Puppet Master and Puppet Agent Installation and Configuration Guide

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Introduction

- Puppet is a configuration management tool that allows system administrators to automate the provisioning, configuration, and management of infrastructure. Puppet uses a client-server model where the Puppet Master server controls the configuration of Puppet Agent nodes.
- This guide provides a detailed step-by-step approach to installing and configuring Puppet Master and Puppet Agent in a lab environment. It assumes no prior knowledge of Puppet or infrastructure automation.

Problem Statement

Puppet simplifies system management by enabling centralized configuration control across multiple systems. The objective is to set up a Puppet Master to manage configurations and a Puppet Agent to receive and apply those configurations.

Prerequisites

Software Requirements

- **Operating System:** Ubuntu Trusty Tahr 14.04 (ISO: Download Here)
- **Virtual Machine Manager:** Oracle VirtualBox

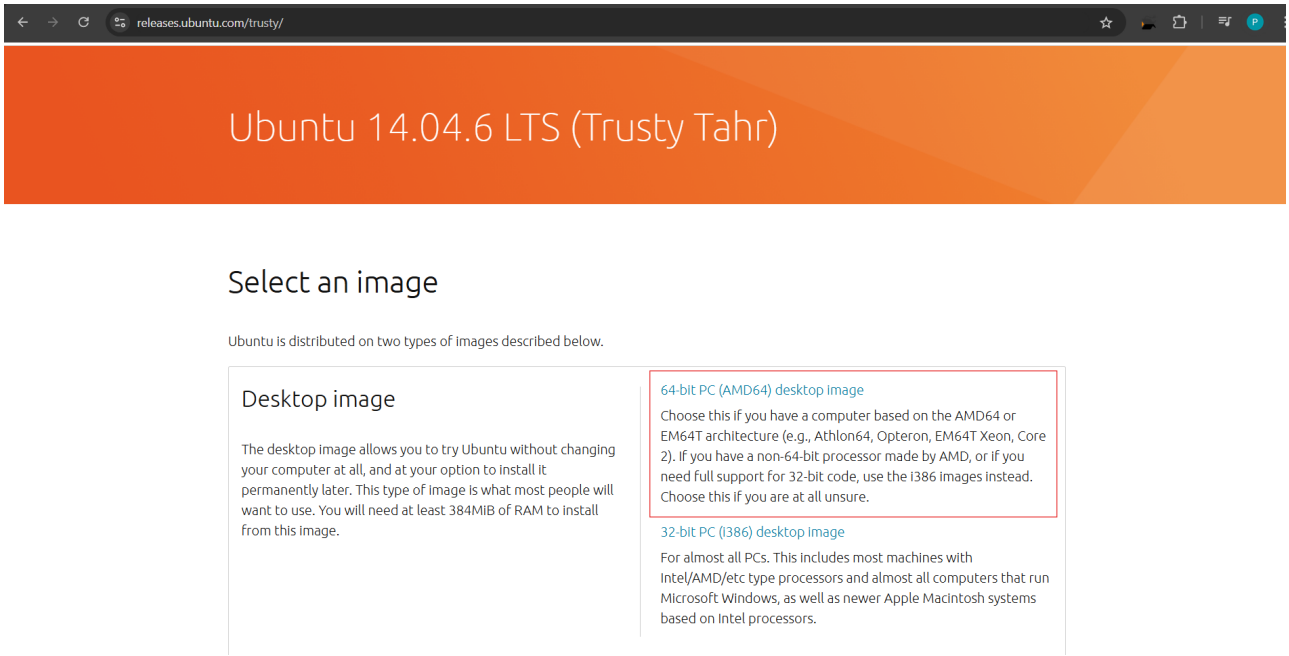
Hardware Requirements

- **Processor:** 64-bit architecture.
- **RAM:** Minimum 4 GB.
- **Disk Space:** Minimum 50 GB.
- **Internet Connection:** Required for package installation and updates.

Implementation Steps

Step 1: Download and Install Required Tools

1. **Download Ubuntu ISO**:
    - URL: Ubuntu 14.04 ISO download the desktop version.



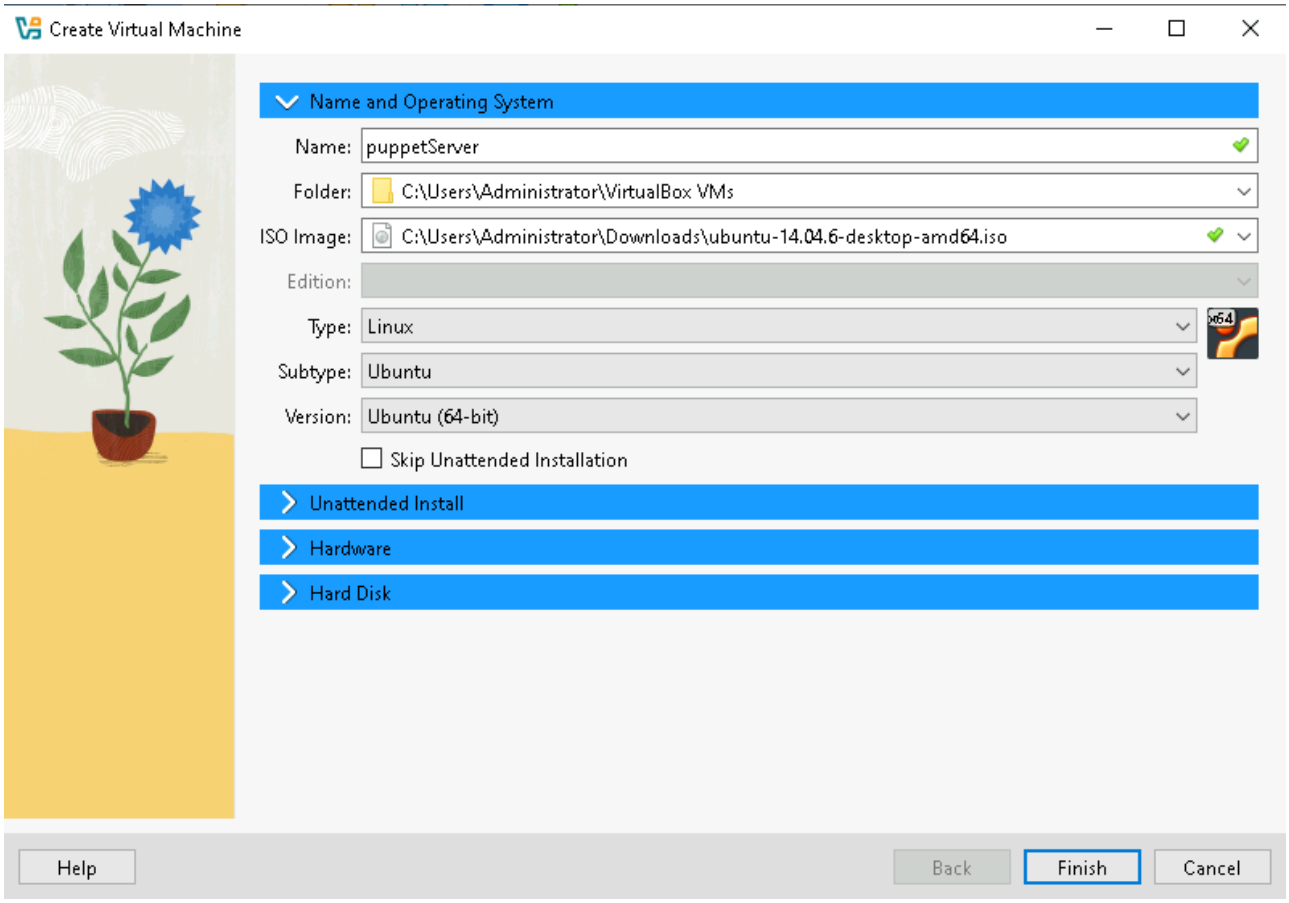
> *Purpose:* The ISO is used to install the operating system for both the Puppet Master and Puppet Agent.

2. **Install VirtualBox**:
    - Download from VirtualBox Official Site.
    - Follow the installation instructions for your host operating system.

> *Purpose:* VirtualBox provides an isolated environment to create virtual machines.

Step 2: Set Up Virtual Machines

1. **Create Virtual Machines in VirtualBox**:
    - Open VirtualBox and click **New** to create two VMs:
        - **VM1:** Name it `puppetServer` (Master).
        - **VM2:** Name it `puppetClient` (Agent).



- Assign 2 GB RAM, 20 GB disk space, and attach the Ubuntu ISO file for installation.

> *Purpose:* One VM will serve as the Puppet Master and the other as the Puppet Agent.

2. **Install Ubuntu on Each VM**:

    2. **Install Ubuntu on Each VM**:

        - Boot the VM with the ISO and follow the guided Ubuntu installation.
        - For detailed installation instructions, refer to the Ubuntu Installation Guide.
        - Set hostnames during setup:
            - VM1: `puppetServer`
            - VM2: `puppetClient`

Step 3: Configure Networking

1. **Set Network Mode to Bridged Adapter**:

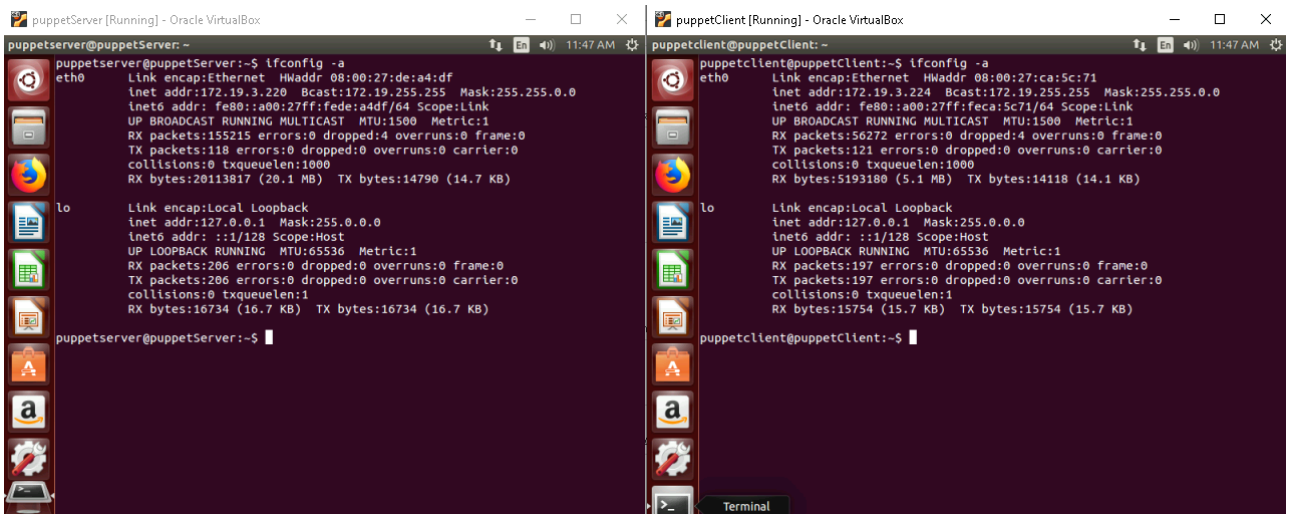
    - In VirtualBox, go to **Settings > Network** for both VMs.
    - Change the adapter type to **Bridged Adapter**.
    - Start both VMs.

> *Purpose:* Ensures both VMs are on the same network and can communicate with each other.

2. **Verify Network Configuration**:

- Open a terminal in each VM and run:

```
ifconfig -a
```



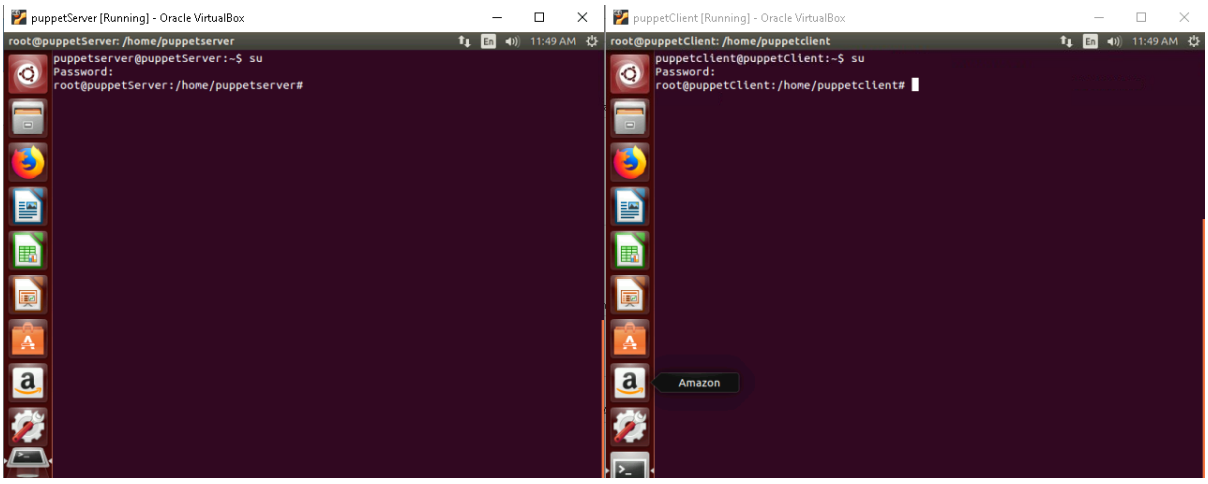
> Note down the IP addresses of both machines.

Step 4: Prepare the Machines

1. **Switch to Root User**:

   - Gain superuser access by running the following command on both VMs:

```
su
```

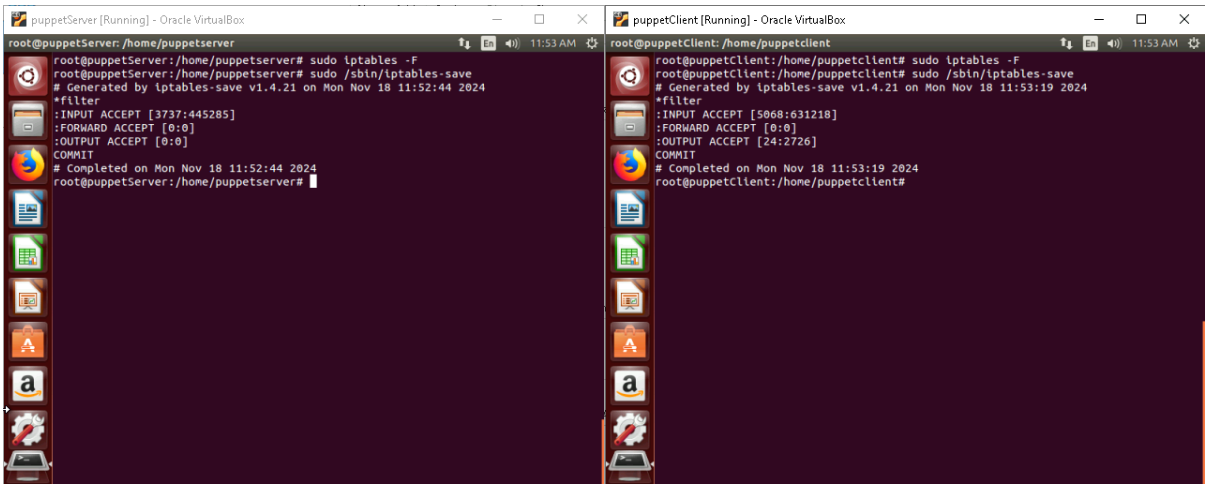


> *Purpose:* Most of the configuration commands require root privileges.

