

Windows 7 Virtualization Technologies

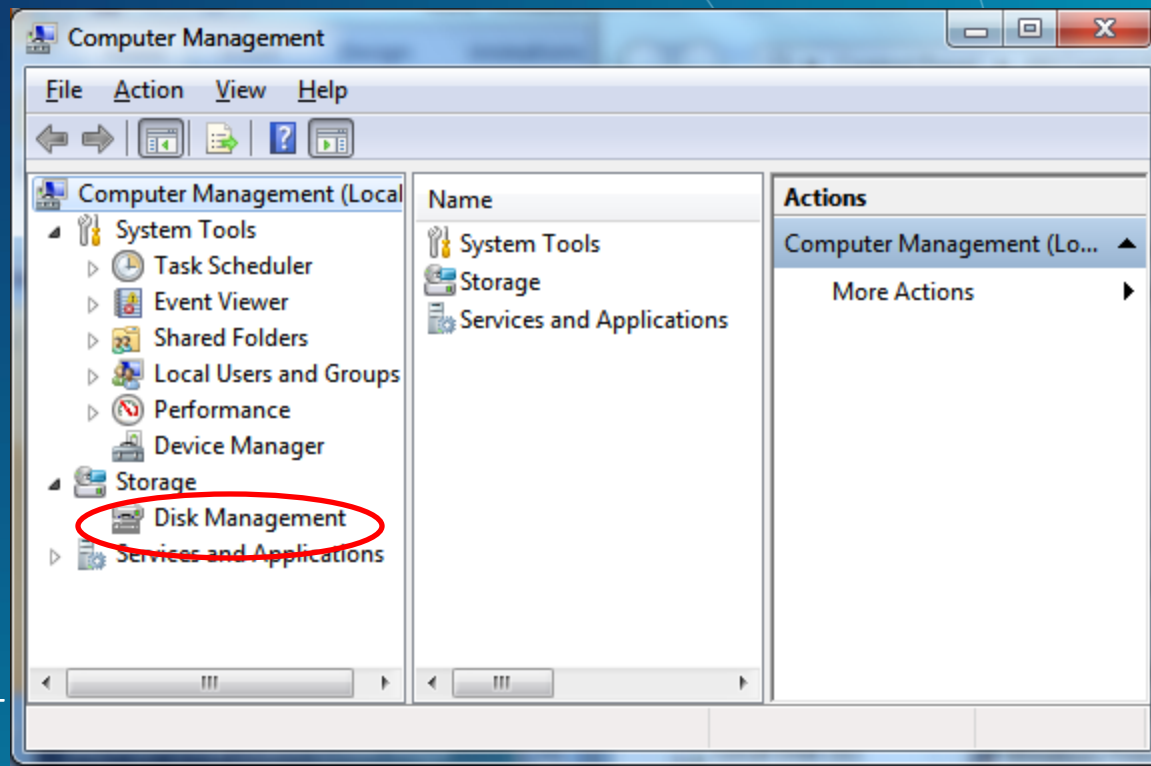
Advanced Forensic Topics

Virtualization Technologies

- Integrated Virtual Hard Drive (VHD) Creation and Mounting
- Boot to Virtual Hard Drive (VHD)
- VHD File Use in System Image Backup
- Virtual PC 7 Technologies
 - Windows XP Compatibility Mode
 - Application Virtualization
 - Undo Disks

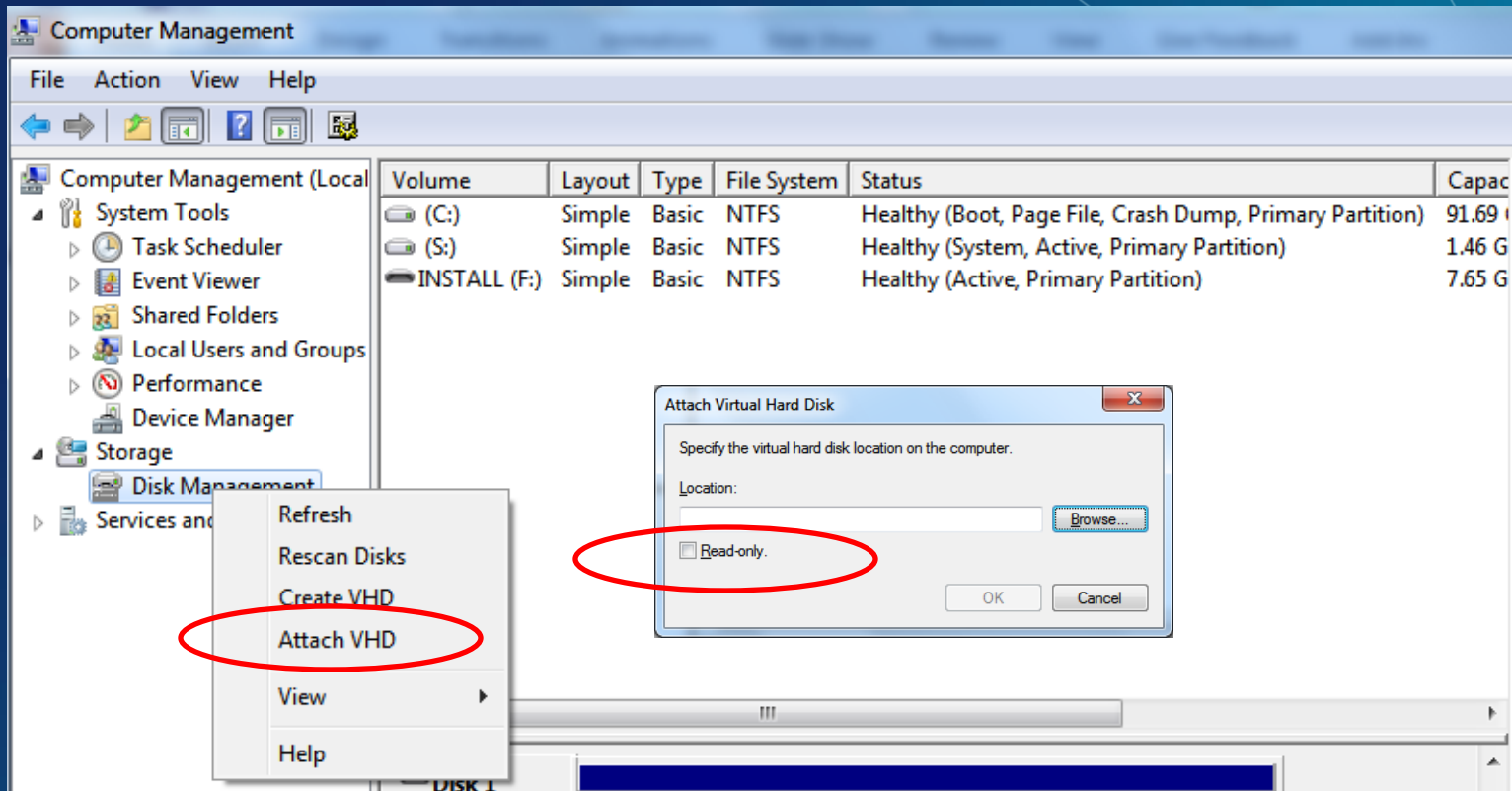
Integrated VHD Creation and Mounting

- Native in the file system
- Accessed through Control Panel\AdministrativeTools\Computer Management



