

HOW TO BUILD A SIMPLE HOME LAB

A home lab is a personal, isolated IT environment where individuals can safely experiment with hardware and software for learning, personal projects, or career development. It can range from a single computer to a multi-server setup and is used to learn skills.

To create a home lab, a virtualization manager is needed.

Types of virtualization manager

1. Virtual box
2. VMware
3. Qemu
4. Hyper V
5. UTM

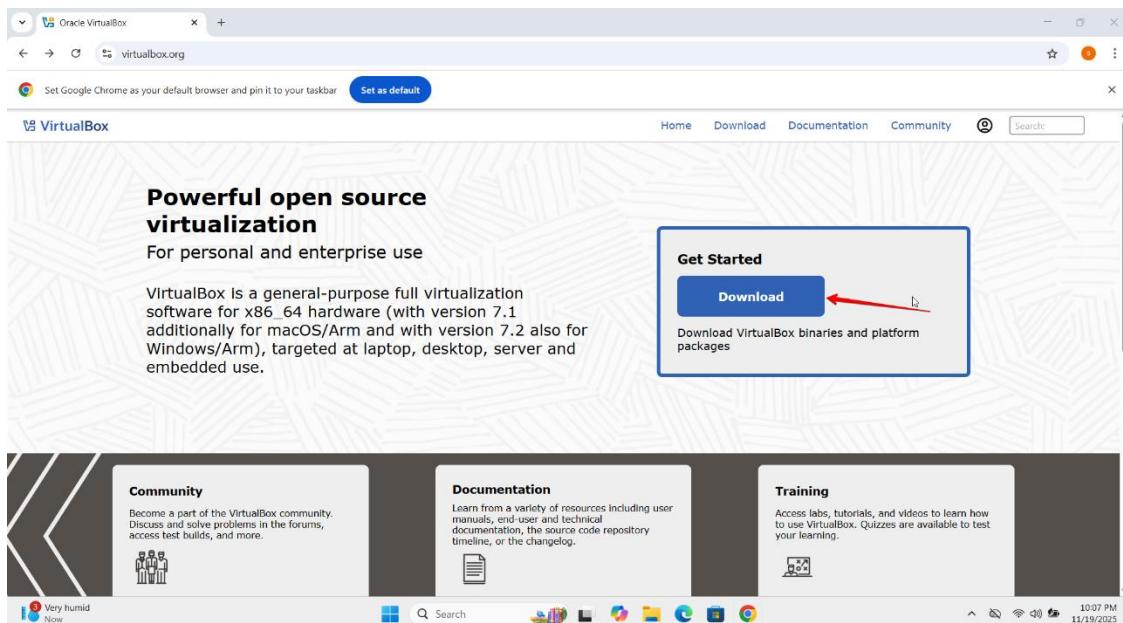
WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF VIRTUALIZATION MANAGER

This serves as a house or more like a host to several virtual machines (guests)

