OS Virtualization

With the help of OS virtualization nothing is pre-installed or permanently loaded on the local device and no-hard disk is needed. Everything runs from the network using a kind of virtual disk. This virtual disk is actually a disk image file stored on a remote server, SAN (Storage Area Network) or NAS (Non-volatile Attached Storage). The client will be connected by the network to this virtual disk and will boot with the Operating System installed on the virtual disk.

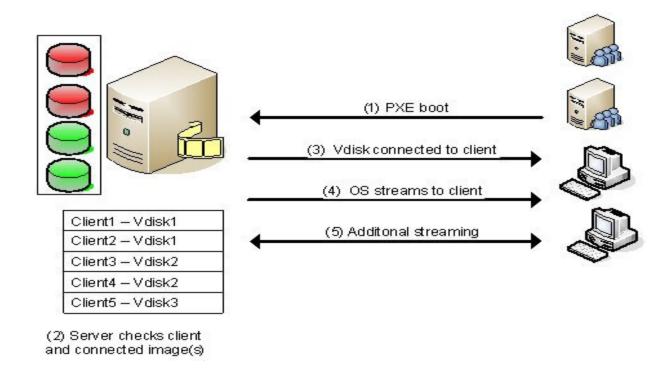
How does OS Virtualization work?

Components needed for using OS Virtualization in the infrastructure are given below:

- The first component is the OS Virtualization server. This server is the center point in the OS Virtualization infrastructure. The server manages the streaming of the information on the virtual disks for the client and also determines which client will be connected to which virtual disk (using a database, this information is stored). Also, the server can host the storage for the virtual disk locally or the server is connected to the virtual disks via a SAN (Storage Area Network). In high availability environments there can be more OS Virtualization servers to create no redundancy and load balancing. The server also ensures that the client will be unique within the infrastructure.
- Secondly, there is a client which will contact the server to get connected to the virtual disk and asks for components stored on the virtual disk for running the operating system.

The available supporting components are database for storing the configuration and settings for the server, a streaming service for the virtual disk content, a (optional) TFTP service and a (also optional) PXE boot service for connecting the client to the OS Virtualization servers.

As it is already mentioned that the virtual disk contains an image of a physical disk from the system that will reflect to the configuration and the settings of those systems which will be using the virtual disk. When the virtual disk is created then that disk needs to be assigned to the client that will be using this disk for starting. The connection between the client and the disk is made through the administrative tool and saved within the database. When a client has a assigned disk, the machine can be started with the virtual disk using the following process as displayed in the given below figure:



1) Connecting to the OS Virtualization server:

First we start the machine and set up the connection with the OS Virtualization server. Most of the products offer several possible methods to connect with the server. One of the most popular and used methods is using a PXE service, but also a boot strap is used a lot (because of the disadvantages of the PXE service). Although each method initializes the network interface card (NIC), receiving a (DHCP-based) IP address and a connection to the server.

2) Connecting the Virtual Disk:

When the connection is established between the client and the server, the server will look into its database for checking the client is known or unknown and which virtual disk is assigned to the client. When more than one virtual disk are connected then a boot menu will be displayed on the client side. If only one disk is assigned, that disk will be connected to the client which is mentioned in step number 3.

3) VDisk connected to the client:

After the desired virtual disk is selected by the client, that virtual disk is connected through the OS Virtualization server. At the back-end, the OS Virtualization server makes sure that the client will be unique (for example computer name and identifier) within the infrastructure.

4) OS is "streamed" to the client:

As soon the disk is connected the server starts streaming the content of the virtual disk. The software knows which parts are necessary for starting the operating system smoothly, so that these parts are

streamed first. The information streamed in the system should be stored somewhere (i.e. cached). Most products offer several ways to cache that information. For examples on the client hard disk or on the disk of the OS Virtualization server.

5) Additional Streaming:

After that the first part is streamed then the operating system will start to run as expected. Additional virtual disk data will be streamed when required for running or starting a function called by the user (for example starting an application available within the virtual disk).

Linux OS Virtualization

Vmware workstation software is used to do the virtualization of Operating System. For installing any Operating System virtually, you need to install VMware software. We are using VMware workstation 10.

