

Virtualization Concepts Sample Application

Vijay Raj

Here is a simple code snippet which I developed to explain the Folder Virtualization concepts. To demonstrate this, login to a Vista machine in a standard user account and launch the application "Folder Virtualization.exe".



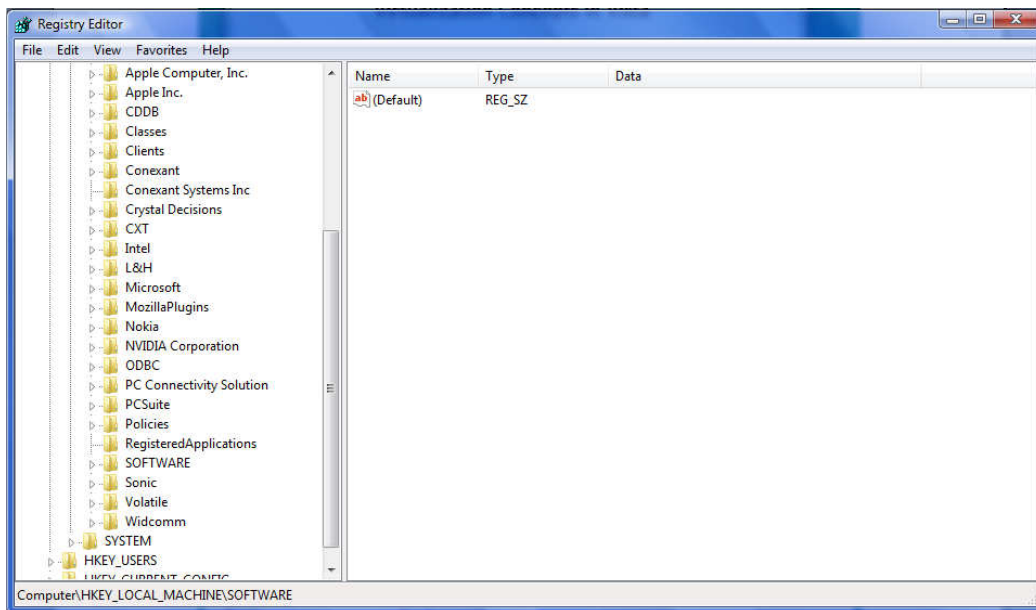
Click on the "Test the access Credential" push button to verify the account type. As expected this dialog will be shown as below because, we have logged in as a standard user.



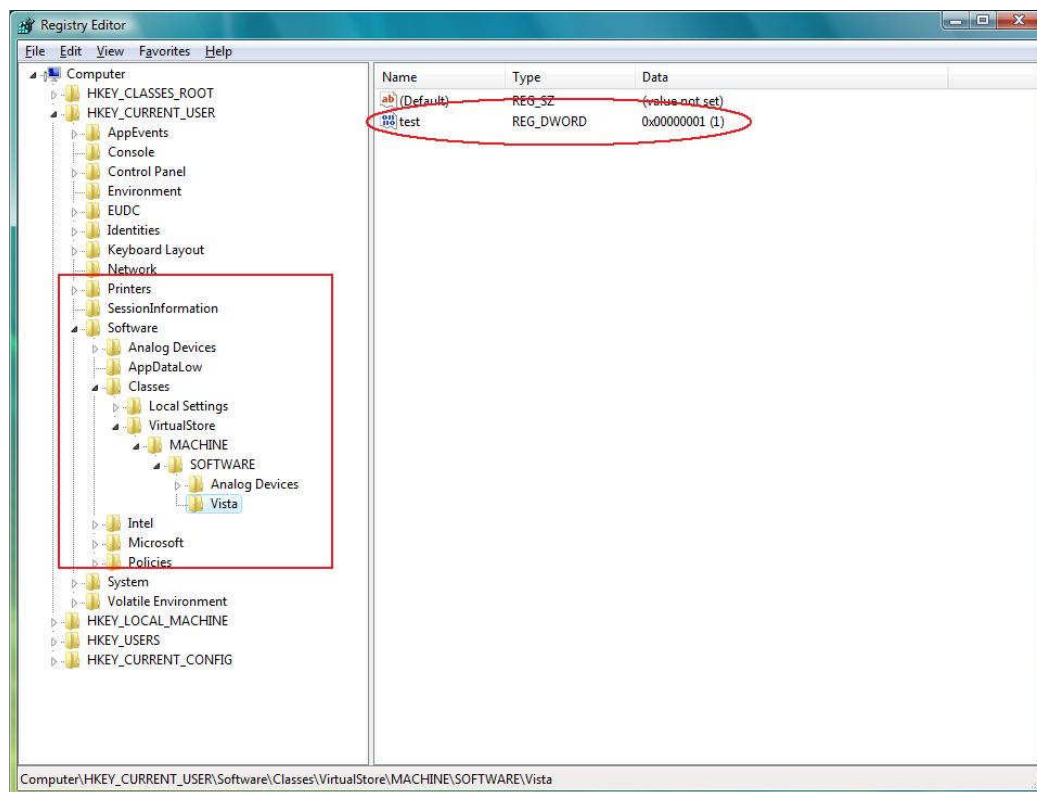
To start with, let's create a registry key test in HKLM\Software\Vista by clicking on the push button as shown below.



