

ESXi FREE Web Client Interface

<http://www.vladan.fr/esxi-free-web-client-interface/>

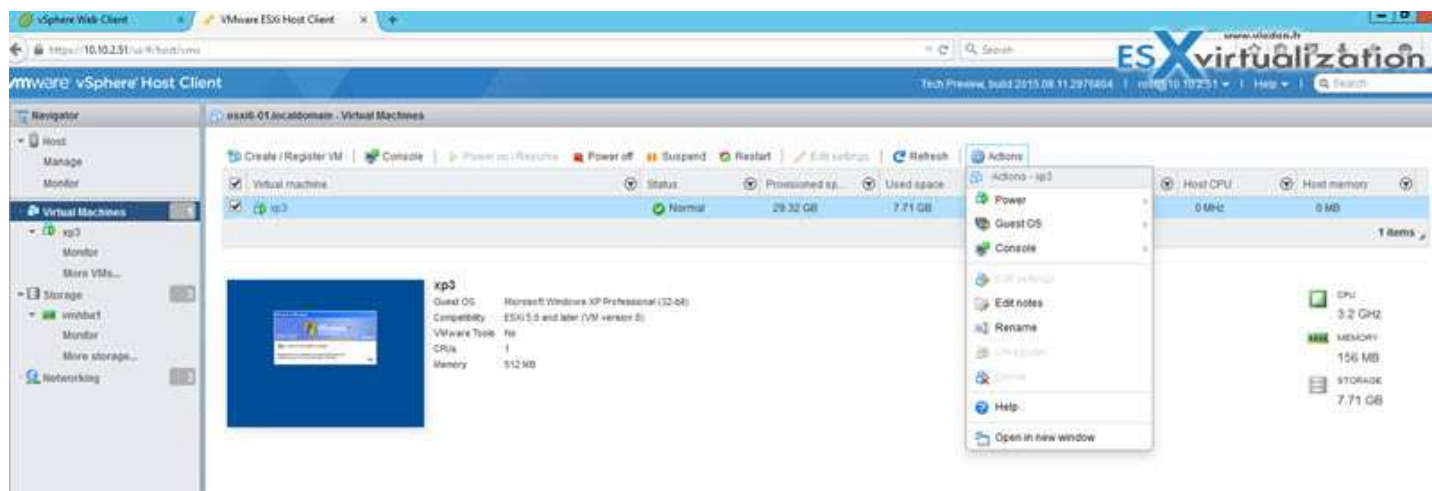
New free tool (fling) from VMware labs now allows to manage ESXi host via web client without the need of vCenter server. **ESXi Free Web client interface** (HTML 5 based) allows to manage a host without the need of the legacy C++ Windows client. The utility is bundled as a vib and can be installed on ESXi host via SSH (via Putty for example) without the need to reboot the host.

Update: The ESXi Host Client is part of ESXi 6.0 Update 2 now !!! No need to do any installation. It's embedded into the Installation ISO.

The tool is in It's early stage of development and not all the features and functions are present yet. But nice work VMware. Big congratz to all engineers who works on this! **Etienne Le Sueur** et **George Estebe**. They say – Don't hesitate to provide feedback.

What The Host client can do?

