Sun Server X4-8 Installation Guide for VMware ESXi

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Contents

Using This Documentation 7

About VMware ESXi 5.5 Installation 11
- Installation Task Map 11
- VMware ESXi 5.5 and Server Documentation 12
  - See Also 12
- Supported Software Versions and Server Updates 12
- Software Installation Options 13
  - See Also 13
- Single-Server Interactive Installation Methods 13
  - See Also 14

Preparing for ESXi 5.5 Installation 15
- ▼ Set Up the Local Console 15
- ▼ Set Up the Remote Console 16
- Gather Required Information 17
- ▼ Load BIOS Optimal Default Settings 18
- ▼ Set the BIOS Mode 19
- Creating a Virtual Disk and Setting the Boot Disk 20

Installing VMware ESXi 5.5 21
- ▼ Install VMware ESXi 5.5 (Local or Remote Interactive Installation) 21
- ▼ Update VMware ESXi 5.5 23

Index 25

Using This Documentation

This section describes how to get the latest firmware, software, and documentation for Oracle's Sun Server X4-8. It also provides feedback links and a document change history.

- "Sun Server X4-8 Model Naming Convention" on page 7
- "Getting the Latest Firmware and Software" on page 7
- "Documentation and Feedback" on page 8
- "About This Documentation" on page 8
- "Contributors" on page 8
- "Change History" on page 8

Sun Server X4-8 Model Naming Convention

The Sun Server X4-8 name identifies the following:

- X identifies an x86 product.
- The first number, 4, identifies the generation of the server.
- The second number, 8, identifies the number of processors.

Getting the Latest Firmware and Software

Firmware, drivers, and other hardware-related software for your server are updated periodically.

You can obtain the latest version in the following ways:

- Oracle System Assistant – This is a factory-installed option for Sun Oracle x86 servers. It has all the tools and drivers you need and resides on a USB drive installed in most servers.
- My Oracle Support – `https://support.oracle.com`

Documentation and Feedback

Documentation	Link
All Oracle products	https://docs.oracle.com
Sun Server X4-8	http://www.oracle.com/goto/X4-8/docs
Oracle Integrated Lights Out Manager (ILOM). Refer to the documentation for your supported version of Oracle ILOM as listed in the *Product Notes*.	http://www.oracle.com/goto/ILOM/docs
Oracle Hardware Management Pack. Refer to the documentation for your supported version of Oracle HMP as listed in the *Product Notes*.	http://www.oracle.com/goto/ohmp/docs

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About This Documentation

The information in this documentation set is presented in topic-based format (similar to online help) and therefore does not include chapters, appendixes, or section numbering.

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Change History

The following lists the release history of this documentation set:

- April 2014. Initial publication.
- June 2014. Changes for product release.
- July 2014. Revised procedures and topics, and added illustrations to the service manual. Added content and made editorial improvements to other manuals.

- December 2015. Technical updates.

About VMware ESXi 5.5 Installation

This document explains how to install VMware ESXi 5.5 on Oracle's Sun Server X4-8.

- "Installation Task Map" on page 11
- "VMware ESXi 5.5 and Server Documentation" on page 12
- "Supported Software Versions and Server Updates" on page 12
- "Software Installation Options" on page 13
- "Single-Server Interactive Installation Methods" on page 13

Installation Task Map

The following table contains the high-level tasks for installing VMware ESXi software.

Step	Description	Link
1	Access VMware ESXi 5.5 documentation.	"VMware ESXi 5.5 and Server Documentation" on page 12
2	Learn about supported VMware ESXi versions.	"Supported Software Versions and Server Updates" on page 12
3	Learn about the VMware ESXi 5.5 server installation options.	"Software Installation Options" on page 13

Step	Description	Link
4	Determine which interactive installation method you want to use (if necessary).	“Single-Server Interactive Installation Methods” on page 13
5	Prepare the server for VMware ESXi 5.5 installation.	“Preparing for ESXi 5.5 Installation” on page 15
6	Install VMware ESXi 5.5 software using one of the available options.	“Installing VMware ESXi 5.5” on page 21
7	Update the VMware ESXi 5.5 software.	“Update VMware ESXi 5.5” on page 23

VMware ESXi 5.5 and Server Documentation

You can find documentation on VMware ESXi and your server here:

General VMware ESXi Documentation	`https://www.vmware.com/support/pubs/vsphere-esxi-vcenter-server-pubs.html`
Sun Server X4-8 Documentation	`http://www.oracle.com/goto/X4-8/docs`

Note that the most up-to-date information about your server is maintained in the *Sun Server X4-8 Product Notes*.

