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Introduction

Cisco TelePresence Conductor (TelePresence Conductor) is playing an increasingly important role in the deployment of video networks. Although the 1 U appliance provides a solid platform on which to run TelePresence Conductor, many companies now want to run TelePresence Conductor on the 'Company Standard' Virtual Machine (VM) hardware platform for ease of management and deployment within an existing data center.

This deployment guide specifies:

- the VM platform requirements for TelePresence Conductor
- how to load the TelePresence Conductor .ova installation file
- how to install a VM
- how to troubleshoot the system, when there are issues

With a suitably specified VM platform, the TelePresence Conductor running on VMware will perform identically to the TelePresence Conductor running on its appliance hardware.

Why does the VM .ova file specify "use .ova for initial VM install only"?

The VM TelePresence Conductor is licensed using information that is generated at the time of the .ova file installation. If the .ova was installed a second time, new licensing information would be created, and to use the new VM, new release and licence keys would need to be purchased. To upgrade a VM TelePresence Conductor, follow the procedure under Upgrading a VM TelePresence Conductor [p.16], using the .tar.gz version of the TelePresence Conductor software.

After installation we recommend that you take a snapshot of the VM TelePresence Conductor (see Snapshot and restore using VM snapshot [p.13]) so that it can be restored if the running VM gets damaged in any way. The VM snapshot retains the licensing information that was generated when the .ova file was installed, including any release and license keys that were applied.

How do I get release keys and license keys for my VM TelePresence Conductor?

Licenses can be obtained after the VM TelePresence Conductor is installed, using the serial number of the VM TelePresence Conductor. The serial number is available from the **Option key** page and from the footer of the TelePresence Conductor web interface.

For full details on obtaining your release and license keys, see Appendix 2 — VM Cisco TelePresence Conductor activation process [p.22].

Installing a VM

The sections below list the recommended platform and specifications-based system requirements, and describe the VM installation process. The requirements outlined below refer to the minimum requirements for TelePresence Conductor version XC2.2. The minimum requirements for future TelePresence Conductor software releases may differ and you should refer to the release notes or administrator guide to ensure that pre-requisites are met.

Requirements

Recommended platform

See http: /wiki/Virtualization_for_Cisco_TelePresence_Conductor for the current list of supported UCS Tested Reference Configurations and specs-based supported platforms.

Ensure that:

- VT is enabled in the BIOS before installing VMware ESXi
- the VM host "Virtual Machine Startup/Shutdown" is configured to "Allow Virtual machines to start and stop automatically with the system", and that the VM TelePresence Conductor has been moved to the Automatic startup section
- your UCS system is configured with RAID 5

Specifications-based system – minimum specification

If using a specifications-based system, the minimum requirements are:

- VM host operational and running ESXi 4.1, ESXi 5.0 (Update 1) or ESXi 5.1
- 6GB of RAM per VM TelePresence Conductor
- 132GB disk space per VM (for a 4GB virtual disk 1 and a 128GB virtual disk 2)
- 2 cores reserved per VM TelePresence Conductor; each core >= 2.8GHz processor (5600MHz for 2 vCPUs)
- vCenter or vSphere operational

Note: ESXi 5.0 is currently not supported; during testing a problem was observed on a host using ESXi 5.0 and an LSI MegaRAID card. We strongly recommend using ESXi 5.0 (Update 1), where this issue has been resolved.

Co-residency support

The TelePresence Conductor can co-reside with applications (any other VMs occupying same host) subject to the following conditions:

- no oversubscription of CPU: 1:1 allocation of vCPU to physical cores must be used (2 cores required per VM TelePresence Conductor)
- no oversubscription of RAM: 1:1 allocation of vRAM to physical memory
- sharing disk storage subsystem is supported subject to correct performance (latency, bandwidth) characteristics

Installation process

This process guides you through installing VM; it assumes that you are using vSphere.

