



Low virtual machine performance running on a Mac with Fusion Drive

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

Symptoms

I have a Mac with a Fusion drive. I am expecting my virtual machine to have a better performance than on a Mac with a regular hard drive but unfortunately, the performance is poor.

Cause

Fusion Drive doesn't work as fast as an SSD drive in spite of the fact it has an SSD part within HDD. Files over 4 GB reside on the HDD part of a Fusion drive and as a virtual machine's size is always larger than 4 GB, it is stored on the HDD side and the SSD part of the disk does not enhance the virtual machine's performance. As a result, it will not work as fast as on internal or even external SSD.

Resolution

- Upgrade your Mac with an SSD drive.
- Copy your virtual machine to an external SSD drive and run it from there. More information might be found in [KB 122874](#).