
Overview

In the current version of Parallels Desktop you can use your Boot Camp Windows XP (SP2) or Windows Vista partition as a bootable disk or as a data disk in virtual machines.

Warning. If you installed other than Windows XP (SP2) or Windows Vista operating system in Boot Camp, you may damage this installation trying to use it via Parallels Desktop virtual machine.

Using Boot Camp partition as a data disk

To use the Boot Camp Windows partition as a data disk, add it as a hard disk to an existing Windows XP or Windows Vista virtual machine respectively. Add the disk with the help of Add Hardware Assistant (page 183). Windows XP and Windows Vista operating systems will automatically recognize it as a new disk.

Using Boot Camp partition as a bootable disk

If you install Parallels Desktop on the Macintosh computer with Boot Camp Windows XP/SP2 or Windows Vista partition, and Parallels Desktop detects that there are no virtual machines on the computer, it automatically creates a new virtual machine for this Boot Camp partition which is placed to the following location:

<Username>/Documents/Parallels/My Boot Camp

- If the Windows partition is mounted to Mac's desktop, Parallels Desktop attempts to recognize the operating system installed on the partition and creates appropriate virtual machine for the recognized OS.
- If the Windows partition is not mounted to the desktop, or if Parallels Desktop cannot recognize the operating system, it creates a virtual machine for Windows XP. If you really have Windows Vista installed on the Boot Camp partition you have to change the type of the guest OS for the virtual machine from Windows XP to Windows Vista in Configuration Editor.

Alternatively, you can create a new virtual machine for Windows XP or Vista with Boot Camp partition as a bootable disk or replace a bootable virtual disk by Boot Camp Windows partition in an existing Windows virtual machine with the help of Configuration Editor.

Note. It is important to specify the type of the guest OS in the virtual machine correctly, in accordance with the operating system installed on the Boot Camp partition.

When you boot into Boot Camp Windows, Parallels Desktop creates one more configuration for boot loader and installs Parallels Tools. Using Boot Camp Windows XP via virtual machine may require to re-activate Windows XP.

After that, you can use Boot Camp as usually to boot into the Windows partition, or you can boot into it via Parallels virtual machine, see Booting via Parallels (page 258).

Using "Custom Boot Camp" configurations