

How to convert a physical server to a Hyper-V VM

Step 1. Download Disk2vhd utility

Go to the [Windows Sysinternals page](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/page) and download the utility.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/disk2vhd>



The screenshot shows the Windows Sysinternals website. The page title is "Windows Sysinternals" and the current page is "Disk2vhd v2.01". The page is part of the "Downloads" section under "File and Disk Utilities". The utility is by Mark Russinovich and Bryce Cogswell, published on January 21, 2014. It is available for download as a 879 KB file. The page includes a "Share this content" section with social media icons and an "Introduction" section. The introduction states that Disk2vhd is a utility that creates VHD (Virtual Hard Disk - Microsoft's Virtual Machine disk format) versions of physical disks for use in Microsoft Virtual PC or Microsoft Hyper-V virtual machines (VMs). The difference between Disk2vhd and other physical-to-virtual tools is that you can run Disk2vhd on a system that's online. Disk2vhd uses Windows' Volume Snapshot capability, introduced in Windows XP, to create consistent point-in-time snapshots of the volumes you want to include in a conversion. You can even have Disk2vhd create the VHDs on local volumes, even ones being converted (though performance is better when the VHD is on a disk different than ones being converted). The Disk2vhd user interface lists the volumes present on the system:

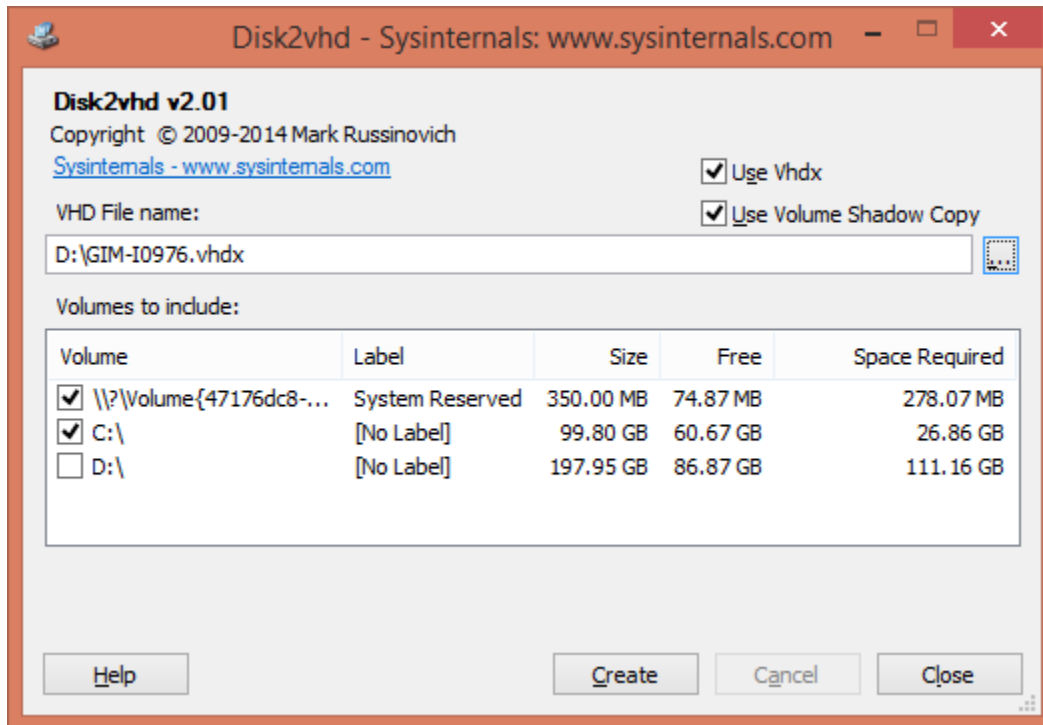
Disk2vhd v2.01 utility.

Step 2. Run Disk2vhd on the physical server you are converting

Just unpack the utility and run it on a server. The interface is very simple, as you can see in the graphic. Check **Use Vhdx** to create a VHDX disk.

NOTE: VHDX is a new disk format that was introduced in Windows Server 2012. Compared to traditional VHD, VHDX has several improvements, including a special internal log to reduce the chances of data corruption, a bigger capacity (up to 64 TB) and other great features. I recommend using VHDX whenever possible.