Configuring the VM host

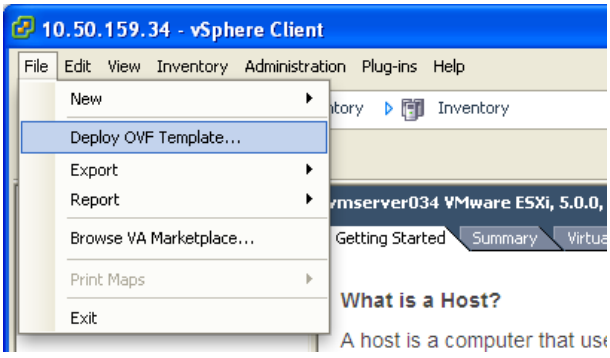
Ensure that the VM host is configured with a valid NTP server – the same NTP server that will be specified in TelePresence Conductor.

1. Select the host.
2. Go to the **Configuration** tab.
3. Select **Time configuration**.
4. Select **Properties**.
   If the date and time were red on the previous page, set the date and time manually to the current time.
5. Click **Options**.
6. Select **NTP Settings**.
7. Click **Add**.
8. Enter the IP address of the NTP server.
9. Click **OK**.
10. Select the **Restart NTP service to apply changes** check box.
11. Click **OK**.
12. Click **OK**.

Deploying OVA to host

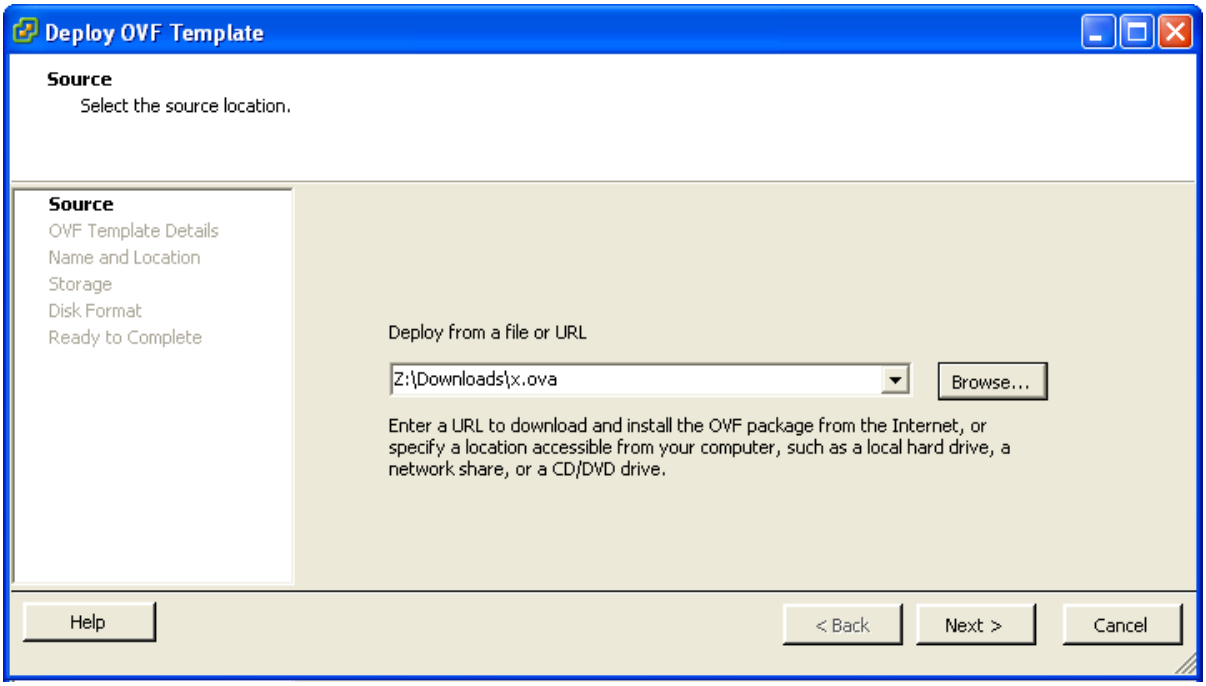
These instructions represent a typical installation. The Deploy OVF Template wizard dynamically changes to reflect host configuration.

