

VMware Home Lab

Hosts

- 1x Home built on Gigabyte X87X-HD3 motherboard
- 1x Lenovo ThinkStation P300
- 1x HP EliteDesk 800 G1

Common configuration:

- Intel Core i7-4790 CPU – 4 cores, 8 threads, 3.6GHz
- 32GB RAM
- random SATA HDD for OS and local Datastore
- 1x ADATA SU760 256GB SSD for vSAN Cache tier
- 1x WD WD10EZEX 1TB HDD for vSAN Capacity tier
- 2x Intel i350 four-port 1Gb NICs

Network

- HP V1910-48G 48-port Layer 3 Gigabit switch (JE009A)

External storage

- Synology DS1815+ NAS serving iSCSI and NFS

This lab has grown organically over the last few years. The homebuilt box was originally my workstation, then repurposed as my first ESXi host about three years ago, and remained my only host for quite some time.

The Lenovo box was added when I decided to play with clustering, and the HP was added after I decided to see what vSAN was all about. Those two systems were both purchased used from my local Goodwill store, and selected because their basic hardware spec - CPU, max RAM capacity, and expansion slots - was identical to what I already had.

The switch also came from Goodwill, and the NICs came from eBay - after the original host build, only the vSAN SSDs and HDDs and extra RAM have been purchased new. All up, I guess I've spent about \$1200 not counting the NAS which was already in place as our home file server.