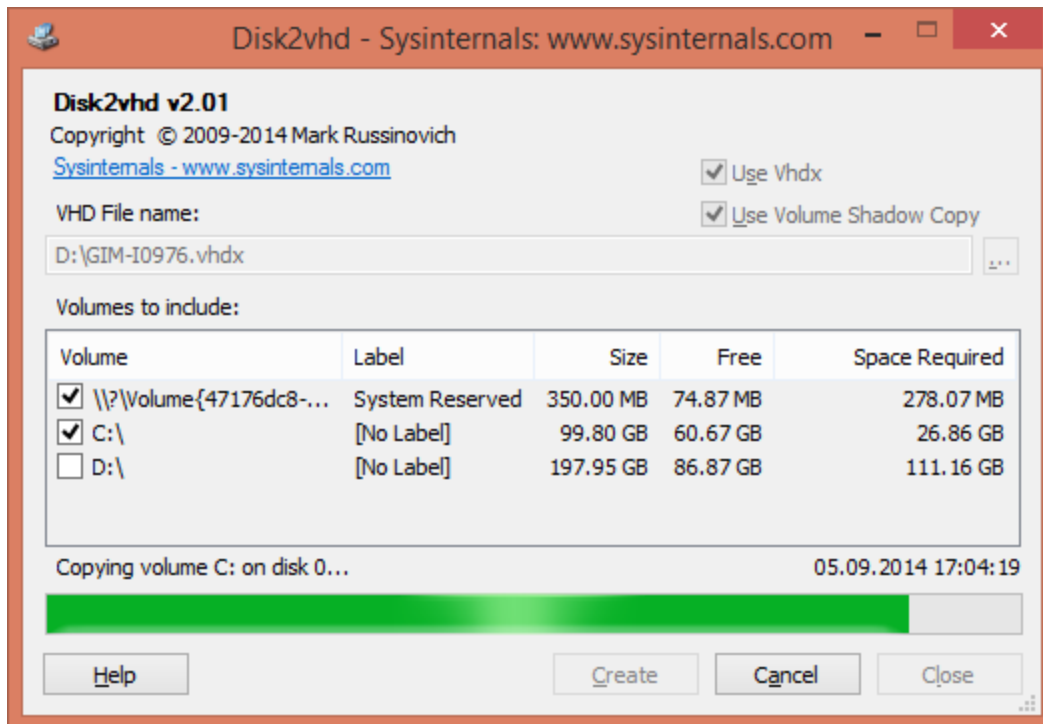
Select **Use VSS** if you would like to get a [transaction-consistent](#) version of a disk and not a crash-consistent version. Select the destination for the VHDX file. (Don't pick the same disk or it could cause an "inception," much better to use a different hard disk for storing that image.) Include any disk/volume you want to virtualize. If you want it to be a bootable disk, then include a system disk plus boot area (tick **System Reserved** label). Click **Create** to start the process.



Run Disk2vhd on the physical server you are converting.

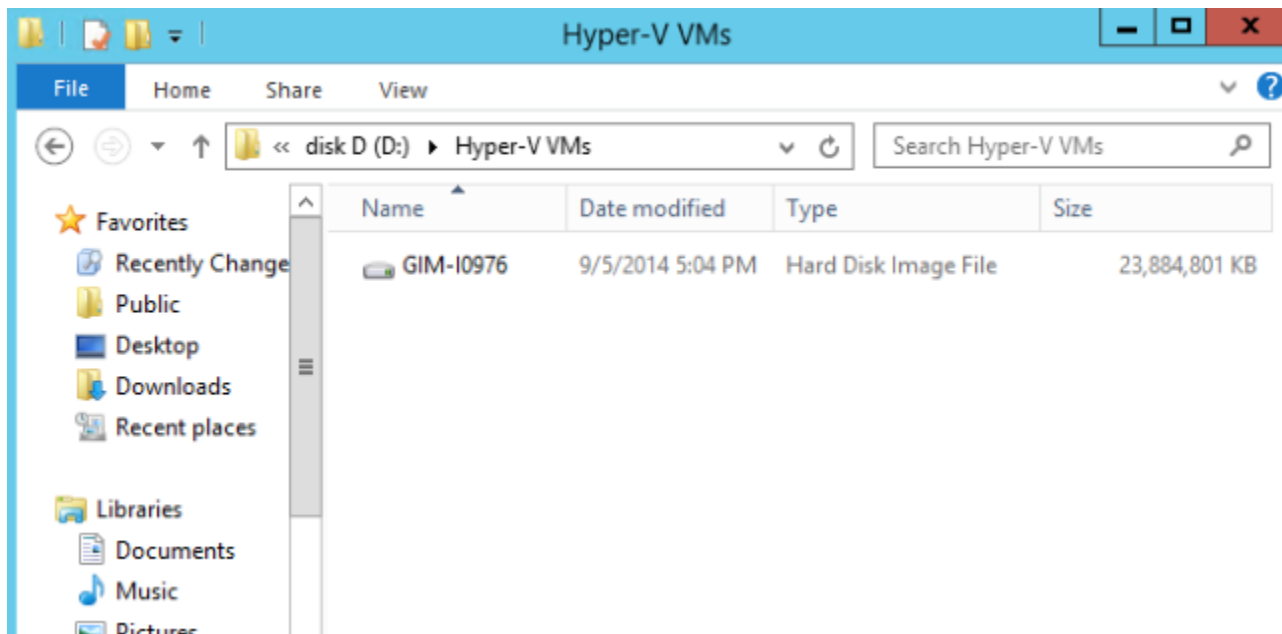
Step 3. Convert disk(s) to VHDX format and copy it to Hyper-V host

While the process is running, you'll see the estimated time of its completion.



Pic 1. Convert disk(s) to VHDX format and copy it to Hyper-V host.

As a result of the operation, you'll get a VHDX file/disk, which you can now copy to your Hyper-V server and place in the folder where you have the VM disks.



Pic 2. Convert disk(s) to VHDX format and copy it to Hyper-V host.