

Ignite IT Performance™

Best Practices for Monitoring Databases on VMware

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Who Am I?



- 20+ Years in Oracle & SQL Server
 - DBA and Developer
 - Worked for Oracle Consulting
 - Specialize in Performance Tuning
 - Oracle, SQL Server, Sybase, DB2 on VMware
- Product Architect and DBA for Confio Software
 - DeanRichards@confio.com
 - Makers of Ignite8 Response Time Analysis Tools
 - IgniteVM for Oracle/SQL/Sybase/DB2 on VMware

Agenda



- Virtualization at Confio
- Terms and Concepts
- Best Practices for Monitoring:
 - Memory
 - CPU
 - Storage
 - Network
- Summary

Why Virtualize?



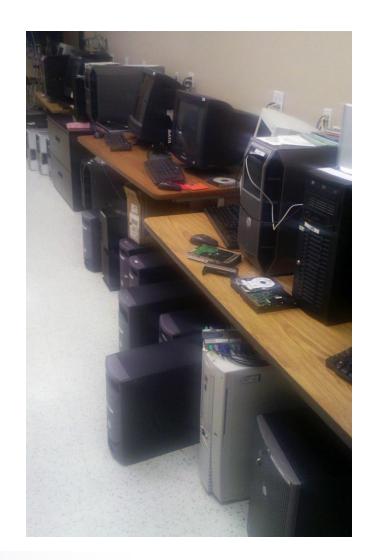
- Too much physical horsepower
 - Most are drastically underutilized
 - Many are running at <10% CPU
 - Confio Before Virtualization Pictures
 - Confio After Virtualization Pictures

Confio "Datacenter"



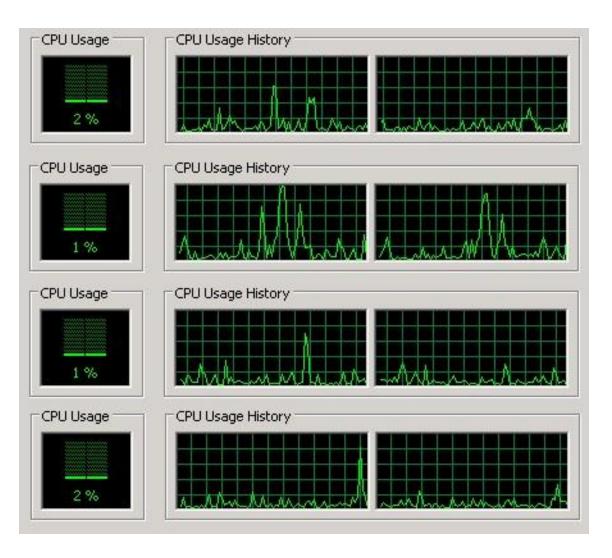
50+ Small Machines





Server Utilization





- All machines are severely underutilized
- Most machines running at 1-5% CPU

Confio New "DataCenter"



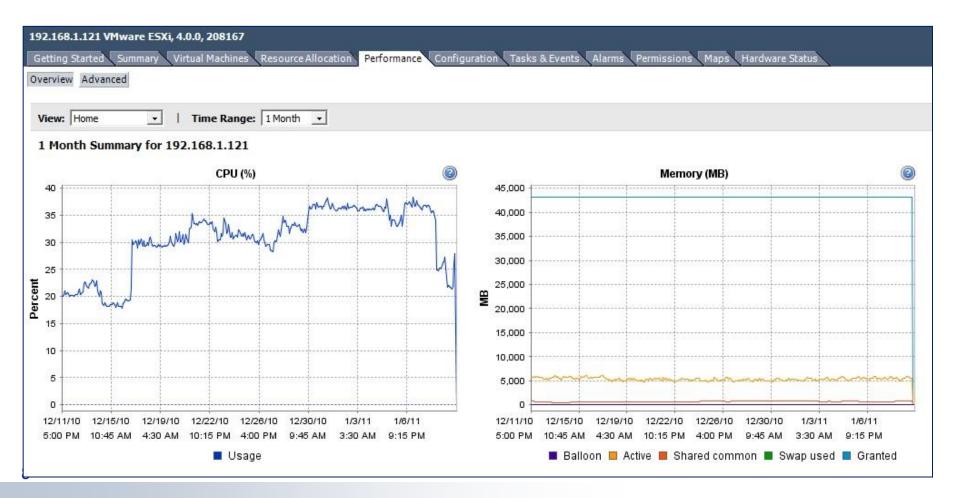


Here is what we virtualized everything to.

New VMware Server Utilization



- New utilization of larger servers
 - We still have a lot of room



Why Virtualize?



- Easier to manage fewer physical boxes
 - Manage physical resources on 2, 4 or 8 physical machines vs. 50-100 small boxes
 - vMotion enables automatic resource balancing
- Cheaper
 - More bang for the buck with bigger machines
 - Increased power efficiency
 - Less floor space

