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Troubleshooting VMFS-3 datastore issues



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Symptoms

- LUN is visible but the datastore is not available in /vmfs/volumes
- Virtual machines fail to power on
- Running virtual machines may stop responding, fail, or generate a Blue Screen
- ESX Server host becomes disconnected from VirtualCenter
- The following warnings are displayed:
 - WARNING: LVM: 4844: [vmhbaH:T:L:P] detected as a snapshot device. Disallowing access to the LUN since resignaturing is turned off.
 - <Date> esx vmkernel: 10:19:07:07.881 cpu3: 10340 SCSI: 5637: status SCSI LUN is in snapshot state, rstatus 0xc0de00 for vmhba1:0:6. residual R 999, CR 8-, ER3.
 - <Date> esx vmkernel: 10:19:07:07.881 cpu3: <world ID> SCSI 6624: Device vmhba1:0:6. is a deactivated snapshot.

Purpose

This article is designed to assist with troubleshooting issues where the VMFS-3 datastore does not mount.

Resolution

To identify the source of datastore issues:

1. Verify that the LUN is presented to ESX Server host. For more information, see [Troubleshooting LUN connectivity issues \(1003955\)](#).
2. Verify that the LUN is not being detected as a deactivated snapshot. For more information, see:
 - [Cannot access LUN as it is marked as deactivated snapshot \(1003641\)](#).
 - [LUN detected as a snapshot because LUN presentation settings were incorrect \(1002351\)](#).
3. Verify that the data store is not being detected as a snapshot. For more information, see [VMFS Volume Can Be Erroneously Recognized as a Snapshot \(6482648\)](#).
Note: A resignature may have occurred leaving certain ESX Server hosts believing that the LUN is now a snapshot. If you decide to perform a resignature, plan a major outage window to do this. For more information, see [Resignaturing VMFS3 Volumes That Are Not Snapshots \(9453805\)](#).
4. Verify that the LUN is not larger than 2Tb/2047Gb. This could occur if a LUN was extended. For more information, see [Troubleshooting a LUN that was extended in size past the 2Tb/2047Gb limit \(1004230\)](#).
5. Verify that the LUN is not being masked by the ESX Server. For more information, see [LUN masking with ESX Server 3 \(1004044\)](#).
6. Verify that write caching is not disabled on the array. This is verified using the storage array management interface. Consult your storage array vendor if you require assistance. Also, see: [Write-cache disabled on storage array causing performance issues or failures \(1002282\)](#).
7. Verify that the partition type for the VMFS-3 partition is set to FB. For more information, see [Partition showing up as type 42 or SFS after being connected to the VCB proxy server \(1002168\)](#).

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