

Tips and Tricks from a Mac Admin

```
cat ~/.bash_history > Documentation.txt
```

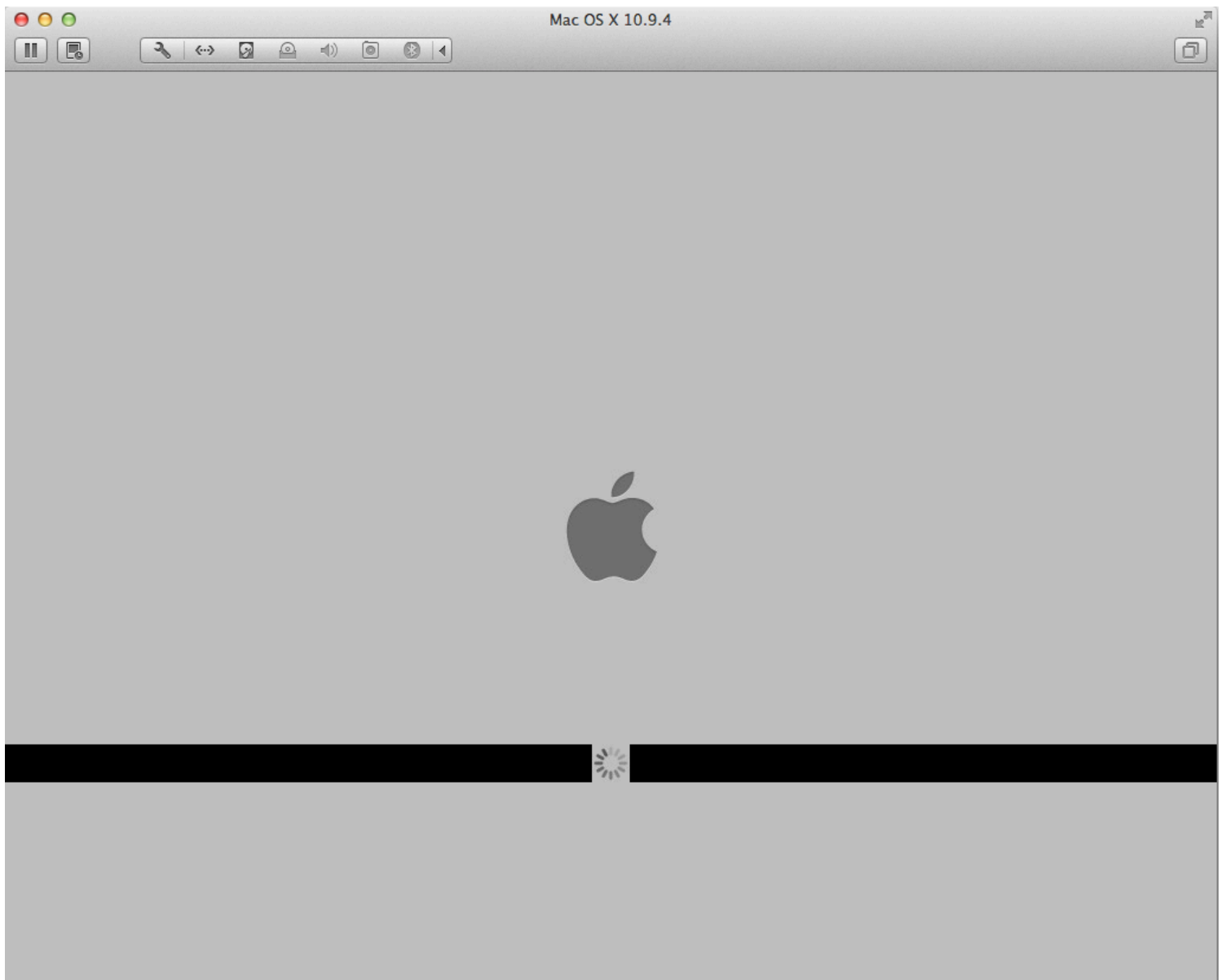
Unable to start Mac OS X VM's on ESXi Host after uploading from VMWare Fusion 7

In my previous post, I talked about using a MacMini as an ESXi host. This has been pretty common place for a while and there are lots of great blogs already out there about it.

New in VMWare Fusion 7 is the ability to use Fusion to connect to your ESXi host. This is awesome, and of course Rich Trouton has a fantastic write up about it [here](http://derflounder.wordpress.com/2014/07/04/vmware-fusion-technology-preview-july-2014-includes-esxi-management-options/) (<http://derflounder.wordpress.com/2014/07/04/vmware-fusion-technology-preview-july-2014-includes-esxi-management-options/>).

I was able to simple copy a bunch of linux VM's from my desktop machine running Fusion 7 to my new ESXi host in a few minutes, they all copied across and came up without issue.