2. **Disable Firewalls**:

   - Run the following commands on both VMs:

```
sudo iptables -F
sudo /sbin/iptables-save
```



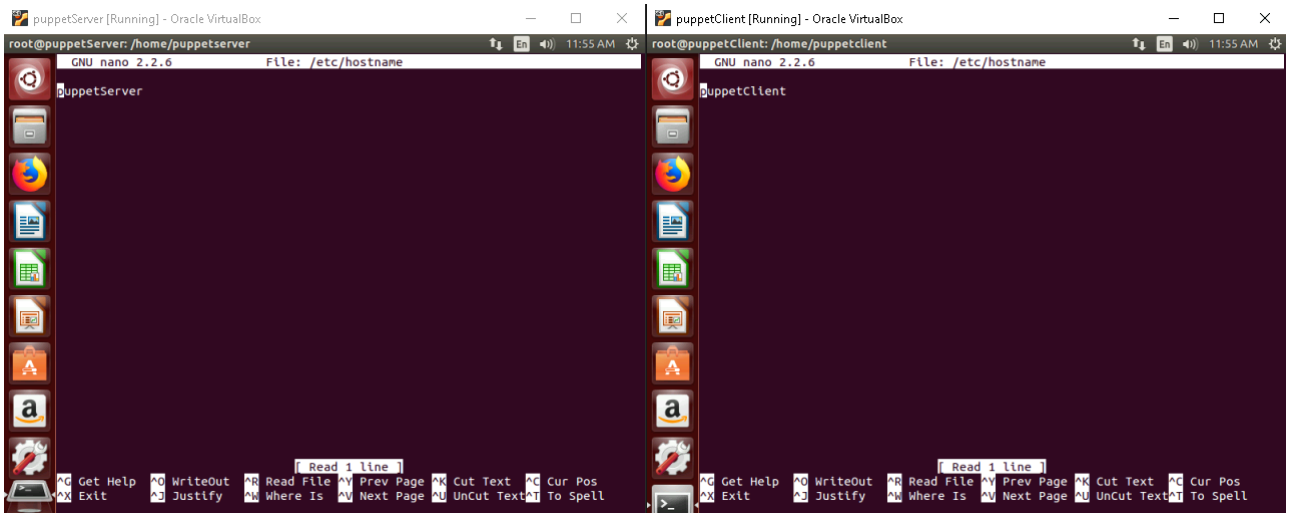
> *Explanation:* Firewalls might block communication between the Puppet Master and Agent, so we disable them temporarily.

3. **Update Hostnames and Hosts File**:

   - Edit the `/etc/hostname` file on each VM to set the hostname using editor of choice (e.g., `nano`):

     ```
     sudo nano /etc/hostname
     ```

   - Set the hostname to `puppetServer` for the Master and `puppetClient` for the Agent.



   - Edit the `/etc/hosts` file to add IP mappings for the hostnames on both VMs using editor of choice (e.g., `nano`):

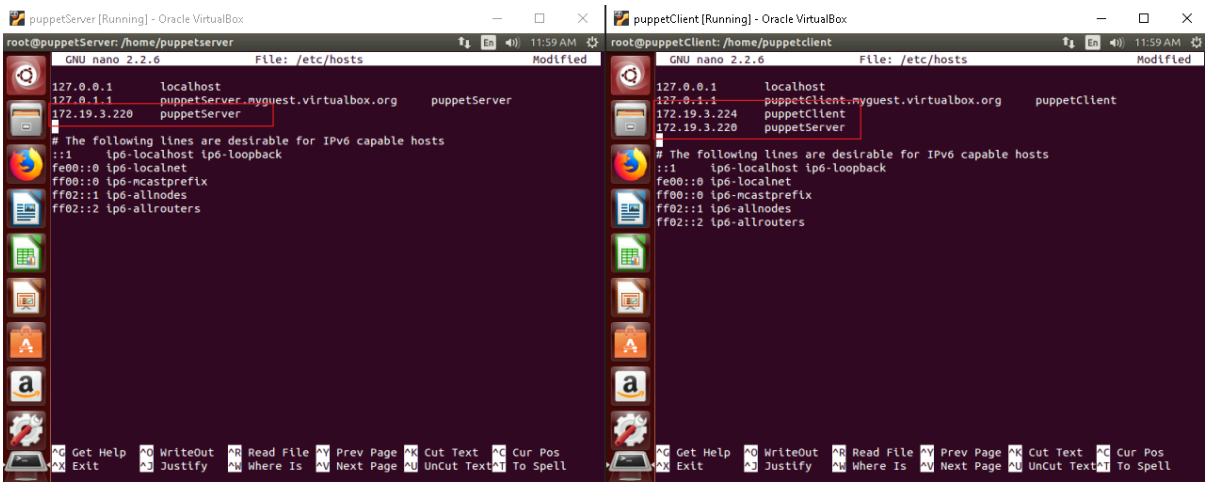
     ```
     sudo nano /etc/hosts
     ```

Add the following lines (replace `<IP-ADDRESS>` with the actual IPs) on puppetClient:

```
<IP-ADDRESS>  puppetServer
<IP-ADDRESS>  puppetClient
```

Add the following lines (replace `<IP-ADDRESS>` with the actual IPs) on puppetServer:

```
<IP-ADDRESS>  puppetServer
```



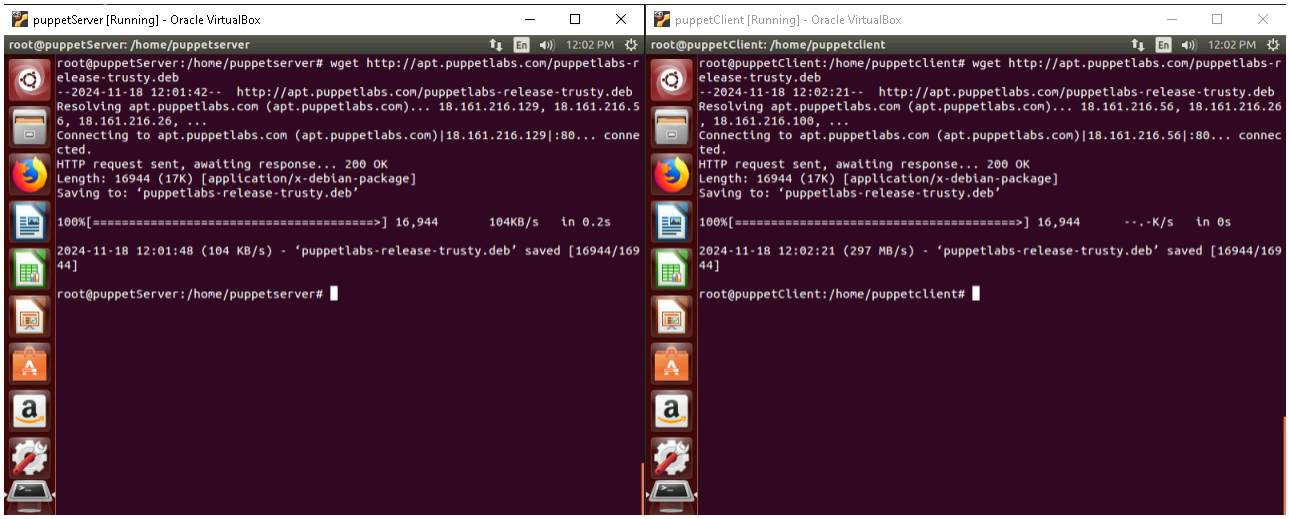
> *Purpose:* The hosts file ensures that both machines can resolve each other's hostnames to IP addresses.

Step 5: Install and Configure Puppet Packages

1. **Add Puppet Repository**:

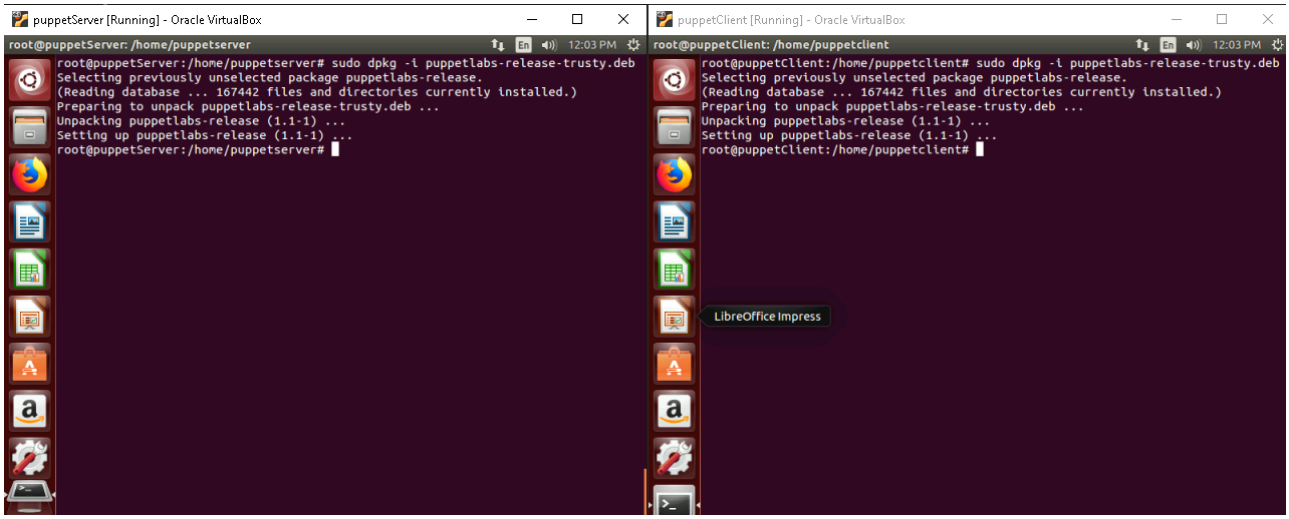
   Add the Puppet package repository for Ubuntu by running the following commands on both VMs:

   ```
   wget http://apt.puppetlabs.com/puppetlabs-release-trusty.deb
   ```



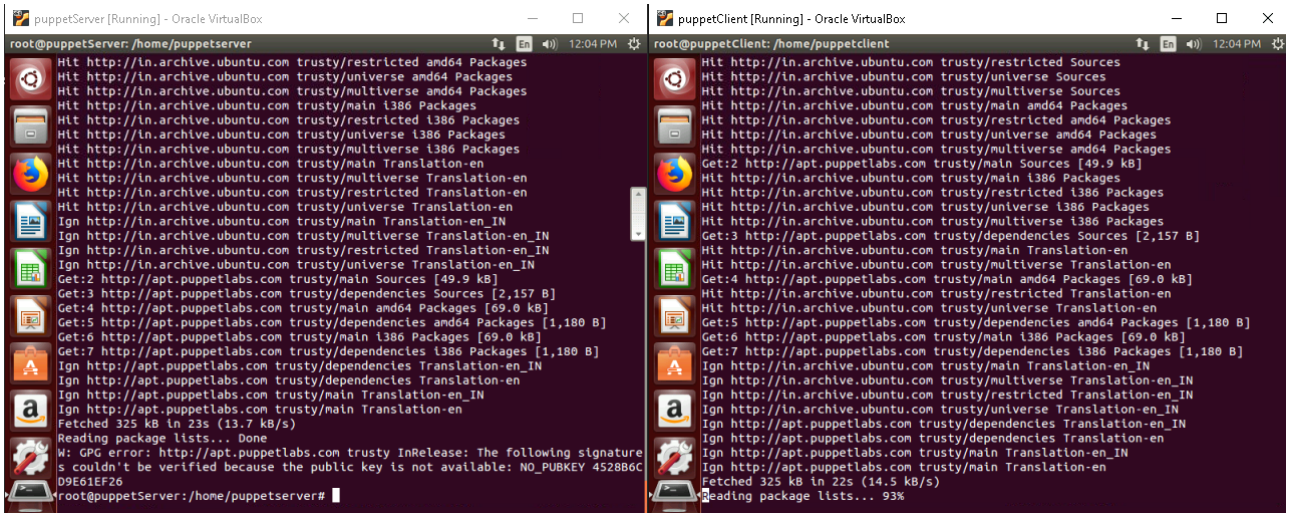
Install the repository package using dpkg:

```
sudo dpkg -i puppetlabs-release-trusty.deb
```



Update the package list:

```
sudo apt-get update
```



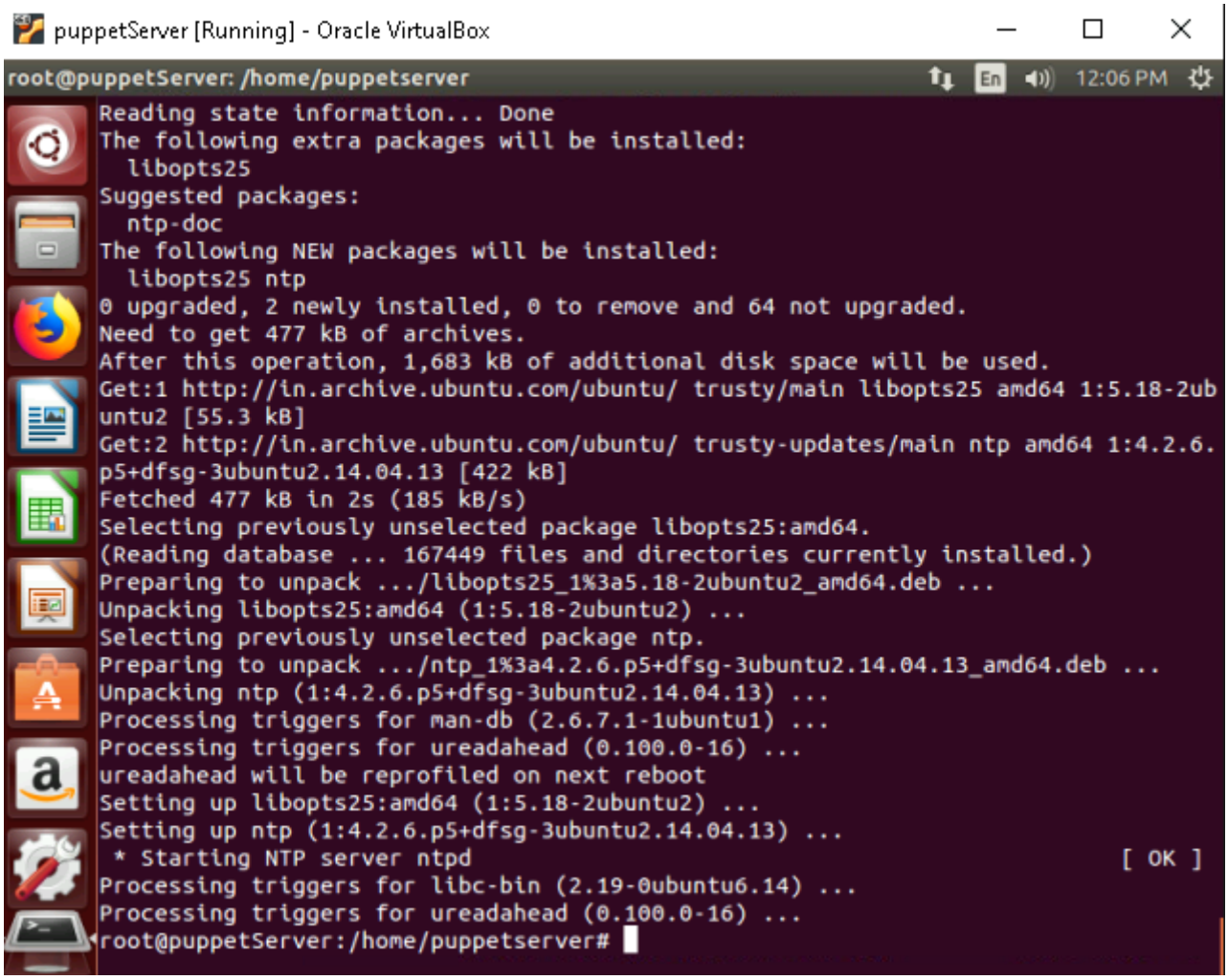
> *Purpose:* Adds the Puppet package repository for Ubuntu.