1. Log in to vSphere to access the ESXi Host.
2. Select **File > Deploy OVF Template**.

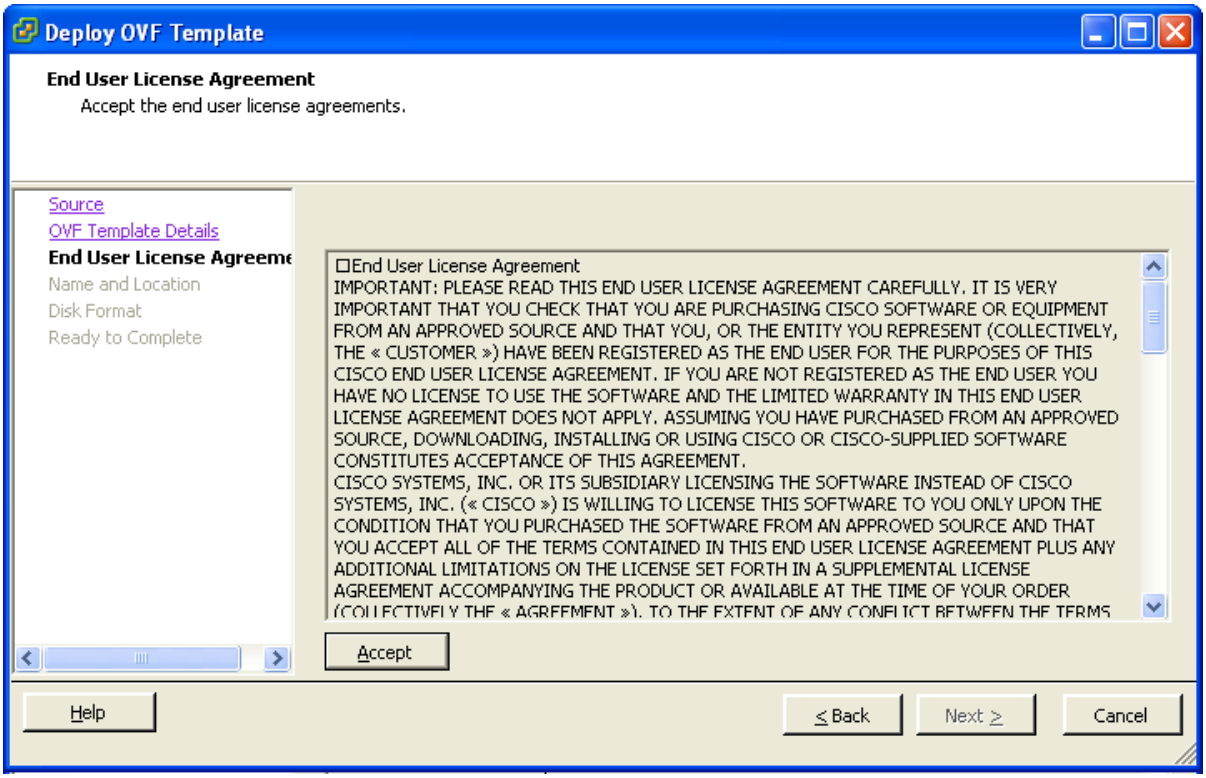


3. Select **Source** and **Browse** to the location of the .ova file.

4. Click **Next**.
   If the .ova file is already preloaded onto the datastore,you may have to re-enter username and password credentials so that vSphere client can access the web server.