See Also

- “Software Installation Options” on page 13
- “Installing VMware ESXi 5.5” on page 21

Supported Software Versions and Server Updates

Supported Version at Initial Release	VMware ESXi 5.5
Additional Supported Versions	For information about new versions of software, refer to the *Sun Server X4-8 Product Notes* available at `http://www.oracle.com/goto/X4-8/docs`.

Software Installation Options

This document covers local and remote interactive ESXi 5.5 installation.

There are other options for installing the software that are described in the VMware ESXi 5.5 documentation. The following installation options are available for VMware ESXi 5.5:

- **Interactive ESXi Installation**: This method is recommended for installation on fewer than five servers.

  For information on the interactive installation methods, see "Single-Server Interactive Installation Methods" on page 13.
- **Scripted ESXi Installation**: Running a script is an efficient way to deploy multiple ESXi hosts with an unattended installation.

  For instructions on scripted installation, refer to *vSphere Installation and Setup*.
- **vSphere Auto Deploy ESXi Installation**: With the vSphere Auto Deploy ESXi installation, you can provision and reprovision large numbers of ESXi hosts efficiently with vCenter Server.

  For instructions on Auto Deploy installation, refer to *vSphere Installation and Setup*.
- **ESXi Image Builder CLI**: You can use ESXi Image Builder to create ESXi installation images with a customized set of updates, patches, and drivers.

  For instructions on ESX Image Builder CLI, refer to *vSphere Installation and Setup*.

See Also

- "VMware ESXi 5.5 and Server Documentation" on page 12
- "Installing VMware ESXi 5.5" on page 21

Single-Server Interactive Installation Methods

This document provides instructions for setting up your installation environment for single-server remote or local installation. Interactive installation is recommended for deployment of a small number of servers.

Media Delivery Method	Definition	Additional Requirements	Links to Installation Instructions
Local	Uses a physical CD/DVD drive connected to the	Monitor	"Install VMware ESXi 5.5 (Local or Remote Interactive Installation)" on page 21

Media Delivery Method	Definition	Additional Requirements	Links to Installation Instructions
	server or server USB drive.	USB keyboard and mouse USB CD/DVD drive ESXi 5.5 distribution media	
Remote	Uses a redirected physical CD/DVD drive or CD/DVD ISO image on a remote system running the Oracle ILOM Remote Console application.	Remote system with browser Attached physical CD/DVD drive or CD/DVD ISO image ESXi distribution media Network access to the server's management port	"Install VMware ESXi 5.5 (Local or Remote Interactive Installation)" on page 21
PXE image	Uses an image of the OS installed on a PXE server.	PXE server with the OS image installed.	PXE server installation is not included in this scope of this document. For information on PXE installation, refer to *vSphere Installation and Setup*, available from `https://www.vmware.com/support/pubs/vsphere-esxi-vcenter-server-pubs.html`

See Also

- "Preparing for ESXi 5.5 Installation" on page 15
- "Installing VMware ESXi 5.5" on page 21

Preparing for ESXi 5.5 Installation

The following table summarizes the high-level steps for preparing for ESXi 5 interactive installation.

Note - You can also install ESXi 5.5 interactively using a PXE server. For information on installing ESXi using a PXE server, refer to the *vSphere Installation and Setup Guide*.

