

Installing Arch Linux OS in Parallels Desktop

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

Information

This page has instructions on installing Arch Linux on your Mac for the first time to use with Parallels Desktop.

IMPORTANT: *Parallels Desktop supports Linux guests out of the box, but only offers support for a few Linux distributions - excluding Arch Linux. This means the installation of Parallels tools have not been tested by the vendor, and requires some manual intervention to work under Arch. If you do not wish to use Parallels tools, installation is as simple as choosing "other Linux" when creating a new virtual machine and proceeding with installation as you would on any real machine*

Resolution

IMPORTANT: *Arch Linux is a dedicated Unix distributive. Working with it may require some additional technical background.*

IMPORTANT: *Parallels Tools are not fully supported in Arch Linux environment. It is still possible to install Parallels Tools manually, but some of the features will be missing (e.g. Parallels Shared Folders, Coherence)*

1. Download latest Arch Linux **.iso** image file from [Arch Linux website](#).
2. Start Parallels Desktop, then click **File -> New**.
3. Choose **Install Windows or another OS from a DVD or and image file**, then click **Continue**.
4. Click "Locate Manually", then click on **Select a file....** Locate Arch .iso in a pop up Finder window. Click **Continue**
5. Once pop up windows appears, select **Other Linux**.
6. Specify the name and location of your Arch virtual machine(**VM**) or leave the default settings, then click **Continue**.
7. **Arch Linux VM** will be created and Arch Linux will start booting.

Click inside the virtual machine screen, then select "**Graphical Install**".

8. Once Arch Linux is booted, go through standard Arch Linux installation steps.

IMPORTANT: *Arch Linux installation process is different from standard Linux installation and therefore will not be covered in this article. For more information please refer to [Arch Linux Wiki](#)*

9. After Arch Linux is installed, restart the virtual machine.

10. Wait for the Arch Linux to boot. Log into **Arch Linux VM**

11. Install updates for Arch Linux.

Execute the following commands one by one:

```
su
```

(prompt Arch Linux root password)

```
pacman -Syy
```

12. Install graphical environment.

```
sudo pacman -S xorg-server xorg-xinit xorg-server-utils mesa-libgl xterm
sudo pacman -S xf86-video-vesa
sudo pacman -S xfce4 xfce4-goodies sddm
sudo systemctl enable sddm.service
```

13. Restart **Arch Linux VM**. Then log into graphical desktop.

14. Prepare dependencies and install essential packages.

IMPORTANT: *Parallels Tools are not optimized for work in Arch Linux. For more current information about Parallels Tools installation please refer to [Parallels Wiki](#)*

Launch Arch Linux **Terminal**, then copy and execute following commands one by one.

```
su
```

(prompt Arch Linux root password)

```
ln -sf /usr/lib/systemd/scripts/ /etc/init.d
export def_sysconfdir=/etc/init.d
touch /etc/X11/xorg.conf
pacman -S base-devel python2 linux-headers
ln -sf /usr/bin/python2 /usr/local/bin/python
```

Before proceeding to the next step, create a Parallels Tools service which will start on boot. In Arch Linux **Terminal** copy and execute:

```
touch /usr/lib/systemd/system/parallels-tools.service
nano /usr/lib/systemd/system/parallels-tools.service
```

Type in following details:

```
[Unit]
```

```
Description=Parallels Tools
```

```
[Service]
```

```
Type=oneshot
```

```
ExecStart=/usr/lib/systemd/scripts/prltoolsd start

ExecStop=/usr/lib/systemd/scripts/prltoolsd stop

RemainAfterExit=yes

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Press **Ctrl-X** to save changes, then hit **Enter**

15. Install **Parallels Tools**.

In the Mac menu click on **Actions** (Virtual Machine in older versions) > **Install Parallels Tools** (or Reinstall / Update Parallels Tools, if applicable)

In Arch Linux **Terminal** copy and execute following commands one by one.

```
mkdir /mnt/cdrom
mount /dev/cdrom /mnt/cdrom
cd /mnt/cdrom
./install
```

Proceed with **Parallels Tools** installation

Select **Exit**, hit **Enter**

In Arch Linux **Terminal** execute:

```
systemctl enable parallels-tools.service
```

Restart **Arch Linux VM**

16. Change **Arch Linux VM** boot parameters

Wait for the **GRUB** boot loader windows to appear

Press **e** to edit boot options for kernel

Find kernel options string similar to:

```
`linux /boot/vmlinuz-linux root...`
```

Navigate to the end of the string and then add parameter `iomem=relaxed`, then save changes by pressing **F10**

17. Proceed with booting **Arch Linux VM**.

In Arch Linux **Terminal** execute:

```
rm /usr/local/bin/python
```

18. That's it. Parallels Tools are now installed for Arch Linux VM

IMPORTANT: *In order to be able to use Coherence view mode in Arch Linux VM, please check [Disabling Desktop Visual Effects in Linux virtual machines](#).*

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