Creating Windows Server 2025 VM in Proxmox

Category: Virtualization, Windows Server
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1. Overview

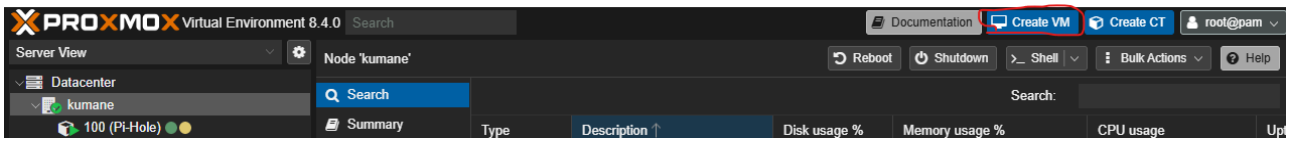
This article demonstrates the process of adding a Windows Server 2025 Virtual Machine to a Proxmox node and installing VirtIO drivers for optimized performance. Upon completion of the procedures, a WS2025 VM will be configured with QEMU-Guest-Agent and SPICE-Guest-Agent.

2. Prerequisites

- Access to Proxmox Web GUI: (192.168.0.14:8006)
- Root or Administrative Proxmox Credentials
- Windows Server 2025 .ISO
- VirtIO Drivers .ISO

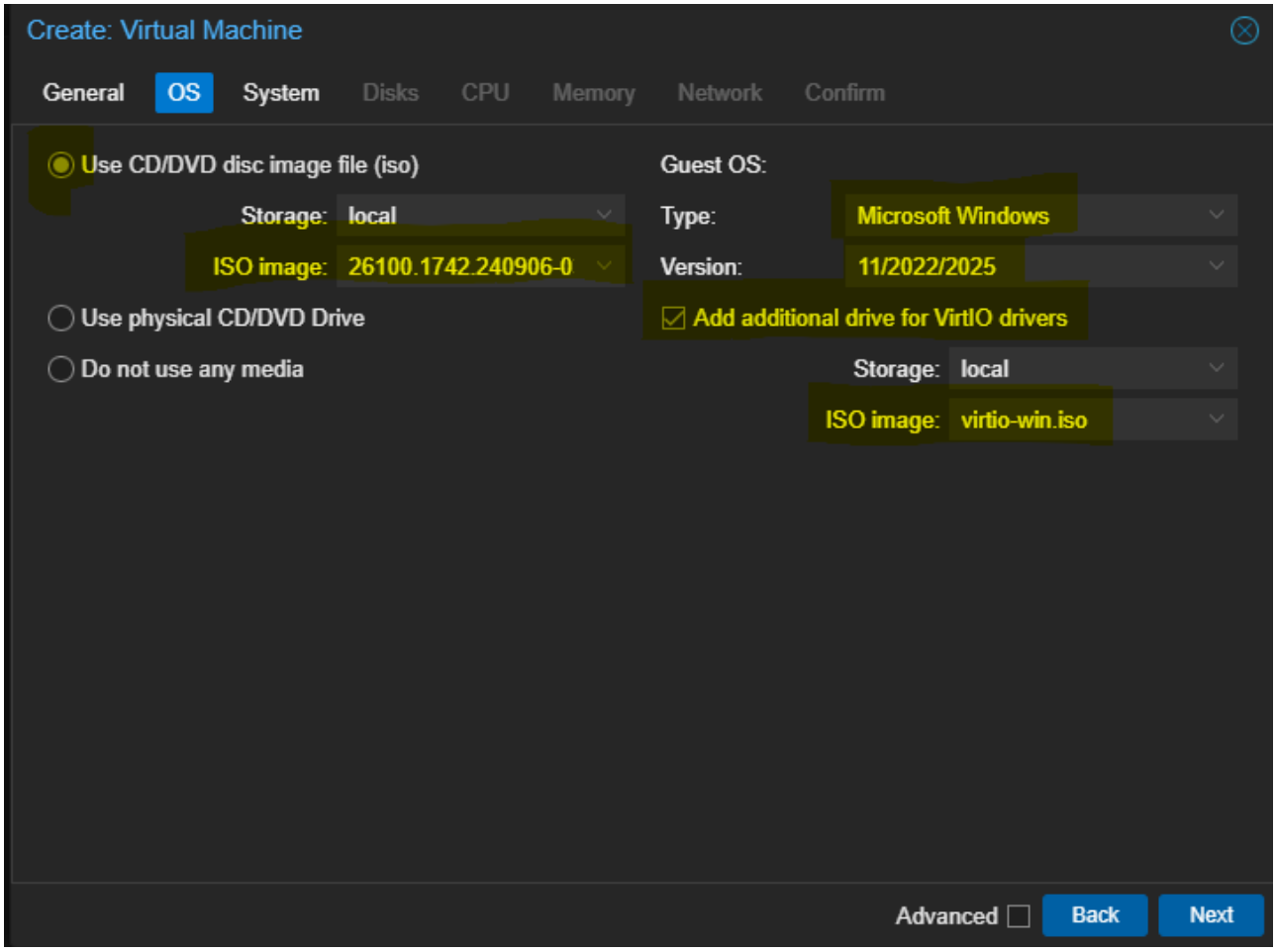
3. Procedure

1. Open Proxmox WebGUI and sign in using appropriate credentials.
2. Under Server View on left-hand side, click to expand *Datacenter* and then click to expand the appropriate *Node*
3. Click *Create VM*