Set up your installation environment using the appropriate procedure.	■ "Set Up the Local Console" on page 15 ■ "Set Up the Remote Console" on page 16
Gather required information for the installation.	"Gather Required Information" on page 17
Load BIOS optimal defaults (if needed).	"Load BIOS Optimal Default Settings" on page 18
Set the BIOS boot mode (if needed).	"Set the BIOS Mode" on page 19
Create a virtual disk (if needed).	"Creating a Virtual Disk and Setting the Boot Disk" on page 20

▼ Set Up the Local Console

Before You Begin

- Verify that the server hardware clock is set to UTC. You can view this setting through the server BIOS Setup Utility.
- Consider disconnecting your network storage. This action decreases the time it takes the installer to search for available disk drives.

  Note - When you disconnect network storage, any files on the disconnected disks are unavailable at installation. Do not disconnect a LUN that contains an existing ESX or ESXi installation. Do not disconnect a VMFS datastore that contains the Service Console of an existing ESX installation. These actions can affect the outcome of the installation.

1. **Review the *Sun Server X4-8 Product Notes* and VMware documentation.**

- The Sun Server X4-8 documentation is available at:

  http://www.oracle.com/goto/X4-8/docs
- The VMware ESXi 5.5 software documentation is available at:

  https://www.vmware.com/support/pubs/vsphere-esxi-vcenter-server-pubs.html

2. **Download a copy of the VMware ESXi 5 image (`.ISO`) file from the VMware web site:**

   http://www.vmware.com/download/

3. **Burn a copy of the `.ISO` file to a DVD or USB drive.**

4. **Connect the following to the server:**

   - DVD-ROM drive (if needed)
   - USB keyboard and mouse
   - Monitor

   For details on how to cable the server, refer to the *Sun Server X4-8 Installation Guide*.

Next Steps

- "Gather Required Information" on page 17
- "Set the BIOS Mode" on page 19
- "Creating a Virtual Disk and Setting the Boot Disk" on page 20

▼ Set Up the Remote Console

1. **Review the *Sun Server X4-8 Product Notes* and VMware documentation.**

   - The Sun Server X4-8 documentation is available at:

     http://www.oracle.com/goto/X4-8/docs
   - The VMware ESXi 5.5 software documentation is available at:

     https://www.vmware.com/support/pubs/vsphere-esxi-vcenter-server-pubs.html

2. **Download VMware ESXi 5.5 software from `http://www.vmware.com/download/` in one of the following ways:**

   - **Download the VMware ESXi 5 software and create installation CD/DVDs using the downloaded `.ISO` image.**
   - **Download the software to the remote server.**

3. **Connect the following to the remote server:**

   - DVD-ROM drive (if installing from media)
   - USB keyboard and mouse
   - Monitor

4. **Set up the Oracle ILOM Remote Console.**

   For instructions on setting up the Oracle ILOM Remote Console, refer to the *Sun Server X4-8 Installation Guide*.

Next Steps

- "Gather Required Information" on page 17
- "Set the BIOS Mode" on page 19
- "Creating a Virtual Disk and Setting the Boot Disk" on page 20

Gather Required Information

In an interactive installation, the system prompts you for the required system information. In a scripted installation, you must supply this information in the installation script.

For future use, note the values that you use during the installation. These notes are useful if you must reinstall ESXi and reenter the values that you originally chose.

Information	Required or Optional	Default	Comments	Your Information
Keyboard layout	Required	U.S. English		
VLAN ID	Optional	None	Range: 0 through 4094	
IP address	Optional	DHCP	You can allow DHCP to configure the network during installation. After installation, you can change the network settings.	
Subnet mask	Optional	Calculated based on the IP address		
Gateway	Optional	Based on the configured IP address and subnet mask		

Information	Required or Optional	Default	Comments	Your Information
Primary DNS	Optional	Based on the configured IP address and subnet mask		
Secondary DNS	Optional	None		
Host name	Required for static IP settings	None	vSphere Clients can use either the host name or the IP address to access the ESXi host.	
Install location	Required	None	Must be at least 5GB if you install the components on a single disk.	
Migrate existing ESX or ESXi settings. Preserve existing VMFS datastore.	Required if you are installing ESXi on a drive with an existing ESXi or ESX installation.	None	See information in the ESXi documentation on "Installing ESXi on a Drive with an Existing ESX or ESXi Installation or VMFS Datastore."	
Root password	Required	None	The root password must contain between 6 and 64 characters.	

