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Position: [How Tos](#) - [Backup & Restore](#) - How to migrate Windows OS to SSD /HDD?

## Summary

This article includes a step-by-step guide that shows how to migrate Windows 10/8/7/Vista operating system to new SSD or hard drive quickly and safely using free system migration software DiskGenius. Thus, you don't have to spend large amount of time setting up Windows, installing application, copying individual files, etc. Want to transfer Windows OS to SSD now? You can free download this tool and follow the tutorial below to migrate system to SSD / HDD.



DiskGenius - Freeware to quickly migrate Windows OS to SSD or HDD without reinstalling everything!

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## About migrating Windows operating system to SSD / HDD

What is system migration? A system migration, just as the words imply, refers to the process of transferring current operating system to another storage device such as SSD (solid state drive) or HDD (hard disk drive). The process not only migrates Windows OS, but also installed apps, system updates, drivers, custom settings and wanted personal data on the system disk. If original system disk is of MBR format, both system reserved partition and C drive will be migrated; if it is a GPT disk, the OS migration will include system drive,



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- To get faster and better performance: If you are not satisfied with the speed of current hard drive or the booting time, you can replace current disk with a larger one. After migrating OS to SSD from HDD, your computer will be much faster when booting up, reading or writing data.
- To upgrade current disk to a larger one: As time passes, your system disk is full of data and running out of free space. There is not any free space available on the disk to transfer to C drive. In this case, you can replace current disk with a larger one.
- To get a well-organized operating system: If you intend to add hard disk to computer and separate OS and personal data on different drives, you can simply move OS to a new disk without reinstalling everything; you may want to upgrade computer's build, but still want to use the old system, you can also try transferring Windows to new device without reinstalling OS and apps.

How to migrate Windows operating system to SSD or HDD? If you google similar questions, you can find the best solution is transferring OS to new disk with a free and reliable system migration tool.

## Freeware to migrate Windows OS to SSD / HDD

DiskGenius Free Edition is recommended here to migrate Windows OS to new SSD or hard disk. With this free edition, you can simply select the destination disk which will be used as new system disk, and then click Start button to move OS. Once the process is done, the destination will be bootable, and your computer can boot from it directly. Features related system migration:

- Supports to migrate Windows OS to SSD or hard drive which is smaller than original system disk.
- It is able to migrate all system-related partitions and other specified data partitions.
- It allows users to set whether let computer boot from destination disk automatically after system is migrated.
- It allows users to manually set boot entries for UEFI computers.
- Supports BIOS / UEFI boot solutions as well as MBR / GPT disks.
- Provides two ways of transferring OS: migrating system in Windows without affecting any running applications; transfer OS in WinPE environment. You can choose either way based on your preference.

## How to migrate Windows operating system to SSD / HDD using DiskGenius Free Edition?

### Preparations for system migration:

- Uninstall software you won't use and delete unwanted files on original system disk, so that you can free up space and exclude data that you do not want to migrate to new disk.

• Connect the SSD or hard drive which is going to hold the OS and make sure the disk can be detected by Windows properly. If not, please backup important files in advance.

• Install free system migration software – DiskGenius Free Edition. With this system cloning software, you can migrate Windows 10/8/7/Vista and Windows Server 2019/2016/2012/2008 operating system with ease.