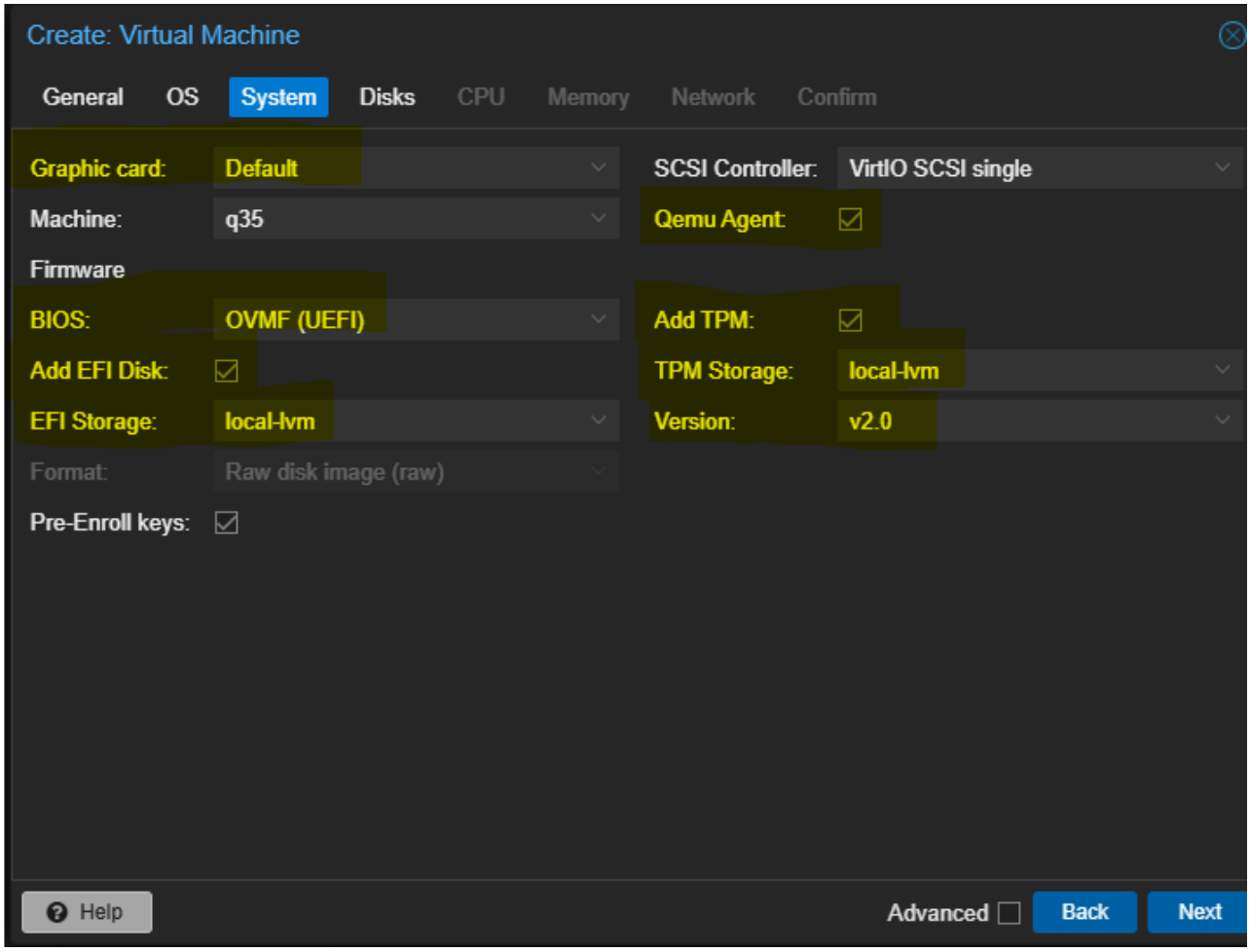
4. Set *VM ID* to chosen # within standard convention, set a name for the VM under *name* and then click Next
5. Select *Use CD/DVD disc image file (iso)*, then select the storage device the Windows Server 2025 .iso is stored on, and select the appropriate .iso
6. Under *Guest OS* on the right-hand side of the OS Tab, change *Type:* to *Microsoft Windows*, *Version* to *11/2022/2025*, and click the box for *Add additional drive for VirtIO drivers* **Failure to add VirtIO drivers will result in significant performance loss due to lack of paravirtualized access to devices and**

