USING A .VMDK FILE TO CREATE A NEW VIRTUAL MACHINE IN "VMWARE PLAYER"

HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In "VMware Player", you can use an existing .VMDK virtual hard drive file to create a new virtual machine.

TECHNICAL DETAILS:

Sometimes, when you run the "VMware vCenter Converter Standalone" program to do a "Physical to Virtual" ("p2v"), you end up without a working virtual machine but it still generates a usable .VMDK virtual hard disk file.

Sometimes, a virtual machine in "VMware Player" becomes corrupted but the .VMDK virtual hard drive file is still usable and can be used to create a new virtual machine.

This step-by-step procedure consists of using an existing .VMDK virtual hard drive file (or a copy of an existing .VMDK virtual hard drive file) to create a new virtual machine in "VMware Player 4".

When you follow this procedure to clone a virtual machine, the new virtual machine that you create will have a new, unique "UUID.BIOS" (="computer UUID"). However, the virtual hard drive of the new virtual machine will have the same "hard disk UUID" as the virtual hard drive of the original virtual machine that you used to copy the .VMDK file from.
In a "VMware Player", the *.vmx file of a virtual machine stores the following:
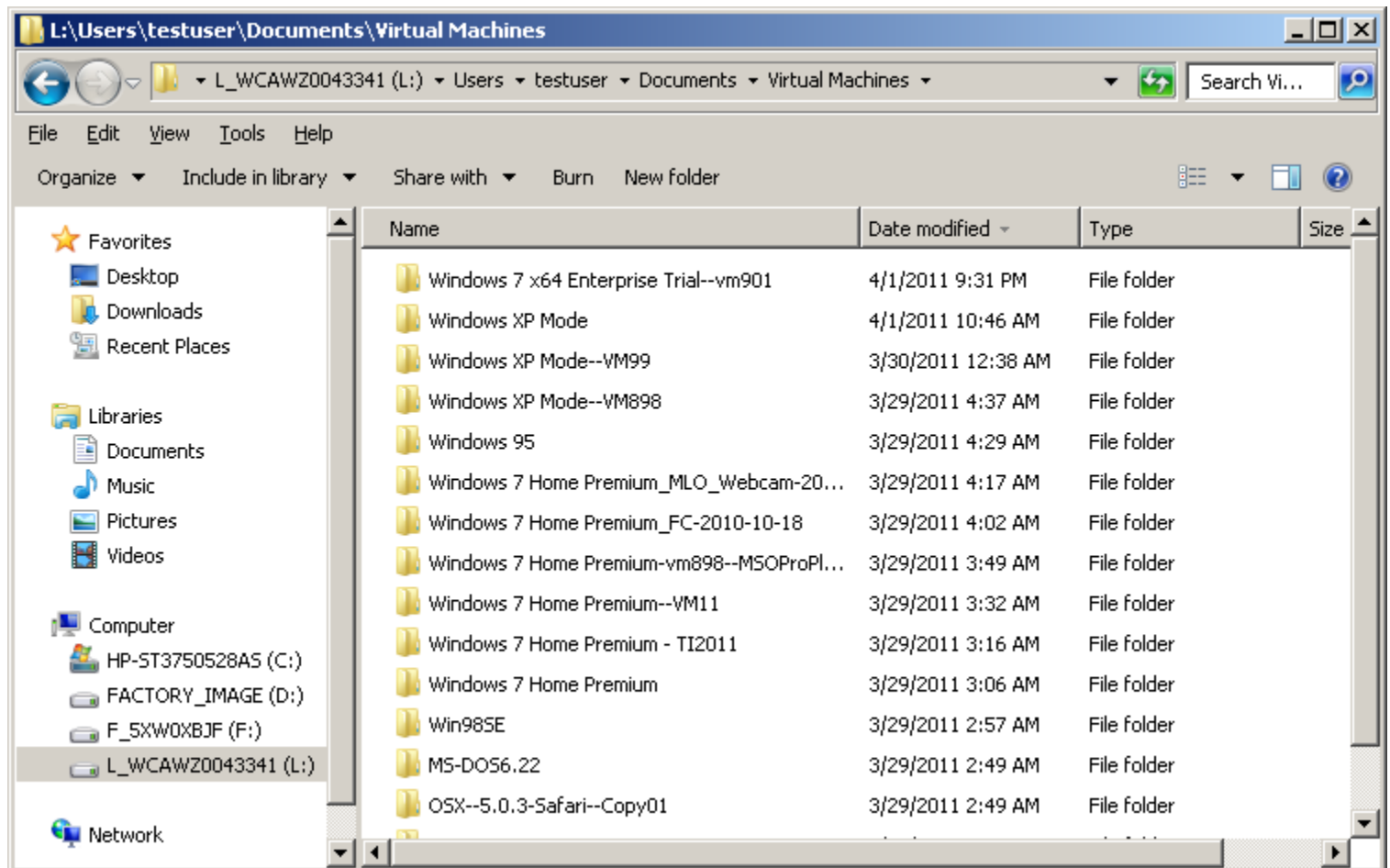the "UUID.BIOS",
the "UUID.Location",
and
the unique MAC addresses of each virtual network adapter.

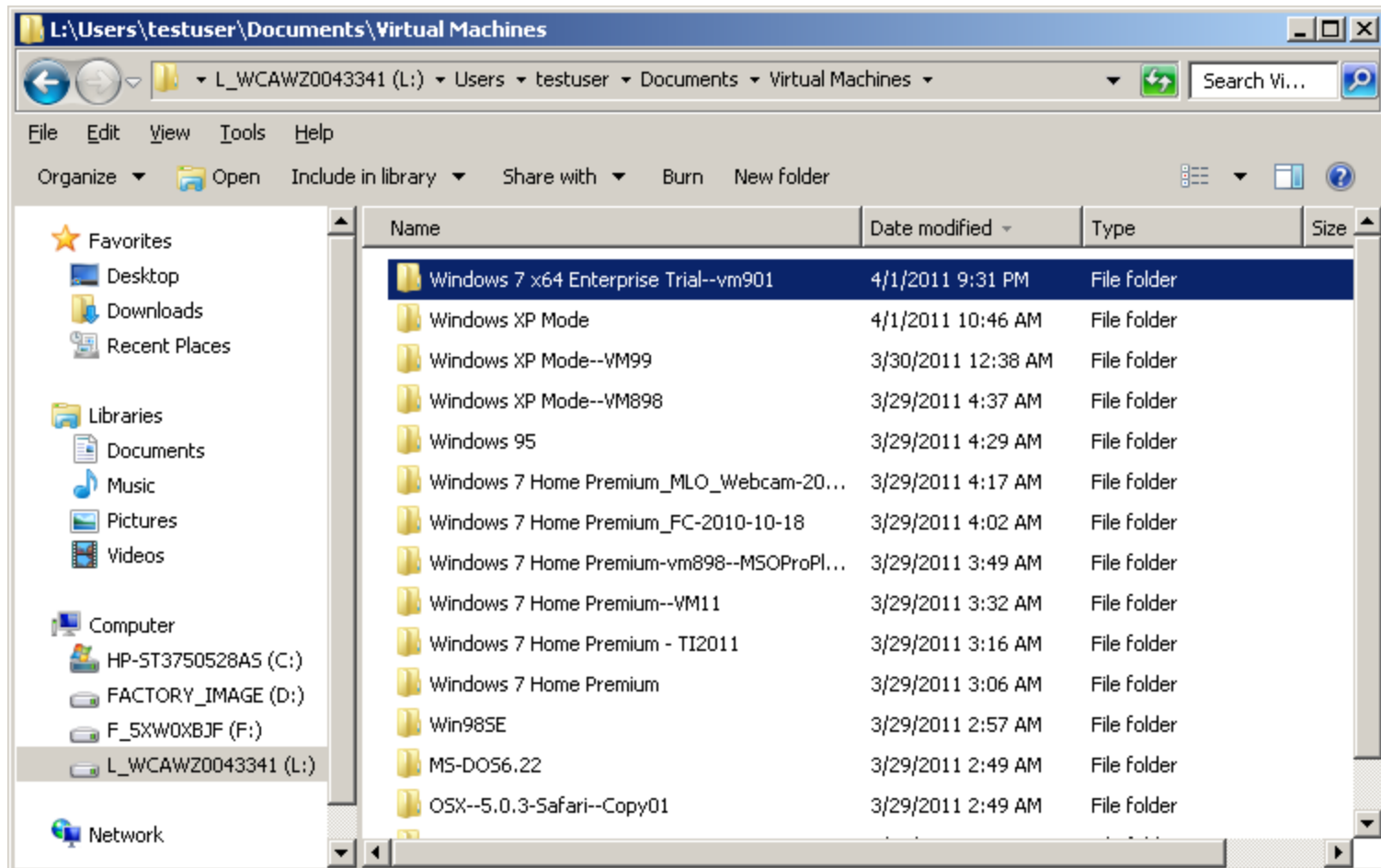# DEFAULT LOCATION OF "VIRTUAL MACHINES" IN "VMWARE PLAYER":

In "VMware Player", when the host is "Windows 7" or "Windows Vista, the default location for a virtual machine and its virtual hard drive file is located at C:\Users\<your profile name>\My Documents\Virtual Machines\

In "VMware Player", when the host is "Windows XP", the default location for a virtual machine and its virtual hard drive file is located at C:\Documents and Settings\<your profile name>\My Documents\Virtual Machines\

