Installing Windows 8 was a manual I wrote for my midterm project in Writing Technical Documents. This project was only part of my final project, which instructed the user on building a computer from start to finish, a massive instructional document that was unfortunately lost in a hard drive failure and as of yet has proven unrecoverable.

The project itself is a step by step user-friendly guide to installing Windows 8 for the first time. From this project, and the class overall, I learned to be more concise with my writing and provide accurate information in an organized manner, enough to guide the reader but not so much as to confuse him or her. I also honed my own creative thinking, research, organizational skills and use of visual aids.

As a technology specialist, I am constantly assisting others of various degrees of technological understanding. This project helped me hone the skills necessary to provide concise instructions to this wide of a target audience.

I believe I can continue improving my accuracy with language to ensure I do not overwhelm nor confuse my clients. Combined with practice, I will continue studying my field to ensure I know and understand the proper terminology so that I am not limited to only being able to do the work of my field, but bestow the necessary knowledge to others who wish to have a greater understanding.

Installing Windows 8

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April, 17th 2013

Illustration List

Introduction:

Whether Installing Windows 8 for the first time, upgrading from a previous version of Windows, or reinstalling Windows 8 after a serious crash, it is very useful to know how to install windows yourself. Some computers come preloaded with Windows; the computer company charges for that. Some repair shops will reinstall or upgrade Windows for you; they will charge for that. All you need is some patience, and knowledge of the simple installation steps and you will be on your way to saving a good deal of money and impressing your less knowledgeable friends.

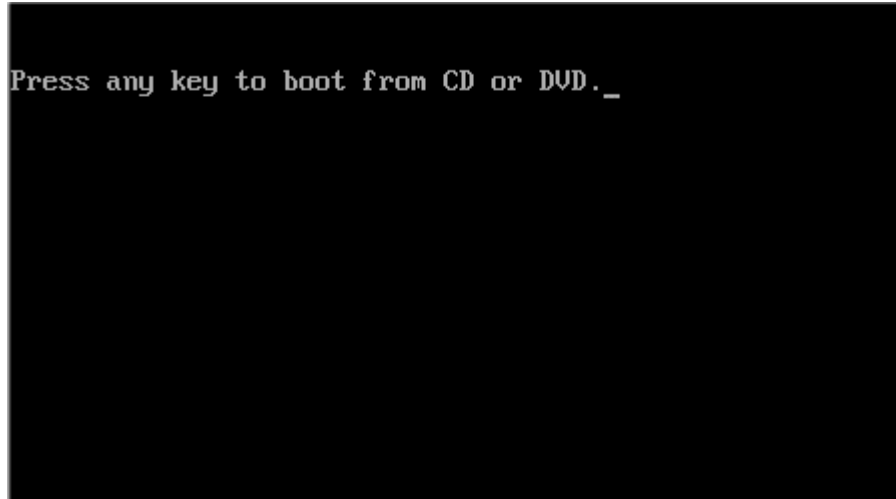**Required Materials:**

A complete computer set up

A Windows 8 Installation Disk
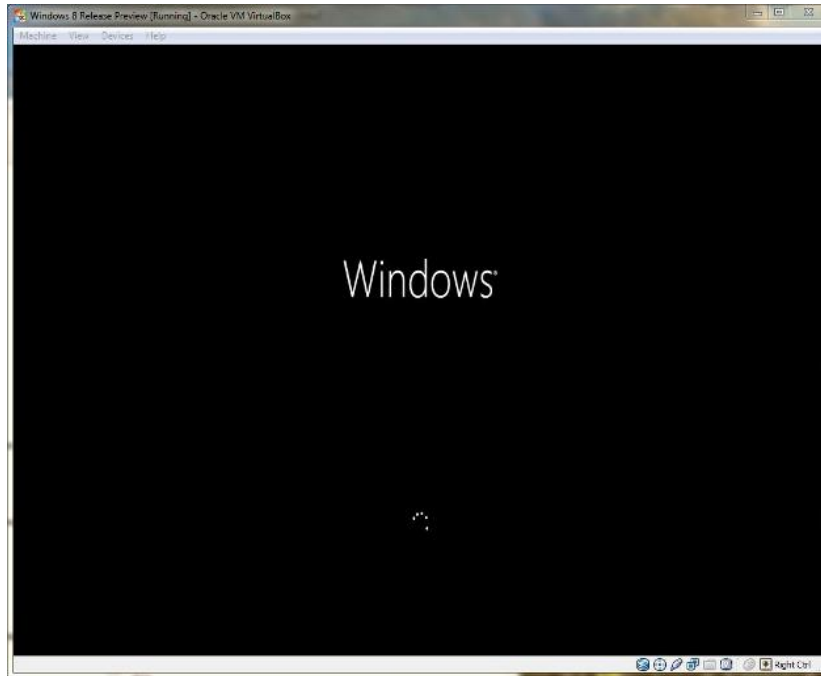
A Simple Procedure:

1) Power on your computer

2) Quickly insert your Windows 8 Installation Disk into your CD/DVD-ROM drive. (Note:If not done fast enough, you will need to restart computer, with the disk already in the drive)
3) If done properly, a screen stating "Press any key to boot from CD or DVD." will appear as shown in Figure 1. Press any key to continue.
Figure 1 – Boot from CD/DVD
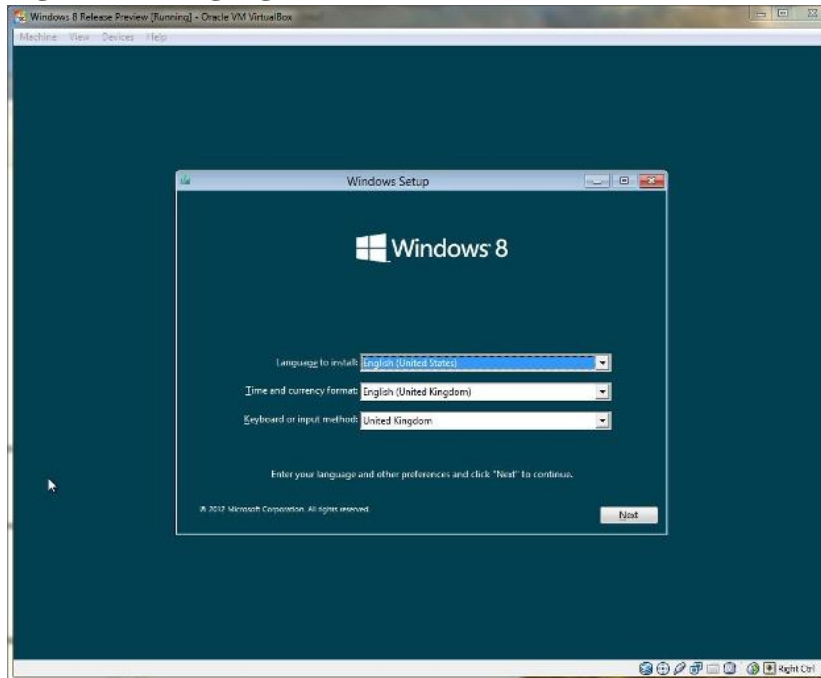


