



How can I upgrade to Windows 8 and keep my current Windows 7, Windows Vista, or Windows XP virtual machine?

- Parallels Desktop
- Parallels Desktop for Mac Standard Edition
- Parallels Desktop for Mac Standard Edition 9 and older
- Parallels Desktop for Mac Standard Edition 10

Resolution

If you have only one Windows Virtual Machine, and you do not want to upgrade this machine to Windows 8, but create a standalone Windows 8 machine, here are the steps to **upgrading to Windows 8 and keeping your current Windows Virtual Machine (VM)**, using an example of upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 8.

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Update to the latest build of Parallels Desktop, boot your Windows 7 VM and install all Windows updates if necessary

In the Parallels Desktop menu, select *Parallels Desktop > Check for Updates...* and if an update is available then install it.

Duplicate your Windows VM

- Shutdown the Windows VM and locate its .pvm file by right-clicking on your Windows VM in the **Parallels Control Center** (or **Virtual Machines list** prior to Parallels Desktop 10) and select **Show in Finder**:
- Then make a copy of this .pvm file in the same folder.
- Rename the duplicate Windows VM. For example, rename it **Win_to_8_VM.pvm**
- Double click this copied VM to start
- Select **Copied** on the next Parallels Desktop dialog:

Change the Virtual Machine name from within Windows to prevent any confusion on the network

To do this, open the *Control Panel > System* in Windows, and click on **Change Settings**:

- Then, click on the **Change...** button in the **System Properties** dialog and rename the computer:
- Note: you will have to reboot this Windows VM to complete this name change.

Note: make sure your Windows license allows you to create one more instance of Windows Virtual Machine.

You are ready to start the upgrade to Windows 8

Read the full KB article to understand how the upgrade to Windows 8 is different depending on the version of Windows you are upgrading:

[#114985](#) Windows 8 upgrade: step by step instructions and tips for Parallels Desktop users

Start with the part of the KB article which says **My Virtual Machine is ready for upgrade. What should I do next?**.

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