
Installing an Actifio Sky Appliance on a Hyper-V Server

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1 Before You Begin

The Actifio Sky Appliance is a virtual machine installed on a Hyper-V hypervisor. Before you begin, your Actifio representative will provide:

- The latest Sky Appliance VHDX file.
- An Actifio Sky Appliance license key: to get this, capture the system UUID and include it in an email license key request for each install to your representative.

Use these tables to compare the capabilities that you get with each license, and the requirements to support these licenses:

[Requirements for Sky Appliances that WILL NOT Use Dedup Policies](#)

[Requirements for Sky Appliances that WILL Use Dedup Policies](#)

Requirements for Sky Appliances that WILL NOT Use Dedup Policies

This table allows you to compare the requirements and capabilities of Actifio Sky Appliance licenses for appliances that will protect data in Snapshot Pools only.

Requirement	License		
	60TB	120TB	2000TB
Cores required. ^{a b}	4	6	8
Cores required for encryption at rest. ^{a b}	6	8	10
Minimum Reserved Memory	16GB	32GB	48GB
Disk Space for Primary Pool.	200GB		
Minimum Disk Space for Snapshot Pool.	10GB		
Required Disk Space for Dedup Pool if Appliance WILL NOT use dedup policies.	100B		
Maximum VDIs	10,000		

- Minimum 2 GHz per core. Required cores can be spread across multiple CPUs, with multiple CPUs providing slightly better performance. The cores and CPU **must be reserved** and the balloon driver must be turned off. Any paging or swapping will cause significant performance impact and in some cases result in the appliance deadlocking.
- Sockets have a multiplying effect on the number of cores. Select a combination of sockets and cores to achieve the required number of cores.

Requirements for Sky Appliances that WILL Use Dedup Policies

The following table allows you to compare the requirements and capabilities of licenses for Sky Appliances that will protect data in both the Snapshot and Dedup Pools.

Requirement	License				
	1TB	5TB	10TB	30TB	50TB
Cores required. ^{a b}	1	2	4	8	12
Cores required for encryption at rest. ^{a b}	2	4	6	10	15
Minimum Reserved Memory	6GB	10GB	16GB	48GB	72GB
Minimum Disk Space for Primary Pool.	200GB				
Minimum Disk Space for Snapshot Pool.	10GB				
Minimum Disk Space for Dedup Pool.	100GB				
SSD Minimums ^c	Optional: 11GB	Optional: 53GB	Optional: 103GB	Required: 308GB	Required: 512GB
Maximum VDIs	1000			3000	5000

- a. Minimum 2 GHz per core. Required cores can be spread across multiple CPUs, with multiple CPUs providing slightly better performance. The cores and CPU **must be reserved** and the balloon driver must be turned off. Any paging or swapping will cause significant performance impact and in some cases result in the appliance deadlocking.
- b. Sockets have a multiplying effect on the number of cores. Depending on how your VMware license is configured, select a combination of sockets and cores to achieve the required number of cores.
- c. See [Chapter 6, Adding an SSD to an Actifio Sky Appliance](#) for details on adding SSDs.

Note: The 5TB license is used for evaluations. It cannot be increased. If you decide to purchase an Actifio Sky Appliance you can either keep the current 5TB appliance or install a new, separate, larger Sky Appliance.

2 Installing an Actifio Sky Appliance Using SCVMM

This chapter details:

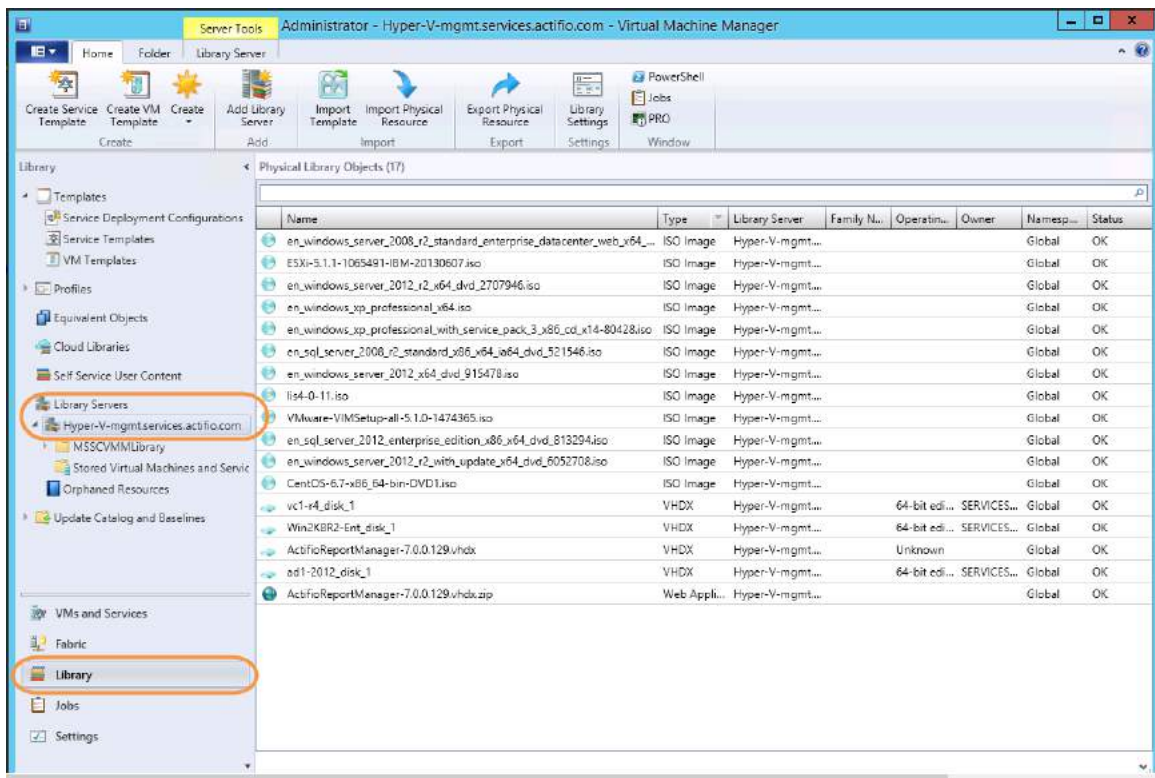
[Deploying the VHDX in SCVMM on page 3](#)

[Configuring the Sky Appliance VM in SCVMM on page 6](#)

Deploying the VHDX in SCVMM

You deploy the VHDX in SCVMM like any other Hyper-V VM. The following steps show SCVMM running on Windows 2012 R2.