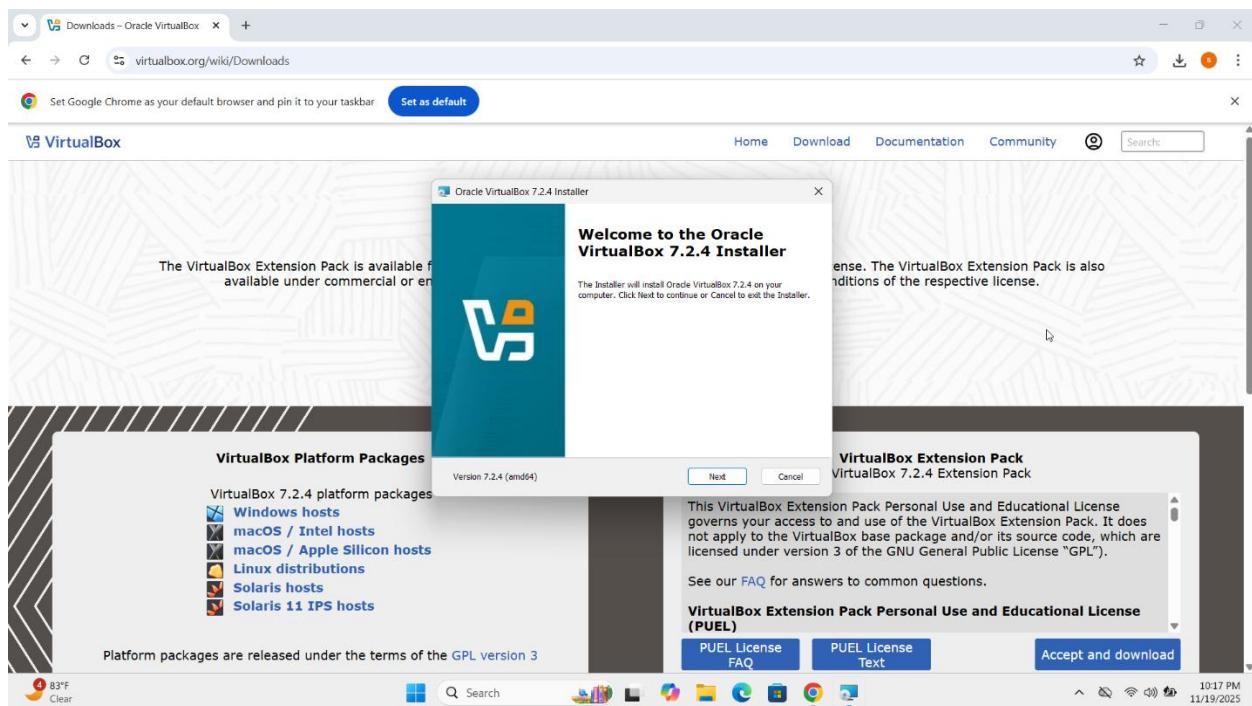
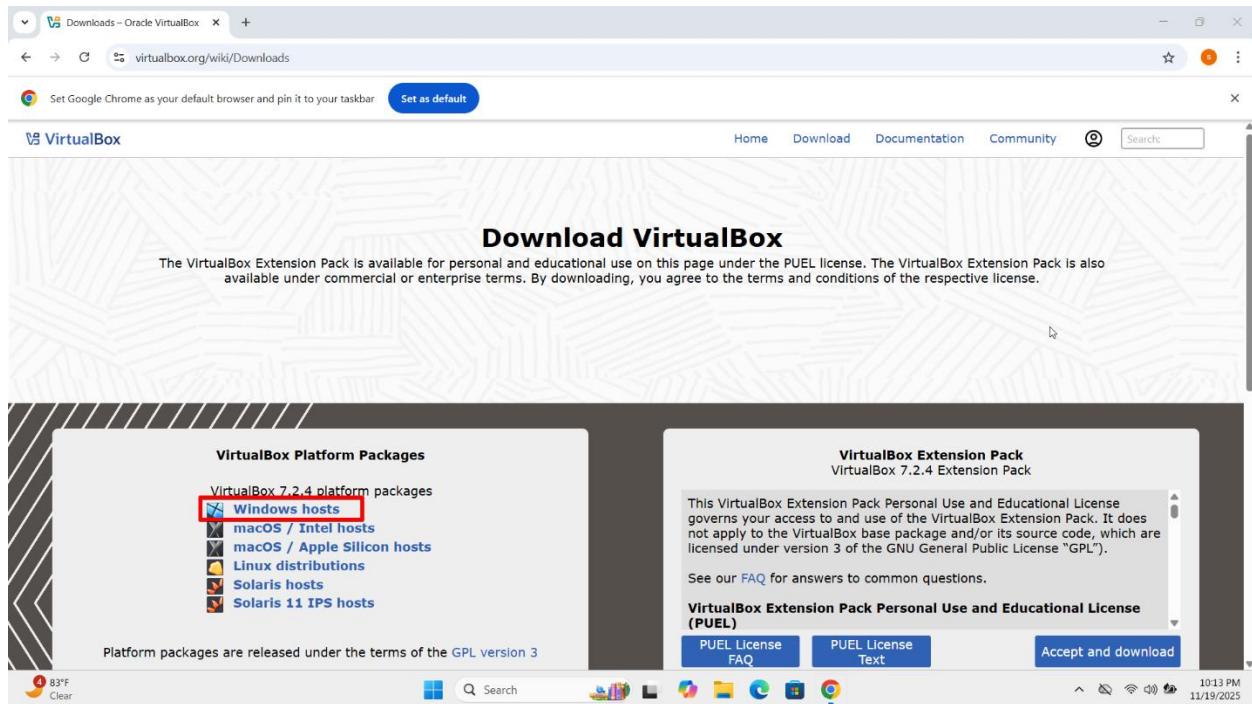
For this project, I will be using the Virtual box, so lets go.

