Parallels®

Getting Started With Parallels Desktop®

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Parallels Desktop for Mac lets you seamlessly run Windows and Mac OS X side-by-side, drag-and-drop your files between operating systems, and run Windows software on your Apple computer without rebooting. This chapter provides general information about Parallels Desktop for Mac and this User Guide.

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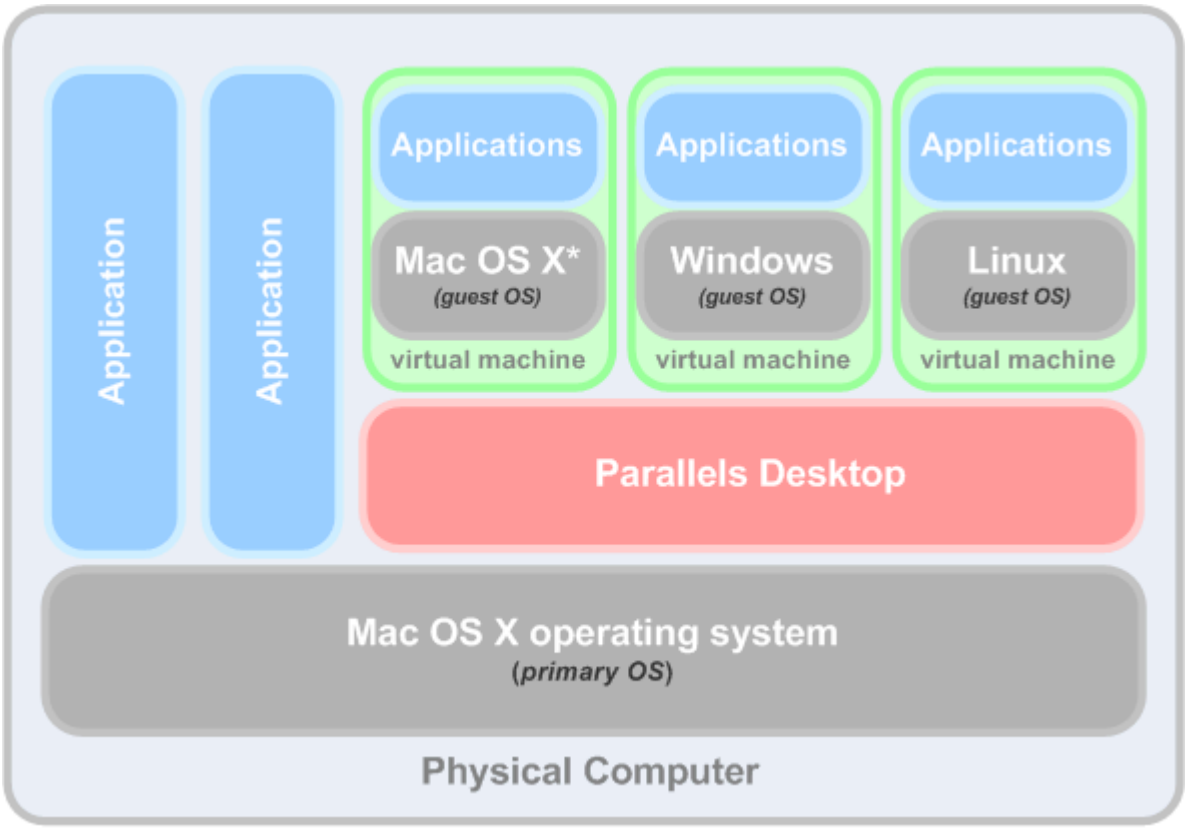
About Parallels Desktop

Parallels Desktop® is a virtualization solution that allows you to create virtual machines on Macintosh computers with Intel® processors (1.66 GHz and faster). You can install a Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, or any other supported guest operating system in each of your virtual machines, and work with them and their applications side by side with your Mac OS X applications.



* You can install only the server versions of Mac OS X in virtual machines.

