

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[djoman30](#) 7 posts since

Jul 4, 2008

The conference being in Las Vegas is cool and all, but the ratio of people to space is ridiculous. The conference rooms are too small, the hallways are too crowded, and people lined up for sessions is stopping traffic. How ridiculous. Whoever planned this thing should be "taken out" old Vegas style. They were not even going to let me in a session because it was over capacity. How is that my fault? I paid to be able to sit comfortably in any seat in any session at any given time. Now Microsoft TechEd knows how to have a conference and it's on the scale of 60,000 people. There are always snacks and stuff in the halls when the sessions are over....you never go thirsty or hungry. I have yet to see that kind of setup here. The sessions and hallways were NEVER overcrowded. I am VERY disappointed so far. I hope you all agree as well. Where can we go to complain?

Tags: crowded, planning



[mrehere](#) 40 posts since

Jun 3, 2008 1. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference IS AMAZING** Sep 15, 2008 6:20 PM

I absolutely DISAGREE with virtually (no pun intended) everything you said. This is my first VMworld conference and I think everything has been executed commendably.

My hat is off to VMWare for an outstanding conference.



[Scott Walker](#) 11 posts since

May 3, 2008 2. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 16, 2008 11:36 AM

I agree the lack of planning here is a joke!


VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Hallways are crowded. The conference rooms are too small! I register for a session then see people getting in who are not and seating is brutal. And they give me grief to get in. Excuse me if you didn't register then to bad roam the hallways. I've been to Tech Ed and Windows connections they are far better organized events.



[yan pritzker](#) 1 posts since

Sep 2, 2008 3. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 16, 2008 11:43 AM

 in response to: [Scott Walker](#)

Wifi appears to be either over capacity or maybe badly distributed as well. BOF sessions are overcrowded and hard to hear or have a group discussion with background noise. They should have gotten their own rooms.



[Lance Bishop](#) 1 posts since

Aug 6, 2008 4. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 16, 2008 12:25 PM

<![endif]><![if gte mso 9]>

This has been a horrible experience!!! I have spent more

time feeling like herded cattle than anything else. I have attended MANY conferences over the past

10 year, including several IBM, Linux World, and Microsoft. By far this is the

worst planned and executed conference that I have ever attended. You cannot

walk in the hall; all the sessions are full, if you do get in one you cannot

hear.

All the sessions that I wanted to attend are full. The

Support Desk has told me some of those classes will be rescheduled...WHEN? I

actually asked to have my week passed changed to a 2 day pass and I was told

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

no. I will probably leave anyways; my
time is more valuable than this.



[James Richter](#) 4 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 5. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference IS AMAZING** Sep 16, 2008 1:37 PM

in response to: [mrehere](#)

Clearly you've never been to a TechEd conference. If it's any consolation for the original poster, last year at SF was even worse. The crush of humanity was shoulder to shoulder for 15 minutes while people were trying to get into sessions.

TechEd doesn't use convention centers that are this small, that's why it work so much better. It's not so much the individual rooms, but the whole area having people crammed in like sardines. New Orleans, Orlando, San Diego, they spread stuff out much better so it's not all 17,000 attendees standing in 4 hallways like it is here.

I totally agree about the snacks/drinks as well. It'd be nice if we could get some water that isn't in an open cup.



[cneal](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 6. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference IS AMAZING** Sep 16, 2008 2:29 PM

in response to: [James Richter](#)

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Why don't you fill the big (BPA-free) plastic bottle you were given in your bag?



[djoman30](#) 7 posts since

Jul 4, 2008 7. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 16, 2008 5:53 PM

↑ in response to: [Lance Bishop](#)

Guys, thanks for all the replies. I am glad I'm not the only one feeling like this. And yes the one guys first time...evidently never been to a TechEd. Keep this thread going maybe VMWare will listen.



[David Youngberg](#) 1 posts since

Sep 8, 2008 8. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 16, 2008 5:57 PM

Wow, this doesn't feel crowded to me at all- you obviously never went to COMDEX. Oh, the humanity. Sure, there are lots of people here, but seriously, they have handled the crowds extremely well. If you miss a session, just grab the slides online later. The wifi has been difficult to associate in spots- but just go sit down at the couches and grab some Cat5 if you need to get on.