The above screen tells that, the registry entry has been done. When checked in HKLM\Software\ there is no key created.



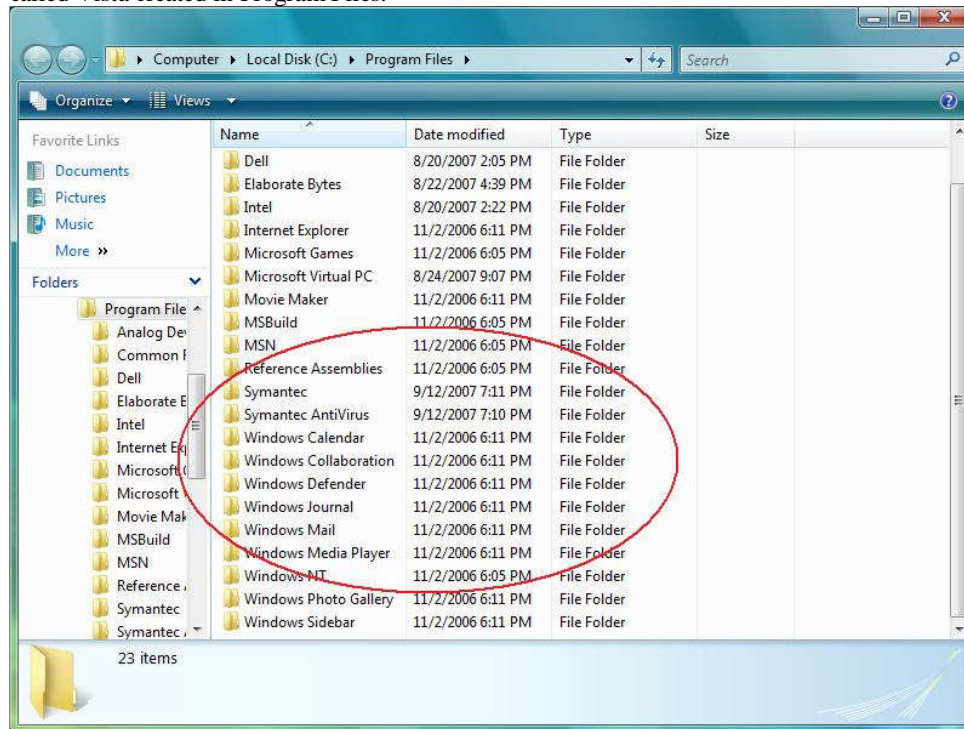
Here comes the Registry virtualization, this key is instead created in HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Classes\VirtualStore\Machine\Software\Vista as shown in the figure below.