Step 6: Install and Configure Puppet Master

1. **Start NTP on Puppet Master**:

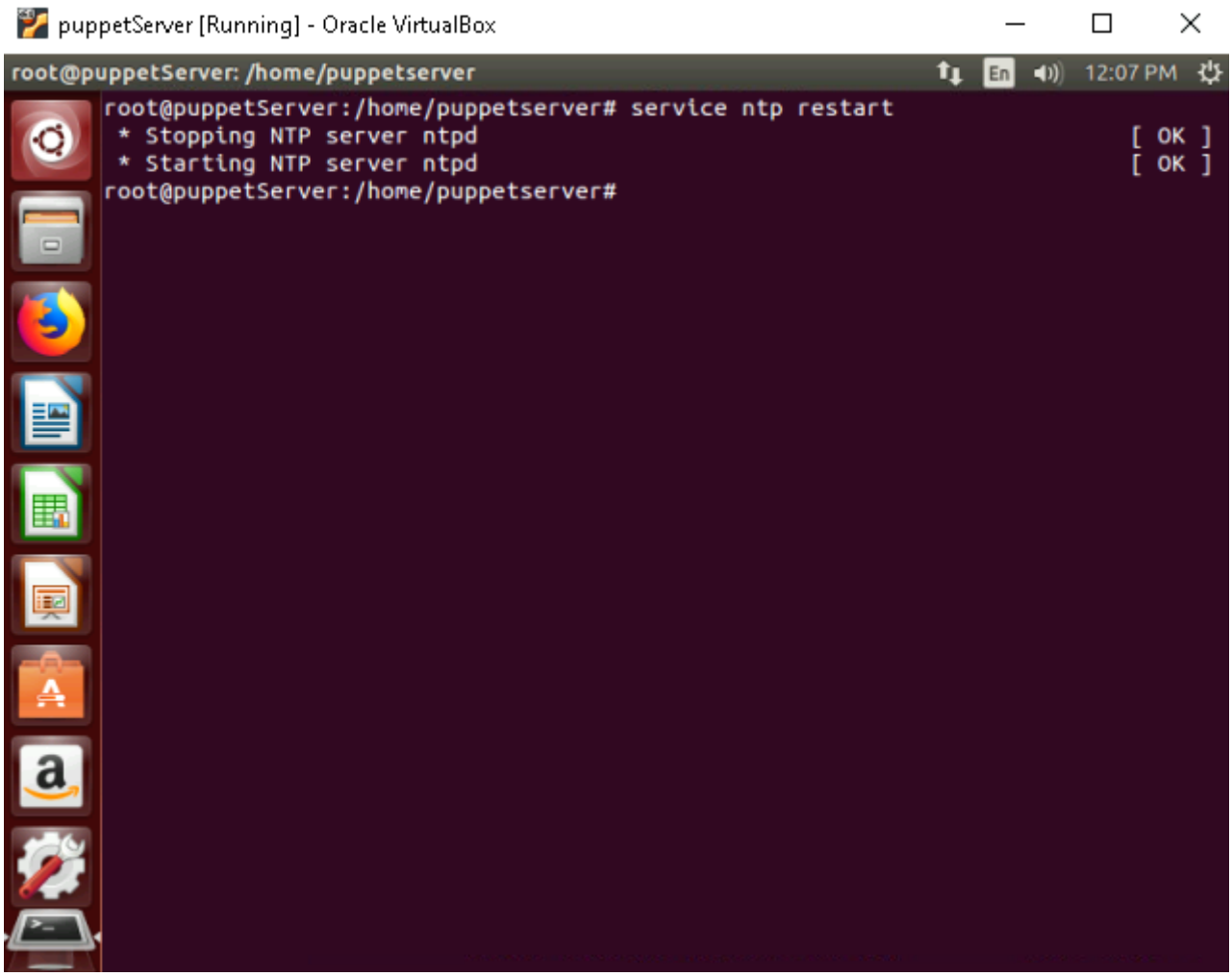
   Install the NTP package on `puppetServer`:

```
apt-get -y install ntp
```



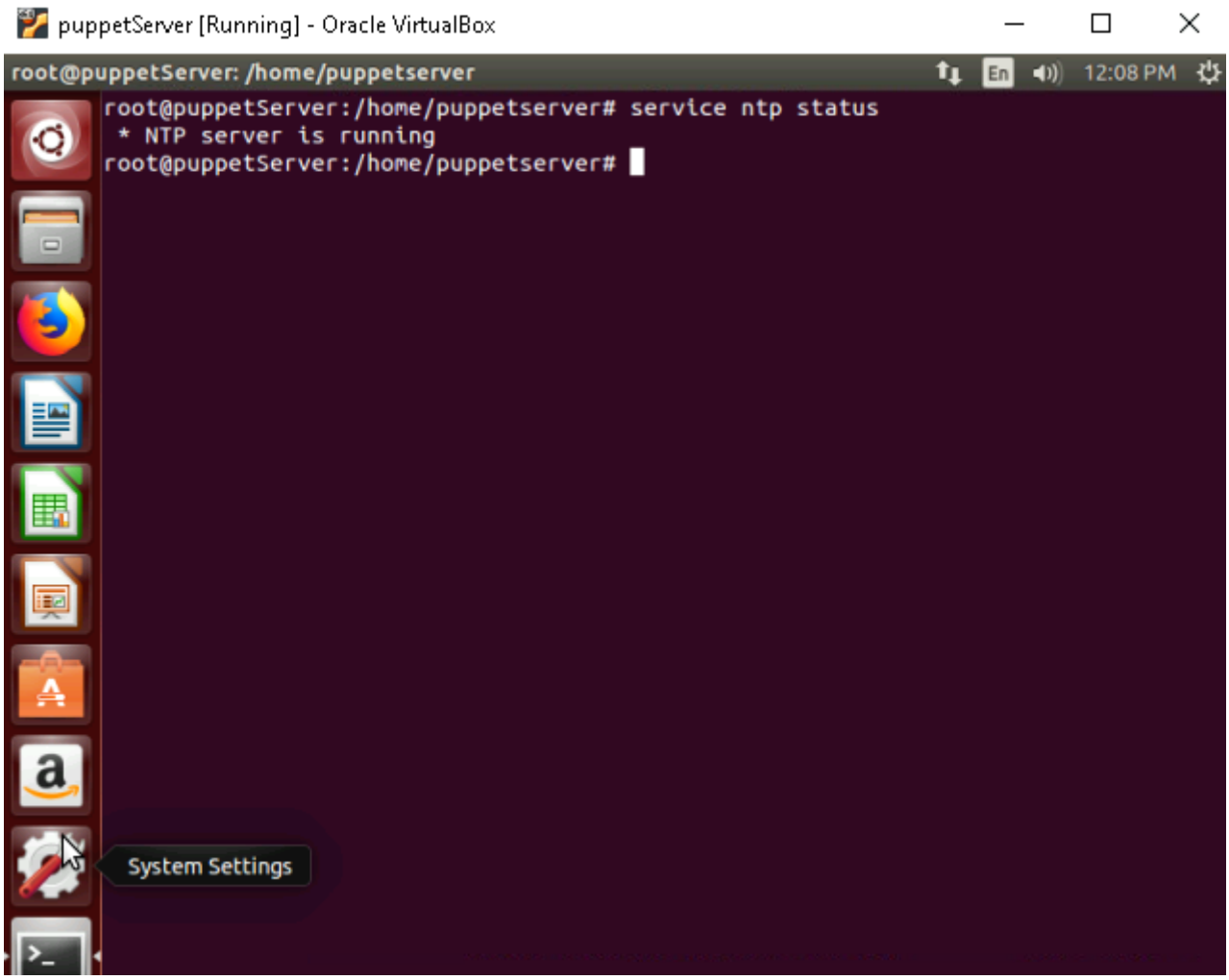
Restart the NTP service:

```
service ntp restart
```



Check the NTP status:

```
service ntp status
```

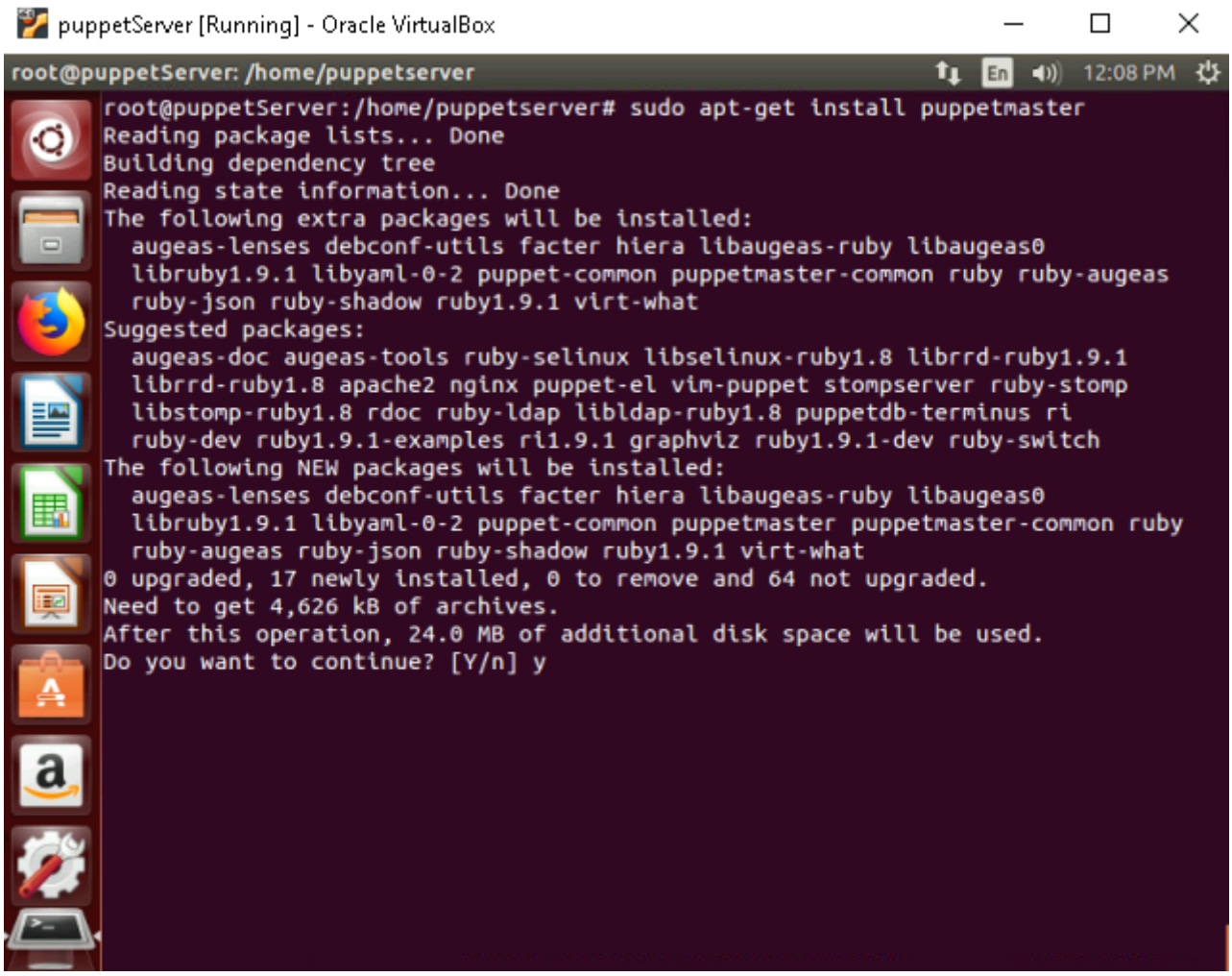


> *Purpose:* Ensures that the system time is synchronized between the Puppet Master and Agent.

2. **Install Puppet Master**:

   Install the Puppet Master package on `puppetServer`:

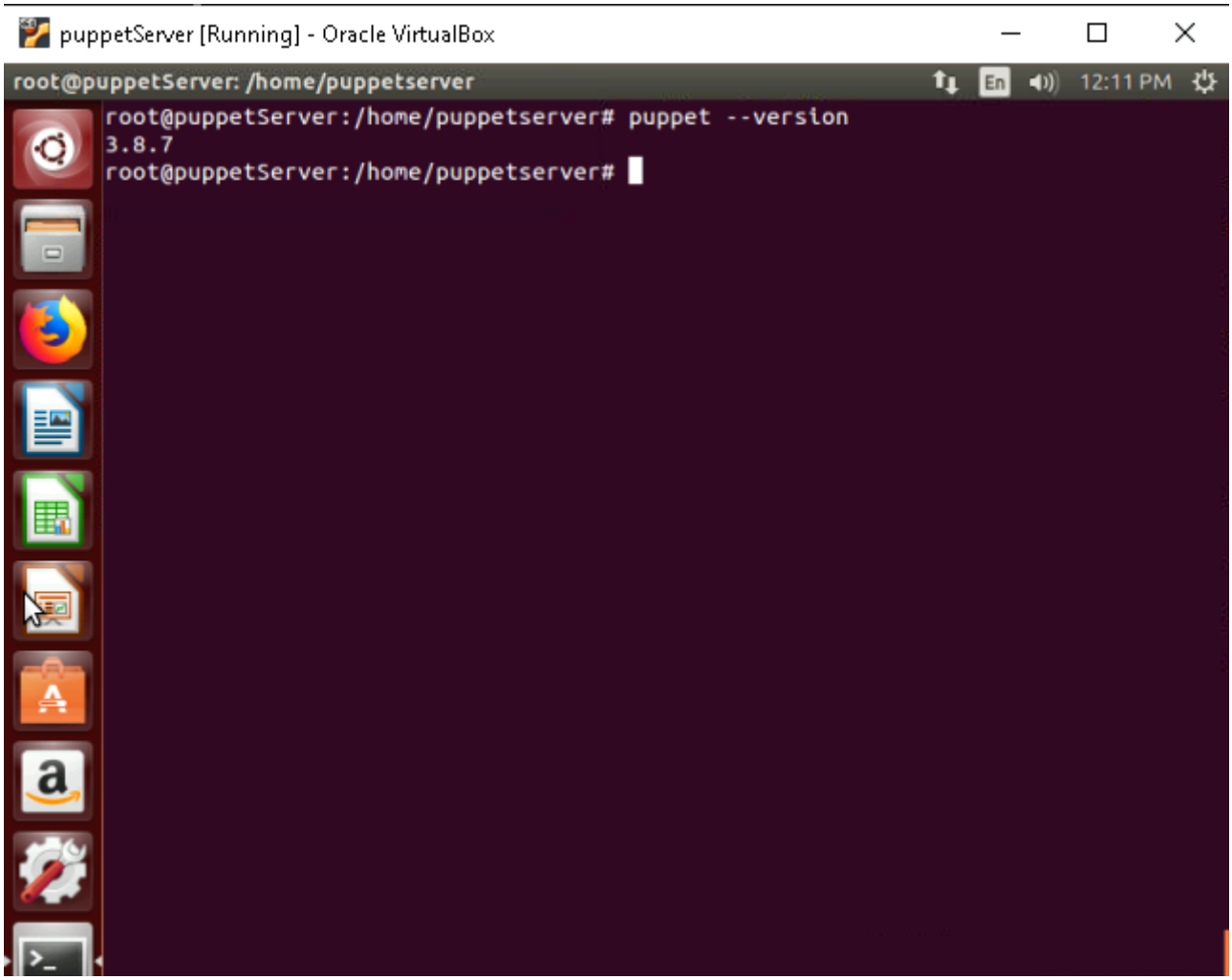
```
sudo apt-get install puppetmaster
```