Integrated VHD Creation and Mounting

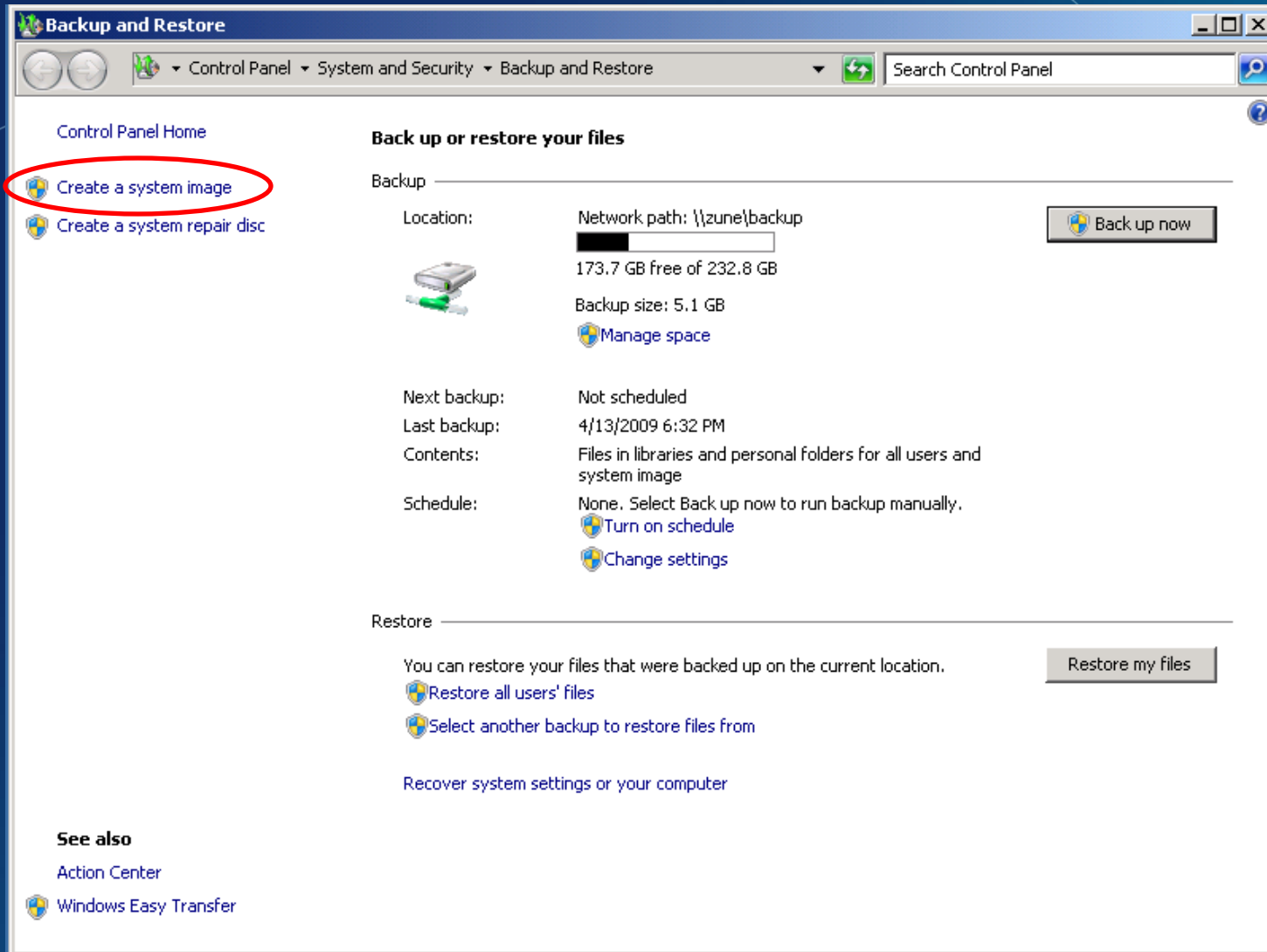
- When mounting, can select “Read Only”
















VHD File Format Used in System Image Backup

- System Image Backup (formerly Complete PC Backup in Vista)
- Backs up full hard drive, not just specific files and folders
- VHD can be stored on local USB drive or over the network
- Can be mounted natively on a Windows 7 Forensic Workstation for examination

System Image Backup



System Image Backup

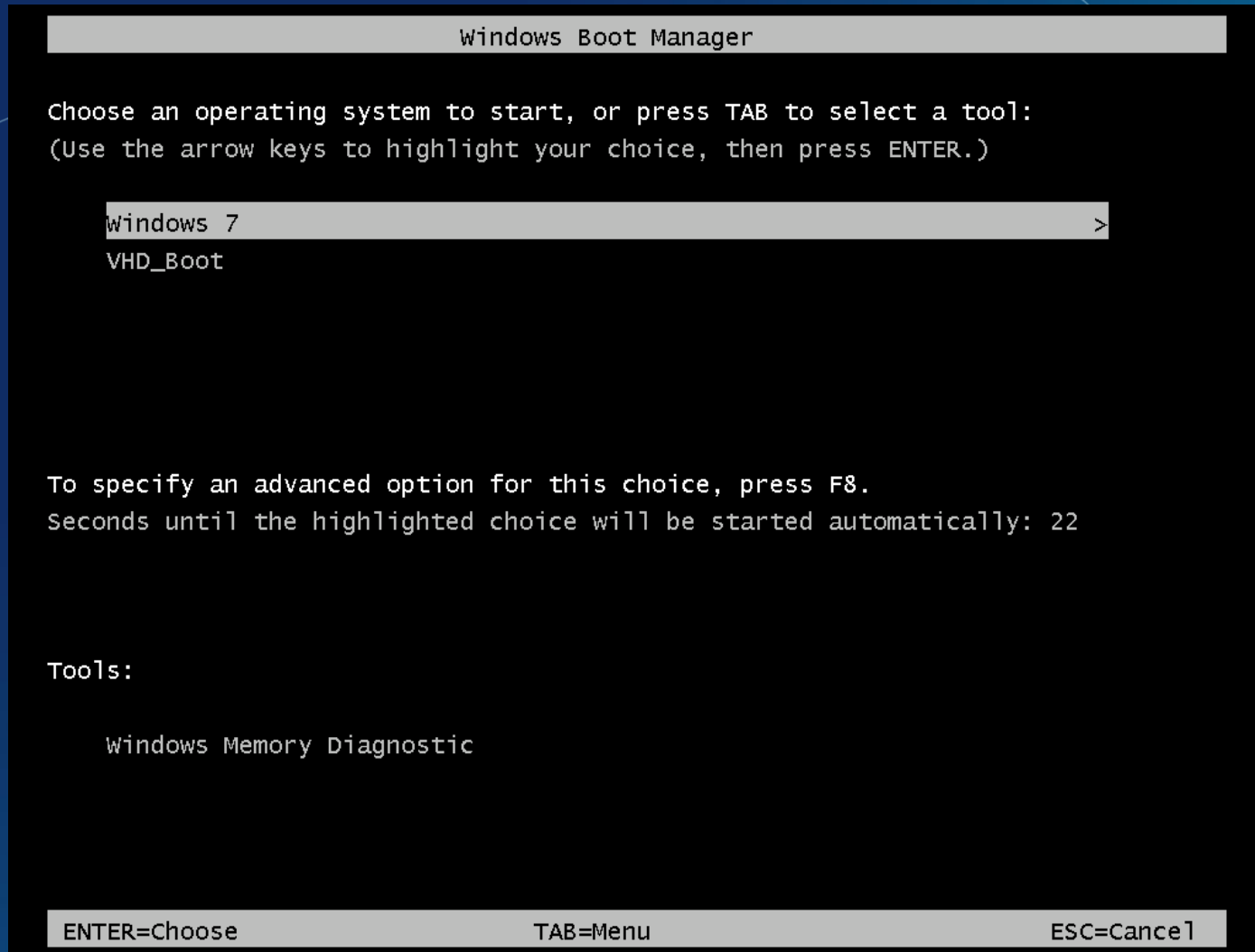
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 8d39ed38-20ab-11de-b2f5-806e6f6e6963.vhd	4/13/2009 6:29 PM	VHD File	36,876 KB
 8d39ed39-20ab-11de-b2f5-806e6f6e6963.vhd	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	VHD File	5,289,261 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_AdditionalFilesc3b9f3c...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	2 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Components.xml	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	10 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_RegistryExcludes.xml	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	7 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Writer4dc3bdd4-ab48-...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	3 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Writer542da469-d3e1-4...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	2 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Writer6ad56c2-b509-4...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	2 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Writerafb4a2-367d-4...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	4 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Writerbe000cbe-11fe-4...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	4 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Writercd3f2362-8bef-46...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	7 KB
 20df5e68-40ad-4e60-a5db-9e334544bfea_Writer8132975-6f93-44...	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	2,350 KB
 BackupSpecs.xml	4/13/2009 6:32 PM	XML Document	2 KB

Boot to VHD

- Can configure Windows 7 to boot to the hard drive, OR VHD on the hard drive
- Only supported to boot **Windows 7 VHD** files
- Creates a boot list to select OS during system startup

