



Can VMWare deployment package with .ova extension be converted for Parallels Desktop?

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

Symptoms

I have **VMWare** deployment package with the extension `.ova` (Open Virtual Appliance, standard format for virtual machines).

It contains my virtual machines.

I would like to switch from **VMWare** to **Parallels Desktop**.

Can I use the same package (`.ova`) for deploying **VMWare** to **Parallels Desktop**. or it should be converted?

Resolution

`.ova` is an archive. It usually contains description file (`.ovf`) a manifest file (`.mf`), and virtual machine disk files (`.vhd` or `.vmdk`)

Currently, conversion directly from `ova/ovf` is not supported by Parallels Desktop.

What needs to be done in this particular case:

1. Download the **ovftool** from **VMWare** official site and install it on your computer.
2. Once this is done, you can convert the `.ova` to `.vmx` format:

- ◆ Run **Terminal** (`/Finder/Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app`) and execute the command:

```
/Applications/VMware\ OVF\ Tool/ovftool --lax VM_NAME.ova exploit.vmx
```

NOTE: You need to specify the exact path to `.ova` file instead of "`VM_NAME.ova`".

The best way is to simply Drag'n'Drop this file in **Terminal** window after entering `...--lax`

- ◆ (There should be a space between `...lax` and `/path-to-vm...`).
3. Now, you have a `.vmx` file that you can open and convert to **Parallels Desktop** virtual machine (`.pvm`):
 - ◆ Please make sure you deleted previous tools from your virtual machine (old Parallels Tools or VMware tools, etc.)
 - ◆ Fully Shut down your virtual machine - do not suspend the virtual machine and do not put it in hibernate mode.
 - ◆ Open **Parallels Desktop** (in the Applications folder) and choose **File > Open**.
 - ◆ Select the `.vmx` file you want to import, then click **Open**.
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