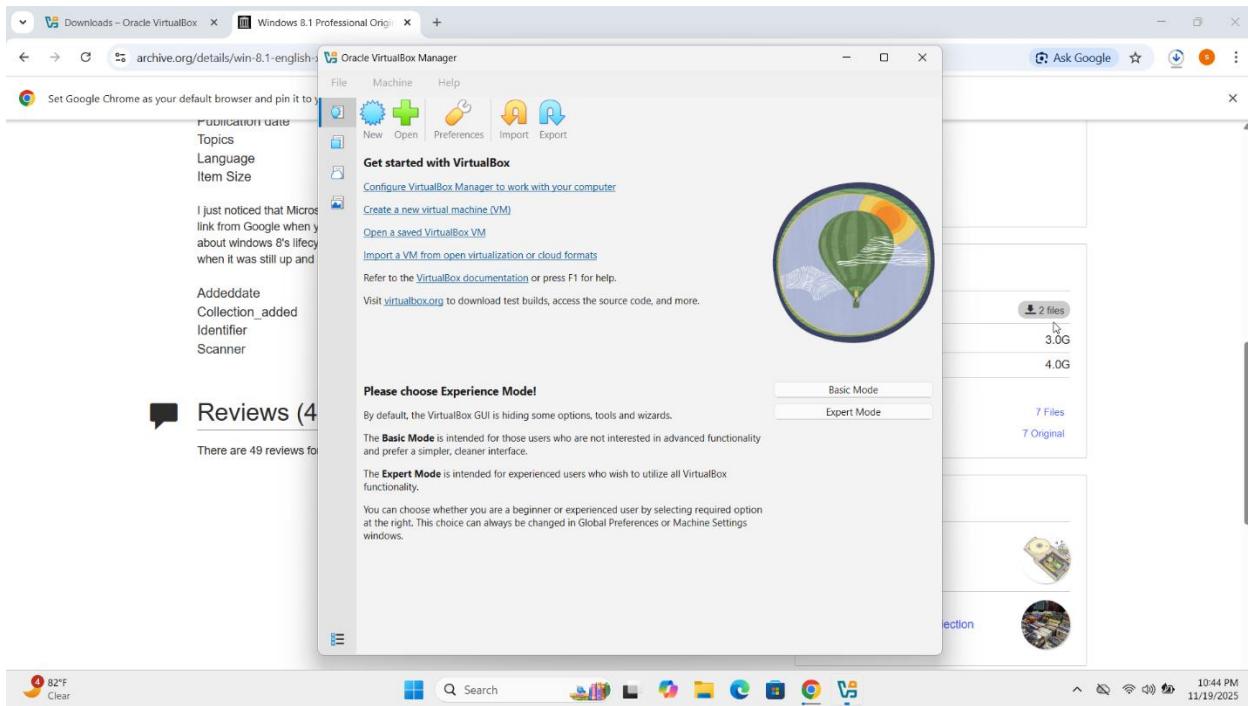
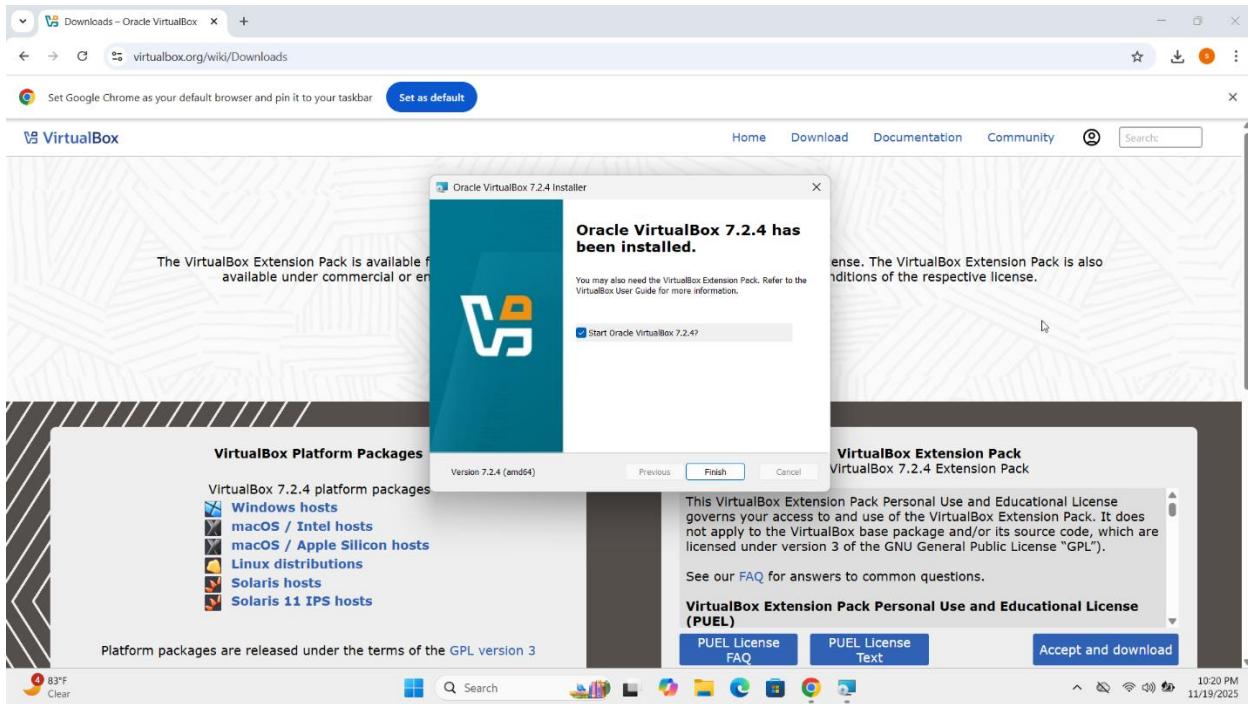
PROCESS

1. Download and Install the virtualization manager on your personal computer
Go to your browser and type in virtualbox.org



Then it takes you to the Windows host, Then click on that





Next step is to download the ISO file of the computer that will be on the Virtual manager which will function as a normal PC.

