

VMware ESXi Installation Guide

Downloading and Preparing ESXi ISO

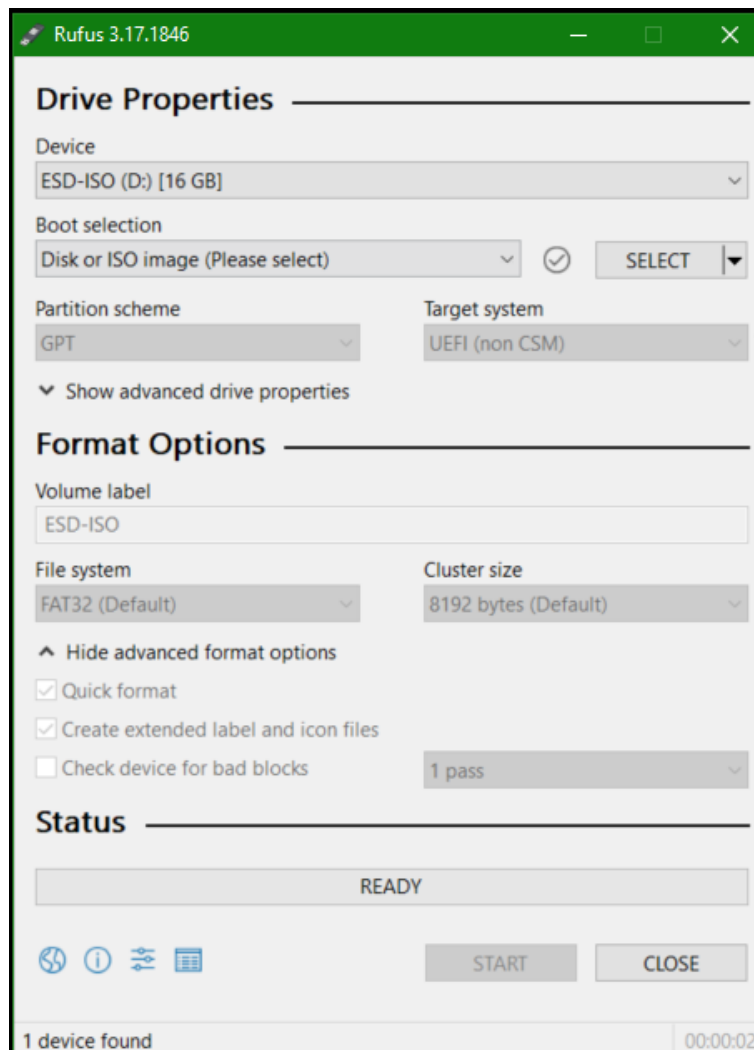
Download through VMware official website:

<https://customerconnect.vmware.com/en/downloads/details?downloadGroup=ESXI70U3C&productId=974&rPId=84823>

Download Rufus: <https://rufus.ie/en/>

Ensure you have a USB drive with nothing special (THE USB WILL BE FORMATTED AND WIPED)

Once you have these two components, take note of where you downloaded the ESXi iso and open Rufus.



Under Boot selection, please choose “Disk or ISO image (Please select)” Then click SELECT directly to the right.

Rufus 3.17.1846

Drive Properties

Device
ESD-ISO (D:) [16 GB]

Boot selection
Disk or ISO image (Please select) ☒

SELECT

Partition scheme
GPT

Target system
UEFI (non CSM) ?

☒ Show advanced drive properties

Format Options

Volume label
ESD-ISO

File system
FAT32 (Default)

Cluster size
8192 bytes (Default)

