

Remove the ESXi web welcome screen (Method #3)

VERSION 1

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Mr. Duncan Epping

had an interesting post about [removing the ESXi welcome screen](#)

and while reading

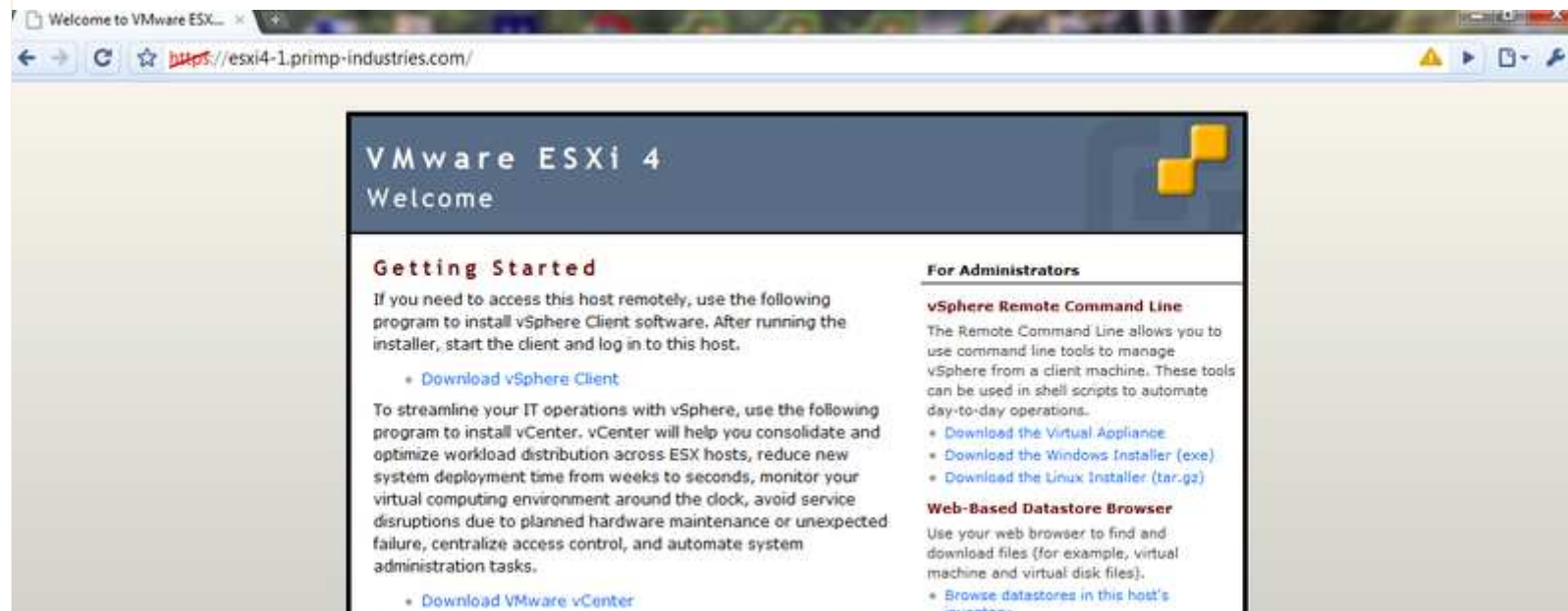
the comments, I noticed [Maish's](#)comment regarding another method of [removing the ESXi welcome screen along with other services](#)

There is however, another method if you would like to walk down the fine line of unsupported ... which is fine since both methods described from above are through the means of editing files within the ESXi installer or in the unsupported Buysbox console.

I wanted to share a 3rd method that doesn't require editing files from the installer or using the Busybox console and restarting any services.

