



Deploying On-Premises Windows Server Custom Images to Oracle OCI

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Contents

Summary	2
Scope.....	2
Windows Source Image Requirements	2
Preparing Windows VMs for Import	2
Download Oracle VirtIO Drivers	3
Install the Oracle VirtIO drivers for Windows:.....	5
Exporting the Image	6
References	6

Summary

This document details the steps required to prepare and import custom virtual machine images of Microsoft Windows Server versions 2008, 2012, and 2016 into Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI). It covers prerequisites, image configuration, driver installation, and export procedures to ensure a successful deployment.

Scope

This guide is intended for IT administrators, cloud engineers, or systems integrators who want to import customized or on-premises Windows images to run on OCI. It applies to custom VM environments hosted on virtualization platforms like VMware, KVM, or VirtualBox.

Windows Source Image Requirements

To be eligible for import into OCI:

- Image size must not exceed 400 GB
- Supported Windows Server version 2008,2012,2016
- Only one disk (boot volume) is supported
- BIOS boot mode must be used (UEFI is not supported)
- Valid MBR and bootloader must be present
- Minimum boot volume size: 256 GB
- No encryption should be applied to the disk image
- Accepted formats: VMDK (monolithicSparse/streamOptimized) or QCOW2
- Use DHCP for networking and avoid hardcoded MAC/IP

Preparing Windows VMs for Import

1. Secure the OS:

- Apply latest updates
- Enable firewall with only required rules
- Remove unnecessary privileged accounts
- Set strong passwords

2. Enable RDP Access:

- Allow Remote Desktop connections
- Modify Windows Firewall to allow RDP on public networks

3. Validate License Type:

Run in PowerShell:

```
Get-CimInstance -ClassName SoftwareLicensingProduct | where {$_.PartialProductKey} | select ProductKeyChannel
```

If not a volume license, update license post-import

4. Generalize the Image (Optional but recommended for reuse):

Use sysprep to remove computer-specific settings

5. Backup root volume before proceeding

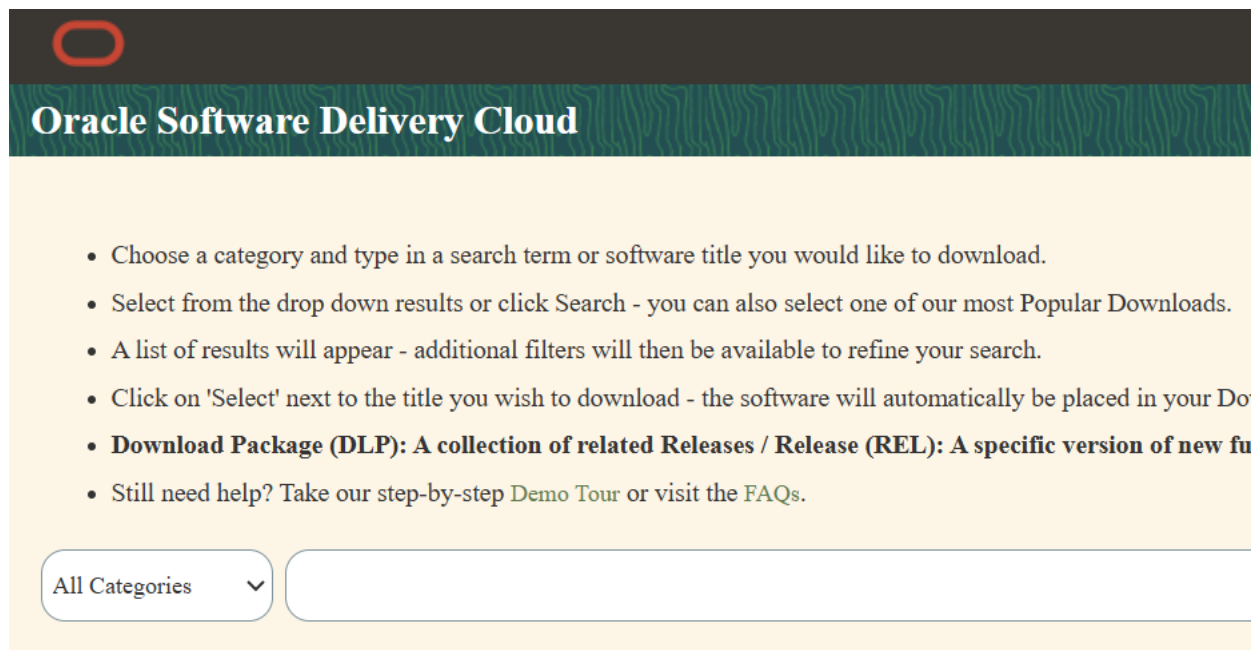
6. Detach external NFS or block storage or set services to start manually

7. Ensure DHCP is used, and MAC/IPs are not statically set

8. Follow this [link](#) for more details on importing Custom Windows Images

Download Oracle VirtIO Drivers

- a. To download the Oracle Windows VirtIO drivers Sign into the Oracle Software Delivery Cloud site (<https://edelivery.oracle.com/osdc/faces/Home.jspx>)



- b. In the All-Categories list, select Release.

- c. Type Oracle Linux 7.7 in the search box and click Search.

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DLP: Oracle Linux 10.0.0.0.0 (Oracle Linux)

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- Select the check box next to Oracle VirtIO Drivers Version for Microsoft Windows 1.1.5. Clear the other check boxes.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Oracle Linux 7.7.0.0.0 for x86 64 bit	
<input type="checkbox"/>	V983337-01(V983337-01.iso)	Oracle Linux Release 7 Update 7 Boot ISO image for x86 (64 bit), 609.0 MB
<input type="checkbox"/>	V983338-01(V983338-01.iso)	Oracle Linux Release 7 Update 7 UEK Boot ISO image for x86 (64 bit), 633.0 MB
<input type="checkbox"/>	V983339-01(V983339-01.iso)	Oracle Linux Release 7 Update 7 for x86 (64 bit), 4.4 GB
<input type="checkbox"/>	V983344-01(V983344-01.iso)	Oracle Linux Release 7 Update 7 source DVD 1, 3.8 GB
<input type="checkbox"/>	V983345-01(V983345-01.iso)	Oracle Linux Release 7 Update 7 source DVD 2, 4.4 GB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V984560-01(V984560-01.zip)	Oracle VirtIO Drivers Version for Microsoft Windows 1.1.5, 68.0 MB

Total 6 distinct files Total Size 13.9 GB

NOTE: Some downloaded parts may be split into more than one file.

h. Click Download and then follow the prompts

Install the Oracle VirtIO drivers for Windows:

a. Follow the prompts in the [installation](#) wizard. On the Installation Type page, select Custom.





- b. Reboot the VM and check VirtIO driver has been installed properly

Exporting the Image

1. Shut down the VM
2. Clone or export the boot volume as a single-file VMDK or QCOW2 (do NOT use snapshots)
3. Upload the image to OCI Object Storage or follow the image import wizard
4. Refer to [OCI Docs – Importing Windows Image](#)

References

- [Importing Windows Image to OCI](#)
- [Oracle Software Delivery Cloud](#)
- [Oracle VirtIO Drivers Guide](#)

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