



## **ERROR: Hard disk %1 used by the virtual machine \"%2\" cannot be compressed**

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

## **Symptoms**

On attempting to compress the virtual hard drive Parallels Desktop displays the following error:

```
Hard disk %1 used by the virtual machine \"%2\" cannot be compressed
The disk is either plain, or dynamic, or contains no data. Such disks cannot be compressed
```

## **Cause**

Parallels Desktop cannot compress the following types of the virtual hard disk:

- Dynamic Disk
- Disk with GPT partition scheme
- Disk with empty MBR (master boot record)
- Disk with snapshots
- Rollback mode

## **Resolution**

- Dynamic Disk - compressing is not supported in the current version of Parallels Desktop
- GPT Disks - compressing is not supported in the current version of Parallels Desktop
- Disk with empty MBR - compressing is not supported in the current version of Parallels Desktop
- Disk with Snapshots - merge all snapshots and try compressing again

To merge snapshots, please do the following:

1. Right-click your virtual machine in **Parallels Desktop Control Center** and select **Manage Snapshots**.

2. Choose snapshots one by one starting from the left side and click **Delete**.

**Alternative way:**

Follow step-by-step instructions from the article below (Advanced Troubleshooting):

<https://kb.parallels.com/9165>

- Rollback mode - disable rollback mode feature by going to **configuration** > **Security** > **Rollback mode** > **Disable**.
- 

© 2025 Parallels International GmbH. All rights reserved. Parallels, the Parallels logo and Parallels Desktop are registered trademarks of Parallels International GmbH. All other product and company names and logos are the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.