

Lab - Preview Windows 11 as a Virtual Machine

Overview

Microsoft has made available a free Windows 11 Enterprise virtual machine (OVA file) for download. This is an excellent way of previewing Windows 11 without upgrading your current install of Windows 10.

Lab Requirements

- One install of the latest version of VirtualBox with the extension pack.
- One download of Windows 11 from the [Microsoft Developers site](#).

Windows 11 Enterprise - 20 GB download

This VM will expire on May 2, 2022.



If you have a slow or bothersome Internet connection, try using a download manager to download the OVA file.

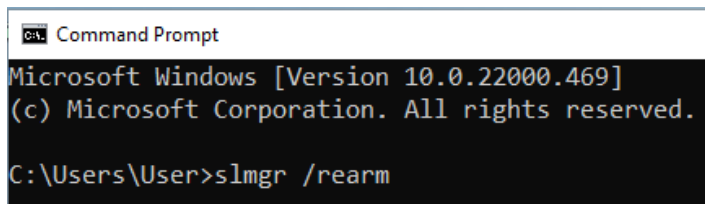
If you have a storage issue, save the file to a thumb drive to handle at least 20 GB.

Microsoft continues to extend the download period for this download. This download does not look at your TMP requirements when imported as an OVA into VirtualBox.

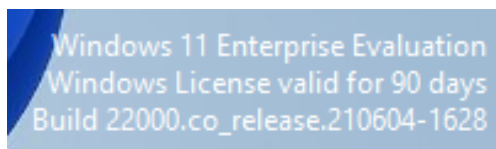
Extending the Trial Period

Option 1. Once you have imported the OVA file as an appliance into VirtualBox, take a snapshot so that you can easily roll back for a new trial period.

Option 2. Like any Windows operating system, you can extend the trial period for three additional 90-day periods by opening a command prompt as administrator and using the “**slmgr /rearm**” command without the quotes.



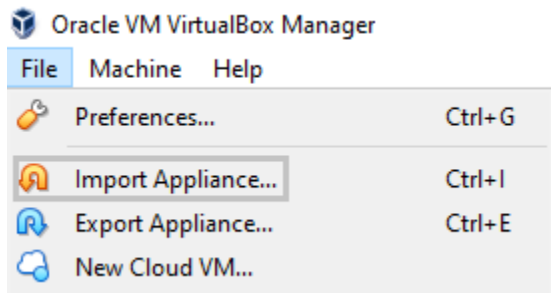
Once you restart the machine, you will see a message in the lower right corner stating you have another 90 days for your eval requirement. Give the desktop time to refresh to see the change.



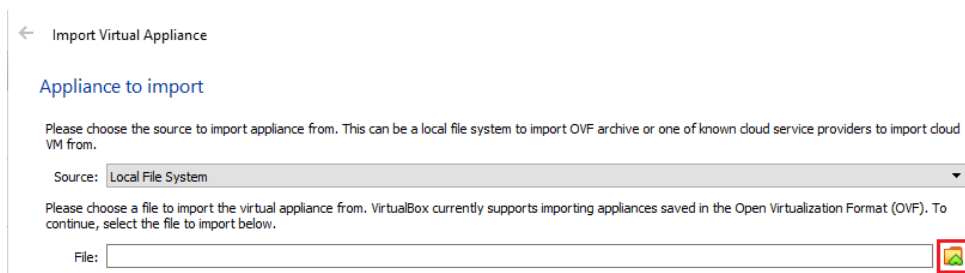
Begin the Lab!

Once you have met the lab requirements, you can begin the lab.

Once the OVA file has been successfully downloaded and stored locally on your machine, open your VirtualBox management console. From the left windowpane, click on **File**, and from the context menu, select **Import Appliance**.

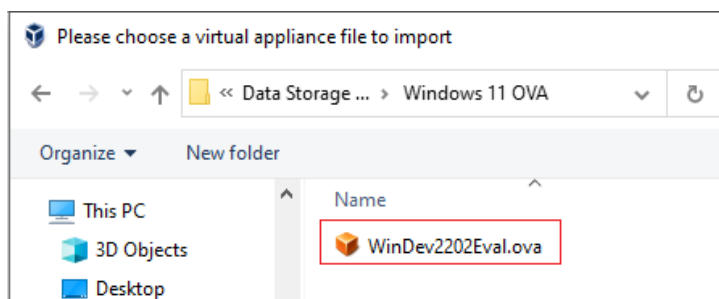


This launches the Import Virtual Appliance wizard. Over to the right of the window, click on the folder icon and browse to where you saved your Windows 11 OVA file download.