3. **Verify Installation**:

   Check the Puppet version by running the following command on `puppetServer`:

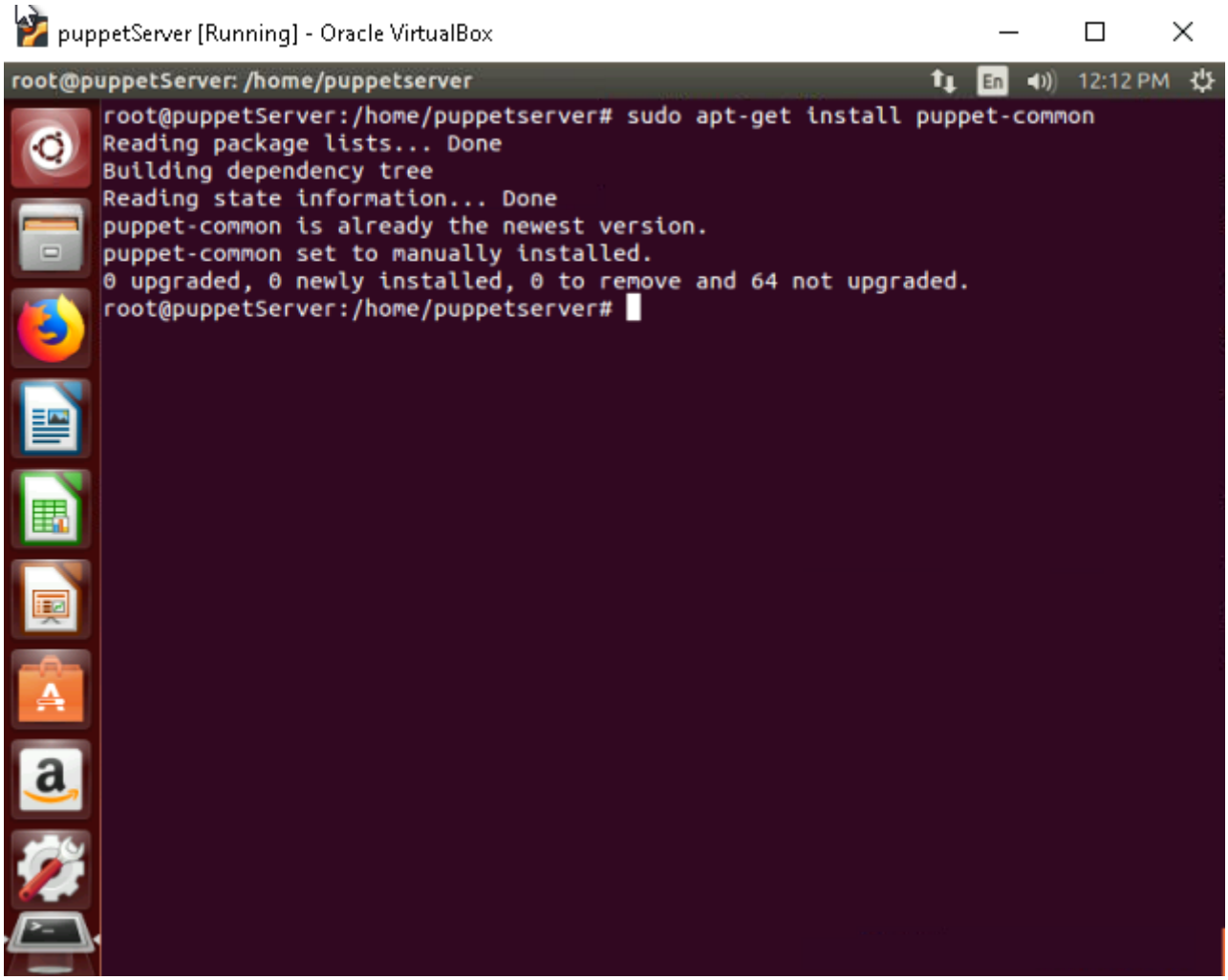
   ```
   puppet --version
   ```



> *Purpose:* Confirms that Puppet Master is installed successfully.

4. **Install the Puppet common with the following command**:

```
sudo apt-get install puppet-common
```



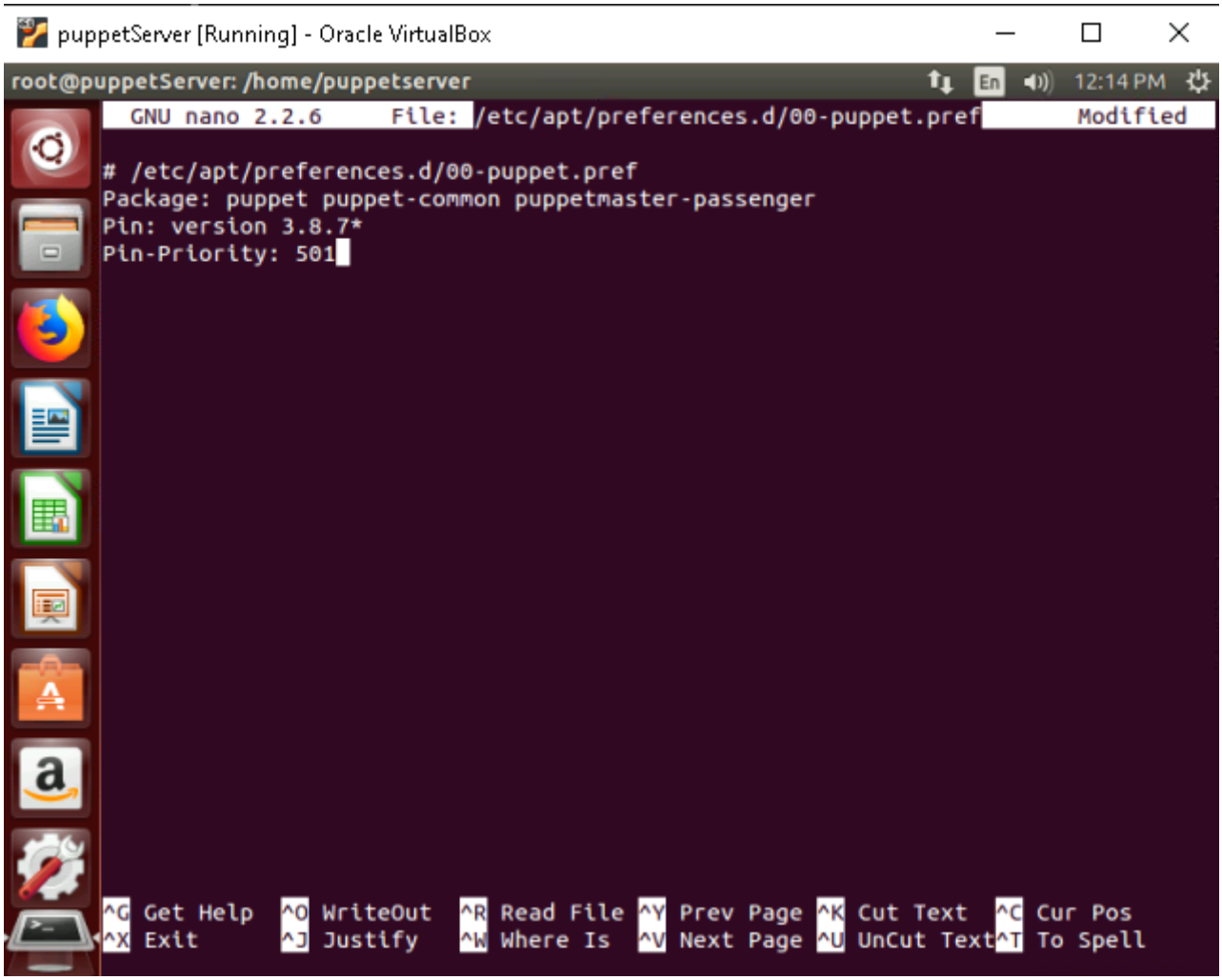
5. **Lock Puppet Version**:

   To prevent Puppet from being upgraded during system updates, create a preferences file using the following command:

   ```
   sudo nano /etc/apt/preferences.d/00-puppet.pref
   ```

   Add the following configurations in the file (replace `3.8.7` with your Puppet version):

   ```
   # /etc/apt/preferences.d/00-puppet.pref
   Package: puppet puppet-common puppetmaster-passenger
   Pin: version 3.8.7*
   Pin-Priority: 501
   ```



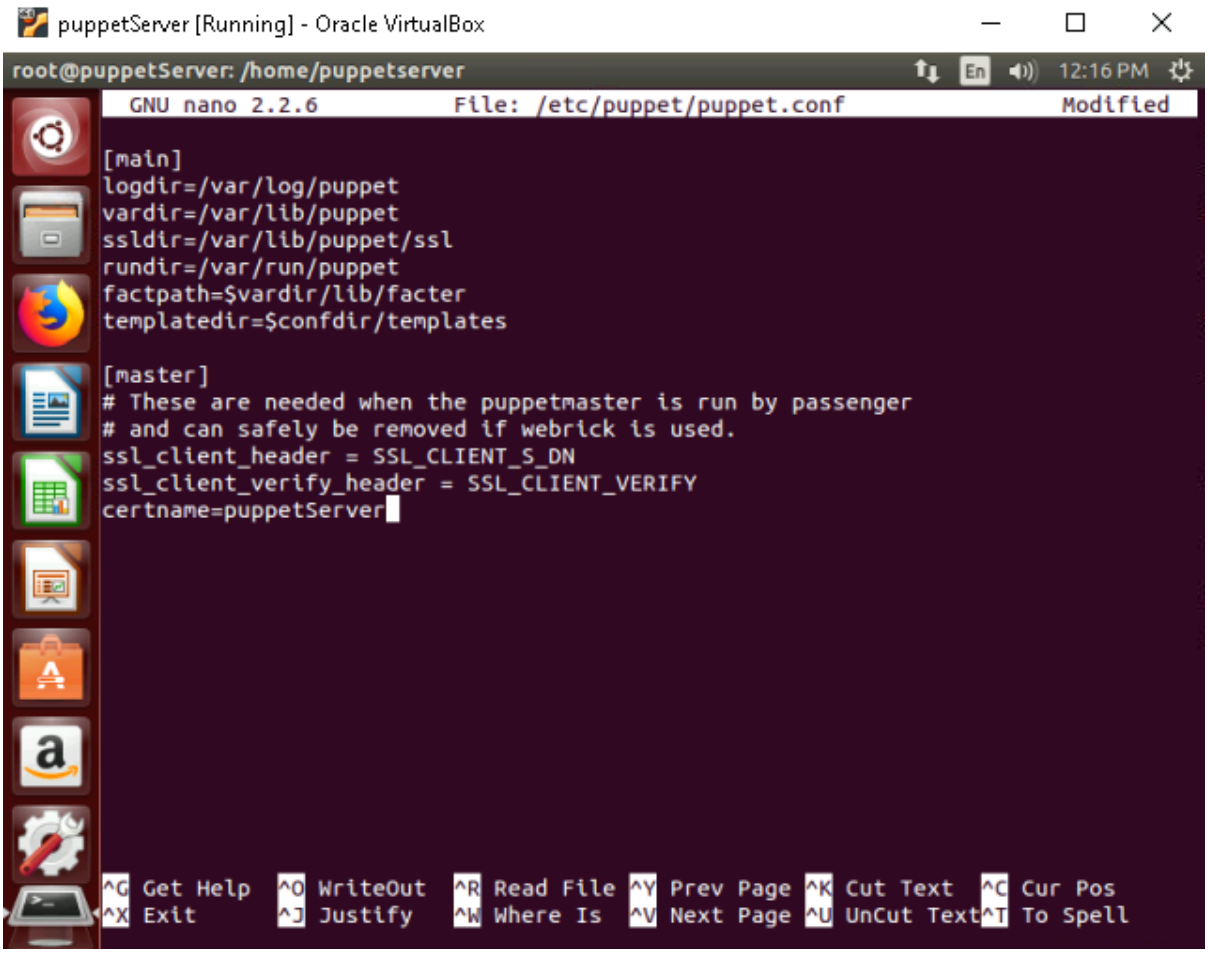
> *Purpose:* Ensures that the Puppet version remains consistent and prevents unexpected issues due to upgrades.

6. **Configure Puppet Master**:
   - Edit the configuration file:

     ```
     sudo nano /etc/puppet/puppet.conf
     ```

     Add:

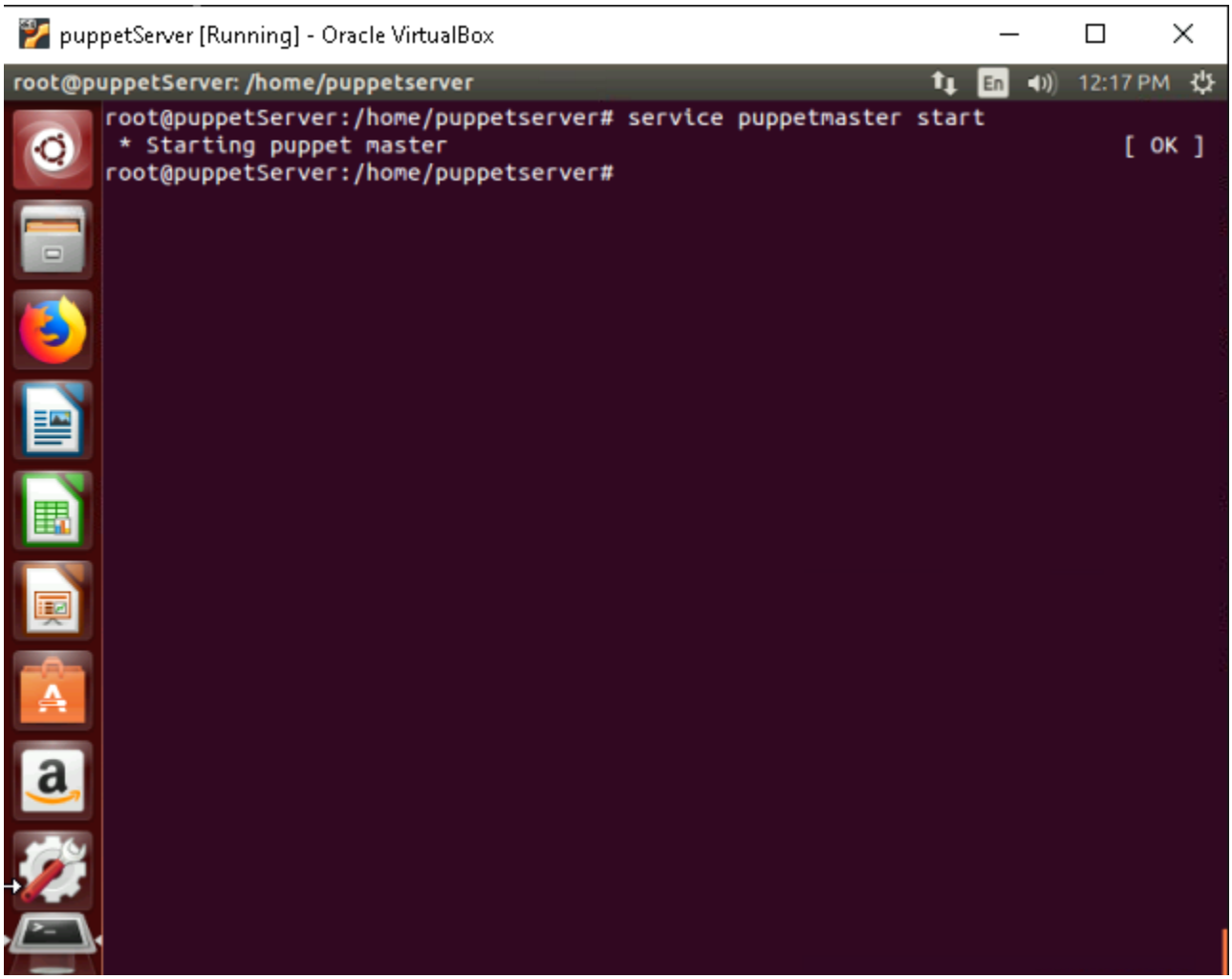
     ```
     [main]
     ssldir = /var/lib/puppet/ssl
     logdir = /var/log/puppet
     rundir = /var/run/puppet

     [master]
     certname = puppetServer
     ```



> *Purpose:* Configures Puppet Master settings.