☒ Hide advanced format options

☒ Quick format

☒ Create extended label and icon files

☐ Check device for bad blocks

1 pass

Status

READY

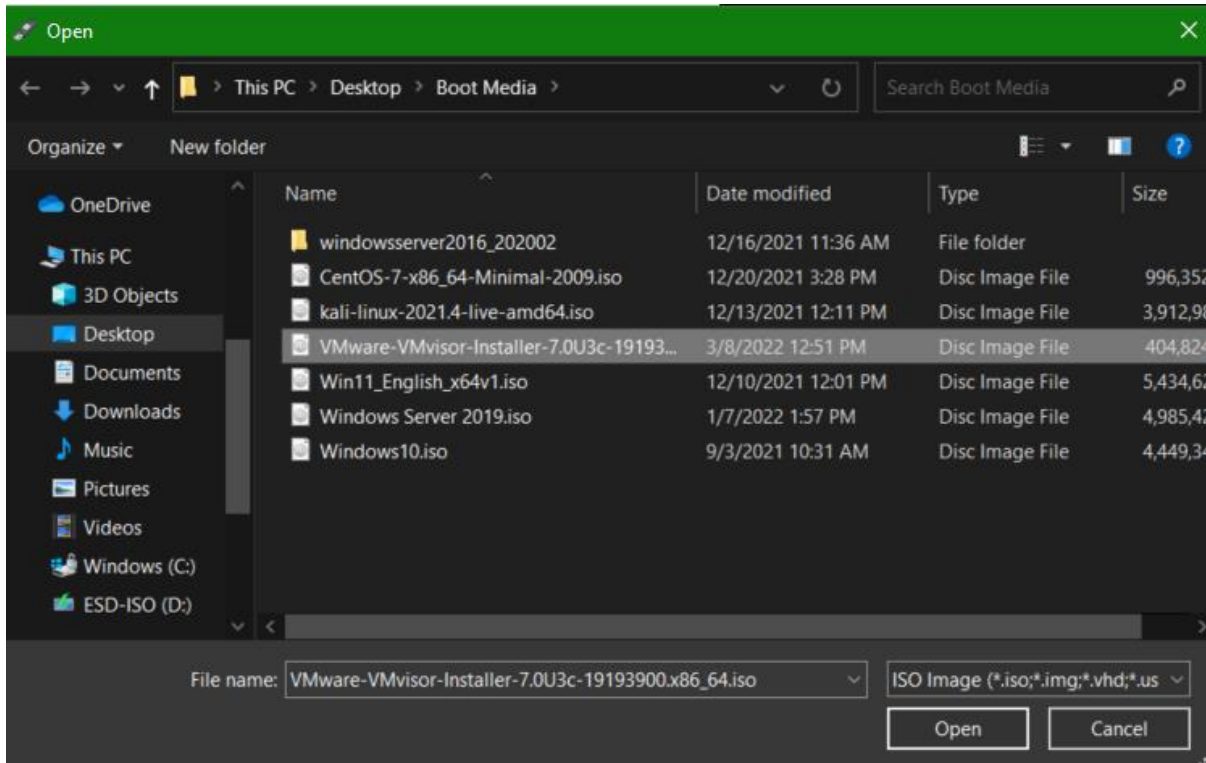
START

CLOSE

1 device found

00:00:02

A File Explorer window will open up. Please select the ISO you have just downloaded from VMware's official download site.



After doing so, feel free to leave all options as default and select START. There will be a progress bar to display the process. It should not take longer than 10 minutes

