

Unable to increase hard-disk space. ...



[Shankariyer](#) 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008

- VM Ware Workstation Version : 6.0.2 build-59824
- Host OS : Ubunt 8.x
- Guest OS : Windows 2003 Server
- Current capacity : 11GB
- Intended capacity : 16GB

I get errors in both the cases

```
$ vmware-vdiskmanager -x 5GB Windows\ Server\ 2003\ SE.vmdk
```

Using log file /tmp/vmware-shankar/vdiskmanager.log

Failed to expand the disk 'Windows Server 2003 SE.vmdk': One of the parameters supplied is invalid (1).

```
$ vmware-vdiskmanager -x 15GB Windows\ Server\ 2003\ SE.vmdk
```

Using log file /tmp/vmware-shankar/vdiskmanager.log

Failed to expand the disk 'Windows Server 2003 SE.vmdk': There is not enough space on the file system for the selected operation (14).

I can understand this as the available space in the disk is **19GB** in total.

Please advice as how I can fix this.

Thanks,

Kramer.



[Peter_vm](#) 9,058 posts since

Feb 1, 2006 1. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Aug 2, 2008 9:08 PM

Can you free up more space **temporarily** ?



[Shankariyer](#) 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008 2. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 15, 2008 7:55 PM

I'm sorry, I'm coming back to this again, as I still face the same problem.

Any pointers please ?



[continuum](#) 12,616 posts since

Dec 18, 2003 3. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 16, 2008 7:01 AM

 in response to: [Shankariyer](#) Can't you simply add another disk ?

description of vmx-parameters: <http://sanbarrow.com/vmx.html>

Unable to increase hard-disk space. ...

VMware-liveCD: <http://sanbarrow.com/moa.html>



[Shankariyer](#) 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008 **4. Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 16, 2008 8:39 AM

👤 in response to: [continuum](#)

I can, but it doesn't solve the problem of my c:\ being almost full. So is the reason I'm trying to increase the size of it. I did remove unwanted stuff, but need to increase c:\



[continuum](#) 12,616 posts since

Dec 18, 2003 **5. Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 16, 2008 11:44 AM

👤 in response to: [Shankariyer](#) Why doesn't this solve the problem ?

Just move the contents of one large dir to the new disk and create a junction.

Assume C:\programs is almost full ...

Add disk - format it and copy C:\programs*. * to D:\

Then make junction like this

junction.exe C:\programs D:\

Problem solved - the new disk will appear as C:\programs in explorer

description of vmx-parameters: <http://sanbarrow.com/vmx.html>

VMware-liveCD: <http://sanbarrow.com/moa.html>



[Neilly](#) 30 posts since

Apr 5, 2007 **6. Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 16, 2008 2:17 PM

👤 in response to: [continuum](#) Two things:

1. You can also increase the capacity of your guest by adding a second disk to the vm and then in the guest vm change the C: drive to a dynamic disk and add the second disk to it to expand the capacity of drive C:.
2. It looks like you only have 19 GB of free space on your host disk - maybe vmware cannot expand your existing vmdk because there is not enough contiguous free disk space available on the host? Try freeing up some disk space on your host and see if that helps. Or buy a disk drive.

Ron



[continuum](#) 12,616 posts since

Dec 18, 2003 **7. Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 16, 2008 2:21 PM

👤 in response to: [Neilly](#)

or first convert to 2gm split format - then in second step expand size.

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HAVE SNAPSHOTS

Unable to increase hard-disk space. ...

description of vmx-parameters: <http://sanbarrow.com/vmx.html>

VMware-liveCD: <http://sanbarrow.com/moa.html>



Neilly 30 posts since

Apr 5, 2007 8. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 16, 2008 2:46 PM

👤 in response to: **Neilly** Actually, if the documentation for vmware-vdiskmanager below is correct then it looks like the real problem you have is an incorrectly specified value for the -x parameter:

Increasing the Size of an Existing Virtual Disk

To expand (grow) a virtual disk

Specify size and give the full path to the VMDK, or change directory to its location:

```
vmware-vdiskmanager -x 80GB mydisk.vmdk
```

This increases the maximum capacity of the virtual disk to 80GB. Unlike defragmenting and shrinking, you may increase the size of preallocated virtual disks (flat type 2 or 3).

