

esXpress Commands Reference

esXpress has the ability to run backup related commands from within the VI3 or vSphere client by adding commands to the VM Display Names, for example, TestVM[xNOW], or by including the commands within the VM Notes.

- When adding any commands to the VM Notes section, they must be added to a new line. Do not include the command on the same line as the esXpress messages, or they will be removed the next time esXpress records a log message in the VM Notes.
- For X Commands to function properly, the esXpress daemon must be running. After an ESX host is rebooted, X Commands will not work until the daemon is started. The daemon will start automatically at the top of the next hour, or you can force the daemon to start by connecting directly to the host via SSH and running the PHD text menu.

The following sections describe the available commands:

- ["\[x\] Commands" \(on page 2\)](#)
- ["Scheduling Commands" \(on page 3\)](#)
- ["Enabling \[x\] Commands" \(on page 5\)](#)

[x] Commands

When an X Command begins to run, the command is automatically removed from the VM Display Name and the VM is renamed back to its original name.

Unless noted otherwise, X Commands **run immediately** and the type of backup created depends on your esXpress configuration, for example, Full, Delta, or PHDD (DeDupe).

Table 1 - X Commands

Command	Description
[xFULL]	Run a Full backup of the VM (phd-FULL).
[xPHDD]	Run a DeDupe backup for the VM (backup type must be set to PHDD).
[xINDEX], [xDELTA], [xBACKUP]	Run a Delta backup of the VM (phd-INDEX).
[xNOW]	Run a backup for the VM. The type of backup run depends on your esXpress configuration.
[xSPECIAL],[xONE]	Run a special backup of the VM now.
[xFULLSPECIAL],[xFULLONE]	Run a Full Special Backup of the VM. (Full/Delta backups, only).
[xAll]	Add to a single VM to back up all VMs on the host.
[xALLFULL], [xFULLALL]	Add to a single VM to run Full backups of all VMs on the host. (Full/Delta backups, only).
[xFLB]	Run a File Level Backup for the VM. (Full/Delta backups, only).
[xFLBALL]	Run a File Level Backup for all VMs. (Full/Delta backups, only).
[xWIPE]	Wipes the index of the VM. (Full/Delta backups, only).
[xWIPEALL],[xALLWIPE]	Wipes the indexes of all the VMs on the host. (Full/Delta backups, only).
[xRETRY],[xRETRYFULL]	Automatically retry a failed backup
[xSTOPALL]	Stop all running backups, set Stop Lock.
[xABORTALL]	Aborts all running backups, sets the Abort Lock.
[xSTOP]	Stops the backup of the VM after the current VMDK backup is complete.
[xCLEARLOCKS],[xNOLOCKS],[xLOCKS]	Clears Locks.
[xTEST]	Runs a test backup, gathering performance information and testing the configuration without actually doing the backup.
[xNOTES]	Clears the Notes field of the VM of any esXpress information.
[xALLNOTES]	Clears the Notes fields for All VMs of any esXpress information.

Scheduling Commands

Schedule-related commands can be used to instruct esXpress to backup individual VMs at specific times in addition to the daily automatic backup, or to exclude a VM from the daily backup. To use these commands, add them to either the VM display name or to the VM Notes. Schedule-related commands will remain as part of the VM display name (they are not removed) so if you do not want your backup files to contain the command as part of the name, add them to the VM Notes, only.

When adding commands to the VM Notes section, they must be added to a new line, do not include the command on the same line as the esXpress messages, or they will be removed.

Table 2 - Backup Scheduling Commands

Command	Description
[x0]	<p>Backup '0' times. Use this command to exclude a VM from the automatic backups. This command is case-sensitive.</p> <p>Example: To exclude the VM "TestMailServer" from the automatic daily backups, enter the command [x0] in the VM Notes section of the VM, or append the command to the VM name, "TestMailServer[x0]"</p>
[x1] to [x9]	<p>Backup an additional 1 to 9 times a day. By default, these additional backups will run at the following times:</p> <p>[x1] = 12 AM</p> <p>[x2] = 6 AM and 2 PM</p> <p>[x3] = 6 AM, 12 PM, and 6 PM</p> <p>[x4] = 6 AM, 12 PM, 4 PM, and 8 PM</p> <p>[x5] = 6 AM, 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, and 8 PM</p> <p>[x6] = 6 AM, 10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM, and 8 PM</p> <p>[x7] = 6 AM, 10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, and 8 PM</p> <p>[x8] = 6 AM, 8 AM, 10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, and 8 PM</p> <p>[x9] = 6 AM, 8 AM, 10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM, and 10 PM</p> <p>Note that the additional backups will not run during your scheduled daily backups.</p> <p>Example: To backup the VM "MyWindows" an additional two times, 6 AM and 2 PM, in addition to the automatic nightly backups, add the command [x2] to the VM Notes section for the VM or append the command to the VM name, "MyWindows[x2]"</p>
[x0][x10] to [x0][x23]	<p>Exclude from automatic backup and instead backup at a specific time each night. [x0][x22] would backup a VM at 22:00 hours (10 PM).</p> <p>Example: To exclude the VM "Test-Windows" from the daily backup and instead back it up at 8 PM every day, enter the command [x0][x20] in the VM Notes section for the VM or append the code to the display name, "Test-Windows[x0][x20]"</p>
[o1] to [o99]	<p>Specifies the order a VM is backed up. [o1] is the first machine to backup nightly. [o1] can be used with multiple VMs.</p> <p>Example: To tell esXpress to backup the VM "ExchangeServer1" first each night, add the</p>

