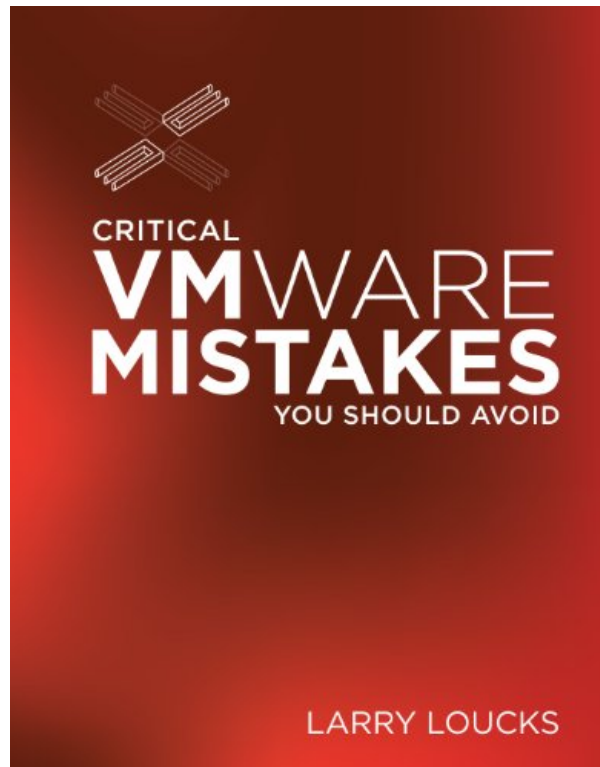
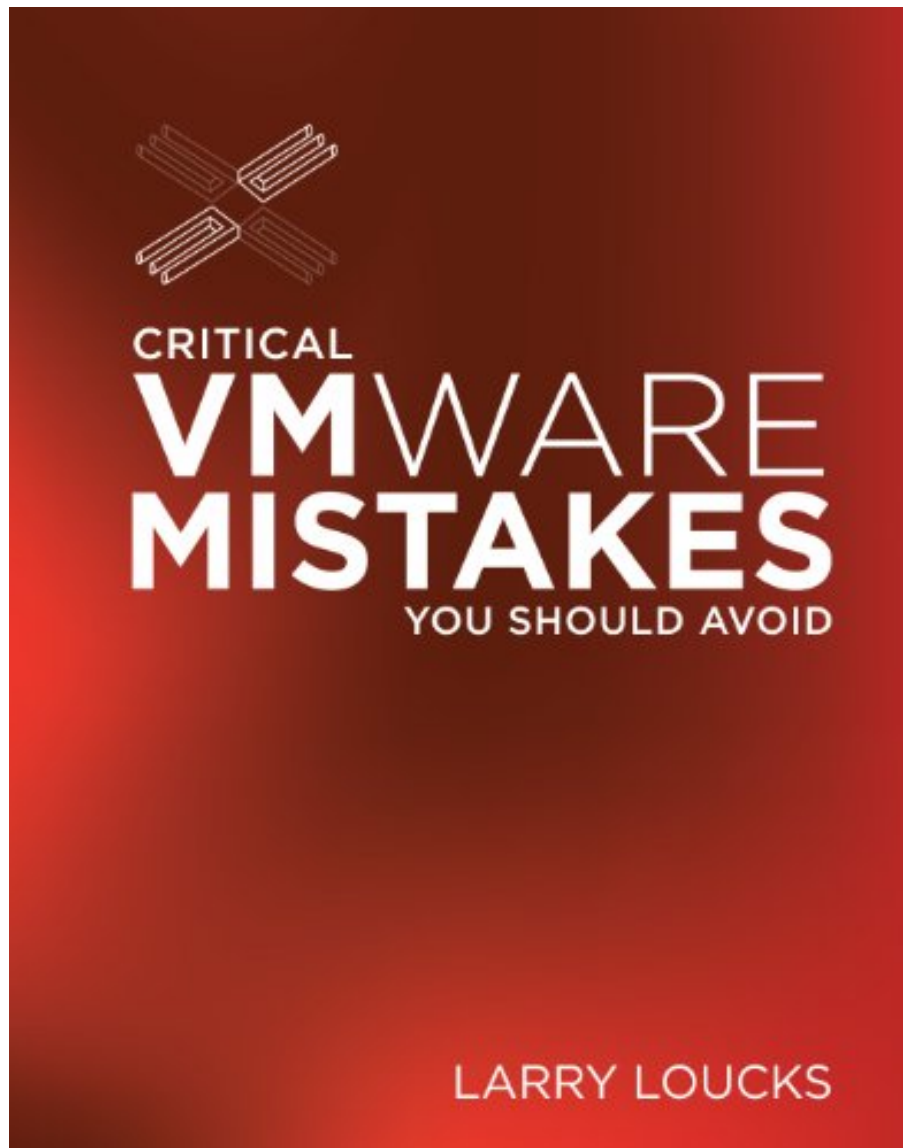


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From the Author

In this book, we've not tried to describe the most technically complex VMware problems, simply the most common. The principles of virtualization described herein are designed to allow virtual administrators improve performance of the environment they already by eliminating common misconfigurations and mistakes. In the past 10 years I've spoken with thousands of virtualized customers. These problems are the ones I hear about time and time again. If you are able to identify and eliminate even a single performance problem in your environment as a result of reading this book, our goal will have been accomplished in writing it.

