



**BAHIR DAR UNIVERSITY**

**BAHIR DAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (BIT) FACULTY OF  
COMPUTING  
OPERATING SYSTEM INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT**

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## ***Introduction***

Peppermint OS ships with few [native applications](#) and a [traditional desktop interface](#). What originally made it unique was its approach to creating a hybrid desktop that integrated both [cloud](#) and [local applications](#). In place of traditionally native applications for common tasks (word processing, image editing), it ships with the custom Ice application, which allows users to create [site-specific browsers](#) (SSBs).

In Peppermint OS, the open-source [Firefox](#) browser is used to enable a site-specific browser (SSB) for cloud applications. Instead of opening a browser and then visiting an application site, a dedicated browser window is integrated into the system for a specific application. Support for Firefox

(alongside [Chromium](#) and [Chrome](#) web browsers) was added to the custom Ice application in 2015, allowing the creation of SSBs in a web browser window. Peppermint OS is a project where you can marry the cloud to the desktop. As with any [Ubuntu](#) based operating system, [applications](#) can be installed natively from Ubuntu compatible [repositories](#), allowing one to run cloud-based applications alongside desktop software. Like any other Linux distribution, it allows installing packages like [LibreOffice](#), [GIMP](#), [VLC](#), [Skype](#), etc. Peppermint is built from Ubuntu and supports whatever Ubuntu supports. Peppermint OS ships with [mintInstall](#), [Synaptic](#), and [GDebi](#) to facilitate this.

Peppermint's namesake is [Linux Mint](#). The developers originally wanted to make use of

configuration and utilities [sourced](#) from Linux Mint coupled with an environment that was less demanding on resources and more focused on [web integration](#). They felt that the concept was a "spicier" version of Mint, so the name *Peppermint* was a natural fit.

While Linux Mint is known for its [Cinnamon desktop](#), Peppermint originally used a default desktop that was a hybrid based mainly on selected components from it, LXDE, and [XFCE](#) that were significantly more lightweight. As of 2022, the hybrid desktop environment was phased out in favor of XFCE.

Peppermint has consistently released updates on a decent cadence since at least 2010, when it was first released.

## ***HISTORY***

Peppermint OS was born in the Black Rose Pub in Hendersonville, North Carolina, USA after a night of drinking and chit chat about where we saw the future of desktop Linux going. It was also intended to be a distribution focused on social media.

Before the decision to fork Lubuntu was made, pre-alpha development builds covered a large range of different possible directions. January and February 2010 had a lot of playing with KDE, E17, Adobe Air, other various code bases. Support for the Lubuntu 10.04 code base began in March 2010, during which Alpha builds began. A private beta of Peppermint was released in April 2010 to a limited number of testers ahead of its public debut.

- Peppermint One was released on May 9, 2010. On June 10, 2011, Peppermint Two was released. Combining aspects from the two previous editions, it packaged Chromium as its default browser alongside the Ice application for creating Site Specific Browsers. It was also the first edition of Peppermint to be available in both 32 and 64 bit versions.
- On July 23, 2012, Peppermint Three was released. Chromium stable repository was enabled by default; very light theme and default artwork; fewer default web applications in the menu; it shipped with Gnome office; and GIMP 2.8 was added to the Peppermint repository.
- On June 23, 2014, Peppermint Five was released. "With this release we are getting ready for the future. The technology landscape is constantly changing, and we are always responding to meet our user's needs. We are 100% driven to deliver an OS that is fast, secure, and available everywhere. Peppermint Five is another step in that direction." - Shane Remington - COO of Peppermint OS, LLC
- On May 31, 2015, Peppermint Six was released. "Peppermint is excited to announce the launch of our latest operating system, Peppermint Six. Lightweight and designed for speed, Peppermint Six delivers on that promise whether using software on your desktop, online, or using cloud based apps. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mark Greaves, who stepped up and produced most of what you see here in

Peppermint Six. Mark is now playing a major role here at Peppermint by leading the development team. I think you will be impressed by what he and the others have put together in Peppermint Six." - Shane Remington - COO of Peppermint OS, LLC

- On June 24, 2016, Peppermint Seven was released. "Team Peppermint are pleased to announce our latest operating system Peppermint 7, it comes in both 32bit and 64bit editions with the latter having full [UEFI/GPT/Secure Boot](#) support baked in, a new version of Ice (our in house Site Specific Browser framework) is also included with full Firefox web browser support as well as Chromium / Chrome." - Mark Greaves (PC NetSpec) - Development Team Leader & Support Admin
- On January 14, 2020, Peppermint CEO Mark Greaves (PC NetSpec) died in hospital. After taking over Peppermint from Shane Remington and Kendall Weaver shortly after Peppermint 5, Mark devoted his life to Peppermint with his family's support and went on to release more versions of Peppermint up to Peppermint 10 and a respin of Peppermint 10. The official announcement was made on the Peppermint forum and a memorial fund has been set up by his family to honour Mark's legacy.

## Objectives

- 1. Performances on Older Hardware:** Designed to run smoothly on older or low-resource systems, making it accessible to a wide range of users.
- 2. Seamless Integration of Webs and Desktop Applications:** Through "Ice" application, Peppermint OS allows user to create site-specific browser (SSBs), blending cloud-based and local applications seamlessly.
- 3. Customizability:** Offers minimalist base, enabling users to tailor the systems to their specific needs by installing only the software they requires.
- 4. User-Friendly Experience:** Focuses on simplicity and ease of use, making it suitable for both beginners and experienced Linux users.
- 5. Stability and Reliability:** Built on Debian and Devuan Stable, it ensures a solid and dependable foundation for everyday tasks
- 6. light weight and Fast:** Peppermint OS is designed to be lightweight and fast, making it suitable for older hardware or systems with limited resources. Its minimalistic approach ensures that the operating system runs efficiently and quickly.
- 7. Seamless Integration of Web Applications:** Peppermint OS excel at integrating web- based applications on he desktop environment. The distribution use a feature called the "Peppermint ICE" tools to create web applications that behave like native desktop apps, providing a cohesive user experience.

## **Requirements of hardware and software**

### **Hardware Requirements:**

- *Processor*: Minimum of 1 GHz processor
- *Memory (RAM)*: Minimum of 1 GB RAM (2 GB or more recommended for better performance)
- *Hard Disk Space*: Minimum of 10 GB free disk space (20 GB or more recommended for better performance)

### **Software Requirements**

- *Linux distribution*, such as Ubuntu, Fedora, CentOS, Debian, etc.
- Graphical user interface (optional)
- Compiler and development tools (optional)
- Networking tools for network communication (optional)