In "VMware Player", a folder that by default has the same name as the name of the virtual machine is created, when you create a virtual machine:
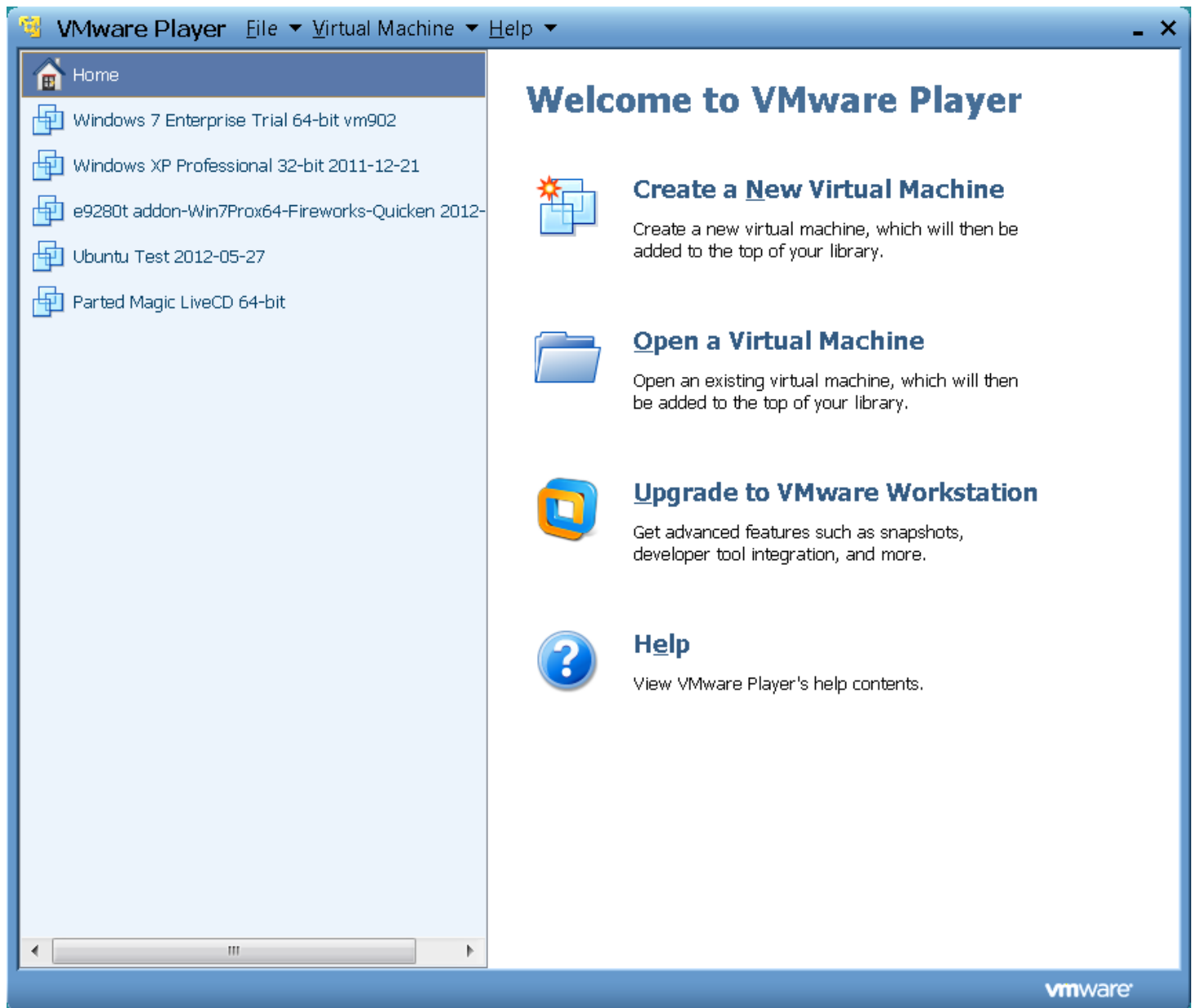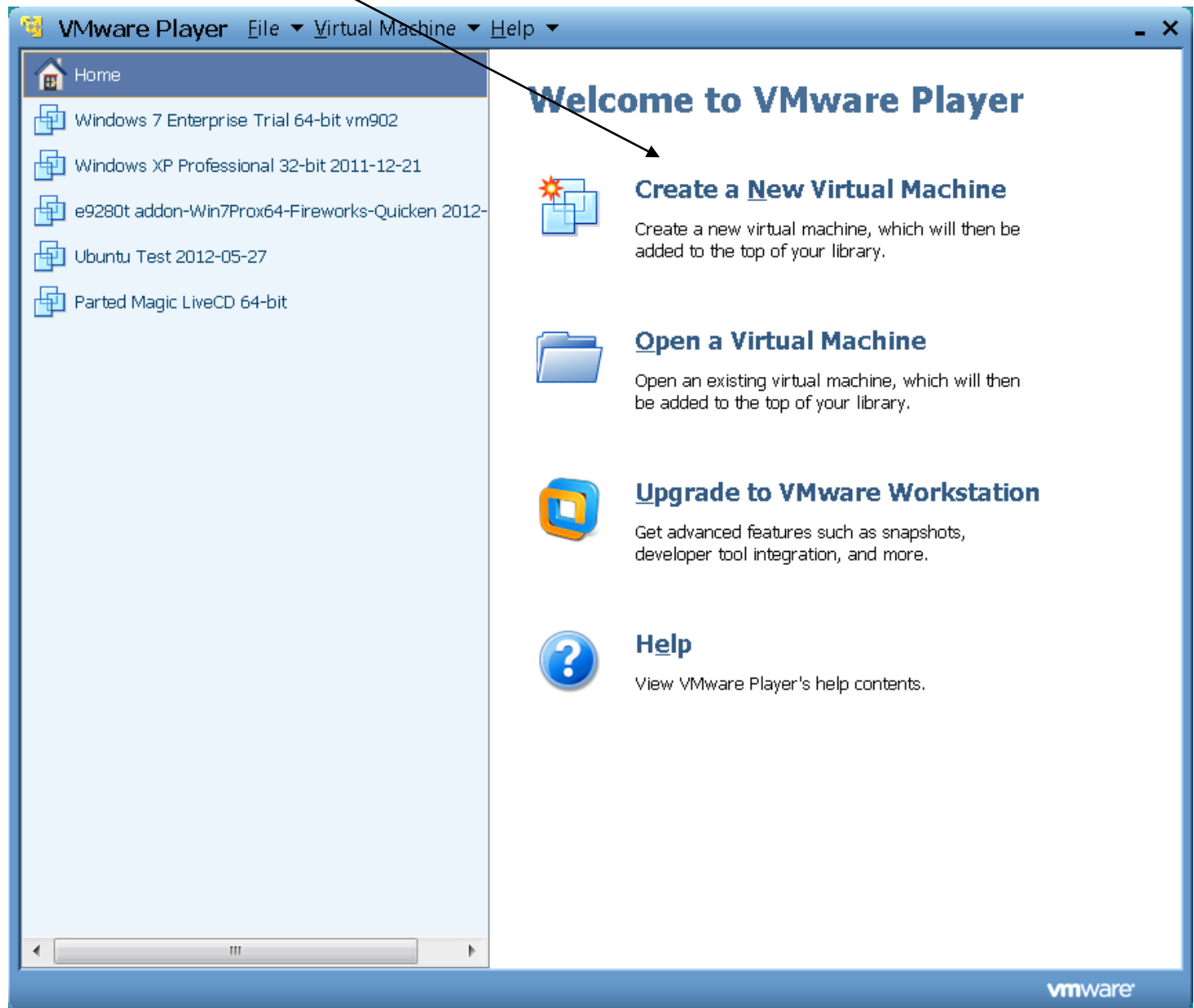
Name	Date modified ▾	Type	Size
L:\Users\testuser\Documents\Virtual Machines			
Windows 7 x64 Enterprise Trial--vm901	4/1/2011 9:31 PM	File folder	
Windows XP Mode	4/1/2011 10:46 AM	File folder	
Windows XP Mode--VM99	3/30/2011 12:38 AM	File folder	
Windows XP Mode--VM898	3/29/2011 4:37 AM	File folder	
Windows 95	3/29/2011 4:29 AM	File folder	
Windows 7 Home Premium_MLO_Webcam-20...	3/29/2011 4:17 AM	File folder	
Windows 7 Home Premium_FC-2010-10-18	3/29/2011 4:02 AM	File folder	
Windows 7 Home Premium-vm898--MSOProPl...	3/29/2011 3:49 AM	File folder	
Windows 7 Home Premium--VM11	3/29/2011 3:32 AM	File folder	
Windows 7 Home Premium - TI2011	3/29/2011 3:16 AM	File folder	
Windows 7 Home Premium	3/29/2011 3:06 AM	File folder	
Win98SE	3/29/2011 2:57 AM	File folder	
MS-DOS6.22	3/29/2011 2:49 AM	File folder	
OSX--5.0.3-Safari--Copy01	3/29/2011 2:49 AM	File folder	

*

▼ L_WCAWZ0043341 (L:) ▸ Users ▸ testuser ▸ Documents ▸ Virtual Machines ▸

Search Vi...

File   Edit   View   Tools   Help

Organize ▼   📂 Open   Include in library ▼   Share with ▼   Burn   New folder

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
📁 Windows 7 x64 Enterprise Trial--vm901	4/1/2011 9:31 PM	File folder	
📁 Windows XP Mode	4/1/2011 10:46 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows XP Mode--VM99	3/30/2011 12:38 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows XP Mode--VM898	3/29/2011 4:37 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows 95	3/29/2011 4:29 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows 7 Home Premium_MLO_Webcam-20...	3/29/2011 4:17 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows 7 Home Premium_FC-2010-10-18	3/29/2011 4:02 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows 7 Home Premium-vm898--MSOProPl...	3/29/2011 3:49 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows 7 Home Premium--VM11	3/29/2011 3:32 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows 7 Home Premium - TI2011	3/29/2011 3:16 AM	File folder	
📁 Windows 7 Home Premium	3/29/2011 3:06 AM	File folder	
📁 Win98SE	3/29/2011 2:57 AM	File folder	
📁 MS-DOS6.22	3/29/2011 2:49 AM	File folder	
📁 OSX--5.0.3-Safari--Copy01	3/29/2011 2:49 AM	File folder	

Favorites
  Desktop
  Downloads
  Recent Places

Libraries
  Documents
  Music
  Pictures
  Videos

Computer
  HP-ST3750528AS (C:)
  FACTORY_IMAGE (D:)
  F_5XW0XBJF (F:)
  L_WCAWZ0043341 (L:)

Network

STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE FOR USING AN EXISTING .VMDK FILE TO CREATE A NEW "VIRTUAL MACHINE" IN "VMWARE PLAYER":

Step 1:
Start up "VMware Player":

Step 2:
Click on "Create a New Virtual Machine":

Step 3:
A "New Virtual Machine Wizard" box will be displayed:

New Virtual Machine Wizard   X

Welcome to the New Virtual Machine Wizard
        A virtual machine is like a physical computer; it needs an operating
        system. How will you install the guest operating system?

Install from:

   ○ Installer disc:

        💿 DVD RW Drive (N:)   ▼

   ○ Installer disc image file (iso):

        L:\WORDPROC_Archive\2012\2012-04-16 SWS\AirP   ▼   Browse...

   ⦿ I will install the operating system later.
        The virtual machine will be created with a blank hard disk.

   [Help]   [< Back]   [Next >]   [Cancel]
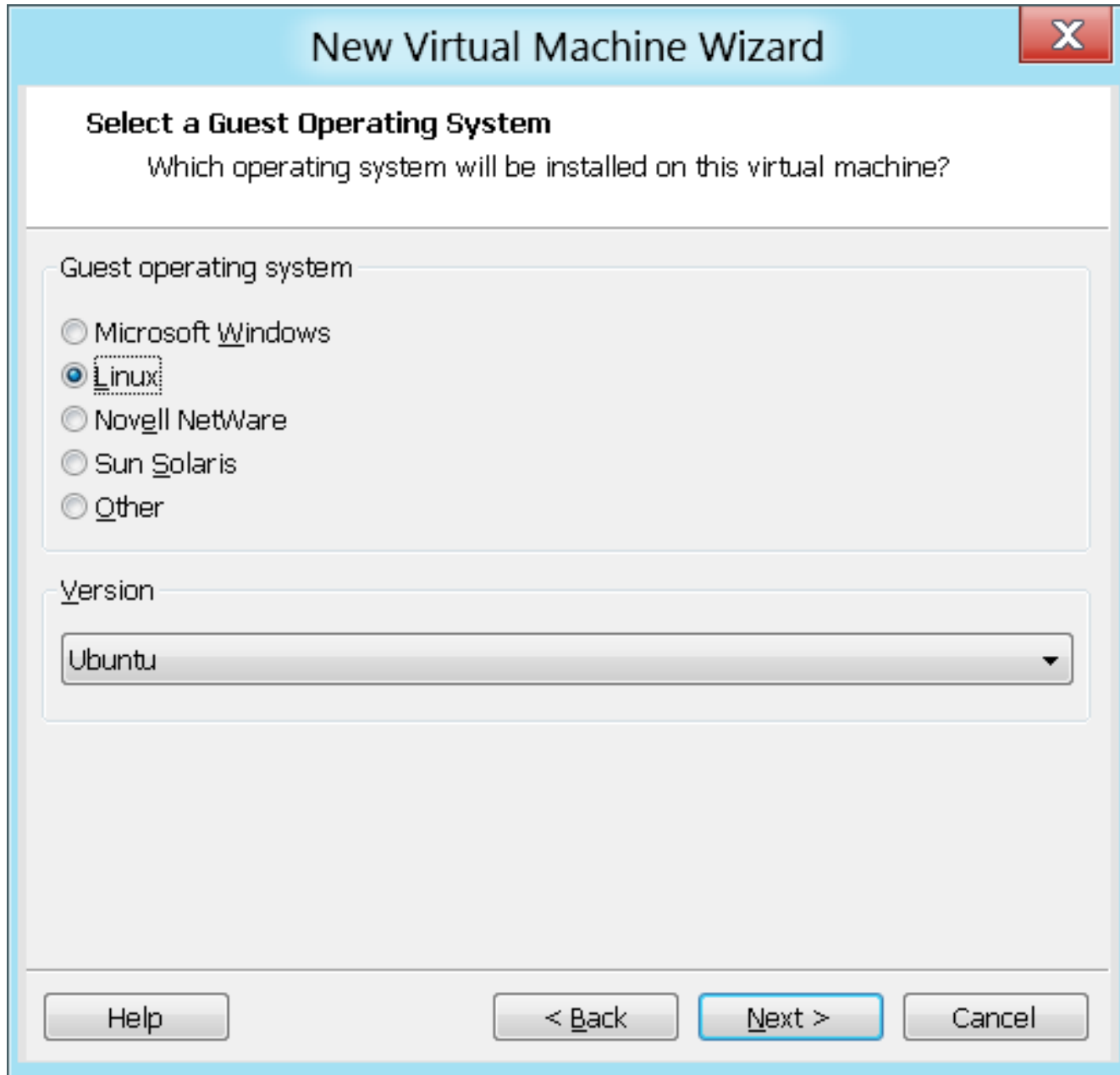
Step 4:
Make sure that the "I will install the operating system later" option is selected.

Step 5:
Click on the "Next" button.

Step 6:
Select the option button that corresponds to the operating system that is loaded into the existing .VMDK file:

New Virtual Machine Wizard   X

Select a Guest Operating System
Which operating system will be installed on this virtual machine?

