

How to make virtual machine use real Wi-fi network?

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

Symptoms

- I would like to have a real Wi-Fi connection in my virtual machine.
- Wi-Fi adapter is working fine on Mac Os side
- Windows virtual machine recognize all network connections as wired connections

Cause

Virtual machine that underlies **Parallels Desktop** does not have a wireless adapter.

Parallels Desktop does not natively offer Wireless support (like a virtualized **Wireless** device). Instead, it connects directly to the Wireless device the Host uses.

Every **PCI** or **PCI-Express** device attached to the virtual machine is getting virtualized by the Parallels Desktop. Due to technical limitations no virtualization software allows for direct access to hardware devices like **Wi-Fi** adapter.

Resolution

As a workaround one can use a various **Wireless USB** network adapters.

List of possible adapters

For the purposes of this article we are using simple USB Wi-Fi adapter from one of the well known brands.

1. Plug your **Wireless USB** adapter into your Mac and then connect it to Windows virtual machine:
2. Make sure it got connected to your virtual machine:
3. Download drivers for your **Wireless USB** adapter model and proceed with installing drivers inside your virtual machine.
4. Once drivers are installed you should be able to see **Wireless** adapter available in Windows virtual machine network preferences.