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Press any key to boot from CD or DVD._
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4) The loading screen will appear (Figure 2). Be patient as there are many files that must be loaded to your hardware before installation can begin.
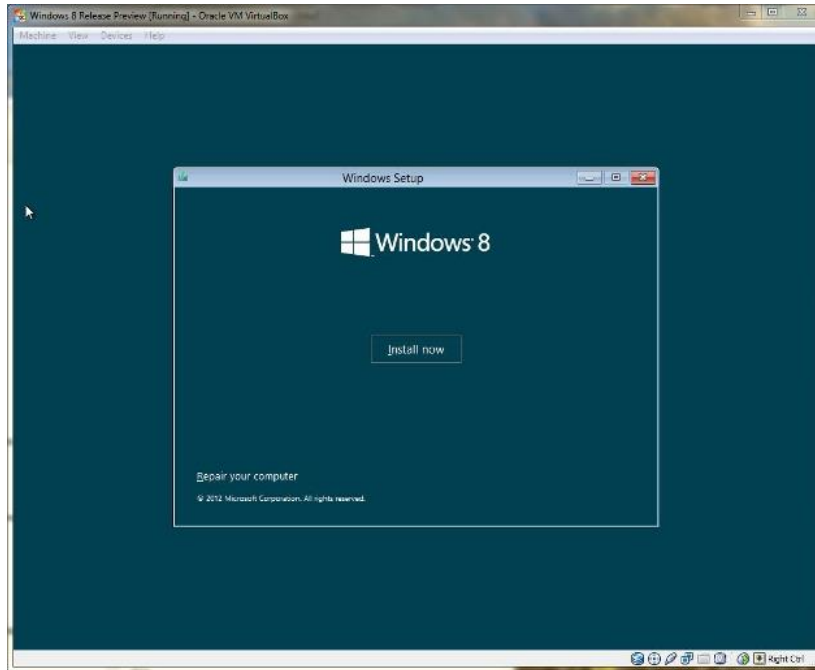**Figure 2 - Loading**

5) After loading has finished, a menu screen will appear (Figure 3). Select your language, time and currency, and keyboard input method to continue installation. (Note: The default settings are adequate for most users.)
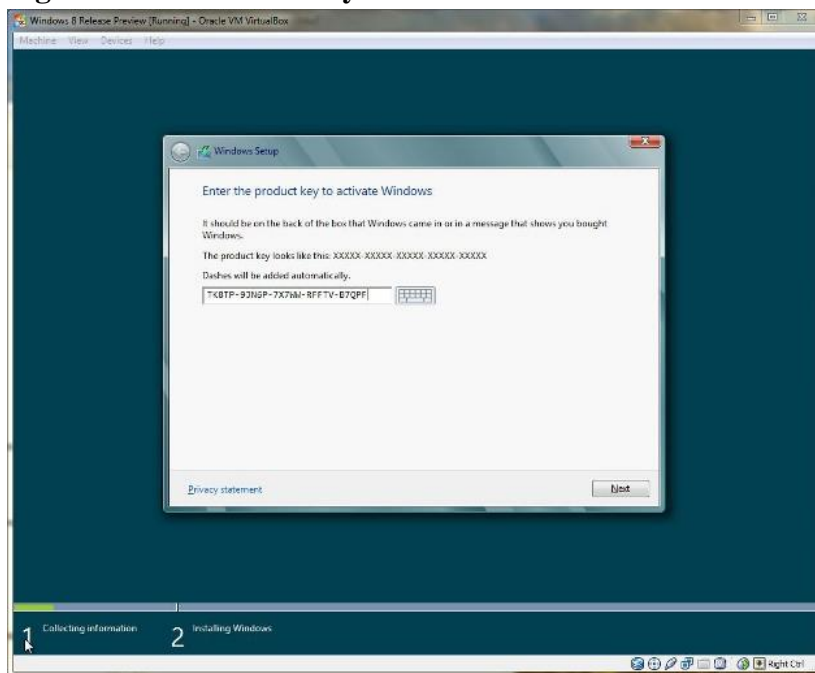
Figure 3 – Language Select

