

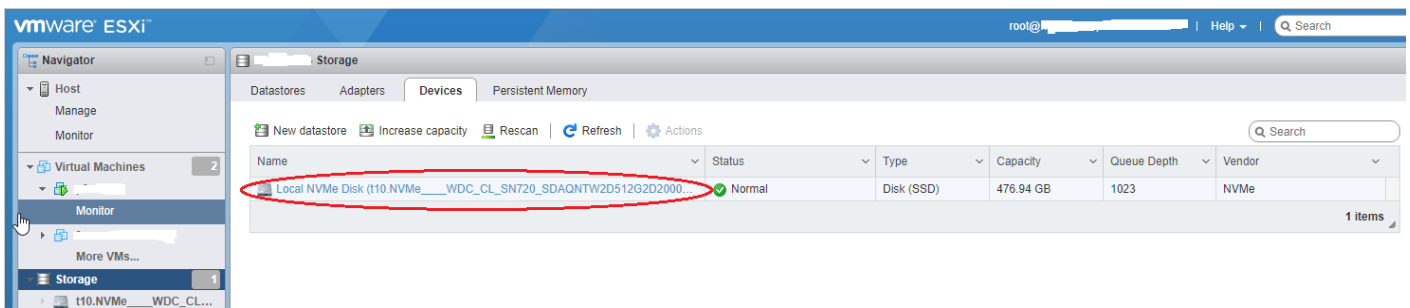
Vmware

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How to Create VMFS Datastore on Vmware OS bootdrive

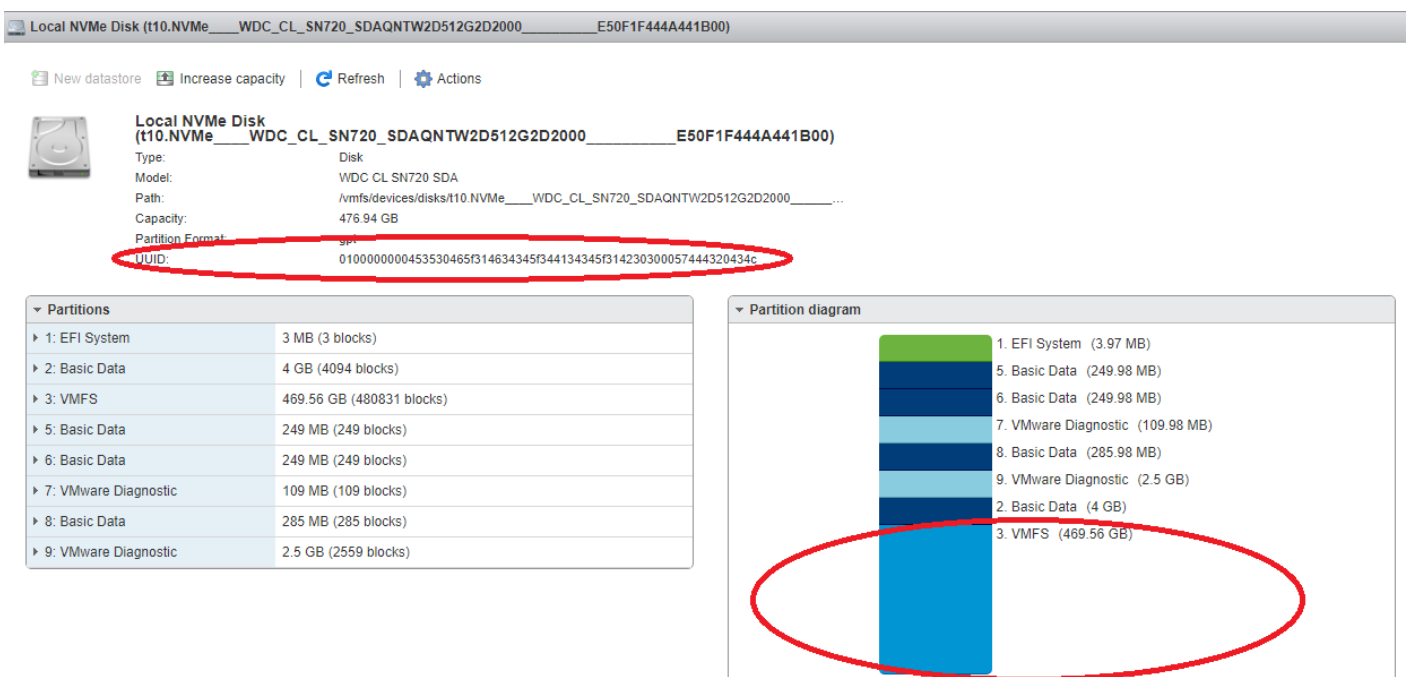
Normally a vmfs partition is already created by ESXi on the boot drive. You can verify by going logging into the ESX Web GUI and navigating to **Storage --> Devices --> Boot disk (Figure 1)**.

Figure 1



Clicking on the drive will show the **Partition diagram** of the boot drive and the vmfs partition is usually partition **3**. Make a note of the **UUID** of the device and the partition number (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2



Create a vmfs datastore named **datastore-ssd** on the the boot device using the **UUID** and the partition number you noted above using the command below (Device format is /vmfs/devices/disks/vm1.<**UUID**>:3):

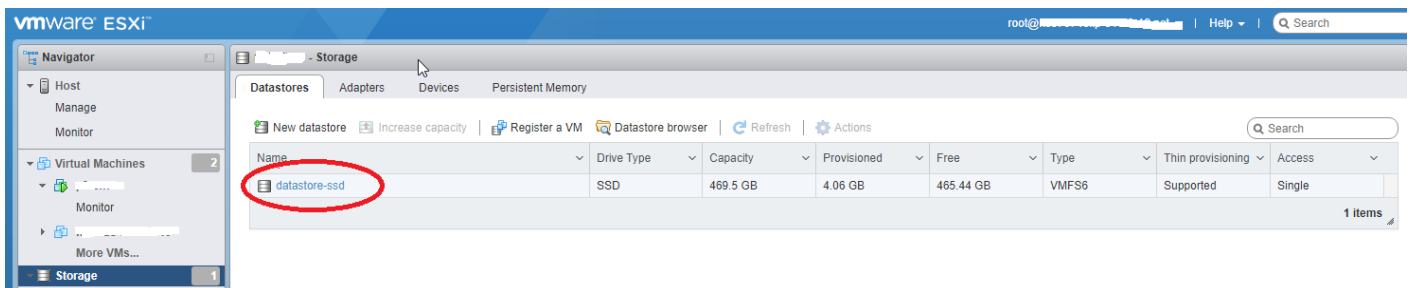
```
vmkfstools --createfs vmfs6 -S datastore-ssd
/vmfs/devices/disks/vml.0100000000453530465f314634345f344134345f314230300057444320434c:3
```

If successful, you should get an output similar to below:

```
create fs
deviceName: '/vmfs/devices/disks/vml.0100000000453530465f314634345f344134345f314230300057444320
434c:3', fsShortName: 'vmfs6', fsName: 'datastore-ssd'
deviceFullPath: /dev/disks/t10.NVMe___WDC_CL_SN720_SDAQNTW2D512G2D2000_____E50F1F444A441B
00:3 deviceFile: t10.NVMe___WDC_CL_SN720_SDAQNTW2D512G2D2000_____E50F1F444A441B00:3
ATS on device
/dev/disks/t10.NVMe___WDC_CL_SN720_SDAQNTW2D512G2D2000_____E50F1F444A441B00:3: not
supported
.
Checking if remote hosts are using this device as a valid file system. This may take a few
seconds...
Scanning for VMFS-6 host activity (4096 bytes/HB, 1024 HBs).
Creating vmfs6 file system on
"t10.NVMe___WDC_CL_SN720_SDAQNTW2D512G2D2000_____E50F1F444A441B00:3" with blockSize
1048576, unmapGranularity 1048576, unmapPriority default and volume label "datastore-ssd".
Successfully created new volume: 5fc102ac-257939bc-7e5b-0cc47ac8166c
```

Additionally, the datastore you created should appear under **Storage --> Datastores** in your ESXi Web Gui (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3



Vmware ESXi NUT Client Installation and Configuration

Requirements

- You must have a NUT server connected to a UPS and configured in your environment.
- SSH must be enabled on your ESXi installation
- Community acceptance level must be enabled on your ESXi installation in order to install the client

Download

Download the latest **NutClient-ESXi-x.x.x-x.x.x-offline_bundle.zip** package from:

<https://github.com/rgc2000/NutClient-ESXi/releases>.

Install

- Secure copy the **NutClient-ESXi-x.x.x-x.x.x-offline_bundle.zip** to your ESXi server's /tmp directory by either using WinSCP/pscp in Windows or scp in Linux.
- Set ESXi Community Acceptance level:

```
esxcli software acceptance set --level=CommunitySupported
```

If you get the following error:

```
[AcceptanceConfigError]  
Secure Boot enabled: Cannot change acceptance level to community.  
Please refer to the log file for more details.
```

You must disable Secure Boot in your computer BIOS and re-try the installation again.

- Install bundle:

```
esxcli software vib install -d /tmp/NutClient-ESXi-x.x.x-x.x.x-offline_bundle.zip
```

- If installation was successful you should see the following output:

```

Installation Result

Message: Operation finished successfully.

Reboot Required: false

VIBs Installed: Margar_bootbank_upsmon_x.x.x-x.x.x

VIBs Removed:

VIBs Skipped:

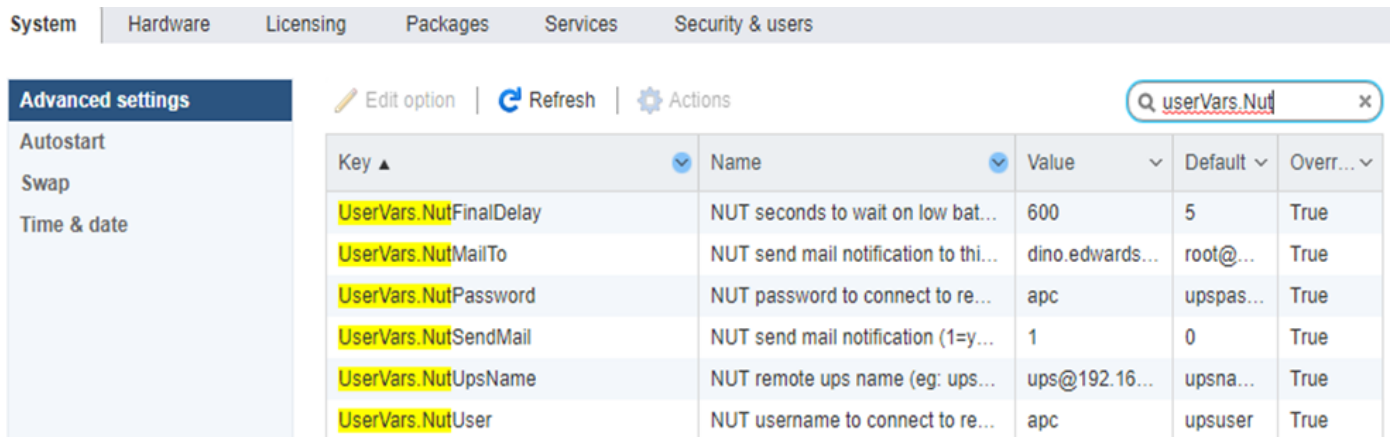
```

- You can now delete the files in the /tmp directory and disable the SSH service if desired.

ESXi Configuration

- In the ESXi Web client, navigate to **Host** → **Manage** → **System** → **Advanced Settings**. In the **Search** box enter **UserVars.Nut** (Figure 1).

Figure 1



- Configure the following variables:

NutUpsName: Name of the UPS on the NUT server (in the form of inverter_name@server_name or server_ip). Several inverters can be entered separated by a space. There will be no system shutdown until the last UPS still standing has given the shutdown command.

NutUser: Name of the NUT server login account

NutPassword: NUT Server Connection Account Password

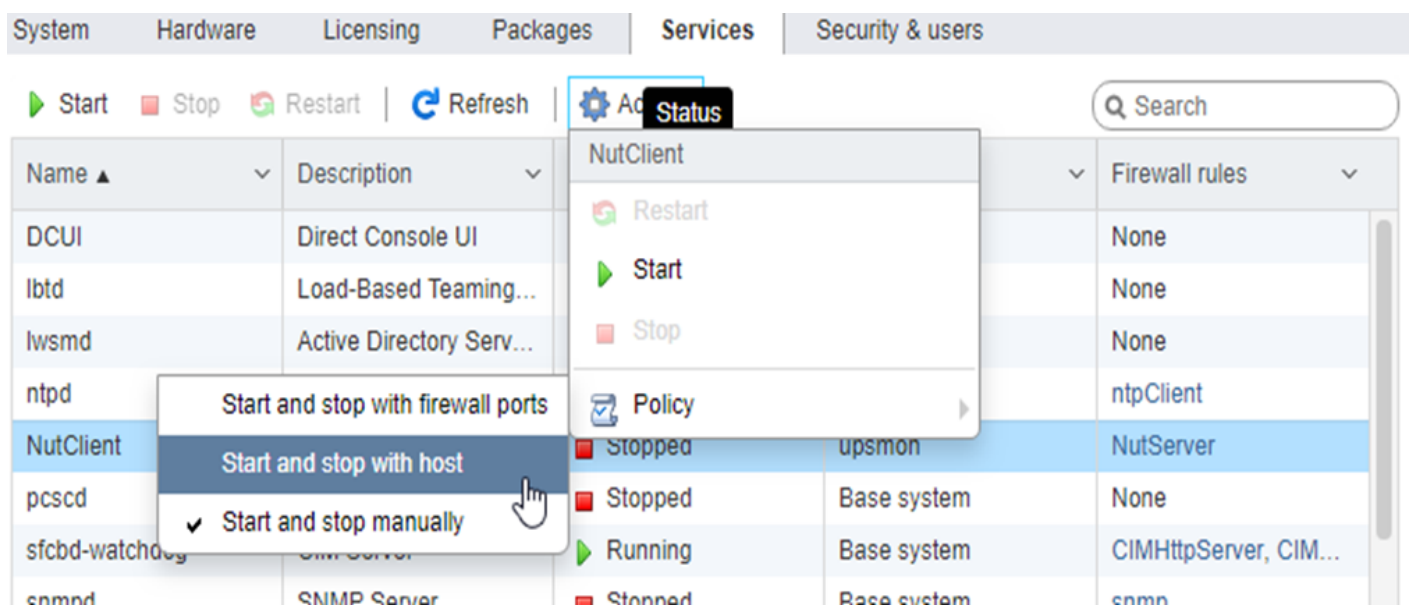
NutFinalDelay: Seconds to wait after receiving the low battery event to shut down the system

NutSendMail: Set to 1 for the NUT client to send an e-mail to each important event of the UPS

NutMailTo: E-mail address to send UPS events to

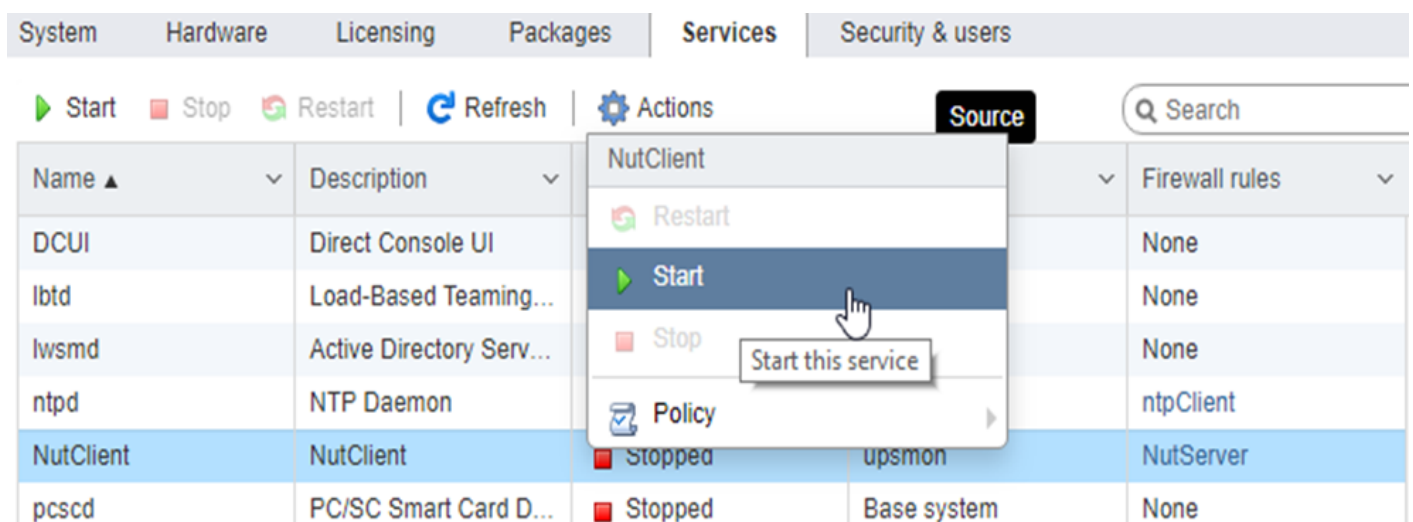
- In the ESXi Web client, navigate to **Host** → **Manage** → **Services** → **NutClient** → **Actions** → **Policy** → **Start and Stop with Host (Figure 2)**.

Figure 2



- In the ESXi Web client, navigate to **Host** → **Manage** → **Services** → **NutClient** → **Actions** → **Start (Figure 3)**.

