Windows 7 Free Beta Release By Ron Mettler, January 11, 2009

Microsoft has made available to the general public, a free download of Windows 7 Build 7000 with a file name of 7000.0.081212-1400_client_en-us_Ultimate-GB1CULFRE_EN_DVD.iso. I was able to download the file from an authorized non-Microsoft site last Friday night. For those so interested in trying the newest version of Windows, you should be able to find a site where it can be downloaded.

So then what do you do with it? I suggest that you consider installing it on an existing computer using Microsoft Virtual PC. Using Virtual PC, you can create a space on your hard drive in which Windows 7 can be run and stored without disturbing your existing system. James Wiegel prepared and presented at our January 12, 2008 CUGG monthly meeting, details of how to use Virtual PC. His PowerPoint presentation file can be found on the CUGG web site by going to http://www.cugg.org/presentations.htm#vpc2007 The latest version of Microsoft Virtual PC can be found at http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=28c97d22-6eb8-4a09-a7f7-f6c7a1f000b5&displaylang=en

The following is a description of the system requirements and a suggested procedure.

- 1. If your computer has at least 1.5 GB of RAM, and available hard drive space of 20 GB, you most likely can complete the installation. You should review the system requirements for Virtual PC and determine if your system can run the application.
- 2. Once Virtual PC is installed, start the program and click on "New", then next and you will be at the following window:

New Virtual Machine Wizard
Options You can create a new virtual machine or add an existing one to the Virtual PC Console.
Select an option:
 Create a virtual machine; This option guides you through the basic configurations necessary for creating a new virtual machine.
Use default settings to create a virtual machine You can automatically create a .vmc file with default settings. The resulting virtual machine will past have a virtual hard disk associated with its on you will have to
select one using the Settings dialog.
You can add a virtual machine to the Virtual PC Console from existing .vmc files.
< <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext > Cancel

3. Click next and then type in a name for your new system:

New Virtual Machine Wizard
Virtual Machine Name and Location The name you specify will appear in the list of virtual machines in the Virtual PC Console.
Type the name for the virtual machine file. Choose a name that will help you identify this virtual machine's hardware or software configuration or which operating system it will run. The file is automatically saved to the My Virtual Machines folder. To save it to a different location, use the Browse button.
Windows 7 Browse
< <u>Back</u> <u>Next</u> > Cancel

4. Click on "Next", then at the next window leave "other":

New Virtual Machine Wizard				
Operating System Select the operating system you pl	an to install on th	is virtual machine.	Ī,	
Selecting an operating system here settings for this virtual machine. If select an operating system that rea Other.	e allows the wizar the desired gues quires an equival	d to recommend appropriate t operating system is not listed, ent amount of memory or select		
Operating system:	Default hardw	Default hardware selection:		
Other 🗸	Memory:	128 MB		
(<u></u>)	Virtual disk:	16,384 MB		
	Sound:	Sound Blaster 16 compatible		
	< <u>B</u> a	ack <u>N</u> ext > Cance	el 🛛	

5. Then move the slider to at least 1024 or greater:

New Virtual Machine Wizard	
Memory You can configure the RAM o	on this virtual machine.
To improve the performance operating system, increase t other virtual machines on yo	of this virtual machine and run more applications on its the amount of RAM allocated to it. To leave more RAM for our system, use the recommended RAM allocation.
Recommended RAM: [128 M	B]
Allocate RAM for this virtual	machine by:
O Using the recommende	d RAM
Adjusting the RAM	
Set the RAM for this virt	tual machine:
·	1502 MB
4 MB	2686 MB
	< <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext > Cancel

6. Then select "A new virtual hard disk:

New Virtual Machine Wizard				
Virtual Hard Disk Options Before you can install an operating system on this virtual machine, you must add a new or existing virtual hard disk to it.				
A virtual hard disk is a .vhd file that is stored on your physical hard disk and is used to contain the guest operating system, applications, and data files.				
The first virtual hard disk you create or select for your virtual machine is called Hard Disk 1 in Settings and is the startup disk.				
Do you want to use:				
<u>An existing virtual hard disk</u>				
A new virtual hard disk				
< <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext > Cancel				

7. In the next Window, type in at least 15000 for the Virtual hard disk size (I used 20000 for my installation).

New Virtual Machine Wizard
Virtual Hard Disk Location This wizard creates a dynamically expanding virtual hard disk with the specified size.
Type a name for the new virtual hard disk. Unless you specify a different location, the virtual hard disk file will automatically be saved in the same location as the virtual machine configuration file.
Name and location:
Cocuments My Virtual Machines Windows 7 Windows 7 Hard Disk.vhd
Maximum virtual hard disk size: 130,557 MB
Virtual hard disk size: 20000 MB
To learn more about the different types of virtual hard disks, see Virtual PC Help. For advanced virtual hard disk options, use the Virtual Disk Wizard.
< <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext > Cancel

- 8. Then click on finish. At this point, you will need to highlight the new Virtual Windows 7 installation and click on start and the next Window will popup. Select the CD icon along the top of the window and then "Capture ISO Image". Browse to the saved Windows 7 ISO file 7000.0.081212-1400_client_en-us_Ultimate-GB1CULFRE_EN_DVD.iso or whatever your downloaded files is named. Then click on Action in the upper left of the window and "Reset". The system will then start loading the Windows ISO file as a new Windows installation. You will then have Windows 7 installed and you can run it by starting Virtual PC and then starting Windows 7. The first task you should do after you have Windows 7 running is to go to the Action tab and select Install or Update Virtual Machine Additions. This puts an added set of features into Virtual PC that you will need to change some items such as screen resolution. Change the screen resolution by right clicking on the desktop background then select "Screen Resolution". Now the setting you should use is one size smaller than what your normal system is set at. Go to your normal operating system background and determine your screen resolution. In my case it is 1280 x 1024. For my Windows 7 Virtual screen resolution, I then selected 1152 x 864 for the Virtual PC screen.
- 9. Experiment as you wish from then on.