Here are the steps:

1. Here is a screen shot of ESXi 4.0 welcome screen



If you need more help, please refer to our documentation library:

[vSphere 4 Documentation](#)

[For Developers](#)

[vSphere Web Services SDK](#)

2. Point your browser over to the host's MOB (Managed Object Browser)

Managed Object Browser

Home

Managed Object Type: **ManagedObjectReference:ServiceInstance**
Managed Object ID: **ServiceInstance**

Properties

NAME	TYPE	VALUE
capability	Capability	capability
content	ServiceContent	content
serverClock	dateTime	"2010-01-29T06:07:42.518951Z"

Methods

RETURN TYPE	NAME
dateTime	CurrentTime
HostVMotionCompability[]	QueryVMotionCompatibility
ServiceContent	RetrieveServiceContent
ProductComponentInfo[]	RetrieveProductComponents
Event[]	ValidateMigration

3. Now insert this into the URL with your hostname:

```
https://esxi4-1.primp-industries.com/mob/?moid=ServiceInstance&method=retrieveInternalContent
```

This basically invokes the undocumented and hidden **InternalContent** and to execute the method, click on **Invoke Method**

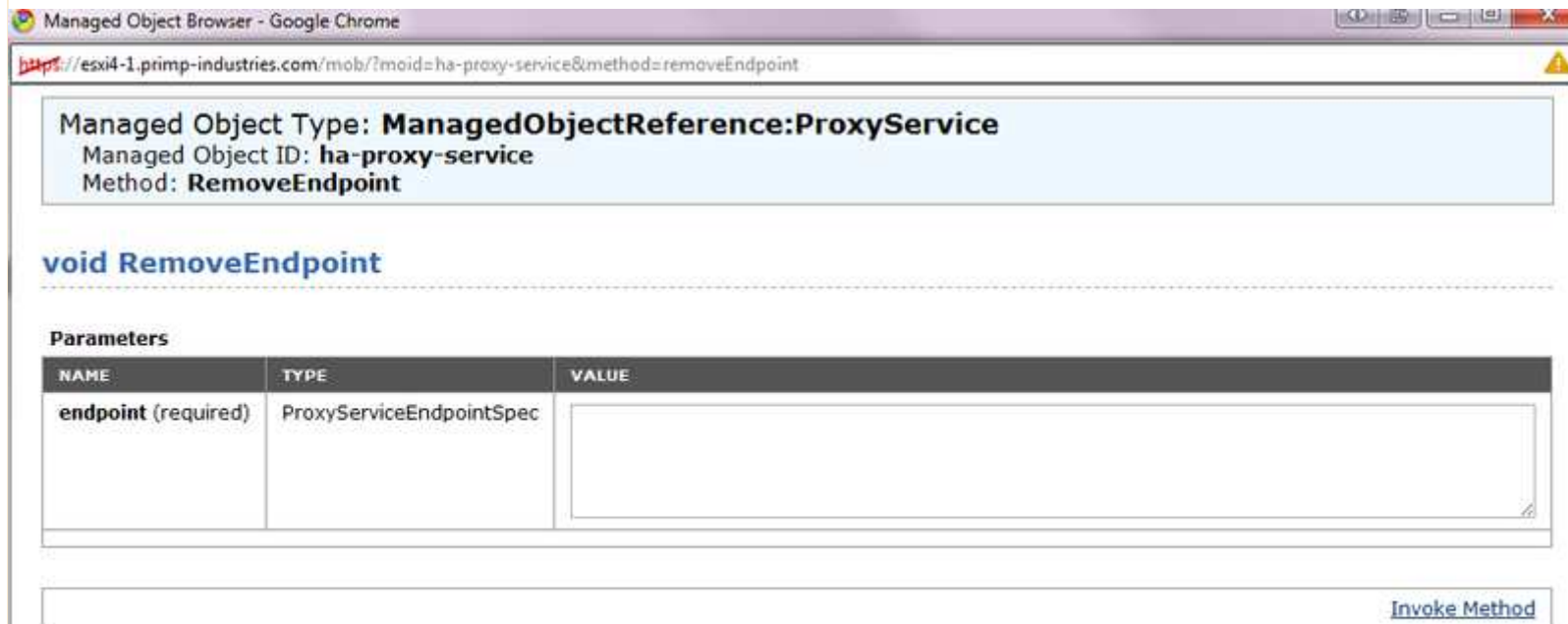
The screenshot shows the VMware Managed Object Browser interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: `https://esxi4-1.primp-industries.com/mob/?moid=ServiceInstance&method=RetrieveInternalContent`. The main content area shows the Managed Object Type: **ManagedObjectReference:ServiceInstance**, Managed Object ID: **ServiceInstance**, and Method: **RetrieveInternalContent**. Below this, the **InternalServiceInstanceContent RetrieveInternalContent** section is visible. The **Parameters** table is empty. A red box highlights the **Invoke Method** button. Below the button, the **Method Invocation Result: InternalServiceInstanceContent** table is displayed, showing various service managers and their values.