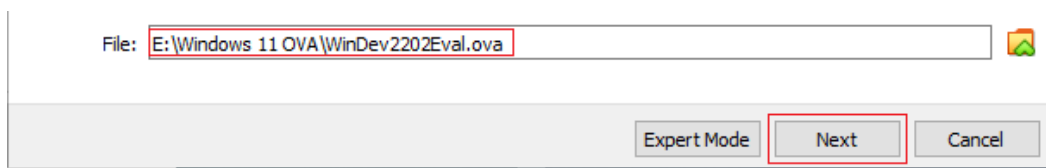


Note that the name of the downloaded file is WinDev2202Eval.ova. Note that the name for the OVS file may differ over time. Adjust accordingly.

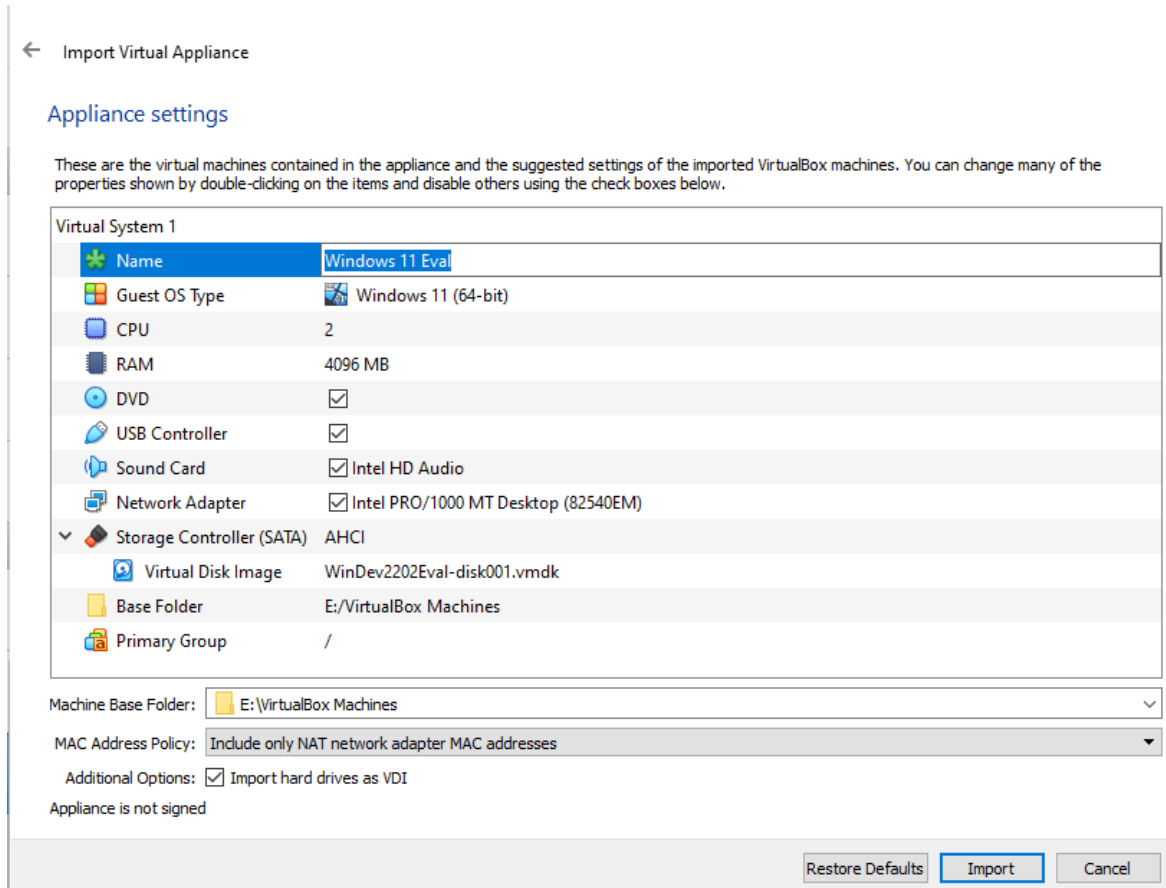
Once you have located the file, X2 click to import into the wizard.