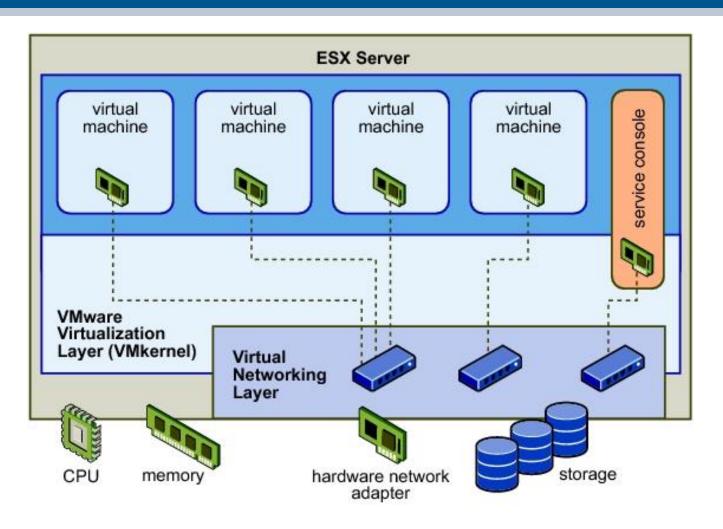
Databases on VMware



- Typically are supported by Database Vendor
 - If you have problems, vendor may ask you to reproduce on physical hardware
 - No bugs in any vendor support site related to VMware
- Most (95% says VMware) databases instances will be similar to native performance
 - http://tinyurl.com/3e446rg TPC for Oracle
 - Fully saturated instances 2-10% overhead
 - But, new hardware may be 10-30% faster
- Deploying databases on VMware is very similar to using physical servers
 - Monitoring the whole stack will take some change

VMware Architecture

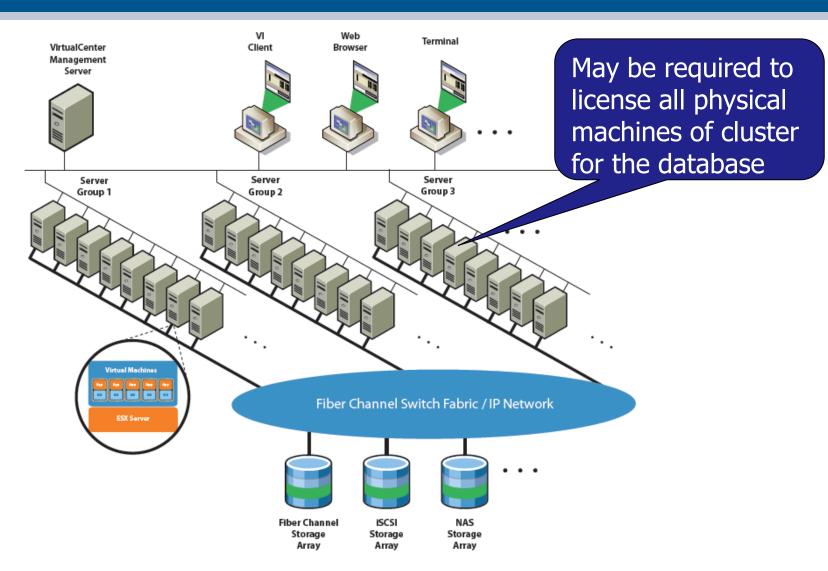




Picture courtesy of VMware

VMware Clusters





Picture courtesy of VMware

Terms and Concepts



- ESX and ESXi the hypervisor and foundation for VMware products
- Physical Host underlying hardware where ESX is installed
- Virtual Machine (VM) container inside host that looks like a physical machine
- vCenter Server centralized management
- vSphere Client Admin and Monitoring

Concepts - Cluster

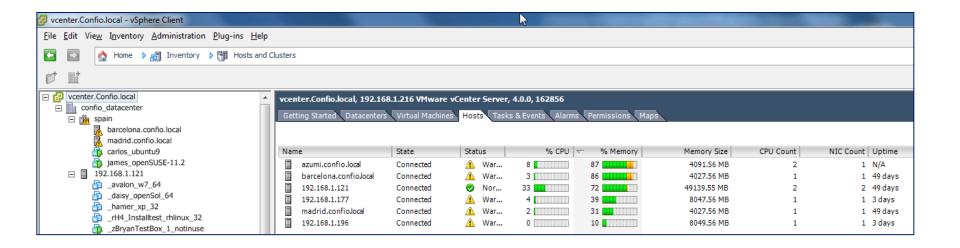


- Cluster several physical hosts linked together
- vMotion live migration of VM from one host to another – no loss of connectivity
- Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS) can automatically make sure hosts in a cluster have a balanced workload – uses vMotion
- High Availability (HA) automated restart of VMs after host failure – several minutes of downtime
- Fault Tolerance (FT) a mirrored copy of a VM on another host – takes over with no downtime
- Consolidated Backup (VCB) integrates with several 3rd party tools to backup a snapshot of the VM

Monitoring - vSphere

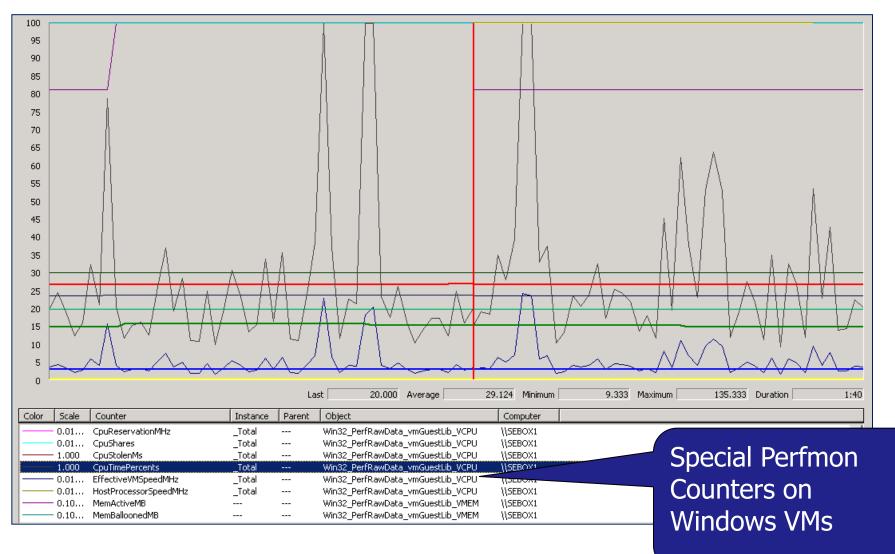


- Get access to vSphere client
 - Need a user account
 - http://<machine> provides download link
- Why should I use vSphere?
 - Standard O/S Counters may be wrong!



