Connection of a Fibre channel library to an ESXi 6.0 and configuration of the devices in VM for use by backup software.

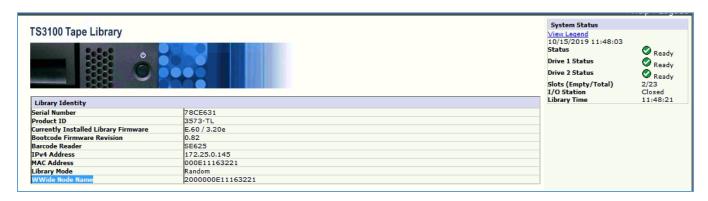
Hardware

- One Server (Certified and compatible with VMware vSphere).
- Two fiber channel HBAs in the Server.
- An IBM TS3100 library with fiber channel connection.
- Two SAN switches to which the server and the library will be connected.
- The TS3100 library (3573) must have two internal drives (3580).
- FC cables between the server HBAs and the SAN switches
- FC cables between the library and the SAN switches.

Software

- VMware ESXi version 6.0 Update 3
- VMware vSphere Client 6.0
- VM Windows 2012R2 (installed and configured on ESXi 6.0)
- Install latest Firmware on HBAs, Library and Switch SAN (recommended)

By logging in to the GUI of the library we have.



Drive Identity	1 (LUN)
Vendor ID	IBM
Product ID	ULT3580-HH7
Serial Number	10WT060285
Firmware Revision	H9E3
Element Address	256
Control Path Drive	Ves
Data Compression	Yes
Interface Type	Fibre Channel
Node Name	2001000E11163221
Port A	Enabled
Port Name	2002000E11163221
Topology	LN-Port
FC-AL Loop ID	Manual
Speed	4 Gb/sec
Port B	Disabled

Drive Identity	2
Vendor ID	IBM
Product ID	ULT3580-HH7
Serial Number	10WT063224
Firmware Revision	H9E3
Element Address	257
Control Path Drive	No
Data Compression	Yes
Interface Type	Fibre Channel
Node Name	2004000E11163221
Port A	Enabled
Port Name	2005000E11163221
Topology	LN-Port
FC-AL Loop ID	Manual
Speed	4 Gb/sec
Port B	Disabled

Here we see the WWN of the TS3100 library, Drive 1 and Drive 2.

Configuration steps

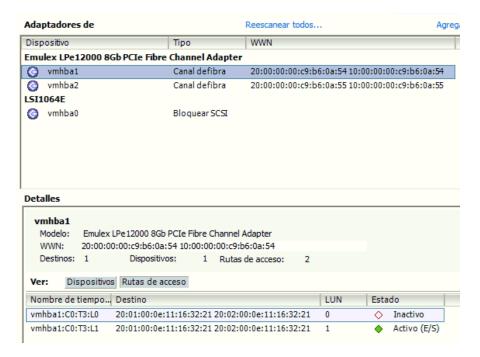
- 1. Fiber cables are connected between the HBAs and the SAN Switches. A connection in each Switch.
- 2.- The fiber cables are connected between the Drivers (library) and the SAN Switches. One connection in each Switch.
- 3.- Login to the GUI of the Switch SAN and configure and activate the following Zones:

HBA1_Drive1 (SW1)

HBA2_Drive2 (SW2) (It is recommended to create zones by WWN)

4.- Log into the ESXi 6.0 using the VMware vSphere client 6.0 and activate the SSH access. Then in the configuration/adapters section verify which devices were detected and their status.

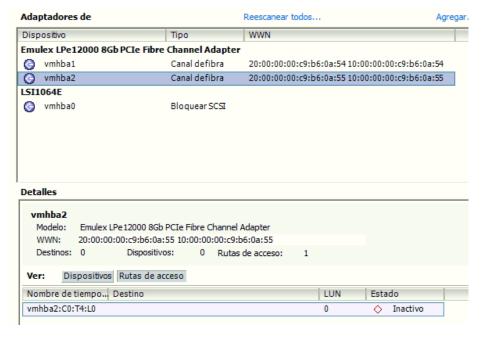
Devices were detected and their status, in the HBAs (vmhba1 and vmhba2).



