

Mapping scsi passthru to physical sata ...



xyz222 2 posts since

May 9, 2009

System is CentOS 5.3 64 bit running on a quad core AMD phenom with 8gb of ram. There are 4 1TB hitachi sata disks installed in the system, visible as /dev/sda sdb sdc and sdd. sda and sdb are beaing used as a raid-1 pair for the Centos Host install and for .vmdk files.

I want to map either /dev/sdc or /dev/sdd to a vm through the scsi passthrough adapter. Scsi passthrough lists available devices as /dev/sg0|1|2|3. Assuming that /dev/sg2 maps to /dev/sdc and /dev/sg3 maps to /dev/sdd if I try to specify either of these sg(2|3) devices for the scsi passthrough, a guest OS installation within the VM does not see any disk associated with the VM.

Interestingly, when I specify either /dev/sg0 or /dev/sg1 as my scsi passthrough device, the VM begins to boot my Host installation of CentOS5.3 which I quickly stop to ensure no corruption of my Host OS. So teh scsi passthru seems to work fopr an already installed OS disk.

Just downloaded and installed vmware-server 2.0.1.

What the heck happened to the old RDM capability within vmware-server 1.x?

TIA



wila 3,269 posts since

Jun 27, 2006 1. **Re: Mapping scsi passthru to physical sata disk on 2.0.1** May 11, 2009 1:41 PM

xyz222 wrote: I'm not sure if you can do what you want to try here. One thing is for sure, it is not going to be supported.

The virtual scsi passthrough device is only meant to be used for SCSI tape devices, trying to use it for anything else can have unpredictable results.

Interestingly, when I specify either /dev/sg0 or /dev/sg1 as my scsi passthrough device, the VM begins to boot my Host installation of CentOS5.3 which I quickly stop to ensure no corruption of my Host OS. So teh scsi passthru seems to work fopr an already installed OS disk.Eeks

What the heck happened to the old RDM capability within vmware-server 1.x?I think you guessed it already, but it has been removed.

--

Wil

Visit the VMware developers wiki at <http://www.vi-toolkit.com>



xyz222 2 posts since

May 9, 2009 2. **Re: Mapping scsi passthru to physical sata disk on 2.0.1** May 11, 2009 3:16 PM

👤 in response to: wila Maybe a better question is 'Why was RDM functionality removed in vmware-server 2.x?'

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wila 3,269 posts since

Jun 27, 2006 3. **Re: Mapping scsi passthru to physical sata disk on 2.0.1** May 12, 2009 1:21 AM

👤 in response to: xyz222 I'm afraid that only VMware can answer that question and I doubt they will answer it here.

My guess is that it is a premium feature they only want to support for paying customers?

RDM support is still available in VMware workstation.

I'm aware it is not in the user interface anymore, but that doesn't say it is not still working that way anymore.

Unfortunately I cannot test it here.

--

Wil

Visit the VMware developers wiki at <http://www.vi-toolkit.com>

edit: Another guess is that the Windows product under Vista doesn't allow RDM mappings anymore as the OS doesn't give you direct access to the disk. VMware usually tries to keep their products the same over ALL operating systems and by removing the feature it is the same....