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vmkfstools manage VM Disks

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This tool is from VMware. It is used for Virtual-disk and VMFS management.

Be aware, **always use Virtual Center GUI to create VMFS Volumes**. Otherwise you will end up with an unaligned VMFS partition and decreased performance.

vmkfstools VM-Disk and VMFS Management in the console

```
vmkfstools -X
```

Extend virtual Disk

```
vmkfstools -X 12G ./testing.vmdk
```

To **extend an existing Virtual Disk** to 12GB. Instead of G you can use M for Megabytes
With the same command you can **shrink** the disk (**only for ESX Version prior to 3.0**) if you choose a smaller than the present size. Be aware if the shrinked size is smaller as the partition size in the guest there might be a data losse or a corrupted system resulting!

In some cases the shrink command must be issued with the --force option:

```
vmkfstools -X 4G ./testing.vmdk --force
```

For shrinking on ESX 3.0x use the VMWare Converter (download from the VMware Website for free). Point the source and destination to the same ESX Host.

If you receive an error one parameter was incorreect the size might be smaller as the original size!

If you have blanks in the file or directoryname, mask the full path with ' '

```
vmkfstools -i
```

To **export or clone a virtual disk** from VMFS

```
vmkfstools -i <source-file> -d diskformat <destination-file>
```

Example:

Copy from one vmfs to another:

```
Source=/vmfs/volumes/esxpublic/testvm2.vmdk
```

```
Destination=/vmfs/volumes/production/testvmnew2.vmdk
```

```
vmkfstools -i /vmfs/volumes/esxpublic/testvm2.vmdk /vmfs/volumes/production/testvmnew2.vmdk
```

Export to ext3 partition:

```
Source=/vmfs/volumes/esxpublic/testvm2.vmdk
```

```
Destination=/vmimages/testvm2.vmdk
```

```
vmkfstools -i /vmfs/esxpublic/testvm2.vmdk -d 2gbsparse /vmimages/testvm2.vmdk
```

```
vmkfstools -E
```

Rename files associated with a specified virtual disk

```
vmkfstools -U
```

Delete Virtualdisk

Delete files associated with the specified virtual disk.

```
vmkfstools -c 4000M ./file.vmdk
```

To create a new empty virtual disk

```
vmkfstools -c 300G -a lsilogic /vmfs/volume/vmfslabel/directory/newdisk.vmdk
```

or in current directory

```
vmkfstools -c 300G -a lsilogic ./newdisk.vmdk
```

This command is very useful because you can use user-friendly names for the disks

For further options enter **man vmkfstools**

[< Prev](#)[Next >](#)[\[Back \]](#)

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