

VirtualBox_How_to_Use_Snapshots

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1 VirtualBox: How to Use Snapshots

What are Snapshots?

- Allows one to save the state of a VM, and then restore the VM to that state at later date.
- They allows to quickly roll back changes without needing to a complete reinstall and re-configuration. ##### How to create them:
- Select desired machine.
- Click on 'Machine Tools'.
- Go to 'Snapshots'.
- Click on the 'Take' Icon, and fill in name/description

1.0.1 Example Case - Two Web Server Clients, Two Snapshots, One VM.

: First Snapshot

- In Terminal type `service apache2 status`
- Will say that apache can't be found
- To install type `sudo apt-get install apache2 -y`
- Once completed power down the VM
- Go to Snapshots menu once again and make a Snapshot.

Second Snapshot

- Go to the Snapshots menu, if you're not there already.
- Select a previous Snapshot and click Restore.
- Now power up your VM once again.
- In terminal type `sudo apt-get install nginx.`
- Once installed, shutdown VM.
- Make a new Snapshot of the VM.

Now you can test both Apache, and Nginx on the same Virtual Machine.

1.0.2 Snapshots while your VM is Running

- A snapshot while the VM is off captures settings, and the state of the file system.
- A snapshot while the VM is running captures the current state of the memory in its entirety, as well as aforementioned.

- This can be useful should you need to shutdown a machine mid-download, or something to that effect.
- However, keep in mind that a Snapshot taken while the machine is running creates a very large file, perhaps equal to the size of the VM's virtual disk itself.