

Windows 7 On Mac With VMware Fusion: A Practical Guide

First, The Caveats

Windows 7 beta, both 32-bit and 64-bit, is not supported with VMware Fusion, but many VMware product features appear to work well today including Drag and Drop, Unity, and more. The best experience with Windows 7 beta with Fusion results from the following VMware settings:

- Use the Windows Server 2008 option to create your VM
- Disable 3D Acceleration
- Disabled Shared Folders

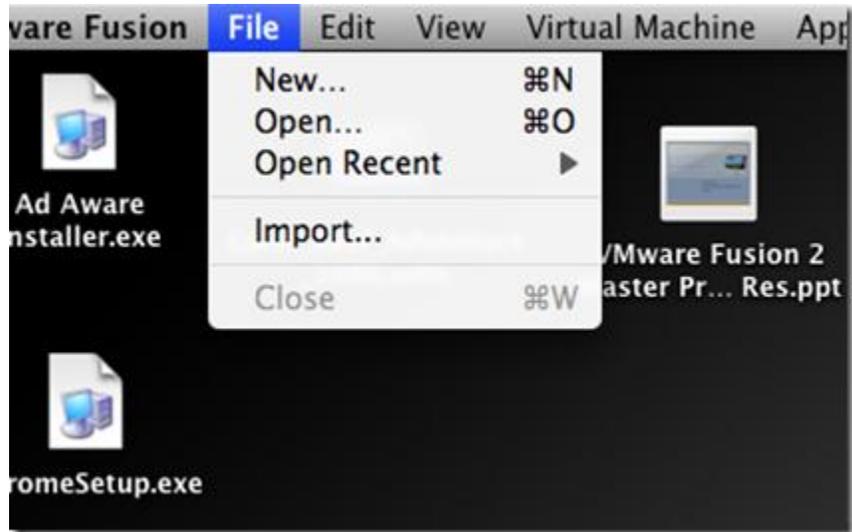
We plan to support Windows 7 after it is released.

Next, What You Care About

Because VMware Fusion does not yet support Windows 7, there are some tweaks you'll have to do.

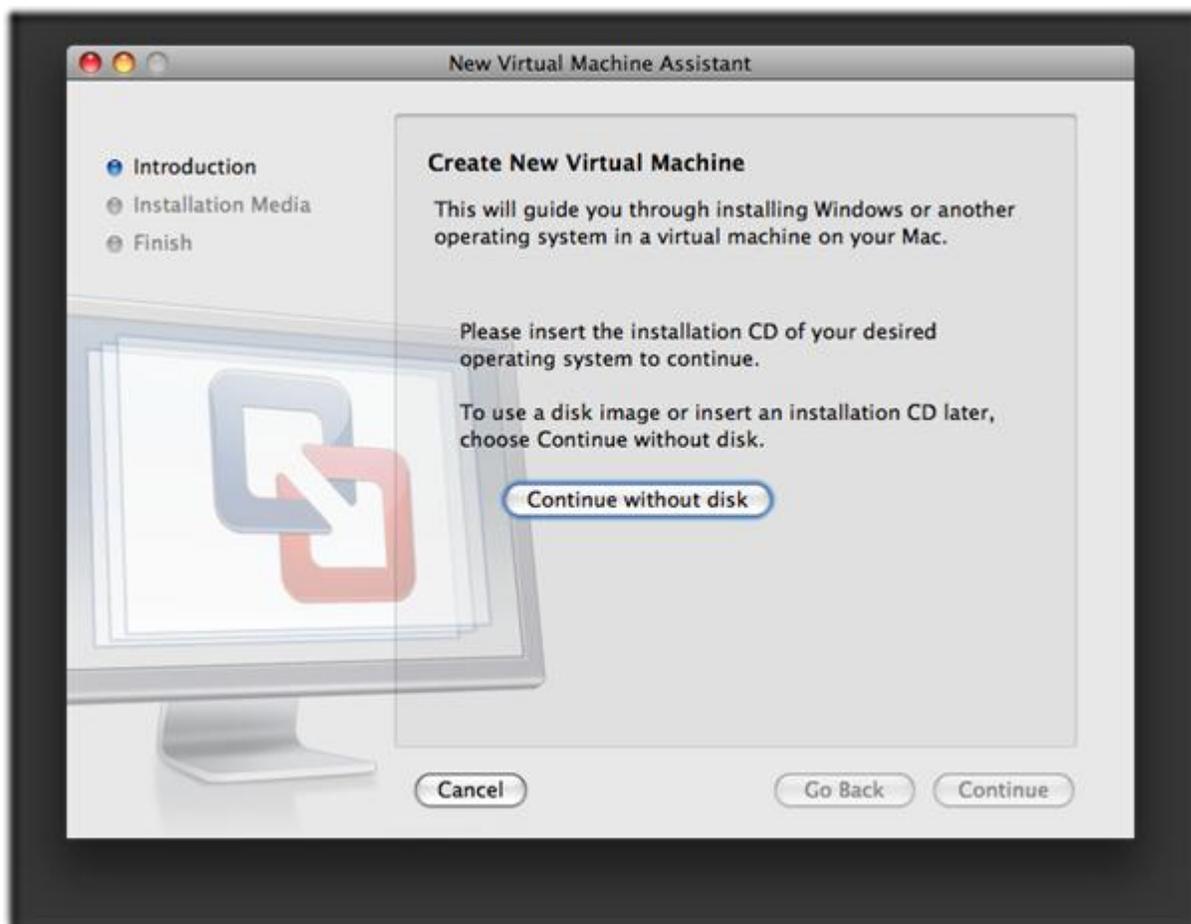
First, go ahead and download the Windows 7 ISO from Microsoft's Windows 7 Beta site and get yourself a beta product key. You can use 32-bit or 64-bit, but we've heard that lots of folks are getting better performance out of 64-bit, so this example will assume that. Just download the ISO to your desktop.

