

AVOIDING "AUTOMATICALLY  
START" PROBLEMS WHEN  
USING "HYPER-V"  
TO RUN VIRTUAL MACHINES  
IN "WINDOWS 8.."

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**TuCS** COMPUTER  
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# SUMMARY

When using "Hyper-V" to run virtual machines in "Windows 8..", you might inadvertently "automatically start" a bunch of virtual machines when you power up your computer. Here is how you can prevent this catastrophe.

# What happened?

- We installed "Window 8 Release Preview 64-bit" into a HP laptop.
- Next, we installed the bundled "Hyper-V" program.
- Next, we installed a stack of "Windows.." and "GNU/Linux" virtual machines.
- We took this computer to a meeting of the Tucson Computer Society and we were unable to start any of the virtual machines that we had installed:

## Virtual Machine Connection



The application encountered an error while attempting to change the state of 'Windows 7 Enterprise Trial 64-bit 2012-06-04'.

'Windows 7 Enterprise Trial 64-bit 2012-06-04' could not initialize.

Not enough memory in the system to start the virtual machine Windows 7 Enterprise Trial 64-bit 2012-06-04.

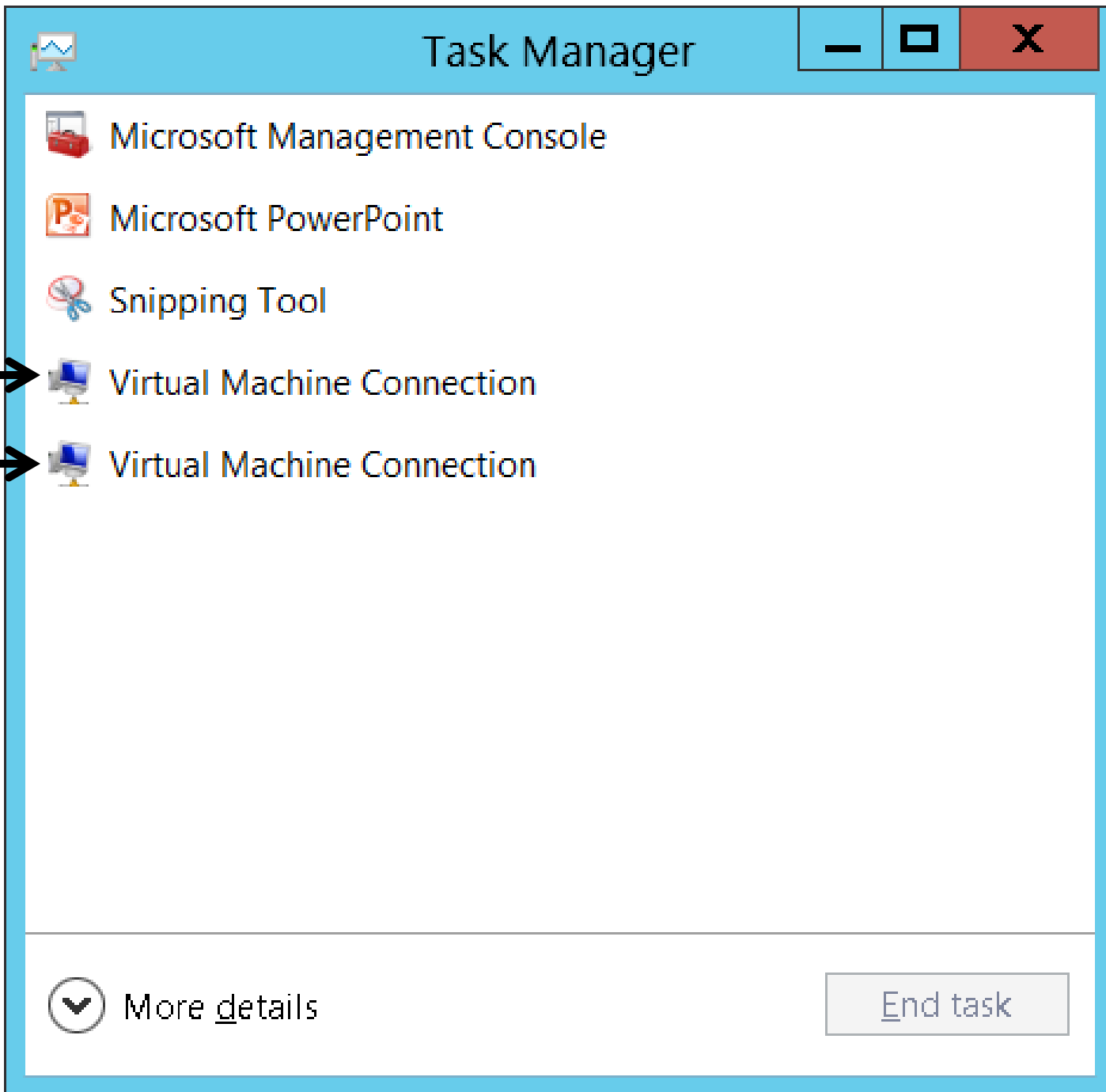


See details

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# Initial Diagnosis

- We pressed Ctrl + Shift + Escape to bring up the Windows "Task Manager" and we discovered that we had two virtual machines running in the background that we did not start up:



# More Diagnosis

- We discovered that we had created a "comedy of errors" as follows:  
When you create a new virtual machine in "Hyper-V" it defaults to restarting itself if you shut down your (real) host computer without first shutting down the guest operating system of the virtual machine.



# More Diagnosis (continued)

- We apparently had shut down our (real) host computer a number of times without shutting the guest operating system inside various virtual machines.
- Whenever we did this to a virtual machine, it would then automatically start up (forever) whenever we powered up our (real) host computer.

# More Diagnosis (continued)

- Pretty soon we had several virtual machines running in the background each time we powered up our (real) host computer.

Each virtual machine used up a significant portion of the RAM of the (real) host computer.

After we had two virtual machines running in the background, we were unable to start or create new virtual machines, in our RAM-starved computer!

# Avoid Making Our Mistake!

- In the "Settings.." screen of each virtual machine, set "Automatic Start Action" to "Nothing".
- Configure your taskbar buttons so that they are not stacked up, so you can see each running virtual machine as an individual "Task button".
- Set the height of the "Hyper-V Manager" window as tall as possible so that it displays as many virtual machines in the virtual machine list as possible.<sup>11</sup>

