How to merge AVHDX to VHDX

In this post, I will show you how to merge AVHDX to VHDX so you can save space. AVHDX is created when snapshot is enabled automatically within the VM settings. If you disable automatic checkpoint AVHDX file is left as an orphan and we have to merge this file with VHDX to make it one. Here is the current screen shot.

Edit Virtual Hard Disk Wizard

Locate Virtual Hard Disk

- Before You Begin
- Locate Disk
- Choose Action
- Summary

Where is the virtual hard disk file located?

Location: `C:\VM\WIN7\WIN7_95438D71-4E83-4BF7-9EB2-2E38237C7897.avhdx`   [Browse...]

⚠ Editing the following types of virtual hard disks might result in data loss:
- Virtual hard disks in a differencing disk chain that have child virtual hard disks associated with them.
- Virtual hard disks (.avhd/.avhdx) associated with virtual machine checkpoints.
- Virtual hard disks associated with a virtual machine that has replication enabled and is currently involved in initial replication, resynchronization, test failover, or failover.

[< Previous] [Next >] [Finish] [Cancel]

Edit Virtual Hard Disk Wizard

Choose Action

- Before You Begin
- Locate Disk
- Choose Action
  - Configure Disk
- Summary

What do you want to do to the virtual hard disk?

○ Compact

   This option compacts the file size of a virtual hard disk. The storage capacity of the virtual hard disk remains the same.

○ Convert

   This option converts a virtual hard disk by copying the contents to a new virtual hard disk. The new virtual hard disk can use a different type and format than the original virtual hard disk.

○ Expand

   This option expands the capacity of the virtual hard disk.

◉ Merge

   This option merges the changes stored in a differencing disk into the parent disk or another disk.

[< Previous] [Next >] [Finish] [Cancel]

Edit Virtual Hard Disk Wizard   ✕

Merge Changes from Differencing Disk

Before You Begin
Locate Disk
Choose Action
    Configure Disk
Summary

How do you want to merge the changes?

● To the parent virtual hard disk

○ To a new virtual hard disk

Location: | C:\Users\Public\Documents\Hyper-V\Virtual Hard Disks\ | Browse...

New virtual hard disk type
○ Dynamic virtual hard disk
○ Fixed virtual hard disk

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Edit Virtual Hard Disk Wizard   ✕

Completing the Edit Virtual Hard Disk Wizard

Before You Begin
Locate Disk
Choose Action
    Configure Disk
Summary

You have successfully completed the Edit Virtual Hard Disk Wizard. You are about to make the following changes.

Description:

Virtual Hard Disk: WIN7_95438D71-4E83-4BF7-9EB2-2E38237C7897.avhdx (VHDX, differencing)
Action: Merge
Configuration: Merge into parent WIN7.vhdx (VHDX, dynamically expanding)

To complete the action and close the wizard, click Finish.
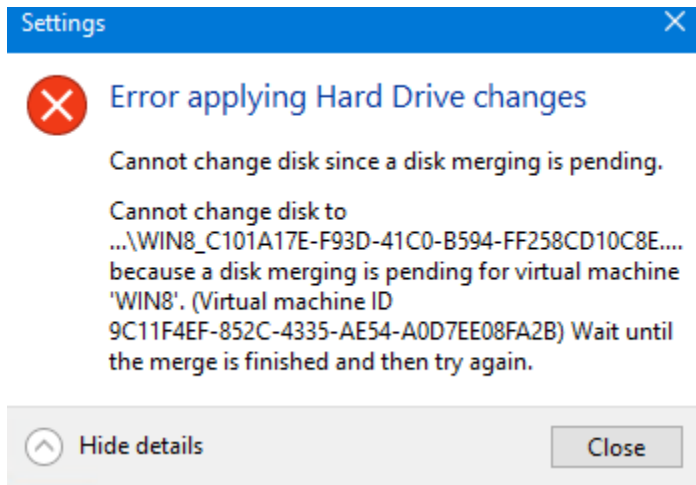
[< Previous] [Next >] [Finish] [Cancel]

