

VMware and NVidia drivers ...



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Dec 28, 2007 I have a MacBook Pro which has a built-in NVidia GeForce 8600M GT chipset. Someone in the Apple discussion boards mentioned that it would be beneficial to replace the VMware Fusion "VMware SVGA II" adapter driver with the NVidia drivers from the Boot Camp disk. If I open the Boot Camp Driver folder, I can see 4 NVidia driver installers:

NVidiaMobileSetup

NVidiaXPMobileSetup

NvidiaSetup

NVidiaXPSetup

(see attached)

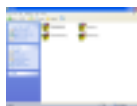
Question 1: Should I load one of those drivers to get additional functionality besides the basic SVGA?

Question 2: If I do, which driver should I load if I am running Windows XP Home Edition? Should it be NVidiaXPMobileSetup given that I am running on a notebook?

Question 3: Do I just double click on the installer, or do I have to do anything else?

Thanks. **Attachments:**

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Picture 8.png (41.0 K)

Tags: boot_camp, leopard, vmware_fusion, nvidia



[etung](#) 11,094 posts since


Oct 15, 2006 **1. Re: VMware and NVidia drivers** Dec 28, 2007 6:18 PM

The poster on the Apple boards is confused. There is no benefit to installing nVidia drivers in a virtual machine, and removing the VMware SVGA II adapter driver will cause problems. The reason is that virtual hardware is different from physical hardware; the guest does not see an nVidia graphics card but rather sees a VMware video card.



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Dec 28, 2007 **2. Re: VMware and NVidia drivers** Dec 28, 2007 6:22 PM

 in response to: [etung](#) Hm. That is interesting, given that I just received a reply from VMware support, which I will be quoting here:

"Hi Marco,

According to my understanding with reference to the problem description recorded in support request, you have received for Nvidia card updates in

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Windows XP Guest OS.

Could you please let me know, are you running Boot camp partition as a Virtual Machine and also have you installed boot camp Drivers in Windows XP Guest OS?

If you have installed Boot camp Drivers in Windows XP Guest OS, at the time of installing boot camp drivers If you have selected 'Automatically Software Update for Windows" option, it will give the notification if any updates are available for Windows Drivers when the Windows XP Guest OS boots.

These drivers are useful for your system if the system has Nvidia Graphics cards, and should be installed in Native boot camp mode.

I would like bring your kind notice that, when you create Virtual Machine from VMware Fusion, it creates a Virtual Machine with minimal configuration of the system. The virtual machine sees a 'Virtualized' SVGA II graphics card created by VMware Fusion. It won't recognize as a full features of Graphics card which is in Host System.


How ever the Windows XP boot camp Virtual Machine will not recognize the Nvidia graphics drivers since the VM uses it's own SVGA Drivers for your Graphics card.

I suggest installing the latest Nvidia Driver updates in Native boot camp mode."



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Oct 15, 2006 **3. Re: VMware and NVidia drivers** Dec 28, 2007 10:59 PM

 in response to: [neptune2000](#) The difference between our replies is that the bolded parts you quote refer to a *native boot* scenario - in this case, XP is no longer a guest OS, but is in full control of the hardware. With a *native boot* scenario, the nVidia driver update is probably a good thing to install. I was pointing out that in a *virtual* environment, they don't apply. Note that in the native boot scenario, Windows should not load the VMware SVGA II drivers (since Windows should figure out that it has an nVidia graphics card), which is why I said the poster you refer to was confused.



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Dec 28, 2007 **4. Re: VMware and NVidia drivers** Dec 29, 2007 1:52 AM

 in response to: [etung](#) Got it. Thanks.