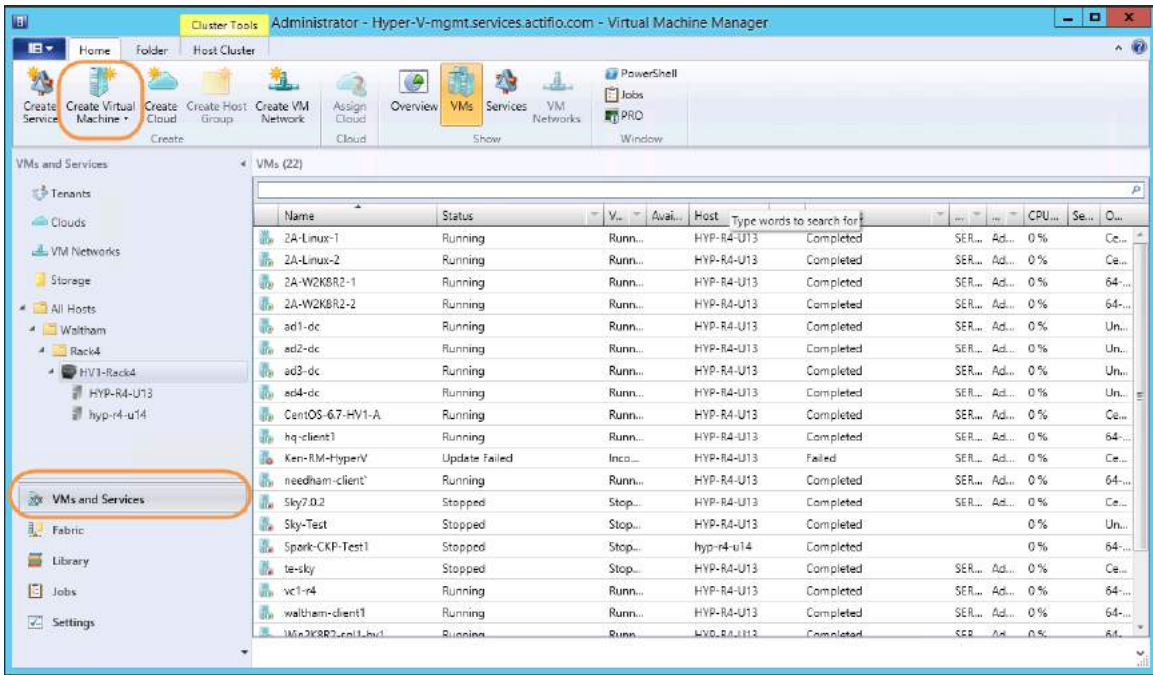
1. Get the Sky Appliance VHDX file from Actifio Support and copy it into the VMM Library location.
2. Launch SCVMM.
3. Select Library in the bottom left pane, then select **Library Servers**. Right-click the server and click **Refresh**.



Refreshing the Library

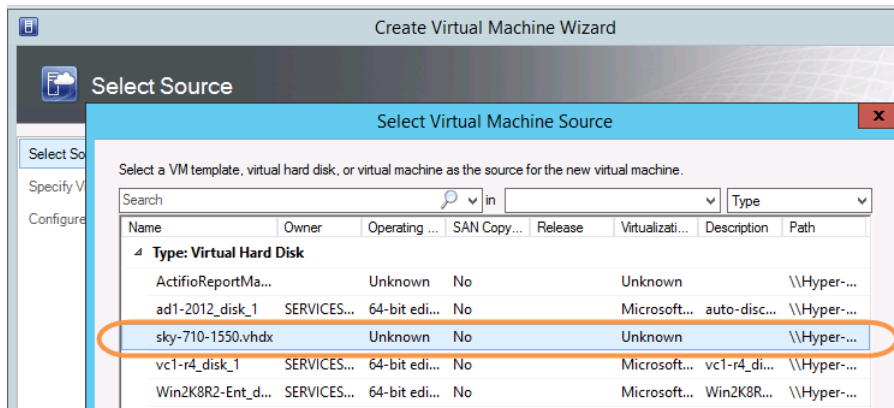
4. Select **VMs and Services** in the bottom left pane.

- On the top tab, select **Create Virtual Machine**.



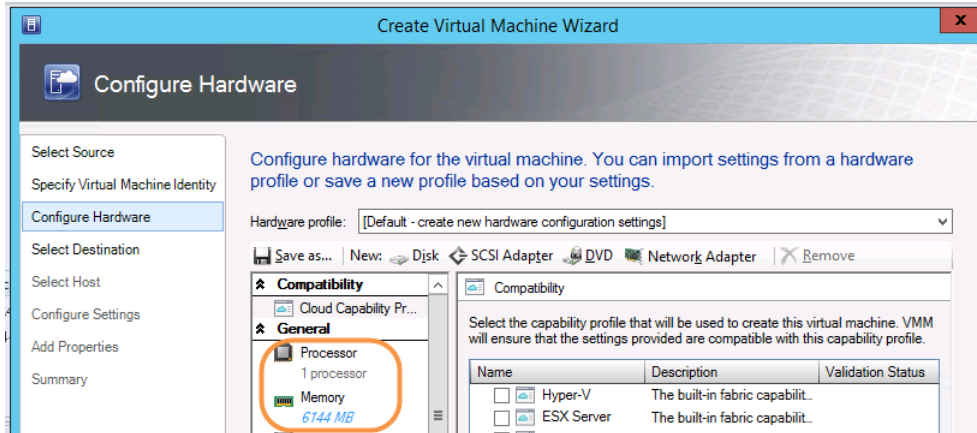
Creating the VM

- In the Select Source section, browse to select the Sky Appliance VHDX file from the Library and select **Next**.