Guest operating system

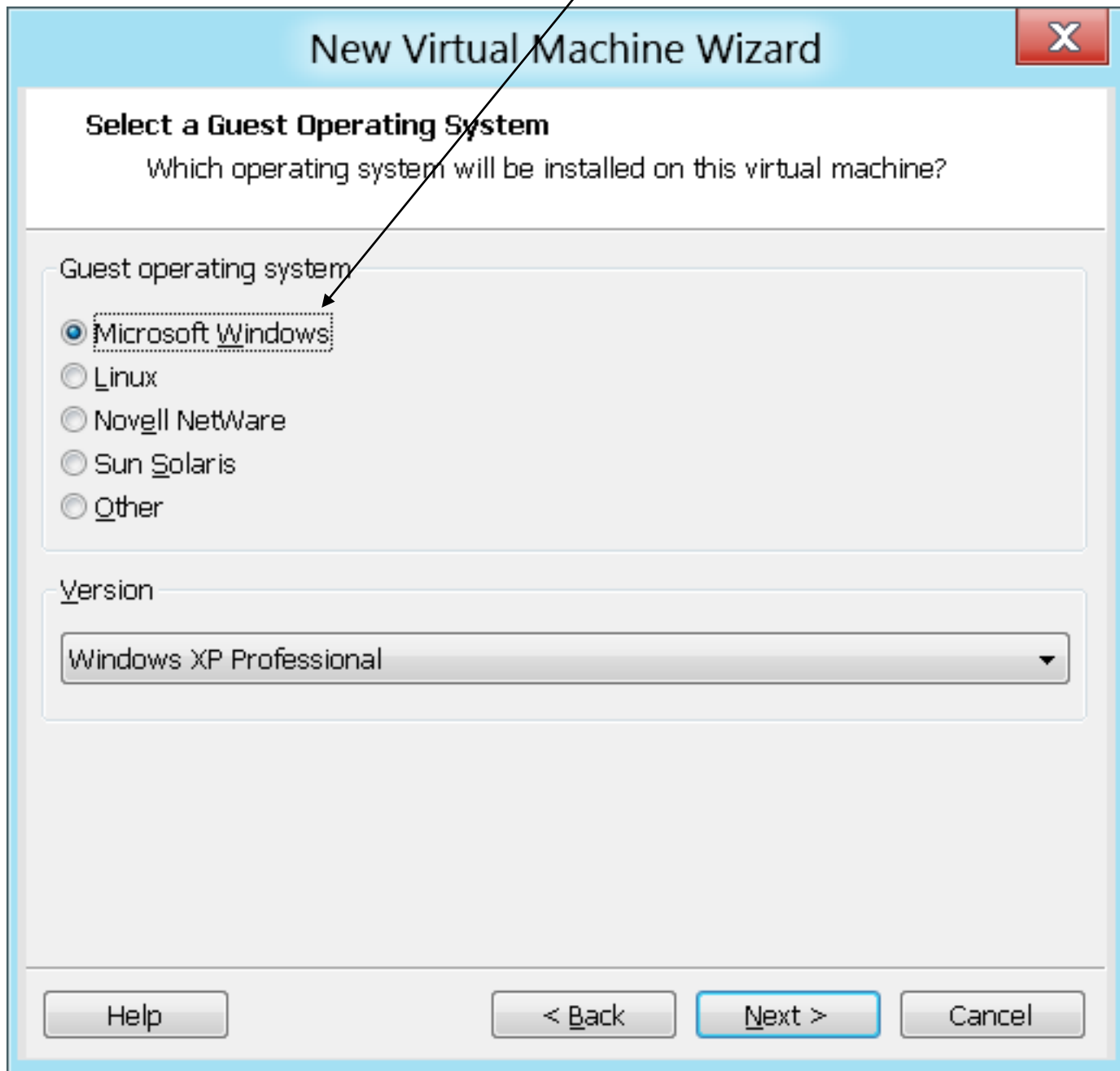- ○ Microsoft Windows
- ● Linux
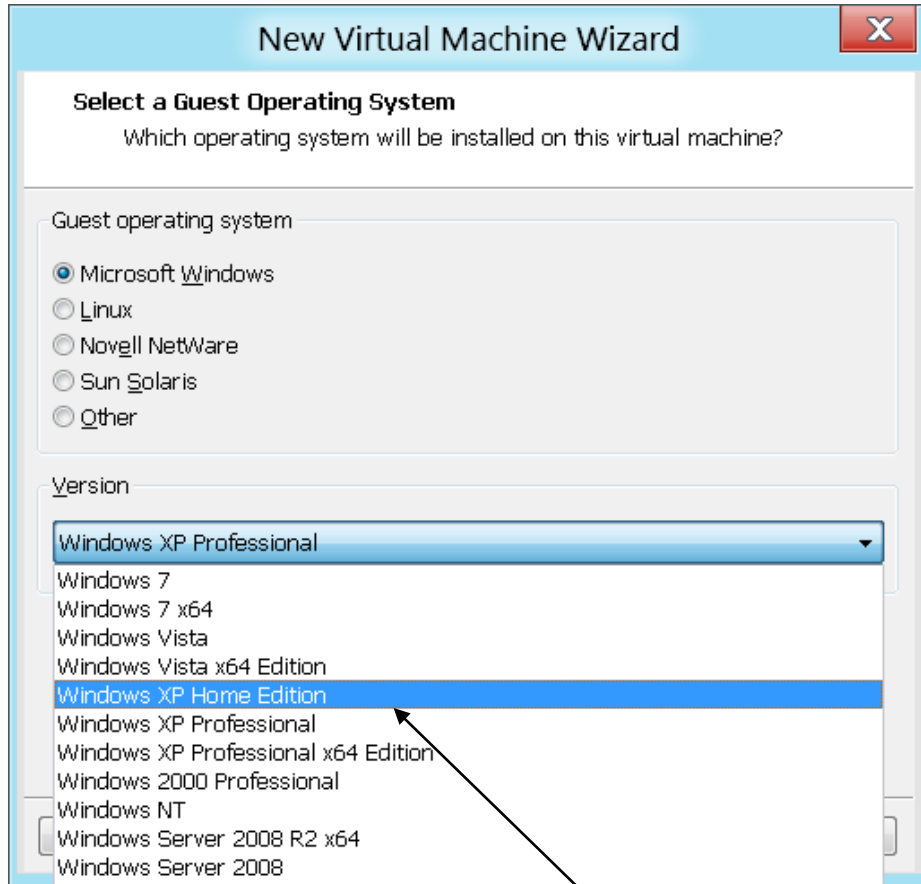- ○ Novell NetWare
- ○ Sun Solaris
- ○ Other

Version

Ubuntu ▼

| Help | | < Back | Next > | Cancel |

In this example, we selected "Microsoft Windows" because "Microsoft Windows XP" resides inside the existing .VMDK file that we were using:

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Select a Guest Operating System

Which operating system will be installed on this virtual machine?

Guest operating system

- ● Microsoft Windows
- ○ Linux
- ○ Novell NetWare
- ○ Sun Solaris
- ○ Other

Version

Windows XP Professional ▼

| Help | < Back | Next > | Cancel |

Step 7:
Use the drop-down list to select the version of the operating system that corresponds to the version of the operating system that is loaded into the existing .VMDK file:

In this example, we selected "Windows XP Home Edition" because "Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition" resides inside the existing .VMDK file that we were using.

Step 8:
Click on the "Next" button:

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Select a Guest Operating System
Which operating system will be installed on this virtual machine?

Guest operating system

- ● Microsoft Windows
- ○ Linux
- ○ Novell NetWare
- ○ Sun Solaris
- ○ Other

Version

Windows XP Home Edition ▼

| Help | | < Back | Next > | Cancel |

Step 9:
Give your new virtual machine an appropriate name:

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Name the Virtual Machine
What name would you like to use for this virtual machine?

Virtual machine name:

Windows XP Home Edition|

Location:

C:\Users\testuser\Documents\Virtual Machines\Windows XP Ho   [Browse...]

[< Back]   [Next >]   [Cancel]

In this example, we placed the date of the actual creation of the .VMDK file to the right-most location in the name of the virtual machine. It is a good idea to put the date of creation of the virtual machine on the .VMDK file. This is because the hard drive UUID file is "set in stone" during the installation of an operating system. Any and all .VMDK files that are subsequently created by copying the original .VMDK file will have the same UUID. In "Homegroups" in "Windows 7" and "Windows 8". the UUID of the C: drives of all of the members of the "homegroup" have to be unique. If the C: drives of two virtual machines or real computers have the same "hard drive UUID", then a homegroup connection cannot be established.

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Name the Virtual Machine

What name would you like to use for this virtual machine?

Virtual machine name:

Windows XP Home Edition 2012-05-08

Location:

C:\Users\testuser\Documents\Virtual Machines\Windows XP Hc

Browse...

< Back   Next >   Cancel

The name of the folder where "VMware Player" will store your new virtual machine will be the same as the name that you give to the virtual machine:

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Name the Virtual Machine
What name would you like to use for this virtual machine?

Virtual machine name:

Windows XP Home Edition 2012-05-08

Location:

ments\Virtual Machines\Windows XP Home Edition 2012-05-08   Browse...

< Back   Next >   Cancel

Step 10:
Click on the "Next" button.

Step 11:
Select "Store virtual disk as a single file":

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Specify Disk Capacity
How large do you want this disk to be?

The virtual machine's hard disk is stored as one or more files on the host computer's physical disk. These file(s) start small and become larger as you add applications, files, and data to your virtual machine.

Maximum disk size   40.0

Recommended size for Windows XP Home Edition: 40 GB

◉ Store virtual disk as a single file

○ Split virtual disk into multiple files

Splitting the disk makes it easier to move the virtual machine to another computer but may reduce performance with very large disks.
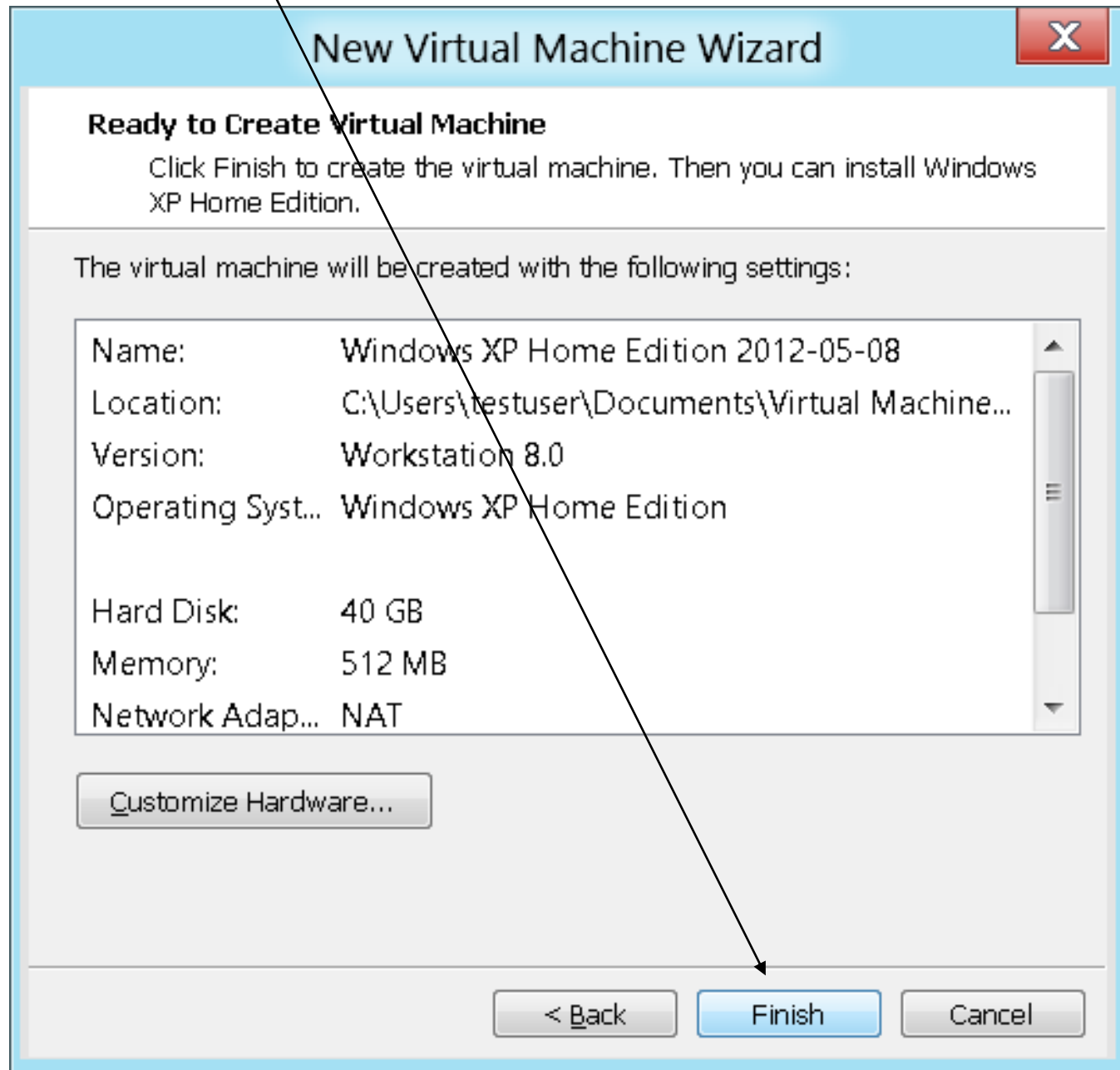
| Help | | < Back | Next > | Cancel |

Step 12:
Click on the "Next" button.

Step 13:
Click on the "Finish" button:

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Ready to Create Virtual Machine
Click Finish to create the virtual machine. Then you can install Windows XP Home Edition.

The virtual machine will be created with the following settings:

Name:	Windows XP Home Edition 2012-05-08
Location:	C:\Users\testuser\Documents\Virtual Machine...
Version:	Workstation 8.0
Operating Syst...	Windows XP Home Edition
Hard Disk:	40 GB
Memory:	512 MB
Network Adap...	NAT

Customize Hardware...
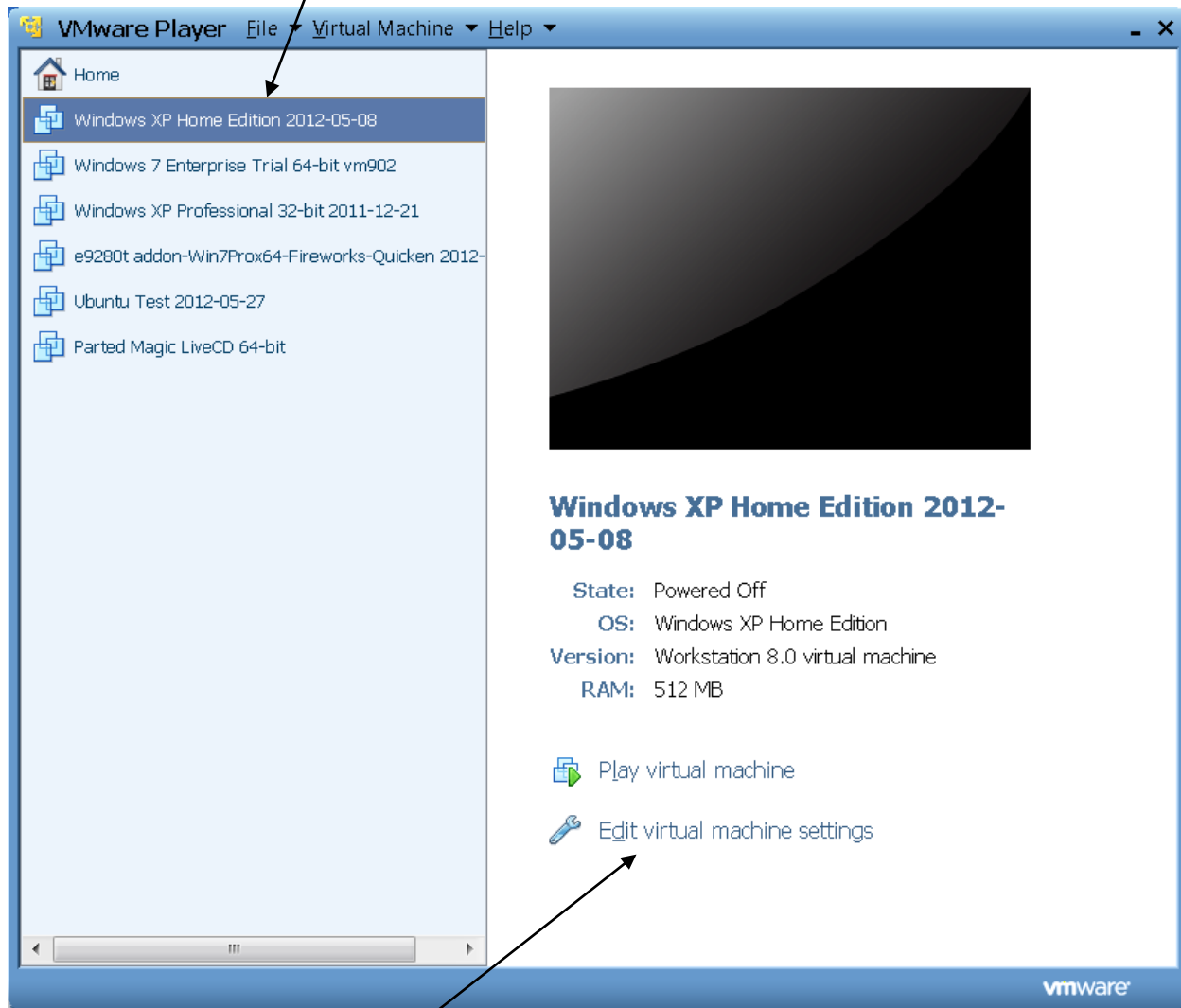
< Back   Finish   Cancel

Step 14:
The "New Virtual Machine Wizard" box will disappear.