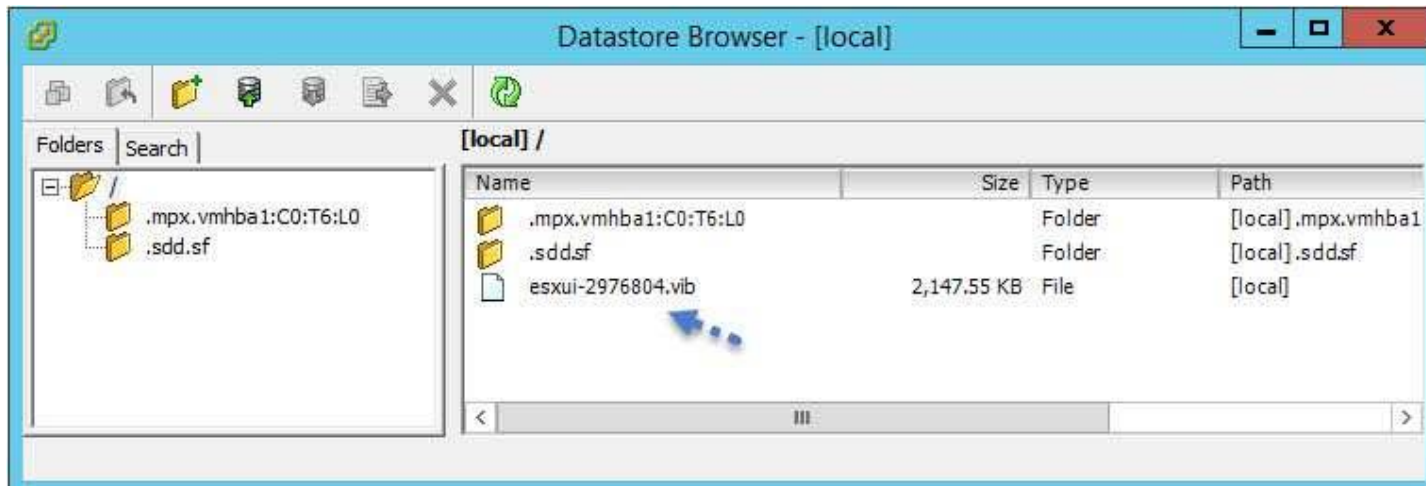
- VM operations (Power on, off, reset, suspend, etc).
- Creating a new VM, from scratch or from OVF/OVA (limited OVA support)
- Configuring NTP on a host
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How to install the vib?

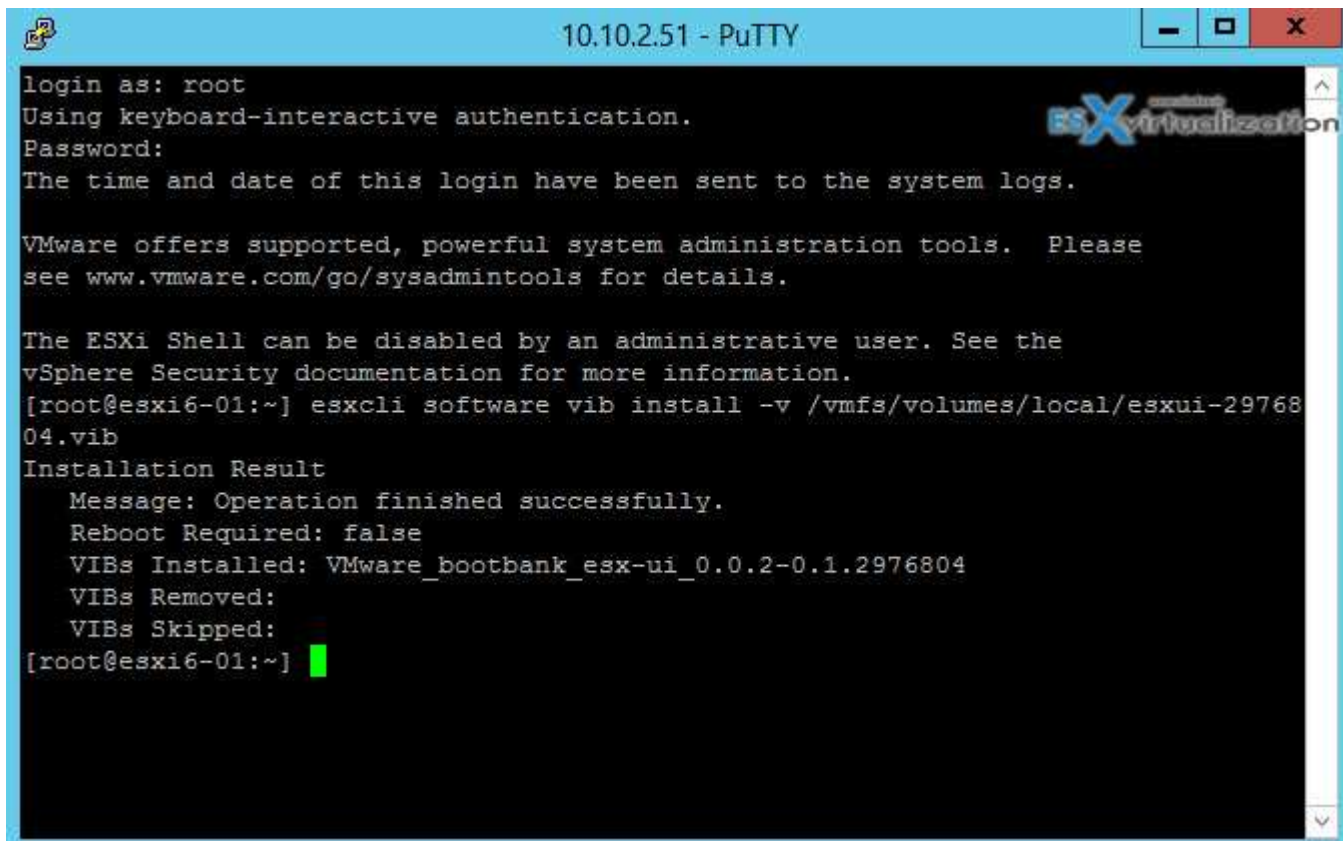
The web client for ESXi is a vib. A vib is **vSphere Installation Bundle**.

