To evaluate Cisco's Nexus 1000v in conjunction with NetQoS SuperAgent virtual collector, I had to install an ESX Server into my lab. All necessary steps to do the first installation of ESX Server are documented in this TechTip and a few others to follow on my web site

1. Get VMware Software

Download VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus and optionally VMware vCenter Server Standard

https://www.vmware.com/tryvmware/index.php?p=vspherecisco
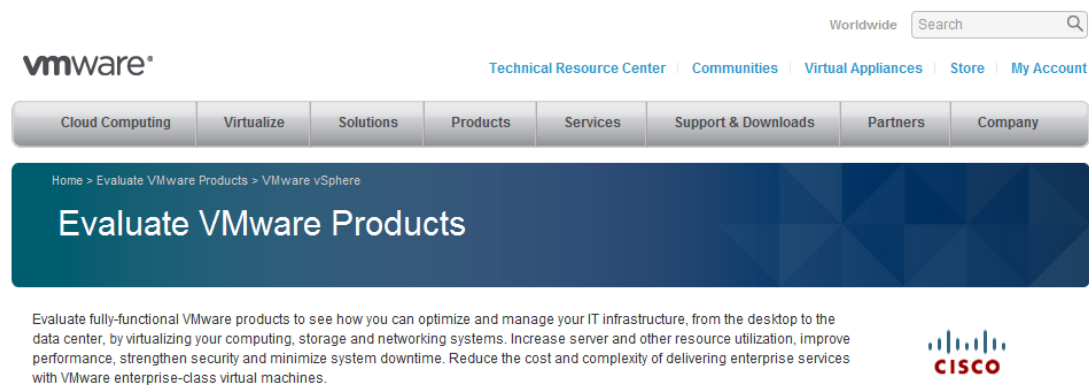
As hardware I did use an HP Proliant DL140 G3 with 8 GB RAM, which I found on eBay a while back. A good source would be LA Micro Group, Woodland Hills, CA

ESX will only install on a 64bit processor

After the registration process is completed, you will get a 60 days license

YOUR TRIAL INCLUDES

- VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus
- VMware vCenter Server Standard

VMware vSphere	Expiration Date: Oct 16, 2010	xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxxx
VMware vCenter Server 4	Expiration Date: Oct 16, 2010	xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxxx

Next, you will have to write the ISO Images on a DVD, which will ease the installation. You can also choose to install from NFS, HTTP or FTP
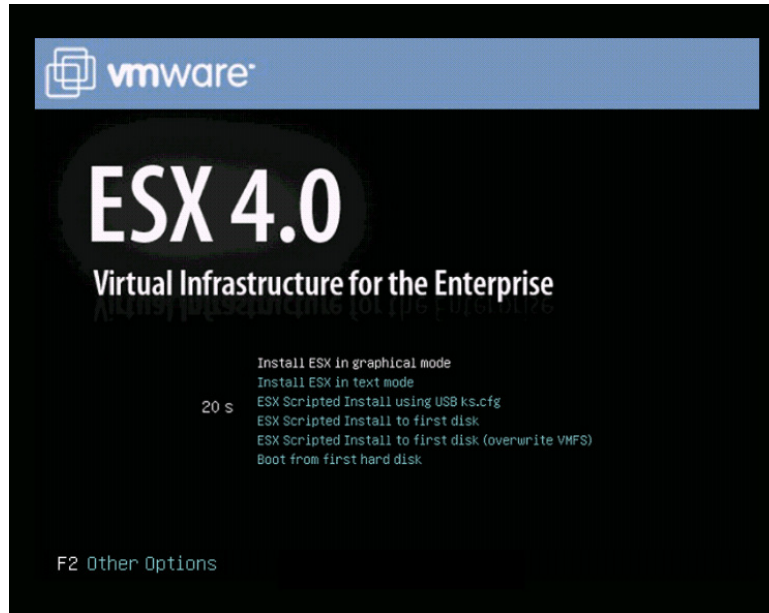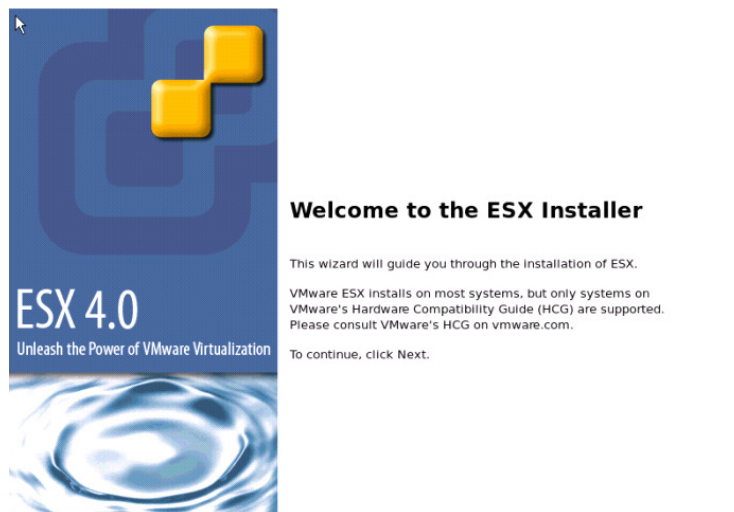
Start the installation by inserting the Installation DVD in your DVD Drive and boot from DVD. Following installation screen will appear.