Step 15:
Your new virtual machine will be displayed at the top of the list of virtual machines:
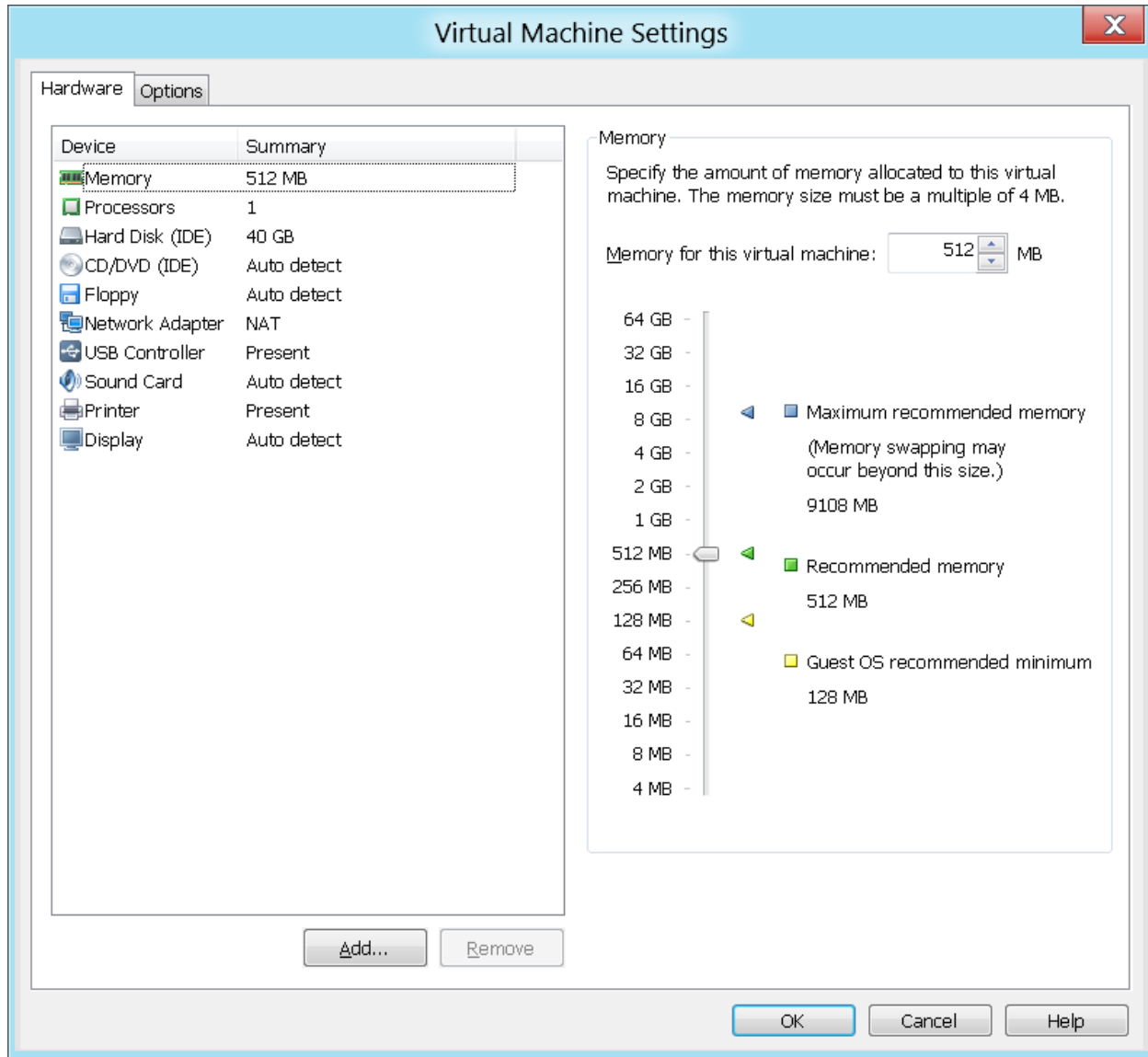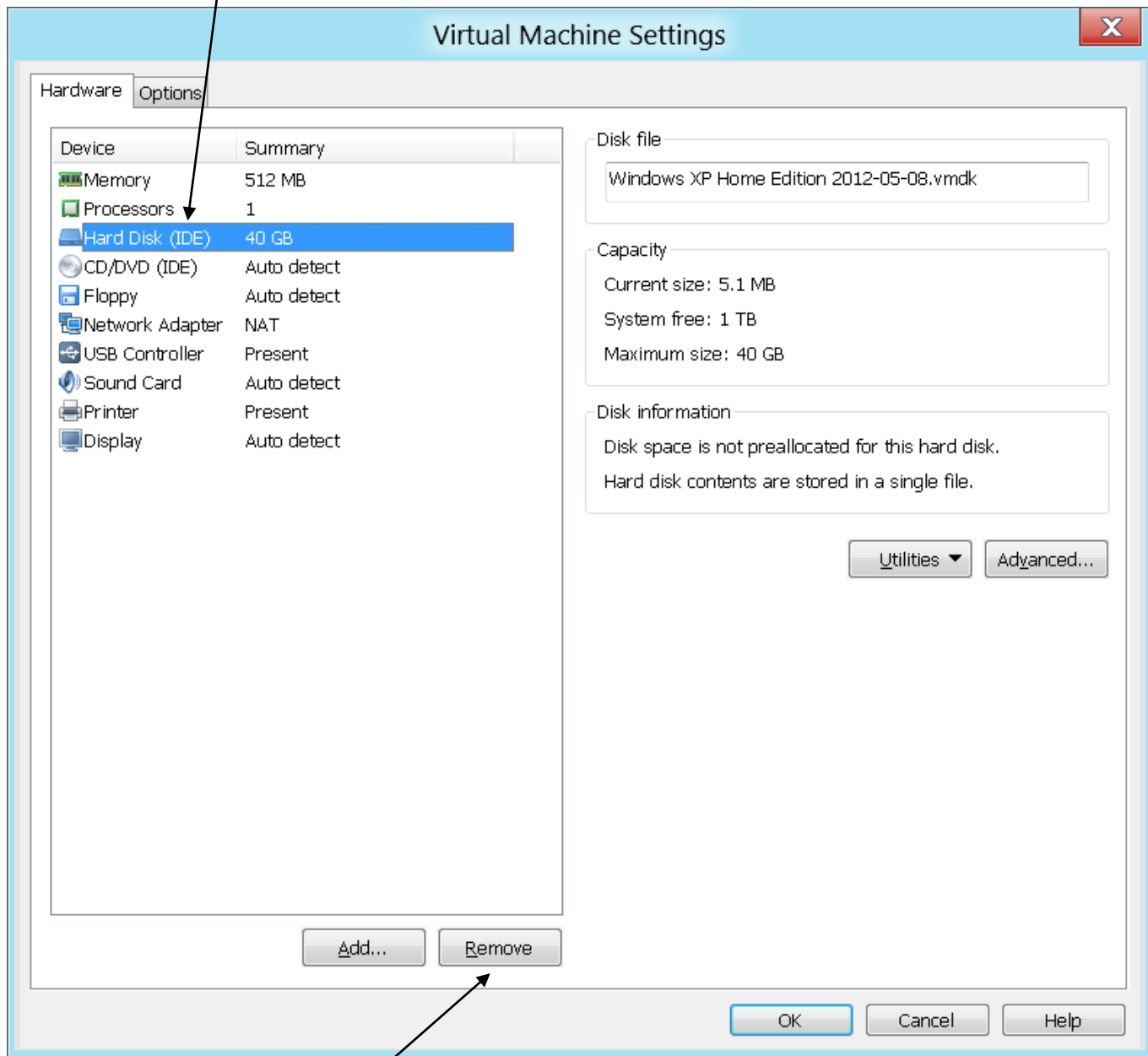

Step 16:
Click on the "Edit virtual machine settings" button.

Step 17:
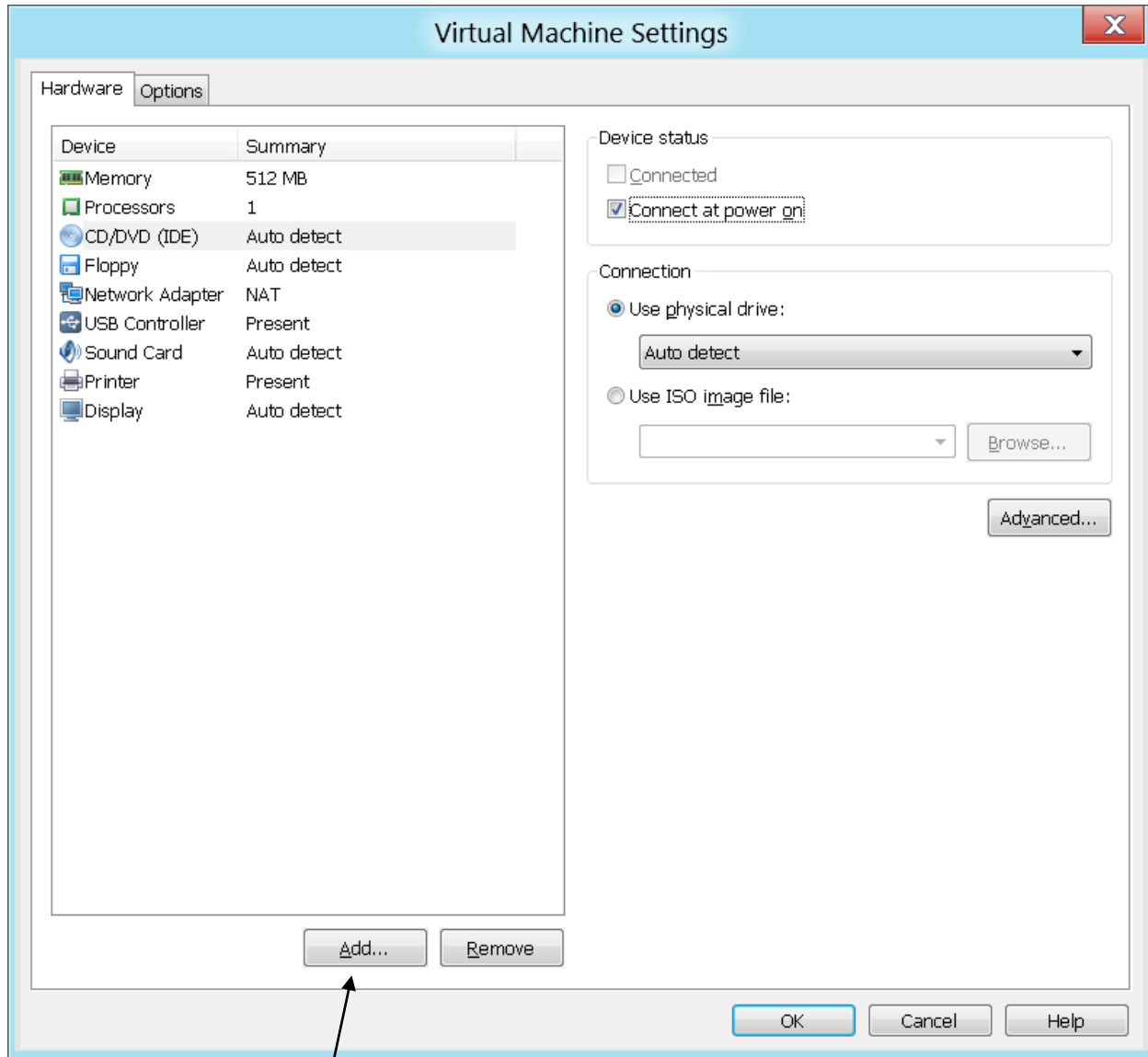A "Virtual Machine Settings" box will be displayed:

Virtual Machine Settings

Hardware | Options

Device	Summary
Memory	512 MB
Processors	1
Hard Disk (IDE)	40 GB
CD/DVD (IDE)	Auto detect
Floppy	Auto detect
Network Adapter	NAT
USB Controller	Present
Sound Card	Auto detect
Printer	Present
Display	Auto detect

Memory

Specify the amount of memory allocated to this virtual machine. The memory size must be a multiple of 4 MB.