[Bruce Hartmann](#) 1 posts since

May 22, 2008 9. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 16, 2008 6:04 PM

↑ in response to: [djoman30](#)

I agree. It's a little overwhelming.

I gave up on the wireless and just use my Cingular card.



[Dmitri Fedorov](#) 16 posts since

Jun 27, 2008 10. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 17, 2008 5:10 PM


completely agree with David.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Peter Harms](#) 1 posts since

Aug 27, 2008 11. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference IS AMAZING** Sep 17, 2008 5:30 PM

 in response to: [mrehere](#)

I agree - this is my first and I'm totally impressed. I have no complaints about the venue, the food or the sessions. Sure there are lots of people, but I've never felt crowded or hearded. Hat's off to VMware for a great convention.



[Steve Bailey](#) 2 posts since

Dec 18, 2007 12. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 18, 2008 7:17 AM

Disagree wholeheartedly. They've done a tremendous job to keep 14,000 people moving. Sure it's busy... Sure I feel like herding cattle but I expected that because of the number of people.

People who aren't happy should not come next year.. That way those of us who are OK with things have less people to deal with.

the only complaint I do have is that there should be at least a few minute break between sessions. When you have a 9am-10am session and then a 10am-11am session it's very difficult to get from one to another and still get a seat. I just started leaving about 5-10 minutes before the end of the session and all was good.



[Aurelio Barranco](#) 2 posts since

Aug 26, 2008 13. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 18, 2008 8:29 AM

I can see where you're coming from, but I can't entirely agree.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

The conference is pretty packed, but it's not like I haven't been able to find a quiet spot for contemplation when necessary.

The venue is at capacity, but then it's compact enough that getting between back to back sessions is not impossible and I'm not spending all my time wandering from place to place.

I think that catering has been excellent, I'd probably be a little annoyed if I had any major food allergies since the range of food at lunch is restrictive to some (any comments from sufferers ?), but I think it's very impressive that I've been able to have a sit down warm lunch every day in 15 minutes.

If I had to level a criticism somewhere it would be with the organisation of the Lab sessions. I failed miserably to get onto any on Monday, and for the rest of the week I am forced to go to sessions that conflict with the Labs. In an ideal world, Lab sessions that ran into the evenings would have suited me, but I don't know how people feel.

A

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Paul Kaufmann](#) 1 posts since

Jul 27, 2008 14. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 18, 2008 8:32 AM

It is commendable when someone organises a venue for 14000 people and so far I haven't seen some major problems.

I only feel sorry for all those who didn't register for the sessions and hence had to wait.

Me for my part - I said no to the beer at the bar and spent instead my time building a schedule. Therefore I also expected to be well seated in those sessions and that is exactly what happened. The only disturbing thing was people chatting and playing PC during the sessions.

About the "cattle" experience may I suggest that you start behaving like business people and dress accordingly and you maybe you will be treated differently?

Many thanks to the organisers having made it possible to attend such a great venue.



[caseyhill](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 15. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 18, 2008 8:44 AM

Believe it or not the conference was a major improvement over last in SF. If you thought the crowds were bad here and the hallways where bad... that was nothing.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...


I'd still like to see more coffee between sessions.. specifically in the morning!

Wireless does continue to be a challenge regardless if you use theirs or a wireless card... go figure with 14,000 people.



[Aurelio Barranco](#) 2 posts since

Aug 26, 2008 16. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 18, 2008 9:03 AM

 in response to: [Paul Kaufmann](#)

And what exactly does 'dress accordingly' mean ?

If you think for a second that the hardened convention wranglers of Las Vegas are influenced by attire then I believe you're deluding yourself 😊

A

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Fireball](#) 3 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 17. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 18, 2008 2:58 PM

I think some of the breakout sessions were over-crowded because un-registered attendees were let in because of malfunction of the register systems and/or they chose a smaller room when it should have been e.g. the Venetial Ballroom D for such sessions.

Also, the seats are too close, so you can basically only reasonably use every second chair without sitting upon eachother.

Apart from that I can't see any major problems with capacity.