Next Steps

- “Load BIOS Optimal Default Settings” on page 18
- “Set the BIOS Mode” on page 19
- “Creating a Virtual Disk and Setting the Boot Disk” on page 20

▼ Load BIOS Optimal Default Settings

Caution - This procedure resets the BIOS settings to the default values and overwrites any customized settings. To retain customized settings, review each menu and make note of the values before loading the default values.

The BIOS Setup Utility contains an option to load the optimal BIOS settings for the server. Perform this procedure to ensure that the BIOS is set to the optimal default values.

Before You Begin

- The server is equipped with a storage drive.
- A console connection is established to the server.

1. **Power on the server.**

   POST messages appear on the console.

2. **Watch the messages, and, when prompted, press F2 to access the BIOS Setup Utility.**

   The BIOS Setup Utility main screen appears.

3. **To ensure that the factory defaults are set, press F9.**

4. **To save the changes, and exit the BIOS Setup Utility, press F10.**

Next Steps "Set the BIOS Mode" on page 19

Set the BIOS Mode

The BIOS firmware supports both legacy boot mode and Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) boot mode.

The default setting is **legacy** boot mode. Some ESXi installations supports both legacy boot mode and UEFI boot mode. You must set the BIOS to either legacy boot mode or UEFI boot mode before you perform the OS installation.

Note - If you are performing a VMware ESXi 5.5 installation **over a network**, UEFI boot mode is **not** supported. You need to use **legacy** boot mode (the default).

Caution - Possible system failure. Changing the boot mode after installation might make the disk drive unbootable. Depending on the boot mode at OS installation, you can create an incompatible boot disk format.

1. **Power on the server.**

   POST messages appear on the console.

2. **Watch the messages, and, when the prompt appears, press F2 to access the BIOS Setup Utility.**

   The BIOS Setup Utility main screen appears.

3. **In the BIOS Setup Utility, use the left or right arrow keys to navigate to the Boot screen.**

   The Boot Menu screen appears.

4. **Use the down arrow key to select the UEFI/BIOS Boot Mode field.**

5. **Press Enter and use the up or down arrow keys to select the Legacy or UEFI BIOS option.**

6. **To save the changes and exit the BIOS Setup Utility, press F10.**

Next Steps

- "Creating a Virtual Disk and Setting the Boot Disk" on page 20

Creating a Virtual Disk and Setting the Boot Disk

Note - If you have a Sun Storage 6 Gb SAS PCIe Internal HBA (SGX-SAS6-INT-Z), you do **not** need to do this.

If you have a Sun Storage 6 Gb SAS PCIe **RAID** Internal HBA (SGX-SAS6-**R**-INT-Z), you must create a virtual disk before installing the ESXi 5 software. Refer to "Configure Storage Drives for OS Installation" in *Sun Server X4-8 Installation Guide*.

Installing VMware ESXi 5.5

The installation of VMware ESX/ESXi 5.5 includes the procedures shown in the following table

Step	Description	Link
1	Install VMware ESXi 5.5 using local or remote media.	“Install VMware ESXi 5.5 (Local or Remote Interactive Installation)” on page 21
2	Update VMware ESXi 5 software and drivers.	“Update VMware ESXi 5.5” on page 23

Note - You can also perform ESXi 5.5 interactive installation using a PXE server. For information on installing ESXi using a PXE server, refer to the installation and setup documentation for ESXi 5.5.

▼ Install VMware ESXi 5.5 (Local or Remote Interactive Installation)

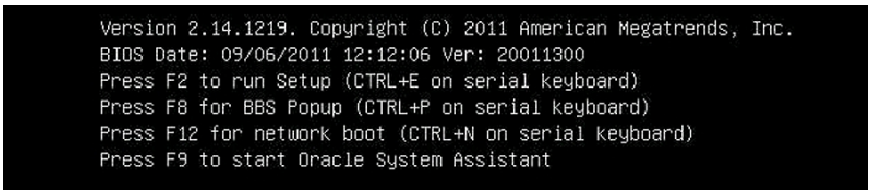
Before You Begin Complete all of the preparation procedures in“Preparing for ESXi 5.5 Installation” on page 15 .

