# Proxmox – a VMware alternative (?)

April 2024, Thilo Lauer

VMS Software Inc.

# Agenda

- Proxmox

# Agenda, V1.1

- State of affairs with VMware
- New solution: Proxmox
  - Features
  - Comparison with ESXi
  - Licensing, Support
  - First experiences with VMS on Proxmox

In 2023 Broadcom took over VMware

- ”Changes” in licensing
- Portfolio reduction
- Contracts with VMware partners cancelled

...which has lead to customers re-evaluating their virtualization environment

One possible alternative might be Proxmox. Let's have a closer look...

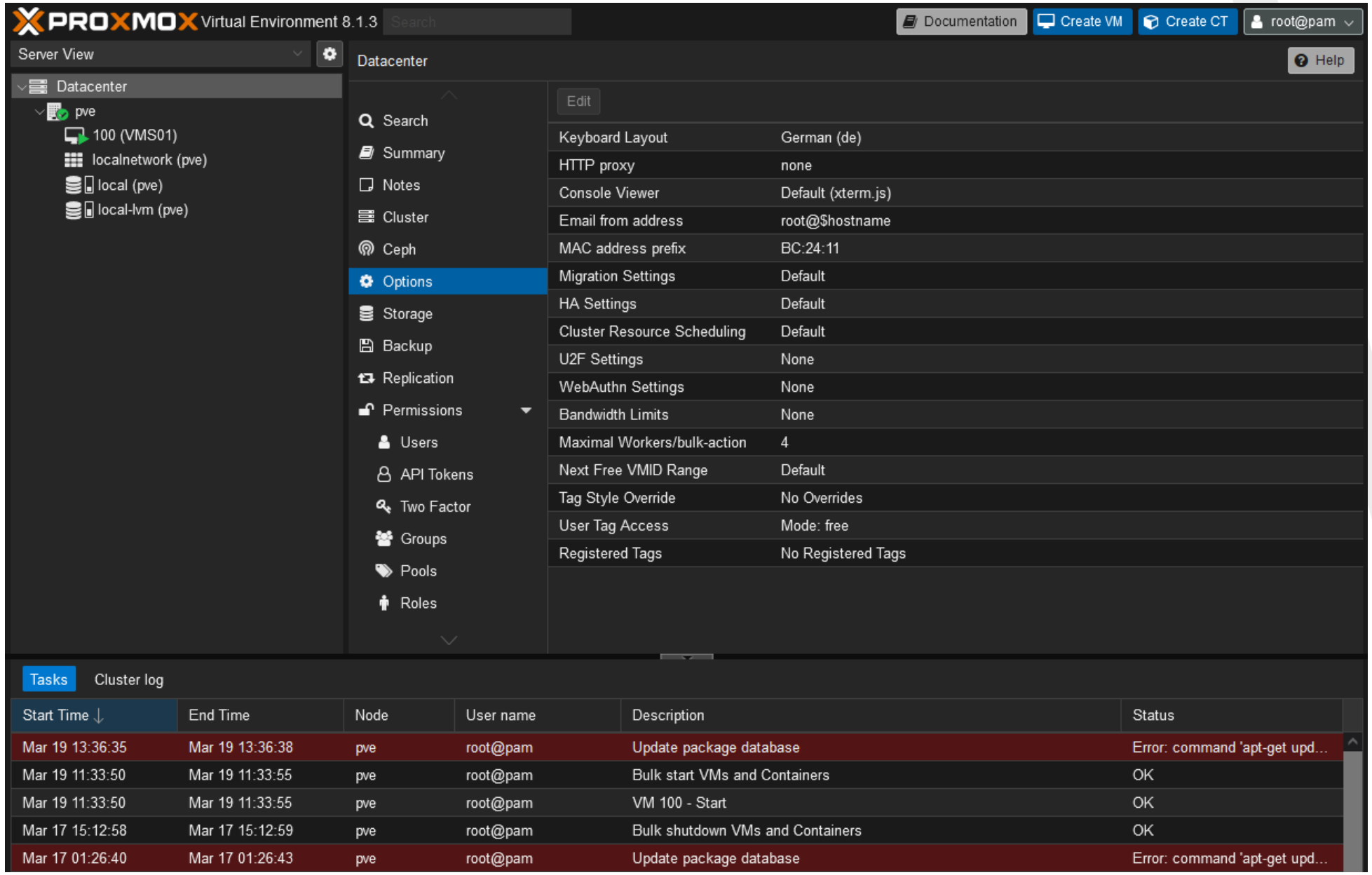
# Who is Proxmox?