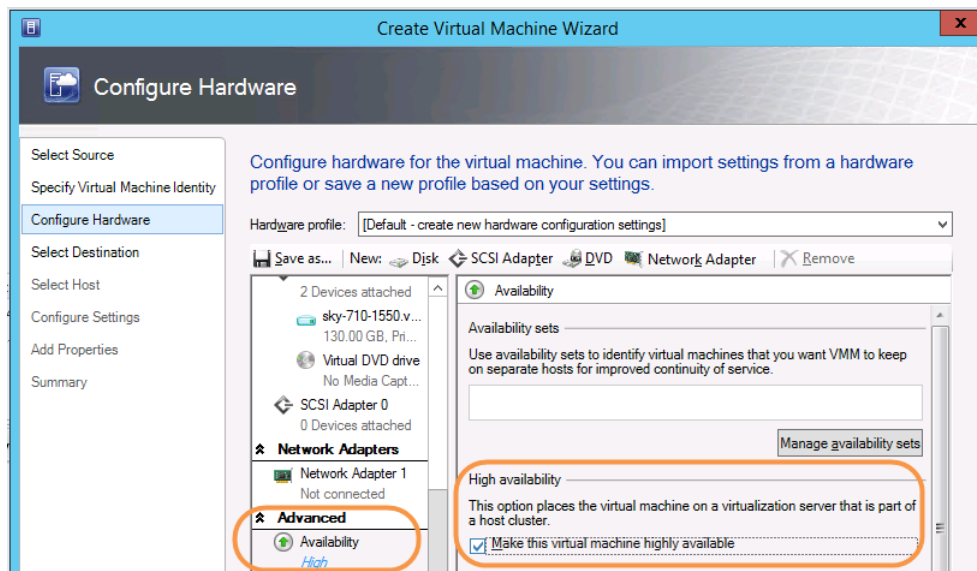
Selecting the VHDX

- Name your virtual machine and select **Next**.
- Set up the CPU/Processors and memory based on the Sky Appliance license (see [Chapter 1, Before You Begin](#)) and select **Next**.



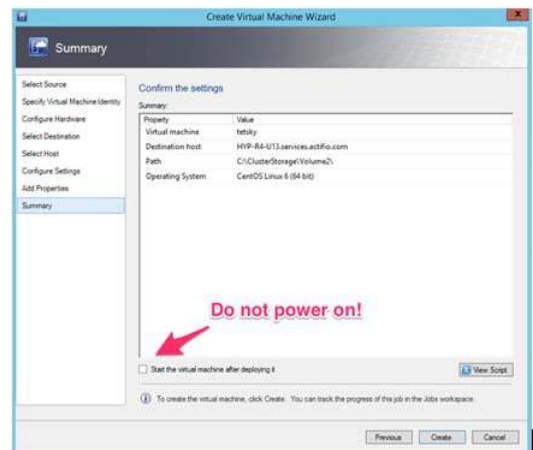
Creating the VM

9. Select **Availability** under Advanced and select **Make this virtual machine highly available**.



Creating the VM

10. Click **Next**.
11. Under Select Destination, place the virtual machine where you want it to reside and select **Next**.
12. Under Select Host, select the Hyper-V server and select **Next**.
13. Select the Storage location for the OS and select **Next**.
14. Select CentOS Linux 6 (64 bit) for operating system and select **Next**.
15. Uncheck Start the virtual machine after deploying it and click **Create**.



Configuring the Sky Appliance VM in SCVMM

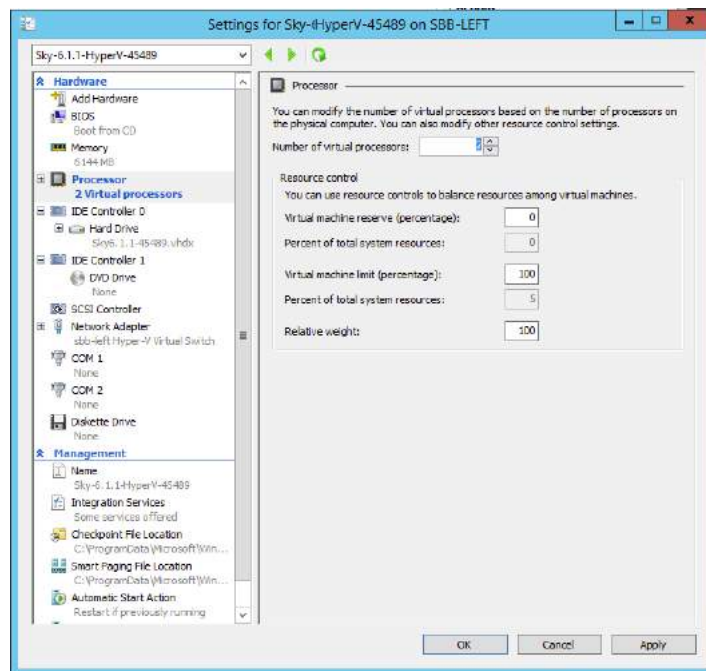
Once the Sky Appliance VM has been deployed:

[Configure CPUs and Memory](#) on page 6

[Configure Disks](#) on page 7

Configure CPUs and Memory

The VM's CPUs and memory are configured from the hardware summary page:



Configure the CPUs and memory to meet your Sky Appliance license requirements from [Chapter 1, Before You Begin](#).

Note: If you configured the startup memory to match your license memory requirements, you will not have to adjust the memory allocation here.

Configure Disks

Note: The pool names associated with these disks are used in [Chapter 5, Configuring the Actifio Sky Appliance](#).

