

## VoiceOver does not work correctly with Parallels Desktop

- Parallels Desktop
- Parallels Desktop for Mac Standard Edition

### Symptoms

- I am using VoiceOver on Mac, but it does not work with Parallels Desktop. When I am focused on Parallels Desktop UI menu VoiceOver says "You are currently on a unknown".

### Cause

VoiceOver is not compatible with Qt - the language which is used to build Parallels Desktop application. Neither VoiceOver works in Windows or Linux OS virtual machines.

### Workaround

In order to manage Windows virtual machine with voice, please restrict VoiceOver to recognise your voice while inside the virtual machine. You may use build-in Windows accessibility options or any third-party software inside Windows.

In order to restrict VoiceOver to recognise your voice while in Windows, please do the following:

1. Open **System Preferences** -> **Accessibility** and click **Open VoiceOver utility**
2. In **VoiceOver Utility** open **Activities** tab
3. Add activity using **plus "+"** -> specify the name (optional) -> expand additional settings -> check **Voices** settings and click **Set...**:
4. On the opened windows check **Mute Speech** option and click **Close**.
5. Click Close and set **Parallels Desktop** in **Use this activity for**.
6. Install Application attached to this KB inside the virtual machine. This application will disable VoiceOver on Mac when Parallels Virtual Machine is on foreground, and enable VoiceOver when Virtual Machine moved to background.

**NOTE:** you have to run Mac OS 10.7 or later.

Now VoiceOver would be turned of while inside the virtual machine.

---