Press Return or have the timer count down, the graphical mode will start

After the Welcome Screen you will be presented with the End User License Agreement you have to accept in order to continue the installation.
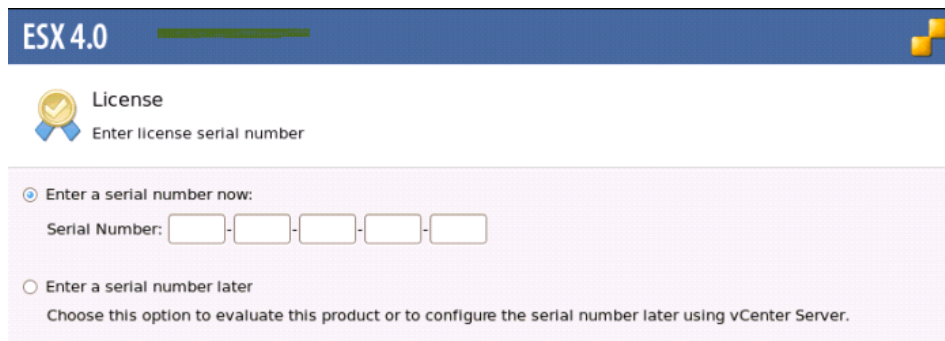
Custom Drivers

There is no need to install custom drivers, as the Proliant Server is pretty standard. If you are using any exotic hardware, than you have to install custom drivers.
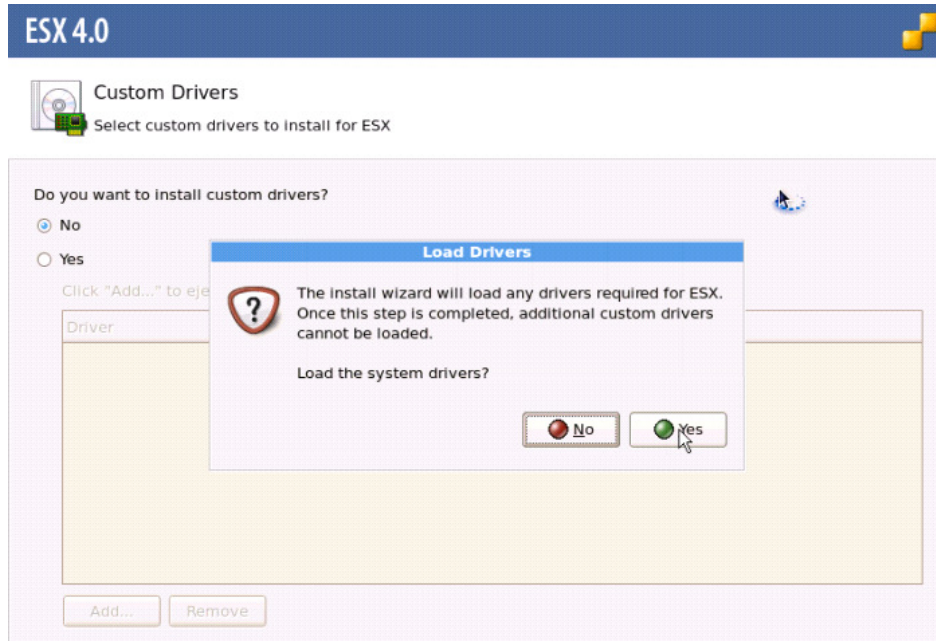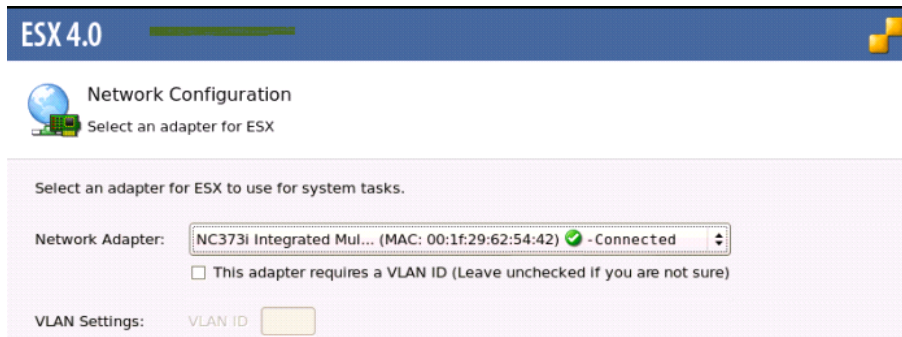