Here we see drive 1 and the library, HBA1_Drive1 zone on the Switch (SW1).

The drive1 fiber connection on the TS3100 library gives access to both drive1 and the Medium changer (usually called the library).

In vmhba2 we have the drive2



5.- Login to ESXi 6.0 through a SSH connection (Putty), to verify how the devices are recognized in VMware vSphere. devices are recognized in VMware vSphere.

We use the following command

[root@ESXi1:~] esxcli storage nmp device list

```
t10.IBM___35732DTL____00L2U78CE631_LL0

Device Display Name: IBM Fibre Channel Medium Changer (t10.IBM___35732DTL___00L2U78CE631_LL0)

Storage Array Type: VMW_SATP_DEFAULT_AA

Storage Array Type Device Config: {action_OnRetryErrors=off}}

Path Selection Policy: VMW_PSP_FIXED

Path Selection Policy Device Config: {preferred=vmhba1:C0:T3:L1;current=vmhba1:C0:T3:L1}

Path Selection Policy Device Custom Config:

Working Paths: vmhba1:C0:T3:L1

Is USB: false

[root@VMwareB7:~]
```

Here we have the medium changer on vmhba1:C0:T3:L1, which is our only active device. Drive1 (vmhba1:C0:T3:L0) is inactive.

With the following command we can see that Drive2 (vmhba1:C0:T4:L0) is not registered so the path is not active.

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[root@VMwareB7:/var/log] vi vmkernel.log

2019-10-14T08:49:11.339Z cpu3:3305153)WARNING: NMP: nmpPathClaimEnd:1204: Device, seen through path **vmhba1:C0:T4:L0** is not registered (no active paths)

Theoretical Detail

VMware Pluggable Storage Architecture (PSA) Framework loads the multi-path add-on, which is generally responsible for I/O operations of certain classes of devices.

Two plugins are included with the hypervisor:

The Native Multipath Plugin (NMP) add-on and the "MASK_PATH" add-on that hides unnecessary devices. Some vendors develop their own MP plugins, such as EMC PowerPath / VE or Symantec / Veritas DMP.

NMP implements its functionality through Path Selection Plugin (PSP) and Storage Array Type Plugin (SATP).

For devices, rules have been created that determine how exactly MP and SATP handle this or that device.

With the following command we can view the list of SATP rules

[root@ESXi1:~] esxcli storage nmp satp list

In step 5 we obtained the data from the Medium Changer library.

```
t10.IBM____35732DTL_____00L2U78CE631_LL0

Device Display Name: IBM Fibre Channel Medium Changer (t10.IBM____35732DTL_____00L2U78CE631_LL0)

Storage Array Type: VMW_SATP_DEFAULT_AA

Storage Array Type Device Config: {action_OnRetryErrors=off}

Path Selection Policy: VMW_PSP_FIXED

Path Selection Policy Device Config: {preferred=vmhba1:C0:T3:L1;current=vmhba1:C0:T3:L1}

Path Selection Policy Device Custom Config:
Working Paths: vmhba1:C0:T3:L1

Is USB: false
[root@VMwareB7:~]
```

The type is **VMW_SATP_DEFAULT_AA** which is the default for non-specific Arrays.

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VMware

The library is identified as a set of LUNs of a SCSI Target

LUN 0 - Fiber Channel Tape

LUN 1 - Fiber Channel Medium Changer

It is necessary to convert the devices to simple local, for which the type must be manually modified to VMW_SATP_LOCAL

6.- Execute the following commands to include the rules for the library and the drives.

esxcli storage nmp satp rule add --satp=VMW_SATP_LOCAL --vendor="IBM" --model= "3573-TL"

esxcli storage nmp satp rule add --satp=VMW_SATP_LOCAL --vendor="IBM" --model="ULT3580-HH7"

The TS3100 library has 2 internal LTO 7 HH drives, which are technically identified as ULT3580-HH7 (Product ID).

The vendor and model data can be obtained with the following command, but if it is the IBM TS3100 or TS3200 Library they are the same.