Figure 3



Tips

- Use the ESXi host configuration tab in the vSphere Client to decide how to start and stop (or suspend) virtual machines. This order will be respected by the UPS shutdown procedure.
- The clean shutdown of the OS in the virtual machines is only possible if the vmware tools are installed.
- To uninstall the NUT client, use the following command:

```
esxcli software vib remove -n upsmon
```

- To update the NUT client, use the following command:

```
esxcli software vib update -d /tmp/NutClient-ESXi-x.x.x-x.x.x-offline_bundle.zip
```

- To estimate the time needed for the server to shut down on UPS alert, type the command below on the host ESXi (by ssh or on the console). The shutdown procedure is immediately started:

```
/opt/nut/sbin/upsmon -c fsd
```

- If the NUT Client is configured correctly, the ESXi /var/log/syslog.log should have a message similar to below where ups@UPSHOST is the ups name and the UPS host you setup earlier :

```
2019-09-22T13:28:07Z upsmon[2111424]: Communications with UPS ups@UPSHOST established
```

Create OVA using vmware ovftool on ESXi or Vcenter

- Download ovftool for Windows 64 from vmware.com and install.
- From an elevated command prompt, navigate to **c:\Program Files\VMware\VMware OVF Tool**
- Run any of the following commands depending on your environment:

Vcenter Example (local)

```
ovftool --noSSLVerify vi://[USERNAME]@[VHOST]/[DATACENTER]/vm/[MACHINE_NAME]  
C:\ova\[OVA_MACHINE_NAME].ova
```

ESXi Example (Share):

```
ovftool --noSSLVerify vi://[USERNAME]@[ESXI_HOST]/[MACHINE_NAME]  
\\[FILE_SERVER]\[SHARE]\[MACHINE_NAME].ova
```

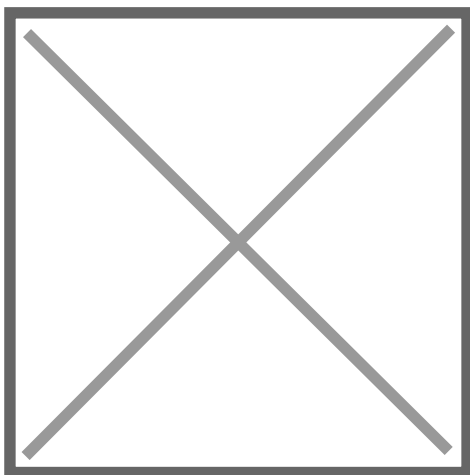
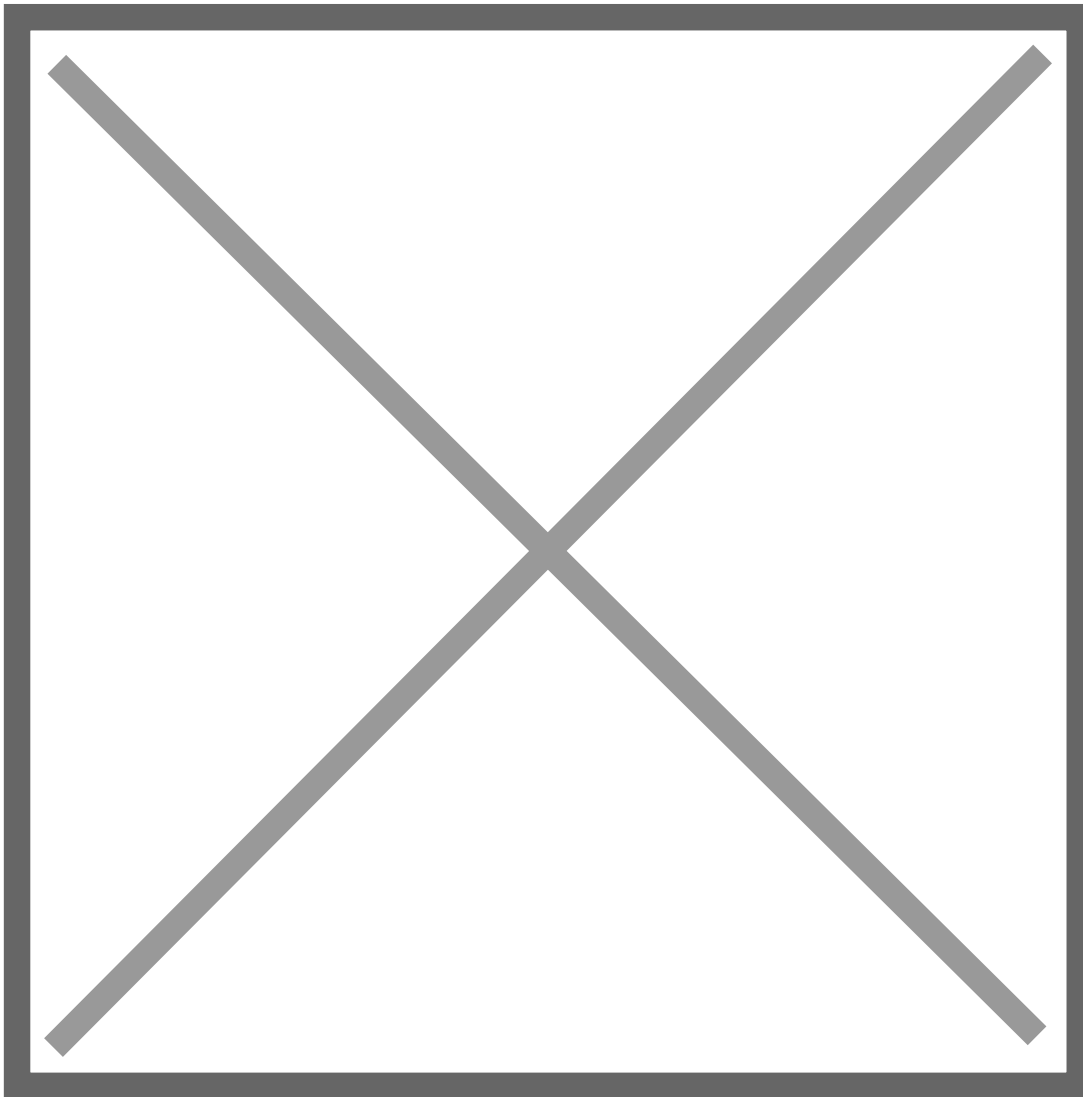
In-Guest UNMAP, EnableBlockDelete and VMFS-6

Original Article URL: <https://www.codyhosterman.com/2017/08/in-guest-unmap-enableblockdelete-and-vmfs-6/>

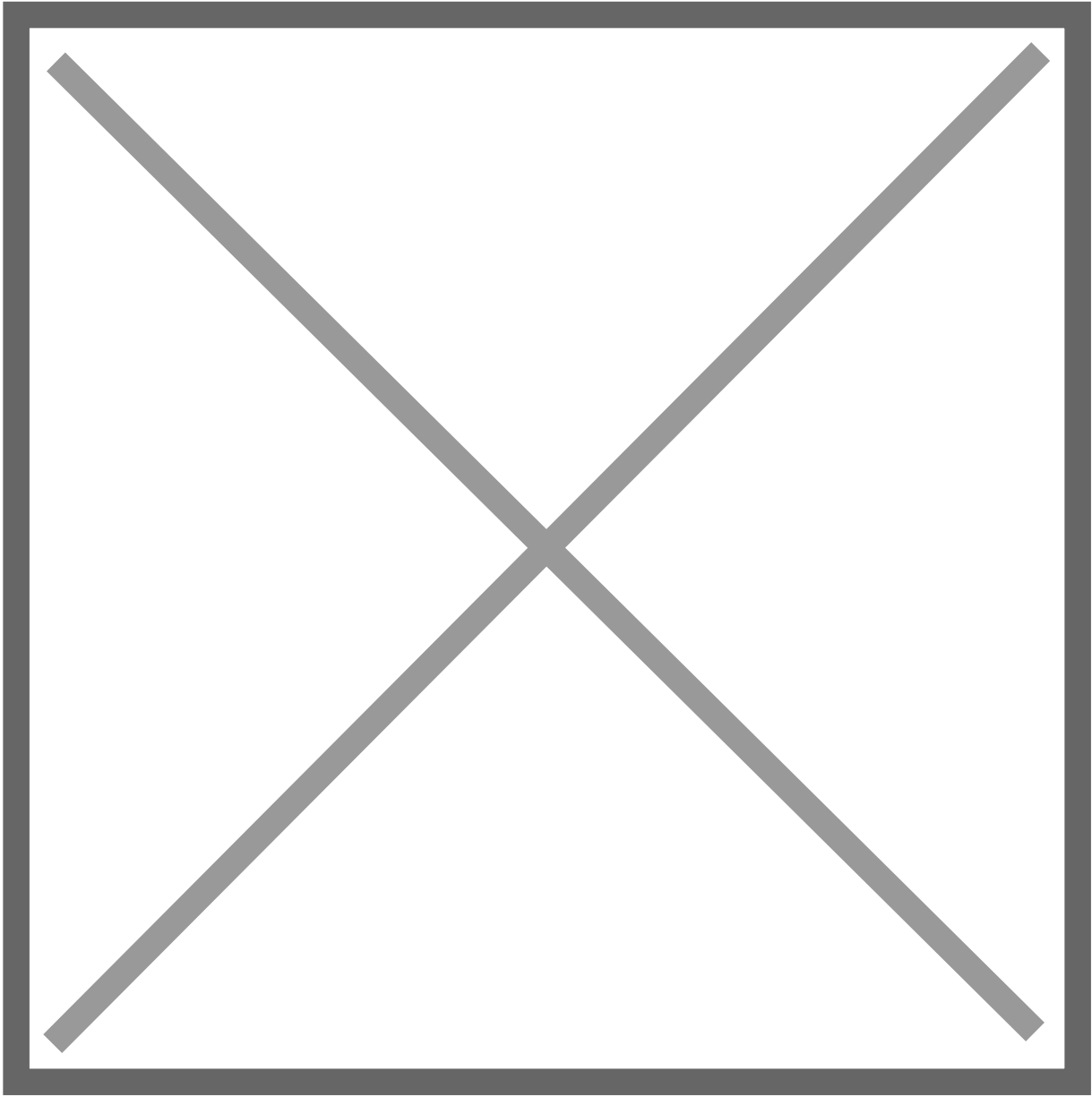
Credit: [Cody Hosterman](#)

EnableBlockDelete with VMFS-5

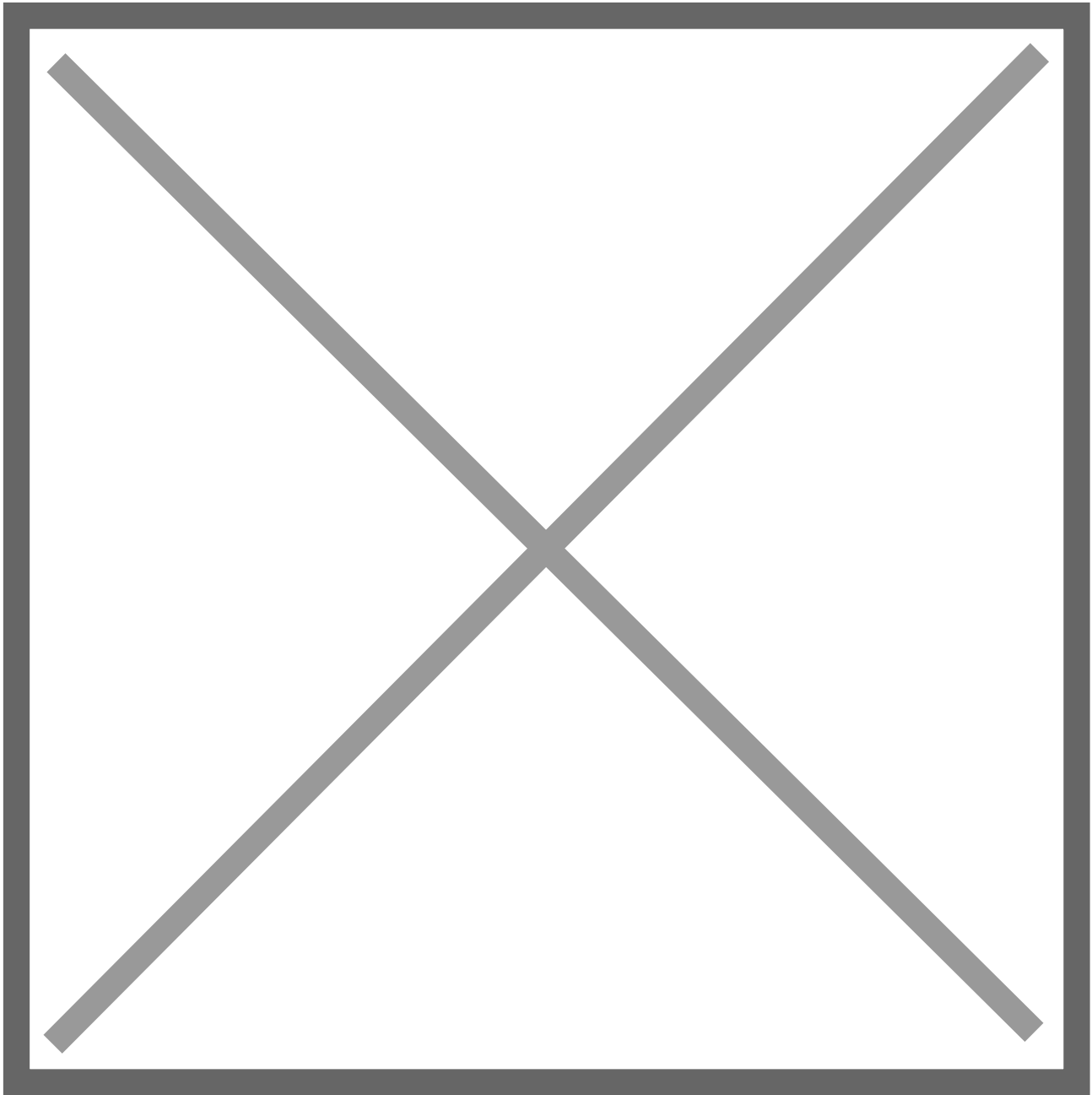
I have a Ubuntu VM with a thin virtual disk on a VMFS-5 volume.



Furthermore, I have EnableBlockDelete DISABLED on the ESXi host (set to 0). It is important to note that this is a host-wide setting.



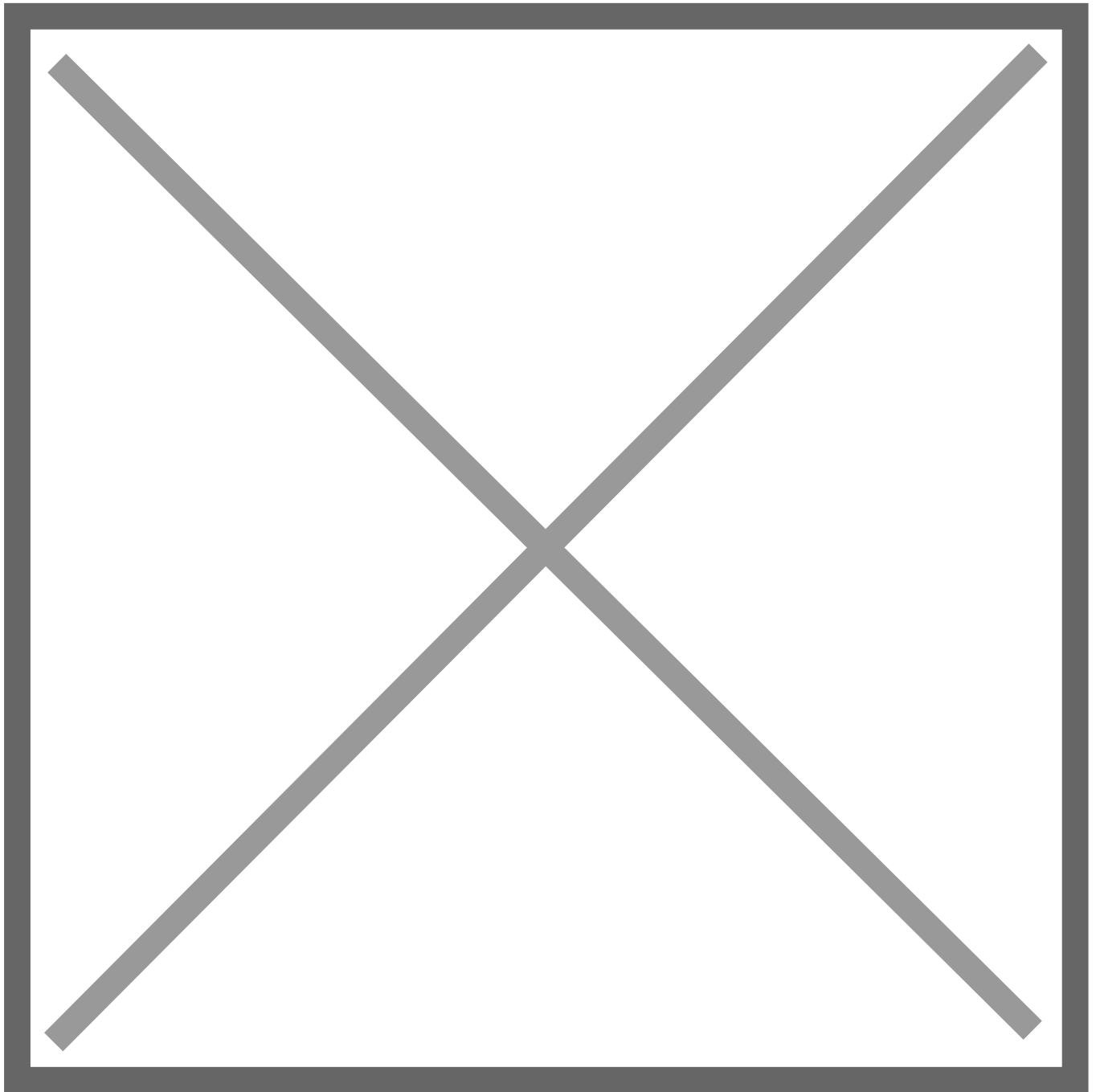
In my VM, I will put ext4 on the virtual disk then mount it:



We can see through `sg_vpd` that UNMAP is supported on this virtual disk:

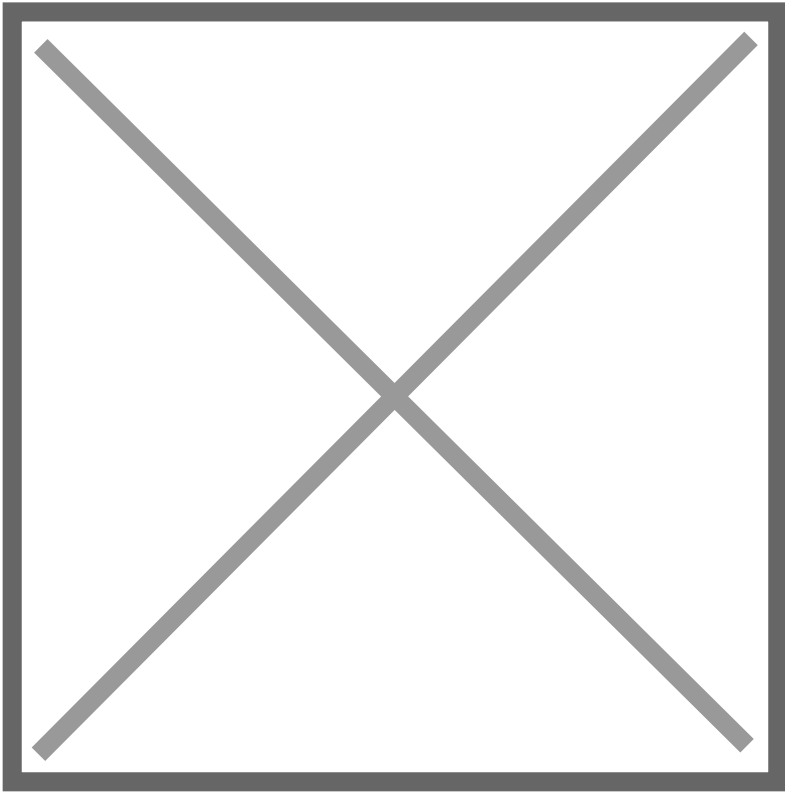
```
root@Ubuntu16:~# sg_vpd /dev/sdb -p lbpv |grep "Unmap"  
Unmap command supported (LBPU): 1
```

Now I will put some data on the file system. A couple of OVAs.