However when I tried to do the same with an OS X VM, I got as far as bringing up the VM's on the ESXi host, but they would fail to completely boot leaving me at this screen



A bit of extra digging with verbose mode gave me some irrelevant information to follow which lead me down a bunch of rabbit holes that had nothing to do with the problem.

```
Mac OS X 10.9.4
n logging is enabled. ***
** /dev/rdisk0s2 (NO WRITE)
** Root file system
   Executing fsck_hfs (version hfs-226.1.1).
hfs: Removed 2 orphaned / unlinked files and 5 directories
Synced /var/db/
BootCacheControl: Unable to open /var/db/BootCaches/PreheatedUser/Merged.playlist: 2 No such file or directory
Waiting for DSMOS...
VM Swap Subsystem is ON
0x1face000, 0x00000000 Intel82574L::setLinkStatus - not active
Loaded @ 0xffffffff7f92b7b91e: Info 0xffffffff7f92b825a0 Name com.vmware.kext.VMwareGfx Version 0168.83.56 build-1688356 at Mar 21 2014 16:25:14
svga: Start: FB size=0x300000, FIFO size=0x40000
svga: Start: host_bpp=32, bpp=32, num_displays=1
Apple16X50ACPI1: Identified Serial Port on ACPI Device=COMA
fb: start: maxWidth 1176 maxHeight 885 vramSize 4194304
Apple16X50ACPI2: Identified Serial Port on ACPI Device=COMB
fb: setDisplayMode: (1) wxh=1024x768, 32 4096
svga: SetMode: mode w,h=1024, 768 bpp=32
svga: SetMode: pitch=4096
fb: setDisplayMode: Display ID=1, Depth ID=0
fb: setDisplayMode: wxh=1024x768, bpp=32, pitch=4096
gfx: UpdateTraces: Enabling traces.

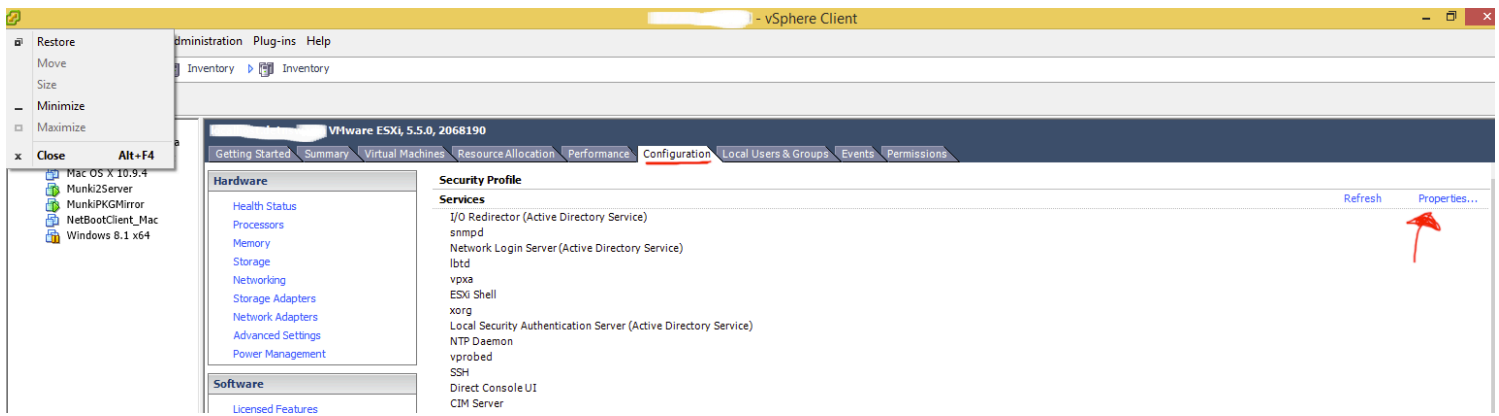
init
Apple16X50UARTSync1: Detected 16550AF/C/CF FIFO=16 MaxBaud=115200
Apple16X50UARTSync2: Detected 16550AF/C/CF FIFO=16 MaxBaud=115200
probe
start
[IOBluetoothHCIController][start] -- completed
gfx: powerStateDidChangeTo: The display is awake.
0x1face000, 0x00000000 Intel82574L::setLinkStatus - not active
flow_divert_kctl_disconnect (0): disconnecting group 1
Ethernet [Intel82574L]: Link up on en0, 1-Gigabit, Full-duplex, No flow-control, Debug [796d,ac08,01e1,0200,41e1,7c00]
0x1face000, 0x0000000a Intel82574L::setLinkStatus - active
memctl: Loaded @ 0xffffffff7f93c081d4: Info 0xffffffff7f93c0c060 Name com.vmware.kext.vmmemctl Version 0168.83.56 built Mar 21 2014 16:25:10
memctl: Opening balloon
memctl: Instrumenting bug 151304...
memctl: offset 0: 80
memctl: offset 1: 16
memctl: offset 2: 56
memctl: offset 3: 64
memctl: offset 4: 76
memctl: Timer thread started.
Sound assertion in AppleHDAEngine at line 578
**** [IOBluetoothHCIController][SearchForTransportEventHandler] -- Missing Bluetooth Controller Transport!
```