6) On the next screen (figure 4), select "Install Now" to continue Windows 8 Installation.
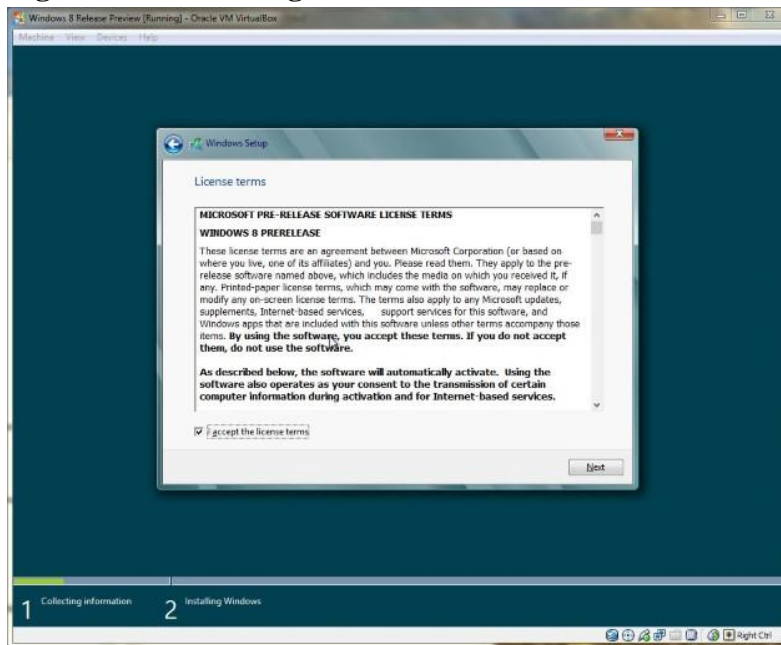
Figure 4 – Install Now

7) On the next screen, you will be asked for a 25 digit activation key (Figure 5). This activation key is typically located on the case your installation CD came in, on the CD itself, or on one of the side panels of your computer. Type the activation key in the field provided and click "Next" to continue.
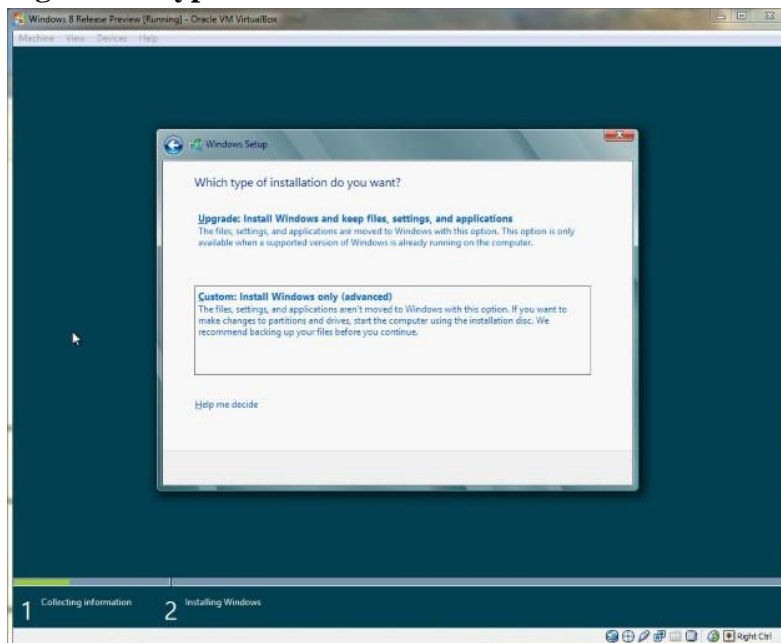
Figure 5 – Activation Key

8) The next screen is the license agreement (Figure 6). Read the license agreement carefully and then check "I accept then license terms".
9) Click "Next" to continue.