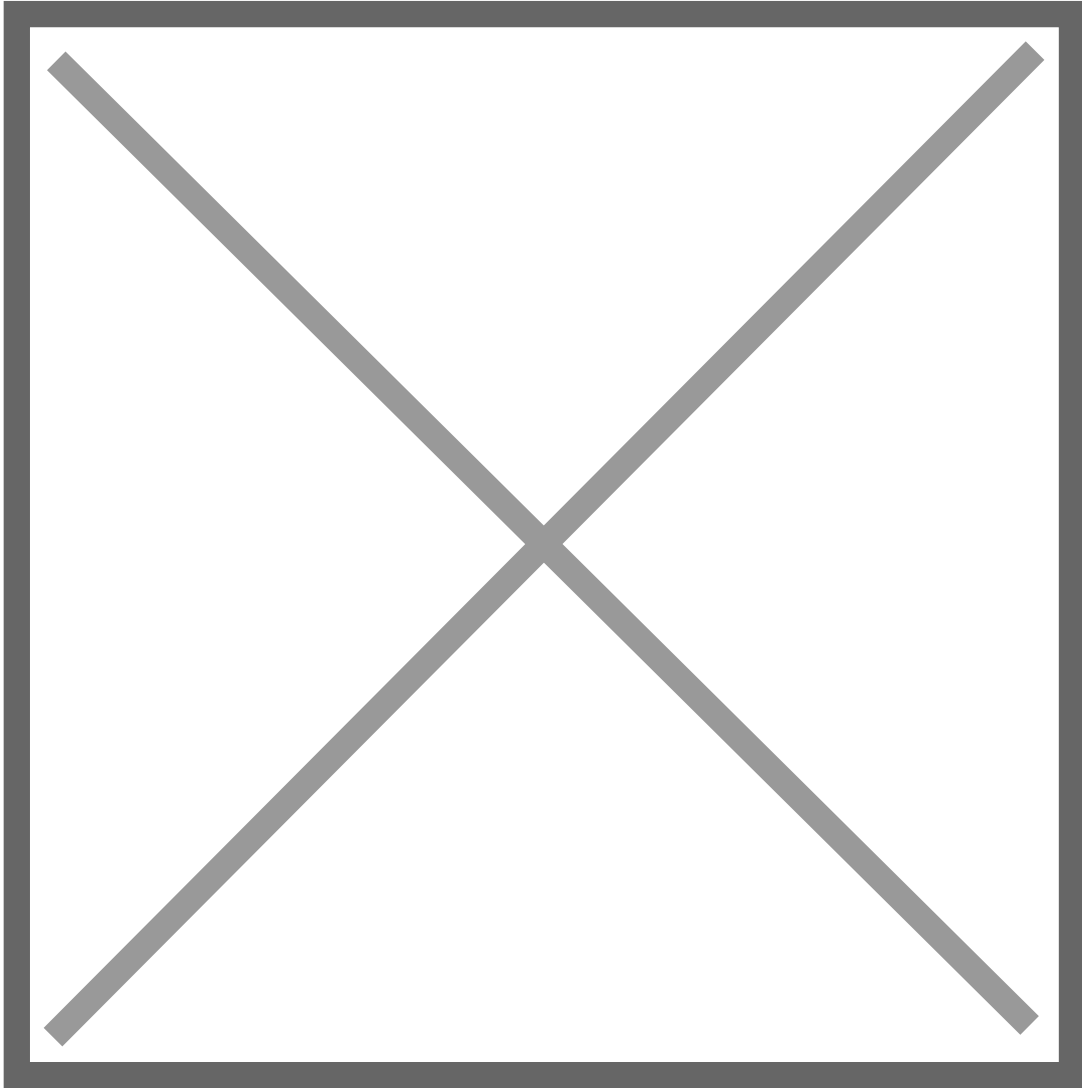
```
root@Ubuntu16:/mnt/unmap# df -h /mnt/unmap
Filesystem Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sdb 16G 3.9G 11G 26% /mnt/unmap
```

My file system reports as having 3.9 GB used. My VMDK is 4.4 GB in size.

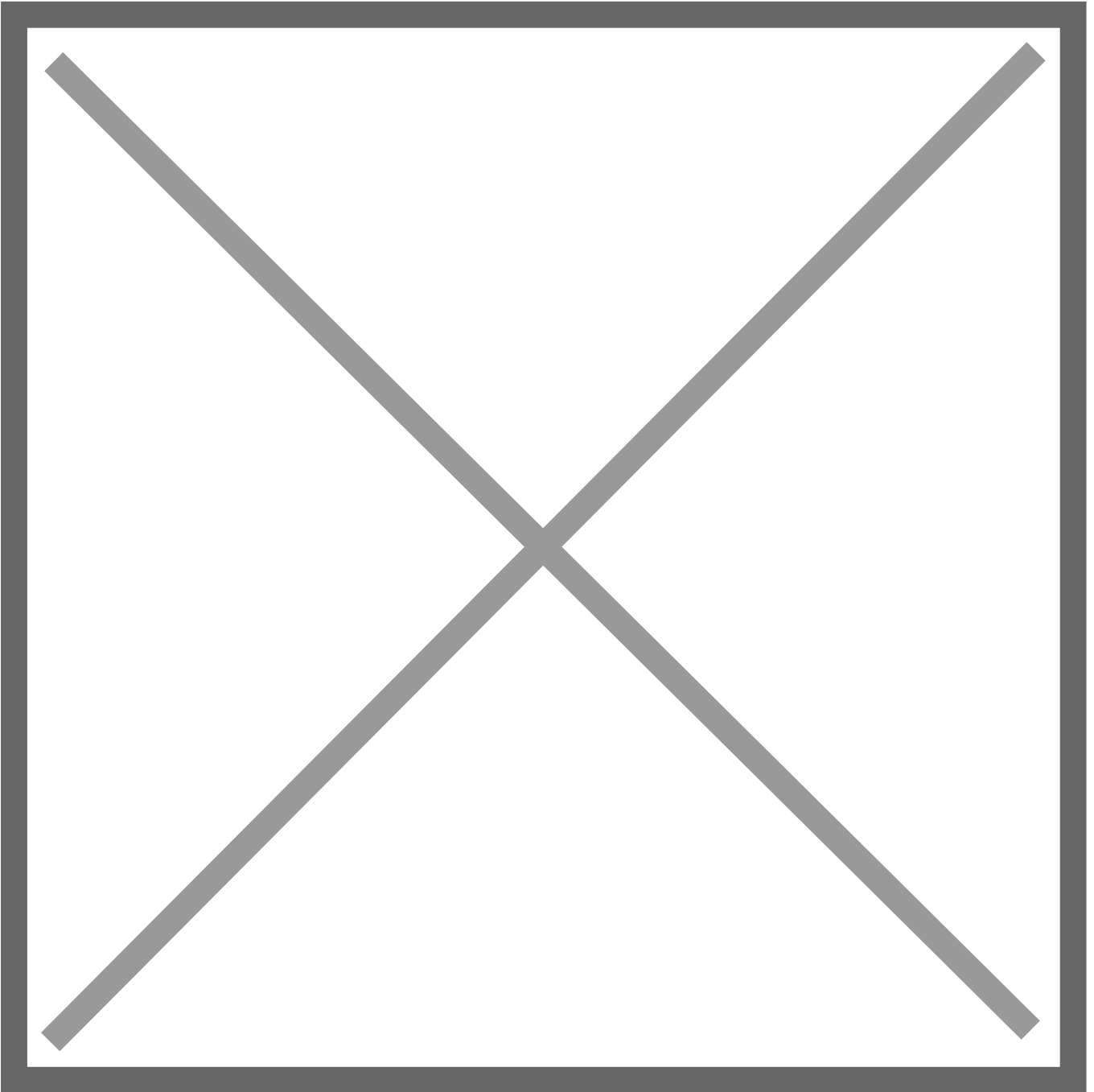


There is about 400 MB of capacity that was written when the file system was created, which explains the difference between those.

The underlying array reports 3.7 GB used. Smaller due to data reduction. Since the OVAs are compressed already, there isn't a ton of data reduction to do.



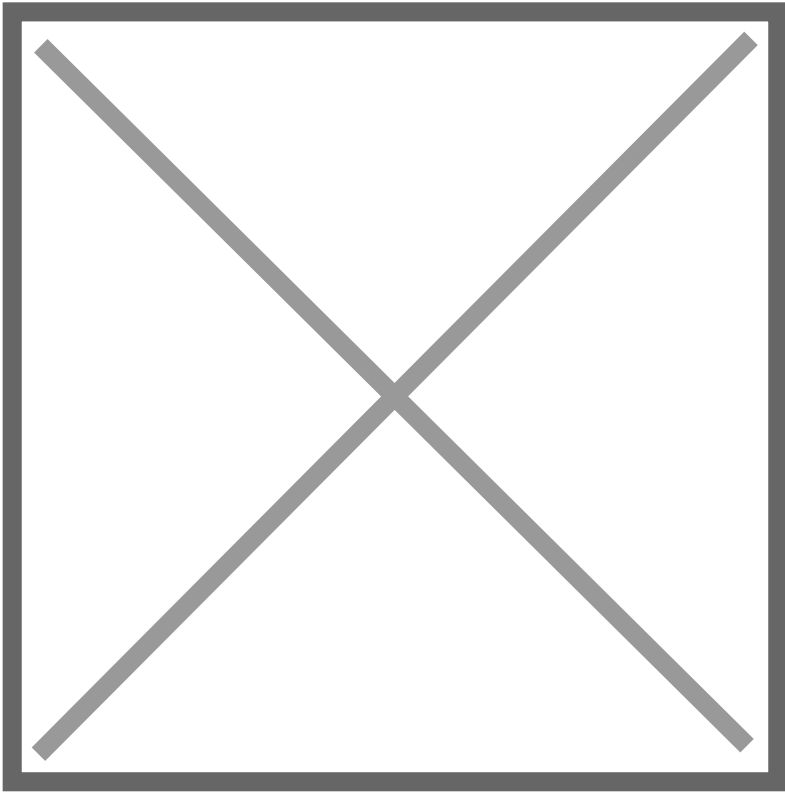
Okay, so let's delete the OVAs.



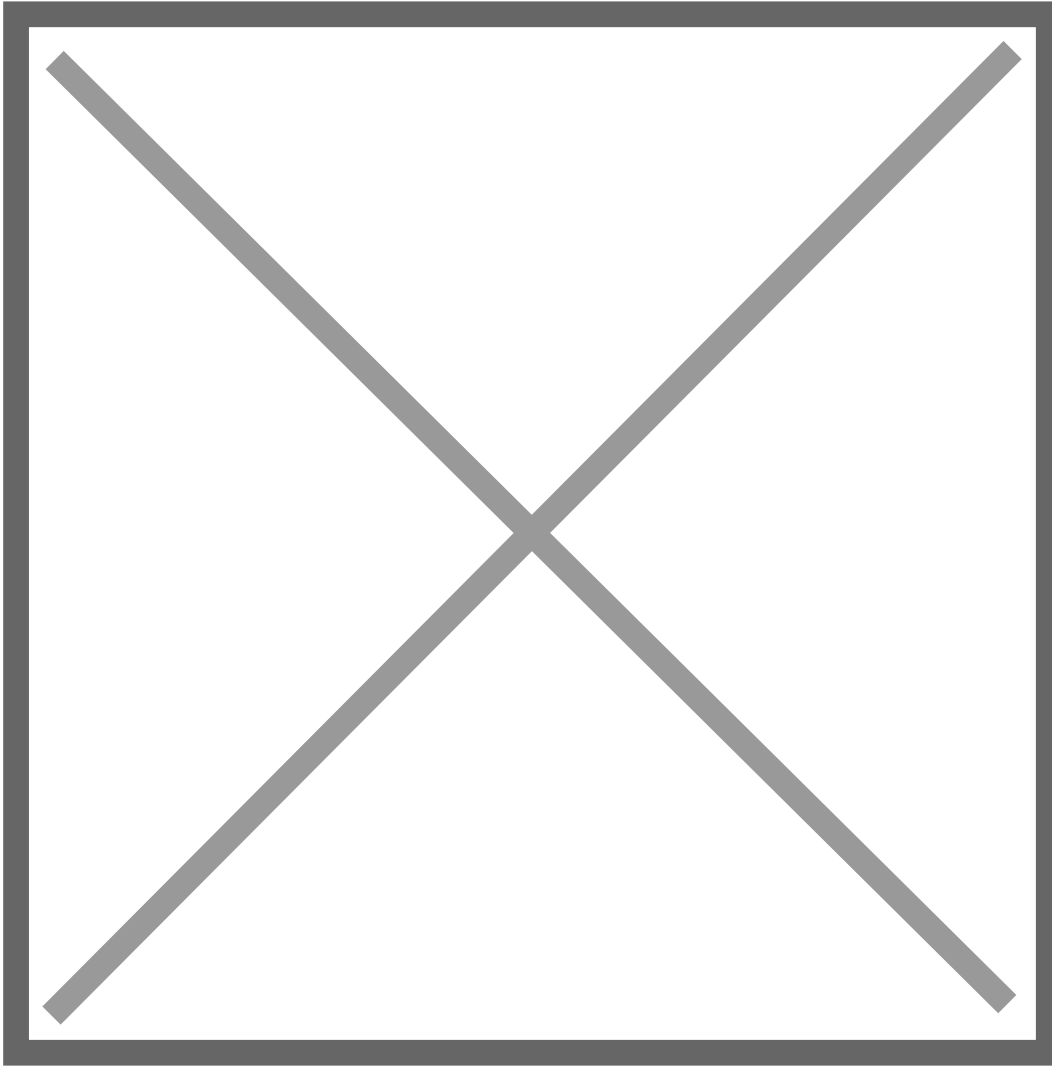
We can see the file system is now down to 44 MB used:

```
root@Ubuntu16:/mnt/unmap# df -h /mnt/unmap
Filesystem Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sdb 16G 44M 15G 1% /mnt/unmap
```

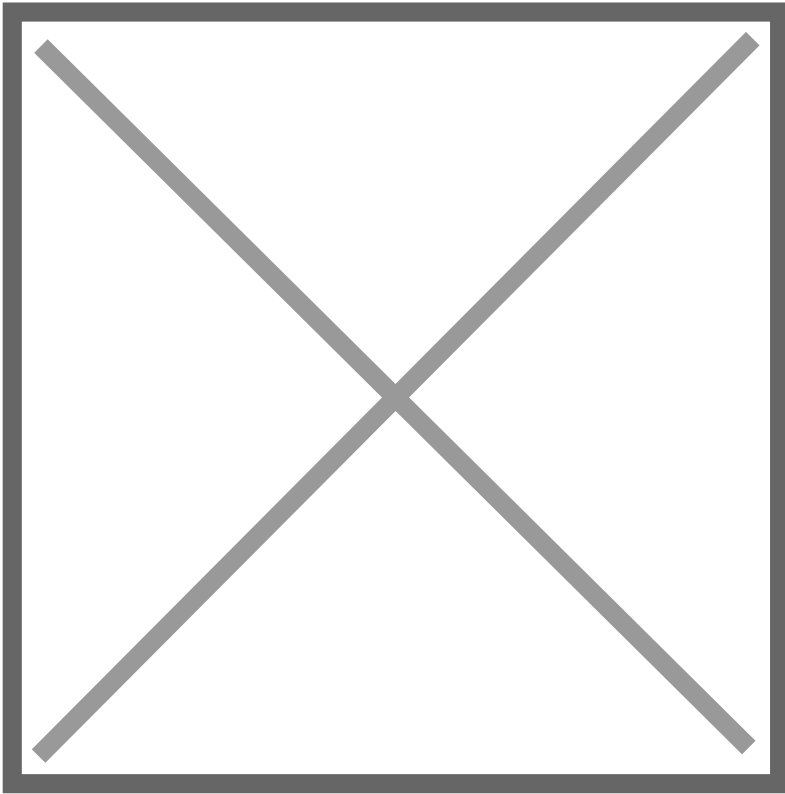
But if we look at the VMDK, it is still 4.4 GB:



And the array is unchanged too.

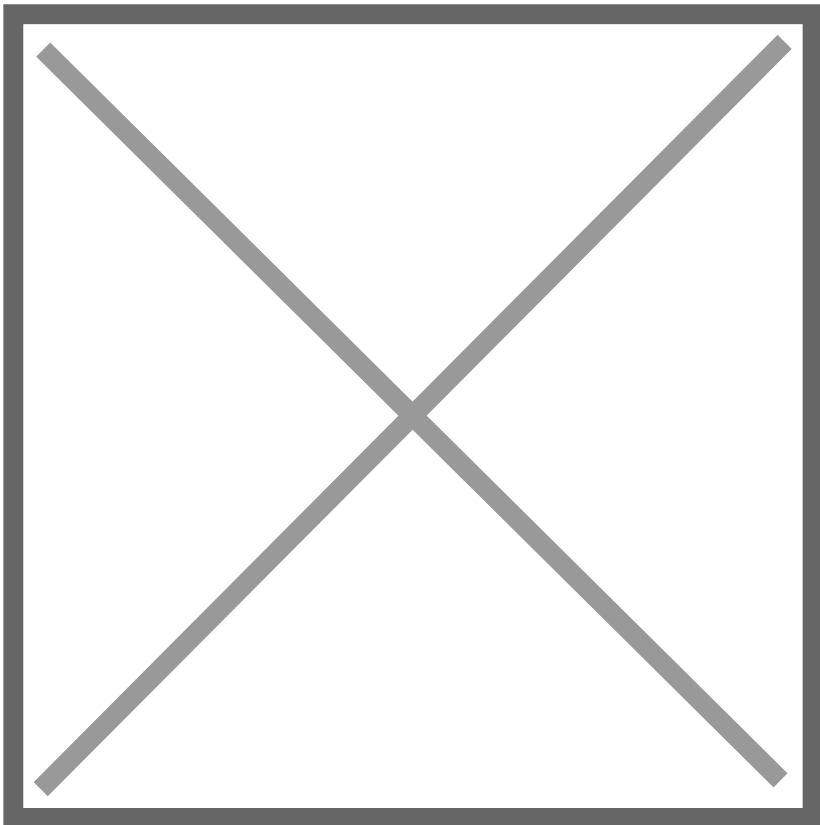


So we now have dead space in the VMDK and on the array, because those blocks are no longer in use by the guest. So, in Linux, to reclaim space you can either mount the file system with the discard option so UNMAP is triggered immediately upon file deletion, or you can manually run it with fstrim. I did not mount with the discard option, so I will run fstrim.

