Converting a third-party virtual machine to a Parallels Desktop virtual machine

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

Information

To convert a third-party virtual machine to a Parallels Desktop virtual machine it's advised following simple recommendations mentioned below before the actual conversion take place:

1. A donor virtual machine is not encrypted.
2. A donor virtual machine is shut down completely, not suspended or paused.
   There are two ways to shut down a Windows VM completely:
   Way 1: Open Start menu, select **Power** button. Press and hold the **Shift** key on keyboard, while clicking on **Shut down**. Once done, release the **Shift** key.
   Way 2: Execute the below command in **Command Prompt:**
   shutdown /s /f /t 0
3. A standalone backup of the existing virtual machine is created.
   It's required if something goes wrong during the conversion, e.g. power surge, kernel panic, unpredictable restart caused by third-party program interactions.
4. The file system of a donor virtual machine doesn't contain errors. Use chkdsk for Windows virtual machines and First Aid for macOS/OSX virtual machines.
   If the file system of a donor virtual machine contains errors the resulting virtual machine will automatically inherit them and it could render the virtual machine unusable.
5. Guest additions/tools are removed.
   To begin with, they aren't needed in a Parallels Desktop virtual machine because Parallels Desktop provides its own assembly of drivers called Parallels Tools and additionally, the presence of third-party drivers (included in additions/tools) may cause issues when launching converted virtual machine.

After these recommendations are performed it's possible to start the actual conversion:

1. Start Parallels Desktop and from the top menu bar select **File - Open.**

2. Then navigate to a donor virtual machine location using Finder dialogue window and select its **virtual hard disk**.
3. As a result, the Installation Assistant window will appear allowing to choose the resulting virtual machine location and its name.

4. As a result of pressing Convert button the following dialogue window will appear displaying conversion process progress.

5. After the conversion of the virtual hard disk is finished, Parallels Desktop will begin configuring the converted virtual machine.

6. Once the configuration process is finished, the converted virtual machine will boot. After log in to the virtual machine, Parallels Tools will be automatically installed.
   If automatic Parallels Tools installation hasn't occurred, install them manually by using the top menu bar **Actions** - **Install Parallels Tools** menu.
   With Parallels Tools installed the converted virtual machine becomes a fully functional Parallels Desktop virtual machine.

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