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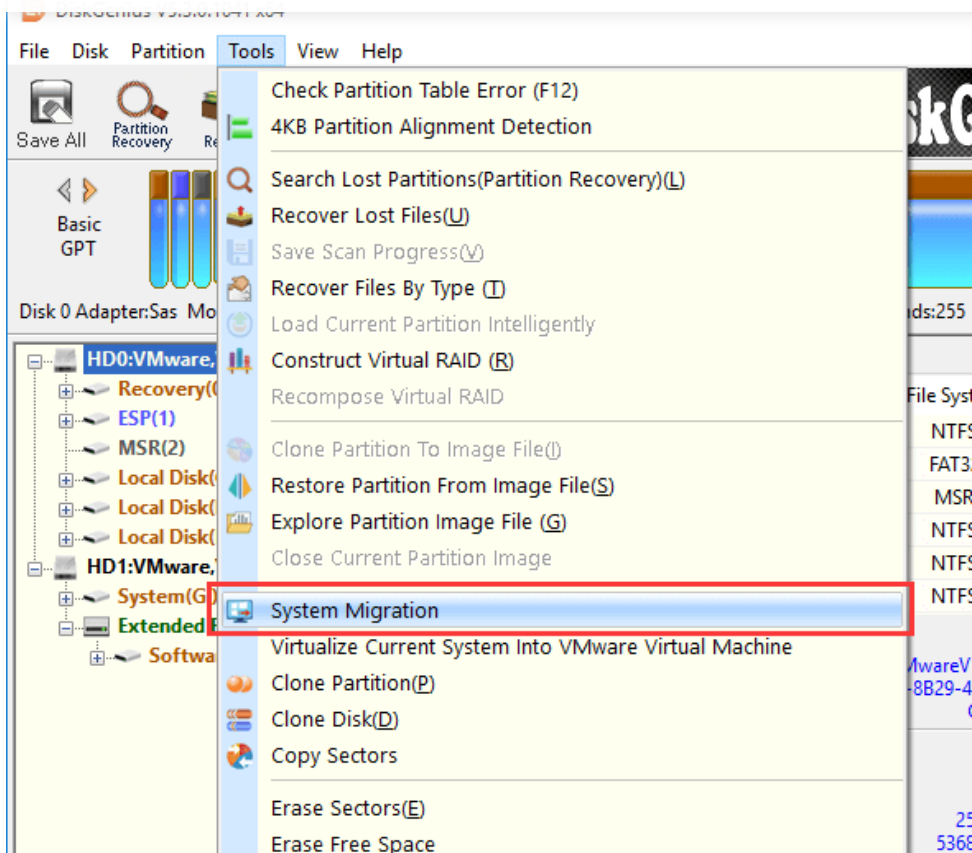
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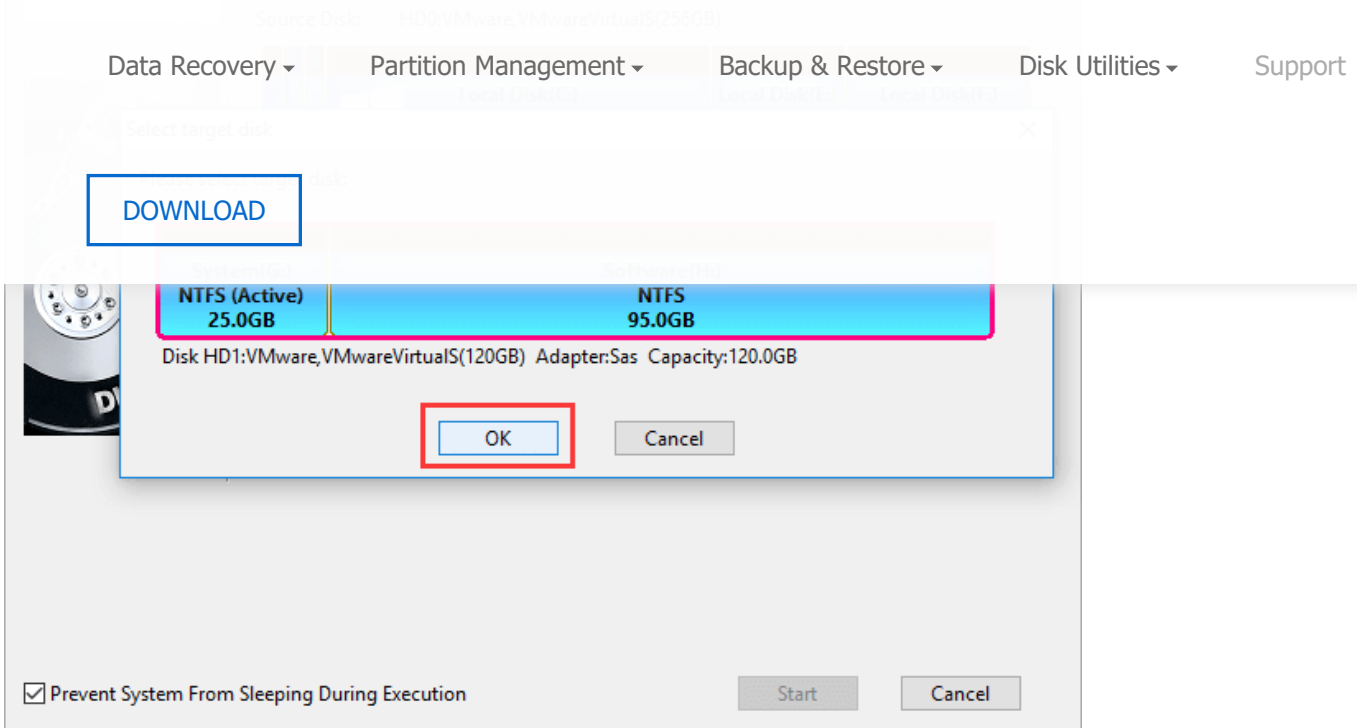
The step-by-step guide to migrate Windows OS to new SSD or HDD:

Step 1: Download DiskGenius Free Edition on your computer, and click **Tools > System Migration**.

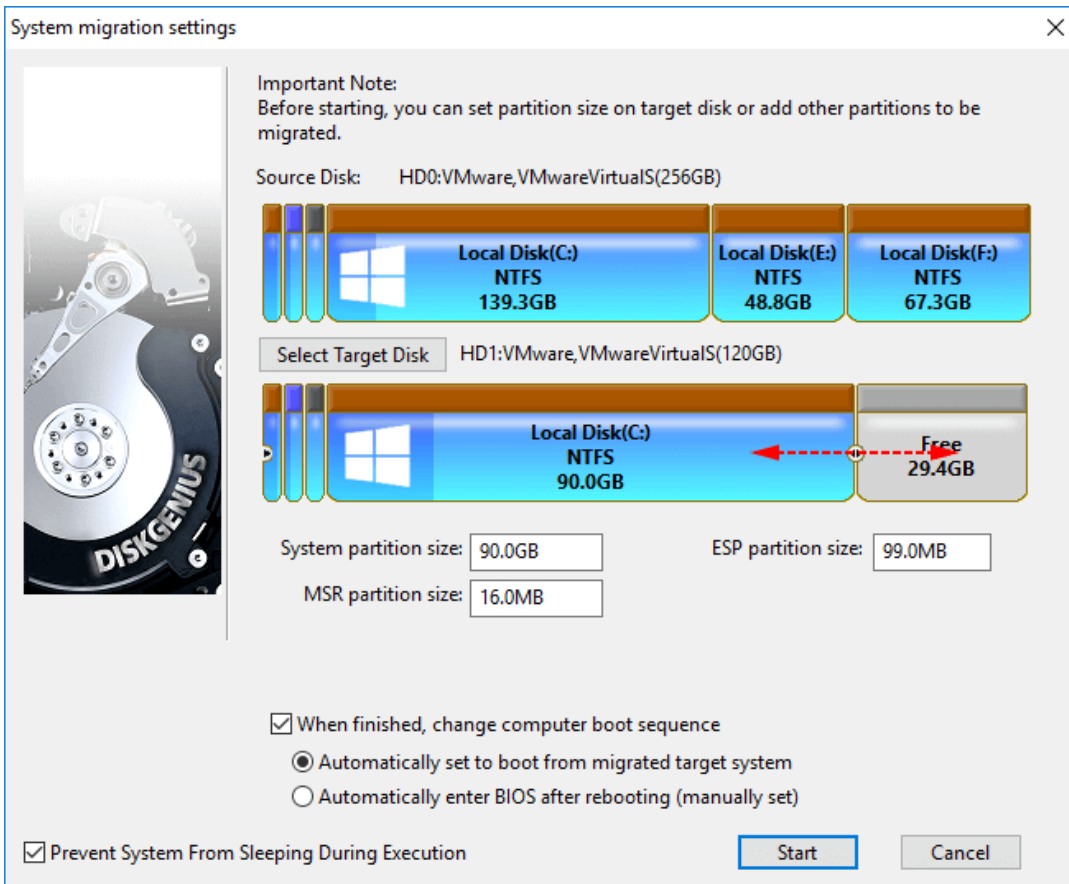
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Step 2: Select a target disk and click **OK**.

