

Install UCS Drivers and VIBS in ESXi

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Introduction

This document describes how to install or update Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS) related drivers within a ESXi Hypervisor.

Background Information

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, ensure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

Prerequisites

1. SSH access to the ESXi hosts with the root account.
2. VIB Driver file (from either).
3. Cisco ESXi driver ISO from the [Cisco Software Downloads Portal](#).
4. (Optional) Broadcom OEM Addons , from the [Broadcom Support Portal](#).
5. (Optional) Latest Cisco UCS Tools from download list from [Cisco UCS Tool](#).
6. Cisco UCS Hardware Compatibility Matrix tool [Here](#).



Note: The UCS Hardware Compatibility Matrix allows you to confirm supported UCS firmware and driver version combinations.

Download the Cisco ESXi Driver ISO

1. Search for your server. For this example: Cisco UCS X210c M8 Compute Node
2. Select a Software Type: Unified Computing System (UCS) Drivers

Click the Download link for "ISO Image of UCS X-Series(or Rack) related Vmware drivers only"

Software Download

Downloads Home / Servers - Unified Computing / UCS X-Series Modular System / UCS X210c M8 Compute Node / Unified Computing System (UCS) Drivers - 6.0(2c)

UCS X210c M8 Compute Node

Release 6.0(2c)

Related Links and Documentation
[Release Note for 6.0\(2c\)](#)

My Notifications

File Information	Release Date	Size
ISO Image of UCS X-Series related linux drivers only UCSX-drivers-linux.6.0.2c.iso Advisories	18-May-2026	5168.96 MB
ISO Image of UCS X-Series related vmware drivers only UCSX-drivers-vmware.6.0.2c.iso Advisories	18-May-2026	216.54 MB
ISO Image of UCS X-Series related windows drivers only UCSX-drivers-windows.6.0.2c.iso Advisories	18-May-2026	4100.96 MB
ISO Image of UCS X-Series related xenserver drivers only UCSX-drivers-xenserver.6.0.2c.iso Advisories	18-May-2026	0.40 MB

Download the Broadcom OEM Addon (Optional)

1. Navigate to the [Broadcom Support Portal](#)
2. **Download** the Cisco_UCS_Addon_ESXi_9.x.x.x...zip file

Installation Procedure

Unzip and extract the ISO or .zip file contents to a folder located on your local workstation.

1. The Cisco_UCS_Addon_ESXi_9.x.x.x...zip obtained from the Broadcom portal contains a common set of drivers that apply to most UCS Rack and Blade servers.



Note: The Cisco ESXi driver ISO obtained from the Cisco Software Portal is specific to the server type and contains a comprehensive set of drivers when compared to what is contained within the Broadcom driver zip file.

2. Navigate to the appropriate driver for the device driver you intend to install or update.

<input type="checkbox"/> Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Network	4/26/2026 8:10 PM	File folder	
Storage	4/26/2026 8:10 PM	File folder	
Utilities	4/26/2026 8:10 PM	File folder	
Video	4/26/2026 8:10 PM	File folder	
release.txt	4/26/2026 8:10 PM	TXT File	1 KB
tag.txt	4/26/2026 8:10 PM	TXT File	1 KB

3. Navigate to the desired driver file based on the device type, Vendor, device and ESXi version.

ucs-cxxx-drivers-vmware.6.0.2b > Storage > Cisco > VIC > ESXi9.0

<input type="checkbox"/> Name	Type
doc	File folder
Cisco-nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229.zip	Compressed (zipp...

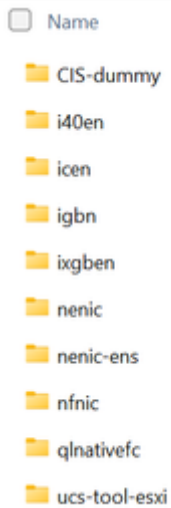


Note: For this example, the path is shown as /Storage/Cisco/VIC/ESXi9.0/Cisco-nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229.zip for the Cisco vHBA nfnic driver.

