PROJECT REPORT ON

“Introduction to Virtualization with VirtualBox”

Submitted By:

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Under The Guidance of:

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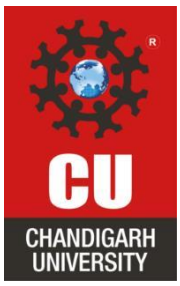
November, 2024



University Institute of Computing

Chandigarh University,

Mohali, Punjab

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Harsh Samant(UID—24MCC20068) successfully completed the project **"Introduction to Virtualization with VirtualBox"** at the University Institute of Computing under my supervision and guidance in fulfillment of the requirements of the first semester of the **Master of Computer Application—Specialization in Cloud Computing and DevOps** at Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab.

Dr. Abdullah	Mr. Rishabh Tomar
Head of the Department	Project Guide Supervisor
University Institute of Computing	University Institute of Computing

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We deem it a pleasure to acknowledge our sense of gratitude to our project guide Mr. Rishabh Tomar under whom we have carried out the project work. His incisive and objective guidance and timely advice encouraged us with constant flow of energy to continue the work.

We wish to reciprocate in full measure the kindness shown by Dr. Abdullah (H.O.D, University Institute of Computing) who inspired us with his valuable suggestions in completing the project work.

We shall remain grateful to Dr. Manisha Malhotra, Additional Director, University Institute of Technology, for providing us a strong academic atmosphere by enforcing strict discipline to do the project work with utmost concentration and dedication.

Finally, we must say that no height is ever achieved without some sacrifices made at some end and it is here where we owe our special debt to our parents and our friends for showing their generous love and care throughout the entire period.

Date: November, 2024

Place: Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Virtualization has become a cornerstone technology in modern IT, enabling the efficient use of computing resources by creating multiple virtual machines (VMs) on a single physical host. This project, titled "Introduction to Virtualization with VirtualBox," provides a comprehensive hands-on experience with virtualization by guiding users through the process of setting up and managing VMs using Oracle's VirtualBox software. Installed on a Windows host system, VirtualBox will be used to create and configure a Fedora Linux virtual machine (VM), allowing users to simulate and manage a separate operating system environment within their primary Windows OS.

The project begins with the installation of VirtualBox on a Windows system, followed by the creation of a Fedora VM, with step-by-step guidance on configuring essential system resources such as memory, CPU, and storage. A core component of the project focuses on experimenting with virtual networking options, including Network Address Translation (NAT) for secure internet access, Bridged networking for direct connectivity within the host's network, and Host-Only networking to establish isolated VM-to-host connections. These configurations allow users to test and understand network environments, essential for system administrators and developers working with multi-platform applications.

Further, the project delves into advanced VirtualBox features like snapshots, which enable users to save and revert to specific VM states, and cloning for rapid replication of VM setups. Optional installation of VirtualBox Guest Additions will enhance VM integration by enabling features like shared clipboard, drag-and-drop, and better video support, enhancing usability.

By completing this project, users will gain valuable insights into virtualization's role in resource optimization, cross-platform testing, and isolated development environments. The knowledge gained here provides a strong foundation in virtualization principles, essential for IT professionals, developers, and students in cloud computing, software development, and network administration fields. This project serves as an introductory step toward understanding the potential of virtualization in enabling flexible, scalable, and efficient IT environments.

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Introduction

Virtualization has become a pivotal technology in modern computing, providing a way to run multiple, isolated operating systems on a single physical machine. This capability has vast applications in software development, testing, and IT infrastructure management, where it enables efficient resource utilization, cross-platform testing, and the ability to simulate complex environments without the need for dedicated hardware. One of the most widely used tools for desktop virtualization is Oracle's VirtualBox, an open-source software that allows users to create and manage virtual machines (VMs) on various host operating systems, including Windows, macOS, and Linux.

This project, "Introduction to Virtualization with VirtualBox," aims to introduce users to the basics of virtualization by guiding them through the installation and configuration of VirtualBox on a Windows operating system. Within VirtualBox, users will create and configure a virtual machine running Fedora Linux. This setup provides a foundation for understanding how virtual environments function and interact with hardware resources.

The project also explores VirtualBox's virtual networking configurations, offering hands-on experience with Network Address Translation (NAT), Bridged, and Host-Only networking modes. Each of these networking modes enables different levels of interaction between the VM and the external network or host system, demonstrating how networking can be tailored to specific use cases.

Beyond networking, the project will cover additional features such as creating snapshots for state-saving and cloning for replicating configurations. These tools provide users with flexibility in managing VM states and streamline the setup of multiple VMs with similar configurations. Additionally, VirtualBox Guest Additions, an optional enhancement, will be installed to improve VM performance and usability, adding features like seamless integration with the host OS, clipboard sharing, and better graphics support.

By completing this project, users will gain practical experience in virtualization and an understanding of how virtual environments can be leveraged in real-world scenarios. This foundational knowledge is valuable for those interested in pursuing careers in IT infrastructure management, software development, cloud computing, and system administration. Through this project, users will develop a deep understanding of VirtualBox's capabilities and how virtualization can facilitate scalable, secure, and efficient computing solutions.

Literature Review

Virtualization, a technology enabling the creation of multiple simulated environments or virtual machines (VMs) on a single physical host, has revolutionized computing. Virtualization platforms such as VMware, Hyper-V, and VirtualBox allow developers, system administrators, and IT professionals to harness the potential of hardware resources more effectively by creating isolated environments for testing, development, and production applications. This literature review explores foundational theories of virtualization, the role of open-source solutions like VirtualBox, advancements in virtual networking, and the integration of virtual environments into diverse computing applications.

