

Installing ESX 3.5 on Dell Precision ...



[rowlandson](#) 2 posts since

Apr 16, 2008

I am trying to create a couple VMware servers in a test environment in order to build a business case for moving our production environment to VMware. I have a couple Dell Precision T3400 workstations that I would like to use. Unfortunately, when I attempt to install it, it boots the CD but when it attempts to start the initial install it tells me that it can't see the SATA drives (CD or HD).

I used a USB CD-ROM drive and I was able to get by this , but it still can't see the Hard Drives.

Any thoughts as to how I can get this to work?

Thanks ... Tags: esx3.5, dell, precision, t3400, install, sata



[Chris_S_UK](#) 598 posts since

Feb 20, 2006 1. **Re: Installing ESX 3.5 on Dell Precision T3400** Apr 16, 2008 7:27 AM

I had a similar problem on a desktop machine and cured it by adjusting a setting in the bios. This setting (forget the exact terminology) controlled how the SATA controller was seen by the OS.

It might be worth seeing if your BIOS has a similar setting....



[rowlandson](#) 2 posts since

Apr 16, 2008 2. **Re: Installing ESX 3.5 on Dell Precision T3400** Apr 16, 2008 8:14 AM

 in response to: [Chris_S_UK](#) Thank you very much for your help...


I checked the BIOS and there was a setting to change the operating mode. I changed it from AHCI to AHA and it worked.

Unfortunately, now I am getting another error "The installer was unable to find any supported network devices"



[jonhutchings](#) 252 posts since

Mar 29, 2006 3. **Re: Installing ESX 3.5 on Dell Precision T3400** Apr 17, 2008 6:05 AM

 in response to: [rowlandson](#)

This is the joy of trying to install onto whitebox (as far as esx is concerned) hardware. The driver support is a little limited.

We use dell sc1430 tower servers which are cheap and work just fine. Otherwise with your workstations you'll have to buy a cheap supported network card for each box.


You may find that if you are using hardware that is on the supported list, but it still isn't working that disabling any on board sound, and other unused peripherals may help, as it seems happier if there are no IRQ sharing devices



[GreenRabbit](#) 5 posts since

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Aug 18, 2008 4. **Re: Installing ESX 3.5 on Dell Precision T3400** Aug 18, 2008 10:33 PM

 in response to: [jonhutchings](#) Did you have a chance to try SC1430 with ESXi, too?

I'm looking for a cheap dev/test server, but can not find a confirmation that ESXi actually works there