

VMware Tools for Windows – Authentication Bypass

Overview

On March 25, 2025, Broadcom published [VMSA-2025-0005](#) detailing an authentication bypass vulnerability impacting VMware Tools for Windows. Additionally, Broadcom has published [CVE-2025-22230](#) addressing this vulnerability.

Affected Products and Versions

VMware Tools for Windows 12.x and 11.x

Vulnerability Details

ISSUE	BASE SCORE	ADJUSTED SCORE	PLATFORM	DESCRIPTION
CVE-2025-22230	7.8 (High)	6.6 (Medium)	Control Server OTArmor	Authentication Bypass (CWE-288)

Note: Adjusted Score is an environmental score calculated according to impact with regards to compensating controls and overall system impact in the customer environment.

This vulnerability could enable an attacker with non-administrative privileges on a Windows guest Virtual Machines (VM) to perform high-privilege actions within the VM.

Exploitation Status

GE Vernova has not yet observed nor received any reports that Gas Power customer equipment has been compromised due to these vulnerabilities.

Remediation/Mitigation (Gas Power Customers)

This issue has been resolved in VMware Tools 12.5.1, which has been validated for deployment on Control Server and OTArmor installations. The instructions below should be used to install VMware Tools for Windows 12.5.1.

Installation Steps

- 1.) Obtain the update package `gueststore-vmtools-12.5.1-24649672-24649907.zip`
- 2.) Use the datastore browser in the vSphere client to upload the package to a datastore on each host.
- 3.) For non-clustered solutions, shutdown the VM on the host. For clustered solutions, migrate the VM on the host.
- 4.) Place the Host in Maintenance Mode.
- 5.) Enable TSM and SSH services on the Host.
- 6.) Use Putty to SSH to the Host and log in as the root user.
- 7.) Navigate to the datastore where the update was placed: `cd /vmfs/volumes/<datastore_name>`
- 8.) Install the following update. Note: A restart is not required after the VIB is installed
`esxcli software vib update -d "/vmfs/volumes/<datastore_name>/gueststore-vmtools-12.5.1-24649672-24649907.zip"`
- 9.) Exit Maintenance Mode and restart the VMs. For clustered hosts, migrate the VMs back to host.
- 10.) Within 10 minutes of the update, each VM will check the repository and inform you in the ESXi Client or vSphere Client that a new version of Tools for Windows is available.

11.) Update VMware tools on each VM.

Contact Information

Contact your local GE Vernova Services representative for assistance or additional information.

For Product Security issues or incident/vulnerability reporting: <https://www.gevernova.com/security>

Document History

Version	Release Date	Purpose
1.0	6/25/2025	Initial Release

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