

Answer ID
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Product

VMware GSX Server 2.x
GSX Server 2.5.1 (Linux build 4968)
GSX Server 2.5.1 (Windows build 4968)
VMware Workstation 4.x
Workstation 4.0 (Linux build 4460)
Workstation 4.0 (Windows build 4460)

Category

Networking
Guest OS Networking

Getting a DHCP Address in a Red Hat Linux 9.0 Virtual Machine

Question

I'm using Red Hat Linux 9.0 as my guest operating system. When the guest operating system tries to get a DHCP address, the attempt fails and I get an error message that says the link is down. How can I get this guest to work properly with DHCP?

Answer

To work around this problem, become root (`su -`) and use a text editor to edit the following files in the guest operating system:
`/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-eth[n]`
`/etc/sysconfig/networking/devices/ifcfg-eth[n]`

Also, if it exists, edit the file

`/etc/sysconfig/networking/profiles/default/ifcfg-eth[n]`

The third file is updated any time you run `redhat-config-network` and make changes in the Network Configuration panel.

In all cases, [n] is the number of the Ethernet adapter -- for example, eth0.

In each of the files, add the following section:

```
check_link_down () {  
    return 1;  
}
```

Then run the command `ifup eth[n]` (where [n] is the number of the Ethernet adapter) or restart the guest operating system.

Note: If you later run `redhat-config-network` again, check the file `/etc/sysconfig/networking/profiles/default/ifcfg-eth[n]` to be sure the section you added to it remains intact. In some circumstances, the closing curly brace -- the `}` character -- may be dropped when you use the Network Configuration panel.