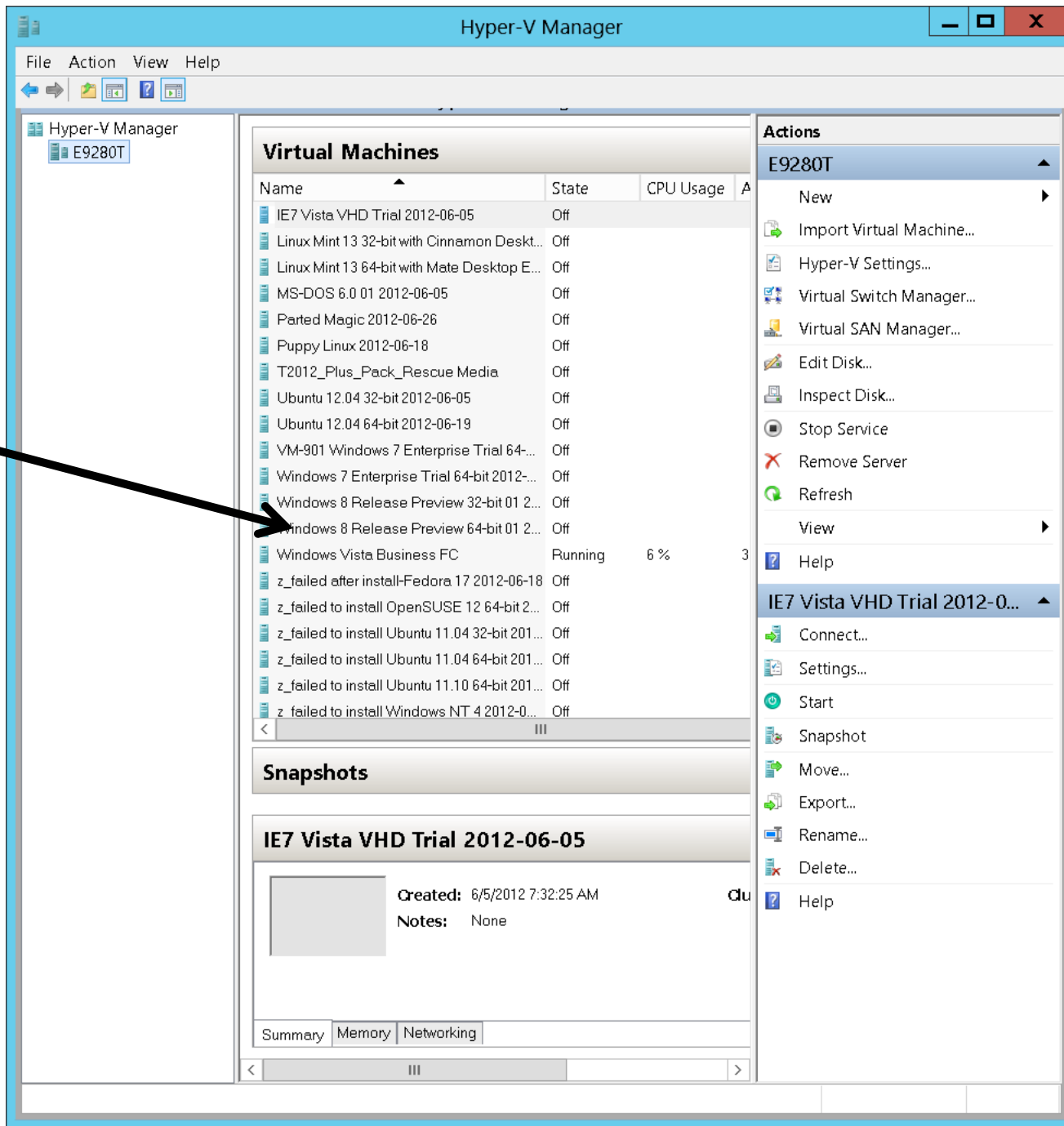
# Set "Automatic Start Action"

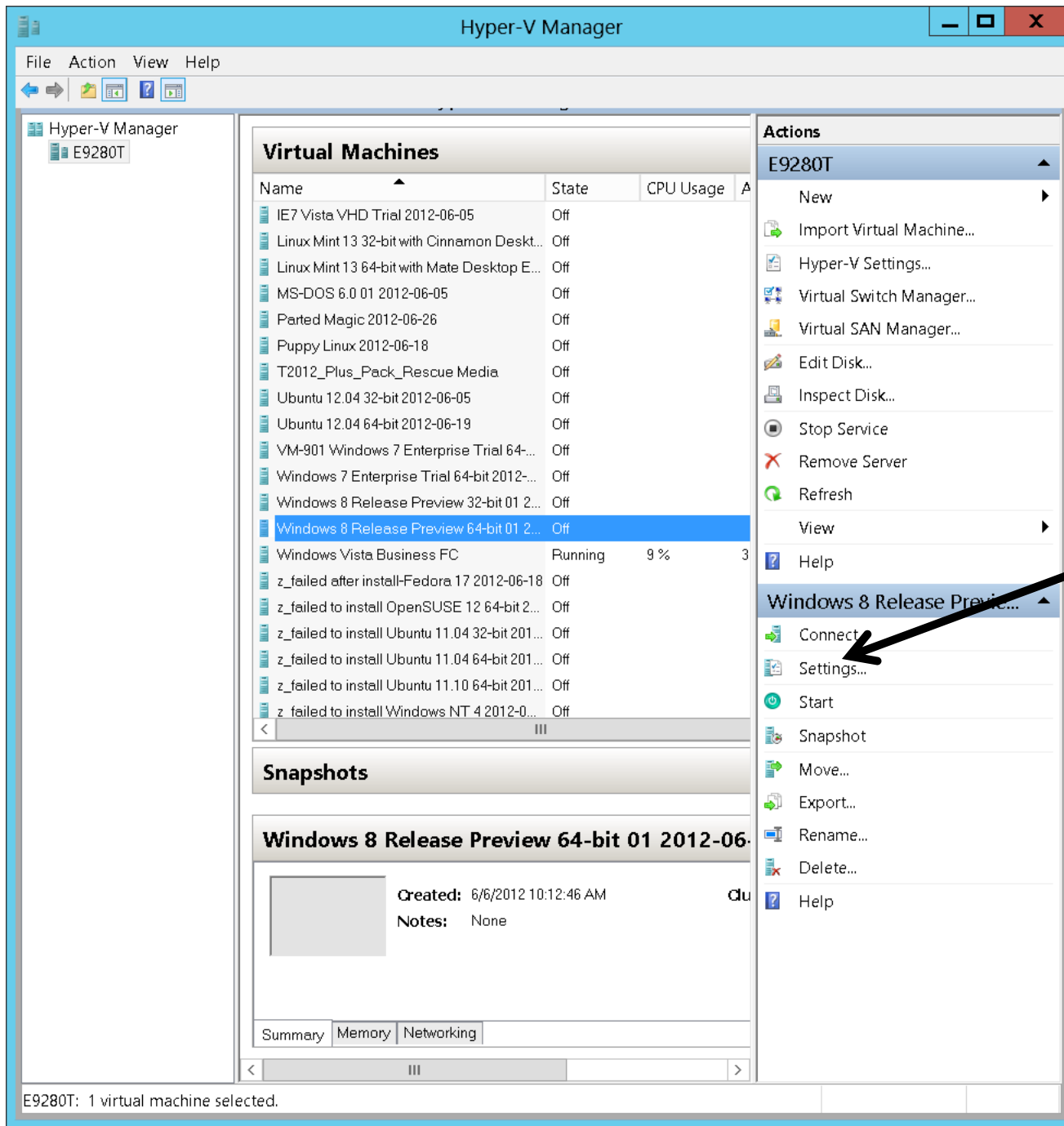
Do the following for each virtual machine that you create:

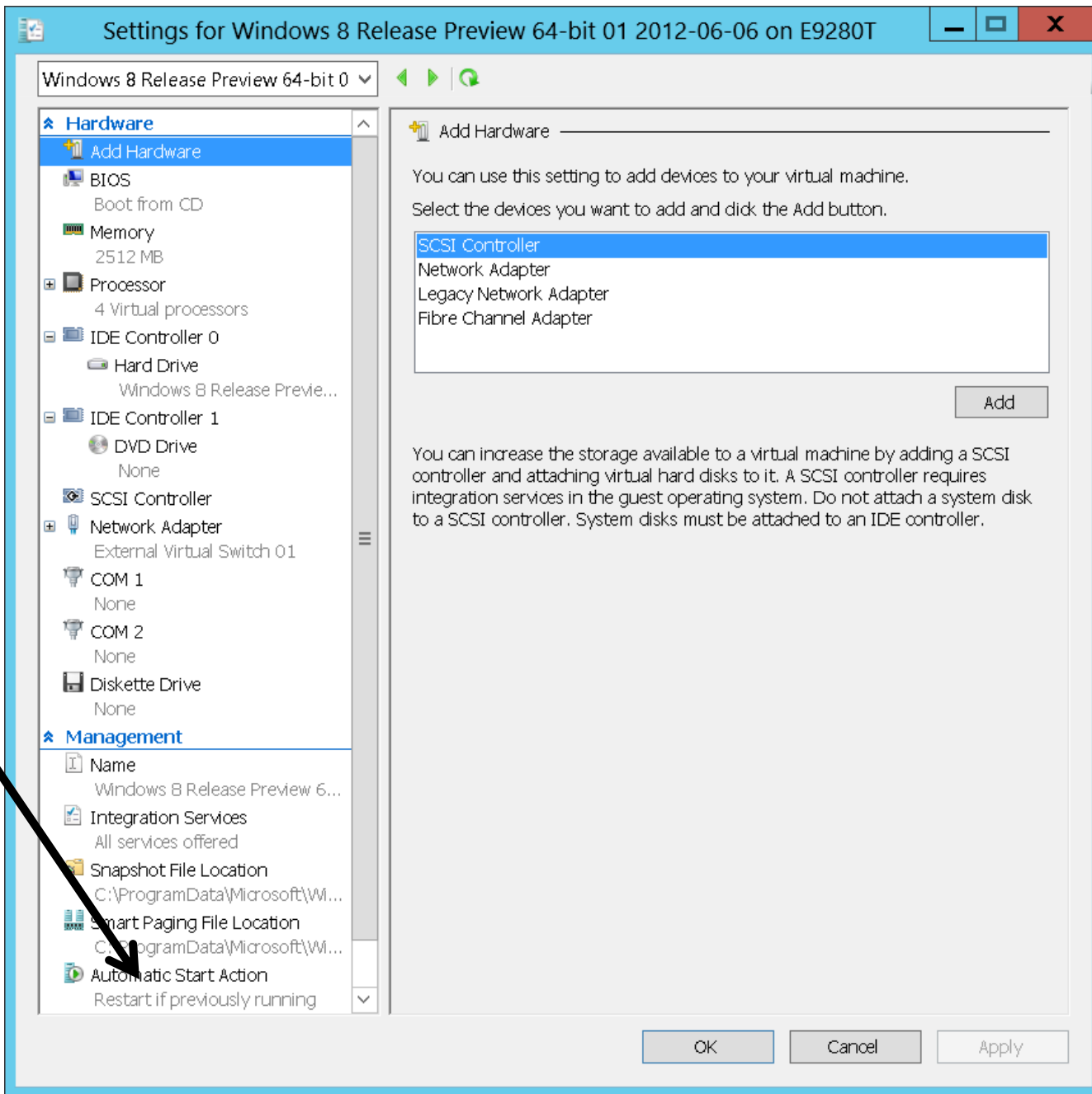
- Click on the virtual machine in the virtual machine list in the "Hyper-V Manager" Window
- Click on "Settings.."
- A "Settings" window will be displayed.

# Set "Automatic Start Action" (continued)

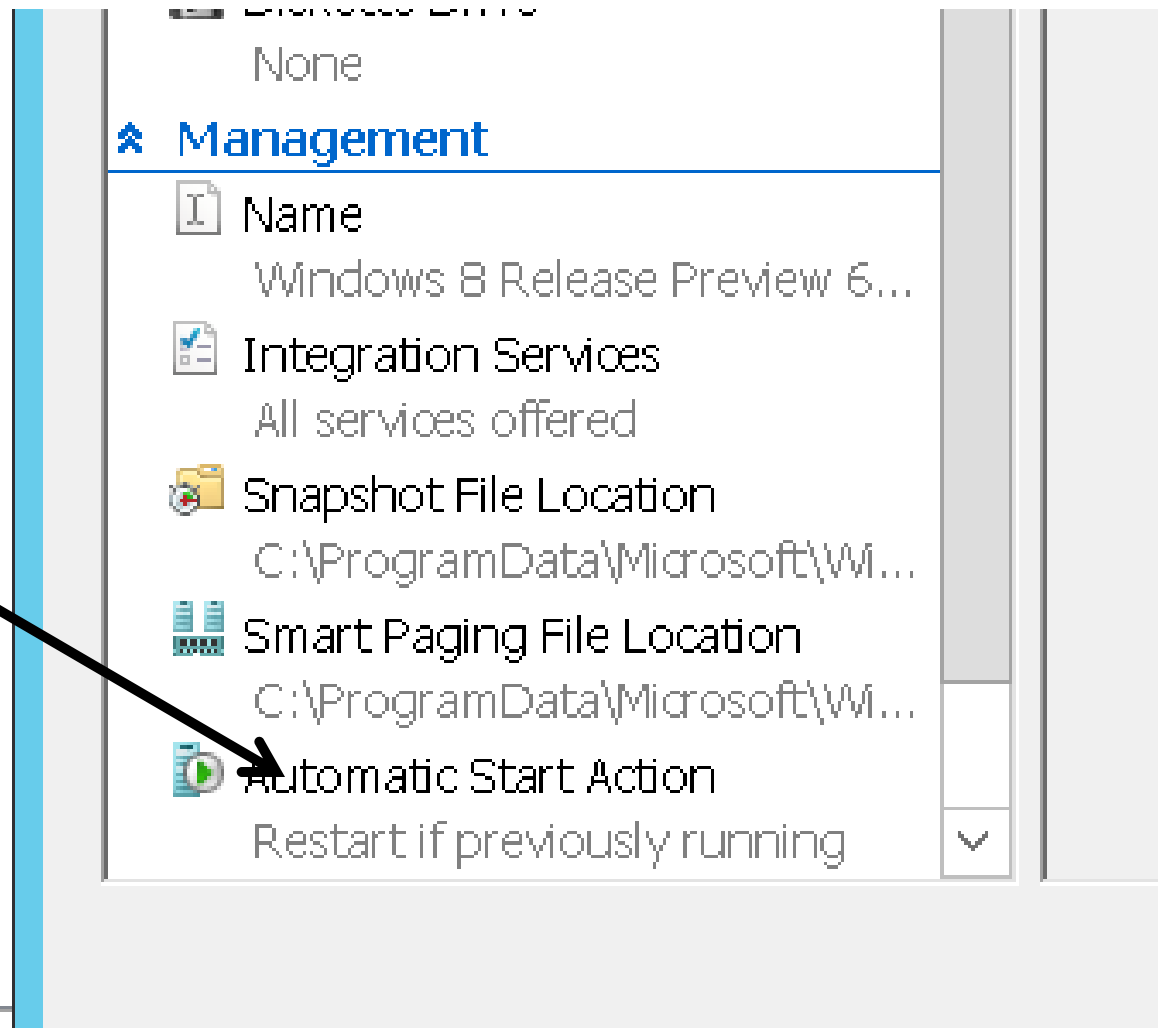
- Click on "Automatic Start Action" to highlight it
- Click on the "Nothing" radio button to select it.
- Click on the "Apply" button of the "Settings.." window.
- Click on the "OK" button of the "Settings.." window.

