

# Use Windows XP after upgrading to Windows 7

Microsoft has released a feature that users of Windows 7 Professional, Ultimate and Enterprise versions can download, which is Windows XP Mode.

**If you think you'll have to say goodbye to Windows XP if you upgrade to Windows 7, that's a mistake.** Microsoft has released a feature that users of Windows 7 Professional, Ultimate and Enterprise versions can download named Windows XP Mode. This is a feature that allows you to access the entire XP desktop and environment within Windows 7. You can use it to run legacy or everyday applications.

## Windows XP Mode and virtualization?

Windows XP Mode is basically a pre-configured virtual machine with a full Windows XP version (Professional Service Pack 3). It uses Microsoft's new virtualization program, Windows Virtual PC, and runs only in Windows 7. Windows XP Mode is an upgraded version and has been renamed from Microsoft Virtual PC 2007.

There are also other virtualization programs, such as some Microsoft programs like VMware Player and VirtualBox. However, they all provide the same solution. They are all applications that provide a simple interface within Windows (or other operating systems), on this interface you can set up and access virtual drives.

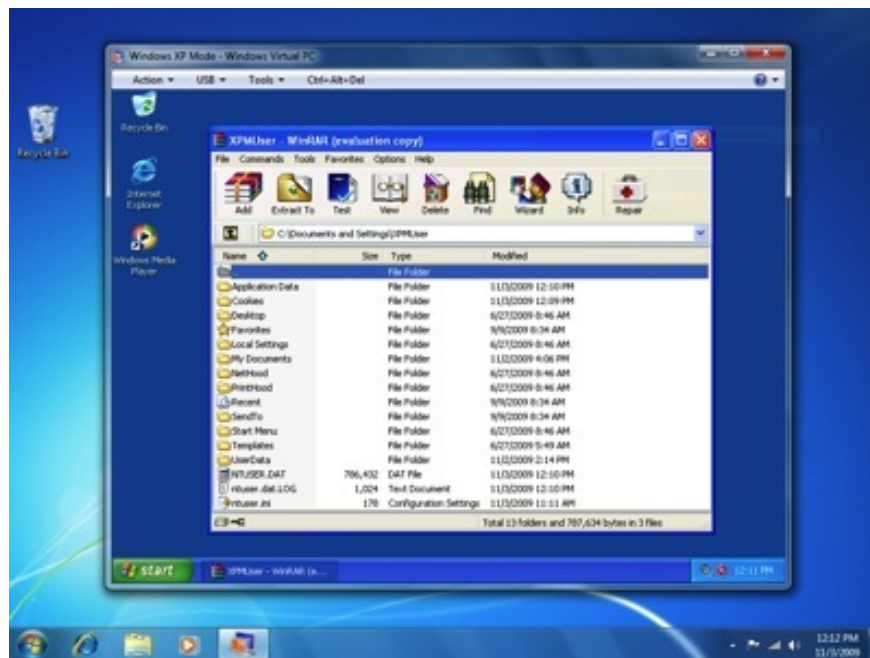


Figure 1



the Windows Virtual PC window, select the virtual machine and click the **Settings** button. Then select the drive, click **Open an ISO Image** and browse to the original file, then select the file you need to find.

When you install programs in XP, shortcuts appear automatically in Windows 7's Start menu inside the Windows XP Mode Applications folder. When you use these shortcuts, XP will not boot completely, the application will open directly in Windows 7. However, the application window will appear as in Windows XP, as shown in Figure 2.

When you have finished using a program in Windows XP, you can close the Virtual PC window in hibernation mode. Then, when reopening XP Mode, it will resume in the previous state. You can also choose Log Off, Shut Down, or Restart modes from Windows XP. The direct Log Off shortcut is located on the Start Menu. With power options, click the Windows Security shortcut.

### Change VM settings

Like other Windows Virtual PC virtual machines, you can change the Windows XP Mode system settings, as shown in Figure 3. You can increase the amount of memory, create more virtual drives, configure COM ports and change other settings. To change settings, the virtual machine must be turned off completely, not hibernate.

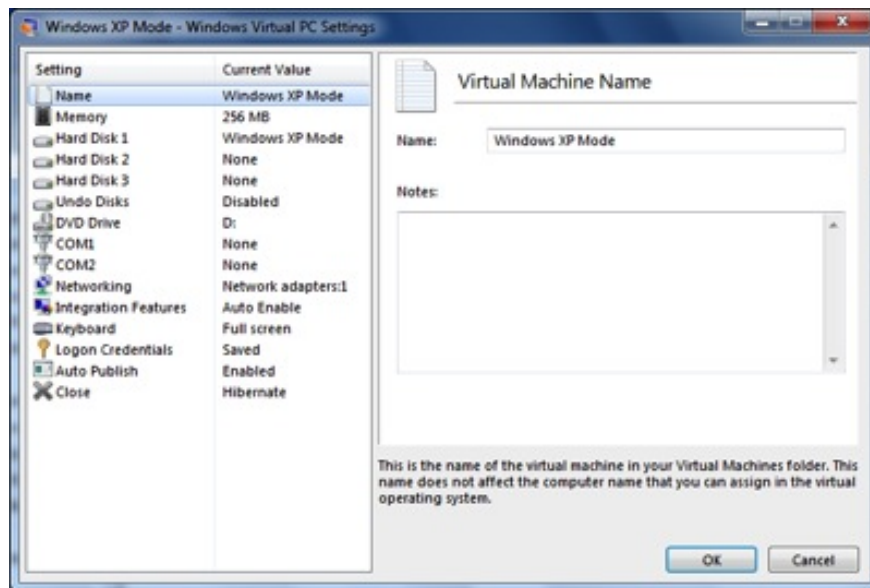


Figure 3

If you find it useful, you can use the Undo Disks feature. When enabled, virtual drives will be read-only. Any changes in Windows XP will be checked and the related data will be kept in the cache until you use these changes or undo them and return to their original state when this feature is enabled, activated or when the cache file is launched. To enable this feature, select it from the menu and select the appropriate checkbox. You can then go back to apply or remove the changes.

If you don't want certain drives or devices, or all, from the physical computer accessible in the virtual machine, you can change the **Integration Feature** settings.

To make the XP virtual machine more secure, you can delete the saved password from the **Logon Credentials** settings.

If you don't want the application in the virtual machine to be directly accessible in Windows 7, you can change the **Auto Publish** settings.

Last but not least is the **Close** settings, which you can really want to change. You can change it from automatically hibernating to something that suits you when closing the virtual machine window. Can create reminders for you to perform an action.

### **Maintain virtual machines**

It should be noted that, although they are virtual machines, they run real operating systems and these operating systems can be infected by most virus or malware software from the Internet. Therefore you need to keep up with the components needed for both real and virtual operating systems. Install Windows updates and upgrade the program in XP Mode and other virtual machines. In addition, you should also install software to prevent viruses and spyware.

If you use XP Mode daily or feel this is a very useful mode for you, you can research more about using third-party tools to create a copy for your XP system. My current and import it into Windows 7.

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