4. If the zip file was obtained from the Broadcom Support Portal, navigate to the vib20 folder.

<input type="checkbox"/> Name	Type
vib20	File folder
index.xml	XML File
metadata.zip	Compressed (zipped)...
vendor-index.xml	XML File

5. Within the vib20 folder, locate device driver folder which contains the .vib drivers required.



6. Copy and transfer the vib driver or folder to the ESXi host which requires a driver installation or update.



Note: There are multiple ways a vib file can be uploaded to the ESXi host.

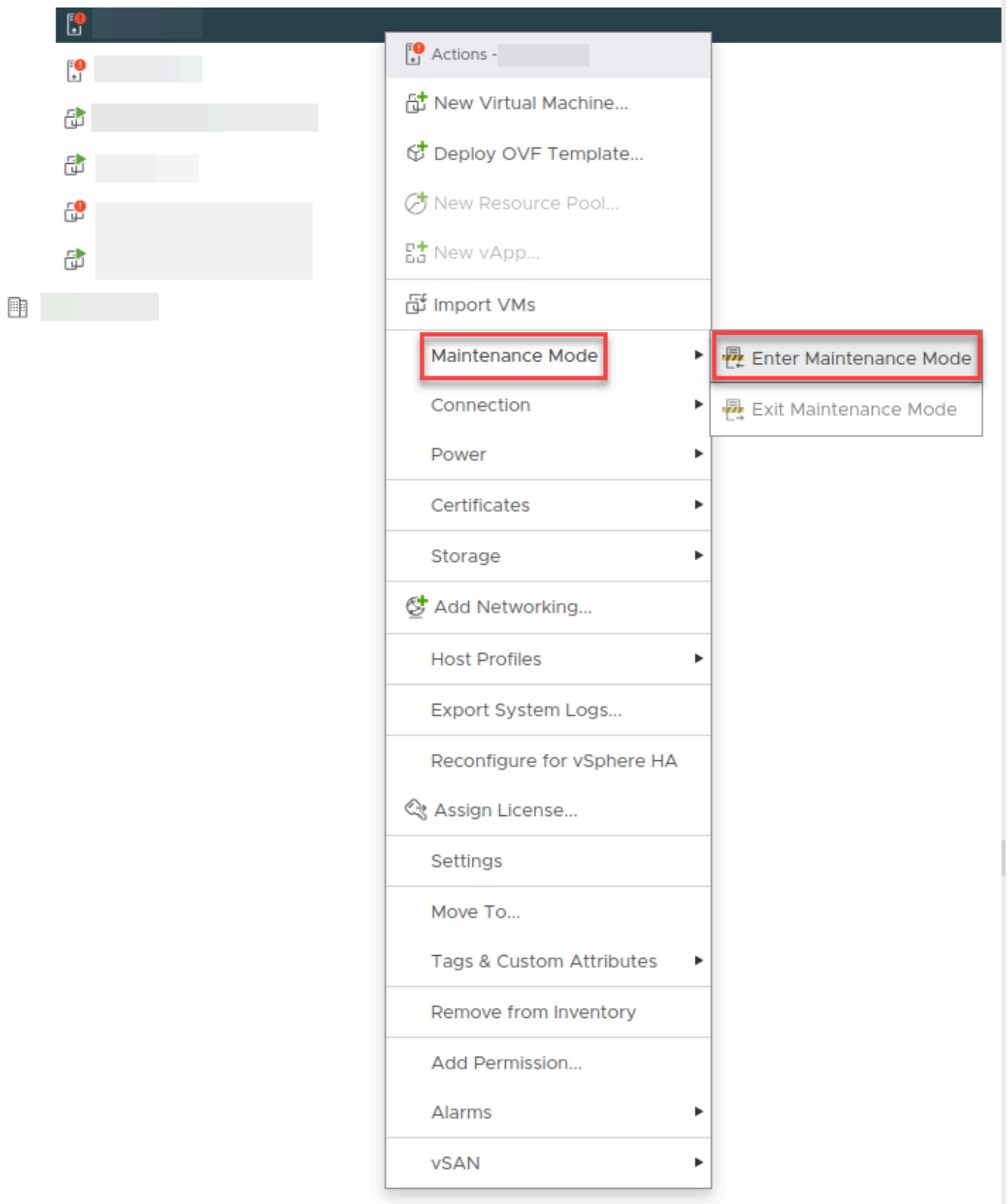
1. Use the Vcenter GUI or ESXi Vsphere GUI to upload to a datastore which is accessible by the host.
2. Use a utility which contains a scp client in order to copy the driver file to a datastore or the /tmp folder contained on the ESXi host.

