

Partitioning Your Virtual Machines

Best Practices

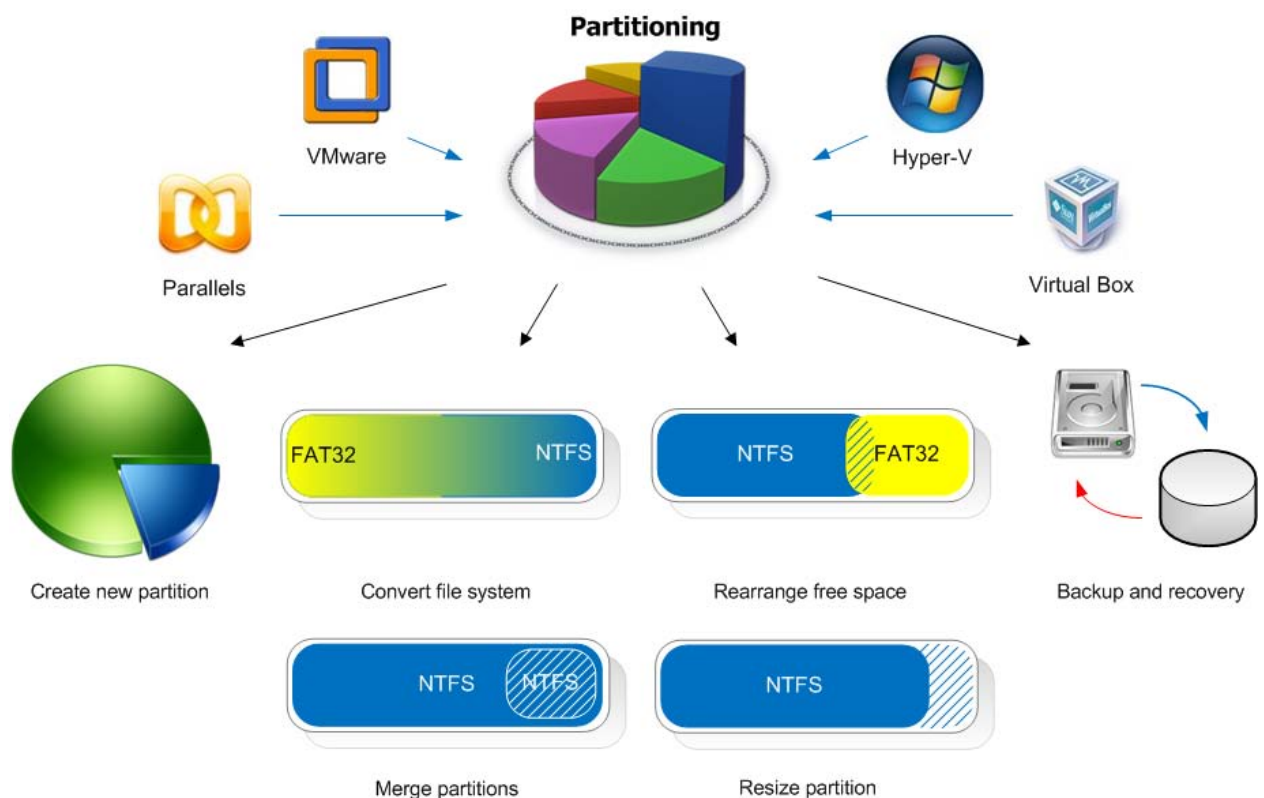
Document Highlights

This document discusses why partitioning is an important part of managing your virtual environments. All information concerning partitioning technology is based on the use of Paragon Software’s product capabilities and functionality. You will also find that the information in this document addresses different ways of accessing virtual data, virtual drives and snapshots.

Virtual Environments and Partitioning

The importance of virtualization is growing every day. Virtualization allows you to leverage server computing resources more effectively, increase the utilization of costly hardware resources, and finally reduce company costs.

With 15 years of experience delivering drive partitioning and disaster recovery solutions, Paragon Software is well aware of all the latest market trends and is ready to address them efficiently and effectively. The latest versions of Paragon’s products are the best solution to prepare a new virtual environment or modify the configuration of your existing virtual volumes.



Virtual Drives Management

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

- Mount different virtual drives and virtual drive snapshots
- Automatically attach virtual drives and snapshots
- Simultaneously work with several mounted drives
- Access virtual machine data over the network

Partitioning Your Virtual Machines

Paragon partitioning tools support both common and specific management operations. With their help you can modify or create new volumes on your virtual drives quickly and easily. Paragon's utilities exceed the standard tools provided with Virtual Machines and contain more unique and useful features.

Disaster Recovery Facilities

Alongside Paragon's partitioning instruments you can also find useful disaster recovery and data copying tools, which are able to:

- 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 access to the virtual drive:

- You can install Paragon's software on the guest Windows-based operating system
- You can boot to a special Paragon Recovery Environment from a CD/DVD, ISO image, or a USB flash drive
- You can open several virtual drives or virtual drive snapshots from within the program

In reference to the last point, all virtual drives will be presented within the Paragon application as if they were real hard disks with partitions. This is the most convenient and fastest way to perform any operations on virtual drives.

Mounting Virtual Drives and Snapshots

It is common to find that 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 comparable to real hard drive backup 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 required. Data modification is only possible if the virtual machine, whose files need to be modified, is turned off in order to gain exclusive access to its virtual drive(s).

Manual and Automatic Mounting

If you have the need to perform management operations on virtual drives on a regular basis, Paragon's solutions are able to automatically mount virtual drives and snapshots. For example you can copy a partition from a virtual drive or create a backup image of the virtual drive.

Working with several Virtual Drives

Paragon solutions have the ability to mount several files containing virtual data. This allows you to read and write information, copy data between virtual machines of different types, create virtual disk copies or migrate between different hardware.

Support for Various Virtual Environments

Many virtual environments exist in the world today. Paragon's solutions are able to mount files from a diverse group of virtualization specialists. Paragon supports virtual disk and snapshot files from VMware Workstation and ESX Server, Microsoft Virtual PC and Hyper-V, Parallels, and Sun Virtual Box.

Conclusion

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

For more information or to schedule a product demo, please email sales@paragon-software.com or call 1-888-347-5462