

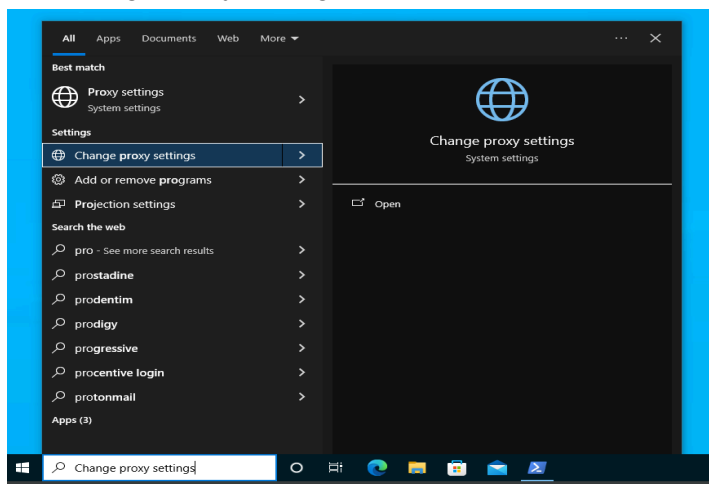
## Building a Malware Analysis Lab (Self-Hosted & Cloud) Project

### Part 1

1. Download Windows 10 Enterprise - this will be our pretend "victim" computer where we'll test the malware.
2. Also, get Remnux as a virtualbox OVA.
3. While waiting for Remnux to download:
- 4.
5. Set up a Windows 10 Flair VM.
6. When everything is set up, download your favorite web browser, Chrome, Brave, etc.
7. With Chrome installed, let's adjust some settings.

To install Flare VM, you'll need to tweak some default settings on Windows.

1. Start by going to your Windows search bar and searching for "proxy settings." Click on "Change proxy settings" and switch off "Automatically detect settings."



### Proxy

#### Automatic proxy setup

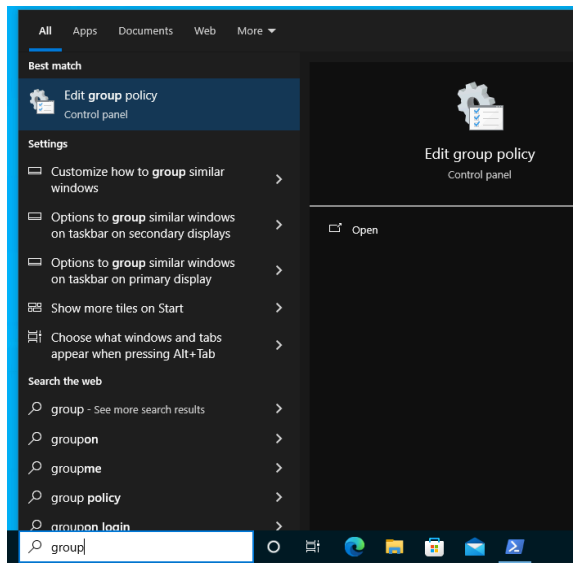
Use a proxy server for Ethernet or Wi-Fi connections. These settings don't apply to VPN connections.