Then I came across this [thread](https://communities.vmware.com/message/2405921) (<https://communities.vmware.com/message/2405921>) which was the winner. It turns out that there is currently an issue with Fusion uploading OS X VM's to ESXi. It doesn't add a needed key to the vmx file of the VM. This is the `smc.present = "TRUE"` key. Without this key, the VM's fail to boot as they think they are running on non-apple hardware.

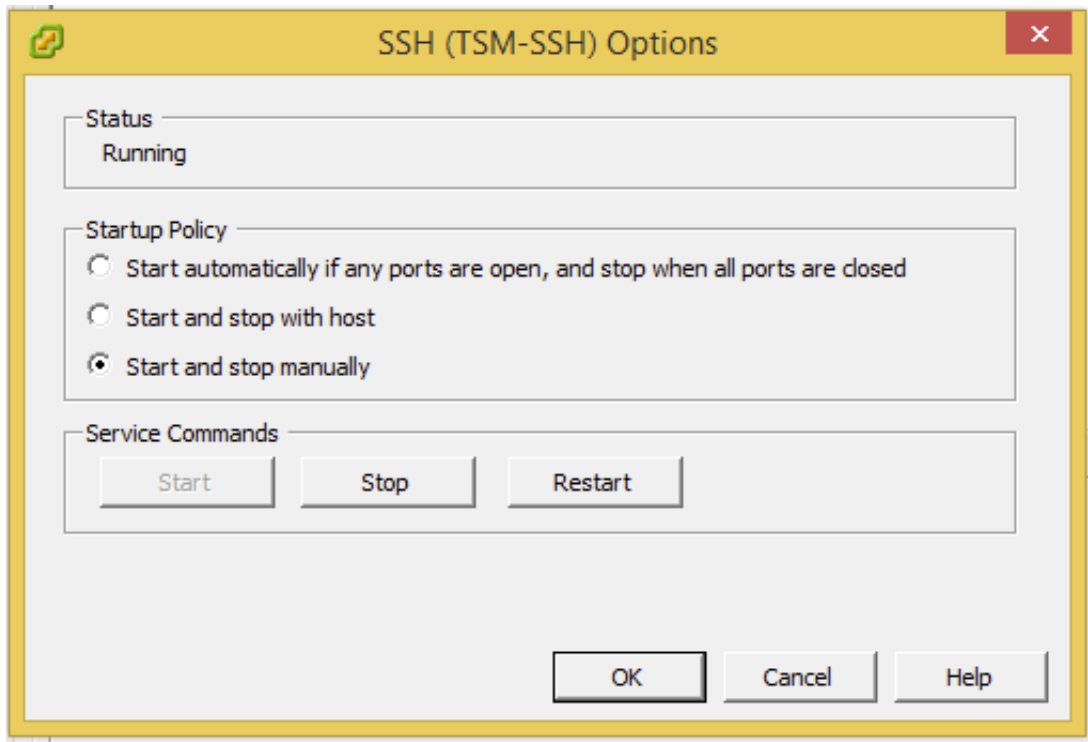
Ok so now how do we edit the vmx file for the OS X VM on the ESXi host?

What I found to be the easiest method was to SSH into the ESXi host and directly modify the .vmx file with `vi`

If you have the vSphere Client tools running on Windows its pretty easy to do, simply click on the ESXi host and then click on the Configuration tab then click on Properties under the Security Profile heading



We want to enable SSH so find the SSH option and start the service.



Now we can simply SSH into our ESXi host.

Once we are in the host, we want to go into
/vmfs/volumes/<Name_of_your_datastore>/<name_of_your_os_x_vm>/

Inside here you will find a the .vmx file for your VM.

Unfortunately, there isn't a nice friendly text editor like pico or nano, so time to bust out the vi cheat sheet.

Open the file with vi and add the line

```
smc.present = "TRUE"
```

Exit and quit (:wq)

Now try firing up your OS X VM and you should be away!



Posted in [Uncategorized](#) and tagged [ESXi](#), [fusion](#), [Mac](#), [Vmware](#) on [October 31, 2014](#) by [hatingfruit](#). [2 Comments](#)

2 comments

1. Pingback: [Migrating OS X VMs from VMware Fusion 7 Pro to ESXi 5.5 | Der Flounder](#)
2. **Régis Duchesne** says:
[November 4, 2014 at 11:21 am](#)

We are aware of this issue and we are working towards addressing it.

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