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List of most common VMware ESXi SSH/CLI commands

by lunarg on April 29th 2015, at 16:39

Below is a list of most common CLI commands for VMWare ESXi. Type these in directly in an ESXi or SSH shell.

Command	Description
`vim-cmd vmsvc/getallvms`	List all VMs running on the host. Also provides *vmid*, required for commands below.
`vim-cmd vmsvc/power.off vmid`	Power off specified VM.
`vim-cmd vmsvc/power.on vmid`	Power off specified VM.
`vim-cmd vmsvc/power.reboot vmid`	Reboot specified VM.
`vim-cmd solo/registervm /vmfs/volume/datastore/subdir/vm-file.vmx`	Register the VM stored at location on the ESX host inventory.
`vim-cmd vmsvc/unregister vmid`	Unregister VM from the host. Does not remove the VM's files from the datastore.
`vim-cmd vmsvc/destroy vmid`	Delete the specified VM. The VMDK and VMX files will be deleted from storage as well.
`vim-cmd vmsvc/tools.install vmid`	Initiates an installation of VMWare Tools on the VM
`vim-cmd hostsvc/maintenance_mode_enter`	Put the host into maintenance mode.
`vim-cmd hostsvc/maintenance_mode_exit`	Take the host out of maintenance mode.
`vim-cmd hostsvc/net/info`	Show networking information of the host.
`chkconfig -l`	Show services running on the host. Can also be used to change startup configuration.
`esxtop`	Display list of processes and its usage of resources. Works similar to linux top.
`esxcfg-info`	Show host's configuration and information.
`esxcfg-nics -l`	Show current NIC configuration.
`esxcfg-vswitch -l`	Show current vSwitch configuration.
`vmkerrcode -l`	Display a reference list of VMKernel return codes and descriptions.
`dcui`	Start the console UI (when accessing through SSH).
`vsish`	Run the VMWare Interactive Shell (from SSH).
`decodeSel /var/log/ipmi_sel.raw`	Read IPMI system log of physical server.

Replace vmid with the value you retrieved from the *getallvms* command (first one in the table).
Replace path with the full path and file name of a VMX-file (= configuration file of a VM).

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