We shall be needing 2windows 8 and 1 window server for this simple home lab.
Go to your browser and type in windows 8 download

Google search results for "windows 8 download". The top result is from Uptodown, linking to Windows 8.1 64 bits. Below it is a link from Internet Archive to "Windows 8.1 Professional Original ISOs (x64 and x86)".

Click on the arrowed link; windows 8.1 professional original ISOs (x64 and x86)

You will be taken to this page

Internet Archive page for the Windows 8.1 Professional ISO. The page shows basic metadata and download options.

Publication date	2013-10-17
Topics	windows 8.1 iso
Language	English
Item Size	7.0G

I just noticed that Microsoft recently took down the download link for the Windows 8.1 ISOs; clicking on the link from Google when you search for the windows 8.1 iso will redirect you to some other page on their site about windows 8's lifecycle. So, since I had already downloaded these ISOs from Microsoft's site back when it was still up and had these 2 (for both x86 and x64), I decided to upload this.

Addeddate: 2024-06-16 17:06:47
Collection_added: vintagesoftware
Identifier: win-8.1-english-x-64-x-86
Scanner: Internet Archive HTML5 Uploader 1.7.0

Reviews (49)

There are 49 reviews for this item. [Display reviews.](#)

DOWNLOAD OPTIONS

- ISO IMAGE** 2 files
- TORRENT 1 file
- SHOW ALL 7 Files

IN COLLECTIONS

- CD-ROM Images
- The Vintage Software Collection

Then click on the ISO image and you will be taken to the next page, where you choose the x64.iso

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL archive.org/details/win-8.1-english-x-64-x-86. The page content includes:

- PUBLICATION DATE:** 2013-10-17
- Topics:** windows 8.1 iso
- Language:** English
- Item Size:** 7.0G
- Addeddate:** 2024-06-16 17:06:47
- Collection_added:** vintagesoftware
- Identifier:** win-8.1-english-x-64-x-86
- Scanner:** Internet Archive HTML5 Uploader 1.7.0

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ISO IMAGE FILES

Win8.1_English_x32.iso	3.0G	
Win8.1_English_x64.iso	4.0G	

IN COLLECTIONS

- CD-ROM Images
- The Vintage Software Collection

The next step is to download a windows server, now you go to the browser and type in download windows server download

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the search query "windows server download". The search results include:

- Windows Server 2022 | Microsoft Evaluation Center**
- Windows Server 2025 | Microsoft Evaluation Center**
- Windows Server Download | MAS**

People also ask :

How can I install Windows Server?

Then you click on the windows server 2022 Microsoft Evaluation center
Then you will be taken to this page

The screenshot shows a Microsoft web page titled "Please select your Windows Server 2022 download". It features a grid of download options. The first row contains two columns: "English (United States)" and "Chinese (Simplified)". The "English (United States)" column has a red box around the "ISO downloads" link, which is highlighted in blue. Other links in this row include "VHD download", "Try on Azure", and "Create a VM in Azure". The "Chinese (Simplified)" column also has an "ISO downloads" link. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with icons for Start, Search, File Explorer, Edge, and others, along with system status like 82°F, a battery icon, and the date/time 11/19/2025.

Its time to start mounting the virtual machines unto the virtual box.