Automatically detect settings

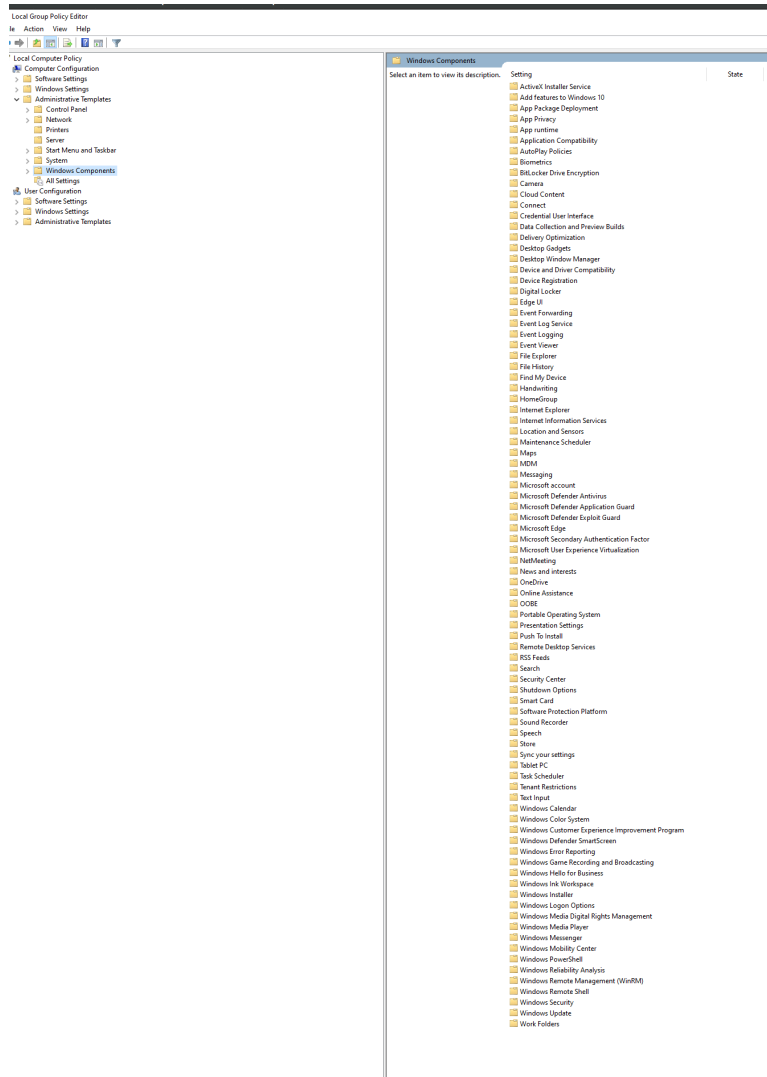


2. Next, disable Windows Defender. This is important because Windows Defender may interfere with the detonation of many common malware variants. Make sure to turn it off to ensure smooth execution when testing malware.
3. Returning to the search bar, type "defender," click on Windows Security, navigate to 'Virus & Threat Protection,' and under 'Virus & Threat Protection Settings,' click 'Manage Settings.' Turn off all the protections listed there, and then exit out. With real-time protection off, you can simply close the Windows Security window.

- Next, let's configure some settings in the Windows Group Policy (GPO). Go back to the search bar, type "Group," and select 'Edit group policy.'



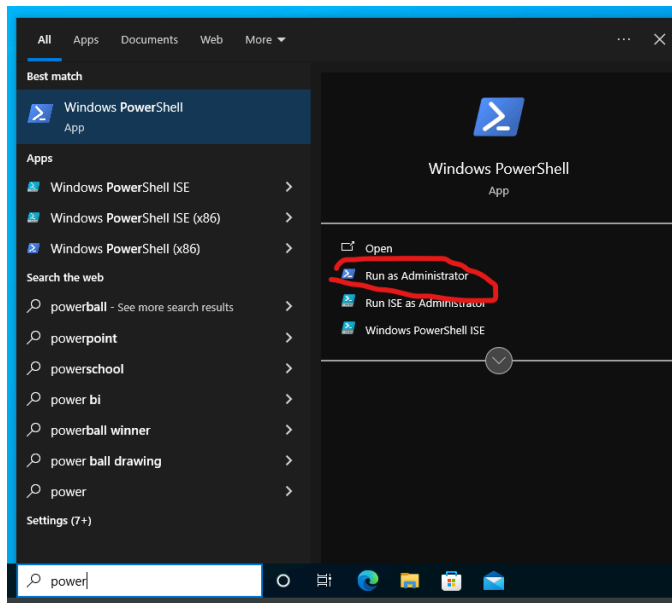
- Once you've opened 'Edit group policy,' navigate to "Administrative Templates," then "Windows Components," and go to 'Microsoft Defender Antivirus.' Inside, double-click on 'Turn off Microsoft Defender Antivirus,' choose 'Enable,' apply the changes, and click 'OK.'



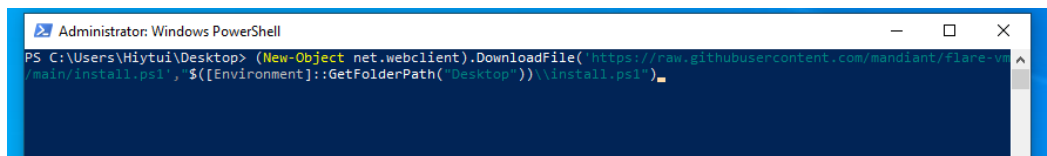
6. To turn off the Windows Firewall, go to "Administrative Templates," then click on "Network," followed by "Network Connections." Choose 'Windows Defender Firewall' and click on 'Domain Profile.' Double-click on "Windows Defender Firewall: Protect all network connections," select 'Disabled,' apply the changes, and then click 'OK.'

Now, go back to Windows Defender Firewall, click on 'Standard Profile,' and double-click on "Windows Defender Firewall: Protect all network connections." Choose 'Disabled,' apply the changes, and then click 'OK.'

