



Performance Tips for Virtual Machines



Performance Tips

- Obvious things to change in the host:
 - Increase the amount of RAM
 - Increase the processor speed
 - **Use faster hard disks**

Configure Performance Options

The image shows the Virtual PC Console and the Virtual PC Options dialog box. The 'File' menu in the console is circled. In the 'Virtual PC Options' dialog, the 'Performance' option is selected in the list, and the 'All running virtual machines get equal CPU time' radio button is selected under the 'CPU Time' section. The 'OK' button is also circled.

Options	Current Value
Restore at Start	Restore
Performance	Divide time equally
Hardware Virtualization	Not available
Full-Screen Mode	Adjust resolution
Sound	Mute
Messages	Show all
Keyboard	Right Alt
Mouse	Click to capture
Security	Disabled
Language	English

Performance

CPU Time:

- All running virtual machines get equal CPU time
- Allocate more CPU time to the virtual machine in the active window
- Pause virtual machines in inactive windows

When Virtual PC is running in the background:

- Give processes on the host operating system priority
- Run Virtual PC at maximum speed

OK Cancel

- File
- Options
- Performance

Exclude Virtual PC from Real Time Virus Monitoring

- Exclude either of the following:
 - The Virtual PC.exe process (preferred)
 - Virtual PC associated file extensions
 - .vhd
 - .vud
 - .vsv
 - .vfd
 - .vmc



Keep the Hard Disks Clean

- Disk Input/Out is biggest bottleneck
 - Scandisk
 - Defrag



AGP Aperture

- Memory used by Video – not required on current PC's
- Can reduce memory available to Virtual PC
- Set maximum size to 128 Mb



Minimize Overhead on Host

- Run as few applications and services as possible on the host computer
- Minimize the display color depth
- Minimize visual effects



General Tips

- Start virtual machines one at a time
- Restart the host