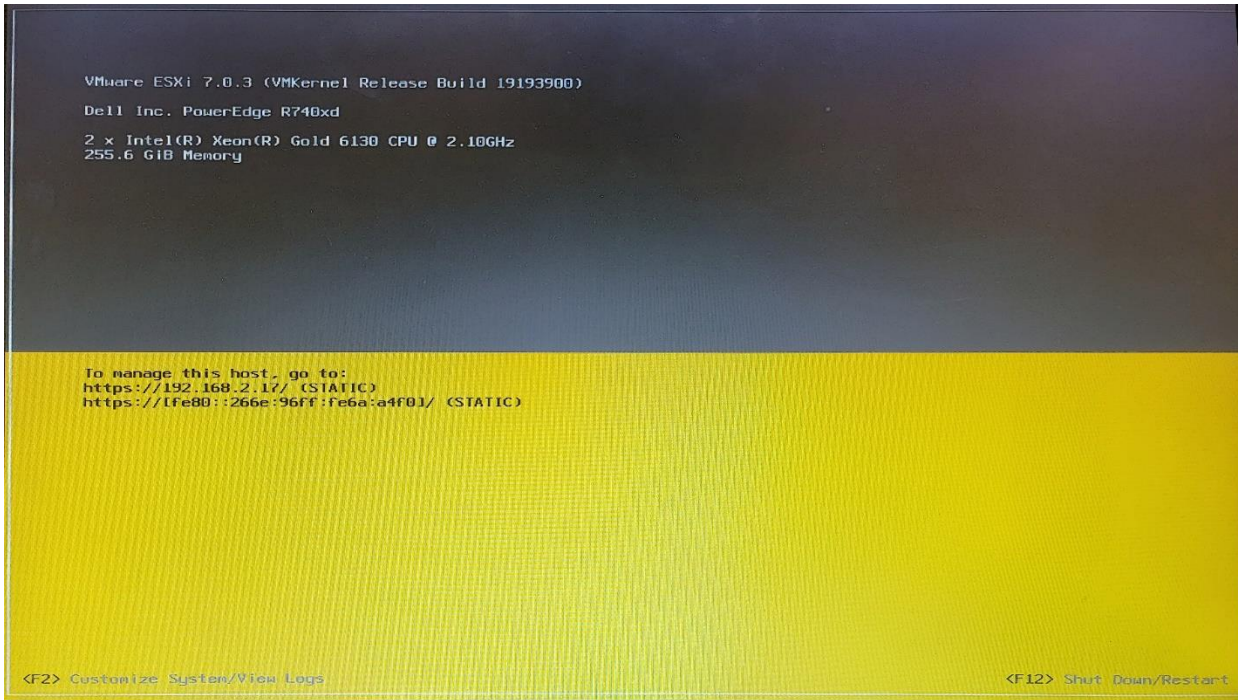
Once done, the usb is now bootable and can be used to install VMware ESXi.

Installing VMware ESXi

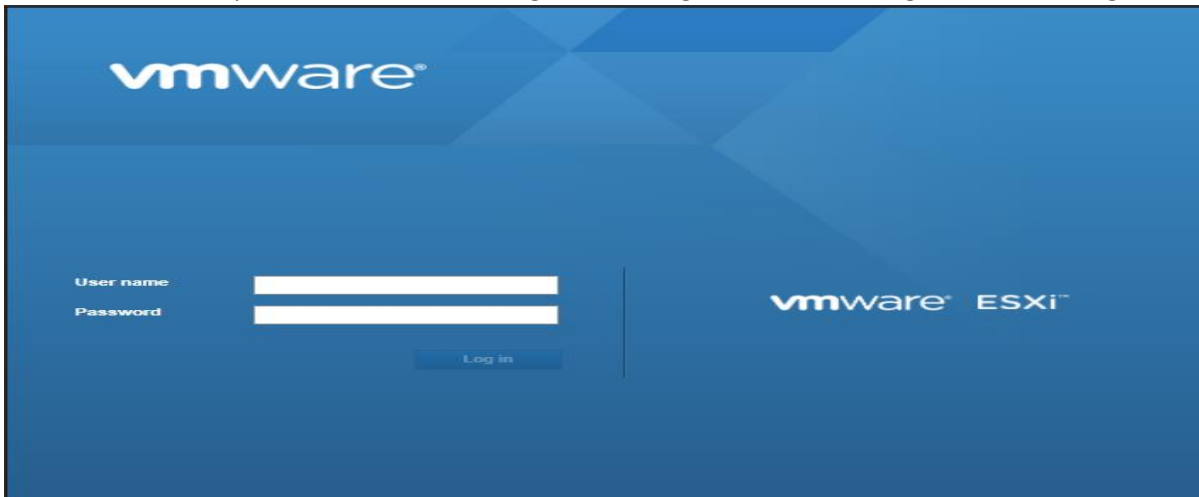
First, ensure the server has done its preliminary startup and is connected to the network with the bootable USB plugged in. The server will automatically lead to the ESXi installer. Just follow the prompts normally, configure root password, and wait for reboot into VMware ESXi.

