Parallels Desktop for Mac – Windows Express Installation

The Express OS Installation Assistant is a free, built-in tool that *automatically* creates a virtual machine and installs either Windows XP or Windows Vista, complete with Parallels Tools. This tutorial guides you through a Windows Express Installation for either Windows XP or Windows Vista.

Getting Started

You will need:

1. Your Windows installation disc or an ISO image of the installation disc. An ISO image is a single file that contains the entire contents of a CD or a DVD.

2. Your Windows activation code. This code is a 20-digit alphanumeric code that is typically found on the back of your Windows box or on the Windows CD sleeve.

Windows Express Installation

1. Launch Parallels Desktop for Mac. If a virtual machine has not been previously installed, the **OS Installation Assistant** window will display. If a virtual machine has already been previously installed, select **File** from the **Parallels Desktop** menu, and click **New**.

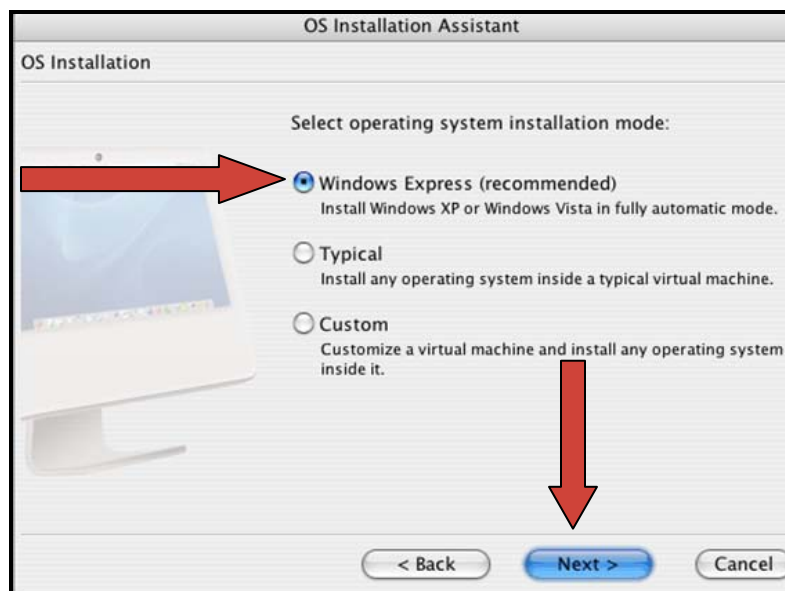2. Select **Windows Express**, and click **Next**.   See Figure 1.

Figure 1

3. Select either **Windows XP** or **Windows Vista**, depending on the version you want to install. See Figure 2.
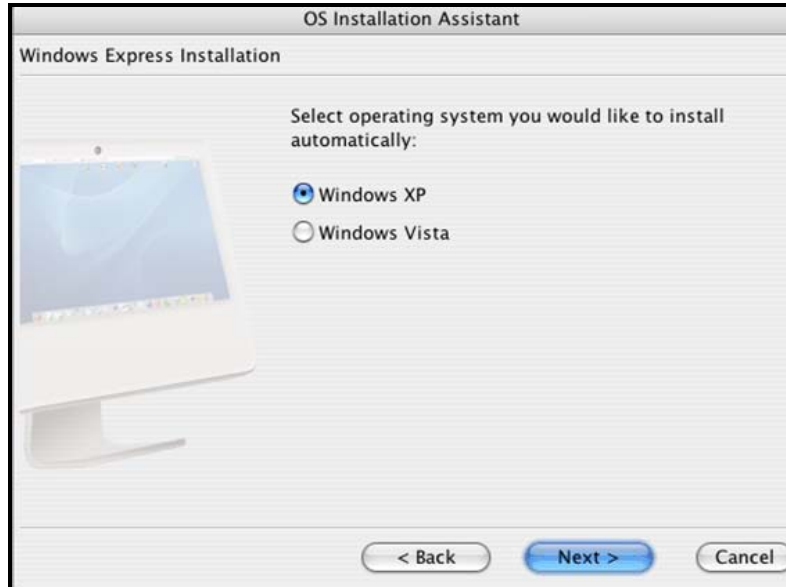

Figure 2

4. By default, the new virtual machine will be given the same name as the OS you are installing. For example, a Windows XP virtual machine will be named "Windows XP". If a virtual machine already exists with that name, you will be prompted to specify another name. You are also able to give the virtual machine a custom name, such as "Erica's XP Machine".

5. When prompted, enter your Windows product key and personal information. Click **Next**.

Figure 3

6. If you are using a Windows installation disc, insert the disc into the computer's CD/DVD ROM, click **Next**, and proceed to step 9. If you are using an ISO image file, proceed to step 7.