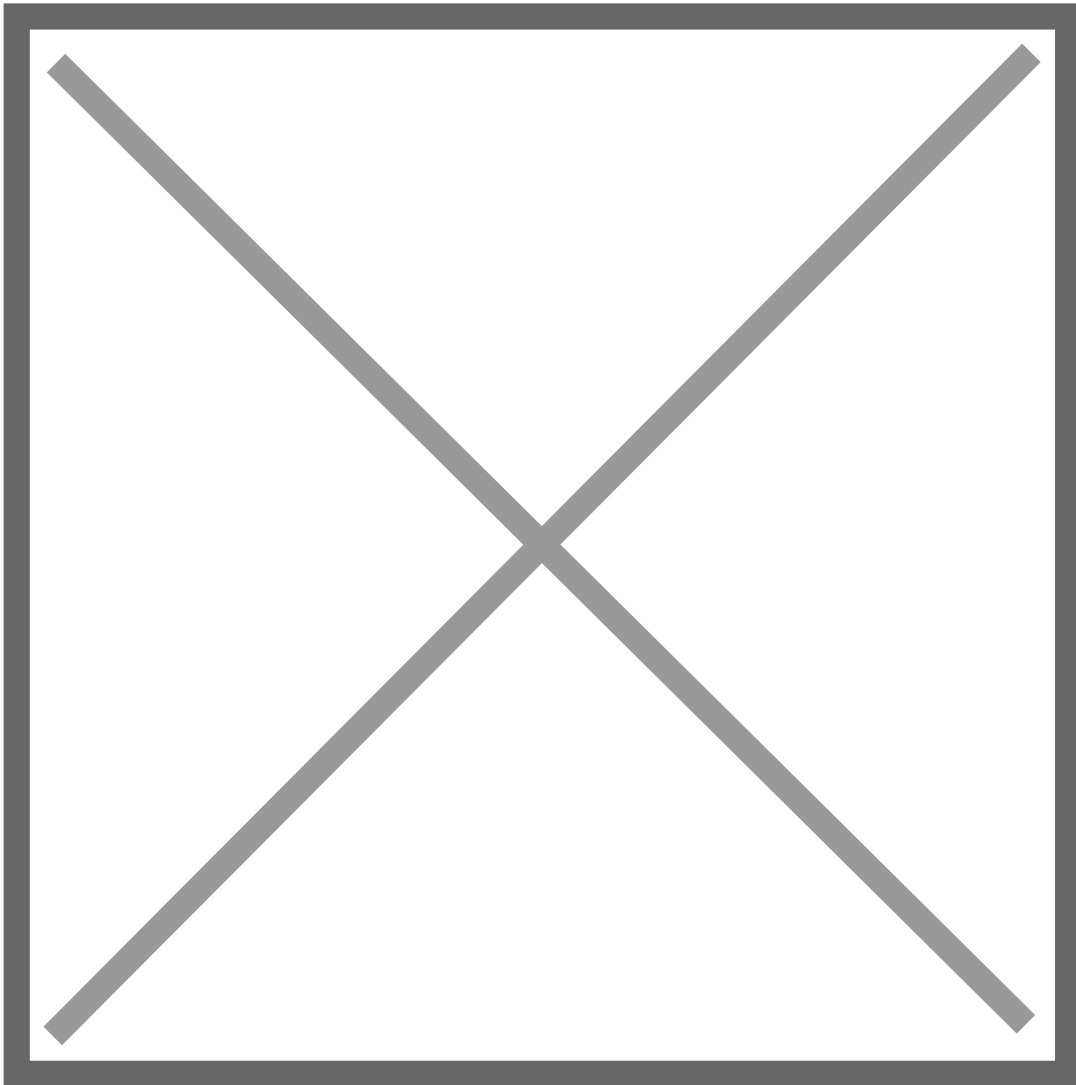


```
root@Ubuntu16:/mnt/unmap# fstrim /mnt/unmap -v  
/mnt/unmap: 3.9 GiB (4131360768 bytes) trimmed
```

Now if we look at my VMDK, we will see it has shrunk to 400 MB:

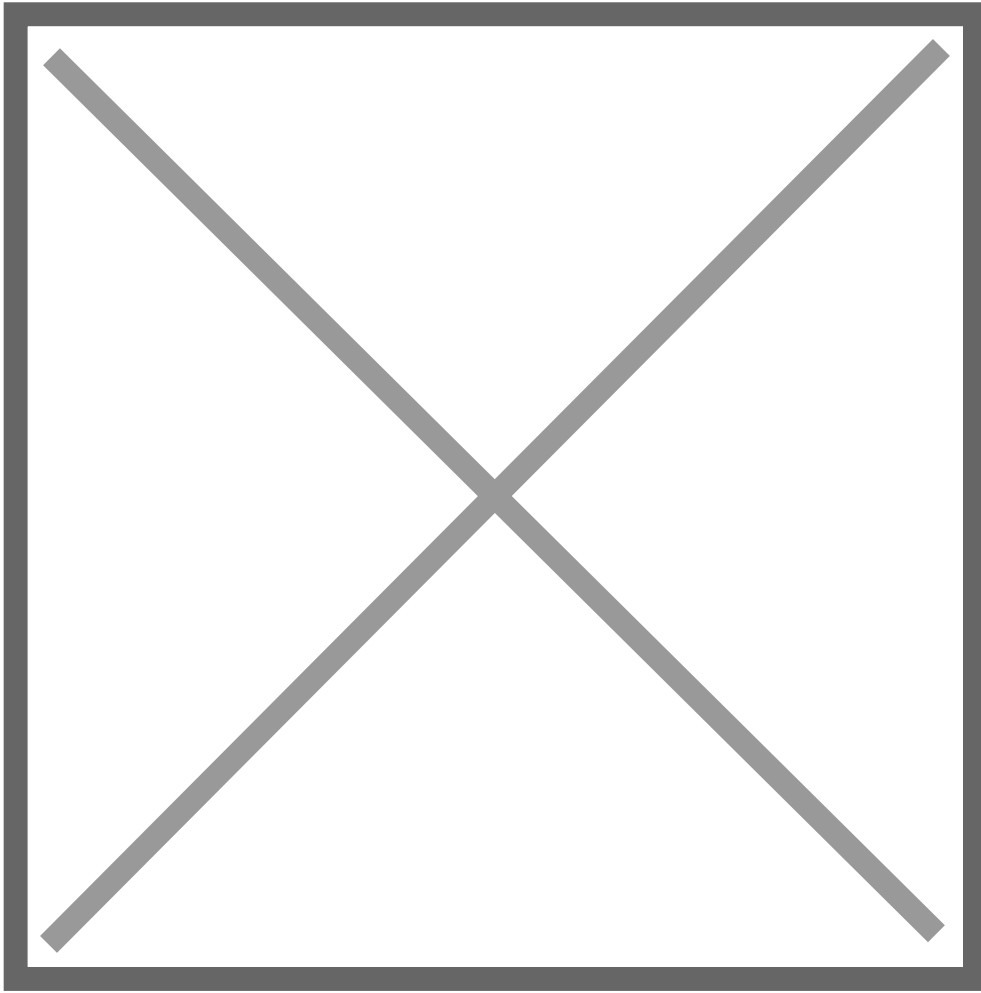


But my array is still reporting it as used. This is because EnableBlockDelete is not turned on. The UNMAP in the guest only makes the VMDK size accurate by shrinking it down. But the underlying physical device is not told.

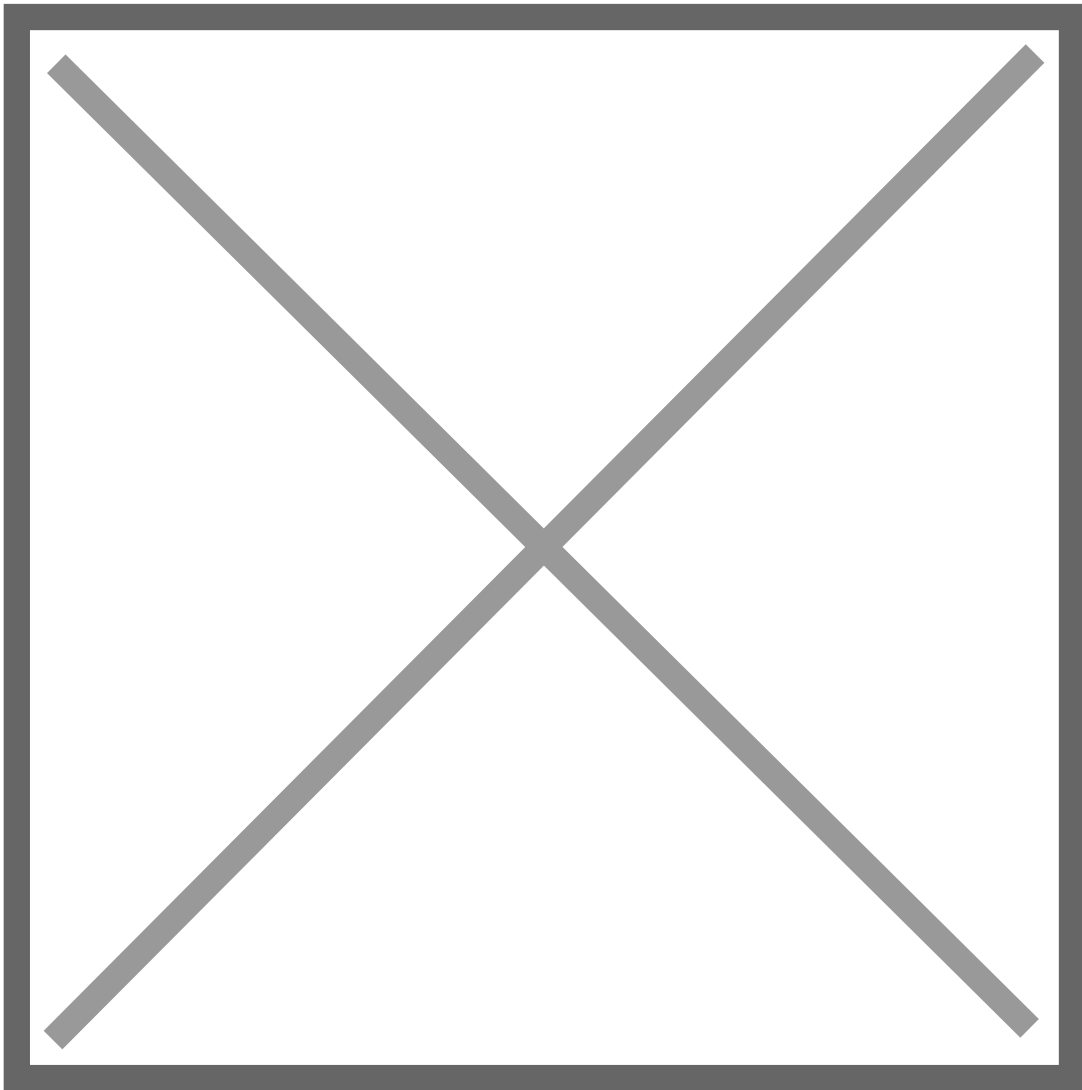


So at this point (since it is VMFS-5) I have to run `esxcli storage vmfs unmap` to reclaim it.

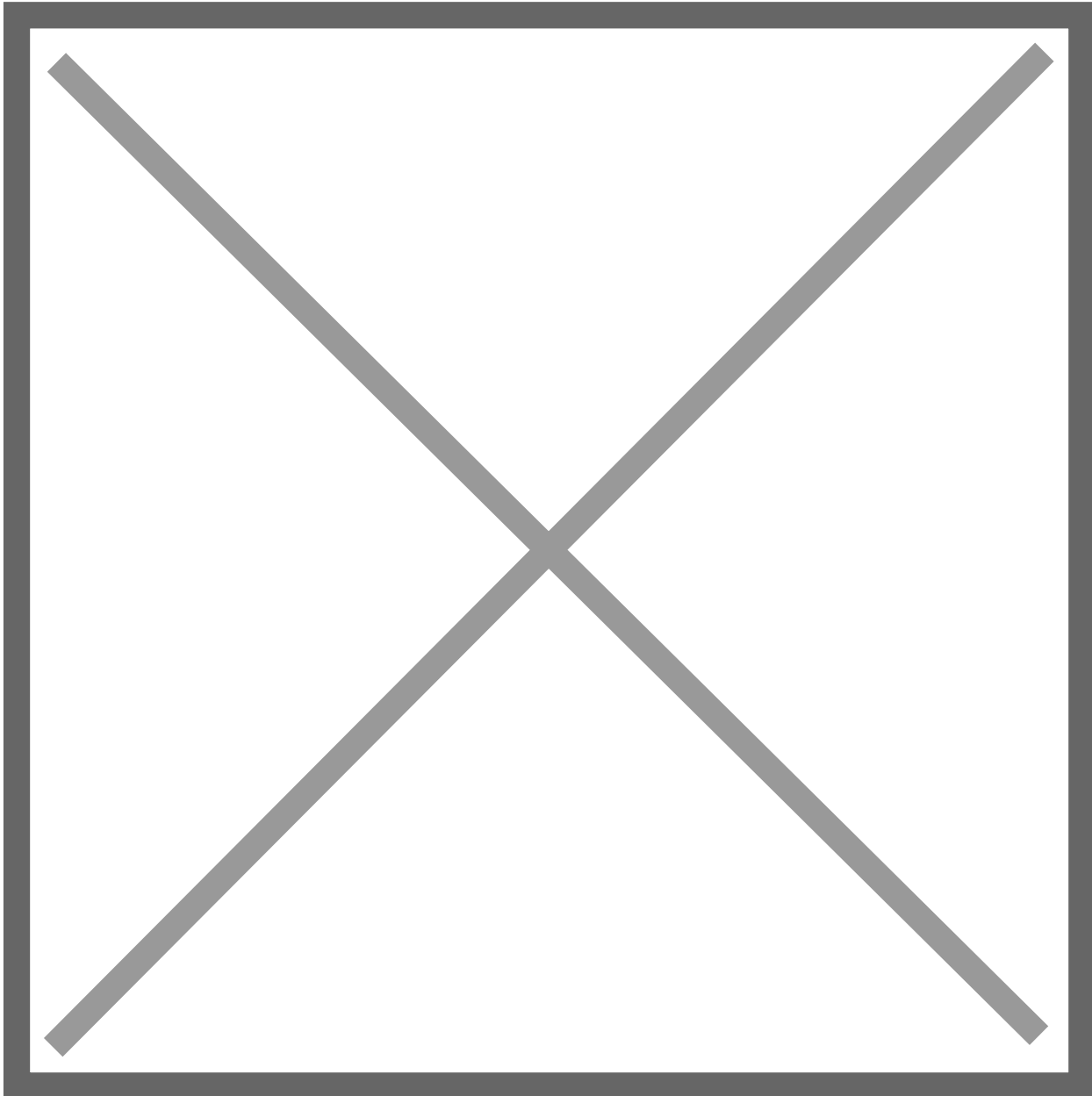
```
esxcli storage vmfs unmap -l vmfs5
```



Once complete, we can see the capacity reclaimed on the array:



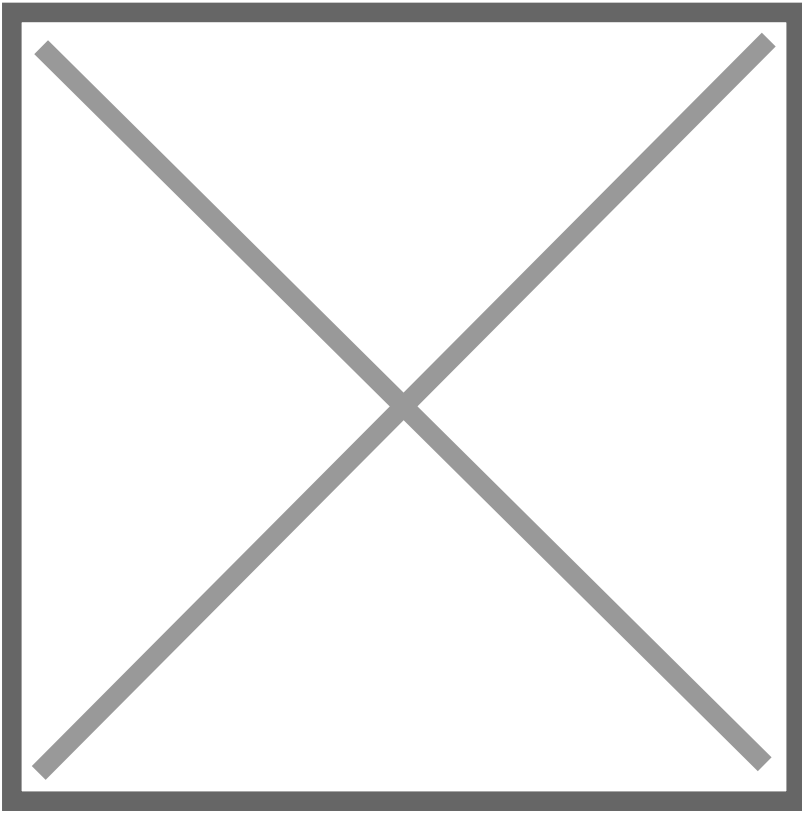
So this is the default behavior. Let's enable `EnableBlockDelete` and repeat the process.



