

How To Migrate VMware Workstation Inventory and Network Settings

<https://www.vladan.fr/how-to-migrate-vmware-workstation-inventory-settings/>

Today I'll show you a quick tip in case you want to know How to migrate (or copy) [VMware Workstation](#) Inventory settings to another computer. There can be use cases that for example you're preparing a class for few students and have to prepare few machines with identical labs pre-configured or similar scenarios.

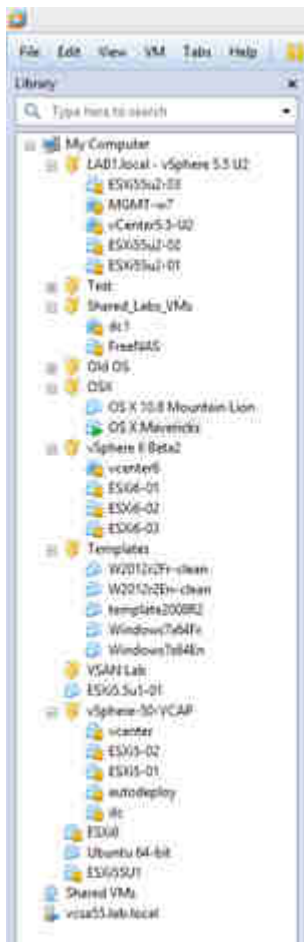
Or, Imagine the scenario where you have an old computer with quite a few of VMware Workstation VMs stored on several disks. If you don't want to manually re-register dozens of VMX files there is a simple step you can make before the migration. The step consists of copying a single file from the old computer to the new one. A single file which contains the path location of the VMs plus some more informations.

The only requirements is that the destination computer has the same disk drive letters than the old one. In fact the driver letters can be different, but you will have to do some modifications from within the file. By using a text editor like Notepad or Notepad ++.

So what's the file which is responsible for the inventory of the Workstation VMs?

The file is called simply **inventory.vmls** and it's possible to copy paste this file to the same directory on new PC in order to having all VMs registered in the UI.

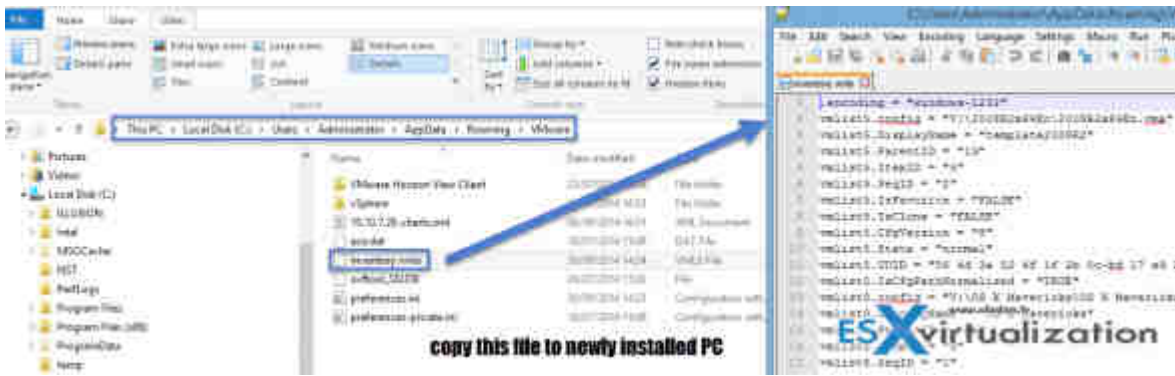
If you're a heavy user of Workstation, then you might end up with many VMs registered and the UI might look like this. So you certainly don't want to **re-register manually** all that:



In case you don't have the same disk drive letters as on the old PC, you can edit the file with an editor to match your current installation. In case you got many VMs you better check, do some planning as you also might be using linked clones which are VMs that needs the base VMDK disk to run.

How To Migrate VMware Workstation Inventory Settings

Here is where you can find the inventory file and (or) do a modification if necessary.



As you can see, the directory is at the current logged in user's profile in this folder:

C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Roaming\VMware

At the same time in the same folder you can have a look at the **preferences.ini** file which is a Workstation general preferences file. This file controls for example the default settings like for example **where the new VMs are stored** when you start the assistant or the default shared folder location and if shared folders are enabled by default or not.

Part of the preferences.ini file is also the fact that you can control settings for a shared memory, default compatibility level of your Workstation VMs etc. You can copy this file as well if you have had some specific settings done, but in my case I just stick with defaults.

Hope it helps when migrating your *Nested labs* :-).

Export VMware Workstation Virtual Network Settings

<https://www.blackmoreops.com/2017/10/20/export-vmware-workstation-virtual-network-settings/>

I am using VMware® Workstation 12 Pro and setup a very complex networking config with multiple NIC's, DHCP, Host-Only and VLANs. I have 10 active VM's that needs to setup a complex environment and most of these VM's needs 3.5GB to 2GB RAM to run with 2vCPU each. I could only run 4 at a time (maybe 5 if I really pushed it – I literally had a small desk-fan to cool down my laptop). I use a [Razer Blade \(GeForce GTX 1060\) 14" Laptop](#) and it's got 16GB RAM with GTX 1060. But it wasn't cutting it. So I decided to go on and buy a new Workstation for my Virtual Machines (I bought a [Dell Precision T7600 Tower Server](#) with 128GB RAM (yeah baby!). But anyhow, now I need to move all the virtual machines to this new T7600 and realized that it will take quite some time re-creating all the complex Virtual Network Settings in there. I started looking around if there's a way to export VMware Workstation Virtual Network Settings and found that it's quite possible. Here's how to do it:

Step 1: Run Command Prompt as Administrator

On Windows 10, Windows 8.1 and Windows 7 search for **command** and simply right-click **Command Prompt** shortcut from the search results and select **Run as administrator**. Don't use Powershell as sometimes it can get tricky.

Step 2: Use vnetlib.exe or vnetlib64.exe to export Virtual Network Settings

```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.15063]
(c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>cd ..

C:\Windows>cd ..

C:\>cd "Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation\

C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation>vnetlib64.exe -- export C:\VMwareWorkstaionNetworkConfig.txt

C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation>
C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation>
```

Depending on which version of Windows and flavor you're running, you either use vnetlib.exe or vnetlib64.exe to export VMware Workstation Virtual Network Settings.

In my case, I was running Windows 10 Enterprise 64bit.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.15063]
(c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
```

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32>cd ..
```

```
C:\Windows>cd ..
```

```
C:\>cd "Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation\
```

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation>vnetlib64.exe -- export
C:\VMwareWorkstaionNetworkConfig.txt
```

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation>
```

Step 3: Use vnetlib.exe or vnetlib64.exe to import Virtual Network Settings

Importing is same, except you type in import instead of export in the same command and define the path. e.g.

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation>vnetlib64.exe -- import
C:\VMwareWorkstaionNetworkConfig.txt
[amazon_link asins='B01NAYL9H2' template='ProductAd' store='blop-20-us' marketplace='US'
link_id='e826c4fd-c99e-11e7-8f1e-516ac413fd3c']
```

Summary

So, in short, run command prompt as administrator and run the following commands depending on what you OS is.

32bit host:

```
vnetlib.exe -- export backup-file-name
vnetlib.exe -- import backup-file-name
```

64bit host

```
vnetlib64.exe -- export backup-file-name
vnetlib64.exe -- import backup-file-name
```

Hopefully it will help someone somewhere. And it should work similarly for Linux as well. (just different binary filename eh? :-).