Selecting Emulation Software for Power BI

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This guide describes the options for emulation software to use Power BI. It is intended for system administrators.

If you are using a Mac workstation, you must use a virtual integration or emulation software to emulate Windows on your workstation to use the Power BI desktop version. aACE Software suggests Parallels Desktop (https://www.parallels.com/) or UTM (https://mac.getutm.app/).

Parallels Desktop is a paid, premium tool with fast performance, 3D graphics support, and seamless Windows integration. UTM is a free, open-source app based on QEMU used for basic tasks, Linux, or running old systems, but it lacks advanced graphics acceleration and setup ease.

Refer to the following table for a comparison between Parallels and UTM:

Topic	Parallels	UTM
Cost	Paid yearly subscription	Free to download from its site with a paid helper option on the Mac App Store
Performance and Graphics	Supports DirectX 11 for smooth and heavy apps	Lacks proper GPU acceleration, making it slow for 3D apps.
Ease of Use	One-click Windows setup	Manual work to install drivers and set up virtual disks
Desktop Integration	Offers "Coherence Mode," which lets you run Windows apps directly on your Mac desktop	Keeps your virtual machine inside its own separate window
Operating Support	Focuses heavily on polished Windows and Linux virtual machines	Excels at running various Linux distributions, old retro operating systems, and different architectures

For a visual breakdown of how the setup and performance compare between UTM and Parallels, you can review this YouTube video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfvRI6iUH5w&t=725).