How to upgrade ESXi / vCenter server

In this post, I am going to upgrade ESXi server to Sep version. I was running below version.

ESXi 8.0 Update 1	ESXi 8.0 Update 1	2023/04/18	21495797	NA	ISO

VMWare released updated version last month. It is time to perform in place upgrade all lab esxi servers.

Version	Release Name	Release Date	Build Number	Installer Build Number	Available as
ESXi 8.0 Update 2	ESXi 8.0 Update 2	2023/09/21	22380479	NA	ISO

📦 VMware-VMvisor-Installer-8.0U2-22380479.x86_64.iso

Make a bootable disk and boot the server using USB stick.
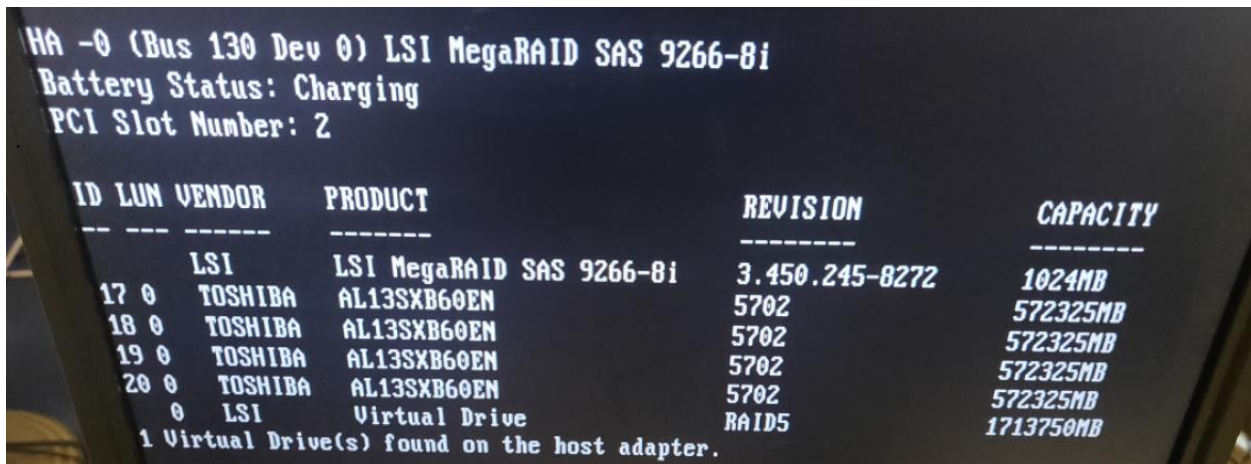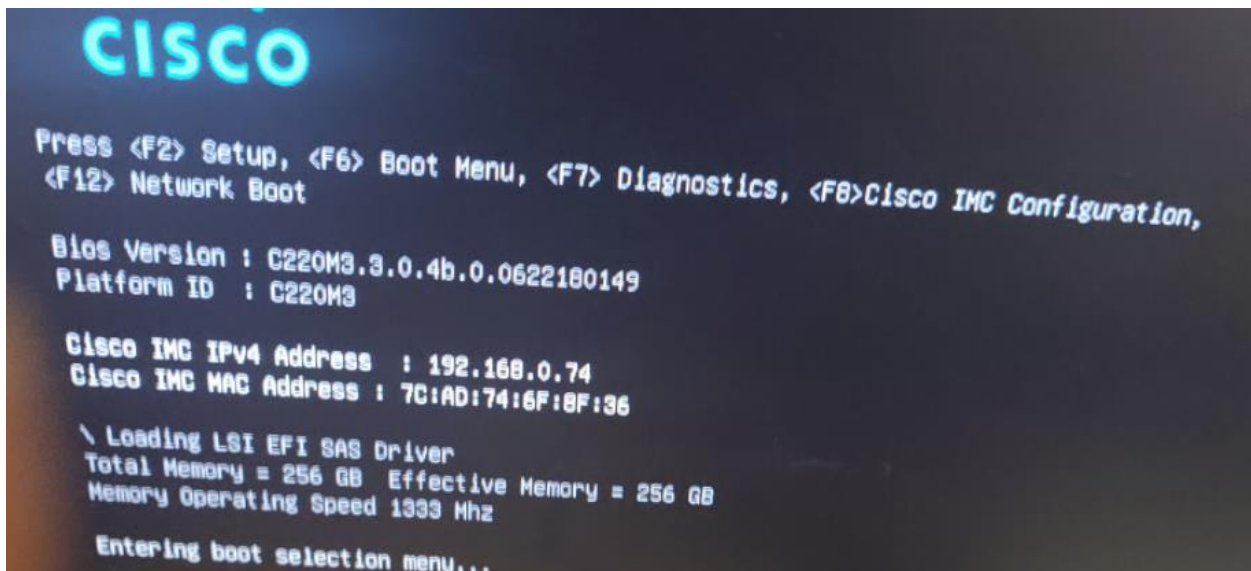
Please select boot device:

(Bus 82 Dev 00)PCI RAID Adapter
UEFI: IP4 Broadcom Adv. Dual 10GBASE-T Ethernet
UEFI: IP4 Intel(R) I350 Gigabit Network Connection
UEFI: IP4 Broadcom Adv. Dual 10GBASE-T Ethernet
UEFI: Built-in EFI Shell
UEFI: IP4 Intel(R) I350 Gigabit Network Connection
SanDisk Cruzer Edge 1.27
HV
UEFI: SanDisk Cruzer Edge 1.27
Enter Setup

↑ and ↓ to move selection
ENTER to select boot device
ESC to boot using defaults

ESXi-8.0U2-22380479-standard Boot Menu

ESXi-8.0U2-22380479-standard Installer
Boot from local disk

Loading ESXI Installer

Loading boot.cfg
Loading /b.b00
Loading /jumpstrt.gz
Loading /useropts.gz
Loading /features.gz
Loading /k.b00
Loading /uc_intel.b00
Loading /uc_amd.b00
Loading /uc_hygon.b00
Loading /procfs.b00
Loading /vmx.v00

Cisco Systems Inc UCSC-C220-M3S

2 x Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2640 0 @ 2.50GHz
256 GiB Memory

esxio loaded successfully.

activating: auto-configure-networking
activating: generate-certs

Welcome to the VMware ESXi 8.0.2 Installation

VMware ESXi 8.0.2 installs on most systems but only
systems on VMware's Compatibility Guide are supported.

Consult the VMware Compatibility Guide at:
http://www.vmware.com/resources/compatibility

Select the operation to perform.

(Esc) Cancel   (Enter) Continue

Select a Disk to Install or Upgrade
(any existing VMFS-3 will be automatically upgraded to VMFS-5)

* Contains a VMFS partition
# Claimed by VMware vSAN

Storage Device
                                                                    Capacity
----
Local:
  * LSI   MR9266-8i
    SanDisk Cruzer Edge   (naa.6006050b006f0eec023f329a0Be675703)   1.63 TiB
    Cypress West Bridge   (mpx.vmhba32:C0:T0:L0)   58.46 GiB
  Remote: (mpx.vmhba33:C0:T0:L0)   14.00 GiB
    (none)

(Esc) Cancel   (F1) Details   (F5) Refresh   (Enter) Continue

ESXi and VMFS Found

The selected storage device contains an installation of ESXi and a VMFS datastore. Choose from the following b option(s).

Dev (X) Upgrade ESXi, preserve VMFS datastore
---- ( ) Install ESXi, preserve VMFS datastore
( ) Install ESXi, overwrite VMFS datastore

nDisk   Use the arrow keys and spacebar to select an option.
upress

Error(s)/Warning(s) Found During System Scan

The system encountered the following warning(s).

Warning(s)

<BIOS_FIRMWARE_TYPE WARNING: Legacy boot detected. ESXi servers running legacy BIOS are encouraged to move to UEFI. Please refer to KB 84233 for more details.>

Warning(s)

<CPU_SUPPORT OVERRIDEWARNING: The CPUs on this host are not supported by ESXi 8.0.2. You can override and force install, but it is not officially supported nor recommended. Please refer to

Use the arrow keys to scroll

(Esc) Cancel   (F9) Back   (Enter) Continue

Error(s)/Warning(s) Found During System Scan

The system encountered the following warning(s).

Warning(s)

Are you sure you want to force unsupported installation of ESXi 8.0.2?

