

# About Parallels Desktop 17 for Mac

Parallels Desktop® 17 for Mac is the simplest, most powerful solution for running Windows and Windows applications on Mac® without rebooting. For more information, see the [Parallels Desktop 17 for Mac documentation](#).

## What's New in Parallels Desktop 17

### Performance

[For all supported Mac computers:](#)

- Automatic CPU and memory allocation. Parallels Desktop evaluates your Mac's hardware and automatically allocates as many resources to your virtual machine as needed to provide the best possible experience with Windows. If you then transfer this virtual machine to another Mac, Parallels Desktop will allocate CPU and memory based on the new hardware configuration.
- Virtual machines resume up to 38% faster now.

[For Mac computers with the Apple M1 chip only:](#)

- Windows 10 and Windows 11 on ARM Insider Preview start up to 33% faster.
- Up to 20% faster disk performance for Windows 10 and Windows 11 on ARM Insider Preview.

[For Mac computers with an Intel processor only:](#)

- Up to 60% faster network performance in virtual machines with macOS 11 Big Sur or later.

### Graphics

[For all supported Mac computers:](#)

- Improved display driver delivers much smoother Windows UI responsiveness and synchronized video playback experience. The new driver boosts frame rate in many Windows games for a greater gaming experience and provides better synchronization with the Mac's display.
- Up to 6 times faster OpenGL graphics performance.
- Up to 25% faster graphics performance in Windows virtual machines.

[For Mac computers with the Apple M1 chip only:](#)

- Added support for the dynamic resolution in Linux virtual machines, so it becomes much more convenient to use them in the Window view mode. When you resize the virtual machine window, Linux adjusts the screen resolution automatically.
- Up to 28% faster DirectX 11 graphics performance.

## Ready for macOS 12 Monterey

### As a main operating system:

When macOS 12 Monterey is officially released, you can upgrade your Mac computers both with the Apple M1 chip and an Intel processor. Parallels Desktop 17 fully supports this new operating system.

### As a virtual machine:

In collaboration with Apple, Parallels engineers created the World's first prototype of a macOS 12 Monterey virtual machine running on a Mac with the Apple M1 chip. To use this virtual machine, you need a Mac with macOS 12 Monterey or later. Since it is an experimental support for Monterey virtual machines on M1 Macs, please note that productivity and integration features are not available yet.

If you have a Mac with an Intel processor, create and use macOS 12 Monterey virtual machines without any limitations.

## Ready for Windows 11

This new operating system from Microsoft is expected this fall. When it is officially released, install and use Windows 11 in Parallels virtual machines on Mac computers both with the Apple M1 chip and an Intel processor. If you want to try it earlier, you can already install and work with Windows 11 Insider Preview.

## Usability

- The improved Devices menu now shows the same devices' names as in macOS:
  - for USB drives - the same name as in the Finder;
  - for printers and scanners - the same name as in the macOS System Preferences;
  - additional numbering (#2, #3, etc.) is used only if there are two identical devices connected to the Mac.
- The Free Up Disk Space assistant shows how much space is taken by the virtual machine

snapshots allowing you to manage your disk space better.

## Integration

- Drag and drop text and images from macOS to any Windows application and vice versa. If you're using a Mac with macOS 12 Monterey, you can drag and drop any content from Windows applications to Quick Note the same way as from macOS apps.
- Copy formatted text in macOS and paste it as plain (without formatting) in virtual machine applications using the "Command + Shift + Option + V" keyboard shortcut.
- Improved experience in the Coherence view mode. Various system windows (e.g., when you sign in to Windows, Windows is installing updates, restarts or shuts down, etc.) that were displayed full screen now appear minimized and no longer distract your attention from important tasks.
- Improvements for the keyboard layout. You can now remap AltGr to the Mac's Option key and use the left Option button for entering accented language characters and special symbols.

## Devices

For all supported Mac computers:

- Support for USB 3.1. Connect even more USB devices to your virtual machines, including Samsung T7 Touch and Pro Elite portable SSDs, and more.
- Multimonitor support for Linux. You can now use Linux virtual machines in the Full Screen view mode on multiple displays.

For Mac computers with the Apple M1 chip only:

- Support for the battery device in Windows 10 and Windows 11 on ARM Insider Preview virtual machines. Now Windows detects when your Mac is running out of battery and enables the power saving mode automatically.
- Support for a virtual Trusted Platform Module chip (vTPM) and Secure Boot in Windows 10 and Windows 11 on ARM Insider Preview virtual machines.
- Support for the serial port device both in Windows 10 and Windows 11 on ARM Insider Preview and Linux virtual machines. You can add up to 4 serial ports in each virtual machine.
- Support for the sound device in Linux virtual machines.

For Mac computers with an Intel processor only:

- Support for a new VirtIO network driver in macOS 11 Big Sur and later virtual machines. It provides a more stable network connection and up to 60% faster Internet speed.

## Other

- Updated the operating systems installed in free of charge and available to download virtual machines (also known as virtual appliances or free systems) to the latest versions.
- Updated and refreshed the Virtual Machine Configuration and Parallels Desktop Preferences dialogs to match the new macOS design.

## Parallels Desktop 17 for Mac Pro Edition only

For all supported Mac computers:

- Create an independent and fully identical virtual machine based on a linked clone.
- Updated Parallels Desktop plugin for Visual Studio to debug code in a standalone virtual machine. The new plugin can be used on Mac computers with the Apple M1 chip and is much easier to install in Visual Studio 2019 or later.

For Mac computers with the Apple M1 chip only:

- Now you can set a custom serial number or BIOS version in virtual machines.

## Parallels Desktop 17 for Mac Business Edition only

- Universal binary for Mac computers with the Apple M1 chip or an Intel processor allows IT administrators to create one package for both platforms and use configuration profiles to provide a proper Windows virtual machine image.
- IT administrators can now create a configuration profile in Parallels My Account to provision an ARM-based version of Windows to Mac computers with the Apple M1 chip.

## What was Deprecated or Removed from Parallels Desktop 17

According to the statistics from the users who participate in the Parallels Customer Experience program, some of the product features are used very seldom or not used at all. We have decided to

either stop supporting them or completely remove from Parallels Desktop and focus on more important features and further enhancements.

Please see below which features were removed and which deprecated. Removed features are no longer available in Parallels Desktop 17 while deprecated ones continue working though they are not supported anymore and will be removed in the next product versions.

All the features mentioned below are not business-critical, so these changes will have no impact (or very little) on your work.

#### Removed features:

- Converting a virtual disk to plain format. The "Expanding disk" checkbox (enabled by default) was removed from the virtual machine configuration because of very low usage. Though, it is still possible to convert a virtual disk to a plain disk using the Parallels command-line tool *prl\_disk\_tool* in the Terminal.
- Splitting a virtual disk into 2 GB files. The "Split the disk image into 2 GB files" checkbox was removed from the virtual machine configuration because of very low usage. But it is still possible to split the disk image using the Parallels command-line tool *prl\_disk\_tool* in the Terminal.

#### Deprecated features:

- Graphics memory selector for Windows 8 and later. It was removed from the virtual machine configuration for the operating systems that support automatic graphics memory allocation. Pre-allocating graphics memory is not efficient because Parallels Desktop has no access to it and uses the Mac's system memory (RAM) instead. For more details, please read <https://kb.parallels.com/124575>.

## **System Requirements**

Before installing Parallels Desktop 17, please make sure your Mac meets the system requirements. You can see them at <https://www.parallels.com/products/desktop/resources/#requirements>

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## **Contact Information**

Product website: <https://www.parallels.com/>