Memory for this virtual machine: 512   MB

64 GB –
32 GB –
16 GB –
8 GB –   ◄   ■ Maximum recommended memory
4 GB –   (Memory swapping may
2 GB –   occur beyond this size.)
1 GB –   9108 MB
512 MB –   ◄   ■ Recommended memory
256 MB –   512 MB
128 MB –   ◄
64 MB –   □ Guest OS recommended minimum
32 MB –   128 MB
16 MB –
8 MB –
4 MB –

Add...   Remove

OK   Cancel   Help

Step 18:
Click on "Hard Disk" to highlight it:

Virtual Machine Settings

Hardware | Options

Device	Summary
Memory	512 MB
Processors	1
Hard Disk (IDE)	40 GB
CD/DVD (IDE)	Auto detect
Floppy	Auto detect
Network Adapter	NAT
USB Controller	Present
Sound Card	Auto detect
Printer	Present
Display	Auto detect

Disk file
Windows XP Home Edition 2012-05-08.vmdk

Capacity
Current size: 5.1 MB
System free: 1 TB
Maximum size: 40 GB

Disk information
Disk space is not preallocated for this hard disk.
Hard disk contents are stored in a single file.

Utilities ▼   Advanced...

Add...   Remove

OK   Cancel   Help

Step 19:
Click on the "Remove" button.

Step 20:
The "Hard Disk.." disappears from the list:

Virtual Machine Settings

Hardware | Options

Device	Summary
Memory	512 MB
Processors	1
CD/DVD (IDE)	Auto detect
Floppy	Auto detect
Network Adapter	NAT
USB Controller	Present
Sound Card	Auto detect
Printer	Present
Display	Auto detect

Device status
☐ Connected
☑ Connect at power on

Connection
◉ Use physical drive:
  Auto detect
◯ Use ISO image file:
  Browse...

Advanced...

Add...   Remove

OK   Cancel   Help

Step 21:
Click on the "Add" button.

Step 22:
If a "User Account Control" box pops up, click on its "Yes" button.

Step 23:
An "Add Hardware Wizard" box will be displayed:
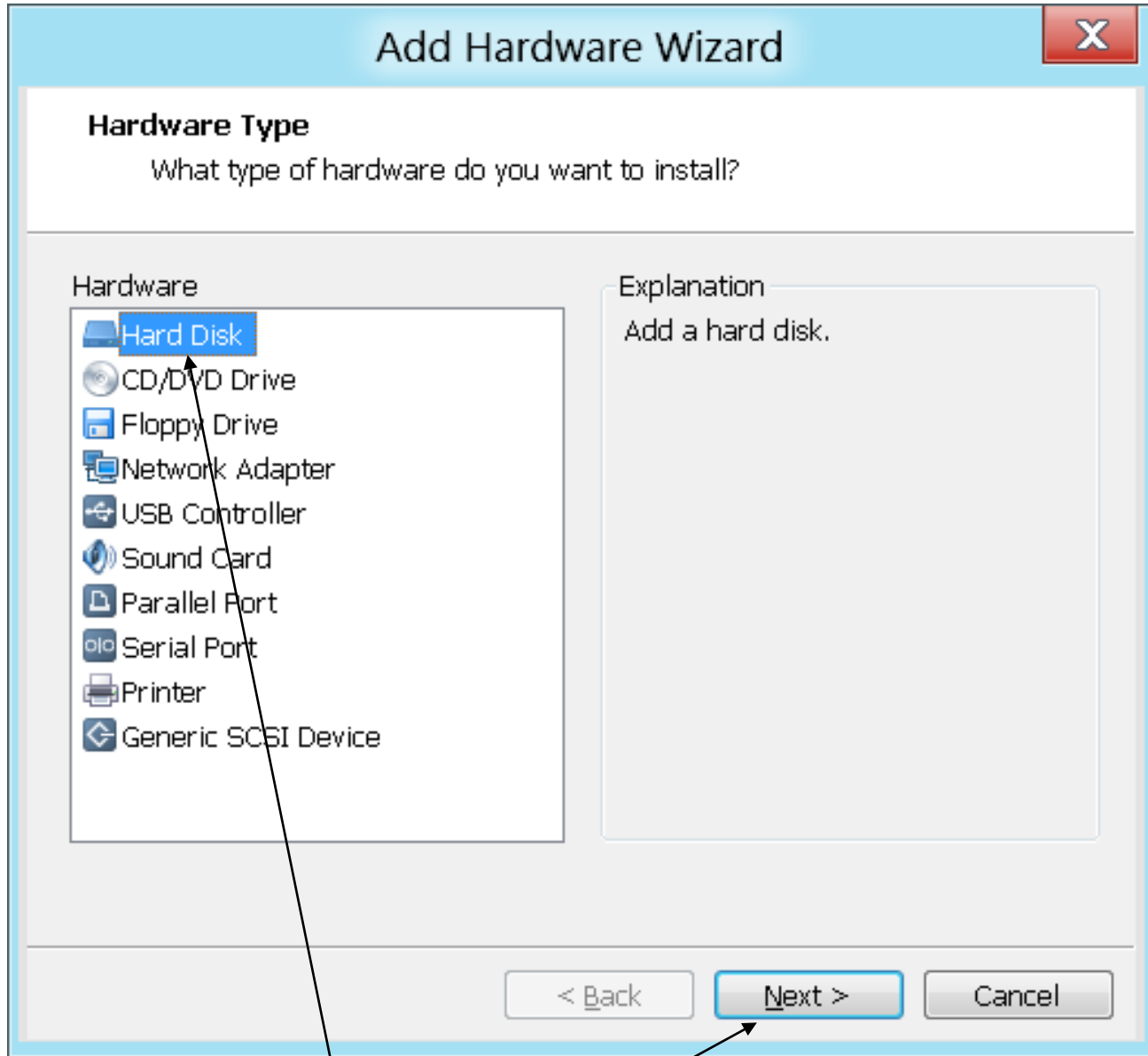
Step 24:
Make sure that "Hard Disk" is highlighted.

Step 25:
Click on the "Next" button:

Step 26:
Use "Windows Explorer" or "My Computer" to move or copy the existing .VMDK virtual hard disk file to the location of the virtual machine that you have just created.

In this example, we moved a file called
Jack p2v.vmdk
to
C:\Users\testuser\My Documents\Virtual Machines\Windows XP Home Edition 2012-05-08\
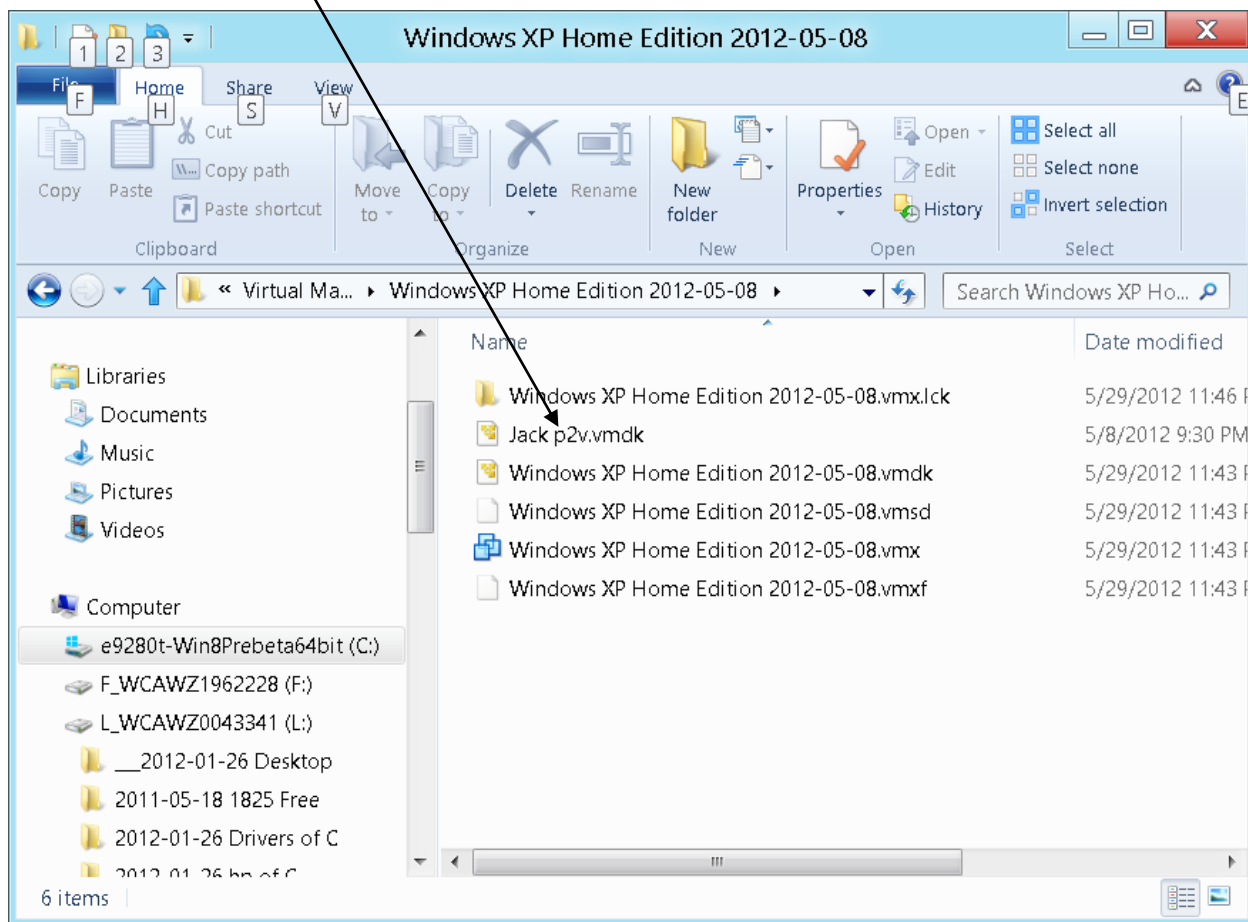
Step 27:
Delete the .VMDK file that has the same name as the new virtual machine that
you have just created.
Use "Windows Explorer" or "My Computer" to move or copy the existing .VMDK
virtual hard disk file to the location of the virtual machine that you have just
created.