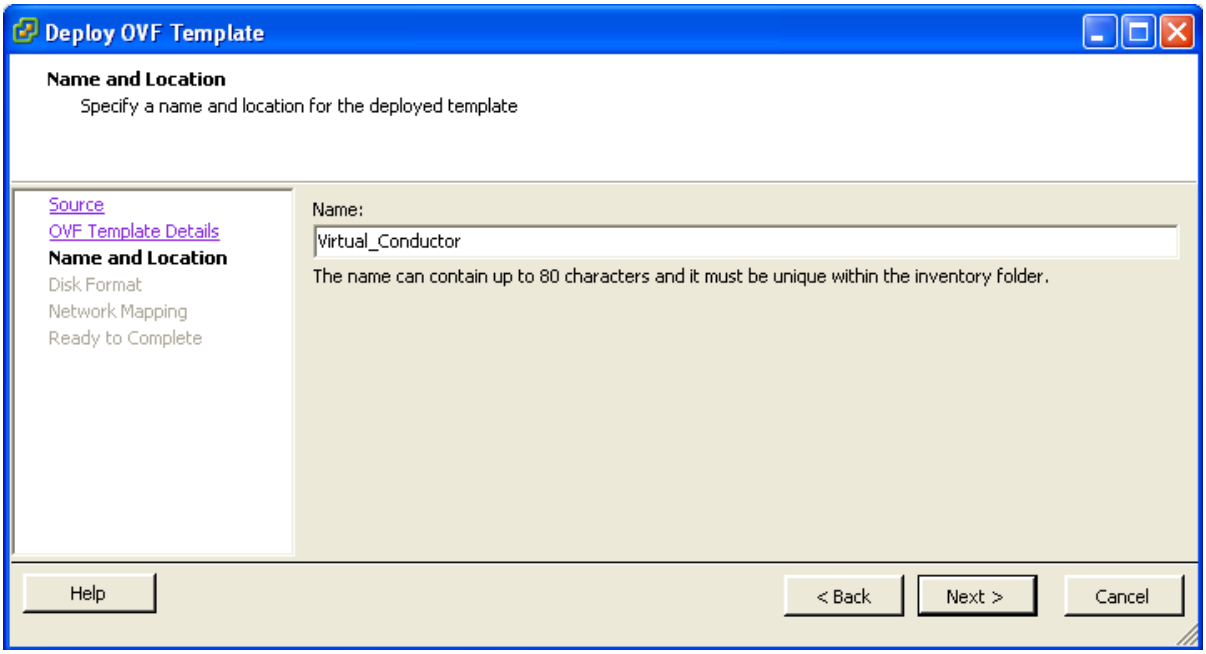


5. On the **OVF Template Details** page click **Next**.
6. On the **End User License Agreement** page read the EULA.

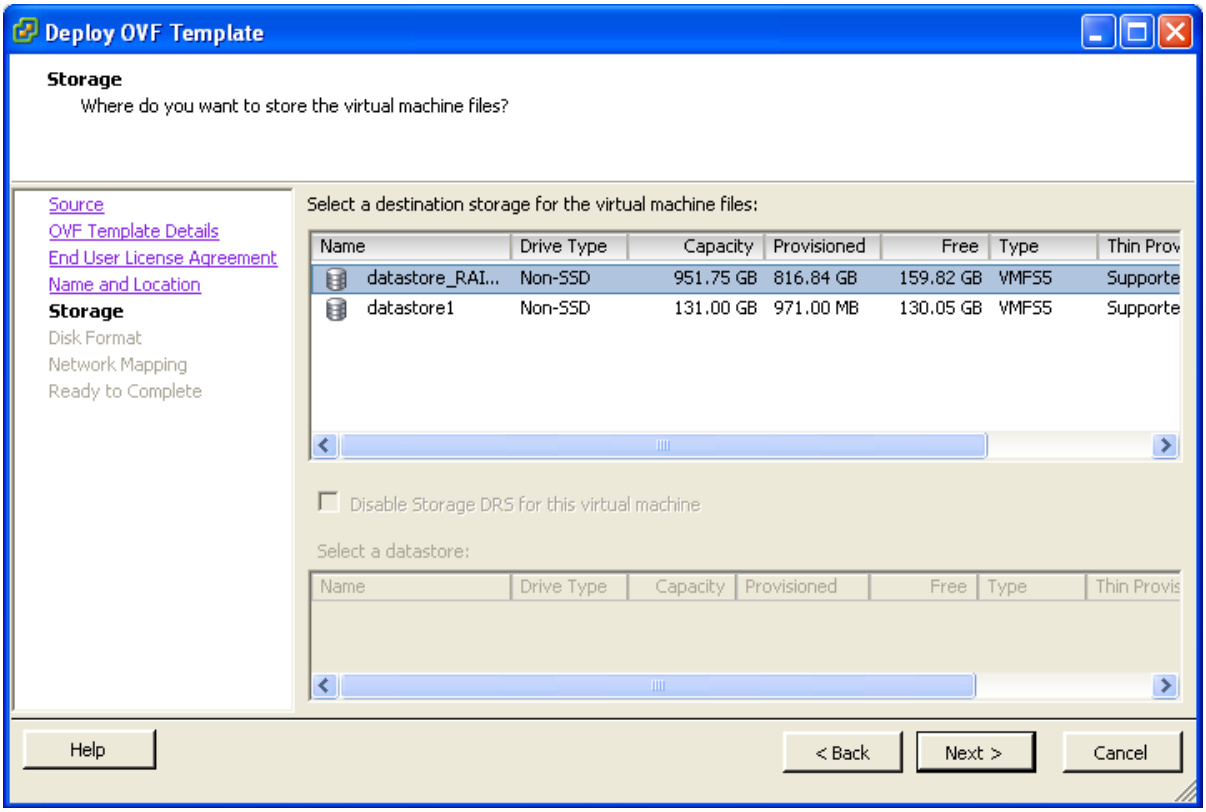