Built on Parallels' award-winning hypervisor-based virtualization technology, Parallels Desktop allows you to:

- create powerful and easy to use virtual machines
- use 32-bit and 64-bit operating systems inside your virtual machines
- use Windows and Linux applications side by side with your Mac OS X applications, without restarting your Mac
- concurrently work with the files and applications from your Mac and your virtual machine
- create Parallels virtual machines from physical computers and third-party virtual machines

To enhance your experience of running more than one operating system on your Macintosh computer, Parallels Desktop for Mac includes Parallels Transporter® for transferring data from physical computers to Parallels virtual machines and Parallels Mounter for accessing your virtual machine's files and folders even when it is not running.

Getting Help

Parallels Desktop provides several ways to access the necessary information:

- Search Field. You can use this field available from the Parallels Desktop Help menu to perform a keyword search in both Parallels Desktop Help and the Knowledge Base. In this field, type a keyword and click Show All Help Topics - the related topics will be displayed.
- Parallels Desktop Help. Contains extensive information about the product and its uses. To open Parallels Desktop Help, choose Help > Parallels Desktop Help from the menu.
- Help Buttons. In most windows, you will find a help button opening the corresponding help page.
- Online Documentation. PDF documentation for Parallels Desktop and Parallels Transporter. To open the online documentation page, choose Online Documentation from the Help menu.
- Parallels Command Line Reference Guide. This guide contains information on how to use the `prlctl` command line utility designed to manage Parallels Desktop and its virtual machines from Terminal. To access the guide, go to the Online Documentation page on our website.
- Parallels API References and the SDK Programmer's Guide. These guides are written primarily for IT-professionals and can be found on the Online Documentation page on our website.
- Parallels website (http://www.parallels.com/support/). Explore the Support web page that includes product help files and the FAQ section.
- Parallels Knowledge Base (http://kb.parallels.com/). This online resource provides troubleshooting for common problems and includes helpful articles about using Parallels Desktop and other Parallels products.

Feedback

If you spot a typo in this guide, or if you have an opinion about how to make this guide more helpful, you can share your comments and suggestions with us by completing the Documentation Feedback form on our website (http://www.parallels.com/en/support/usersdoc/).

Key Terms

Guest Operating System (Guest OS). An operating system installed inside your virtual machine. It can be Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, or any other supported operating system.

Primary Operating System (Primary OS). The operating system that is loaded when you turn on your Mac – Mac OS X.

Virtual Machine (VM). A computer emulated inside your Mac. A virtual machine has its own virtual hardware and requires an operating system. The installed operating system and its applications are isolated within the virtual machine and share physical hardware resources with your Mac.

CHAPTER 2

Installing and Upgrading Parallels Desktop

The installation and upgrade procedures are almost the same. The only difference is when you upgrade to Parallels Desktop 6, the installer removes the previous version of Parallels Desktop from your Mac.

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System Requirements

Parallels Desktop can be installed on any Intel-based Mac that complies with the requirements listed here.

Hardware Requirements

- Any Macintosh computer with an Intel processor (1.66 GHz or greater). To run 64-bit operating systems in virtual machines an Intel Core 2 or later processor is required.
- Minimum 1 GB of memory. However, 2 GB of memory is recommended.

  Note: Your Mac must have enough memory to run Mac OS X and your Mac applications, plus the memory required for the virtual machine guest operating system and the applications installed in it.
- At least 500 MB of disk space on the boot volume (Macintosh HD) for Parallels Desktop installation.
- 15 GB of disk space for each virtual machine.

Software Requirements

- Mac OS X Snow Leopard 10.6.3 or later
- Mac OS X Leopard 10.5.8 Leopard or later

To get information about your Mac OS X version, type of processor and amount of memory, choose About This Mac from the Apple menu.

Additional Requirements

You will need the installation media for the operating systems you wish to install in your virtual machines.

Installing Parallels Desktop

Before installing Parallels Desktop make sure that your computer meets the hardware and software requirements.

If you purchased Parallels Desktop from the Parallels online store, download the latest build from Parallels Download Center (http://www.parallels.com/download/). When the download is complete, open the Parallels Desktop DMG package file. To start the installation, double-click Install.

If you purchased a boxed copy of Parallels Desktop, insert the Parallels Desktop installation disk into the optical drive of your Mac. Open the Parallels Desktop DMG package and double-click Install.

