Starting a virtual machine automatically

- Parallels Desktop for Mac Standard Edition
- Parallels Desktop for Mac Pro Edition

This article explains how to configure your virtual machine to launch automatically when your Mac starts up.

Note: In contrast to the macOS virtual machines created to run on Mac computers with Intel processors, macOS virtual machines on Mac computers with Apple M series chips (macOS ARM VMs) are built using Apple's Virtualization framework, and all the virtual machines' components are managed by the framework. As a result, the configuration options for macOS virtual machines on Apple M series chips are somewhat restricted.

Please visit this article for more information: KB 128867

Starting a virtual machine automatically in Pro and Business editions

Parallels Desktop Pro and Business editions allows setting a virtual machine to be started automatically when:

- Mac starts;

- User logs in.

To start a virtual machine automatically based on one of conditions above change its configuration in the following way:

1. Open virtual machine's configuration.
2. Go to **Options > Startup and Shutdown** then click on the **Custom** radio button and change **Start Automatically** option accordingly.

3. Close configuration window. Next time depending on its settings the virtual machine will start automatically.

Starting a virtual machine automatically in Standard edition

First we have to change the configuration settings of your virtual machine as :

1. Open virtual machine's configuration
2. Select **Options** Tab > **Startup and Shutdown** > Set the option **Start Automatically** as **"When Parallels Desktop starts "**.

3. Close configuration window and proceed further.

Then in order to have the Parallels Desktop Application to be started automatically whenever you start your Mac, please follow the steps below :

1. Log in as the user who wishes to have a login item or as an **admin** user.
2. Choose **System Preferences** from the **Apple** menu.
3. Choose **Users & Accounts** from the **View** menu.
4. Click the **name** of the user.
5. Click the **Login Items** button.
6. Click the **"Add {+}"** button.

The item you selected will automatically open the next time you log in.

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