License Number

If you have received a license serial number, you can add them in here. If you choose to enter a serial number later, the ESX Server will run in Evaluation Mode
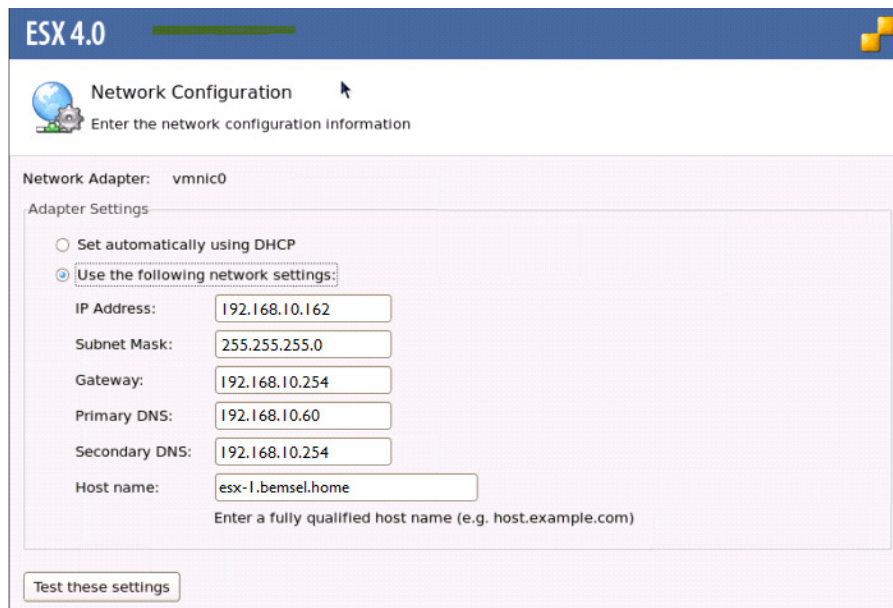

Network Configuration

Choose the adapter for Management Access. It is not the one being used for virtual machine communication. Skip VLAN ID Setting. This is optional, if your environment requires a VLAN ID
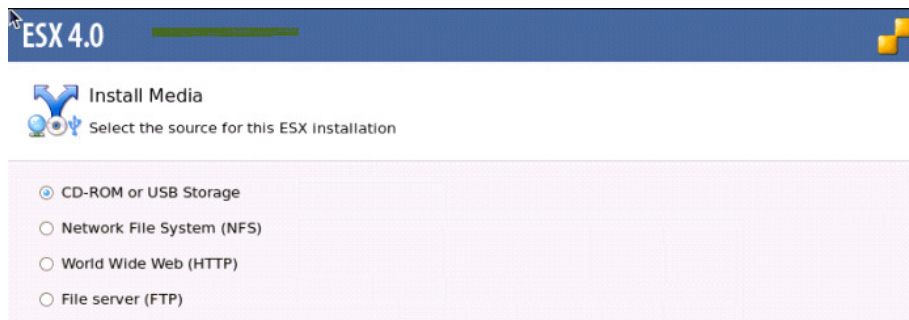
ESX 4.0

Network Configuration
Select an adapter for ESX

Select an adapter for ESX to use for system tasks.