1 Parallels Desktop will connect to the Parallels update server and check for available updates. If there is a newer version of Parallels Desktop available, you will be given the option to install the most recent version of Parallels Desktop. If you do not want to install the most recent version, you can choose to install the version from the installation media.

- If you click Install current, Parallels Desktop will be installed from the installation media.
- If you click Download and install new version, the latest version of Parallels Desktop will be downloaded and installed on your Mac.

If there is no update available or your Mac is not connected to the internet, Parallels Desktop will be installed from the current installation source.

2 In the Welcome window, click Continue.

3 In the Important Information window, read the product Read Me file. Click Print to print the document or Save to save it for future reading. When finished, click Continue.

Note: You can return to the previous steps by clicking the Go Back button.

4 In the Software License Agreement window, carefully read the license agreement. We recommend to print the license agreement for your records using the Print button or to save it for future reading using the Save button. When you are ready, click Continue.

In the pop-up dialog, click Agree if you agree with the terms and conditions of the license agreement.

5 In the Customer Experience Program window, read about the Parallels Customer Experience Program and click Continue.

In the pop-up dialog, click Yes if you want to participate in the program. If you don't want to participate, click No.

Note: If you choose not to participate, you may join the program later using the Advanced pane of Parallels Desktop Preferences.

6 In the Select a Destination window, select the hard disk you would like to install Parallels Desktop. You can install Parallels Desktop only on the boot volume, that is the hard disk where Mac OS X is installed. Other disks, if any, will be unavailable for selection. Click Continue.

Note: If you have only one volume on your Mac, this step is omitted.

7 Click Install to start the Parallels Desktop installation.

8 Enter your password when prompted and click OK.

9 The installation progress is shown in the Installing Parallels Desktop window.

10 The Installer informs you that the installation was successful. To complete the installation, click Close.

After the installation, you can launch Parallels Desktop from the Applications folder on your Mac.

Upgrading to Parallels Desktop 6

To upgrade Parallels Desktop 3, 4 or 5 to version 6, you will need to purchase an upgrade from the Parallels Online Store (http://www.parallels.com/buyonline). The upgrade activation key will be sent immediately to the e-mail address you provided.

Note: Parallels Desktop 2 cannot be upgraded to Parallels Desktop 6.

You can upgrade Parallels Desktop 3, 4 or 5 to any language version of Parallels Desktop 6. This means, if you have an English version of Parallels Desktop 4 and want to upgrade it to a German version of Parallels Desktop 6, you can simply purchase the German upgrade, install it on your Mac, and activate it with the upgrade activation key.

Before the upgrade, you must shut down any virtual machines running on your Mac and quit Parallels Desktop.

The upgrade takes three steps: 1) installing Parallels Desktop 6, 2) activating it using the upgrade key, 3) and upgrading your virtual machines.

Installing Parallels Desktop 6

Generally, the upgrading procedure for Parallels Desktop is the same as for its installation. See Installing Parallels Desktop (p. 9).

You don't have to remove the previous version of Parallels Desktop before installing the upgrade: it will be removed automatically during the installation.

Using an Upgrade Activation Key

When you open Parallels Desktop 6 for the first time, you will be prompted to activate your copy.

If your previous version was activated using a full key, not a trial one, you will need to provide the upgrade key only. Otherwise you may be prompted to confirm that you have a valid full key for the previous version:

- If you activated Parallels Desktop with a trial activation key, you will be prompted to enter two keys: the upgrade activation key for Parallels Desktop 6 and a full or upgrade key for the previous version.
- If you purchased the previous version of Parallels Desktop but haven't installed it on your Mac, you will need two keys to activate Parallels Desktop 6: the upgrade activation key for Parallels Desktop 6 and a full or upgrade key for the previous version.

Upgrading the Virtual Machine Configuration and Updating Parallels Tools

When you start a virtual machine created in the previous version, the upgrading procedure starts and runs automatically. During the upgrade, the virtual machine configuration and Parallels Tools are processed. The virtual machine can be used in Parallels Desktop 6 only after it is upgraded.