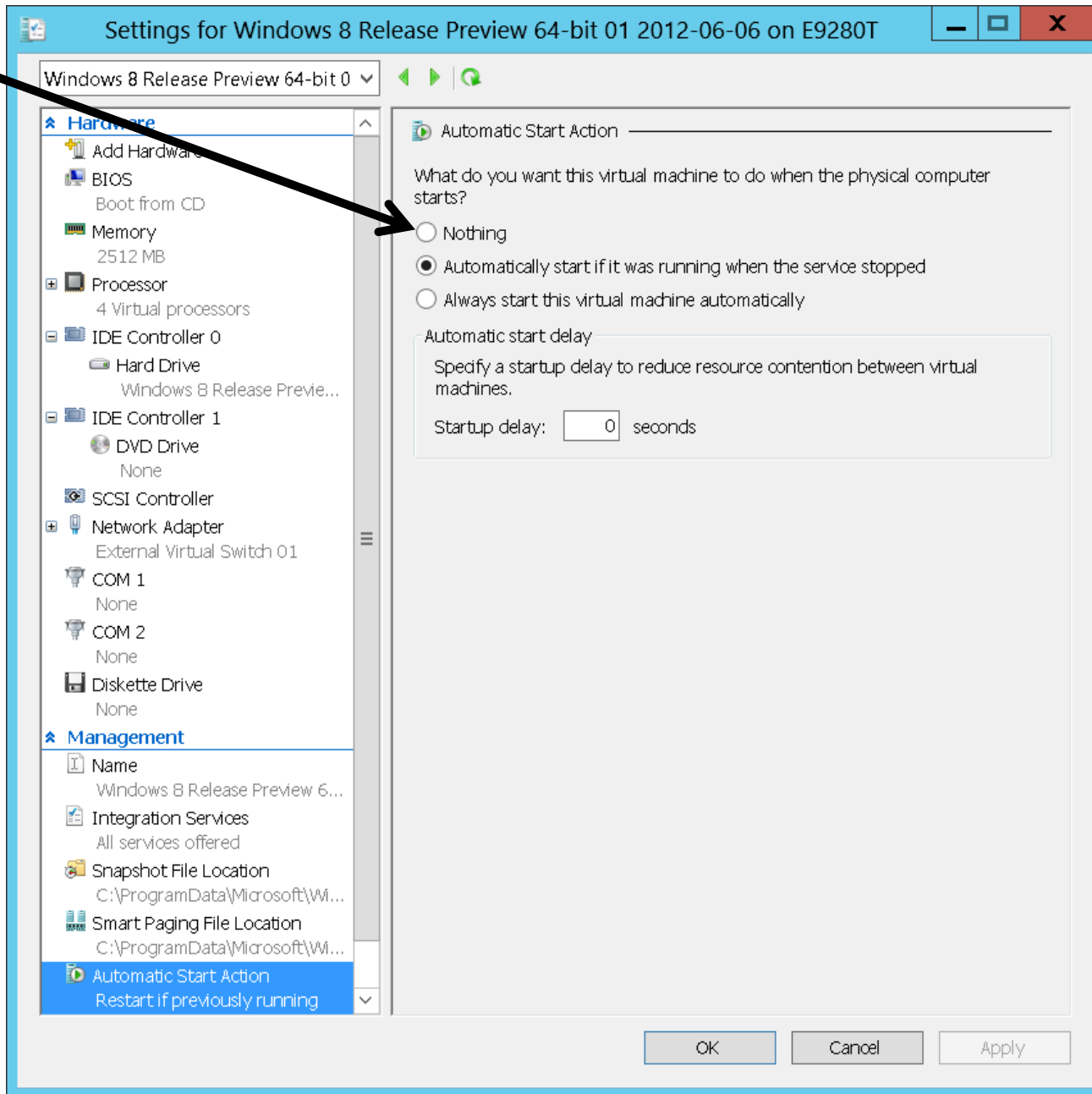


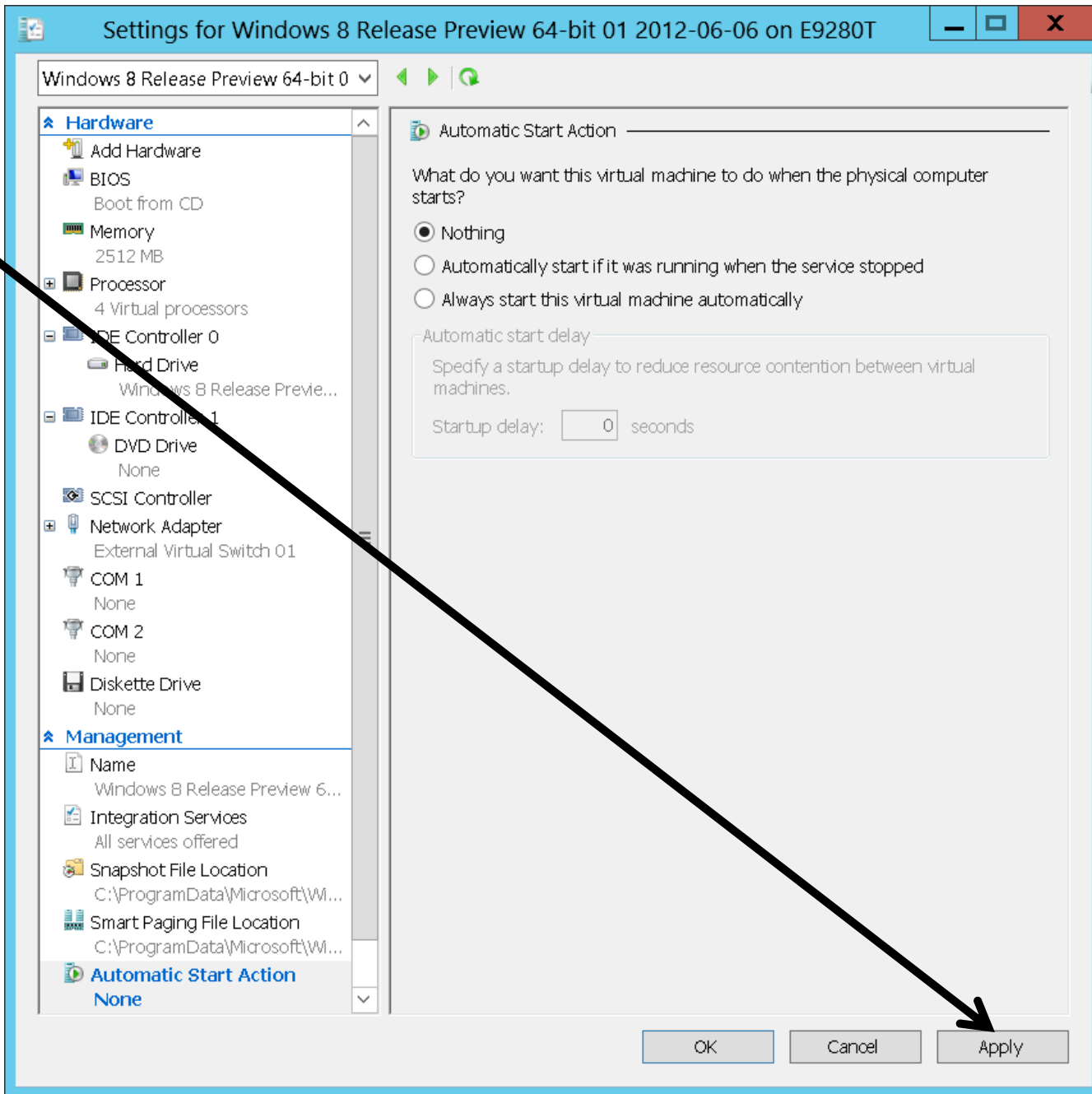


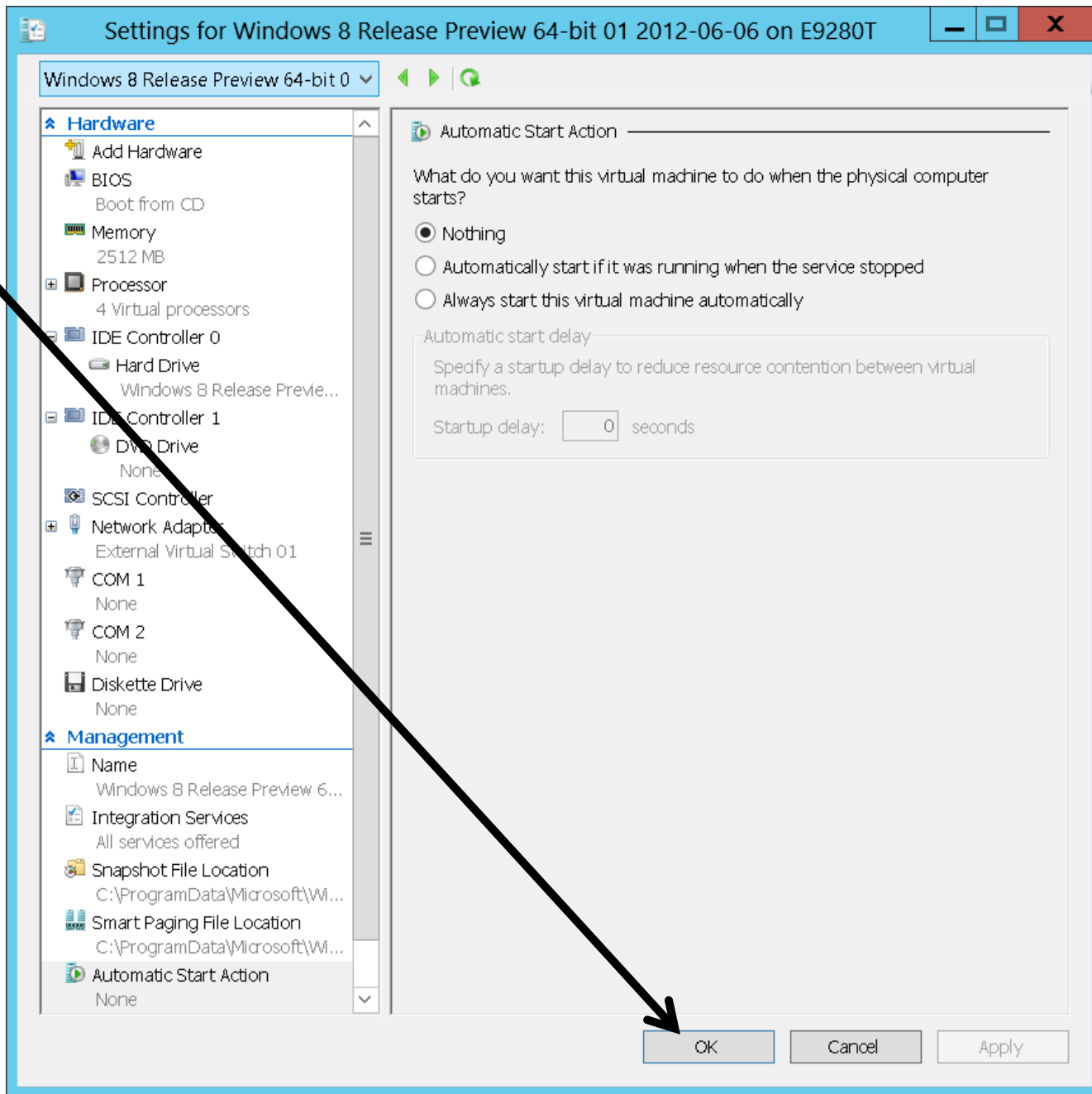










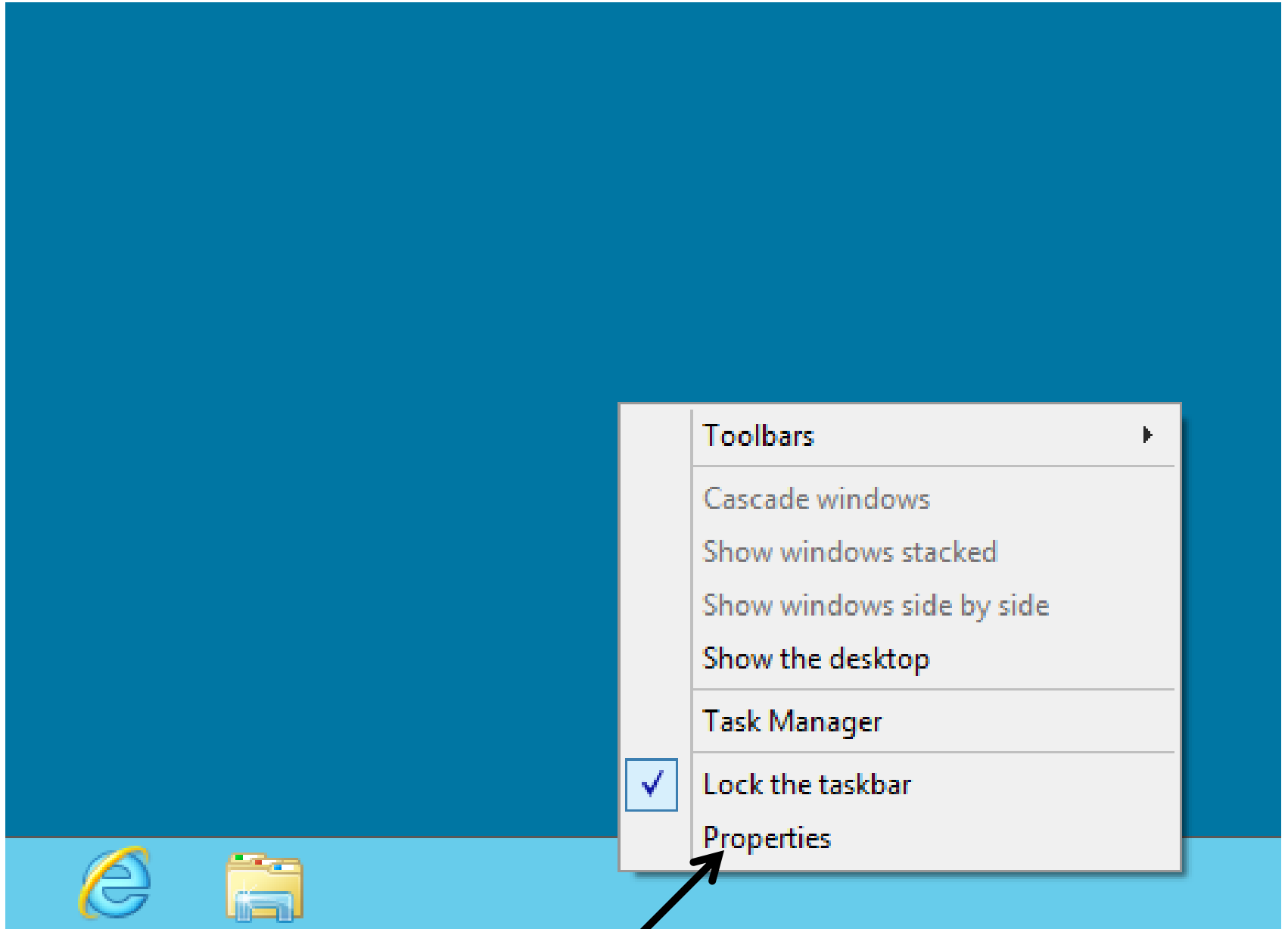