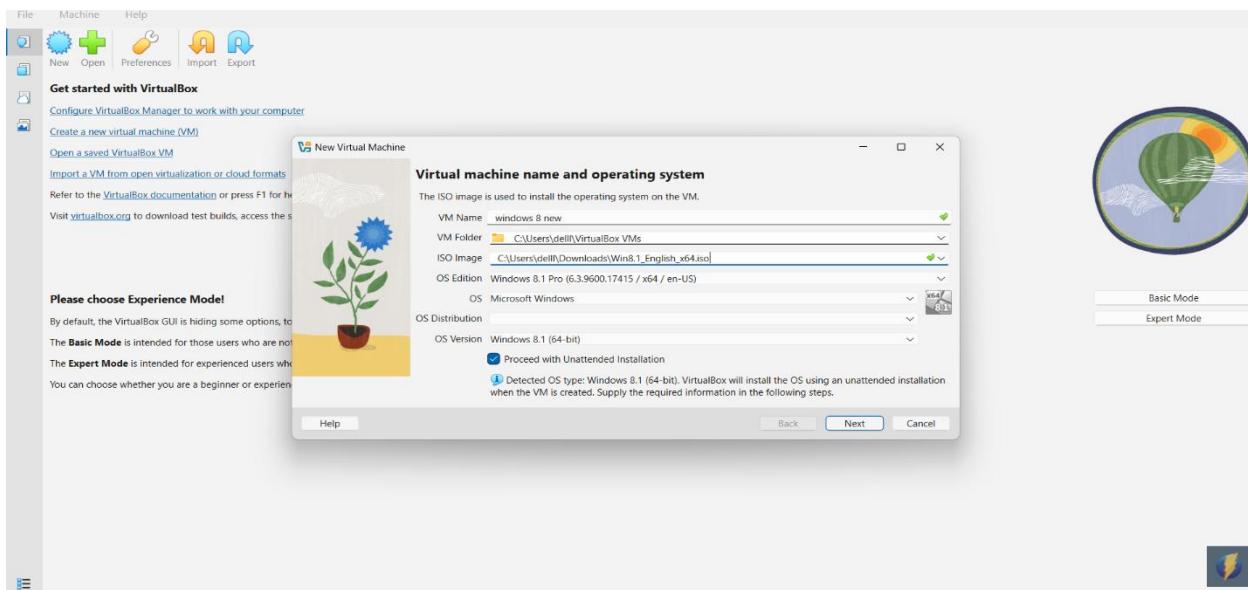
The screenshot shows the Oracle VirtualBox Manager application window. At the top, there's a toolbar with icons for New (+), Preferences, Import, and Export. Below the toolbar, a section titled "Get started with VirtualBox" provides links to "Configure VirtualBox Manager to work with your computer", "Create a new virtual machine (VM)", and "Open a saved VirtualBox VM". To the right of this text is a circular logo featuring a hot air balloon. At the bottom of the window, there's a note about "Please choose Experience Mode!" with options for "Basic Mode" and "Expert Mode". A red arrow points from the previous screenshot towards the "New" button in the VirtualBox Manager toolbar.