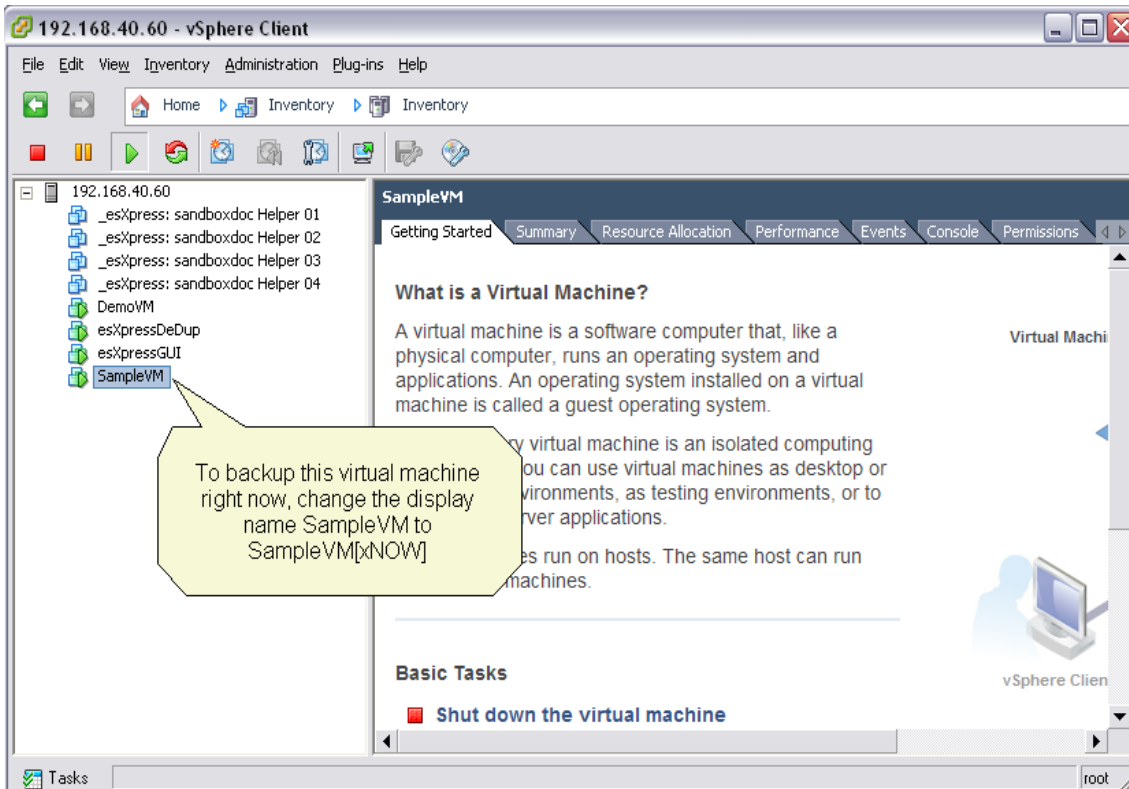
Command	Description
	command [o1] to the VM Notes of the VM. Alternatively, to make sure other VMs are backed up before the VM "Test3-Svr" add the command [o99] to its VM Notes area.
[t1] to [t24]	In addition to the nightly backup, backup at a specific time. The [t] command values [t1] through [t24] relate to hours in the day. For example, [t2] would cause esXpress to run a backup at 2 AM (02:00 hours) and [t22] would cause the backup to run at 10 PM (22:00 hours). Note that [t] commands will not run during the daily backup window, so if your backup window is set to run from 10 PM until 4 AM, for example, any [t] commands set to run within that time period ([t22] – [t4]) will not run.
[s1] to [s24]	Similar to [t] commands, in addition to the nightly backup, run a Special backup at a specific time. Special backups are enabled and defined within the GUI Appliance under the Selection tab. They are disabled, by default. Note that [s] commands will not run during the daily backup window.
[target= <i>n</i>]	<p>Specifies the backup target to use. This is the number of the backup target within the target team assigned to the host.</p> <p>Example: To schedule a backup to run at 9 PM that will be sent to the third target within the assigned target team, add the following to the VM notes of the VM to backup: [t21][target=3].</p> <p>Priority order for targets is Special Backup target, [target=<i>n</i>], then local configuration. This command cannot be combined with an [s] command because when running special backups, the special backup target is always used.</p>

Enabling [x] Commands

To enable the [x] commands, use the esXpress Management Appliance, and in the Global Settings, Selection tab, enable the option **Allow [X] Commands**. This option has the following possible settings:

- **Yes** – All the [x] commands are enabled.
- **No** – None of the [x] commands are enabled.
- **SingleVM** – Only commands that affect a single VM will be allowed. Commands including [xALL] will not be processed.

When the phd_daemon is enabled, you can issue commands to esXpress from within the VI3 or vSphere client by updating the VM display name or Notes.



You can add only one X command per hostname.

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