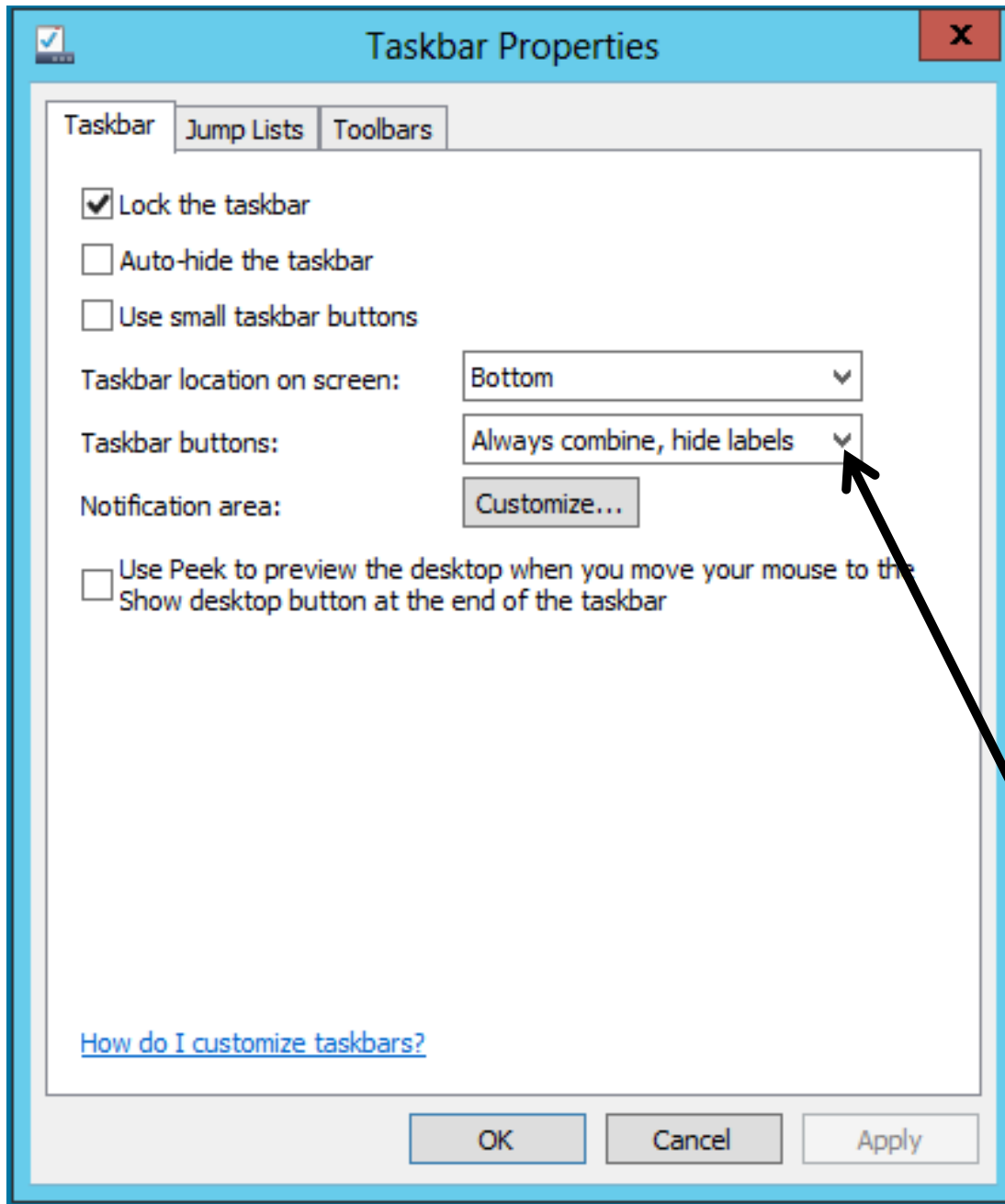
# Configuring Taskbar Buttons

- Use the RIGHT mouse button to click once in an unused area of the task bar.
- A pop-up context menu will be displayed.
- Click on "Properties" in the pop-up context menu.
- A "Taskbar Properties" window will be displayed.
- For "Taskbar button", use the drop-down list arrow button to select "Never combine".