7. If you accept the EULA, click **Accept** then **Next**.

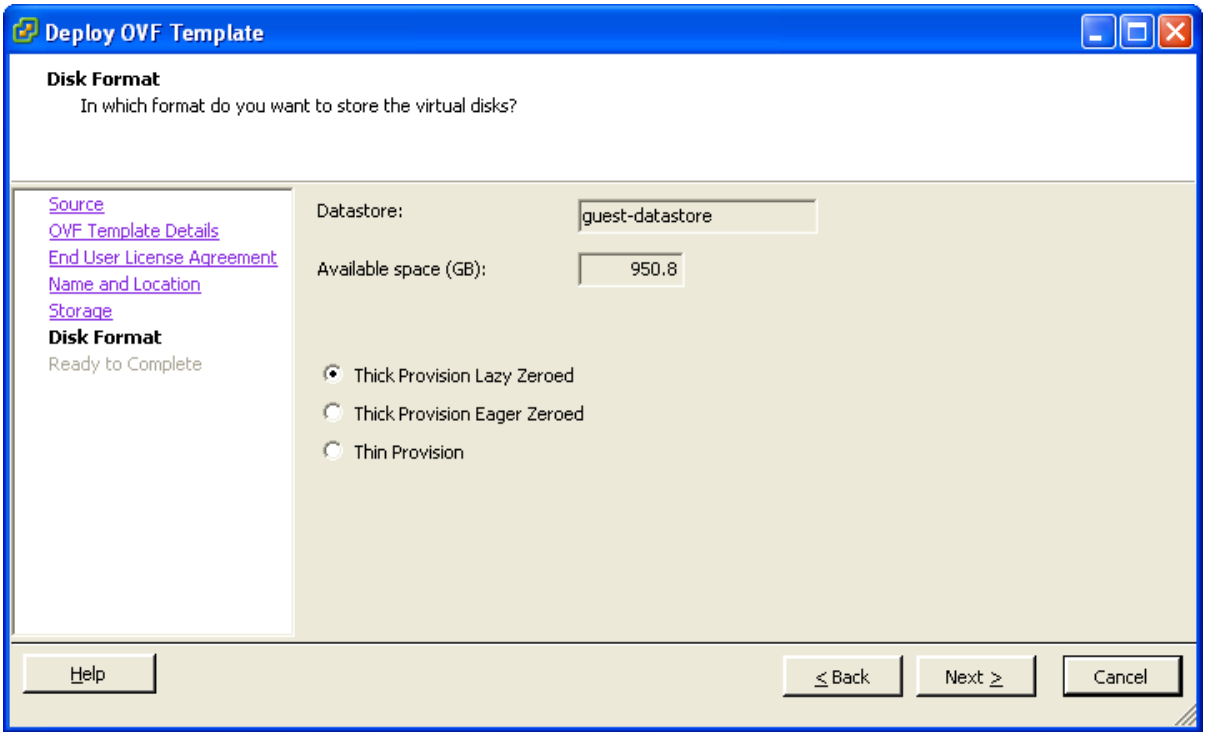
8. On the **Name and Location** page enter a **Name** for this TelePresence Conductor VM guest, for example "Virtual_Conductor".



