Installing a Parallels® Virtual Machine and Windows on an M1 Mac

These instructions will explain how to install a Parallels virtual machine (VM) and a Windows operating system on a Mac computer with an M1 chip. These instructions are intended for those with a basic understanding of software installation principles. The instructions will be broken down into five components, in the following order:

1. Preparing to install Parallels
2. Installing Parallels
3. Registering for the Windows Insider Program
4. Installing Windows for productivity
5. Customizing and completing installation

Tools Needed

In order to complete these tasks, you will need:

- A Mac with an M1 processor.
- Administrator privileges for the computer where the VM will be installed.

You should allow approximately 20 minutes to complete these instructions.

Preparing to install Parallels. Before installing Parallels, you will need to complete the steps in this section.

To prepare for installing Parallels:

1. Type www.Parallels.com in your browser's address bar. Next, you will see "Run Windows on Mac NEW! Parallels Desktop 16 for Mac (including the new Apple M1 chip)" as shown in the following *Figure 1*.
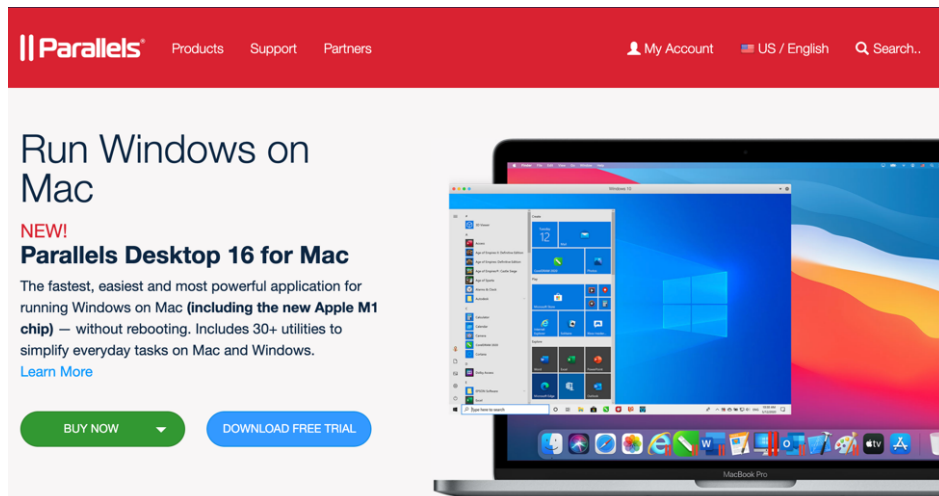

Figure 1. Parallels download free trial button. Image credit: (Parallels, 2021)

2. Click **Download Free Trial**. Next, you will see "Run Windows on Your Mac— Without Rebooting" as shown in the following *Figure 2*.
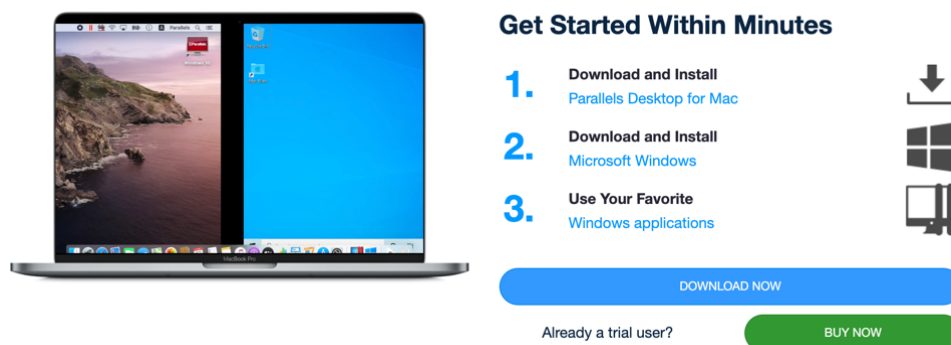

Figure 2. Parallels desktop for Mac download button. Image credit: (Parallels, 2021)

