

A decorative background pattern of light blue circuit board traces and nodes, resembling a complex network or data flow, is overlaid on a dark grey background.

# Customer Spotlight: How to Build Your Awesome Virtualization Home Lab with VMware vSphere 6.0 (ESXi & vCSA)

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A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of light blue lines and circles that resemble a circuit board or a data network. The lines are vertical and horizontal, with small circles at various points, creating a complex, interconnected pattern.

# Customer Spotlight: How to Build Your Awesome Virtualization Home Lab With VMware vSphere 6.0 (ESXi & vCSA)

Today, I'm highlighting fun and practical tips for deploying vSphere 6.0 in your home. I'll be using a secure, live connection to my home lab.

**Yes, a Live Demo!**

# Who?

Geared toward Intermediate to Advanced IT Professionals, but the video makes it easy for newbies too.

It's for nitpicky folks who'd rather see a name rather than an IP, and want things to be simple, work well, and look good.

# What?

**VMware ESXi Hypervisor, I call mine “[vZilla](#)”.**  
**Left running at home 24x7 with 7 HDDs. Uses about 150 watts, so that electricity costs me about \$200/yr.**

My Core i7 uses an ASRock motherboard with 32GB of RAM, and it's been running quite nicely since April 2011. Looking ahead to Intel Xeon-D, with up to 128GB of RAM, and far more efficiency:

[TinkerTry.com/intel-xeon-d-announced](http://TinkerTry.com/intel-xeon-d-announced)

# When?

Any time you have the inclination and the budget to leave an efficient lab running 24x7.

# Where?

In that virtualization lab you wish you had in your home, where you typically only have a home WiFi router. Licensing? See also \$200/yr EVALExperience:



**VMUG**  
VMWARE USER GROUP

VMUG's Ready to Help You Build Your **Home Lab**

**EVAL**Experience  
by VMware

New in 2015 - VMUG Advantage now includes [VMware's EVALExperience](#), giving you exclusive access to nine VMware applications to test for 365 days.

# Why?

Perhaps you're so done with mere exam cramming, using VMware Workstation or the like. Instead, you're ready to dedicate a workstation or server to ESXi 6.0 Hypervisor, running efficiently 24x7.

These tips will reduce those little annoyances, making tinkering in your home lab easier, faster and more fun.

# How? Tip #1

## Use hostnames instead of IP addresses

Tweak your router to give you a proper FQDN name so that critical initial deployment of your vCSA appliance goes smoothly:

- 1) Temporarily assign static IP to WAN, and set the domain name to **lab.local**
- 2) Create a DHCP reservation with the name of **vcenter** (for vCSA MAC address), deploy
- 3) Edit the /etc/host file in vCSA appliance so it can “see” your **esxi** server by name

See video walk-through in the section entitled

“Configure WiFi router for DHCP reservation and FQDN for vCSA” in this article:

[TinkerTry.com/installvsphere60#below](https://www.tinkertry.com/installvsphere60#below)

## How? Tip #2

**Make your “vSphere Web Client” look and work more like an installed application**

Use Chrome’s “Create application shortcuts...” menu to create a launch icon in your Windows Task Bar:

[TinkerTry.com/create-vsphere-web-client-google-chrome-application-shortcut](https://www.tinkertry.com/create-vsphere-web-client-google-chrome-application-shortcut)

## How? Tip #3

**Have those pesky vSphere Web Client credentials automatically typed in for you**

Use LastPass Chrome Extension to save form fill data, making it a breeze to login, no more having to type in `administrator@vsphere.local`

[TinkerTry.com/easyvspherewebclientlogin](https://www.tinkerttry.com/easyvspherewebclientlogin)

Navigator

Home

- vcenter.lab.local
- esxi.lab.local
- OpenVPN Access Server 2.0.7 test8 (inacc...)
- ppbe233-CyberPower appliance for autom...
- TEMPLATE-Windows 8.1 Pro
- TEMPLATE-Windows10
- vcenter
- vtest (orphaned)
- vzilla
- win10test - Windows 10 build 10041
- Windows 10 - Windows10\_InsiderPrevi...
- Windows7-tunnel

vcenter Actions

Getting Started Summary Monitor Manage Related Objects

**vcenter**

Guest OS: SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 (64-bit)  
 Compatibility: ESXi 5.0 and later (VM version 8)  
 VMware Tools: Running, version:2147483647 (Guest Managed)  
 DNS Name: vcenter  
 IP Addresses: 10.10.1.51  
 Host: esxi.lab.local

Launch Remote Console  
 Download Remote Console

VM Hardware

Advanced Configuration

Tags

Assigned Tag	Category	Description
This list is empty.		

Notes

VMware vCenter Server Appliance

vApp Details

Related Objects

Host	esxi.lab.local
Networks	VM Network
Storage	SSD3-256GB

More Related Objects

CPU USAGE  
508.00 MHz

MEMORY USAGE  
2.24 GB

STORAGE USAGE  
20.26 GB

Alarms

All (1) New (1) Acknowl...

S3-6TB-WDRed  
Datastore usage on disk

Work In Progress

vcenter - VMware Remote Console

VMRC

```

VMware vCenter Server Appliance 6.0.0
Type: vCenter Server with an embedded Platform Services Controller

2 x Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-2600 CPU @ 3.40GHz
7.8 GiB Memory

Download support bundle from:
https://vcenter.lab.local:443/appliance/support-bundle
https://10.10.1.51/ (DHCP)
  
```

<F2> Customize System      <F12> Shut Down/Restart

Recent Tasks

Task Name	Target	Status	Initiator	Queued For	Start Time
Power On virtual machine	Windows 10 - Wind...	Completed	VSPHERE.LOCAL...	81 ms	5/8/2015 4:41:08 PM
Initialize powering On	Datacenter	Completed	VSPHERE.LOCAL...	4 ms	5/8/2015 4:41:08 PM
Unregister virtual machine	mbrarent60vm	Completed	VSPHERE.LOCAL...	7 ms	5/8/2015 4:40:42 PM

**This presentation is to be made available at:**

**[TinkerTry.com/usercon2015](http://TinkerTry.com/usercon2015)**

**which will include a link to the closely related  
“Customer Spotlight” video.**

**Feedback always appreciated!**

***Public comments left below articles are preferred.***

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