From the pop-up window you can choose the destination disk, and you should make sure the correct disk is selected.



You can set partition size on destination disk by dragging arrows between partition edges, as follows:



Besides, you can also set whether to change boot sequence on your computer, for example, if you want your PC to boot from migrated target system, then choose "Automatically set to boot from migrated target system"; if you want to set boot sequence in BIOS on your own, then choose "Automatically enter BIOS after rebooting (manually set)". Of course, you can unselect neither option, and computer will continue booting from original system disk.

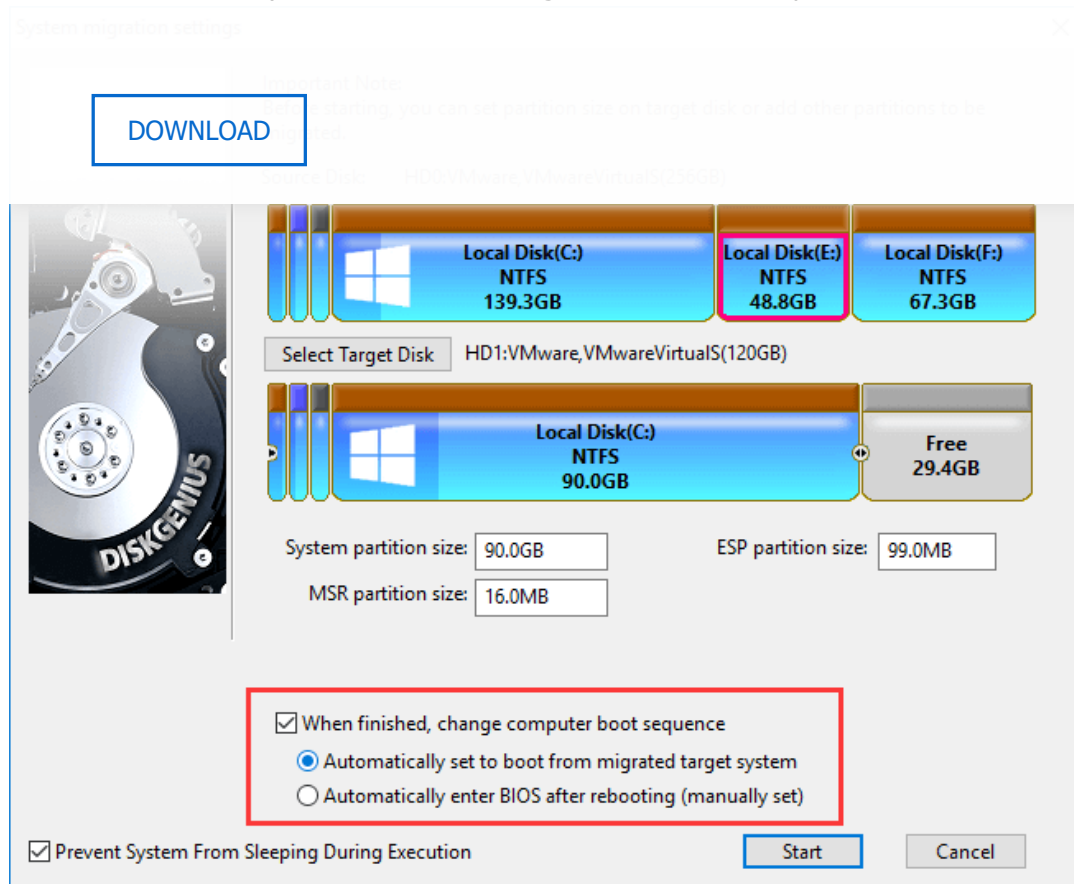
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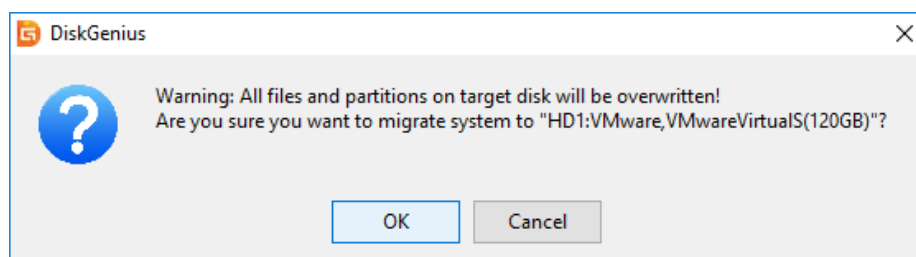
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**Step 3** Click **Start** button and you will receive a warning that prompts all data on destination will be wiped and overwritten. Click **OK** to continue.