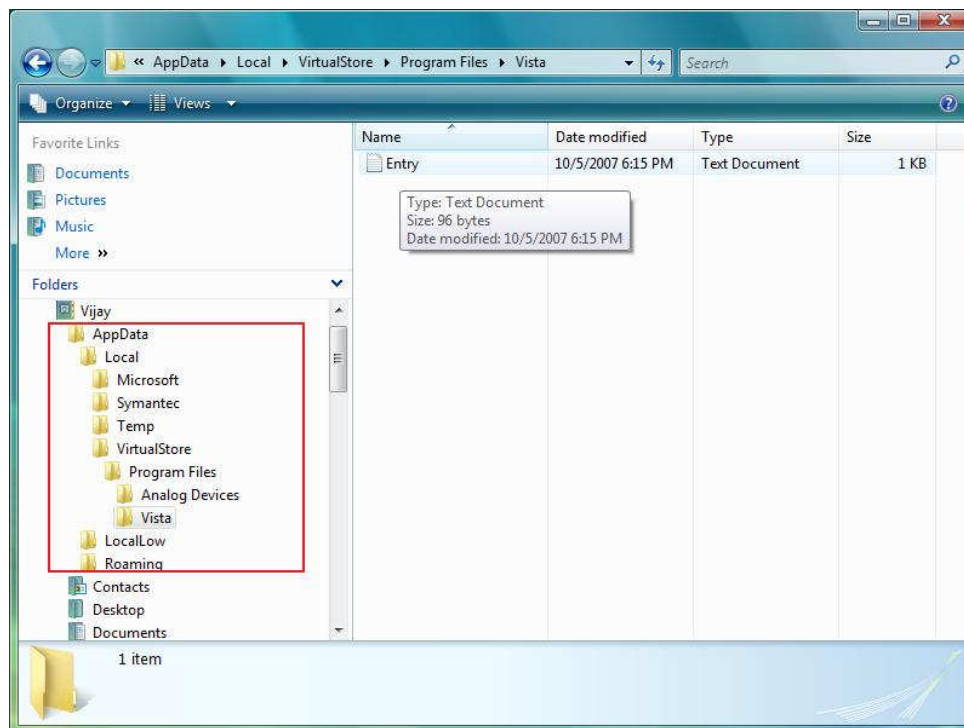
let's try creating a file called "entry.txt" in C:\ProgramFiles\Vista by clicking on the push button as shown below



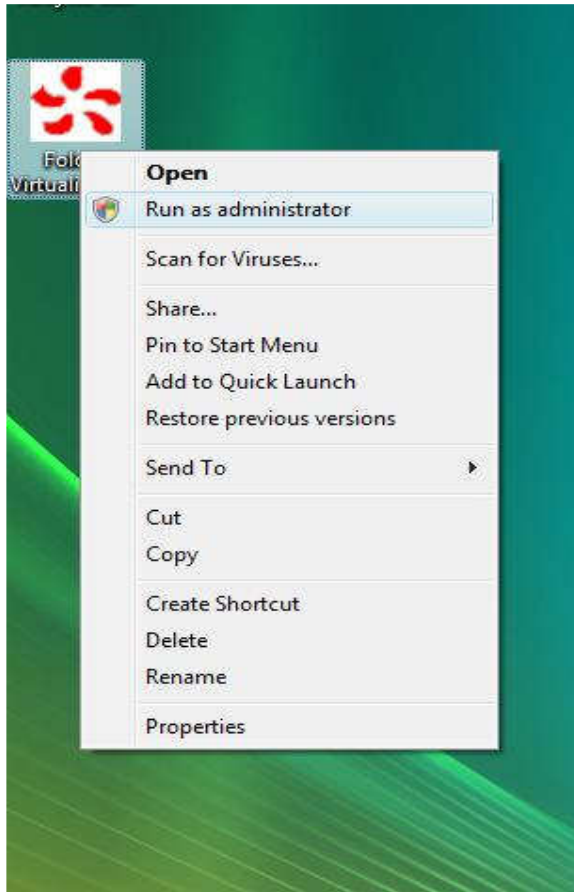
The above screen shows that, the file has been created in “Program Files” Folder, but there is no folder called Vista created in Program Files.



