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Activity 3: Install SSH server on CentOS or RHEL 8

1. Objectives:
1.1 Install Community Enterprise OS or Red Hat Linux OS
1.2 Configure remote SSH connection from remote computer to CentOS/RHEL-8

2. Discussion:

CentOS vs. Debian: Overview

CentOS and Debian are Linux distributions that spawn from opposite ends of the candle.

CentOS is a free downstream rebuild of the commercial Red Hat Enterprise Linux distribution where, in contrast, Debian is the free upstream distribution that is the base for other distributions, including the Ubuntu Linux distribution.

As with many Linux distributions, CentOS and Debian are generally more alike than different; it isn't until we dig a little deeper that we find where they branch.

CentOS vs. Debian: Architecture

The available supported architectures can be the determining factor as to whether a distro is a viable option or not. Debian and CentOS are both very popular for x86_64/AMD64, but what other archs are supported by each?

Both Debian and CentOS support AArch64/ARM64, armhf/armhfp , i386 , ppc64el/ppc64le. (Note: armhf/armhfp and i386 are supported in CentOS 7 only.)

CentOS 7 additionally supports POWER9 while Debian and CentOS 8 do not. CentOS 7 focuses on the x86_64/AMD64 architecture with the other archs released through the AltArch SIG (Alternate Architecture Special Interest Group) with CentOS 8 supporting x86_64/AMD64, AArch64 and ppc64le equally.

Debian supports MIPSel, MIPS64el and s390x while CentOS does not. Much like CentOS 8, Debian does not favor one arch over another —all supported architectures are supported equally.

CentOS vs. Debian: Package Management

Most Linux distributions have some form of package manager nowadays, with some more complex and feature-rich than others.

CentOS uses the RPM package format and YUM/DNF as the package manager.

Debian uses the DEB package format and dpkg/APT as the package manager.

Both offer full-feature package management with network-based repository support, dependency checking and resolution, etc.. If you're familiar with one but not the other, you may have a little trouble switching over, but they're not overwhelmingly different. They both have similar features, just available through a different interface.

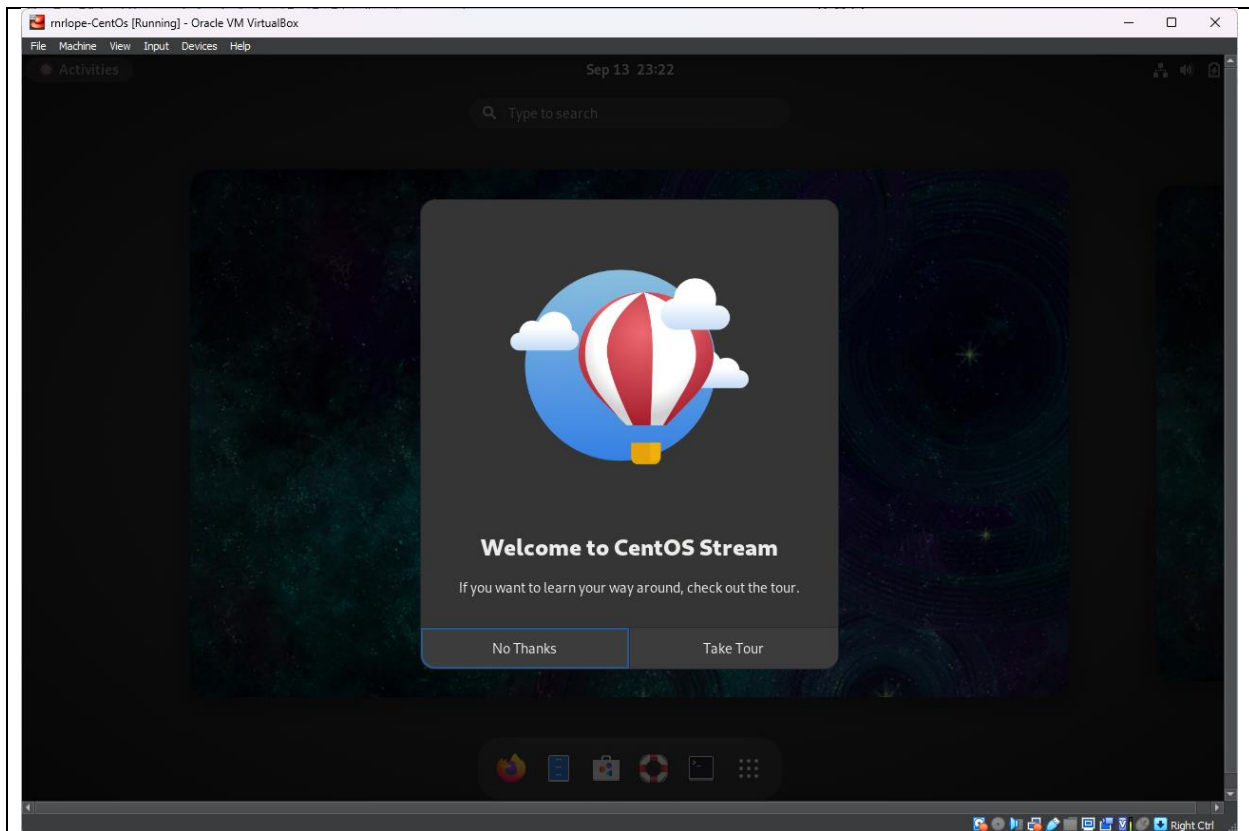**Task 1: Download the CentOS or RHEL-8 image** (Create screenshots of the following)