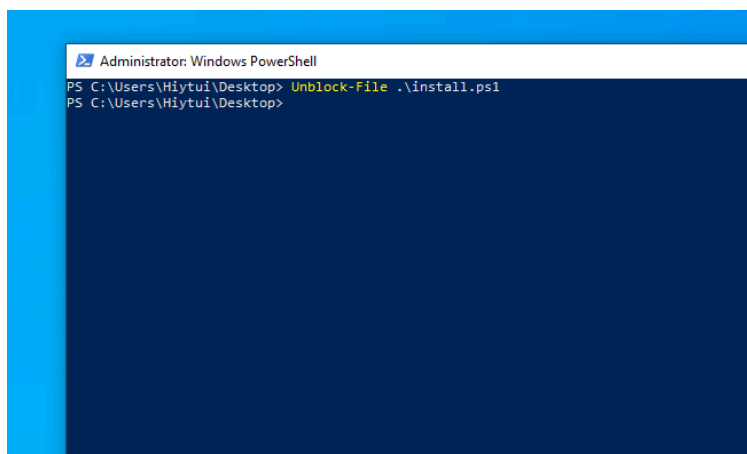
7. At this point, you've configured the necessary settings for Flare VM installation. Exit out of all the settings and applications.
8. Now, create a snapshot for Flare VM. After the snapshot, you'll be prepared to install Flare VM via PowerShell. Open PowerShell as an administrator and navigate to the desktop using the command: `cd C:\Users\Yourname\Desktop`



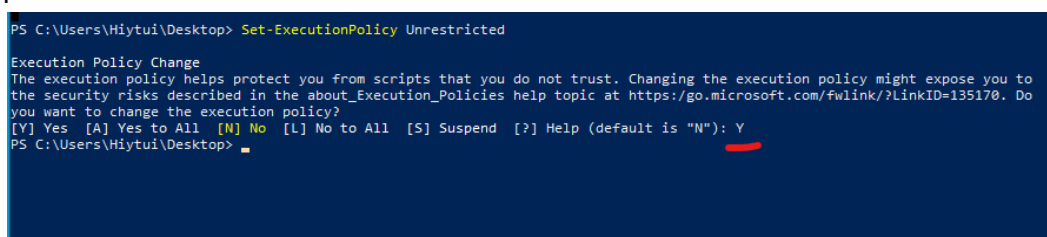
9. After that run this command in powershell administrator in the picture below.
- ```
(New-Object net.webclient).DownloadFile("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/mandiant/flare-vm/main/install.ps1", "$([Environment]::GetFolderPath("Desktop"))\install.ps1")
```



Next unblock the file using this command `Unblock-File .\install.ps1`



Then run `Set-ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted`. then "Y" "hint " its better to write on the powershell.



Now it's time to execute the installation PowerShell script by entering the following command. `.\install.ps1`

```
PS C:\Users\Hiytui\Desktop> .\install.ps1
[+] Checking if PowerShell version is compatible...
    [+] Installing with PowerShell version 5.1.19041.1682
[+] Checking if script is running as administrator...
    [+] Running as administrator
[+] Checking if execution policy is unrestricted...
    [+] Execution policy is unrestricted
[+] Checking to make sure Operating System is compatible...
    [+] Installing on Windows version 19045
[+] Checking for spaces in the username...
    [+] Username 'Hiytui' does not contain any spaces.
[+] Checking if host has enough disk space...
    [+] Disk is larger than 60 GB
[+] Checking for Internet connectivity (google.com)...
    [+] Internet connectivity check for google.com passed
[+] Checking for Internet connectivity (github.com)...
    [+] Internet connectivity check for github.com passed
[+] Checking for Internet connectivity (raw.githubusercontent.com)...
    [+] Internet connectivity check for raw.githubusercontent.com passed
    [+] Network connectivity looks good
[+] Checking if Windows Defender Tamper Protection is disabled...
    [+] Tamper Protection is disabled
[+] Checking if Windows Defender service is disabled...
    [+] Defender is disabled
[-] Have you taken a VM snapshot to ensure you can revert to pre-installation state? (Y/N): Y_
```