Figure 6 – License Agreement

10) The next screen (Figure 7) gives you the option to Upgrade (keep your files and settings) or to Custom install (Erases the disk before installation). This instruction manual walks you through the Custom install. Click "Custom: install Windows only (advanced)" to continue.
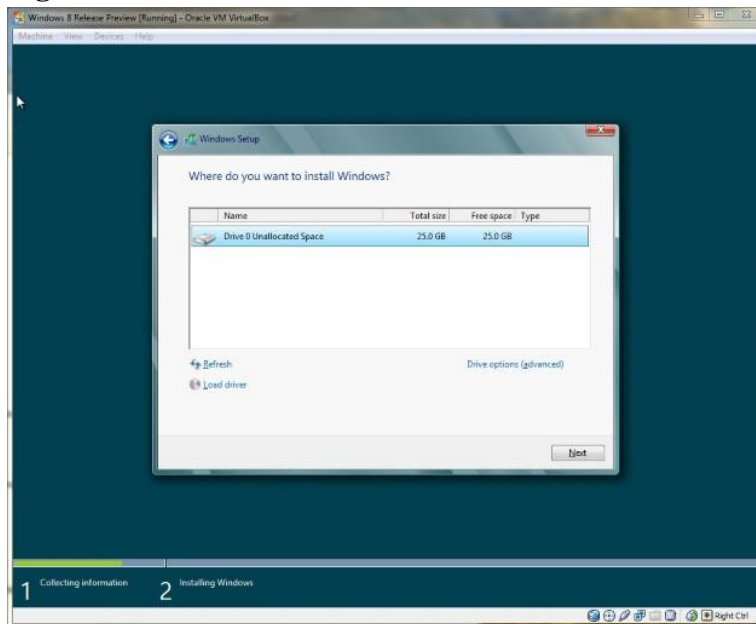
Figure 7 – Type of Installation

11) The next screen lets you select the location you wish to install Windows 8 (Figure 8). For most users this is an easy choice as they have only hard drive to choose from. If you have more than one hard drive it is your choice where to install Windows.
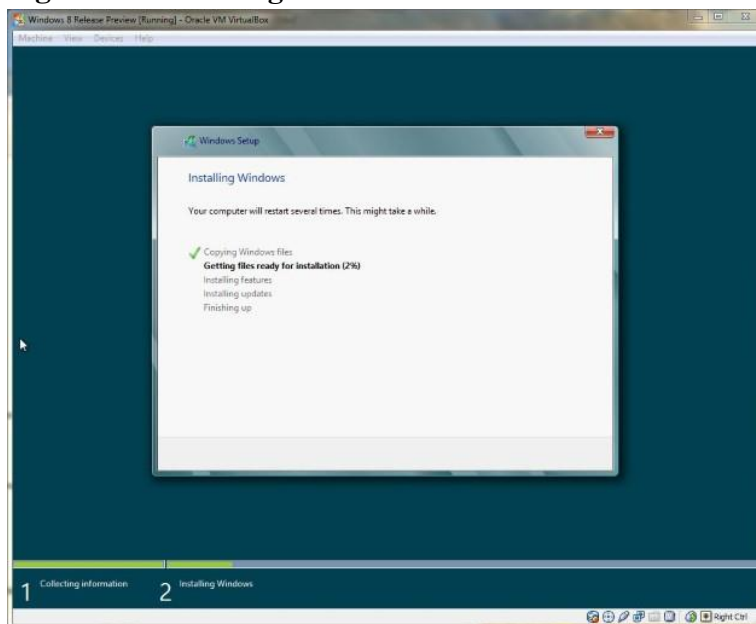
(Caution: There are certain situations where you have the option to install Windows to an external storage device such as a pen drive, an SD card, or external hard drive. It is strongly suggested that you do not install to external storage devices.)
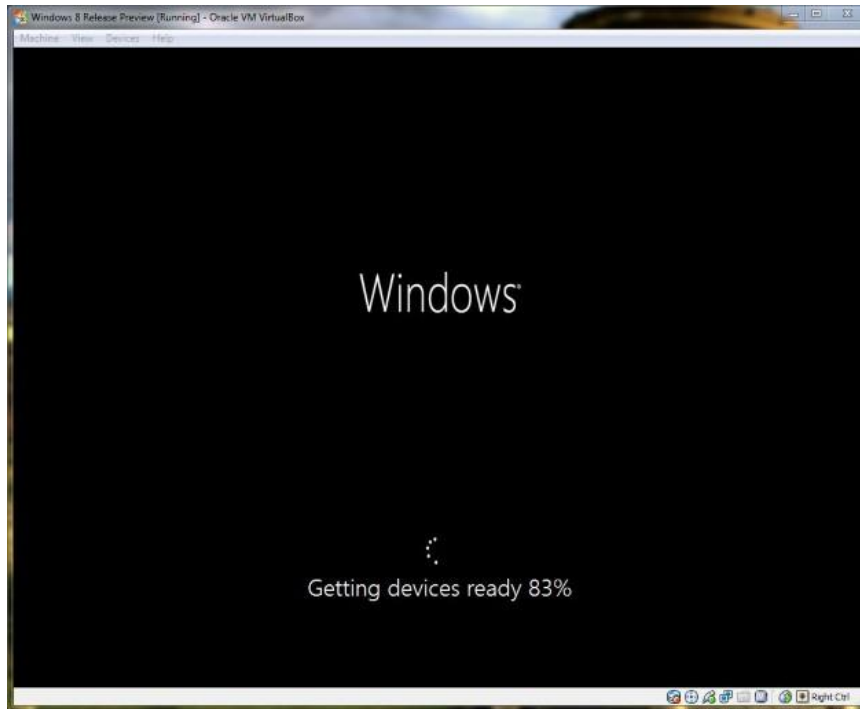
Figure 8 – Installation Location