1. Run the New Virtual Hard Disk Wizard three times to define three new blank virtual hard disks on separate RAID-6 arrays:

Disk Name	Minimum Size	SCSI	Controller	Virtual Node
Primary Pool: The Primary Pool is used by the Actifio Sky Appliance.	400GB	Own SCSI	0 (the OS controller)	1
Snapshot Pool: The Snapshot Pool accommodates the full copies (snapshots) to be retained, plus enough space for future growth.	10GB	Own SCSI	1	0
Dedup Pool: The Dedup Pool accommodates the deduplicated data to be retained, plus enough space for future growth.	1TB	Own SCSI	2	0

Caution: Do not resize disks for Snapshot and Dedup Pools. If additional storage is needed, add new disks on the same controller (snapshot disks on Controller 1, dedup disks on Controller 2).

2. The next step is adding SCSI adapters, detailed in [Chapter 4, Adding SCSI Adapters](#).

3 Installing an Actifio Sky Appliance with Hyper-V Manager

This chapter details:

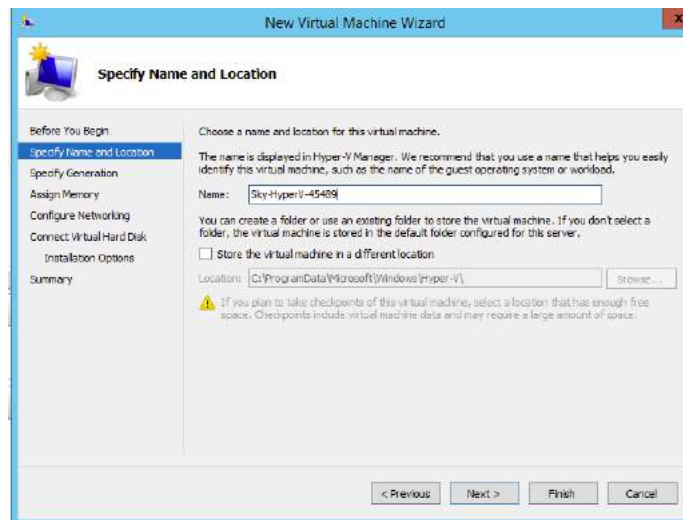
[Deploying the VHDX in Hyper-V Manager](#) on page 9

[Configuring the Sky Appliance VM in Hyper-V Manager](#) on page 12

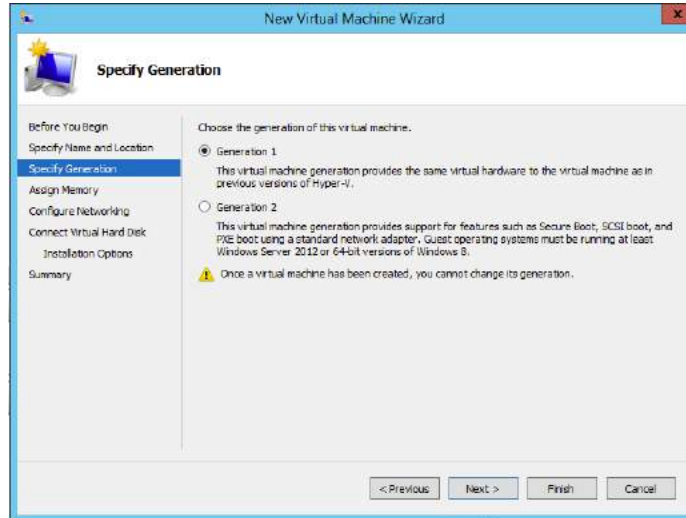
Deploying the VHDX in Hyper-V Manager

1. Get a copy of the VHDX file from your Actifio representative and put it in a location accessible by the Hyper-V hypervisor that will host the Sky Appliance.
2. Deploy the VHDX like any other Hyper-V VM.

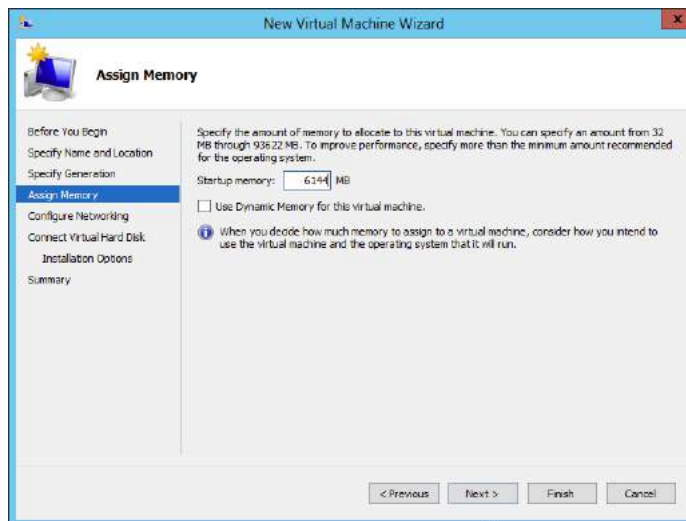
Note: Because the appliance is deployed like any other VHDX, only the steps in the deployment procedure of particular interest to the Sky Appliance installer are called out.



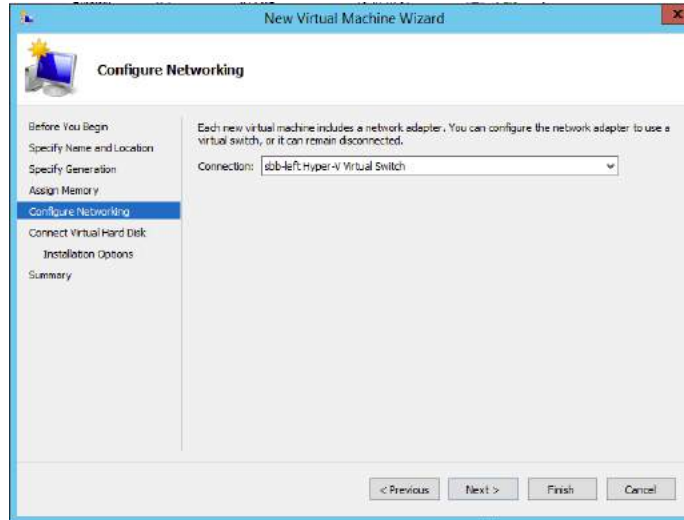
3. When prompted, give the virtual machine a unique name. This is the name Hyper-V will use. It is not the name displayed in the Sky Appliance user interface.