Then, you'll go to create a new virtual machine, the same as you've done before via "File>New":



Next, we're going to point the New Virtual Machine Assistant at the Windows 7 ISO you just downloaded. Typically, if you just insert a Windows install disk, VMware Fusion automatically recognizes what OS is in it, but in this case, we have to point it at the ISO.

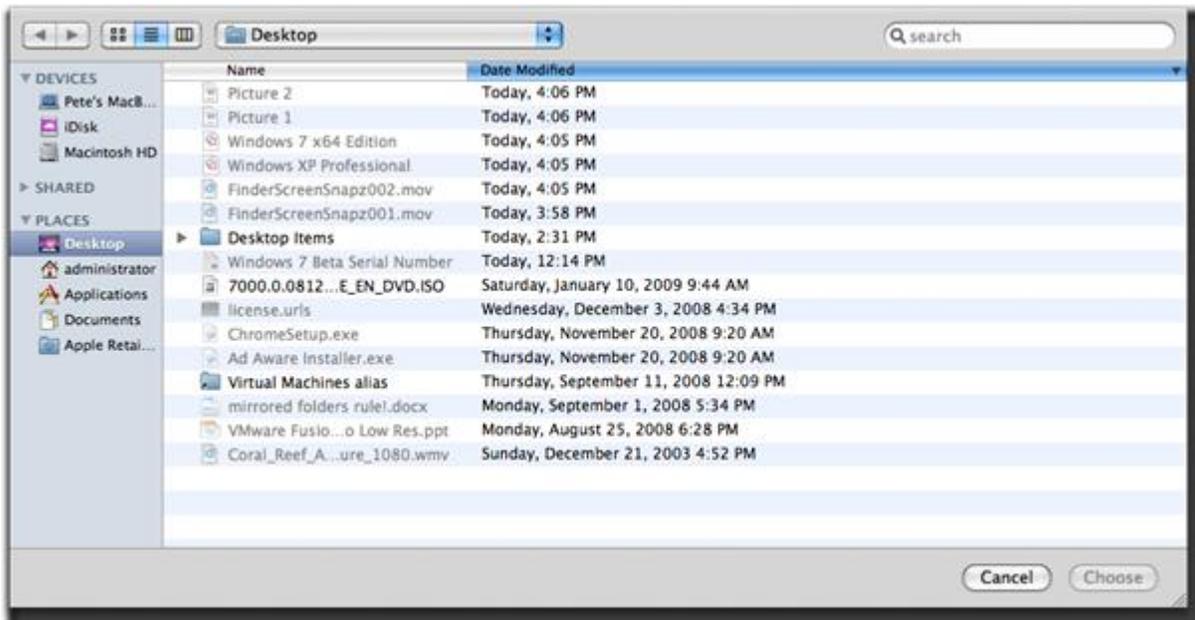
Click "Continue without disk."



Then, click “Use operating system installation disk image file”:

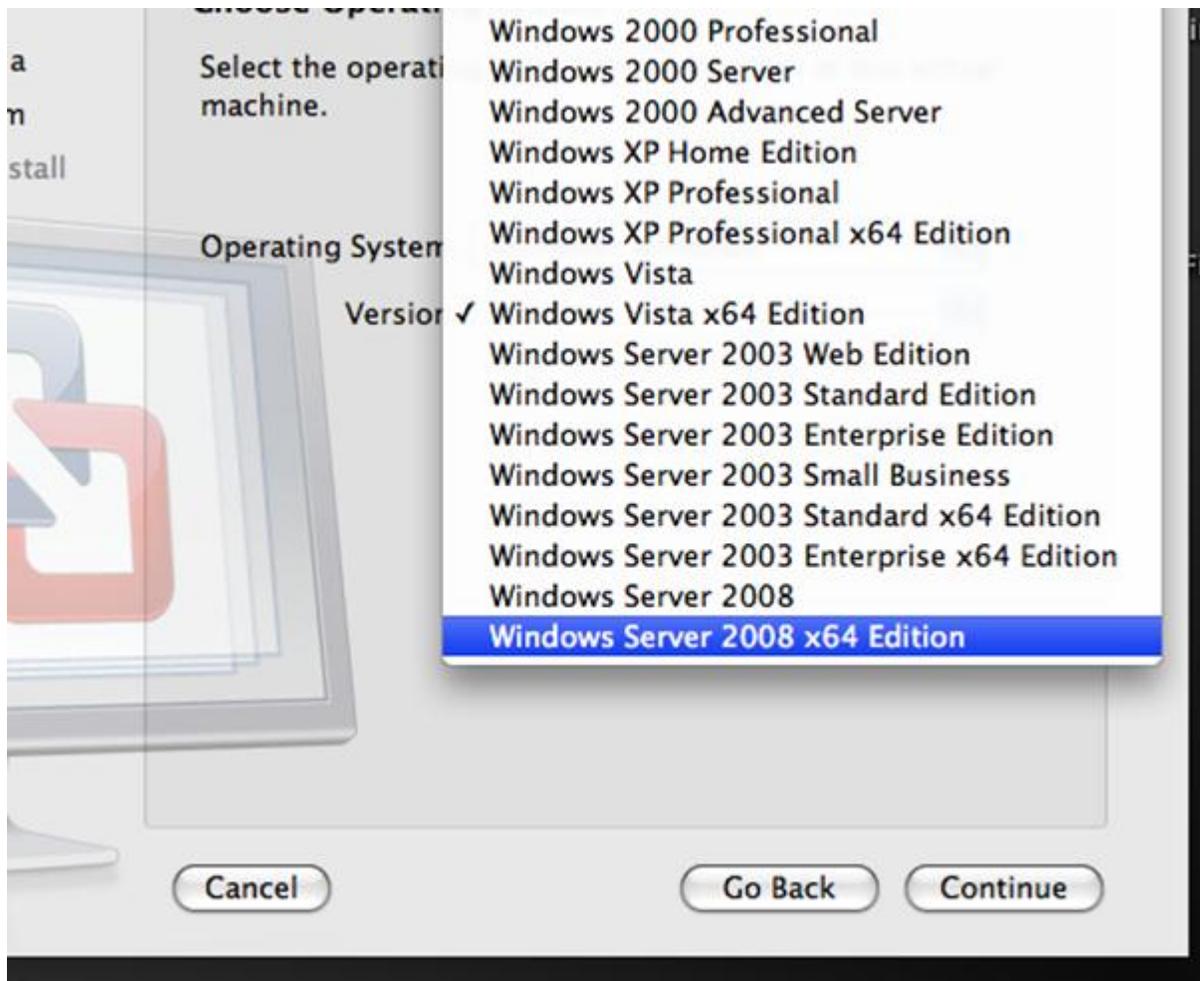


Just select the ISO in the dialog that pops up:



Next, you have to do is a little bit of tweaking.

First, Windows Easy Install will parse the disk image as Windows Vista (either 32 or 64 bit, depending on which ISO you downloaded). Go ahead and change that to Windows Server 2008 (again 32 or 64-bit, depending on which one you downloaded). We've heard that it works fine defined as "Vista" too, but this appears to be the best way.



Next, go ahead and take that serial key that was provided to you by Microsoft, and paste it into the Windows Product Key form in Windows Easy Install.

Also, untick "Make your home folder accessible to the virtual machine", as shared folders aren't working in Windows 7.

Windows configuration dialog box. Fields include Password (optional), Confirm Password, and Windows Product Key (Q32R-WFBDM-GFHD2-QGVMH-3P9GC). A checkbox for 'Make your home folder accessible to the virtual machine' is present. A dropdown menu shows 'Read only'. Buttons at the bottom are 'Cancel', 'Go Back', and 'Continue'.

At this point, you should see your final configuration setup, with 1 GB of RAM assigned, and a virtual hard disk that will expand up to 40GB (but will start much smaller). Click “Finish.”

Finish

The configuration of the virtual machine is now complete. The next step is to install Microsoft Windows.

Virtual Machine Summary

Guest Operating System	Windows Server 2008 x64 Edition
Memory	1 GB
Disk Size (maximum)	40 GB
Networking	Shared networking (NAT)
CD/DVD	MATSHITA DVD-R UJ-857E

Once you hit “Finish,” Windows Easy Install will be off and running, installing Windows 7. You’ll see some reboots, and VMware Tools will install automatically.

After that’s all finished, you should be able to play around with Windows 7 as you would expect, with the noted exceptions up top. Again, this is *not* a supported configuration, and there will likely be bugs.



And for those who like movies more, we threw together the one below to help you through the process.

Enjoy, and remember, for those of you who haven’t played around with Windows on your Mac yet because you didn’t quite see the light, this is your opportunity to join the ranks of the truly enlightened who realize that one OS per machine is so 20th century...

Download the free trial of VMware Fusion 2 or buy yourself a copy, and then get yourself the Windows 7 Beta.