



Find, Convert And Compare, VMware Virtual Machine And Windows Guest UUID

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What's UUID?

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Each virtual machine has UUID and it will appear on OS as guest UUID too.

A universally unique identifier (UUID) is a 128-bit number used to identify information in computer systems, the 16 bytes of this value are separated by spaces. Microsoft uses the term globally unique identifier (GUID), either as a synonym for UUID or to refer to a particular UUID variant.

Find VMware UUID

VMware virtual machines using BIOS or UEFI same as physical computers and it will be cloned to guest operating system after installation. UUID can be changed manually but it's **absolutely** not recommended. Just if there is two machines with same UUID, UUID on one of them should be changed.

UUID will assign to each machine after first power on.

For changing UUID and read more about UUID, read the below links:

[Changing or keeping a UUID for a moved virtual machine](#)

[VMware Workstation 5.0 Virtual Machine Identifier – UUID](#)

- **PowerCLI:** Run the below simple command to find VM's UUID:

This will work even machine is powered on.

- Open or edit VM's vmx file and find "uuid.bios":

- Use [RVTools](#) or other reporting software to export VM's information from ESXi server or vCenter.

Actually, I don't know that there is other way or not! but follow the above instruction to find VM's UUID.

Find Windows Guest UUID

As Windows and other OS has different algorithm to clone and restructuring BIOS UUID, OS UUID is different in view but actually the value is BIOS UUID!

There is some way to find UUID in Windows but this is simplest:

- Use "Windows Management Instrumentation Command line"

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As I mentioned before, guest UUID and VMware VM UUID is different in view. So the value should be converted to a proper format.

Convert Windows Guest UUID To VMware

```
Param (
    [Parameter(Mandatory=$True)]
    [String]
    $winUUID
)

# Create an array of each section (hyphen delimiter)
$section = $winUUID.Split("-")

$j=0

ForEach ($i in $section) {
    $k = $i -split '(..)' | ? { $_ } # Create array by splitting on every 2 characters
    If ($j -lt 3) {                  # First 3 sections need to be reversed. i.e first section array(2A,
        3B, 4C) becomes array(4C, 3B, 2A)
        [array]::Reverse($k)
    }
    $section[$j] = $k -join(' ')      # Convert array to string and add space inbetween. i.e array(4C, 3B,
    2A) becomes string "4C 3B 2A"
    $j++
}

# Build the final string, piecing together section by section
$vmxUUID = $section[0] + ' ' + $section[1] + ' ' + $section[2] + '-' + $section[3] + ' ' + $section[4]

Return $vmxUUID
```

Convert VMware UUID To Windows Guest

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```
# Build the final string, piecing together byte by byte
$prettyUUID = $bytes[3] + $bytes[2] + $bytes[1] + $bytes[0] + "-" + $bytes[5] + $bytes[4] + "-" + $bytes[7]

Return $prettyUUID
```

The script was imported from [this link](#).

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Davoud Teimouri is a professional blogger, vExpert 2015/2016/2017/2018/2019, VCA, MCITP. This blog is started with simple posts and now, it has large following readers.

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