

Datastore disk expansion on ESX



[Kenji Nozaki](#) 2 posts since

Jun 26, 2008

We currently have an ESX server cluster that has vdisks attached to them through an EVA SAN. Typically when we want to increase the capacity of a SAN vdisk on one of our Windows servers we expand the disk on the EVA/SAN and then use the diskpart utility to "see" the increased storage. I was hoping someone could provide some guidance as to how to do this for the datastores on the ESX Host servers themselves since they are running Linux. I've expanded the actual vdisk being presented to the ESX server on the SAN, but now need the OS to see the new capacity. Can using the vmkfstools accomplish this or is there another utility that I should be employing? Any help will be much appreciated!

Kenji

Tags: esx, storage, server, disk, extend, expand, increase, san



[RussBecker](#) 2 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 1. **Re: Datastore disk expansion on ESX** Sep 4, 2008 11:39 AM

Yes, vmkfstools will accomplish this. Try the following:

Login to host using account with admin privileges.

Change directory to /vmfs/volumes/ and SAN volume. Locate folder named for VM and 'cd' into it to locate vmdk file.


Type in vmkfstools -X nng ./name.vmdk where nn is the new larger drive size, and name is the name of the VM.

I hope this helps.



[Kenji Nozaki](#) 2 posts since

Jun 26, 2008 2. **Re: Datstore disk expansion on ESX** Sep 4, 2008 12:01 PM

 in response to: [RussBecker](#)

Thanks Russ! My objective was to increase one of our host ESX datstores. After speaking w/ tech support from vmware, I elected to create a new host datstore, migrated the VMs to the new store, and blew away the old store, effectively "increasing" this host store. I was told that the only way to expand an existing ESX host datstore was to use extents, which they discouraged me from doing.

In the future if I need to extend the disk size of an existing VM drive I'll give your technique a shot.

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Thanks again!

Kenji