

Reclaim unused space on HP 3PAR using VMware esxcli

<https://communities.vmware.com/thread/545078>

На всех хостах, из консоли запустить команду

```
# esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=VMSTORAGE1
```

How to create a cron job in esxi 5.5 to reclaim space in a thin provisioned storage

Anyone tried running a cron job to reclaim space with this command?

```
esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_Label
```

Need to run the command once a day

How to create a cron job in esxi 5.5 to reclaim space in a thin provisioned storage

Edit the crontab in `/var/spool/cron/crontabs/root` by adding your command line like:

```
30 1 * * * esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_label
```

The above example runs the command every day at 01:30 AM. You may want to adjust the time to run it at a different hour depending on when your storage load is typically lowest.

After editing the crontab you also need to kill and restart the crond process, which you can do like this:

```
# kill -HUP $(cat /var/run/crond.pid)
# /usr/lib/vmware/busybox/bin/busybox crond
```

Note: However that modifications of the crontab do not survive a reboot, but you can inject commands to run at boot via `/etc/rc.local.d/local.sh` like this:

You need to modify the `/etc/rc.local.d/local.sh` file which is executed once upon every system bootup and make it insert the cron jobs and restart the service. Something like this would work:

```
1. #!/bin/sh
2. # local configuration options
3. # Note: modify at your own risk! If you do/use anything in this
4. # script that is not part of a stable API (relying on files to be in
5. # specific places, specific tools, specific output, etc) there is a
6. # possibility you will end up with a broken system after patching or
7. # upgrading. Changes are not supported unless under direction of
8. # VMware support.
9.
10.
11. # Gets the cron service pid and kill it:
12. /bin/kill $(cat /var/run/crond.pid)
13.
14. # Add 2 lines to the crontab:
15. /bin/echo "30 1 * * * esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_Label1" >>
    /var/spool/cron/crontabs/root
16. /bin/echo "30 2 * * * esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_Label2" >>
    /var/spool/cron/crontabs/root
17.
18.
19. # Start the cron service again
20. /usr/lib/vmware/busybox/bin/busybox crond
21.
22. exit 0
```

How can I check that the job is running during its schedule? thru esxtop?

Whenever a cron job is started, it will be logged in /var/log/syslog.log, so you could grep for cron or the esxcli keyword it:

```
# grep cron /var/log/syslog.log
```

To check whether it's currently still running, you can check the running processes like this:

```
# ps -ct | grep esxcli  
# esxcli system process list | grep esxcli
```

Can I have simultaneous volume unmap during one schedule cron?

Yes, you can define as many cron jobs as you want but I would be very careful with running multiple simultaneous unmaps. I would at least leave an hour or more of time between them.

```
ex) 30 1 * * * esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_label1  
    30 1 * * * esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_label2
```

Can i have simultaneous volume unmap during one (1) schedule cron?

```
ex) 30 1 * * * esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_label1  
    30 1 * * * esxcli storage vmfs unmap --volume-label=volume_label2
```

Also, is there a need to have the ESXi in maintenace mode prior to running the cron and editing the root and local.sh file?

No.

Gathering esxtop performance data at specific times using crontab (1033346)

<https://kb.vmware.com/s/article/1033346>

Purpose

This article provides steps for setting up a scheduled cron job to run esxtop in batch mode. The esxtop utility redirects the output to a .csv file.

Resolution

You must edit the crontab configuration file to create scheduled tasks on ESXi/ESX. For more information, see [Editing configuration files in VMware ESXi and ESX \(1017022\)](#).

Before creating a scheduled task, ensure that the ESXi/ESX host's date and time are correct. For more information, see [Verifying time synchronization across an ESXi/ESX host environment \(1003736\)](#).

Scheduling tasks in ESX using cron

1. Log in as root to the ESX host console directly or using SSH. For more information, see [Connecting to an ESX host using a SSH client \(1019852\)](#).
2. Run this command to open the crontab configuration file in the vi text editor:

```
crontab -e
```

Note: To use a different editor, modify the EDITOR environment variable.

For example, to use nano:

```
EDITOR=nano crontab -e
```

3. To start esxtop at the desired time, append the crontab file and run the esxtop command using the syntax:

```
Minutes Hour(24 hour format) Date Month_Day_of_Week /usr/bin/esxtop -b -d ## -n ##### > path/name-of-the-file.csv
```

-b : Signifies batch mode

-d : Sampling Frequency in seconds

-n : Total number of samples.