1. Theoretical Foundations of Virtualization

The concept of virtualization emerged in the 1960s, initially with IBM's mainframe computers, to improve resource utilization by running multiple applications simultaneously on a single machine. Goldberg (1974) defined virtualization as the process of creating a virtual version of a device or resource, such as a server or storage device, enabling multiple users to interact with isolated systems independently. This isolation minimizes conflicts between applications, a concept that remains a fundamental advantage in today's virtualized environments, where security, stability, and resource sharing are essential.

2. Types of Virtualization and Their Applications

Virtualization can be broadly categorized into server, desktop, network, storage, and application virtualization (Smith & Nair, 2005). Each type has its own set of applications. For instance, server virtualization allows multiple server instances to run on a single physical server, thereby optimizing resource usage. Desktop virtualization, particularly through VirtualBox, provides a sandboxed environment on a user's desktop, which is invaluable for cross-platform testing, development, and network simulation.

3. VirtualBox and Open-Source Virtualization

VirtualBox, initially developed by Innotek and later acquired by Oracle, is a popular open-source virtualization platform widely used for desktop virtualization. Unlike other proprietary solutions such as VMware and Hyper-V, VirtualBox offers a free, cross-platform virtualization environment compatible with Windows, Linux, and macOS hosts (Oracle VM VirtualBox, 2020). Studies show that VirtualBox is particularly effective for educational and testing purposes, as it allows users to simulate multiple operating systems and experiment with different configurations without specialized hardware (Mayo & Sharma, 2017). VirtualBox's cross-compatibility and flexibility have made it a preferred choice for developers, researchers, and students in exploring and testing new software.

4. Virtual Networking and Network Isolation in VirtualBox

Virtual networking capabilities are essential in virtualization, allowing VMs to interact with the external network and the host system in various configurations. VirtualBox offers different networking modes, including Network Address Translation (NAT), Bridged, and Host-Only networking, each with specific applications (Harvey, 2018). NAT provides VMs with internet access without exposing them to external networks directly, ideal for secure testing environments. Bridged networking allows VMs to share the host's network interface and access other devices on the same network, while Host-Only networking confines interactions between the VM and host, useful for isolated environments. These networking modes facilitate the simulation of complex network environments, which are valuable for IT professionals and developers to test networking applications and security protocols.

5. Snapshots, Cloning, and Resource Management in VirtualBox

Snapshots and cloning are critical features in VM management, enabling users to create backups of VM states and replicate configurations across different VMs (Hergenhahn, 2019). Snapshots save the VM's state at a particular point in time, allowing users to revert to a previous configuration in the event of system failure. Cloning, on the other hand, facilitates the rapid deployment of identical VMs, useful in testing and training environments where consistent configurations are necessary. Research indicates that snapshots and cloning significantly improve productivity by minimizing setup time and resource allocation challenges (Chen & Heo, 2020).

6. Practical Applications of Virtualization in Education and IT

VirtualBox and other virtualization tools play an essential role in educational and IT training environments. Studies show that virtualized environments enhance students' learning experiences by allowing them to experiment with OS installation, networking, and security configurations without compromising physical machines (Olawumi et al., 2019). For IT professionals, virtualization serves as a powerful tool for testing and development. For example, it enables developers to simulate production environments on their desktops, test cross-platform applications, and assess the impact of changes before deployment.

Methodology

The methodology for this project involves a systematic approach to setting up and configuring VirtualBox on a Windows host machine to explore virtualization fundamentals through the creation and management of a Fedora Linux virtual machine (VM). The primary objective is to understand virtual networking, VM resource management, and various VirtualBox features, such as snapshots and cloning. The methodology is divided into key phases, each focusing on specific steps to achieve a hands-on understanding of virtualization.

Tools and Setup Requirements

Hardware and Software Requirements

To successfully install Fedora inside Red Hat Linux, the following requirements should be met:

Hardware Requirements:

• CPU: A processor that supports virtualization (e.g., AMD Ryzen 5500 or Intel equivalent).

• RAM: At least 8GB of memory (with 2GB or more dedicated to the Fedora VM).

• Storage: At least 512GB of available space, with 20GB or more reserved for the Fedora VM.

• Network: A stable internet connection for downloading Fedora ISO and required software packages.

Software Requirements:

• Host OS: Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 or later.

• Fedora ISO: The latest version of Fedora Workstation or Fedora Minimal.