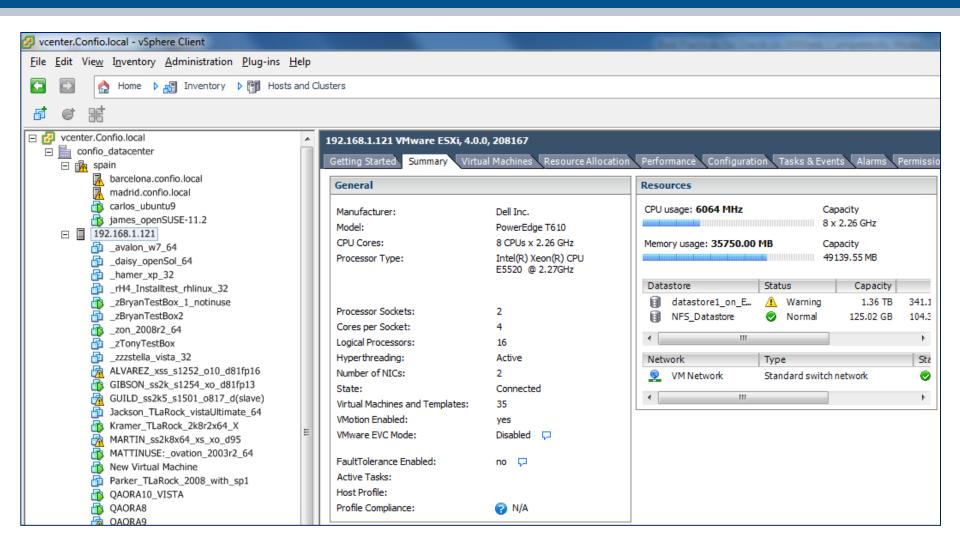
VMware Perfmon Counters





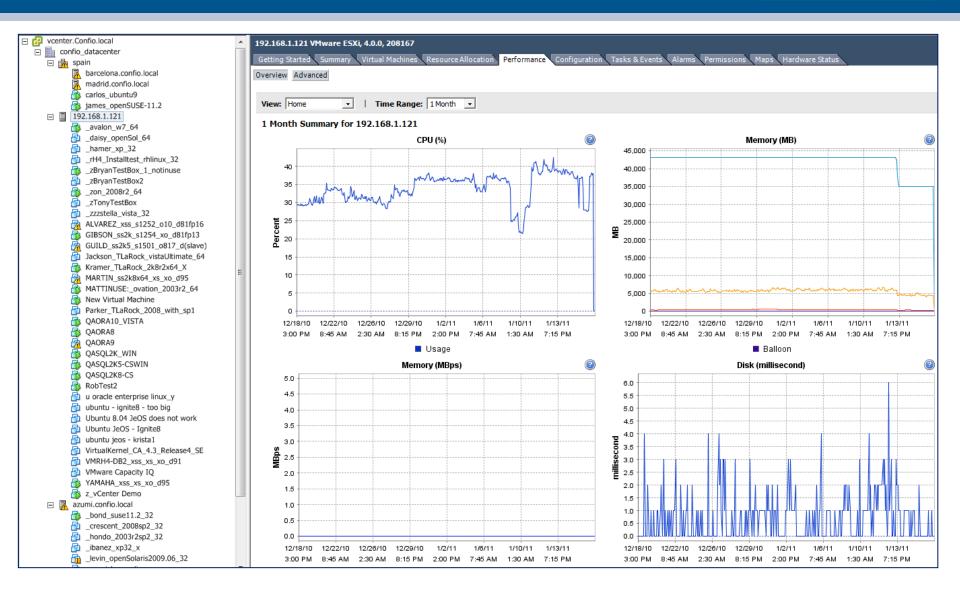
vSphere – Host Summary





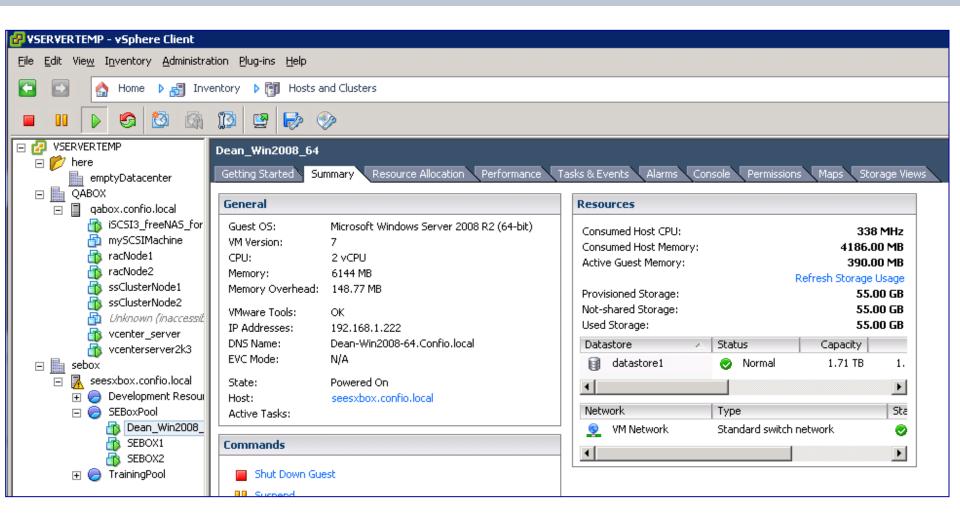
vSphere – Host Performance





vSphere – VM Summary





vSphere – VM Performance





Memory Concepts

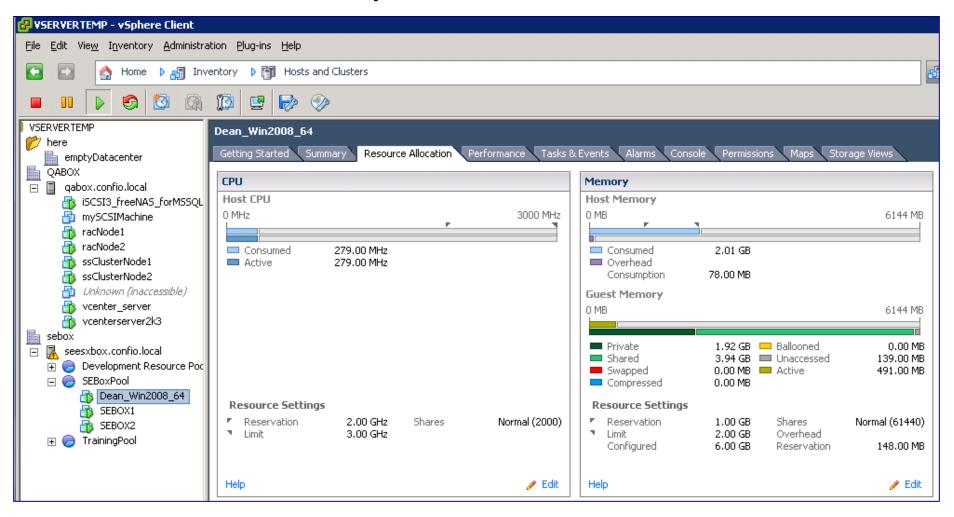


- Configured amount of RAM given to VM
- Reservation guarantees amount of RAM (default 0)
 - A reservation of 2GB means 2GB of physical memory must be available to power on the VM
- Limit limits amount of RAM (default unlimited)
- Shares priority of getting RAM
- Ballooning unused memory that was given back for use on other VMs
- Swapping memory (could be active) given back forcibly for use on other VMs
- Shared Memory identical memory pages are shared among VMs