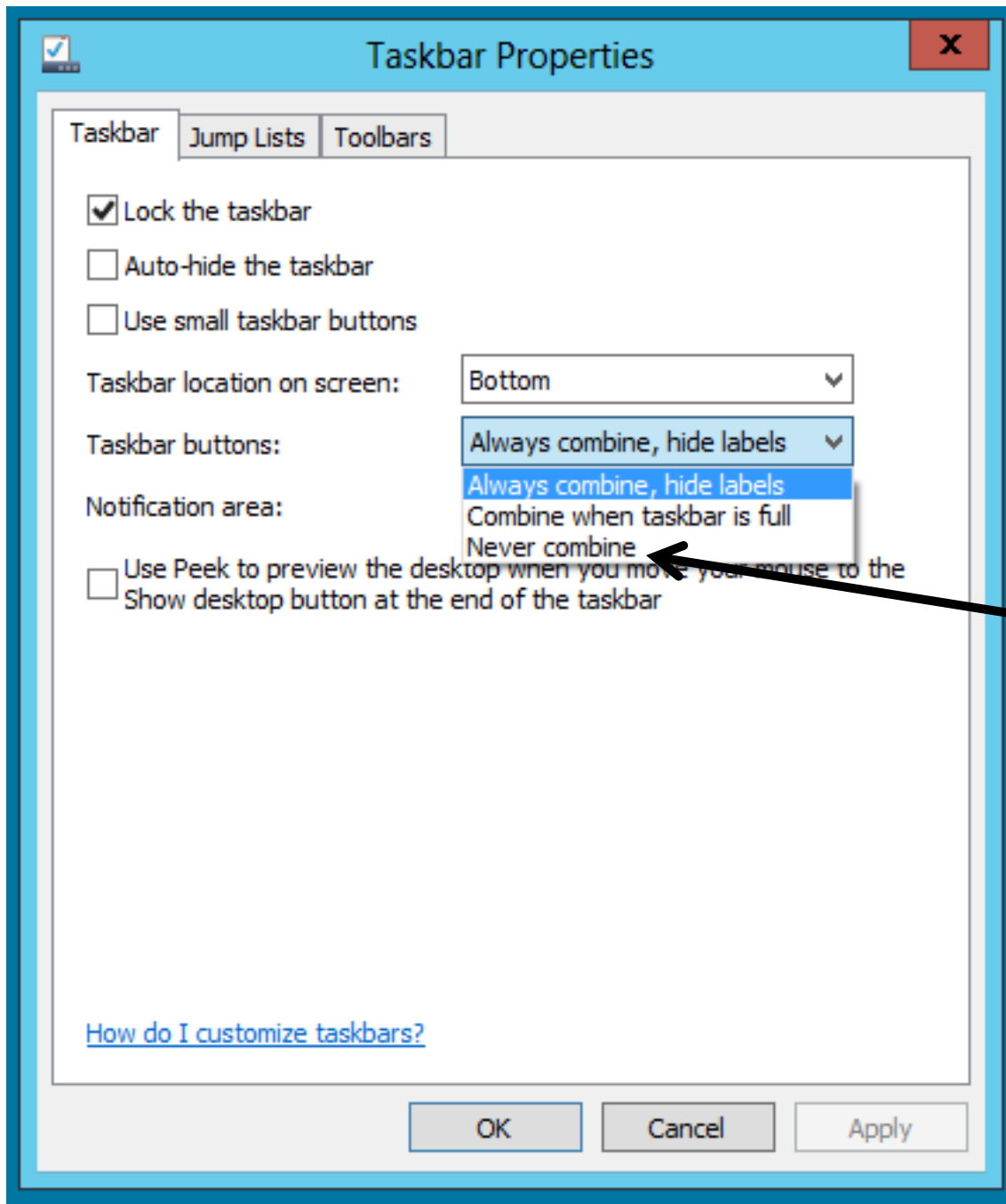
# Configuring Taskbar Buttons (continued)

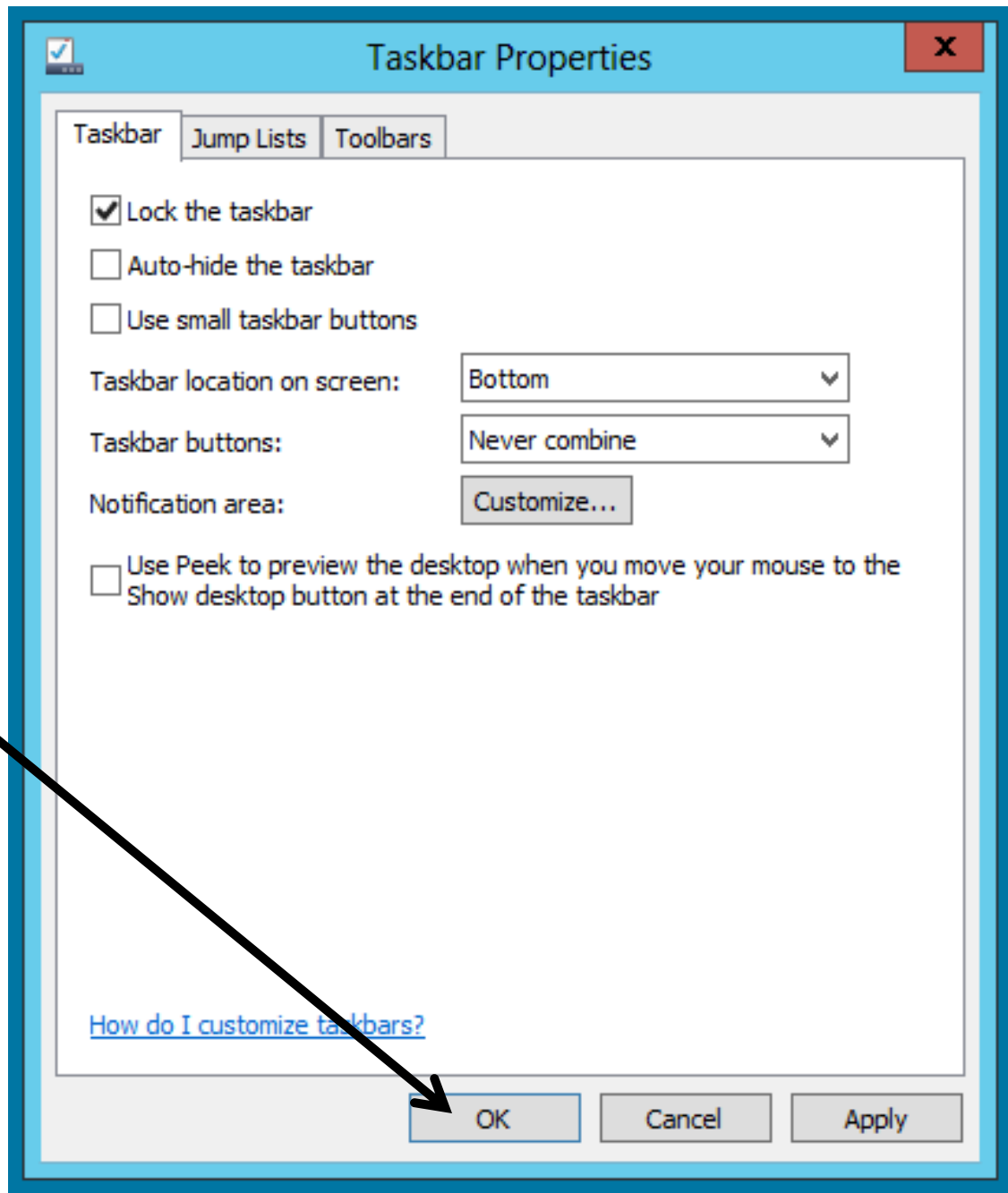
- Click on the "OK" button of the "Taskbar Properties" window.







