<h1 style="text-align:center">VMware BIOS EFI Mod How-to-Use</h1>

Supported Windows Versions:

SLP 1.0 (BIOS440 only - Multi OEM SLP Strings) XP, Server 2003/2003 R2
SLP 2.6 (BIOS440 & EFIs - Dell 2.4 SLIC) Vista, Server 2008, Windows 7, Server 2008 R2, Server 2012, Server 2012 R2, Server 2016, Server 2019, Server 2022.

Note

To determine which EFI (EFI64.ROM vs. EFI20-64.ROM) to use check the VM ~.vmx file. If

'virtualHW.version'

 is less than '20' use EFI64.ROM, otherwise use EFI20-64.ROM.

Method 1: (recommended) On an individual VM basis. Use a modded rom: BIOS.440_SLIC.ROM, EFI20-64_SLIC.ROM, EFI64_SLIC.ROM. Just drop the modded rom into the folder created when you set up a new virtual machine. In the same folder edit the ~.vmx file for one of the following cases.

(1) in the case of legacy BIOS.440 add the following line to the vmx file:

`bios440.filename = "BIOS.440_SLIC.ROM"`

(2) in the case of EFI20-64.ROM add the following lines to the vmx file:

`firmware = "efi"`
`efi20-64.filename = "EFI20-64_SLIC.ROM"`

(3) in the case of EFI64.ROM add the following lines to the vmx file:

`firmware = "efi"`
`efi64.filename = "EFI64_SLIC.ROM"`

The filename must match the modded ROM name. Save and exit. You'll have to do this for each VM you wish to activate this way.

Method 2: All VMs basis. As of VMware 14.0.0 it's not possible to mod the VMware-vmx executable anymore. You can achieve the same effect by dropping the modded BIOS.440_SLIC.ROM, EFI20-64_SLIC.ROM, and EFI64_SLIC.ROM into C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation\x64\. You'll need to rename them as BIOS.440.ROM, EFI20-64.ROM, and EFI64.ROM and overwrite the existing unmodded ROMs (you might want to save the unmodded ROMs to allow reversion). These modded ROMs will become the defaults for all VMs.

By default, bios440 will be selected. To specify an EFI simply add:

`firmware = "efi"`

to the .vmx file in the efi machine's folder. The correct EFI will be selected and run.

OSs that do not use OEM SLP 1.0/2.x activation, e.g., Linux, Windows 8/10, will not be affected by the mod.

Activation

XP: If you are using a supported OEM disk you should be automatically activated on start. You can verify activation status using the Run dialog:

oobe/msoobe /a

For information about creating a XP OEM disk see the Windows XP Sub-Forum.

Vista/Windows 7/Server: You'll need the appropriate certificate (DELL-DD981F15.XRM-MS to match the DELL[PE_SC3]2.6-A754CB91.BIN (SLIC) used) and OEM key. The key will have to match the OS version you are using. Keys are not brand specific. From an elevated command prompt:

Install the certificate (assuming it's on the root of C drive)

slmgr.vbs /ilc C:\DELL-DD981F15.XRM-MS

Install the key

slmgr.vbs /ipk xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxxx-xxxx-xxxxx

Activate Windows

If the key, certificate and SLIC table are present, activation will occur automatically.

Check activation status

slmgr.vbs /dli

Other Info
You can find OEM keys in the XP/Vista/Windows 7/Windows Server Sub-Forums.
Certs and SLICS can be found in the BIOS Mods Sub-Forum.