

VM Requests

Things to include in your initial VM requests. File in the [Virtualization queue](#).

- Desired hostname(s)
 - FQDN is preferred, which will tell us the VLAN and datacenter they belong in.
- Number of cores
 - You almost never need as much CPU as you think.
 - If you ask for a lot, you'll need to show your work.
 - Default is 1 core.
- Amount of RAM
 - Ask for what you need in the steady state [without swapping](#).
 - If you ask for a lot, you'll need to show your work.
 - Default is 1G.
- Desired OS
 - RHEL x86_64 is the usual; occasionally Ubuntu LTS or Windows.
 - We don't do the OS license for Windows. Talk to ServiceDesk.
- Amount of disk
 - Default templates have about 40G on the root disk. If that's sufficient, just say 'default disk.'
 - If you have special formatting needs or layout or secondary disks, tell us about them.
- Special network communications
 - Do your VMs need to have uninterrupted communication with other VMs to avoid disastrous return-to-service times in the event of a network problem?
 - elasticsearch and rabbitmq clusters are YES: because of their tendency to go split-brained when isolated.
 - webheads are generally NO: they need to have reachability to zeus, but they don't talk to one another.
 - database replication is generally NO: losing replication is bad but they catch up later without intervention.
 - If YES, please explain which VMs need this communication and why.
 - If this is confusing, you're probably a NO.
- Special requests
 - By default we puppetize against the infra puppet and OS upgrade to near-latest. If you have a snowflake that needs something else, let us know.
 - We usually add the VM to the appropriate nagios for generic monitoring - if that's not needed or desired, let us know.
 - If you are looking to have an OS installed from a vendor or package (e.g an ISO or OVA / OVF), we'll need either the install package uploaded to the datacenter (maybe the admin server?) or a publicly-accessible link to it.
 - Are you going to be doing destructive testing with this VM, such that you might leave a smoking crater and come back with "Oh hey, can you rebuild this?" Let us know.
 - Alternatively, are you installing software that may not quite go right the first time, and you'd like to revert to that "just got it out of the virtualization teams hands" state? In either case, we can use snapshots to make that option a lot faster.

Things NOT to include in your initial VM requests

- Netflow requests
 - We're happy to know what the box is going to do, but flows are for netops bugs.
 - If you're time crunched, ask us to allocate the IPs right away. In that case we'll get you the IPs before the VMs, so you can file your netops bugs faster.
- User requests (for non-IT VMs)
 - Users who need access / sudo / VPN access need to go through the infra folks after the VM is spun up. File a dependent bug with infra.
- Software to be installed
 - We don't install packages (e.g. mysql, oracle, python), because that usually requires expertise to configure to your liking. You can add to puppet/install after the VM is delivered.

Depending on the request, we may have questions/comments/concerns and come back to you with questions.

If YOU have any doubts, [talk to the Virtualization team](#). We can probably smooth things over with a quick chat faster than some back-and-forth in the bug.