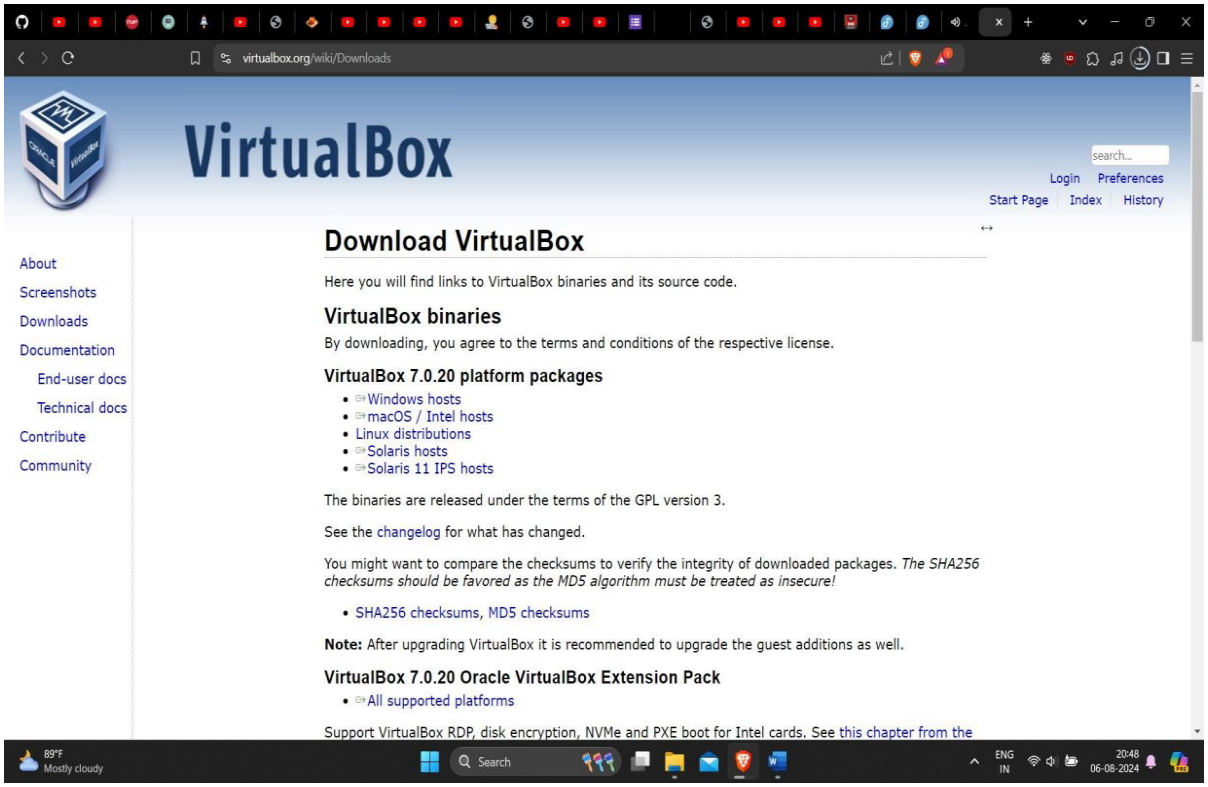
• KVM: Kernel-based Virtual Machine, a hypervisor built into the Linux kernel.

• Virt-Manager: A graphical tool for managing virtual machines.

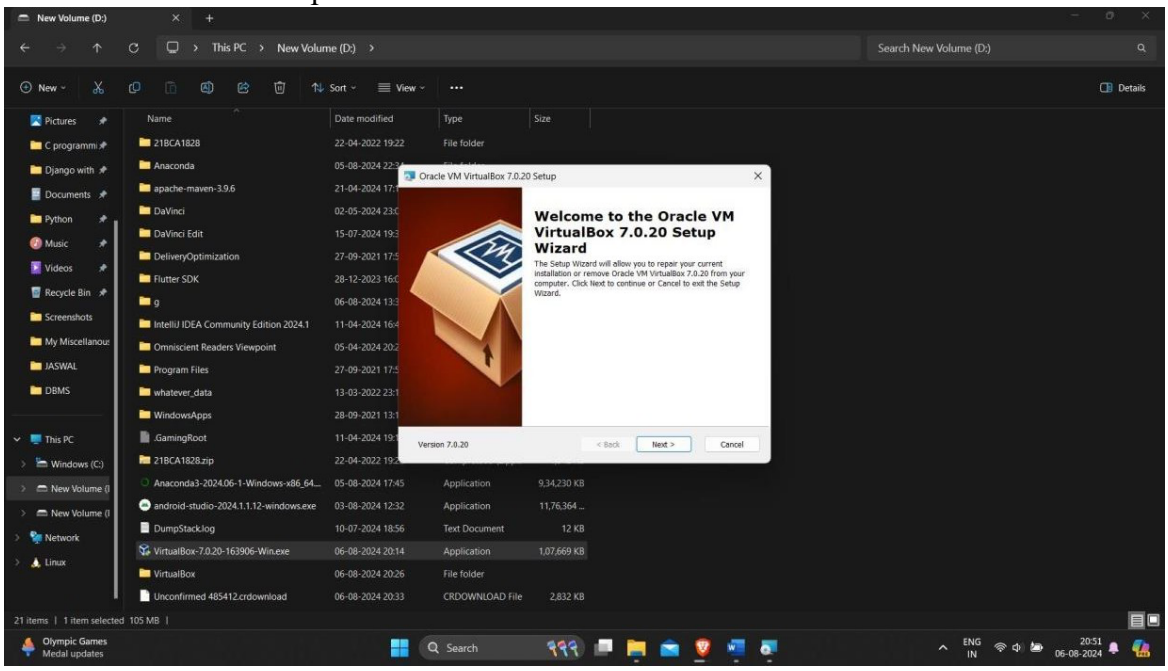
• QEMU: A machine emulator and virtualizer that works with KVM to virtualize hardware.

Installation

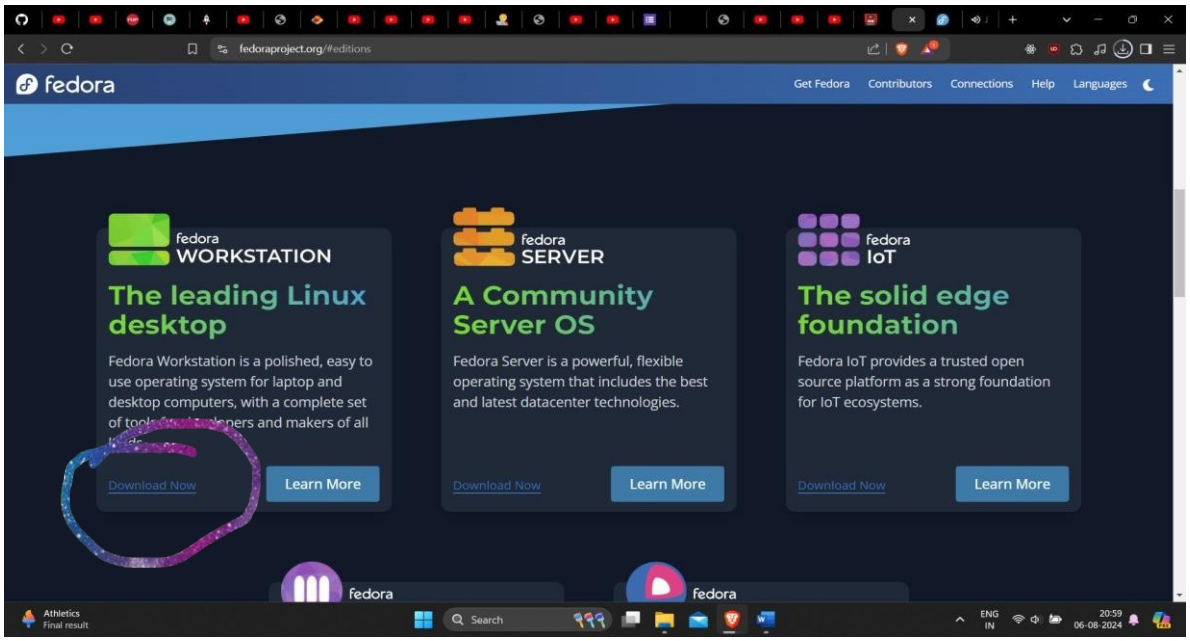
i. Install Oracle VirtualBox by visiting the website. Choose windows host and the download of virtual box will start automatically.



