

## Transfer an existing virtual machine to a new Mac or an external drive

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

---

**Note:** a virtual machine (VM) created on an Intel-based Mac cannot be started on a Mac computer with M1 chip. A new VM on a Mac with Apple M1 chip must be created (see [KB 125375](#)). However, you can transfer your data from the original VM as per [KB 125344](#).

---

### Symptoms

I need to transfer an existing virtual machine to your new Mac.

### Resolution

When you buy a new Mac, you do not have to install your virtual machine once again - you can just transfer an existing one.

---

**Important:** Shut down your virtual machine before following the steps below.

---

**Note:** Once the virtual machine is transferred to another Mac, you might get the following notification:

The difference is that when you select the **Moved** option the parameters of the virtual machine won't be changed.

If you select the **Copied** option please consider the following parameters of the virtual machine will be adjusted:

- UUID of the virtual machine;
  - MAC address of the network adapter.
- 

1. Locate the virtual machine on your old Mac hard drive.

**Note:** in order to transfer a Boot Camp partition, see [KB 113658](#)

By default, virtual machine files are located either in *Documents/Parallels* folder inside your user folder, or in */Users/Shared/Parallels*.

Parallels Desktop virtual machines have a **.pvm** extension

2. Copy the **.pvm** file to an external hard drive or transfer it via the network.
3. Connect your external hard drive to the destination Mac.
4. Copy **.pvm** file from the external Hard Drive to any folder on the destination Mac.

You can disconnect the external device now that your virtual machine has been successfully moved to your Mac.

5. Install Parallels Desktop, then double-click on the **.pvm** file on your Mac to start the virtual machine.

**Note:** OS X does not support writing to NTFS partitions by default. We recommend formatting your external drive to either OS X native HFS+ file system or ExFAT file system (for compatibility with Windows PCs).

**Note:** FAT32 file system does not support files bigger than 4 GB.

---

© 2024 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.