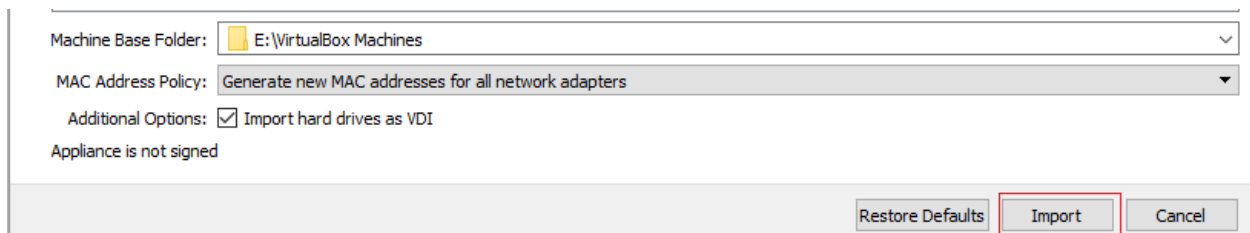
Once the OVA file has been imported, scroll to the bottom of the window and click, Next.



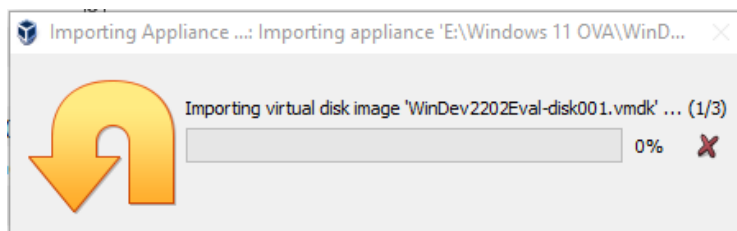
On this next screen, you can see all the settings that have been applied to the virtual machine. You can modify or change the settings by clicking inside the box for the particular property setting. I've renamed my virtual machine to a more user-friendly name, and I've changed the location to where I save my virtual machines.



Once you are ready to begin the importation process for Windows 11, click the import button.



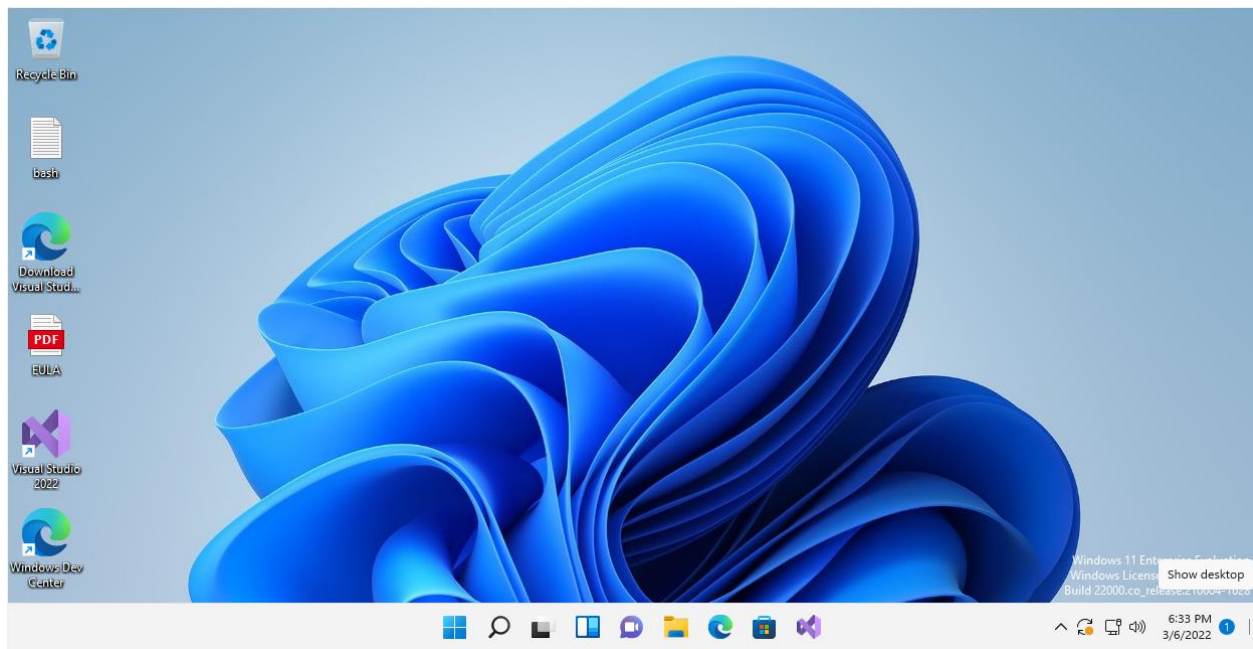
The importation process begins. Be patient! This can take some time.