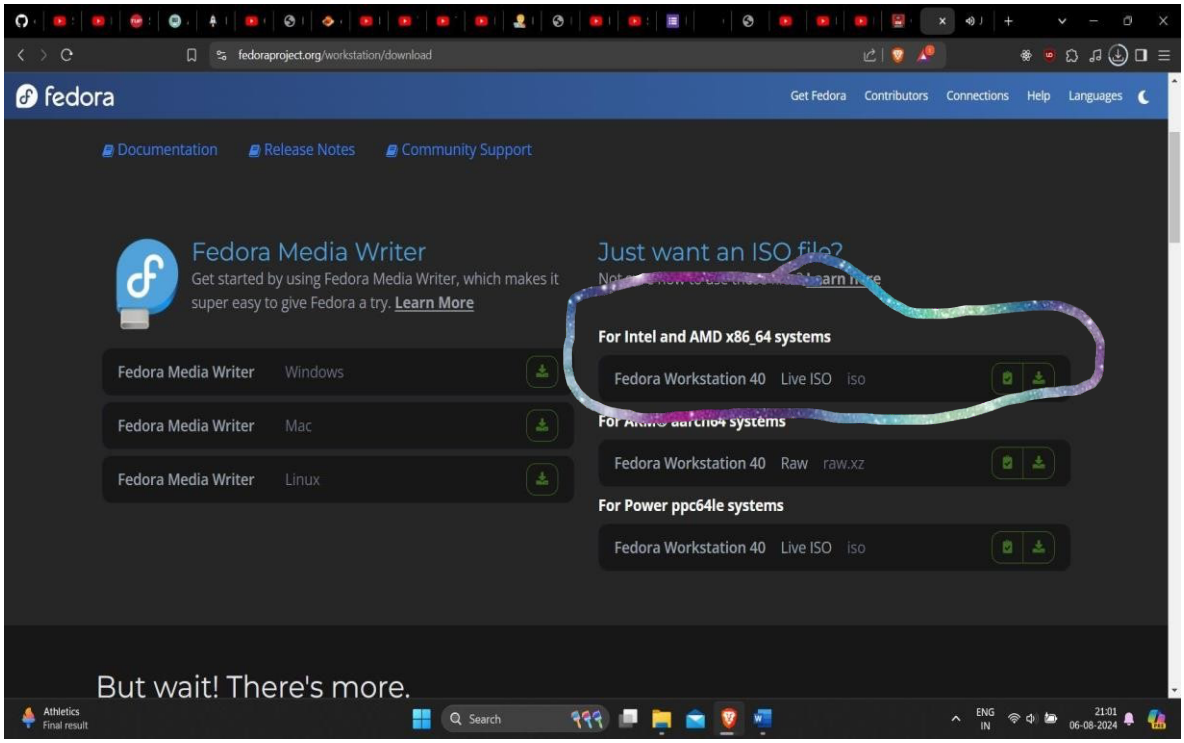
ii. Run the virtual box setup wizard.



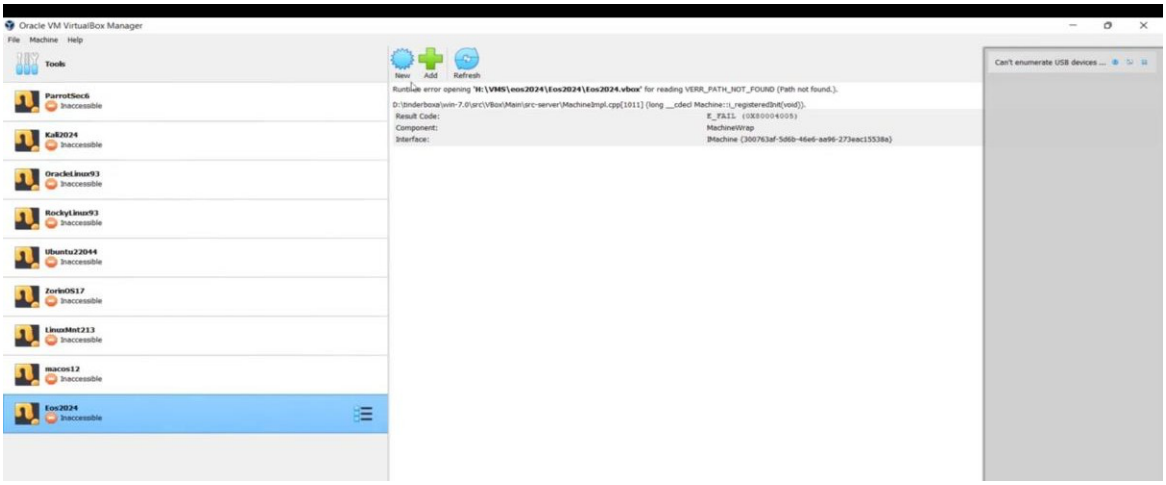
iii. Go to Fedora website and click on latest release. iv. Look for fedora workstation and click on download now.



v. Click on the download button of marked area and installation will start automatically.