1. Download the image of the CentOS here:
   http://mirror.rise.ph/centos/7.9.2009/isos/x86_64/

   CentOS-Stream-9-latest-x86_64-dvd1.iso
   Download complete
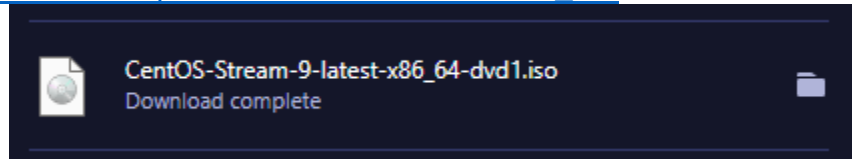
2. Create a VM machine with 2 Gb RAM and 20 Gb HD.
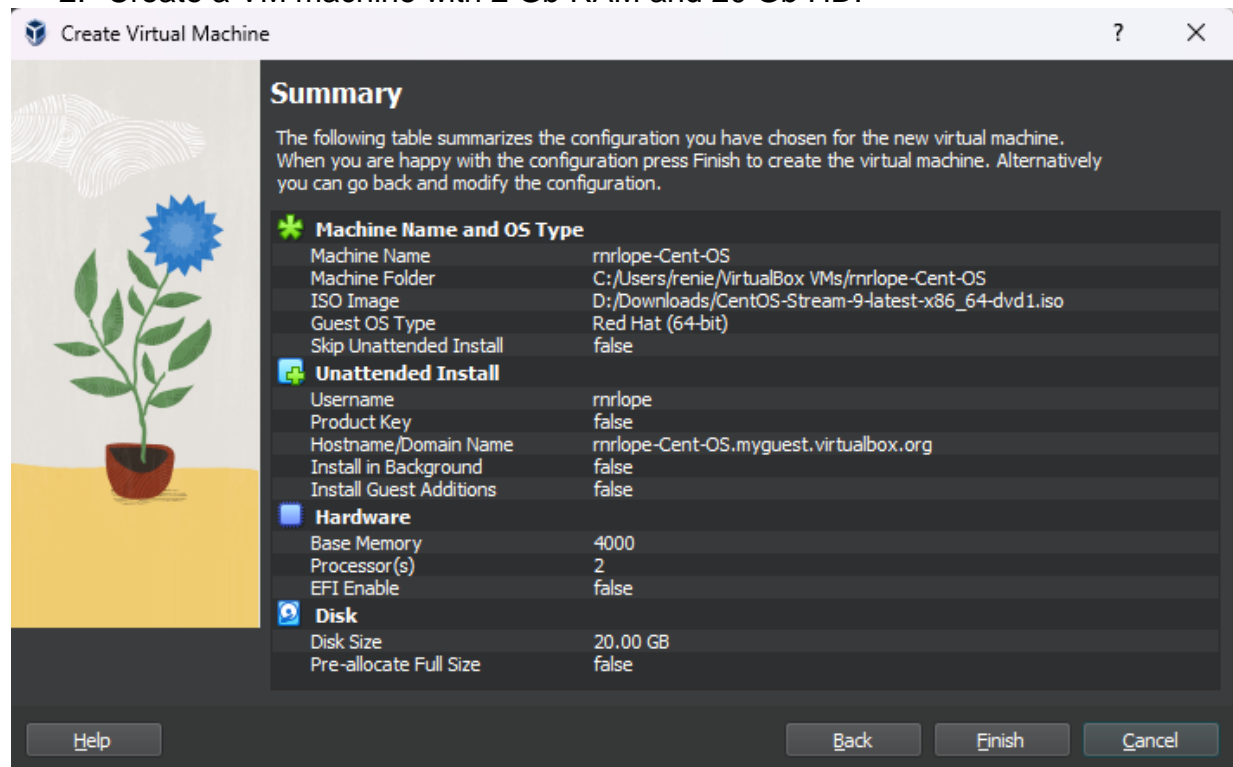
3. Install the downloaded image.
4. Show evidence that the OS was installed already.

