

# VMware View Client Administration Guide

VMware View Client for Linux 4.0

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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 all 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 Connection Broker

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

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

The `<broker URL>` is the URL to the View Connection Server. For example:

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

### 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.

## 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 --nonInteractive
```

## 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.

**NOTE** 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
```

## 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 4.

## 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-fwd</code>	Disables the forwarding of USB boot devices. By default, detection is disabled and the devices are not forwarded.
<code>ex:&lt;devname1&gt;[,&lt;devname2&gt;]...</code>	Excludes a list of named devices from being forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=ex:"flash 1"</code>
<code>exfa:&lt;devfamilyname1&gt;[,&lt;devfamilyname2&gt;]...</code>	Excludes a list of named device families from being forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=exfa:storage</code>
<code>exid:&lt;devid1&gt;[,&lt;devid2&gt;]...</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:&lt;devpath1&gt;[,&lt;devpath2&gt;]...</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:&lt;devname1&gt;[,&lt;devname2&gt;]...</code>	Includes a list of named devices to be forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=in:"flash 1"</code>
<code>infa:&lt;devfamilyname1&gt;[,&lt;devfamilyname2&gt;]...</code>	Includes a list of named device families to be forwarded. For example: <code>vmware-view --usb=infa:storage</code>
<code>inid:&lt;devid1&gt;[,&lt;devid2&gt;]...</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:&lt;devpath1&gt;[,&lt;devpath2&gt;]...</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> : trace, debug, info (default), or error, 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
```

## Typical Configurations

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

### Full Screen Thin Client

In this case, 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.

Options to use:

- `--serverURL=<broker URL>`
- `--background=<image>`
- `--nonInteractive`

For example:

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

### Full Screen Kiosk

In this case, you have a thin client that automatically logs in to a specified desktop with a specified user name, password, and domain. When launched, the client logs in to the connection server with the specified credentials and connects to the specified desktop.

Options to use:

- `--serverURL=<broker URL>`
- `--desktopName=<desktop name>`
- `--userName=<user name>`
- `--password=<password>`
- `--domainName=<domain name>`
- `--nonInteractive`

For example:

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

## Window Mode with Server Information Only

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

Options to use:

- `--serverURL=<broker URL>`

For example:

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

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If you have comments about this documentation, submit your feedback to: [docfeedback@vmware.com](mailto:docfeedback@vmware.com)

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