3. Click the blue **Parallels Desktop for Mac** text under item number one in the "Get Started Within Minutes" list. Next, you will see "Welcome to Parallels Desktop for Mac" as shown in the following *Figure 3*.
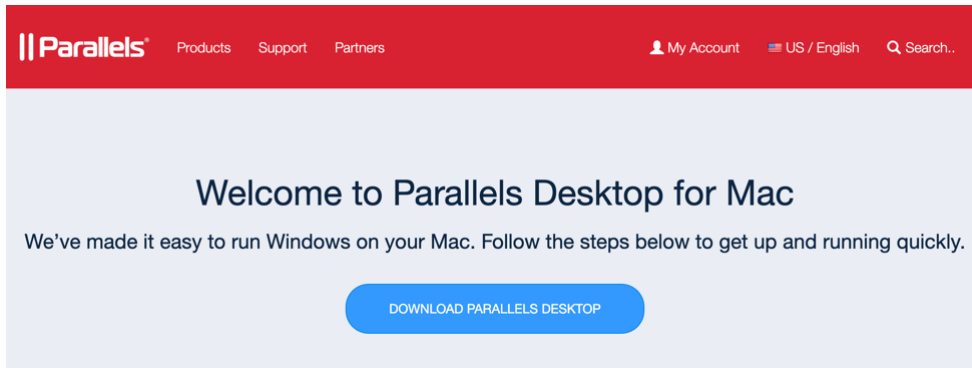
Figure 3. Welcome to Parallels Desktop for Mac. Image Credit: (Parallels, 2021)

4. Click **Download Parallels Desktop**.
5. Follow the remaining instructions on the page. For a walkthrough, see the following Installing Parallels section.

Installing Parallels. To begin installing parallels, you will need to complete the steps in this section. (Max Tech, 2021)

To install Parallels:

1. Look in the Downloads folder to find the Parallels Desktop .dmg file.
2. Open the Parallels Desktop .dmg file. Next, you will see an install box icon as shown in the following *Figure 4.*

Figure 4. Parallels install box icon. Image credit: (Parallels, 2021)

3. Double-click the install box icon. Next, you will see a Downloads image in the tray at the bottom right of the screen as shown in the following *Figure 5*.

1. Install Parallels® Desktop for Mac

Open the downloaded image and **double-click the Install box**. Look in the **Downloads folder** to find the image.

Figure 5. Downloads image in the Mac tray. Image credit: (Parallels, 2021)

4. Open the downloads image from the tray. Next, you will be asked to provide an admin username and password to grant access to Parallels as shown in the following *Figure 6*.
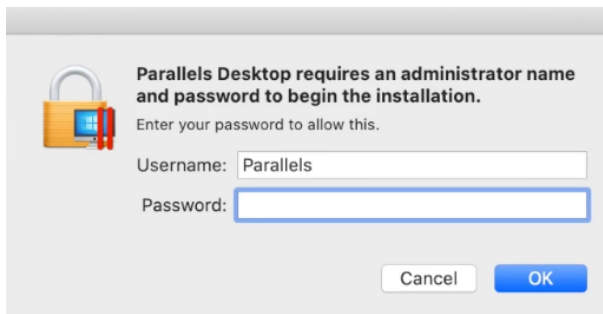

Figure 6. Enter admin username and password. Image credit: (Parallels, 2021)

5. Enter your admin name and password. Next, you will see a message stating "Install Parallels Desktop would like to access…" as shown in the following *Figure 7*.
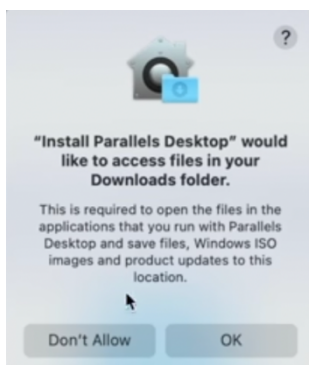

Figure 7. Parallels request to access Downloads folder. Image credit: (Parallels, 2021)

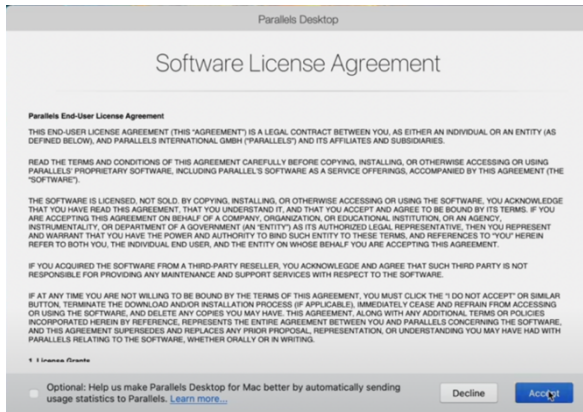6. Click **OK**. Next, you will see the "Software License Agreement" as shown in the following *Figure 8*.

