How to configure Parallels Desktop Business to run as a service

- Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition

Information

Strarting from version 9, Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition allows you to run a virtual machine in a server role.

It means that Parallels Desktop Business Edition can be run as a service (background process) without a graphical user interface. The virtual machines also run in the background with no virtual machine window displayed on the OS X desktop.

When configured to run as a service, Parallels Desktop and the virtual machines start automatically when OS X starts without requiring a user to be logged in to OS X. You can have a high performance Mac running multiple virtual machines in the background to which users can connect remotely via VNC, RDP, SSH, and other remote tools.

To configure Parallels Desktop do the following:

1. Open Parallels Desktop and click **Parallels Desktop > Preferences** in the menu bar. Then click **General** and select the **Start Parallels Desktop as a service** option.
2. Select the **Disable Resume for Parallels Desktop** option to ensure your virtual machine does not get stopped or suspended when you close Parallels Desktop but it continues running or gets shut down according to its startup and shutdown settings, which is essential for a server mode.

To configure your virtual machine do the following:

1. In the virtual machine menu bar, click **Actions** and then click **Configure**.
2. Click Options and then select Startup and Shutdown.
3. In the **Start Automatically** menu, select **When Mac starts**. Now Parallels Desktop service and your virtual machine will start automatically after Mac OS X boot.
4. In the **On Mac Shutdown** menu, select **Suspend**. This tells the Parallels Desktop service to suspend the virtual machine when the Mac is shut down or restarted.
5. In the **On Windows Close** menu, select **Keep running in background** (or Ask me what to do if you want a dialog displayed when you close the virtual machine window). This way the virtual machine will not be accidentally shut down or suspended when you open and close its window while Parallels Desktop is running as a service.
6. Set the rest of the options according to your usual preferences.
7. Close the virtual machine preferences window and start the virtual machine.

You may now close the virtual machine window and the Parallels Desktop application. This will only close the graphical user interface. The Parallels Desktop service and the virtual machines will continue to run in the background.

To learn more about running Parallels Desktop Business as a service please read pages 28-32 of this Guide

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