

# VMware Server 1.0.x

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As the acknowledged leader in server virtualisation VMware is well aware of the pretenders snapping at its heels. Virtualisation remains a hot topic and it is becoming an increasingly crowded market, with a range of offerings, some commercial and some coming from the open source community. One very obvious response to this from VMware has been to offer a number of free packages in addition to its core commercial products. Of these free packages, VMware Server is the one that has the potential to make the biggest splash.

VMware Server is, as suggested by its name, a complete server virtualisation package. It enables a user to install it on a server box and then to use it to create a number of virtual machines. These virtual machines (called guest systems) run as processes on the main box (the host system), and from within they appear to be running on a real box, complete with processor, memory, peripherals, network connectivity and so on. In this way it's possible for one physical machine to be running multiple operating systems concurrently. Each virtual machine is isolated from the others and from the host, so that it can be stopped, started, reconfigured and put to work as required. Each virtual machine can have one or more virtual hard disks, which in reality are files on the host system but appear as complete partitioned disks on the guest.

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