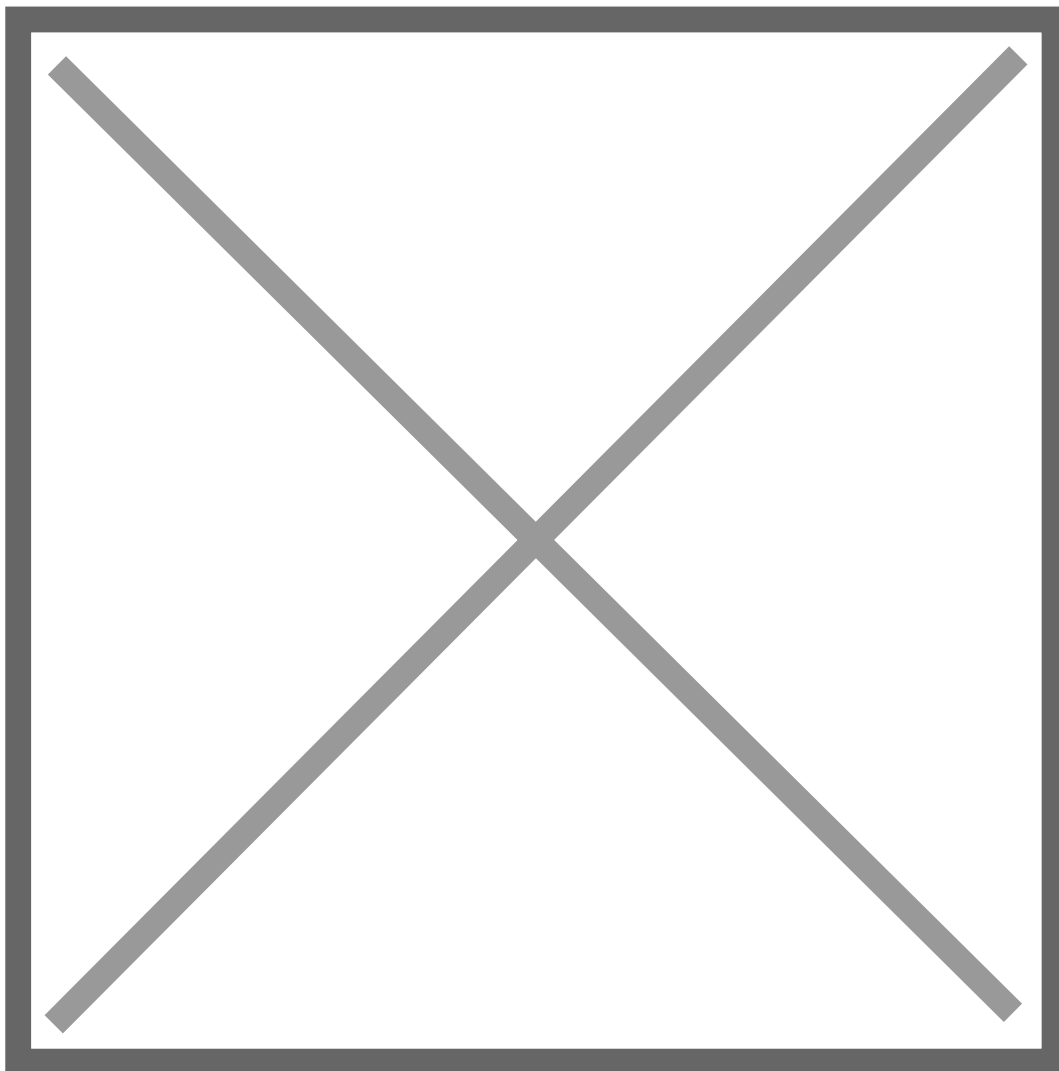
I will copy the data back to the file system, which will grow the virtual disk again and write data back to the FlashArray. We can see we have 3.9 GB used again on my file system.

```
root@Ubuntu16:/mnt/unmap# df -h /mnt/unmap
Filesystem Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sdb 16G 3.9G 11G 26% /mnt/unmap
```

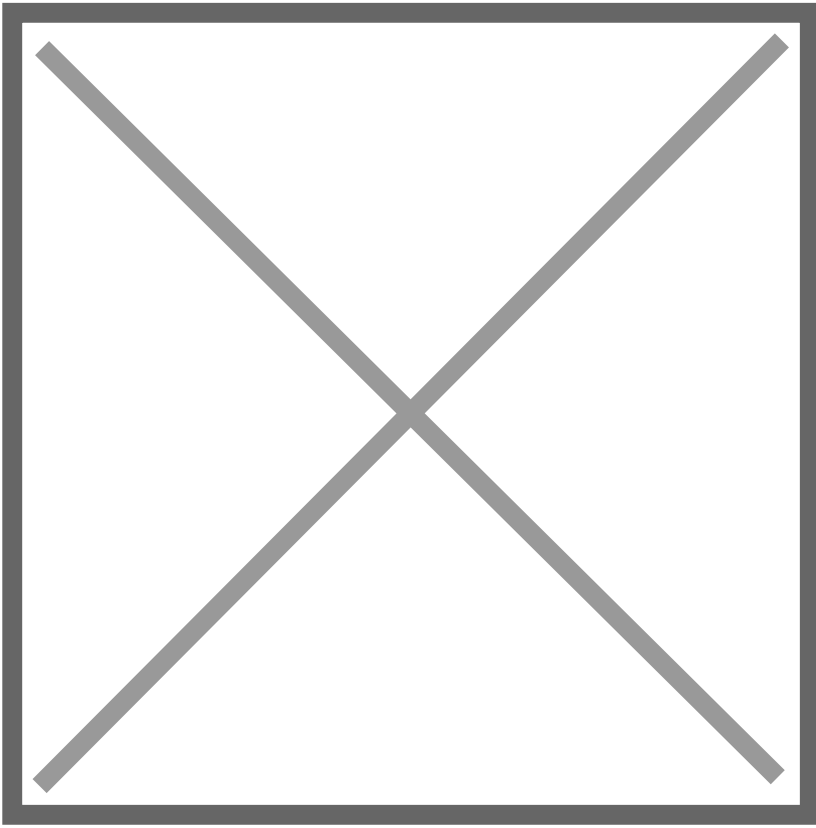
My virtual disk is back to 4.4 GB:



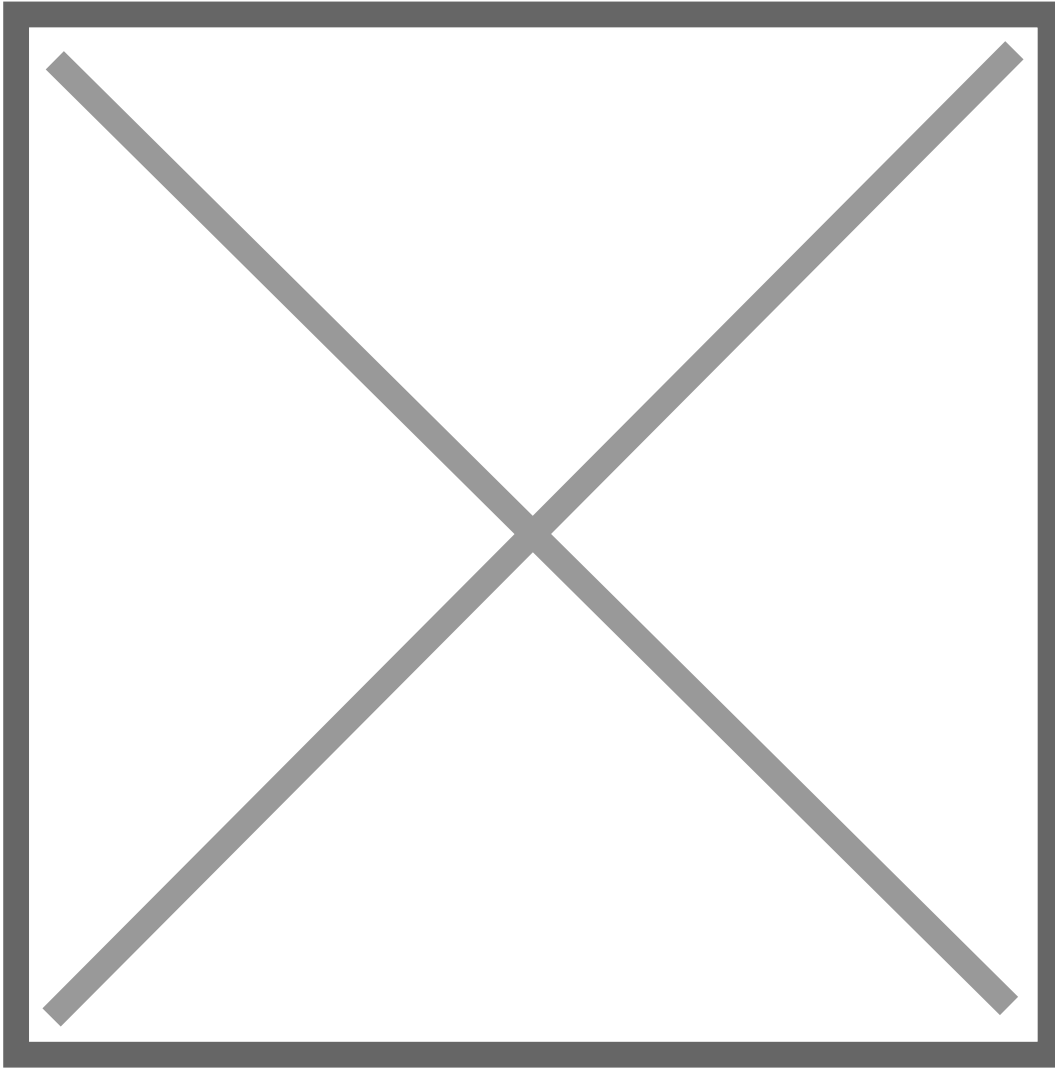
My array reduced it to 1.7 GB:



So now to delete the data and run fstrim. My virtual disk shrinks to 400ish MB again:



My space on my array is reclaimed immediately this time! No need to run `excli` to unmap.



I ran `fstrim` at 12:33:00 and the space was reclaimed on the array automatically by 12:33:55.

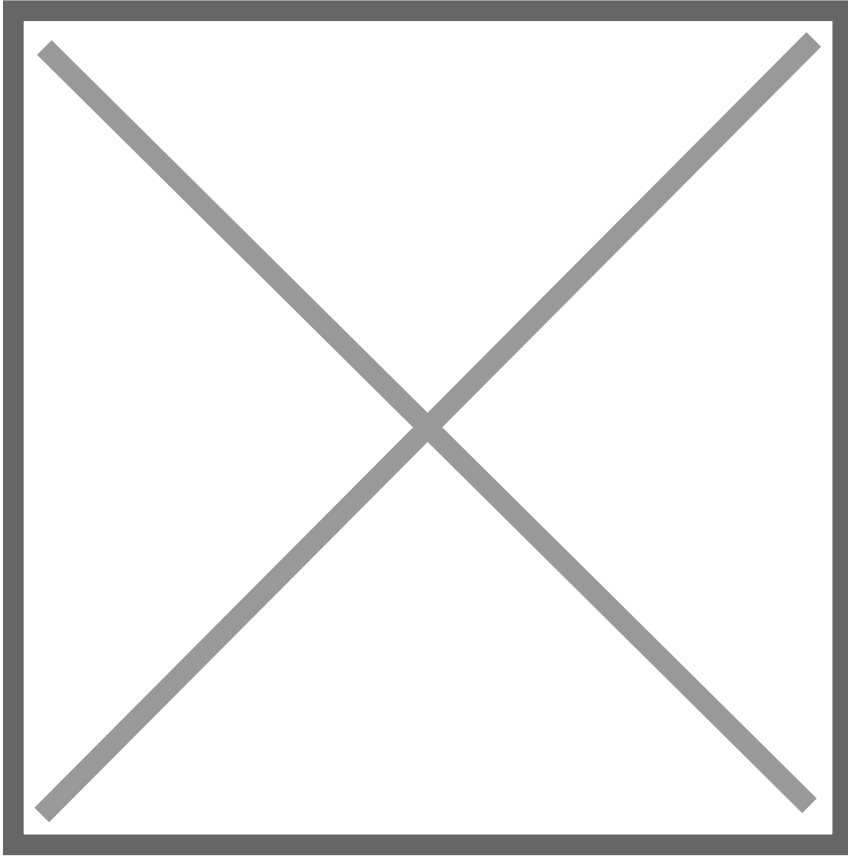
Great! So now, back to the original question, what about VMFS-6?

EnableBlockDelete and VMFS-6

As you are likely aware, VMFS-6 introduced automatic UNMAP. So you no longer need to ever use `esxcli` to run UNMAP on the VMFS.

So let's repeat the test.

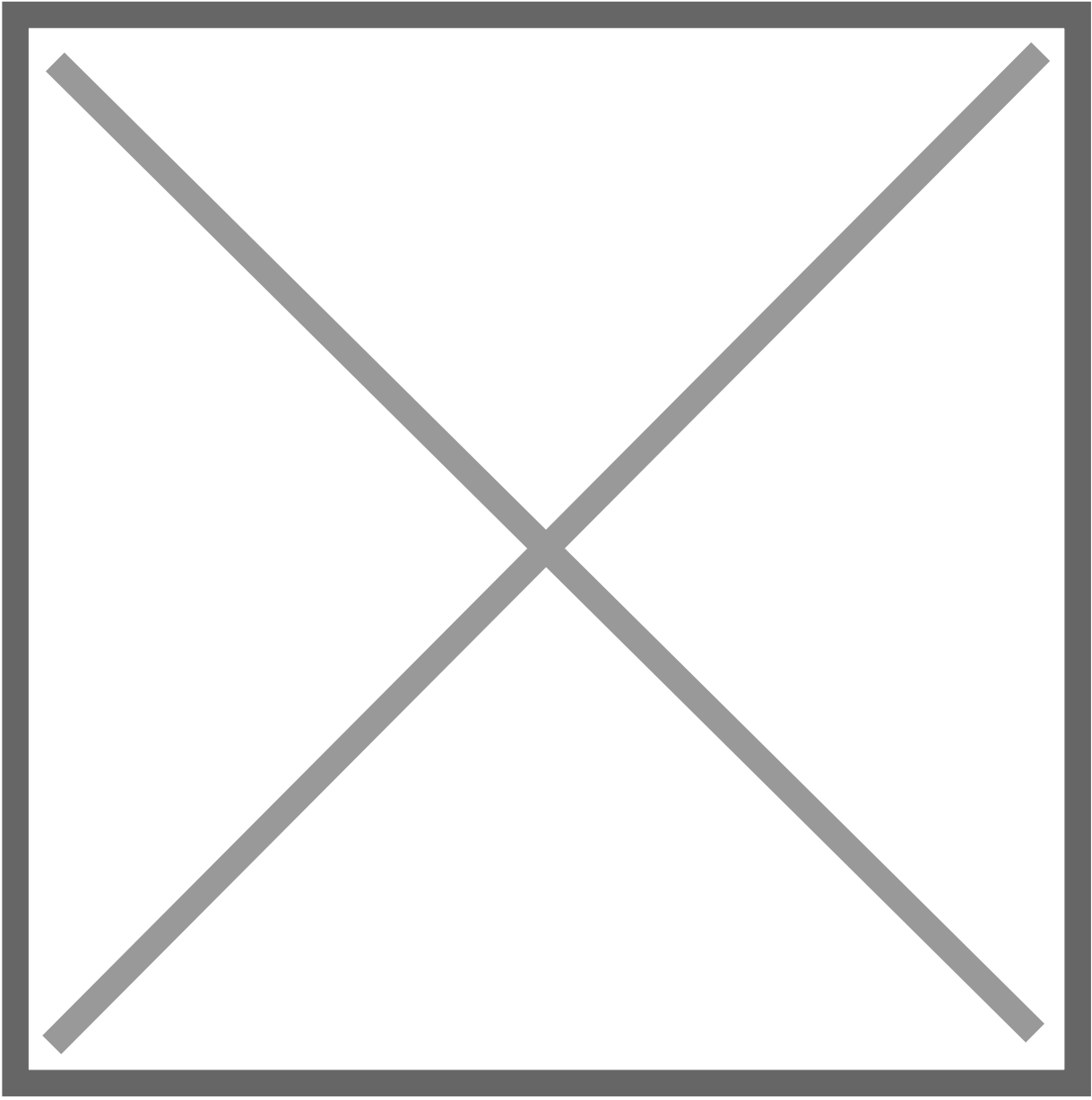
I moved my VMDK to my VMFS-6 datastore:

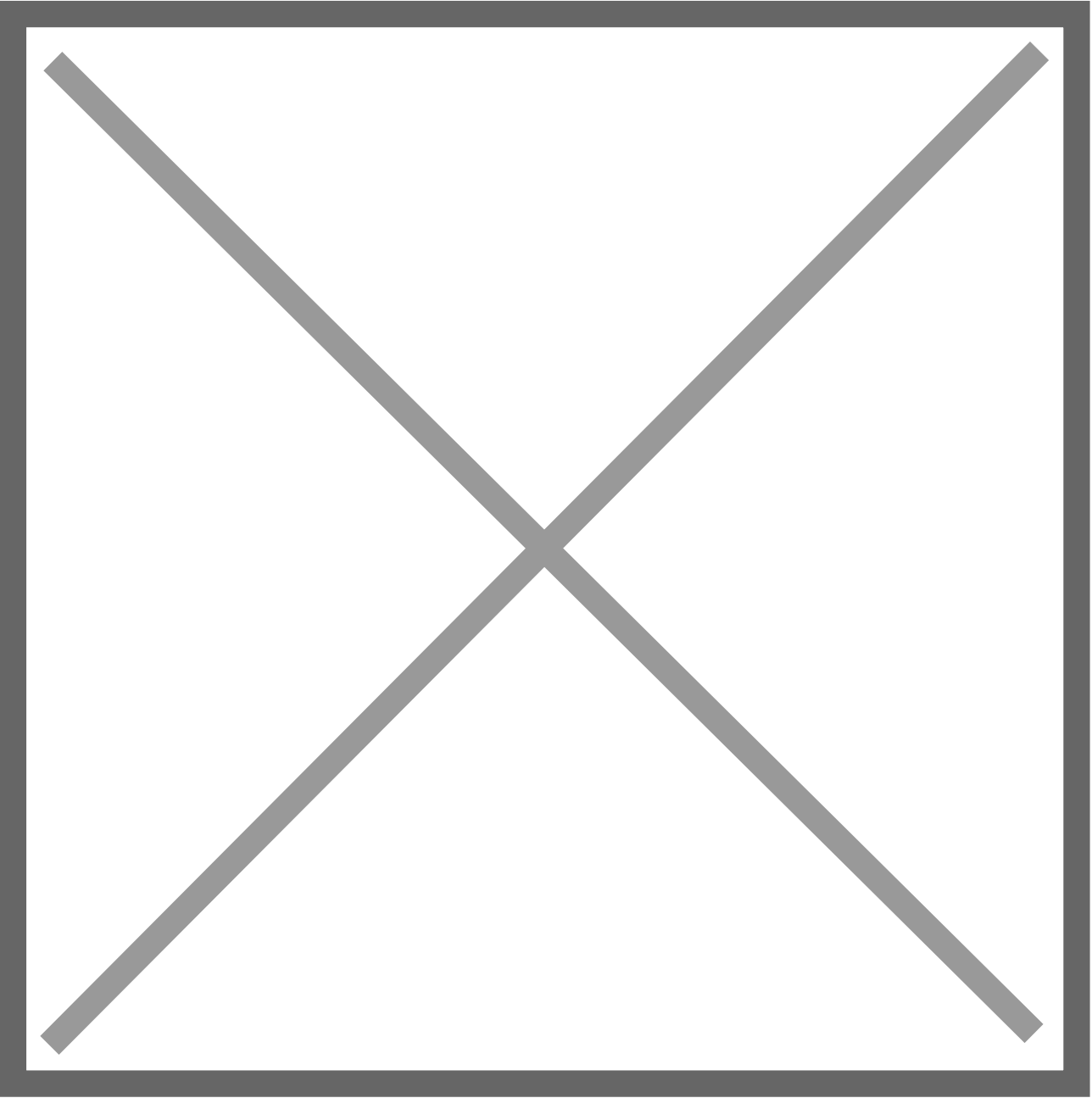


I will not go through every step again, let's just start from the "we just deleted the files" step, but we have yet to run fstrim. So we have dead space.

