

# VMware Fusion & Workstation (Desktop Hypervisor) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## Introduction

VMware's Desktop Hypervisor portfolio — including VMware Fusion and VMware Workstation — provides powerful, local virtualization tools for developers, students, IT professionals, and enthusiasts to run virtual machines and containers on Windows, Linux, and macOS hosts. This FAQ answers common customer questions about the free licensing model, product capabilities, intended use, and available resources.

## Overview & General Product Questions

### Q. What is a desktop hypervisor?

A. A desktop hypervisor is software that allows a physical computer to run multiple virtual machines simultaneously. VMware Fusion and Workstation are examples, enabling users to create and manage VMs on personal desktops or laptops.

### Q. What are VMware Fusion and Workstation?

A. VMware Fusion and Workstation are desktop hypervisor products that allow users to run virtual machines, containers, and Kubernetes clusters directly on their Windows, Linux, or macOS devices. These tools help developers, IT professionals, and enthusiasts create isolated environments for testing, development, and learning.

### Q. How do Fusion and Workstation work?

A. They work by using hardware-assisted virtualization to simulate a full hardware stack, allowing users to run multiple operating systems on one physical machine. Each virtual machine (VM) operates independently with its own virtual CPU, memory, and storage, managed by VMware's virtualization engine.

### Q. What are these products intended for?

A. Fusion and Workstation are designed for a range of use cases, including software development, application testing, system emulation, home labs, certifications, and educational environments. They're also ideal for power users and professionals who need multiple OS environments on a single device.

### Q. Where can I learn more or get started?

A. You can visit the [VMware Desktop Hypervisor products page](#), consult the [Broadcom Support Portal](#), review the [VMware Fusion Documentation](#), [VMware Workstation Documentation](#), or see the March 2025 blog post for more resources.

## Product Changes

### Q. What has changed with VMware Fusion and Workstation?

A. As of March 2025, the current versions of VMware Fusion Pro and Workstation Pro are available at no charge for all use cases, including personal, educational, and commercial use. Users no longer need to purchase a license for these versions for any scenario. Broadcom will continue releasing updates and security patches but will no longer sell new support contracts for these versions.

### Q. What happens to existing commercial and/or enterprise customers?

A. If you are an existing commercial and/or enterprise customer, your current contract will remain in place until the end of your term. You will continue to receive the full level of service and enterprise-grade support as agreed in your contract. Active contracts remain valid, and support can still be accessed via the Broadcom Support Portal.

### Q. What will happen when my contract ends?

A. Your software will continue to function as before, and you will retain access to the full feature set. However, direct support ticketing with Broadcom and certain other features of enterprise-grade support will no longer be available once your contract expires. We understand that this may be an adjustment, and we encourage you to take advantage of VMware's robust community forums, knowledge base, and online documentation, which remain available to help address any questions or issues.

### Q. Is this a one-time promotion?

A. No. This licensing update reflects a long-term strategic shift by Broadcom to broaden the reach and adoption of its desktop hypervisor solutions. At this time, Broadcom does not have plans of making future releases paid.

### Q. Will existing paid features be removed?

A. No, there are no plans to modify any features because of this. VMware will continue to develop and deliver product updates and enhancements to benefit the community.

## Technical & Features

### Q. Will the free version offer the same features as the paid version?

A. Yes. The free version includes all features previously available only through Fusion Pro and Workstation Pro. This includes support for advanced networking, custom VM configurations, snapshots, encryption, vTPM, Secure Boot, and more.

### Q. What operating systems are supported?

A. Supported operating systems:

- VMware Fusion supports macOS, including both Intel-based and Apple Silicon (M1/M2/M3) systems.
- VMware Workstation runs on Windows and Linux hosts. Both support a wide range of guest operating systems, including Windows 11, various Linux distributions, and older OS versions.

### Q. What operating systems or platforms do Workstation Pro and Fusion Pro support?

A. VMware Workstation Pro is available for 64-bit Intel and AMD (x86/x86-64) PCs running Windows and Linux operating systems, while VMware Fusion Pro is available for Intel and Apple silicon Macs.