Figure 8. Parallels EULA. Image credit: (Max Tech, 2021)

7. Click **Accept**.

Registering for the Windows Insider Program. Before installing Windows, you will need to complete the steps in this section to register for the Windows Insider Program.

To register for Windows Insider:

1. In a new browser window, Google "Windows Insider Program".
2. Click the https://insider.windows.com link. Next, you will see "Meet the Windows Insider Program" at the top of the page as shown in the following *Figure 9*.

Figure 9. Meet the Windows Insider Program. Image credit: (Microsoft, 2021)

3. Click **Register**. Next, you will see "Register for the Windows Insider Program" as shown in the following *Figure 10*.
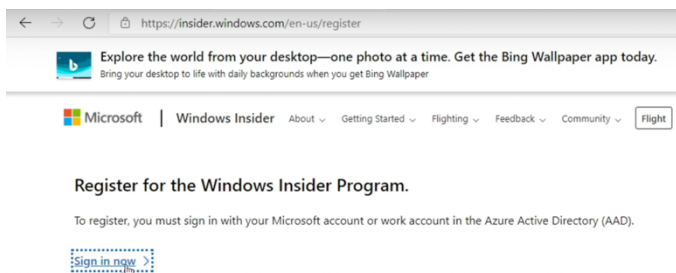

Figure 10. Register for the Windows Insider Program. Image credit: (Microsoft, 2021)

4. Click **Sign in Now**.
5. Sign in to your Microsoft account.
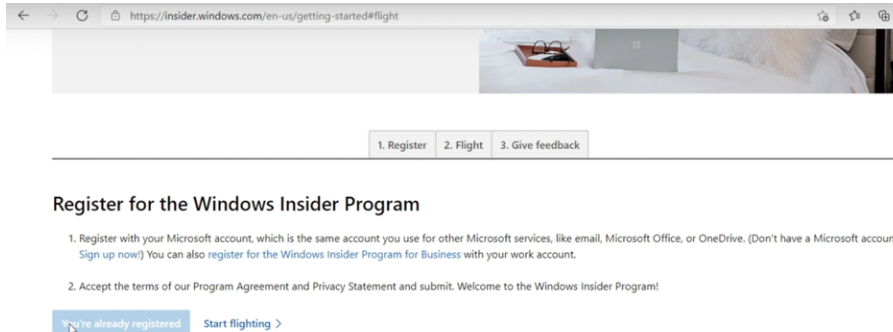6. Scroll down to "Register for the Windows Insider Program" as shown in the following *Figure 11*.

Figure 11. Part two of Register for Windows Insider Program. Image credit: (Microsoft, 2021)

7. Click **Register**.
8. Finish the agreement.

Installing Windows for productivity. To begin installing Windows, you will need to complete the steps in this section. (Microsoft, 2021)

To install Windows:

1. In a new browser window, Google "Windows 10 on ARM Insider Preview".
2. Click the "Download Windows Insider Preview ARM64 - Microsoft" link. On this page you will see a button for "Windows Client ARM64 Insider Preview – Build 21354" as shown in the following *Figure 12*.
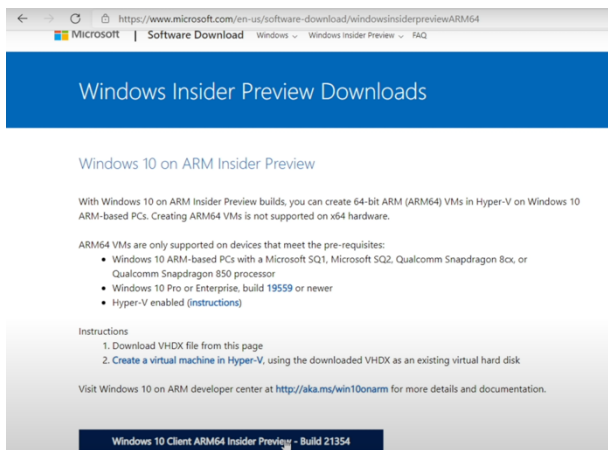

Figure 12. Windows 10 Client for ARM64. Image credit: (Microsoft, 2021)

3. Click the **Windows 10 Client ARM64 Insider Preview – Build 21354** button. Once the download is finished, a window will appear with "Installation Assistant Create New" and a Parallels icon.