peripherals including: disk drives, network devices, and memory management

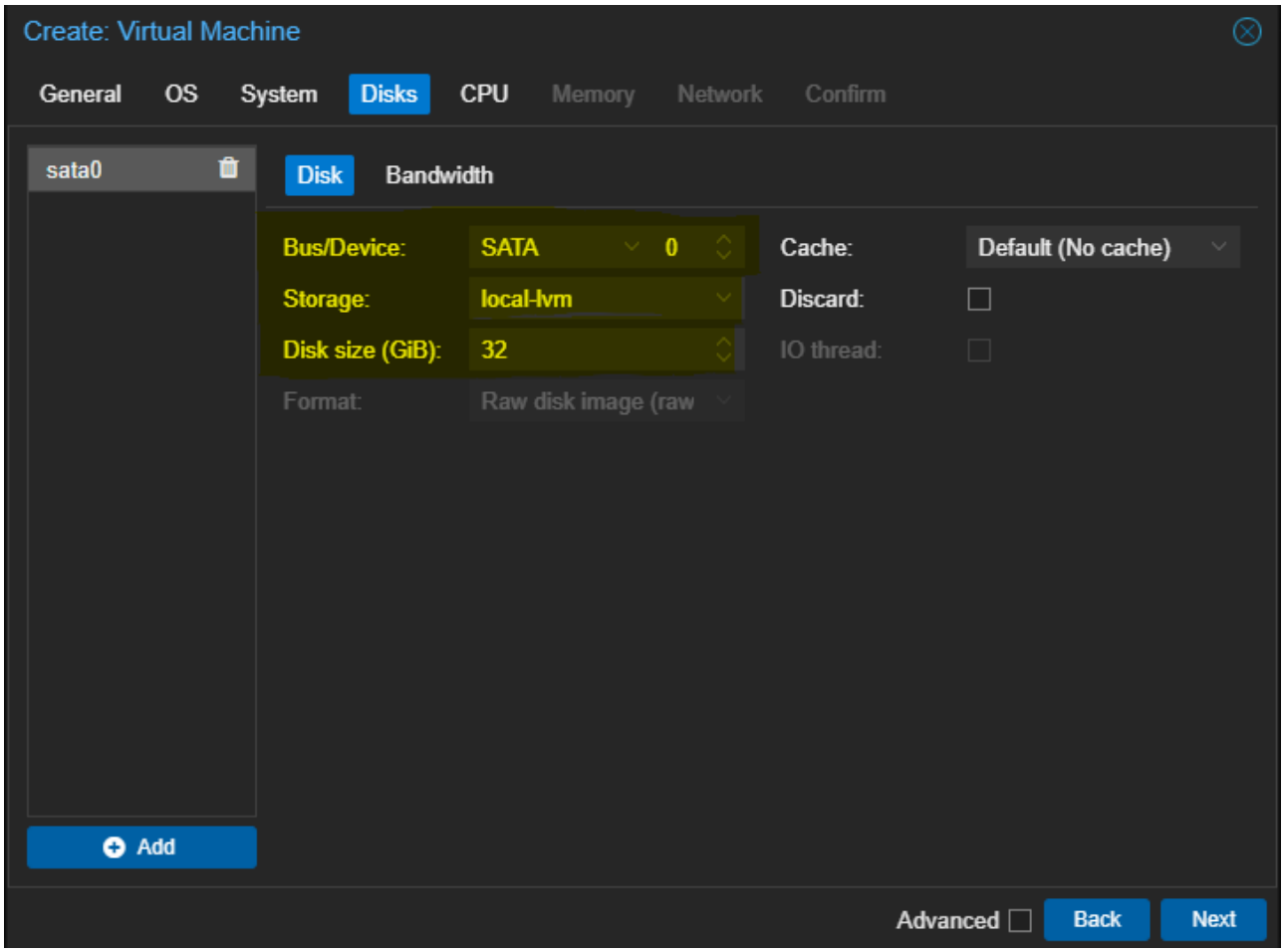


7. Leave Graphic Card device as *Default* for now. Ensure *BIOS* is set to *UEFI*, Check box to *Add EFI Disk*, add *EFI storage device*, Click to enable *QEMU guest Agent*, Click to *Add TPM and TPM storage* and verify

