

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



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VMotion

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Need of VMotion	3
3	Pre-Requisites for VMotion	5
3.1	Resource Requirements	5
3.2	Configuration Requirements	6
4	How to do VMotion	8
5	Benefits of VMotion	14
5.1	Automatically optimize and allocate entire pools of resources.....	14
5.2	Move VM's from failing or underperforming priorities	14
5.3	Storage vMotion.....	14
5.4	Minimizes scheduled Downtime (Zero Downtime)	15
5.5	Row speed of vMotion is greater than other migration mechanisms.	15
6	Limitations OF VMotion	16

1 Introduction

VMware has been the industry leader in virtualization technologies for the past decade and has brought to the data center several new features that enable faster and better provisioning of business-critical applications. One of the features is the VMware vMotion technology.

VMware vMotion enables the live migration of running virtual machines from one physical server to another with zero downtime, continuous service availability, and complete transaction integrity. It is transparent to users. Though vMotion it serves a different purpose, they feature a large amount of overlapping technology. This technology is proactive. It means vMotion is used to migrate virtual machines between running ESX-hosts. The vSphere features are no longer usable when the source or the destination is offline.

A successful application migration through VMware VMotion heavily relies on the underlying network infrastructure. Therefore it is extremely important that IP network is resilient, robust, and highly available.

vMotion happens in three stages. Those are;

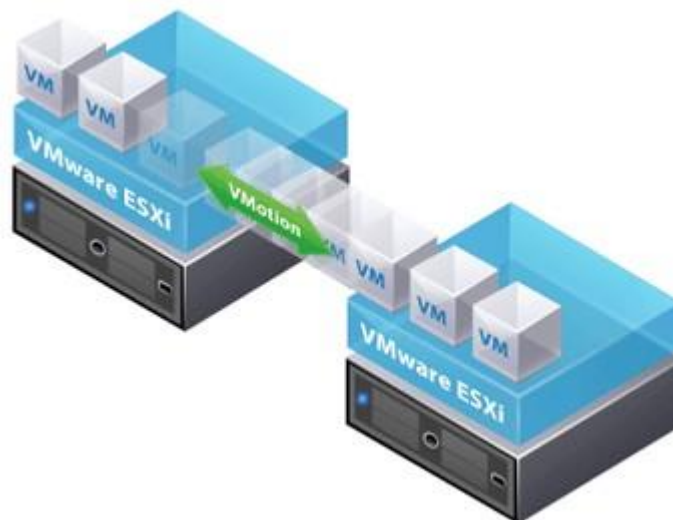
- vCenter server verifies that the VM is in a stable state
- VM state is copied over to the destination. State includes the memory, registers and network connections
- VM is resumed in the destination host vMotion can happen due to any of the following reasons:
 - Balance the load on ESXi hosts using DRS
 - When the VMs are being moved off from a host so that the host can be shut down by DPM(distributed power management)
 - You need to install patches using update manager or do a hardware maintenance, the VMs are migrated using vMotion and host is put into maintenance mode

2 Need of VMotion

VMware VMotion enables the live migration of running virtual machines from one physical server to another with zero downtime, continuous service availability, and complete transaction integrity. It is transparent to users. VMotion lets:

- Automatically optimize and allocate entire pools of resources for maximum hardware utilization and availability.
- Perform hardware maintenance without any scheduled downtime.
- Proactively migrate virtual machines away from failing or underperforming servers.
- Balance the load on ESX servers (DRS)
- Save power by shutting down ESX using DPM)
- Perform patching and maintenance on ESX server (Update Manager or HW maintenance)

If you need to take a host offline for maintenance, you can move the virtual machine to another host. Migration with vMotion allows virtual machine processes to continue working throughout a migration. With vMotion, you can change the host on which a virtual machine is running, or you can change both the host and the data store of the virtual machine.



3 Pre-Requisites for VMotion

3.1 Resource Requirements

VMware VMotion application mobility is based on certain infrastructure requirements:

- An IP network with a minimum bandwidth of 622 Mbps is required.
- The maximum latency between the two VMware vSphere servers cannot exceed 5 milliseconds.
- The source and destination VMware ESX servers must have a private VMware VMotion network on the same IP subnet and broadcast domain.
- The IP subnet on which the virtual machine resides must be accessible from both the source and destination VMware ESX servers. This requirement is very important because a virtual machine retains its IP address when it moves to the destination VMware ESX server to help ensure that its communication with the outside world (for example, with TCP clients) continues smoothly after the move.
- The data storage location including the boot device used by the virtual machine must be active and accessible by both the source and destination VMware ESX servers at all times.
- Access from VMware VCenter, the VMware Virtual Infrastructure (VI) management GUI, to both the VMware ESX servers, must be available to accomplish the migration.
- You will need vSphere Essential plus, Standard, Enterprise or Enterprise plus license
- Shared storage between ESXi servers- iSCSI, FC or NFS. *
- VMkernel interface on both ESXi servers with VMotion enabled
- Same network label in source and destination hosts, either standard or distributed switches can be used
- CPU compatibility between hosts, or they need to be of the same processor family if you are planning to use Enhanced VMotion Compatibility (EVC). That means you cannot migrate VMs from a host with Intel processor to a host with AMD processor.

3.2 Configuration Requirements

You can use the Migration wizard to migrate a powered-on virtual machine from one host to another using VMotion technology. To relocate the disks of a powered-on virtual machine, migrate the virtual machine using Storage VMotion.