**Step 4** Choose the way of migrating OS.

**Hot migration:** DiskGenius will migrate Windows to specified disk without shutting down system and users can perform the migration without being disturbed. Such system migration method is powered by Windows VSS technology, which is reliable and effective, and thus it is the recommended choice.

Reboot to WinPE: computer will automatically reboot to DiskGenius WinPE edition which migrates OS to specified SSD or hard disk. Programs and save unfinished content before clicking this button. In general, this system migration method will be chosen when Hot Migration does not work as expected.

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Operations to be performed involves system partition or the partition where the application is installed, please choose how to complete the task.

When you click the button, please close all other running applications and save unfinished content. Current system will be restarted automatically to continue this operation.

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Please save data for all running applications.

[Hot Migration](#)
[Reboot to WinPE](#)
[Cancel](#)

**Step 5** Wait for the process to complete.

**System migration settings** [X]

**Important Note:**  
Before starting, you can set partition size on target disk or add other partitions to be migrated.

Source Disk: HD0:VMware,VMwareVirtualS(256GB)

|                             |                            |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Local Disk(C:) NTFS 139.3GB | Local Disk(E:) NTFS 48.8GB | Local Disk(F:) NTFS 67.3GB |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|

Select Target Disk: HD1:VMware,VMwareVirtualS(120GB)

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Local Disk(C:) NTFS 90.0GB | Free 29.4GB |
|----------------------------|-------------|

M1033Eva.BR2

Copied: 2800 MB Remaining: 12764 MB 2186 MB/min  
Time Elapsed: 0:01:16 Remaining: 0:05:50

☐ When finished, change computer boot sequence
 

- ☒ Automatically set to boot from migrated target system
- ☐ Automatically enter BIOS after rebooting (manually set)

☒ Prevent System From Sleeping During Execution
 [Stop](#)
[Cancel](#)

Notes:

- The process of **migrating Windows 10 to SSD or HDD** will delete and remove all existing files and partitions on target disk, and you need to backup important files in advance.
- Do not format original system drive or **wipe hard drive** before making sure your computer can boot from target disk successfully.



With DiskGenius, you can easily migrate OS to SSD or HDD on Windows 10/8/7/Vista and Windows Servers, saving time and effort in reinstalling. [Data Recovery](#) ▾ [Partition Management](#) ▾ [Backup & Restore](#) ▾ [Disk Utilities](#) ▾ [Support](#) [The task now.](#)

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DiskGenius - A free tool to migrate Windows 10/8/7 operating system to SSD / HDD easily and safely.

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