

VMware vSphere on Dell EMC PowerEdge Systems

Getting Started Guide

Notes, cautions, and warnings

 **NOTE:** A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your product.

 **CAUTION:** A CAUTION indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.

 **WARNING:** A WARNING indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

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Getting started with VMware vSphere

This document helps you in setting up your Dell EMC PowerEdge server and configuring VMware vSphere.

- NOTE:** If you had ordered VMware ESXi with your Dell EMC PowerEdge server, it is preinstalled on your server. The ESXi installer media is required for reinstallation. If you did not order ESXi with your server, you can order the Internal Dual SD Module kit (for supported Dell EMC PowerEdge servers) at Dell.com/support/home, and then download the ESXi installation media from Dell.com/support/drivers.

Topics:

- [Important information](#)
- [Download Dell EMC customized ESXi image](#)
- [Configuring ESXi on Dell EMC PowerEdge server](#)

Important information

For the Dell EMC PowerEdge servers shipped from factory:

- The Dell EMC PowerEdge 14th generation servers installed with ESXi have the username `root` and the password is your Service Tag of your system.
 - NOTE:** To locate your service tag of your system, refer to [Locating Service Tag of your system](#)
- The Dell EMC PowerEdge 13th generation servers installed with ESXi do not have password for the username `root`.

For the Dell EMC PowerEdge servers shipped from factory with ESXi installed on BOSS-S1 device:

- The Dell EMC 14th generation servers installed with ESXi on the BOSS-S1 device do not have VMFS datastore enabled by default. Dell EMC recommends BOSS-S1 as an OS boot device only. For more information, refer to the *VMware Knowledge Base article 2145210*.

- NOTE:** Before deploying the system, Dell EMC recommends you to refer *VMware vSphere 6 on Dell EMC PowerEdge server Release Notes* at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions

Download Dell EMC customized ESXi image

To download the Dell EMC customized ESXi image:

- NOTE:** Ensure that you clear the web browser cache before downloading the drivers and firmware.

- 1 Go to Dell.com/support/drivers.
- 2 In the **Drivers & Downloads** section, type the Service Tag of your system in the **Service Tag or Express Service Code** box, and then click **Submit**.

- NOTE:** If you do not have the Service Tag, select **Detect My Product** to allow the system to automatically detect your Service Tag, or in **General support**, navigate to your product.

- 3 Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
The drivers that are applicable to your selection are displayed.
- 4 Click **Change OS**, and then select the appropriate version of VMware ESXi.
- 5 Expand **Enterprise Solutions**, and then click **Download File**.

To understand Dell EMC's customization aspects and its advantages, go to [Dell's Customization of VMware ESXi and Its advantages](#).

Configuring ESXi on Dell EMC PowerEdge server

- 1 Set up your Dell EMC PowerEdge server.
For more information, see the *Getting Started Guide* and the *Rack Installation Instructions* that is shipped with your server.
- 2 Connect the network cables to the appropriate Network Daughter Card (NDC)/ LAN On Motherboard (LOM) Network Interface Card (NIC) connectors.
For a four-port LOM, connect the VMware management network cable to LOM1 port, the virtual machine network cable to LOM2 port and LOM3 port, and the optional storage network cable to LOM four- port.
For a two-port LOM, connect the VMware management network cable to LOM1 port and the virtual machine network cable to LOM2 port.
- 3 Turn on the server.
The ESXi console loads.
- 4 Press F2 when the ESXi console is displayed to configure the software.
Configuring the software includes changing the root password and setting a static IP address.

NOTE: By default, the server obtains an IP address using the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

- 5 Select **Configure Password** from the main menu to change the root password.
The root password manages the server on a one-to-one basis.
- 6 Select **Configure Management Network > IP Configuration > Set static IP address and network configuration** to configure a static IP address.

NOTE: Record the host IP address.

If you purchased the ESXi hypervisor-based vSphere Standard, Enterprise, Enterprise Plus, Essentials Plus software, or Acceleration kits from Dell EMC, you must have received the Partner Activation Code certificate with the server. To use the ESXi software and receive subscription services, follow the instructions in your Partner Activation Code certificate that comes with the server.

