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Slow Windows Server 2025 VM on Proxmox: Test Plan

Nine checks, in order, to find the first layer where a slow Server 2025 VM differs from a clean Server 2022 control.

Updated **2026-10-29** · Full guide: www.mrplanb.com/blog/windows-server-2025-proxmox-ve-9-2-slow-vm-fixes

A slow Windows Server 2025 VM on Proxmox VE 9.2 is not proof of a Proxmox bug. Build a clean Server 2025 VM and a Server 2022 control on the same host, then compare drivers, disk controller, CPU type, power plan, storage latency and security features one change at a time. Only suspect Proxmox VE 9.2 if the problem appears across different hardware.

9
checks before blaming Proxmox VE 9.2

4
controlled tests: CPU, 4K latency, sequential throughput, interactive admin

3
CPU types the forum reporter tried: host, x86-64-v2-AES, x86-64-v3

8 vCPU
size of the reported Server 2025 test VM, with 12 GB RAM

Build a fair comparison first

1. Create a fresh Server 2025 VM: OVMF, Q35, VirtIO networking, VirtIO SCSI Single, current VirtIO drivers, QEMU Guest Agent.
2. Place a fresh Server 2022 VM beside it with the same virtual resources.
3. Run four tests on both: CPU, 4K storage latency, sequential storage throughput and ordinary interactive administration.
4. Find the first layer where the two otherwise similar VMs behave differently.
5. If Server 2025 is slower, compare power policy, security features and driver versions before touching Proxmox.
6. If both are slow, move down the stack to host power management, RAID controller state and physical storage.

The nine-point checklist

- [ ] VirtIO drivers installed, no unknown devices in Device Manager.
- [ ] Disk is SCSI with VirtIO SCSI Single, per Proxmox's Windows Server 2025 guide.
- [ ] CPU type tested (host is a good baseline unless you need live migration across CPU generations).
- [ ] Windows power plan: Balanced versus High Performance, same task, same benchmark.
- [ ] Host storage and RAID controller: cache state, battery or capacitor, disk health, queue depth, degraded drives.
- [ ] QEMU Guest Agent enabled as part of a correct baseline.
- [ ] Real server workload measured, not just remote desktop feel.

- [ ] Security features compared: VBS, Defender, Group Policy, endpoint security.
- [ ] Reproduced on a clean guest and a second node before any downgrade.

Where to look, by finding

What you see	Likely direction	Next step
Slow only on Server 2025	Guest software, drivers, policy	Compare drivers, power plan, security features
Both guests slow under host load	Storage or host layer	Check RAID cache, disk health, host power policy
Follows the guest image	Windows and drivers	Rebuild from the current ISO with Proxmox best practices
Follows one host	Firmware, CPU, storage, host config	Test the same image on another node
Only on PVE 9.2, across hardware	Possible platform regression	Stronger case to consider a downgrade

The reported case

An August 2026 Proxmox forum report. Reproducible there, not proof for every VM.

Host
Proxmox VE 9.2.0, PVE Manager 9.2.5, kernel 7.0.14-8-pve, QEMU 11.0.2-2.

Storage
Local LVM behind an HPE Smart Array H240.

Server 2025 VM
8 vCPUs, 12 GB RAM, CPU type host, OVMF, Q35, VirtIO networking, 180 GB disk, TPM 2.0, guest agent.

What was tried
VirtIO SCSI Single and VirtIO SCSI, plus host, x86-64-v2-AES and x86-64-v3 CPU types. Still slow.

Control
A Server 2022 VM on the same Xeon E5-2620 v4 host was responsive.

Measurement rules

- Record current driver versions, change one component, reboot if needed, retest the exact same workload.
- Measure storage latency, not just MB/s: high 4K random I/O latency makes a desktop feel terrible.
- More vCPUs are not automatically faster. Eight vCPUs may be slower to schedule than four for a light admin server.
- Test the real workload (SQL Server, Active Directory, IIS, file services) to separate GUI feel from throughput.
- Do not disable security features blindly for a benchmark score.

Sources and notes: Proxmox Windows Server 2025 Guest Best Practices · Proxmox forum report on Windows Server 2025 slow on PVE 9.2 · Microsoft Windows Server power plan performance guidance