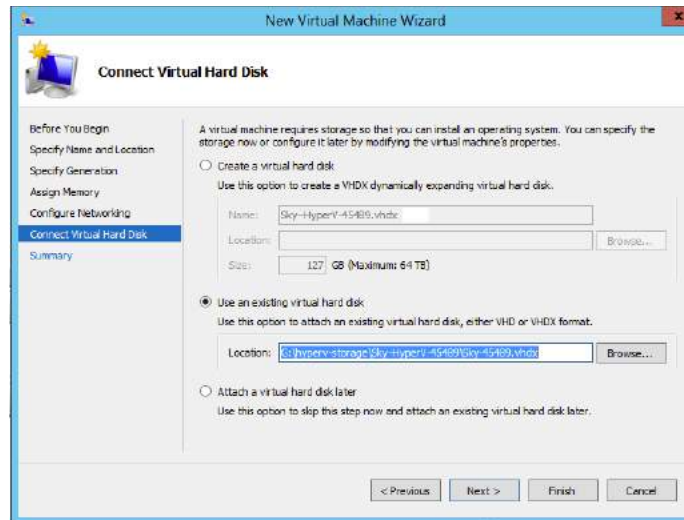
4. When prompted to specify a Generation, select **Generation 1**.



5. Set Startup Memory to match that of your license requirements. See [Before You Begin](#) on page 1 for details.
6. Uncheck **Use Dynamic Memory for this virtual machine**. Dynamic memory will render the Sky Appliance unstable.



7. To configure networking, use a Hyper-V virtual switch that grants access to your production data.



8. When prompted to Connect Virtual Hard Disk, use the Sky Appliance VHDX as the boot image:
 - a. Select **Use an existing virtual hard disk**.
 - b. For location, browse to or enter the path to the Sky Appliance VHDX image.

Note: After system boot, you will not be able to move this disk.

9. Click **Finish**.

Configuring the Sky Appliance VM in Hyper-V Manager

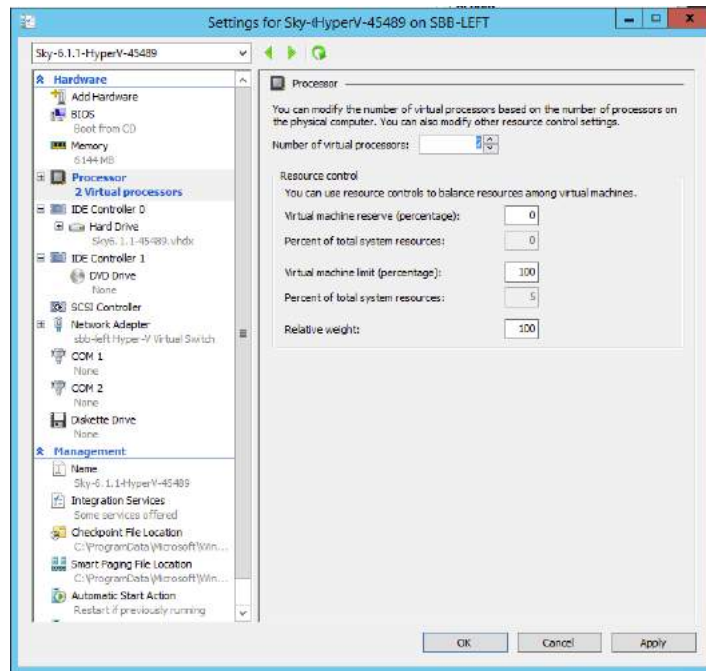
Once the Sky Appliance VM has been deployed:

[Configure CPUs and Memory](#) on page 12

[Configure Disks](#) on page 13

Configure CPUs and Memory

Configure the VM's CPUs and memory from the hardware summary page:



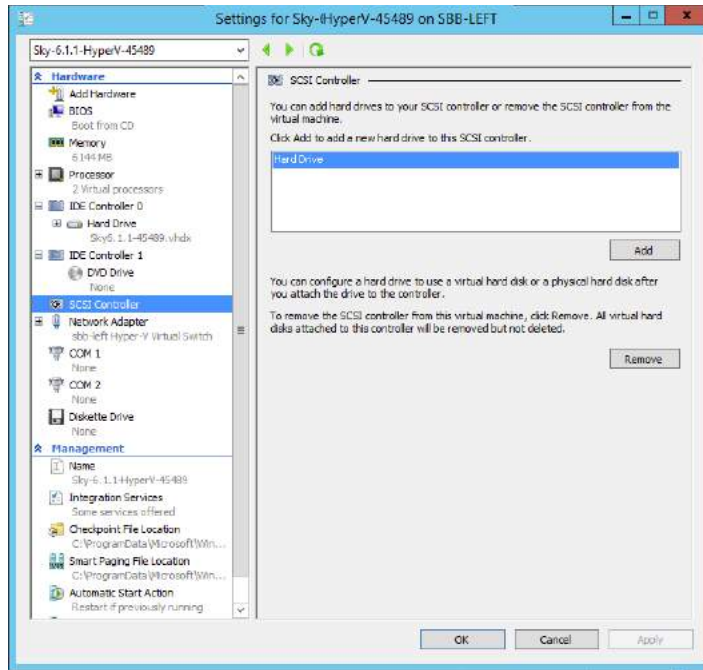
Configure the number of CPUs and memory to meet your Sky Appliance license requirements. See [Before You Begin](#) on page 1 for details.

Note: If you configured the startup memory to match your license memory requirements, you will not have to adjust the memory allocation here.