Before migrating a virtual machine with VMotion, ensure that your hosts and virtual machines meet the requirements for migration with VMotion.

- Host Configuration for VMotion
- Virtual Machine Configuration Requirements for VMotion

3.2.1 Host Configuration for VMotion

In order to successfully use VMotion, you must first configure your hosts correctly. Ensure that you have correctly configured your hosts in each of the following areas:

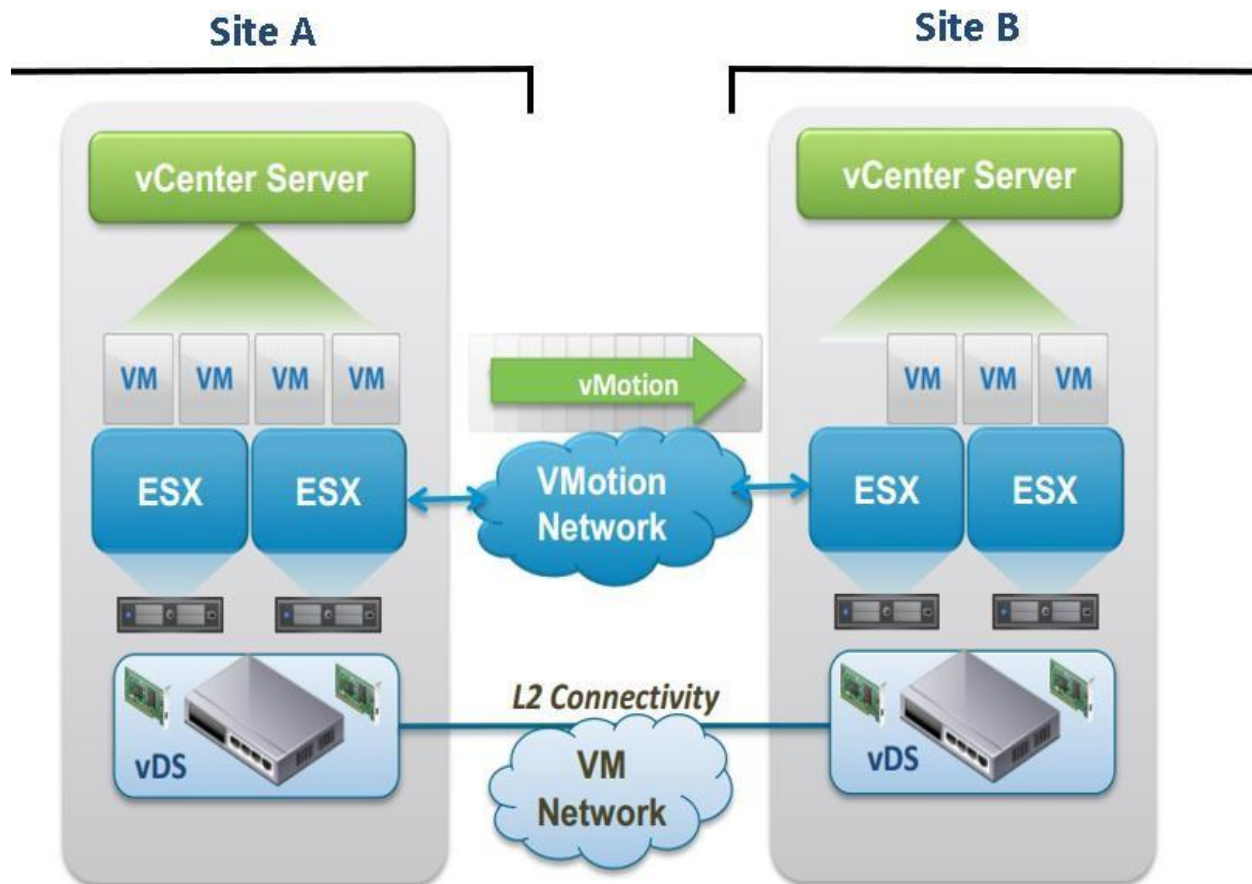
- Each host must be correctly licensed for VMotion.
- Each host must meet shared storage requirements for VMotion.
- Each host must meet the networking requirements for VMotion.

3.2.2 Virtual Machine Configuration

A number of specific virtual machine configurations can prevent migration of a virtual machine with VMotion. The following virtual machine configurations can prevent migration with vMotion:

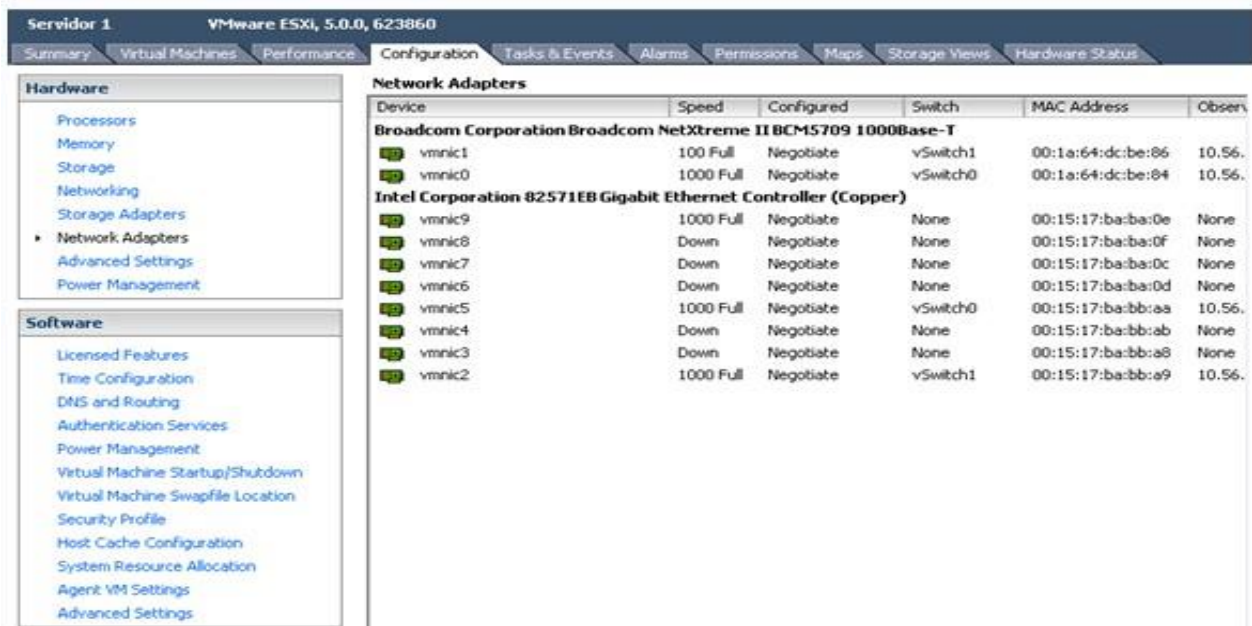
- You cannot use migration with VMotion to migrate virtual machines using raw disks for clustering purposes.
- You cannot use migration with VMotion to migrate a virtual machine that uses a virtual device backed by a device that is not accessible to the destination host. (For example, you cannot migrate a virtual machine with a CD drive backed by the physical CD drive on the source host.) Disconnect these devices before migrating the virtual machine. Virtual machines with USB pass through devices can be migrated with VMotion as long as the devices are enabled for VMotion.

You cannot use migration with VMotion to migrate a virtual machine that uses a virtual device backed by a device on the client computer. Disconnect these devices before migrating the virtual machine.



4 How to do VMotion

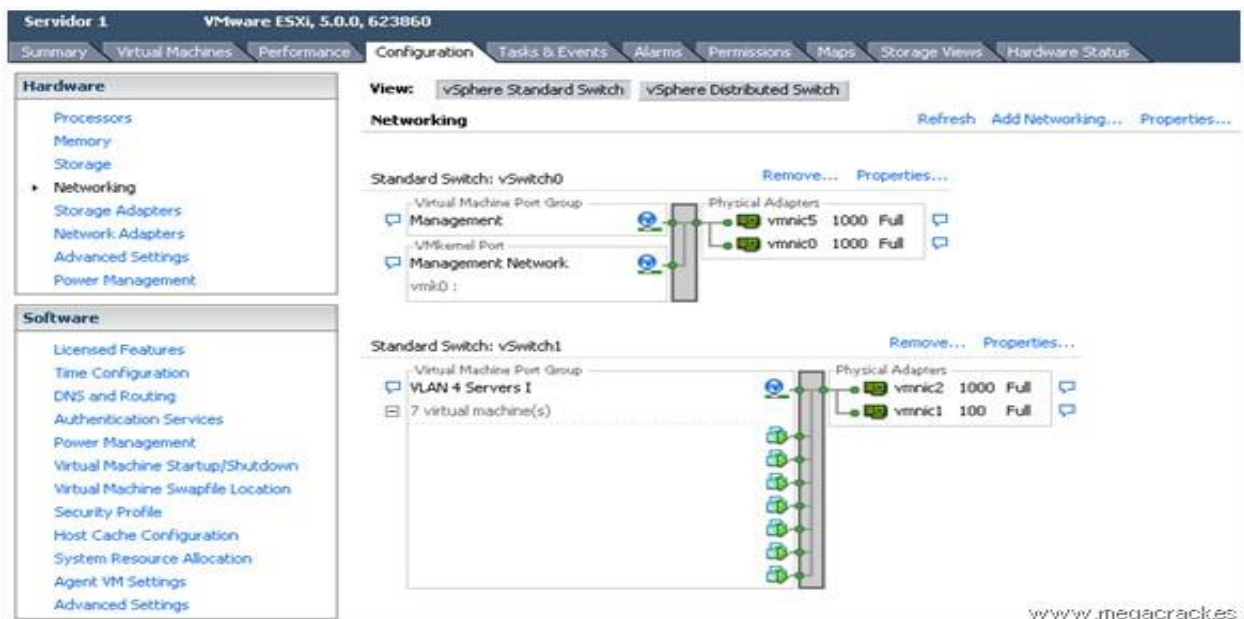
- We connect to Virtual Center and gain access to one of the servers 2. We select the tab Configuration-> Network Adapters and we see that we have visibility of the new connections.



The screenshot shows the VMware ESXi Configuration interface for 'Servidor 1' (VMware ESXi, 5.0.0, 623860). The 'Configuration' tab is selected, and the 'Network Adapters' sub-tab is active. The left sidebar shows the 'Hardware' section with 'Network Adapters' selected. The main area displays a table of network adapters.

