

Online Activation of Microsoft Official Curriculum (MOC) Virtual PC Images

The Windows operating system is not activated in the Virtual PC images (virtual machines) that are used for MOC classes. The virtual machines are originally configured not to connect to the Internet, so that activation can only be completed by telephone. These instructions describe how to configure the images so that they can be activated via the Internet. (Note that these instructions will not work for a virtual machine that is set up as an ISA server.)

1. Install Microsoft Virtual PC and add the virtual machines. (See the setup guide for the class for detailed instructions.)
2. In the Microsoft Virtual PC interface, highlight the virtual machine you wish to activate and click “Settings...”
3. Click “Networking.”
4. From the “Number of network adapters:” drop-down box, choose the next number higher than the default. This makes another adapter available for configuration.
5. From the drop-down box for the newly available adapter, choose the network card of the host machine (for example, “Intel® Pro/1000 MT Network Connection”).
6. Click “OK.”
7. Start the virtual machine. Go through the activation process, entering your proxy server information if applicable. Note that Windows XP Professional virtual machines will often fail to connect in the first one or two attempts; if this occurs, click “Retry.”
8. The activation window will tell you that the current key is not valid; enter the appropriate key from Microsoft Learning.*
9. When activation is complete, close the virtual machine window. Choose “turn off and save changes,” and make sure the “Save changes to the virtual hard disk” box is checked.
10. Return to the networking settings for this virtual machine, and reduce the number of network adapters to the original number. Your extra adapter should appear grayed out.
11. You can now save the .vhd and .vmc files for this virtual machine to a network repository so that you will not have to activate this particular image again. Compressing these files is recommended, since their size can usually be reduced significantly.

*Activation keys for these virtual machines are only available to Microsoft Certified Trainers. If you are not an MCT but are responsible for class setup, ask your center’s MCT for the necessary keys.