During this step, you will be prompted to enter the credentials you previously set up. Follow the instructions as shown in the picture below and allow the process to proceed with the download.

```
[+] Defender is disabled
[-] Have you taken a VM snapshot to ensure you can revert to pre-installation state? (Y/N): Y
[+] Getting user credentials ...

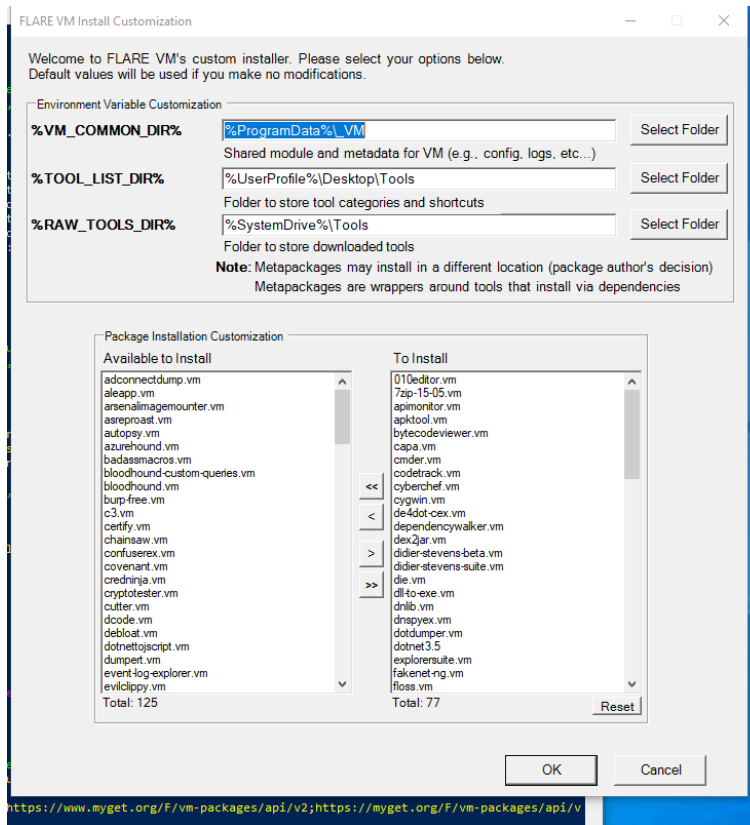
Windows PowerShell credential request
Enter your credentials.
Password for user Hiytui: ****

[+] Getting user credentials ...

Windows PowerShell credential request
Enter your credentials.
Password for user Hiytui: ****

[+] Installing Boxstarter...
Welcome to the Boxstarter Module installer!
Chocolatey is going to be downloaded and installed on your machine. If you do not have the .NET Framework Version 4 or greater,
that will also be downloaded and installed.
Forcing web requests to allow TLS v1.2 (Required for requests to Chocolatey.org)
Getting latest version of the Chocolatey package for download.
Not using proxy.
Getting Chocolatey from https://community.chocolatey.org/api/v2/package/chocolatey/2.2.2.
Downloading https://community.chocolatey.org/api/v2/package/chocolatey/2.2.2 to C:\Users\Hiytui\AppData\Local\Temp\chocolatey\
chocoInstall\chocolatey.zip
Not using proxy.
Extracting C:\Users\Hiytui\AppData\Local\Temp\chocolatey\chocoInstall\chocolatey.zip to C:\Users\Hiytui\AppData\Local\Temp\cho
colatey\chocoInstall
Installing Chocolatey on the local machine
WARNING: It's very likely you will need to close and reopen your shell
before you can use choco.
PATH environment variable does not have C:\ProgramData\chocolatey\bin in it. Adding...
WARNING: Not setting tab completion: Profile file does not exist at
'C:\Users\Hiytui\Documents\WindowsPowerShell\Microsoft.PowerShell_profile.ps1'.
Ensuring Chocolatey commands are on the path
Ensuring chocolatey.nupkg is in the lib folder
Chocolatey installed, Installing Boxstarter Modules.
Chocolatey v2.2.2
Installing the following packages:
Boxstarter
By installing, you accept licenses for the packages.
```

