

How to compact VirtualBox's VDI file size?

<https://superuser.com/questions/529149/how-to-compact-virtualboxes-vdi-file-size>

You have to do the following steps:

1. Run defrag in the guest (*Windows only*)
2. Nullify free space:

With a **Linux Guest** run this:

```
dd if=/dev/zero of=/var/tmp/bigemptyfile bs=4096k ; rm /var/tmp/bigemptyfile
```

Or:

```
telinit 1  
mount -o remount,ro /dev/sda1  
zerofree -v /dev/sda1
```

With a **Windows Guest**, download [SDelete](#) from Sysinternals and run this:

```
sdelete.exe c: -z
```

(replace C: with the drive letter of the VDI)

3. Shutdown the guest VM
4. Now run VBoxManage's [modifymedium](#) command with the --compact option:

With a **Linux Host** run this:

```
vboxmanage modifymedium --compact /path/to/thedisk.vdi
```

With a **Windows Host** run this:

```
VBoxManage.exe modifymedium --compact c:\path\to\thedisk.vdi
```

With a **Mac Host** run this:

```
VBoxManage modifymedium --compact /path/to/thedisk.vdi
```

VBoxManage is located here: /Applications/VirtualBox.app/Contents/MacOS/VBoxManage

This reduces the vdi size.