(Esc) Cancel   (F9) Back

Confirm Upgrade

The installer is configured to upgrade your
system from ESXi 8.0.1 to ESXi 8.0.2
on:naa.600605b006f6eec023f329ad0e675783.

(Esc) Cancel   (F9) Back   (F11) Upgrade

Upgrading to

ESXi 8.0.2

20 %

Upgrade Complete

This system has been upgraded to ESXi 8.0.2 successfully.

ESXi 8.0.2 will operate in evaluation mode for 60 days
if a valid license is not found on the system.
To use ESXi 8.0.2 after the evaluation period, you must
register for a VMware product license.

To administer your server, navigate to the server's
hostname or IP address from your web browser or use the
Direct Control User Interface.

Remove the installation media before rebooting.
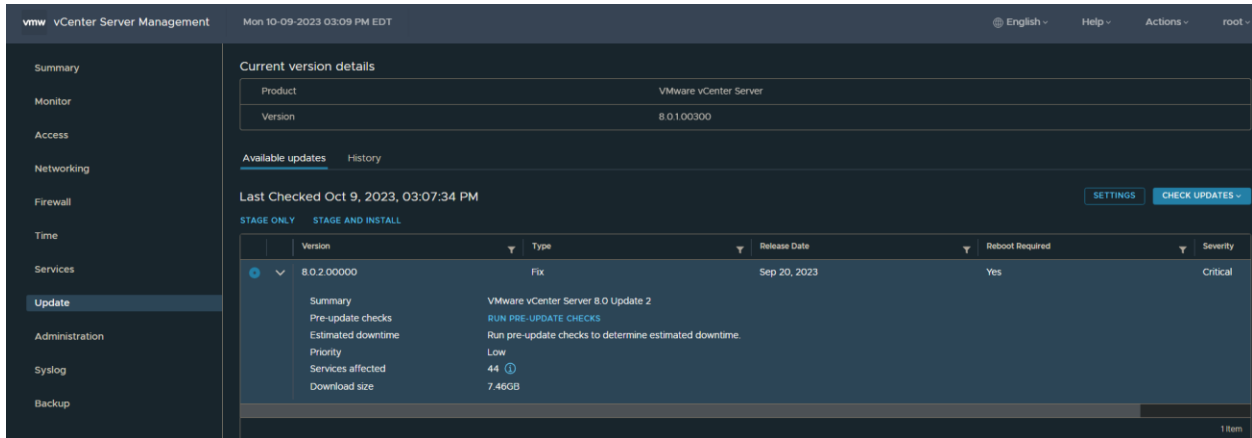
Reboot the server to start using ESXi 8.0.2.
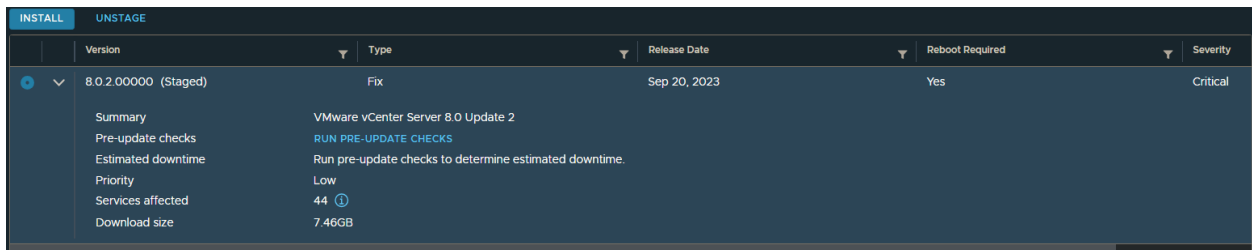(Enter) Reboot
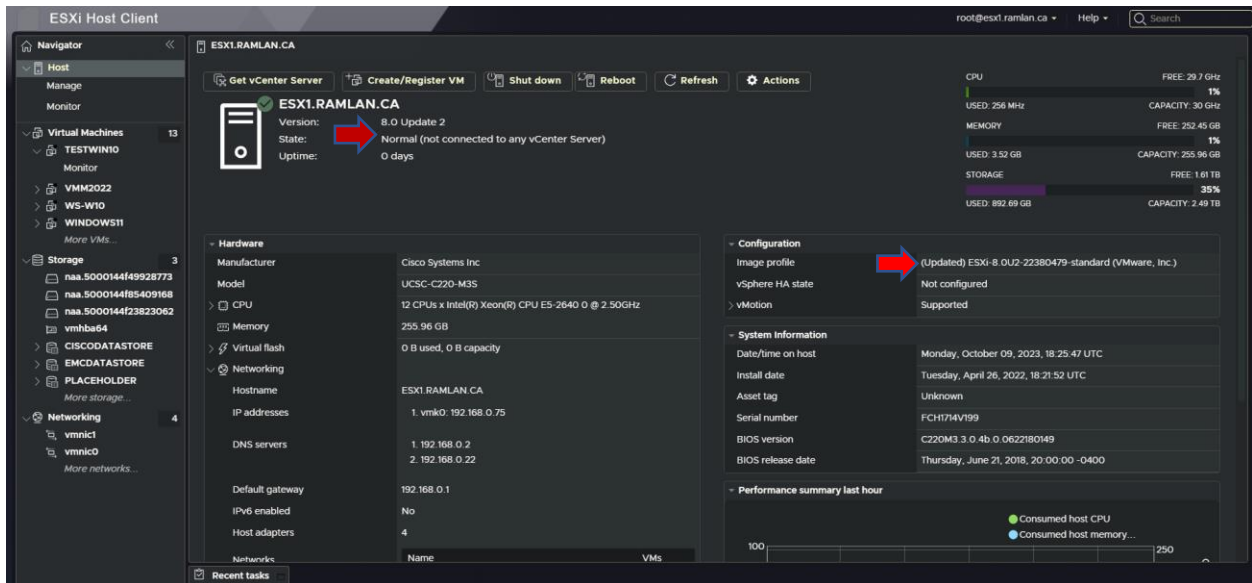
This concludes on in place upgrade of ESXi server.

