

Enterprise Standards and Best Practices for IT Infrastructure

Vmotion Lab Report

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What is Vmotion?

Vmotion VMware is a technology that enables the migration of virtual machines from one ESXi host to another host without losing service.

Requirements

- Having a Virtual Center.
- 2 have physical servers with ESXi installed.
- Having a Gigabit network cable to connect from one server to another directly.

Vmotion Compatability

V Motion has quite a few requirements that need to be in place before it will work correctly. Here is a list of the key requirements for V Motion to work.

- Each host must be correctly licensed
- Each host must meet shared storage requirements
- Each host must meet the networking requirements
- Each compatible CPU must be from the same family

When configuring vMotion between hosts I would recommend keeping to one brand of server per cluster, i.e. Dell, HP, IBM. Also always ensure that these servers are compatible with each other. You can confirm this by speaking to the server manufacturer. A very important item to consider is to always ensure you are using the latest BIOS version on each of your hosts. Ensuring that the CPU's are compatible with each other is essential for vMotion to work successfully, this is because the host that the virtual machine migrates to has to be capable of carrying on any instructions that the first host was running. If a virtual machine is successfully running an application on one host and you migrate it to another host without these capabilities the application would most likely crash, possibly even the whole server would crash, hence why vMotion compatibility is required between hosts before you can migrate a running virtual machine. It is user-level instructions that bypass the virtualisation layer such as Streaming SIMD Extensions (SSE), SSE2 SSSE3, SSE4.1 and Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) Instruction Sets that can differ greatly between CPU models and families of processors, and so can cause application instability after the migration.

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