Virtual Disk Manager expands the virtual disk but does not modify its contents, so the partition information remains the same. Many operating systems cannot alter partition size after creation, so you might have to obtain third#party software, such as Partition Magic or GNU Parted, to do this. Such software allows you to alter disk partitions so a virtual machine can access the additional disk space.

So the first attempt you did, "-x 5 GB", was incorrect because it says to increase the current 11GB disk to a 5GB disk. Not going to work.

However the second attempt, "-x 15 GB", is correct but failed because vmware-vdiskmanager cannot find enough space on the host disk to perform the expansion. So I still recommend that you either free up a large chunk of disk space on the host disk or get another disk. And I still recommed adding the additional space as a second disk rather than trying to expand the existing vmdk file since you won't need to mess about with changing the partition table of the guest vm's C: drive (or does Windows 2003 have that capabiity built into it?).

Ron



Shankariyer 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008 9. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 9:49 AM

👤 in response to: **Neilly**

Thank you all for your pointers. Let me explain few things...

I'm on Ubuntu w/VM Workstation, not Windoze

But I think I'm missing something here, as none of these options work..

For one, I do have space to expand the disk...

```
/utl/vmware/Windows XP Professional$ df -h .
```

Unable to increase hard-disk space. ...

```
Filesystem Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sdb14 21G 14G 6.1G 70% /utl
/utl/vmware/Windows XP Professional$ vmware-vdiskmanager -x 20Gb "Windows XP Professional.vmdk"
Using log file /tmp/vmware-root/vdiskmanager.log
Failed to expand the disk 'Windows XP Professional.vmdk': There is not
enough space on the file system for the selected operation (14).
```

What am I doing wrong ?



[RDPetruska](#) 15,875 posts since

Jan 11, 2005 10. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 9:53 AM

👤 in response to: [Shankariyer](#) You only have 14GB of free space available, and you are asking to create a new virtual disk file(s) of 20 GB in size. 20G>14G, so the error message is correct!



[Shankariyer](#) 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008 11. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 9:56 AM

👤 in response to: [RDPetruska](#)

I think the df -h was read wrongly..

My device is sda14...

size is 21g

used is 14

available is 6.x



[RDPetruska](#) 15,875 posts since

Jan 11, 2005 12. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 10:14 AM

👤 in response to: [Shankariyer](#) Shankariyer wrote:

I think the df -h was read wrongly..

My device is sda14...

size is 21g

used is 14

available is 6.x

In any case, you need at least 20 GB free. Or, if you convert your virtual disk to a 2GB-split type, then less space. However, in order to convert it, you need at least as much free space as the maximum defined size of the current virtual disk.



[Shankariyer](#) 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008 13. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 10:34 AM

👤 in response to: [RDPetruska](#)

Unable to increase hard-disk space. ...

I'm confused now.

Based on what Ron said

"So the first attempt you did, "-x 5 GB", was incorrect because it says to increase the current 11GB disk to a 5GB disk. Not going to work.

However the second attempt, "-x 15 GB", is correct but failed because vmware-vdiskmanager cannot find enough space on the host disk to perform the expansion. So I still recommend that you either free up a large chunk of disk space on the host disk or get another disk. And I still recommed adding the additional space as a second disk rather than trying to expand the existing vmdk file since you won't need to mess about with changing the partition table of the guest vm's C: drive (or does Windows 2003 have that capabiity built into it?)."

So, the size of the disk is 21G, out of which I've used 14G and I've 6G more. All I'm trying to do is increase the 14G to 20G if possible.

vmware-vdiskmanager -x 20GB "Windows XP Professional.vmdk" I was under the impression it'd "increase" the 14G to 20G "not" add 20G more.

Am I wrong ?


If so, how do I add 6G more ?

Thanks much!