1. Connect to your host via legacy vSphere C++ client and upload the vib to a local datastore.



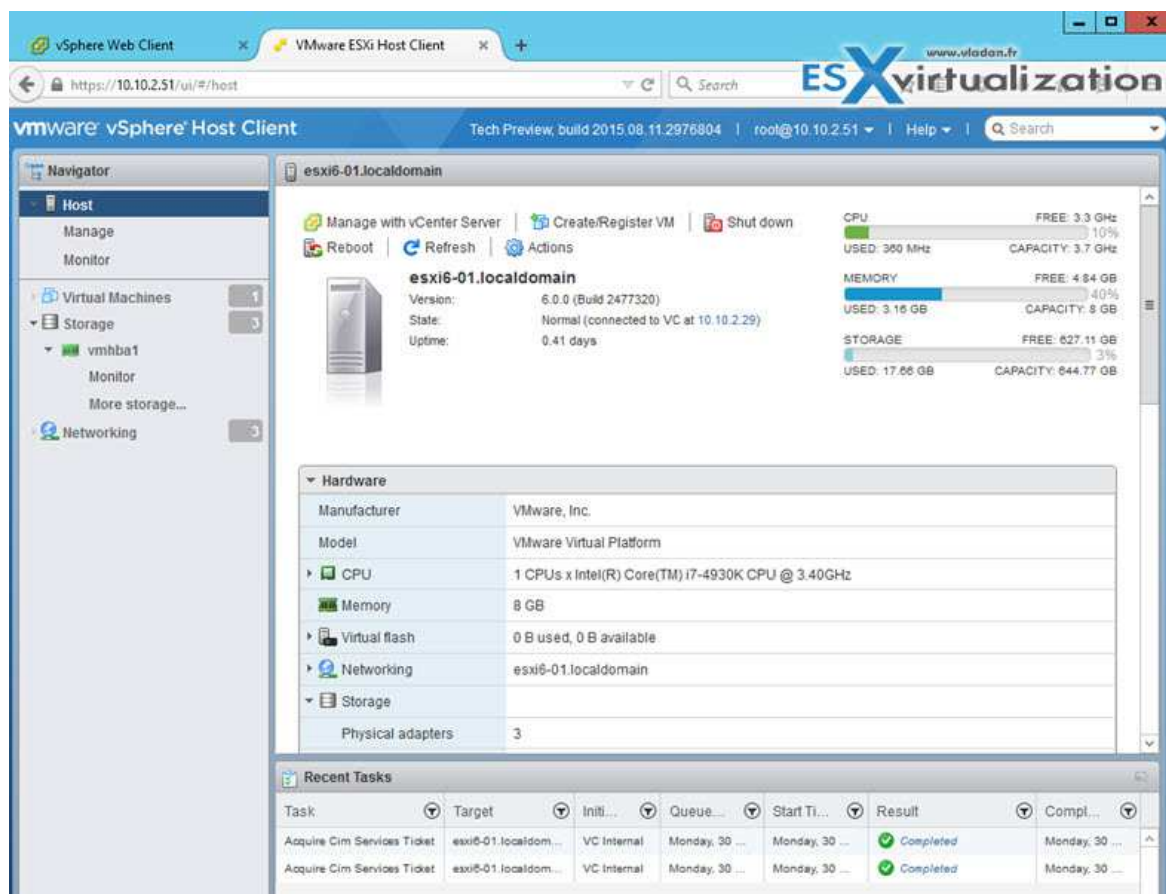
2. Conect to your ESXi host via Putty and enter this command:

```
esxcli software vib install -v /vmfs/volumes/local_datastore/esxui-2976804.vib
```