7. **Start Puppet Master Service**:

```
sudo service puppetmaster start
```



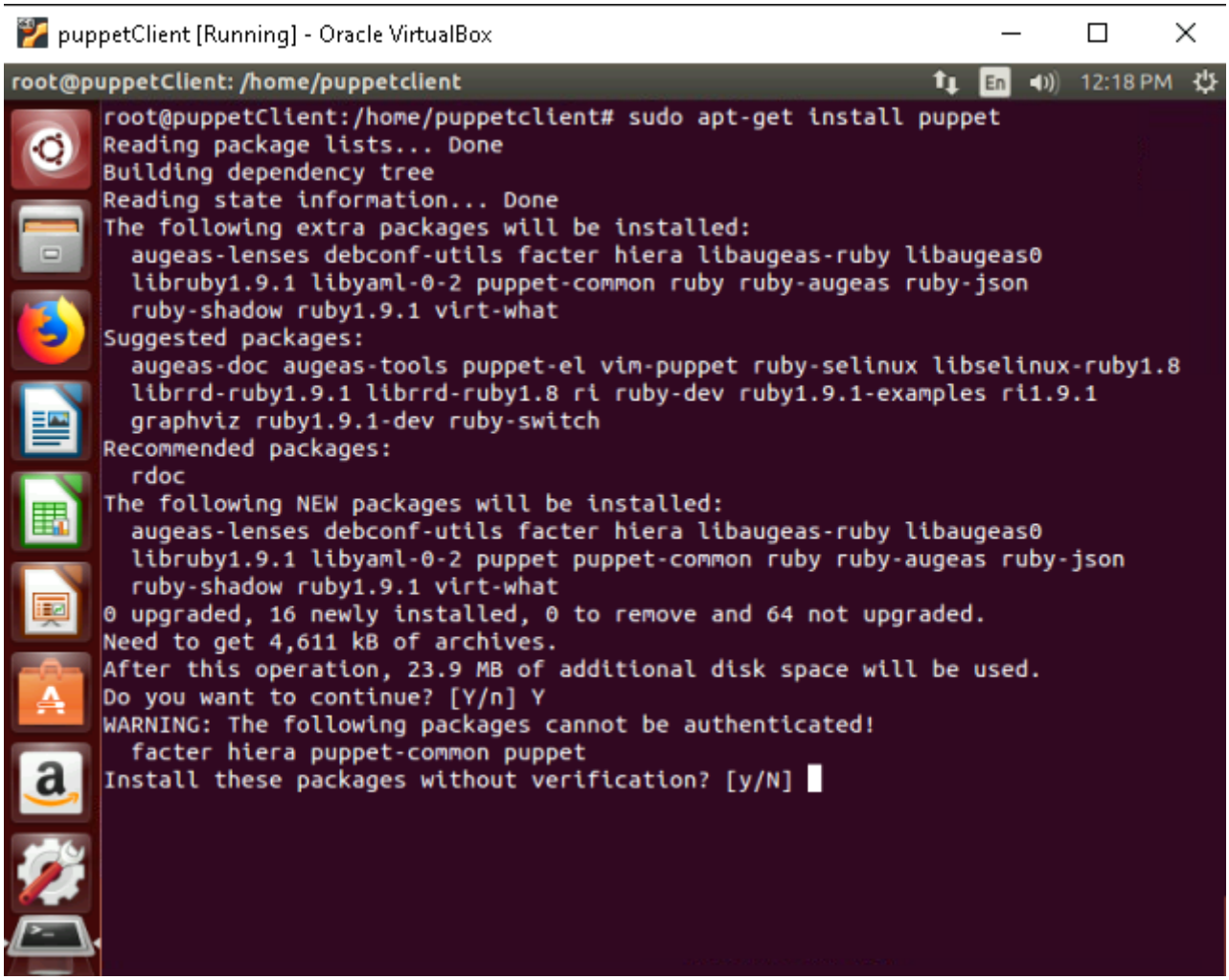
> *Purpose:* Initiates the Puppet Master service.

Step 7: Install and Configure Puppet Agent

1. **Install Puppet Agent**:

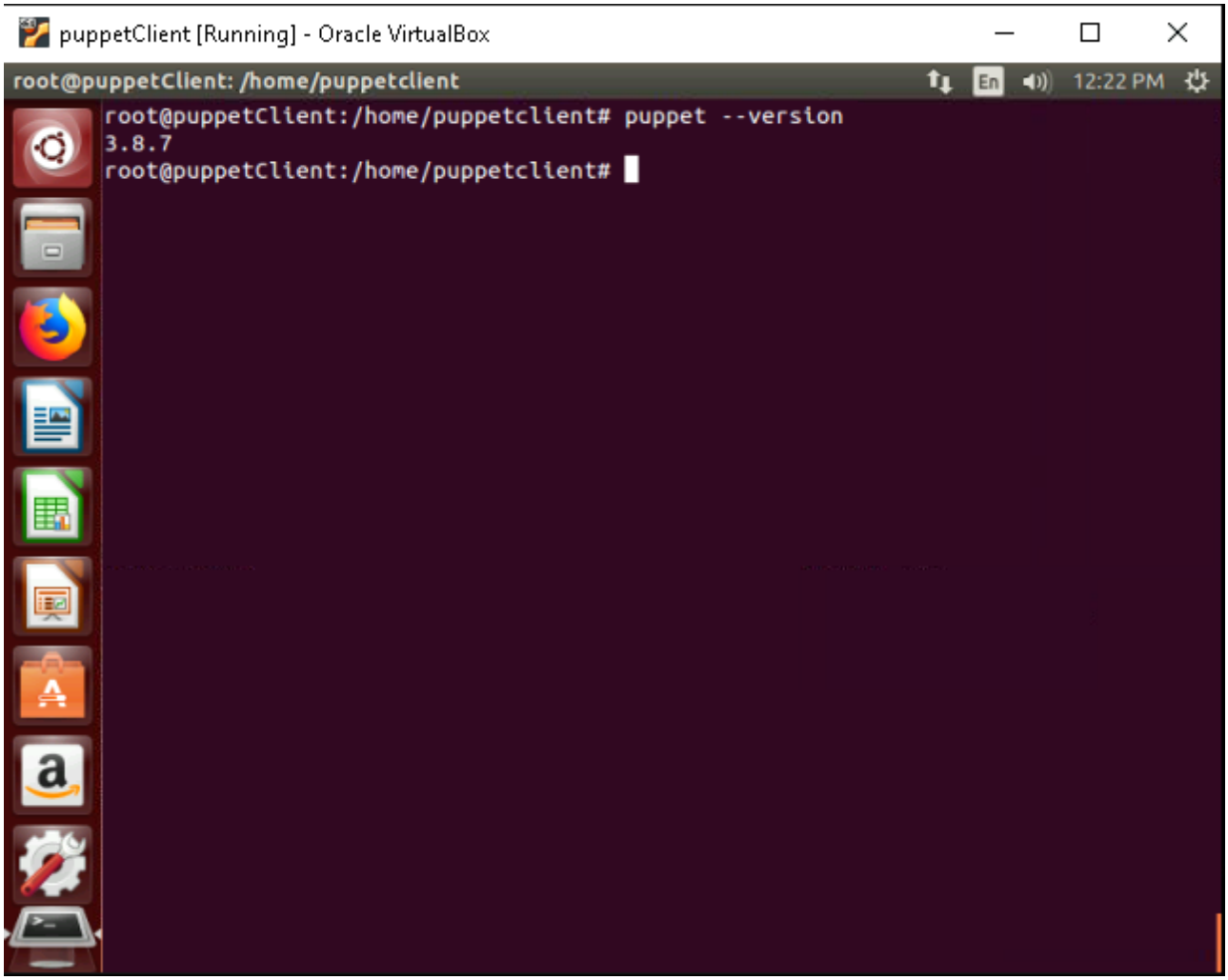
   Install the Puppet Agent package on `puppetClient`:

   ```
   sudo apt-get install puppet
   ```



2. Puppet version can be checked by running the following command:

```
puppet --version
```



> *Purpose:* Confirms that Puppet Agent is installed successfully.

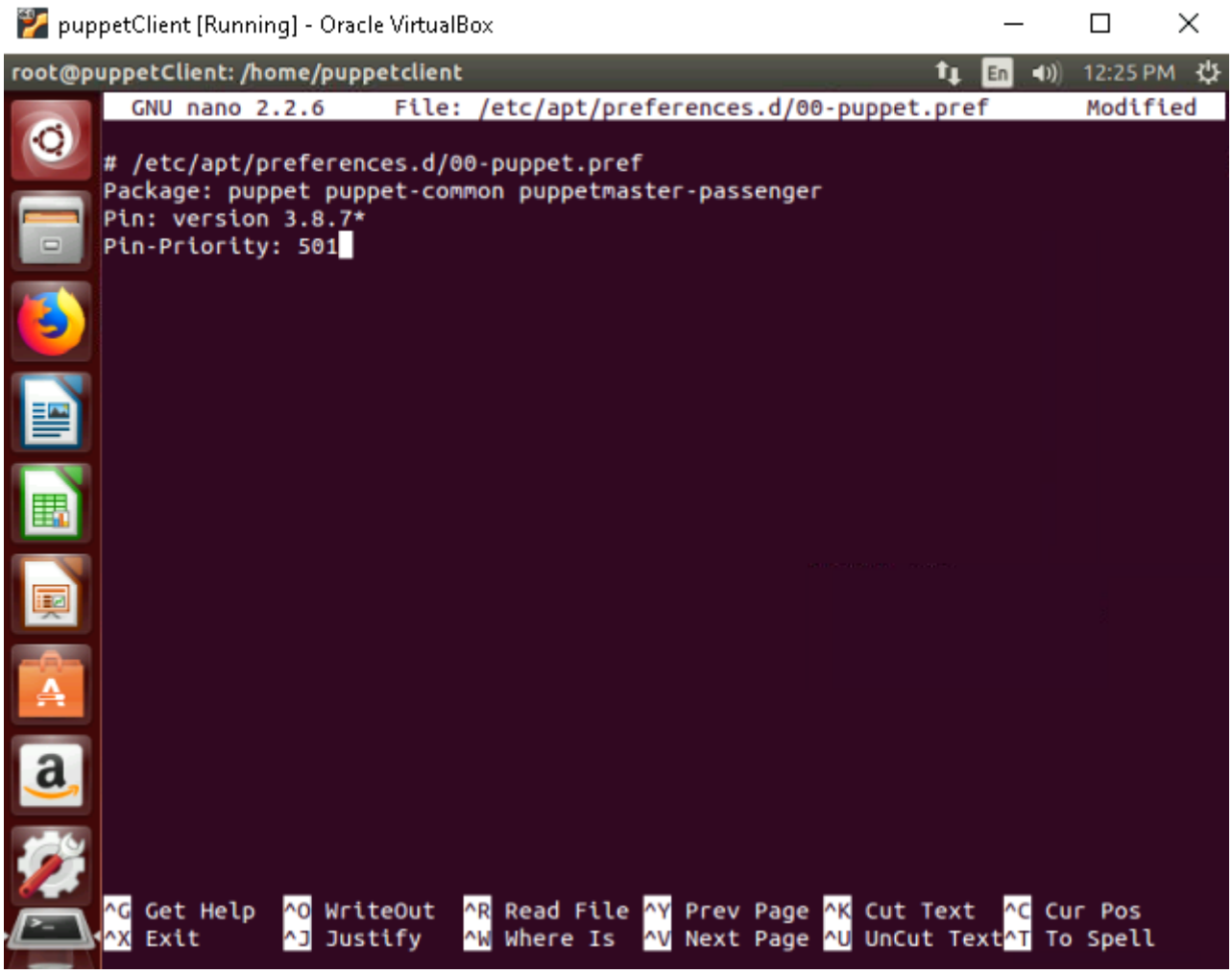
3. **Lock Puppet Version**

   To prevent Puppet from being upgraded during system updates, create a preferences file using the following command:

```
sudo nano /etc/apt/preferences.d/00-puppet.pref
```

   Add the following configurations in the file (replace `3.8.7` with your Puppet version):

```
# /etc/apt/preferences.d/00-puppet.pref
Package: puppet puppet-common puppetmaster-passenger
Pin: version 3.8.7*
Pin-Priority: 501
```