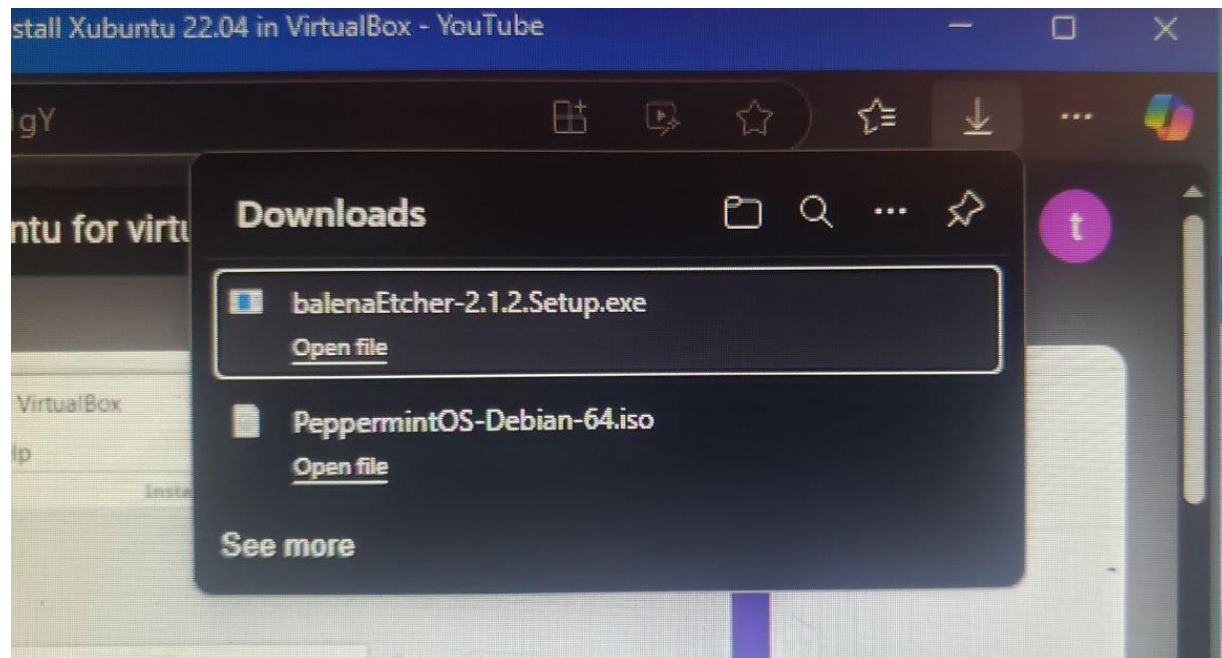


## Installation steps

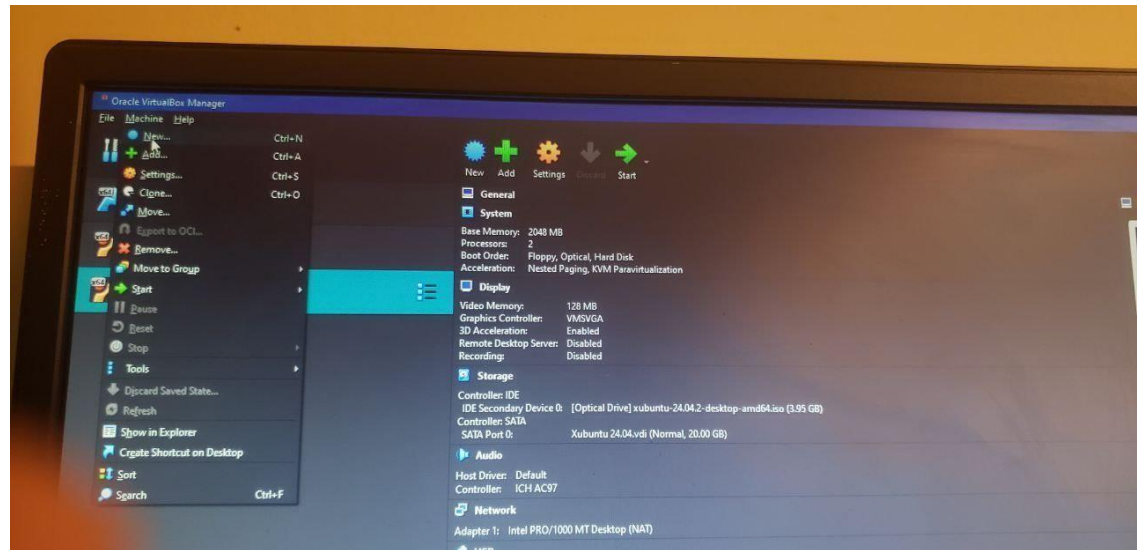
Here are the general steps to install Peppermint OS:

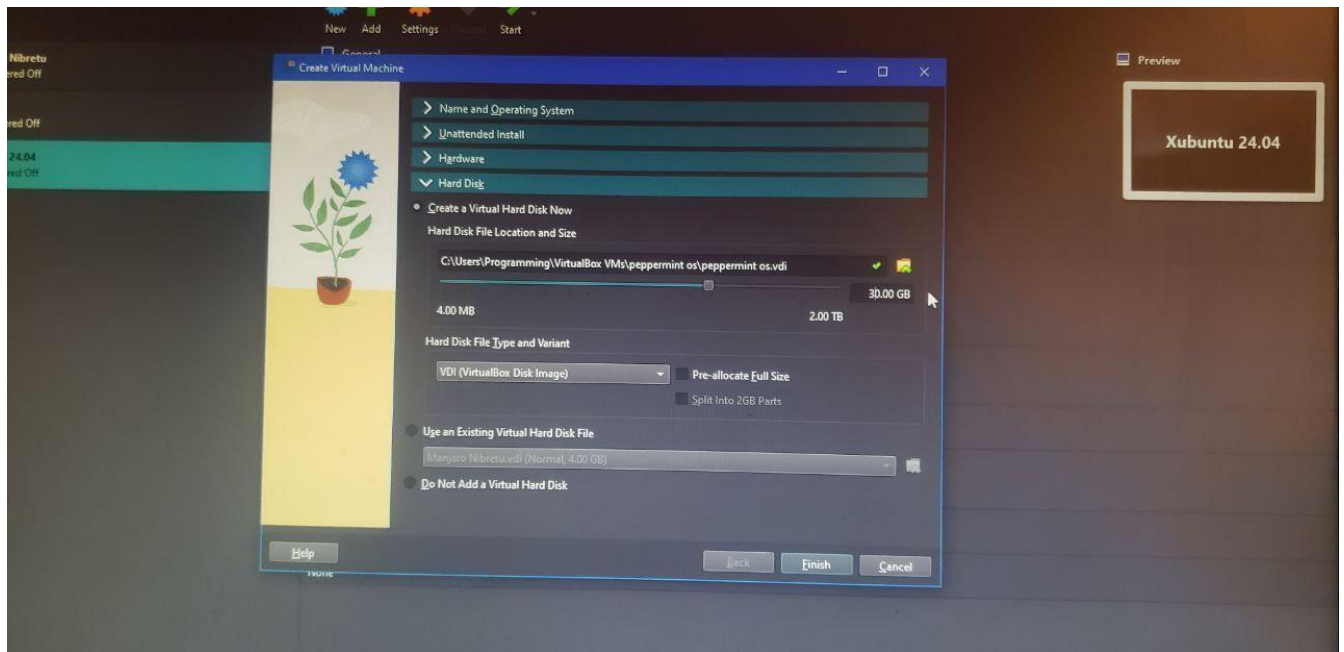
The general steps for how can install peppermint os:

**1. Download the ISO File:** findanddownloadtheisofile.

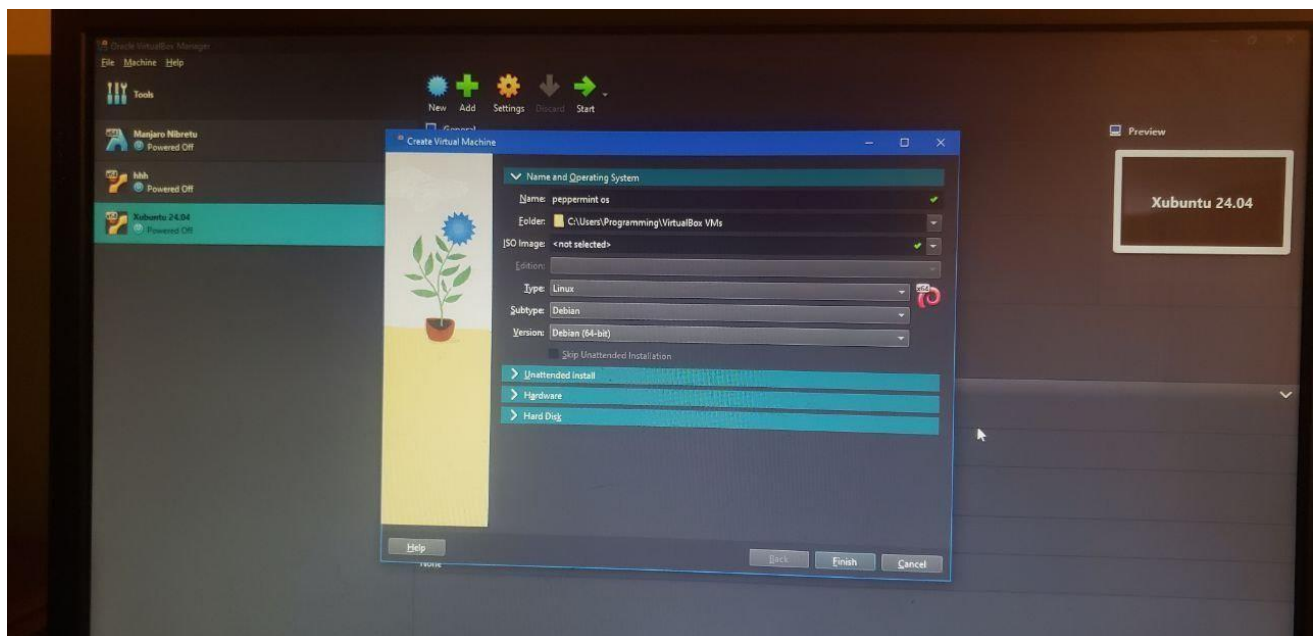


**2. Open virtual box and create new VM:**

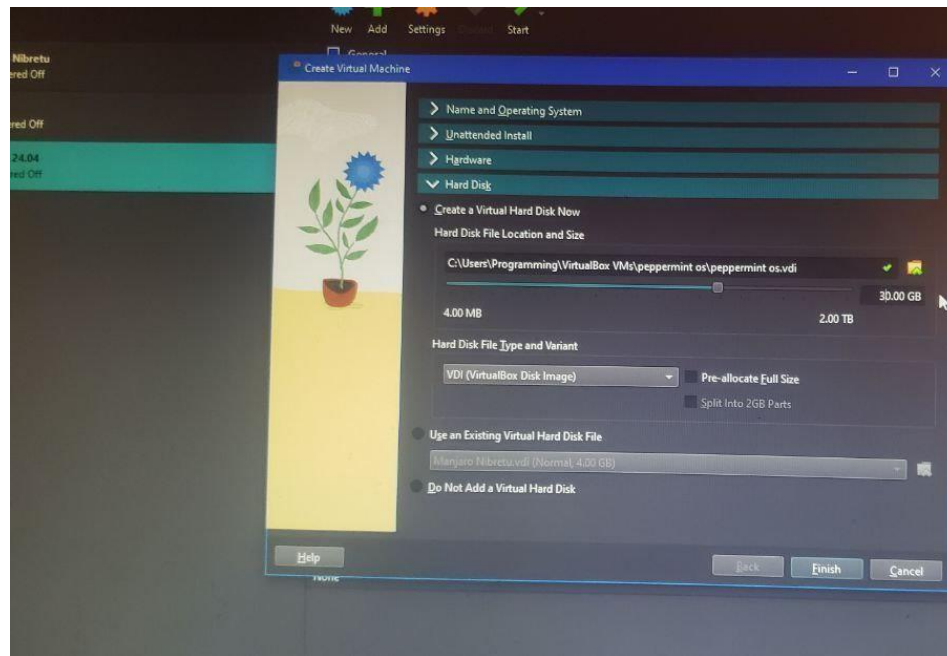




**3. Name the VM:** enter a name for the virtual machine called peppermint os.

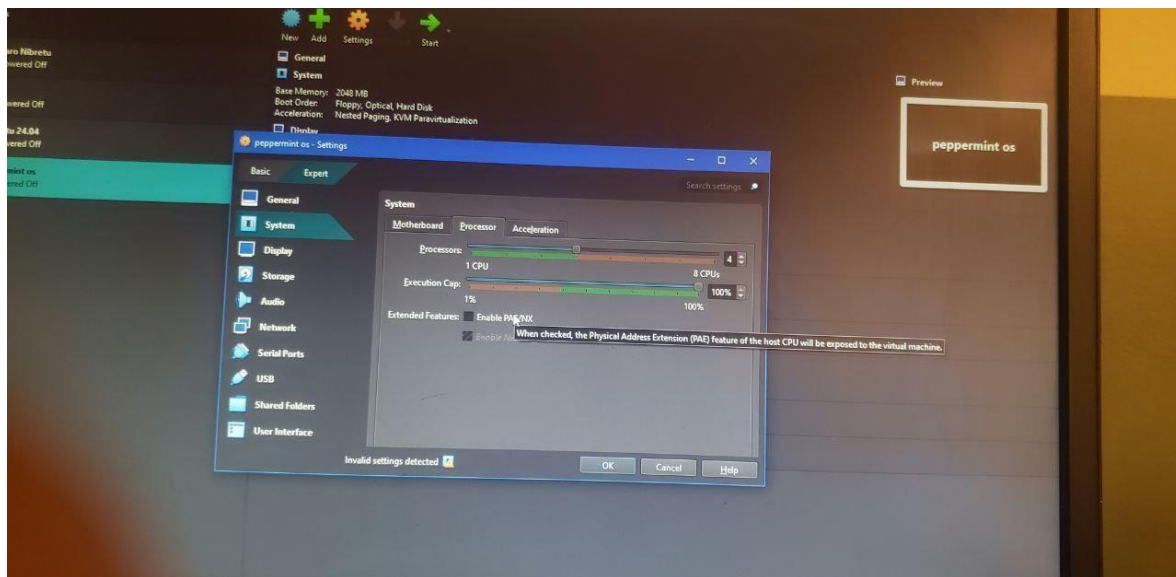


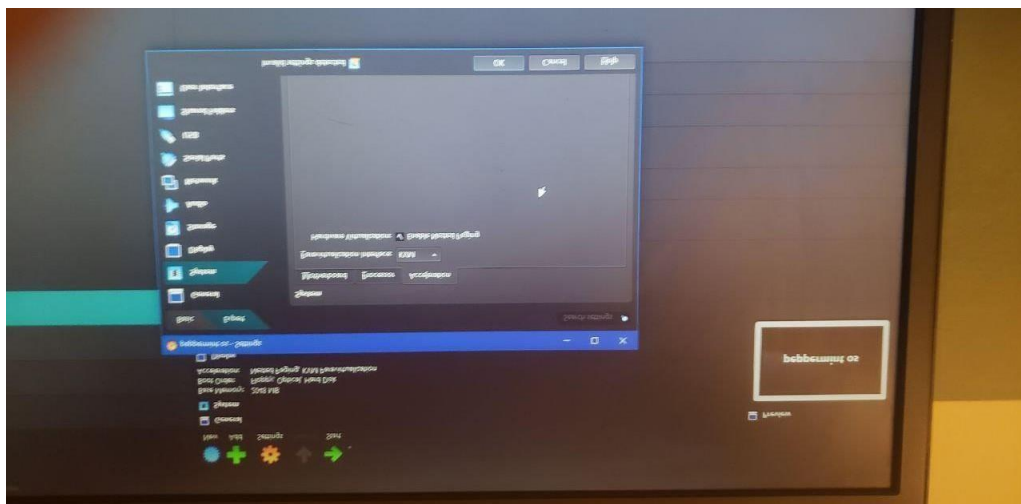
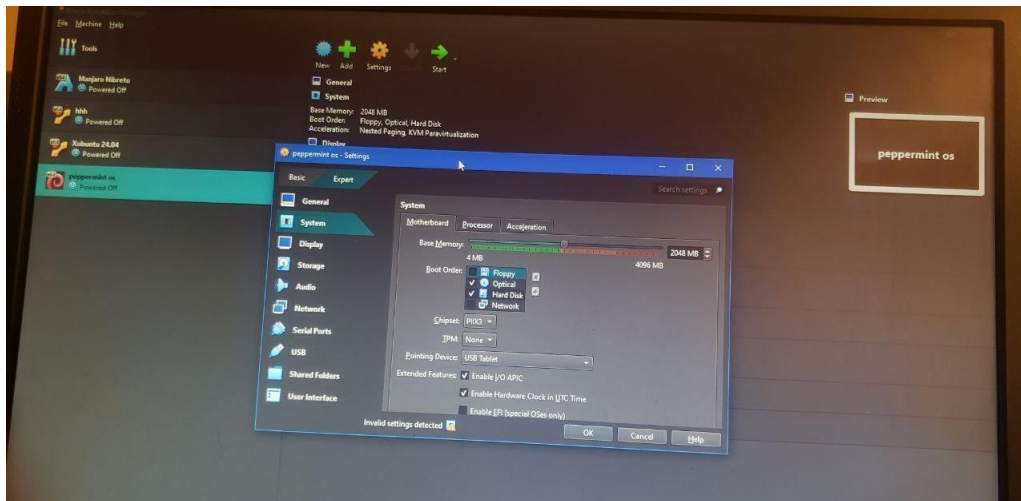
#### 4. Create a virtual hard disk:



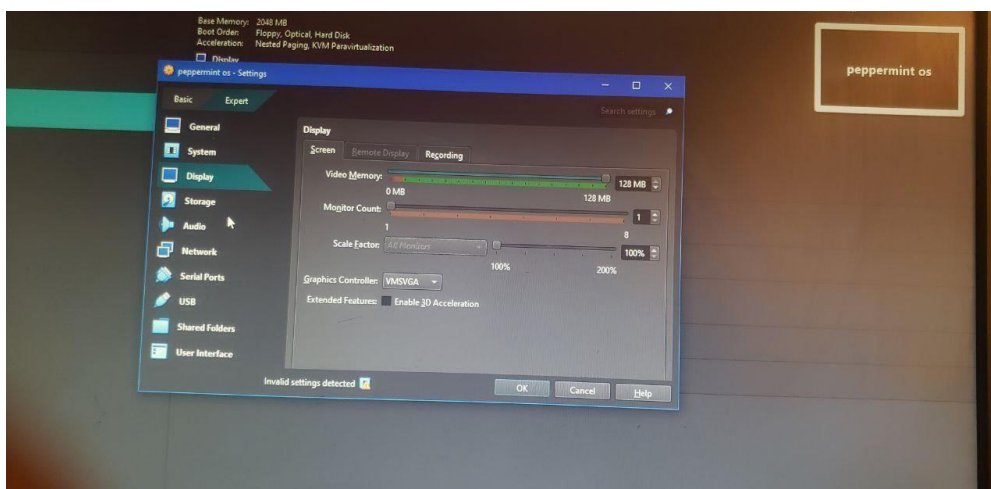
#### 5. Configure VM settings:

- System settings



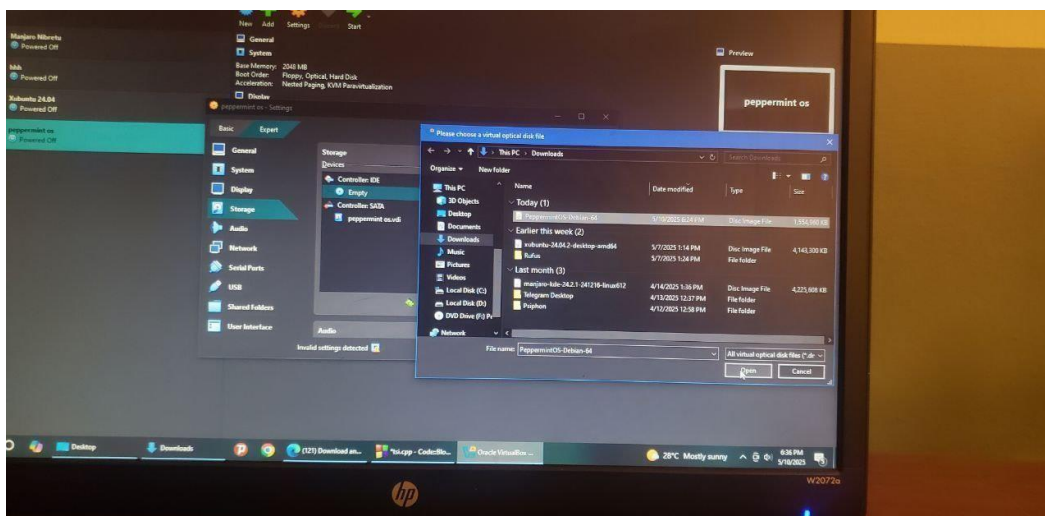
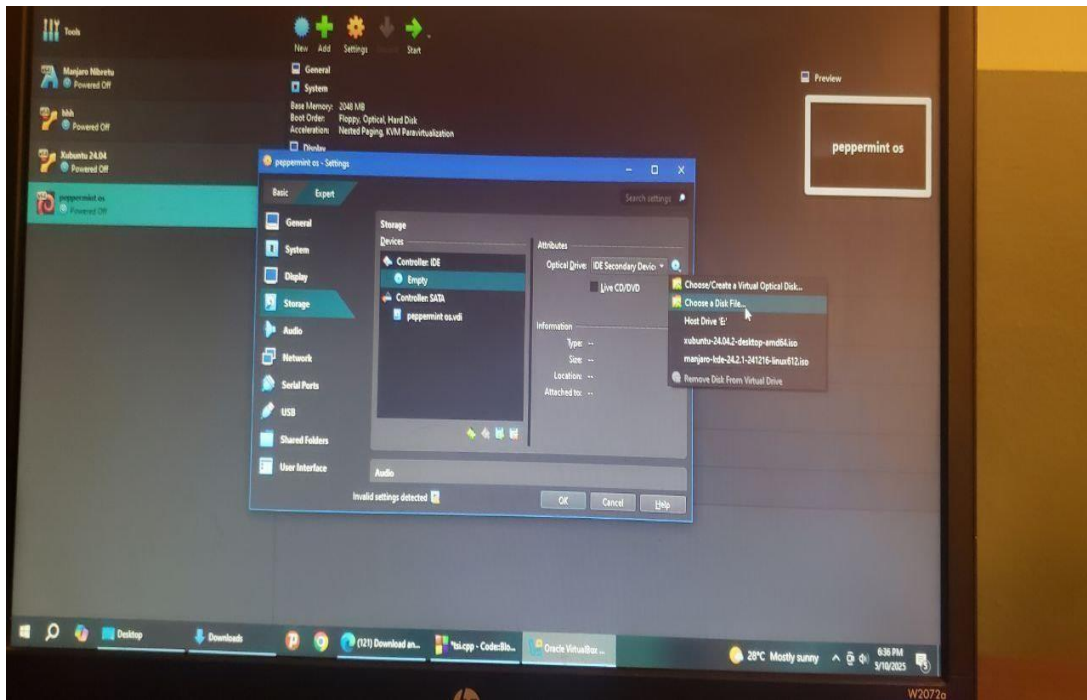


