



How to deploy Parallels Desktop for Mac with a custom password to restrict user actions

- Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition

In Parallels Desktop for Mac, you can specify a custom password to restrict the following user actions:

- Creating a new virtual machine (VM).
- Adding an existing VM.
- Removing a VM.
- Cloning a VM or converting it to a template.
- Opening the Parallels Desktop Preferences dialog.

This functionality allows you to set a custom password and specify which user actions from the list above should require it. Once you apply these settings, even the local Mac administrator will not be able to perform these actions without specifying the password that you set.

Prepare a VM for deployment

Using Parallels Desktop Autodeploy.pkg

To make sure that all Mac computers are protected with one custom password, add a corresponding parameter to the deployment configuration file (deploy.cfg).

Note: for detailed instructions on deploying Parallels Desktop via Mac Management tools, please refer to page 11 of the [Parallels Desktop Business Edition Administrator's Guide](#).

1. Download the [Parallels Desktop Autodeploy](#) package.
2. Unarchive the downloaded file > Open the extracted directory > Right-click the **Parallels Desktop Autodeploy.pkg** > **Show Package Contents**.
3. Navigate to the **License Key and Configuration** folder > open **deploy.cfg** with any text editor > locate the **Security** section and add the desired parameters.

Security parameters

The following set of parameters allows you to **set a custom password** and then specify whether this password is required to perform a corresponding action in Parallels Desktop.

`current_password`

- Use this key if you want to disable or change the current password or if you want to enable/disable any of the actions when the password is already set.
- When disabling the password completely, simply specify the current password and leave the `new_password` key (below) commented out or set to an empty string e.g. "".
- When changing the password, specify the current password here and the new password using the `new_password` key. You can also enable or disable any of the actions if needed.
- When enabling or disabling any of the actions without changing the password, both the `current_password` and the `new_password` keys must contain the current password.

`new_password`

- Custom password. If no password is currently set, use this key to specify the password. If a password is currently set, see the description above.

`password_to_edit_prefs`

- Require the password to open the Parallels Desktop Preferences dialog. If this key is not specified, the password is not required.

`password_to_create_vm`

- Require the password to create a new VM.

`password_to_add_vm`

- Require the password to add an existing VM.

`password_to_remove_vm`

- Require the password to remove a VM.

`password_to_clone_vm`

- Require the password to clone a VM or convert it to a template.

The following set of parameters allows you to specify whether a **local Mac administrator password is required** to perform a corresponding action in Parallels Desktop. Please note that the parameters described above provide a higher level of security since they allow you to use a custom password.

`admin_password_to_create_vm`

- Require a local Mac administrator password to create a VM.

`admin_password_to_add_vm`

- Require a local Mac administrator password to add an existing VM.

`admin_password_to_remove_vm`

- Require a local Mac administrator password to remove a VM from Parallels Desktop.

`admin_password_to_clone_vm`

- Require a local Mac administrator password to clone a VM.

Using configuration profile

Alternatively, the deployment of virtual machines can be achieved using the Configuration Profiles feature.

In this case, you can set a custom password to restrict some user actions with the deployed virtual machine:

- Change the virtual machine state
- Change the virtual machine view mode
- Manage snapshots
- Change the virtual machine configuration