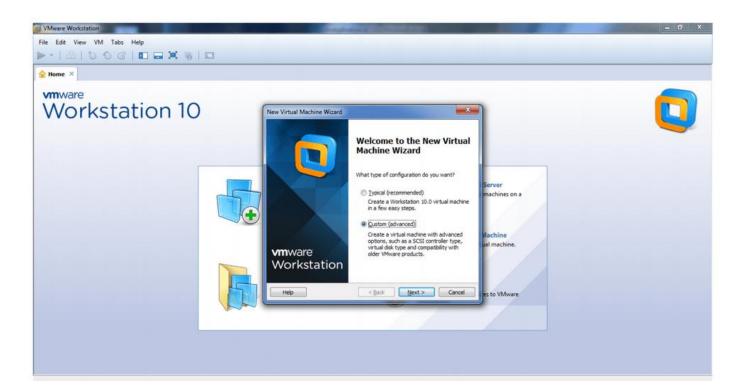
Before installing linux OS, you need to have iso image file of linux OS. Let's see the steps to install the linux os virtually.

How to create new virtual machine for linux OS?

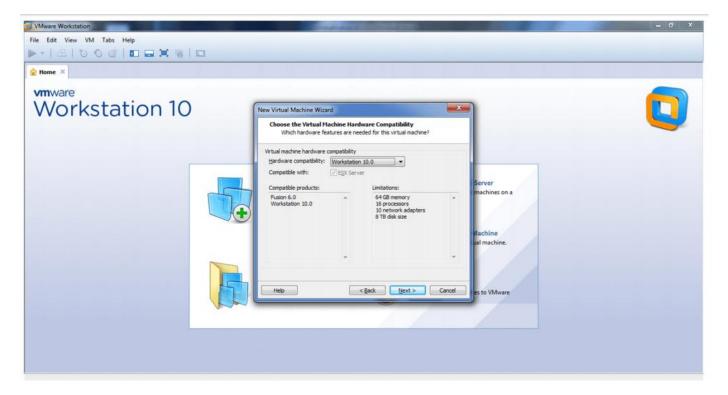
1) Click on create new virtual machine.



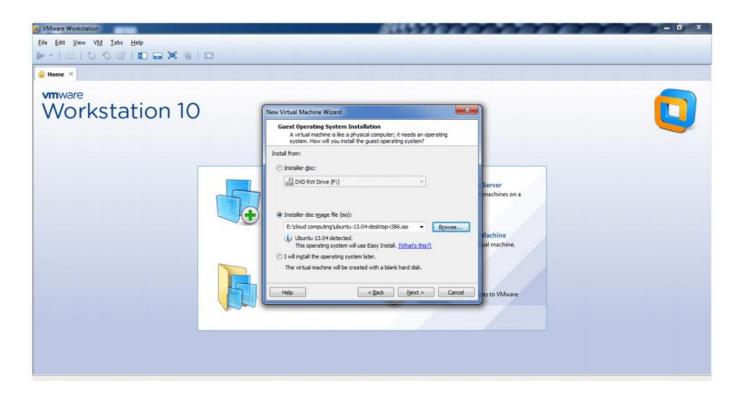
2) In welcome window, choose custom option and click next button.



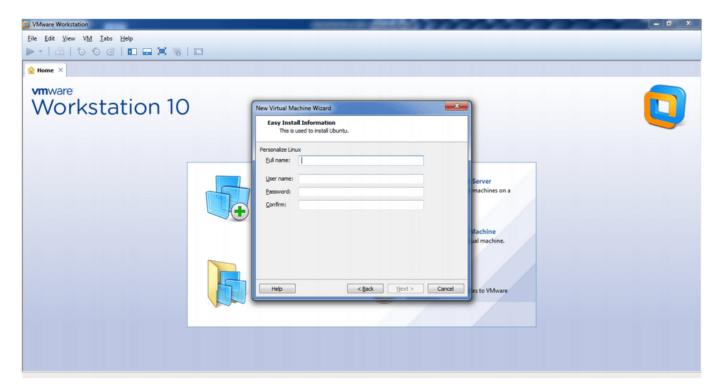
3) In choose the virtual machine hardware compatibility window, click on next button.



