Use of FarSync Products in Virtual Machines

Introduction

Use of Virtual Machines is now very popular, but there are always going to be issues to resolve when using physical communication devices or communications protocol software in a VM environment. PCI and PCI Express adapters would require special drivers specific to the Host VM technology.

But FarSite has tested a number of USB and software products for correct operation in a Virtual Machine environment. The following products have been tested with Windows VMWare Player and Linux KVM/LibVirt.

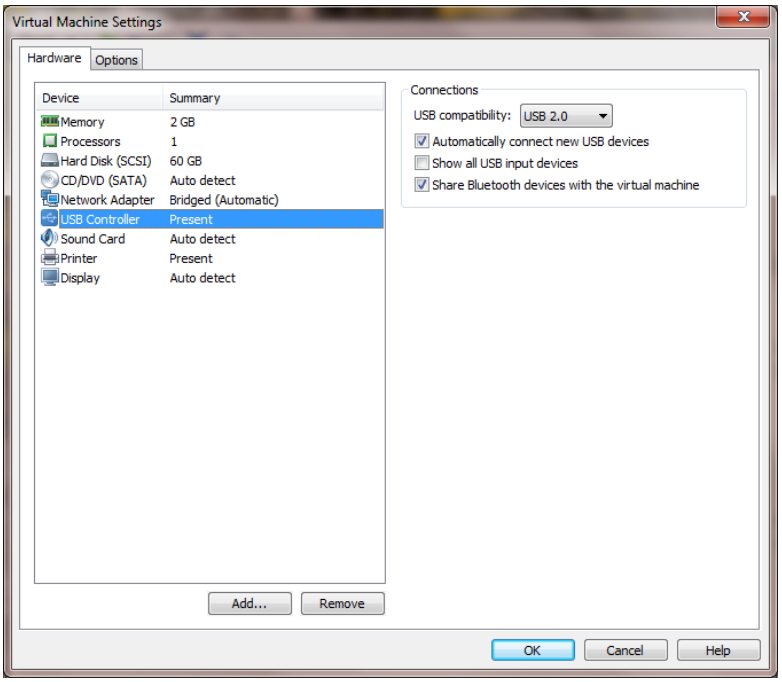
- FarSync Flex
- FarSync Flex X.25

Enabling FarSync Flex devices in Virtual Machines

Before a USB device can be accessed from a Guest operating system (Windows or Linux) from either KVM or VMWare, some configuration will be required in the Host VM package. Use the following as a guide, though exact instructions may vary in later product versions.

VMWare

Install a Windows or Linux VM in VMWare Player.
Assign the FarSync Flex USB device to one of the VMs by selecting the VM and then “Edit the virtual machine settings”. Select “USB Controller” from the list of hardware and then make sure the “USB compatibility” is “USB 2.0”. Also make sure the “Automatically connect the new USB devices” option is also ticked.
See screenshot below:

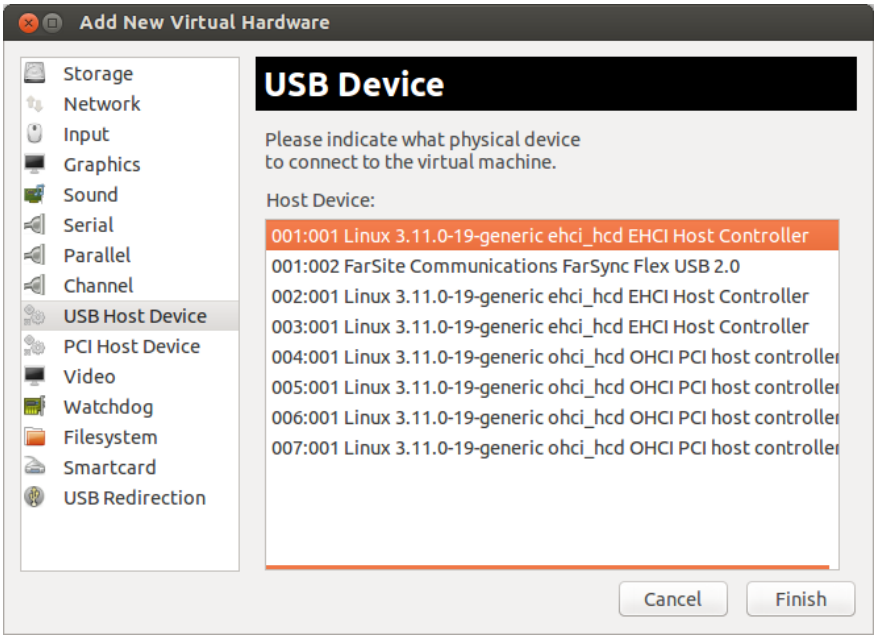


Start the VM
The Host USB devices are now available to the Virtual Machine.

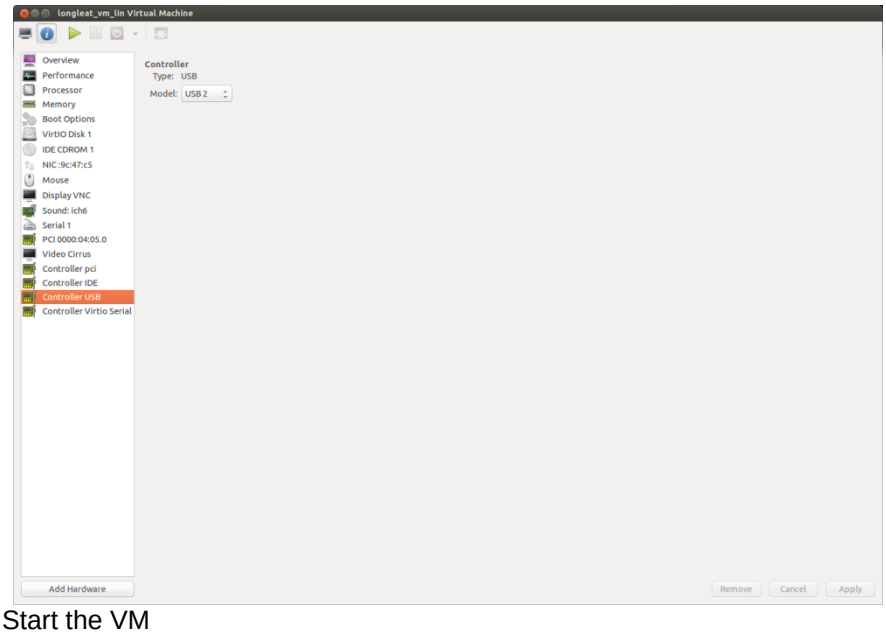
 Version 1.0

KVM

Install a Windows or Linux VM in KVM
Select the VM in the VM control console
Click the Add Hardware button
Select USB Host device



Scroll through the USB devices and select the FarSync USB device required
Click ok
Make sure the “Model” for the “USB Controller” is “USB 2”



Start the VM
The USB devices are now available to the Guest OS.

Note that it does not seem to be possible to start the VM if the USB device had been assigned to the VM but is no longer present on the host.