Device	Speed	Configured	Switch	MAC Address	Observed
Broadcom Corporation Broadcom NetXtreme II BCM5709 1000Base-T					
vmnic1	100 Full	Negotiate	vSwitch1	00:1a:64:dc:be:86	10.56.
vmnic0	1000 Full	Negotiate	vSwitch0	00:1a:64:dc:be:84	10.56.
Intel Corporation 82571EB Gigabit Ethernet Controller (Copper)					
vmnic9	1000 Full	Negotiate	None	00:15:17:ba:ba:0e	None
vmnic8	Down	Negotiate	None	00:15:17:ba:ba:0f	None
vmnic7	Down	Negotiate	None	00:15:17:ba:ba:0c	None
vmnic6	Down	Negotiate	None	00:15:17:ba:ba:0d	None
vmnic5	1000 Full	Negotiate	vSwitch0	00:15:17:ba:bb:aa	10.56.
vmnic4	Down	Negotiate	None	00:15:17:ba:bb:ab	None
vmnic3	Down	Negotiate	None	00:15:17:ba:bb:a8	None
vmnic2	1000 Full	Negotiate	vSwitch1	00:15:17:ba:bb:a9	10.56.

- Now we look at the tab Configuration-> Networking



The screenshot shows the VMware ESXi Configuration interface for 'Servidor 1' (VMware ESXi, 5.0.0, 623860). The 'Configuration' tab is selected, and the 'Networking' sub-tab is active. The left sidebar shows the 'Hardware' section with 'Networking' selected. The main area displays the network configuration for two vSwitches.

View: vSphere Standard Switch | vSphere Distributed Switch

Standard Switch: vSwitch0

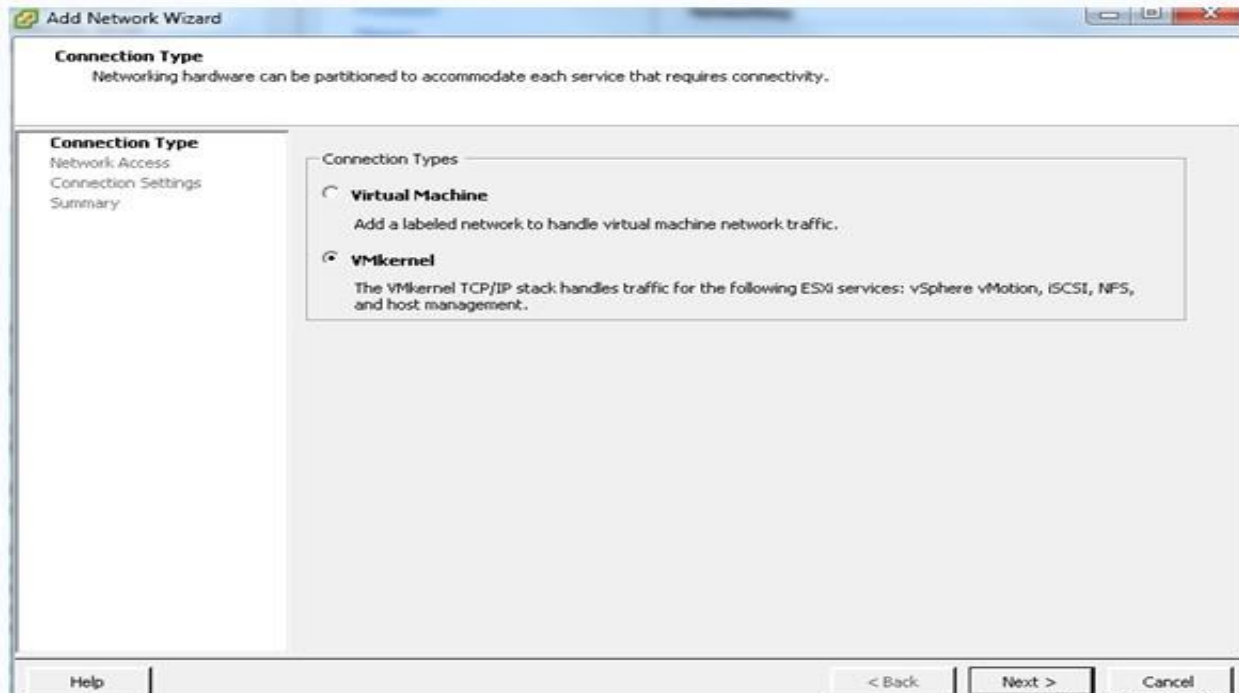
- Virtual Machine Port Group: Management (connected to vmnic5)
- VMkernel Port: Management Network (connected to vmnic0)
- Physical Adapters: vmnic5 (1000 Full), vmnic0 (1000 Full)

