

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)

Category
Install/Configure
Guest OS

Red Hat Linux 9.0 Guest Runs Slowly, Gives INIT Errors

Question

My Red Hat Linux 9.0 guest operating system runs poorly or slowly, or I see INIT errors. What can I do to improve its performance?

Answer

While installing the Red Hat Linux 9.0 guest operating system, you may notice that the guest performs poorly or slowly, or you may see INIT errors when you first boot the guest. To work around this issue and install the guest more easily, pass the `nosysinfo` option when you boot the Linux kernel at the beginning of the installation. At the `boot:` prompt in the guest, type `text nosysinfo`.

After you install the guest operating system, if you notice that the virtual machine runs slowly or if you still see INIT errors, you can modify your boot loader to always use the option when the guest operating system boots. Choose the steps for your boot loader — choose GRUB or LILO.

Modifying Your GRUB Boot Loader

1. In a text editor, edit `/etc/grub.conf`.
2. Look for the following section in the file. Note that you may see a different kernel instead of the 2.4.20-8 kernel shown below.

```
title Red Hat Linux (2.4.20-8)
  root (hd0,0)
  kernel /vmlinuz-2.4.20-8 ro root=LABEL=/
  initrd ....
```

At the end of the kernel `/vmlinuz-2.4.20-8 ro root=LABEL=/` line, add `nosysinfo`.

3. Save and close the file. You can now boot the guest.
4. Restart the guest operating system.

Note: If you are not confident with changing this configuration file, copy the above four line section and change the title from Red Hat Linux to RH Linux Guest, and add `nosysinfo` to the end of the line beginning with kernel in the newly created section. At boot time, you can choose to boot either the RH Linux Guest for optimal performance or Red Hat Linux for your original setup.

Modifying Your LILO Boot Loader

1. In a text editor, edit `/etc/lilo.conf`.
2. Look for the following line
`append="....."`
3. Add `nosysinfo` to the line like this:
`append="..... nosysinfo"`

If there is no `append=` line in `/etc/lilo.conf`, add the following line:
`append="nosysinfo"`

at the beginning of `/etc/lilo.conf`, before the first

`image=` or `other=` directive.

4. Save and close the file.
5. Run the `lilo` command again so your changes can take effect.
6. Restart the guest operating system.