How to Enable Boot to VHD

Boot to a VHD



VHD Disk Investigative Impact

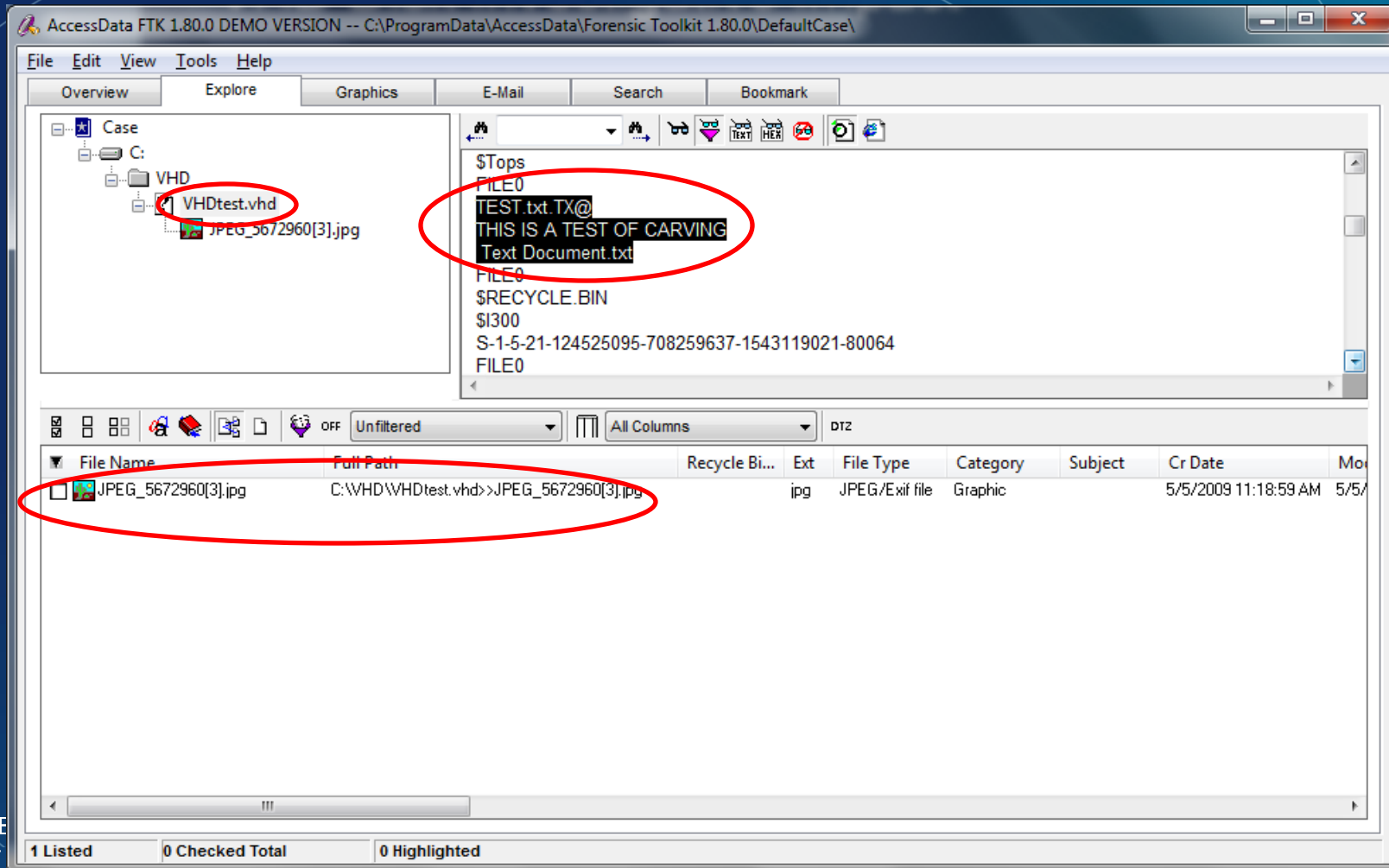
- Win7 machines may have several VHD files – backups, user created HDs, other bootable Operating systems. These may contain files critical to your case.
- Some of this data may be auto-carved via your forensic tools during examination.
- In some situations it might be useful to use the built-in ability of Win7 to mount a VHD read only to get a full view into the Virtual Hard Disk.

VHD Disk Investigative Impact

- Three methods to view data in a VHD
 - Add VHD file into FTK to be examined
 - Use built in VHD mount feature of Win7 to image the VHD after you have given it a drive letter
 - Add it into FTK as an acquired image!

VHD Disk Investigative Impact

VHD added directly into FTK



VHD Disk Investigative Impact

VHD mounted as a drive letter

AccessData FTK 1.8.0.0 DEMO VERSION -- C:\ProgramData\AccessData\Forensic Toolkit 1.8.0.0\DefaultCase\

File Edit View Tools Help

Overview Explore Graphics E-Mail Search Bookmark

Case

E:
NEW VOLUME-FAT16
\$RECYCLE.BIN

List all descendants

Unfiltered All Columns D1Z

File Name	Full Path	Recycle Bi...	Ext	File Type	Category	Subject	Cr Date	N
\$RECYCLE.BIN	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\RECYCLE.BIN		BIN	Folder	Folder		5/14/2009 8:47:26 AM	5
DriveFreeSpace1	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\DriveFreeSpace1			Drive Free S...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
FAT1	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\FAT1			File Allocatio...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
FAT2	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\FAT2			File Allocatio...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
ReservedSectors	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\ReservedSectors			File System S...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
This one gets deleted.txt	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\This one gets deleted...		txt	Unknown Fil...	Unknown		5/14/2009 8:46:36 AM	5
This one stays.txt	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\This one stays.txt		txt	Plain Text D...	Document		5/14/2009 8:46:36 AM	5
thumbnail.jpg	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\thumbnail.jpg		jpg	Unknown Fil...	Unknown		5/14/2009 8:31:28 AM	5
VBR	E:\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\VBR			Volume Boot ...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N

9 Listed 0 Checked Total 0 Highlighted

VHD Disk Investigative Impact

VHD added as acquired image in FTK

AccessData FTK 1.80.0 DEMO VERSION -- C:\ProgramData\AccessData\Forensic Toolkit 1.80.0\DefaultCase\

File Edit View Tools Help

Overview Explore Graphics E-Mail Search Bookmark

Case

- vistalab
 - Part_1
 - NEW VOLUME-FAT16**
 - \$RECYCLE.BIN
 - UnpartSpace

List all descendants

Unfiltered All Columns DTZ

File Name	Full Path	Recycle Bi...	Ext	File Type	Category	Subject	Cr Date	N
\$RECYCLE.BIN	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\RECYC...		BIN	Folder	Folder		5/14/2009 8:47:26 AM	5
DriveFreeSpace1	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\DriveFre...			Drive Free S...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
FAT1	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\FAT1			File Allocati...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
FAT2	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\FAT2			File Allocatio...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
ReservedSectors	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\Reserve...			File System S...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N
This one gets deleted.txt	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\This one...		txt	Unknown Fil...	Unknown		5/14/2009 8:46:36 AM	5
This one stays.txt	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\This one...		txt	Plain Text D...	Document		5/14/2009 8:46:36 AM	5
thumbnail.jpg	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\thumbna...		jpg	Unknown Fil...	Unknown		5/14/2009 8:31:28 AM	5
VBR	vistalab\Part_1\NEW VOLUME-FAT16\VBR			Volume Boot ...	Slack/Free S...		N/A	N

9 Listed 0 Checked Total 0 Highlighted

Virtual PC 7

- Comes as separate download
- Windows 7 ONLY as host
 - Home Basic, Home Premium, Professional, Enterprise and Ultimate
- Supported GUEST operating systems
 - Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7
- Intel or AMD processor with Hardware Assisted Virtualization support required

Virtual PC 7 – User Interface

The image shows the Windows Virtual PC 7 user interface. The main window is a file explorer showing the 'Virtual Machines' folder. The 'Create virtual machine' button is highlighted with a red box. Below it, a table lists virtual machines with columns for Name, Machine status, Memory, Primary disk, and Comments. Two machines are listed: 'Virtual Windows XP.vmcx' and 'Win7RC.vmcx', both with a status of 'Powered down'. The 'Win7RC.vmcx' row is highlighted with a red box. In the foreground, the 'Virtual Windows XP - Windows Virtual PC Settings' dialog is open. The 'Undo Disks' setting is highlighted with a red box and has a value of 'Disabled'. The 'Virtual Machine Name' field is set to 'Virtual Windows XP'.

Name	Machine status	Memory	Primary disk	Comments
desktop.ini				
Virtual Windows XP.vmcx	Powered down	256 MB	C:\Users\ibterry\AppData\...	
Win7RC.vmcx	Powered down	2,000 MB	C:\Users\ibterry\AppData\...	