7. Place the ESXi host into maintenance mode using the GUI or CLI.

CLI Method: ESX CLI: **esxcli system maintenanceMode set --enable true**

```
[root@localhost:/tmp/ESXi9.0] esxcli system maintenanceMode set --enable true
[root@localhost:/tmp/ESXi9.0] esxcli system maintenanceMode get
Enabled
```

GUI Method: **Select** the host > **Right Click** > **Select** Maintenance Mode > **Enter** Maintenance Mode



8. Install or update the driver vib. (Using the Cisco NFNIC VIC driver as an example)



Note: If an existing version of the vib file is not already installed, then the command requires the 'install' parameter to be included as shown.

esxcli software vib install -d /tmp/Cisco-nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229.zip

```
[root@localhost:/tmp] esxcli software vib install -d /tmp/Cisco-nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229.zip
Installation Result
  Message: The update completed successfully, but the system needs to be rebooted for the changes to be effective.
  VIBs Installed: CIS_bootbank_nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229
  VIBs Removed:
  VIBs Skipped:
  Reboot Required: true
  DPU Results:
```

9. Updating an existing driver vib



Note: If an existing version of the vib file is already installed, then the command requires the 'update' parameter to be included as shown.

esxcli software vib update -d /tmp/Cisco-nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229.zip

```
[root@localhost:/tmp/ESXi9.0] esxcli software vib update -d /tmp/Cisco-nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229.zip
Installation Result
  Message: The update completed successfully, but the system needs to be rebooted for the changes to be effective.
  VIBs Installed: CIS_bootbank_nfnic_5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229
  VIBs Removed: CIS_bootbank_nfnic_5.0.0.46-1OEM.900.0.24580437
  VIBs Skipped:
  Reboot Required: true
  DPU Results:
```

10. Reboot the ESXi host

11. Validate the new driver vib is active

esxcli software vib list | grep -i nfnic

```
[root@localhost:~] esxcli software vib list | grep -i nfnic
nfnic                    5.0.0.50-1OEM.900.0.24755229      CIS      VMwareCertified  2026-05-08  host
```

12. UCS Tools installation (Optional)



Note: Starting with ESXi 7, Broadcom introduced the concept of software 'components' which are a collection of two or more related VIB files.



Note: The UCS tools .zip file for ESXi is of a component type.

13. Execute the command as shown to install a component:

For Example: **esxcli software component apply -d /tmp/CIS-ucs-tool-esxi-2.1.05-10EM.zip**

```
[root@localhost:/tmp] esxcli system maintenanceMode set --enable true
[root@localhost:/tmp] esxcli software component apply -d /tmp/CIS-ucs-tool-esxi-2.1.05-10EM.zip
Installation Result
  Message: Operation finished successfully.
  Components Installed: ucs-tool-esxi_2.1-0.5
  Components Removed: CIS-ucs-tool-esxi_1.5.3-10EM.900.0.24580437
  Components Skipped:
  Reboot Required: false
  DPU Results:
```

14. Confirm the running version with the command: **esxcli software component list | grep -i ucs**

```
[root@localhost:~] esxcli software component list | grep -i ucstools
ucs-tool-esxi          ucstools and ipmitool Daemon for VMware ESX
```

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