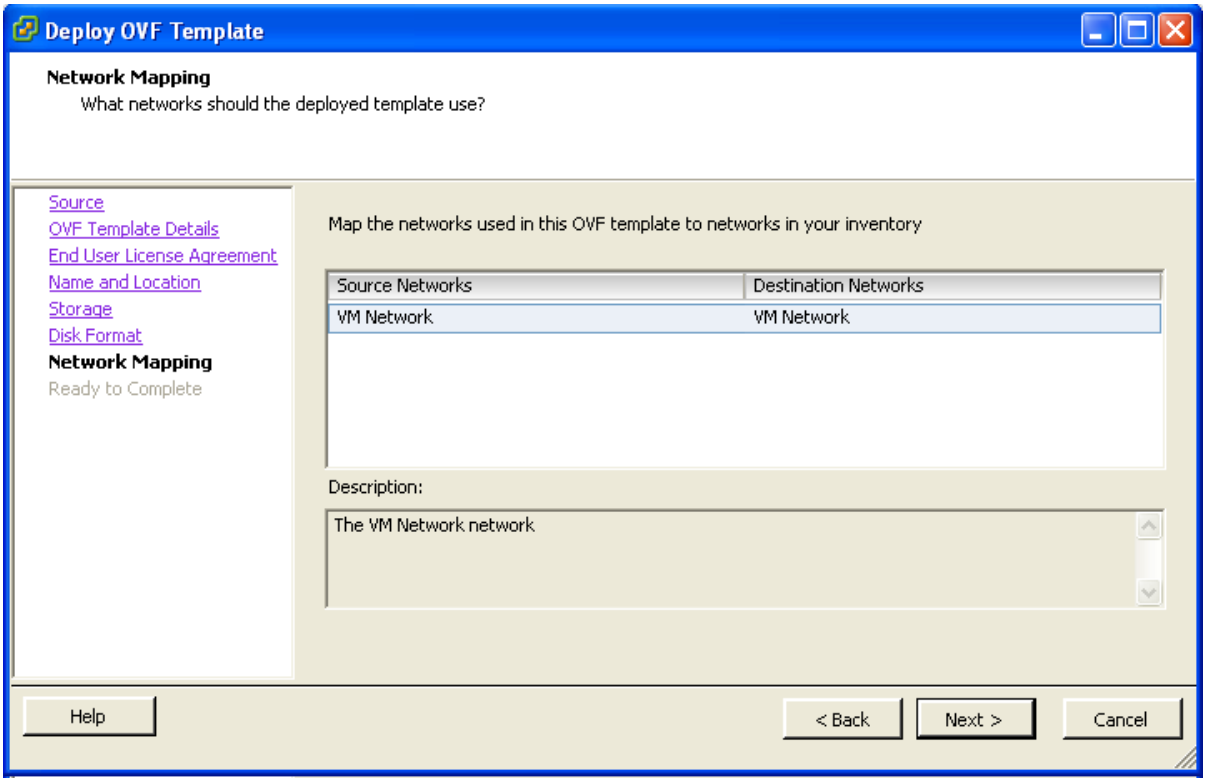
9. On the **Storage** page, select the datastore onto which the TelePresence Conductor VM Guest will be deployed and then click **Next**.