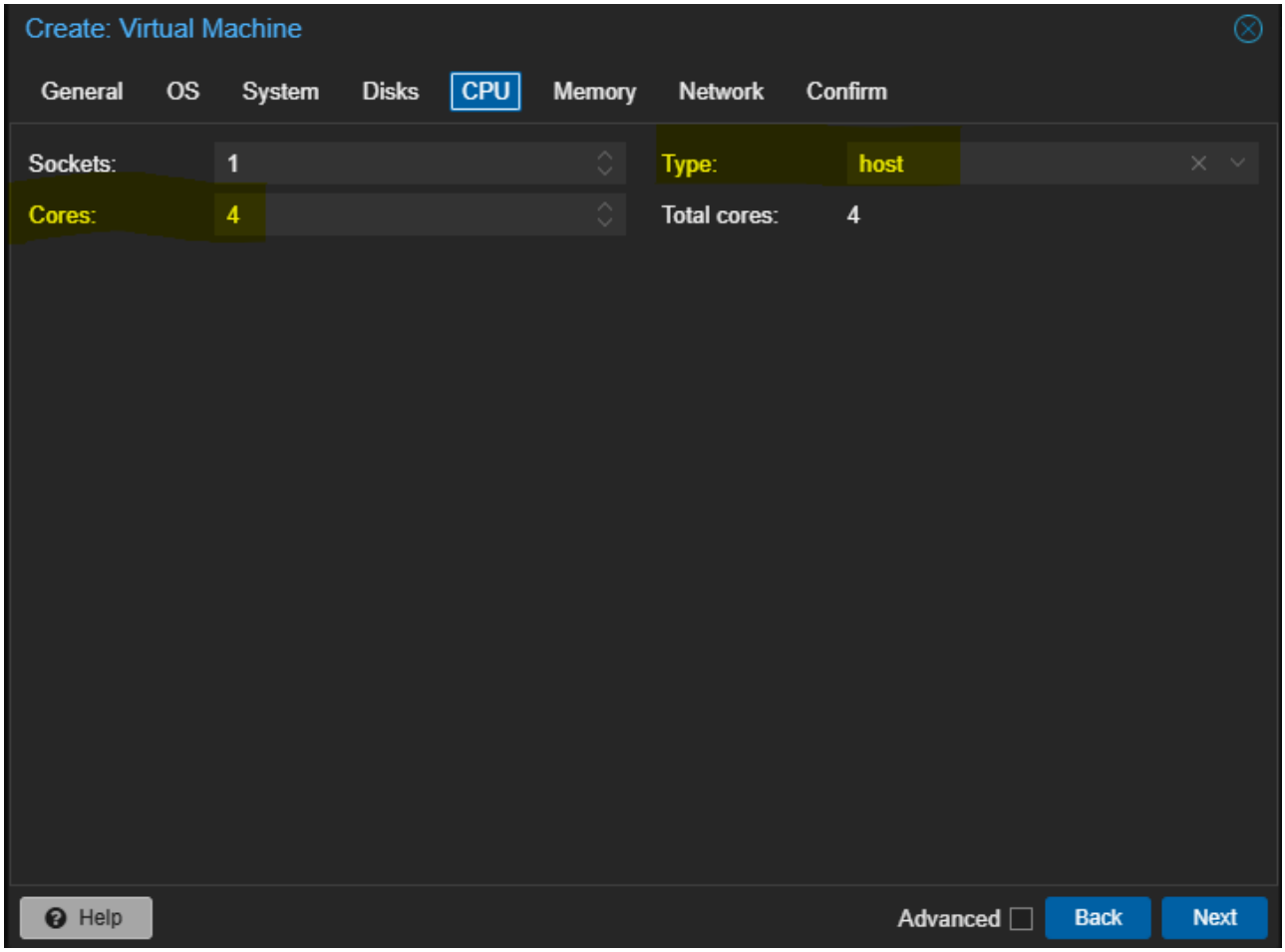
usage of *TPM v2.0*



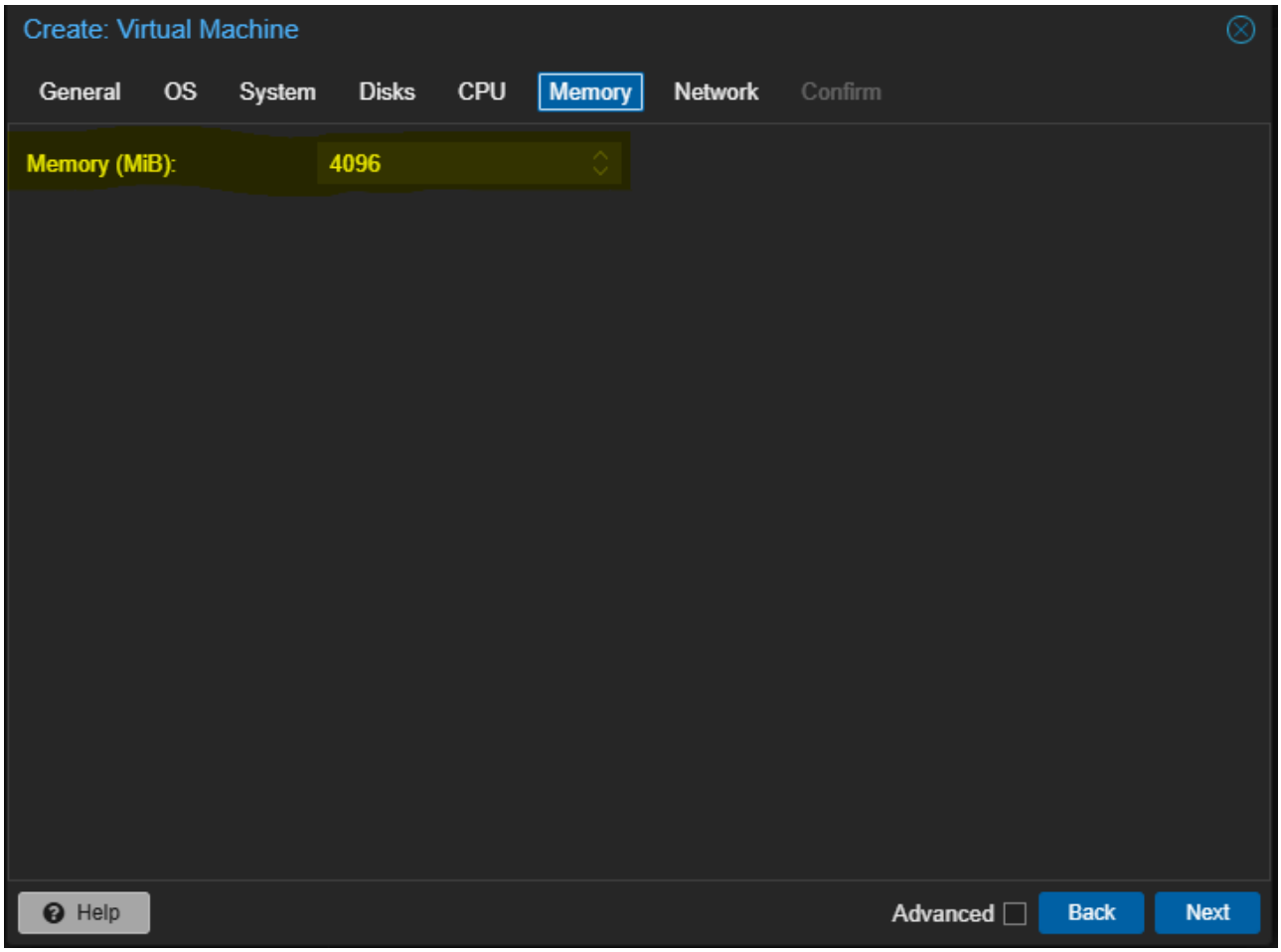
8. Under Disks tab, set *Bus/Device* to SATA, select storage location and allocate appropriate Disk size.