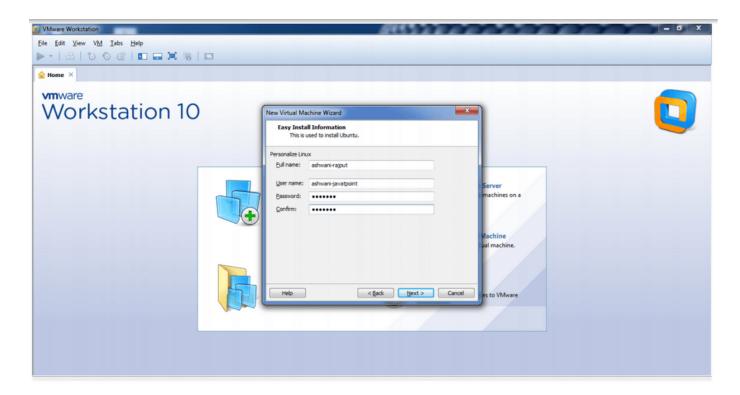
4) In the Guest operating system window, choose iso image file from the disk or any drive. I have put the iso file of ubuntu in e: drive. So browse your iso image and click on next button.



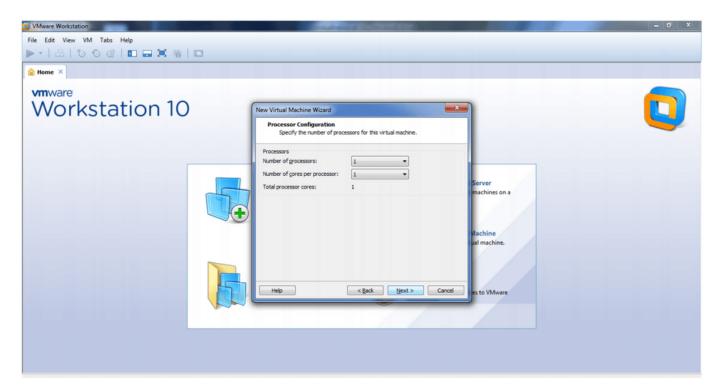
5) In the easy install information window, provide full name, username, password and confirm password then click on next button.



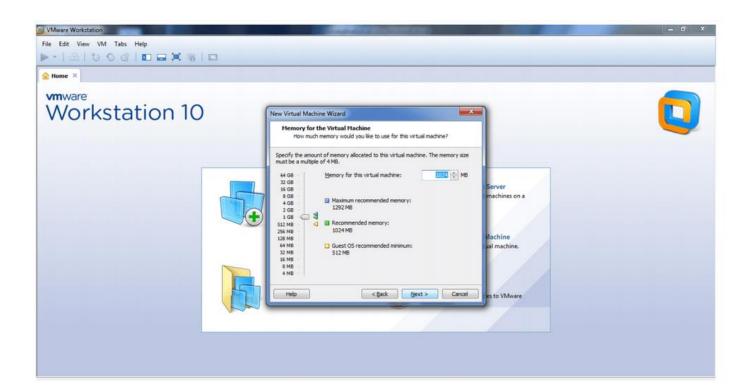
You can see the given information.



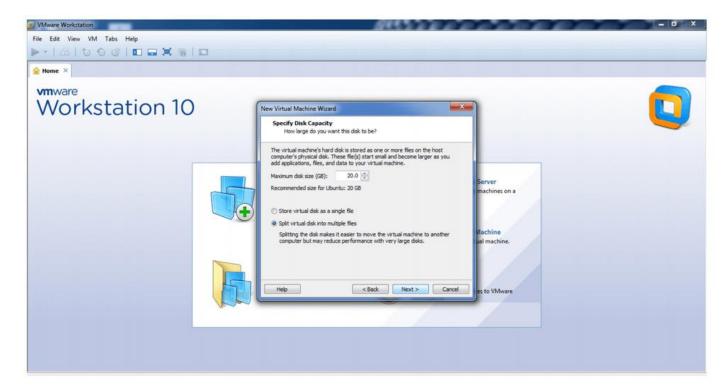
6) In the processor configuration information, you can select number of processors, number of processor per core. If you don't want to change the default settings, click on next only.