### Q. How do Workstation Pro and Fusion Pro work?

A. VMware Workstation Pro and Fusion Pro products utilize specialized functions in modern 64-bit x86-64 CPUs and Apple silicon SoCs to create fully isolated, secure virtual machines that encapsulate an operating system and its applications. Each virtual machine “thinks” and operates as if it is housed in a physical computer with dedicated physical resources. The VMware virtualization layer maps available physical hardware resources to a virtual machine's ‘virtual’ resources, allowing each VM to have isolated and configurable access to its CPU, memory, disks, and I/O devices.

### Q. Are Workstation Player or Fusion Player still available for purchase?

A. As of April 30, 2024, Workstation Player and Fusion Player reached End of Sale (EOS) and are no longer available for purchase or download. They have been replaced by the more powerful Pro editions, which are now free for all use cases. Customers with active contracts for Player editions will continue to receive updates and can access support for the duration of their contract.

### Q. What about Workstation Player and Fusion Player Personal Use Licenses?

A. Users can now enjoy the full-featured versions of Workstation Pro and Fusion Pro without requiring a purchased license key. Workstation Pro and Fusion Pro installers, now by default, provide a free personal-use license built in. While Workstation Player and Fusion Player are no longer being sold, they will continue to function and receive product updates until the subsequent major versions are released.

### Q. Is Apple Silicon fully supported in Fusion?

A. Yes. Fusion for Apple Silicon supports many Linux distributions and Windows 11 for ARM. Note that not all

x86 guest OS features are available due to differences in hardware architecture.

### Q. Can I run Windows 11 in a VM?

A. Yes. Both Fusion and Workstation support Windows 11, with requirements such as TPM, UEFI, and Secure Boot, which can be met via virtualization. Fusion includes a virtual TPM module to ensure compliance.

### Q. Are vTPM and Secure Boot supported?

A. Absolutely. Fusion and Workstation include vTPM and UEFI Secure Boot support, which are required for installing and running modern Windows OS securely.

## Licensing & Access

### Q. Do I need a license key?

A. No. The latest versions of VMware Fusion and Workstation now include the license automatically. There's no need to select a usage type or enter a key — just install and start using the software freely for all purposes.

### Q. Can I upgrade from older versions?

A. Yes. Users can upgrade to the latest version. Be sure to review system requirements before upgrading, especially if you're on older hardware or OS versions.

### Q. Where do I download the latest versions?

A. You can download VMware Fusion and Workstation from [Broadcom Support Portal](#). For full details and guidance, see [Knowledge Base Article KB 368734](#).

## Support & Resources

### Q. What kind of support will users have access to?

A. Customers using the free VMware Fusion and Workstation products are not entitled to support through the Broadcom Global Support Team. Instead, Broadcom encourages users to engage with our active community forums — [Fusion Community](#) and [Workstation Community](#) — as well as our self-service resources.

### Q. Is technical support available?

A. While direct support tickets are reserved for customers with active contracts, we have enhanced our online support experience with updated Knowledge Base articles, installation guides, and tutorials to help you resolve issues independently.

### Q. How can I get help if I run into issues?

A. You can:

- Explore the updated [Knowledge Base Article KB 368734](#) for common questions and answers
- Follow the [step-by-step installation guide](#) with screenshots and links
- Use the [updated download and installation guide for Fusion](#)
- Join the Fusion and Workstation Community forums for peer advice and VMware insights

### Q. Are there tutorials or videos to help me get started?

A. Yes. We've added tutorials, walkthroughs, and configuration guides — covering everything from installation to advanced configuration — all linked from the [March 2025 blog post](#) and documentation pages.

## Stay Informed

### Q. Will VMware continue to develop Fusion and Workstation?

A. Yes. VMware remains committed to both products with ongoing updates that include new OS support, feature enhancements, and hardware compatibility.

### Q. How can I stay updated?

A. Follow the [VMware Cloud Foundation Blog](#), subscribe to VMware email updates, and regularly check the product documentation.

For more details, visit the [official VMware product page](#) or explore the latest blog post on this topic [here](#).

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