

# Cloning a VM from the ESXi Command Line

On ESXi Free, there is no possibility to clone a virtual machine from the GUI.

This details how to clone a virtual machine from the command line.

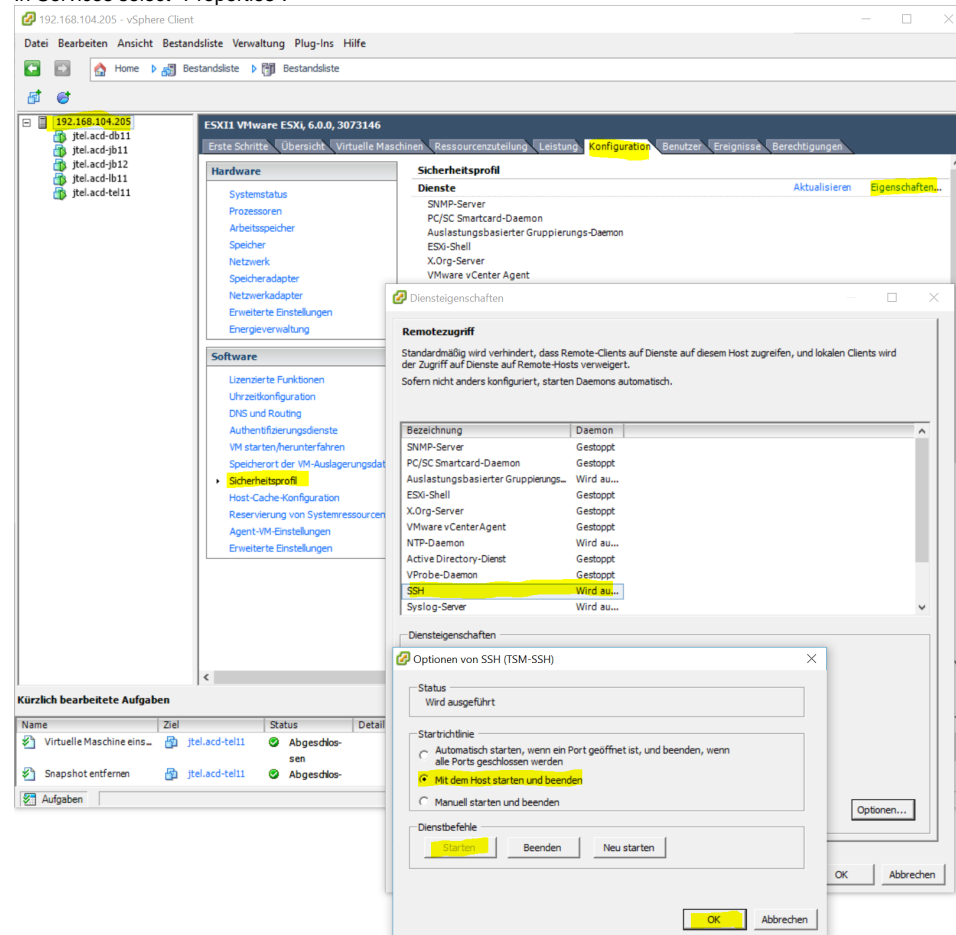
## 1. Enable SSH on the ESXi host using the GUI.

Start the VMWare Client.

Select the ESXi Host.

Select the Configuration Tab, then Security Profile.

In Services select "Properties".



## 2. Login to the ESXi host using SSH.

## 3. cd into the datastore

For example:

```
cd /vmfs/volumes/datastore
```

**4. Create a new directory for the clone:**

```
mkdir vm-name-clone
```

**5. cd into the clone directory**

```
cd vm-name-clone
```

**6. DO THESE STEPS FOR EACH DISK THE VM CONTAINS**

**a. Locate the vmdk file for the current version of the disk to clone in the original VM directory.**

For example, for the first snapshot of the disk, the disk name will be disk-name-000001.vmdk

**b. Clone the disk using the following command**

```
vmkfstools -i /vmfs/volumes/datastore/vm-name/disk-name-000001.vmdk ./disk-name.vmdk -d thin
```

This will create a clone of the disk, thin provisioned.

**c. Copy the other VM files into the directory.**

**d. Edit the VM file if necessary, and change the name of the mounted disk to the newly cloned disk.**

For example change this line:

```
scsi0:0.fileName = "disk-name-000001.vmdk"
```

To this:

```
scsi0:0.fileName = "disk-name.vmdk"
```

**7. That's it. The new VM is ready to use or to be copied somewhere else.**