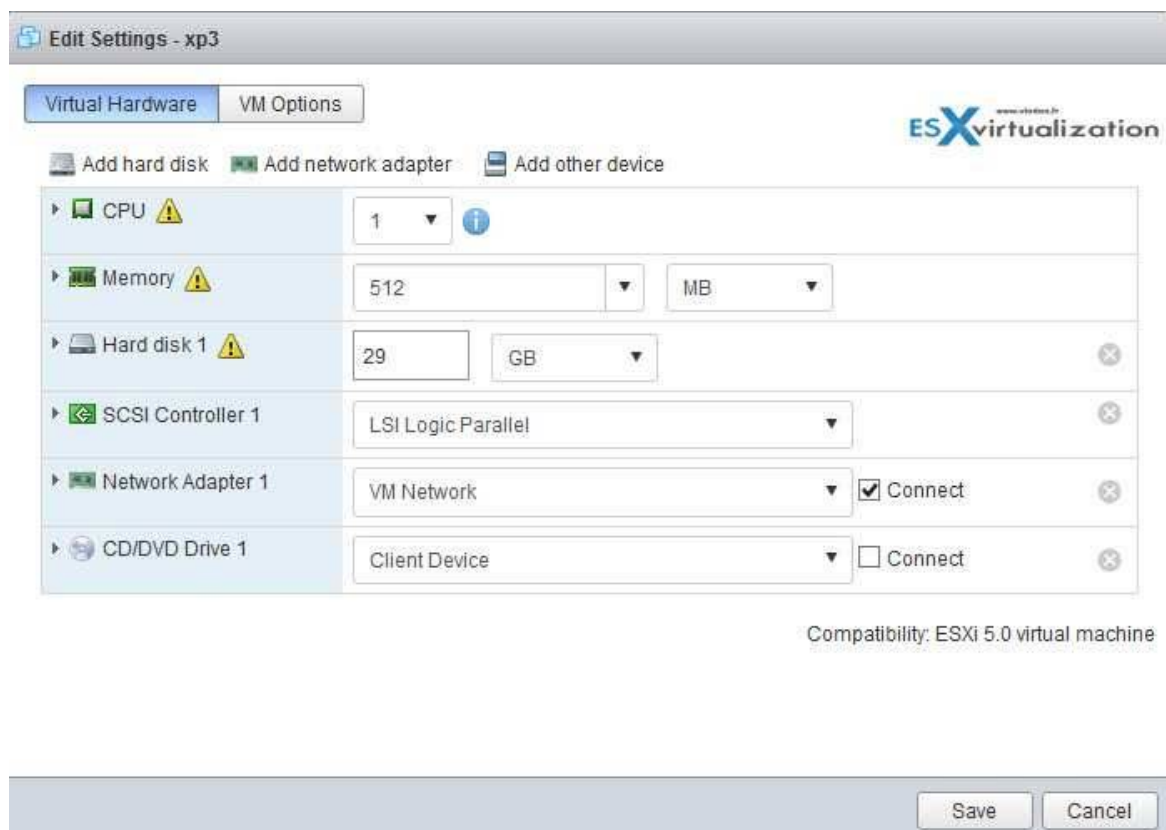
3. Wait for successful install and then fire up your web browser to:

https://the_ip_of_your_host/ui



4. Done

Here is a view on the properties of a VM. I haven't found an option to change virtual hardware version. Probably not just implemented yet....



I recorded also a quick video detailing the steps:

Nice, Nice. I like it a lot, even if we can see that this product is pre-release. Good job VMware! The browser web client is fast and no dependencies. (no flash). HTML 5 and javascript. Note that you need to enable JavaScript and cookies!

Pretty much all modern browsers like Chrome, Firefox, Opera, Safari or IE (on Windows) works. Check the ESXi embedded host client's [page](#) for all details.

The product is easy to use, install and uninstall. To uninstall, simply use the same command, but with the **remove** switch.

If you want to check, which name the vib has, simply use:

```
esxcli software vib list
```

```
VIBs Skipped:
[root@esxi6-01:~] esxcli software vib list
```

Name	Version	Vendor	Product	Support Level	Install Date
mtip32xx-native	3.8.5-1vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMWARE	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-amd	0.3.10-3vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-atixp	0.4.6-4vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-cmd64x	0.2.5-3vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-hpt3x2n	0.3.4-3vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-pdc2027x	1.0-3vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-serverworks	0.4.3-3vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-sil680	0.4.8-3vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ata-pata-via	0.3.3-2vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
block-cciss	3.6.14-10vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
cpu-microcode	6.0.0-0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ehci-ehci-hcd	1.0-3vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
elxnet	10.2.309.6v-1vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
emulex-esx-elxnetcli	10.2.309.6v-0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
esx-base	6.0.0-0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
esx-dvfilter-generic-fastpath	6.0.0-0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
esx-tboot	6.0.0-0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
esx-ui	0.0.2-0.1.2976804	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-29
esx-xserver	6.0.0-0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ima-qla4xxx	2.02.18-1vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ipmi-ipmi-devintf	39.1-4vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04
ipmi-ipmi-msghandler	39.1-4vmw.600.0.0.2477320	VMware	VMwareCertified		2015-03-04

So you can see that the name of the vib is "esx-ui", so to remove this vib use this command:

```
esxcli software vib remove -n esx-ui
```


where the **-n** switch stands for **name**

```
[root@esxi6-01:~] esxcli software vib remove -n esx-ui
Removal Result
  Message: Operation finished successfully.
  Reboot Required: false
  VIBs Installed:
  VIBs Removed: VMware_bootbank_esx-ui_0.0.2-0.1.2976804
  VIBs Skipped:
[root@esxi6-01:~] █
```

You're done. Now you can Install or remove a ESXi FREE Web Client Interface to any host. The tool is intended to be used for standalone hosts as hosts managed via vCenter server do have their own vSphere web client (flash based for now).

Note that upgrading is possible. Simply use the install command which uninstalls the old version and installs the new one...

```
[root@esxi6-03:~] esxcli software vib install -v /vmfs/volumes/drobo/esxui_signe
d.vib
Installation Result
  Message: Operation finished successfully.
  Reboot Required: false
  VIBs Installed: VMware_bootbank_esx-ui_0.0.2-0.1.3357452
  VIBs Removed: VMware_bootbank_esx-ui_0.0.2-0.1.3015331
  VIBs Skipped:
```