Once Windows 11 has been imported, locate the virtual disk for the machine in the left windowpane and X2 click to start Windows 11.



Wait for Windows 11 to complete the launch, and you will be automatically logged on as 'User.'

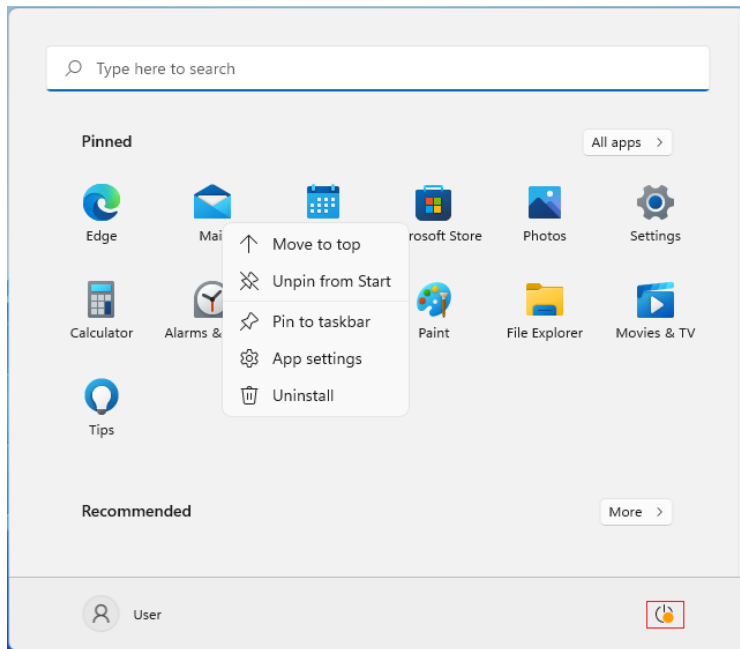


Everything is now conveniently located in the quick launch menu at the bottom of your Desktop.

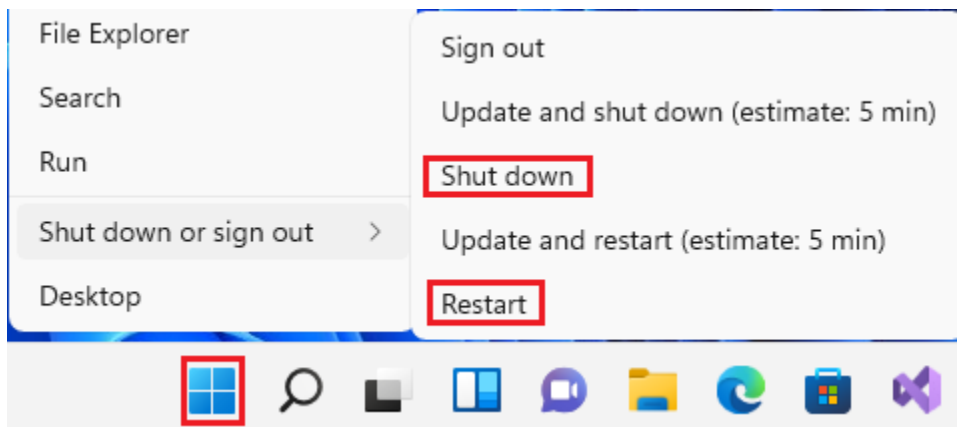
The first icon in the quick launch is your start menu.



It's like any start menu you have seen before in Windows 10, just a different layout. The power button is in the lower right corner of the start menu; the orange icon indicates that updates are waiting to be installed.



The easiest way to shut down or restart windows 11 gracefully is by right-clicking on the start menu and selecting one of the options.



You are now ready to explore Windows 11. Enjoy!

End of the lab