XenServer 7.2 Release Notes

Welcome to XenServer 7.2. This document provides important information about the XenServer 7.2 release.

XenServer 7.2 constitutes the first Current Release (CR). The Current Release model is intended to allow customers to consume new features at the earliest possible juncture. This contrasts with the Long Term Service Release (XenServer 7.1 LTSR), which guarantees stability in terms of the feature set within XenServer.

Customers who are running XenServer 7.1 LTSR should decide whether they wish to upgrade to the XenServer 7.2 CR stream, as this will require the regular adoption of new CRs in order to remain in support.

XenServer 7.2 is available in two commercial editions:

- Standard Edition
- Enterprise Edition

XenServer 7.2 is available to download from the [XenServer Product Download page](#).

New Features and Improvements in XenServer 7.2

XenServer 7.2 introduces enhanced features and functionality for application, desktop, and server virtualization use cases. All XenServer 7.2 features are now available to all licensed XenApp/XenDesktop customers.

Scheduled Snapshots

The Scheduled Snapshots feature provides an easy-to-use backup and restore utility for critical VMs.

This enables customers to configure their environment to automatically create VM snapshots at specified intervals. This helps guard against unforeseen data corruption issues, system crashes, or user errors, by providing a last-known working version of the VM.

Enablement for XenDesktop Tablet Mode Enterprise Edition

XenServer 7.2 provides support for GPIO mode laptop and slate indicator driver, which when used in conjunction with XenDesktop 7.14, allows customers to experience tablet mode.

XenServer and XenDesktop are the only desktop virtualisation solution to enable Windows 10 Continuum experience in a virtualised environment.

For information on how to enable XenDesktop tablet mode, see [HDX](#).

XenCenter Scalability Improvements

XenServer 7.2 introduces XenCenter which offers significant improvements in UI responsiveness for customers with large-scale XenServer deployments. This enables customers to better manage their environments when dealing with a large number of pools and VMs.

XenCenter Proxy Authentication

XenCenter already allows the configuration of a proxy server to access the Internet. XenCenter 7.2 adds the ability to specify a username and password to connect to the proxy server, if the proxy server requires authentication.

Guest Operating Systems No Longer Supported

The following Windows and Linux guest templates are no longer supported in XenServer.

- Windows Vista
- Windows XP
- Windows 2003
- CentOS 4.x
- RHEL 4.x
- SLES 10 (all versions)

Note: Legacy Windows template has been added, but is not supported.

Tech Preview Feature

AMD MxGPU Tech Preview Enterprise Edition

With the addition of support for AMD's virtualized graphics solution, XenServer continues its leadership in the virtualized graphics domain.

Building on our first-to-market partnerships with NVIDIA vGPU and Intel GVT-g, XenServer becomes the only hypervisor platform to support the virtualization solutions of all three graphics vendors.

XenServer customers can use AMD MxGPU on 64-bit versions of Windows 7, Windows 10, and Windows Server 2016 VMs.

In order to participate in the Tech Preview, customers should download the required drivers from the AMD website. For more information about AMD MxGPU Tech Preview, see CTX223816.

Note: Tech Preview features are not suitable for use in production environments. Citrix offers no guarantee that the Tech Preview features will be available in a GA release of Citrix XenServer.

Interoperability with Citrix Products

XenServer 7.2 is interoperable with Citrix XenApp/XenDesktop 7.6, 7.13, and 7.14.

Localization Support

The localized version of XenCenter (Simplified Chinese and Japanese) is also available in this release.

Installation and Upgrades

Before beginning installation, customers should review the system requirements and installation instructions detailed in the *XenServer 7.2 Installation Guide*.

Note: Customers currently using XenServer 7.1, who wish to remain on Long Term Service Release (LTSR), should not upgrade to XenServer 7.2 Current Release (CR). For more information about LTSRs and CRs, see XenApp, XenDesktop, and XenServer Servicing Options.

Licensing

Customers should upgrade their Citrix License Server to version 11.13.1.2 or higher in order to use the XenServer 7.2 licensed features.

Note: Customers wishing to use the PVS-Accelerator feature should upgrade their License Server to 11.14. For more information about XenServer 7.2 licensing, see *XenServer 7.2 Licensing FAQ*.

Product Documentation

To access XenServer 7.2 product documentation, see XenServer 7.2 Product Documentation. For frequently asked questions about XenServer, see *XenServer 7.2 Licensing FAQ*.

Documentation may be updated or changed after the initial release. We suggest that you regularly visit the XenServer 7.2 page on Citrix Product Documentation to learn about updates.

Advisories and Known Issues

The following section details advisories and minor issues with this release and any workarounds that can be applied.

Graphics Support

- Intel GVT-g is now supported on Intel Skylake processors.