- Proxmox Server Solutions GmbH located in Vienna, Austria (www.proxmox.com)
- “software provider dedicated to developing powerful and efficient open-source server solutions”
- Privately held
- Staged Support & Training offered

# What is Proxmox?

- “Proxmox Virtual Environment” (Proxmox VE, PVE)
- Based on a modified Debian Linux kernel
- Uses QEMU/kvm as virtualization engine
- Released under GNU AGPLv3 license
- Management via Web-based GUI, CLI or REST API

# How does Proxmox look like?



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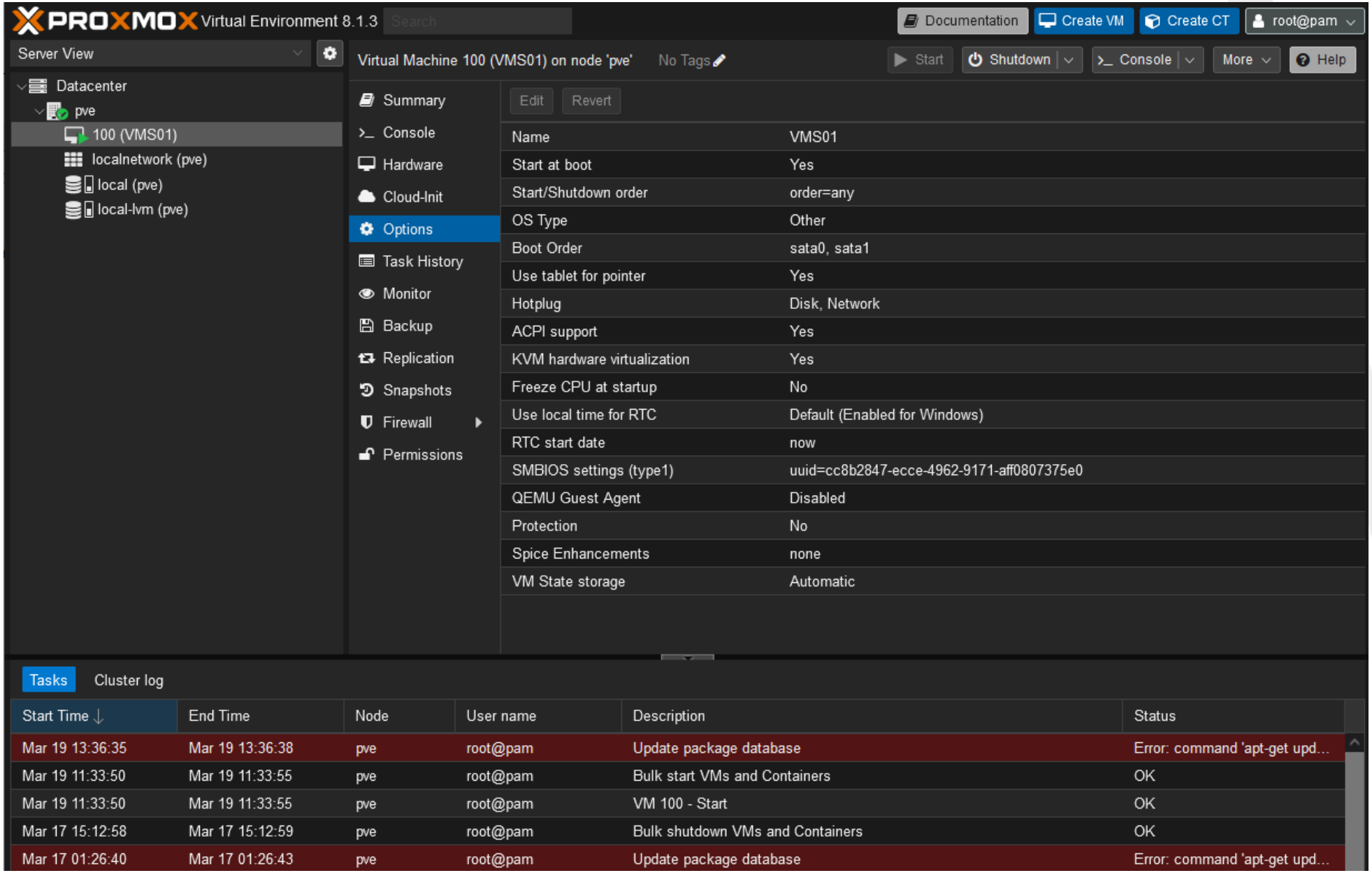