ESXi Embedded Host Client

<https://labs.vmware.com/flings/esxi-embedded-host-client>

Summary

This version of the ESXi Embedded Host Client is written purely in HTML and JavaScript, and is served directly from your ESXi host and should perform much better than any of the existing solutions. Please note that the Host Client cannot be used to manage vCenter. Currently, the client is in its development phase, but we are releasing this Fling to elicit early feedback from our users to help guide the development and user experience that we are creating. As such, the client is not fully featured and only implements a hand full of the most important features. Some of these include:

- VM operations (Power on, off, reset, suspend, etc).
- Creating a new VM, from scratch or from OVF/OVA (limited OVA support)
- Configuring NTP on a host
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We welcome any feedback and bug reports at this early stage. However, rather than reporting on missing features, we are very much interested in your thoughts on the layout, user experience, and performance of the host client.

Get the <http://download3.vmware.com/software/vmw-tools/esxui/esxui-signed-3623722.vib> or in the download box.

Known Issues

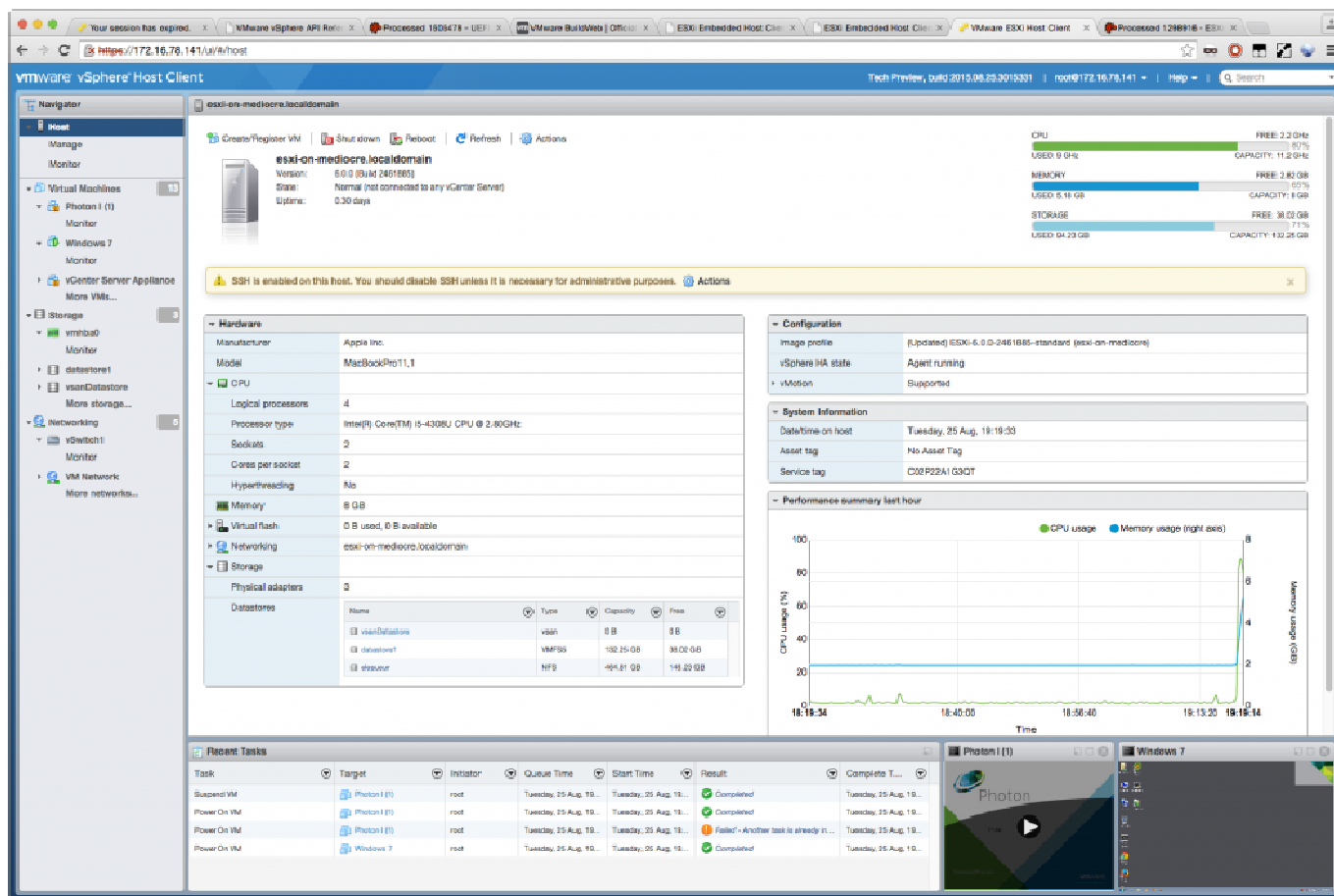
- On ESXi hosts which are assigned a VMware vSphere Hypervisor license, all modification operations will fail silently. We are working on a solution to this issue.
- On ESXi hosts which have a sub-domain name with large, shared cookies a web console session may fail to initialize. A workaround is to clear cookies or run the host client in an incognito-type window.
- For ESXi 5.5U2 and prior, and ESXi 6.0 hosts upgraded from any 5.5U2 or prior version, you will get a 503 error returned after visiting <https://<esxhost>/ui/>. To resolve this issue, please remove the line starting with /ui from /etc/vmware/rhttpproxy/endpoints.conf and restart rhttpproxy with /etc/init.d/rhttpproxy restart
- For ESXi 5.5 hosts, in-browser consoles are not supported. Please use VMRC to access guest VM consoles.
- For ESXi 5.5U2 and prior hosts, you must ensure to append a trailing / (forward slash) to the URL after /ui. The URL must be <https://<esxhost>/ui/>
- For some Windows guests, sending Ctrl-Alt-Del does not work.