4. Drag the file icon from the right side of the Mac's tray to the Parallels icon in the Installation Assistant window as shown in the following *Figure 13*.
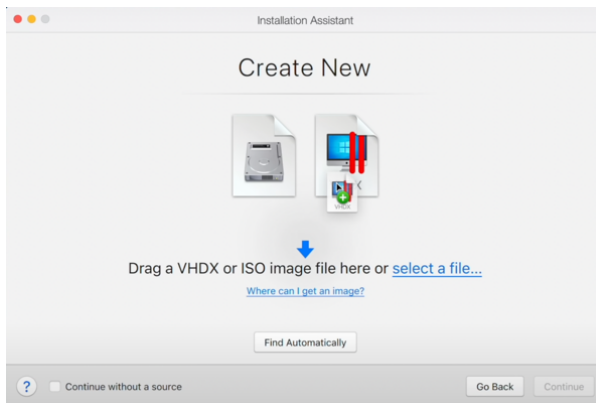

Figure 13. Mac Installation Assistant. Image credit: (Max Tech, 2021)

5. Click **Continue**.

Customizing and completing installation. To customize and complete the installation of Parallels and Windows, you will need to complete the steps in this section.

To customize and complete installation:

1. Choose **Productivity** on the next screen of the Installation Assistant as shown in the following *Figure 14*.
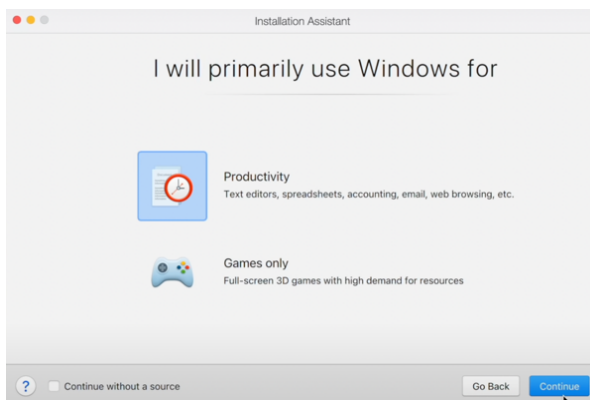

Figure 14. Options to customize Windows by purpose. Image credit: (Max Tech, 2021)

2. Click **Continue**. Next, you will see a "Name and Location" options page as shown in the following *Figure 15*.
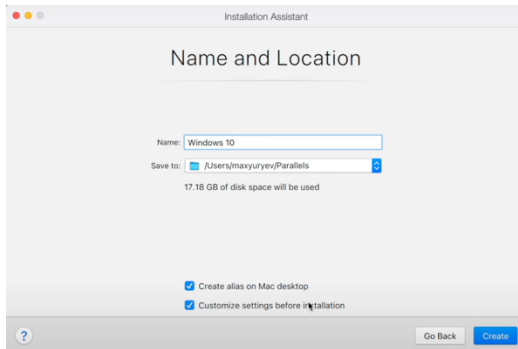
Figure 15. Choose the name and location of Windows 10. Image source: (Max Tech, 2021)

3. Click **Create**. Next, you will see a "Creating…" message, then a VM Config screen as shown in the following *Figure 16*.
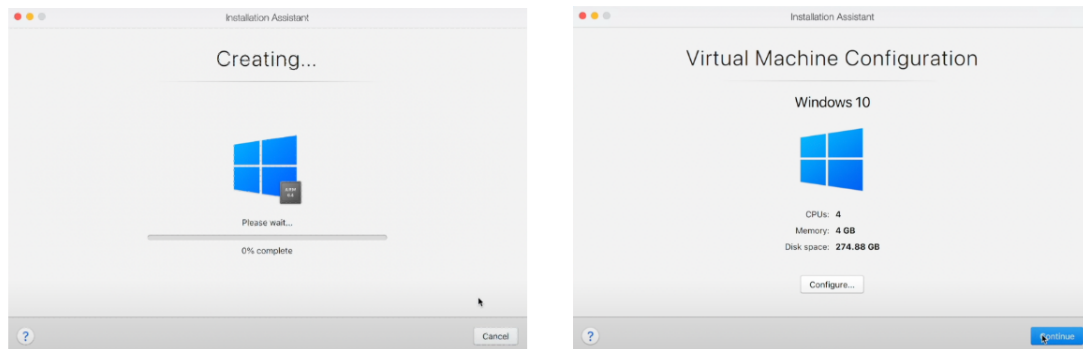