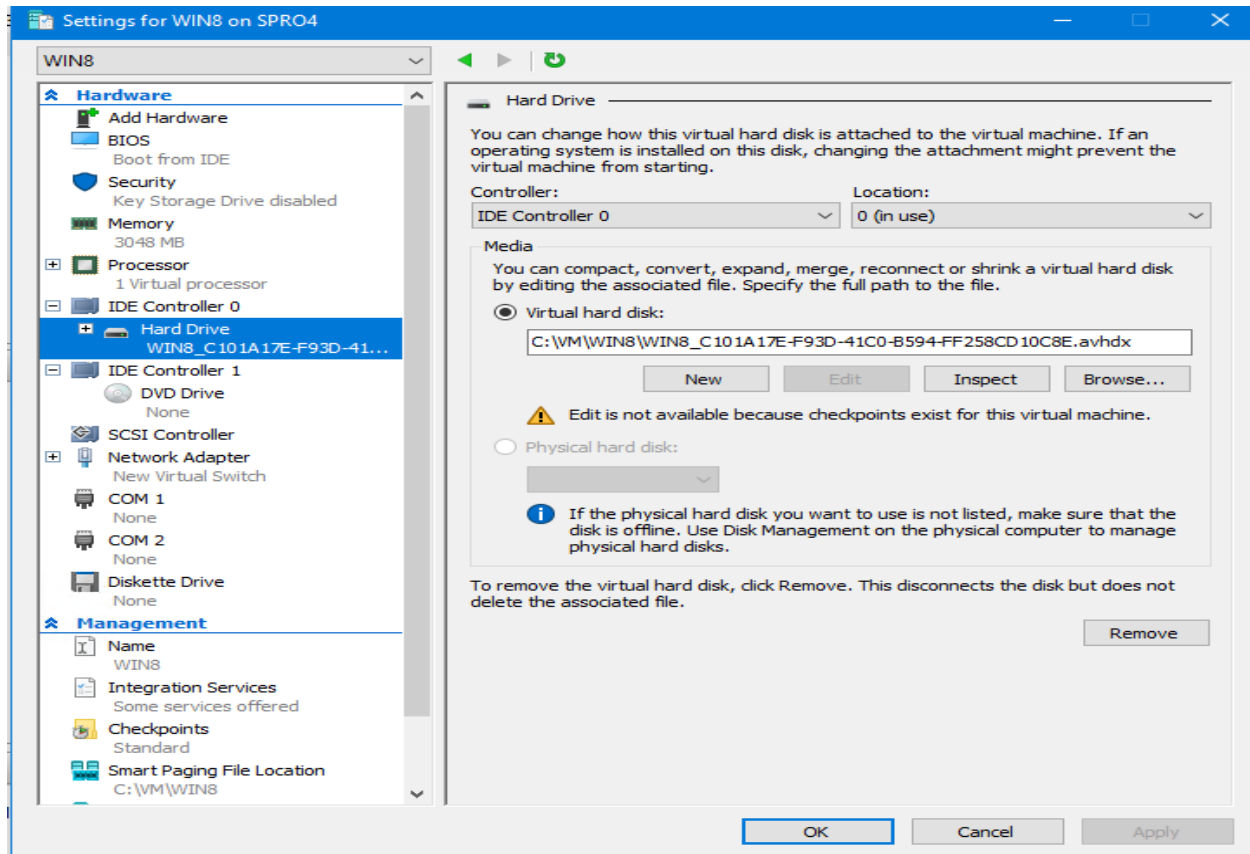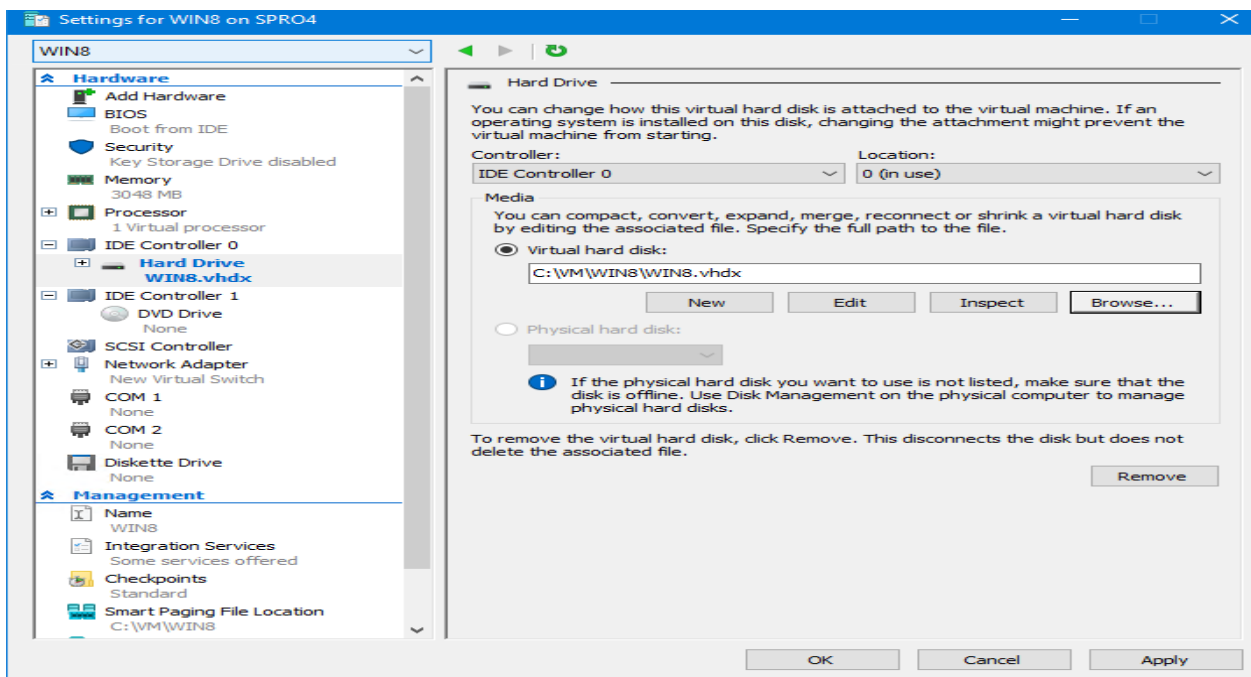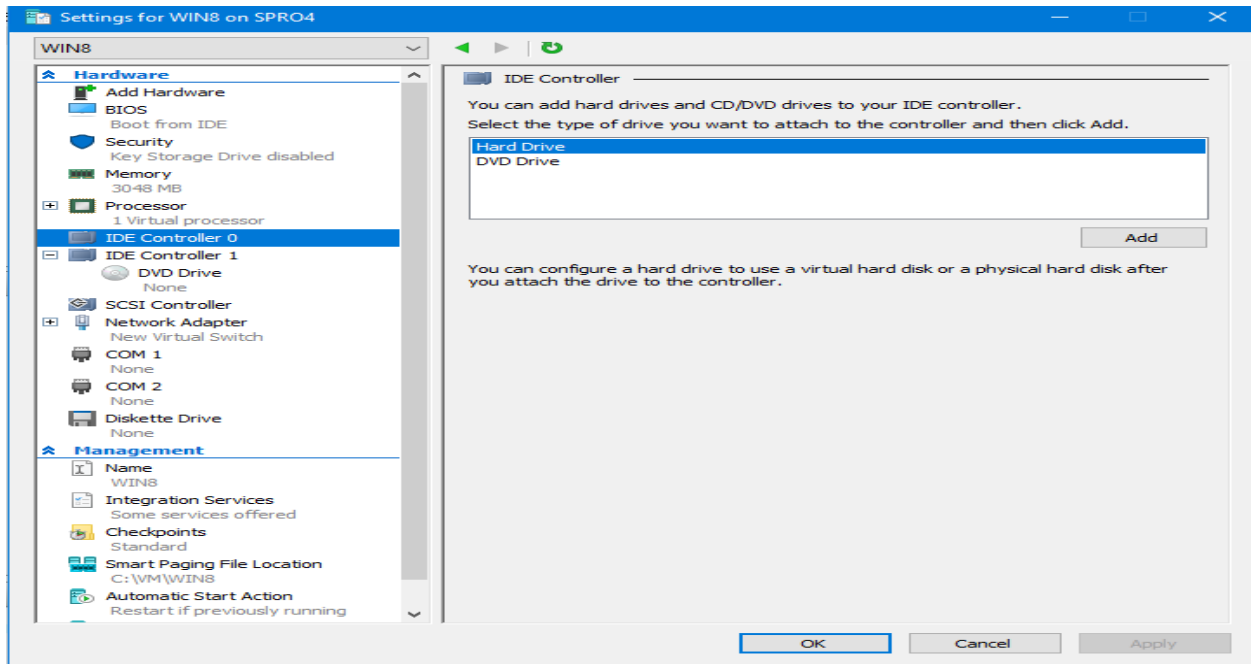**Editing the virtual disk...**

[Cancel]

After the merge, I was not able to start the VM – the error was

Based on the error, I was surprised because the merge completed successfully and, I restarted the Hyper-V Server as well. Yet no go.

Started to Google and came up with this solution. Remove the IDE Hard disk and re-attach. It worked.

This concludes the process of merging the files.

Thanks

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