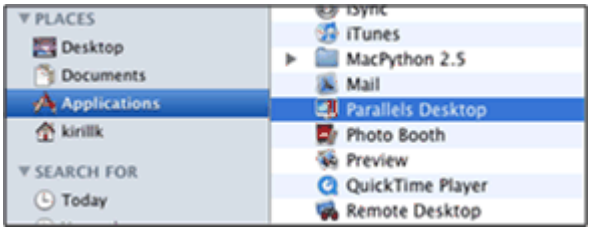
Note: In Linux virtual machines, X Server may fail to start after the upgrade, which means that you may need to upgrade Parallels Tools manually in text mode.

If you encounter any problems during the upgrade, visit the upgrade troubleshooting page or use the online Troubleshooting guide available through Help > Troubleshooting Guide.

CHAPTER 3

Starting Parallels Desktop

To start Parallels Desktop, open the Applications folder in Finder and double-click Parallels Desktop.



When you start Parallels Desktop, its icon will appear in the Dock.

To add the Parallels Desktop icon to the Dock, do one of the following:

- If Parallels Desktop is currently open, right-click its icon in the Dock and choose Keep in Dock from the shortcut menu.
- Open the Applications folder in Finder and drag the Parallels Desktop icon to the Dock.

When you open the program for the first time, you will see the Welcome window (p. 15) that will help you start working in Parallels Desktop.

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The Welcome Window

The Welcome window provides you with a fast access to the most common Parallels Desktop dialogs and assistants.

If you want to start working with the virtual machines already registered in Parallels Desktop, click Use your Virtual Machines.

Note: Later on, if you do not want to see the Welcome window again, just clear the Show at startup check-box at the left bottom corner of the window.

From the Welcome window, you can navigate between the following options:

- New Windows Installation. This option allows you to launch New Virtual Machine Assistant to create a virtual machine with a Windows, Linux, or Mac OS X operating system.
- Migrate Windows from PC. This option allows you to transfer the whole of a physical Windows or Linux computer to a Parallels virtual machine running on your Mac. The source computer data will be transferred using Parallels Transporter. To learn more about this utility, refer to *Parallels Transporter User's Guide*.
- Use your Virtual Machines. If you have any virtual machines registered in Parallels Desktop, this option opens the Parallels Virtual Machines list (p. 26) with these virtual machines. If you have no virtual machines registered in Parallels Desktop, this option launches New Virtual Machine Assistant.

You can open and view the Parallels Desktop brief tutorials on the Parallels website by clicking the Watch Video Tutorials button.

Activating Parallels Desktop

To fully run Parallels Desktop, you should activate it with an activation key. If you purchased a boxed version of the program, you can find the activation key printed on the installation CD sleeve. If you purchased the program online, the activation key was sent to you by email. If you downloaded a copy of Parallels Desktop to evaluate it before buying, you can get a trial activation key valid for a certain period of time.

After you activate your copy of Parallels Desktop, you can run virtual machines, install operating systems and various applications in them.

If you upgraded Parallels Desktop to version 6 from the previous version, you need an upgrade activation key to activate Parallels Desktop 6. For detailed information, see the Upgrading to Parallels Desktop 6 (p. 12) section of Parallels Desktop User's Guide.

Activating Your Copy of Parallels Desktop

To activate Parallels Desktop:

1. Choose Activate Product from the Parallels Desktop menu.
2. In the activation dialog, type your product activation key into the Activation Key field and click Activate to activate your copy.

Now that your copy of Parallels Desktop is active, you need to register it.

Trial Activation

To get a trial activation key for Parallels Desktop:

1. Choose Activate Product from the Parallels Desktop menu.
2. In the activation dialog (p. 16), click Get Trial.
3. Specify your name and e-mail address.
4. Click the Get Trial button to send this information to Parallels.

A free trial activation key will be sent to the e-mail address you provided.

When your free trial activation key expires, you will need to get a permanent activation key.

Getting a Permanent Activation Key

To purchase an activation key:

1. Choose Activate Product from the Parallels Desktop menu.
2. In the activation dialog (p. 16), click Buy Now to open Parallels Online Store (http://www.parallels.com/buyonline) where you can purchase an activation key.

