

Virtualization Prerequisites

To install a virtual machine on your computer, there are some prerequisites you need to be aware of:

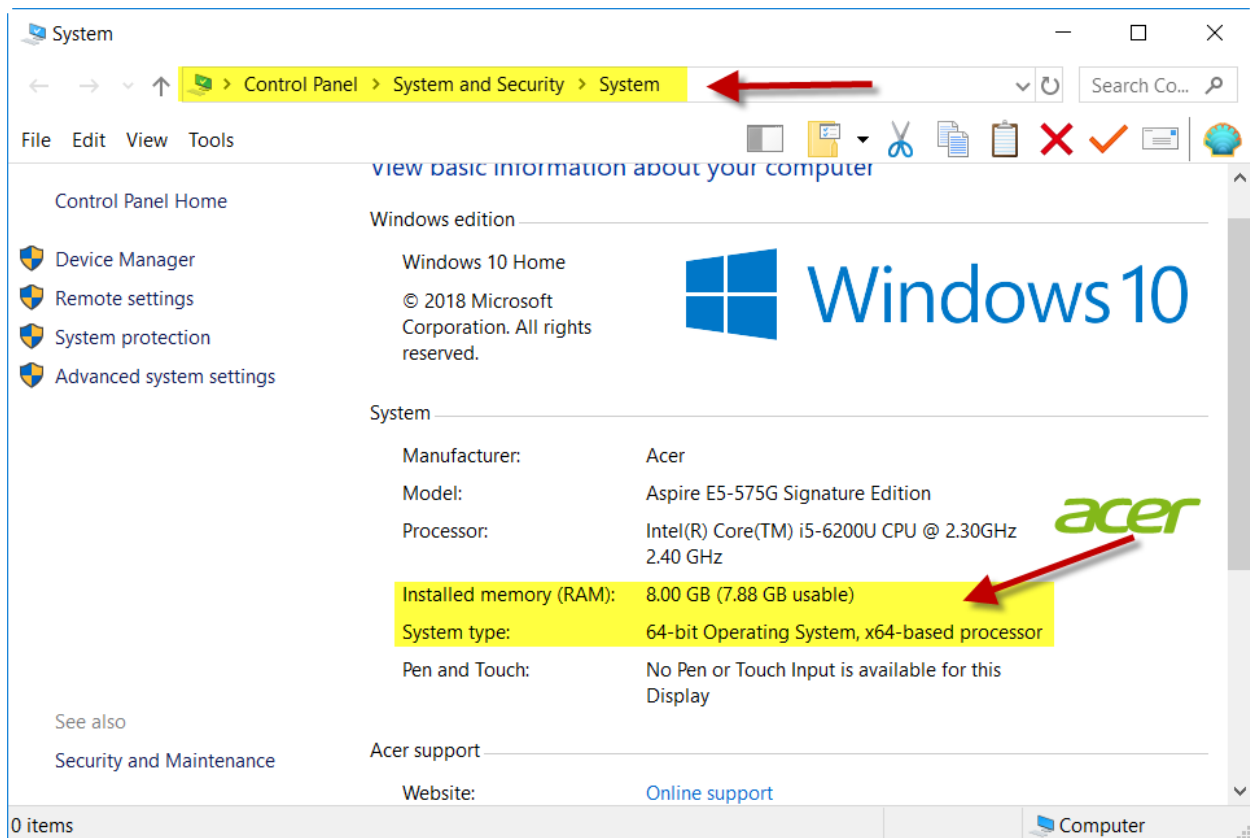
64-bit Processor Requirement

Your processor (CPU) needs to be a 64-bit processor. Older 32-bit processors will not work since Windows Server 2016 is a 64-bit operating system and requires a 64-bit CPU. Most modern processors are, however, 64-bits processors. Additionally, you want a CPU that with adequate processing power, ideally a newer AMD Ryzen or Intel i3/i5/i7 processor because your computer will be running more than one operating system at once.