12) The next screen (Figure 9) is the Installation progress screen. Be patient while Windows 8 is installed. No further action is necessary at this screen.
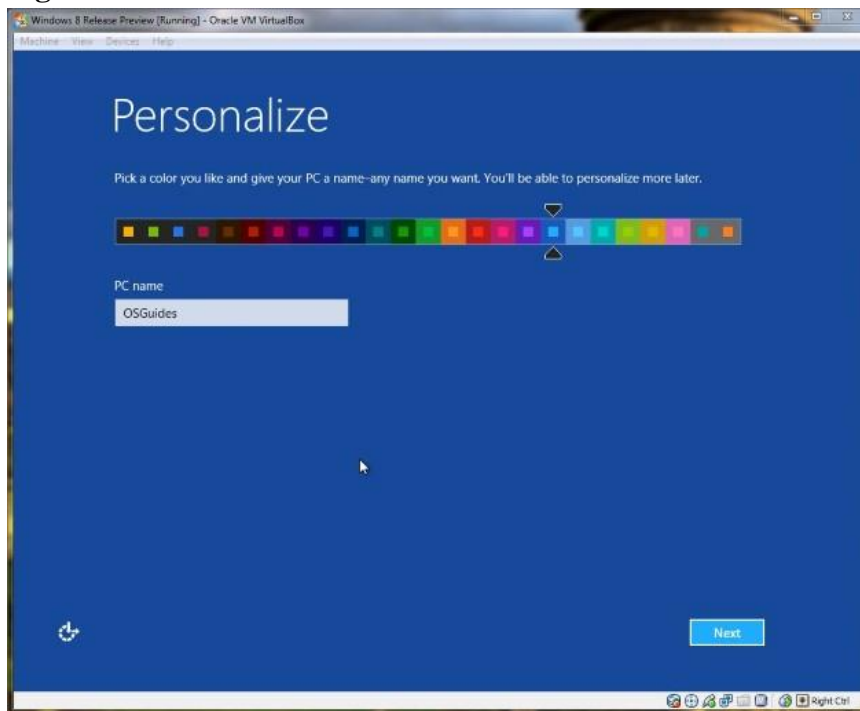
Figure 9 – Installing…

