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Location of ESX log files

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Purpose

This article provides the default location of the most common ESX log files.

Resolution

You can see ESX logs:

- From the Service Console
- From the vSphere Client connected directly to the ESX host (click **Home** > **Administration** > **System Logs**)
- From the VMware Infrastructure Client connected directly to the ESX host (click **Administration** > **System Logs**)

The vmkernel logs (which log everything related to the kernel/core of the ESX) are located at `/var/log/vmkernel`.

The vmkwarning logs (which log warnings from the vmkernel) are located at `/var/log/vmkwarning`.

The vmksummary logs (which provide a summary of system activities such as uptime, downtime, reasons for downtime) are located at `/var/log/vmksummary`.

The hostd log (which is the log of the ESX management service of the ESX) are located at `/var/log/vmware/hostd.log`.

The messages log (which log activity on the Service Console operating system) is located at `/var/log/messages`.

The VirtualCenter Agent log is located at `/var/log/vmware/vmware/vpx/vpxa.log`.

The Automatic Availability Manager (AAM) logs are located at `/var/log/vmware/aam/vmware_<hostname>-xxx.log`.

The SW iSCSI logs are located at `/var/log/vmkiscsid.log`.

The System boot log is located at `/var/log/boot-logs/sysboot.log`.

Additional Information

For related information, see the main article in this series, [Location of log files for VMware products \(1021806\)](#).

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VMware ESX

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