In this example, we deleted the file called
Windows XP Home Edition 2012-05-08.vmdk
by dragging it to the "Recycle Bin":
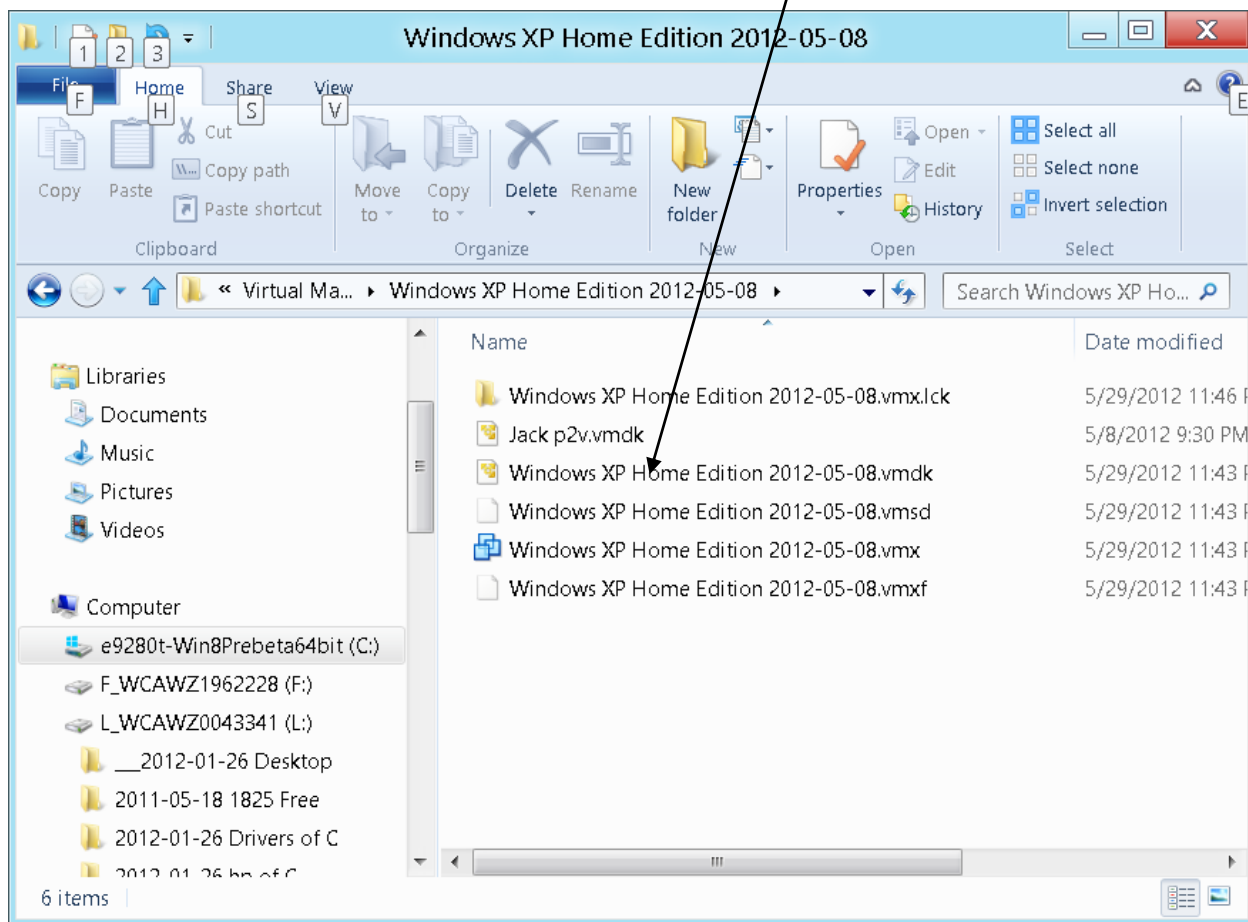
(Be careful: You might have to remove the checkmark from "Hide extensions for known file types" in the "View" tab of "Folder Options" in "Control Panel" in order to see the true name of files inside the folder that contains your newly-created virtual machine.)
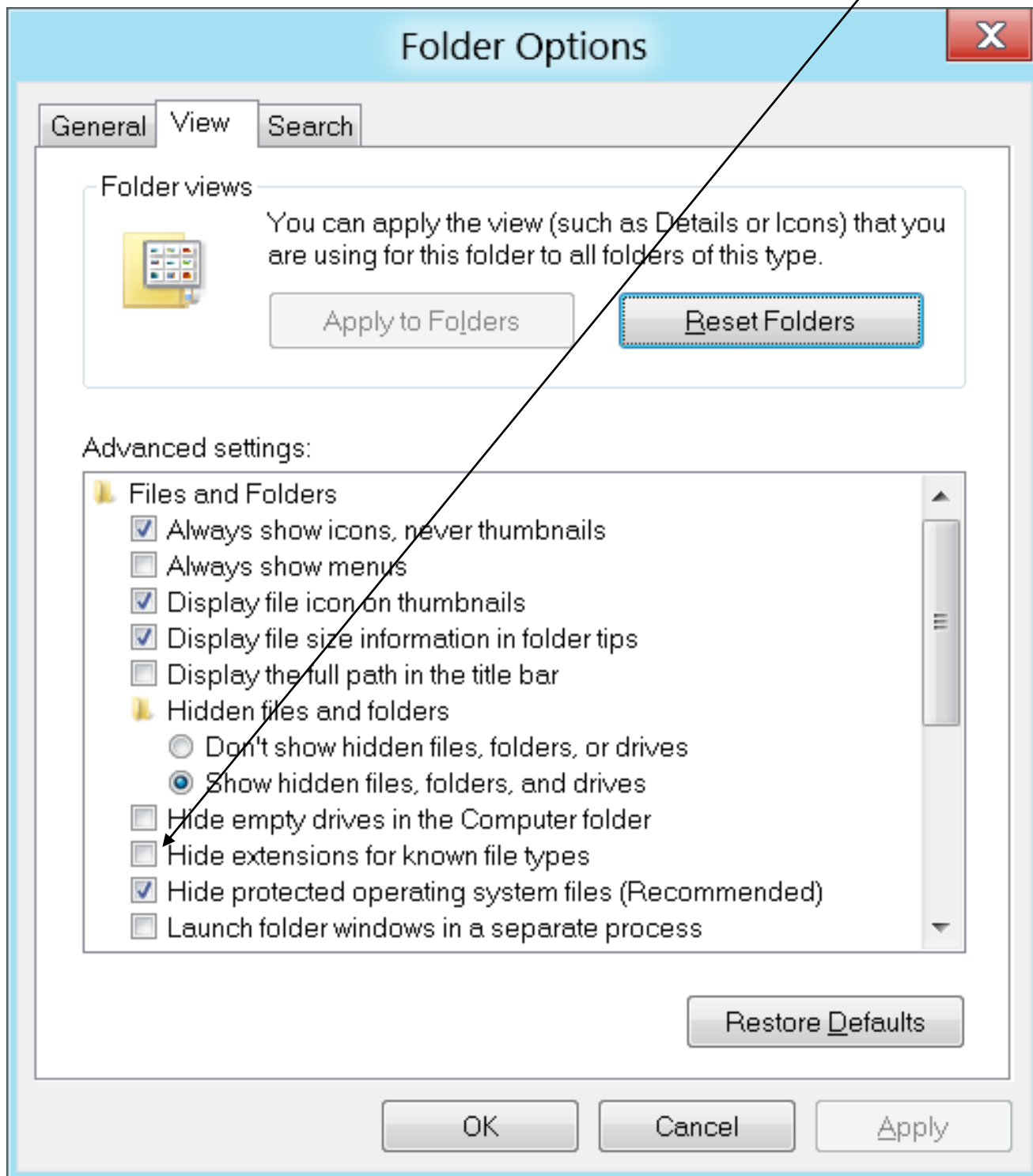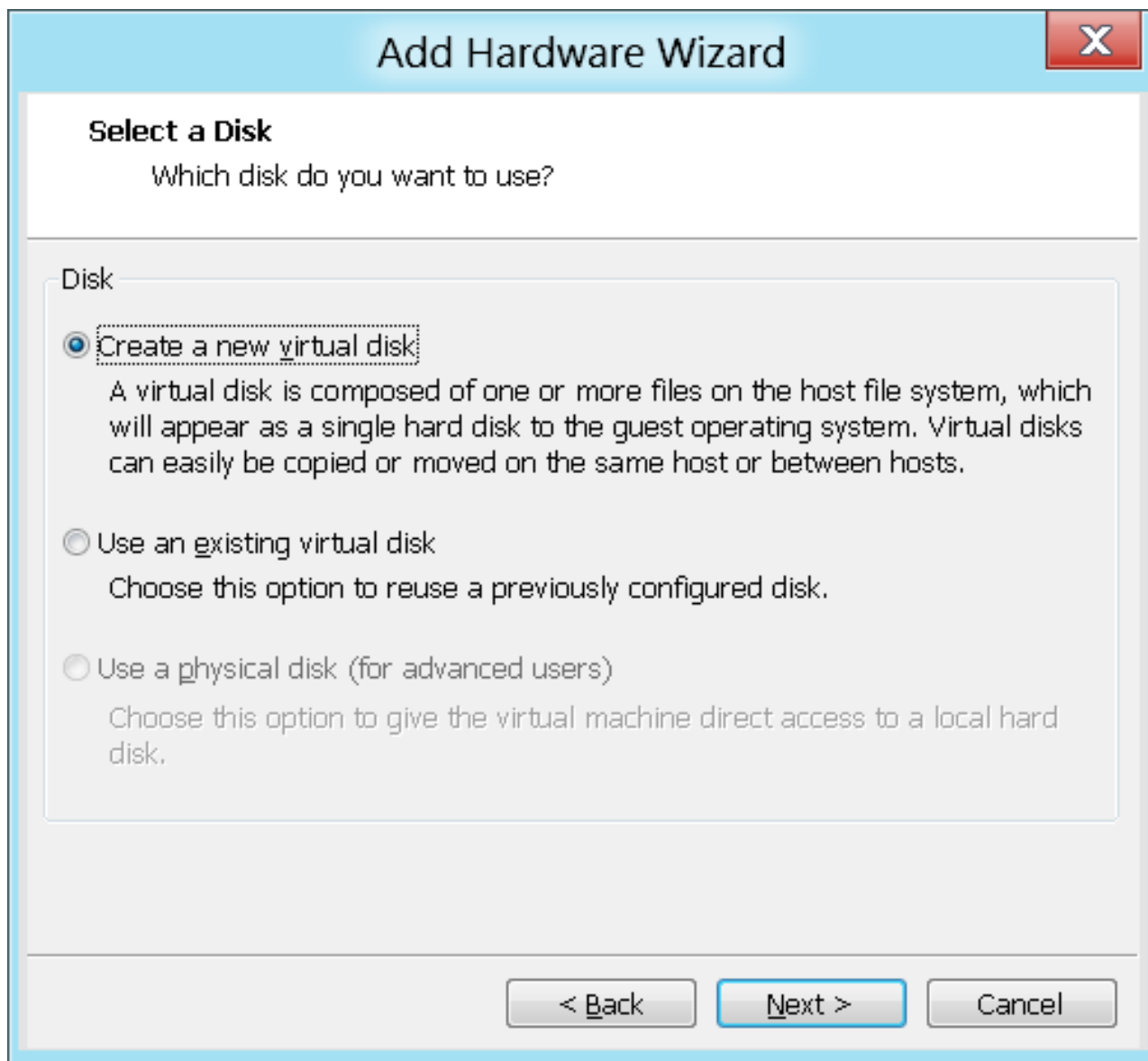
Step 28:
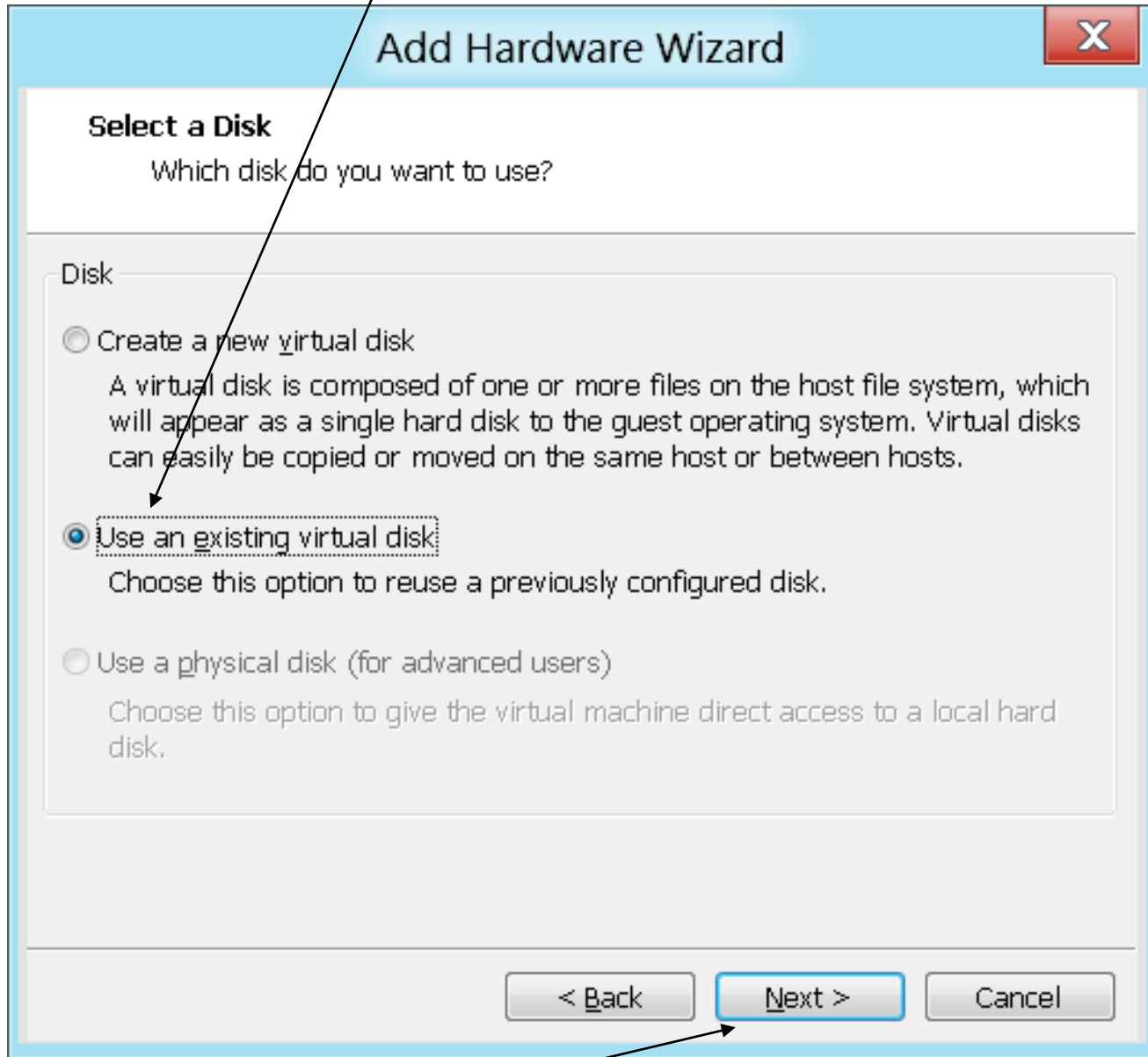Close the "Windows Explorer" or "My Computer" window(s).

Step 29:
Go back to the "Add Hardware Wizard" box of "VMware Player":

Step 30:
Select the "Use an existing virtual disk" option:

Add Hardware Wizard

Select a Disk
Which disk do you want to use?

Disk

○ Create a new virtual disk

A virtual disk is composed of one or more files on the host file system, which will appear as a single hard disk to the guest operating system. Virtual disks can easily be copied or moved on the same host or between hosts.

◉ Use an existing virtual disk

Choose this option to reuse a previously configured disk.

○ Use a physical disk (for advanced users)

Choose this option to give the virtual machine direct access to a local hard disk.

| < Back | Next > | Cancel |

Step 31:
Click on the "Next" button.