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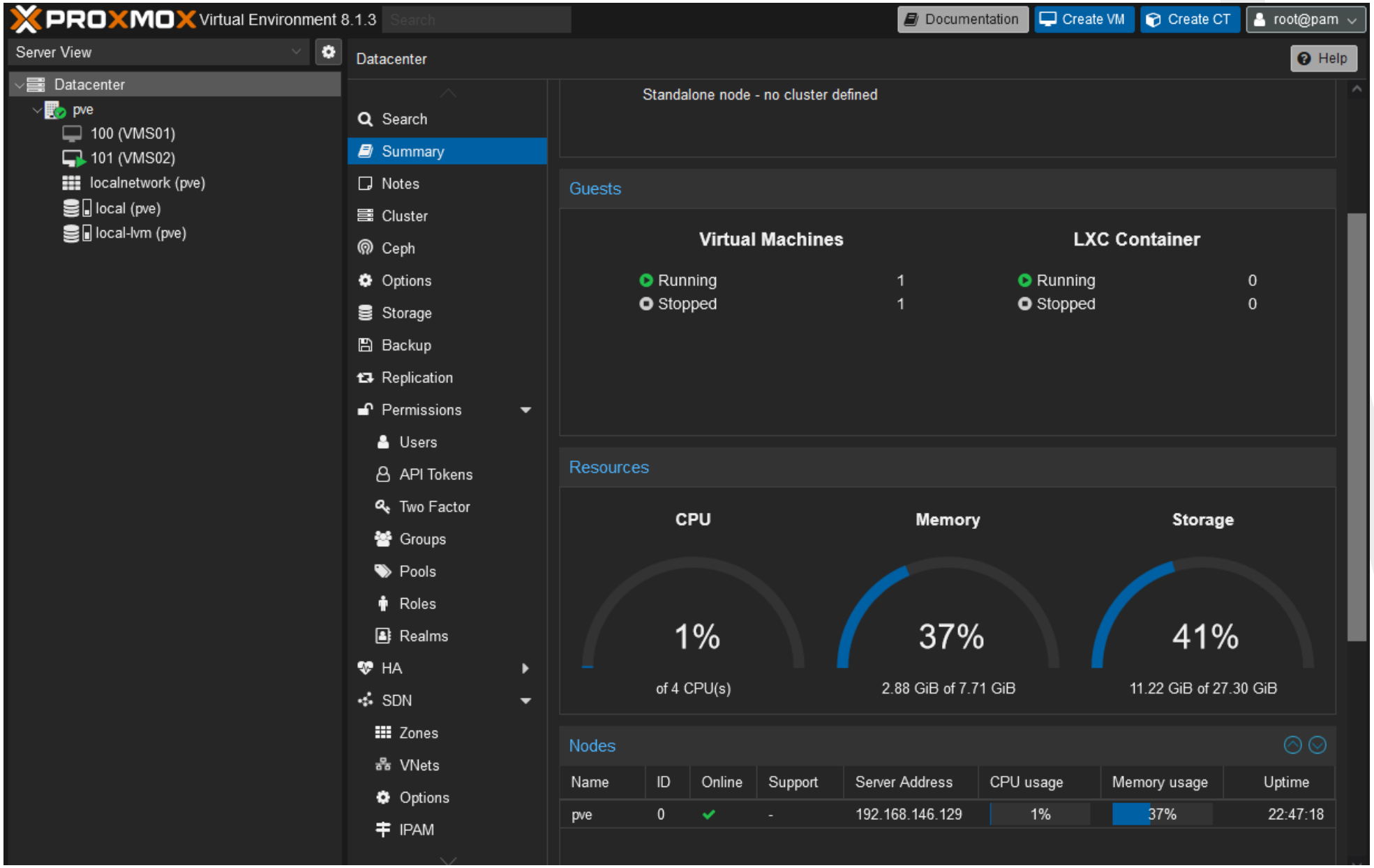