[Larry Valenzuela](#) 6 posts since

Jun 23, 2008 18. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 9:41 AM

I've to disagree with you. Next time, try to plan ahead wisely. This was my 1st time coming to the VMWare Conference 2008 in Las Vegas, and for the most part I enjoyed every minute of it! From the breakfast, self paced labs, instructor led labs, to the virtual plaza, everyone was friendly, helpful and above all accomodating.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Just remember, next time try to plan ahead to save yourself from making comments like this one. if you look at the posts, most would agree with me that they enjoyed the VMware Conference 2008 and look forward to going to VMware Conference in Europe (2009) and San Francisco (2010).

Have a nice virtualization year 😊

Larry



[Reid Conti](#) 2 posts since

Aug 22, 2008 19. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 10:32 AM

👤 in response to: [Paul Kaufmann](#)

Dress accordingly? Apparently you didn't get the memo that this is a tech industry conference, not an accountant's convention. You're in the wrong industry to be a suit.



[virtualslug](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 20. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 12:30 PM

I thought Vegas was a great place with a good amount of room...what really was a joke was last year in SF, it was awful to the point you describe...if you think Vegas was crowded avoid SF. Personally I think Vegas is the only place big enough for such an event.



[aravind kini](#) 1 posts since

Aug 15, 2008 21. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 2:03 PM

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Point taken on 'lack of space' to accomodate everyone.

There should have been no such thing as 'waiting list' since that puts a lot of unpredictability into planning your day.

(You dont want to buy a movie ticket and yet not be sure of watching the movie. Right?)

The schedule tools were also buggy exposing the technology-exchange sessions to everyone, causing further confusion.

Ofcourse, it is not a joke to put such a big conference together - so kudos to Vmware for pulling this off. Yes, certainly there needs to be big improvements in providing a planner tool.



[RFlips](#) 1 posts since

Aug 24, 2008 22. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 2:52 PM

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Gosh, David, I think I was at a different conference. I worked on my schedule ahead of time, found it a great tool, exported it into a calendar file, imported it to my Outlook (which loaded my blackberry) and I was on my way. For sessions I was not registered and really wanted to get to, or dropped into between my scheduled sessions, I found absolutely no problem getting in. Never was rejected. I actually marveled at the queuing models implemented to service 14,000 people.

And as far as the food and snacks, my only complaint was that I ate too much!



[djoman30](#) 7 posts since

Jul 4, 2008 23. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 3:46 PM

No Flips you were not at different conference. Seriously, did you like having to stand in lines for everything? Registered v/s non registered? I changed my mind when I got out here about what session I wanted because when I booked my stuff, sent to my outlook, and synced with my phone, that was back in July and now my focus has changed on what I want to see. Did you like standing in line at the party to do any of the events especially the go-carts and the mustangs. I don't think it's fair 1000 people or so got the pit passes to go early. How did they get them? Mustangs I understand the line. It's not like they can get 60 modified mustangs together, but the go-carts...come on....there should have been three or four of those tracks set up. Evidently all of you that liked the conference have never been to a well organized conference like TechEd or Connections. Ok ok.....I'm like 70/30....70% disappointed and 30% ok with conference. 30% saying the content was good. I will come next year if and only if I know what the party is up front and know how many people are coming and where it is at in advance. I wasted 275.00 bucks on my way to come to the party. The band was ok. I don't like bitch but when you have been to as many of these things as I have and NEVER had to be herded like cows than you set the bar rather high. I'm out.



[djoman30](#) 7 posts since

Jul 4, 2008 24. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 3:48 PM

Oh yea and to the suit who commented....Seriously!!!!!! Nuf said before an all out war starts here.



[ssaulsbury](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 25. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 3:54 PM

I have to second all the other posts here and say that I thought it was very well run this year. To all those who say SF was difficult, you should have seen LA in 2006. The hallways were literally no more than 10 feet wide. There was no crowd management at all. You had to wait as much as 30 minutes to get in, even if you were registered, and you still might not get in. It was terrible. If someone had called the fire marshall we'd have been shut down immediately. SF was a huge improvement. Vegas was better still. Since I've been to three of these now, I'm somewhat of a veteran, so here are my top three tips for a smooth VMworld experience:

1. Register EARLY - I can't over-emphasize this point. All the popular sessions, especially the instructor-led labs, fill up early, so register as soon as you can. As an alumni, you get to register early. Take advantage of that. I was pre-registered for every session and lab, and I never had to wait, always got a seat.
2. Arrive early - Try to get to the conference the day before it starts if possible, or just show up on day one right when it opens at 6:30am. Grab a map, walk the floors and the halls, and map out your sessions for the week. It really helps.
3. Set your expectations appropriately - VMworld is a conference, it's going to be crowded. And it's not a training class. If four days of intensive and focused training is your goal then VMworld is not the right choice.


