

Creating a Windows 98 Virtual PC

To complete these steps, you'll need a Win98 boot floppy (virtual or actual floppy) and a Windows 98 CD from the lab (iso (virtual) or actual CD).

1. Start Virtual PC
2. Click the New button to create a new virtual PC.
3. Use the wizard to create a virtual PC named **Win98** with about 256MB of RAM (less if your host computer doesn't have at least 512MB of RAM). Store the virtual PC in an appropriate place.
4. Start the Win98 virtual machine. You should get a message saying there are no boot files.
5. Click **Floppy** in the Virtual PC menu.
6. Choose **Capture Floppy Disk Image** for a virtual floppy or insert the actual floppy in the drive.
7. Press any key to restart the machine using the (virtual) floppy disk.
8. Choose the option to start your computer with CD ROM support (press Enter).

After some flashing text, you should get a DOS prompt: **A:\>**

9. Type **cls** to clear the DOS screen (optional).

Your virtual computer has a hard drive but it hasn't been configured yet so you can't write to it or read from it. We will use the FDISK program to configure the virtual hard drive. Note: with newer operating systems (XP, Vista) this step is no longer necessary.

10. Type **fdisk** to start the FDISK program.
11. Press the Enter key **3** times to accept the default settings. FDISK will scan the virtual hard drive.
12. When the scan is done, press Enter again to use the maximum size for the partition (don't worry if you don't know what a partition is). FDISK will *verify* the disk can be used.
13. Press **Esc** to exit the FDISK program.

DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP. In order for the new partition created by FDISK to be usable, you must first restart the virtual PC.

14. To restart a virtual PC, press right-Alt, Delete.
Note you must use the Alt key on the right side of the keyboard. **Caution:** don't press Alt-Ctrl-Delete, that will restart your host computer, not the virtual PC.
15. Again, start the computer with CD ROM support.

Now, your virtual hard disk partition is ready to use, but it must be *formatted* before you can store to it or read from it. When the DOS prompt (A:\>) appears,

16. type **format c:** (press enter)
17. Press **Y** to tell the Format command to proceed.

Be patient. Formatting can take a little while. When the formatting is complete you'll be asked to enter a Volume label.

18. Simply press Enter for none.

Now, the hard disk is ready to accept items for storage.

19. If you have a physical Windows 98 CD insert it now.

20. Click **CD** on the Virtual PC menu. Click **Capture ISO image** for a virtual CD and locate your virtual CD ISO image. Or, **Use physical drive D:** if you're using a physical CD.

We are going to copy the Windows 98 installation files to the virtual PC hard drive. We do this for two reasons. If you are installing Windows 98 from a physical CD, this will significantly reduce the installation time (if you're using a virtual CD ISO image, it's not a big factor). Second, if you ever want to add Windows features to the virtual PC, you won't need the CD (virtual or physical) to add those features.

(press Enter after each of the commands below)

21. Type **C:** This accesses the virtual hard drive. Your prompt should now be C:\>

22. Type **md Win98** This will make a directory (folder) to hold the installation files.

23. Type **cd Win98** This will make the Win98 folder the active folder. Prompt should be C:\Win98>

24. Type **E:** This will access the (virtual CD) Prompt should be E:\>
(D: is used by a temporary *RamDisk*)

25. Type **cd win98_se** Note the underscore.

26. Type **cd setup**

27. Type **cd win98** Prompt should now be D:\WIN98_SE\SETUP\WIN98>

The Windows 98 installation files are stored in a subdirectory. These commands navigated us to that subdirectory.

Now we're ready to copy the installation files to the virtual hard drives.

28. Type **copy *.* c:** (space after copy, space after *.*)

The files should copy fairly quickly. When the copy is complete, the DOS prompt should reappear. You're now ready to begin the installation process.

29. Type **c:** This returns control the virtual hard drive.

30. Type **setup** This begins the Windows 98 setup procedure. Follow the setup instructions on the screen.

31. After Windows 98 has been completely installed and all the necessary computer reboots are complete, use the Virtual PC menu to Install the Virtual Machine Additions.