Click on the new button

Give the file a name.... Windows 8

Uncheck the proceed with unattended installation

Click on Next

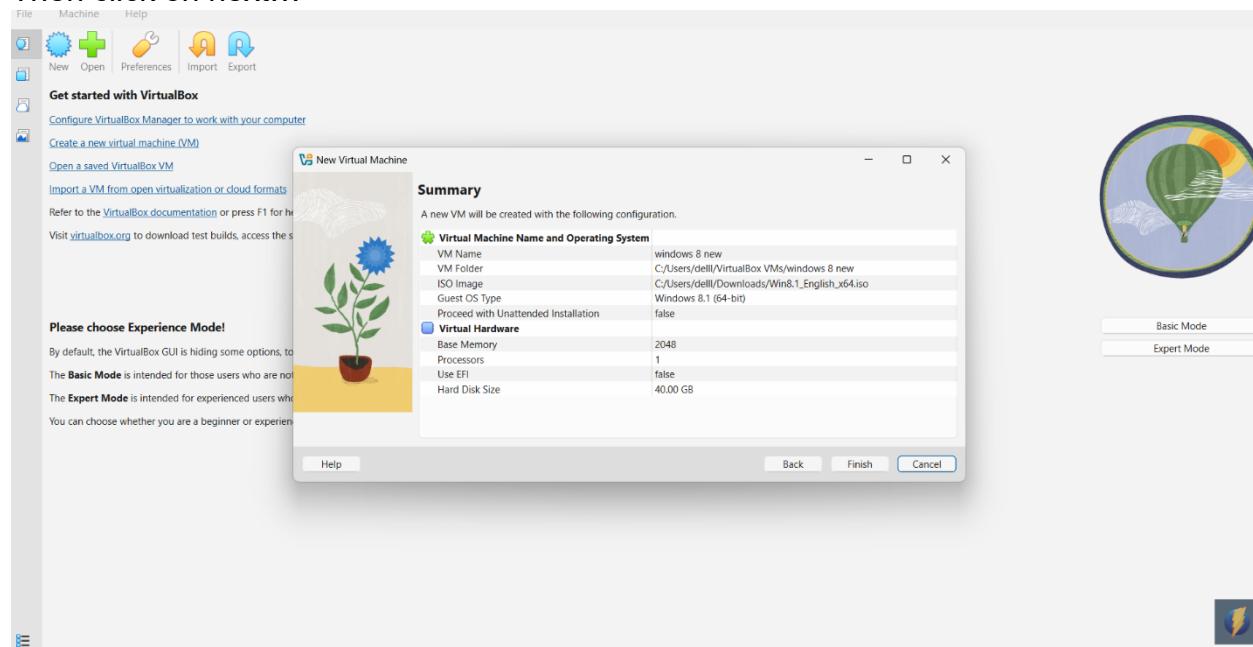


You will be taken to the next phase where you share the available space

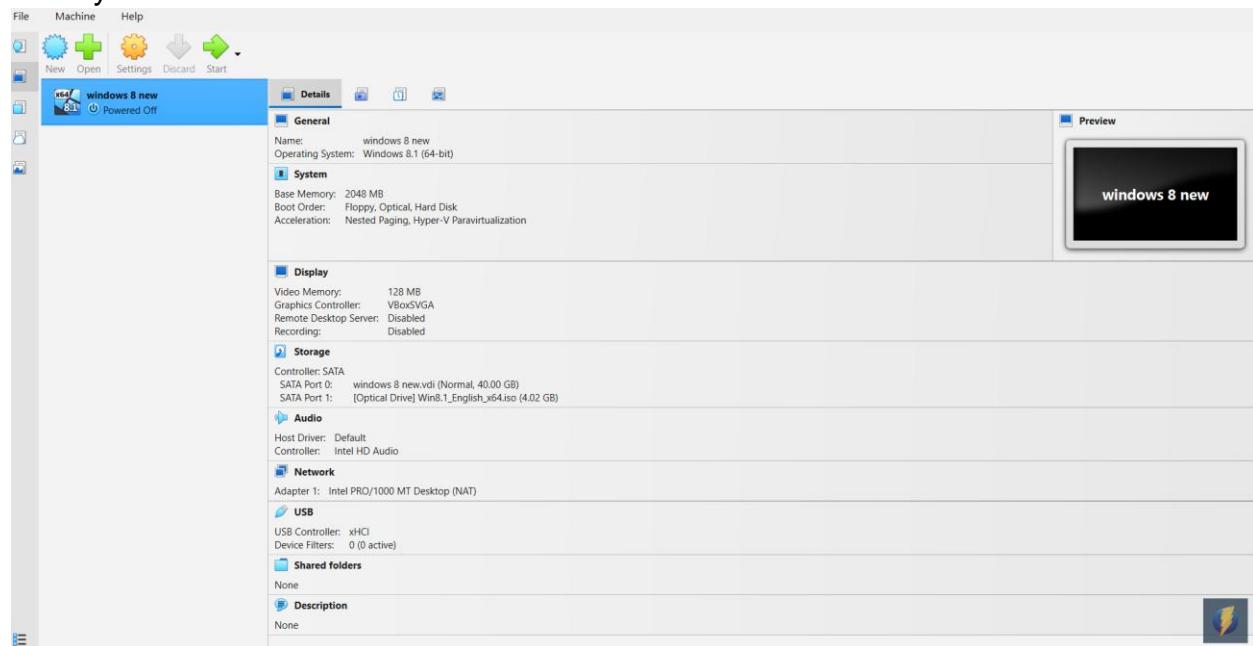
Note : Your main PC will be sharing equal half of your available memory space with the rest of the Virtual machines that you will be putting on the Virtual box, for example if your RAM is 16G RAM, then your PC will have to take 8 while other VMs will share the remaining 8.



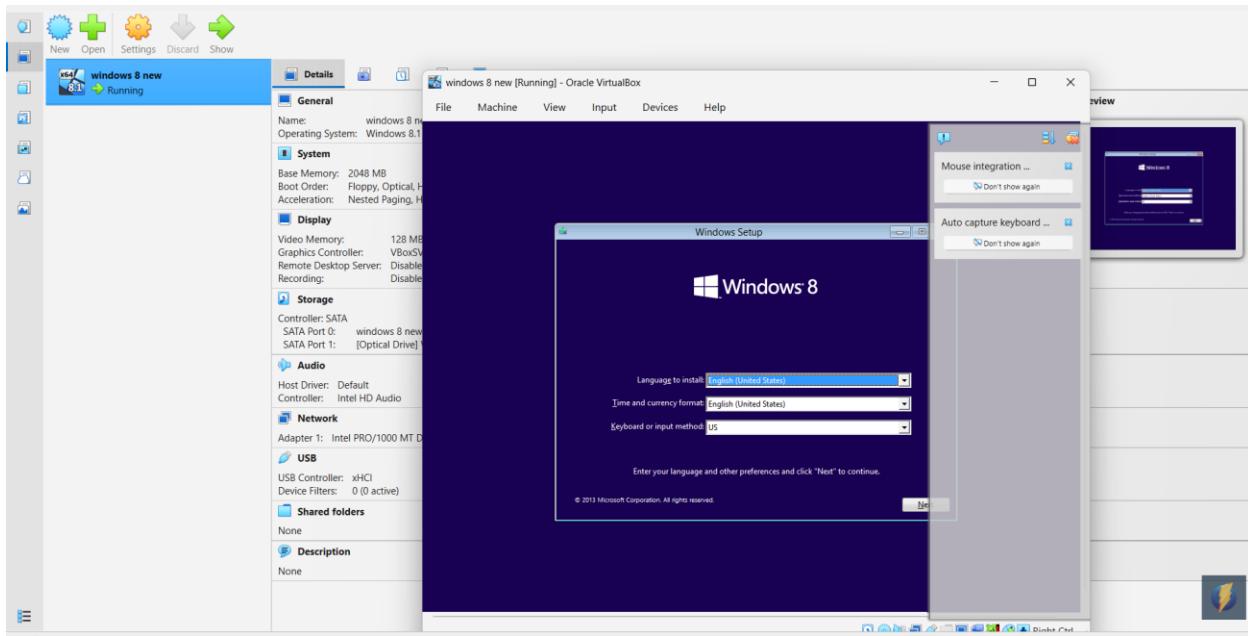
Then click on next...



