

UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on ...



[grcummm](#) 26 posts since

Dec 10, 2006 I did this more as a demonstration to myself to see if it was possible.

Platform: Dell Latitude D630, BIOS A12, Intel Core2 Duo T7100, 1GiB RAM (yes, VERY low), ICH8M chipset, BCM5755M onboard NIC.

BIOS Config: REQUIRES change of SATA operation to ATA (Onboard Devices/SATA Operation; not AHCI; requires that Flash Module is disabled); Recommend enabling Multi Core Support (Performance) and Virtualization(POST Behavior). Uncertain on Dynamic Acceleration and SpeedStep Enable (both under Performance; I have both enabled at the moment).

Installed directly from CD (VMware-VMvisor-InstallerCD-3.5.0_Update_2-110271.i386.iso) with no issues to the SATA HDD. Automatically created a VMFS datastore in the free space of the HDD (as expected).

As to be expected, the SATA optical drive is not usable within ESXi.



[Anders Greger...](#) 607 posts since

Jun 16, 2004 **1. Re: UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**

Nov 3, 2008 10:04 AM

That is great news, I've been looking for a laptop that works out of the box. Thanks!



[grcummm](#) 26 posts since

Dec 10, 2006 **2. Re: UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**

Nov 3, 2008 10:08 AM

👤 in response to: [Anders Greger...](#) It appears that the SATA HDD and network (iSCSI, NFS, etc) are the only storage options.



[randy.castle](#) 2 posts since

Nov 4, 2008 **3. Re: UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**

Apr 1, 2009 10:33 AM

👤 in response to: [grcummm](#) How about firewire? My D630 has firewire connection.



[grcummm](#) 26 posts since

Dec 10, 2006 **4. Re: UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**

Apr 25, 2009 9:08 AM

👤 in response to: [randy.castle](#) I apologize for the delay but the forum never notified me of another post and I've been trying to find some time to test this.

I just installed 3.5.0u4-153875 and it recognized the HDD with AHCI enabled (this is a plus for the new version) however I don't see a storage controller for USB or FireWire (IEEE-1394). I believe this would be the key to utilizing

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storage on USB or FireWire. I did see 3 HBAs on the AHCI controller but only the one target (SATA HDD). The optical (DVD or CD) drive is still inaccessible from ESXi.

I think that if you wanted to utilize USB or FireWire you'd have to utilize a hosted VM system, like VMware Server or VMware Workstation. iSCSI would be the primary external storage for this system unless you're using a D/Dock with a Fibre Channel (FC) card (assuming there exists an FC card that can fit in the D/Dock by length, PCI slot and heat) or if there exists a device that takes the CardBus (CB) port to an external enclosure for a PCI card (which I'd doubt exists) or if there exists a CB card providing a storage adapter compatible with one that is supported.

You could use another laptop using Linux, an iSCSI target daemon and FireWire to attach from ESXi through iSCSI to a FireWire storage device. iSCSI would be theoretically faster (1000 Mbps versus 400 Mbps) but sucks up CPU in TCP and iSCSI calculations (including checksums).

Another thing to consider is that this laptop has a cardbus slot and there are gigabit cardbus adapters but they may or may not be supported by ESXi. This would allow a separate backend (host: Management, storage, VMotion) and frontend (VM) network Unfortunately, I don't have one so I can't test their compatibility.

EDIT1: Also check out: <http://communities.vmware.com/thread/180728>

Message was edited by: grcumm



[grcumm](#) 26 posts since

Dec 10, 2006 5. Re: **UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**
May 22, 2009 6:21 AM

in response to: [grcumm](#) I just tried VMware-VMvisor-Installer-4.0.0-164009.x86_64.iso (ESXi 4.0.0-164009) and it worked perfectly with no modifications. AHCI was supported as it was with 3.5.0u4-153875.



[ErikvdGroef](#) 2 posts since

Aug 30, 2009 6. Re: **UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**
Oct 7, 2009 10:35 AM

in response to: [grcumm](#)

Hello grcumm,

How about the processor, the 630 has a 32 bit proc and vmware needs a 64 bit proc.



[Erik Zandboer](#) 671 posts since

Jun 11, 2007 7. Re: **UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**
Oct 7, 2009 1:17 PM

in response to: [ErikvdGroef](#) It has got to be a 64 bit CPU (dualcore right?); ESX4 does not run on 32bit CPU at all. Maybe you are mixed up with the (ancient) Dell Latitude C series?


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[ErikvdGroef](#) 2 posts since

Aug 30, 2009 8. Re: **UNSUPPORTED ESXi 3.5u2 Installable on Dell Latitude D630 as portable test/eval/demo**
Oct 13, 2009 1:50 PM

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 in response to: [Erik Zandboer](#)

Hi Erik,

Because of the 32 bit operating system that was installed on it i was kind of tricked.

Now i run esx i within workstation but after tomorrow it will be ESX on baremetal!!! NICE