

Reducing the size of a virtual machine ...



[Guille779](#) 3 posts since

Apr 11, 2009

Hey guys,

Is there a way I can reduce the size of a disk image? I have a Windows XP image that started at around 4GB, I've installed only a couple of apps and it's been increasing in size ever since I created it. It's now at 9GB. Why is this?

Tags: virtual_machine, reducing, file, size



[mikelane](#) 240 posts since

May 14, 2007 1. **Re: Reducing the size of a virtual machine** Apr 11, 2009 11:18 PM

What size are the apps that you installed?

Do you have Windows set to update automatically?

Are you surfing the internet on the machine or downloading files?

The 9GB of usage just reflects the size of the files that your windows installation is using.

You might also check Event Viewer for errors to see if you have problems that are being logged?

How much RAM do you have assigned to the virtual machine? This will also be reflected in a file in your virtual machine directory as will any snapshots of the virtual machine that you have taken

Without more details it's hard to tell ...



[Guille779](#) 3 posts since

Apr 11, 2009 2. **Re: Reducing the size of a virtual machine** Apr 12, 2009 8:06 AM

👤 in response to: [mikelane](#)

Well, let's see:

The Apps only account for about 700MB (the size of the Program Files directory)

My User profile is 18MB in size.

No, Windows update is disabled.

I am using it for browsing, mainly to test websites in IE7

Virtual Memory is at 1.5GB

Only 512MB of RAM are assigned.

The weird thing is that Windows only reports 6GB of used hard drive space, so where the heck are the other 3GB?

I don't have any snapshots created.



[RDPetruska](#) 15,875 posts since

Jan 11, 2005 3. **Re: Reducing the size of a virtual machine** Apr 13, 2009 8:01 AM

👤 in response to: [Guille779](#)

Reducing the size of a virtual machine ...

The weird thing is that Windows only reports 6GB of used hard drive space, so where the heck are the other 3GB? ANY disk activity is a write. ANY disk writes to a growable virtual disk will expand it. Even a "delete" is NOT a delete - just an update to the directory entry for the file. For at least a short while, the actual bits of the file still exist on the hard disk (until they become overwritten by some other file). Note that this is exactly the same as a physical hard disk... just that you don't see it expand so you don't realize that it is happening.

To reclaim the space on your host which your virtual disk is using, you need to run the Shrink command within the VMware Tools for your guest.



[davidb2](#) 77 posts since

Jul 30, 2007 4. **Re: Reducing the size of a virtual machine** Apr 13, 2009 10:23 AM

in response to: [RDPetruska](#) RDPetruska wrote:

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Maybe this explains why my disk also grew when I used System Tools>Disk Cleanup in XP Pro SP3 to compress old files? (I asked this in another thread I started a few days ago but got no answer.) By the way, subsequently running Shrink didn't reclaim the increased size.

David



[RDPetruska](#) 15,875 posts since

Jan 11, 2005 5. **Re: Reducing the size of a virtual machine** Apr 13, 2009 10:46 AM

in response to: [davidb2](#)

davidb2 wrote:

Maybe this explains why my disk also grew when I used System Tools>Disk Cleanup in XP Pro SP3 to compress old files? (I asked this in another thread I started a few days ago but got no answer.) By the way, subsequently running Shrink didn't reclaim the increased size.

DavidPossibly. But, if your guest OS has used most of the space you've allocated for it (and hence why you'd want to run the Disk Cleanup utility in the guest), then there aren't many sectors left in the virtual drive containing deleted data which needs to be zeroed by the Shrink utility. Therefore, very little space available to be reclaimed.

Robert

