

# MOVING & COPYING VIRTUAL MACHINES IN "VMWARE WORKSTATION PRO", "VMWARE WORKSTATION PLAYER", & "VMWARE..FUSION"

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Web location for this  
presentation:

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# SUMMARY

Moving and copying virtual machines between VMware's Workstation, Workstation Player, and Fusion is easy if you follow a few basic rules.

# TOPICS

- Default Location for Virtual Machines in VMware Workstation Pro or Player
- Copying or Moving Virtual Machines from VMware Workstation Pro or Player to VMware Fusion
- Moving Or Copying VMware Virtual Machines from One Windows.. Hard Drive Location to Another

# DEFAULT LOCATION FOR VIRUTAL MACHINES IN VMWARE WORKSTATION PRO OR PLAYER

- C:\Users\name>\Documents\Virtual Machines\  
<Name of Virtual Machine>

# **COPYING OR MOVING VIRTUAL MACHINES FROM VMWARE WORKSTATION PRO OR PLAYER 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 "VMware Workstation Pro" or "VMware Workstation Player" consist of a single folder containing files
- You can move these folders to any other "Windows.." computer that has "VMware Workstation Pro" or "VMware Workstation Player"

# **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 virtual machine guest that runs 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 automatically follow the advice at <https://kb.vmware.com/s/article/2030609> !!!

If you select "Copied.." for a "Windows 10" virtual machine, the virtual machine will lose it's "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 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".