- Display setting

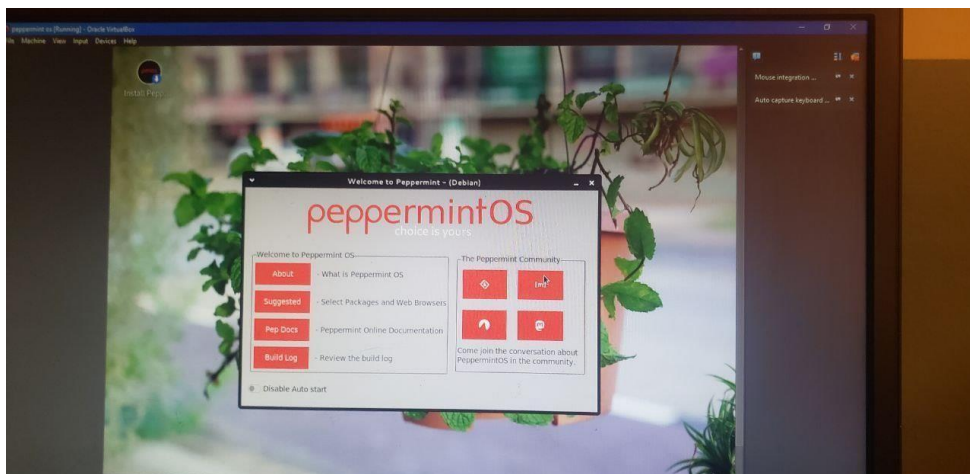
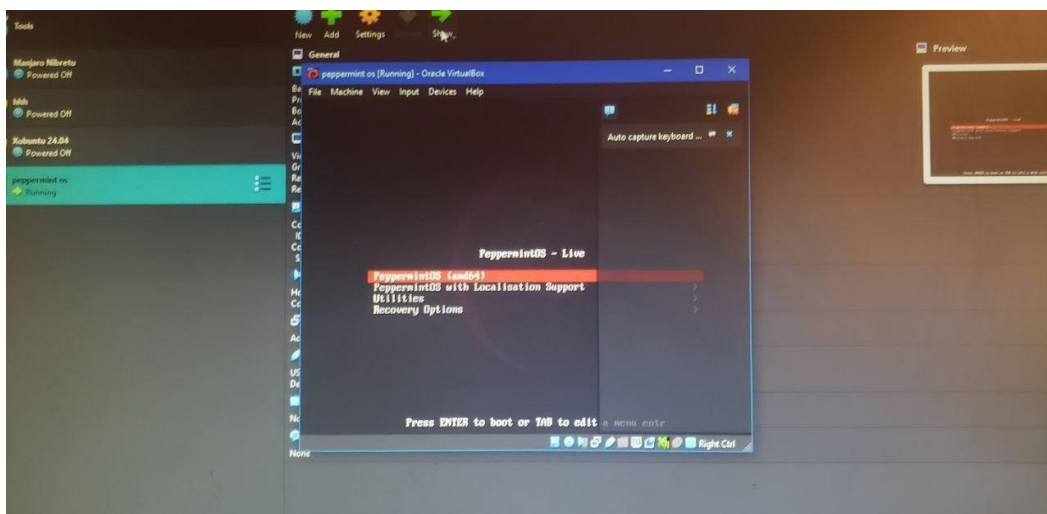
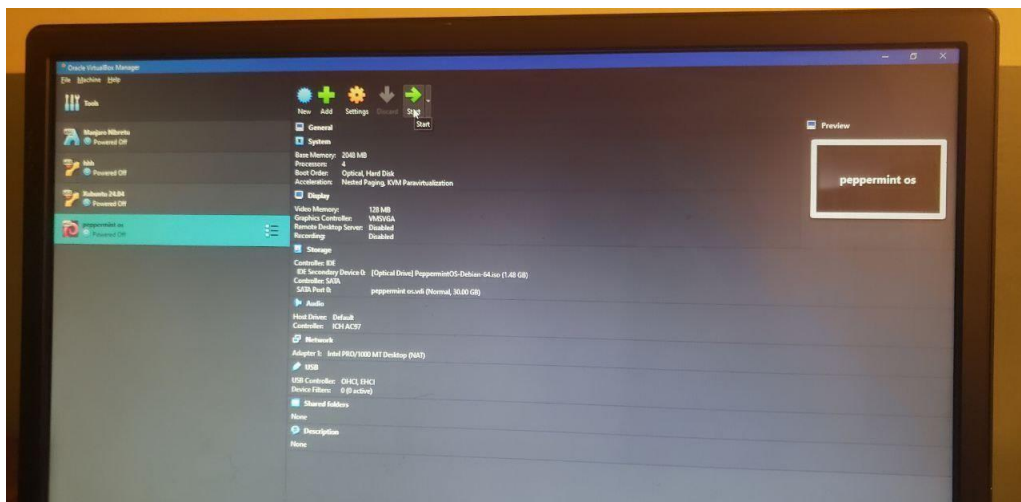