Setting	Current Value
Name	Virtual Windows XP
Memory	256 MB
Hard Disk 1	Virtual Windows XP...
Hard Disk 2	None
Hard Disk 3	None
Undo Disks	Disabled
DVD Drive	D:
COM1	None
COM2	None
Networking	Network adapters:1
Integration Features	Auto Enable
Keyboard	Full screen
Logon Credentials	Saved
Auto Publish	Enabled
Close	Hibernate

Virtual Machine Name

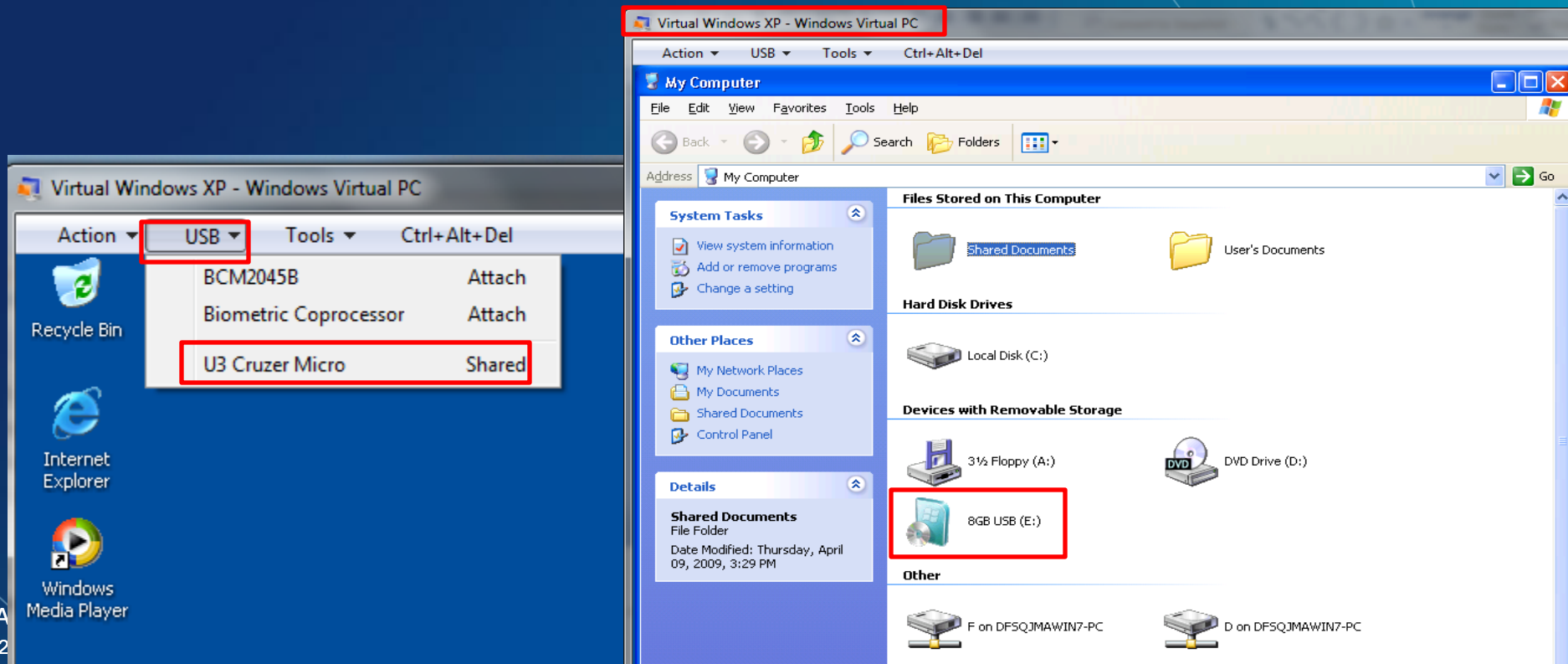
Name: Virtual Windows XP

Notes:

This is the name of the virtual machine in your Virtual Machines folder. This name does not affect the computer name that you can assign in the virtual operating system.

Virtual PC 7

- Allows running of multiple operating systems on host computer for testing, and compatibility
- USB Support in guest operating system!



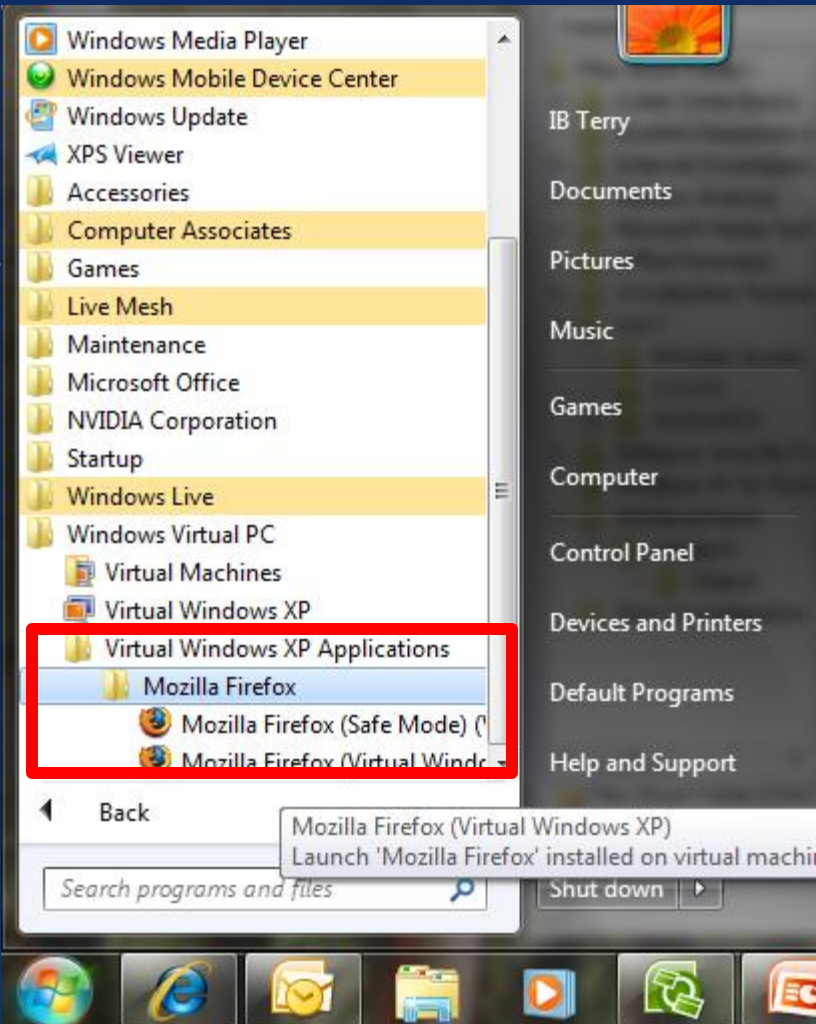
Windows XP Compatibility Mode

- Feature of Virtual PC
- Only available on Windows 7 Professional, Enterprise and Ultimate
- Guest must be Windows XP Professional SP 3

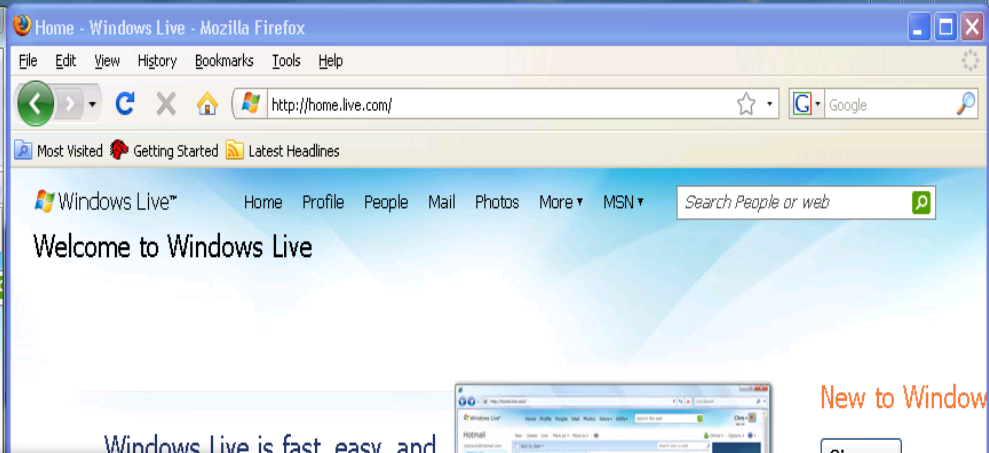
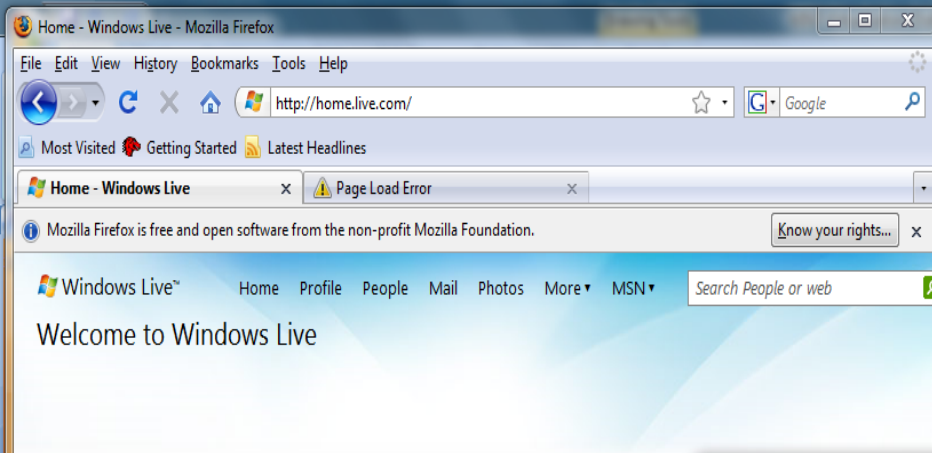
Windows XP Compatibility Mode

- Runs under Virtual PC 7
- Windows XP VHD you install applications into
- Application is published in the Windows 7 Start Menu
- When you run application it is running in XP VHD, BUT it appears to you to just be an application running in your Windows 7
- Allows you to run applications not compatible with Windows 7, in Windows 7

Windows XP Compatibility Mode



- Firefox web browser was installed in guest XP virtual machine.
- Shortcut to Firefox was automatically added to the host Windows 7 machine running Virtual PC.
- Once running it looks like any other execution of Firefox



Windows Live is fast, easy, and reliable

Hotmail has lots of storage, great spam fighting, and one easy-to-manage contact list, all available from your PC or web-enabled mobile device.