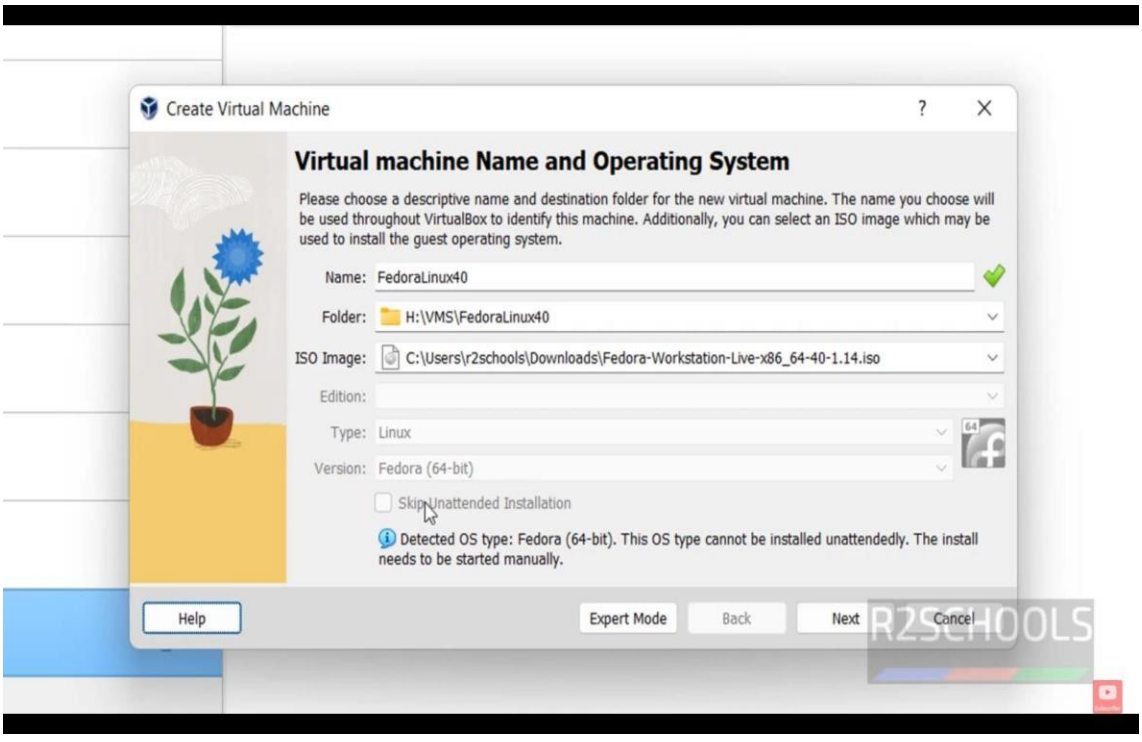


vi. Open your virtual box.

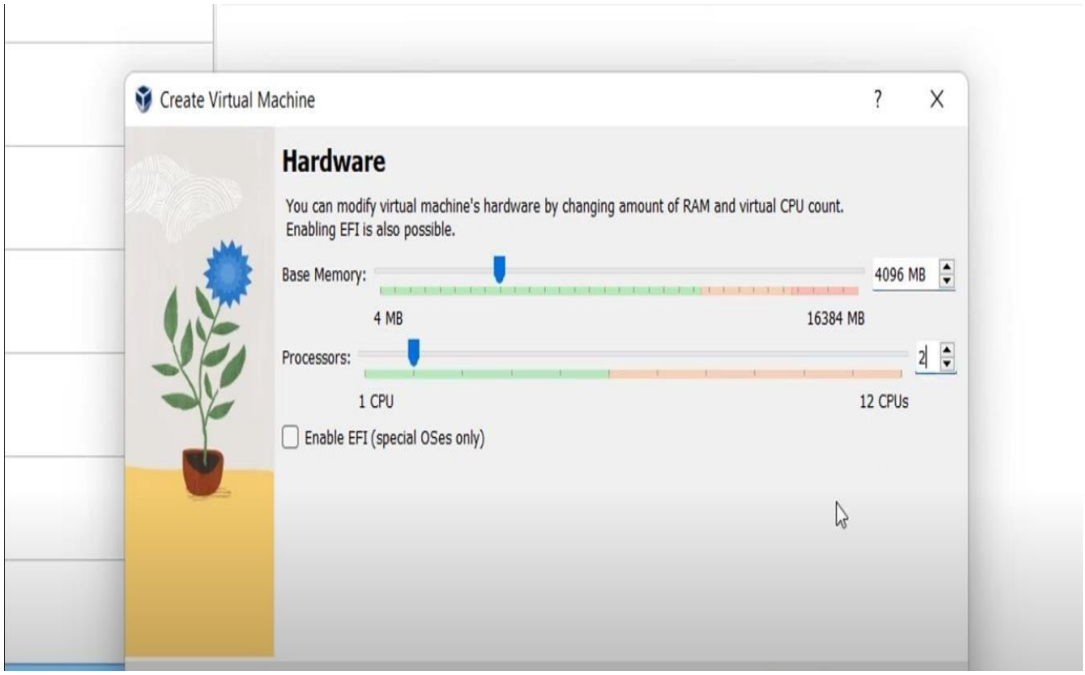


vii. Click on new to create a new virtual machine.

