

How to convert a physical Red Hat Linux ...



[anderskb](#) 2 posts since

May 4, 2009

Customer has a physical server running **Red Hat Linux release 7.1** (Seawolf) Kernel 2.4.2-2 on an i686.

According to the release notes for vmware vcenter converter 4.0 this apparently is not supported?

I'm supposed to use the vmware standalone converter on this box and hand over the virtual machine files to the ESX-support, so that they can create it as a virtual machine. Is there a way to do this, even though it doesn't say so. I don't have much experience using the vmware converter.

Background: the physical box runs an old but still used internet application using apache. Apparently the application has some quirks that cannot easily be implemented on another host. Tags: converter, vmware_converter, linux, red_hat



[aetm](#) 149 posts since

Jul 11, 2007 1. **Re: How to convert a physical Red Hat Linux 7.1 to a virtual machine - not supported by VMWare converter?** May 4, 2009 4:32 AM

Correct, it is not listed as supported and isn't supported.

How about using rsync instead?

Create a VM with the same kind, at least same size hard drive, same type of OS and same kernel on the destination, then create an exclusion list for files and directories you don't want or need copied over (/boot, /dev, /proc etc) and then run the rsync command with the `-delete` option.

When the Linux distributions are the same most (over 90%) of the files don't get transferred. If the /boot partition is excluded it's important that the two kernels are identical otherwise it will cause problems. If the /boot partition is rsync'd then the initrd file will be wrong and will have to be fixed. You may still want to keep the install discs ready, and man rsync for more options.



[AndreTheGiant](#) 5,935 posts since

Aug 28, 2008 2. **Re: How to convert a physical Red Hat Linux 7.1 to a virtual machine - not supported by VMWare converter?** May 4, 2009 4:48 AM

Have you try the new converter (the tar.gz version)?

<http://www.vmware.com/download/converter/>


In any case your distro seems to be too old, so you have to convert manually.



[anderskb](#) 2 posts since

May 4, 2009 3. **Re: How to convert a physical Red Hat Linux 7.1 to a virtual machine - not supported by VMWare converter?** May 4, 2009 5:49 AM


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 in response to: [aetm](#) Thanks for a precise answer, apparently we must use the rsync method or hide this old box in a corner, so it don't get hit by the virtualization wave. 😊



[vmweathers](#) 470 posts since

Oct 14, 2008 4. **Re: How to convert a physical Red Hat Linux 7.1 to a virtual machine - not supported by VMWare converter?** May 4, 2009 11:00 AM

 in response to: [anderskb](#) With the "rsync" method you'll still have to reinstall the boot loader, patch grub config, recreate the initrd, and patch fstab. You might as well copy **everything** over rsync if you do this (that is effectively what we do in Linux P2V anyways).

Alternatively you can use the Cold Clone ISO available as part of the Enterprise Converter 3.X versions -- that will also require you to fix the initrd, fstab, and grub by hand.

(If your question has been resolved please mark the answers as "Helpful" or "Correct".)