Mail - Faster, easier, and more reliable than ever before.
[Go to Hotmail](#)

SkyDrive - Free, password-protected online storage.
[Go to SkyDrive](#)

People - Add people to your network and stay in touch more easily.
[Go to people](#)

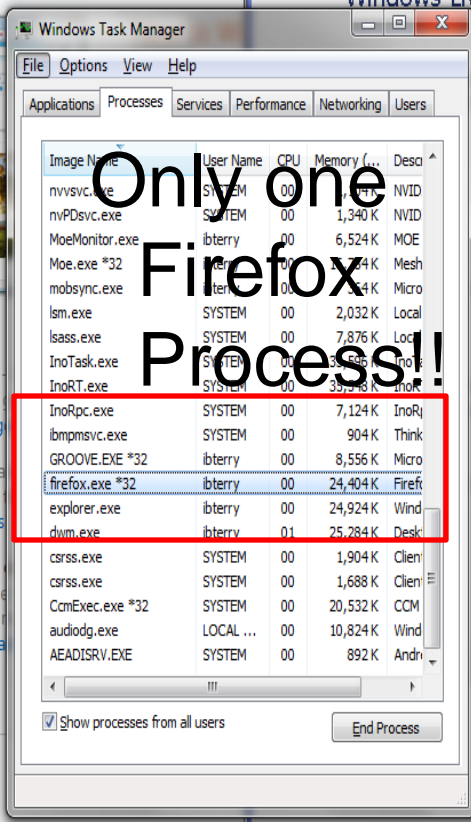
Messenger - Stay in touch, instantly—simply chat, or share photos, play games, and more.
[Get Messenger](#)

Photos - Share your favorite shots with friends, and comment on their photos, too.
[Go to photos](#)

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Windows 7 Installed Firefox

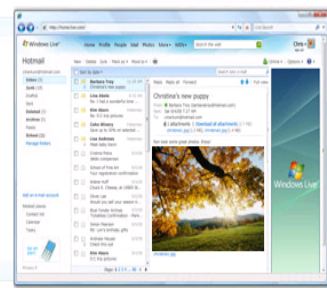
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Only one Firefox Process!

Windows Live is fast, easy, and reliable

great spam fighting, and one easy-to-manage contact list, all available from your PC or web-enabled mobile device.



New to Windows Live?

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Already have a Windows Live account?

[Sign in](#)

If you have a Hotmail, Messenger, or Windows LIVE account, you already have a Windows Live ID.

...easier, and more reliable than ever before.

Messenger - Stay in touch, instantly—simply chat, or share photos, play games, and more.
[Get Messenger](#)

...e, password-protected online storage.

Photos - Share your favorite shots with friends, and comment on their photos, too.
[Go to photos](#)

...people to your network and stay in touch more easily.

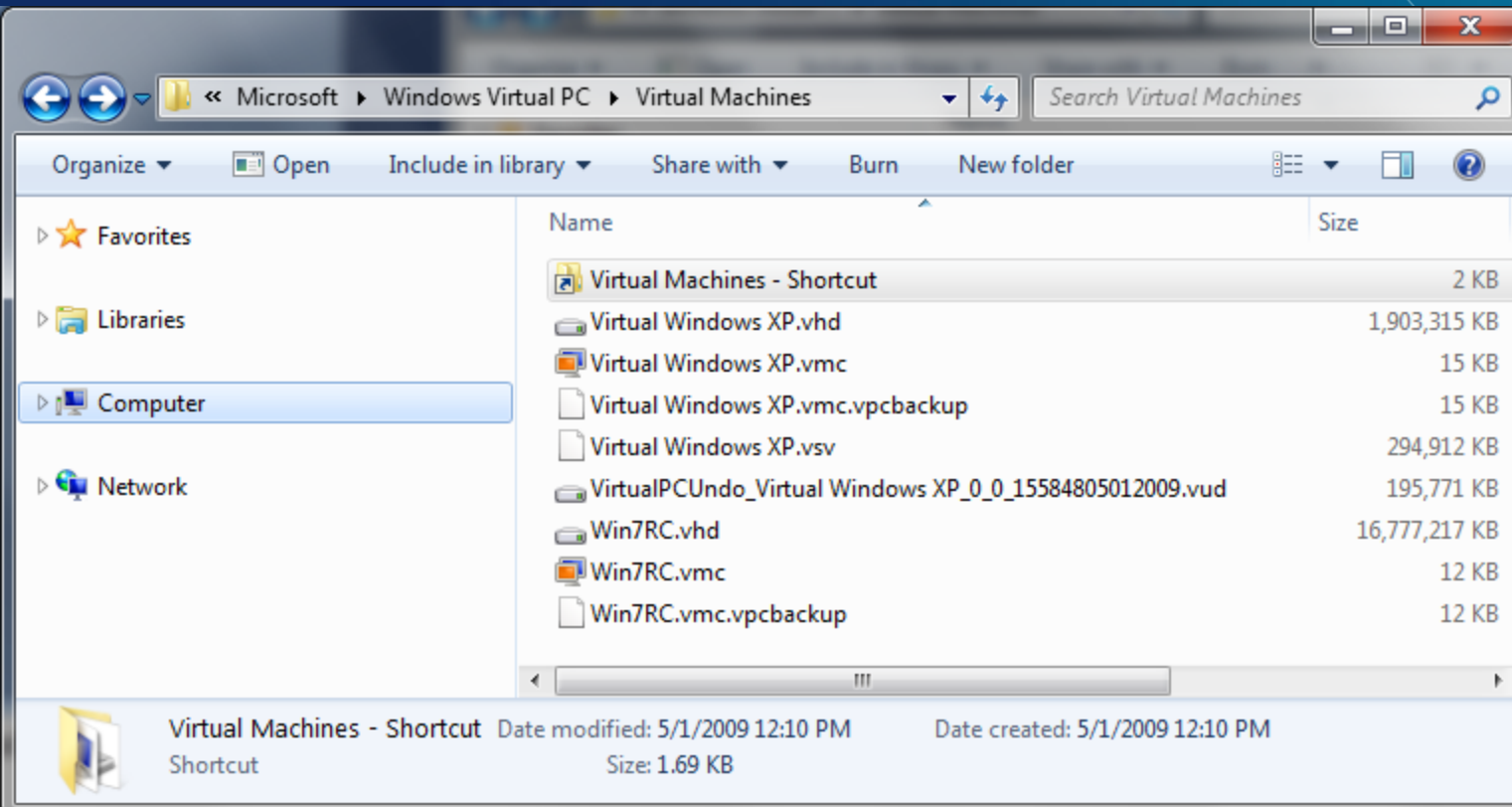
On your PC or mobile device - More for your PC or mobile device - Get free programs for your PC. Use Windows Live on your mobile device, too.
[Free downloads](#) | [More about mobile](#)

Windows XP Virtualized Firefox

[Terms of use](#)

Windows XP Compatibility Mode

- Default location for Virtual machines is
 - C:\Users\



Windows XP Compatibility Mode – Undo Disks

Virtual PC Undo Disks

- **UNDO - to make of no effect or as if not done : make null : reverse.** Merriam-Webster
- This is a great feature for Information Technology professionals – aids in testing and deployment of new services and applications
- Could potentially cause difficulties for forensic examiners.

Virtual PC Undo Disks

- If the Enable undo disks option is selected for a virtual machine, any changes made during a virtual machine session are saved to an undo disk (.vud) file. An undo disk file is a temporary file and is separate from the virtual hard disk. When the virtual machine is closed, the changes stored in the undo disk can be deleted, committed to the virtual hard disk file, or saved until a later time.

