

FFP

10

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Continuing in the BIOS series, this time for HP Servers. There are a few things to remember:

- First the most obvious, make sure your BIOS version is current and as close as possible on revision number on every node of a cluster. The majority of issues can be avoided by getting the bios revision as close as possible (if not identical) on all physical hosts.
- Make sure all BIOS settings are consistent across all nodes of a cluster. Human error can get you here, even if you think all of the settings are the same, check again.
- If you are using HP Blades with on-board FC HBAs make sure to leave them enabled or else you may not be able to install ESX as described in [this article](#).
- Enable the "No Execute Memory Protection" in the BIOS of all nodes [or vMotion and EVC may not work](#).
- Select "Windows 2000" as the operating system in the BIOS. Except for the DL 740 and DL760 which should select "Linux" as recommended in [this article](#).
- Set the "MPS Table Mode" to "Full Table APIC" as described in the [previous article](#).
- Be cautious of interrupt sharing and balance devices across interrupts so that you do not run into performance issues like those [described here](#). There's also an updated article for ESX 3.5 which describes it [here](#).
- On AMD Opteron systems the BIOS gives an option in the memory settings for "Node Interleaving". The workloads you will be running will dictate how this is set. [This article](#) can help you determine the proper setting.
- Enable "Intel Virtualization Technology" if available under processor options.
- If you do not have some of the settings above, they may be for a different version of your BIOS or for different hardware.
- Lastly, if you update your BIOS for any reason, go back and check ALL settings. Occasionally manufacturers will reset the defaults for settings and an upgrate of the BIOS will change yours.

As always, if there are updates to the ones I've named above or if you know of additional ones, please post in the comments section.

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## 4 Responses to "BIOS Recommendations for ESX on HP servers"

1. **David Says:**  
February 10th, 2009 at 3:31 pm  
Hi  
  
Nice write up.  
  
The kb article (1081) for setting the BIOS to Windows 2000 doesnt apply to ESX 3.5 (well 3.5 isn't listed).  
  
Any idea if this setting is still required for esx 3.5?  
  
Cheers
2. **Ruben Spruijt Says:**  
February 12th, 2009 at 2:44 am  
Hi,  
  
Use "HP Static High Performance" Mode: instead of (default) "HP Dynamic Powersavings" mode.  
  
Ruben
3. **Tom Says:**  
February 12th, 2009 at 10:12 am  
Why should the Static setting be used instead of Dynamic Powersaving??

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WP Cumulus Flash tag cloud by Roy Tanck and Luke Morton requires Flash Player 9 or better.

[p](#)

South Florida VMUG and VMware Express on August 11 2010 11:00 AM in Hollywood, FL

VMworld 2010 on August 30 2010 12:00 PM in San Francisco, CA

VMworld Europe 2010 on October 12 2010 12:00 AM in Copenhagen, Denmark

[M](#)

RT @jasonboche: @jtroyer Haven't had either but White Castle trumps them all. <I had all, 5guys best, White Castle best hangover burger. 5 days ago

VAAI in 4.1 and Equallogics having issues communicating, talked to two customers about it today. 5 days ago

RT @Mike\_Laverick: @willisit - I'm going for the V2V configuration, with a pre-cloned vCenter. <-please report how you liked it when done 6 days ago

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4. **Tom Says:**  
February 18th, 2009 at 11:24 am  
See this post about Dynamic Power Saving:  
<http://vmjunkie.wordpress.com/2009/01/06/bios-settings-for-vmware-esx-servers/>

March 2010  
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06-10-2010
-  **Release: VMware vCenter 4.0 Update 2**  
06-10-2010

### Recent Comments

-  **Ewan Leith:** Roman you're absolutely right, CPU is no longer the bottleneck...
-  **Roman Hochuli:** Aml the only one that thinks this core-mania at the moment...
-  **Rob:** I suspect they will revise the terms of their licenses and a...
-  **Andrew Miller:** I remember reading recently that VMware's services revenue w..
-  **Sketch:** The problem is backwards compatibility... they need to prese...

### Disclaimer

I work for VMware as a Senior Systems Engineer. The opinions expressed here are my personal opinions. Content published here is not read or approved in advance by VMware and does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of VMware. This is my blog - it is not a VMware blog.