Network Adapter: NC373i Integrated Mul... (MAC: 00:1f:29:62:54:42) ✓ - Connected

☐ This adapter requires a VLAN ID (Leave unchecked if you are not sure)

VLAN Settings: VLAN ID

Set static network address configuration and **Test these settings** – Do not continue until the Test completes successfully

ESX 4.0

**Network Configuration**
Enter the network configuration information

Network Adapter: vmnic0

Adapter Settings

○ Set automatically using DHCP
● Use the following network settings:

IP Address: 192.168.10.162
Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0
Gateway: 192.168.10.254
Primary DNS: 192.168.10.60
Secondary DNS: 192.168.10.254
Host name: esx-1.bemsel.home

Enter a fully qualified host name (e.g. host.example.com)

Test these settings

Install Media
Choose CD-ROM as the source for this ESX installation – other options only make sense if you host the source on a remote location.

ESX 4.0

Install Media
Select the source for this ESX installation

● CD-ROM or USB Storage
○ Network File System (NFS)
○ World Wide Web (HTTP)
○ File server (FTP)

Setup Type
If you have only a single hard drive, standard setup would be sufficient. Advanced Setup will give you the option to choose and customize individual ESX partitions.
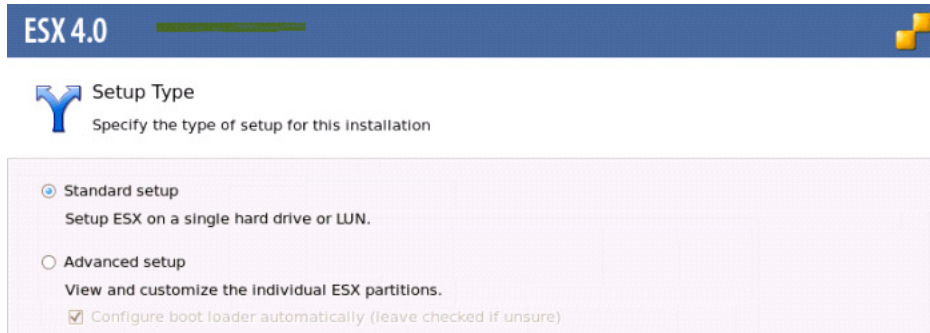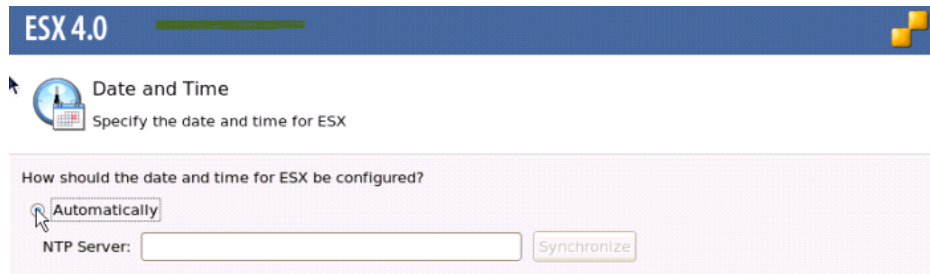

ESX Storage Device
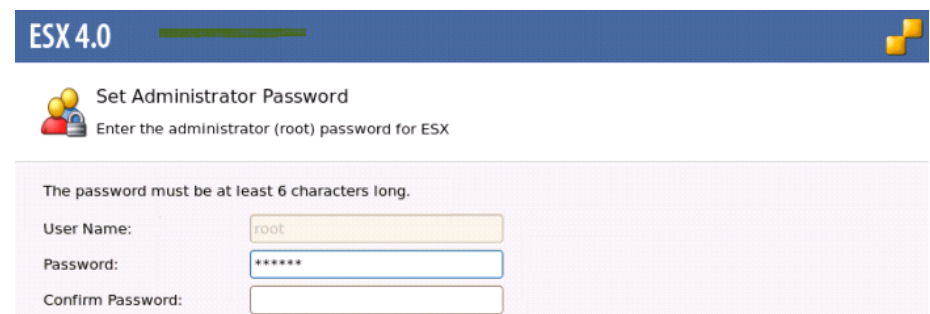There you can select the location to install ESX

Time Zone
Select the Time Zone and manually adjust calendar and time. If you have access to an NTP Server, I highly suggest to chose NTP Server. Computer clocks are not as accurate as we believe

Set Administrator Password and let installation script do it's job

Finally, you can connect to your new ESX Server with your web browser and will get following Welcome Screen

Once, you see that screen your ESX Server is ready to receive Virtual Machines and Virtual Appliances