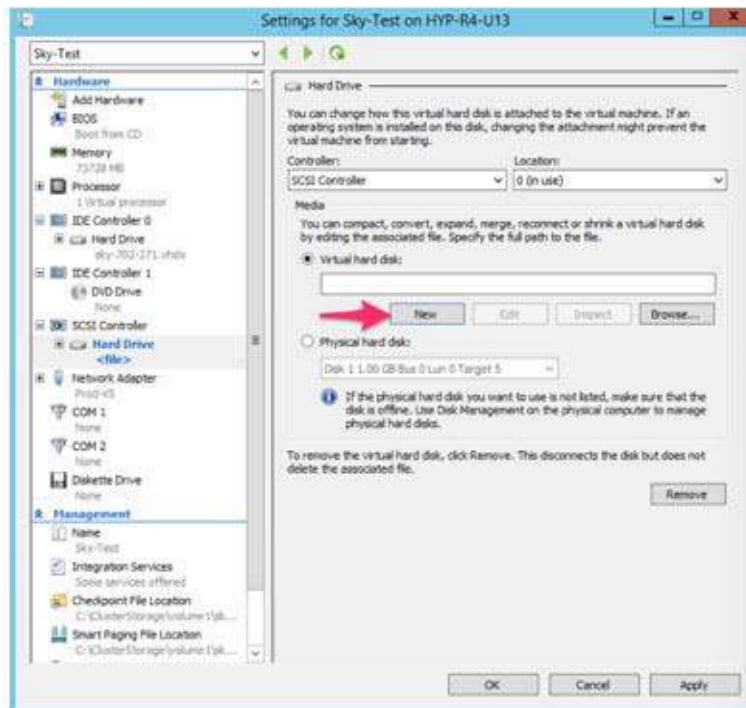
Configure Disks

To size your Sky Appliance, your Actifio representative considered the amount of data to be captured, its type, change rate, growth, and how long it would be retained. This same information is required to allocate space for the appliance's disks.

1. From the VM's summary page left-hand navigation, select **SCSI Controller**.



2. Click **Add** and the Disk Wizard will begin. You will add three disks.
3. Click **New** to open the New Virtual Hard Disk Wizard.



- Use the New Virtual Hard Disk Wizard to create three VHDX fixed-size hard disks using their own SCSI on separate RAID-6 arrays.



- Make sure VHDX is selected and click **Next**.
- Select **Fixed size** and **Next**.
- Assign Disk Name and set these parameters:

Disk Name	Minimum Size	SCSI	Controller	Virtual Node
Primary Pool: The Primary Pool is used by the Actifio Sky Appliance.	400GB	Own SCSI	0 (the OS controller)	1
Snapshot Pool: The Snapshot Pool accommodates the full copies (snapshots) to be retained, plus enough space for future growth.	10GB	Own SCSI	1	0
Dedup Pool: The Dedup Pool accommodates the deduplicated data to be retained, plus enough space for future growth.	1TB	Own SCSI	2	0

Caution: Do not resize disks for Snapshot and Dedup Pools. If additional storage is needed, add new disks on the same controller (snapshot disks on Controller 1, dedup disks on Controller 2).

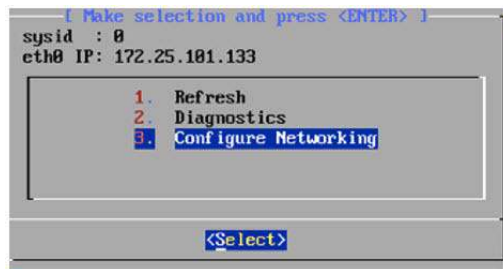


- The next step is adding SCSI adapters, detailed in [Chapter 4, Adding SCSI Adapters](#).

4 Adding SCSI Adapters

After deploying and configuring the Sky Appliance VM as detailed in [Chapter 2, Installing an Actifio Sky Appliance Using SCVMM](#) or [Chapter 3, Installing an Actifio Sky Appliance with Hyper-V Manager](#), you must add SCSI adapters through the new VM's console:

1. Right-click on the Sky Appliance and select Power on.
2. Right-click on the Sky Appliance and select Connect or View Connect via Console.
3. Connect to console and enter Alt-F2, select 3 and enter.



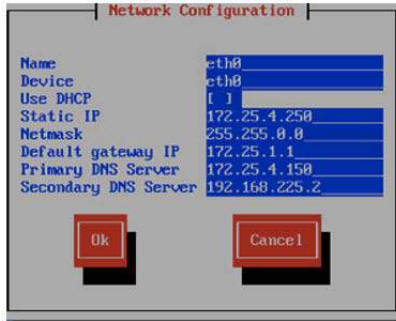
4. Click Enter for Device configuration.



5. Click Enter for eth0 settings.



6. De-select Use DHCP and assign an IP address. DHCP is not supported outside of cloud service providers.



7. Select OK, select Save, and select Save&Quit.
8. Use Alt-F3 to login as root / Actifio2
9. Run smartctl -a --scan (Should see 3 new devices)

```
[root@localhost ~]# smartctl -a --scan
/dev/sda -d scsi # /dev/sda, SCSI device
/dev/sdb -d scsi # /dev/sdb, SCSI device
/dev/sdc -d scsi # /dev/sdc, SCSI device
/dev/sdd -d scsi # /dev/sdd, SCSI device
[root@localhost ~]#
```

10. Run lsblk to verify the sizes.

```
[root@localhost ~]# lsblk
NAME        MAJ:MIN RM  SIZE RO TYPE MOUNTPOINT
sdb         8:16   0    400G  0 disk
sda         8:0     0    150G  0 disk
|--sda1     8:1     0    512M  0 part /boot
|--sda2     8:2     0    100G  0 part /var/crash
|--sda3     8:3     0      8G  0 part [SWAP]
|--sda4     8:4     0      1K  0 part
|--sda5     8:5     0      4G  0 part /tmp
|--sda6     8:6     0      2G  0 part /home
|--sda7     8:7     0      2G  0 part /var
|--sda8     0:8     0      2G  0 part /var/log
|--sda9     8:9     0      2G  0 part /var/log/audit
|--sda10    8:10    0      9.5G  0 part /
sdc         8:32   0      1T  0 disk
sdd         8:48   0      1T  0 disk
sr0        11:0    1 1024M  0 rom
```

11. Now point your browser at the IP address to run the installer as detailed in [Chapter 5, Configuring the Actifio Sky Appliance](#).
12. Remember to add in the SSDs if required. Instructions are in [Chapter 6, Adding an SSD to an Actifio Sky Appliance](#).