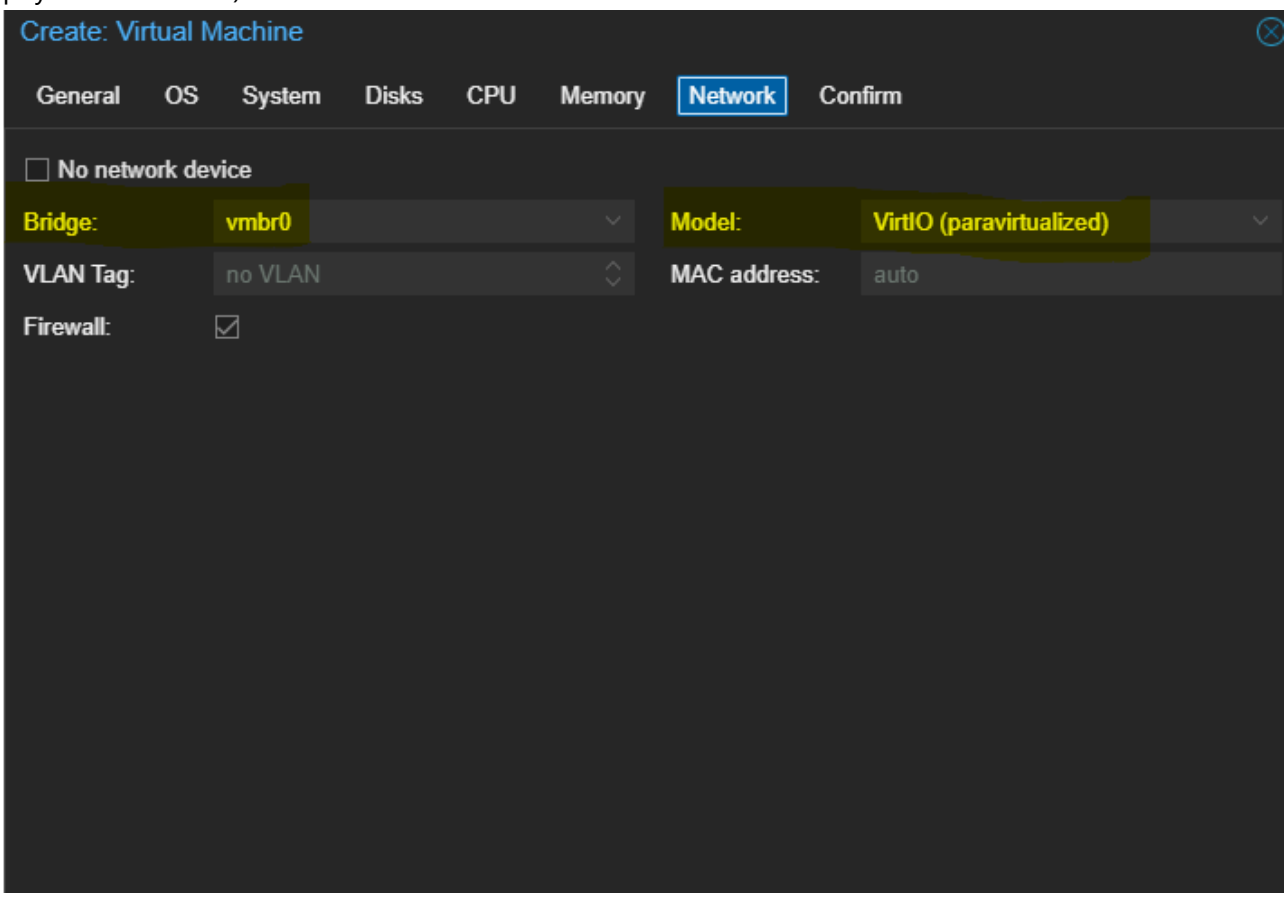
9. Set CPU type to *host* and allocate at minimum 4 CPU cores for optimal performance.