NOTE: By using the VMware software, you are agreeing to the VMware End User License Agreement (EULA) at [vmware.com/downloads/eula](https://www.vmware.com/downloads/eula). For more information about license keys and VMware software licensing configuration, see the *VMware documentation* at [vmware.com/support/pubs](https://www.vmware.com/support/pubs).

Getting help

Topics:

- [Contacting Dell EMC](#)
- [Related information for virtualization solutions](#)
- [Documentation resources](#)
- [Downloading the drivers and firmware](#)
- [Documentation feedback](#)
- [Locating Service Tag of your system](#)

Contacting Dell EMC

Dell EMC provides several online and telephone based support and service options. If you do not have an active internet connection, you can find contact information about your purchase invoice, packing slip, bill, or Dell EMC product catalog. Availability varies by country and product, and some services may not be available in your area.

To contact Dell EMC for sales, technical assistance, or customer service issues:

- 1 Go to Dell.com/support.
- 2 Select your country from the drop-down menu on the lower right corner of the page.
- 3 For customized support:
 - a Enter your system Service Tag in the **Enter your Service Tag** field.
 - b Click **Submit**.

The support page that lists the various support categories is displayed.
- 4 For general support:
 - a Select your product category.
 - b Select your product segment.
 - c Select your product.

The support page that lists the various support categories is displayed.
- 5 For contact details of Dell EMC Global Technical Support:
 - a Click [Global Technical Support](#).
 - b The **Contact Technical Support** page is displayed with details to call, chat, or email the Dell EMC Global Technical Support team.

Related information for virtualization solutions

Table 1. Related information for virtualization solutions

If you need information about	See
Dell EMC VMware documentation	Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions
OpenManage documentation	Dell.com/openmanagemanuals
PowerEdge documentation	Dell.com/poweredgemanuals

If you need information about	See
Basic configuration information for running ESXi on a Dell EMC PowerEdge server.	<i>Getting Started Guide</i> at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about downloading, installing, and configuring ESXi • Supported hardware configurations for running ESXi on a Dell EMC PowerEdge server 	<i>Installation Instructions and Important Information Guide</i> at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions
PowerEdge servers and compatibility with vMotion	<i>VMware vMotion and 64-bit Virtual Machine Support Compatibility Matrix</i> at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions
PowerEdge and PowerVault compatibility information for running ESXi	<i>VMware vSphere for Dell EMC PowerEdge servers Compatibility Matrix</i> at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions
About known issues and resolution	<i>VMware vSphere 6 on Dell EMC PowerEdge server Release Notes</i> at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions
ESXi ISO image customization information	<i>ESXi Image Customization Information</i> at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions
ESXi Tech sheet	<i>VMware ESXi vSphere Important Information</i> at Dell.com/virtualizationsolutions

Technical support resources

- vmware.com/support
- [Dell and VMware Product Page](#)
- Dell.com/support/home
- Dell.com/services

Discussion forums

- communities.vmware.com/community/vmtn
- en.community.dell.com/techcenter/virtualization/w/wiki/vmware.aspx
- [Wikis, Forums, Blogs and Videos](#)
- Dellcommunity.com

Knowledge base

- kb.vmware.com/kb

NOTE: For more information related to the VMware ESXi installation on Dell EMC PowerEdge servers, go to [Dell Virtualization](#).

Virtualization videos on Dell EMC PowerEdge servers

All the supported virtualization videos for Dell EMC PowerEdge servers are available in the [Supported Operating servers for Dell PowerEdge servers](#) playlist.

Table 2. Virtualization videos on Dell EMC PowerEdge servers

Video title	Links
Downloading the Dell EMC customized ESXi image from support site	www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnVxtkAkYTI
OS Deployment (VMware ESXi) - Installing Using CD/DVD	www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EbufUS86zA
Enabling and Configuring Fault Resilient Memory on Dell EMC PowerEdge servers	www.youtube.com/watch?v=retSh-XIsKO
OS Deployment (VMware ESXi) - Installing on BOSS S1 device	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB1loXpFFME
OS Deployment (VMware ESXi) - Installing on IDSDM	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC-Xntg5mgw

Documentation resources

This section provides information about the documentation resources for your server.