I hope this helps.



[Jon Summers](#) 31 posts since

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Sep 10, 2007 26. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 19, 2008 6:45 PM

 in response to: [Steve Bailey](#)

+"the only complaint I do

have is that there should be at least a few minute break between

sessions. When you have a 9am-10am session and then a 10am-11am session

it's very difficult to get from one to another and still get a seat. I

just started leaving about 5-10 minutes before the end of the session


and all was good."+

The reason they planned it like that was to prevent people from scheduling all the limited sessions. There are far more people than sessions so to prevent people from making all the sessions they over lap a lot of them anyway. This year I made it to a lot less sessions than in SFO and the biggest part was the scheduler prevented you from adding scheduled conflicts.



[Jeff Adams](#) 4 posts since

Aug 29, 2008 27. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 20, 2008 7:50 AM

 in response to: [djoman30](#)

Re: David (#23):

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

"I don't think its fair 1000 people or so got the pit passes to go early. How did they get them?"

From what I could tell, you need to be one of the few who have direct communication and influence at VMware. Examples would be customers who spend millions of dollars annually on VMware products and have major multi-year support contracts (e.g. the US IRS), and/or those who participate directly in the Customer Advisory Councils (CAC) and have a say in what new features should be considered and what improvements can be made to existing features. Or you need be one of the few Partners who is involved with selling those multi-million dollar bundles of licenses/support. That type of purchase/sales volume narrows the eligibility field considerably.

Unfortunately, I (and 12,999 other attendees) do not fall into either of those categories, so I waited in lines, just like most everyone else. =\



[Johnathan Nelson](#) 2 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 28. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 20, 2008 8:23 PM

".....Im like 70/30....70% disappointed and 30% ok with conference. 30% saying the content was good. I will come next year if and only if I know what the party is up front and know how many people are coming and where it is at in advance."

Seriously? Those are your "conditions of attendance"?

You might want to think about that a little more. I have been to each and every VMworld so far. The first one was in San Diego and wasn't much more than a meeting. We got the schedule of sessions the day we got there and you had to line up at least an hour before the session if you wanted to get a seat.

I've been to TechEd and Connections, both in Las Vegas and Orlando. They ALL have their challenges but what counts....what REALLY counts, is the content. NOT the party. In fact, I have never been to the party at VMworld. Personally, I see no use for it, but that's just me. Others seem to enjoy it and I'm happy for them.

Since you attend a lot of conferences, I am sure you are aware of the tracks that some of them have. VMworld has them as well. Personally, it is my opinion that when you jump across more than two tracks, you are defeating the purpose of tracks. If you were to follow one single track, the idea is that you would be getting a full experience of that discipline. We as attendees try to maximize our experience by trying to see it all and what we end up doing is watering down our experience. The session descriptions were released back in July but you could not schedule. The first day you could schedule was the week of Aug. 18th (can't remember the exact date). That was less than a month before the conference.

It's all about proper planning and then sticking to it. I learned this from attending COMDEX in Vegas all those years. I never understood those people who showed up and tried to just wonder around the exhibit floor without having a clue. And, if you remember, COMDEX spanned the Sands Conference Center AND the Las Vegas Conference Center back in the day.

Out of all the years, this year has been the best in regards to content for me. VERY useful sessions and I am looking forward to grabbing the presentations from other tracks that I am interested in.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

If you are really into virtualization and VMware, you'll be back.



[James Richter](#) *4 posts since*

Sep 10, 2007 29. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 20, 2008 11:04 PM

 in response to: [Johnathan Nelson](#)

I think that the big takeaway here is that there could be some definite improvements in the logistics of the conference. I agree with everyone that it wasn't terrible. There were some instances that made it less than ideal.

The main thing about TechEd that I think is worth mentioning is that they do it at much larger convention centers, and I think that the reason why is so that you don't have 14,000 attendees using 2 sets of escalators to get between 4 floors. So that you don't have all of those people in lines to get to sessions crowded into 4 hallways.