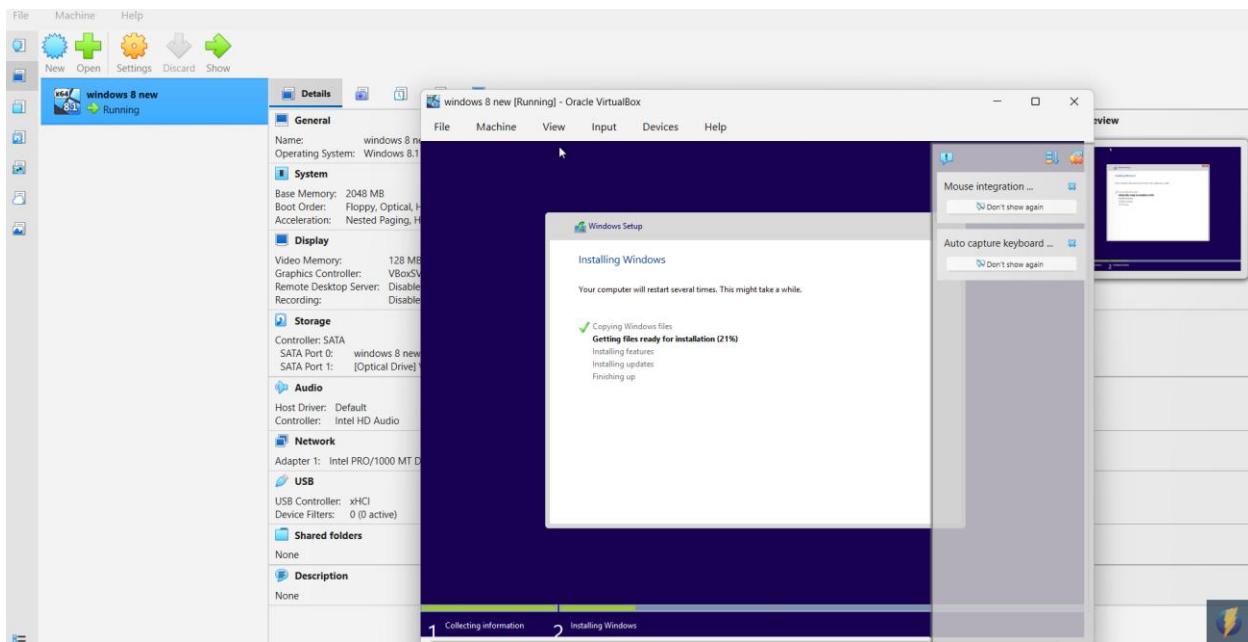
Then you click on the on the finish button..