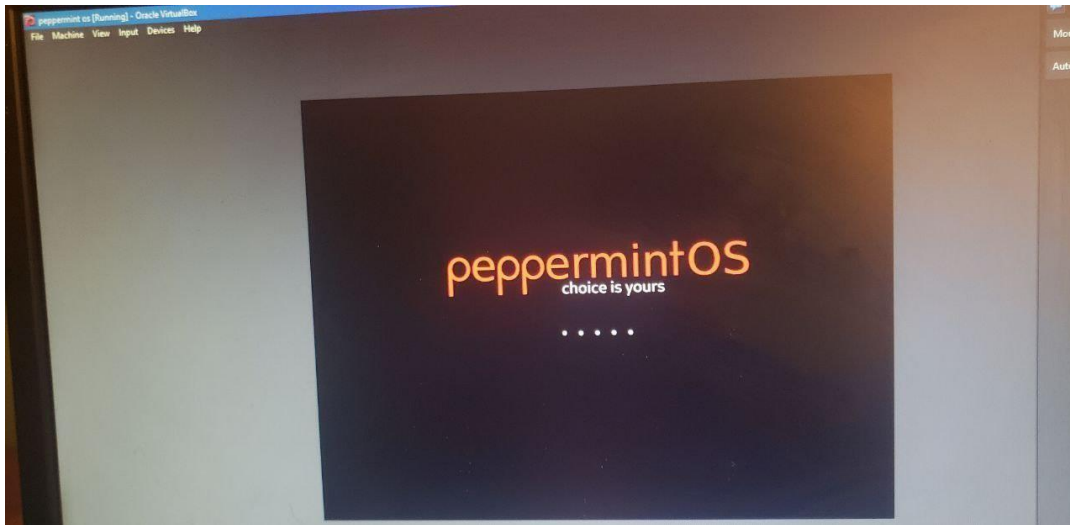
- Storage settings



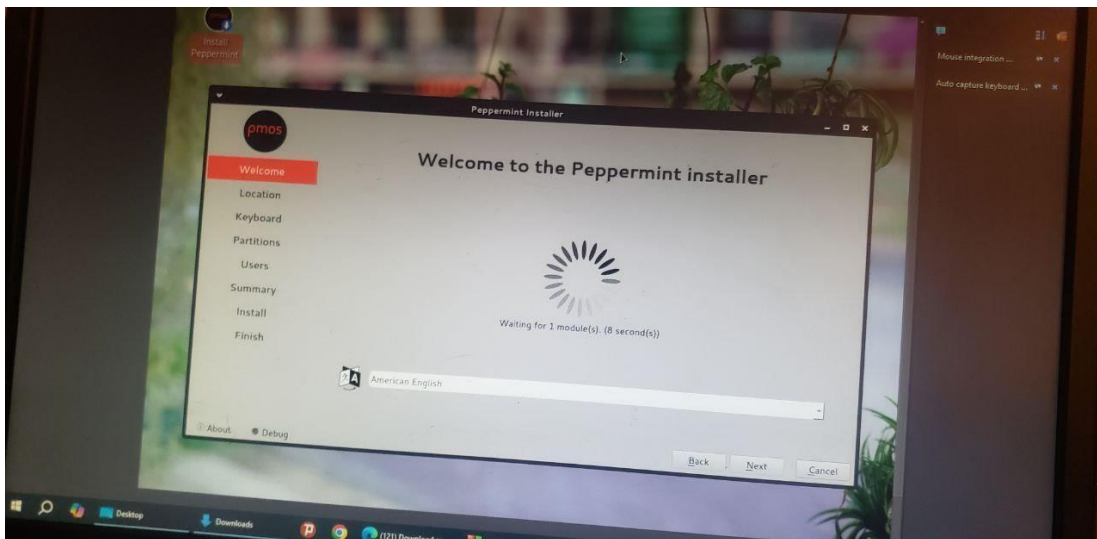


## 6. Start the virtual machine



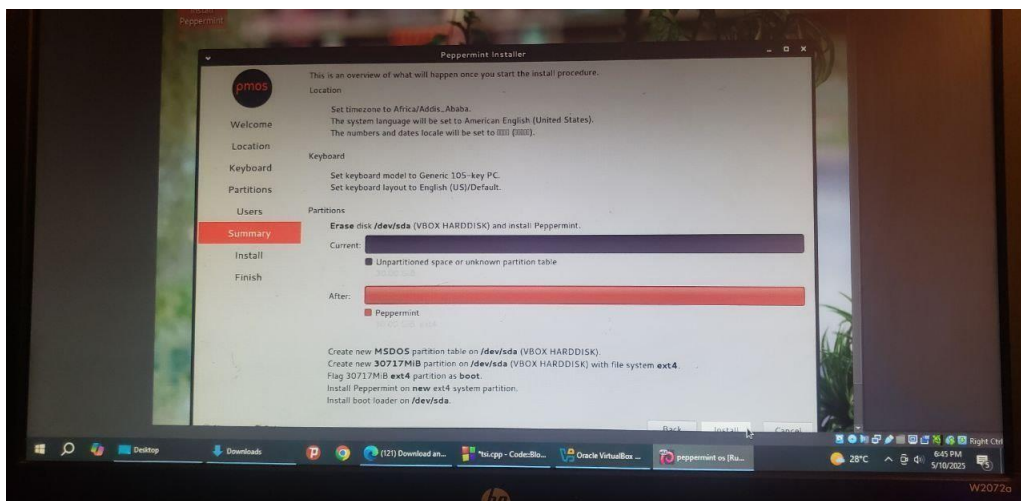
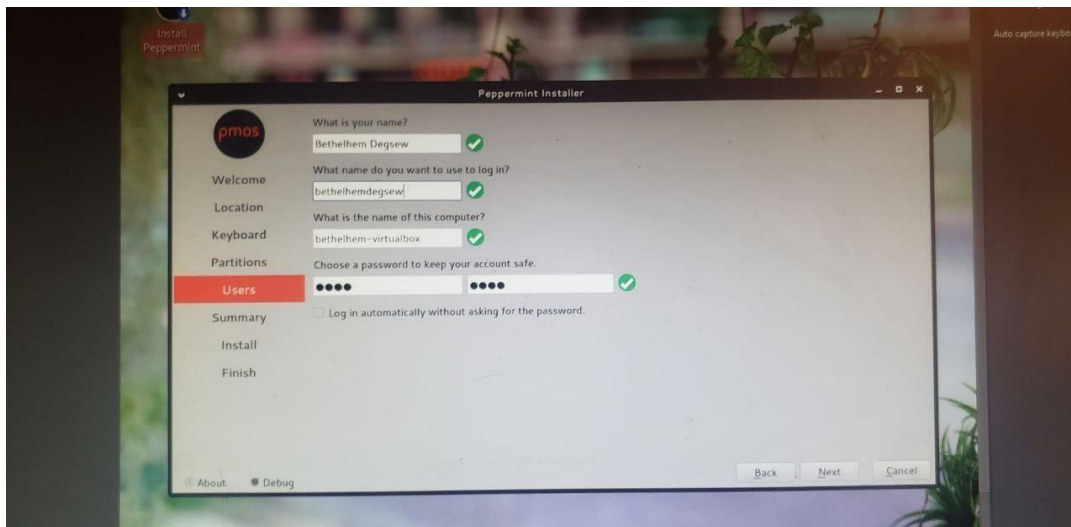
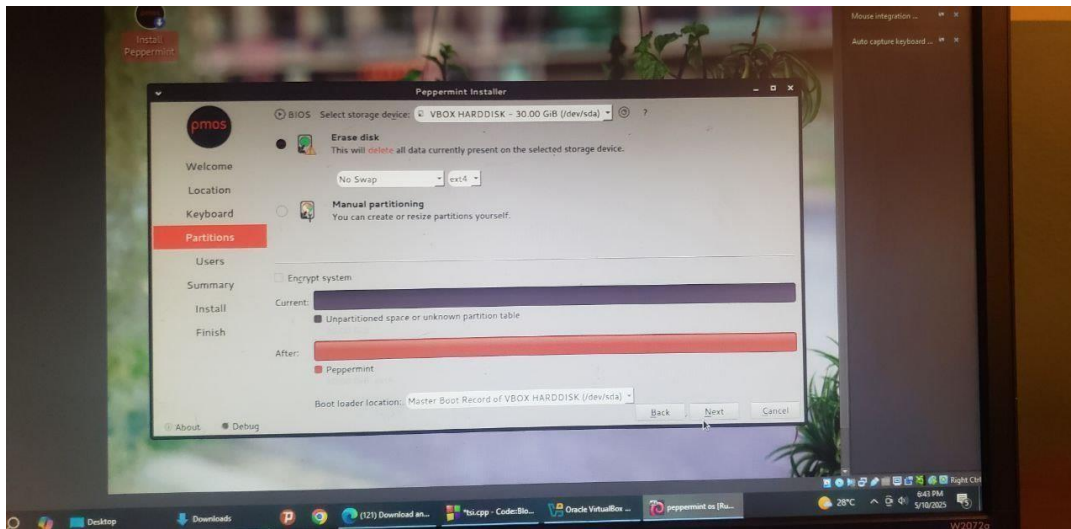


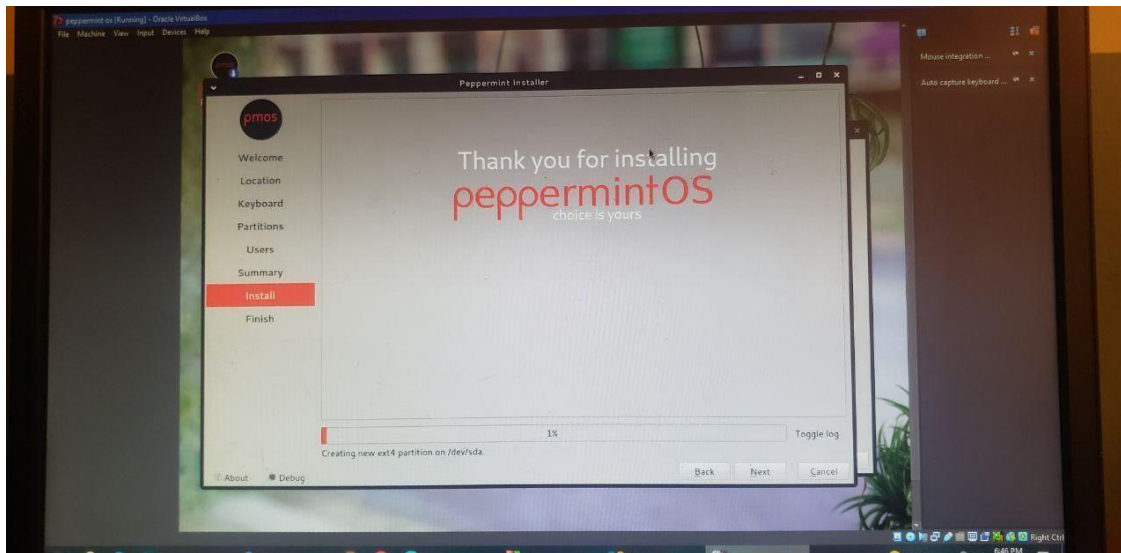
## 7. Install Peppermint OS











## Installation problems

Here is the problem I have faced during installation:

- **Bootloader Issues:** GRUB fails to install correctly, particularly in sUEFI systems.
- **Partitioning Error:** Incorrect partition setup or formatting issues can prevent the installer from proceeding.
- **Wi-Fi or Driver Compatibility:** Some hardware configurations may require additional drivers, which might not be detected during installation.
- **Installation Freezing:** The process could stop at specific percentages, often due to missing or corrupted packages,

## **Which file system support peppermint Os**

Peppermint OS primarily support ext4, Btrfs, and ZFS as their filesystems. However, it can also read and write to NTFS, FAT32, and exFAT with the appropriate driver. Let's see in brief:

- ext4: The default Linux filesystem, known for reliable, journaling, and good performance.
- Btrfs: Offer advanced features like snapshot, compressed, and error detector..
- ZFS: Provides excellent data integrity, redundancy, and scalability, but requires additional setup.
- NTFS: Supportes via drivers, allows read/write access to Windows partitions.
- FAT32 & exFAT: Uses for compatibility with external drives and USB devices.
- HFS+ & APFS: Primarily used by macOS, but Linux had limited support for HFS+ and experimental support for APFS.

## **Advantage and disadvantage of peppermint Os**

Peppermint OS is a lightweight Linux distribution based on Ubuntu, designed for ease of use and efficiency, particularly on older hardware. Here are some advantages and disadvantages of using Peppermint OS:

### **Advantages:**

1. *Lightweight and Fast:* Peppermint OS is designed to be lightweight, making it suitable for older computers or systems with limited resources. It generally offers good performance and quick boot times.
2. *User-Friendly Interface:* The operating system features a user-friendly interface that is easy to navigate, making it accessible for users who may be new to Linux.
3. *Cloud and Web App Integration:* Peppermint OS emphasizes the use of web applications alongside traditional desktop applications, allowing users to seamlessly integrate cloud services into their workflow.
4. *Customizable:* Being based on Ubuntu, Peppermint OS allows users to customize their environment with various themes, icons, and software packages.
5. *Active Community Support:* The Peppermint OS community is active, providing support through forums and documentation, which can be helpful for troubleshooting and learning.
6. *Debian-based:* Since it is based on Ubuntu (which in turn is based on Debian), users have access to a vast repository of software and updates.

**Disadvantages:**

- 1. Limited Software Availability:* While it has access to Ubuntu's repositories, some specialized software may not be readily available or may require additional configuration to install.
- 2. Less Known:* Compared to more popular distributions like Ubuntu or Fedora, Peppermint OS may not have as large a user base, which can sometimes lead to fewer resources or community support.
- 3. Focus on Web Apps:* The emphasis on web applications may not suit all users, particularly those who prefer traditional desktop applications for their workflow.
- 4. Hardware Compatibility Issues:* Although it is lightweight, some users may still encounter hardware compatibility issues, particularly with very new or very old hardware.
- 5. Frequent Updates:* While updates are beneficial for security and features, they can sometimes lead to instability if not managed properly.

## What is virtualization in modern operating system

Operating System-based Virtualization is also known as Containerization. It is a technology that allows multiple isolated user-space instances called containers to run on a single operating system (OS) kernel. Unlike traditional virtualization, where each virtual machine (VM) requires its own OS, OS-based virtualization allows the sharing of the same OS while providing separate environments for running applications.

### How OS-Based Virtualization Works

OS-Based Virtualization works as follows:

- The host OS kernel is shared among all containers, unlike full virtualization (e.g., VMs) where each VM has its own kernel.
- The kernel enforces isolation between containers using namespaces (for process, network, filesystem isolation) and cgroups (control groups) for resource allocation (CPU, memory, disk I/O, network).
- cgroups limit and prioritize resource usage (CPU, memory, disk, network) per container.
- The kernel ensures that a container cannot exceed its allocated resources (unless explicitly allowed).
- Namespaces prevent processes in one container from seeing or interfering with processes in another.
- Programs inside a container cannot access resources outside unless explicitly granted (e.g., mounted volumes, network ports).
- The overhead comes from kernel-level isolation mechanisms (namespaces, cgroups), but it's minimal compared to full virtualization.

### Operating System Based Services

Some major operating system based services are mentioned below:

- **Backup and Recovery:** Host operating systems can be utilized to back up and restore virtual machines. Backup software tools can be used to ensure data safety and system recovery.
- **Security Management:** Host operating systems help manage the security of virtual machines. This includes configuring firewalls, installing antivirus software and applying other essential security settings.
- **Integration with Directory Services:** Host operating systems can be integrated with directory services like Active Directory, enabling centralized management of users and groups.

### Operating System Based Operations

Various major operations of Operating System Based Virtualization are described below:

1. Hardware capabilities can be employed such as the network connection and CPU.
2. Connected peripherals with which Host OS can interact such as a webcam, printer, keyboard, or scanners.
3. Host OS can be used to read or write data in files, folders, and network shares.

In the image given below, we have the architecture of traditional virtualization using Virtual Machines (VMs). In this setup, each VM operates as an isolated environment, running its own guest operating system and application software. These VMs are independent of one another, meaning each one has its own operating system which results in higher resource consumption. The Virtual Machine Management layer is responsible for overseeing and managing the virtual machines, ensuring proper resource allocation (such as CPU, memory, and storage) and maintaining isolation between the VMs. The host operating system (OS) sits above the hardware and provides the environment in which the hypervisor operates. The hypervisor, in turn, manages the VMs and allocates resources from the physical hardware. Finally, the hardware (virtualization host) is the physical machine that provides the necessary resources to run the virtual machines and host the hypervisor, enabling multiple VMs to function simultaneously.



## Features of Operating System Based Virtualization

- **Resource isolation:** Operating system based virtualization provides a high level of resource isolation which allows each container to have its own set of resources, including CPU, memory, and I/O bandwidth.
- **Lightweight:** Containers are lighter compared to traditional virtual machines as they share the same host operating system. This results in faster startup and lower resource usage.
- **Portability:** Containers are highly portable. They can be easily moved from one environment to another without the need to modify the underlying application.
- **Scalability:** Containers can be easily scaled up or down based on the application requirements. This makes it easier for applications to be highly responsive to changes in demand.
- **Security:** Containers provide a high level of security by isolating the containerized application from the host operating system and other containers running on the same system.
- **Reduced Overhead:** Containers incur less overhead than traditional virtual machines as they do not need to emulate a full hardware environment.
- **Easy Management:** Containers are easy to manage as they can be started, stopped, and monitored using simple commands.

## Advantages of Operating System Based Virtualization

- **Resource Efficiency:** Operating system based virtualization allows for greater resource efficiency as containers do not need to emulate a complete hardware environment, which reduces resource overhead.
- **High Scalability:** Containers can be quickly and easily scaled up or down depending on the demand, which makes it easy to respond to changes in the workload.
- **Easy Management:** Containers are easy to manage as they can be managed through simple commands, which makes it easy to deploy and maintain large numbers of containers.
- **Reduced Costs:** Operating system based virtualization can significantly reduce costs, as it requires fewer resources and infrastructure than traditional virtual machines.
- **Faster Deployment:** Containers can be deployed quickly, reducing the time required to

launch new applications or update existing ones.

- **Portability:** Containers are highly portable, making it easy to move them from one environment to another without requiring changes to the underlying application.

#### **Disadvantages of Operating System Based Virtualization**

- **Security:** Operating system based virtualization may pose security risks as containers share the same host operating system, which means that a security breach in one container could potentially affect all other containers running on the same system.
- **Limited Isolation:** Containers may not provide complete isolation between applications, which can lead to performance degradation or resource contention.
- **Complexity:** Operating system based virtualization can be complex to set up and manage, requiring specialized skills and knowledge.
- **Dependency Issues:** Containers may have dependency issues with other containers or the host operating system, which can lead to compatibility issues and hinder deployment.
- **Limited Hardware Access:** Containers may have limited access to hardware resources which can limit their ability to perform certain tasks or applications that require direct hardware access.