To collect the ESXTOP data in batch mode every night regardless of date, month or day of week at 2:20 am with frequency of sampling set to 5 seconds for 1440 samples, run this command:

```
20 2 * * * /usr/bin/esxtop -b -d 5 -n 1440 > /vmfs/volumes/DatastoreName/esxtop-batch.csv
```

This command generates 120 minutes worth of data for analysis.

4. Save the file. The changes take effect immediately and esxtop starts at the next scheduled time.

Note : The configuration changes on ESX persist across reboots. To revert the change, remove the esxtop line from the crontab configuration file.

Scheduling tasks in ESXi using cron

Note: Nano is not available in ESXi and, therefore, you must use the vi editor.

1. Open a console to the ESXi host using the Tech Support Mode. For more information, see [Using Tech Support Mode in ESXi 4.1 and ESXi 5.x \(1017910\)](#).
2. Open the root crontab file located in /var/spool/cron/crontabs as the root user using the vi editor.
3. To start esxtop at the desired time, append the crontab file with the esxtop command using the syntax explained below:

Syntax:

Minutes Hour(24 hour format) Date Month_Day_of_Week /usr/sbin/esxtop -b -d ## -n ##### > path/name-of-the-file.csv

-b : Signifies batch mode

-d : Sampling Frequency in seconds

-n : Total number of samples.

To collect the ESXTOP data in batch mode every night regardless of date, month or day of week at 2:20 am with frequency of sampling set to 5 seconds for 1440 samples, run this command:

```
20 2 * * * /usr/sbin/esxtop -b -d 5 -n 1440 > /vmfs/volumes/DatastoreName/tmp/esxtop-batch.csv
```

The above command generates 120 minutes worth of data for analysis.

4. Save the file.

Note: By default, this file is read-only. However, you can write changes to the file using the wq! key combination in the vi editor.

5. Run this command to determine the process ID of the crond process:

```
cat /var/run/crond.pid
```

You see output similar to:

```
1234
```

Where 1234 is the Process ID of the crond process.

6. Run this command to restart the crond process:

```
kill -HUP 1234
```

Note: On some ESXi versions, a manual restart is required. Run the appropriate command:

In ESXi 4.x and ESXi 5.0:

```
kill 1234  
/bin/busybox crond
```

In ESXi 5.1 and ESXi 5.5:

```
kill 1234  
/usr/lib/vmware/busybox/bin/busybox crond
```

The changes take effect immediately and esxtop starts at the next scheduled time.

Note: The configuration changes on ESXi do not persist across reboots. To revert the change without rebooting, remove the esxtop line from the crontab file and kill the crond process.

GhettoVBC, ESXi 5.5 & Crontab

<https://www.stephen-scotter.net/computers/virtualisation/ghettovbb-esxi-5-5-crontab>

```
# vi /etc/rc.local.d/local.sh
```

Make the contents something similar to the following...

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
# local configuration options
```

```
# Note: modify at your own risk! If you do/use anything in this
# script that is not part of a stable API (relying on files to be in
# specific places, specific tools, specific output, etc) there is a
# possibility you will end up with a broken system after patching or
# upgrading. Changes are not supported unless under direction of
# VMware support.
/bin/kill $(cat /var/run/crond.pid) # Gets the cron service pid and simply kills it.
# The next line writes a typical cron line to the crontab
/bin/echo "0 3 * * * /vmfs/volumes/datastore2/scripts/ghettoVCB/ghettoVCB.sh -a >
/vmfs/volumes/datastore2/backups/ghettoVCB-backup-\$(date +%Y-%m-%d-%H%M%S).log" >>
/var/spool/cron/crontabs/root

# Finally we start the cron service again
/usr/lib/vmware/busybox/bin/busybox crond
exit 0
```

The $\$(date)$ is escaped so that the command doesn't execute during boottime and always log to the a file with the date and time of the last reboot!

Reboot to be sure it's worked as expected.

Unmarking a failed CPG

<https://www.3parug.com/viewtopic.php?f=18&t=603>

So after a CPG fails, specific state description "Copy Space Grow Failed," how might I remove this tag? I have acknowledged all alerts, fixed the problem (thanks to some great responses here), and my CPG has been compacted, grown, shrunk, etc etc after all this. All the VVs point to the same copy space, which also now has plenty of room to grow. How can I get this to stop showing a failed tag? I've got a support request in... but it's been hours... and I'm a really impatient guy. Google is failing me.

If your capacity utilization is above 85% the CPG will not come out of failed status without issuing the "setsysmgr restart" command through the CLI.

```
setsysmgr restart
```