

MOVING & COPYING & STARTING UP VIRTUAL MACHINES IN VMWARE "..WORKSTATION" & "..FUSION"

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SUMMARY

Moving and copying and startup up virtual machines between "VMware Workstation Pro" is easy if you follow a few basic rules.

TOPICS

- Default Location for Virtual Machines in "VMware Workstation Pro"
- Copying or Moving Virtual Machines from "VMware Workstation Pro" to "VMware Fusion"
- Moving Or Copying VMware Virtual Machines from One Windows.. Hard Drive Location to Another
- Starting Up A Virtual Machine

DEFAULT LOCATION FOR VIRTUAL MACHINES IN "VMWARE WORKSTATION PRO"

- C:\Users\<Name of Virtual Machine>

COPYING OR MOVING VIRTUAL MACHINES FROM "VMWARE WORKSTATION" PRO TO "VMWARE FUSION"

- Locate the virtual machine's folder in the Windows.. computer
- Copy or move the entire folder to the Mac
- Rename the virtual machine's folder by appending
.vmwarevm
to the name of the folder

COPYING OR MOVING "VMWARE" VIRTUAL MACHINES FROM ONE HARD DRIVE LOCATION TO ANOTHER

- Virtual machines in "..Workstation Pro" consist of single folders containing files
- You can move these folder to any other Windows.. computer that is running "..Workstation Pro"

COPYING OR MOVING THE VMWARE VIRTUAL MACHINES FROM ONE WINDOWS.. HARD DRIVE LOCATION TO ANOTHER

- When you double-click on the .vmx file in the new location, you will probably be asked if you moved or copied the virtual machine: Select **"Moved it"** and any version of "Windows 11" or "Windows 10" will stay activated in the new location.

COPYING OR MOVING THE VIRTUAL MACHINE'S FOLDER FROM ONE HARD DRIVE LOCATION TO ANOTHER

(continued)

- To prevent the previously-described challenge, prior to moving the virtual machine folder, use a text editor to add `uuid.action = "KEEP"` to the `.vmx` file of the virtual machine

COPYING OR MOVING THE VIRTUAL MACHINE'S FOLDER FROM ONE HARD DRIVE LOCATION TO ANOTHER (continued)

- When or moving copying a VMware virtual machine, **do not** follow the advice at <https://kb.vmware.com/s/article/2030609> !!!

If you select "Copied.." for a "Windows 11" or "Windows 10" virtual machine, the virtual machine will probably lose its "digital activation"

COPYING OR MOVING THE VIRTUAL MACHINE'S FOLDER FROM ONE HARD DRIVE LOCATION TO ANOTHER (continued)

- Selecting "Copied.." will give the VMware virtual machine a new virtual motherboard UUID and the virtual Ethernet network adapter(s) a new MAC address.

The new virtual motherboard UUID will sometimes cause the activation servers up in Microsoft's cloud-based server farms to inactivate the digital activation of the virtual machine's copy of "Windows 11" or "Windows 10".

STARTING UP A VIRTUAL MACHINE

- Locate the folder that contains the virtual machine.
- Use the LEFT mouse button to double-click on the *.vmx virtual machine motherboard file.