

VMware P2V Assistant

Enterprise-class tool for physical to virtual machine migration



What Is VMware P2V Assistant?

VMware® P2V Assistant 2 is an enterprise-class migration tool that transforms an image of an existing physical system into a VMware virtual machine. This easy to use market proven tool enables fast and reliable physical to virtual machine migration for Microsoft® Windows® operating systems ranging from Windows NT 4 to Windows Server 2003.

What are the Applications and Benefits of VMware P2V Assistant?

Having pioneered the automation of physical to virtual machines in 2002, VMware has now released a new version of P2V Assistant that builds on the experiences and feedback of more than 300 enterprise customers.

P2V Assistant performs all necessary substitutions to transform a physical system into a production-ready virtual machine, by guiding the administrator through an easy to use GUI wizard:

- Creates an image of the source machine with built-in imaging or 3rd party imaging tool
- Performs all necessary disk controller and driver substitutions so the virtual machine can be booted
- Recommends additional configuration modifications to make the new virtual machine production ready

For enterprises that wish to take advantage of virtualization in their IT operations VMware® P2V Assistant 2 provides:

- An automated solution for fast, reliable physical to virtual migration
- Support for a wide range of Windows platforms from NT 4 to Windows Server 2003
- Ease of use, refined through thousands of customer deployments
- Market proven mature technology supported by consulting services and authorized partners
- Compatibility with the best in class VMware software

Without VMware, migrating our applications would have taken months to years because we'd have to rewrite everything. With VMware, it took only hours, and our systems and configurations were preserved as-is. The P2V Assistant really makes life so much easier."

Suraj Dalal
Senior Systems Engineer, Guardian Life



VMware P2V Assistant uses a wizard to guide you through creating a clone of a physical system in a virtual machine.

The solutions that benefit from this best in class virtual machine creating tool include:

- **Fast and Clean Migrations of Existing Applications to VMware Virtual Machines** — VMware P2V Assistant speeds up the migration process, cuts down on set-up time and delivers value on investments in VMware software in the shortest time-frame possible, by eliminating the need to re-install software and configure complex application environments. VMware P2V Assistant simplifies migration to VMware virtual infrastructure, the foundation of the next generation computing in the enterprise.
- **Efficient QA and Debugging** — VMware P2V Assistant can capture images of production systems into VMware virtual machines and redeploy these images in a consolidated “sandbox” environment. Enterprises can minimize disruptions to production servers by troubleshooting problems and testing changes in this exact replica of the production environment.
- **Disaster Recovery and Backup** — With VMware P2V Assistant, users can periodically capture production systems into a library of “offline” virtual machines that can be activated in the event of a disaster to minimize service disruption.
- **Standardizing on Virtual Infrastructure**— Enterprises can move away from obsolete and “orphan” platforms and quickly migrate legacy applications to a consolidated VMware virtual machine environment and, in doing so, upgrade these servers to new hardware. With minimal downtime IT administrators can migrate all their heterogeneous physical servers and existing virtual machines (VMware or not) to the best in class VMware platforms to take advantage of flexibility, cost advantages, and streamlined management that virtual infrastructure brings.

KEY FEATURES

- Non-intrusively copy and transform physical systems into VMware virtual machines
- Migrate existing applications complete with configurations and data across heterogeneous hardware and Windows systems
- Easy to use wizard based interface and virtual machine configuration tips
- Proactively readjust disk sizes, types and partitions to maximize utilization of storage resources.
- Utilize built-in or third party imaging technologies to create a virtual machine clone of a physical system
- Initiate the P2V process from a backup or system clone to minimize system downtime.

NEW IN VMWARE P2V ASSISTANT 2

- Simpler to Use**
- Simplifies the conversion process
 - No need to supply Windows service packs and hot fixes during conversion
 - Automated post conversion virtual machine configuration tips
 - Fewer conversions require manual intervention
- Support for a wider range of systems**
- Support for Windows 2003
 - Support for Windows XP
 - Support for SMP systems
- Optimized for latest VMware platforms**
- ESX Server 2.x with Virtual SMP
 - GSX Server 3.x
 - Workstation 4.x

Why Use VMware ESX Server?	
USAGE SCENARIOS	BENEFITS
Fast and clean migration of existing applications to VMware virtual machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce downtime during conversion • Reduce application installation and configuration cycle times • Reduce risk of incorrect application configuration / data synchronization
Efficient QA and debugging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test in realistic environments • Improve time to market
Disaster Recovery and Backup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create exact replica of the production environment for contingency planning and disaster recovery
Standardizing on Virtual Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrate all your physical and existing virtual machines to the best in class VMware platforms
Legacy server migration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrate legacy applications off obsolete, unsupported hardware • Eliminate risk and need to locate and follow obsolete installation procedure and replicate configuration
Pre-deployment Patch Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatically improve patch testing and staging procedures without exorbitant hardware budgets • Replicate environments exactly without lengthy configuration cycles

SPECIFICATIONS

Provides:

Product Elements

- P2V Boot CD
- P2V Application CD (P2V Assistant)
- Third Party Imaging Tools — optionally used as an alternative method to create clones
 - Cloning Software, such as Symantec Ghost or PowerQuest Image Center
 - Backup Software, such as Veritas Backup Exec
- Helper Virtual Machine — intermediary between the source and target machines
- Helper Virtual Machine Operating System should match the source machine OS

VMware products supported by P2V Assistant

- P2V Assistant Version 1**
- VMware Workstation 3.x and 4.x or later
 - VMware GSX Server 2.x or later
 - VMware ESX Server 1.5.2 and 2.x or later
- P2V Assistant Version 2**
- VMware Workstation 4.5 or later
 - VMware GSX Server 3.0 or later
 - VMware ESX Server 2.0.1 or later

Hardware Considerations

- P2V Assistant 2 supports the ACPI technology. P2V Assistant 1 continues to support older versions of VMware products. P2V Assistant 2 and P2V Assistant 1 can reside on the same system simultaneously.
- P2V Assistant always converts IDE drives into SCSI.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Supported Source System OS

- Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0 or Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, NT 4.0 Service Pack 4 or later
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional, Microsoft Windows 2000 Server,
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server, Service Pack 1 or later
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 with volume license

Supported Hardware

- Please see http://www.vmware.com/support/p2v2/doc/p2v_hardware.pdf for a complete listing of currently tested source hardware.