Other

- [ESXUI offline bundle for 5.x](#)
- [ESXUI offline bundle for 6.x](#)
- [Open source disclosure package](#)

Feedback

We welcome any feedback or bug reports. Please post in the VMware.com [online community forum](#).



System Requirements

Currently, the host client will only work on ESXi 6.0. When ESXi 5.5u3 is released, it will also work on that version of ESXi.

You must have a web browser installed with JavaScript and cookies enabled. The browser compatibility matrix is:

Supported Browsers	Mac	Windows	Linux
Chrome	25+	25+	25+
Firefox	20+	15+	15+
IE	n/a	10+	n/a
Opera	12+	15+	untested
Safari	5.1+	5.1+	

Instructions

The easiest way to install a VIB is to download it directly on the ESXi host. Alternatively, you can download it to your local machine and use `scp` to push it to your ESXi Host.

If your ESXi host has internet access, follow these steps:

1. Enable SSH on your ESXi host, using DCUI or the vSphere web client.
2. Execute the following command

```
ssh root@<esxip> esxcli software vib install -v <URL>
```

where <URL> is the VIB URL from the VMware.com Flings website (you can right click on the download button).

If you have downloaded the VIB to your local machine, you will need to push it to ESXi using `scp`.

1. Enable SSH on your ESXi host, using DCUI or the vSphere web client.
2. Execute the following command to copy the VIB to your host

```
scp /path/to/downloaded/vib/esxui.vib root@<esxip>:/tmp
```

3. Now, run the following command to install the VIB, or log into the host and run `esxcli` directly

Install:

```
ssh root@<esxip> esxcli software vib install -v /tmp/esxui.vib
```

Upgrade:

```
ssh root@<esxip> esxcli software vib update -v /tmp/esxui.vib
```

If the VIB installation completes successfully, you should now be able to navigate a web browser to <https://<esxip>/ui> and the login page

Removal

To remove the ESXi embedded host client from your ESXi host, you will need to use `esxcli` and have root privileges on the host.

Run the following command from a shell, or log into the host and run `esxcli` directly.

```
ssh root@ esxcli software vib remove -n esx-ui
```