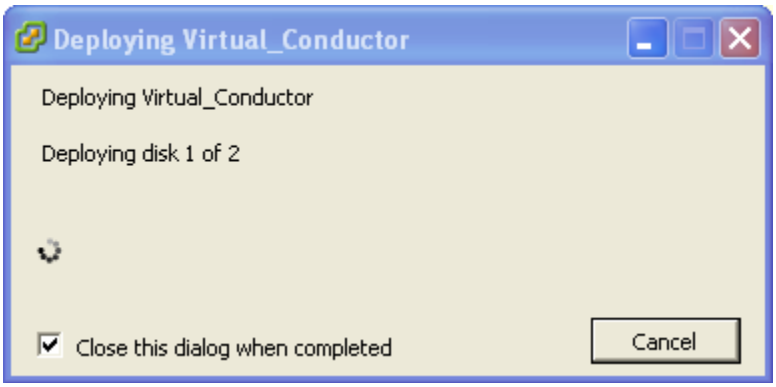
10. On the **Disk Format** page, ensure that the default disk format of **Thick Provision Lazy Zeroed** is selected and then click **Next**.
    Note that **Thin Provision** is not supported as VM performance may degrade during resizing of a partition.



11. If listed, configure **Network Mapping** and select the network mapping that applies to your infrastructure and then click **Next** (default is **VM Network**).



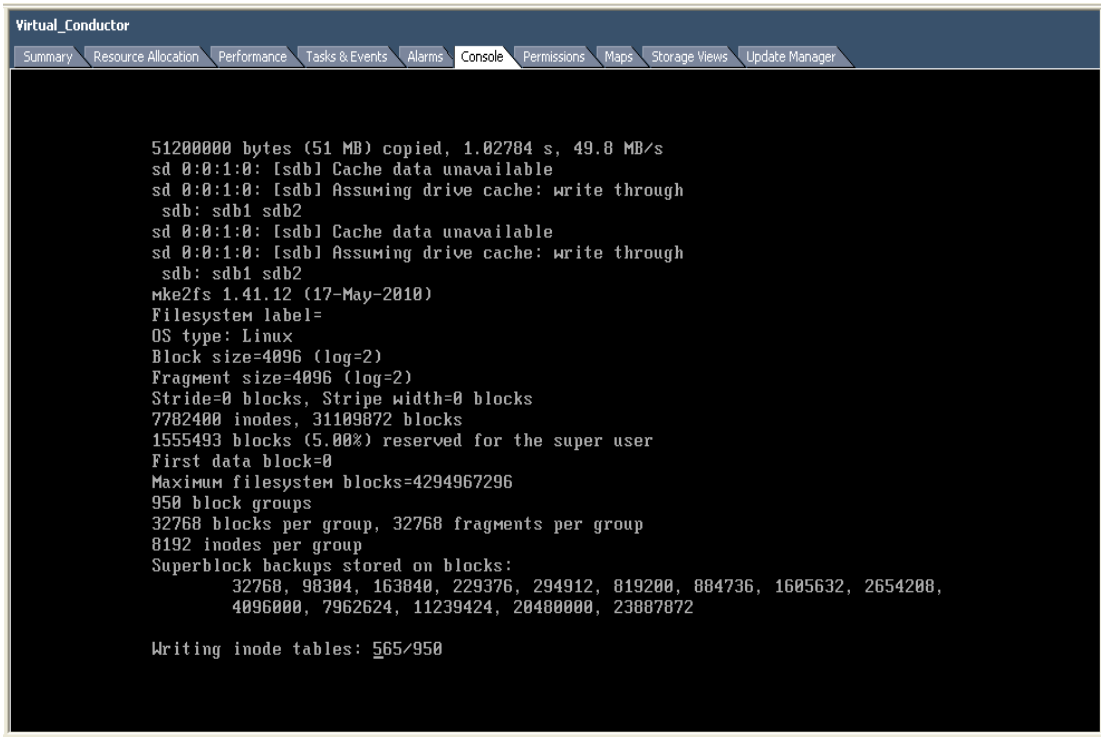
12. On the **Ready to Complete** page confirm Deployment Settings.
13. Select the **Power on after deployment** check box.
14. Click **Finish**.



The TelePresence Conductor OVA is now deployed as a Guest on the VM Host.

Configuring the VM guest

1. Either:
   - Select the VM guest and then select the 'Console' tab, or
   - Right-click on the VM guest and select 'Open Console'.



2. The VM guest will take some time to boot, create its second hard disk partition and then reboot to a login prompt.