The other thing is the scheduling. If you want that many people to get the best value for their time, you need to have sessions scheduled more than once, and you need to do that in advance. The same day repeat doesn't work because who knows which ones will be done twice. Not only that, but how about announcing that somehow....I found a board that mentioned it outside the ballroom, but nothing major. Getting the sessions later online is fine, but you don't get the session/talk you get the slides. Not everything of value comes in a slide.

For the money, and for the amount of attendees they need to fix the scheduling, and spread out for Pete's sake!



[Christoph Hammer](#) 1 posts since

Jul 8, 2008 30. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 21, 2008 11:19 AM

I wouldnt say it was a joke. More coffee would have been nice, more repeating sessions would have helped but the idea of registering for a session in advance worked pretty well for me.



[Mark Graham](#) 1 posts since

Jul 21, 2008 31. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 21, 2008 4:40 PM

 in response to: [Christoph Hammer](#)

Actually, I thought they did a pretty good job. The only complaint I heard was people unable to get into labs.



[djoman30](#) 7 posts since

Jul 4, 2008 32. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 21, 2008 6:51 PM

 in response to: [Johnathan Nelson](#)

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

No those are NOT my conditions of attendance. I liked the content, when I could get into them, and it is very important to me. VMWare did a good job of communicating what is going to be in the sessions out to the people. OMO I think they need to communicate other things a little better as well like the things I mentioned. As far as scheduling and planning and all that, yea I did, but I am very busy with my job during the week and like to get out on the weekends so I kind of did the schedule thing real quick and then revisited it later in August. So you are saying you never like to get out and party? Unlike you, it seems, I like to get out from behind this screen and do things outside and with friends. Everyone has their own opinion on this matter, I am simply saying that the venue was too small for the amount of people. At TechEd/Connections I didn't have to do any of this two/three month ahead planning, I did it the night before because I was guaranteed to get into any session no matter what. This is NOT how VMWare does it and I am saying they should in the future.



[mikeAT](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 33. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 6:56 AM


For me it was ok as well. (maybe better than the past years)

The only thing what was annoying was that they had the scanners inside the rooms so the presentation was always disturbed by them.



[Daniel Levin](#) 1 posts since

Jul 8, 2008 34. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 7:01 AM

 in response to: [Bruce Hartmann](#)

WiFi service was disappointing. I managed to connect to the WiFi once and only for 10 minutes. We had an problem in the office back home and I was not able to log in to help them. At TechEd and Altiris the WiFi was restricted to a few lounge areas and the service was better.



[Johnathan Urschel](#) 3 posts since

Jun 24, 2008 35. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 7:40 AM

I have to say that I agree with you. The communications at this conference were horrendous. I have an AT&T 3G phone and while at the conference it showed full connectivity and bars however most days once the level of geekdom reached it's peak I could no longer make calls or even txt within the building. Wireless was a complete failure unless you got in early or stayed late and sat in one place all day where you might happen to have gotten a DHCP address. Just walking around the venue there was no way you'd stay connected to it. Was anybody else annoyed at the wireless help desk booth people telling you to make sure you "rebooted already"? The break-out sessions left a lot to be desired.

To many people, hard to hear, hard to see and constantly letting people in 10, 15, 30 minutes after it started while the scanners were located inside the rooms which caused my attention to constantly be diverted. Some of the break outs really looked promising as far as learning something in my opinion only to be let down by the content presented think of the where's the beef commercials. As for the labs I'd rather pay a fee and have my own station than get into only 2 registered labs for free and have to share a station with someone. The content of the labs was good even though one of them the VMware staff nor I could ever get to work at my station. The food was pretty tasty I must say and it's availability was on par with the other conventions I've been to. All in all I'd say it was an O.K. experience however I'll be suggesting

that we not send anybody else to VMworld unless they make some serious changes.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[steveb05](#) 3 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 36. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 8:18 AM

This was my 3rd year and while I do agree there are things that could be done better, I have to say that:

A) The geographic location and the distance between sessions is way better than LA was in '06

B) The "crowd" was better managed and felt not as bad as SF in '07.

The biggest complaint I have this year was the escalators...they should have been more on top of which direction those things were going. Remember also, this is still a fairly new conference. This is only the 5th year and this year, they did two.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Dmitri Fedorov](#) 16 posts since

Jun 27, 2008 37. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 8:38 AM

↑ in response to: [Reid Conti](#)

Dress accordingly? Apparently you didn't get the memo that this is a tech industry conference, not an accountant's convention. You're in the wrong industry to be a suit.

Nobody asks you to wear a suit, just not shorts and flip-flops.

I personally don't find professional to dress for a beach when I go to work.

Also I find disturbing to be forced to a close observation of somebody's hairy legs and dirty bare feet, and I guess I'm not alone.



[Jeff Shelly](#) 1 posts since

Apr 28, 2008 38. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 8:37 AM

↑ in response to: [yan pritzker](#)

My first VMWorld and I have to agree about the BOF sessions, they were an absolute waste of time. If I had known how they would be executed I would of never scheduled any.



[lukereed2007](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 39. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 9:10 AM

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

San Francisco was bad last year, but VMworld Europe was much, much worse.

The coaches from the airport dropped us at the event, where we were handed a map to our hotels, and sent off into the night wheeling our suitcases behind us.

And the next day, when the event kicked off, things didn't get any better.

I waited in line for 15 minutes to get to the toilets, and when I eventually got in there, well let's just say it was not a pleasant sight or smell that greeted me.

The party was even more crowded. There was a queue for everything. I waited in line for 15 minutes to get in, then was herded towards a tent, where I then waited 10 minutes to get a beer. I walked around to find something to eat, but the best I could find was a barbeque thing outside. So I waited in line for 20 minutes there to get a piece of chicken about the size of my thumb...And when I took a bite out of it, it was raw in the middle. So after 1 hour with 1 beer, no food and now sore feet from all the walking & queuing, I gave up and went back to my hotel.



[desjaa](#) 5 posts since

Sep 20, 2007 40. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 9:18 AM

I COMPLETELY disagree. It is obvious you haven't been to any previous vmworld conferences because you would know this was a HUGE improvement from last year (San Fran). Last year's conference center was way too small which did not allow them to serve snacks between sessions or even hot lunches. Everyone had a boxed lunch and ate outside while sitting on the grass. No thanks! ..not to mention there were rumors of the fire department stopping by to assess the situation with the number of people packed into the building.

I hear, they are moving the conference back to San Fran next year - what a shame. I love the city - but the venue cannot accommodate the loads of people. Las Vegas definitely has the facilities for such events not to mention there was never a dull moment between sessions or events.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Ken Cowan](#) 3 posts since

Sep 3, 2008 41. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 11:13 AM

in response to: [desjaa](#)

Back in 2000, JaveOne at Moscone hosted 25K people, so if they can predict attendance, we can reasonably expect the facility to support it.

KC



[desjaa](#) 5 posts since

Sep 20, 2007 42. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 11:20 AM

in response to: [Ken Cowan](#)

I don't see how they were able to sustain 25k people. I thought the center was much smaller than Vegas and like I said, I'm not happy with cold boxed lunches when I'm paying \$1700+ to attend the conference.



[steveb05](#) 3 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 43. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 11:29 AM

in response to: [desjaa](#)

They did not use all of the Moscone Center last year. They will obviously have to use the whole thing next year.



[jasongeorge](#) 15 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 44. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 12:29 PM

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Gotta disagree with you. I went to **VMworld 2007** in San Francisco and it was worse. This time, The Venetian handled the capacity quite well and it didn't take that long to get from one session to the next. I thought the rooms and labs were appropriately sized, too (compared to last year).

Food was much better, too. Warm meals are always a welcome compared to last years cold breakfast and lunch. I wished they expanded the labs- more labs and the ability to pick 3 labs total.



[rexchoi](#) 11 posts since

Sep 19, 2007 45. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 12:33 PM

👤 in response to: [Johnathan Urschel](#) jurschel wrote:

I have to say that I agree with you. The communications at this conference were horrendous. I have an AT&T 3G phone and while at the conference it showed full connectivity and bars however most days once the level of geekdom reached it's peek I could no longer make calls or even txt within the building.

AT/T 3G was basically not working at all in Vegas. Switched to edge only and was working like a champ - although a bit slower.