- XenServer hosts with large amounts of RAM that use Intel Xeon v4 or higher processors may encounter unexpected crashes when performing certain operations such as concurrently rebooting multiple vGPU-enabled VMs. To work around this issue, add `ept=no-pml` to the Xen command line and reboot the host. For more information, see https://support.citrix.com/article/CTX220674.

General

- After upgrading a XenServer host from a previous version to XenServer 7.1, Windows VMs with XenServer Tools installed may incorrectly report as not having the XenServer Tools installed, or display some of the functionalities as unavailable. To work around this issue, install XenServer Tools issued with XenServer 7.1.

- When you import a Windows VM from an ESXi server to XenServer, the IPv4/IPv6 network settings can be lost. To retain the network settings, reconfigure the IPv4/IPv6 settings after completing the conversion.

- If a pool's CPU feature set changes while a VM is running (for example, when a new host is added to an existing pool, or when the VM is migrated to a host in another pool), the VM will continue to use the feature set which was applied when it was started. To update the VM to use the pool's new feature set, the VM must be powered off and then started. Rebooting the VM, for example, by clicking 'Reboot' in XenCenter, does not update the VM's feature set.

- After migrating Container Managed VMs between pools, the Container Management functionality stops working for the VMs. This is because Container Management is implemented using a pool-specific key. To work around this issue, the VM-specific preparation step for "Container Management" needs to be repeated on the new pool. This means:
    - For CoreOS, the Cloud Config Drive needs to be updated by changing the Config Drive configuration in the VM preferences.
    - For RHEL/CentOS/OL 7 and Ubuntu, the `xscontainer-prepare-vm` needs to be re-run. Note that even if the preparation-step is repeated, the old XenServer pool may keep access to the VMs.

- Renaming a container does not trigger the Container Management view to update. Additionally, on Ubuntu 14.04, the pause or unpause of a container from outside XenCenter does not trigger the view to update. This may mean that XenServer may not show the current (renamed/paused/unpaused) container-status. The underlying cause is that the view

only gets refreshed following Docker event notifications. As a workaround, the refresh can be triggered manually by performing an action (that is, start, stop) on an unrelated container that is running on the same VM.

Internationalization

- Non-ASCII characters, such as characters with accents, cannot be used in the host console.

- XenServer root passwords must not contain non-ASCII characters.

Hardware Compatibility

- Customers should refer to the XenServer Hardware Compatibility List (HCL) for the most recent additions and advice for all hardware compatibility questions.

Storage

- When using Nutanix SRs, the two VDIs (previously used for the HA statefile and pool metadata) that remain after disabling HA will not be reused if HA is subsequently re-enabled. Customers can safely delete these VDIs.

- When the default SR of a XenServer host or a pool is in a disconnected state, attempts to upload an update to that SR can fail.

- It is not possible to attach storage provided by Microsoft iSCSI Software Target versions 3.2 or 3.3. However, attempts to attach storage provided by iSCSI Target Server included in Windows Server 2012 and later will succeed.

Networking

- In some cases, booting a XenServer host from FCoE SAN using software FCoE stack can cause the host to become unresponsive due to a temporary link disruption in the host initialization phase. If the host appears to be in an unresponsive state for a long time, reboot the host to resolve this issue.

- XenServer does not prevent users from unplugging a NIC used by the FCoE SR.

XenCenter

- Modifying the font size or DPI on the computer on which XenCenter is running can result in the user interface displaying incorrectly. The default font size is 96 DPI; Windows 8 and Windows 10 refer to this as 100%.

- If a hotfix that requires a reboot is applied to some but not all hosts, and is later applied in XenCenter to the whole pool, then the prechecks page of the RPU wizard incorrectly advises that the hosts that already have the hotfix have to be rebooted (although no reboot will actually take place). Furthermore, if those hosts contain any non-agile VMs, it will also insist

that the VMs are suspended before the wizard can proceed. To work around this issue, use the wizard to apply the hotfix to just the remaining hosts, rather than to the whole pool.

- XenCenter 7.1 or XenCenter 7.2 does not notify users about the update to XenServer 7.2, even when update checks are enabled.

- When XenCenter is configured to use a proxy server with authentication, the Health Check Service fails to collect and upload a report to CIS.

Guests

- XenServer's use of new hardware security features may reduce the overall performance of 32-bit PV VMs. Customers impacted by this issue can either:
    - Run a 64-bit version of the PV Linux VM, or
    - Boot Xen with the `{{no-smep no-smap}}` option. Note that we do not recommend this option as it can reduce the depth of security of the host.

- The console screen on HVM Linux guests can go blank after a period (typically ten minutes) of inactivity. You can work around this issue by adding `consoleblank=0` to the kernel boot parameters of the guest. Consult your guest OS documentation for information about updating the kernel boot parameters.

About Citrix

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Enterprise features are available for XenServer Enterprise edition customers, or those who have access to XenServer through their XenApp/XenDesktop entitlement. To learn more about XenServer editions, and to find out how to upgrade, visit the Citrix website.