CHAPTER 4

Adding Virtual Machines

Parallels Desktop provides several ways of adding virtual machines: you can create a new virtual machine, register the virtual machine you used in the previous version of Parallels Desktop or import a VMware, Microsoft Virtual PC, or VirtualBox virtual machine.

Before you can run an added virtual machine you should activate Parallels Desktop.

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Creating a New Virtual Machine

If you have no virtual machines, you can start your work in Parallels Desktop by creating a new virtual machine using New Virtual Machine Assistant.

To create a new virtual machine:

1 Open Parallels Desktop and click New Windows Installation in the Welcome window (p. 15) or the Add button in the Parallels Virtual Machines list (p. 26), or choose New from the File menu.

2 Insert the operating system installation disc or connect the installation source to your Mac.In the Create New Virtual Machine window specify the source of the installation files and click Continue.

You can create a virtual machine using

- an operating system installation CD or DVD disc
- an image of such an installation disc
- or a Boot Camp partition

If you want to specify the installation source later choose Continue without disc.

3. Your operating system will either be detected automatically, or you will be asked to select it manually from the list.

4. If you are going to create a Windows or Linux virtual machine, you may be offered to use Express Installation, which is available for most of the popular Windows and Linux operating systems.

   In the Express Mode, the operating system and Parallels Tools are installed automatically, with no interaction needed.

   To use Express Installation, you will need to provide:

   - for Windows: the Windows product key.
   - for Linux: a user name and password.

5. If you are installing one of the recent Windows systems (starting from Windows 2000), you will need to choose the level of integration between your Windows and Mac OS applications and files. You can choose one of the following ways of working with your Windows applications:

   - Like a Mac: You will be able to work in both Windows and Mac applications on the single Mac OS Desktop, and your Mac desktop, as well as the documents, pictures, music, videos and downloads folders will be shared with Windows.
   - Like a PC: your Windows will run in a separate window and your Mac files will not be shared with Windows, but you will be able to drag and drop files between the systems, as well as copy text.

6 Before your start, review your virtual machine name and location.

If you want other users of your Mac to access your virtual machine, choose Share with other users of this Mac - and your virtual machine will be saved in the /Users/Shared folder that is accessible to all users.

If you want to edit your virtual machine hardware configuration before proceeding to operating system installation, select Customize settings before installation.

You can also post to Twitter or Facebook about your exploring Windows on the Mac or about anything else you want. Click the corresponding button, provide your credentials if needed, and either send the predefined message or write whatever you want.

When finished, click Create.

7 The assistant will create a virtual machine based on your settings and install the operating system and Parallels Tools in it or if you chose to customize the settings before installation, the assistant will open the virtual machine configuration dialog.

Note: Parallels Tools are installed automatically in most of the popular Windows and Linux operating systems. In other operating systems they should be installed manually (p. 24).

The newly created virtual machine will be accessible through the Parallels Virtual Machines list (p. 26) that allows you to easily manage your virtual machines.

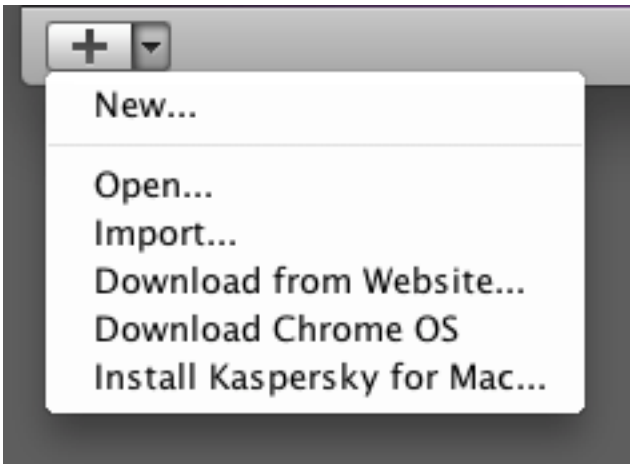
When creating a Windows virtual machine, Parallels Desktop creates an administrator account with a blank password. When the guest OS installation is complete, it is recommended that you change this password.