7. If you are using an ISO image of the installation disc, click **More Options**. The list of available options will display. Select **ISO image**, and click **Choose**. See Figure 4.
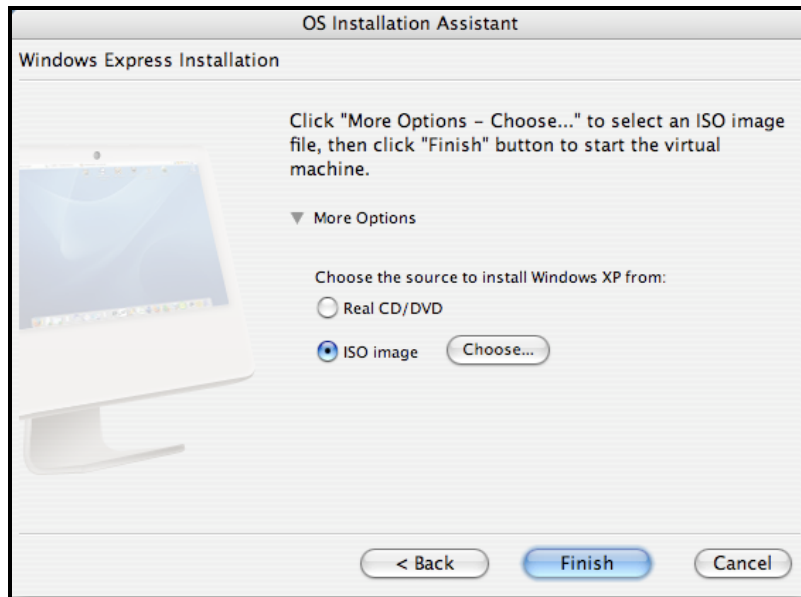

Figure 4

8. Locate and select the ISO image file of the Windows installation disc. Right-click the ISO file, and select **Open**. See Figure 5.
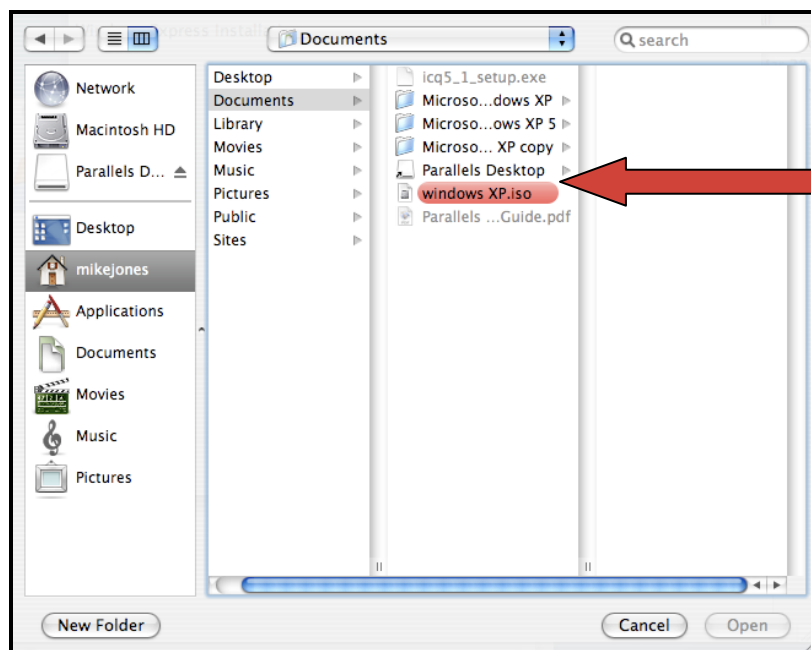

Figure 5

9. Verify that **Start Windows XP installation** is selected, and click **Finish**. See Figure 6.

Figure 6

10. Once Windows is installed, the Installation Assistant automatically installs Parallels Tools, a set of helpful add-ons that enable you to:

- Share Data between Windows and OS X

- Allow you to move your mouse seamlessly between OSes

- Sync your Windows and Mac system clocks

Setting a Password after Windows Express Installation is Complete

The Windows Express Installation Assistant creates a Windows administrator account with a blank password. It is recommended that you change the password to protect the safety of your data.

Windows XP:

1. Select **Control Panel** from the Windows **Start menu**. Go to **Administrative Tools -> Computer Management**.

2. In the Computer Management window, go to **System Tools** -> **Local Users and Groups**-> **Users**.

3. Right-click **Administrator**, and select **Set Password**.

Windows Vista:

1. Select **Control Panel** from the Windows **Start menu**.

2. Go to **User Accounts** -> **Change your password**.

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