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Configuring IPv6 on ESX 4.0.x



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Purpose

This article provides steps to configure IPv6 on ESX 4.0.

Resolution

Supporting IPv6

ESX

- ESX 3.5 supports virtual machines configured for IPv6.
- ESX 4.0 supports IPv6 with the following restrictions:
 - IPv6 Storage (software iSCSI and NFS) is experimental in ESX 4.0.
 - ESX does not support TCP Segmentation Offload (TSO) with IPv6.
 - VMware High Availability and Fault Tolerance do not support IPv6.

Guest operating systems

- Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008 fully support IPv6.
- Windows 2003 SP1 and Windows XP SP2 have the infrastructure for IPv6, but components of the system and applications are not fully compliant. For more information, see <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc776103.aspx>.
- Linux version 2.6 is fully compliant.

Configuring IPv6 on an ESX host

IPv6 is disabled by default and must be enabled.

Note: Enabling IPv6 on an ESX host does not disable IPv4.

To enable IPv6 from the GUI:

- Click **Host** > **Configuration** tab > **Networking** > **Properties**.
- In the window that displays, select **Internet Protocol Version 6**.
- Click **OK**.
- Reboot the system for the changes to take effect.

To enable IPv6 using a command line:

- To enable IPv6 for the VMkernel, run the command:

```
esxcfg-vmknic -6 true
```

- To enable IPv6 for the Service Console, run the command:

```
esxcfg-vswif -6 true
```

- To verify that IPv6 has been enabled, run the command:

```
vmkload_mod -l
```

The output appears similar to:

Name	R/O Addr	Length	R/W Addr	Length
ID Loaded				
tcpip2v6	0x4180225fd000	0xbd000	0x417fe3676f80	0x37000
47 Yes				

Note: `esxcfg-module -l` is the equivalent of `vmkload_mod -l` and is also available in the vi-cli.

To create or edit a virtual adapter (vswif for the Service Console or vmknic for the VMkernel):

- Click **Host** > **Configuration** tab > **Networking** > **Properties**.

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2. In the window that displays, select **Internet Protocol Version 6**.
3. Click **OK**.
4. There are 3 ways to assign an IPv6 address to an adapter:
 - Use DHCPv6. For more information about DHCPv6, see [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc774828\(VS.10\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc774828(VS.10).aspx).
 - If you have a host that advertises IPv6 configuration directives (such as an IPv6 router or a host running radvd), use the IPv6 automatic configuration feature.
 - Statically assigned. An automatically generated Link-Local IP address is assigned to communicate with potential routers in the same link.

Note: Do not use statically assigned addresses for communicating with an ESX host.

To edit IPv6 addresses assigned to Service Console or VMkernel adapters:

1. Click **Host > Configuration** tab > **Networking**.
2. Select **Virtual Switch** or **Distributed Virtual Switch** and edit the interface.

Additional Information

For more information about IPv6, see <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/network/bb530961.aspx>.

Note: The preceding link was correct as of January 21, 2010. If you find the link is broken, provide feedback and a VMware employee will update the link.

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