Opening and Importing Virtual Machines

Parallels Desktop enables you to work with your virtual machines created in Parallels Desktop and other virtualization products, including VMware Fusion, Microsoft Virtual PC, and VirtualBox. All you need is to convert them to Parallels Desktop 6 format. The conversion is performed when you add these virtual machines to Parallels Desktop.

To add a virtual machine that already exists on your Mac:

1 Click Open in the File menu, or click the down arrow button at the lower left corner of the Parallels Virtual Machines list (p. 26) and choose Open from the menu.



2 In the Finder window locate the virtual machine bundle or configuration file, select it, and then click Open.

- Parallels Desktop virtual machine bundle has the `.pvm` extension.
- Parallels Desktop 3 and earlier configuration file has the `.pvs` extension.
- VMware configuration file has the `.vmx` extension.
- Virtual PC configuration file has the `.vmc` extension.
- VirtualBox configuration file has the `.xml` extension.

Note: Parallels Desktop and VMware Fusion virtual machines may be stored in Mac OS X as bundles of files. The configuration file is stored inside the virtual machine bundle.

3 The next step depends on the virtual machine you selected:

- If you selected a virtual machine created in Parallels Desktop 4, 5 or 6, its window will open. When you start this virtual machine, Parallels Desktop will ask you to update Parallels Tools.
- If you selected a virtual machine created in Parallels Desktop 3 or earlier, its window will open, and Parallels Desktop will offer you to convert it to the new format. This process may require significant time.
- If you selected a third-party virtual machine, Parallels Transporter will launch to guide you through the steps of converting this virtual machine to the Parallels Desktop 6 format. For detailed information, see *Parallels Transporter User's Guide*.

4 If you added a virtual machine created in the previous version of Parallels Desktop or a third-party application (VMware Fusion, Microsoft Virtual PC, or VirtualBox) you will need to install Parallels Tools in that previous version (p. 24).

Additionally, to add a Parallels virtual machine to Parallels Desktop 6, you can simply locate its `.pvm` bundle or `.pvs` configuration file and drag it to the Parallels Virtual Machines list (p. 26).

If your copy of Parallels Desktop is not activated, you will be prompted to activate it when the virtual machine is added to Parallels Desktop 6. For more information about the activation see Activating Parallels Desktop.

Installing and Updating Parallels Tools

To install or update Parallels Tools:

1. Start the virtual machine and log in to the guest operating system.
2. Choose Install Parallels Tools (or Update Parallels Tools) from the Virtual Machine menu.

   Note: If the Install Parallels Tools option is grayed out, make sure that Parallels Tools can be installed in your guest operating system. To see the list of guest OSs supported by Parallels Tools refer to the Parallels Tools Overview section in Parallels Desktop Help available through the Help menu.

3. The Parallels Tools installation wizard will open.
4. In the Welcome window click Install. The wizard will start the automatic installation.
5. When the installation is complete click Reboot to exit the wizard and restart the virtual machine.

For more detailed procedures on installing Parallels Tools refer to the Parallels Desktop Help available from the Help menu.

CHAPTER 5

Managing Virtual Machines

This chapter outlines the major day-to-day operations that you are likely to perform on your Parallels virtual machines.

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Parallels Virtual Machines List

The Parallels Virtual Machines list shows the virtual machines and virtual machines templates currently registered in Parallels Desktop.

Note: If you have no virtual machines and no virtual machines templates registered in Parallels Desktop, the Parallels Virtual Machines list will not open.

To open the Parallels Virtual Machines list do one of the following:

- Choose Virtual Machines List from the Window menu.
- Right-click the Parallels Desktop icon in the Dock and choose Virtual Machines List from the shortcut menu.
- Start Parallels Desktop and close the Welcome window (p. 15). If you have at least one registered virtual machine or virtual machine template, the Parallels Virtual Machines list will appear.
- Start Parallels Desktop with the Welcome window disabled. Provided that you have at least one registered virtual machine or virtual machine template the Parallels Virtual Machines list will appear.

Note: To disable the Welcome window (p. 15), deselect the Show at startup option in this window.