Step 32:
Click on the "Browse" button:

Add Hardware Wizard

Select an Existing Disk
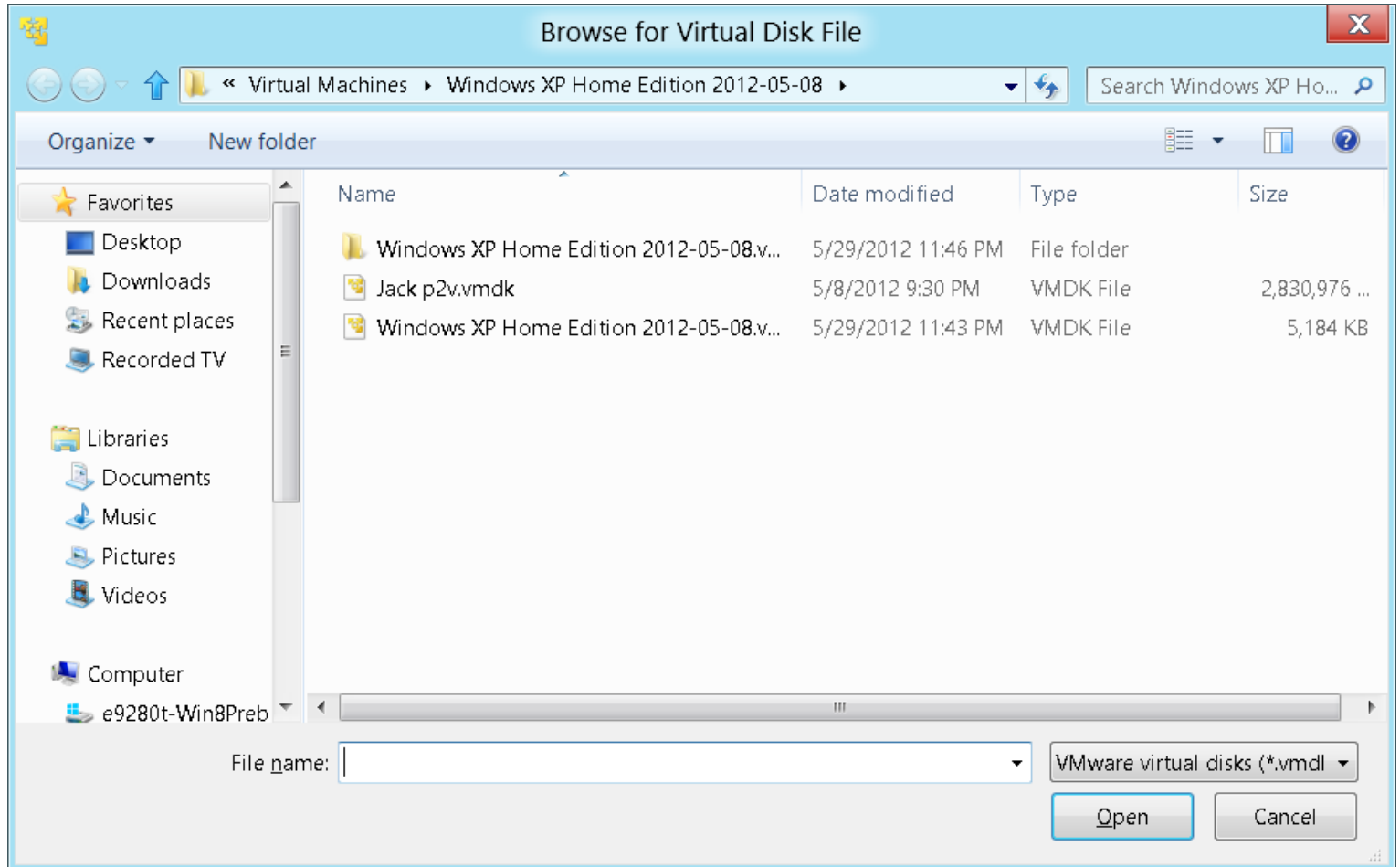Which previously configured disk would you like to use?

Disk file

This virtual disk file will store the configuration details of the physical disk.
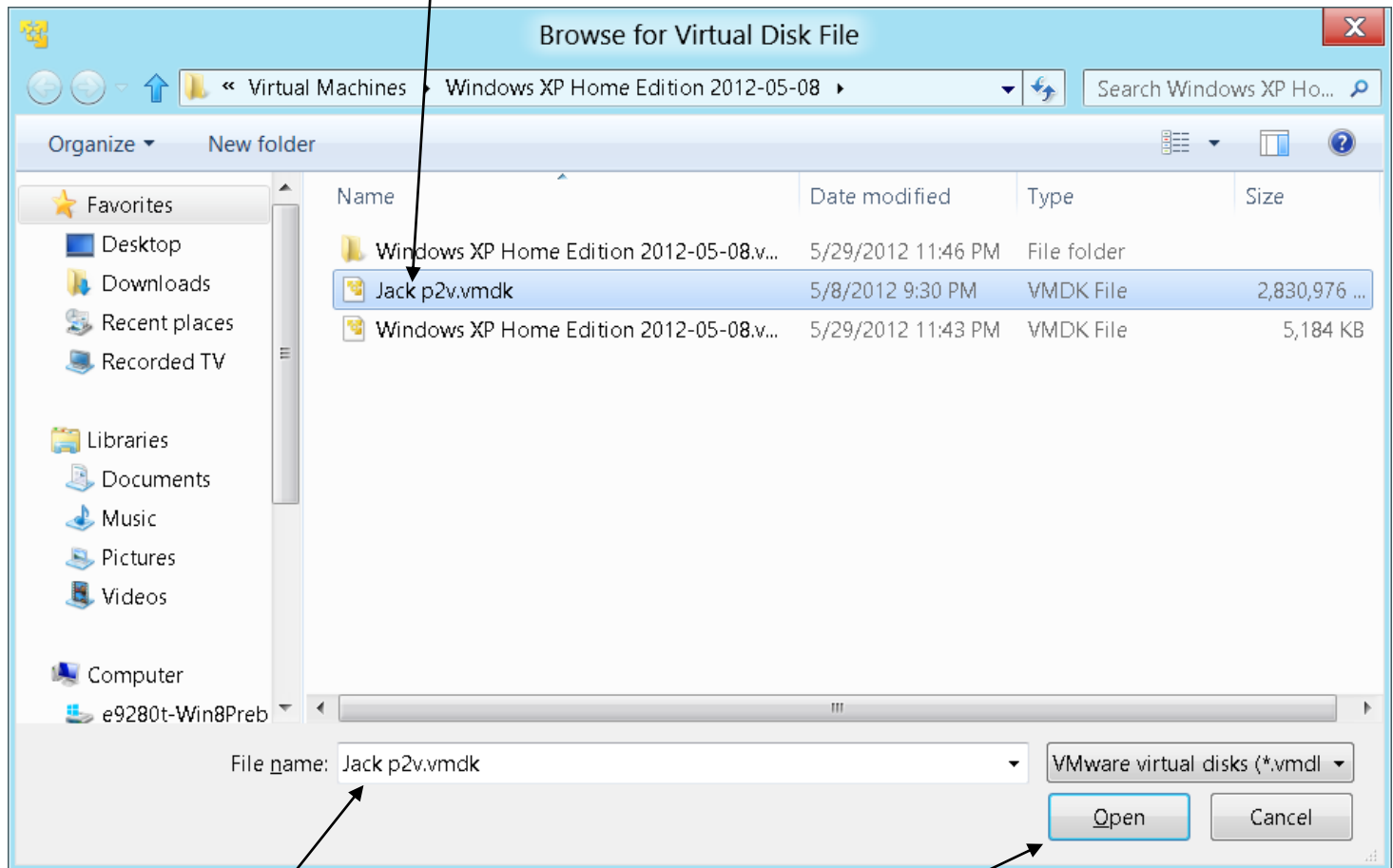
Browse...

< Back Finish Cancel

Step 33:
A "Browse for Virtual Disk File" box will be displayed:
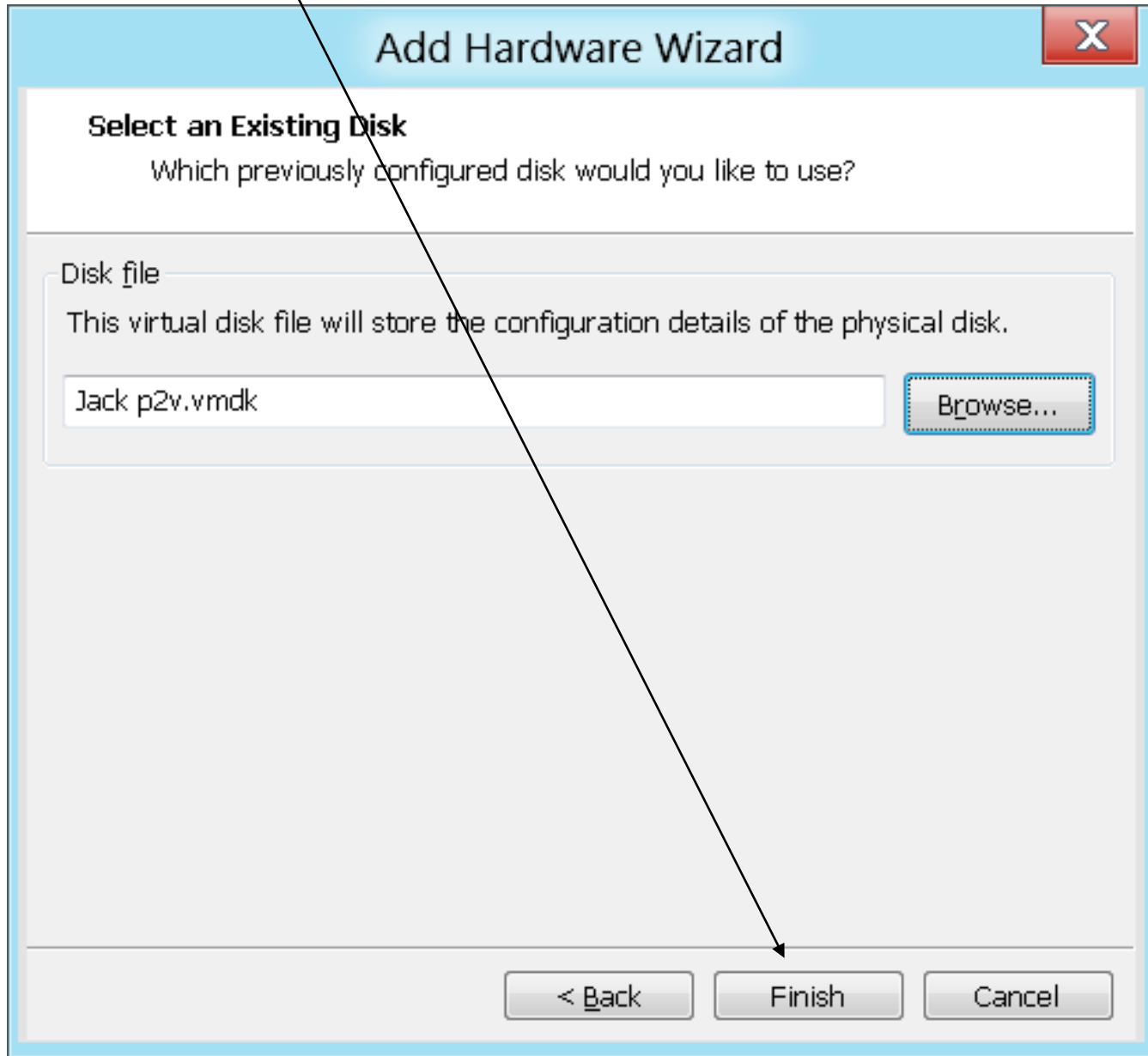
Step 34:
Locate the existing "VMDK" file and click on it:

Step 35:
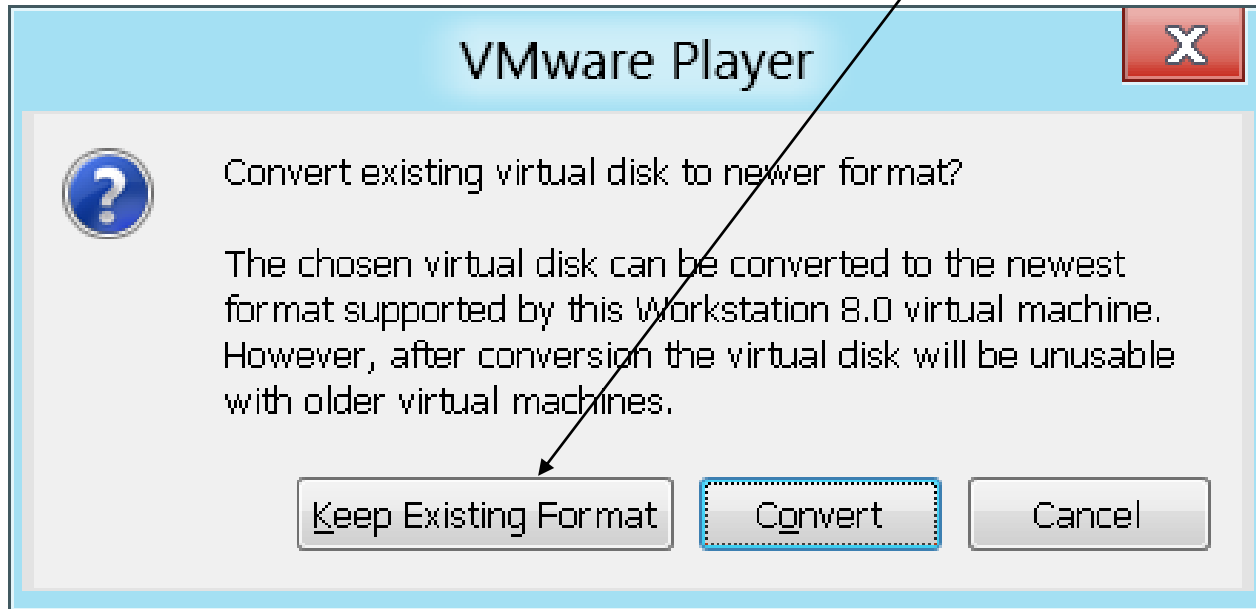The name of the existing "VMDK" file will now be displayed inside the "File Name" box.

Step 36:
Click on the "Open" button.

Step 37:
Click on the "Finish" button:

Add Hardware Wizard

Select an Existing Disk
Which previously configured disk would you like to use?

Disk file

This virtual disk file will store the configuration details of the physical disk.

Jack p2v.vmdk   Browse...

< Back   Finish   Cancel

Step 38:
If a "Convert" box is displayed, click on its "Keep Existing Format" button:

VMware Player ✕

? Convert existing virtual disk to newer format?