Virtual PC Undo Disks

WIN7-RC1 - Windows Virtual PC Settings

Setting	Current Value
Name	WIN7-RC1
Memory	1,000 MB
Hard Disk 1	Fishaman-WIN7.vhd
Hard Disk 2	None
Hard Disk 3	None
Undo Disks	Enabled
DVD Drive	D:
COM1	None
COM2	None
Networking	Network adapters:2

Undo Disks

Enable Undo Disks

Size of undo disk: 424 MB

You can manage changes stored in an undo disk by applying or discarding the changes.

Apply changes Discard changes

C:\Users\vbtery\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows Virtual PC\Virtual Machines

Name	Date modified	Size	Type
WIN7-RC1.vmc	5/18/2009 3:50 PM	14 KB	Virtual Machine Se...
Fishaman-WIN7.vmc.vpcbackup	5/18/2009 2:47 PM	14 KB	VPCBACKUP File
VirtualPCUndo_Fishaman-WIN7_0_0_18394605182009.vud	5/18/2009 2:47 PM	435,108 KB	Virtual Machine Un...
Virtual Machines - Shortcut (2)	5/18/2009 12:06 PM	2 KB	Shortcut
Fishaman-WIN7.vhd	5/18/2009 11:45 AM	5,555,789 KB	Virtual Machine Ha...
Virtual Windows XP.vmc	5/14/2009 3:11 PM	15 KB	Virtual Machine Se...
Virtual Windows XP.vmc.vpcbackup	5/14/2009 3:11 PM	15 KB	VPCBACKUP File
Virtual Windows XP.vsv	5/14/2009 3:10 PM	112,256 KB	Virtual Machine Sa...
VirtualPCUndo_Virtual Windows XP_0_0_15584805012009.vud	5/14/2009 3:10 PM	1,000,396 KB	Virtual Machine Un...
VistaLESTER.vmc	5/13/2009 2:25 PM	15 KB	Virtual Machine Se...

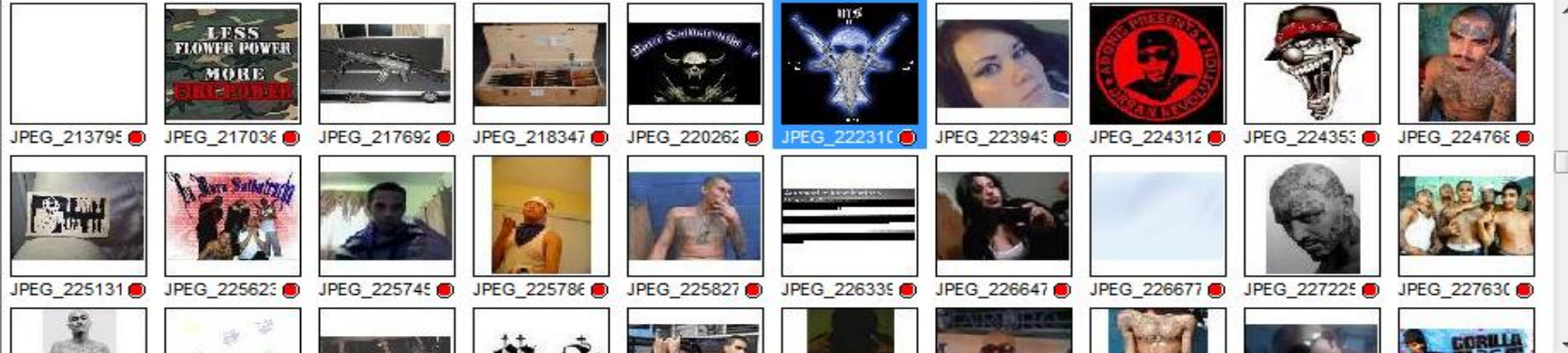
VirtualPCUndo_Fishaman-WIN7_0_0_1839... Date modified: 5/18/2009 2:47 PM Date created: 5/18/2009 2:39 PM
Virtual Machine Undo Drive Size: 424 MB

Virtual PC Undo Disks – Carved in FTK

AccessData FTK 1.80.0 DEMO VERSION -- C:\ProgramData\AccessData\Forensic Toolkit 1.80.0\DefaultCase\

File Edit View Tools Help

Overview Explore Graphics E-Mail Search Bookmark




JPEG_21379E JPEG_21703E JPEG_217692 JPEG_218347 JPEG_220262 JPEG_222310 JPEG_223943 JPEG_224312 JPEG_224353 JPEG_22476E

JPEG_225131 JPEG_225623 JPEG_225745 JPEG_22578E JPEG_225827 JPEG_22633E JPEG_226647 JPEG_226677 JPEG_227225 JPEG_22763C

Case

- VirtualPCUndo_Fishaman-WIN7_0_0_18394605182009
 - NONAME-Unknown



ms
13
West Side East side

482 Listed 0 Checked Total VirtualPCUndo_Fishaman-WIN7_0_0_18394605182009\NONAME-Unknown\DriveFree Space11>>JPEG_2223104[15].jpg

Virtual PC Undo Disks

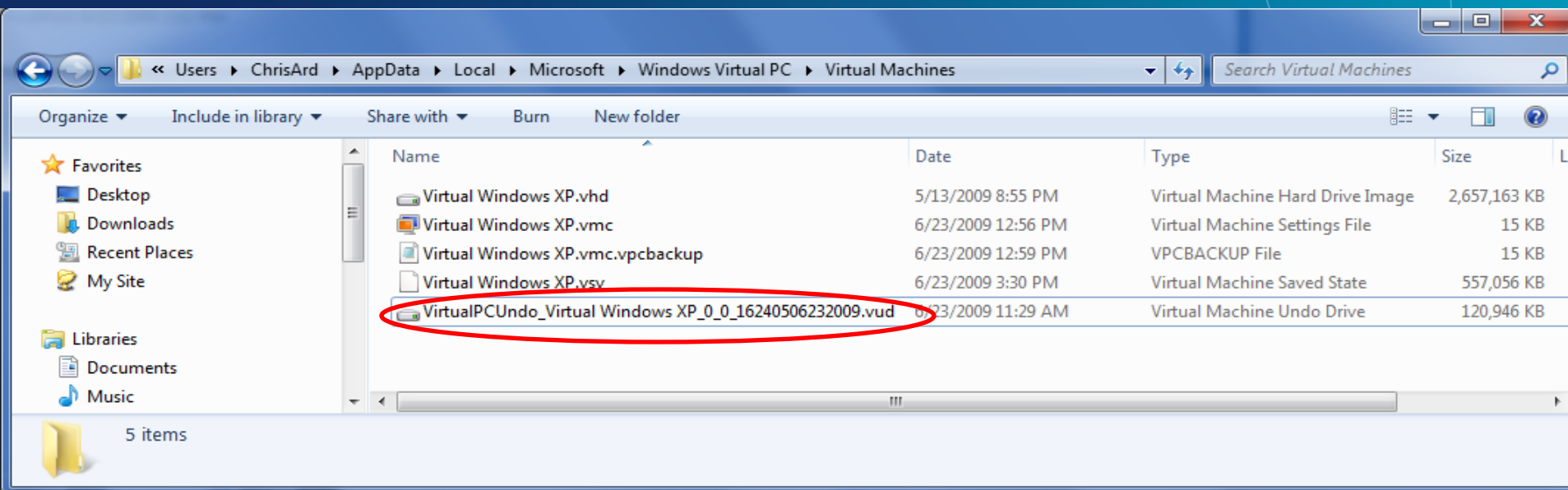
- How can you tell if a Virtual Machine has undo disk enabled?
 - Each virtual machine has a .VMC configuration file. – Located in folder with VHD usually
 - This file contains the setting for the machine such as
 - >Memory Allocated
 - >Hard Drive, Path to the VHD file
 - > Network setting
 - >Undo Disks!

