Attach and detach VMDKs

SnapCenter Plug-in for VMware vSphere

NetApp
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Attach and detach VMDKs

Attach VMDKs to a VM or vVol VM

You can attach one or more VMDKs from a backup to the parent VM, or to an alternate VM on the same ESXi host, or to an alternate VM on an alternate ESXi host managed by the same vCenter or a different vCenter in linked mode. VMs in traditional datastores and in vVol datastores are supported.

This makes it easier to restore one or more individual files from a drive instead of restoring the entire drive. You can detach the VMDK after you have restored or accessed the files you need.

About this task

You have the following attach options:

- You can attach virtual disks from a primary or a secondary backup.
- You can attach virtual disks to the parent VM (the same VM that the virtual disk was originally associated with) or to an alternate VM on the same ESXi host.

The following limitations apply to attaching virtual disks:

- Attach and detach operations are not supported for Virtual Machine Templates.
- When more than 15 VMDKs are attached to an iSCSI controller, the virtual machine for SnapCenter Plug-in for VMware vSphere cannot locate VMDK unit numbers higher than 15 because of VMware restrictions.

  In this case, add the SCSi controllers manually and try the attach operation again.
- You cannot manually attach a virtual disk that was attached or mounted as part of a guest file restore operation.
- Attach and restore operations connect VMDKs using the default SCSi controller. However, when VMDKs that are attached to a VM with a NVMe disk are backed up, the attach and restore operations use NVMe controller if available.

Before you begin

Follow the steps below to add NVMe controller to the disk.

1. Log in to the vCenter client
2. Select the VM from the VMFS datastore
3. Right-click on the VM and go to **Edit settings**
4. In the edit settings window, select **Add new device** > **NVMe Controller**

Steps

1. In the VMware vSphere client GUI, click **Menu** in the toolbar, and then select **Hosts and clusters** from the drop-down list.
2. In the left navigation pane, right-click a VM, then select **SnapCenter Plug-in for VMware vSphere** > **Attach virtual disk(s)**.
3. On the **Attach Virtual Disk** window, in the **Backup** section, select a backup.

You can filter the backup list by selecting the filter icon and choosing a date and time range, selecting whether you want backups that contain VMware Snapshots, whether you want mounted backups, and the location. Click **OK**.

