

ESX Drive Formatting ...



[Dinty](#) 49 posts since

Aug 21, 2007

I have some old drives (XP O/S) that I would now like to use for ESX. What is the best way to do a comprehensive format in ESX such that the old data has been erased?

Thanks.



[ZaWizZ](#) 268 posts since

Jul 27, 2007 1. **Re: ESX Drive Formatting** Jun 26, 2009 6:34 AM

AFAIK creating an ESX Datastore erases the existing partitions.

-Arnim van Lieshout

Blogging: <http://www.van-lieshout.com>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/avlieshout>

If you find this information useful, please award points for "correct" or "helpful".



[@m!t](#) 53 posts since

Apr 8, 2008 2. **Re: ESX Drive Formatting** Jun 26, 2009 6:39 AM

Ya, if you want to create vmfs volume or ESX ,you need to format.

-@m!t



[Dinty](#) 49 posts since

Aug 21, 2007 3. **Re: ESX Drive Formatting** Jun 26, 2009 6:53 AM

👤 in response to: [ZaWizZ](#) Sure, this erases the partitions but I was looking for something more complete. Something more akin to what Windows server offers during installation (NTFS full format).



[mcowger](#) 2,078 posts since

Aug 22, 2007 4. **Re: ESX Drive Formatting** Jun 26, 2009 7:17 AM

👤 in response to: [Dinty](#) No such thing is required or possible during install.

--Matt

VCP, vExpert, Unix Geek

ESX Drive Formatting ...



[Chuck8773](#) 229 posts since

May 4, 2007 5. **Re: ESX Drive Formatting** Jun 26, 2009 7:19 AM

👤 in response to: [mcowger](#)

If you really want to nuke the disk prior to install, check out <http://www.dban.org/>.

We use this to wipe any disks before they leave our datacenter.

Charles Killmer, VCP

If you found this or other information useful, please consider awarding points for "Correct" or "Helpful".



[Dinty](#) 49 posts since

Aug 21, 2007 6. **Re: ESX Drive Formatting** Jun 26, 2009 7:40 AM

👤 in response to: [mcowger](#) What about after install from the VIC console?



[mcowger](#) 2,078 posts since

Aug 22, 2007 7. **Re: ESX Drive Formatting** Jun 26, 2009 7:48 AM

👤 in response to: [Dinty](#) There is no concept of a 'full' format for VMFS.

If you REALLY wanted to, from the system console (not the GUI), you could do something like:

```
dd if=/dev/zero of=/dev/sdX bs=1M
```

to wipe the whole disk sdX before you reformat it, but its 100% unnecessary and a waste of time. Will not improve performance or anything else.

--M