Table 3. Additional documentation resources for your server

Task	Document	Location
Setting up your server	For information about installing the server into a rack, see the Rack documentation included with your rack solution Or the <i>Getting Started With Your System</i> document that is shipped with your server.	Dell.com/poweredgemanuals
	For information about turning on the server and the technical specifications of your server, see the <i>Getting Started With Your System</i> document that is shipped with your server.	Dell.com/poweredgemanuals
Configuring your server	For information about the iDRAC features, configuring and logging in to iDRAC, and managing your server remotely, see the Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller User's Guide.	Dell.com/idracmanuals
	For information about installing the operating system, see the operating system documentation.	Dell.com/operatingsystemmanuals
	For information about understanding Remote Access Controller Admin (RACADM) subcommands and supported RACADM interfaces, see the RACADM Command Line Reference Guide for iDRAC.	Dell.com/idracmanuals

Task	Document	Location
Managing your server	For information about updating drivers and firmware, see the Methods to download firmware and drivers section in this document.	Dell.com/support/drivers
	For information about servers management software offered by Dell EMC, see the Dell EMC OpenManage Systems Management Overview Guide.	Dell.com/openmanagemanuals
	For information about setting up, using, and troubleshooting OpenManage, see the Dell EMC OpenManage Server Administrator User's Guide.	Dell.com/openmanagemanuals
	For information about installing, using, and troubleshooting Dell EMC OpenManage Essentials, see the Dell EMC OpenManage Essentials User's Guide.	Dell.com/openmanagemanuals
	For information about installing and using Dell EMC System E-Support Tool (DSET), see the Dell EMC System E-Support Tool (DSET) User's Guide.	Dell.com/DSET
	For information about installing and using Active System Manager (ASM), see the Active System Manager User's Guide.	Dell.com/asmdocs
	For understanding the features of Dell EMC Lifecycle Controller (LC), see the Lifecycle Controller User's Guide.	Dell.com/idracmanuals
	For information about partner programs enterprise systems management, see the OpenManage Connections Enterprise Systems Management documents.	Dell.com/omconnectionsenterprisesystemsmanagement
	For information about connections and client systems management, see the OpenManage Connections Client Systems Management documentation.	Dell.com/dellclientcommandsuitemanuals
For information about viewing inventory, performing configuration, and monitoring tasks, remotely turning on or off servers, and enabling alerts for events on servers and components using the Dell EMC	Dell.com/esmmanuals	

Task	Document	Location
	Chassis Management Controller (CMC), see the CMC User's Guide.	
Working with the Dell EMC PowerEdge RAID controllers	For information about understanding the features of the Dell EMC PowerEdge RAID controllers (PERC) and deploying the PERC cards, see the Storage controller documentation.	Dell.com/storagecontrollermanuals
Understanding event and error messages	For information about checking the event and error messages generated by the system firmware and agents that monitor server components, see the Dell EMC Event and Error Messages Reference Guide.	Dell.com/openmanagemanuals > OpenManage software

Downloading the drivers and firmware

Dell EMC recommends that you download and install the latest BIOS, drivers, and systems management firmware on your system. Ensure that you clear the web browser cache before downloading the drivers and firmware.

- 1 Go to Dell.com/support/drivers.
- 2 Under the **Drivers & Downloads** section, type the Service Tag of your system in the **Service Tag or Express Service Code** box, and then click **Submit**.

NOTE: If you do not have the Service Tag, select **Detect My Product** to allow the system to automatically detect your Service Tag, or under **General support**, navigate to your product.

- 3 Click **Drivers & Downloads**.
The drivers that are applicable to your selection are displayed.
- 4 Download the drivers to a USB drive, CD, or DVD.

Documentation feedback

You can rate the documentation or write your feedback on any of our Dell EMC documentation pages and click **Send Feedback** to send your feedback.

Locating Service Tag of your system

Your system is identified by a unique Express Service Code and Service Tag number. The Express Service Code and Service Tag are found on the front or back of the system by pulling out the information tag. Alternatively, the information may be on a sticker on the chassis of the system. This information is used by Dell EMC to route support calls to the appropriate personnel.