

# ESX kickstart installation is seeing ...

---



[Tomahawk!](#) 10 posts since

Jan 3, 2007 I am installing ESX via DVD, and HTTP kickstart to my blade server. During the install the installer prompts me: "Partition table on device sda was unreadable...", and "Partition table on device sdb was unreadable...", and "Partition table on device sdc was unreadable..." etc. for what I believe to be all of my SAN drives presented to the blade. How do get the installer to skip these drives and to only format and install ESX onto the local drive (cciss/c0d0)? Here is the excerpt from my kickstart file that I am using:

```
install
lang en_US.UTF-8
langsupport --default en_US.UTF-8
keyboard us
mouse genericwheelps/2 --device psaux
skipx
network --device eth0 --bootproto static --ip 10.6.175.101 --netmask 255.255.255.0 --gateway 10.6.175.254
--hostname esxsvr02.localdomain
rootpw --iscrypted $1$I2FyAXFF$Syoo0KYopRRmQdgSv3kQp0
firewall --enabled
authconfig --enablesshadow --enablemd5
timezone --utc America/New_York
bootloader --location=mbr
reboot --eject
vmaccepteula

clearpart --all --initlabel --drives=cciss/c0d0

part / --size 5120 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3 --asprimary
part /boot --size 250 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3 --asprimary
part swap --size 1600 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype swap --asprimary
part /var --size 4096 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3
part /tmp --size 1024 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3
part /opt --size 2048 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3
part /home --size 1024 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3
part vmcore --size 100 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3
part VMFS --size 2048 --ondisk cciss/c0d0 --fstype ext3

%packages
grub

%post Tags: esx, installation, installing, kickstart
```

ESX kickstart installation is seeing ...



**Chamon** 822 posts since

Aug 15, 2007 1. **Re: ESX kickstart installation is seeing device sda, sdb, sdc....** May 14, 2009 1:32 PM

Two suggestions.

One is to remove the drivers for your HBA cards from your ISO and have the ks add the drivers in the post portion of the script

Two unrepresent the LUNs from the host before you run the install

Here is what ours look like for the partitioning. Notice that the file type for the VMFS is NOT ext3

1. Language Support

```
langsupport --default en_US
```

1. Keyboard

```
keyboard us
```

1. Mouse

```
mouse none
```

1. Reboot after install ?

```
reboot
```

1. Firewall settings

```
firewall --disabled
```

1. Clear Partitions

```
clearpart --all --initlabel --drives=cciss/c0d0
```

1. Partitioning

```
part /boot --fstype ext3 --size 250 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part / --fstype ext3 --size 5120 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part swap --size 2048 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part None --fstype vmfs3 --size 10000 --grow --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part None --fstype vmkcore --size 110 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part /var --fstype ext3 --size 4096 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part /tmp --fstype ext3 --size 5120 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part /home --fstype ext3 --size 1024 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

```
part /opt --fstype ext3 --size 3072 --ondisk cciss/c0d0
```

1. VMware Specific Commands

```
vmaccepteula
```

ESX kickstart installation is seeing ...

```
%packages
```

```
@base
```

```
@ everything
```

```
%post
```

```
#####
```

```
1. Configure DNS #
```

```
#####
```

Wow all of the # turned into 1. when I pased it in.

Message was edited by: Chamon



**dinny** 425 posts since

Sep 20, 2006 **2. Re: ESX kickstart installation is seeing device sda, sdb, sdc....** May 18, 2009 10:44 AM

Hiya,

You only need to remove the drivers from the ISO - you don't need to add them back in later - this is because the drivers are loaded specifically for the install - separate drivers are loaded by ESX itself, once it is installed.

I wrote a whitepaper on it ages ago:

(It was hosted on Xtraviert's site - but it doesn't seem to be there any more - pm me with your email address and I'll send you a copy...)

But even better easier just script it all - only takes 5 mins or so to amend the ISO


[http://www.jume.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=5](http://www.jume.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=5)

Dinny



**Texiwill** 10,212 posts since

Jan 13, 2004 **3. Re: ESX kickstart installation is seeing device sda, sdb, sdc....** May 19, 2009 6:48 AM

 in response to: **dinny** Hello,

Add a %pre section to REMOVE the drivers for the HBA from the installer. This is the problem. You should either disconnect the cables, depresent the LUNs, or remove the drivers. On the remove timing is most important.

Best regards, Edward L. Haletky VMware Communities User Moderator, VMware vExpert 2009, [DABCC Analyst](#)

Now Available on Rough-Cuts: '[VMware vSphere\(TM\) and Virtual Infrastructure Security: Securing ESX and the Virtual Environment](#)'

Also available '[VMWare ESX Server in the Enterprise](#)'

[SearchVMware Proj](#) | [Blue Gears](#) | [Top Virtualization Security Links](#) | [Virtualization Security Round Table Podcast](#)



**timmp** 23 posts since

ESX kickstart installation is seeing ...

May 2, 2006 4. **Re: ESX kickstart installation is seeing device sda, sdb, sdc....** Jun 4, 2009 10:26 AM

 in response to: [Texiwill](#) So to add to the previous thread, your kickstart file would have something like this:

1. VMWare License options

```
vmaccepteula
```

```
%vmlicense_text
```

```
%packages
```

```
@base
```

```
%pre
```

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
1. =====
```

1. This will remove the loaded HBA modules from the kernel

```
remove_qla() {
```

```
for i in $(lsmod | grep qla | awk '{print $1}'); do
```

```
echo Will remove: $i >> /dev/tty1
```

```
rmmod $i
```

```
sleep 1
```

```
done
```

```
}
```

```
remove_lpfc() {
```

```
for i in $(lsmod | grep lpfc | awk '{print $1}'); do
```

```
echo Will remove: $i >> /dev/tty1
```

```
rmmod $i
```

```
sleep 1
```

```
done
```

```
}
```

```
remove_qla
```

```
sleep 2
```

```
remove_qla
```

```
remove_lpfc
```


```
%post
```

The above should remove the Emulex and Qlogic HBA's prior to installation.



[mcowger](#) 2,065 posts since

Aug 22, 2007 5. **Re: ESX kickstart installation is seeing device sda, sdb, sdc....** Jun 4, 2009 11:00 AM

 in response to: [timmp](#) Thats a neat trick - never thought of that one.

ESX kickstart installation is seeing ...

Will add that to my kickstart so I dont have to shut/noshut my fiber switch ports during install.

Thanks!

--Matt

VCP, vExpert, Unix Geek



[timp](#) 23 posts since

May 2, 2006 6. Re: **ESX kickstart installation is seeing device sda, sdb, sdc....** Jun 4, 2009 11:58 AM

in response to: [mcowger](#)

Yes it works well. I am still paranoid and disable the fiber switch ports anyways. Defense in depths 😊

Nothing worse than mashing an existing lun or wiping one that has running vm's on it.