Standard Switch: vSwitch1

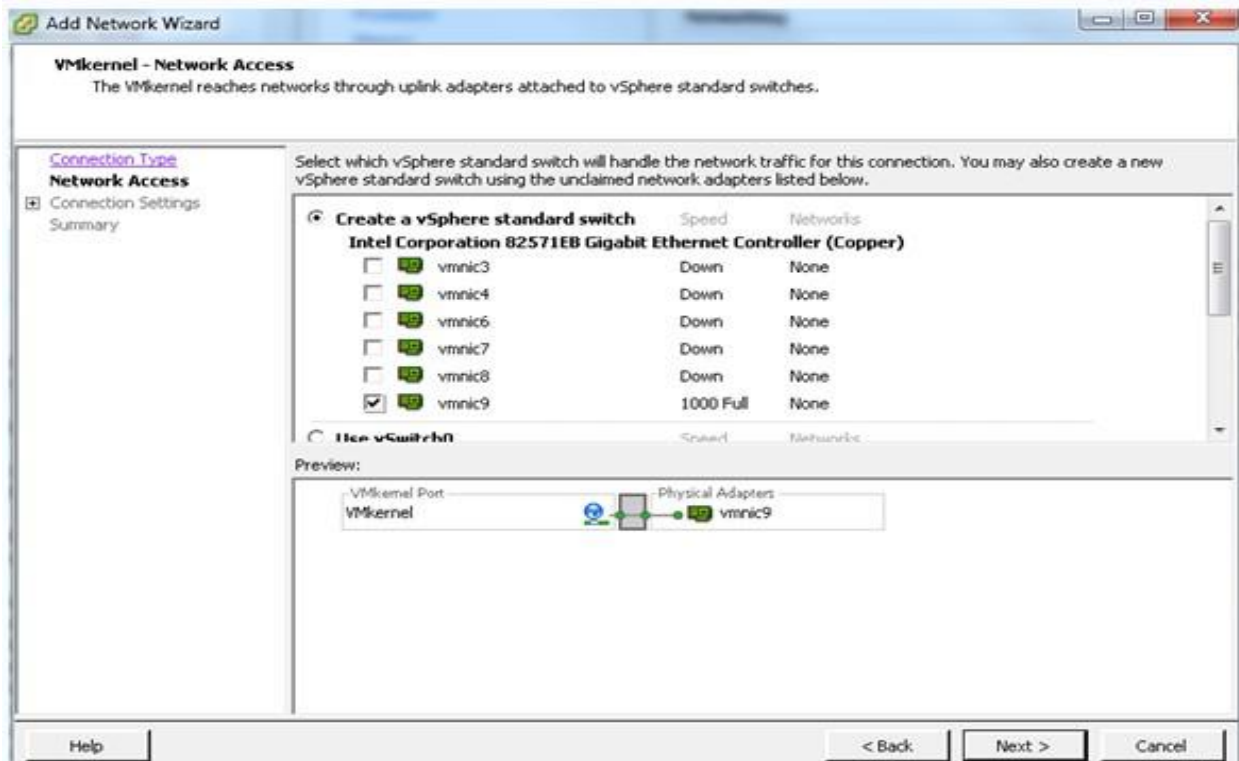
- Virtual Machine Port Group: VLAN 4 Servers 1 (connected to vmnic2)
- 7 virtual machine(s) (connected to vmnic1)
- Physical Adapters: vmnic2 (1000 Full), vmnic1 (100 Full)

www.megacrack.es

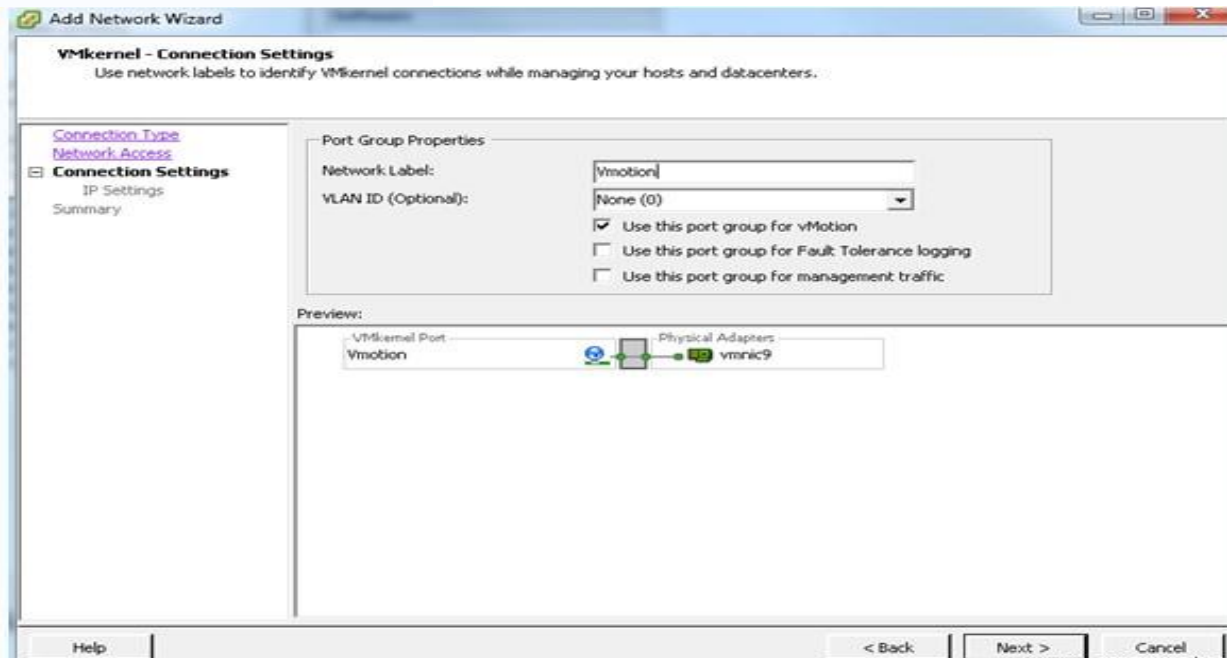
- Click on Add Networking to create the vSwitch.



