

VMware View Client Administration Guide

VMware View Client for Linux 4.5

VMware® View™ Client allows end users to access their virtual desktops. You can configure View Client using command line options. You can also configure server information to prevent users from tampering with the server.

If you set multiple configuration options, you can put them in a text file and reference the file using the `--file` option. Using a text file also allows you to quickly update the configuration. If no options are set, View Client prompts users for all connection-related information.

Command Line Options

This section describes the View Client command line options.

Using a Configuration File

Uses the specified configuration file to launch View Client. Using a text file to set configuration options simplifies launching View Client and maintaining updates to the configuration.

```
-f, --file=<file path>
```

The `<file path>` is the path to a file containing command line arguments. For example:

```
vmware-view --file=./file/config
```

Using a View Connection Server

Establishes the connection with the View Connection Server when View Client is launched.

```
-s, --serverURL=<broker>
```

The argument to this option is the URL, IP address, or FQDN of the View Connection Server. For example:

```
vmware-view --serverURL=https://view.yourcompany.com
vmware-view -s 114.100.24.100
vmware-view -s consvr2.view.yourcompany.com
```

Displaying Environment Information for a Client Device

Displays information about the environment of a client device including its IP address, MAC address, machine name, domain, name and domain of any logged-on user, and time zone. You must also specify the URL, IP address, or FQDN of the View Connection Server.

```
--printEnvironmentInfo
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --printEnvironmentInfo -s 114.100.24.100
```

You can use this command to discover the MAC address of client devices that you will operate in kiosk mode.

Specifying the Preferred Protocol

Specifies the preferred protocol.

```
--protocol={localvm|PCOIP|RDP|RGS}
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --protocol=RDP
```

Specifying the Default Locale for the Keyboard Layout

Specifies the default locale for the keyboard layout that is used by new applications launched on the remote desktop.

```
-k, --kbdLayout=<keyboardlayout_name>
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --kbdLayout=en-gb
```

Specifying a User Name

Specifies the user name to use when launching View Client.

```
-u, --userName=<user name>
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --userName=jdoe
```

Specifying a Password

Specifies the password to use when launching View Client.

```
-p, --password=<password>
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --password=secret001
```

If only a hyphen is passed as the password argument (`--password=-`), the password is read from `stdin`. This allows the password to be specified programmatically.

Command-line programs, including `vmware-view`, require you to escape special characters (such as `$`, `!`, and `?`) to prevent them from being interpreted by the shell.

Running View Client in Kiosk Mode

Runs View Client in noninteractive mode that is suitable for kiosk mode operation.

```
--unattended
```

You must also specify:

- The View Connection Server.
- The account name of the client, if you did not generate the account name from the MAC address of the client device. The account name must begin with the string "Custom-".
- The password of the client, if you did not generate a password automatically when you set up the account for the client.

For example, run View Client for a client device whose account name is based on its MAC address, and which has an automatically generated password:

```
vmware-view --unattended --serverURL=https://kiosk.yourcompany.com
```

Run View Client for a client device that has an assigned account name and password:

```
vmware-view --unattended --serverURL=https://kiosk.yourcompany.com --userName=Custom-Terminal21
--password=secret121
```

Disabling Connection Retries by an Unattended Client

Specifies that an unattended client should only attempt to connect to a View Connection Server once. By default, View Client attempts connection retries at intervals according to an exponential backoff algorithm.

```
--once
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --unattended --serverURL=https://kiosk.yourcompany.com --once
```

Specifying a Domain Name

Specifies a domain when View Client is launched.

```
-d, --domainName=<domain name>
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --domainName=companydomain
```

Specifying a Desktop

Specifies a specific remote desktop to use for View Client.

```
-n, --desktopName=<desktop name>
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --desktopName=WindowsXPDesktop
```

Using Noninteractive Mode

Noninteractive mode skips screens that are specified in the command line. For example, if the server, user name, password, and desktop are specified on the command line, View Client connects directly to the specified desktop when it launches. Use this option to hide unnecessary steps from end users.

```
-q, --nonInteractive
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --serverURL=https://view.yourcompany.com -userName=kioskuser --password=xyz
--domainName=companydomain --desktopName=kioskXPdesktop --nonInteractive
```

You do not need to specify this option if you run View Client in unattended mode.