10. A dialog box will appear, taking approximately 1 minute to pop up. During this time, essential installation packages for the tools required for malware analysis will be installed. Simply click "OK" when prompted.



```

Boxstarter-Hyperv v3.0.3
Boxstarter-WinConfig v3.0.3

Do you want to use Chocolatey? Explore more amazing features to take your
experience to the next level at
https://chocolatey.org/features
Boxstarter Module Installer completed
Attempting to disable updates...
Warning: Microsoft Update is already disabled, no action will be taken.
([1] failed to disable Microsoft Store updates
Chocolatey v2.2.2
Set VM packages - C:\Users\Wilyt\l\Desktop\;https://www.myget.org/f/vm-packages/api/v2;https://myget.org/f/vm-packages/api/v2 (Priority 1)
Boxstarter v3.0.3
Skipped allowGlobalConfirmation
Chocolatey v2.2.2
Skipped allowProxyChecks
Chocolatey v2.2.2
Set cacheLocation = C:\Users\Wilyt\AppData\Local\ChocoCache
Freshening environment variables from the registry for powershell.exe. Please wait...
Finished
Installing the following packages:
common
Installing, you accept licenses for the packages.
Progress: Downloading common.vm 0.0.0.20240104... 100%
common.vm v0.0.0.20240104 [forced]
common.vm package files install completed. Performing other installation steps.
vm.common.ps1 set for C:\ProgramData\vm
Created folder: C:\ProgramData\vm
vmModulePath set to: C:\ProgramData\vm\Cli\ProgramData\Boxstarter\Cli\Program Files\WindowsPowerShell\Modules\Cli\Windows\system32\WindowsPowerShell
tools-list.ps1 set for C:\Users\Wilyt\Desktop\Tools
Created folder: C:\Users\Wilyt\Desktop\Tools
tools-list.ps1 set for C:\Tools
Created folder: C:\Tools
Environment Vars (like PATH) have changed. Close/reopen your shell to
see the changes (or in powershell/cmd.exe just type 'refreshenv').
Install of common.vm was successful.
Software install location not explicitly set, it could be in package or
default install location of installer.
Chocolatey installed 1/1 packages.
See the log for details (C:\ProgramData\chocolatey\logs\chocolatey.log).
Freshening environment variables from the registry for powershell.exe. Please wait...
Finished
Chocolatey v2.2.2
Installing the following packages:
debloat
Installing, you accept licenses for the packages.
Progress: Downloading debloat.vm 0.0.0.20231215... 100%
debloat.vm v0.0.0.20231215 [forced]
debloat.vm package files install completed. Performing other installation steps.
04/01/04 20:28:38 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Removing Microsoft.S49981C3F5F10 package
Progress: 0% - Processing
04/01/04 20:28:40 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Microsoft.S49981C3F5F10.4.2308.1005.0_x64_Buekyb3d8bwe removed
Microsoft.Dism.Commands.ImageObject
04/01/04 20:28:41 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Provisioned package Microsoft.S49981C3F5F10.4.2308.1005.0_neutral_Buekyb3d8bwe removed
04/01/04 20:28:41 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Removing Microsoft.BingWeather package
Progress: 0% - Processing
04/01/04 20:28:42 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Microsoft.BingWeather.4.53.52331.0_x64_Buekyb3d8bwe removed
Microsoft.Dism.Commands.ImageObject
04/01/04 20:28:43 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Provisioned package Microsoft.BingWeather.4.53.52331.0_neutral_Buekyb3d8bwe removed
04/01/04 20:28:43 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Removing Microsoft.GetHelp package
Progress: 0% - Processing
04/01/04 20:28:43 [debloat.vm] vm.common.ps1 [-] INFO : Microsoft.GetHelp.10.2308.12552.0_x64_Buekyb3d8bwe removed

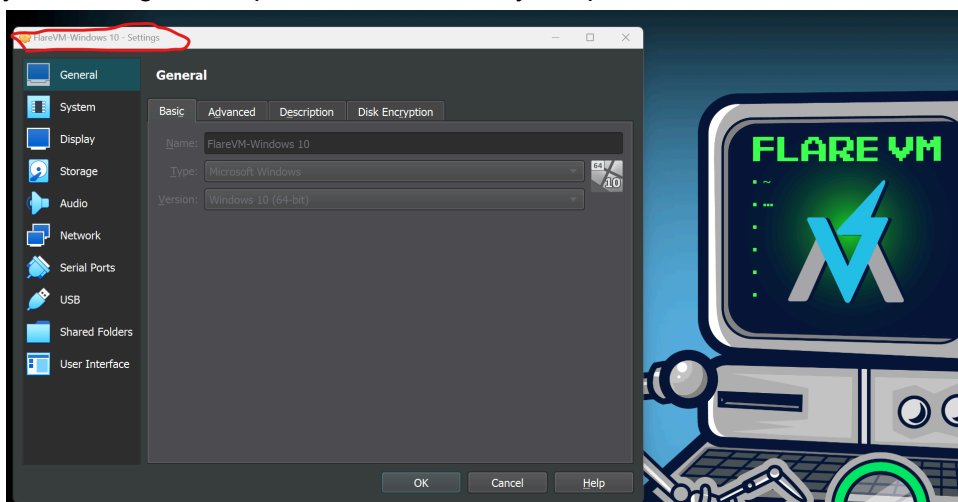
```

In this scenario, allow Flare VM to be installed via the PowerShell script. The installation process may take anywhere from 10 minutes to an hour, depending on your connection speed. Refer to the picture below for progress updates.

