FAQ FOR VMWARE SERVER 2 - AUGUST, 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 who want to optimize use of their technology assets using virtualization.

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) Testing and developing software and IT environments.

Why is VMware releasing a new version of VMware Server?

We are committed to providing the best virtualization solutions for our customers, whether they are using this 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. Since VMware Server was introduced, the application has been downloaded more than 4 million times, providing great results for users. In this next generation of our free hosted platform, VMware has included features and functionality that customers have requested.

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:** 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.

- **VMware Infrastructure Web Access management interface:** VMware Infrastructure Web Access management interface provides a simple, flexible, secure, intuitive and productive management experience. 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:** Access to your virtual machine consoles independent of the VMware Infrastructure 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 and 10 virtual network interface cards so you can transfer data at faster data rates from USB 2.0 devices. Also, add new SCSI hard disks and controllers to a running virtual machine.

- **Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS):** Snapshot technology to properly back up the state of the Windows virtual machines to maintain data integrity of applications running inside the virtual machine.

- **Support for Virtual Machine Interface (VMI):** Transparent para-virtualization, in which a single binary version of the operating system can run either on native hardware or in para-virtualized 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 1.5:** 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 VMware Infrastructure 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. Finally, VMware Remote Console can be accessed directly from a desktop shortcut to provide 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 are not supported.

How many snapshots can I take with Server 2 hosts?

Server 2 hosts support a single snapshot per virtual machine. 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 up 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 VMware Infrastructure 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 VMware Infrastructure Web Access management interface in Server 2 replaces the VMware Server Console in Server 1.0.x. The VMware Infrastructure Web Access management interface provides a simple, flexible, intuitive and productive management experience for both local and remote management and monitoring.

Can I use VMware Infrastructure Client to manage Server 2 hosts?

Limited testing has been done with VMware Infrastructure Client 2.5.0 managing Server 2 hosts. At this point, it is highly recommended that Server 2 hosts be managed using the VMware Infrastructure Web Access management interface.

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, or VirtualCenter 2.5. There are no centralized (multi-host) management options available for VMware Server 2.

What version of VirtualCenter will support VMware Server 2?

There are currently no plans to add VirtualCenter support for VMware Server 2. Customers looking for a centralized management option should use VMware ESXi (our free hypervisor virtualization solution) or VMware Infrastructure.

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 Infrastructure that provider 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 requires 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 para-virtualized 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 VMware ESX hosts?

When creating new virtual machine in VMware Infrastructure Web Access, expand the Product Compatibility option and select the setting to allow VMware 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, VMware Infrastructure Web Access management interface, and documentation for Server 2 are only available in English.

What are the support options for VMware Server?

VMware Server customers receive free access to product documentation and an online knowledgebase. Customers who require email and phone support can purchase a Support and Subscription contract. Support and Subscription services for VMware Server are available for VMware Server now with gold-level support priced at $350 per year, and platinum-level support at $450 per year. For details on VMware Server support options, refer to VMware Support Services.

Why is Support and Subscription for VMware Server priced in absolute dollar terms rather than as percentage of license?

While the most common methods for pricing Support and Subscription services is percentage of software license, that model does not work for a free software license product.

Q: Will patches and new releases for VMware Server be provided for free in the future?

VMware Server patches, minor and major releases, new hardware and software support, will be provided by VMware immediately when available to customers who have purchased a VMware Server Support and Subscription contract. VMware will also periodically update the free downloadable product with the functionality improvements contained in these patches, and minor and major releases.