

Zero out VM images ...



NSITPS 56 posts since

Jan 25, 2009

At this current time what is the best method for zeroing out unpopulated areas of VMDKs prior to image level backups - Also, is it safe and does it work?

Thanks



Texiwill 10,205 posts since

Jan 13, 2004 **1. Re: Zero out VM images** Jun 27, 2009 7:35 AM

Hello,

Moved to Security forum.

If your VMDK format is Zeroed Thick then the unpopulated blocks are zeroed by default. The same for Eager Zeroed Thick. If you use Thin disks then this is not the case but unallocated/unpopulated blocks will not be part of your backup either.

I am not sure there is a way to zero the unpopulated blocks. If there is it is something you would use from within the Guest OS.

Best regards,

Edward L. Haletky VMware Communities User Moderator, VMware vExpert 2009, [Virtualization Practice Analyst](#)

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NSITPS 56 posts since

Jan 25, 2009 **2. Re: Zero out VM images** Jun 27, 2009 11:49 AM

in response to: [Texiwill](#)

What I am getting at is this:

When files are deleted within the guest OS bits are left behind which are included in image backups (vRanger etc) - I have read that you can zero areas on disk and thus not back them up...

I have seen people refer to sdelete and the shrink option within vmware tools.....

I want to know if sdelete - shrink is still the option which should be used to accomplish this????

Not sure this is meant for the security area though...

Thanks



continuum 12,616 posts since

Zero out VM images ...

Dec 18, 2003 3. **Re: Zero out VM images** Jun 27, 2009 1:43 PM

 in response to: [NSITPS](#) have a look here

<http://www.feyrer.de/g4u/#shrinking>


it lists several tools for various guest types

[VMX-parameters- VMware-liveCD - VM-Sickbay](#)



[Texiwill](#) 10,205 posts since

Jan 13, 2004 4. **Re: Zero out VM images** Jun 30, 2009 9:09 AM

 in response to: [NSITPS](#) Hello,

Zeroing out anything within a VM is really a security/anti-forensics issue. However, now that I know the specifics what Continuum has mentioned is the place to start your research.

Best regards,

Edward L. Haletky VMware Communities User Moderator, VMware vExpert 2009, [Virtualization Practice Analyst](#)

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[continuum](#) 12,616 posts since

Dec 18, 2003 5. **Re: Zero out VM images** Jun 30, 2009 9:43 AM

 in response to: [Texiwill](#) it is also useful to safe time with backups ...

[VMX-parameters- VMware-liveCD - VM-Sickbay](#)