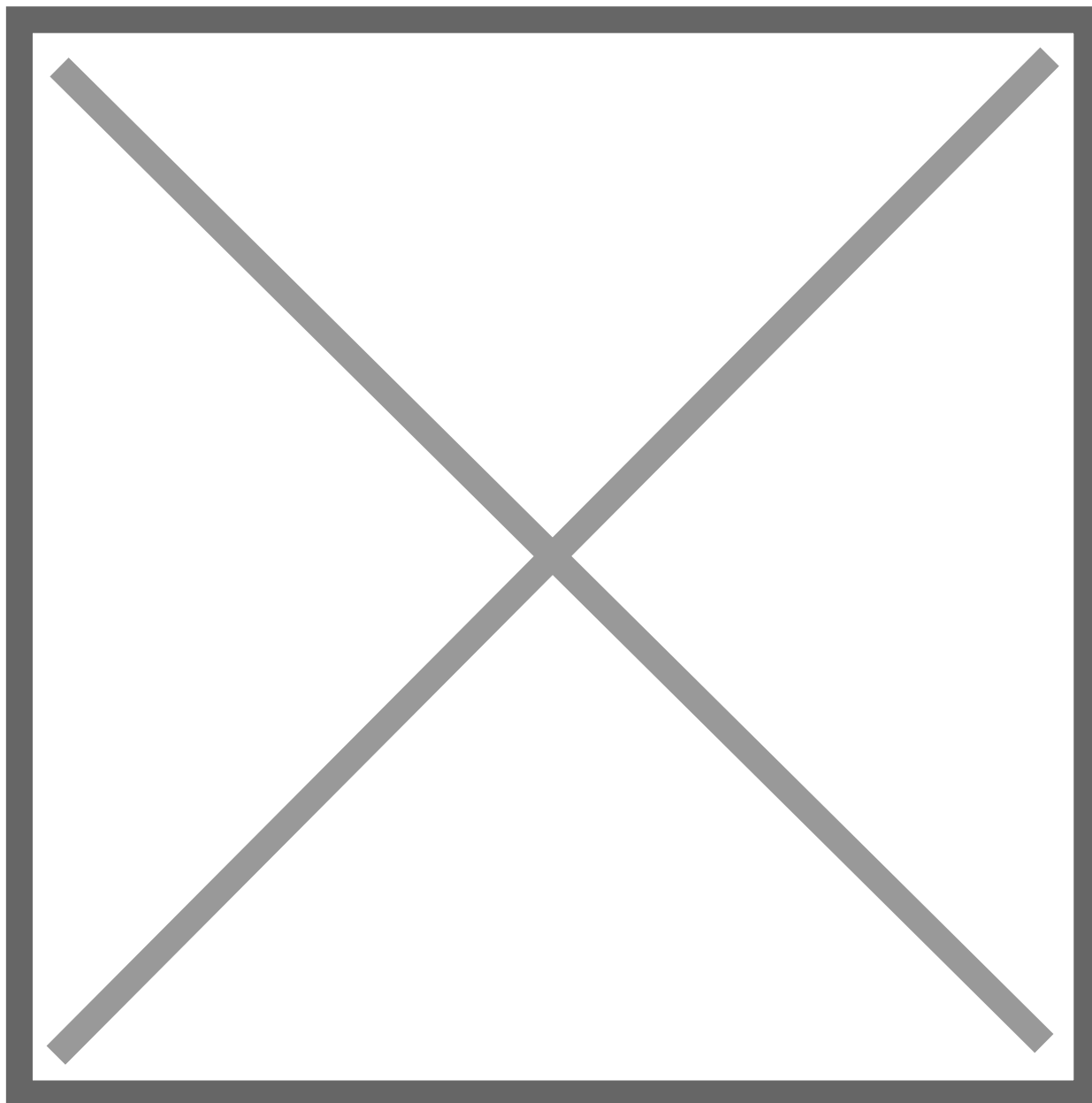
VMFS-6: EnableBlockDelete Disabled, Auto-UNMAP Enabled

In this test, I have EnableBlockDelete disabled on my host and auto-UNMAP enabled on the datastore.



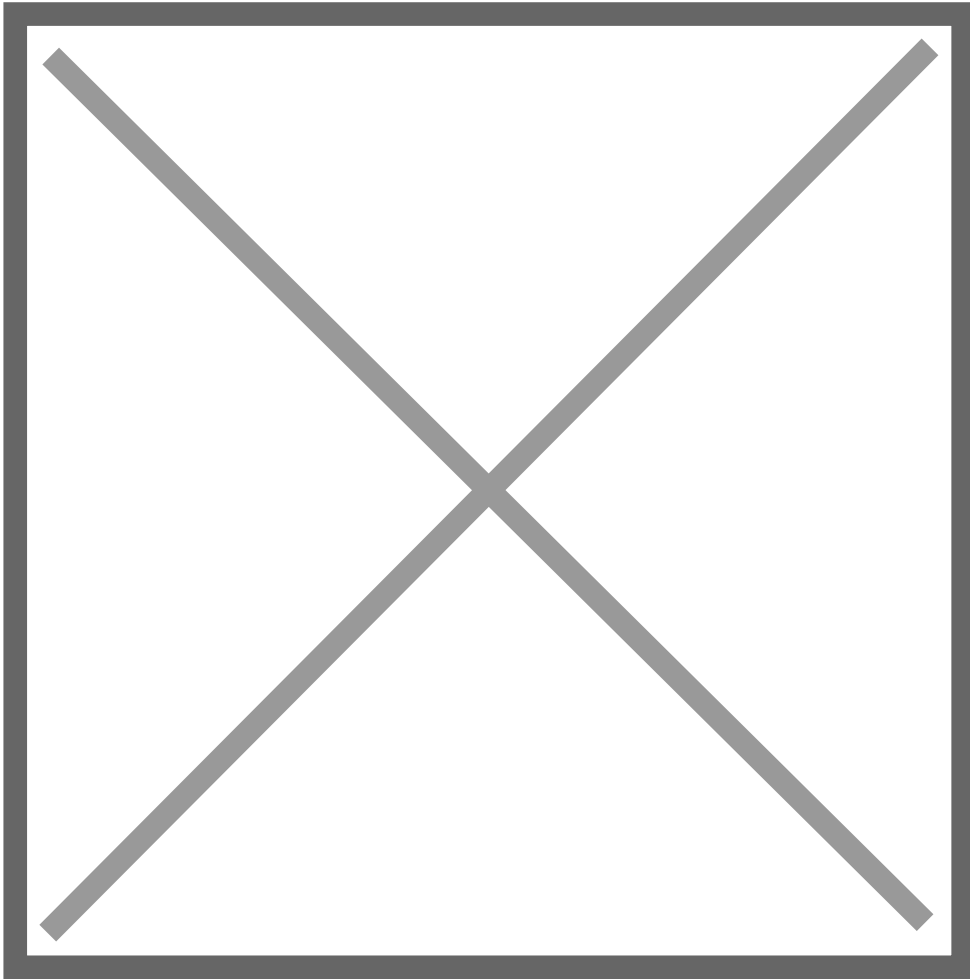


If I use vsish, I can see no automatic UNMAPs have been issued to this datastore from my host.

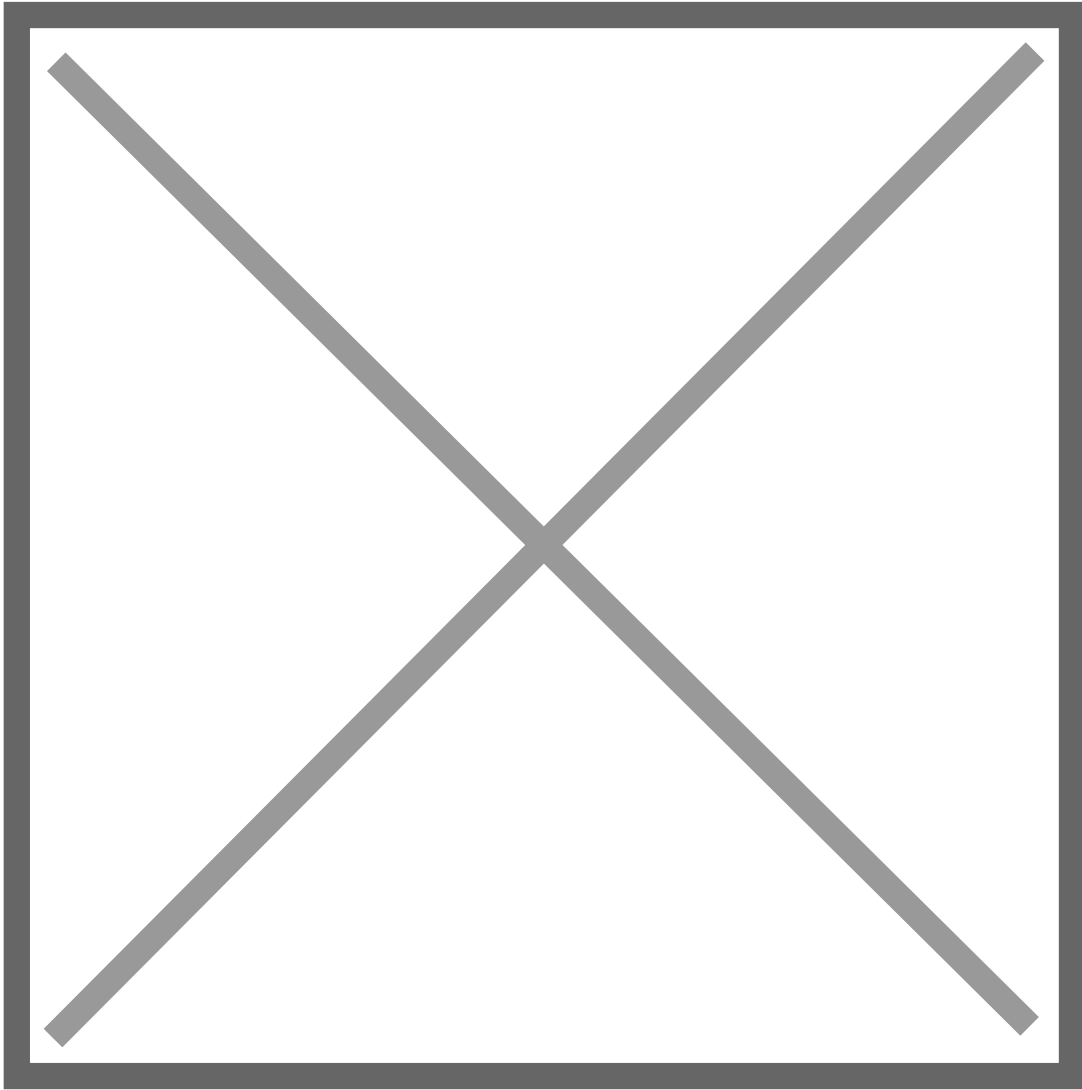


Note "UNMAP IOs" and "Unmapped blocks" are both zero.

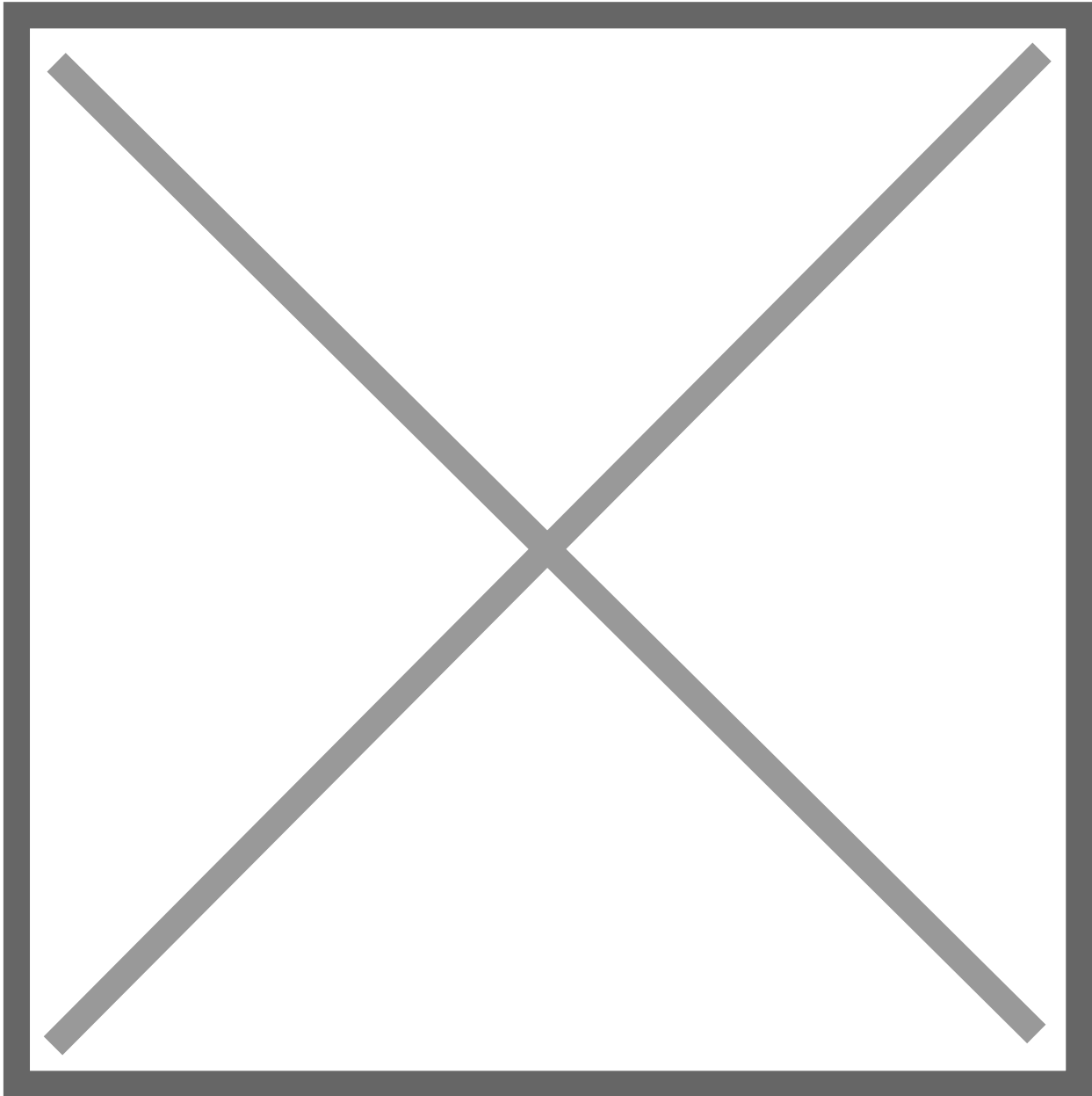
So I run fstrim. My VMDK is back down to 400 MB:



If we look back at the array, we see the space reclaims, but not quite as fast, took a few minutes.



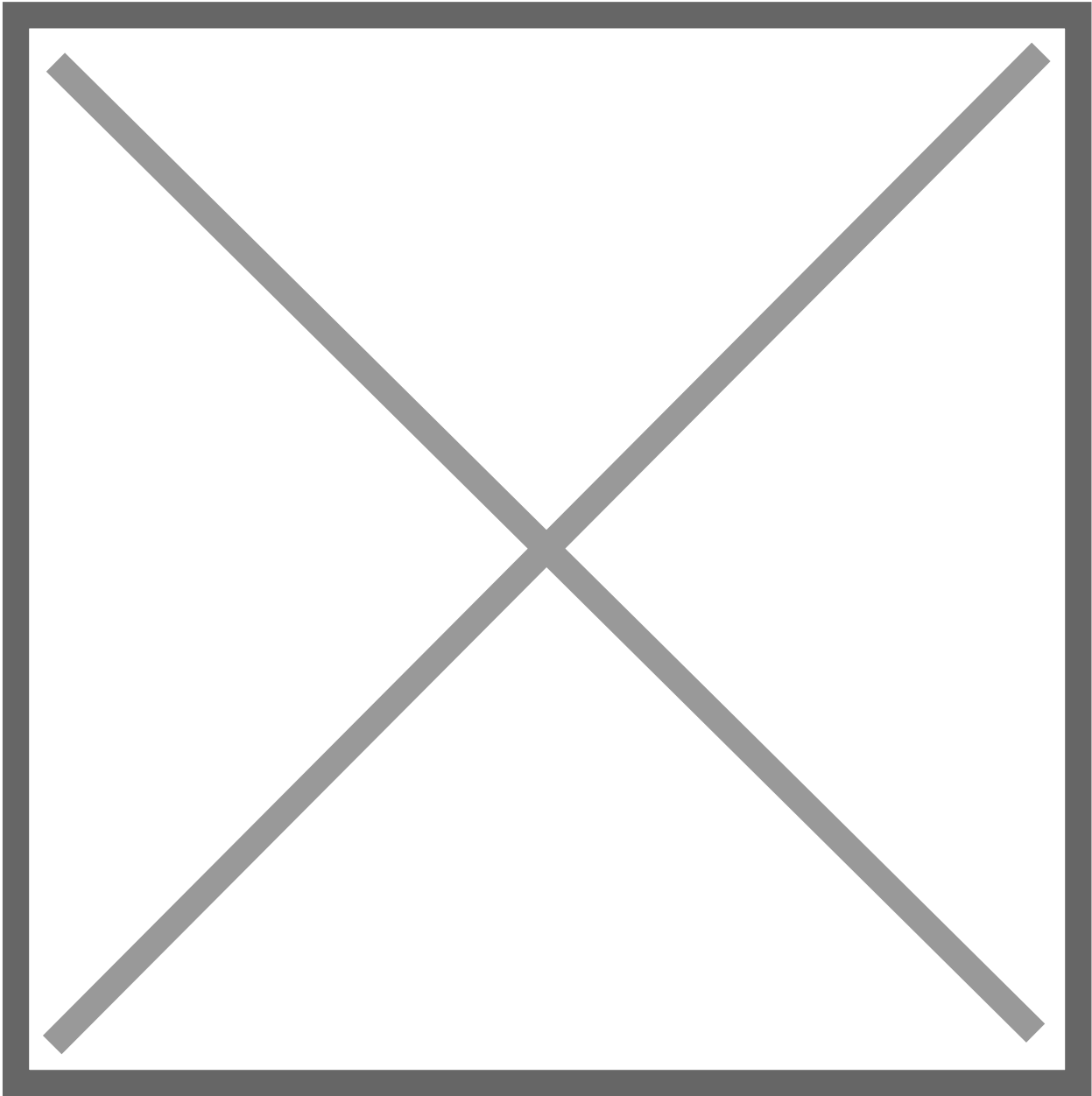
Since EnableBlockDelete was disabled and auto-unmap was enabled we can see this was auto-unmap. We can further show that by looking back at vsish:



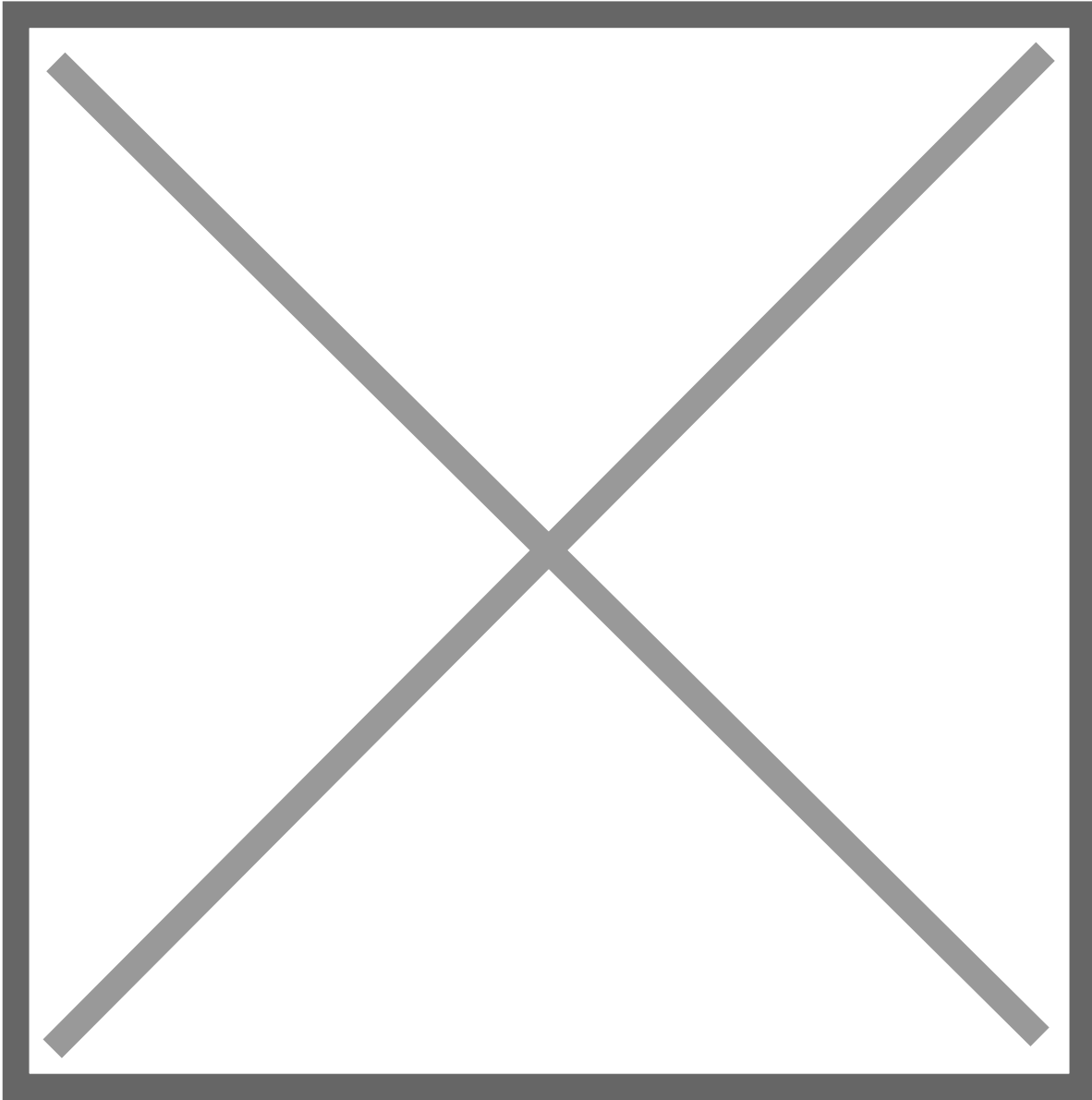
62 UNMAP I/Os and 3878 blocks reclaimed. So we don't need to turn on EnableBlockDelete in the case of VMFS-6!

VMFS-6: EnableBlockDelete Enabled, Auto-UNMAP Disabled

In this test, I have EnableBlockDelete enabled on my host...

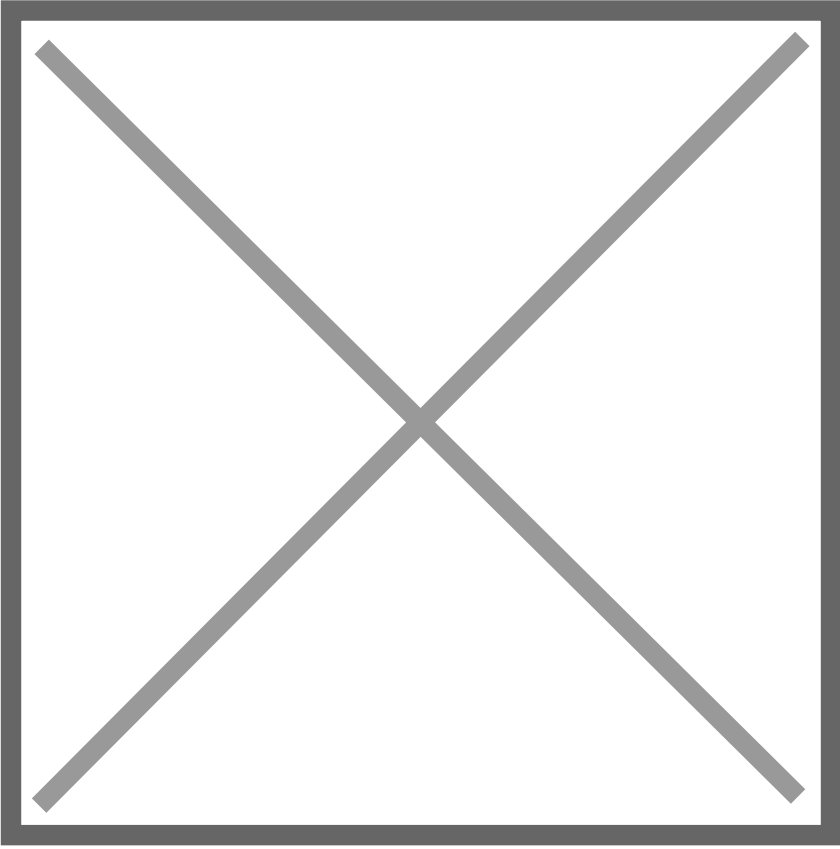


...and auto-UNMAP disabled on the datastore:

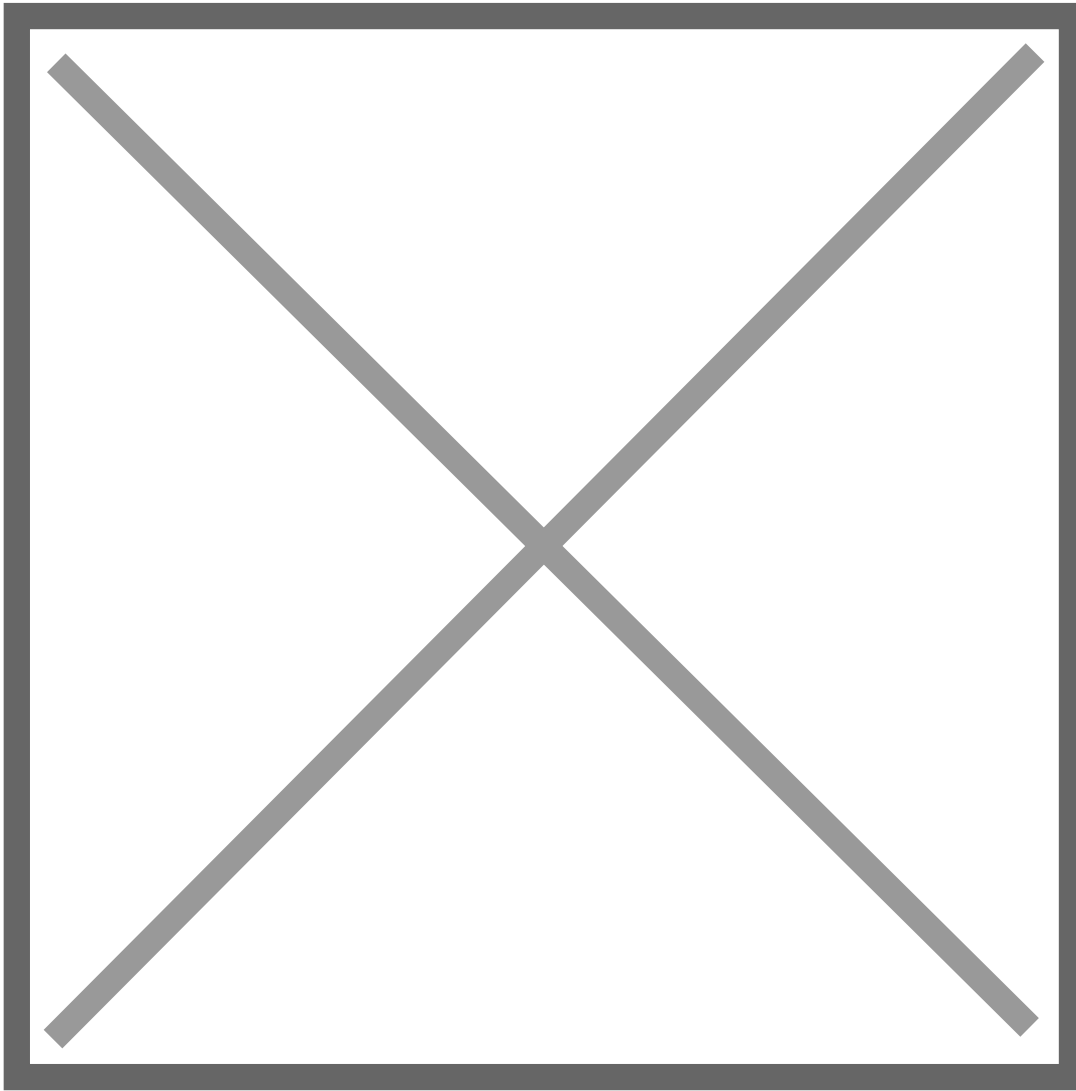


Let's run through the process again. I refreshed my environment so counters are reset etc. Add the VMDK, put data on it, delete the data and run fstrim:

The VMDK shrank back down:



But if we look at the array, nothing happens.



So this shows that `EnableBlockDelete` is ignored for VMFS-6 volumes. So in this situation we would have to enable automatic UNMAP to reclaim this space, or run the standard `esxcli` manual UNMAP.

Conclusion

So what does this tell us. A couple things.

- In order to have full end-to-end UNMAP with VMFS-5 volumes, you need to enable `EnableBlockDelete`.
- For VMFS-6 automatic UNMAP takes care of the VMFS reclamation portion for you.

An interesting thing here is that automatic UNMAP invokes fairly quickly. When you delete a VM or a virtual disk, automatic UNMAP can possibly take 12-24 hours to reclaim the space. But with in-guest UNMAP, as soon as the VMDK shrinks, automatic UNMAP kicks in fairly quickly—in a few minutes. Mimicking the behavior of `EnableBlockDelete`. Which is great—you don't lose functionality

by moving to VMFS-6.

I will note, that this was done with 6.5 U1. From my understanding there was a bug in 6.5.0 that EnableBlockDelete was actually honored with VMFS-6 and it would issue UNMAP when a VMDK shrank when the setting was enabled. The problem was that UNMAP was issued twice, as the EnableBlockDelete-invoked UNMAP did not prevent the automatic async UNMAP from issuing reclaim. So UNMAP was issued twice.

This behavior was changed in 6.5 P1 and of course in 6.5 U1.

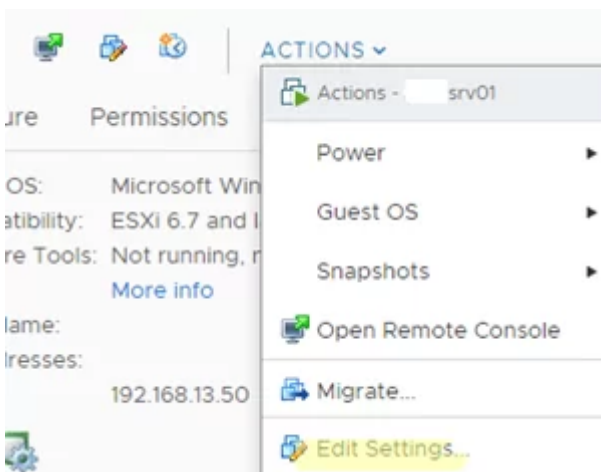
How to Increase Virtual Machine Disk Size in VMware

Original Article: <https://woshub.com/increase-virtual-disk-vmware/>

Increase the Size of VM Disk (VMDK) in VMware

For example, you have a virtual machine with a single virtual hard disk file (vmdk) of 40GB, and you plan to increase this virtual disk size to 50GB.

1. Connect to your vCenter server or a standalone ESXi host using the vSphere Web Client;



1. Find the virtual machine and open its settings (**Actions** -> **Edit Settings**);
2. Find the virtual disk you want to extend. In this example, the VM has only one **Hard Disk 1** with a size of 40 GB. Specify the new disk size in this field and save the settings. Note that the maximum disk size available for this type of datastore (VMFS, NFS, vSAN) is specified in the *Maximum size* field;

Edit Settings | srv01

Virtual Hardware | VM Options

> CPU	2	▼
> Memory	2.046875	GB ▼
▼ Hard disk 1	40	GB ▼
Maximum Size	89.5 GB	
VM storage policy	Datastore Default	

Make sure that your VMFS datastore has enough free space. If required, you can [increase the size of the VMFS datastore](#) in VMWare ESXi/vCenter.

You can also use the VMware PowerCLI module cmdlets to increase the size of the virtual machine VMDK disk. Install the PowerCLI module on your Windows or Linux computer:

```
Install-Module -Name VMware.PowerCLI
```

Connect to your vCenter server or ESXi host:

```
Connect-VIServer hostname
```

Run the following command to expand the virtual disk:

```
Get-HardDisk VMTest1 | where {$_.Name -eq "hard disk 1"} | Set-HardDisk -CapacityGB 50 -  
ResizeGuestPartition -Confirm:$false
```

```
C:\> Get-VM vm01 | Get-HardDisk -Name 'Har  
CapacityGB Persistence  
-----  
200.000 Persistent [data
```

Then you can use the **Invoke-VMScript** cmdlet to extend a partition in the guest operating system:

```
Invoke-VMScript -VM VMTest1 -ScriptText "echo select vol c > c:\diskpart.txt && echo extend >>  
c:\diskpart.txt && diskpart.exe /s c:\diskpart.txt" -GuestUser $guestUser -GuestPassword  
$guestPass -ScriptType BAT
```

Earlier, we showed an example of how to use the Invoke-VMScript to automatically install Windows updates in VMware VM templates.

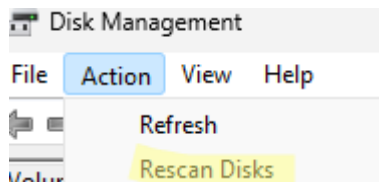
Don't forget to terminate the PowerShell management session once you're done:

```
Disconnect-VIServer -Confirm:$false
```

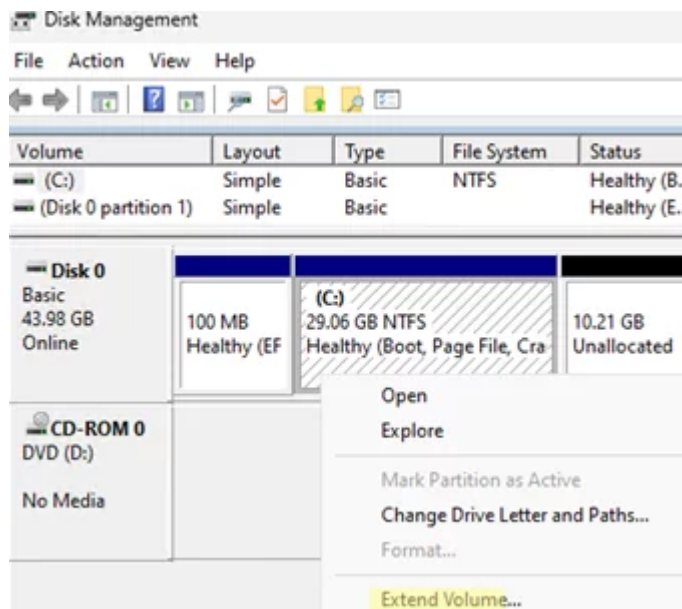
Now that you have increased the virtual disk size in the VMware console, you need to extend the partition in the guest OS

Extend a Partition in a Windows Virtual Machine

You must start the Disk Management console (**Computer Management-> Storage-> Disk Management**) and run the **Rescan Disk** command for the guest Windows OS to see the additional space.



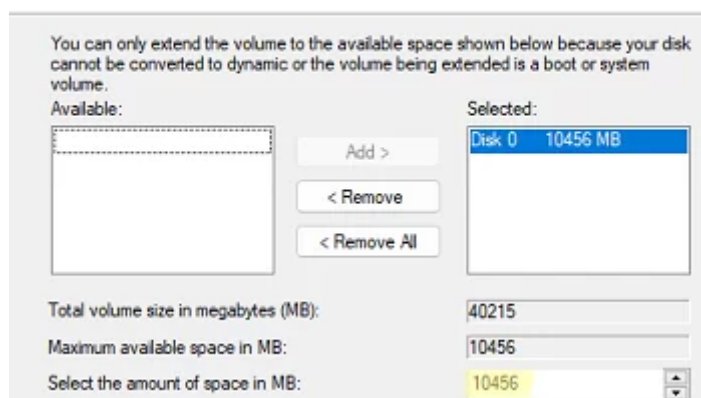
Next, select the partition you want to extend and click **Extend Volume**.



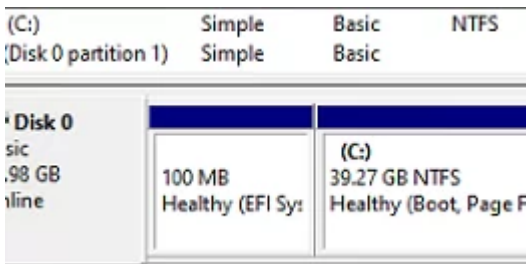
Specify how many MB of unallocated space you want to add to the selected Windows partition (in the field **Select the amount of space in MB**).

Select Disks

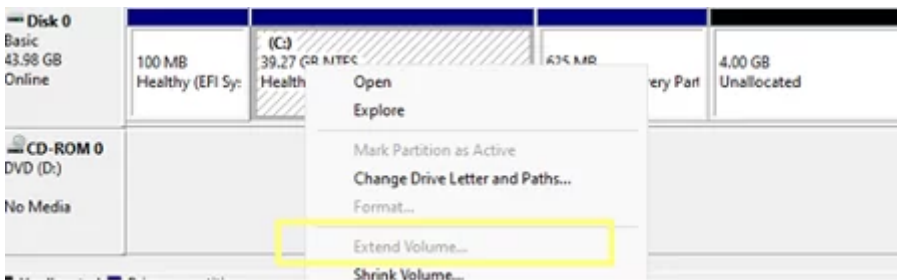
You can use space on one or more disks to extend the volume.