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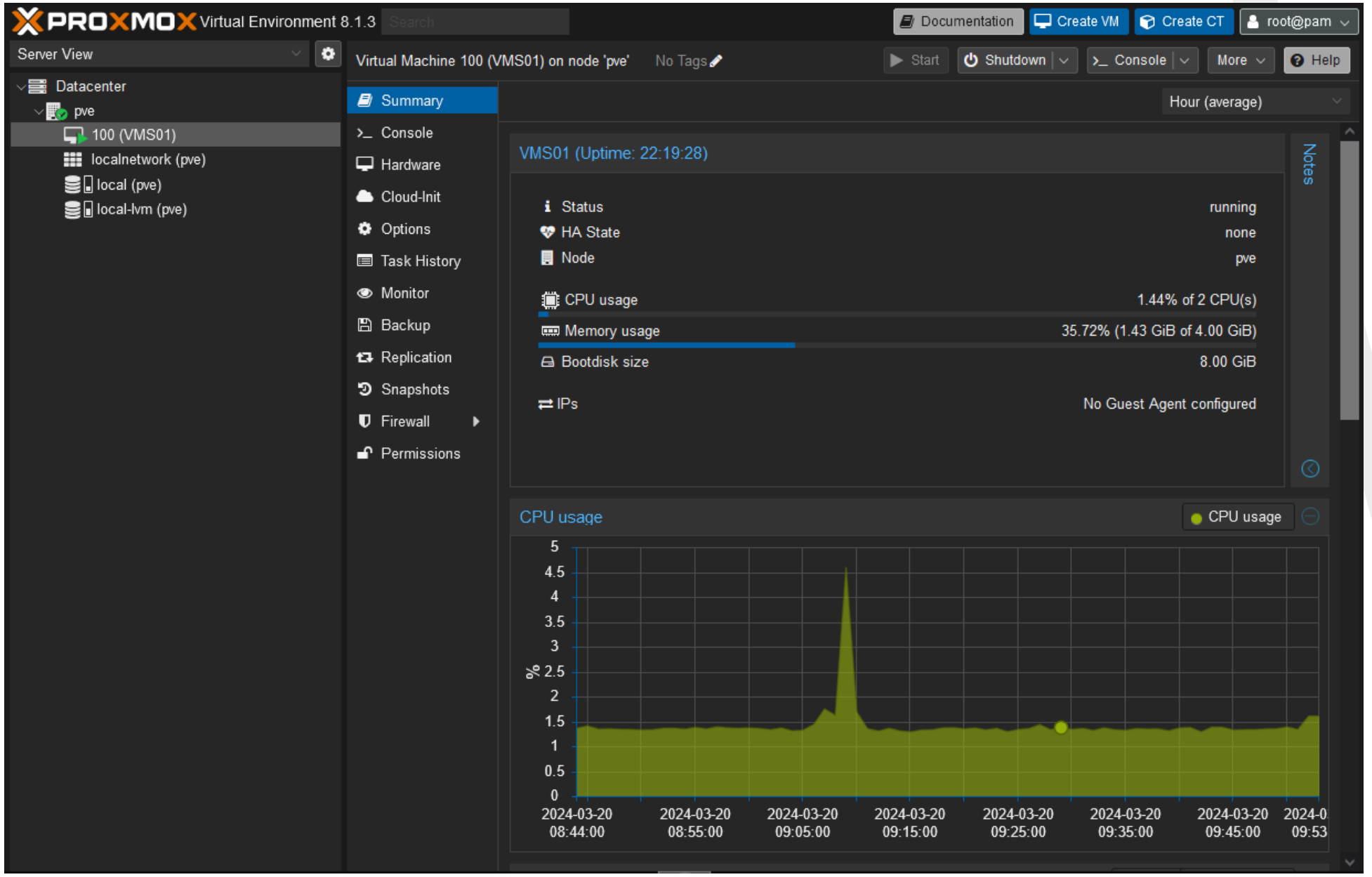
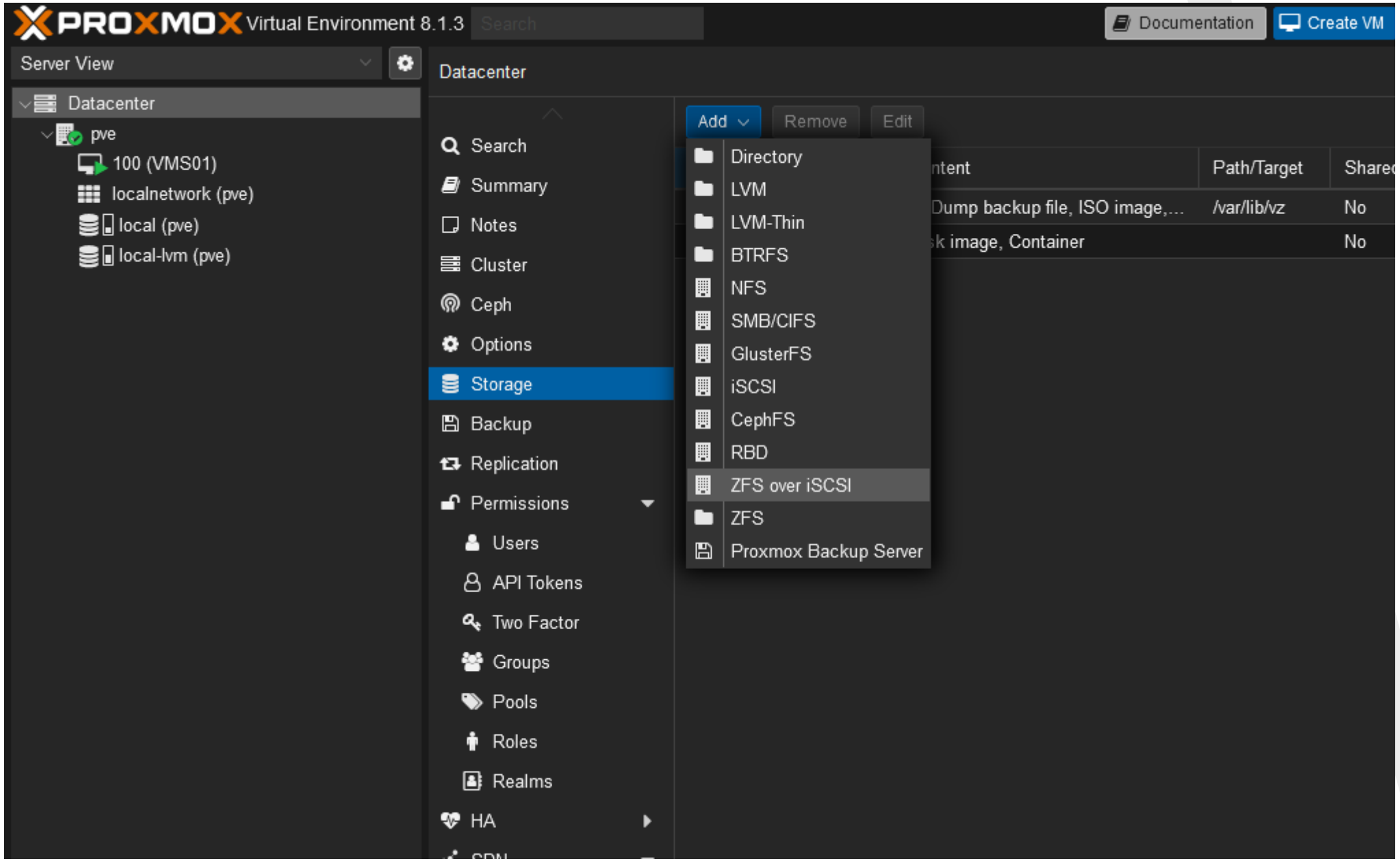


