



iCore Virtual Accounts

User's Guide

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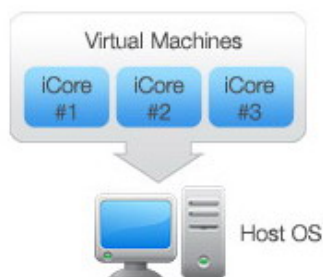
Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Easy virtualization for home users

iCore Virtual Account is an isolated virtual machine that runs on top of existing hardware and operating systems.

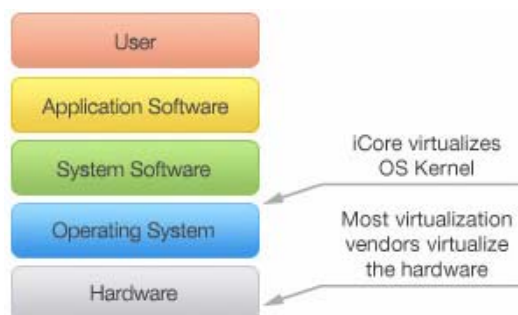
iCore Virtual Accounts allows you to create multiple virtual machines (iCore virtual computers) that are easily created or deleted without affecting each others' state or the state of the host OS.

Each virtual machine is associated with own user account. Accordingly, such virtual machines are called Virtual Accounts, VAs.



Unlike many other virtual machines, iCore VA works on the OS kernel level. This results in:

- no requirement for additional OS licenses
- almost zero performance overhead
- full system hardware utilization



1.2. System requirements and supported operating systems

Minimum system requirements

iCore Virtual Accounts requires the following hardware:

- Pentium processor or higher
- 128 MB RAM
- 50 MB available hard disk space
- Mouse (recommended).

Supported operating systems

- Windows XP SP2/SP3 Professional Edition
- Windows XP SP2/SP3 Home Edition

1.3. Technical support

Users of legally purchased and registered copies of iCore Virtual Accounts are entitled to free technical support. If you experience problems installing or using iCore products that you can't solve yourself with the help of this guide, then please contact iCore technical support. More information about contacting iCore technical support is available at our website:

<http://www.icoresoftware.com/supoverview.html>

Alternatively, you may request assistance on our iCore community forum:

<http://www.icoresoftware.com/forum>

or open a ticket on our website:

<http://www.icoresoftware.com/ticket.php>

Chapter 2: INSTALLATION

2.1. Installing

To install iCore Virtual Accounts on your computer simply run setup file. This will start the Installation Wizard.

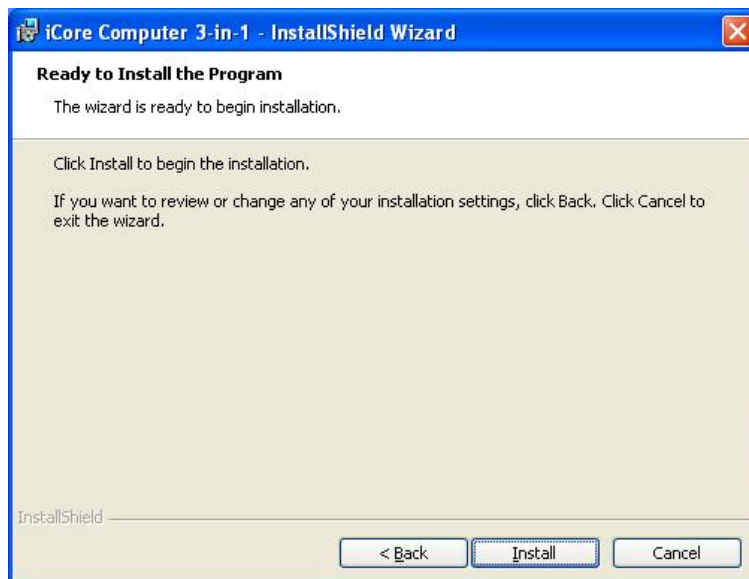
In the Installation Wizard's welcome window, click "**Next**":



In the license agreement window you must **scroll to the bottom of the EULA**. Then select "**I accept the terms of the license agreement**", and click "**Next**". You may print the license agreement for your records using the "Print" button:

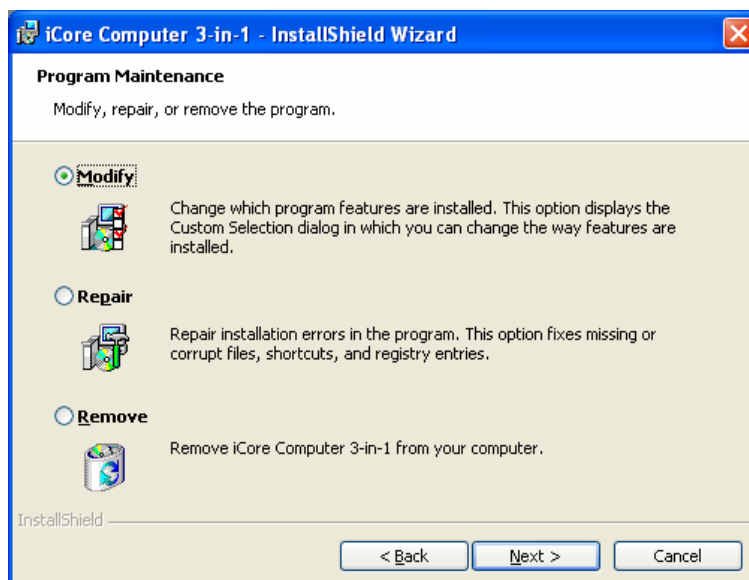


In this window click "**Install**" to start the iCore Virtual Accounts installation or click "Back" to return to one of the previous steps:



2.2. Upgrading

If you've already installed a previous version of iCore Virtual Accounts, the Installation Wizard will simply update it. There is no need to uninstall the old version first. Simply run the new setup file. In the program maintenance window select **Modify** and then click "**Next**":



2.3. Removing

Either run the uninstall program:

Start → All Programs → iCore Virtual Accounts → Uninstall. Then follow the on screen instructions.

or use the Windows Control Panel:

Start → Settings → Control Panel → Add or Remove Programs.

Then find the iCore Virtual Accounts entry and select Remove.

2.4. Emergency deactivation

Should iCore Virtual Accounts cause any trouble you can deactivate it by pressing and holding down F12 while Windows is booting.

Chapter 3: USING VIRTUAL ACCOUNTS

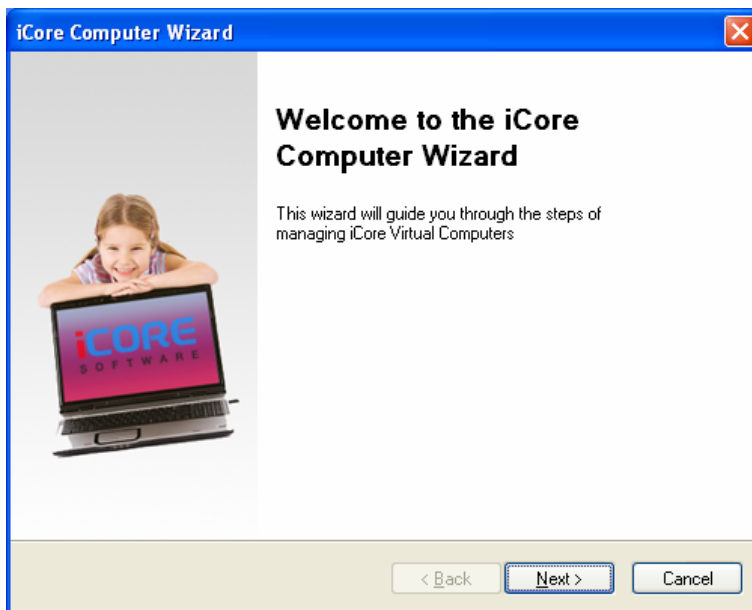
3.1. Creating a VA

iCore Virtual Accounts automatically creates three VA when it is installed.

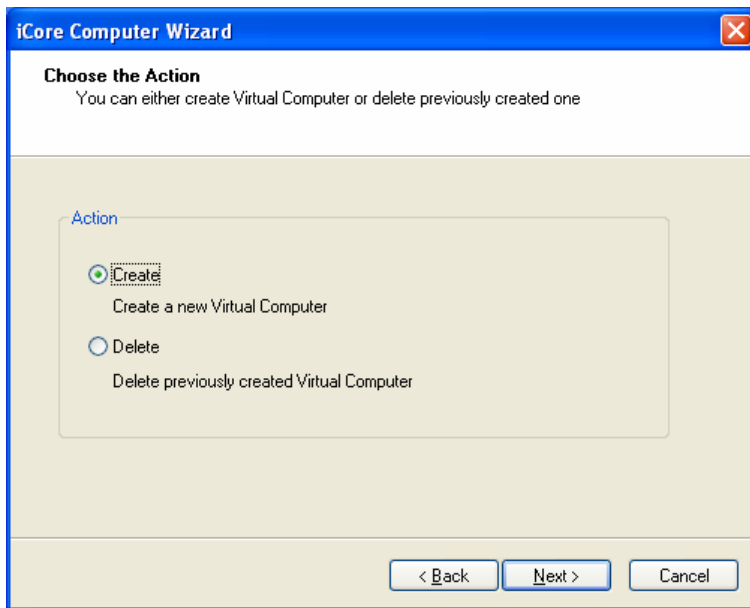
You can create new VA by starting the iCore Computer Wizard:

Start → All Programs → iCore Virtual Accounts → Create or delete virtual computer

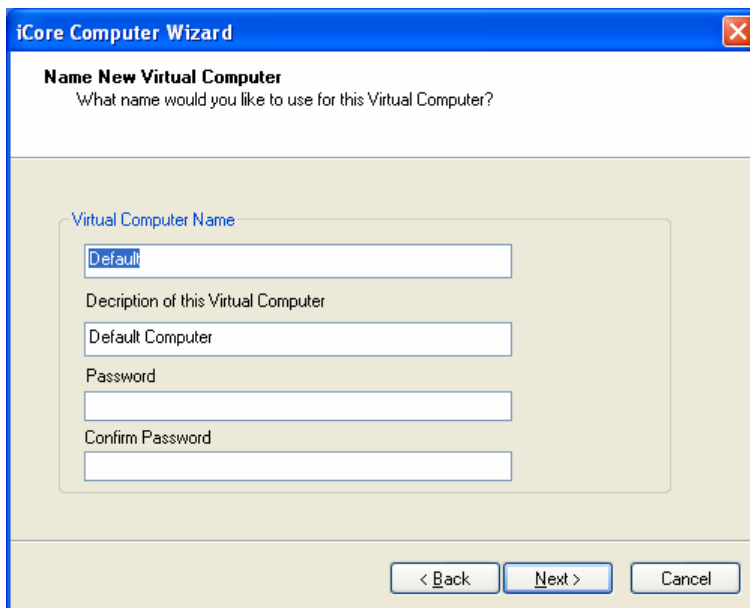
Then click "Next" at wizard's welcome screen:



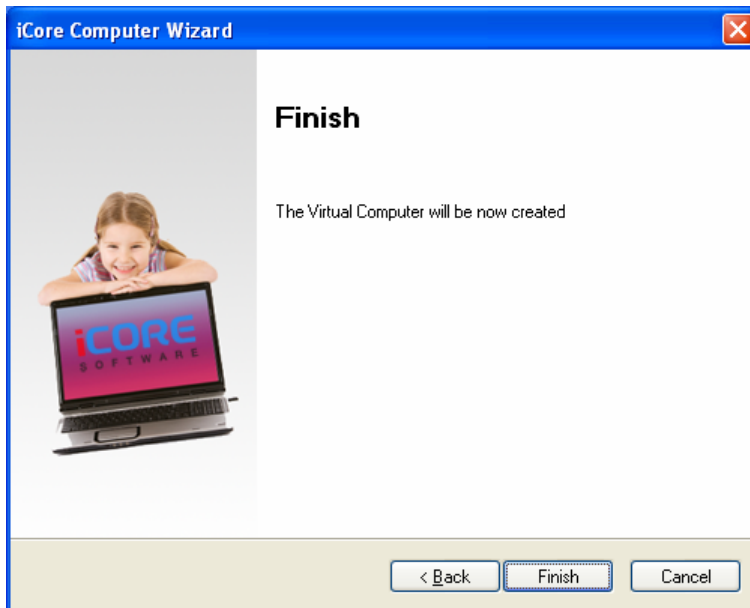
Choose "Create" to create virtual computer:



Give the VA a name, a description and a password. You must provide the password a second time as confirmation:



Click "Finish" to confirm creation of virtual computer(VA):



3.2. Running VAs

Each virtual computer is associated with a user account.

Choose one of the user's to run the associated virtual machine:



3.3. Switching between VAs

To switch VAs, do one of the following:

Start → Log Off → “Log Off” or “Switch Users” and choose a different user at the Windows welcome screen

or

Select the “To switch a computer” icon on the Desktop:



and then choose a user at the Windows welcome screen.

To use “Win+1”, “Win+2”, “Win+3”, “Win+W” keys for switching between 3 VAs and host. Do the following:

- “log off” and “log on” host computer after installation
- “log on” virtual computer

3.4. Using shared folders

Shared folders are folders in the host operating system(host account) that are visible to the VAs too. These folders can be used for exchanging files between the real usual user accounts and VAs or between several VAs.