5 Configuring the Actifio Sky Appliance

After the VM is configured and powered up, it is ready to be configured as a Sky Appliance.

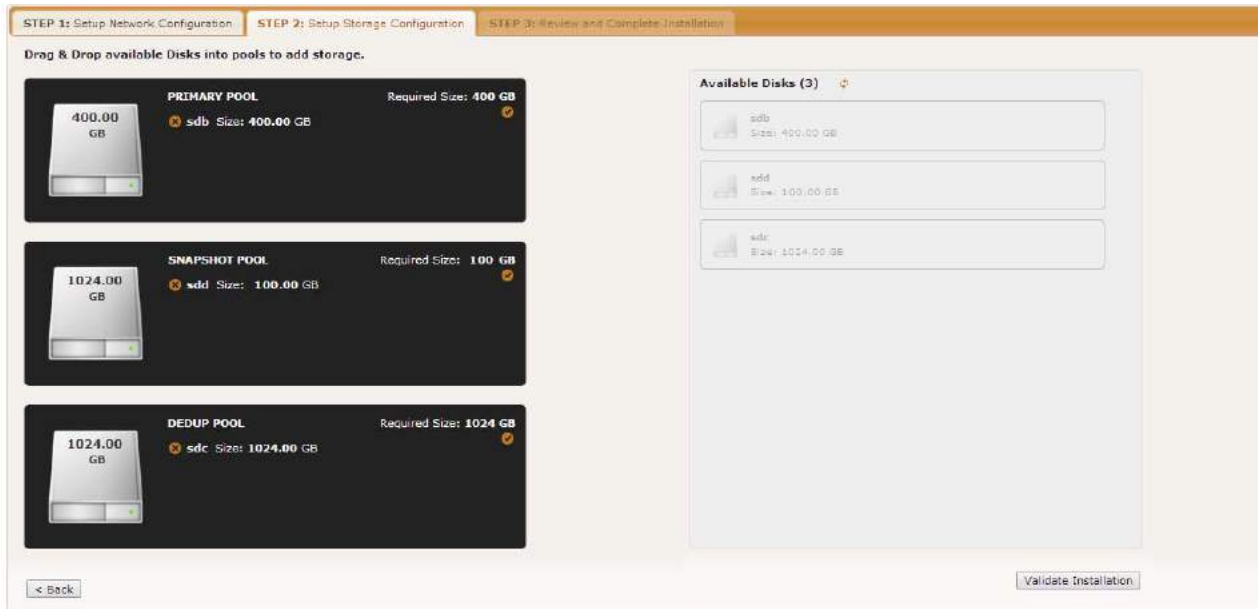
1. Open a browser to the IP address of the Sky Appliance: `http://<VM IP address>/`.
2. The installer opens the first of three tabs:

The screenshot shows the configuration wizard interface for the Actifio Sky Appliance. It is titled 'STEP 1: Setup Network Configuration' and includes three tabs: 'STEP 1: Setup Network Configuration', 'STEP 2: Setup Storage Configuration', and 'STEP 3: Review and Complete Installation'. A note at the top states: 'All Items marked with (*) are required.' The form contains the following fields and options:

- Public IP:** Four empty input boxes for IP address.
- IPv4 address for cloud configuration:** A note above the Appliance IP field.
- Appliance IP (*):** Four input boxes containing '172', '17', '205', and '106'.
- IPv4 address on port 1 for Actifio Desktop and CLI clients. Also used for joining this appliance with other PMS appliances:** A note above the Appliance Name field.
- Appliance Name (*):** A text input field containing 'localhost.localdom'.
- DNS Server:** A text input field containing '172.17.1.10'.
- Subnet Mask:** Four input boxes containing '255', '255', '0', and '0'.
- Gateway:** Four input boxes containing '172', '17', '1', and '1'.
- NTP Server:** Four empty input boxes.
- Infrastructure:** A dropdown menu with 'VMWare' selected.
- Timezone:** A dropdown menu with 'Africa/Abidjan' selected.
- System uuid (*):** A text input field containing '1415068751:c22a0bd-e7bd-37cc-913e-04a9cf86f4b:a4b7b9d7'.
- License:** A text area containing the text: 'Evaluation license: Default pool size is set to 5TB with no encryption for 30 days from the start of installation. Please contact Actifio to upgrade to production licenses.' Below this is a 'Validate License' button.
- Create Admin Password (*):** A text input field.
- Confirm Admin Password (*):** A text input field.
- Next >** A button at the bottom right.

3. Ignore the Public IP field, but ensure that the Sky Appliance IP address is correct.
4. In the space provided, enter a name for the Sky Appliance.
5. Ensure that the network IP addresses are correct.
6. From the Infrastructure drop down menu, select the hypervisor.
7. Set the time zone as needed.
8. If you are installing the Sky Appliance as a 15-day evaluation, leave the License Number field set to the default setting and go to [Step 13](#).
9. In the space provided, paste a copy of the license key you obtained from the Actifio representative.

10. Click Validate License to ensure the validity of the license entered.
If the license is valid, the Managed Data License (MDL) size will be displayed in a popup window. If there are any optional add-ons included in the license they will also be shown here.
11. If you are using an encryption license, a Pass phrase field is displayed. Enter a pass phrase, record the pass phrase and keep it in a secure location.
12. In the spaces provided enter (create) a password for the first Admin user of the Actifio Sky Appliance.
13. Click Next to get to Step 2. This is where you assign the disks created for the Primary, Dedup, and Snapshot pools to their respective pools.