The chosen virtual disk can be converted to the newest
format supported by this Workstation 8.0 virtual machine.
However, after conversion the virtual disk will be unusable
with older virtual machines.

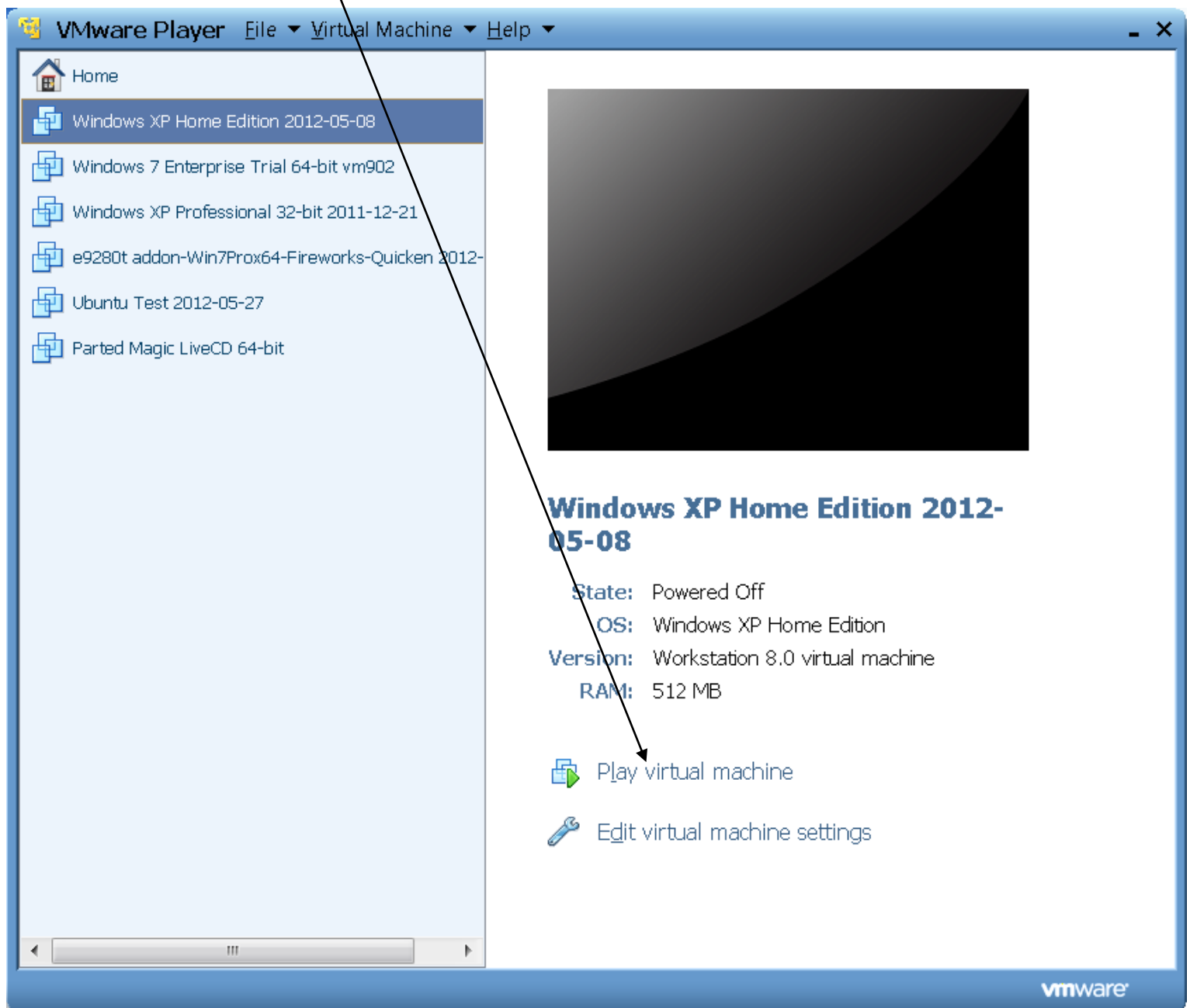[Keep Existing Format] [Convert] [Cancel]

Step 39:
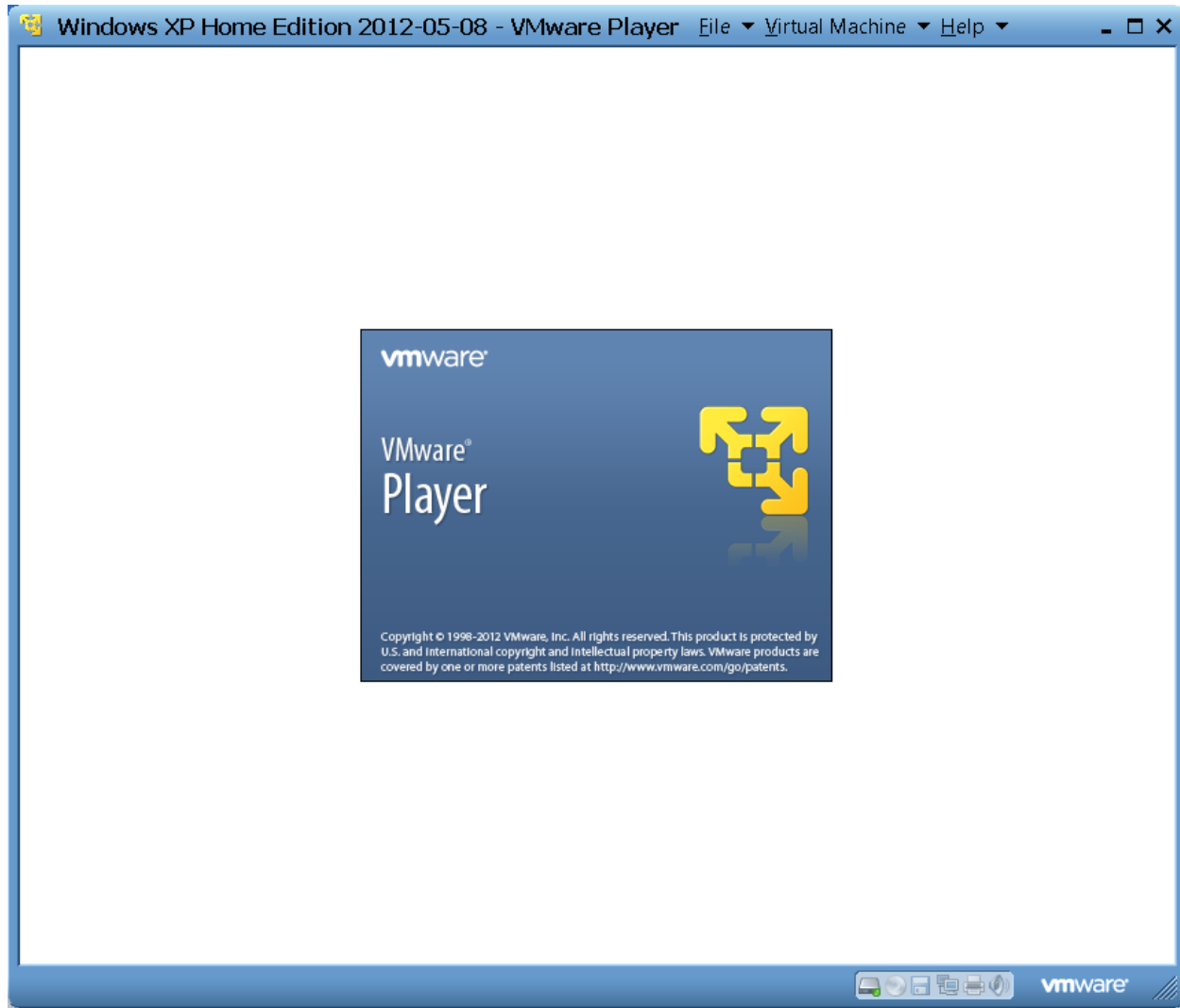Click on the "OK" button of the "Virtual Machine Settings" box:
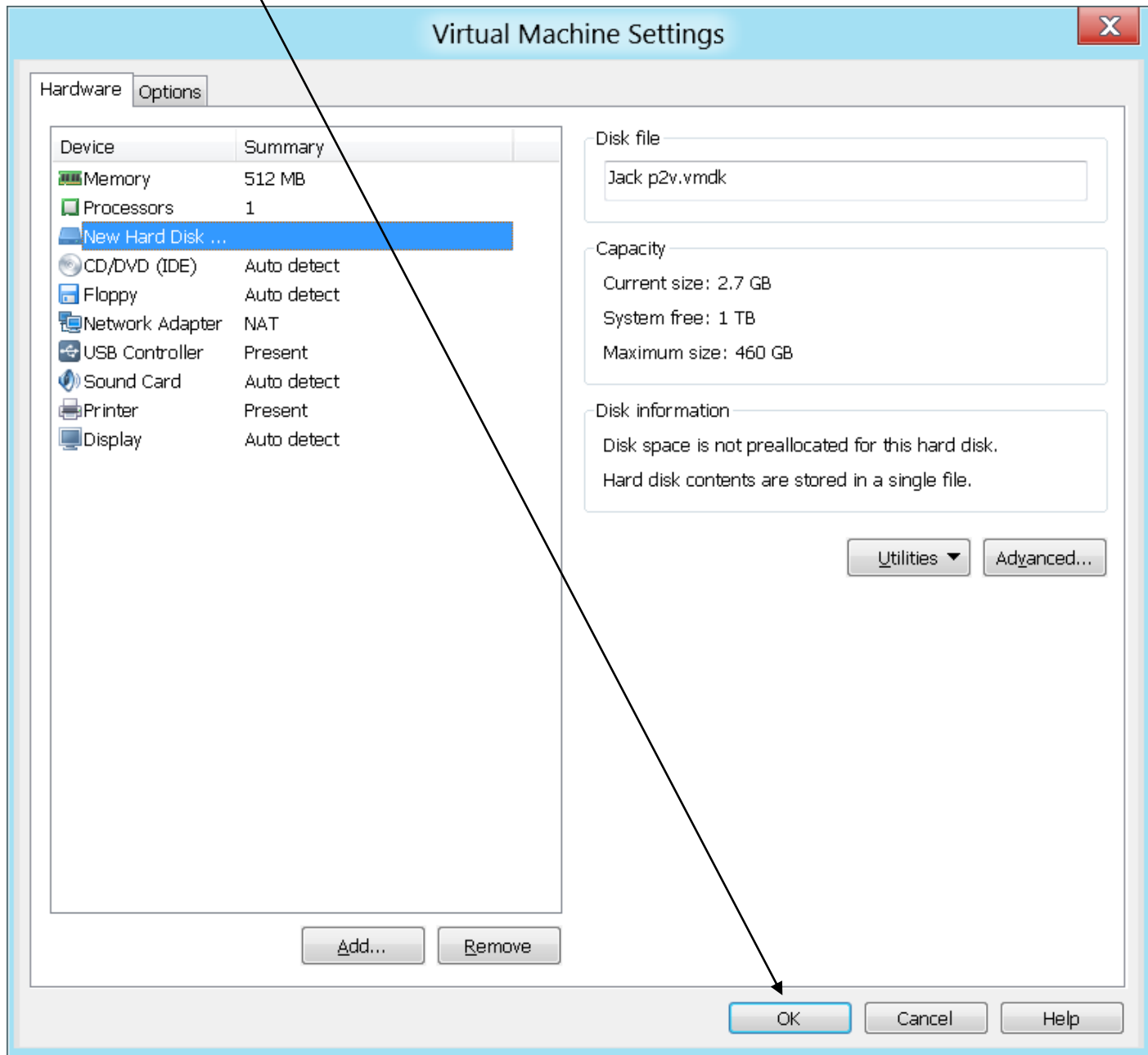
Step 40:
The "Virtual Machine Settings" box will disappear.

Step 41:
Click on the "Play Virtual Machine" button:

*

*

Removable Devices

The following devices can be connected to this virtual machine using the status bar or choosing VM > Removable Devices:

- Realtek USB2.0-CRW
- AVerMedia AVerTV Hybrid Volar MAX

Each device can be connected either to the host or to one virtual machine at a time.

☐ Do not show this hint again

[OK]

*

Recycle Bin

Home Page PC Rams Computer Club - Internet Explorer, optimized for Bing and MSN

http://www.pcrams.org/   ▼   Google

File   Edit   View   Favorites   Tools   Help

⭐ Favorites   │   👍 ⓑ Suggested Sites ▾   🅮 Free Hotmail   🅮 Web Slice Gallery ▾

🅮 Home Page PC Rams Computer Club

🏠 ▾ 🔊 ▾ 🖃 🖨 ▾ Page ▾ Safety ▾ Tools ▾ ❓ ▾

PC RAMS COMPUTER CLUB

P.O. Box 22255, West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-2255

(image by Cool Text: Free Logos and Buttons - Create An Image Just Like This)

"PC Computer learning in a friendly club environment."

About Us
▸ Location

Club Business
▸ Officers
▸ B.O.D.
▸ Pictures

OFFICERS
President:
Jack Firestone

VicePresident:
John Samuels

Treasurer:
Lynn Kaganich

Secretary:
Lynn Laredo

Software Review:
Marc Martin

PC RAMS Computer Club, Inc.
PC RAMS Computer Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 22255, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-2225

Next General Meeting

Wed. June 13th, 2012

From 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Howie Silver will conduct

"The Learning Hour"

He will share his computer experience trying to help you solve your computer questions. And if he can't, there will be a group of experts

Watch for our Exciting Program in

Sept.

We are closed for Summer vacation

Internet   🔍 ▾ 🔍 75% ▾

🏁 Start   🅮 Home Page PC Rams ...   ⚡ ⚠ ⏱ 💾 🔋   12:30 AM