

Partitioning Virtual Machines

Best Practices

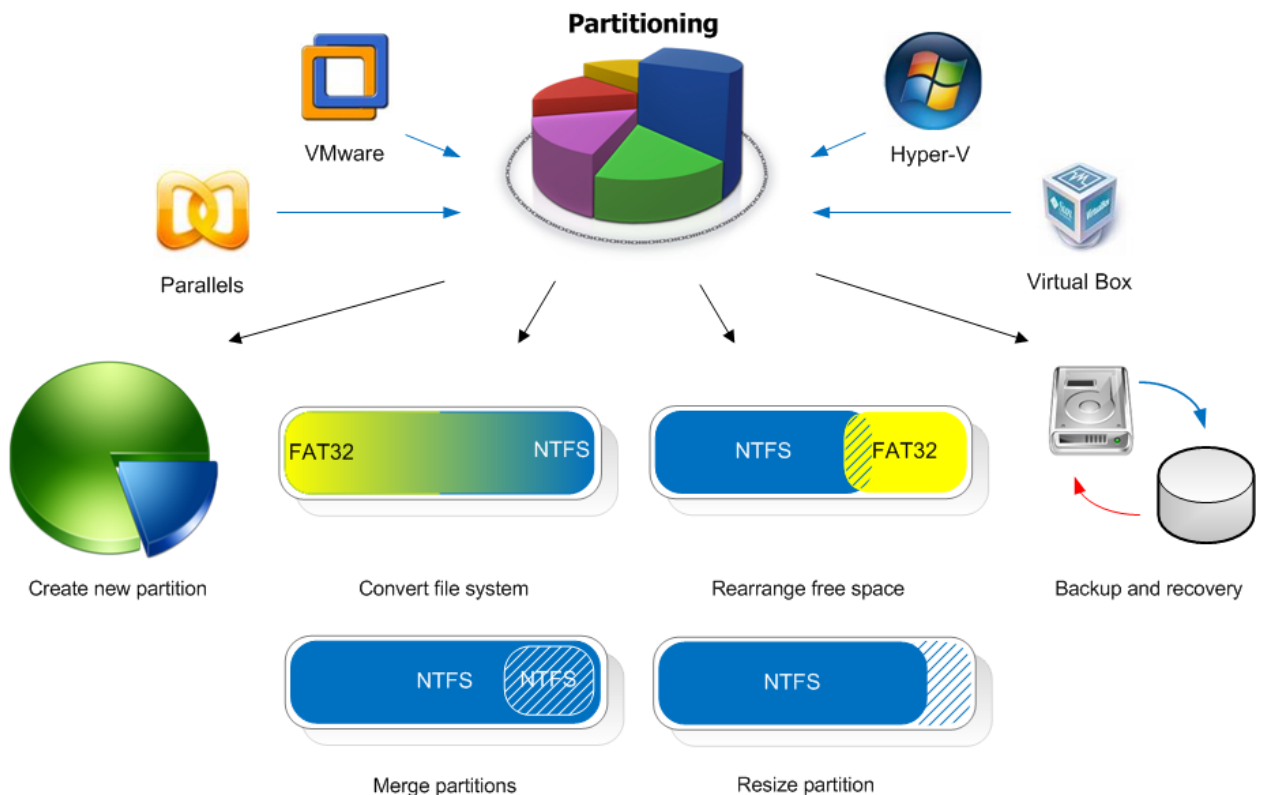
Doc Highlights

This document describes partitioning as an important part of your virtual environments management. All information concerning partitioning technology is presented on the example of Paragon Software products capabilities and functionality. Also you will find in this document the information concerning different ways of accessing virtual data, virtual drives and snapshots.

Virtual Environments and Partitioning

Importance of virtualization is growing every day. Despite that it's an old technology; it gets more and more attention during several past years. The reason of this process is one: Virtualization allows you to leverage server computing resources more effectively, increase the utilization of costly hardware resources such as CPU and finally reduce company costs.

Having over 10-year experience in delivering drive partitioning and disaster recovery solutions, Paragon Software is well aware of all the latest trends on the market and is ready to address them in the most efficient way. The latest versions of Paragon products are the best solutions to prepare a new one or modify existing virtual volumes configuration.



Virtual Drives Management

With the cutting edge technologies from Paragon Software you can easily access your virtual data for management:

- Mount different virtual drives and virtual drive snapshots;
- Automatically attach virtual drives and snapshots;
- Simultaneously work with several mounted drives;
- Access virtual machines data via a network;

Partitioning Your Virtual Machines

Paragon partitioning tools support both common and specific management operations. With their help you can change or create new volumes on your virtual drives fast and easy. The programs exceed the standard tools from Virtual Machines and contain more unique and useful features.

Disaster Recovery Facilities

Alongside with partitioning instruments you can also find handy disaster recovery and data copying tools, which are able:

- Copy data from virtual volumes;
- Create archives on local partitions, network resources, CD/DVD discs and recover data from them;
- Copy partitions from one disk to another;

Accessing Virtual Data

To perform partitioning operations you need to get access to the virtual drive:

- You can install the program to a guest operating system, if it's one of Windows family;
- You can load a special Recovery Environment from a CD/DVD, an ISO image or a Flash-drive;
- You can open several virtual drives or virtual drive snapshots in the program.

In the last case a virtual drives will be presented in the program as if they are real hard disks with partitions. This is the most convenient and fast way to perform any operations on one or several virtual drives.

Virtual Drives and Snapshots Mounting

Commonly virtual machines store all data from guest operating systems as virtual drive files. These files contain the same data as real computer hard drives do, thus these files are very like to real hard drive images and can be mounted and modified by Paragon solutions. The same is true for virtual drive snapshots, but with one exception: to mount a snapshot the base virtual drive file is needed. Data modification is only available if the virtual machine, which files need to be modified, is turned off in order to get an exclusive access to a virtual drive.

Manual and Automatic Mounting

If you have the necessity to perform management operations on virtual drives permanently, Paragon solutions are able to automatically mount virtual drives and snapshots. For example you can copy a partition from a virtual drive or create its backup image.

Working with several Virtual Drives

Paragon solutions have the possibility to mount several files with virtual data. So, you can read and write information, copy data between virtual machines of different types, create their copies or migrate between different hardware. Paragon solutions aren't only the data management tools; they are also the universal virtual data transferring and migration applications.

Various Virtual Environments Support

There are many virtual environments exist in the world now. Paragon solutions are able to mount files from the most widespread virtual machines. They support virtual disk and snapshot files from VMware Workstation and ESX Server, Microsoft Virtual PC and Hyper-V, Parallels, Sun Virtual Box.

Conclusion

With Paragon partitioning solutions you'll be always ready to solve any virtual disks partitioning or data management task and reach a new level of Virtualization efficiency.