Now click Next -> Finish and check if your C drive has been successfully extended.



When extending a system partition (C:\ drive), you may find that it is followed by a [Windows Recovery Environment partition](#) instead of unallocated space. In this case, the Extend Volume option will not be available in the Disk Manager (greyed out).



In that case, you won't be able to extend your C: drive unless you delete or move the Recovery partition to the end of the drive. We have described this procedure in the article [Extend Volume option is grayed out in Windows](#).

Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 don't support the online extension of the system C: volume. You can use Dell's **ExtPart** tool to expand the system partition without rebooting.

To extend the system partition in Windows 2003/XP, copy the tool to the guest operating system and run it with the following parameters:

```
extpart.exe c: 1020
```

, where **c:** is the name of the volume you want to extend, and **1020** is the size (in MB) you want to extend the disk by.

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\tools\dell\ExtPart>extpart.exe c: 1020
ExtPart - Utility to extend basic disks <Build 1.0.4>
(c) Dell Computer Corporation 2003

Current volume size      : 10236 MB <10733957632 bytes>
Current partition size   : 10236 MB <10733958144 bytes>
New volume size          : 11256 MB <11803244032 bytes>
```

You can also extend the offline VM disc partition in other ways:

- Boot your virtual machine from any LiveCD (for example, GParted), and increase the partition;
- Connect a virtual VMDK file to another VM and extend the partition on that machine;
- Use the VMware vCenter Converter tool to reconfigure the volume size.

How to Extend Partition in Linux Virtual Machine?

Now let's look at how to expand the disk partition if you have a Linux family guest operating system installed in your virtual machine.

The first thing to do is to make sure that Linux sees the new disk size. To start a rescan, run the command:

```
$ echo 1>/sys/class/block/sdd/device/rescan
```

Use the cfdisk tool to show the available virtual hard disk space:

```
$ sudo cfdisk
```

This example shows that the /dev/sda drive has 2 GB of free space. Select the partition you want to extend (which is /dev/sda3 in this example) and chose **Resize** from the bottom menu.

```

Disk: /dev/sda
Size: 22 GiB, 23622320128 bytes, 46137344 sectors
Label: gpt, identifier: 0EF6DDE1-4033-49CE-A2CD-EBD1D4E96A38

Device      Start      End      Sectors  Size Type
/dev/sda1   2048       4095     2048      1M BIOS boot
/dev/sda2   4096      2101247  2097152   1G Linux filesystem
· /dev/sda3 2101248   41940991 39839744 19G Linux filesystem
Free space  41940992  46137310 4196319   2G

Partition UUID: F3222E08-4335-4506-BA45-AEB3E28F25E2
Partition type: Linux filesystem (0FC63DAF-8483-4772-8E79-3D69D8477DE4)
Filesystem UUID: PcHhqz-jYsC-01NU-RZcT-AxCI-HILM-32QI0q
Filesystem: LVM2_member

[ Delete ] [ Resize ] [ Quit ] [ Type ] [ Help ] [ Write ] [ Dump

```

Then click **Write** to apply the changes to the partition.

```

Disk: /dev/sda
Size: 22 GiB, 23622320128 bytes, 46137344 sectors
Label: gpt, identifier: 0EF6DDE1-4033-49CE-A2CD-EBD1D4E96A38

Device      Start      End          Sectors     Size Type
/dev/sda1   2048       4095         2048        1M BIOS boot
/dev/sda2   4096       2101247     2097152     1G Linux filesy
> /dev/sda3  2101248   46137310    44036063    21G Linux filesy

Partition UUID: F3222E08-4335-4506-BA45-AEB3E28F25E2
Partition type: Linux filesystem (0FC63DAF-8483-4772-8E79-3D69D8477DE4)
Filesystem UUID: PcHhqz-jYsC-O1NU-RZcT-AxCI-HILM-32QI0q
Filesystem: LVM2_member

[ Delete ] [ Resize ] [ Quit ] [ Type ] [ Help ] [ Write ]

```

In my case, I need to extend the partition in an Ubuntu 22.04 LTS virtual machine. By default, this version of Ubuntu is installed on LVM volume:

```
$ sudo lsblk
```

```

root@srv-ubuntu1:/home/sysops# lsblk
NAME                                MAJ:MIN RM  SIZE RO TYPE MOUNTPOINT
loop0                               7:0      0 63.2M  1 loop /snap/core20/17
loop1                               7:1      0 67.8M  1 loop /snap/lxd/22753
loop2                               7:2      0 91.9M  1 loop /snap/lxd/24061
loop3                               7:3      0 55.6M  1 loop /snap/core18/26
loop4                               7:4      0 55.5M  1 loop /snap/core18/24
loop5                               7:5      0 49.6M  1 loop /snap/snapd/178
loop7                               7:7      0 49.8M  1 loop /snap/snapd/179
loop8                               7:8      0 63.3M  1 loop /snap/core20/17
sda                                 8:0      0   22G  0 disk
├─sda1                             8:1      0    1M  0 part
├─sda2                             8:2      0    1G  0 part /boot
└─sda3                             8:3      0   21G  0 part
   └─ubuntu--vg-ubuntu--lv 253:0    0   19G  0 lvm /

```

Before you can extend an LVM volume, you need to increase the physical volume (PV):

```
$ sudo pvresize /dev/sda3
```

Once that's done, you can extend the logical volume (we'll use all the free space available):

```
$ sudo lvextend -l +100%FREE /dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-ubuntu--lv
```

```

root@srv-ubun01:/home/sysops# sudo lvextend -l +100%FREE /dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-ubuntu--lv
Size of logical volume ubuntu-vg/ubuntu-lv changed from <19.00 GiB (4863 extents) to <21.00 GiB
Logical volume ubuntu-vg/ubuntu-lv successfully resized.

```

The next step is extending the file system:

```
$ sudo resize2fs /dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-ubuntu--lv
```

Check free disk space in Linux:

```
$ df -h
```

```

root@srv-ubun01:/home/sysops# df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
udev            1.9G   0    1.9G   0% /dev
tmpfs           391M   6.4M  385M   2% /run
/dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-ubuntu--lv 21G   18G   1.7G  92% /
tmpfs           2.0G   0    2.0G   0% /dev/shm

```

If you do not have LVM volumes, you can use the [parted](#) tool to extend partitions in Linux:

```
$ sudo parted
```

Let's check how much unallocated space you have on the disk:

```
print free
```

As you can see, *Free Space = 2149MB*

```
sysops@srv-ubun01:~$ sudo parted
GNU Parted 3.3
Using /dev/sda
Welcome to GNU Parted! Type 'help' to view
(parted) print free
Model: VMware, VMware Virtual S (scsi)
Disk /dev/sda: 23.6GB
Sector size (logical/physical): 512B/512B
Partition Table: gpt
Disk Flags:

Number  Start      End          Size         File system
 1      1049kB    1049kB      1031kB      Free Space
 2      1049kB    2097kB      1049kB
 3      2097kB    1076MB      1074MB      ext4
 3      1076MB    21.5GB      20.4GB
 3      21.5GB    23.6GB      2149MB      Free Space
```

To extend the `/dev/sda3` partition, run:

```
resizepart 3
```

Specify a new partition size (in this example, we need to specify the **End** size from **the Free Space** block):

```
End? [21.5GB]? 23.6G
```

```
(parted) resizepart 3
End? [21.5GB]? 23.6G
(parted) p
Model: VMware, VMware Virtual S (scsi)
Disk /dev/sda: 23.6GB
Sector size (logical/physical): 512B/512B
Partition Table: gpt
Disk Flags:

Number  Start      End          Size         File syst
 1      1049kB    2097kB      1049kB
 2      2097kB    1076MB      1074MB      ext4
 3      1076MB    23.6GB      22.5GB
```

Then exit the parted:

```
quit
```

All that remains is to grow an ext4/3/2 file system.

```
$ sudo resize2fs /dev/sda3
```

Reduce Virtual Machine Disk Size (VMDK) on VMWare ESXi

Original Article: <https://woshub.com/shrinking-vmdk-virtual-disk-vmware-esxi/>

In this article, we will look at how to reduce the size of a virtual machine's hard disk (VMDK) in VMware ESXi. From the vSphere Client GUI, you cannot reduce the size of a virtual disk (only the option to [increase the VM disk size](#) is available). An error occurs when you try to specify a smaller VM disk size: `Enter a disk size which is larger than its original capacity`.

[can't reduce vmware vm disk size from vsphere client](#)

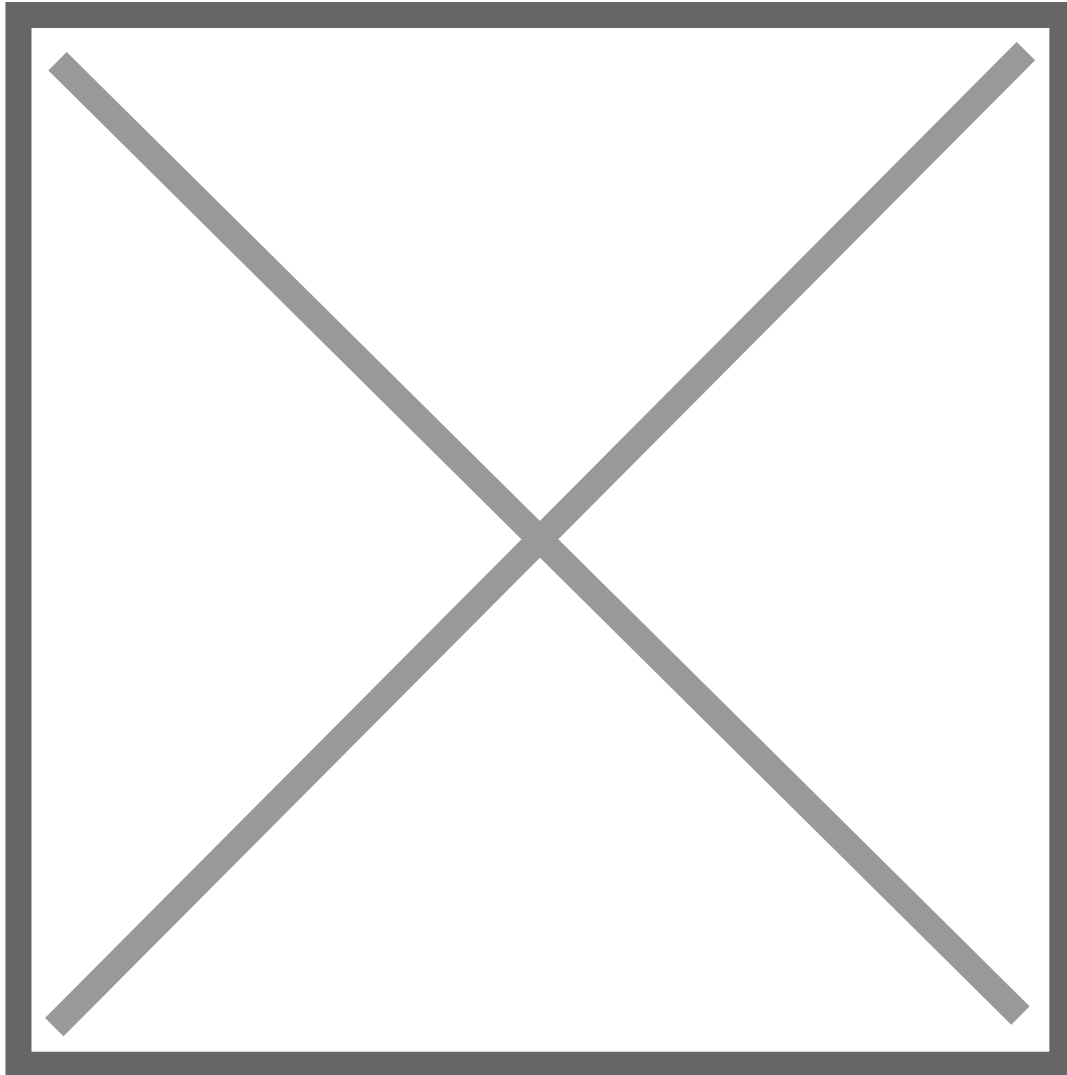
This guide is not an officially supported solution for reducing the size of the VMDK disk in VMware. I have used this method over a dozen times and it works reliably.

Before you can reduce the size of the virtual disk on the VMware ESXi datastore:

- Delete all virtual machine snapshots;

- Backup the virtual machine, or at least make a copy of the *.**vmdk** and the *-**flat.vmdk** files of the virtual hard disk you want to shrink. In the ESXi console, run the following commands:

```
cp vmname.vmdk backup_vmname.vmdk  
cp vmname-flat.vmdk backup_vmname-flat.vmdk
```



Reducing the virtual disk file in VMware is a two-step process:

- Shrink the partition size within the guest OS;
- Reduce the size of a VMware virtual machine's VMDK file on VMFS (NFS) datastore.

How to Shrink Disk Partition in the Guest OS

First of all, reduce the size of the disk partition in the guest operating system

If the VM has a Windows guest OS installed:

1. Open the Disk Management console (`diskmgmt.msc`);
2. In this case, the [WinRE Recovery Partition](#) is to the right of the partition we want to shrink. To shrink the partition in Windows, there should be no other partitions to the right of the partition you are trying to shrink. You need to either move the **winre.wim** recovery image from a separate partition to the system one, or move the recovery partition to the beginning of the partition table (both options are described in detail in the post: [Cannot extend volume blocked by a recovery partition](#));
[Cannot shrink disk in guest windows due to recovery partition](#)
3. You can now reduce the size of the main partition. In modern versions of Windows, you can reduce the size of the partition without rebooting; in older versions, you have to use the `sdelete` tool. Click on the partition and select **Shrink Volume**; shrink volume in Windows
4. Suppose you need to reduce VM disk size by 40GB. In the **Enter the amount of space to shrink in MB** box, type 40960 MB (`40 GB x 1024`) and click **Shrink**; specify the amount of space to shrink in MB
5. When the shrink task is complete, 40GB of **unallocated** space will appear to the right of your main partition. windows partition unallocated space

For the Linux VMs, you can boot the virtual machine from a **GParted LiveCD (GNOME Partition Editor)** if you need to reduce the size of the root partition. Shrink partitions using the GParted GUI's Resize/Move menu. Move partitions if necessary. To apply changes, select Edit -> Apply all operations. The tool will resize partitions and reduce the file system using `Resize2fs`.

[reduce partition in guest linux](#)

Boot the Linux guest VM and check that everything is working correctly.

You can resize mounted non-root partitions directly from the Linux guest using [parted](#). The scenario is different when using LVM logical volumes.

Reduce the Size of a VMware Virtual Machine Disk (VMDK)

You can now reduce the size of the VMDK file on the VMware VMFS file system.

1. Shut down the VM;
2. Use [SSH to connect to the ESXi host](#) on which the virtual machine is registered;
3. Navigate to the directory where the VM vmdk file is located (you can find the path to the VMDK file in the virtual disk properties in the vSphere client):

```
cd /vmfs/volumes/datastore/test-VM
```

vmware vm file on vmfs datastore

4. List the virtual disk configuration file (*.vmdk) using the `cat` command:

```
# cat test_vm_3.vmdk
```

The size of the vmdk disk is set in the **#Extent description** section (after the RW symbols). In this case, it is **167772160** ($80 \text{ GB} * 1024 * 1024 * 1024 / 512$);
vmware vmdk file size

5. I want to reduce my VMDK disk by 40 GB. This means that I have to specify **83886080** in the Extent description section. This value is calculated as follows: `167772160` (current disk size) - `83886080` ($40 \text{ GB} * 1024 * 1024 * 1024 / 512$);
6. Edit the virtual disk configuration file using vi: `# vi test_vm_3.vmdk`
7. Use the down arrow key to scroll to the line containing the disk size and press `i` (to edit it). Specify the new size of the virtual disk. Press ESC to exit the edit mode and then type `:wq` -> Enter to save the changes; shrink vmdk file size on vmware datastore
8. The remaining step is to migrate the VM to another datastore using Storage VMotion. The virtual machine properties will show the new virtual disc size after the virtual machine files are moved.

Tip. If you have only one ESXi host, the easiest way to update the disk size in the vSphere Client is to simply re-register the virtual machine. Click on the VM and select **Unregister**.

[unregister vmware vm](#)

Then go to the Storage section, find the VMFS/NFS datastore where the VM is located -> click Datastore Browser, find the VM directory, click on the VMX file, and select **Register**.

[register vmware vm using its vmx file](#)

Or you can clone the VMDK file using this command:

```
vmkfstools -i test_vm_3.vmdk test_vm_3_newsize.vmdk
```

Then delete the original VMDK file and clone the disk again, to revert to its original name:

```
rm test_vm_3.vmdk  
rm test_vm_3-flat.vmdk  
vmkfstools -i test_vm_3_newsize.vmdk test_vm_3.vmdk
```

Make sure that the new size of the virtual disk is now displayed in the VM properties.

new size of the virtual disk is now displayed in the vmware VM properties

Then start the VM, logon to the guest OS, and check that the unallocated space has disappeared, and the disk size has been reduced.

Shrink a Hard Drive Volume in Windows

Shrink a VMDK Disk Using VMware vCenter Converter Standalone

You can reduce the size of virtual machine hard disks using the **VMware vCenter Converter Standalone**. This free GUI tool allows you to clone a source VM and set the size of the new disk to be smaller than the original (there must be free space on the guest file system).

Cons:

- V2V conversion is quite slow;
- There must be enough free space on the datastore to save a new VM;
- A new MAC address is assigned to the new VM.

Pros:

- Simple graphical interface;
- An exact copy of a VM is created;
- The source VM won't be corrupted by incorrect disk resizing actions.

Note. The source VM you want to resize must be shut down.

Run VMware Converter and specify the ESXi host or vCenter address.

vmware converter connect vcenter

Select the source VM.

select vm to convert

Set the virtual hardware settings for your new (destination) VM.

set VM properties

Go to the disk edit mode (Data to copy -> Edit).

edit disk properties in vmware converter

Select the copy mode: *Select volumes to copy*.

copy all disks and maintain layout

Specify the new virtual disk size for your new VM. In my example, 48 GB on the virtual disk is occupied by the guest OS, and the total disk size is 150 GB. We will reduce the size of the virtual disk to 60 GB.

maintain disk size vm converter Shrink a VMDK using VMware Converter

Run the VM conversion process. When finished, turn off the source VM and power on the new one. Check that the virtual disk size has been reduced. The original VM can then be removed.