Memory Requirement

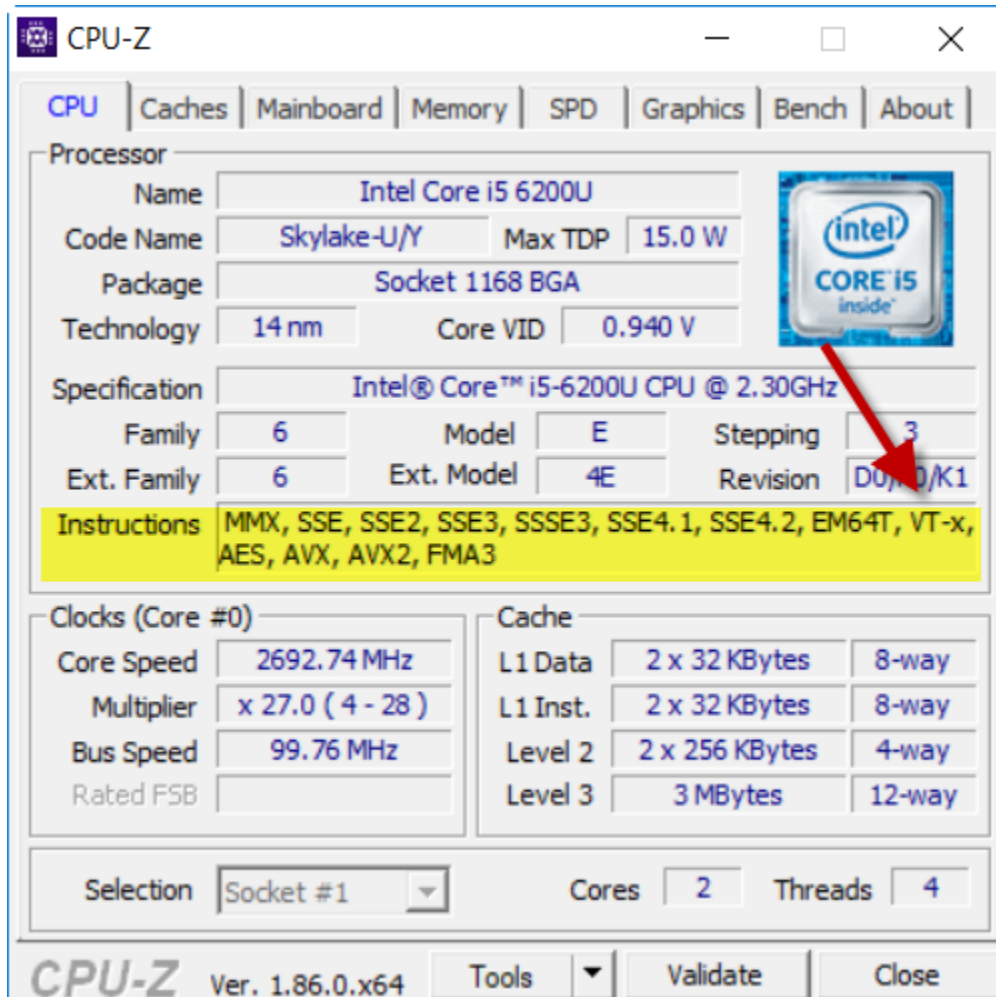
You will also need an adequate amount of RAM. Ideally a minimum of 8GB of RAM with 12GB or more being ideal if you will be installing more than one virtual machine.

An easy way to determine if your CPU is 64-bit, the speed of your CPU and how much RAM your computer has is in control panel. Go to Control Panel > System and Security > System and look at the RAM and system type (highlighted below).



CPU Virtualization Support

Your CPU also needs to support virtualization, which can be enabled in your BIOS. Specifically Intel VT-x or AMD-V. To determine if your CPU supports virtualization, you can download and use the free software tool, CPU-Z. In CPU-Z look for "VT-x" (for Intel processors) or "AMD-V" (for AMD processors) in the instructions field (highlighted in image below). If neither are present, your CPU doesn't support virtualization. If either are listed, check your BIOS to make sure virtualization support is enabled (it's not always enabled by default). You can download CPU-Z here for free: <https://www.cpuid.com/softwares/cpu-z.html>



Hard Drive Space

You want a minimum of 32GB of free hard drive space to install Windows 10 Enterprise or Windows Server 2016. I would recommend more, but 32GB is the minimum installation requirements.