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## Introduction

It is unbelievable what can happen in the IT industry over the course of only one year. In July of 2004, the first edition of Rob's guide to using VMware was published. It is now September 2005 and in just over one year a lot has happened. The first VMware conference (VMworld) was held in San Diego in October of 2004, VMware shipped a new product called ACE, VMware Workstation version 5 became available and earlier this year the VMware Technology Network for Developers went live. Last but not least, in August of 2005 VMware announced that they will drive the development of Open Standards on Virtualization in a joint effort with many leading companies in the IT industry. Part of the deal includes sharing the ESX Server source code with those partners in a new program called VMware Community Source. Also in August of 2005, Sun Microsystems announced that they will support VMware ESX Server for use on their Sun Fire x64 systems.

As you can see, these are interesting times for the virtualization community. And there is more to come. A new version of VMware ESX server (v3) is around the corner and new processors from Intel and AMD will contain support for virtualization, which will bring this technology to an even higher level of performance, scalability, and stability.

With this second edition of Rob's guide to using VMware, I hope that I have succeeded in helping you get the most out of your VMware products and to give you a good overview of the VMware software that is available today.

## What this book covers

This is the second edition of my VMware guide. The feedback that I received on the first edition was great and gave me a lot of insight into what I could add or change for this new edition. Of course, I have updated the VMware Workstation sections to support version 5, which was released in April of 2005. However, I have also made a lot of progress on the Linux platform and have added a lot of new material about VMware on the Linux platform, in this new edition.

In this new edition, the physical to virtual conversion, clustering, and the operating system specific chapters about installation and configuration have been updated.

New parts of this book are VMware ACE and the VMware server products: GSX Server and ESX Server. Several new books on VMware ESX server became available in the summer of 2005. For an in depth technical discussion about this product, I suggest that you read one of these new books. I have tried to write a comprehensive introduction to VMware ESX Server, which will help you get started and will also help you decide what VMware product you should choose.

## About the author

Rob Bastiaansen is well known in the international VMware community. He has dedicated his website to VMware products since he started working with VMware version 2 in 2000. He was the first person to describe how to set up a cluster within VMware for the NetWare and Windows operating systems. Since then he has answered many questions on VMware products and clustering and he published the first edition of his VMware guide in July of 2004. He has also published articles on VMware technology for technical magazines in The Netherlands, where he resides.

In 2005, Rob published his second book called *The NetWare Toolbox*. Also, in early 2005 he started his own publishing company called Books4Brains. In addition to publishing his own books, Books4Brains offers a framework for other authors to publish their books under conditions that no large publishing houses offer.

Rob owns his own company and works as a consultant and instructor. Most of his work is focused on Novell software and VMware technology. He is a Master Certified Novell Instructor, Certified Directory Engineer, and a Novell Certified Linux Engineer. He is also certified for the Linux Professional Institute and as a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. Rob works with all major operating systems including NetWare, Windows, and Linux.

## About the reader

Clearly, you are reading this book because you are interested in VMware technology. Whether you want to get started with VMware Workstation, or want to set up an advanced configuration with NetWare or Windows clustering, this book is for you. In writing this book, I have assumed that you are knowledgeable about installing the operating systems that you want to use in VMware. Therefore, you will not find detailed instructions on how to set up Windows, Linux, or NetWare. I am also assuming that you are able to read documentation manuals, so I have chosen not to cover too much basic information, such as how to add USB devices or other equipment to your virtual machines.

However, if you are new to VMware products, you will find a section which describes what VMware technology is and how to set up your first virtual machines. This information was not included just because it is not covered in the manuals; instead, it is included because many people need just a few basic guidelines to get started and they may want to get up to speed quickly. An example of this is: How to get started with clustering in VMware when you have not worked with VMware before.

If you are an experienced ESX server administrator, the introduction chapter in this book does not teach you anything new. However, the configuration tips for the entire range of VMware products covered in this book will contain at least some material that you will find useful for your environment.

Finally, you may be looking for tips on using VMware, such as how to create Virtual Floppy Disks. Also, you may need troubleshooting tips on VMware, or you may want to set up routing with virtual machines. You will find all of this information in this book.

## **Acknowledgements**

Like many authors, I have to thank my family for the support they have given me during the period of writing this book. It is fun writing about VMware technology, but enjoying a day in the woods or playing games is really helpful in keeping you focused on what is really important in life.

A special thank you goes to Ron van Herk and Robert Zondervan at Novell for sharing their information with me about the updated clustering configuration for VMware Workstation. And I would like to thank Ronald Beekelaar for sharing his knowledge on Virtual PC with me for the conversion process.

I hope that you will enjoy the virtualization comics in this book. They were made especially for this second edition of Rob's guide to using VMware by Howard Tayler, the creator of Schlock Mercenary, the on-line comic space-opera found daily at [www.schlockmercenary.com](http://www.schlockmercenary.com).