[root@ESXi1:~] esxcli storage core device list

Finally, we release the original location of the library (vmhba1:C0:T3:L1) with the following command.

esxcli storage core claiming unclaim -t location -A vmhba1 -C 0 -T 3 -L 1

- 7.- Now we restart the ESXi so that all the devices are recognized correctly and their respective paths are activated.
- 8.- We enter the ESXI 6.0 through the web client and observe that the library and the two drives are present and recognized.



Log back into ESXi 6.0, using Putty to check that the devices are correctly recognized and active. Execute the following command

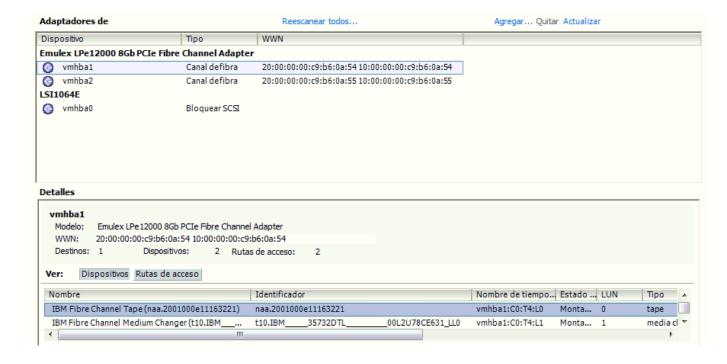
[root@ESXi1:~] esxcli storage nmp device list

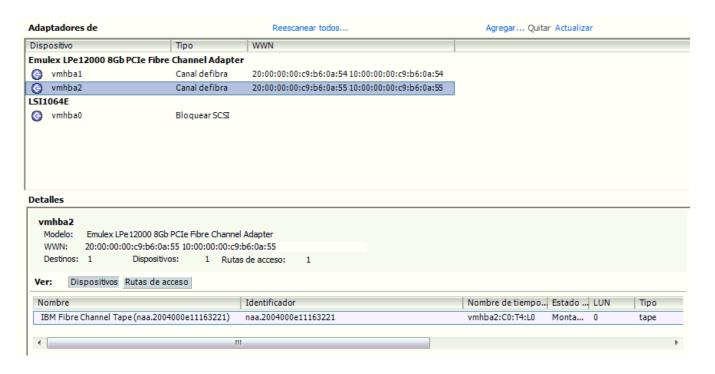
```
Device Display Name: IBM Fibre Channel Tape (naa.2004000e11163221)
  Storage Array Type: VMW_SATP_LOCAL
  Storage Array Type Device Config: SATP VMW SATP LOCAL does not support device configuration.
  Path Selection Policy: VMW_PSP_FIXED
   Path Selection Policy Device Config: {preferred=vmhba2:C0:T4:L0;current=vmhba2:C0:T4:L0}
  Path Selection Policy Device Custom Config:
  Working Paths: vmhba2:C0:T4:L0
  Is USB: false
naa.2001000e11163221
  Device Display Name: IBM Fibre Channel Tape (naa.2001000e11163221)
  Storage Array Type: VMW_SATP_LOCAL
  Storage Array Type Device Config: SATP VMW_SATP_LOCAL does not support device configuration.
  Path Selection Policy: VMW PSP FIXED
  Path Selection Policy Device Config: {preferred=vmhba1:C0:T4:L0;current=vmhba1:C0:T4:L0}
  Path Selection Policy Device Custom Config:
  Working Paths: vmhba1:C0:T4:L0
  Is USB: false
  .IBM____35732DTL____00L2U78CE631_LL0

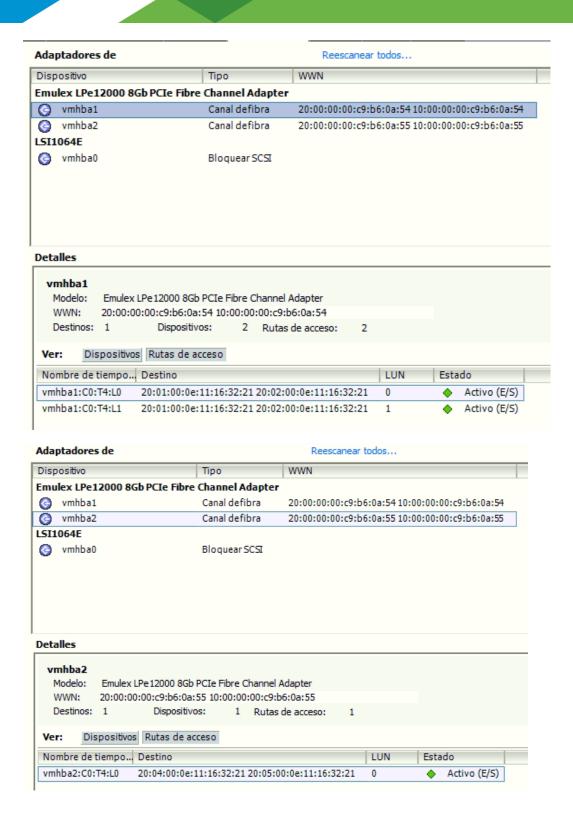
Device Display Name: IBM Fibre Channel Medium Changer (t10.IBM___35732DTL____00L2U78CE631_LL0)
t10.IBM
  Storage Array Type: VMW SATP LOCAL
  Storage Array Type Device Config: SATP VMW_SATP_LOCAL does not support device configuration.
   Path Selection Policy: VMW_PSP_FIXED
  Path Selection Policy Device Config: {preferred=vmhba1:C0:T4:L1;current=vmhba1:C0:T4:L1}
  Path Selection Policy Device Custom Config:
   Working Paths: vmhba1:C0:T4:L1
   Is USB: false
```

