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## Identify virtual disk format types

July 15th, 2010

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ESX currently supports 10 unique disk formats.

- zeroedthick** - This is the default format when creating a new virtual disk. The space is allocated during the disk creation but is not zeroed out until the first write from the virtual machine.
- eagerzeroedthick** - Same as the above, except the disk is zeroed during the creation process. Since it does the zeroing at creation this takes longer to create. (Obviously)
- thick** - The space is allocated during the creation, but does not zero out any of the data. This type cannot be created by non-root users.
- thin** - The required space is NOT allocated during the creation, but is allocated and zeroed on demand
- rdm** - Virtual compatibility mode for raw disk mapping
- rdmp** - Physical compatibility mode for raw disk mapping (pass-through mode)
- raw** - Raw device
- 2gbsparse** - the virtual disk is broken up into a series of files, none of which are larger than 2 GigaBytes in size. You cannot power this format up until you use vmkfstools to reimport it to a compatible format.
- monospase** - monolithic sparse disk
- monoflat** - monolithic flat disk

Data obtained from [VMware KB 1022242](#)

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