

# Multiple Access on VMWare Images

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[Harvy Louise Torres](#) 6 posts since

Jul 31, 2008

Hi Guys! I need help. How am I able to access one image with multiple VMWare Player?



[Robin Iraca](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 1. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 4, 2008 2:55 AM


If you mean Accessing one shared image with multiple vmware players on different pc's connected to the share containing the image the answer is probably not possible. Vmware player will be able to find the image and start it but windows will not allow the drive access multiple times. The only option would be to start the image on one pc and if it's network connected enable remote desktop and have multiple people connect to it throug remote desktop.

Robin



[Harvy Louise Torres](#) 6 posts since

Jul 31, 2008 2. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 4, 2008 3:38 AM

 in response to: [Robin Iraca](#)

So what you mean is that the only solution was to have a vmware player connect to one vmware images and have multiple clients access through remote desktop at the same time?

Can you help me by giving me steps or instructions to how this setup would be?



[Robin Iraca](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 3. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 4, 2008 3:51 AM

 in response to: [Harvy Louise Torres](#)

Yes, Windows can not handle the drive access since it locks the drive at startup. Basically the first machine to start would claim the drive. Starting another vmware player using the same image would result in error and most likely would end up doing only checkdisk because it thinks something's wrong with the drive. If several users need to use the same machine through remote desktop at the same time the vmware image would need to be a terminal server (Windows NT, 2000, 2003, 2008). Remote desktop is available on Windows XP and vista but would allow only one user. To use Remote desktop on windows 2003 and above, go to system properties and select allow remote access on the remote tab. This will give access to 2 users through remote desktop and one console user. If more users need access you need to install terminal server and a terminal server license server. use F1 for help.

And you may want to consider using vmware server (free to use download from [vmware.com](http://vmware.com)) instead of player

Robin

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[Harvy Louise Torres](#) 6 posts since

Jul 31, 2008 4. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 4, 2008 3:57 AM

in response to: [Robin Iraca](#)

Thanks for that info. I'll try the setup you mentioned. I'll respond by tomorrow. Thanks again



[Robin Iraca](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 5. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 4, 2008 3:59 AM

in response to: [Harvy Louise Torres](#)

You're welcome, I hope it helps you out.



[Harvy Louise Torres](#) 6 posts since

Jul 31, 2008 6. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 7, 2008 3:38 AM

in response to: [Robin Iraca](#)

Hi Robin,

I was able to try the setup however I wasn't able to simulate multiple access. Please advise on what would be the exact steps.

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Thanks,

Harvy



[Robin Iraca](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 7. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 7, 2008 3:58 AM

 in response to: [Harvy Louise Torres](#)


Can you specify what you've set-up? As in Guest OS and virtual machine config?

Robin



[Harvy Louise Torres](#) 6 posts since

Jul 31, 2008 8. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 7, 2008 10:20 PM

 in response to: [Robin Iraca](#)

Here is my setup:

1. Windows 2003 Server with installed VMWare Player.
2. Clients having Guest account will be having remote desktop connection to the Windows 2003 Server.
3. Once the remote has been established, the client will the image from VMWare Player.

Observed Behavior:

If one client was able to simulate by running the image, the image will successfully run from the VMWare Player. If another client will access the image then the VMWare Player will always display to take the ownership and yet no simulation of virtual images has been done.

Please advise



[Robin Iraca](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 9. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 7, 2008 10:46 PM

 in response to: [Harvy Louise Torres](#)

Unfortunately this is not going to work. You're still trying to access a single vmware image with multiple clients. As I said in my first post Windows is unable to do this and that is why VMware player asks the ownership question. If ownership is taken, the original user will be kicked of and windows might actually crash.


Is there a specific reason why you want to do this? If you just want to give them OS then unfortunately you need to make a separate image for each client. Ofcourse you can easily do this by making a copy of the existing VMware machine and running the copy next to the original (beware of IP conflict and run sysprep on the copy first). The problem you're trying to solve is not really a VMware limitation but a Windows limitation.

Robin



[Harvy Louise Torres](#) 6 posts since

Jul 31, 2008 10. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 18, 2008 5:54 AM

 in response to: [Robin Iraca](#)

So what you are trying to say that if my image is Windows then there is no way for me to use the VMWare images? I also tried Linux but it's the same that I could not connect if there are multiple clients.



[Rick Scherer](#) 19 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 11. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 18, 2008 3:30 PM

 in response to: [Harvy Louise Torres](#)

Its not really a limitation of any O/S or application. VMware Player puts a lock on the Virtual Hard disk (VMDK) because it needs to read/write from it. Your best bet is what was mentioned in this post already, enable Remote Desktop connections within Windows 2003 (the Guest, not your VMware Player host) and have your clients RDP into the VM guest.

The assumption would be that the VM guest is connected to your network and is accessible by the clients.



[Robin Iraca](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 12. **Re: Multiple Access on VMWare Images** Aug 18, 2008 10:12 PM

 in response to: [Harvy Louise Torres](#)

Windows or Linux makes no difference. The OS simply is unable to boot from the same harddisk twice. It's a OS limitation and therefore a VMware limitation.

Look at it this way, you can't connect one harddisk to 2 machines and boot from it from both machines at the same time.

Terminal server (remote desktop) would be your answer. If you want clients to really boot from one and the same image you should look into software streaming solutions (e.g. Citrix provisioning server for desktops). With software streaming it is possible to deliver a "harddisk image" through the network. Your clients then no longer need a physical harddrive but boot from the network (PXE).

Robin