We log in to ESXi 6.0 through the VMware vSphere Client and also check that the devices are recognized and with their paths active.

VMware







Configuration of library and drives in VM for use with Backup Software.

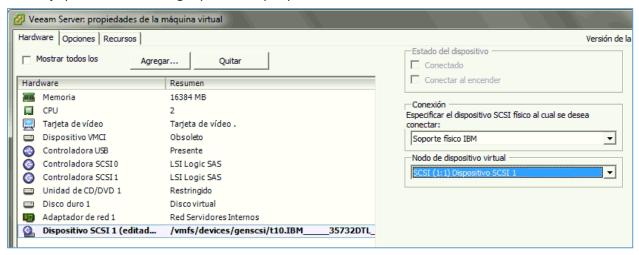
It requires a VM (Windows 2012R2) installed and configured on ESXi 6.0, in which the library connections were previously configured.

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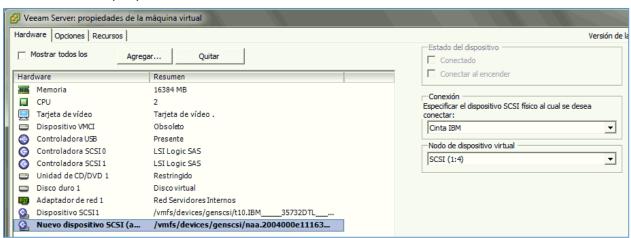
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In the edit setting section of the VM, proceed to include the devices (NEW SCSI). For each device a different SCSI Controller must be created.

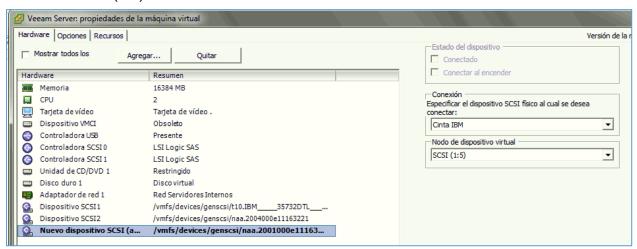
Library (Medium Changer) SCSI (1:1)



Drive 2 SCSI (1:4)



Drive 1 SCSI (1:5)



The VM is turned on and the drivers are installed so that Windows recognizes the devices, in this case we use the driver version 6.2.6.6, obtained from IBM's Fixcentral web site





Conclusions

We have used the IBM TS3100 library, but the process in general can be applied to other libraries from different manufacturers, with minor modifications.

Disclaimer

None of the opinions and/or expressions herein are offered by VMware or my employer. Everything here is my personal experience and point of view.