

Quick Start VirtualBox

Oracle VirtualBox is a free and open-source hypervisor. A hypervisor allows you to run other virtual computers on your existing system to learn or just for fun. VirtualBox is available for Windows, macOS, Linux and Solaris. It also can be installed and compiled on other supported platforms.

To get started visit: <https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>



Under the **VirtualBox x.x.xx platform packages** heading (where x.x.xx is the current version number) you will find download links for the different supported platforms. Download the version which goes with your operating system! Also make note of where you download the file.

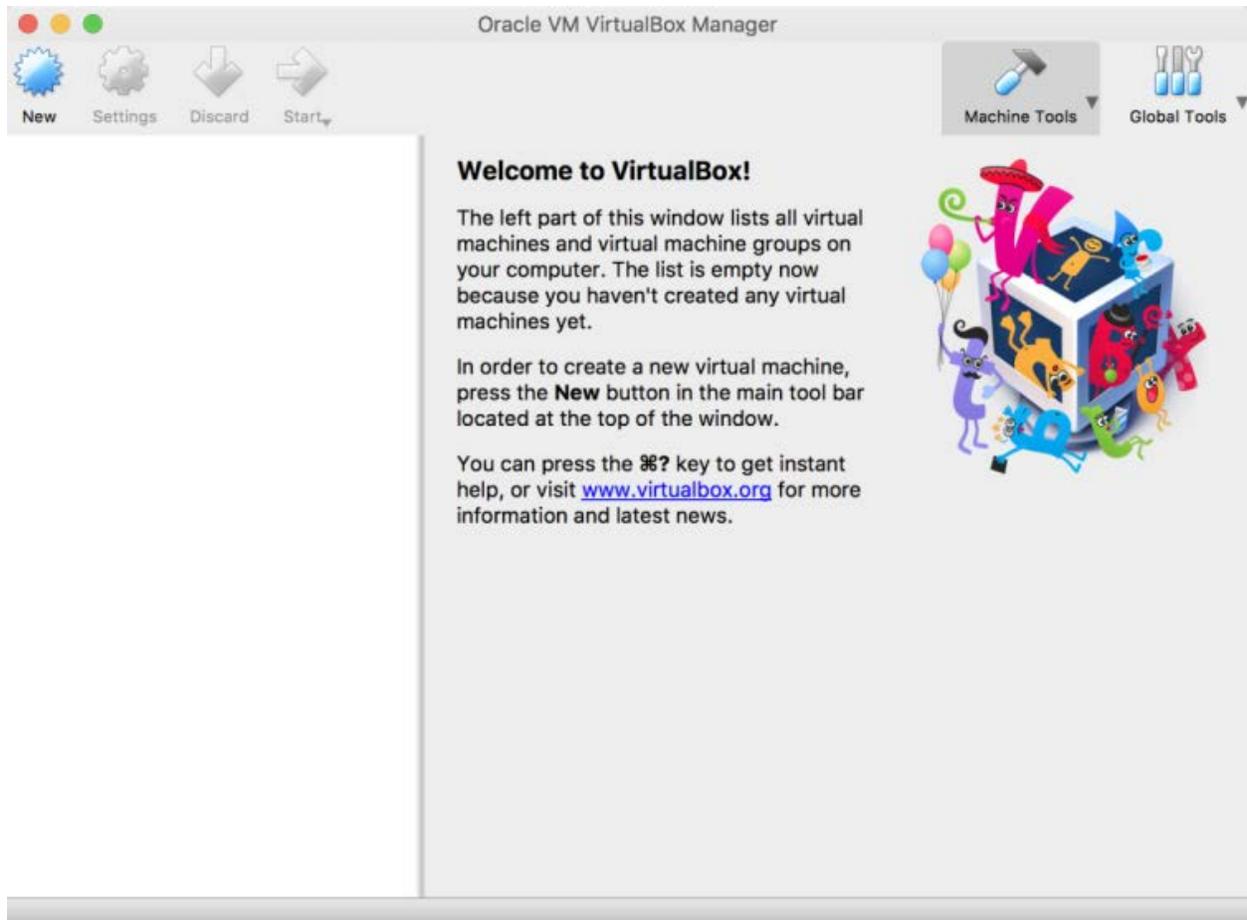
Then a bit lower down this page, you will find the **VirtualBox x.x.xx Oracle VM VirtualBox Extension Pack** heading (where once again x.x.xx is the current version number). Under this heading you will find one link to download the extension pack for all platforms.

Download both files, the VirtualBox binary installer for your operating system and the Extension Pack. The installer file is usually named in a standard format of something like this for Windows:

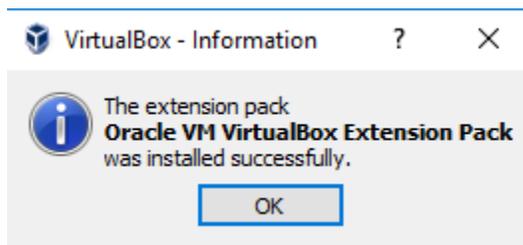
VirtualBox-x.x.xx-xxxxx-Win.exe

Where the x.x.xx is the version number and the other five x's are the build number. The ending of the filename varies by operating system. For example, for macOS the filename ends in -OSX.dmg instead of the shown -Win.exe example above. These different endings indicate the install method used by the operating system in question. For Windows and macOS one simply needs to double-click on the file to launch the installer. For other operating systems, such as Linux, different package managers are used depending upon distribution such as rpm (red hat package manager) or dpkg (debian package manager).