14. Select and drag the Available Disks to the pools for which they were created.
15. Click Validate Installation. The Sky Appliance installer validates the settings and if no issues are encountered, advances to the third tab. Any issues will appear in a yellow field at the top of Step 2.
16. The third tab provides the opportunity to review choices and go back and make changes as needed.



17. Once choices are verified, click Complete Installation and the Sky Appliance will reboot.

Note: The reboot may take several minutes. The user interface will become responsive before the appliance is ready for use. Do not attempt any operations until the Dedup light on the Dashboard shows green.

6 Adding an SSD to an Actifio Sky Appliance

Actifio Sky Appliances that have dedup pools of 30TB and greater must use an SSD.

Use the hypervisor vendor's best practices to physically add an SSD to a hypervisor.

Note: The procedures in this document apply to Actifio Sky Appliance's Dedup Pool and are separate from the way SSDs are used with Actifio CDS. If the dedup pool is built entirely from an SSD, then there is no need to add an SSD.

SSD Compatibility

Dedup Pool	SSD	Required/Optional
50TB	512GB SSD	Required
30TB	308GB SSD	Required
10TB	103GB SSD	Optional
5TB	52GB SSD	Optional
1TB	11GB SSD	Optional

An SSD already assigned to an Actifio Sky Appliance appliance from a release prior to Actifio 7.0 cannot be used. If you have an SSD from a release prior to Actifio 7.0 it does not need to be removed. If you must remove the SSD, contact your Actifio representative for assistance.

To physically add an SSD, use the hypervisor vendor's best practices for adding an SSD. Once the SSD has been added to the hypervisor, see either:

- [Adding an SSD via the AGM](#) on page 20. If AGM is not yet installed, see *Installing and Upgrading the Actifio Global Manager (AGM)*.
- [Adding an SSD Via the CLI](#) on page 21.

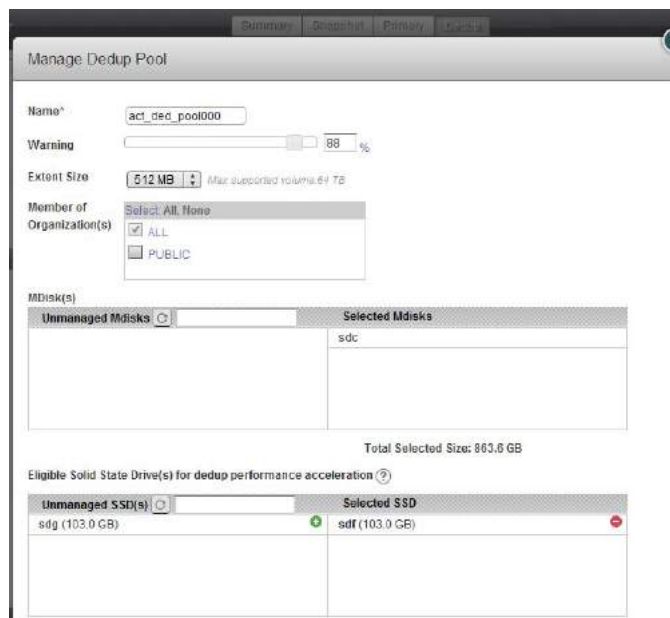
Adding an SSD via the AGM

Once a hypervisor has been updated with the required SSD, modify the Sky Appliance's Dedup Pool:

1. Open AGM to the Domain Manager, then go to System > Configuration > Storage Pools.
2. Select the Dedup tab. The Dedup Pool information page opens.



3. Click the pencil icon next to the Dedup Pool name and the Manage Dedup Pool page is displayed:



Note: If your SSD appears in the list of MDisks and not in the list of eligible SSDs, click the Tag disk as SSD option to select the SSD.

4. If necessary, scroll down until the SSD section of the window is displayed.
5. In the Unmanaged SSDs column, click the "plus" sign next to the SSD you added and it will move to the Selected SSD(s) column.
6. Click Submit and the SSD is added to the Sky Appliance.

Adding an SSD Via the CLI

If you cannot add the SSD to your Sky Appliance via the Actifio Global Manager, then use the following CLI procedure.

Note: The following procedure requires access to the CLI. Detailed instructions for accessing the CLI can be found in the Actifio Global Manager. A copy of this guide can be found in the Actifio Actifio Desktop online library and on the Actifio Documentation Portal (now.Actifio.com).

After adding an SSD to your virtual server, add the SSD to your Sky Appliance's Dedup Pool.

1. Identify the SSD:

```
# udsinfo lsssd
```

```
id wwid                                slot status
- pci-0000:00:10.0-scsi-0:0:4:0         None None
```

2. Add the SSD to the Actifio Sky Appliance's Dedup Pool:

```
# udstask addssd pci-0000:00:10.0-scsi-0:0:4:0
```

If the SSD still does not appear in the Sky Appliance's Manage Dedup Pool dialog box, manually add the SSD to the Dedup Pool.

1. Identify the Dedup Pool to which the SSD will be added:

```
# udsinfo lsdiskpool
```

```
id warnpct modifydate                name                safepct mdiskgrp
71    80 2015-07-30 17:19:25.459    act_pri_pool000     90 act_pri_pool000
72    88 2015-07-30 17:19:25.462    act_ded_pool000     100 act_ded_pool000/
act_ded_vdk0000
73    80 2015-07-30 17:19:25.463    act_per_pool000     90 act_per_pool000
```

2. Assign the SSD to the Sky Appliance's dedup pool:

```
# udstask addssd -diskpool act_ded_pool000 pci-0000:03:00.0-scsi-0:0:4:0
```

3. Verify the changes under slot status:

```
# udsinfo lsssd
```

```
id wwid                                slot status
- pci-0000:00:10.0-scsi-0:0:4:0         None act_ded_pool000
```