[ohyeah990](#) 2 posts since

Sep 12, 2008 46. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 1:18 PM

👤 in response to: [Johnathan Urschel](#)

I found the same problem with my ATT 3G and my coworkers Verizon phone in other casinos as well. Full signal but cannot make calls or text. You can however make calls in the Canel Shops area. What gives??

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

This year's is much better than VMWorld 2007. Found that Venetian handled the crowd quite well. The two complains I have is the lack of refreshments between sessions. I found that sometimes there are only water available. Shouldn't there be **at least** water, coffee, and tea? Second complain, two of my sessions have titles that were completly inaccurate to their content. Even the presenter admitted to it. It was a waste of our time. VMware, do what SAP TechEd does.. have the presenter submit their presentation slides ahead of time so attendees can see if they are appropriate to what they want to hear.


BOF sessions were held at the wrong location in my opinion. How in the world are we suppose to hear anyone speak inside a huge hall with people shuffling about?

Been to MSTechEd in 06. They sure know how to keep our stomachs full!



[jasongeorge](#) 15 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 47. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 1:29 PM

 in response to: [ohyeah990](#)

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Right on w/ the Birds of a Feather setup.

Both my labs were a **bust**. 90% of the way through our SRM lab, ALL the lab PCs kicked us out! Right at the point we were about to failover. Talk about frustrating! The entire goal of the lab was rendered moot by technical difficulties... Are we supposed to thank the sponsors??

Second lab had a manual that was out of order. PowerShell scripting... in one step, create a snapshot via powershell commands, then delete it. A few steps down, the instructions call for us to do something else w/ the snapshots. Argh- we just deleted'em as instructed.

You're right about the snack and refreshments... it didn't seem consistent. It was more luck that you happen to get out of class and score a warm can of soda or snack.


VMware- you owe me two labs!

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...




[steveb05](#) 3 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 48. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 1:42 PM

 in response to: [ohyeah990](#)

Are you AT&T guys sure you weren't connecting to the temporary t-mobile cells they had set up in the conference areas? Might explain some of the issues.

I on the other hand, being on t-mobile, had better connectivity over my edge connection than I did on the VMwold WiFi 




[Reid Conti](#) 2 posts since

Aug 22, 2008 49. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 1:45 PM

 in response to: [steveb05](#)

I had minor problems with my (1st gen EDGE-only) iPhone, where I got one text message hours late, and had problems making calls once or twice.

I also have an EV-DO aircard from Verizon, and that had much greater problems. My connection would fail to establish, or drop randomly, or stay connected but not work right. Not just in the conference, but in my hotel (Planet Hollywood) as well, despite strong signal strength. It wasn't terrible, just not great. I never even tried to use the conference wifi, it seemed futile 

I never saw a T-Mobile banner on my phone, but for all I know the phone doesn't properly report the service provider, since I've never seen it say anything but ATT.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[rexchoi](#) 11 posts since

Sep 19, 2007 50. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 22, 2008 2:08 PM

in response to: [Reid Conti](#)

When I first got there, I would have really spotty 3G connections.. mostly just showing no signal and not switching properly to Edge. Finally just ended up disabling 3g altogether and everything worked great after that.

WiFi was spotty.. touch and go - about half the time it would work for me.

I also had a verizon aircard for my laptop and that actually was pretty solid for me pretty much everywhere - conference and hotel (Treasure Island).



[bayohe](#) 2 posts since

Jun 13, 2008 51. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 23, 2008 6:14 AM

in response to: [rexchoi](#)

I don't understand where the conference capacity was a joke. I think think that the flow between sessions was carefully thought out. For the amount of people attending, there weren't any bottlenecks that I experienced.

I had no connectivity issues with my Verizon Air card or my Verizon Cell either.

I had a great experience except for one impatient guy in the Fusion lab. <jerk>! I am sure if VMWare or the meeting planners knew about his attitude, he would have been booted out. (the tall one dark brown hair) the rest of the guys working the labs were excellent with the help and knowledge transfer. I still had a great experience in the walk in labs.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

There were a lot of people, but the flow was carefully thought out. I was personally impressed.

The snacks in the afternoon should have been provided later than an hour after lunch. But it was nice. It was difficult paying attention to the speaker in sessions having a popcorn back crackling behind you the whole time.

I had a great experience at VMWorld. If I didn't, it would be my own fault and my own bad attitude.

