

About Parallels Workstation 6

Parallels Workstation 6 is a major upgrade to Parallels' award-winning software for running multiple guest operating systems on a physical computer.

What's New

This version of Parallels Workstation 6 includes the following new features and enhancements:

Performance:

- Improved overall performance and stability.
- 64-bit virtual machine process improves performance of virtual machines, especially those with more than 1 GB of memory.
- Virtual CPU now supports NX bit (No eXecute), which allows enabling Data Execution Prevention (DEP) in Windows.
- Controlled Native Execution (CNE): virtualization without hardware assisted support.
- Intel AES-NI support for virtual machines running on physical computers with Intel Core i5 and i7 processors.
- Intel VT-x2 (VPIDs, EPT and FlexPriority) support for better virtual machine performance.
- KVM Paravirtualization ensures improved performance of paravirtualized Linux guest OSs.
- Access to virtual machines and their applications from anywhere in the world using Parallels Mobile for iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.
- Reduced CPU usage.
- Improved disk I/O performance – up to 35% faster Windows 7, Windows Vista, and Windows XP virtual machines.
- Faster Windows startup and shutdown.
- Improved performance of operations with snapshots.
- Faster resuming of paused and suspended virtual machines.
- Better performance of Linux virtual machines.
- Increased Windows guest OS boot speed.
- Better support for virtual machines with large amounts of memory.
- Run virtual machines in the background without Parallels Workstation interface.
- Start a virtual machine automatically on host and application start.
- Snapshots/suspended state can now be compressed to save disk space.
- Manage virtual machines remotely using Parallels Management Console.

Virtual Devices:

- Virtual SATA interface support for hard disk drives of newly created virtual machines.
- Virtual SATA interface support for CD/DVD drives of virtual machines.
- Support for the Intel Pro/1000 (e1000) network interface for faster network performance and compatibility.
- Virtual USB mouse for smooth transition between the host and guest operating systems even when Parallels Tools are not installed.
- Faster input and navigation operations due to the new virtual USB keyboard technology.
- Improved handling of keyboard modifiers and system shortcuts when working in the host and guest operating systems.
- Increased USB speed.
- Improved USB compatibility.
- Automatic compression: virtual HDD size is automatically reduced when unused space grows.
- Support for IPv6, the next-generation version of the Internet Protocol.

User Interface:

- Improved user interface with a new look and feel.

- Improved performance of the Coherence view mode.
- Redesigned, simplified Virtual Machine Configuration dialog.
- Automatic SmartGuard snapshots taken after a timeout.
- Parallels Image Tool now integrated into the main application's Virtual Machine Configuration dialog.
- Import of third-party virtual machines now accessible from the main application's File > Open menu.
- Parallels Transporter now accessible through the Import Virtual Machines option on the Welcome screen or the File > Import menu.
- The Num Lock key was added to the Send Keys menu.

Integration:

- The virtual machine screen scales when its window is resized even if Parallels Tools are not installed or inactive.
- "Formatted text" and "Shared Clipboard" options can now be disabled via the Virtual Machine Configuration dialog.
- In the Full Screen view mode, active screen corners now display the actions assigned to them.
- Improved Drag & Drop performance for Windows guest OSs.
- Improved Shared Profile performance.
- Copy & Paste formatted text between Windows and Linux guest OSs.
- Copy & Paste pictures between Windows and Linux guest OSs.
- Drag & Drop images between the host and guest OS applications.
- Share guest OS applications with the host OS: open host OS documents in guest OS applications.
- Virtual machines pause automatically when no guest OS applications are running.
- Significantly improved performance of Shared Folders.
- Shared Clipboard for Linux guest OSs.

For Switchers:

- Import Virtual Box 3.1.2 and 3.1.4 virtual machines.
- Faster and smoother import of VMware, Virtual PC, and VirtualBox virtual machines.

System Requirements

Hardware

- Minimum 1.66 GHz x86 (32-bit) or x64 (64-bit) CPU.

Note: To run 64-bit guest operating systems, you need a processor that supports the Intel VT-x or AMD-V hardware virtualization technology. To assign PCI Express (PCIe) devices directly to your virtual machines, you need a processor that supports the Intel VT-d or AMD-Vi technology.

- At least 2 GB of RAM (4 GB recommended to run Windows 7)

Note: The host computer must have enough memory to use the host operating system and its programs plus the memory required for each additional operating system (and its programs) that you want to use simultaneously.

- At least 350 MB of space available on the boot volume for Parallels Workstation installation.
- 15 GB of available disk space for each virtual machine.
- DVD-ROM drive.
- Ethernet network adapter.
- If you want to use a directly connected PCIe video card in your virtual machines, Parallels Workstation 6 Extreme officially supports the NVIDIA Quadro® FX 1800, 3800, 4800, 5800, Q4000, Q5000 video cards for virtual machines. For these video cards, use the latest drivers available on the manufacturer's website and NVIDIA Video BIOS version of 62.00.62.00.01 or later. If you have a supported video card which does not have this BIOS level, please contact your OEM supplier.

Software

- Parallels Workstation 6 officially supports the following host operating systems:

32-bit:

- Windows 7;
- Windows Vista SP1, SP2;
- Windows XP Pro SP3;
- Windows XP Home SP3;
- Debian 6.0;
- Fedora 14, 15;
- RHEL 6, 6.1;
- SLED 11 SP1;
- Ubuntu 10.10, 11.04.

64-bit:

- Windows 7;
- Windows Vista SP1, SP2;
- Windows XP Pro SP2;
- Debian 6.0;
- Fedora 14, 15;
- RHEL 6, 6.1;
- SLED 11 SP1;
- Ubuntu 10.10, 11.04.

- Parallels Workstation 6 Extreme officially supports the following host operating systems:

64-bit:

- Windows 7;
- Windows Vista SP2;
- Windows XP SP2;
- RHEL 6.

- A guest OS installation disc, or other installation media for the operating systems you want to use alongside the host operating system.

Known Issues

- After you installed Parallels Workstation Extreme on the Windows 7 (64-bit) host computer, you are unable to connect any USB device to the virtual machine. Reboot the host computer to resolve the issue.
- Logitech Webcam Pro 9000 stops working after you suspend/resume the virtual machine or revert to the snapshot. Reboot the guest operating system to resolve the issue.
- Sometimes you can't connect the USB mass storage device, mounted on the host computer running RHEL 6 (64-bit), to the virtual machine. Reboot the host computer to resolve the issue.
- Accidental installation error 141 on Linux host computers. Reboot the host computer to resolve the issue.
- Time synchronization may fail sometimes when the "Allow a different time than on host computer" option is enabled.
- Sometimes sound recording may experience some lagging.
- X-server may fail to start in the RHEL 5.6 operating system after it was migrated to a virtual machine using Parallels Transporter.
- Parallels Tools installer may fail in the RHEL 6.1 (64-bit) operating system after it was migrated to a virtual machine using Parallels Transporter.

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