10. Allocated at least **4GB** of memory to the VM for perfomance

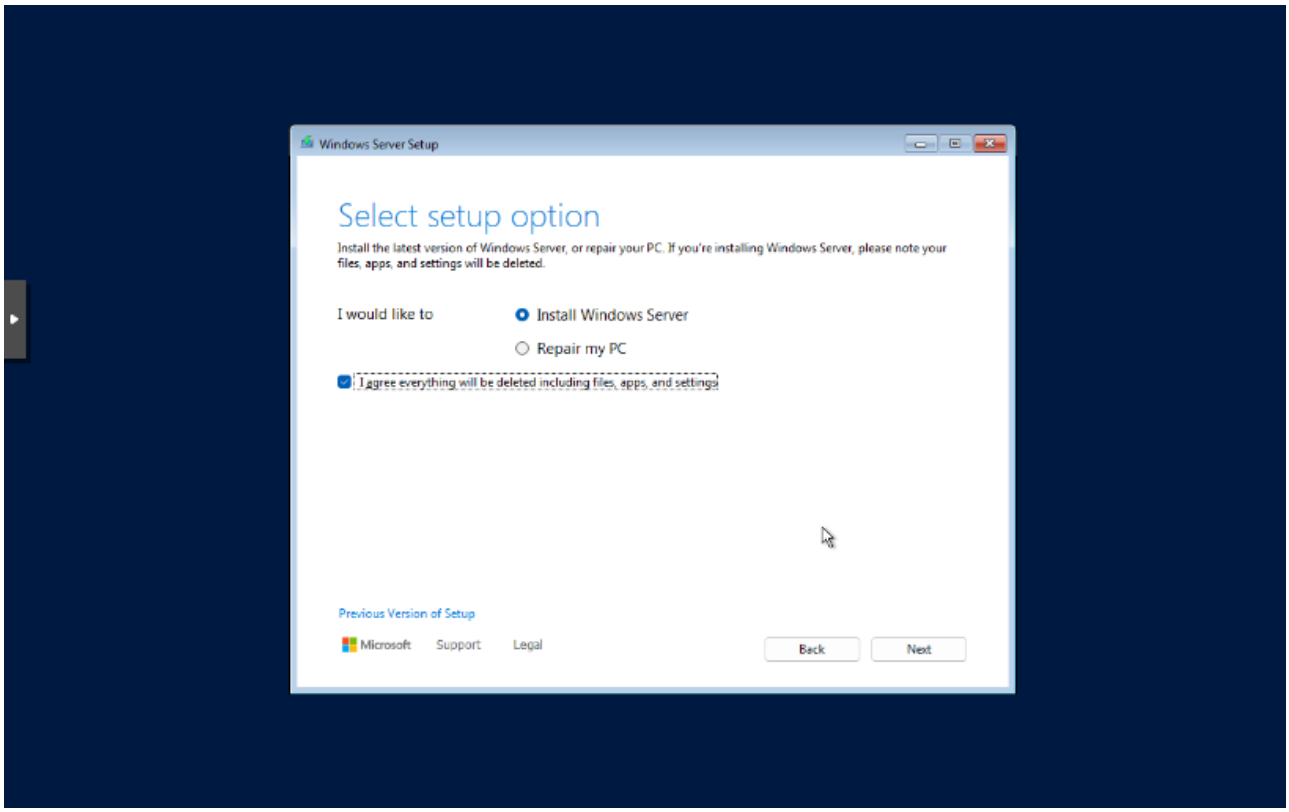


11. Set the first NIC (Network Interface Controller) to use the Linux bridge that is connected to the internet. In this case, vmbr0 connects the Proxmox hypervisor 192.168.0.14/24 to the default gateway of 192.168.0.1. (Linux bridge interfaces can be thought of as virtual switches that connect guests to physical interfaces.)