VM Memory Utilization

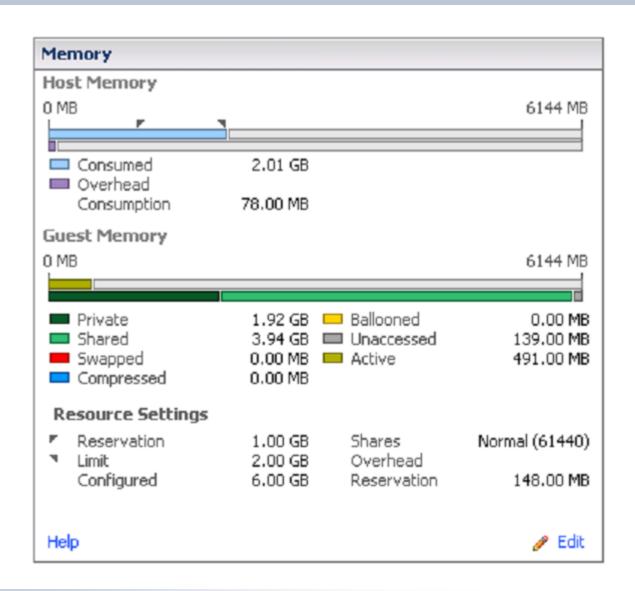


How does memory allocation work



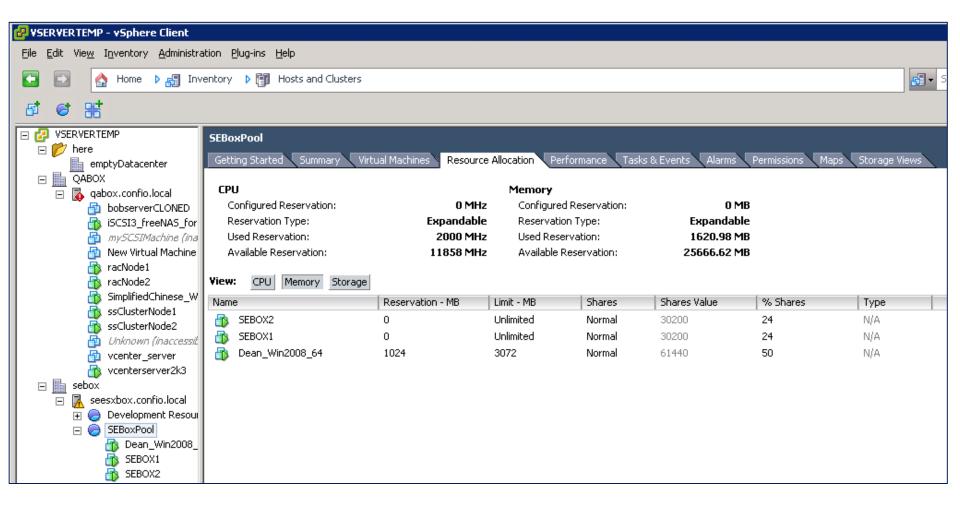
VM Memory Details





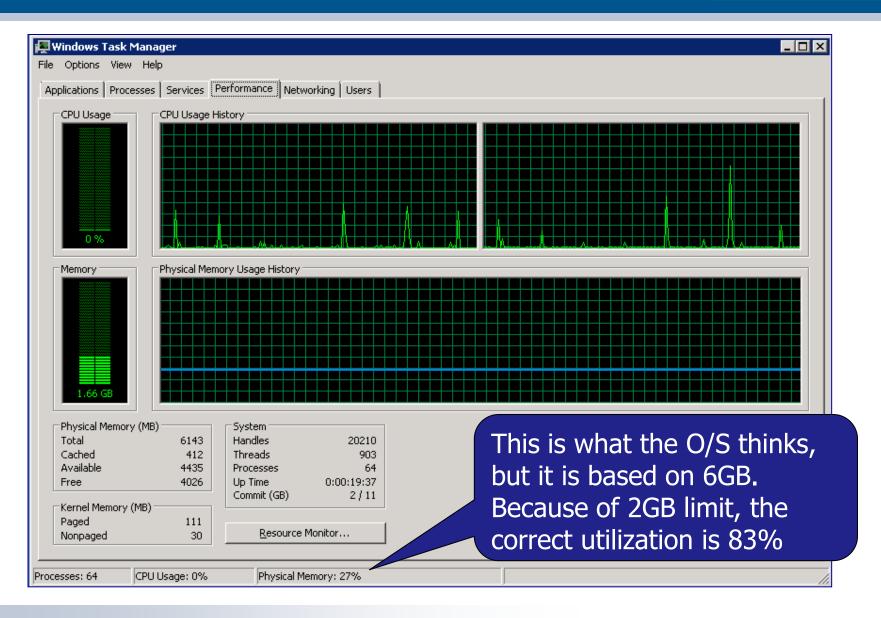
Host Memory Utilization





O/S Counter Problem





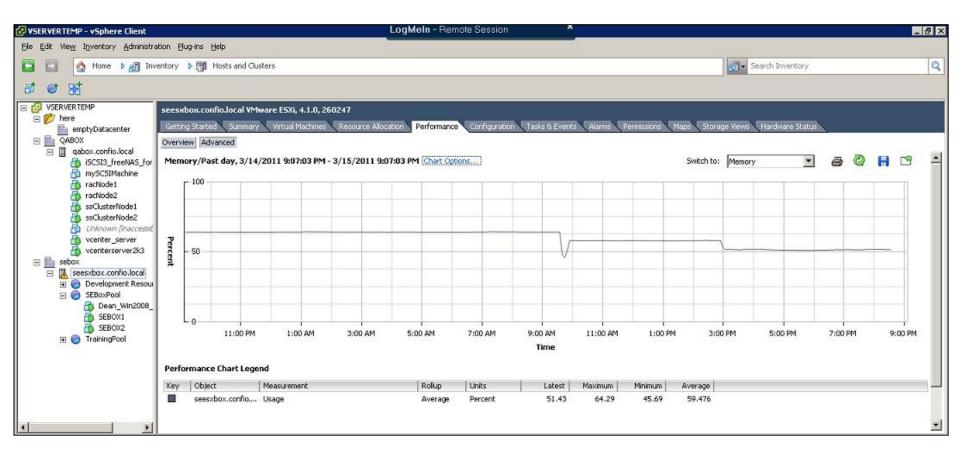
Database Tips with Memory



- Set Memory Reservation >= Database Memory
 - If limits are used, do not exceed this amount for DB
 - Leave room for O/S and other things
- Be careful about overcommitting in production
 - Can be less careful in dev/test/stage
- Set CPU/MMU Virtualization to Automatic
 - Use hardware assisted memory management is you can
- Large Pages are Supported in VMware

Charts in vSphere





Monitoring - Memory



- Primary Metric Swapping, Ballooning
- Secondary Metrics VM & Host Memory Utilization, VM Memory Reservation, VM Memory Limit
- Rules
 - If Any Swapping is occurring
 - Host needs more memory because it cannot satisfy current demands
 - Lessen demands for memory lower reservations where possible
 - Excessive Ballooning
 - May be ok for now, but could be a pending issue
 - VM Memory Utilization High
 - May not be a problem now unless Guest O/S swapping is occurring
 - If VM is limited, may want to increase memory this VM can get
 - If Host Memory Utilization High
 - May not be a problem now if no swapping or ballooning
 - Could be a problem soon for all VMs on this host