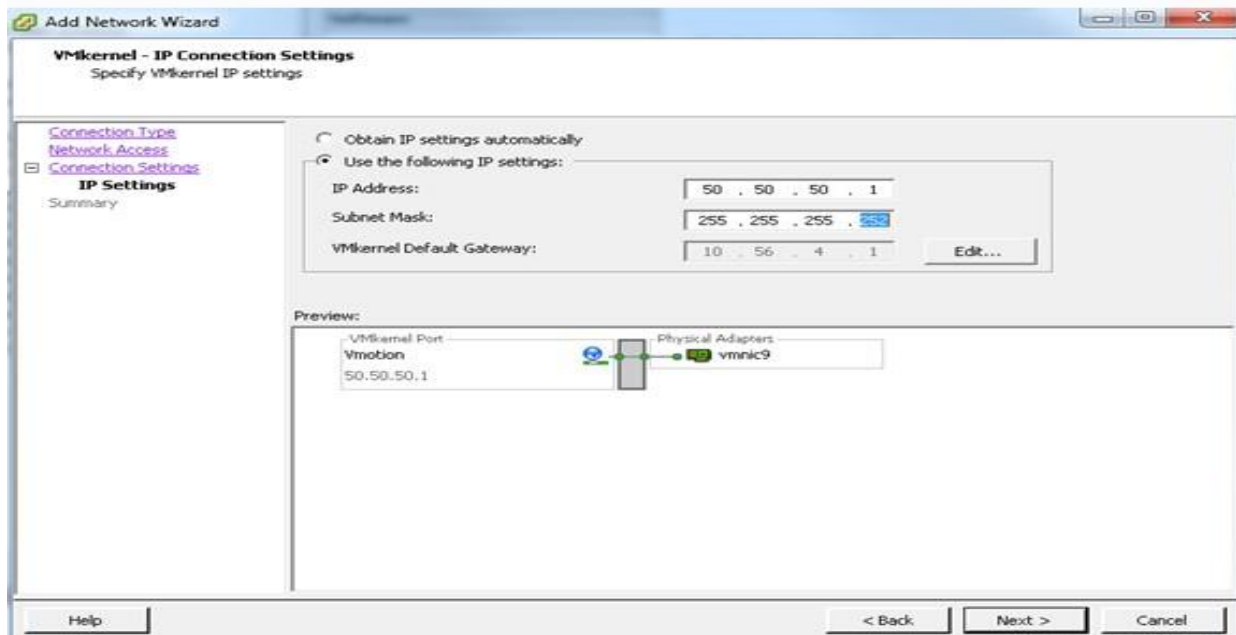
- Select VMkernel and click on Next



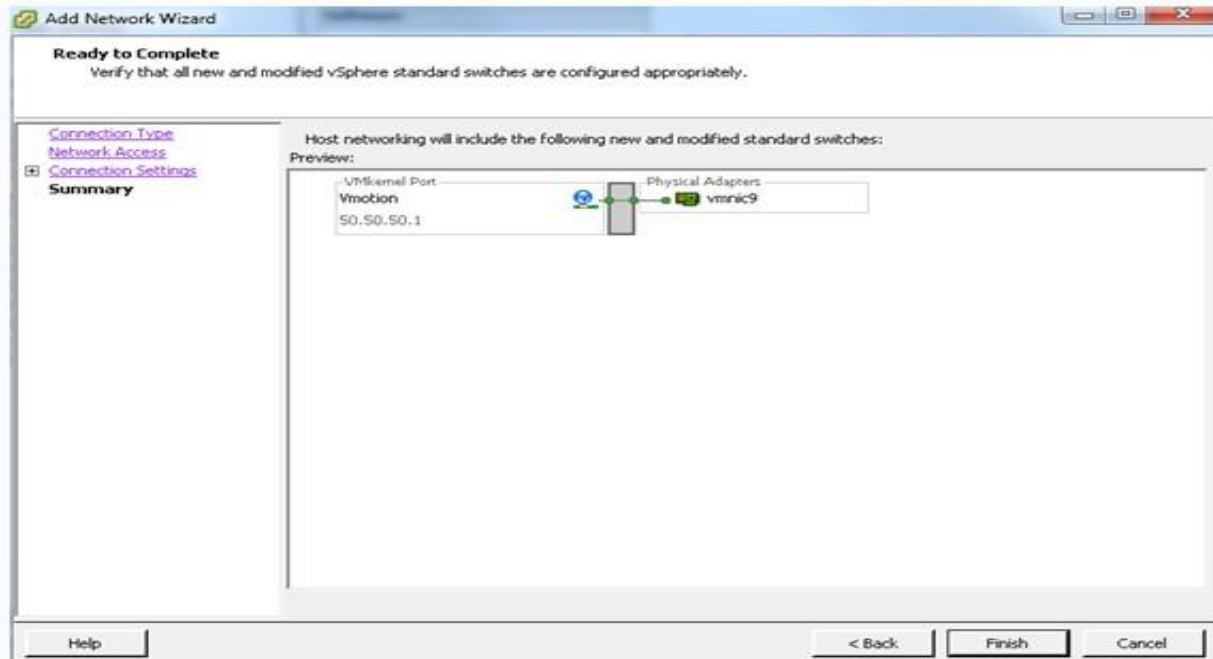
- Making a network card or cards that have connected from one server to another (in our case **vmnic9**). And click on **Next**.