13) The next screen is another loading screen (Figure 10). Windows is now preparing devices for use. The only action required is patience.
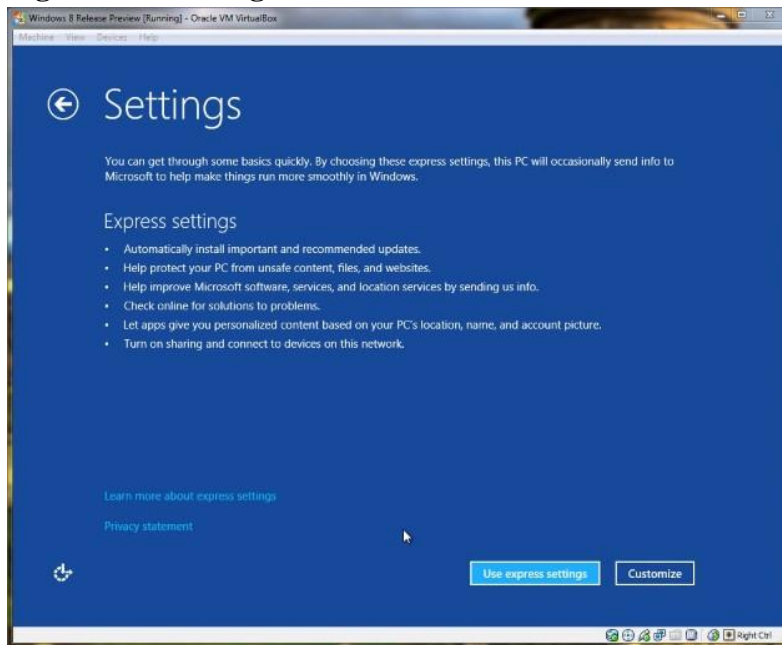
Figure 10 – Preparing Devices

14) It is now time to personalize your Windows experience (Figure 11). Select a color
scheme and chose a name for your computer on the local network.
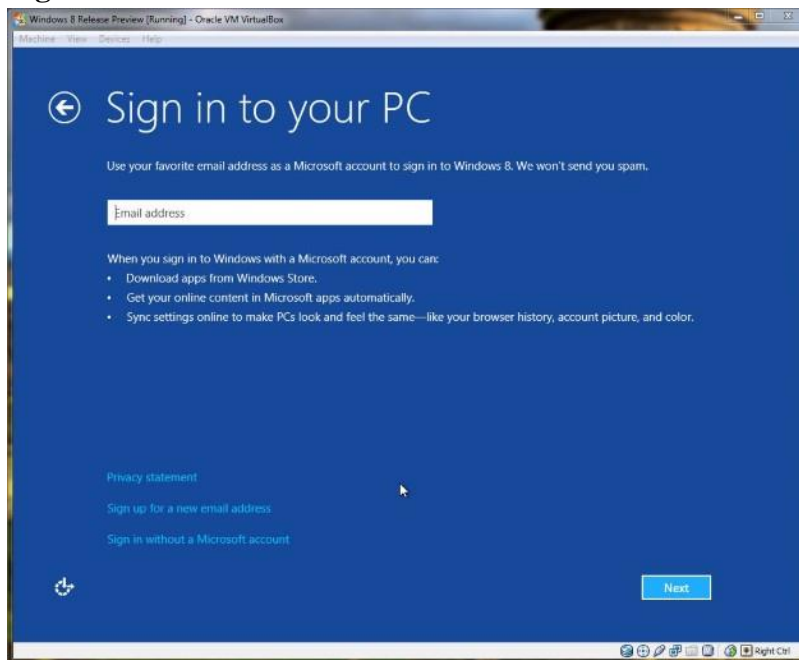
Figure 11 – Personalize

15) The next screen (Figure 12) allows you to personalize your settings, however the
express settings are fine for most users. Select "Use express settings" to continue, or
explore the "Customize" option on your own.