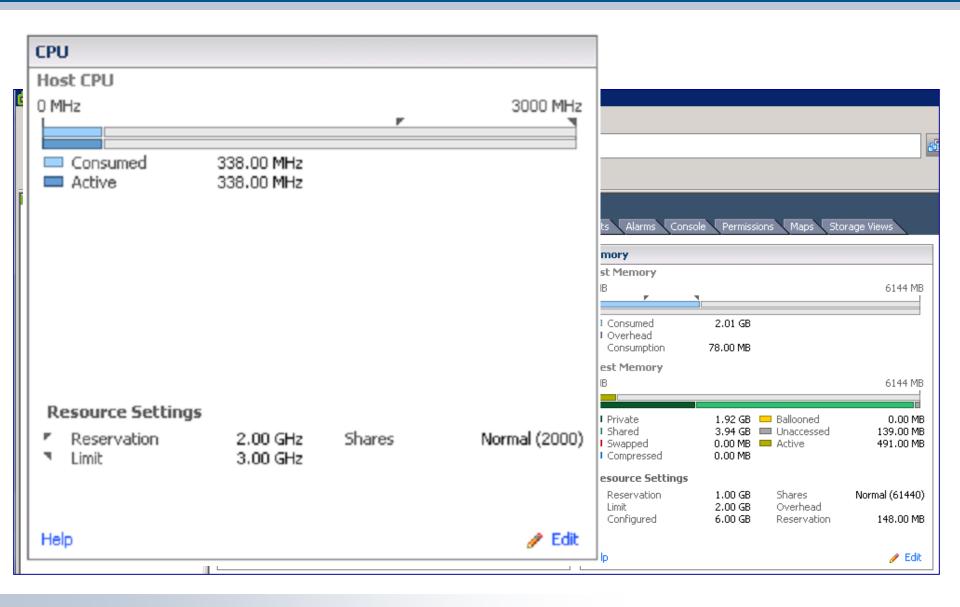
CPU Concepts



- Configured Number of vCPU
 - Think in terms of clock speed (# vCPU * GHz)
- Reservation amount of CPU guaranteed
- Limit limits the amount of CPU
- Shares sets priority for this VM
- Databases are not typically CPU bound
 - Use only the vCPUs required
 - If not known, start with 1 or 2 and increase later
 - vSphere attempts to co-schedule CPUs
 - If you have 4 vCPU, 4 physical cores need to be available to start processing
 - This is handled much better in ESX 4.x

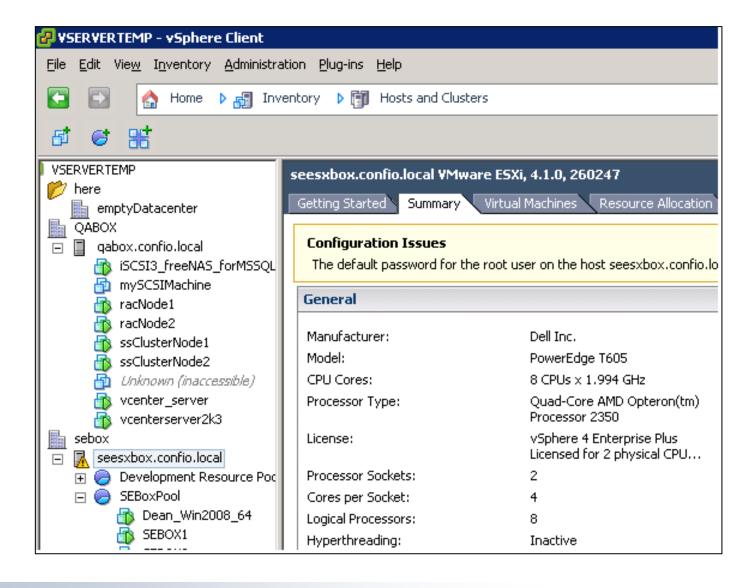
VM CPU Utilization





VM CPU Details





CPU Metrics



- Primary Metric VM Ready Time
- Secondary Metrics VM CPU Utilization, Host CPU Utilization
- Rules
 - If VM Ready Time > 10-20%
 - If Host CPU Utilization is high => Need more CPU resources on Host
 - If Host CPU Utilization ok => VM is limited, give more CPU resources
 - If VM CPU Utilization high (sustained over 80%)
 - May not be a problem now if no ready time
 - could be a problem soon for this VM
 - If Host CPU Utilization high (sustained over 80%)
 - May not be a problem now if no ready time on any VM
 - Could be a problem soon for all VMs on this host
 - Balance VM resources better

Storage Concepts



- The VM is a set of files on shared storage
- All nodes of cluster will access the same storage
- VMFS VMware File System
- Datastore access point to storage
- Storage issues are usually related to configuration and not capabilities of ESX
- Follow best practices from storage vendor
- Create dedicated datastores for databases
 - More flexibility
 - Bad SAN planning cannot be fixed by datastores
 - Isolate data and log activity

Monitoring - Storage



- Primary Metrics Host maxTotalLatency, Host Device Latency (by device), VM Disk Commands Aborted, VM Command Latency
- Secondary Metrics Host Disk Read Rate, Host Disk Write Rate, VM Disk Usage Rate
- Rules
 - If Host Latency >= 20-30 ms
 - Review Device Latencies to understand which one has latencies
 - Review Disk Read / Write rates
 - If Close to Storage Capacity Overloaded Storage
 - Otherwise Slow Storage
 - If VM Command Latency >= 30ms only for your VM
 - Tune Disk I/O intensive processes on database
 - Are Memory / CPU issues causing I/O problems

Network Concepts



- vSwitch software switch inside Vmkernel
 - Can be tied to 1 or more NICs
- VMware can handle > 30GB / sec
- Databases are not typically network constrained
 - Typically well below 100 MB / sec
- If you need more bandwidth, consider VMXNET paravirtualized network adapter
 - Installed into guest O/S capable of 1Gbps
 - Minimizes overhead between VM and Host
 - Requires VMware Tools