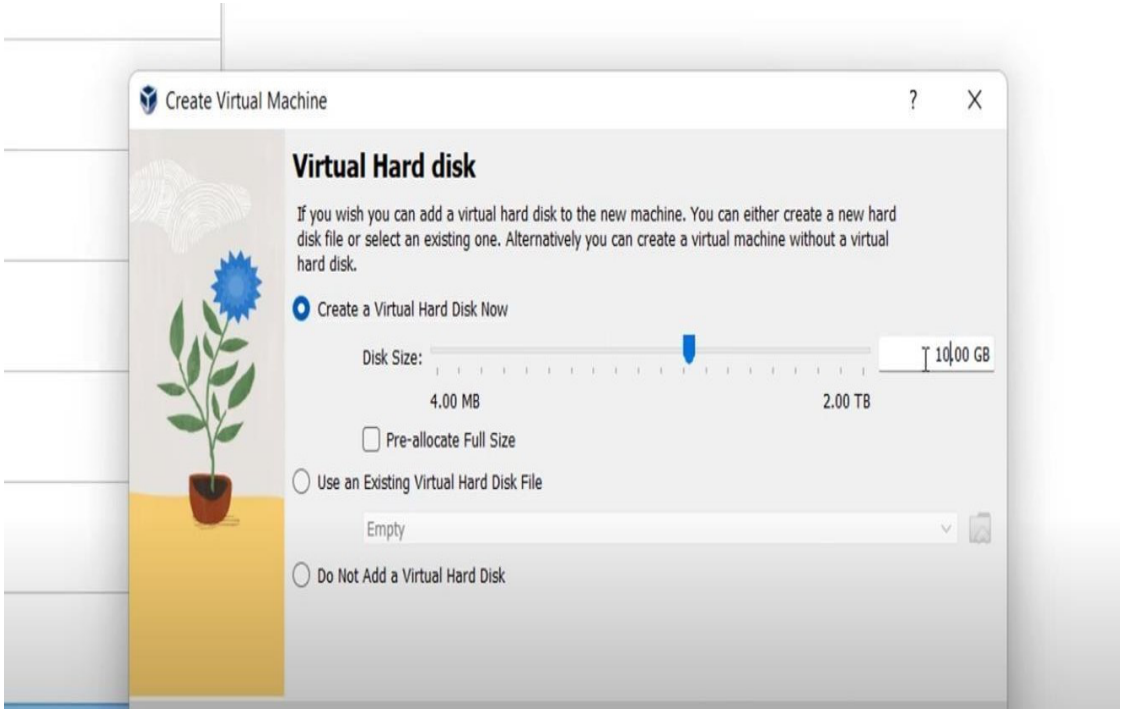
viii. Provide details for virtual machine like the name, folder and iso installation path. Then click on next.



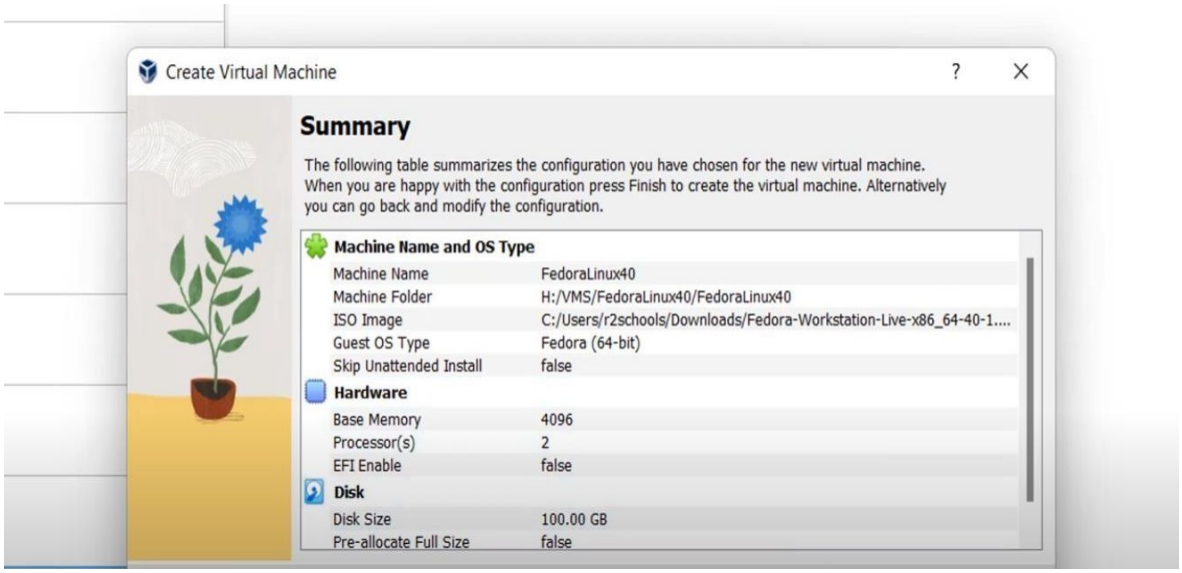
ix. Allocate resources like memory and processors to your virtual machine.