Figure 16. Installation Assistant Creating and VM Configuration. Image credit: (Max Tech, 2021)

4. Click **Continue** once creation is complete.
5. Click **OK** when asked to give Parallels permission to access to the following:
   - Camera
   - Microphone
   - Bluetooth
   Note: Granting these permissions will ensure proper functioning.
6. Click **Sign in to Parallels Account**. Next, you will see the window shown in the following *Figure 17*.
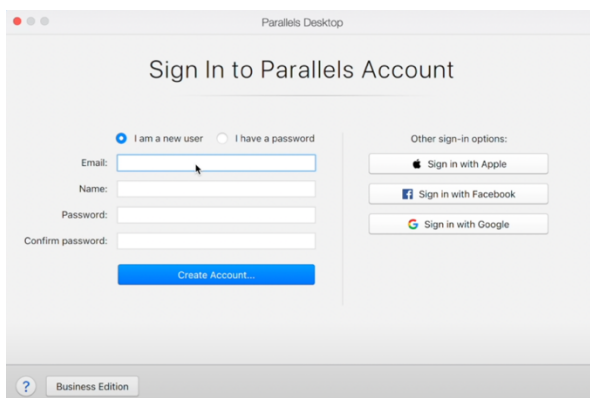

Figure 17. Parallels Sign In window. Image credit: (Max Tech, 2021)

7. Login or create a Parallels account. Next, you will see "Parallels® My Account Important Information" as shown in the following *Figure 18*.
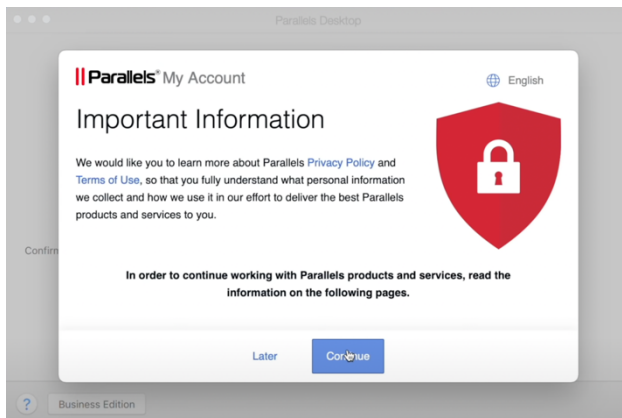

Figure 18. Parallels Privacy Policy and Terms of Use links. Image credit: (Max Tech, 2021)

8. Click **Continue**. Next, you will see "Parallels® My Account Parallels User Account Data Privacy Notice" as shown in the following *Figure 19*.
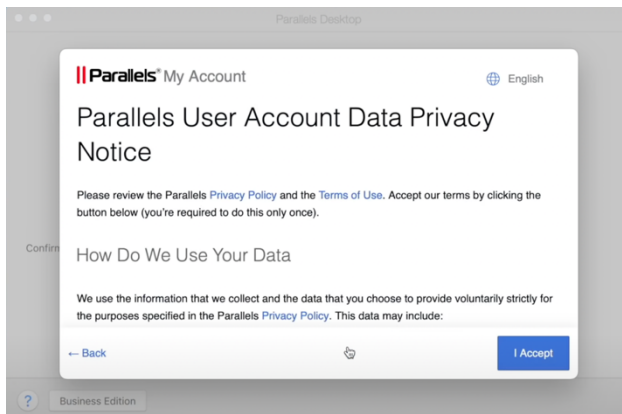

Figure 19. Parallels User Account Data Privacy Notice. Image credit: (Max Tech, 2021)

9. Click **Accept**.

Congratulations! You're ready to use Windows in a Parallels VM on your M1 Mac!

References

Max Tech. (2021, April 16). *How to Install Windows 10 on Apple M1 Macs in 2021!* Retrieved June 2021, from YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVfQ9e1PhAY

Microsoft. (2021, June 24). *Meet the Windows Insider Program*. Retrieved June 2021, from Microsoft: https://insider.windows.com/en-us/

Microsoft. (2021, June 24). *Windows 10 on ARM Insider Preview*. Retrieved June 2021, from Microsoft: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windowsinsiderpreviewARM64

Parallels International GmbH. (2021, June 24). *Welcom to Parallels Desktop for Mac*. Retrieved June 2021, from Parallels: https://www.parallels.com/products/desktop/welcome-trial/