[RDPetruska](#) 15,875 posts since


Jan 11, 2005 14. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 10:42 AM

 in response to: [Shankariyer](#) You aren't doing anything wrong - the commands you are using ARE the correct commands. The issue is that the vmware-vdiskmanager utility creates a TEMPORARY virtual disk file(s) when doing any conversion. Therefore, if you are trying to expand a 14G disk to be 20 GB, you need 20 GB of free space DURING the conversion. Afterwards, the files will only take up 20 GB of host disk space.



[Neilly](#) 30 posts since

Apr 5, 2007 15. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 1:06 PM

 in response to: [Shankariyer](#) I understand that your host os is GNU/Linux (Ubuntu) and that your guest vm OS is Windows 2003 Server. The pointers that I and others have given you will work. Here again is my advice, but worded differently so as to be clearer (hopefully 😊)

A. Your Current Setup

1. Host OS : Ubuntu
2. Physical Disk holding the vmdk file : 21GB total, 14GB used, 6GB free
3. Guest OS : Windows 2003 Server
4. Guest OS virtual disks : 1 virtual disk of 14GB capacity
5. Guest OS virtual disk type : Basic (I am assuming this to be the case)

Unable to increase hard-disk space. ...

B. Goals

1. Increase the size/capacity of the Guest OS virtual disk
2. Make all of the increased capacity appear as a single drive C: in the guest OS.

C. Method (my recommendation)

1. DO NOT perform a vmware-vdiskmanager expansion of the vmdk file - you do not have enough free space to do this, so....
2. DO create a second vmdk file and add it to the set of resources available to your guest OS as a second drive. This second drive will be 6GB in capacity, thus equaling the free space available on your host's 21GB drive.
3. Boot up your Windows 2003 guest vm. It will see the normal unchanged drive C: and a second drive that is not formatted or partitioned and has a capacity of 6GB.
4. In your guest vm running Windows 2003 convert your C: drive from a Basic disk to a Dynamic disk. This will let you add the second disk (and a third and fourth and so on) to the C: drive thus expanding the capacity of the C: drive dynamically. This will not create a D: drive nor require managing junction points etc.

If you are unfamiliar with the concepts and procedures of Windows' Basic and Dynamic disks then I suggest you do some Googling 😊

Hope that this is a clearer explanation and gets you what you need.

Cheers,

Ron



[Shankariyer](#) 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008 16. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 1:54 PM

👤 in response to: [Neilly](#)

Awesome help... Thanks much.

One Correction : I've VM's for Windows 2003 and Windows XP, so am trouble shooting this with XP, while I have the same issue with 2003 at which point I had initiated this discussion.

I think I'm getting there, except one little problem.

I followed the instruction verbatim...

1. Created the 2nd VMDK file to the size
2. Converted the basic disk to 'dynamic' disk (C drive that is)
3. The newly added space is showing up as 'unallocated space'

But when I choose 'extend volume' on C drive, it complains


" The selected volume is a System or a Boot disk or was created on a basic disk in an earlier version of windows and cannot be extended"



[Shankariyer](#) 14 posts since

Jun 29, 2008 17. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 17, 2008 1:57 PM

Unable to increase hard-disk space. ...


 in response to: [Shankariyer](#) Screen shot attached. **Attachments:**

- [screen shot](#) (93.1 K)



[gps_guy](#) 16 posts since

Aug 8, 2006 18. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Oct 18, 2008 6:03 AM


 in response to: [Shankariyer](#)

You can't use the "extend" command on a c: (boot) partition directly. You need to boot from another disk first. In the past, I've booted from a Knoppix Live CD and then used qtparted to resize the C: partition. You could use the VMware converter to do a P2V conversion (though the original already a VM) and resize it during conversion.



[Vimalblog](#) 1 posts since

Jun 16, 2009 19. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Jun 19, 2009 4:28 AM

 in response to: [gps_guy](#)

can you please send cross the steps or screen shot how to increase the space in c:\ drive by using vmware converter..

can any one help me....



[RDPetruska](#) 15,875 posts since

Jan 11, 2005 20. **Re: Unable to increase hard-disk space.** Jun 19, 2009 6:02 AM

 in response to: [Vimalblog](#) Refer to Eric's page for MANY different methods for resizing virtual disks.
<http://vsphere-land.com/tips-tricks/re-sizing-virtual-disks>