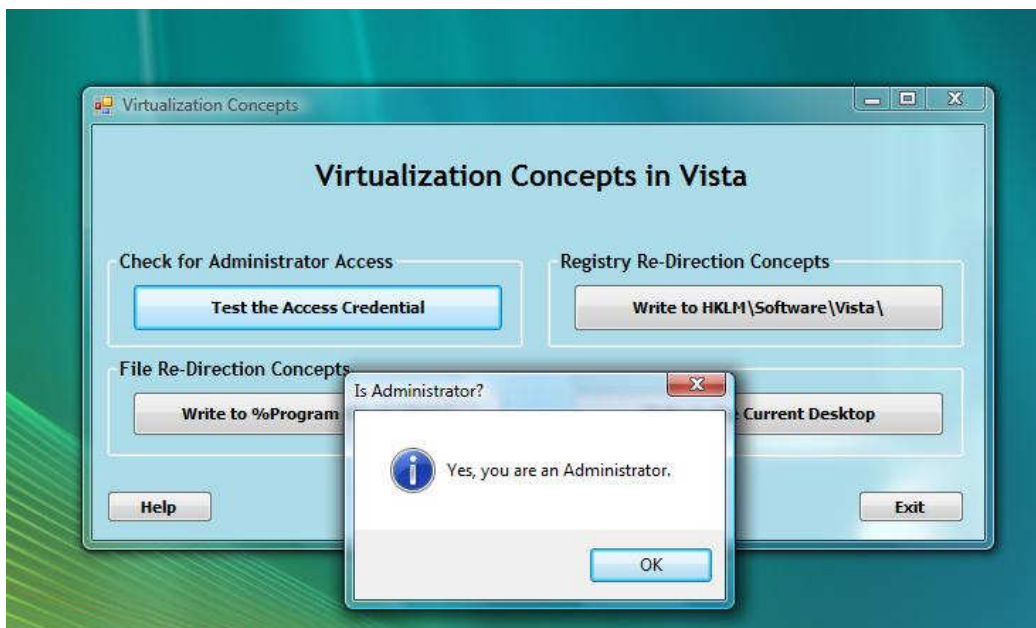
Now, using the folder options view all the hidden files, the Entry.txt file is virtualized and created in C:\Users\Vijay\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Program Files\Vista



