

Contents

Chapter 1 Scripted Installation	1
Introduction	2
Setting Up the Scripted Installation	2
Creating the Script	2
Remote Network Installation	10
Summary	11
Chapter 2 An Introduction to ESX	
Native Tools and How to Use Them	13
Introduction	14
Esxtop	14
Esxtop Overview	14
The Virtual Machine World	16
System World	18
The Service Console World	18
Some Other Helpful Esxtop Metrics	18
%USED	18
%Ready	18
%EUSED	18
%MEM	19
vmkfstools	19
Viewing Contents VMFS Partition	19
Import/Export Files	20
Adding a New Virtual Disk, Blank	
Virtual Disk, and Extending Existing Virtual Disks	20
vmware-cmd	21
vmkusage	23
Summary	24

Chapter 3 Scripting and Programming for the Virtual Infrastructure	25
Introduction	26
VMware Scripting APIs	26
What Are the VMware Scripting APIs?	28
Installing the VMware Scripting APIs	30
Putting the VMware Scripting APIs to Work for You . . .	31
Working with the VmCOM API	32
Working with the VmPerl API	46
Putting It All Together	53
VMware Virtual Infrastructure SDK	61
What Is the VMware Virtual Infrastructure SDK?	61
The VI SDK Architecture	62
Overview of the VMware Virtual Infrastructure Web Service	64
Operations Available Using the Virtual Infrastructure SDK	66
Developing with the Virtual Infrastructure SDK 1.1 . . .	68
Preparing the Virtual Infrastructure Web Service . . .	69
Working with the VMware WSDL	73
Virtual Infrastructure SDK 1.1 Concepts and Terminology	76
Developing Your Management Application	81
Developing with the Virtual Infrastructure SDK 2.0 . . .	96
Features Added to Virtual Infrastructure 2.0	96
Preparing the Virtual Infrastructure 2.0 Web Service .	98
Working with the VMware VI SDK 2.0 WSDLs . . .	100
Virtual Infrastructure SDK 2.0 Concepts and Terminology	102
Developing Your Management Application	112
Performing Advanced Operations	128
Power Operations	128
Virtual Machine Migration	129
Working with Snapshots	130
Working with Scheduled Tasks	131
Other VMware SDKs	132

VMware Guest SDK	133
VMware CIM SDK	134
Summary	137
Chapter 4 Building a VM	139
Introduction	140
Creation of Virtual Machines	
Utilizing Command-Line Tools	140
Creation of a Virtual Machine Configuration File	141
Creating Your Virtual Machine Configuration File ..	143
Creation of a Virtual Machine Disk File	147
Registering Virtual Machines with ESX Server	149
Scripting Creation of Virtual Machines in ESX Shell	150
Scripting Creation of Virtual Machines in Perl Scripts	157
Modifying Scripted VM Creation with Perl	166
Perl Script Components	168
VmPerl Commands	171
Cloning Virtual Machines Utilizing ESX Shell Scripts	171
Cloning Virtual Machines Utilizing VmPerl Scripts	176
Summary	187
Chapter 5 Modifying VMs	189
Introduction	190
The Virtual Machine VMDK File	190
VMDK Components	192
Version=1	192
CID=2af6d34d	193
parentCID=ffffff	193
file.createType="twoGbMaxExtentSparse"	193
The Size in Sectors Value	193
The Disk Data Base Command	194
The Virtual Machine Configuration vmx File	196
vmx File Components	198
Floppy Drives and CD-ROMs for Virtual Machines	202
Graphics Emulation, Unique Identifiers	202
Priority, VMware Tools Settings, and Suspend	204
Autostart, Autostop, and Time Sync Options	204

Virtual Machine Conversion from IDE to SCSI	205
ddb.adapterType = “buslogic”	207
ddb.adapterType = “lsilogic”	207
Scripted Disconnect of IDE Devices	210
Dynamic Creation of Virtual Machines	213
Summary	221

Chapter 6 Instant Disk: How to P2V for Free 223

Introduction	224
What Is a P2V?	224
P2V Techniques	225
VMware P2V Tool	225
Platespin PowerConvert	226
Barts/Ghost	227
The “Big Secret” of P2V	227
Instant Disk Overview	228
The Bad News	228
Prepping the ESX Host: Setting Up FTP on ESX Host	228
Prepping the Source Machine: Install the SCSI Driver	232
Installing the SCSI Driver in Windows 2000/2003	233
Installing the SCSI Driver in Windows NT	240
Continue Prepping the Source Machine: Validate	242
The Linux Rescue CD	242
Booting the Rescue CD	243
At the Command Prompt	247
Finding the Hard Drives and Storage	249
Linux and Hardware	251
Virtual Disk Files on the VMFS	251
Starting the FTP Process	253
Creating a New Virtual Machine and Pointing It to a New VMDK File	255
Windows VMs	255
Post-P2V	257

Summary	258
Chapter 7 Scripting Hot Backups and Recovery for Virtual Machines	259
Introduction	260
Anatomy of a VM Backup	260
Limitations	263
Layered REDO Logs	265
Hot VM Backup Sample Script	268
Choosing the Target for VM Backups	272
NFS	273
Attributes of NFS for VM Backups	273
CIFS	274
Attributes of CIFS for VM Backups	274
FTP	275
Attributes of FTP for VM Backups	275
VMFS	276
Attributes of Copies to VMFS for VM Backups ...	277
Existing VM Backup Tools	278
vmsnap.pl, vmsnap_all, and vmres.pl	278
vmbk.pl	279
Commercial Options	280
VMX File Backups	281
Incorporating Hot VM	
Backups into Your Recovery Plan	285
Crash Consistent State	288
Replication	289
Hot VM Backups as Part of the Recovery Plan	290
Hybrid Backup Strategy	294
Summary	296
Chapter 8 Other Cool Tools and Tricks	297
Introduction	298
Configuring PowerChute Network Shutdown in ESX ...	298
Creating the PowerChute Package	298
Configuring Your ESX Host's PowerChute	303
Configure PCNS Shutdown Settings on the UPS ...	304

Centralized User Management for ESX Server 306

Extending a Cloned (Deployed)
Windows VM's Root Partition 324

Deploying a Windows VM with
an Expanded Root Partition 327

Summary 330

Appendix A All Scripts and Program Source 331

Index. 389