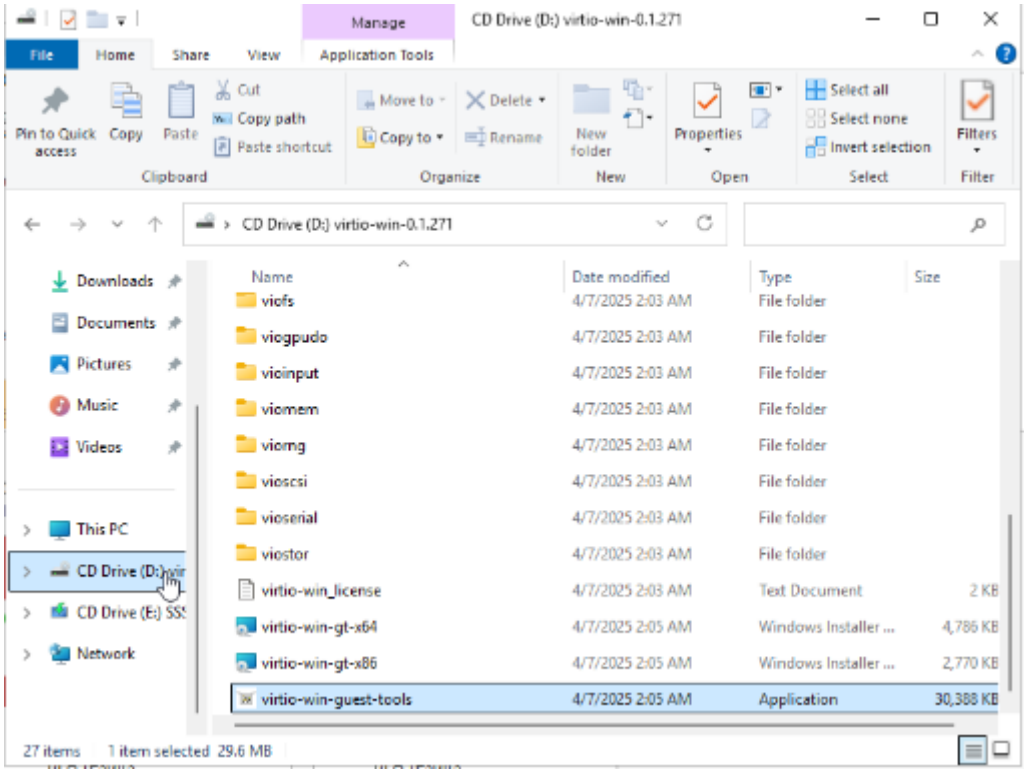
12. Confirm VM creation and then Click Start to boot the Virtual Machine

13. Navigate to *Select Setup Option* select *Install Windows Server*, click to agree, and then select *Windows Server 2025 Standard Evaluation (Desktop Experience)*



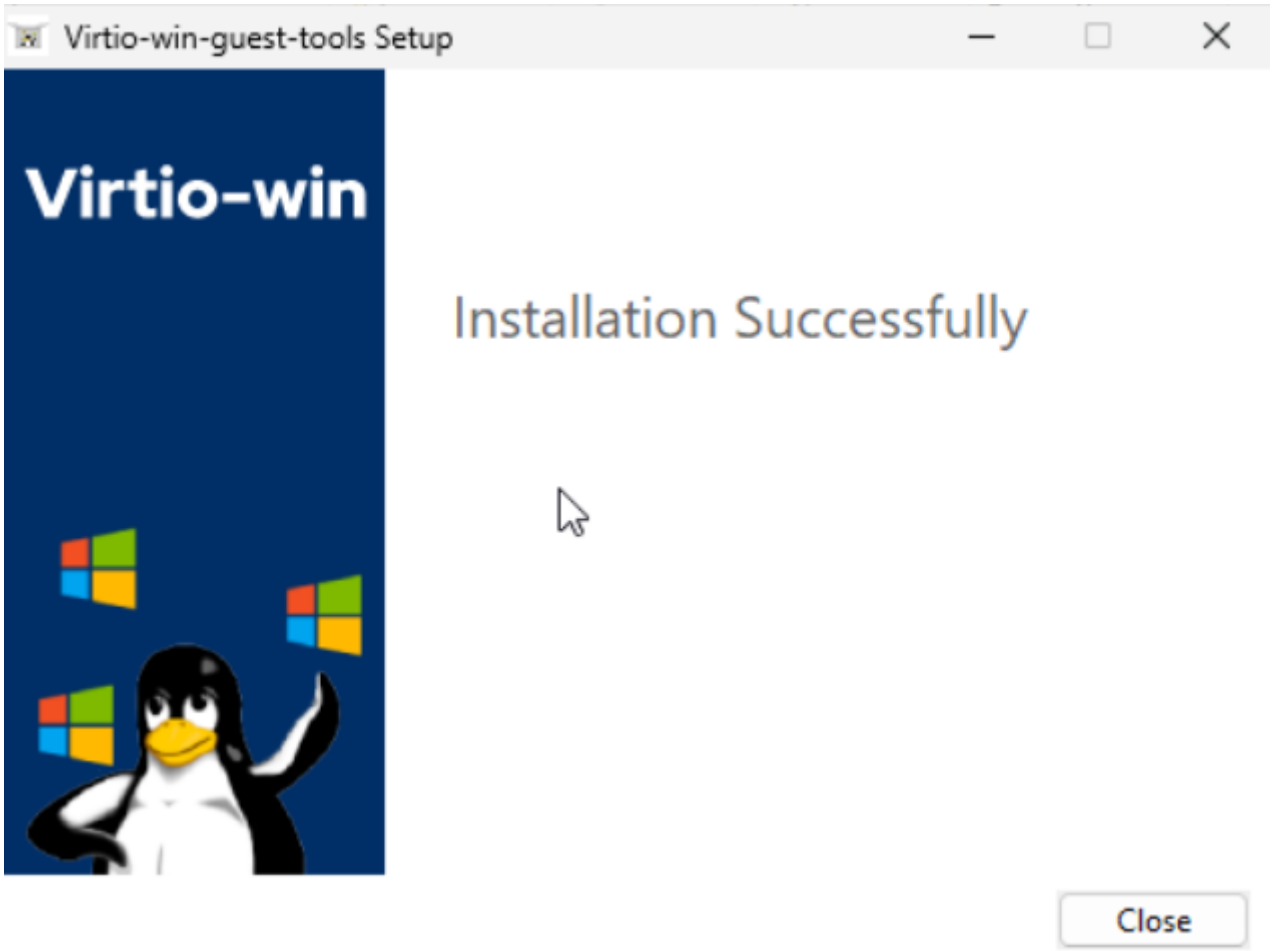
14. Accept the license agreement, select the drive to install the operating system on and then click *next*, *install*, and then wait for the installation to finish.

