How to exclude a virtual machine from being uploaded to iCloud Drive

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

Symptoms

- I want to enable **Store files from Documents and Desktop in iCloud Drive** option, but I don't want my virtual machine to be stored in iCloud, as it takes too much disk space.

- I want to exclude my virtual machine(s) from being stored in iCloud Drive.

Cause

Parallels virtual machine(s) is stored in *Documents* folder.

Why not to sync a virtual machine with iCloud?

1. Common Windows virtual machine occupies around 20GB of disk space. As more you work in VM, as more space it will take. Uploading a virtual machine to iCloud might occupy an ample part of your iCloud storage.
2. When you run a virtual machine that is located in a iCloud-synced folder, due to I/O disk operations virtual hard disk files are constantly being modified. Therefore iCloud will constantly try to upload the files, but will drop the upload once it detects that the files are changed. This leads to outbound network traffic waste.

However, the virtual machine may be successfully uploaded to iCloud. Once uploaded, please keep in mind that **deleting a virtual machine** from one place (either iCloud or local folder) **will automatically delete** it from another. Make sure not to lose your virtual machine.

Resolution

Move your virtual machines to another location

1. Quit Parallels Desktop for Mac
2. Open **Finder** > navigate to **Documents** > **Parallels**
3. Open another Finder window with the directory where you want to move your virtual machine(s). We recommend you create a Parallels folder in home user directory.

4. Drag and drop the virtual machine bundle from current directory to the new one.

   IMPORTANT: Double-click the virtual machine bundle after moving it to the new directory **to register it in Parallels Desktop for Mac**.
5. Go to the Apple menu > **System Preferences** > **iCloud** > (*enable iCloud Drive)* > **Options...** > check **Desktop & Documents Folders** option > click **Done**.

Change the default folder for the new virtual machines

To change the default folder for the new virtual machines, go to **Parallels Desktop** menu **> Preferences... > General**, and specify desired location for the new virtual machines.

NOTE: For the new users who install Parallels Desktop 12 for Mac on macOS 10.12 Sierra the default folder for virtual machines will be `/users/username/Parallels/`.

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