Using Full Screen Mode

Full screen mode hides the host operating system and shows View Client with a full screen background. Use this option to show only View Client on the thin client display.

This option sets full screen mode for the View Client user interface only. It does not affect the screen mode of the desktop session.

```
--fullscreen
```

For example:

```
vmware-view --fullscreen
```

Specifying a Background Image in Full Screen Mode

Sets a background image as well as hiding the host operating system and showing View Client with a full screen background. The image is stretched to fit the monitor.

`-b, --background=<image>`

The `<image>` is the path to the background image file. Supported image file types are system dependent. For example:

```
vmware-view --background=./view/background.png
```

Disabling Keyboard Grab

Stops View Client from grabbing control of the keyboard, and retains the window manager's key bindings.

`-K, --keep-wm-bindings`

For example:

```
vmware-view --keep-wm-bindings
```

This option is ignored when using PCoIP.

Specifying the Location of the MMR Libraries

Specifies the path to the MMR libraries.

`-m, --mmrPath=<mmr directory>`

For example:

```
vmware-view --mmrpath=/usr/lib/altmmr
```

Specifying rdesktop Options

Specifies options that you want to pass to the rdesktop application.

`--rdesktopOptions=<rdesktop options>`

For example:

```
vmware-view --rdesktopOptions="-f -k en-gb -m"
```

You can use the `--redirect` option to specify the local devices that you want rdesktop to redirect. See [“Forwarding a Device to a Remote Desktop.”](#)

Forwarding a Device to a Remote Desktop

Redirects the local device to the remote desktop. Whatever you pass to `--redirect` is passed directly to the `-r` option of rdesktop. This feature is limited to devices supported by rdesktop. See the rdesktop documentation for details.

`-r, --redirect=<device info>`

The `<device info>` is the device information you want to pass to the `-r` option of rdesktop. For example:

```
vmware-view --redirect=lspci
```

You can set multiple device options in a single command, for each rdesktop device option you want to set. For example:

```
vmware-view --redirect=lspci --redirect=sound:off
```

You can use the `--usb` option to redirect local USB devices to a remote desktop. See [“Redirecting a USB Device to a Remote Desktop”](#) on page 5.

Redirecting a USB Device to a Remote Desktop

Redirects a local USB device to the remote desktop by controlling the command-line invocation of the USB redirection command (`vmware-view-usb`).

```
--usb=<usb opt>
```

The `<usb opt>` is the option to be passed to the `-o` option of `vmware-view-usb`. The following example turns on trace-level logging:

```
vmware-view --usb=log:trace
```

You can specify multiple instances of the `--usb` option for each `vmware-view-usb` option that you want to set. The following example turns on debug-level logging and exclude a device that is specified by its ID:

```
vmware-view --usb=log:debug --usb=exid:vid0012pid0034
```

For details of the options that you can use with the `--usb` option, see [“USB Redirection Options.”](#)

USB Redirection Options

Table 1 shows the USB redirection options that you can specify as arguments to the `--usb` option of the `vmware-view` command. The `vmware-view` command uses these options when it executes the USB redirection command (`vmware-view-usb`).