The host and virtual computer automatically share this folder:

Start → My Computer → Documents → Shared Files

or using Windows Explorer navigate to:

C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\Shared Files

3.5. Working with media

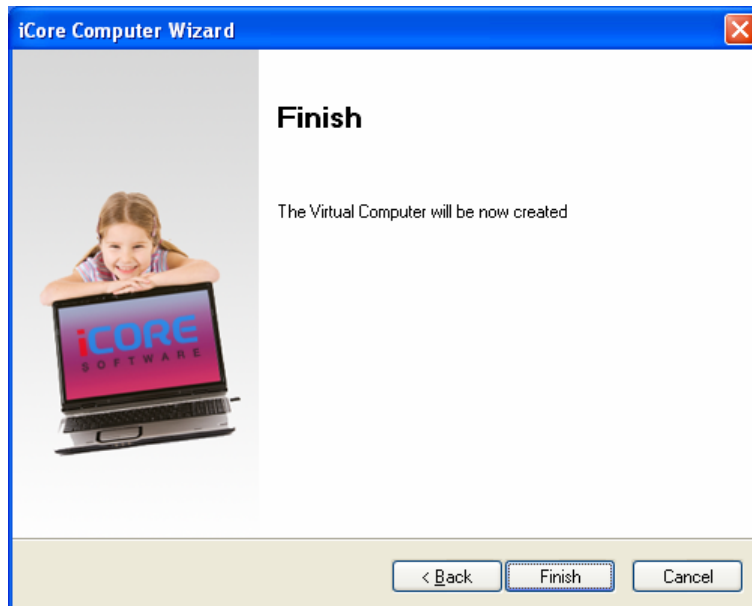
iCore computers (VAs) operate as a real computer. System hardware is fully utilized (like modern video card, game adapter and alike).

3.6. Deleting VAs

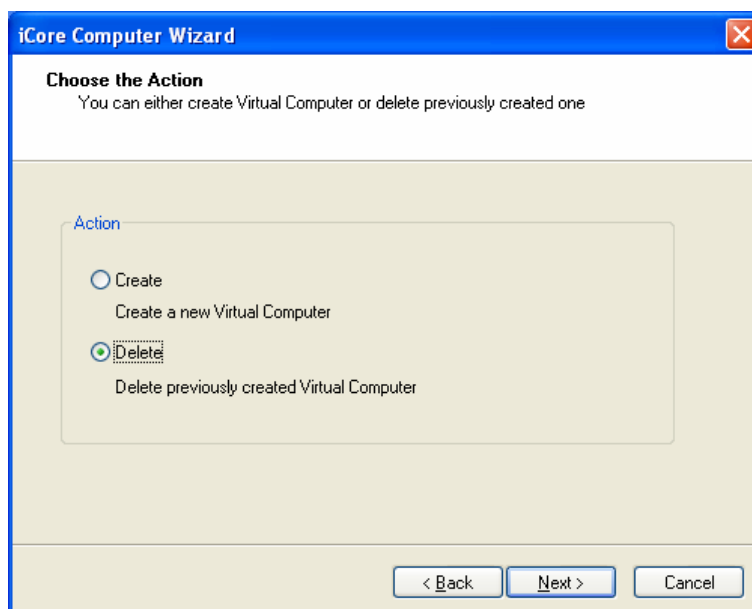
If you want to delete a VA select:

Start → All Programs → iCore Virtual Accounts → Create or delete virtual computer

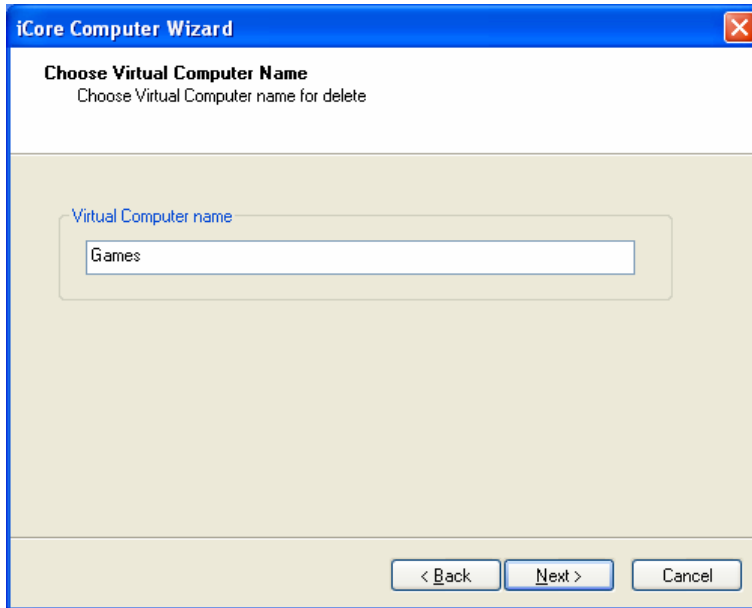
Click "Next" at Wizard welcome screen:



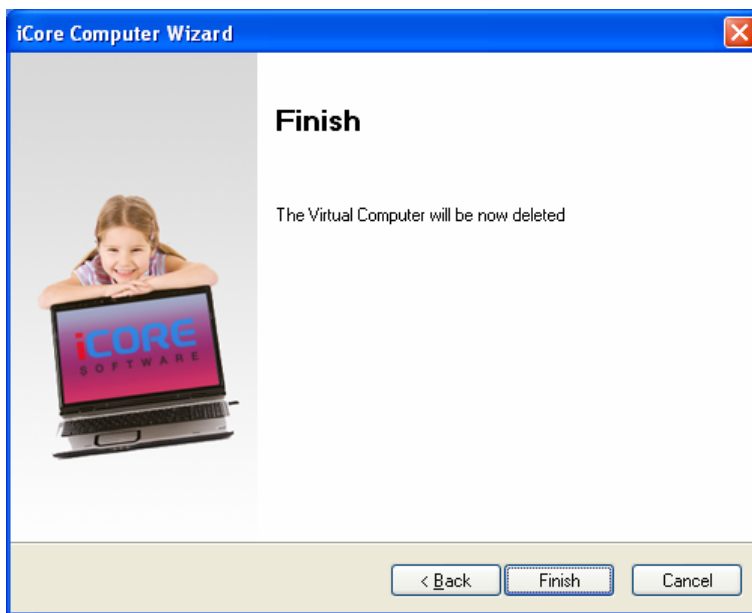
Then select "Delete":



Then choose the name of virtual computer which you want to delete:



Click "Finish" to confirm removal of virtual computer:



3.7. Use cases

iCore Virtual Accounts lets you create three (at the beginning) Virtual Machines(VA) on a single physical Computer.

Use iCore Virtual Accounts to keep different parts of your life separate. With many VAs you can perform changes on the system that otherwise might not be advisable, such as trying new software, share your PC with other people, downloading files from the Internet, visiting dangerous web-sites, or opening e-mail attachments. If during such operations your VA crashes or is infected by a virus, it doesn't affect other Virtual Computers or overall performance.

Try new software safely

Installing and testing new software on a VA protects your host OS, your data and all other users account from damage, spyware and other pests.

Try and play modern PC-games without polluting your OS

PC-games installed on your VAs don't affect performance, privacy, security or anything else on any other computer.

Try academic software without polluting your OS

While studying you often need to install academic software. If you install it on a VA it won't affect performance, privacy, security or anything else on any other accounts.

Share your PC without worry

Create one or many VAs for every PC-user. Now they can do anything they desire: install applications, store private data and even damage their VA. Other accounts will remain unaffected.

Browse Internet Securely

Use a VA to safely browse the internet. Any malicious software remains contained to the VA. In such a way you can:

- prevent spyware and malware from infecting your system
- avoid viruses, worms and trojans
- surf the internet without a trace of unwanted cookies and internet history

Chapter 4: THE TECHNOLOGY

4.1. Overview

The core of the product is iCore's own OS-level virtualization, built on Microsoft Windows XP. iCore Virtual Accounts allows the creation of multiple isolated, secure virtual computers on a single physical computer. Each computer has full dedicated PC functionality with its own processes, files, and applications. Unlike other virtual machines, iCore virtual computers run applications with near-zero overhead.

Each virtual machine is associated with own user account. Accordingly, such virtual machines are called Virtual Private Accounts(VPAs).

4.2. OS virtualization

A virtual machine(VA) is an autonomous OS. This is achieved by using a virtualization layer in the host OS' kernel. This type of virtualization is also known as container-based virtualization. Compared to other types of virtualization iCore Virtual Accounts stands out in the following areas:

- CPU resources spent on virtualization are negligible (around 1 - 2%)
- you can use the entire power of your hardware
- virtual operating memory is shared dynamically
- once the host has been patched, those updates are immediately seen within each VAs.

Other main features of the virtualization layer implemented in iCore are the following:

- a virtual machine looks and behaves like a regular Windows XP operating system
- virtual machines are separated from each other and host OS
- users can install any additional applications

4.3. Disk management

Each VA is created as a computer administrator. However, the virtual computers file system actually only contains references to the actual files. This allows the creation of a VA with only 20 MB of free hard disk space. When a file on the VPA is changed, the change is recorded entirely within the VPA.