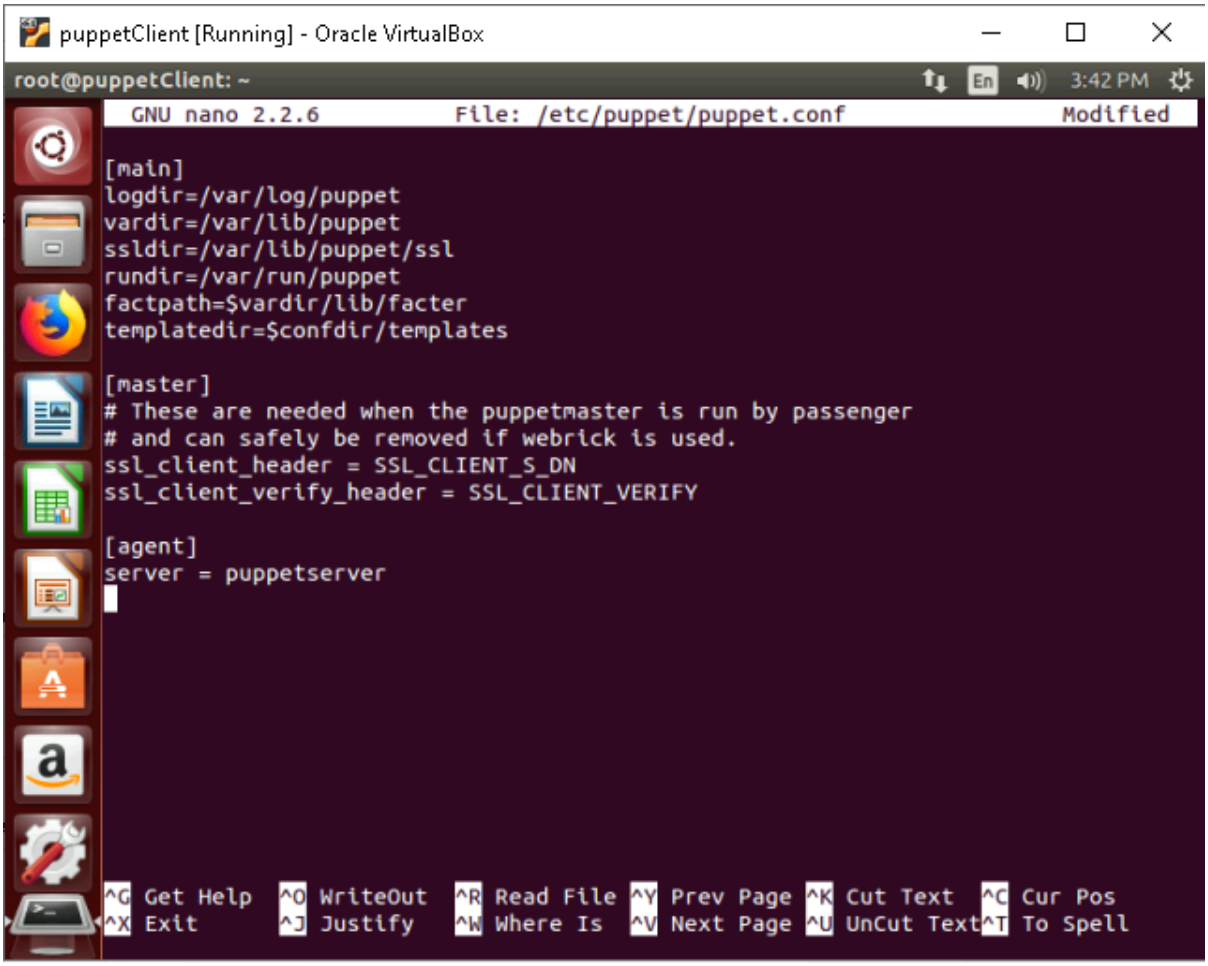
> *Purpose:* Ensures that the Puppet version remains consistent and prevents unexpected issues due to upgrades.

4. **Configure Puppet Agent**:
   - Edit the Puppet configuration file:

     ```
     sudo nano /etc/puppet/puppet.conf
     ```

     Add:

     ```
     [main]
     ssldir = /var/lib/puppet/ssl
     vardir = /var/lib/puppet
     logdir = /var/log/puppet
     rundir = /var/run/puppet

     [agent]
     server = puppetserver
     ```



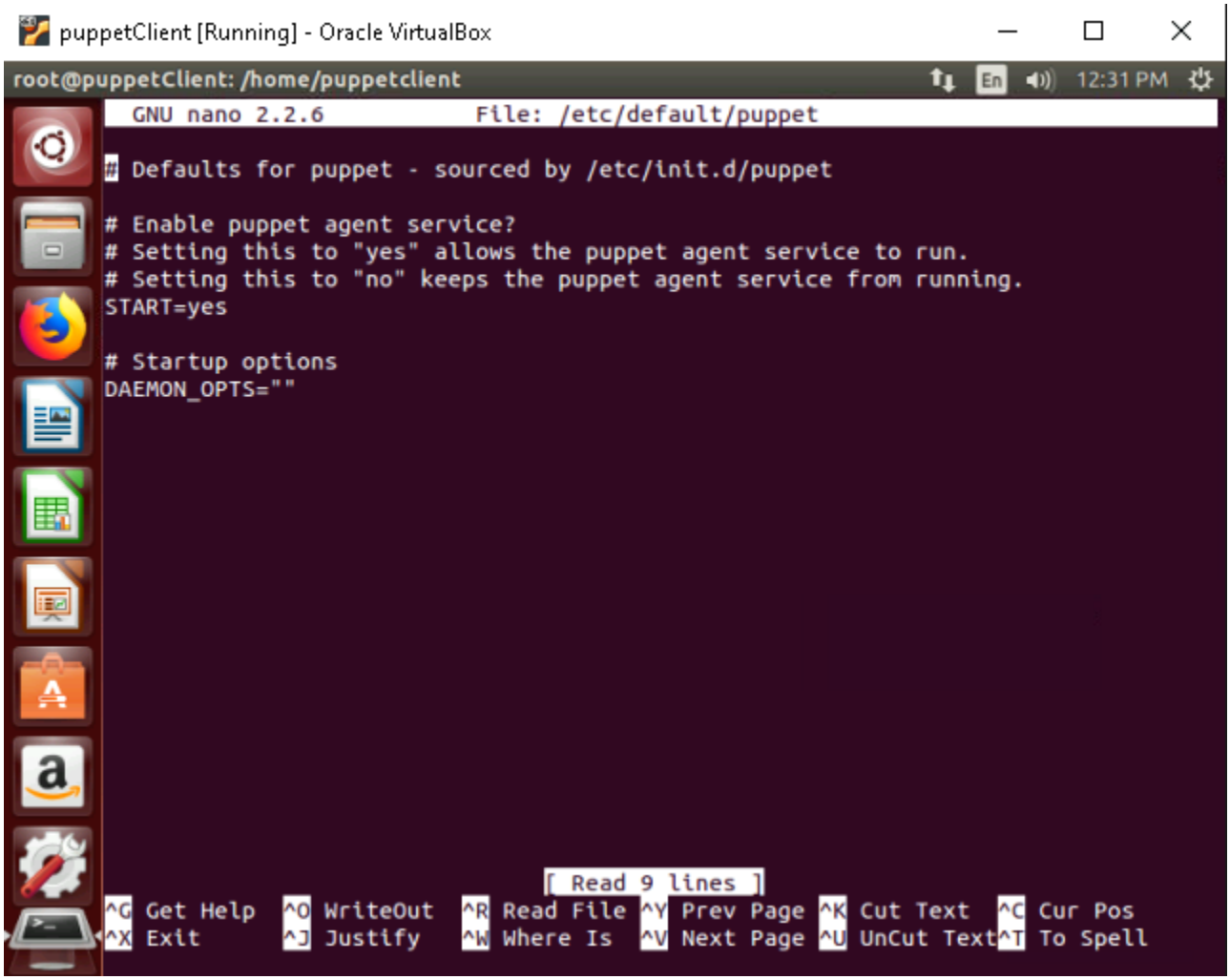
> *Purpose:* Configures Puppet Agent settings.

5. **Start Puppet Agent Service**:

   Edit the `/etc/default/puppet` file to enable the Puppet Agent service:

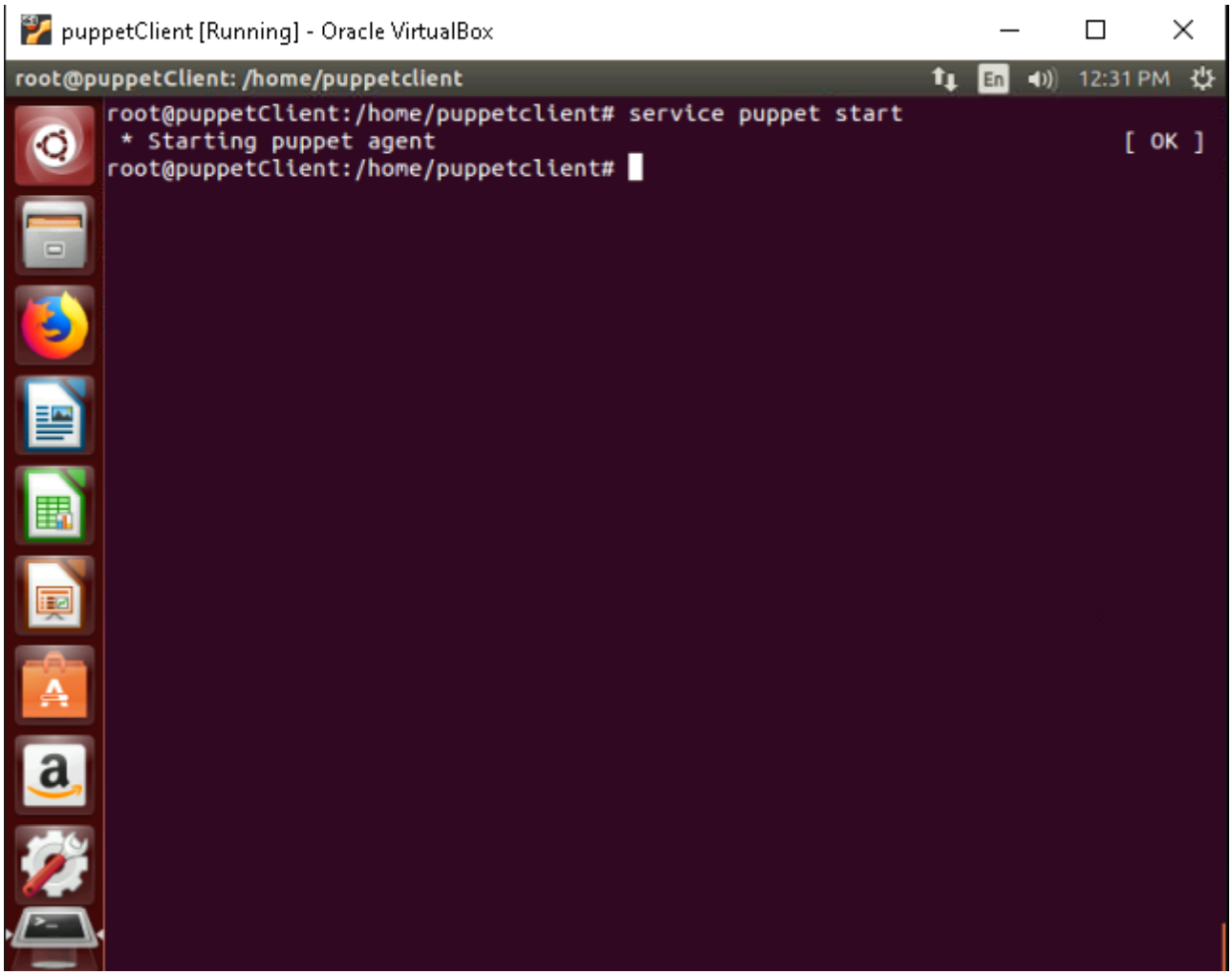
   ```
   sudo nano /etc/default/puppet
   ```

   Set `START=yes` in the file.



Run the following command on `puppetClient`:

```
service puppet start
```

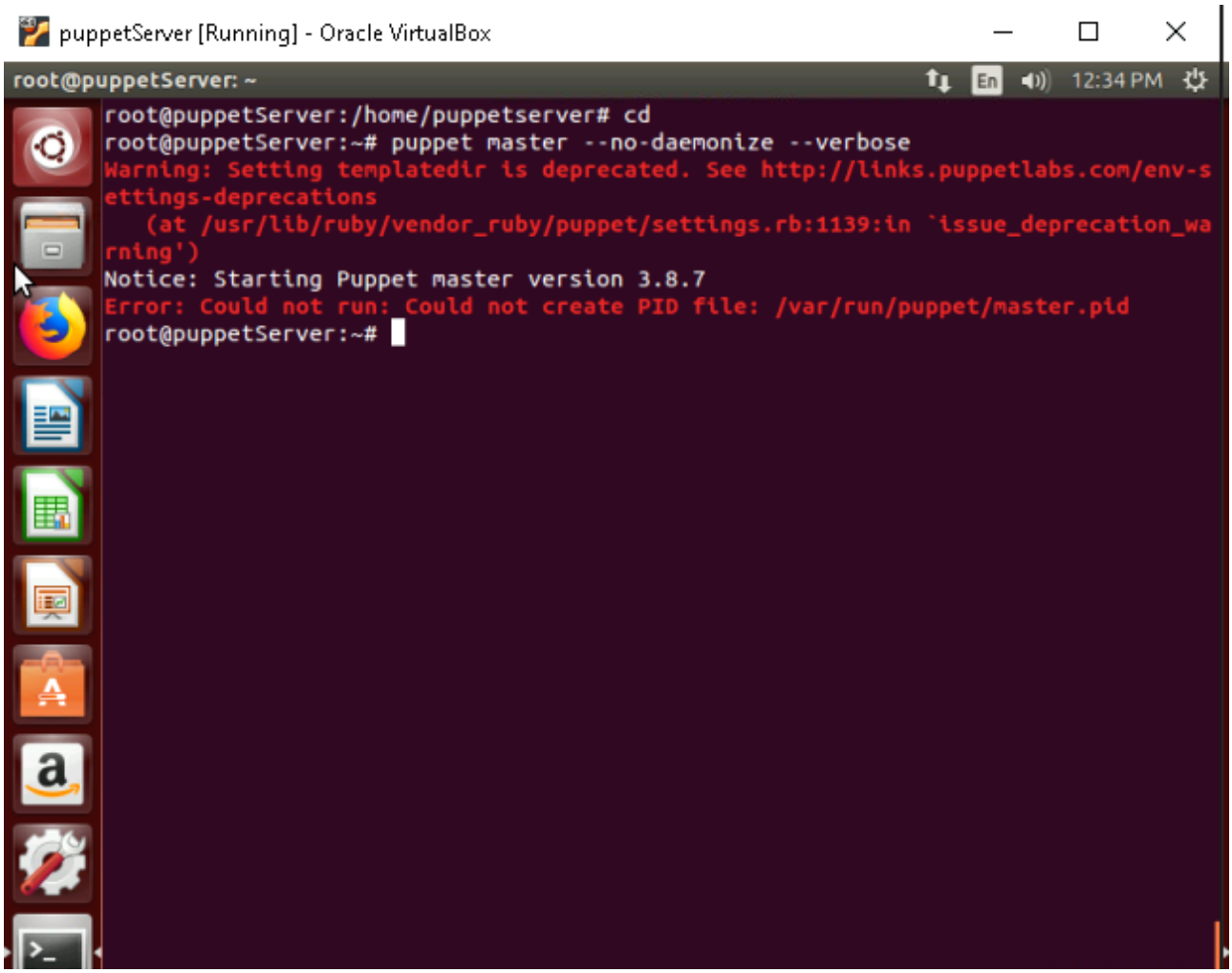


Step 8: Establish Secure Communication Between Puppet Master and Agent

1. **Start Puppet Master in No-Daemonize Mode**:

   On `puppetServer`, run the following command to create the CA certificate and a Puppet Master certificate:

   ```
   puppet master --no-daemonize --verbose
   ```

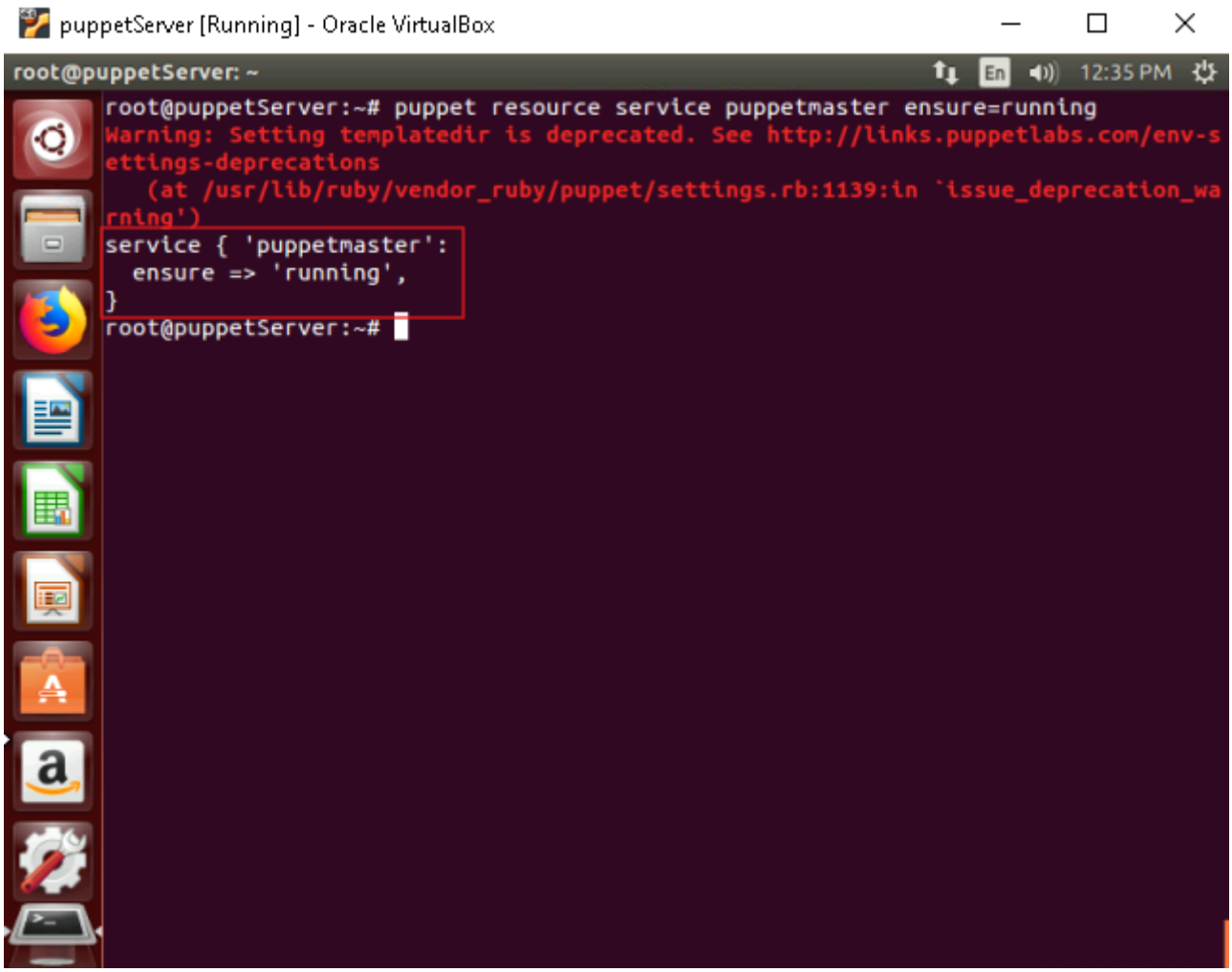


> *Note:* Ignore the warning message and press `Ctrl+C` once you see the "Notice: Starting Puppet master version 5.4.0" message.

2. **Start and Enable Puppet Master Service**:

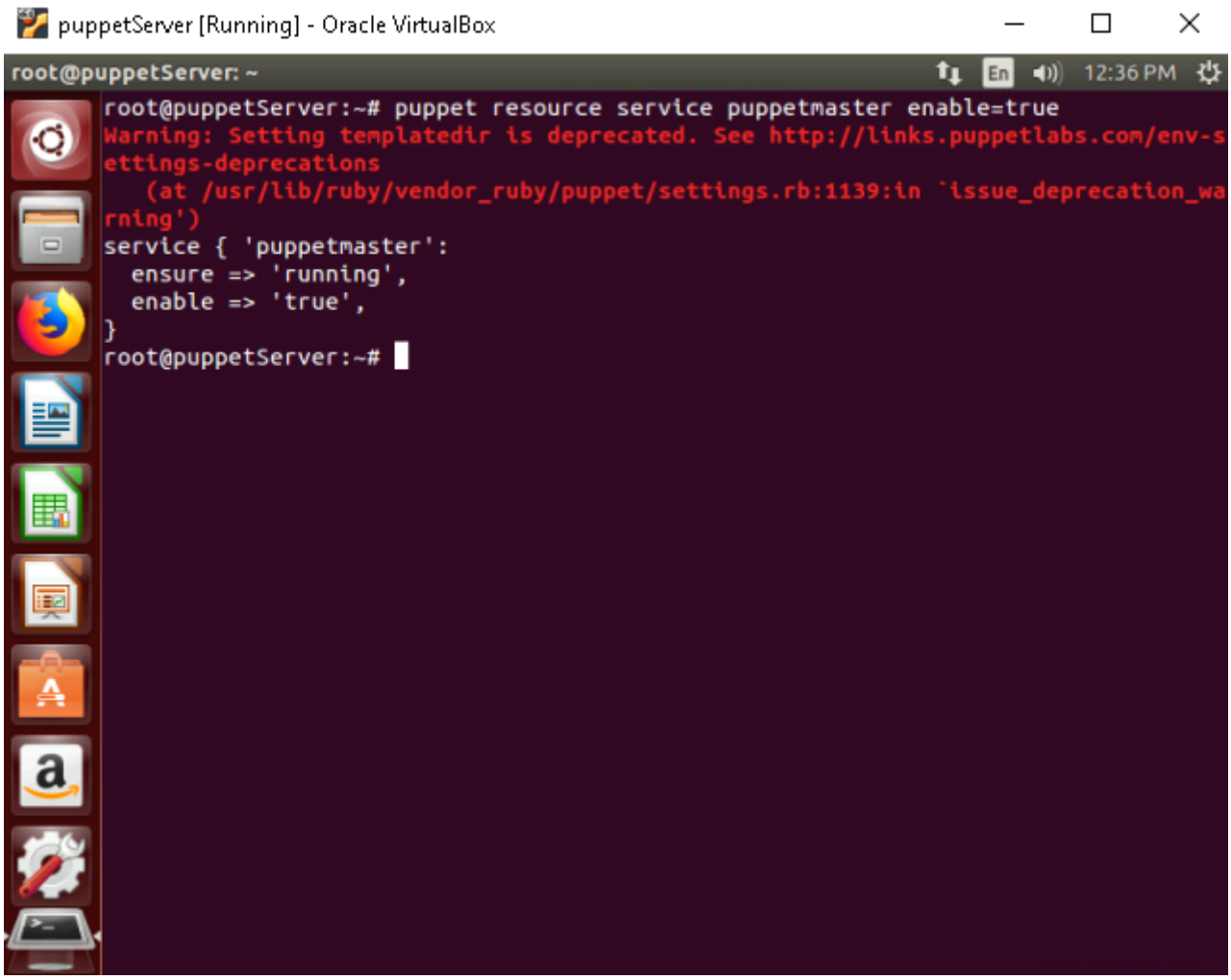
   Start the Puppet Master service:

```
puppet resource service puppetmaster ensure=running
```



Enable the Puppet Master service to start on boot:

```
puppet resource service puppetmaster enable=true
```

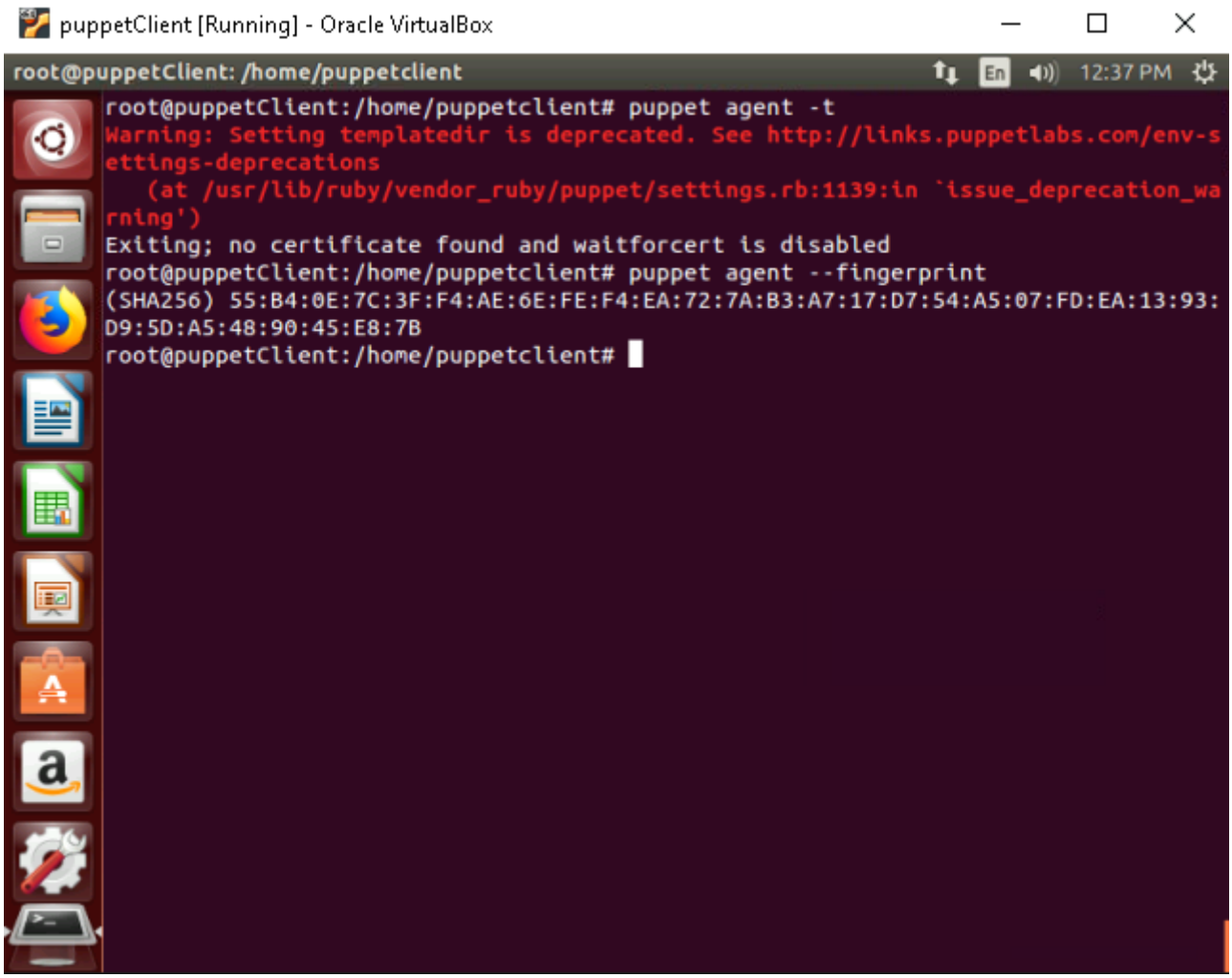


3. **Send Certificate Signing Request from Puppet Agent**:

   On `puppetClient`, send the certificate signing request to the Puppet Master:

```
puppet agent -t
```

```
puppet agent --fingerprint
```

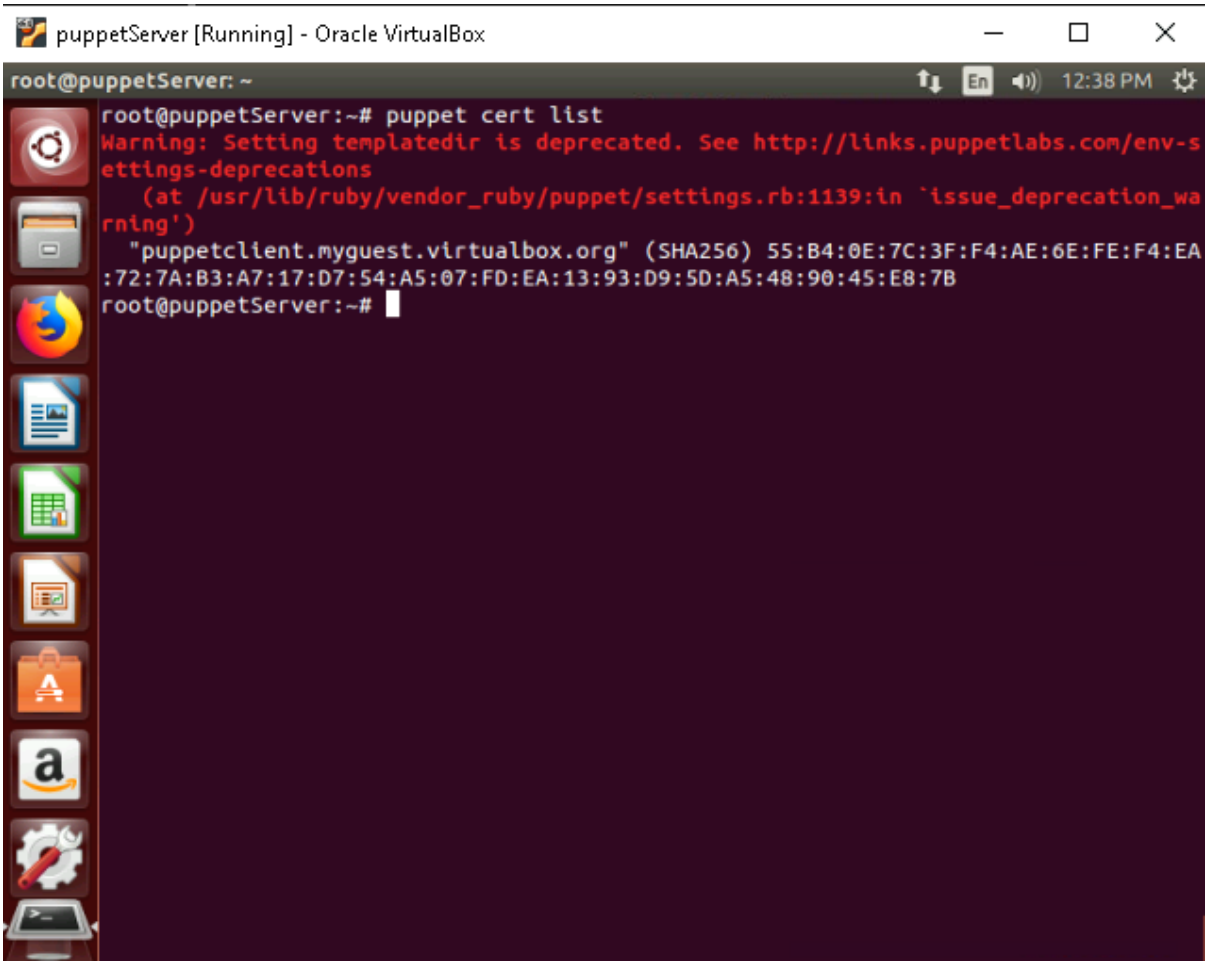


> *Purpose:* Ensures that the Puppet Agent requests a certificate from the Puppet Master.