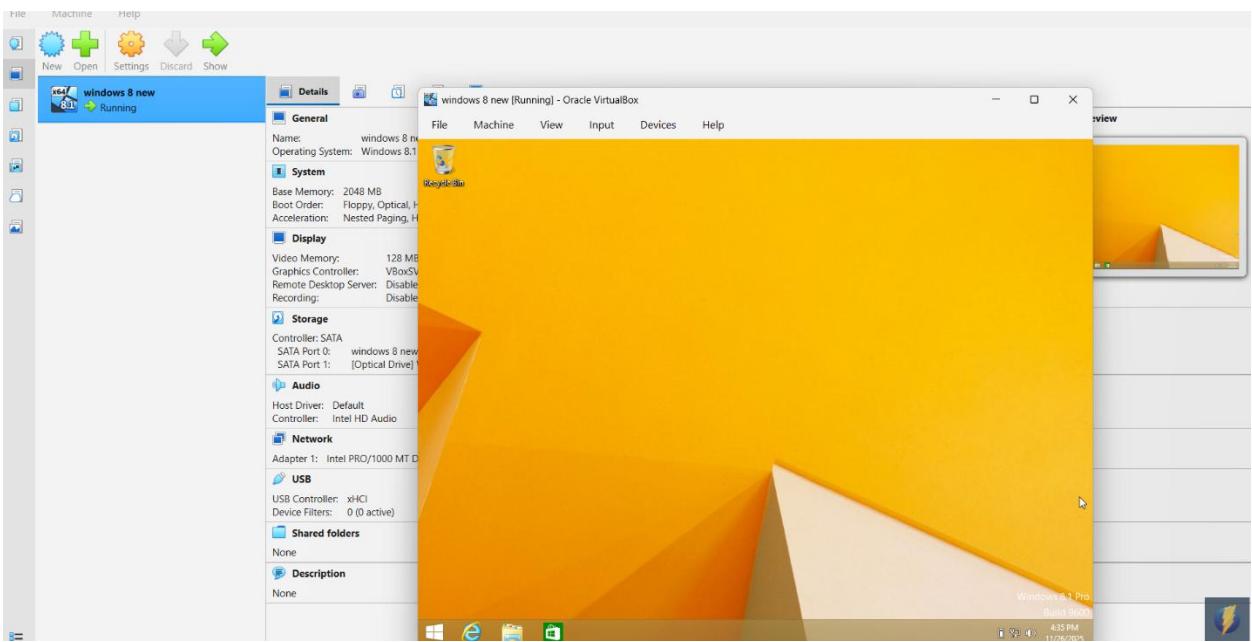
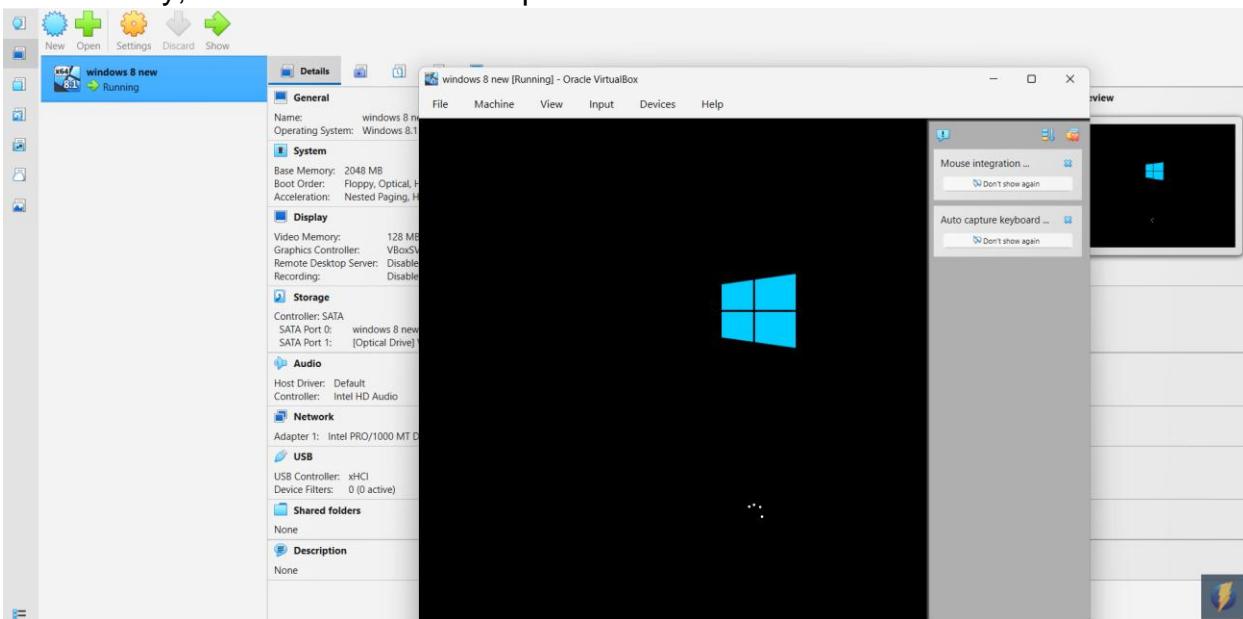
Then you will now click on start for the windows to run.



Then you click on Next then add the product key, product key can be gotten on line after which you will allow it to run



Then Finally, the virtual machine is up



With these few steps you can stay guided on you can get the first virtual machine installed and completed, for the second virtual machine (windows 8).

Phase 2 of this project is installation of the windows server which also takes through the same process, just like the way the windows 8 was installed.

This is how the window server looks like when completely installed.



So with these few steps, one can easily create a home lab without having to spend fortune, everything can be on your personal computer.

Thank you.