

Patch VMware ESXi hosts using command line

There are several ways to patch a VMware ESXi server. vSphere Update Manager (VUM) can update for example a complete ESXi host cluster fully automatic. vSphere Update Manager requires a vCenter Server. When you don't have a vCenter Server patching can be done from the command line.

Here is a quick overview how to patch an ESXi host;

Step 1. Download the latest patch bundle from the VMware Web site, [link](#)

Step 2. Upload the patch bundle (zip) to a datastore with the vSphere Client or using vSphere Web Client.

Step 3. Enable SSH (Start the SSH service and make a SSH session to the ESXi host).

Step 4. Put the host in maintenance mode.

Step 5. Install the patch bundle

NOTE: Using `esxcli` with the `install` method has the possibility of overwriting existing drivers. If you are using third-party ESXi images, VMware recommends using the **update** method to prevent an unbootable state. The following command will install the patch bundle:

Install: `esxcli software vib install -d /vmfs/volumes/datastore/vibbundle.zip`

Update: `esxcli software vib update -d /vmfs/volumes/datastore/vibbundle.zip`

NOTES:

- In the above given example, we have used `(-d)` switch to install the bundle, if you wish to install an individual VIB you may use the `(-v)` switch instead of `(-d)`.
- The volume and the related datastore information can be retrieved through the vSphere client.

Step 6. After the successful Installation, you may reboot the host and remove the Maintenance Mode.