Configuring VMware ESXi

After VMware has successfully been installed, it will display the following:

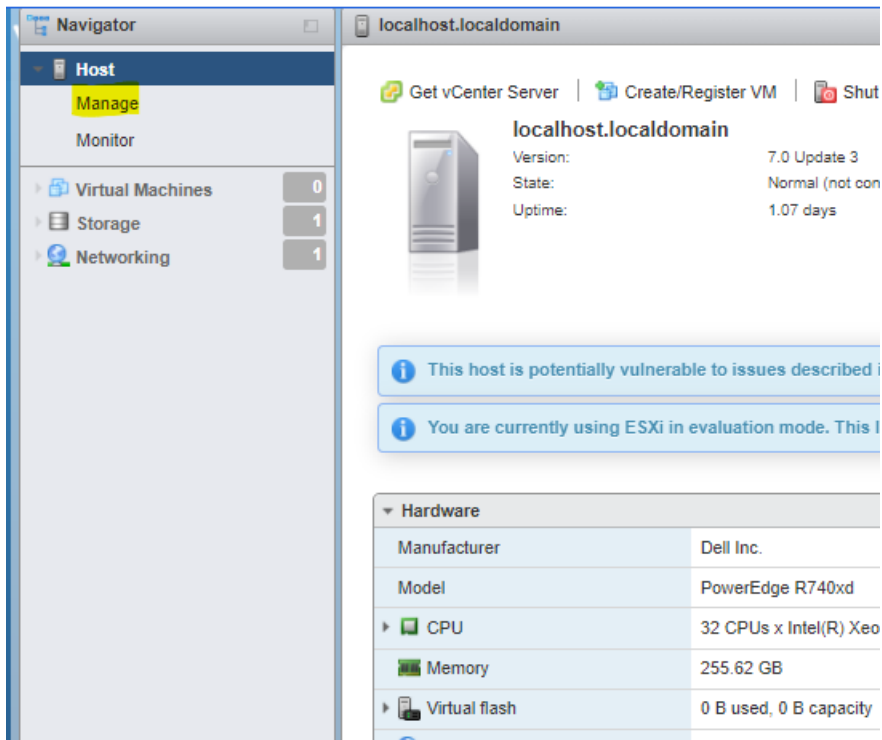


Go to the address specified under "To manage this host, go to:" You will be greeted with a login screen

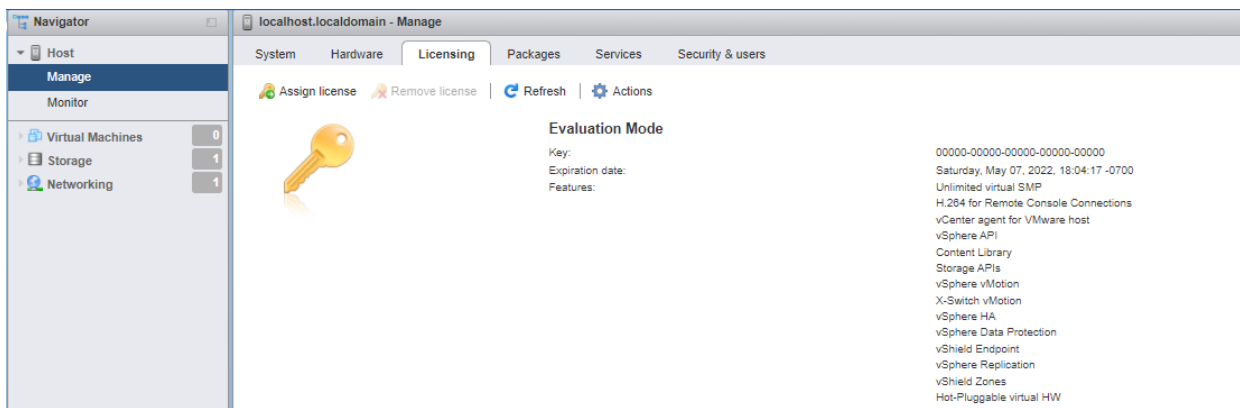


Login with the credentials you have created during installation.