Run the installer and install VirtualBox, answering any install questions as needed for your system. Normally, the defaults will work for most installations. The installer is likely found in your Downloads folder or where you saved it in the earlier step.



Once the VirtualBox installation is complete, you simply need to double-click on the Extension Pack file to start the process of adding it to VirtualBox. VirtualBox will launch (if not already running) and a small dialog box will confirm if you want to install the Extension Pack. Indicate you wish to continue and once completed, you should be presented with a dialog like that shown below.



You should now be ready to either make or import your first virtual machine. To create a new virtual machine, simply click on the **New** button and follow the wizard. You will need either a real install disk or more likely the .iso image of the operating system you wish to install.

To import pre-built virtual machines, simply click on **File** in the menu bar, choose **Import Appliance...** and then select the virtual machine (usually a .ova or .ovf file) you have downloaded by clicking on the little folder icon and navigating to where the file was download, usually your Downloads folder.

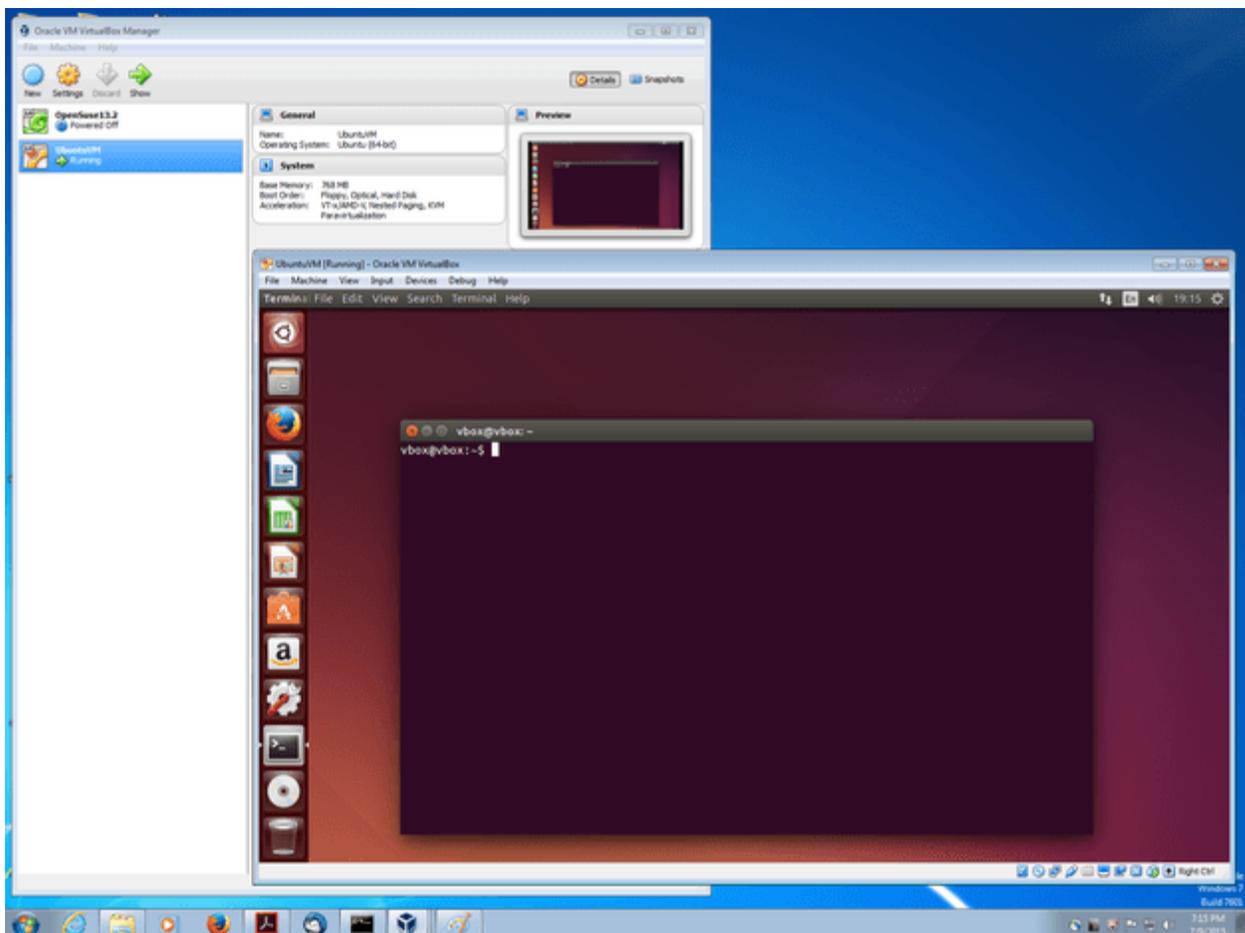
There are many sources of pre-built virtual machines, including from Oracle at:

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/community/developer-vm/index.html>

<https://www.osboxes.org/> is also another great source of such virtual machines.

(One note about pre-built virtual machines: you might get an error regarding the host-only adapter. If so, close the VM, click **Settings**, then the **Network** choice, and then **Ok**. This usually fixes this error.)

Once you have successfully either created or imported a virtual machine, running it is quite easy. Simply select it from the list and click the **Start** button. VirtualBox will open a separate window and the virtual machine will begin to boot up within this window. The example below shows Ubuntu running on Windows 7.



To begin working with your new virtual machine, simply click within its window to put focus there. Then your mouse and keystrokes should be received by the virtual machine. To return control to your own system, press the **Right Ctrl** key. This is always shown in the bottom right corner of a virtual machine's window as a reminder.

Have fun running multiple computers at the same time!