Monitoring - Network



- Primary Metric Dropped Receive Packets, Dropped Transmit Packets
- Secondary Metrics Network Rate
- Rules
 - If any packets are being dropped
 - Look for errors on the Host's NIC
 - See if one NIC is getting all traffic
 - Understand which VM is causing the most traffic and reduce it
 - If Network Rate is getting close to maximum for hardware
 - Understand which VM is causing load
 - May need to get better network hardware

vSphere Shortcomings

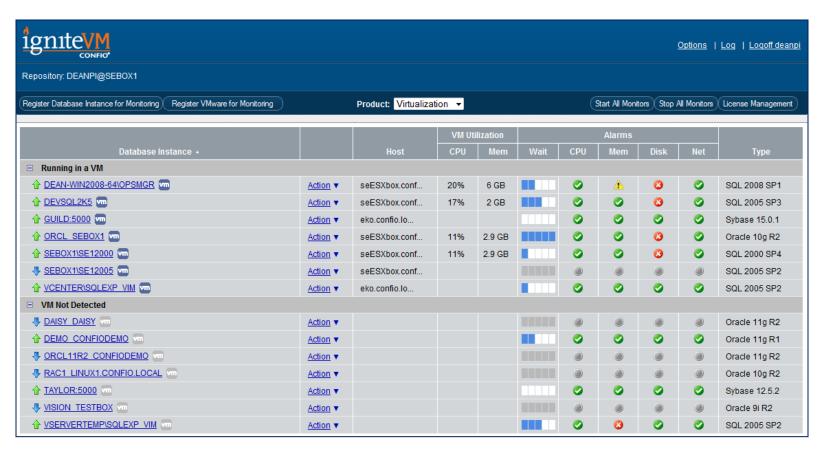


- Too much information
 - 100s of counters no indication of importance
- Not enough detailed data
 - Keeps details only for a day by default rolls to hourly
 - Expand this and GUI performance becomes issue
- GUI performance
 - vSphere is slow and frustrating at times
- Graphs are isolated
 - Can only see one type of chart at a time
 - Hard to mix Memory, CPU, Storage, etc

IgniteVM



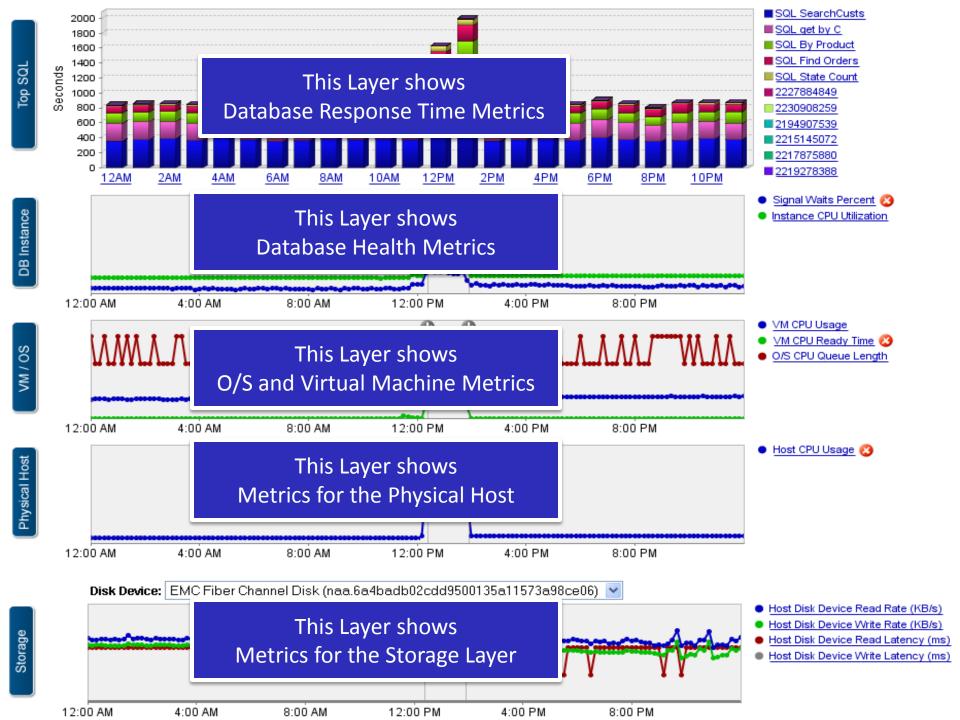
- http://www.confio.com/demo
 - Username / Password demo/demo

