 Rc-4	X	X
	180 Rd-4	X	X
	420 MA	X	X

¹ Paxville dual-core support.

Sun Server Support

Product	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
Sun Fire	V20z	X ¹	X ¹
	V40z	X ¹	X ¹
	4100	X ^{2,3}	X ¹
	4200	X ^{2,3}	X ¹

¹ Both single and dual-core AMD Opteron support.

² Supported in a Boot-from-SAN configuration only.

³ USB device configuration may cause an error during system boot. Please refer to KB article 1659 (www.vmware.com/support/kb/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1659) for more details and a valid workaround.

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Unisys Server Support

Product	Model	ESX Server 2.5.3	ESX Server 3.0
ES3000 Line	ES3120L	X	X ¹
	ES3040L	X	X
	ES3105	X	X
	ES3120	X	X
	ES3140	X	X
	ES3140L	X	X
ES7000 Line	ES7000 (up to 16 CPUs with hyperthreading)		X ¹
¹ Both single and dual-core Intel processor support.			

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Systems Management Applications

ESX Server 3.0 is planned to work with the latest management applications from IBM, Dell, and HP listed below. Older versions of the management agents may not work with this release candidate.

- HP Insight Manager 7.51
- Dell OpenManage 5.0
- IBM Director 5.10.3

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