

vSphere Command-Line Interface Reference

The vSphere CLI command set allows you to run common system administration commands against vSphere systems from an administration server of your choice.

Linux Installation: If you accepted the defaults during installation, you can find the installed software in the following locations:

- vSphere CLI scripts: `/usr/bin`
- vSphere SDK for Perl utility applications: `/usr/lib/vmware-vcli/apps`
- vSphere SDK for Perl sample scripts: `/usr/share/doc/vmware-vcli/samples`

Windows Installation: vSphere CLI commands are installed in `C:\Program Files\VMware\VMware vSphere CLI\bin` by default.

The vSphere CLI includes the commands listed below, as well as the `resxtop` and `esxcli` commands.

- For details on `resxtop`, see the documentation in the *Resource Management Guide*.
- For `esxcli` the actual lists of commands depends on the system that you are running on. Run `esxcli --help` for a list of commands on your system.

vSphere CLI commands

| Documentation | Description |
|---------------------------------|---|
| esxcli device | Lists descriptions of device commands. |
| esxcli esxcli | Lists descriptions of esxcli commands. |
| esxcli fcoe | FCOE (Fibre Channel over Ethernet) comands |
| esxcli graphics | Graphics commands |
| esxcli hardware | Hardware namespace. Used primarily for extracting information about the current system setup. |
| esxcli iscsi | iSCSI namespace for monitoring and managing hardware and software iSCSI. |
| esxcli network | Network namespace for managing virtual networking including virtual switches and VMkernel network interfaces. |
| esxcli nvme | Commands for managing NVMe devices. |
| esxcli rdma | Commands for monitoring RDMA devices. |
| esxcli sched | Manage the shared system-wide swap space. |
| esxcli software | Software namespace. Includes commands for managing and installing image profiles and VIBs. |
| esxcli storage | Includes core storage commands and other storage management commands. |
| esxcli system | System monitoring and management command. |
| esxcli vm | Namespace for listing virtual machines and shutting them down forcefully. |

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| esxcli vsan | Namespace for Virtual SAN management commands. See the <i>vSphere Storage</i> publication for details. |
| svmotion | Moves a virtual machine's configuration file and optionally its disks while the virtual machine is running. Must run against a vCenter Server system. |
| vicfg-advcfg | Performs advanced configuration including enabling and disabling CIM providers. Use this command as instructed by VMware. |
| vicfg-authconfig | Manages Active Directory authentication. |
| vicfg-cfgbackup | Backs up the configuration data of an ESXi system and restores previously saved configuration data. |
| vicfg-dns | Specifies an ESX/ESXi host's DNS (Domain Name Server) configuration. |
| vicfg-dumppart | Manages diagnostic partitions. |
| vicfg-hostops | Allows you to start, stop, and examine ESX/ESXi hosts and to instruct them to enter maintenance mode and exit from maintenance mode. |
| vicfg-ipsec | Supports setup of IPSec. |
| vicfg-iscsi | Manages iSCSI storage. |
| vicfg-module | Enables VMkernel options. Use this command with the options listed, or as instructed by VMware. |
| vicfg-mpath | Displays information about storage array paths and allows you to change a path's state. |
| vicfg-nas | Manages NAS file systems. |
| vicfg-nics | Manages the ESX/ESXi host's NICs (uplink adapters). |
| vicfg-ntp | Specifies the NTP (Network Time Protocol) server. |
| vicfg-rescan | Rescans the storage configuration. |
| vicfg-route | Lists or changes the ESX/ESXi host's route entry (IP gateway). |
| vicfg-scsidevs | Finds available LUNs. |
| vicfg-snmp | Manages the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent. |
| vicfg-syslog | Specifies the syslog server and the port to connect to that server for ESXi hosts. |
| vicfg-user | Creates, modifies, deletes, and lists local direct access users and groups of users. |
| vicfg-vmknics | Adds, deletes, and modifies virtual network adapters (VMkernel NICs). |
| vicfg-volume | Supports resignaturing a VMFS snapshot volume and mounting and unmounting the snapshot volume. |
| vicfg-vswitch | Adds or removes virtual switches or vNetwork Distributed Switches, or modifies switch settings. |
| vifs | Performs file system operations such as retrieving and uploading files on the remote server. |

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| vihostupdate | Manages updates of ESX/ESXi hosts. Use vihostupdate35 for ESXi 3.5 hosts. |
| vmkfstools | Creates and manipulates virtual disks, file systems, logical volumes, and physical storage devices on ESX/ESXi hosts. |
| vmware-cmd | Performs virtual machine operations remotely. This includes, for example, creating a snapshot, powering the virtual machine on or off, and getting information about the virtual machine. |

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