



## Product Bulletin:

## Product Support Updates for VMware ESX 4.0: Host Utilities 5.1

### Revision History

21 May 2009 – Initial version

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This PRODUCT bulletin informs NetApp sales and NetApp partners about new or changed NetApp™ products or services.

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## 1. Summary

This product bulletin announces the availability and enhanced support of VMware® ESX 4.0, including ESX 3.5.x, as supported by the ESX Host Utilities 5.1 (EHU).

The Host Utilities are available on the NOW™ (NetApp on the Web) and are provided at no charge (\$0). These utilities provide the user with tools and documentation to assist customers in properly configuring their ESX systems that are connected to NetApp® storage. The ESX Host Utility is required to make sure of proper configuration and support of NetApp storage systems and is the first EHU to support both ESX 3.5 and ESX 4.0. This version of the EHU contains a number of updates to the EHU configuration, sanlun and other scripts to support ESX 4.0 and provides support for ALUA (new) and new timeout settings for 10GbE iSCSI for ESX 3.5.

EHU 5.1 continues to combine support for FC, iSCSI, and NFS protocols. EHU 5.1 does NOT support VMware ESXi releases. Refer to the KnowledgeBase article 44784 for recommended ESXi best practices.

## 2. What's New?

### User Access and Assistance

- Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) usernames on the controller to execute config\_hba and config\_mpath scripts without the need to be the root user.
- An updated install script that detects connectivity to ESX 3.5.x or ESX 4.0, optional “expert” option to skip timeout and path setting policies, and a non-ALUA detection and recommendation message.

### Partition Alignment

- Mbrscan, which scans and reports misaligned partitions that may cause performance degradation, has been updated to version 1.5.
- Mbraligns, aligns VMFS-based VMDKs for ESX 3.x and ESX 4.0.

## **Protocol Support**

- Support for native software iSCSI Initiator, QLogic iSCSI HBAs, Emulex and QLogic FC and FCoE HBAs on ESX 3.5.x and 4.0, as well as NFS.
- A unified kit supporting iSCSI, FC and NFS at the same time

Always validate using the NetApp Interoperability Matrix (IMT) for the most up to date support statements.

## **Tool Updates**

- Config\_hba script has been updated to include ESX 4.0, updates to timeout values for FC, FCoE and iSCSI cards, and new timeout values exclusively for ESX 3.5.x when configured with software iSCSI and 10GbE environments (190 for *LoginTimeout*, *AuthTimeOut*, *ConnFailTimeout*, *DiskCommandTimeout* set in */etc/vmkiscsi.conf*).
- Config\_mpath script has been updated to include ESX 4.0, properly handles ALUA or non-ALUA configurations and sets path selection policy and preferred paths where appropriate (ALUA with Round Robin, non-ALUA with FIXED and preferred path, and so on).
- Config\_nfs has an additional timeout Net.TcpIpHeapMax which is set to 120 for ESX 3.5.x and ESX 4.0 servers. This parameter is not available for ESX 3.0.x.
- Sanlun has been updated to include ESX 4.0.
- HBA API libraries are SNIA libraries from Emulex and QLogic and have been updated for ESX 3.x and ESX 4.0.
- Esx\_info has been update to included ESX 3.5.x and ESX 4.0.

## **3. System Requirements**

### **A. Configuration Support Overview**

For the most recent NetApp storage system configurations qualified and supported by NetApp with ESX 4.0, please refer to the NetApp Interoperability Matrix (IMT) at <http://now.netapp.com/NOW/products/interoperability>.

## **4. Warranty and Service**

The NetApp Host Utilities are provided free of charge and on an as-is basis. A software subscription plan is not provided for the Host Utilities. Users may download and install new versions of the Host Utilities, subject to NetApp's qualified configurations.

## **5. Additional Information**

### **A. Availability**

The NetApp ESX Host Utilities 5.1 kit is available for download, free of charge, from the NOW (NetApp on the Web) site. The iSCSI and FC Host Utilities for ESX 4.0 are combined and available at no charge (\$0) and are required to make certain that Parent and Guest OS values are properly configured.

### **B. Quoting**

The NetApp ESX Host Utilities 5.1 kit is available for download, free of charge, from the NOW (NetApp on the Web) site. The iSCSI and FC Host Utilities for ESX 4.0 are combined and available at no charge (\$0). There is no NetApp license, part number or price for the iSCSI and FC ESX Host Utilities 5.1 kit.

### **C. VMware Certifications**

For NetApp storage system configurations certified by VMware with ESX 4.0, please refer to the

VMware Storage / SAN Compatibility Guide for ESX 4.0 at  
<http://www.vmware.com/resources/compatibility/search.php?action=base&deviceCategory=san>.

**Contact Information:** Please contact your NetApp sales or channel partner representative with questions concerning this bulletin.

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