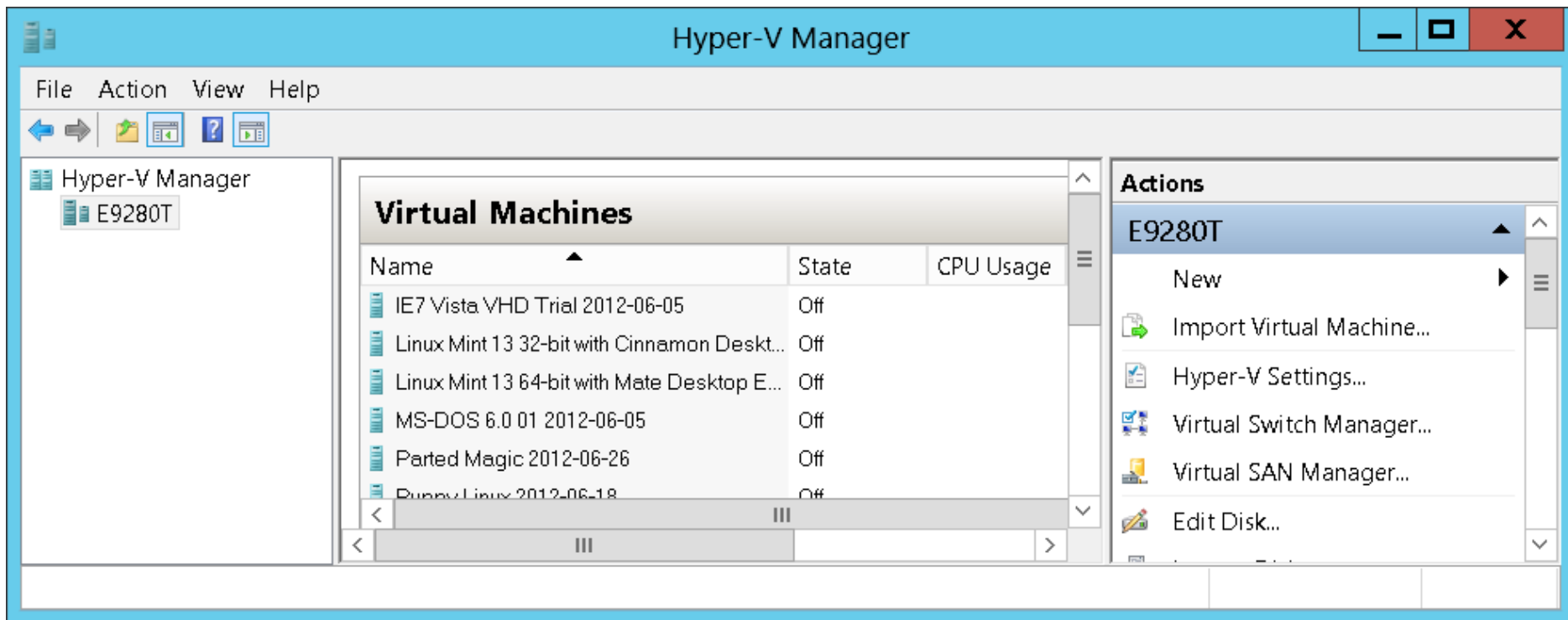


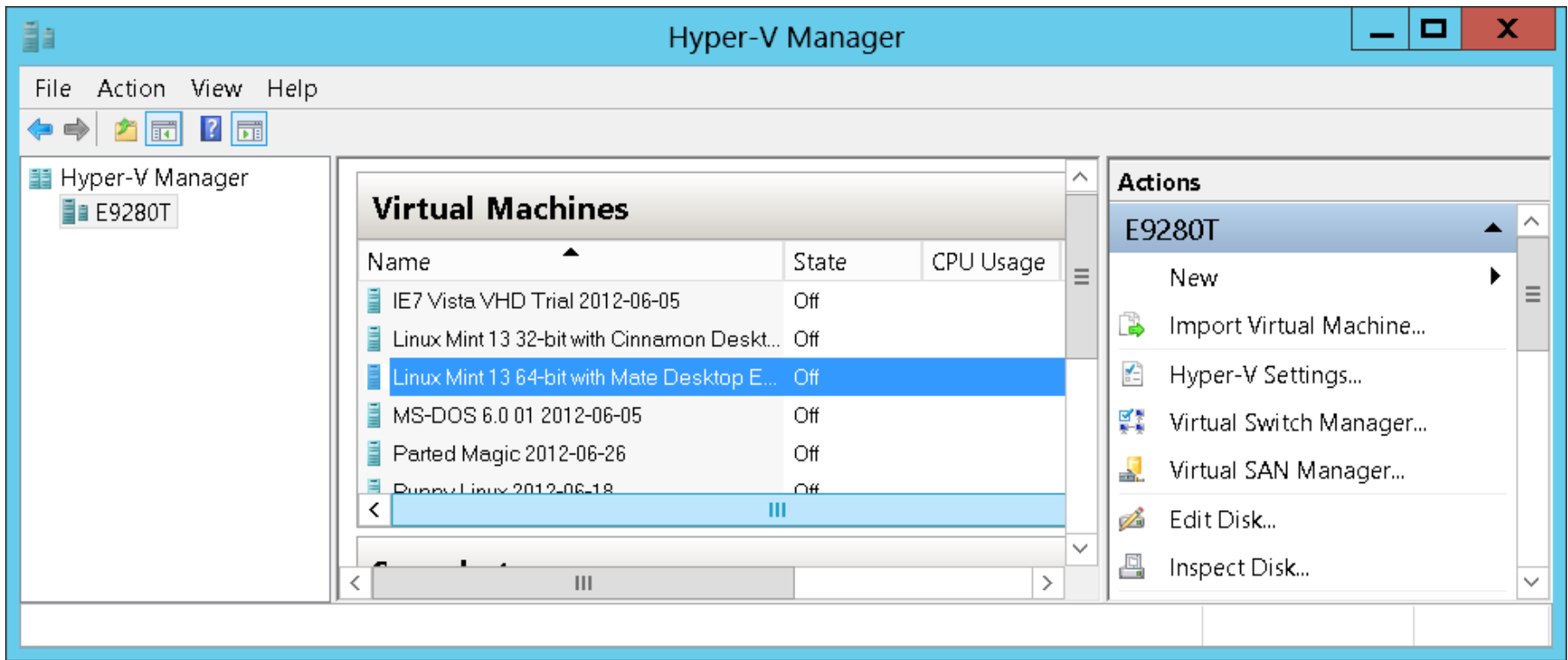


# Set the Height of the "Hyper-V Manager" Window:

- If you have created more than four virtual machines, the "Virtual Machines" list in the "Hyper-V Manager" windows will only show a subset of the entire set of virtual machines:

In order to see the entire list, you have to click on one and then use the up and down arrow keys to move through the list of virtual machines.





# Set the Height of the "Hyper-V Manager" Window (continued):

- Use the left mouse button to click and drag the top edge of the "Hyper-V Manager" window as high up in the monitor screen as possible.
- Use the left mouse button to click and drag the bottom edge of the "Hyper-V Manager" window as low in the monitor screen as possible.