About the Author

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There are thousands of How-to books on the market. This book is a hind-sight book. There are many common misconfigurations and mistakes that one can find over and over in virtual environments. This book is designed to illustrate some of these common mistakes and describe the impact on the virtual environment. In this book one can discover how/why these misconfigurations can cost your company piles of money, degrade performance and lower ROI for your virtual environment.

Of course after all of that, this book shows admins the proper way to configure the environment as well.

Topics include:

- Storage misconfigurations, impact, detection and best practices
- CPU misconfigurations, impact, detection and best practices
- Memory misconfigurations, impact, detection and best practices
- Network, impact, detection and best practices
- P2V migrations improper and proper methodologies
- ...and much more.

You've probably heard it said, Hindsight is 20/20. This book is hindsight taken from years of experience in the virtualization arena by the author.

Grab all of the how-to books you like but make sure you pick up a copy of this book and avoid common pitfalls and mistakes of implementing a virtual environment.

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Most helpful customer reviews

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Good stuff, a little outdated in parts

By Deadtired78

I was kinda surprised that this was released in September 2011. It seems like it was not updated to include changes in vSphere 5.0 (released for beta in summer of 2011) or even vSphere 4.1 (released in summer of 2010). Specifically, some of the changes to CPU scheduling that have loosened the limitation on single vCPU VMs. Many applications released in the last two years will perform very poorly if placed in a single vCPU VM. Even some roles of Server 2008 struggle with a single core.

The author also goes off on "large single array" SAN configurations. The problem he is discussing (insufficient IOP capabilities) is very real but his blaming it all on single large array configurations is a false conclusion. It's ironic that a "virtualization expert" doesn't see the benefits of storage virtualization, or the waste in traditional array configurations that he seems to prefer. The real issue is people not evaluating their IO needs and purchasing insufficient hardware to meet those needs and growth. More dedicated array configurations have their place in very high IO applications, but to paint "large single array" configurations as a problem is inaccurate and is an argument I usually hear from old SAN administrators afraid of losing their jobs.

Overall, this book is mostly a condensed version of the recommendations that VMware makes in their various vSphere documentation manuals and best practice white papers. I could see this book definitely having value to an administrator new to virtualization, but that administrator also needs to do some additional research to get more up to date information.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A must read for any VMware installations

By computerTech

Let me start off by saying that this book has opened my eyes to VMware. I work for a corporation that has VMware implemented in the organization, and I can tell you that the corporation would have spent less money and time if only we had read this book sooner. Don't let the size of this book fool you. It is jam packed with in the field knowledge of what not to do and why! It is an easy read, not like picking up a stereo installation guide. When you read this, you actually can feel the presence of the author in the real world experience scenarios and can relate. Like I said a must read, well worth the price for the book in the time and savings you will achieve.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Target Market is new vSphere Administrators

By Tim Grosshuesch

I selected this book based on some of the reviews and was looking forward to reading this book. I work as a VMware/Storage/Network consultant in the SMB market.

This book is targeted towards individuals that are still very new to Virtualization and VMware in particular. I was under the impression that this book would tackle more advanced issues and means of detection such as SAN path-thrashing or virtual machine performance analysis. This book does not go into depth for these types of issues.

That being said, this book does go over a number of common mistakes individuals new to virtualization often make such as over-allocation of resources, confusing space with IOPS, expanding the subnet instead of creating more networks using VLANs/routers/ACLs, placing management in the same network as clients, etc. I did think that Mr. Loucks did a good explanation of CPU RDY time for this target audience. The actual whitepapers on this topic, for example, [...], are extremely deep, much deeper than most individuals in this target audience will need/want to get. Other than storage issues, this is the most common mistake I see by some of the clients I have worked with in my career.

I agree with another reviewer about this book feeling dated. It was not updated for 4.1 or higher for the chapter on memory as there is no mention of memory compression or swap to SSD. The copyright renewal of 2011 appears to have been just a renewal with potentially a few small revisions. Also, Mr. Loucks has a strong opinion on thin-provisioning and separating workloads on different spindles. While I agree to some extent most notably about people who buy their storage solely on capacity without any IOPS analysis - you should always review the best practices of the storage manufacturer. Your storage should be on the VMware HCL for all production workloads. All mainstream manufacturers (NetApp/EMC/Compellent/HP/etc) have dedicated whitepapers on VMware best practices that are specific to the array model and the connectivity in place - iSCSI/FC/NFS. Mr. Loucks' beliefs of storage appear that he has a lot of familiarity with traditional (legacy) storage designs. Although the book doesn't list names, I was given an impression that he has worked with a lot of EMC gear before the migration to virtualized storage. Leading manufacturers virtualize storage as a way to manage IOPS in the array and to save both capex and opex costs. Automated Storage Tiering (EMC VNX/Compellent) and the Virtual Storage Tier (NetApp) are all valid approaches to dealing with IOPS issues while decreasing the need for large numbers of SSD/15K SAS drives. As a bonus, this simplifies management and reduces operating expenditures. Only the largest clients will have a team of dedicated storage administrators. True, you will create pools for different workload needs. A Tier I application at a Fortune 500 company will not be anywhere near my other applications. In many designs, all virtual machines will run in the same storage and this isn't a design flaw. You still need to size IOPS appropriately. Never build your design around space - nearly all smart arrays will either deduplicate/thin-provision/compress or they will demote cold data to slower storage, allowing you to get more data on your faster spindles.

In summary, I think this book, while dated, is useful to a system administrator who has to wear a lot of caps in his environment - network, application, systems, storage, and virtualization administration. This book will provide less value to vSphere administrators.

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