# Configuring the host – create storage space



# Creating a new (VMS) VM

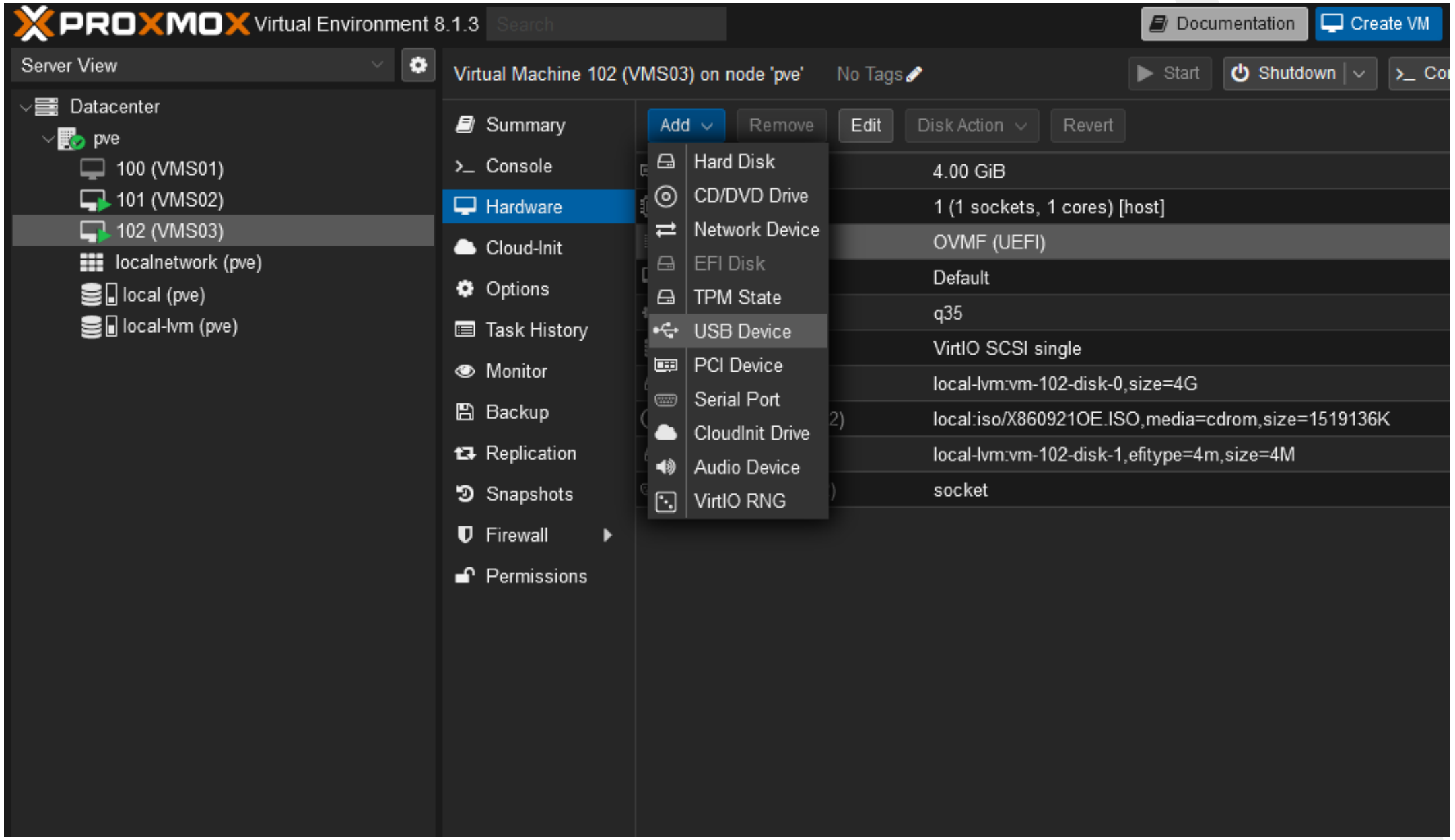
And this is where it gets dirty…

… because, to create a **VMS** VM, you may need to learn **Linux**!