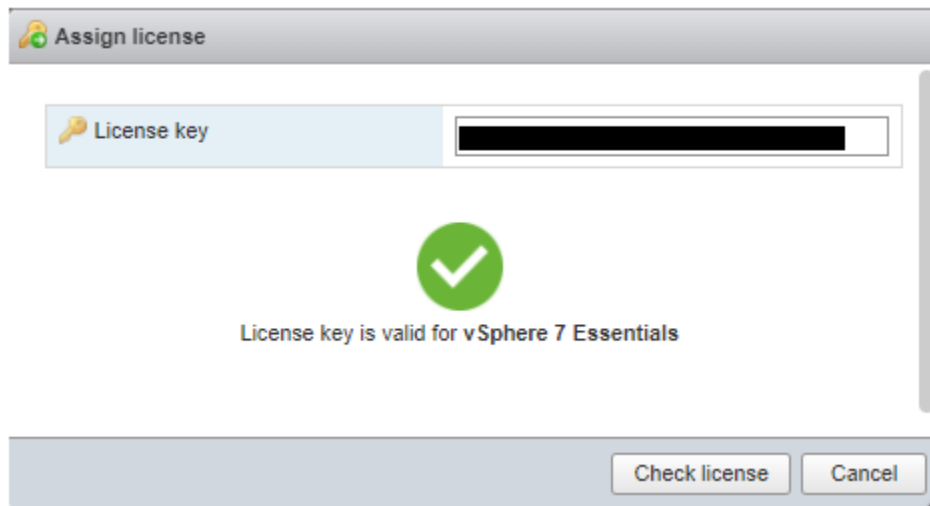
Now that we are logged in, we will now implement the license key provided by Manager. Go to Manage under Host



Then go to the Licensing tab

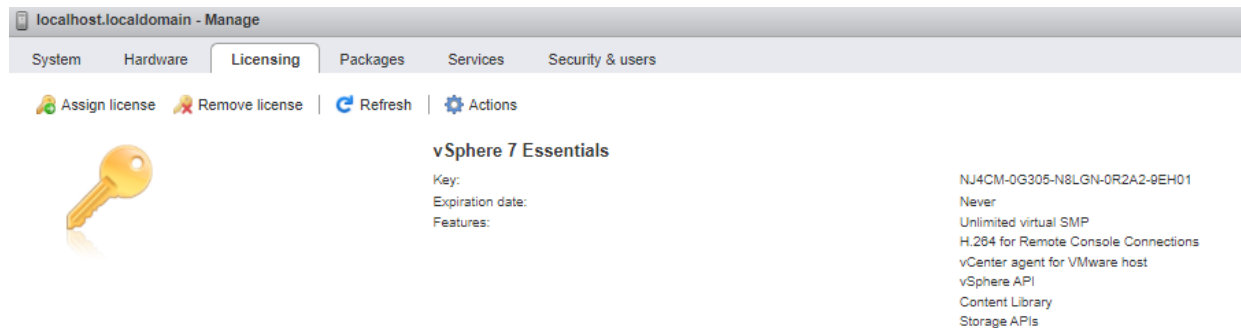


Here, we can Assign license (copy paste the key provided) Then hit Check License



The dialog box titled "Assign license" contains a "License key" label next to a text input field. Below the input field is a large green checkmark icon and the text "License key is valid for vSphere 7 Essentials". At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "Check license" and "Cancel".

Once validated, press Check license again and the window will disappear. The license details will show shortly after.



The screenshot shows the "localhost.localdomain - Manage" window with the "Licensing" tab selected. It displays the "vSphere 7 Essentials" license details. On the left is a large yellow key icon. To its right, the license key "NJ4CM-0G305-N8LGN-0R2A2-9EH01" is shown, along with "Expiration date: Never" and a list of features: "Unlimited virtual SMP", "H.264 for Remote Console Connections", "vCenter agent for VMware host", "vSphere API", "Content Library", and "Storage APIs".

Key:	Expiration date:	Features:
NJ4CM-0G305-N8LGN-0R2A2-9EH01	Never	Unlimited virtual SMP H.264 for Remote Console Connections vCenter agent for VMware host vSphere API Content Library Storage APIs

Next, we must get vCenter Server.