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**My 5 Year Ultimate Home Server quest,
featuring Core i7 vZilla and those mini-
tower Xeon D-1540 SuperServers**



TinkerTry IT@home
Efficient virtualization, storage, backup and more

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What?

VMware ESXi Hypervisor, I call mine “[vZilla](#)”.
Left running at home 24x7 with 7 HDDs. Uses about 150 watts, so that electricity costs me about \$200/yr.

My Core i7 uses an ASRock motherboard with 32GB of RAM, and it's been running quite nicely since April 2011. Looking ahead to Intel Xeon-D, with up to 128GB of RAM, and far more efficiency:

TinkerTry.com/intel-xeon-d-announced

What?



When?

Any time you have the inclination and the budget to leave an efficient lab running 24x7.

Where?

In that virtualization lab you wish you had in your home, where you typically only have a home WiFi router. Licensing? See also \$200/yr EVALExperience:



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VMUG's Ready to Help You Build Your **Home Lab**

EVALExperience
by VMware

New in 2015 - VMUG Advantage now includes [VMware's EVALExperience](#), giving you exclusive access to nine VMware applications to test for 365 days.

Why?

Perhaps you're so done with mere exam cramming, using VMware Workstation or the like.

Instead, you're ready to dedicate a workstation or server to ESXi 6.0 Hypervisor, running efficiently 24x7.

How? Tip #1

Use hostnames instead of IP addresses

Tweak your router to give you a proper FQDN name so that critical initial deployment of your vCSA appliance goes smoothly:

- 1) Temporarily assign static IP to WAN, and set the domain name to **lab.local**
- 2) Create a DHCP reservation with the name of **vcenter** (for vCSA MAC address), deploy
- 3) Edit the /etc/host file in vCSA appliance so it can “see” your **esxi** server by name

See video walk-through in the section entitled

“Configure WiFi router for DHCP reservation and FQDN for vCSA” in this article:

[TinkerTry.com/installvsphere60#below](https://www.tinkertry.com/installvsphere60#below)

How? Tip #2

Make your “vSphere Web Client” look and work more like an installed application

Use Chrome’s “Create application shortcuts...” menu to create a launch icon in your Windows Task Bar:

[TinkerTry.com/create-vsphere-web-client-google-chrome-application-shortcut](https://www.tinkertry.com/create-vsphere-web-client-google-chrome-application-shortcut)

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The Solution

Ready for VMware ESXi 6 / Microsoft Windows 10 / Windows Server / Hyper-V!



Supermicro Mini Tower Intel Xeon D-1540 Bundle 2

SKU: 10024470B2
MFG Part Number: SYS-5028D-TN4T-BUNDLE2


In stock

- 64GB DDR4 2133MHz RDIMM ECC Memory
- Assembly and Testing Included

Bonus Items

- SanDisk Ultra Fit CZ43 32GB USB 3.0 Flash Drive
- Internal System Speaker
- 6th SATA3 Supermicro Cable
- TinkerTry Stickers

★★★★★
[\(write a review\)](#)



[Order a TinkerTry'd Supermicro SuperServer Bundle - powerful and efficient home virtualization lab solutions](#)

The Solution, explained...

Besides the allure of Intel's new System on a Chip Xeon D-1500 for amazing efficiency, it just works! VMware, Windows, Linux. Doused with a big splash of new tech, inside and out:

- Up to 8 storage devices: 6 Intel SATA3 ports, 1 PCIe 3.0x4 slot, and 1 M.2 PCIe 3.0x4 socket
- 5 RJ45 ports, 1 for management, 2 for Intel I-350 1GbE, and 2 for Intel X552 10GbE!
- Bundles arrive with 2 32GB DDR DIMMs worth about \$240 each, 2 slots available to get to maximum of 128GB of RAM.
- Bundle also arrives with some goodies, like ESXi 6.0 ready USB flash drive, and that 6th matching SATA3 cable, see [What's in the box](#).

Demo Time!

- NVMe storage speeds featuring Samsung 950 PRO M.2
- Clone a VM
- Install a VM
- The latest HTML5 ESXi Host Client
- Anything else you would like to try?

Open Q&A

This presentation is to be made available at:

TinkerTry.com/itpropresentation

**which will include a link to the closely related
“Customer Spotlight” video.**

Feedback always appreciated!

Public comments left below articles are preferred.

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