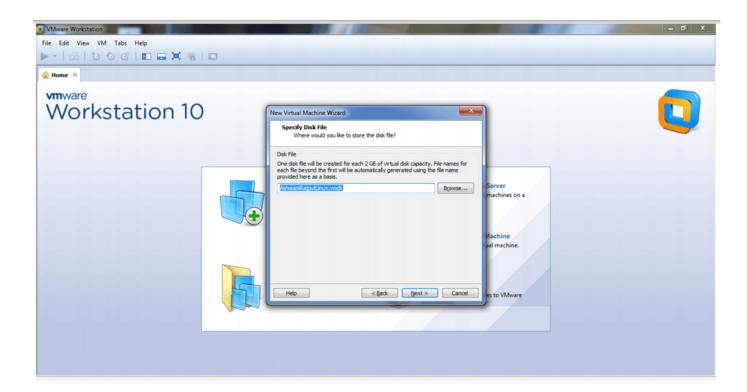
7) In the memory of the virtual machine window, you can set the memory limit. Click on the next button.



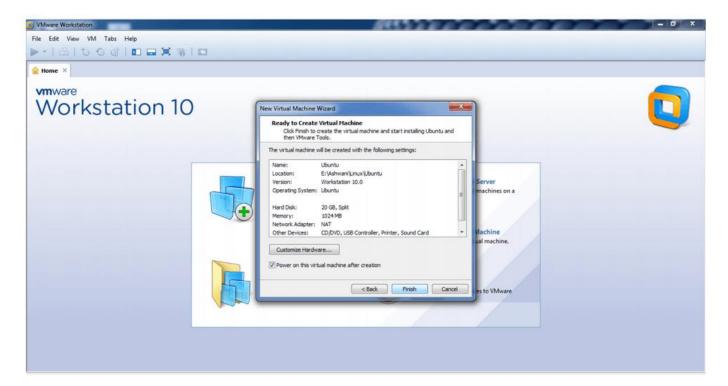
8) In the specify disk capacity window, you can set the disk size. Click on the next button.



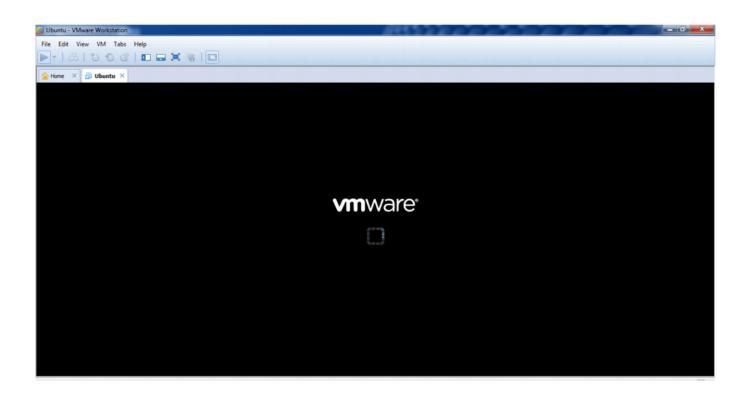
9) In the specify disk file window, you can specify the disk file then click on the next button.

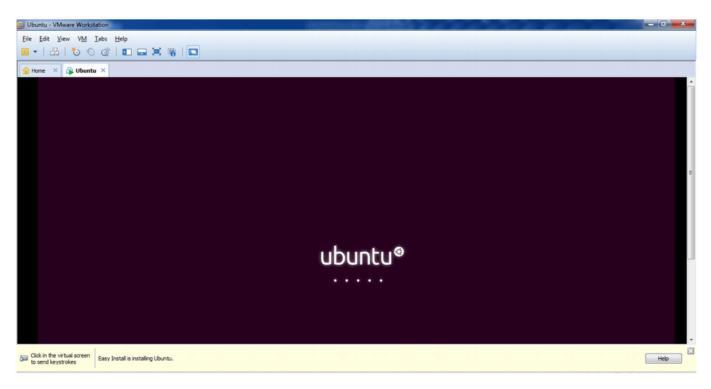


10) In the ready to create virtual machine window, click on the finish button.



11) Now you will see vmware screen then ubuntu screen.





Windows OS Virtualization.

To install windows OS virtually, you need to install VMware first. After installing virtualization software, you will get a window to install the new operating system.

Let's see the steps to install the windows OS on VMware workstation.