1. **Connect to your server console, using one of the methods described in your server's installation guide. See the instructions in one of the following procedures:**
   - “Set Up the Local Console” on page 15
   - “Set Up the Remote Console” on page 16
2. **Insert the distribution media in the local or remote server.**
3. **Power on or reset the server. The following are different examples of how to reset the server:**
   - **From the Oracle ILOM web interface**, click Host Management > Power Control, and then from the Action list, select Reset.

- **From the local server**, press the Power button for approximately one second to power the server **off**, and then press the Power button again to power **on** the server.
- **From the Oracle ILOM CLI on the Oracle server SP**, type: **`reset /System`**.

Note - The next events occur very quickly; therefore, focused attention is needed for the following steps. Watch carefully for these messages as they appear on the screen for a brief time. You might want to enlarge the size of your screen to eliminate scroll bars.

BIOS messages appear on the console.



4. **When prompted, press F8.**

   After a delay, a menu offers a selection of boot devices, for example:

```
    Please select boot device:
--------------------------------
USB CD/DVD
PXE:IBA GE Slot 1000 v1331
PXE:IBA GE Slot 1001 v1331
PXE:IBA GE Slot 4100 v1331
PXE:IBA GE Slot 4101 v1331
PXE:IBA GE Slot 8100 v1331
PXE:IBA GE Slot 8101 v1331
PXE:IBA GE Slot C100 v1331
PXE:IBA GE Slot C101 v1331

--------------------------------
```

5. **Select USB CD/DVD from the list.**

   Control passes to the OS installation program on the media.

6. **Follow the steps in the VMware vSphere 5.5 documentation to complete the installation.**

   See “VMware ESXi 5.5 and Server Documentation” on page 12.

Note - Note that most drivers are included in the installation media so you do not need to install drivers separately. The only exception is drivers for Infiniband option cards, which come with their own installation guide.

Next Steps

- “Update VMware ESXi 5.5” on page 23

Update VMware ESXi 5.5

1. **Check the VMware web site to see if any updates are available.**

   `http://www.vmware.com/support`

2. **Refer to the installation and setup documentation for ESXi 5.5.**

3. **Download and install any updates as described on the VMware web site.**

See Also

- “Install VMware ESXi 5.5 (Local or Remote Interactive Installation)” on page 21

Index

B

BIOS
  boot modes
    setting (ESXi), 19
  loading optimal defaults
    ESXi, 18
BIOS defaults
  ESXi, 18
boot disk, setting and internal HBA
  ESXi, 20

C

console
  local (ESXi), 15
  remote (ESXi), 16
creating virtual disk, 20

D

disk, creating virtual and setting boot, 20
documentation
  ESXi, 12
drivers
  installing (ESXi), 21

E

ESXi
  documentation, 12
  installation
    local or remote, 21
    preparing, 15
    required information, 17
    setup, 15
    tasks, 19
  installation methods, 13
  installation options
    auto deploy, 13
    image builder CLI, 13
    interactive, 13
    scripted, 13
  installation setup
    local, 15
    remote, 16
  installation tasks, 11
  interactive installation
    local, 21
    remote, 21
  updating, 23

I

installing
  local set up
    ESXi, 15
  OS
    about ESXi, 11
  remote set up
    ESXi, 16

L

legacy BIOS boot mode, 19
local installation

setting up (ESXi), 15

M

manual OS installation
ESXi, 21

O

operating system
supported versions
ESXi, 12
updating drivers (ESXi), 21
Oracle ILOM
remote console
ESXi, 16

P

Preboot Execution Environment (PXE)
installing ESXi, 13

R

remote installation
setting up (ESXi), 16

S

supported operating systems
ESXi, 12

T

tools and drivers
installing, ESXi, 21

U

Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) *See* BIOS

V

VMware ESXi *See* ESXi