15. Navigate to the file explorer after initial installation, and select the *CD Drive with the VirtIO Drivers*. Then, double click to run *virtio-win-guest-tools* Agree to all licensing and then install all drivers.

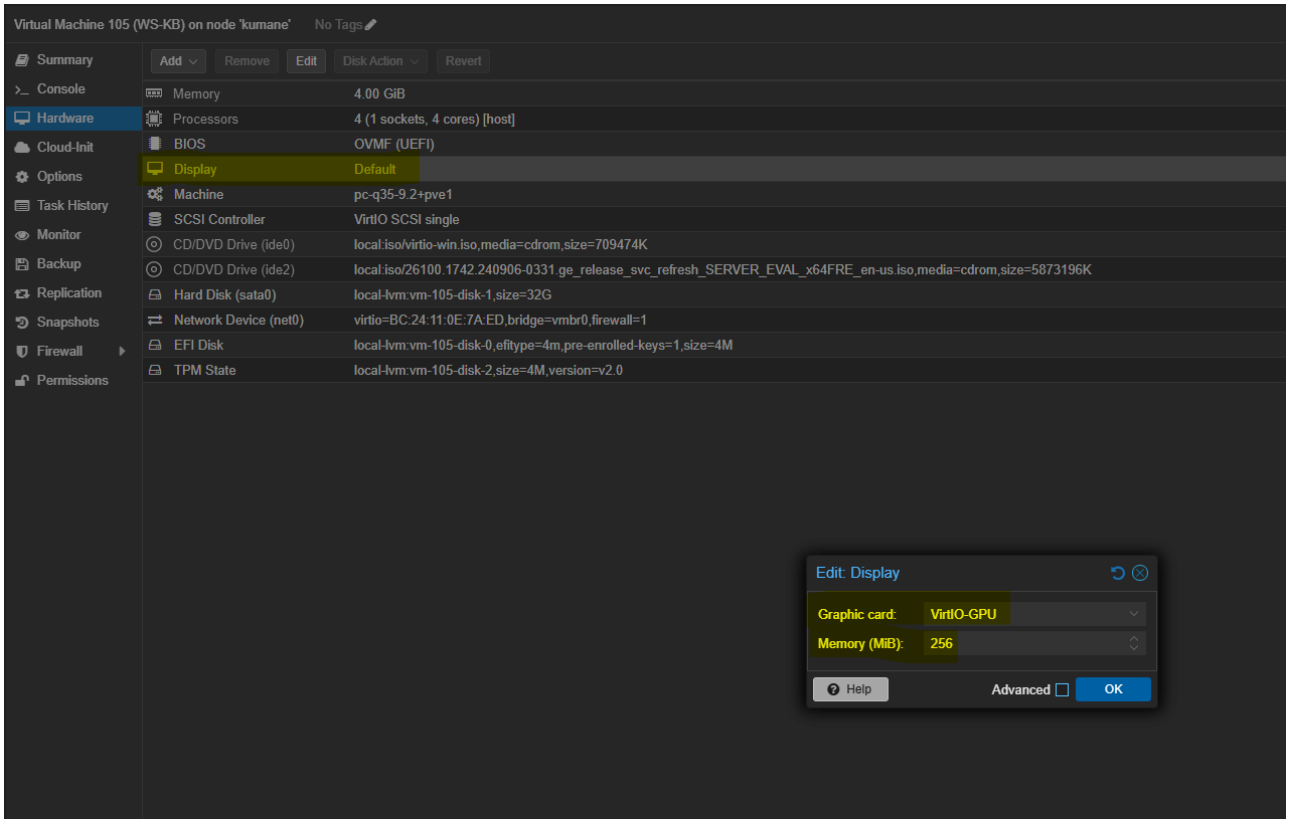


16. The Installation should succeed. All guest agents are now installed, and the option to use SPICE as a VNC client will be available in Proxmox after successfully rebooting the WS2025 Guest. (SPICE enables a

shared clipboard between the VMs and the host accessing the Hypervisor)



17. Shut down the WS2025 Guest cleanly through the Guest interface. Navigate to the *Hardware* tab in the *Proxmox Web GUI* then select *Display*. Set Graphic Card to *VirtIO-GPU* and set Memory to a value between *128-256* allocating more as needed for smoothness.



18. Start WS2025 VM. Mouse movement should be smooth with little delay, and a SPICE Client is now available for remoting in to the VM on Linux hardware, but RDP solutions should be used when accessing from a Windows machine for ease of use.

4. Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Notes
1.0	10/1/2025	Kevin Gonzalez	Initial version