



How to create and use DMG based virtual disk in Parallels Desktop

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

This article explains how to use a DMG file as a virtual disk for macOS virtual machines in Parallels Desktop 16.1.0 and later. A virtual machine will be operating with the DMG file directly using a virtual disk created by following the instructions below.

Instructions

It's recommended to create a virtual disk based on a DMG file inside the virtual machine folder to avoid losing it.

To create a DMG based virtual disk, do the following:

1. Open **Terminal** (**Applications > Utilities > Terminal**)
2. Type the following command:
`prl_disk_tool create --hdd <path to new virtual disk> --dmg <path to dmg file>`
Note: Use the full path to both files to avoid errors during the disk creation process.

Example:

```
prl_disk_tool create --hdd ~/Parallels/macOS.pvm/dmg_disk.hdd --dmg  
/Users/username/macOSImage.dmg
```

3. To attach the disk to a macOS virtual machine, use one of the following ways:
 - ◆ Open the virtual machine's configuration, go to the **Hardware** tab and click the **+** button > **Hard Disk**.
 - ◆ In the appeared menu select **Type: Existing image file**. Then navigate to the location of the disk created in step 2.

or

- ◆ In the **Terminal** window type the command:
`prlctl set "virtual machine name" --device-add hdd --image <path to the disk>`

Example:

```
prlctl set "macOS" --device-add hdd --image  
~/Parallels/macOS.pvm/dmg_disk.hdd
```

4. If you want to boot the virtual machine from this DMG file, go to the **Hardware > Boot Order** and change the boot order respectively.