Virtual PC Undo Disks – VMC edited in notepad

```
<ide_adapter>
  <ide_controller id="0">
    <location id="0">
      <drive_type type="integer">1</drive_type>
      <pathname>
        <absolute type="string">C:\Users\ibterry\AppData\Local\Microsoft\windows virtual PC\Virtual Machines\Fishaman-WIN7.vhd</absolute>
        <relative type="string">.\Fishaman-WIN7.vhd</relative>
      </pathname>
      <undo_pathname>
        <absolute type="string">C:\Users\ibterry\AppData\Local\Microsoft\windows virtual PC\Virtual Machines\VirtualPCUndo_WIN7-RC1_0_0_21014905182000.vud</absolute>
        <relative type="string">.\VirtualPCUndo_WIN7-RC1_0_0_21014905182000.vud</relative>
      </undo_pathname>
    </location>
  </ide_controller>
  <ide_controller id="1">
    <location id="0">
      <drive_type type="integer">2</drive_type>
      <pathname>
        <absolute type="string">D</absolute>
        <relative type="string" />
      </pathname>
    </location>
  </ide_controller>
</ide_adapter>
```

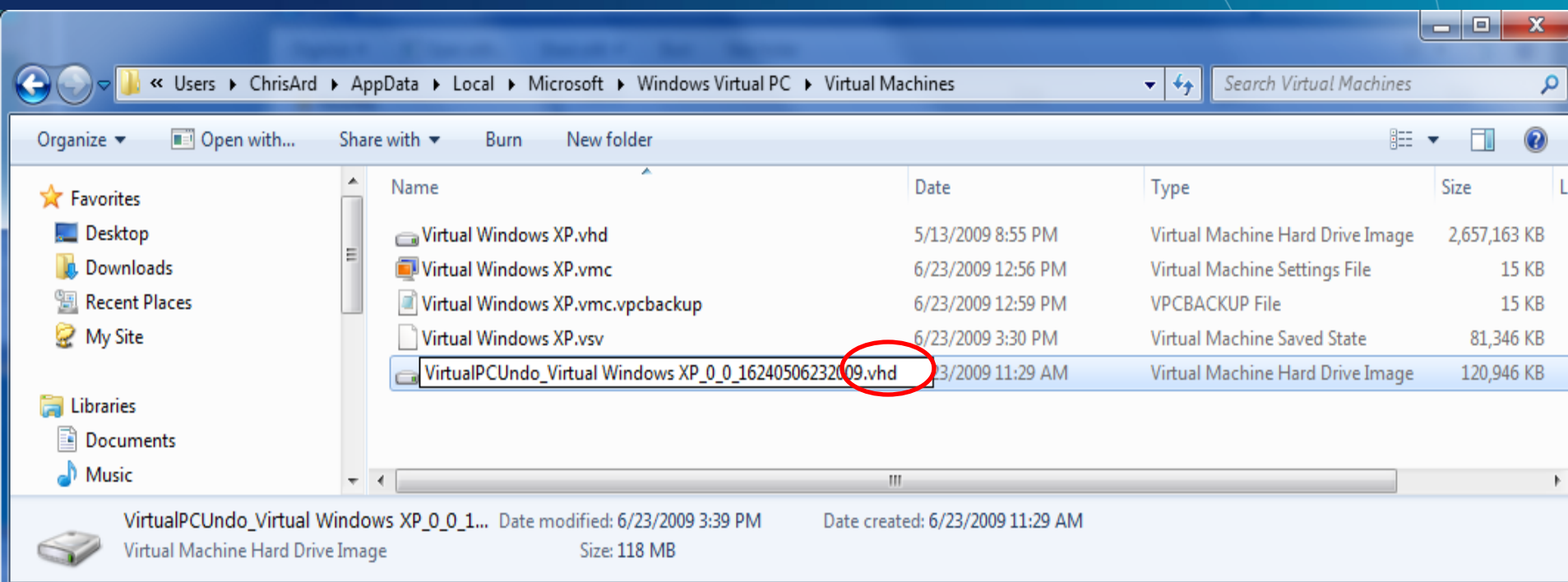

VPC Undo Disk Investigative Impact

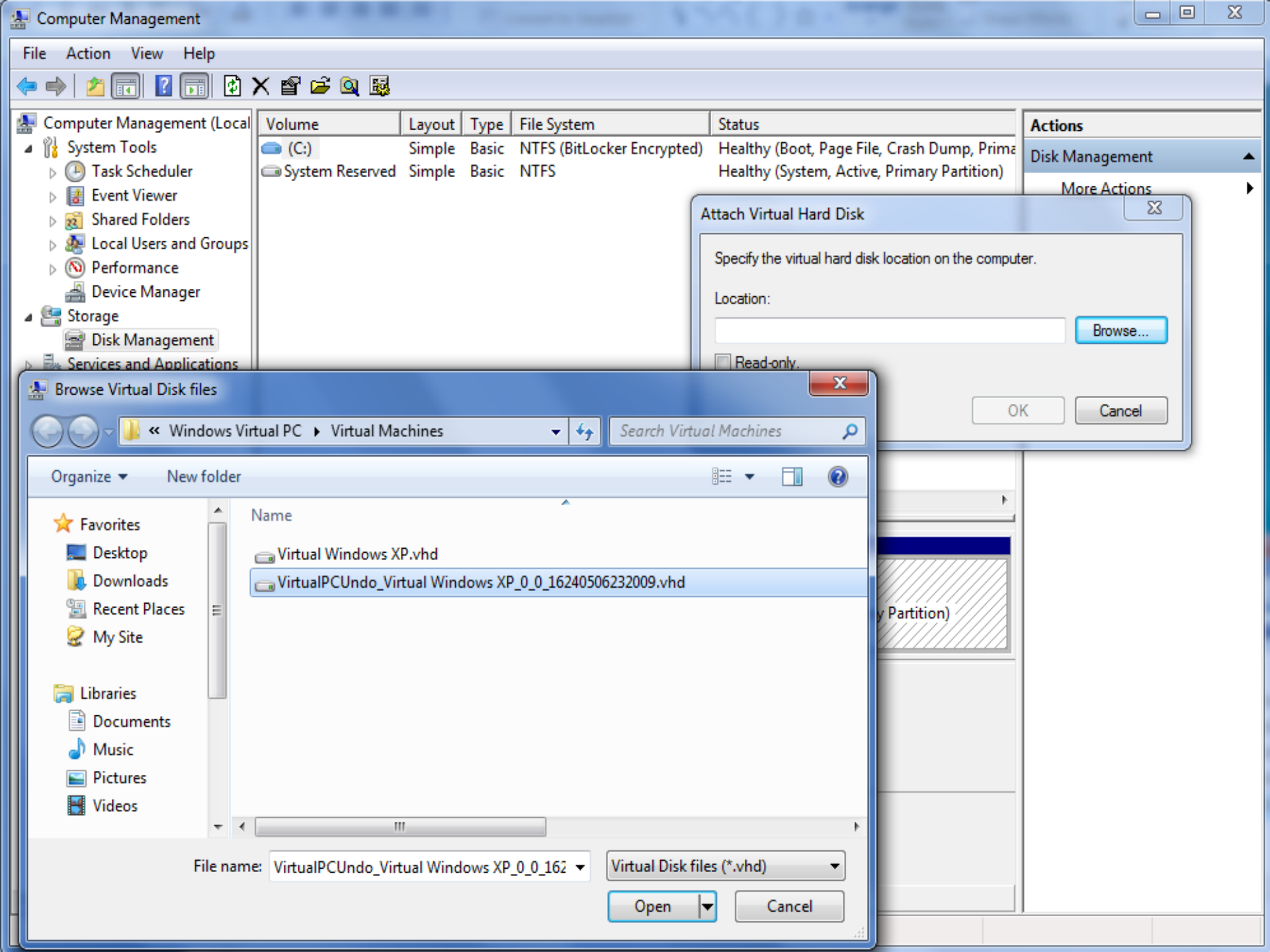
- Is there an easy way to parse or carve the contents of the VUD file?
 - Data Carving will have limited success and can be very time intensive
- What if “Discard Changes” has been selected?



Parsing the VUD File

- VHD files are just files that look like disk volumes
- I wonder if VUD files are the same thing.....
- If they are, couldn't I just rename a VUD to VHD?





- Computer Management (Local)
- System Tools
 - Task Scheduler
 - Event Viewer
 - Shared Folders
 - Local Users and Groups
 - Performance
 - Device Manager
- Storage
 - Disk Management
- Services and Applications

Volume	Layout	Type	File System	Status
(C:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS (BitLocker Encrypted)	Healthy (Boot, Page File, Crash Dump, Prima
System Reserved	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (System, Active, Primary Partition)

- Actions**
- Disk Management
 - More Actions

Attach Virtual Hard Disk

Specify the virtual hard disk location on the computer.