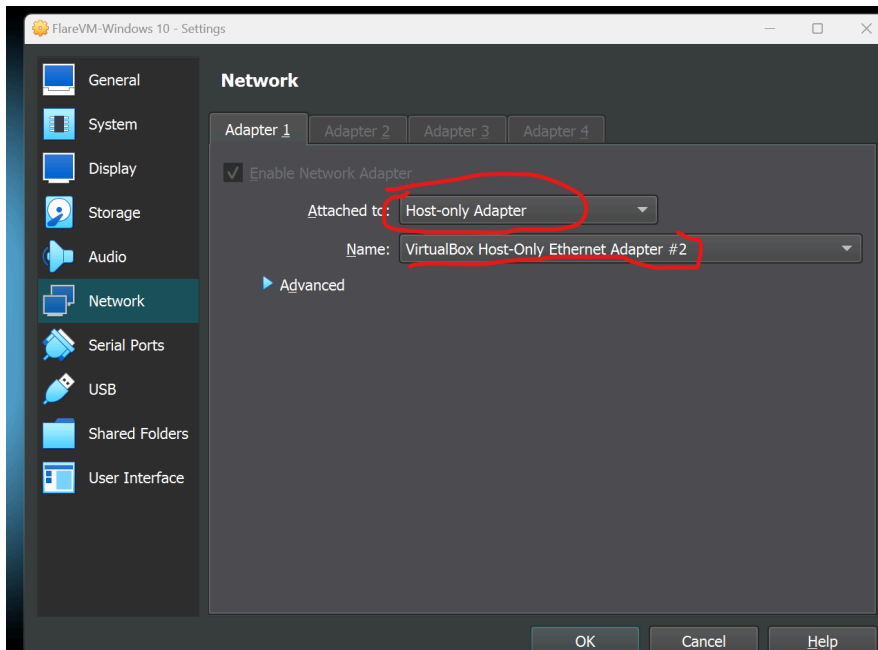
[illegible]

After the installation is complete, ensure that there is a connection between your Remnux box and Flare VM, as shown in the picture above.

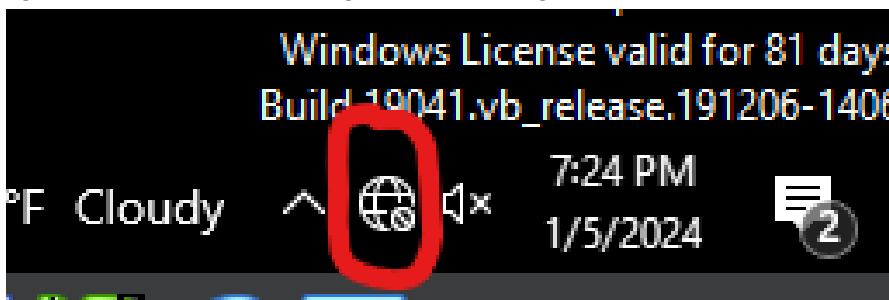
-Begin by going to the upper left corner of the Flare VM machine, click on "Settings." Here, you'll configure the predefined "host-only adapter."



Now, navigate to "Network" and on the right side where you see "Nat," change it to "Host-only Adapter." You can use either Adapter 2 or 3; it doesn't matter. Refer to the picture below for guidance, and once configured, click "OK."



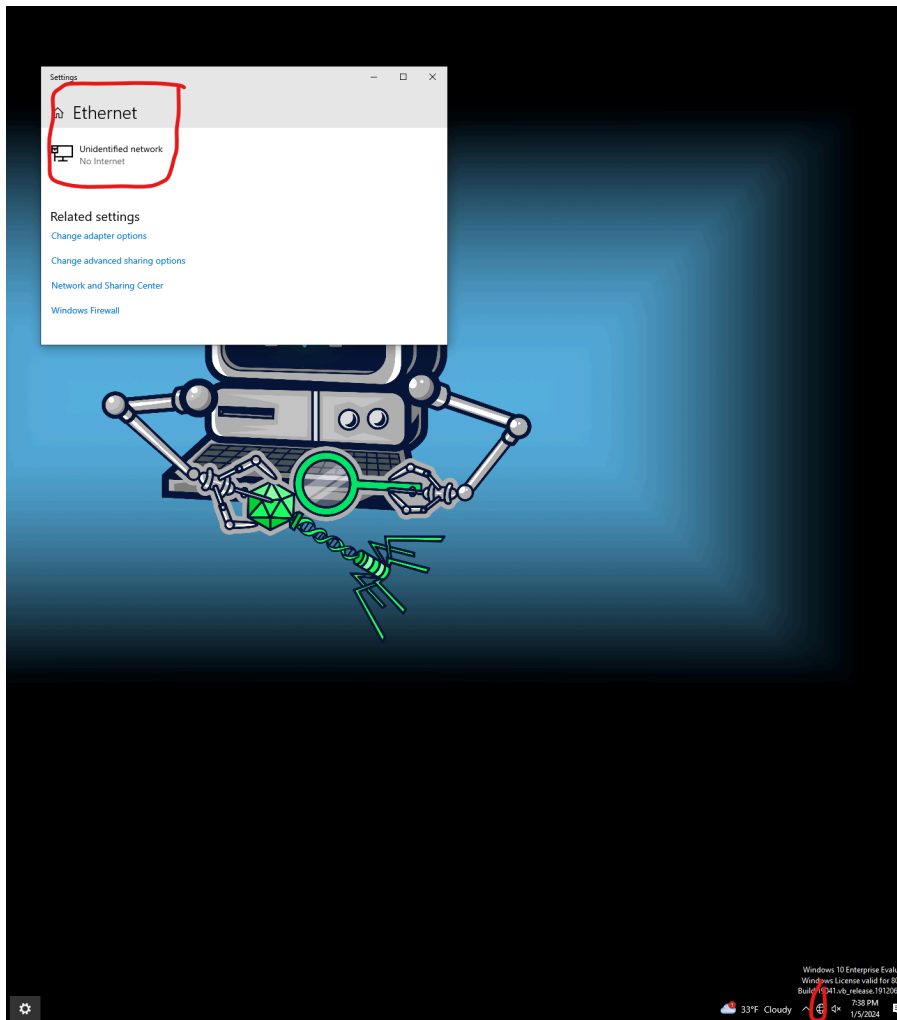
After clicking "OK," you'll notice that you no longer have an internet connection at the bottom right, which is a positive sign for the configuration