## **Why we use virtualize operating system**

1. Operating System Virtualizations creates a virtual space for storing data while maintaining a connection with the server. This infrastructure not only saves time but also save cost for the user because it eradicates the requirement of having a physical structure which increases cost and time for storing data.
2. Since all the data are stored in the secure virtual form there is not much maintenance required for storing the data since the requirement of hardware is totally absent. All the data gets stored into virtual disks that get transmitted through the server to the client. This benefit saves a lot of time and space and moreover it saves the overall cost for the infrastructure.
3. Since OS Virtualization system is purely based on virtual machines, removing the requirement of physical hardware power consumption has been reduced drastically.

Moreover, the energy-saving gets maximized, less cooling is required for the system which ultimately saves cost and energy.

4. The presence of OS Virtualization has created an innovation in the cloud-computing industry and because of this, many small and big organizations made big enhancements.

The OS Virtualization makes use of the server hardware and allows the same to use it at full efficiency. This results in a high return rate of investment in operational goods.

5. Operating system virtualizations also offers quick deployment feature where data gets transmitted to the client at a faster rate. It is faster than the old traditional way of data transmission that supports old traditional deployment feature where every machine has to load data manually for transmission.
6. Operating system virtualizations hide the extra physical infrastructure from the clients that are not necessary, hides the extra resource and only presents the useful features that are beneficial for the clients maintaining the infrastructure and overall resources. The major resources and hardware resources are stored in containers for use that are based on different operating systems.
7. The presence of containers in operating system virtualization also provides security to data. Since the virtual resources and other computing programs are stored in different containers and each and every container contains a different set of applications, security was a major concern. However, OS virtualization overcomes this security concern by separating applications to containers.
8. OS virtualization also protects data from unauthorized users because it uses a virtual hosting environment that is efficiently used for allocating hardware resources and maintains security of data from inaccessible users that was a major concern in an old traditional cloud-computing model in regards to security.

## **Future outlook (recommendation)**

As Peppermint OS continue to evolve, several keys areas can be focuses on to enhance its appeal and usability in the competitive landscapes of Linux distributions. Here are some recommendations for future outlook of Peppermint OS:

### **1. Enhances Software Repository and Compatibility**

- *Broaden Software Accesses:* for attract a wide user base, Peppermint OS should work on expanding its software repository. This could include collaboration with developer to ensure that popular applications is easily accessible and compatible with the distribution.

- *Flat pak and Snap Integration:* Emphasized support for Flatpak and Snap packages could help user access a broader range for applications while maintaining system stability. This approach allows users to installed software without dependency issues, which is especially beneficial for those transitioning from other operating systems.

### **2. Improved Users Documentation and Support**

- *Comprehensive Guides:* Develops extensive documentations, tutorials, and user guides could significantly enhance the onboarding experience for new users. This should include step-by-step instruction for common tasks for troubleshooting tips.

- *Community Engagement:* Encouraging community involvements forums, social media, and dedicated support channel can created a more vibrant ecosystem. A strong community can provide peer support and foster a sense of belonging among users.

### **3. Regular Updates and Features Enhancement**

- *Frequent Releases:* Maintained a regular release schedules for updated, including security patches and new features, will keep the operating system current and secure.

This is crucial for retaining user trust and satisfaction.

- **Feature Requests from Users:** Actively soliciting feedbacks from the users community regarding desired features can help prioritize development efforts. Implemented popular requests can enhance user satisfaction and engagement.

#### **4. Focus on Users Experienced (UX)**

- *Interface Improvements:* Continuously refining the users interface based on user feedback could improves usability. This includes optimizing the desktops environments for better performance and aesthetics.

- *Accessibility Features:* Incorporating more accessibility options would make Peppermint OS inclusive for users with disabilities, broadening its appeals.

#### **5. Strengthen Clouds Integration**

- *Seamless Cloud Serviced:* As cloud computing becomes increasingly prevalent, enhancing the integration of cloud services with Peppermint OS can offer user a more cohesive experience. This may involve partnerships with popular cloud application providers to streamline access.

- *Offline Capabilities:* While focusing on cloud applications, it's essentials to maintained robust offlines capabilities for users who may not always has reliable internet access.

## 6. Targeted Markets and Outreach

- *Promote Use Cases:* Highlighting specific use cases for Peppermint OS—such as its suitability for educational institution, small businesses, or older hardware—can attracts niche markets.
- *Collaborations with Hardware Vendors:* Partners with hardware manufacturers to promote Peppermint OS as a pre-installed options on laptops or desktops can increase visibility and user adoption.

## 7. Emphasizing Security and Privacy

- *Security Features:* As concerns about data privacy and security continue to grow, emphasizing built- in security features will appeal to privacy-conscious user. Regularly security audits and transparent practices will further builds trust.
- *User Educated:* Providing resources that educate users about best practices for security and privacy on Linux can empowers them to protect their data effectively.

## Conclusion

Peppermint OS comes from as a compelling choice on the diverse landscapes of Linux distributions, particularly on users seeking a simple and efficient operating system. Built on the robust foundation of Ubuntu, it combine the stability and reliability of its parent distribution with a unique focus on integrates cloud-based application alongside traditional desktop software. This hybrid approach cater to the evolves needs of modern users, many of whom rely heavily on web applications for their daily tasks.

One of the most important advantages of Peppermint OS is its simplicity nature. Designed to perform well on older or less powerful hardwares, it provides a seamless user experience without demanding excessive system resource. This makes it an good option for individuals looking to breathe new life into aging computers, enabling them to run smoothly without the sluggishness often associated with heavier operating systems. Users can expect quick boot times and responsive performance, which enhances productivity and overall satisfaction.

The user interface of Peppermint OS has another strong point. It features a clean and intuitive design that simplifies navigation, making it accessible even for those who may be new to Linux. The aesthetic appeal and usability of the desktop environment contribute to a welcoming experience, allowing users to feel comfortable as they explore the capability of their new operating system.

Customization options further enhance this experience, enabling users to tailor their environments to suit their preferences.

Peppermint OS's integration of cloud services is particularly noteworthy in today's digital landscape. By facilitating easy access to web applications, it allows users for leverage the power of cloud computing while maintaining a traditional desktop experience. This flexibility is advantageous for individuals and organizations that utilize web-based tools for collaboration, document editing, and other tasks.

However, this focus on web apps may not resonate with all users, especially those who prefer fully offline solutions or specific desktop applications that may not be available in the Peppermint ecosystem.



Despite its many strengths, Peppermint OS does have some limitations that potential users should consider. The availability of software can sometimes be a concern, as certain specialized applications may require additional effort to install or configure. While it benefits from access to Ubuntu's extensive repositories, users accustomed to specific software environments may find themselves needing to adapt or seek alternatives. Furthermore, while the community around Peppermint OS is active and supportive, it may not be as large as those surrounding more mainstream distributions like Ubuntu or Fedora. This could result in fewer readily available resources for troubleshooting or guidance.

Moreover, while Peppermint OS is designed to be user-friendly, newcomer migrations from different operating systems may still encounter a learning curve. Familiarity with Linux concepts and terminal commands can enhance the overall experience, but users who are entirely new to the ecosystem might face challenges as they acclimate to the differences from Windows or macOS.

In summary, Peppermint OS offers an attractive solution for users seeking a lightweight, efficient, and user-friendly Linux distribution. Its focus on integrating cloud applications alongside traditional software makes it particularly relevant in today's increasingly digital world.

## Resource

- <https://peppermintos.com>
- <https://disrowatch.com>
- <https://sourceforge.net>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org>
- <https://www.techtarget.com>
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