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iSCSI Port Binding fails with error: Add NIC failed in IMA



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Details

- Trying to bind a VMkernel port to the software iSCSI initiator using the following command fails:

```
esxcli swiscsi nic add -n vmk0 -d vmhba32
```

- You see the error:

```
Add NIC failed in IMA.
```

Note: Access the VMkernel interface by running the command # `esxcfg-vmknic -l`

Solution

The software iSCSI initiator (for example, vmhba32) typically has 2 VMkernel ports bound to it (for example, vmk0 & vmk1). These VMkernel ports may in turn be associated with uplinks (for example, vmnic0 and vmnic1) on a vswitch.

If the switch has 2 uplinks (typical example), then the first vmkernel port (in this example, vmk0) must have one uplink active (in this example, vmnic0) and the other uplink unused (in this example, vmnic1). The second VMkernel port (in this example, vmk1) must have one uplink active (in this example, vmnic1) and the other uplink unused (in this example, vmnic0).

If the second NIC is not placed in unused mode, the operation fails.

To resolve this issue, ensure that the other NIC is in unused mode when doing iSCSI port binding.

This issue may also occur if you provide the wrong parameter to the flag `-n` in the command `esxcli swiscsi nic add -n vmk0 -d vmhba32`. Ensure all parameters are correct.

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