

Refining application shortcut for shared BootCamp / VirtualBox Windows VM

Here's a follow-up to my previous posts on [sharing Windows 7 in BootCamp and VirtualBox](#) and [launching a VirtualBox VM directly through an icon shortcut](#).

Concerning this topic I was asked if it's possible to have the BootCamp partition only unmounted upon startup of the Windows VM.

My [original post](#) referred to creating the file `/etc/rc.local` (or just editing it, if it already existed) and adding these commands in there:

```
# grant VirtualBox permissions to Boot Camp partition
#
sudo chmod 777 /dev/disk0s3
diskutil umount /Volumes/BOOTCAMP
```

The method described basically causes the system to grant permissions for raw partition access and permanently unmount the BootCamp partition during bootup.

If you however want the BootCamp partition only unmounted upon startup of the Windows VM then please proceed as outlined below.

First of all, edit your `/etc/rc.local` to just include these lines:

```
# grant VirtualBox permissions to Boot Camp partition
#
sudo chmod 777 /dev/disk0s3
```

This will cause the permission to be properly set upon boot of OS X, which is still required. The partition however will not be unmounted and thus appear on your Finder as usual.

Now, assuming that you implemented [the application shortcut](#) method, you need to change the application launcher like this from your Terminal:

```
cd "VirtualBox VMs/Win7onMBP"

cat > "Windows 7.app/Contents/MacOS/startvm" << EOF
#!/bin/sh
diskutil umount /Volumes/BOOTCAMP
[ ! -d /Volumes/Bootcamp ] && /usr/bin/VBoxManage startvm Win7onMBP
EOF
```

This will try to unmount the BootCamp partition automatically when you click the icon.

However, I've added an additional safety switch in there: I'm checking if the BootCamp partition is still mounted at `/Volumes/BOOTCAMP`. VirtualBox will only start if the BootCamp partition is not mounted. This will help in preventing ugly issues with partition access.