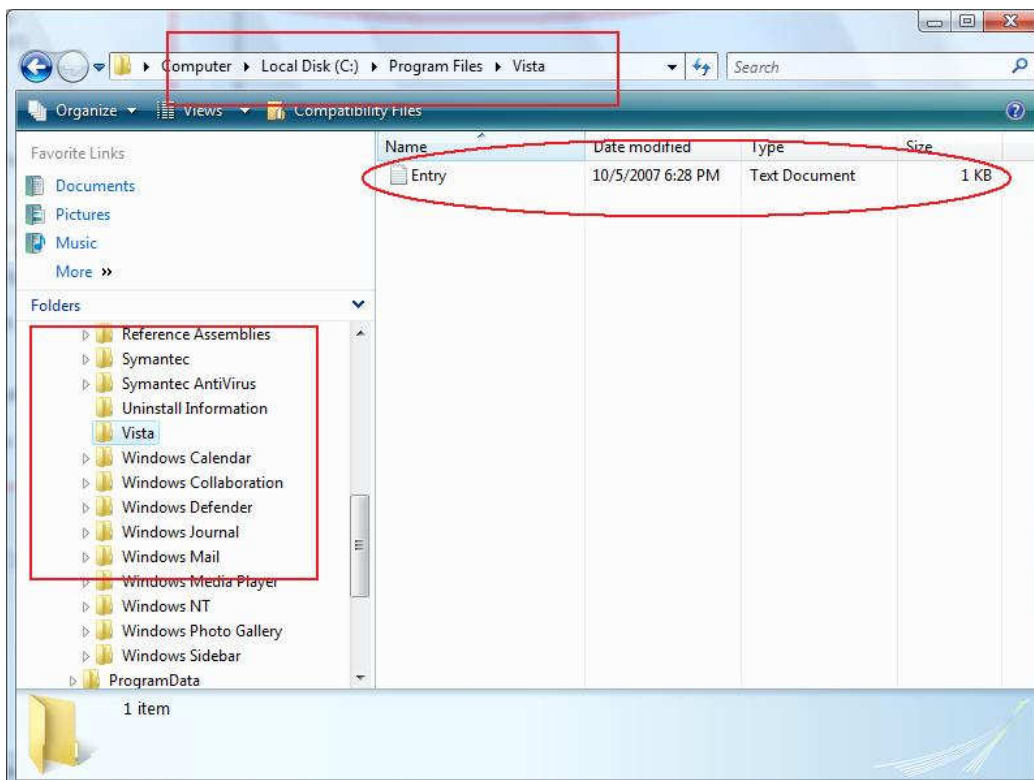
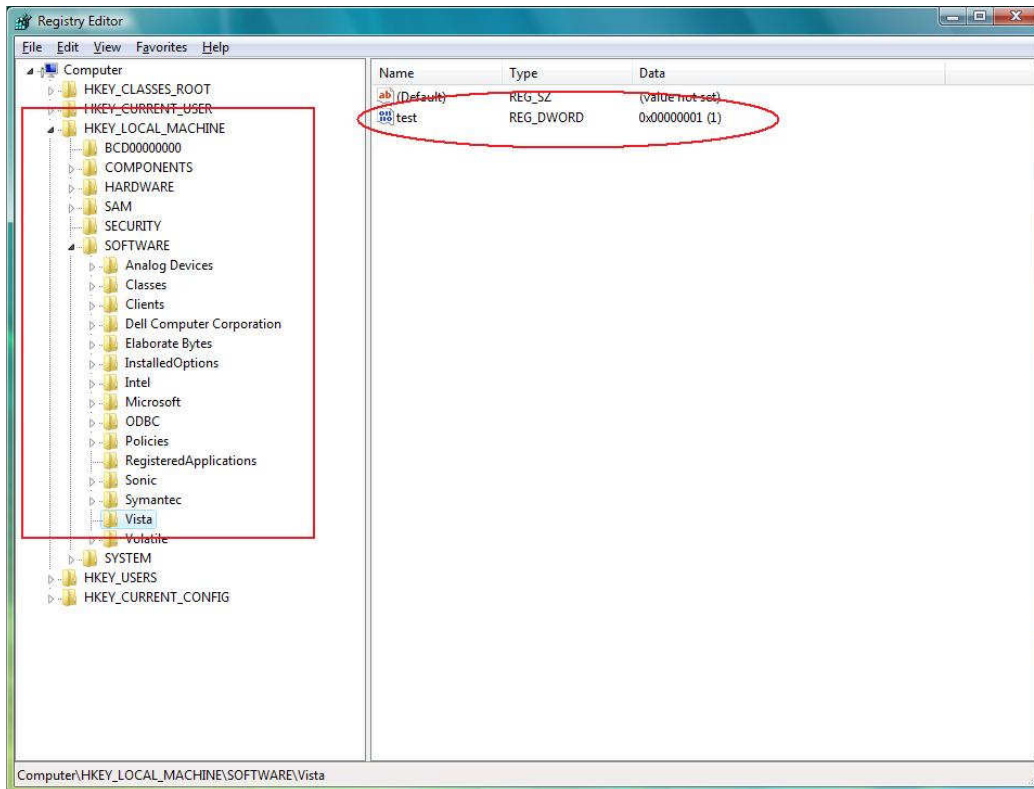
Now, right click on the Folder Virtualization.exe and click on Run as administrator as shown below.



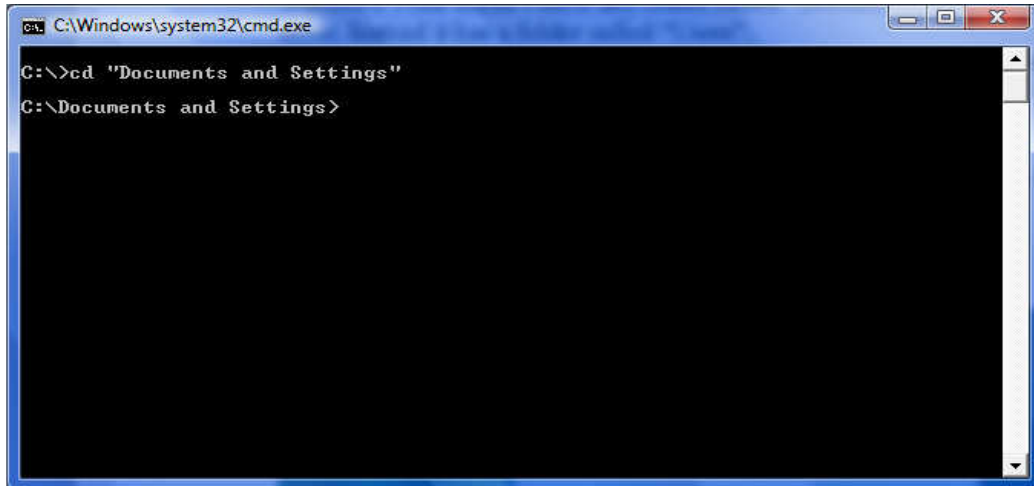
Just to test the access token, you are an administrator user.



