

# iSCSI Boot from SAN Readme

## Note

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the general information in [Appendix A, Notices](#).

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## [About iSCSI Boot from SAN](#)

This section contains a brief description of the IBM<sup>(R)</sup> iSCSI Boot from SAN application.

iSCSI Boot from SAN provides the capability to boot a blade server from an iSCSI target using the basic network interface controllers (NICs) included on the blade. No additional hardware or adapters are required. When employing iSCSI Boot from SAN, no internal disk is required to be installed in the Blade.

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## [Installation and configuration information](#)

This section contains installation and configuration information related to iSCSI Boot from SAN.

To get started, read the following documents:

- The iSCSI Boot SAN Configuration Guide. This provides a reference implementation for an iSCSI Boot SAN.
- The iSCSI Boot Hardware Guide. This provides the information on updating firmware and enabling iSCSI Boot.
- The iSCSI Boot Windows<sup>(R)</sup> Guide. This provides a step-by-step description on setting up Windows for iSCSI Boot.
- The iSCSI Configuration Manager Utility Guide. This provides directions on using the configuration tool.

In addition, you will need to acquire the following information and tools:

1. IBM Blade BIOS Update
  2. IBM Blade BMC Update
  3. IBM iSCSI Configuration Manager Utility
  4. Microsoft iSCSI Initiator with Boot Driver Package
  5. A disk or partition cloning tool. Examples are:
    - o A bootable DOS diskette with a mouse driver.
    - o A `ghost.exe` for DOS (can be on a second diskette) such as DOS Ghost 8.0 or Ghost 2003. You can also get `ghost.exe` from the retail package of Ghost 9 or Ghost 10, which includes a Norton Ghost 2003 CD. The `ghost.exe` file is found in the support folder on the CD.
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## **Known limitations and workarounds**

This section contains information related to any known iSCSI Boot from SAN support limitations and workarounds.

1. Update the BMC firmware first, then update the BIOS
2. Both of the Blade's integrated NICs (network interface controllers) must be enabled.
3. Serial over LAN (SoL) must be enabled on the first NIC. SoL enabled on the second NIC is not supported.
4. iSCSI Boot from SAN is supported over the integrated NICs only.
5. A POST error may occur during the first power on after updating the BMC and BIOS. Once the iSCSI Configuration Manager has been run and the system has been rebooted once, the error should go away.
6. A POST error may occur during the first power on after installing an I/O expansion adapter. Once the system has been rebooted the error should go away.
7. A POST error will occur if you have all of the following: a local disk installed, an Ethernet I/O expansion adapter installed, and the firmware iSCSI Initiator enabled. Workaround: Set up the local operating system image as usual with the Ethernet expansion adapter present. Remove the Ethernet expansion adapter prior to performing the disk image clone.

8. On some iSCSI Target devices there is the option to select a LUN type. The LUNs for iSCSI Boot should be set to type “raw” or “image”.
  9. When running the iSCSI Configuration Manager a “port” typically corresponds to a switch bay on the BladeCenter chassis. Port 0 for Switch Bay 1, Port 1 for switch bay 2, etc.
  10. If you are logged into the BladeCenter<sup>(R)</sup> MM via the Web interface (or otherwise) you must use a different user sign on (User ID and password) in the iSCSI Configuration Manager to access the BladeCenter. Workaround: Log off via the Web interface and then use the same user ID or password in the iSCSI Configuration Manager or use the MM Web interface to add an additional administrator sign on for use by the iSCSI Configuration Manager.
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