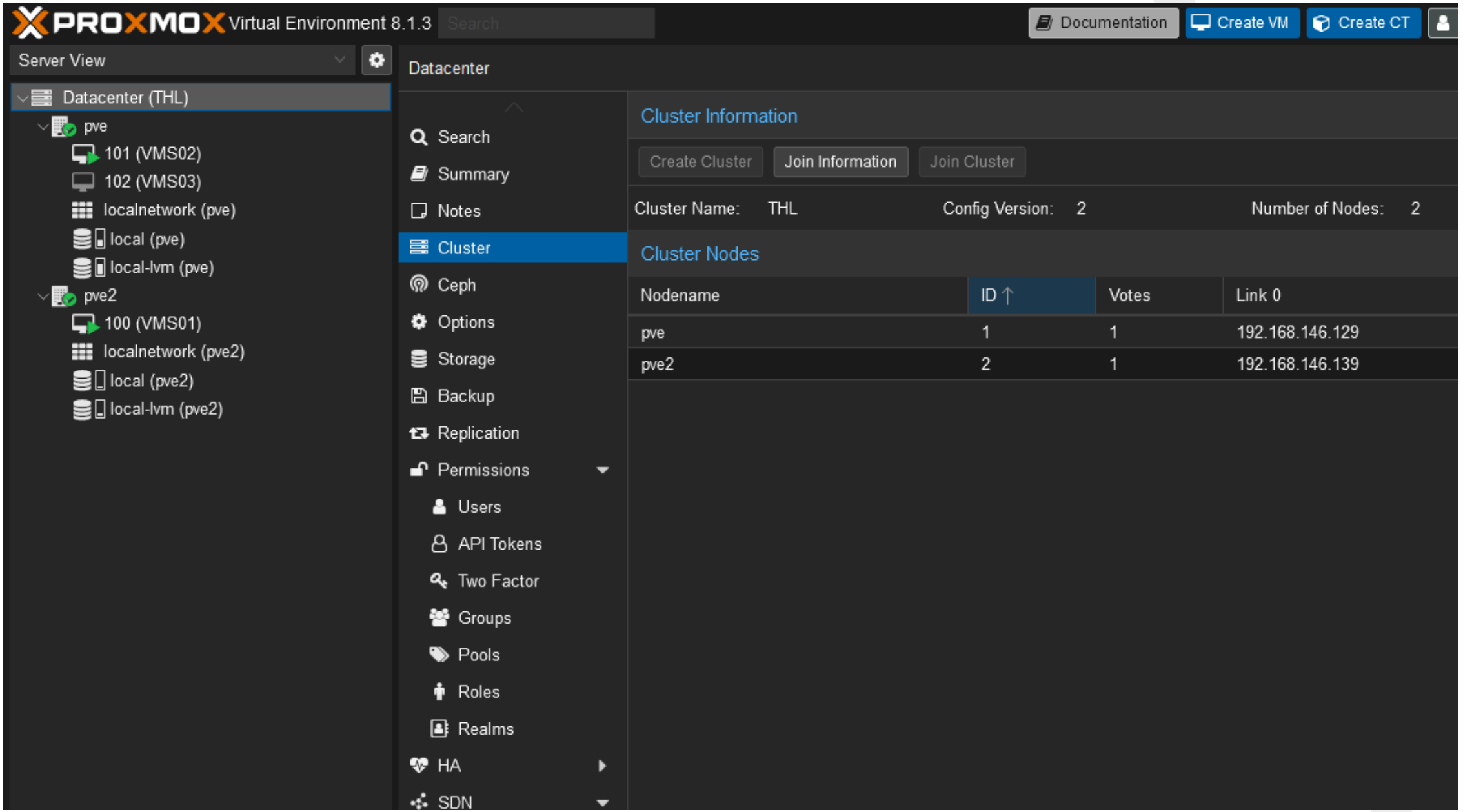
# Creating a new (VMS) VM

- VM creation wizard provided
- Look/usage/options/choices almost identical to ie. ESXi
- No tedious serial console setup needed
- Some pitfalls:
  - Of course, change the BIOS to “OVMF (UEFI)”
  - In the “System” tab, change the machine type to “Q35”
  - In the “CPU” tab, change the CPU type to “host”
  - Start without any network device (select “no network device”) or add option “args: -no-hpet” to VM configuration file
  - Add an EFI Disk with the option “Pre-enrolled keys” **de**selected
  - Add serial console device

