



Use Function keys in Windows virtual machine

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

Our software allows you to run a virtual machine (VM) of another operating system, such as Windows 11, on your Mac computer. However, using function keys in a Windows 11 VM on Parallels Desktop can be confusing, as the default behavior of the keys may differ from what you expect. This KB article will guide you through the steps to use function keys in a Windows VM on Parallels Desktop, ensuring that they behave as expected.

Resolution

Note: If you are using a MacBook with Touch Bar, use the **Fn** key to display function keys on the Touch Bar while using a Parallels virtual machine.

If you want function keys to be displayed on Touch Bar by default, please refer to [this article](#).

1. Make sure Parallels Tools are installed in your Virtual Machine. [Install or reinstall](#) Parallels Tools if necessary.
2. Open **System Settings** on Mac > **Keyboard** > **Keyboard Shortcuts...**

3. Go to **Function Keys** and enable the option: **Use all F1, F2, etc. as standard function keys**.

4. Open Parallels Desktop **Preferences** and go to the **Shortcuts** tab ? **macOS System Shortcuts**. From **Send macOS system shortcuts** drop-down list select **Auto** to pass shortcuts into the virtual machine only when it is in focus.

5. To always pass shortcuts into the virtual machine choose **Always**:

