

Understanding the Terminology for VMware ESXi

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The following terms are used in the VMware service module dashboards:

Virtual Machine A virtual machine is a software computer that, like a physical computer, runs an operating system and applications. Multiple virtual machines can run on the same host at the same time. Virtual machines that vCenter Server manages can also run on a cluster of hosts.

Host The server on which one or more virtual machines are installed. The host machine provides the hardware that supports the guest virtual machine.

Guest The virtual machine that resides on a host. Guest virtual machines run a separate, independent operating system.

Maintenance Mode A status that restricts virtual machine operations on a host machine, to allow you to prepare to shutdown the host.

Datastore A single storage volume consisting of one or more physical hard drives. For redundancy, a datastore typically has more than one hard drive.

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