NAME	TYPE	VALUE
agentManager	ManagedObjectReference:AgentManager	ha-agentmgr
diskManager	ManagedObjectReference:HostDiskManager	ha-blklist-service
dynamicProperty	DynamicProperty[]	Unset
dynamicType	string	Unset
ftManager	ManagedObjectReference:HostFaultToleranceManager	ha-ftmgr
hostDistributedVirtualSwitchManager	ManagedObjectReference:HostDistributedVirtualSwitchManager	ha-hostdvsmanager
ilManager	ManagedObjectReference:ImageLibraryManager	Unset
internalStatsCollector	ManagedObjectReference:InternalStatsCollector	ha-internal-stats-collector
llProvisioningManager	ManagedObjectReference:HostLowLevelProvisioningManager	ha-llpm
nfcService	ManagedObjectReference:NfcService	ha-nfc-service
proxyService	ManagedObjectReference:ProxyService	ha-proxy-service
resourcePlanningManager	ManagedObjectReference:ResourcePlanningManager	Unset
serviceDirectory	ManagedObjectReference:ServiceDirectory	Unset
serviceManager	ManagedObjectReference:ServiceManager	ha-servicemanager
tpmManager	ManagedObjectReference:HostTpmManager	ha-tpmmgr

4. Now you'll want to click on **ha-proxy-service** and you'll be brought to a screen which lists the various proxy end points. If you click into **endpointList** list, you'll see the first entry is for "/" which is for the

index.html redirect for the welcome screen. We're basically going to remove this endpoint

5. Go back out to the main page of **ha-proxy-service** and click on **RemoveEndpoint** method and you'll get a pop up



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Managed Object Browser - Google Chrome". The address bar contains the URL: `http://esxi4-1.primp-industries.com/mob/?moid=ha-proxy-service&method=removeEndpoint`. The main content area displays the following information:

- Managed Object Type: **ManagedObjectReference:ProxyService**
- Managed Object ID: **ha-proxy-service**
- Method: **RemoveEndpoint**

Below this information, the method signature is shown as **void RemoveEndpoint**. Underneath, there is a section for **Parameters** with a table:

NAME	TYPE	VALUE
endpoint (required)	ProxyServiceEndpointSpec	<input type="text"/>

At the bottom right of the interface, there is a button labeled **Invoke Method**.

6. No insert the following into the text box:

```
<endpoint xsi:type="ProxyServiceEndpointSpec">
  <serverNamespace>/</serverNamespace>
  <accessMode>httpsWithRedirect</accessMode>
</endpoint>
```

and then click **Invoke Method** which will then remove this endpoint and you'll see **Method Invocation Result: void** on the screen as the method does not return a value

7. Now if you point your browser back to ESXi host, you'll see that now you get a 404 error and the welcome screen is no longer available. This is also true for /ui and datastore browsing and host which is now also inaccessible but you still have access to the MOB URL and SDK which allows you to remotely manage your host using the APIs



Note: You should make a backup of your ESXi configuration (**esxcfg-cfgbackup**) before attempting this in case you run into any oddities.