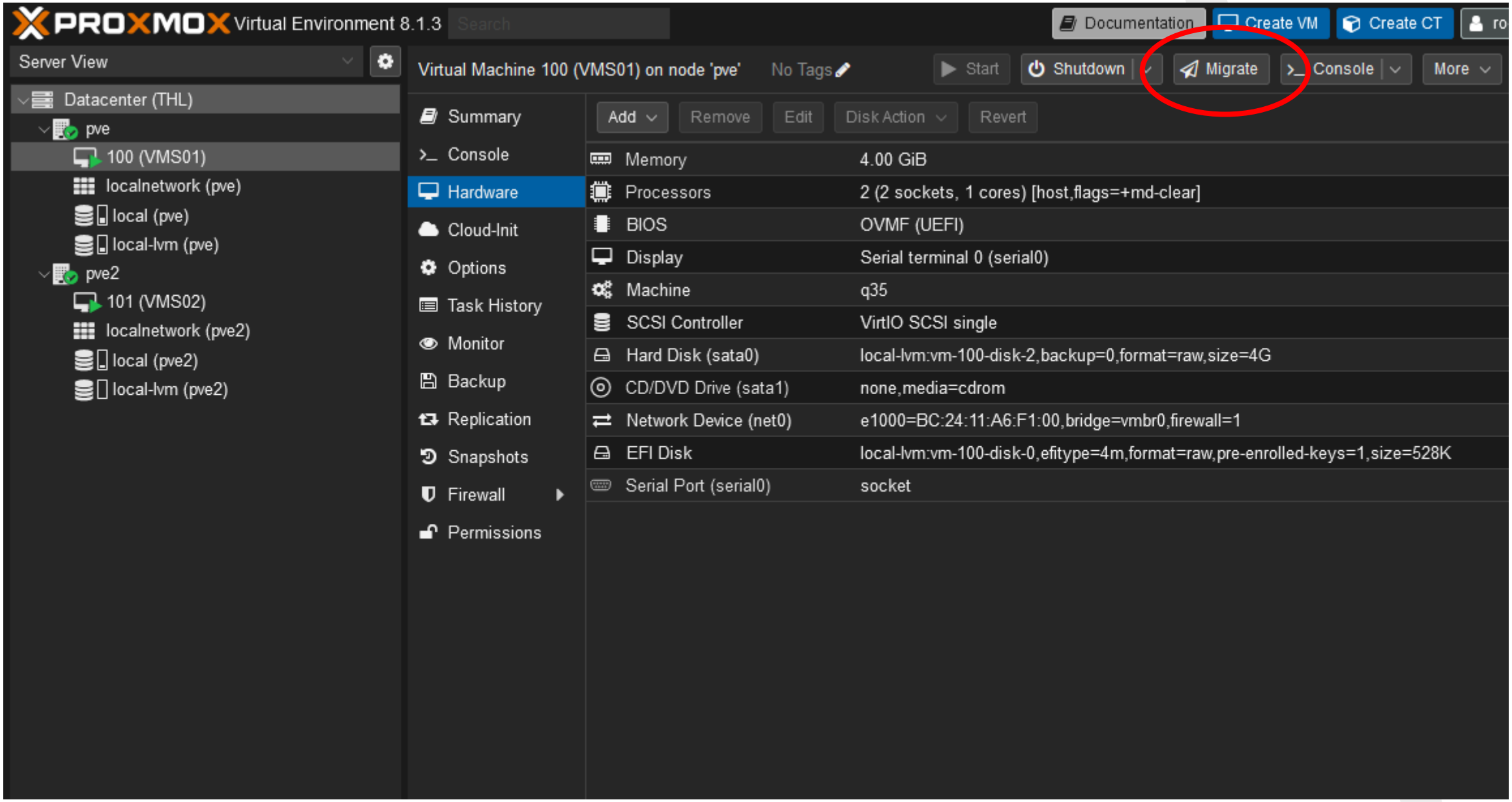
# Adding objects to a VM



# Running a Proxmox “Cluster”



# Migrating VMs is a button click away



# Breaking news: Tool to migrate VMs available

- VM import wizard provided
- To date (April 2024), only ESXi supported
- Minimum Proxmox version: 8.1.8
- Tested with ESXi V6.5 - V8
- OVF/OVA support planned
- Uses official public ESXi APIs only

# Questions?