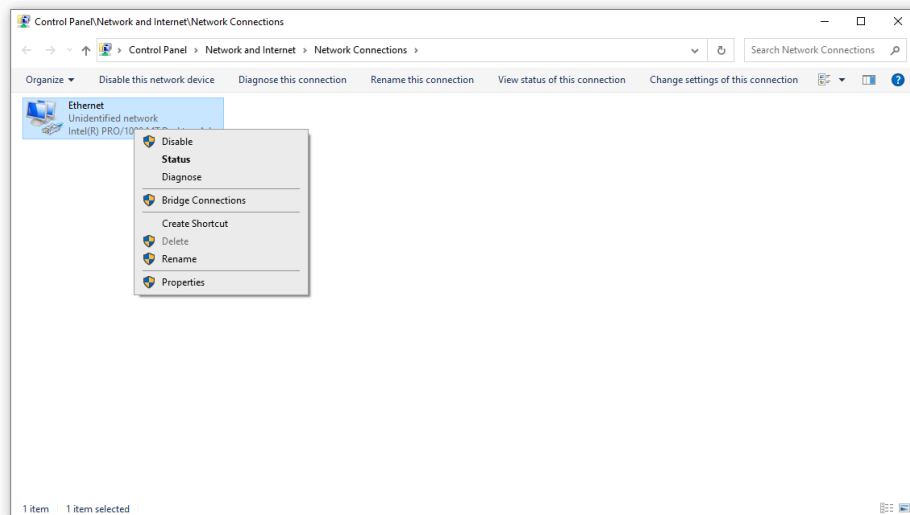
Returning to Remnux...



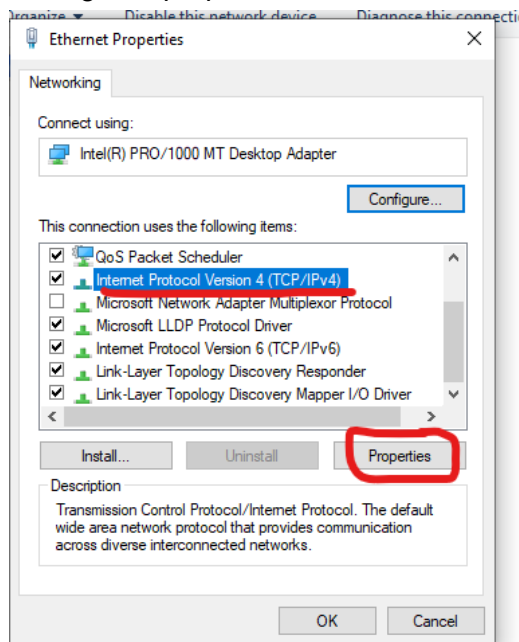
After setting up the connection from Remnux, navigate to the search bar or click on the network icon to access Ethernet settings.