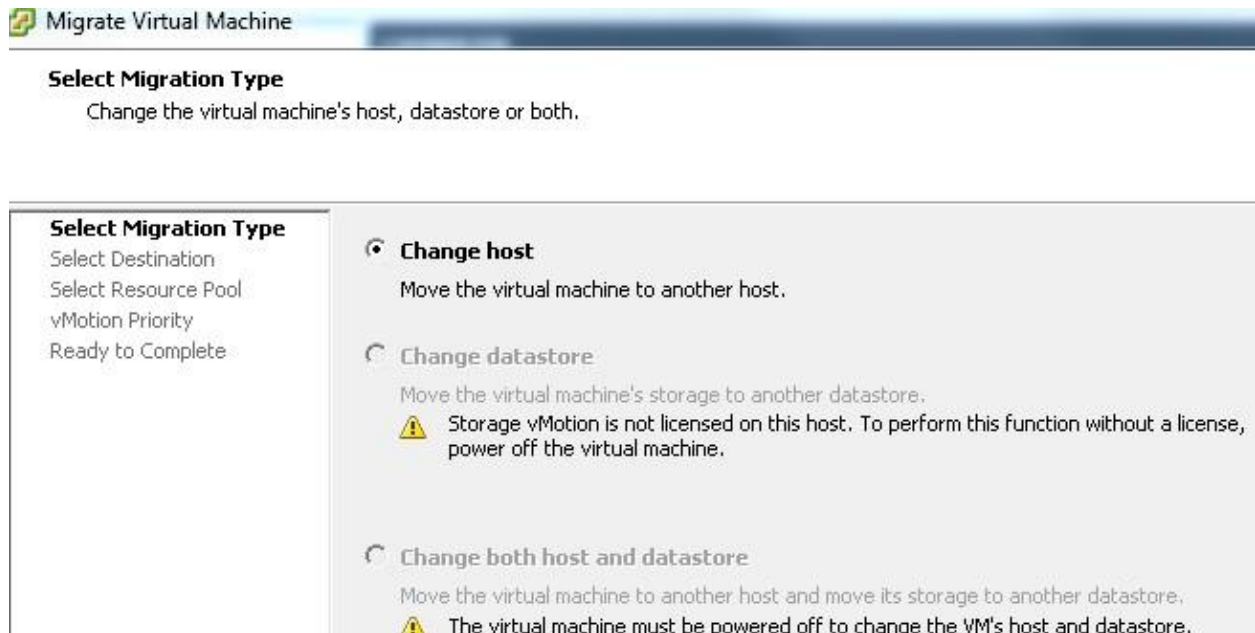
- We set Use this port group for vMotion. We wrote a Label Network different if you want (optional) and click Next. We, for example, we put vMotion.



- We set Use the following IP settings. IP Address as 50.50.50.1 and Subnet Mask as 255.255.255.252 (Since we will use only 2 IP's). Click on Next.



- Click on Finish. And now what we will do to ensure that the entire system is working properly migrate a VM from one ESXi to the other using VMotion functionality you just configured. We press the right mouse button on a virtual machine. Click on **Migrate**.



- Click on Next

Migrate Virtual Machine

Select Destination

Select the destination host or cluster for this virtual machine migration.

[Select Migration Type](#)
Select Destination
vMotion Priority
Ready to Complete

Nombre de la Organización

Nombre del Clúster

servidor 1

servidor 2

Compatibility:
Validation succeeded

- Select the target server where we will move the virtual machine. Click on Next.

Migrate Virtual Machine

vMotion Priority

Set the priority of the vMotion migrations, relative to the other operations on the destination host.

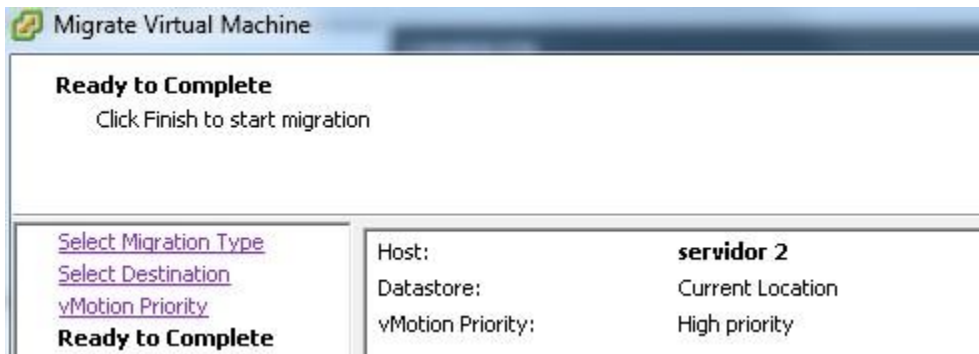
[Select Migration Type](#)
[Select Destination](#)
vMotion Priority
Ready to Complete

☒ High priority (Recommended)
☐ Standard priority

High priority vMotions are favored over standard priority vMotions and are expected to perform better.

! If using an ESX 4.0 host or ESXi 4.0 host, click Help for additional information.

- Click on Next



➤ Click on Finish to start the migration.