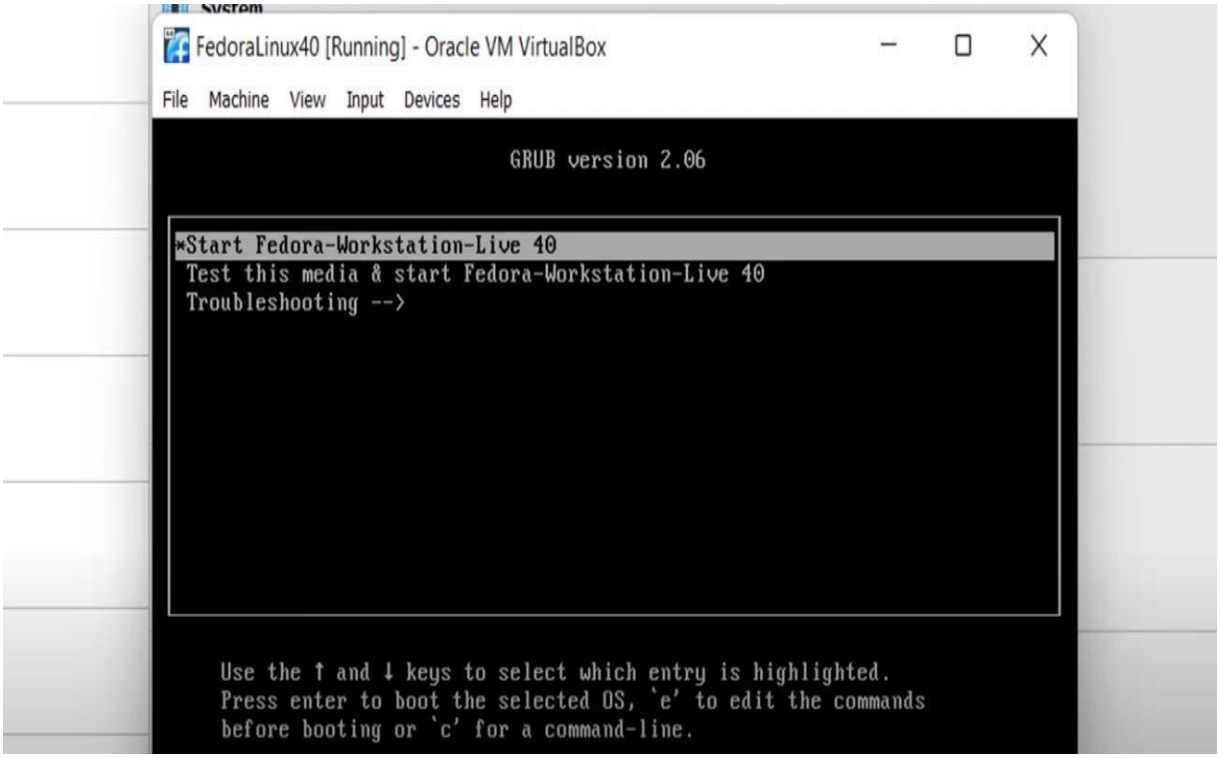
x. Create a virtual hard disk and allocate it some memory and then click on ‘Next’.



xi. Check the summary that provides all the details entered for memory and resource allocation and then click on ‘Finish’. Your fedora virtual machine is now created.

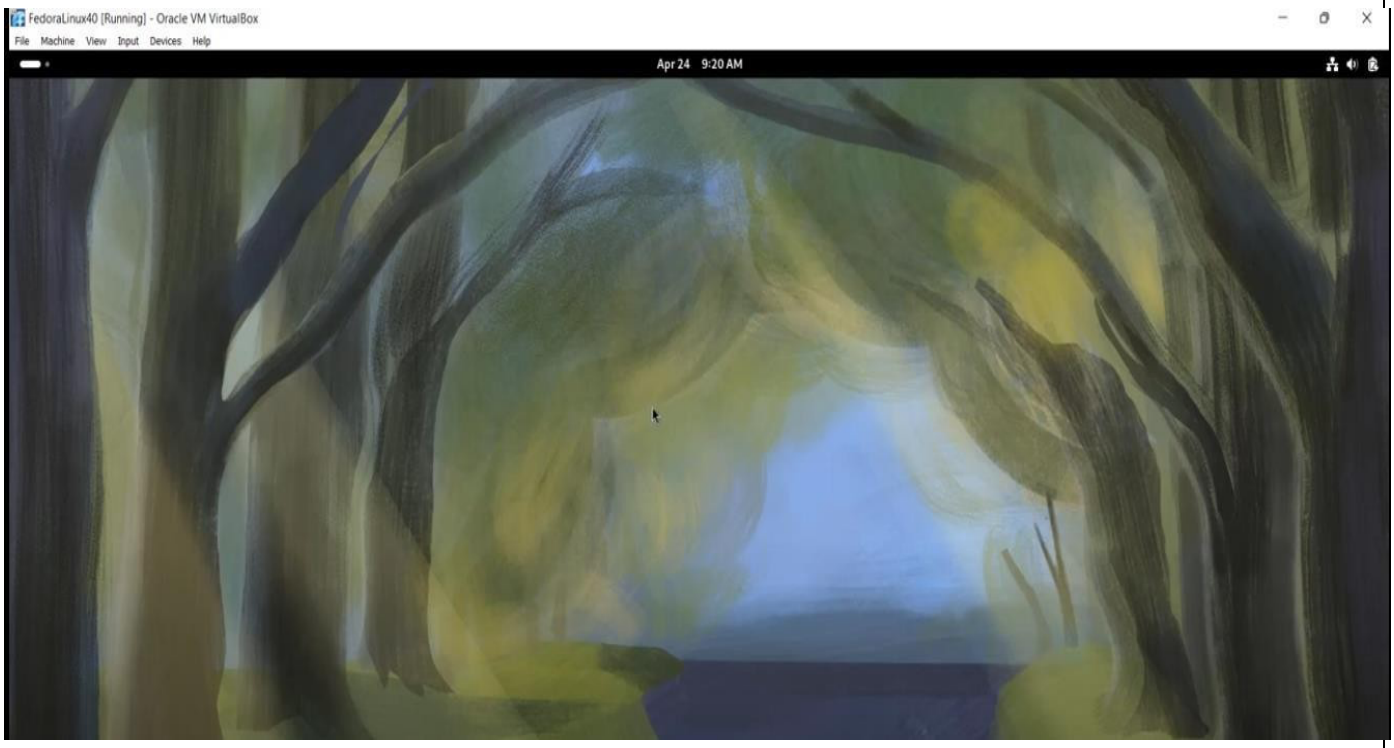


xii. Right click on Fedora linux virtual machine and then go to Start -> Normal Start. xiii. After starting, click ‘Enter’ on first option.



xiii. Your fedora virtual machine is now installed on your machine through a virtual box.

5. Result:



Configuring Virtual Disks and Storage

Managing virtual storage is essential for performance and proper resource allocation. Here's how to configure the disk space optimally:

Step 1: Use a Thin-Provisioned Disk

Virt-Manager allows you to allocate storage dynamically with thin provisioning. This means the VM will only use the disk space it needs, up to the allocated limit. It's a more efficient way to manage storage on the host system.

Step 2: Disk Caching

Enable disk caching options in Virt-Manager to improve the performance of

read/write operations on the virtual disk. This will increase the overall

responsiveness of the Fedora VM.

Network Configuration

Networking is crucial for connecting the Fedora VM to the internet or the local network.

Step 1: Choose Network Mode

There are two common network modes to choose from:

• NAT (Network Address Translation): Provides internet access to the VM through the host's network interface. It is simple to set up and works out of the box.

• Bridge Mode: Allows the VM to appear as another device on the network, with its IP address. This is useful for more complex networking setups.

Step 2: Configure Network Interface

After selecting the network mode, make sure the Fedora VM has a working network interface. You can manually configure IP addresses or use DHCP to automatically assign one.

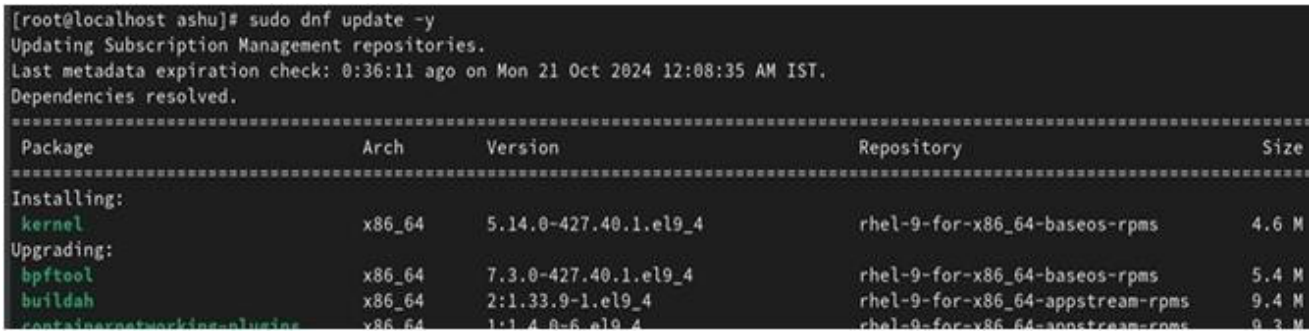
Post-Installation Configuration

Initial Setup of Fedora Minimal

Once Fedora Minimal is installed and running, you may need to perform an initial configuration tasks such as updating the system and installing essential packages. Step

1: Update System Packages

Update Fedora using the DNF package manage



sudo dnf update -y

Step 2: Install Basic Utilities

You can install basic packages such as wget, vim, and net-tools:

```
[root@localhost ashu]# sudo dnf install wget vim net-tools -y
Updating Subscription Management repositories.
Last metadata expiration check: 0:38:52 ago on Mon 21 Oct 2024 12:08:35 AM IST.
Package wget-1.21.1-8.el9_4.x86_64 is already installed.
Package vim-enhanced-2:8.2.2637-20.el9_1.x86_64 is already installed.
Package net-tools-2.0-0.62.20160912git.el9.x86_64 is already installed.
Dependencies resolved.
Nothing to do.
Complete!
```

sudo dnf install wget vim net-tools -y

Conclusion

The "Introduction to Virtualization with VirtualBox" project successfully demonstrates the fundamental principles and practical applications of virtualization. By installing and configuring VirtualBox on a Windows system, creating a Fedora Linux virtual machine (VM), and experimenting with virtual networking configurations, users gain hands-on experience with critical aspects of desktop virtualization.

The project highlights the versatility of VirtualBox as an open-source virtualization platform suitable for educational, testing, and development environments. Through virtual networking configurations, users explore how different modes, such as NAT, Bridged, and Host-Only, serve distinct purposes in network isolation and connectivity. Additionally, features like snapshots and cloning prove invaluable for managing VM states and replicating setups, enabling efficient testing and configuration management.

This hands-on approach offers practical insights into the benefits of virtualization, such as resource optimization, isolated testing environments, and system flexibility, and underscores VirtualBox's utility for simulating and managing virtual systems. The knowledge and experience gained through this project provide a strong foundation in virtualization, valuable for IT professionals, developers, and students in areas like cloud computing, network administration, and software development. Ultimately, this project reaffirms virtualization's critical role in modern computing and positions VirtualBox as a powerful tool for exploring and leveraging virtual environments effectively.

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Literature Review

Virtualization, a technology enabling the creation of multiple simulated environments or virtual machines (VMs) on a single physical host, has revolutionized computing. Virtualization platforms such as VMware, Hyper-V, and VirtualBox allow developers, system administrators, and IT professionals to harness the potential of hardware resources more effectively by creating isolated environments for testing, development, and production applications. This literature review explores foundational theories of virtualization, the role of open-source solutions like VirtualBox, advancements in virtual networking, and the integration of virtual environments into diverse computing applications.