

Hedvig: Resetting VMware ESXi NFS 4.1 Transfer Size

For NFS 4.1 Datastores, the VMware ESXi NFS client limits the maximum write/read transfer size to 255 KB, even when the NFS server negotiates a higher I/O size.

For 255 KB I/Os, this would result in unaligned writes on Hedvig, causing a degradation in performance.

Two hidden parameters, ForeMaxRqstSize and ForeMaxRespSize, in the ESXi advanced settings, can be used to increase the maximum transfer size up to 1024 KB.

Here is the procedure for resetting these parameters:

1. Run the following commands on the ESXi host:

```
esxcfg-advcfg -s 1024 /NFS41/ForeMaxRqstSize
esxcfg-advcfg -s 1024 /NFS41/ForeMaxRespSize
```

2. Verify the new settings:

```
esxcfg-advcfg -g /NFS41/ForeMaxRqstSize
```

The value of ForeMaxRqstSize should now be 1024.

```
esxcfg-advcfg -g /NFS41/ForeMaxRespSize
```

The value of ForeMaxRqstSize should now be 1024.

3. Mount the datastore:

For Hedvig NFS Datastores, 512 KB is set as the maximum write/read transfer size (as specified in hedvignfs-exports.conf):

```
MaxWrite = 524288; MaxRead = 524288
```

The vmkernel.log should reflect the MaxWrite and MaxRead size:

```
2021-03-06T01:47:38.666Z cpu25:9160177 opID=cb5301f1)NFS41: NFS41FSCompleteMount:3893: Max read xfer size: 0x80000
```

```
2021-03-06T01:47:38.666Z cpu25:9160177 opID=cb5301f1)NFS41: NFS41FSCompleteMount:3894: Max write xfer size: 0x80000
```

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Software-defined AES-256, FIPS compliant encryption of data in flight and at rest.