The Parallels Virtual Machines list allows you to manage the registered Parallels virtual machines as follows:

- Open virtual machines: Click the virtual machine name in the list to open the virtual machine window.
- Start virtual machines: Click the Start button or right-click a virtual machine and choose Start from the shortcut menu.
- Edit the virtual machine configuration: Right-click a virtual machine and select Configure from the shortcut menu.
- Locate the virtual machine files on your Mac: Right-click a virtual machine and choose Show in Finder from the shortcut menu.
- Rearrange the virtual machines: Drag a virtual machine to the desired position.
- Remove any virtual machine: Drag a virtual machine from the list or right-click it and select Remove from the context menu. You can add it back to the list later.
- Assign colors to your virtual machines: Right-click a virtual machine and select the desired color from the shortcut menu. In Finder, the virtual machine `.pvm` bundle will be marked with the same color.

If the virtual machine files are stored on a remote USB device or network server, you will see the corresponding icon to the right of the virtual machine name.

If you right-click a virtual machine template, the set of commands will differ slightly. The Start button is not available because you cannot start a template, but you can choose the Convert to Virtual Machine or Deploy to Virtual Machine options.

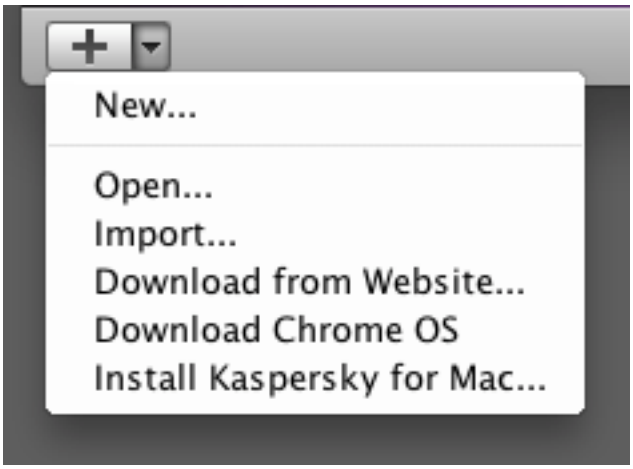
Third-party Virtual Machines

When you start Parallels Desktop, it finds all third-party virtual machines (VMware, Microsoft Virtual PC, Virtual Box) stored on your Mac using the Spotlight search and adds them to the Parallels Virtual Machine list. Before using these machines, you need to covert them into the Parallels Desktop format. Open a third-party virtual machine and conversion will begin.

If you do not want to convert a third-party virtual machine into the Parallels Desktop format, simply remove it from the Parallels Virtual Machines list. Parallels Desktop will not add it to the list any more.

The Menu

This menu is situated in the lower left corner of the Parallels Virtual Machines list:



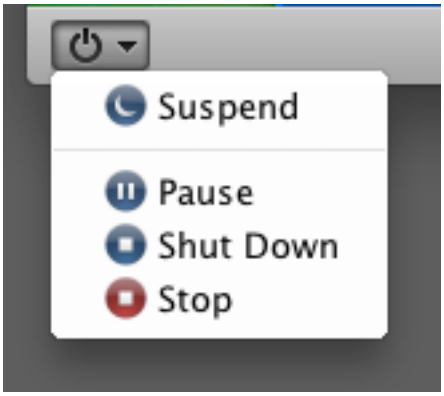
With the help of this menu, you can:

- Create a new virtual machine: Click the button to start New Virtual Machine Assistant. You can also click the button and select New from the menu.
- Add an existing virtual machine to the list: Click the button and select Open from the menu to add an existing virtual machine stored on your Mac, on an external USB storage, or on the network.
- Import a physical computer or virtual machine: Click the button and select Import from the menu to migrate a physical or virtual computer (VMware, Microsoft Virtual PC, or VirtualBox) to a Parallels virtual machine on your Mac with the help of Parallels Transporter.
- Download a virtual appliance: Click the button and select Download from website from the menu. The Parallels Virtual Appliances Directory (http://ptn.parallels.com/en/ptn/dir) page will open. Choose a virtual appliance and download it.
- Download the Google Chrome virtual appliance: Click the button and select Download Chrome OS from the menu. Parallels Desktop will download the Google Chrome operating system from the Internet and add a virtual machine with installed Chrome OS to the Parallels Virtual Machines list. To log in to Chrome OS your computer should be connected to the Internet and you should provide your Google account name and password.