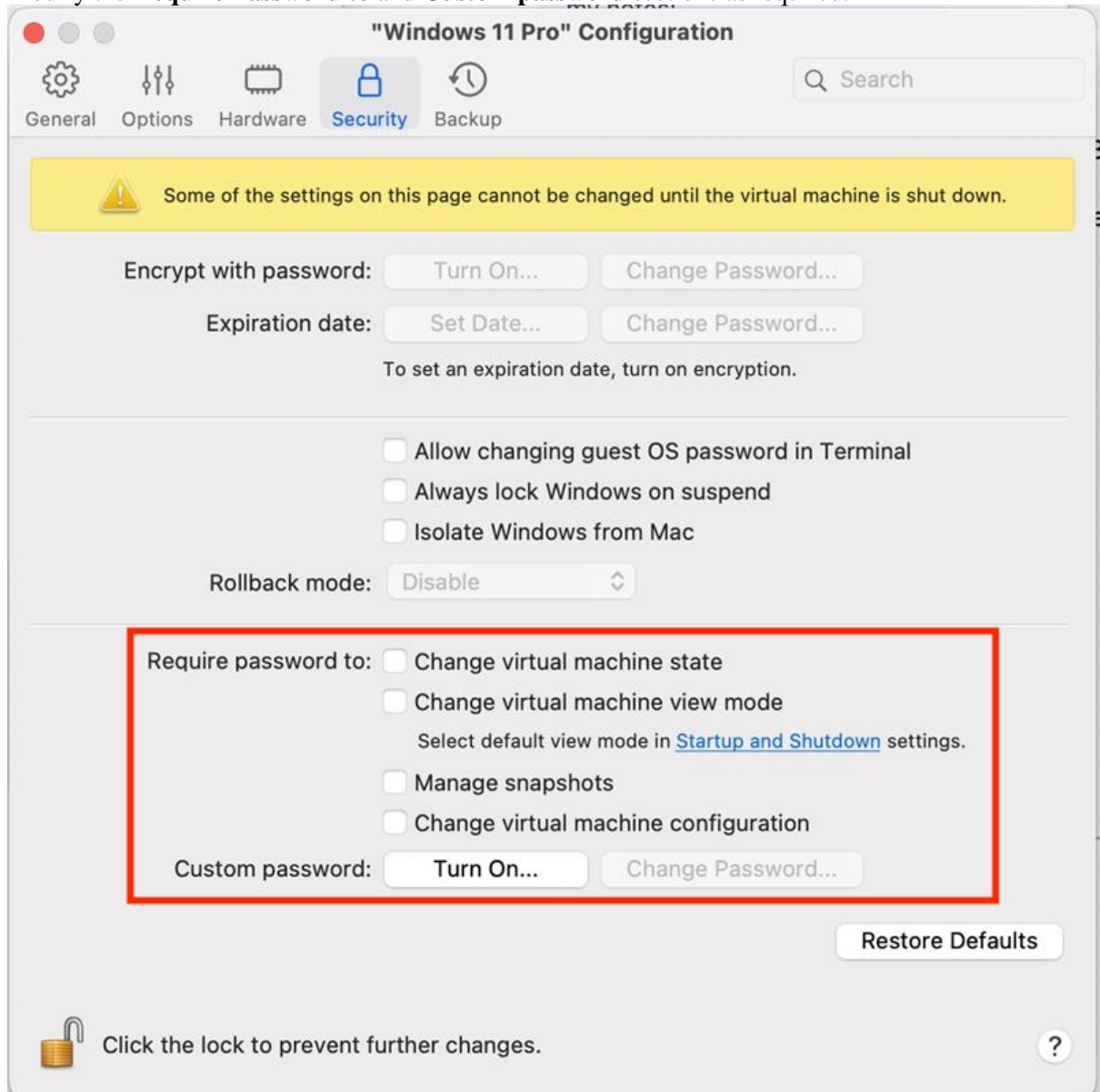
A configuration profile is a set of parameters created by an Administrator in the Parallels Business Account Dashboard that can be remotely applied to modify the appearance or behavior of the software according to organization policies. These profiles allow enabling functionalities such as provisioning corporate virtual machine images and enabling major version upgrades. More importantly, these can be tailored to the specific architecture of the host Mac computer the Administrator intends to deploy to, e.g., Intel and Apple silicon.

Each configuration profile can contain one or more specific payloads, which are settings for different functionalities like virtual machine provisioning or product updates. Multiple profiles can be created to enable different functionalities for different user groups.

The process is as follows:

1. Create and install a supported operating system.

2. Shut down the virtual machine after creation (Actions > Shut down) and open the [configuration settings](#) of the VM.
3. Select the **Security** tab.
4. Modify the **Require Password to** and **Custom password** sections as required.



5. [Create](#) a VM image.
6. Upload the VM image to a file share.
7. Log into your Business [Account Dashboard](#).
8. Select your Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition product > **Active Subscriptions** > **More** > **Configuration profiles**.
9. Create a Configuration Profile and fill in the appropriate details.
10. Enable VM provisioning. Learn more [here](#).
11. Apply the configuration profile to a license or sublicense key. Learn more [here](#).
12. Configure individual payloads.

Note: For detailed instructions on deploying VM images using Configuration Profiles, please refer to page 41 of the [Parallels Desktop Business Edition Administrator's Guide](#).