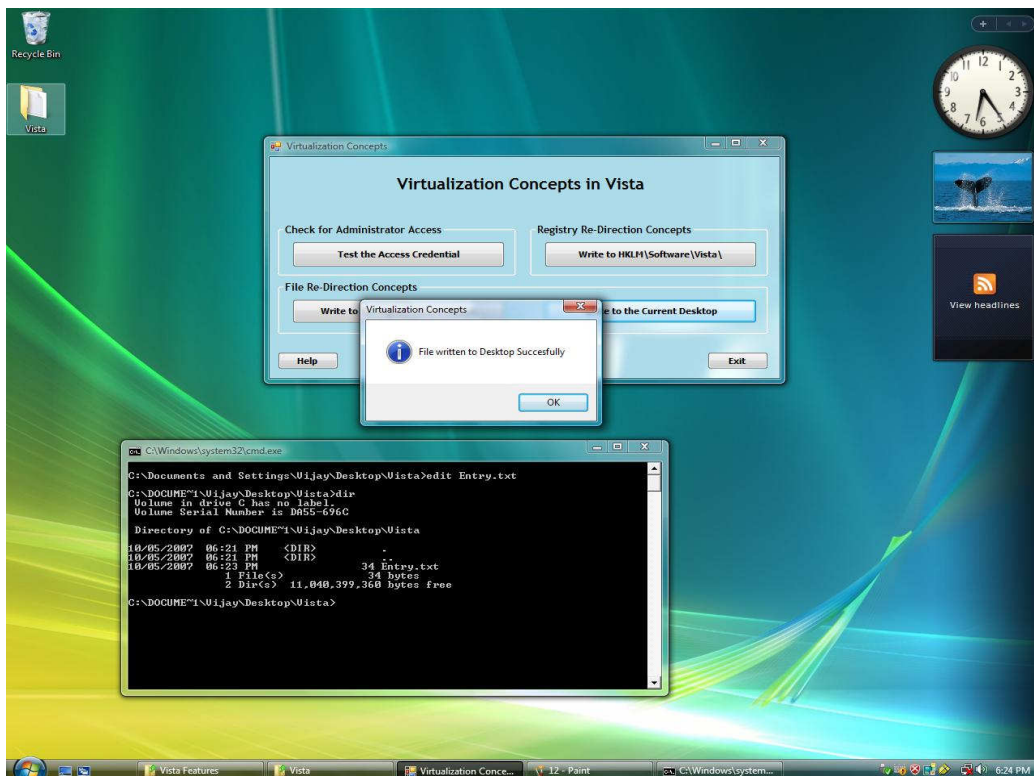
Now on clicking registry creation and File creation buttons the key and file are created in HKLM\Software\Vista and C:\ProgramFiles\Vista because, you are running with an admin credential.



Windows Vista doesn't have any folder called "Documents and Settings" in root drive. Instead it has a folder called "Users". However, there is a support for the applications which uses "Documents and Settings" as a hard-coded entry. To demonstrate this, click on the last button to create a file on the desktop. Now, goto command prompt, type `cd "Documents and Settings"`, this command will work. This is not a hidden folder, this is a re-directed folder to Users.



The below screenshot shows the existence of the file "Entry.txt" in both GUI and command prompt



This simple exercise is enough to understand the basics of folder virtualization. Please do try this and revert back if you have any suggestions.

Vijay Raj
(vijayraj.vm@gmail.com).