Performing Main Operations on the Virtual Machine

Changing the Virtual Machine State

You can start, shut down, suspend, or otherwise manage the virtual machine state using the Virtual Machine State menu in the status bar. Click the Virtual Machine State button and select the desired command from the menu:



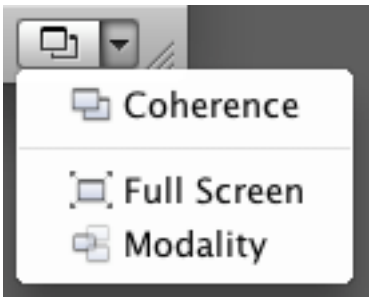
You can also use the Parallels Virtual Machines list (p. 26) and the Virtual Machine menu controls to start, stop, pause, suspend, resume, reset, or shut down the virtual machine.

Switching the Virtual Machine View Modes

While running a virtual machine you can switch between the following view modes:

- Window mode. In this mode the virtual machine screen is displayed as a separate window. This is the default view mode.
- Full Screen mode. In this mode the virtual machine screen is expanded to occupy the whole of your physical computer's screen.
- Coherence mode. In this mode the virtual machine desktop is invisible so that you can see the virtual machine applications windows in Mac OS X and work with them side by side with your Mac OS X applications.
- Modality mode. In this mode you can view the virtual machine and the programs running inside it in a transparent scaled window while working in Mac OS X. By default this window appears on top of all opened windows, so you can supervise your virtual machine during your work in Mac OS X.

To change view modes use the View Mode menu in the lower right corner of the virtual machine window.



Note: You can change the virtual machine view mode only when the virtual machine is running.

Installing Windows Applications

You can install your favorite Windows applications inside a running virtual machine using the following media:

- CD and DVD discs
- Images of CD or DVD discs made with the help of third-party imaging products

Note: Parallels Desktop supports the ISO and DMG image files and may support the CUE and CCD image files.

To use a real CD/DVD disc:

1. Insert the disc into your Mac's CD/DVD drive.
2. Do one of the following:
   - Click the CD/DVD icon in the virtual machine status bar and choose Real CD/DVD from the shortcut menu.
   - Choose CD/DVD 1 > Real CD/DVD from the Devices menu.

To use an image of a disc:

1. Do one of the following:
   - Click the CD/DVD icon in the virtual machine status bar and choose Connect Image from the shortcut menu.
   - Choose CD/DVD 1 > Connect Image from the Devices menu.
2. Specify the image file.

For further installation steps you should refer to the documentation of the application you are installing.

Making virtual machine snapshots

You can create a snapshot when the virtual machine is running, paused, or stopped. To make a snapshot:

1. Choose Take Snapshot from the Virtual Machine menu.
2. In the Snapshot Parameters window type a name for the snapshot in the Snapshot Name field and provide a short description, if necessary.

3 Click OK.

To access the created snapshot open Virtual Machine Snapshots by choosing Manage Snapshots from the Virtual Machine menu or clicking the Manage Snapshots icon in the toolbar of the virtual machine main window.

Configuring the Virtual Machine

The configuration of an existing virtual machine can be changed in the Virtual Machine Configuration dialog. You can open this dialog by doing one of the following:

- Choose Configure from the Virtual Machine menu.
- In the Parallels Virtual Machines list (p. 26), right-click the virtual machine and choose Configure.

Virtual Machine Configuration allows you to configure your virtual machine in a variety of ways. For example, you can

- Configure the virtual machine general options in the General window.
- Define the virtual machine boot options in the Boot Order pane of the Hardware window.
- Configure different parameters of the devices currently available inside the virtual machine: hard disk drives, CD/DVD-ROM drives, floppy disk drives, etc.
- Configure the resource values currently set for the virtual machine: main memory, video memory, CPU, etc.
- Add a new device to the virtual machine or remove an existing one.

Detailed information on all of the settings you can configure in the Virtual Machine Configuration dialog can be found in the *Parallels Desktop User's Guide*.