B



[Johnathan Urschel](#) 3 posts since

[Jun 24, 2008 52](#). **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** [Sep 23, 2008 6:27 AM](#)

[↑](#) in response to: [bayohe](#)

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...

Don't blame our bad experiences on bad attitude I take offense to that. The fact of the matter is and has been corroborated by many who have posted here that communications at this conference were suffering from some serious problems. I'm happy that you happened to have service through out. However, imagine yourself going from breakout to breakout trying to do anything resembling work and not being able to because your phone and other wireless devices weren't working. That's not our fault or due to a bad attitude it's the conference organizer's issue. The responsibility for a large portion of our complaints rest at their feet.



[bayohe](#) 2 posts since

Jun 13, 2008 53. Re: **VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 23, 2008 6:42 AM

in response to: [Johnathan Urschel](#)

I apologize. I see that your experience is legitimate. I did not mean to minimize the issues you were experiencing. I guess I didn't think my response through. It is certainly an issue that needs to be corrected for the next VMWorld. Companies are investing \$\$ to send their employees and work doesn't stop when you walk out the door of the office.

There were some posts that were saying that there were too many people, lines etc. I guess that was the point I was making is that even though there were a lot of lines, the flow was consistent.

My apologies to you and anyone I offended.

B

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Steve Bailey](#) 2 posts since

Dec 18, 2007 54. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 23, 2008 6:48 AM

in response to: [Johnathan Urschel](#)

OK, haven't we beaten this horse to death yet? Assume next year will be the same quality of service as this year. If you can adjust your work schedule and adapt then come and have a good time. If not, stay home and the rest of us will have less people to deal with.

The fact is that I'm not sure this is the appropriate place for constructive criticism. That should have been on the feedback form you filled out at the end of the conference.



[jasongearge](#) 15 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 55. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 23, 2008 6:55 AM

in response to: [Steve Bailey](#)

Fail! You can't assume since quality has varied from year to year.

This online forum isn't the place for constructive criticism? Why not?


And about the feedback form... I was expecting a place to list of issues at the end of the form. I listed a few items, thinking there would be an overall / general feedback area as the last question... much like in previous years.

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Johnathan Urschel](#) 3 posts since

Jun 24, 2008 56. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 23, 2008 7:29 AM


 in response to: [Steve Bailey](#)

Trust me it was definitely on the survey. I gave them the same earfull I've set forth here. Don't get me wrong I had fun at the conference it was just more headache than I'm used to having while attending one of them. And yes the flow of folks through the conference was the exceptional part of the experience. I really had no issues getting to and from anything.



[rhilim](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 57. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Sep 23, 2008 10:35 AM

 in response to: [ssaulsbury](#)

Couldn't have said it better myself. I too have been to LA in '06 (horrible crowds), SF in '07 (crowded but better) and Vegas recently. I think VMware is learning from their past mistakes, and it was made obvious this year. People gripe about the lines and such, but what else are you supposed to do? I mean 14-17,000 (unsure of exact count) doing their own thing with no crowd control = mass chaos!

My only suggestion would have been to have signs designating "registered" and "non-registered" down the halls rather than just at the head of the lines, it would have made it a little more clear as to what line you were actually standing in.

I pre-registered for all my sessions and didn't get denied any of them. I do agree with the previous poster with regard to a small break between sessions to allow time to navigate from one session to the next before it starts.

All-in-all, I think this was an excellent conference. I think VMware did an exceptional job in handling the crowds this year. My only concern is how are they going to handle next year in SF?

VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a...



[Paul Huml](#) 2 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 58. **Re: VMWare 2008 Conference capacity is a joke!!!** Oct 2, 2008 1:03 PM

I for one didn't experience the pain that others have. I heard of only a few incidents where there was a crush of people at the bottom of escalators. I attribute that to poor placement of goodies and the timing of large sessions ending. I have only been to two of these events, 2007 and 2008. IMHO, 2007 was a cluster! I spent more time in ad-hoc serpentine lines setup outside of session than i personally cared to! Not once was I stuck in that situation in Vegas. I had to wait in an orderly line only a couple of times and was inconvenienced very rarely with any kind of delay. I think this year they were able to get people scanned into sessions quicker. In San Fran it felt as though I was walking 20 miles a day, back and forth across the street from session to session. I only felt that way in Vegas, when going to breakfast or lunch.