SOP for preparation of Windows Sealed Images for Hyper-V (Hosted VPS)

Summary

This article provides information about preparation of sealed images for Windows Virtual Machines.

Applies To

Applies to MachPanel v6.5.25 and onward.

Procedure for creating Windows VM Sealed Images

STEP-1: CREATE VM

Minimum Disk Space 10-12 GB: Create a VM to host the operating system of your choice with minimal disk space i.e. from 10 to 12 GB, as the purchased storage will then be added to respective VM later based on Service Plans.

Other Settings:

1. Adjust the Windows Firewall as per your requirements.
2. Install antivirus & monitoring tools, if any.
3. Allow Remote Desktop Connection.
4. Set local Administrator Password to Never Expire.
5.

Fresh Sealed Image

During OS installation, at the partition creation stage, ensure the following partition order:

EFI System Partition # Recovery Partition # Windows (C:)

This ensures that C: remains the last partition, allowing it to be extended later when additional disk space is allocated.

Existing Sealed Image or VM

For an already prepared Sealed Image or for a VM already deployed requiring Disk Expand, apply the steps highlighted in image below INSIDE THE VM to correct the partition layout, and then re-sysprep the image before using it for future deployments.

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Text Format (Commands in BOLD):

PS C:\Users\Administrator> reagentc /disable

REAGENTC.EXE: Operation Successful.

PS C:\Users\Administrator> diskpart

Microsoft DiskPart version 10.0.26100.1150

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On computer: 3-INSTALLERTEST

DISKPART> list disk

```
  Disk ###  Status      Size   Free  Dyn  Gpt
  --------  -------------  -------  -------  ---  ---
  Disk 0   Online      100 GB  70 GB       *
```

DISKPART> select disk 0

Disk 0 is now the selected disk.

DISKPART> list partition

DISKPART> select partition 4

Partition 4 is now the selected partition.

DISKPART> delete partition override

DiskPart successfully deleted the selected partition.

DISKPART> select partition 3

Partition 3 is now the selected partition.

DISKPART> extend

DiskPart successfully extended the volume.

DISKPART>

STEP-2: SEALED IMAGE FILE NAME for GEN1 & GEN2:

Sealed Image File Name for Gen1 & Gen2: MachPanel creates and identifies **Gen1** and **Gen2** type Virtual Machines based on sealed image file name. Make sure the **.vhdx** file name contains **R2** like "**SealedImageName-R2.vhdx**" to create **Gen2** VM during provisioning (Example: WindowsServer2022-R2.vhdx). For a sealed image that needs to be used for Gen1, simply exclude "R2" from file name (Example: WindowsServer2019.vhdx).

STEP-3 SCHEDULED TASK

In order to set Machine Name, Password and IP Address of VM, we need to create a "Scheduled Task" in sealed image. Please review details below to create a scheduled task to allow MachPanel to "Set Password" and process other OS initialization steps in **Gen1** & **Gen2** VM: http://kb.machsol.com/Knowledgebase/Article/53471

Note: There is a difference between creation of scheduled task for **Gen1** and **Gen2** type virtual Machines. Please check details in above KB and create task accordingly.

STEP-4: SEAL THE IMAGES / PREPARE WINDOWS VM SEALED IMAGES

To SYSPREP the windows installation do the following:

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1. Sample / Generic sysprep.xml file is provided. You can adjust it as per your requirements.
2. Copy **sysprep.xml** to **C:\Windows\System32\sysprep** inside the VM that needs to become your sealed image / os template.

3. In Command Prompt type: **C:\windows\system32\sysprep>sysprep /generalize /oobe /shutdown /unattend:sysprep.xml**
4. On completion, you will find the OS in shutdown state.
5. Your sealed image is ready. Copy the VHD/VHDX file of this VM to some other safe place.
6. You will need to specify the path to the folder that contains your prepared VHDs in MachPanel configuration.

Note: Please download **sysprep.zip** file from the DOWNLOAD File section. This zip file contains **sysprep.xml**.

Ready to use windows sealed images:

You may download pre-configured Gen1 and Gen2 Windows sealed images from the links below. These images are provided solely for your convenience and may be used at your own discretion and responsibility. MachSol does not warrant or assume any liability for their usage in your environment.

- **Windows Server 2019**
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/WindowsServer2019Gen1SealedImage.zip
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/WindowsServer2019Gen2SealedImage-R2.zip
- **Windows Server 2022**
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/WindowsServer2022Gen1SealedImage.zip
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/WindowsServer2022Gen2SealedImage-R2.zip
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/WinServer2022WithSQL2019.zip
- **Windows Server 2025**
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/WindowsServer2025Gen1SealedImage.zip
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/WindowsServer2025Gen2SealedImage-R2.zip
- **Windows 11 Pro**
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/Windows11Pro.zip
- **Windows 11**
    - https://www.machsol.com/Updates/SealedImages/Win11-SealedImage.zip

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MachPanel Knowledgebase

https://kb.machsol.com/Downloads/50314/SOP-for-preparation-of-Windows-Seale...