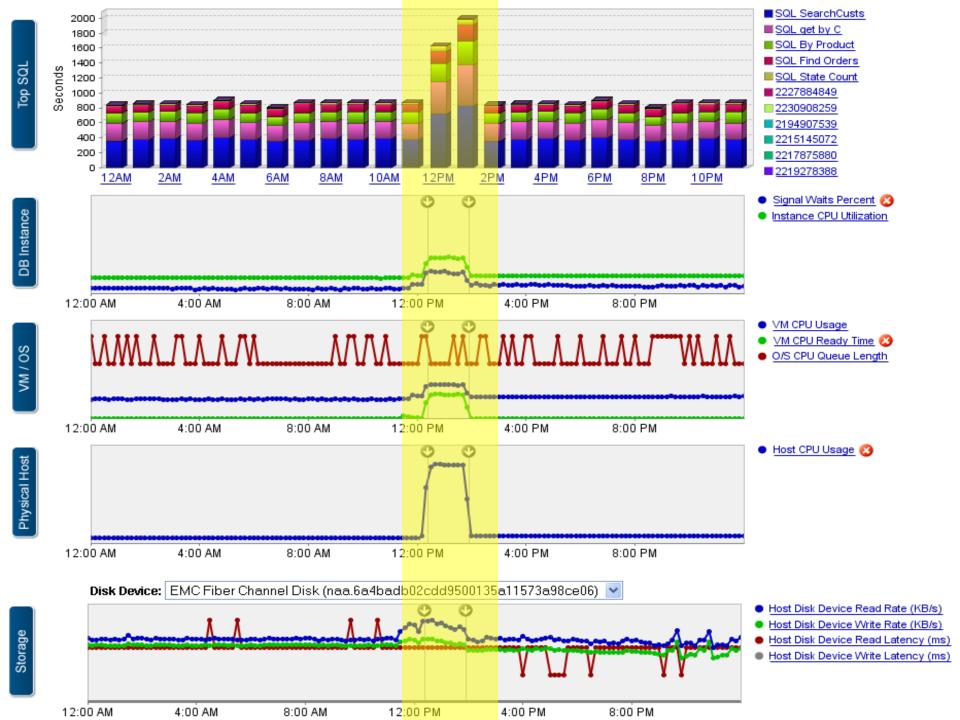


Layers and Annotations

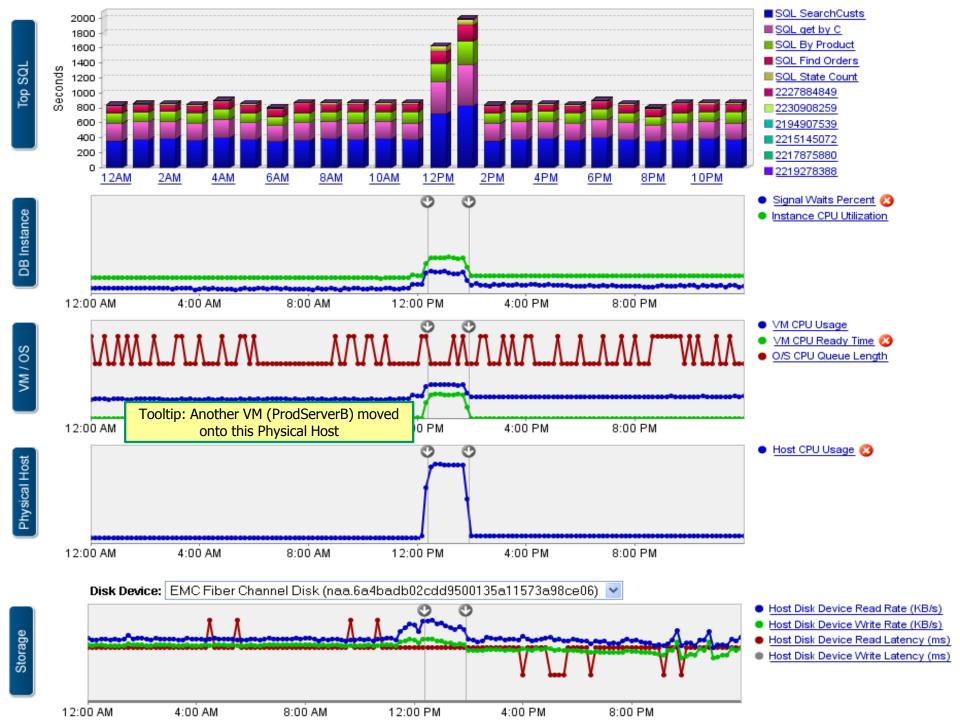




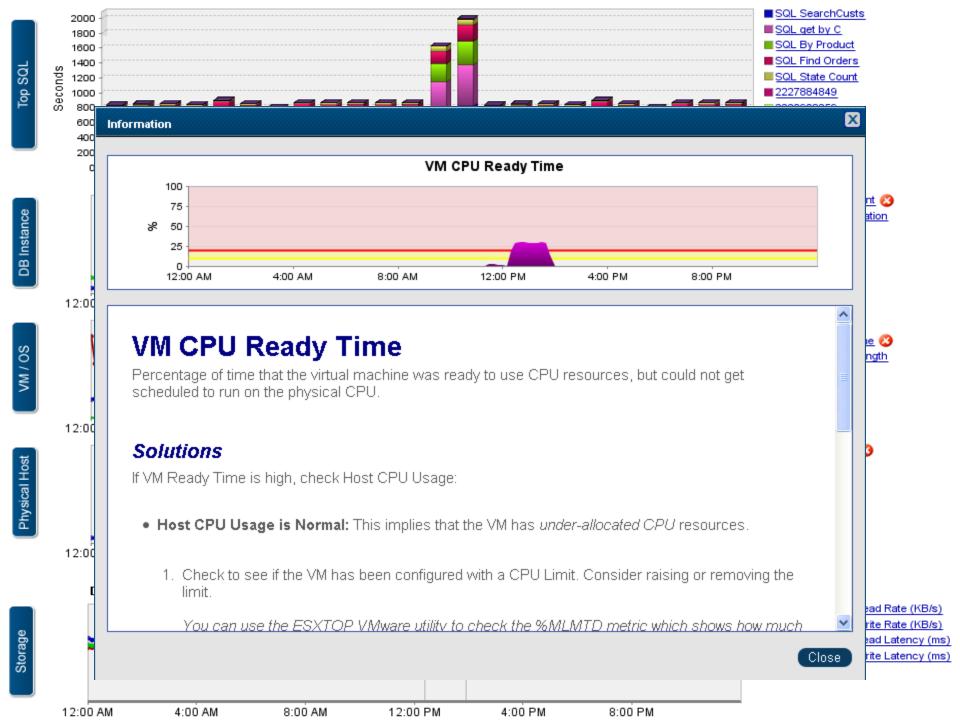












Confio Software



- Award Winning Performance Tools
- Ignite8 for Oracle, SQL Server, DB2, Sybase
- IgniteVM for Databases on VMware
 - Download at www.confio.com
- Provides Answers for
 - What changed recently that affected end users
 - What layer (VM or DB) is causing the problem
 - Who and How should we fix the problem

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