4. **Sign the Certificate on Puppet Master**:

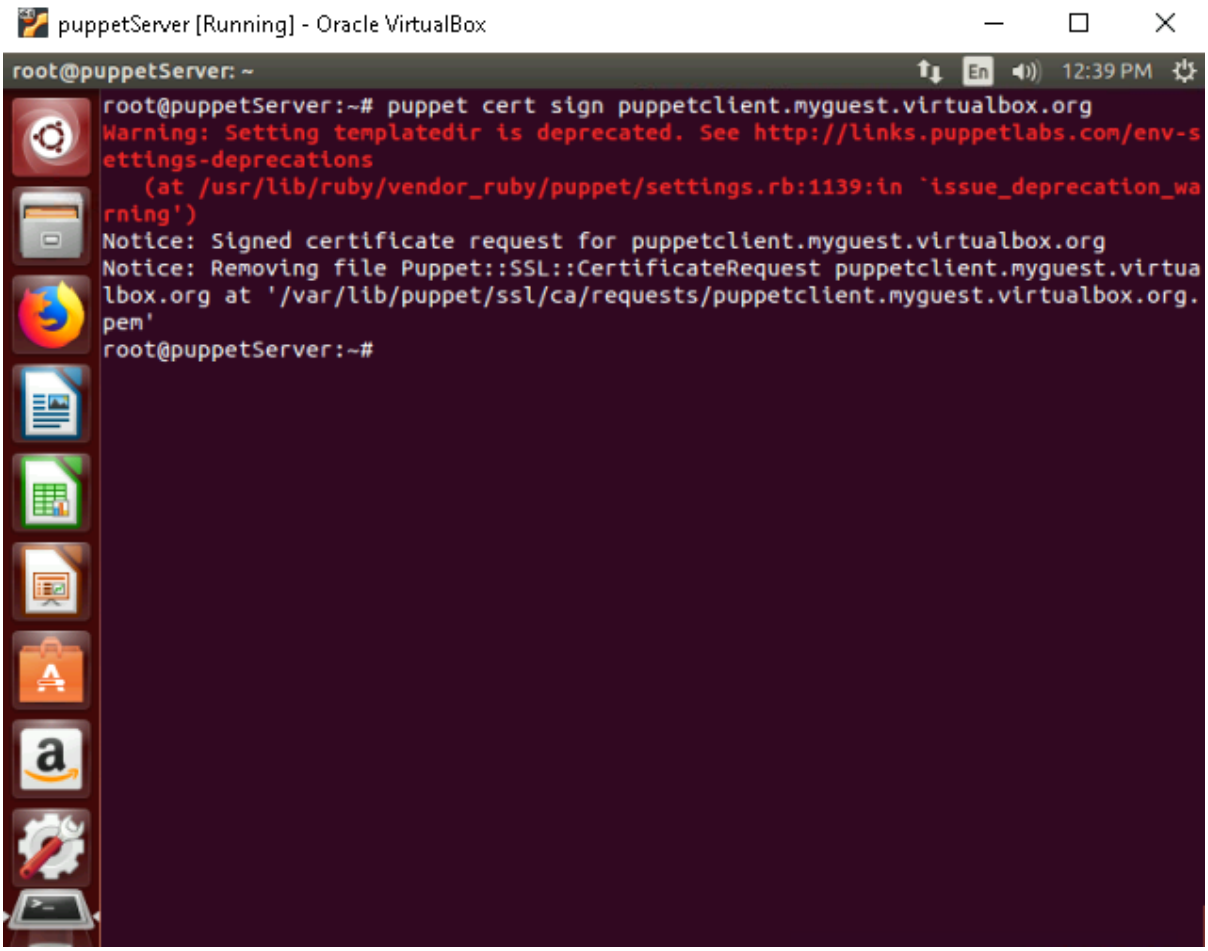
   On `puppetServer`, list the pending certificate requests:

   ```
   puppet cert list
   ```



Sign the certificate requested by the Puppet Agent:

```
puppet cert sign puppetclient.myguest.vrtualbox.org
```

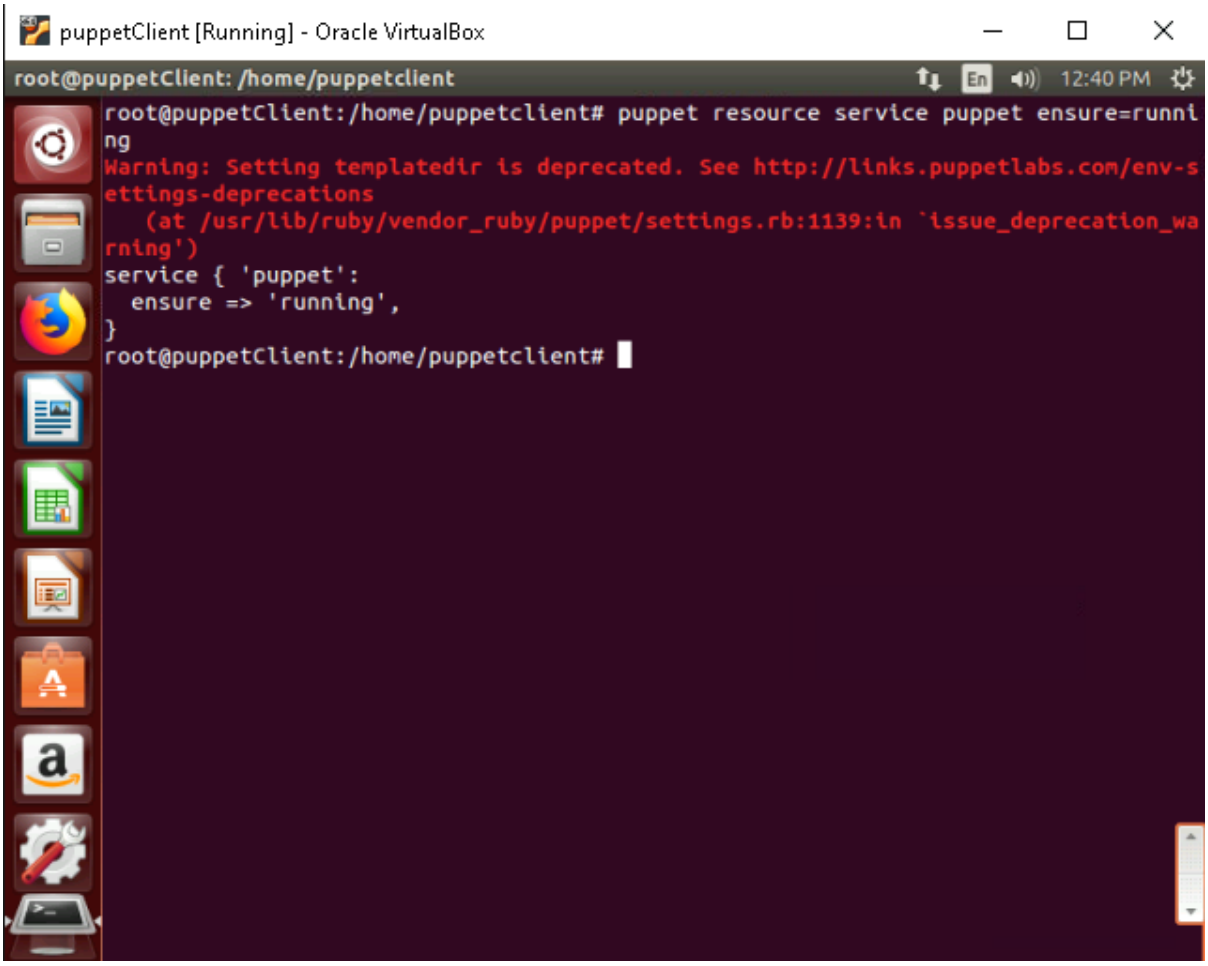


> *Purpose:* Approves the certificate request from the Puppet Agent, establishing trust.

5. **Start and Enable Puppet Agent Service**:

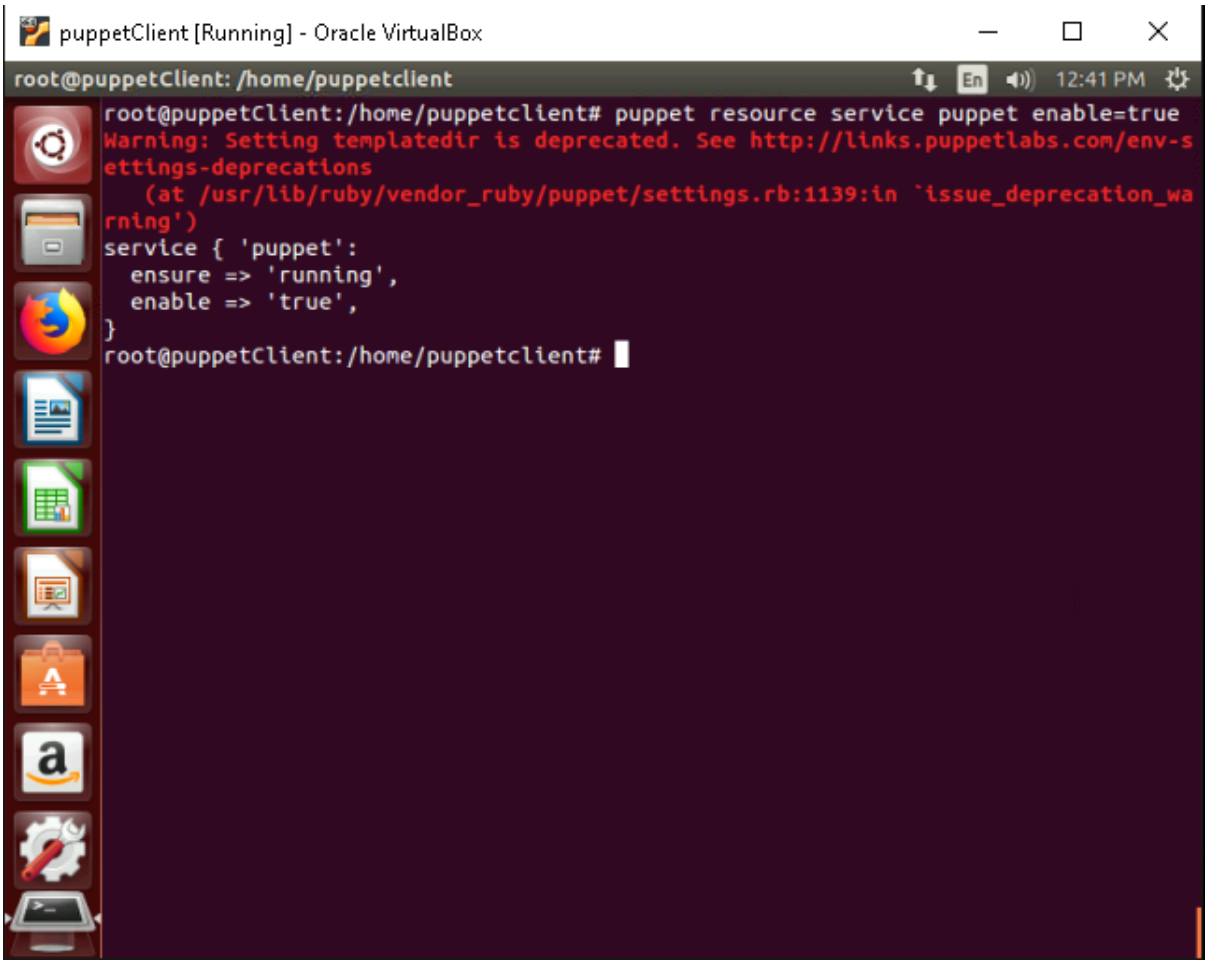
   On `puppetClient`, start the Puppet Agent service:

```
puppet resource service puppet ensure=running
```



Enable the Puppet Agent service to start on boot:

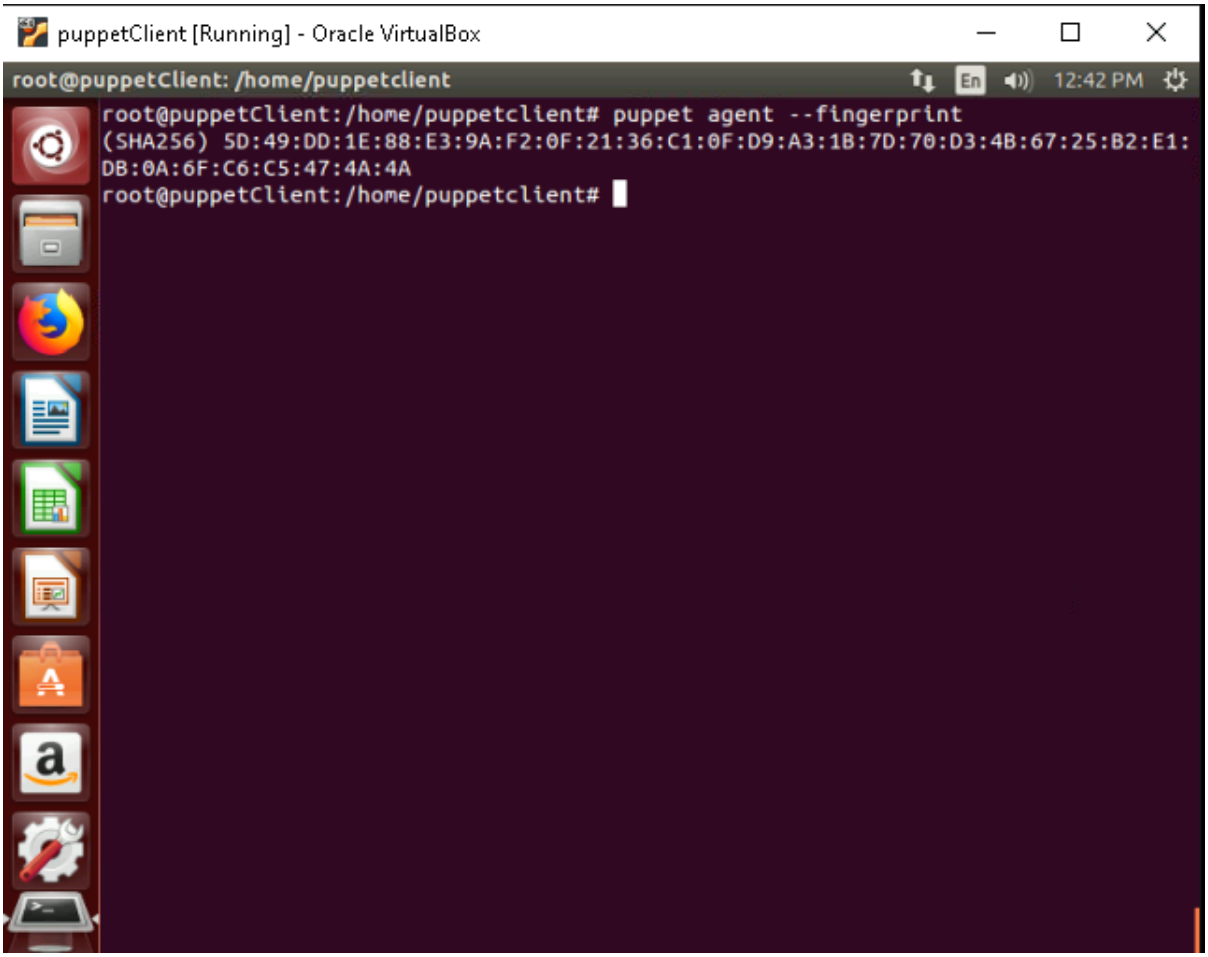
```
puppet resource service puppet enable=true
```



6. **Verify Certificate Fingerprint**:

   On `puppetClient`, verify the fingerprint of the certificate:

   ```
   puppet agent --fingerprint
   ```



> *Purpose:* Confirms that the Puppet Agent has a valid certificate signed by the Puppet Master.

Now, there is a secure connection between the Puppet Master and the Puppet Agent.

References

- Puppet Installation Guide
- Oracle VirtualBox
- Ubuntu Trusty Tahr 14.04