Table 1. USB Redirection Options

Option	Description
<code>disable-boot-fw</code>	Disables the forwarding of USB boot devices. By default, detection is disabled and the devices are not forwarded.
<code>ex:<devname1>[,<devname2>]...</code>	Excludes a list of named devices from being forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=ex:"flash 1"</code>
<code>exfa:<devfamilyname1>[,<devfamilyname2>]...</code>	Excludes a list of named device families from being forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=exfa:storage</code>
<code>exid:<devid1>[,<devid2>]...</code>	Excludes a list of devices specified by ID (combined vendor ID and product ID values in decimal base format) from being forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=exid:vid1123pid5813</code>
<code>expt:<devpath1>[,<devpath2>]...</code>	Excludes a list of devices specified by path (combined bus and port values in decimal base format) from being forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=expt:bus01port04,bus05port03</code>
<code>in:<devname1>[,<devname2>]...</code>	Includes a list of named devices to be forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=in:"flash 1"</code>
<code>infa:<devfamilyname1>[,<devfamilyname2>]...</code>	Includes a list of named device families to be forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=infa:storage</code>
<code>inid:<devid1>[,<devid2>]...</code>	Includes a list of devices specified by ID (combined vendor ID and product ID values in decimal base format) to be forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=inid:vid2718pid2818</code>

Table 1. USB Redirection Options

Option	Description
<code>inpt:<devpath1>[,<devpath2>]...</code>	Includes a list of devices specified by path (combined bus and port values in decimal base format) to be forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=expt:bus03port01,bus04port02</code>
<code>log:{debug error info trace}</code>	Specifies the logging level for <code>vmware-view-usb</code> : <code>trace</code> , <code>debug</code> , <code>info</code> (default), or <code>error</code> , in order of decreasing detail. The log file (<code>backendLog.txt</code>) is written to the directory in which the <code>vmware-view-usb</code> executable is located. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=log:error</code>

The order of precedence for including or excluding devices is

expt > inpt > ex > in > exid > inid > exfa > infa

The following example excludes all storage family devices apart from one device that is specified by its ID:

```
vmware-view --usb=exfa:storage --usb=inid:vid1812pid1492
```

Exit Codes

[Table 2](#) shows that exit codes that the `vmware-view` command can return.

Table 2. vmware-view Exit Codes

Exit Code	Description
-1	Fatal error in kiosk mode.
0	Success.
1	Connection failed.
2	Login failed.
3	Desktop failed to start.
4	RDP failed to start.
5	RDP operation failed.
6	Tunnel connection lost.
7	Local desktop transfer failure.
8	Local desktop checkin failure.
9	Local desktop checkout failure.
10	Local desktop rollback failure.
11	Unknown result received during authentication.
12	Authentication error.
13	Received request to use an unknown authentication method.
14	Invalid server response.
15	Desktop was disconnected.
16	Tunnel was disconnected.

Table 2. vmware-view Exit Codes

Exit Code	Description
17	Reserved for future development.
18	Reserved for future development.
19	Unsupported kiosk mode operation.
20	Remote mouse, keyboard, or screen (RMKS) connection error.
21	PIN error.
22	PIN mismatch.
23	Password mismatch.
24	View Connection Server error.
25	Desktop was not available.

Typical Configurations

This section provides examples illustrating how you can combine options to produce certain behaviors.

Full Screen Thin Client

You want to preconfigure the broker for a thin client, hide the thin client's host operating system, and display a background with your company logo. You also want the client to skip unnecessary login screens.

For example:

```
vmware-view --serverURL=https://view.yourcompany.com --background=./view/background.png
--nonInteractive
```

Full Screen Kiosk

You have a thin client that automatically logs in to a desktop with a user name and password. When launched, the client logs in to the connection server with the specified credentials, and connects to the desktop that you have assigned to the client account.

For example:

```
vmware-view --unattended --serverURL=https://kiosk.yourcompany.com --userName=Custom-kiosk12
--password=secret555
```

Window Mode with Server Information Only

A thin client is used for several applications, including View Client. You want to specify only the server, without skipping any screens.

For example:

```
vmware-view --serverURL=https://view.yourcompany.com
```

If you have comments about this documentation, submit your feedback to: docfeedback@vmware.com

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