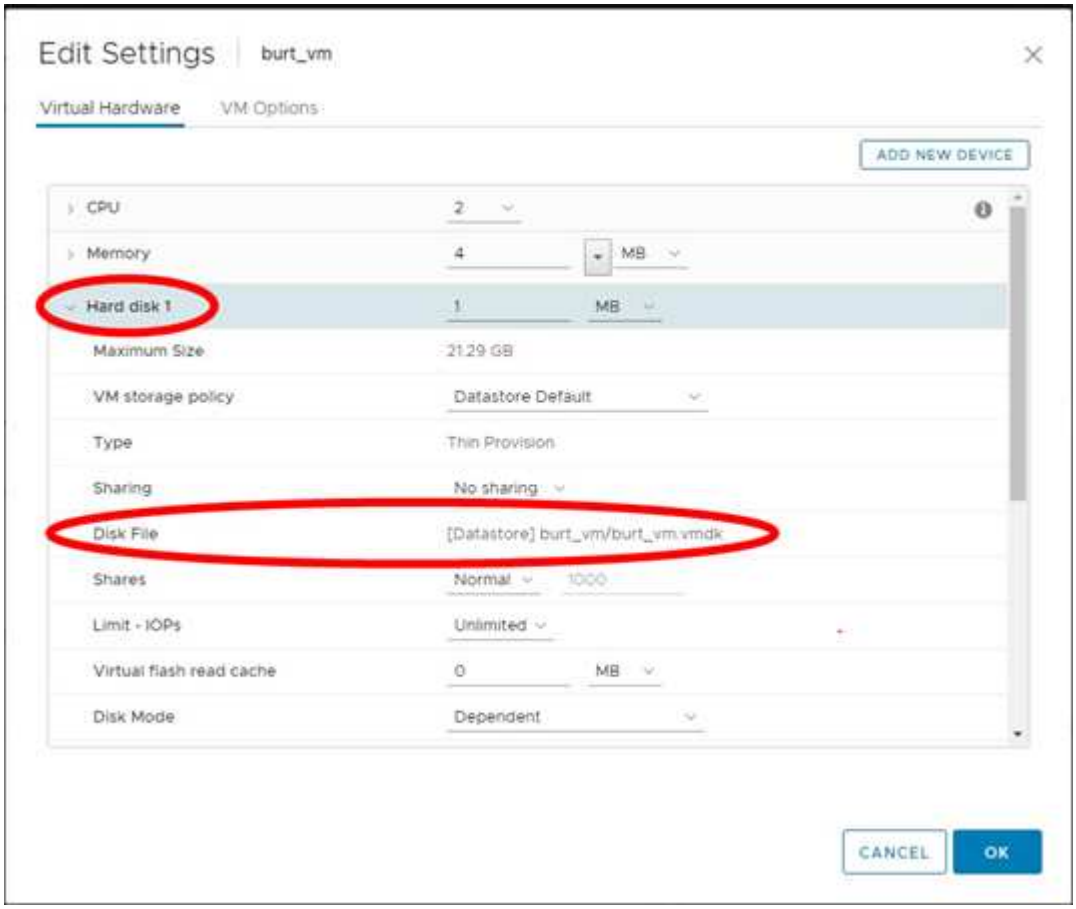
4. In the **Select Disks** section, select one or more disks you want to attach and the location you want to attach from (primary or secondary).

   You can change the filter to display primary and secondary locations.

5. By default, the selected virtual disks are attached to the parent VM. To attach the selected virtual disks to an alternate VM in the same ESXi host, select **Click here to attach to alternate VM** and specify the alternate VM.
6. Click **Attach**.
7. Optional: Monitor the operation progress in the **Recent Tasks** section.

   Refresh the screen to display updated information.

8. Verify that the virtual disk is attached by performing the following:
   a. Click **Menu** in the toolbar, and then select **VMs and Templates** from the drop-down list.
   b. In the left navigator pane, right-click a VM, then select **Edit settings** in the drop-down list.
   c. In the **Edit Settings** window, expand the list for each hard disk to see the list of disk files.



The Edit Settings page lists the disks on the VM. You can expand the details for each hard disk to see the list of attached virtual disks.

Result

You can access the attached disks from the host operating system and then retrieve the needed information from the disks.

Detach a virtual disk

After you have attached a virtual disk to restore individual files, you can detach the virtual disk from the parent VM.

Steps

1. In the VMware vSphere client GUI, click **Menu** in the toolbar, and then select **VMs and Templates** from the drop-down list.
2. In the left navigator pane, select a VM.
3. In the left navigation pane, right-click the VM, then select **SnapCenter Plug-in for VMware vSphere** in the drop-down list, and then select **Detach virtual disk** in the secondary drop-down list.
4. On the **Detach Virtual Disk** screen, select one or more disks you want to detach, then select the **Detach the selected disk(s)** checkbox, and click **DETACH**.

   Make sure that you select the correct virtual disk. Selecting the wrong disk might affect production work.

5. Optional: Monitor the operation progress in the **Recent Tasks** section.

   Refresh the screen to display updated information.

6. Verify that the virtual disk is detached by performing the following:
   a. Click **Menu** in the toolbar, and then select **VMs and Templates** from the drop-down list.
   b. In the left navigator pane, right-click a VM, then select **Edit settings** in the drop-down list.
   c. In the **Edit Settings** window, expand the list for each hard disk to see the list of disk files.

      The **Edit Settings** page lists the disks on the VM. You can expand the details for each hard disk to see the list of attached virtual disks.

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