How to upgrade vCenter Server Appliance

Login to vCenter appliance server and check for update. I am running below version

I will stage first and then complete the install.

Install Update

End user license agreement

VMWARE GENERAL TERMS

Last updated:16 June 2022

By downloading or using an Offering, Customer agrees to be bound by the terms of the Agreement.

1. OFFERINGS.

1.1. Applicable Terms. The terms of the Order and these General Terms, including applicable Exhibits and Offering-specific Notes (collectively, the "Agreement") govern Customer's use of the Offerings. The following descending order of precedence applies: (a) the Order; (b) the General Terms; (c) the Exhibits; and (d) the Offering-specific Notes.

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☑ I accept the terms of the license agreement.

CANCEL   **NEXT**

Install Update

1 End user license agreement

2 **Backup vCenter Server**

Backup vCenter Server

ⓘ It is recommended that you backup vCenter Server before installing any update or patch.

Estimated downtime to vCenter Server: **48 minutes**

To use the file based backup utility, go to Backups

☑ I have backed up vCenter Server and its associated databases.

CANCEL   BACK   **FINISH**

Installation in progress

10%

Running precheck ◌

CANCEL INSTALLATION

Installation in progress

25%

Taking LVM Snapshot based vCenter backup

CANCEL INSTALLATION

Installation Succeeded

100%

Installation complete ✓

CLOSE

Current version details

Product	VMware vCenter Server
Version	8.0.2.00000

Available updates   History

Last Checked Oct 9, 2023, 05:52:32 PM   SETTINGS   CHECK UPDATES ˅

STAGE ONLY   STAGE AND INSTALL

Version	▼	Type	▼	Release Date	▼	Reboot Required	▼	Severity	▼

No applicable update found.

Hostname:	VCPD.RAMLAN.CA
Product:	VMware vCenter Server
Version:	8.0.2.00000
Build number:	22385739
Uptime:	1 hour 34 minutes

Health Status

Overall Health	⚠ Alert (Last checked Oct 9, 2023, 05:52:55 PM)
CPU	⊘ Good
› Memory	⚠ Alert
Database	⊘ Good
Storage	⊘ Good
Swap	⊘ Good

Single Sign-On

Domain	vsphere.local
Status	Running

This concludes vCenter in place upgrade.

Thanks

Ram
9th Oct 2023