

Shared Folders (quasi) ...



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Jan 6, 2009

Hello All.

I am almost a complete newbie to VMware. I am running a VMware Server 2.0 with W2003 as host and two W2003 as guests. After testing for almost a month - and I have to say very successful - I am now planning to setup a productive environment but I am struggling a little with my concept. What I would like to achieve should look like this two 500 GB disks in a mirror for the host system - partitioned:

20 GB as C: - for the host operating system (w2003)

480 GB as D: - to hold my virtual guests operating systems

Two more 1 TB disks in a mirror to hold all program and data of all guests.

The idea behind this setup is to have all important data of all guests centralized in one location for easier access and easier backup. So far I have gathered there is a feature called "shared folders" that would suite my needs, but - not supported in VMware Server 2.0. So I am trying to setup my environment to have quasi shared folders. One solution could be to have the 1 TB disk running as drive E: in my virtual host and have this connected as a standard UNC resource in Windows. I haven't tried it yet, because I expect trouble due to the connected drives are not available to the guests, without someone logged in. The other concern is performance.

My question is, has anyone tried something similar and found a solution? Or is there a different (better) approach?

Thanks in advance for sharing your opinion with me.

Reagrds



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Mar 6, 2006 1. **Re: Shared Folders (quasi)** Jan 6, 2009 12:10 PM

If I am understanding you correctly, you are thinking of sharing out E: from your host and mapping to it in your guests. This should work ok as it would with physical Windows clients. Your comment about expecting problems when nobody is logged in - what are you wanting/needng to do? If it is a service, or a script that can be wrapped into a service with something like srvcy, that needs access to the share then you could have the service run with the credentials required to map the drive. Very easy if all machines are in the same domain. If not, create an account in the guest with the same username and password as on the host and have the service use these, local, credentials. Depending on who is using the VMs and what rights they have, this is more secure than just having a script that does a "net use" with username and clear text password in the script.

If you found this or any other answer useful please consider the use of the Helpful or Correct buttons to award points.