Figure 12 – Settings

16) Windows 8 allows many synchronization options, allowing you to synchronize your settings and apps with multiple computers, your Xbox 360, smartphones, tablets and other devices. You must sign in with your Live or Hotmail account to enable these features. You may do so at the following screen (Figure 13).
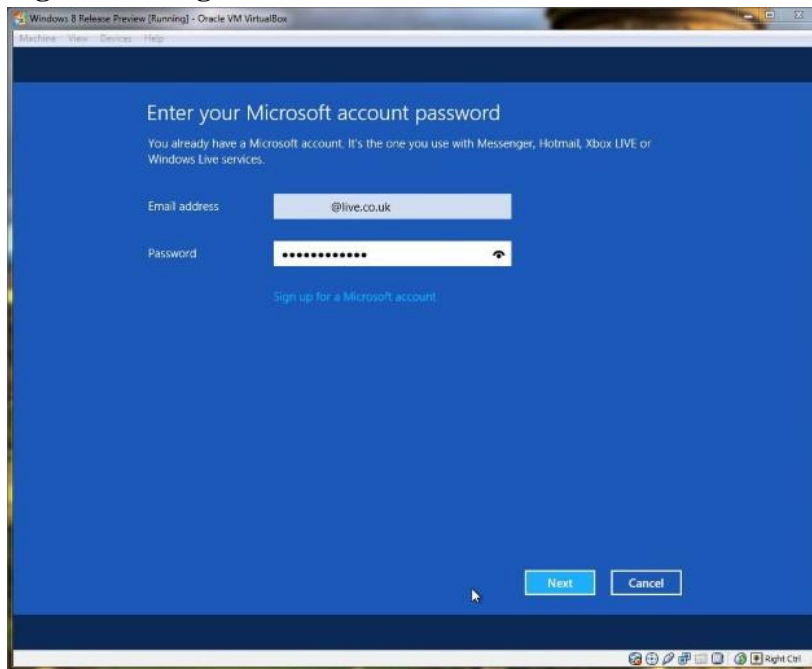
Figure 13 – Select an Email

17) If you entered a valid email address in the prior step you will now (Figure 14) be asked to re-enter your email address and the correct password in order to log into
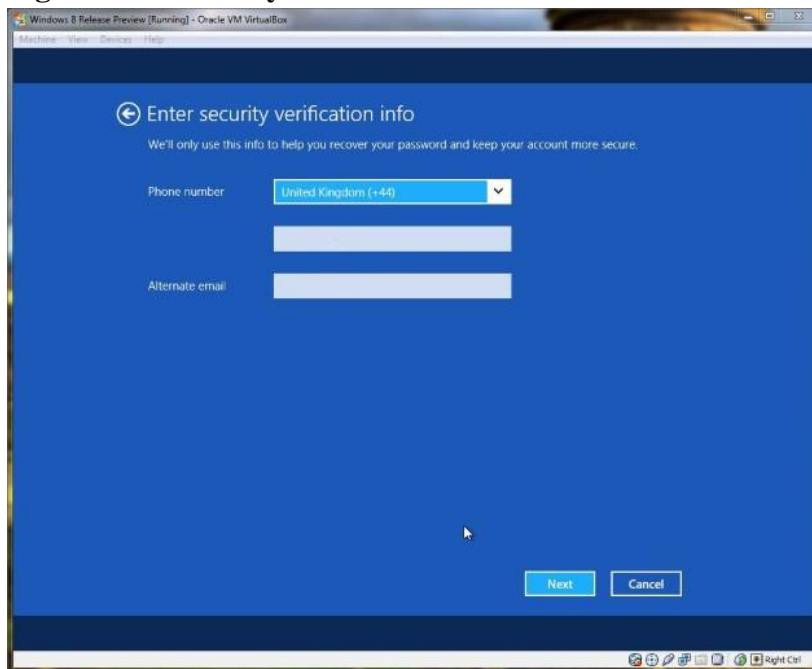
your account. This will become your sign in information for Windows.

Figure 14 – Sign in to Live

18) On the next page you will be asked for verification information (Figure 15). This will be used if you are unable to access your account or lose your password. You may enter a phone number and alternate email address (optional)

Figure 15 – Security Verification

19) One more loading screen (Figure 10). Be patient, you are almost done.

20) Log in with your account and view your new Start page (Figure 16). From here you can access your apps, set tiles for frequently used programs, and access an assortment of information resources such as news, weather, stock quotes, and more. You are also able to access your desktop, which is very similar to the windows 7 desktop.

Figure 16 – Get Going!

Conclusion

Congratulations! You now have a clean installation of Windows 8, and it did not cost you anything to install. Also, you now know how easy it is to install windows so you will not be afraid to do it on your own and even teach your friends.

Images acquired from:

http://www.techspot.com/

Instructions acquired from my own experience.