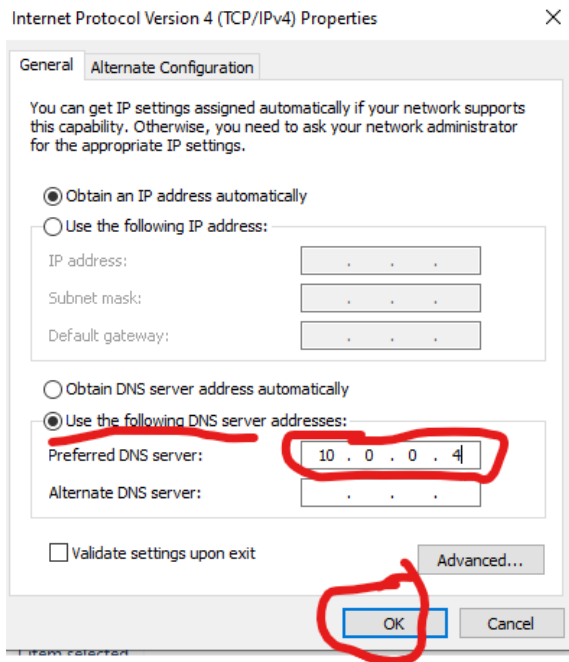
Now, click on "Change adapter options" on the right. In the pop-up window, right-click on "Ethernet," go to "Properties," and look for "Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)." Click on it.



Then go to "properties"



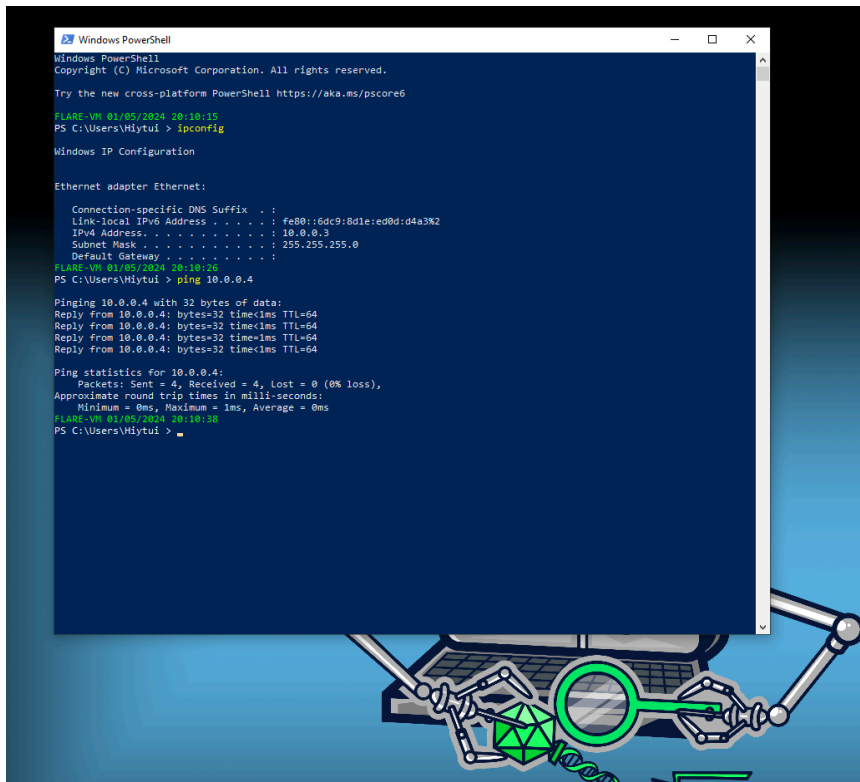
Finally, select "Use the following DNS server addresses" at the bottom, and you can add your "remnux" box as the DNS.



After clicking "OK," close the Ethernet Properties, exit the Control Panel, and also close the Network Settings.

—Now, return to the Remnux box machine.....

- Now, confirm the IP address of your Flare VM by running "ipconfig." Next, ping the Flare VM using the command "ping 10.0.0.4." To find PowerShell on Flare VM, click on the Windows Start icon, scroll down under "Recently added," find Windows PowerShell, and click on it. Verify communication between the virtual machines by checking for a ping reply, as shown in the picture below. This indicates successful communication between the two VMs.



```
Windows PowerShell
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Try the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/pscore6

FLARE-VM 01/05/2024 20:10:15
PS C:\Users\Hlytui > ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::6dc9:8d1e:ed0d:d4a3%2
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 10.0.0.3
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 

FLARE-VM 01/05/2024 20:10:26
PS C:\Users\Hlytui > ping 10.0.0.4

Pinging 10.0.0.4 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 10.0.0.4: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=64
Reply from 10.0.0.4: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=64
Reply from 10.0.0.4: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=64
Reply from 10.0.0.4: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=64

Ping statistics for 10.0.0.4:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 0ms, Maximum = 1ms, Average = 0ms
FLARE-VM 01/05/2024 20:10:30
PS C:\Users\Hlytui >
```

—Return to the Remnux box machine and follow the same steps to confirm the IP address and establish communication with the Flare VM.....

- Now, take a snapshot of the current state. This snapshot will serve as the base installation, allowing you to revert back to a clean environment after detonating malware.
- Navigate to the machine menu, select "Take Snapshot," and name it "Flare VM Base." This snapshot will be your reference point for a clean environment.

