

Create a VM

A virtual machine (VM) is a software implementation of a machine (i.e. a computer) that executes programs like a physical machine. It is quite literally a computer running ON a computer. One of the by-products of this is that the two systems can be entirely separated from each other, which allows a level of security that just can't be matched.

Step 1: Download and install a VM creator/player. (e.g. VMware Workstation¹)

Step 2: Choose the guest operating system and its version. (e.g. MS Windows / Win. XP Pro.)

Step 3: Specify disk capacity (this will take up real hard drive space).
For testing purposes, the 4 – 8 Gb is a good choice.

Step 4: Store virtual disk as single file.

Step 5: Run VM player -> open the .vmx file. (VM file)

Step 6: Install operating system. (e.g. MS XP) (You have to own a valid copy.. 😊)

Step 7: To interact inside your virtual machine, double click on the Window or press CTRL+G. This will make anything you do with the mouse or keyboard work inside the Virtual Machine only and not the desktop you are currently using. To escape the Virtual Machine so you can control your regular desktop, press CTRL+ALT.

Step 7: To quit the Virtual Machine shutdown the VM version of Windows XP as you do for your normal desktop.

¹ <http://www.vmware.com/products/workstation/>