Location:

Read-only

Browse Virtual Disk files

Windows Virtual PC > Virtual Machines

Organize New folder

Virtual Windows XP.vhd

VirtualPCUndo_Virtual Windows XP_0_0_16240506232009.vhd

File name: VirtualPCUndo_Virtual Windows XP_0_0_162 Virtual Disk files (*.vhd)

File Action View Help



- Computer Management (Local)
- System Tools
 - Task Scheduler
 - Event Viewer
 - Shared Folders
 - Local Users and Groups
 - Performance
 - Device Manager
- Storage
 - Disk Management**
- Services and Applications

Volume	Layout	Type	File System	Status
(C:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS (BitLocker Encrypted)	Healthy (Boot, Page File, Crash Dump, Primary Partition)
(E:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (Active, Primary Partition)
System Reserved	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (System, Active, Primary Partition)

- Actions**
- Disk Management
 - More Actions

Disk 0
Basic
186.31 GB
Online

System Reserved 100 MB NTFS Healthy (System, Active)	(C:) 186.21 GB NTFS (BitLocker Encrypted) Healthy (Boot, Page File, Crash Dump, Primary Partition)
---	---

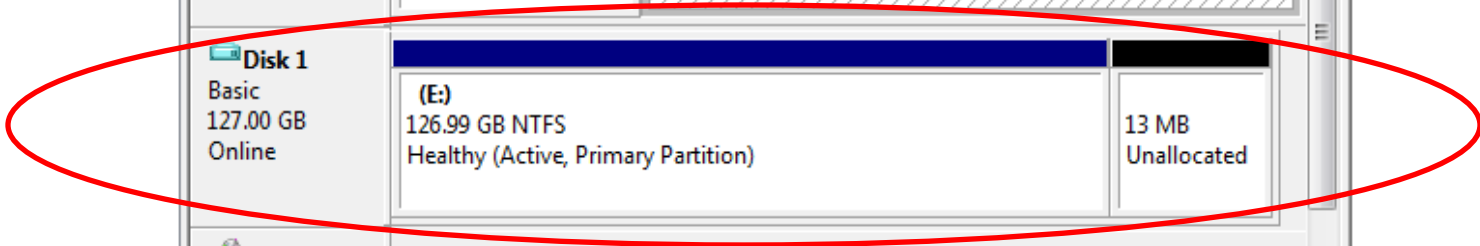
Disk 1
Basic
127.00 GB
Online

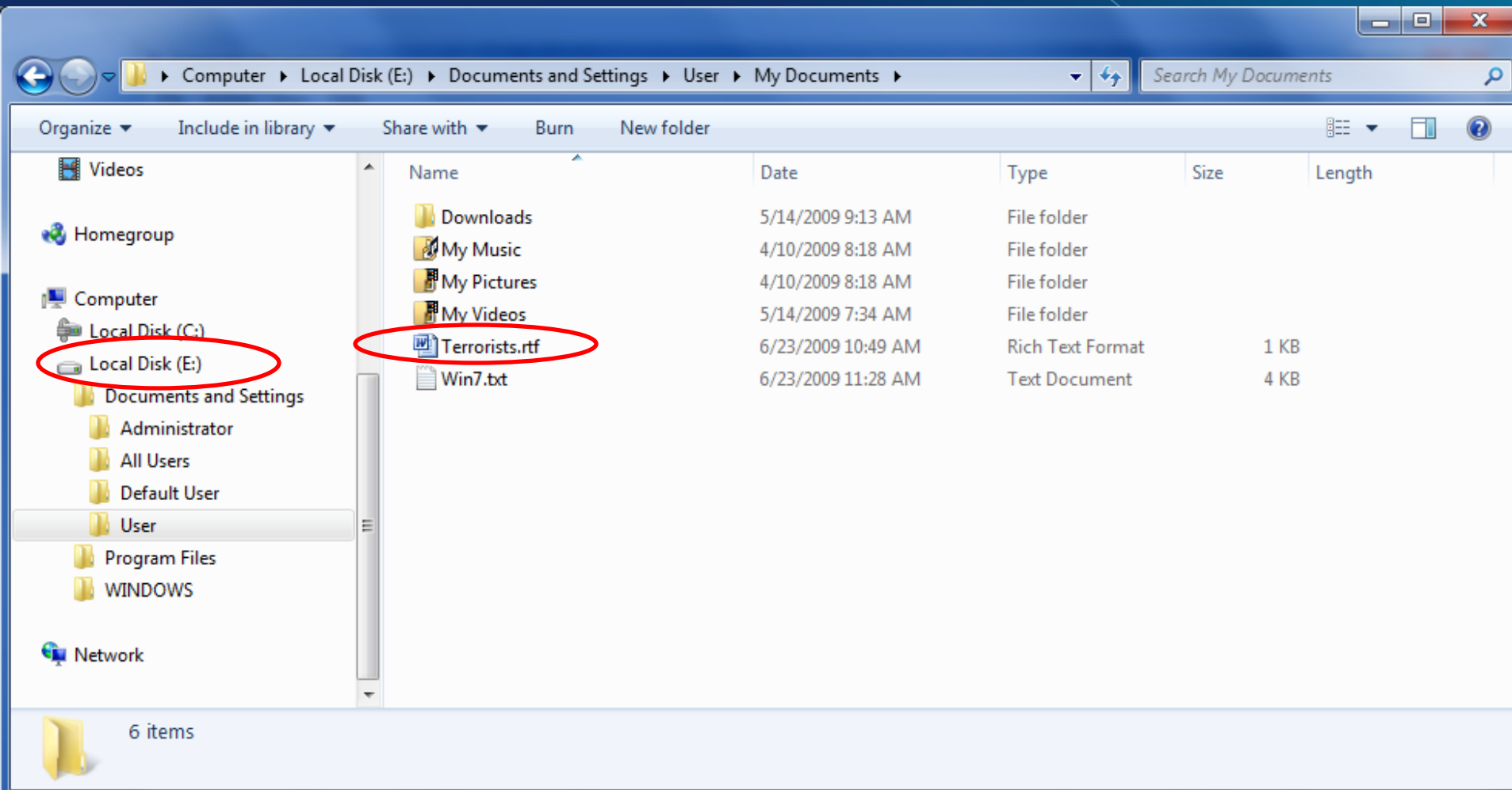
(E:) 126.99 GB NTFS Healthy (Active, Primary Partition)	13 MB Unallocated
--	----------------------

CD-ROM 0
DVD (D:)

No Media

■ Unallocated ■ Primary partition





Virtual PC Memory of hibernated virtual machines

- One feature of VPC is to allow for the state of a Virtual machine to be saved
- When the Virtual Machine is in the saved state the status information(memory) is written to a .VSV file
- These VSV files *MAY* contain information about programs that were executing when the machine was put into the saved state.

VPC Investigative Impact



Questions?

Virtulization Primer

Term	Description
VPC	Windows Virtual PC
VHD	Virtual Hard Disk. ; File containing the complete contents and structure representing a Hard Disk Drive. Used to store the virtual operating system and the associated data.
OS	Operating System
Host	The physical computer on which the virtual machine is running. It implies the OS that is installed on the physical computer.
Guest	This is the OS installed in the virtual machine
VM	Virtual Machine
Integration Features	Set of features that enable integration between Guest and the Host; namely sharing clipboard, drives, printers, smart card connected to the host, with the guest.
Integration Components	Integration Components needs to be installed on the Virtual Machine in order to enable Integration Features. It also enables seamless movement of mouse between the host and the guest. If Integration Components are not installed, the mouse pointer will get captured by the virtual machine and one needs to press Ctrl-Alt-LeftArrow to release the mouse pointer back to the Host
VM Window	This is the UI in which the Guest OS runs. This window has a toolbar of its own for common VM operations like Closing, Hibernating, Installing/Updating Integration Components etc
Saved Credentials	The user credentials of a VM can be saved. If you choose to save the credentials, then VPC will not prompt for user credentials. It will just use the saved credentials for logging-in to the VM.
Virtual Desktop	The desktop of the guest OS
Virtual Application	A guest application that is run from Windows 7 host machine and behaves like a native Windows 7 application

Virtulization Primer – Disk Terms

- ***Dynamic Disk***

The size of the dynamic virtual hard disk expands as data is written to it. The initial size is typically less than 100 KB, but as data is written the disk size will expand until it reaches the limit specified when the disk was created.

- ***Fixed Disk***

The size of the virtual hard disk is fixed to the size specified when the disk was created. It immediately uses the amount of space specified when it was created. The size of a fixed-size virtual hard disk cannot be changed after the virtual hard disk is created.

Virtulization Primer – Disk Terms

- ***Differencing Disk***

The differencing virtual hard disk is a virtual hard disk associated with another virtual hard disk. One way to understand the relationship between the two disks is a parent-child analogy. The differencing disk is the child and the associated virtual disk is the parent. The differencing disk (the child) stores a record of all changes made to the parent disk and provides a way to save changes without altering the parent disk. The differencing hard disk expands dynamically as data is written to it. Microsoft recommends that you write-protect or lock the parent disk. Otherwise, if the parent disk is modified by some other process, all differencing disks related to it become invalid, and any data written to them is effectively lost.

Virtulization Primer – Disk Terms

- ***Undo Disk***

If the Enable undo disks option is selected for a virtual machine, any changes made during a virtual machine session are saved to an undo disk (.vud) file. An undo disk file is a temporary file and is separate from the virtual hard disk. When the virtual machine is closed, the changes stored in the undo disk can be deleted, committed to the virtual hard disk file, or saved until a later time.