Name	Target	Status	Initiated by	Requested Start Ti...	Start Time	Completed Time
✓ Migrate virtual machine	COMVERTER	✓ Completed		22/10/2012 14:55:02	22/10/2012 14:55:02	22/10/2012 14:55:49

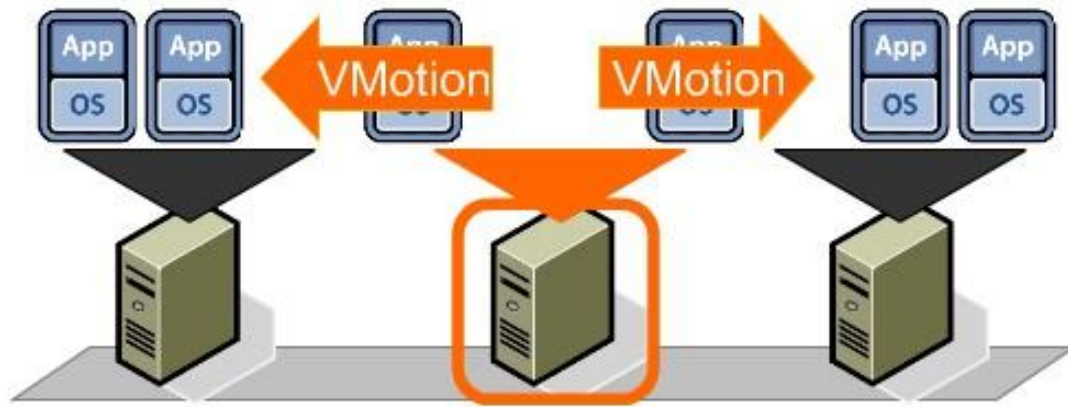
The following metrics were used to understand the performance implications of vMotion:

- Migration Time: Total time is taken for migration to complete
- Switch-over Time: Time during which the VM is requested to enable switchover from source to the destination host
- Guest Penalty: Performance impact on the applications running inside the VM during and after the migration

5 Benefits of VMotion

5.1 Automatically optimize and allocate entire pools of resources

By having all your server and/or desktops virtualized you can move VM's from one physical host to another, which is done rapidly over a high-speed network connection, the original host and destination host stay in sync until the transfer is complete leaving the user unaware of the move. This allows network administrators to easily select resource pools to assign to the different VMs.



5.2 Move VM's from failing or underperforming priorities

If there looks like a server is about to fail or is reaching its capacity, administrators can manually move VMs to another physical host, this allows your data center to be more dynamic in nature. Instead of having to upgrade hardware, you can move VM to another host to allow each VM to be more flexible in nature. If 2 VM's are putting a physical host to capacity then you could move one to another server that isn't being used as much.

5.3 Storage vMotion

While technically its own separate feature, it works similar to vMotion, except it deals completely with data. As a VM starts to reach its data capacity, the LUN can easily be moved to a larger storage center. This is done without disruption to the users or having to manually reassign more space to the VM.

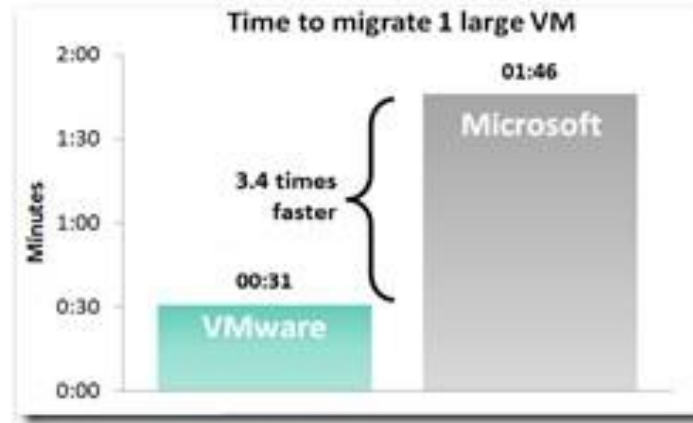
5.4 Minimizes scheduled Downtime (Zero Downtime)

Most of the downtimes are scheduled before vMotion administrators had to do server maintenance late at night in order to avoid disrupting users. Having all the servers as virtual machines, you only have to move the VM to another physical host, creating zero downtime for the users and allowing administrators to perform maintenance at any time. With DRS (Digital Resource Manager), all you have to do is put a server in maintenance mode and vMotion will automatically move all VM's to another server.



5.5 Raw speed of vMotion is greater than other migration mechanisms.

The raw speed of VMware vMotion live migrations for moving single and multiple virtual machines has been a huge timesaver for the customers. Speedy concurrent vMotion let system administrators quickly evacuate the VMs off hosts before a planned server maintenance session so they can get home on time, rather than spending extra hours at work to swap a server power supply or do a firmware upgrade. vMotion also has a minimal impact on VM performance, so mission-critical VMs can be moved during production hours without generating user complaints. The calculations certify that the VMware vMotion Migration produces 3.4 times faster migration than the Microsoft's migration mechanisms.



6 Limitations OF VMotion

- Virtual machines configured with the Raw Device Mapping(RDM) for clustering features using vMotion
- VM cannot be connected to a CD-ROM or floppy drive that is using an ISO or floppy image stored on a drive that is local to the host server. The device should be disconnected before initiating the vMotion.
- Virtual Machine cannot be migrated with VMotion unless the destination swap file location is the same as the source swap file location. As a best practice, Place the virtual machine swap files with the virtual machine configuration file.
- Virtual Machine affinity must not be set (aka, bound to physical CPUs).