Task 2: Install the SSH server package *openssh*

1. Install the ssh server package *openssh* by using the *dnf* command:
   $ dnf install openssh-server

2. Start the *sshd* daemon and set to start after reboot:
   $ systemctl start sshd
   $ systemctl enable sshd

```
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$ systemctl start sshd
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$ systemctl enable sshd
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$
```

3. Confirm that the sshd daemon is up and running:
   $ systemctl status sshd

```
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$ systemctl status sshd
● sshd.service - OpenSSH server daemon
     Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/sshd.service; enabled; preset: ena>
     Active: active (running) since Fri 2024-09-13 23:37:51 PST; 5min ago
       Docs: man:sshd(8)
             man:sshd_config(5)
   Main PID: 869 (sshd)
      Tasks: 1 (limit: 22394)
     Memory: 2.8M
        CPU: 33ms
     CGroup: /system.slice/sshd.service
             └─869 "sshd: /usr/sbin/sshd -D [listener] 0 of 10-100 startups"

Sep 13 23:37:51 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Starting OpenSSH server daemo>
Sep 13 23:37:51 localhost.localdomain sshd[869]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 po>
Sep 13 23:37:51 localhost.localdomain sshd[869]: Server listening on :: port 22.
Sep 13 23:37:51 localhost.localdomain systemd[1]: Started OpenSSH server daemon.
lines 1-16/16 (END)
```

4. Open the SSH port 22 to allow incoming traffic:
   $ firewall-cmd --zone=public --permanent --add-service=ssh
   $ firewall-cmd –reload

```
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$ firewall-cmd --zone=public --permanent --add-service=ssh
Warning: ALREADY_ENABLED: ssh
success
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$
```

5. Locate the ssh server man config file */etc/ssh/sshd_config* and perform custom configuration. Every time you make any change to the */etc/ssh/sshd-config* configuration file reload the *sshd* service to apply changes:
   $ systemctl reload sshd

```
[rnrlope@localhost etc]$ cd ssh
[rnrlope@localhost ssh]$ cd sshd_config
bash: cd: sshd_config: Not a directory
[rnrlope@localhost ssh]$ ls
moduli        sshd_config.d          ssh_host_ed25519_key.pub
ssh_config    ssh_host_ecdsa_key     ssh_host_rsa_key
ssh_config.d  ssh_host_ecdsa_key.pub ssh_host_rsa_key.pub
sshd_config   ssh_host_ed25519_key
[rnrlope@localhost ssh]$
```

Task 3: Copy the Public Key to CentOS
1. Make sure that *ssh* is installed on the local machine.
2. Using the command *ssh-copy-id*, connect your local machine to CentOS.

```
rnrlope@workstation:~$ ssh-copy-id rnrlope@192.168.56.108
The authenticity of host '192.168.56.108 (192.168.56.108)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:M4/0JrQG0sodXl0uKGAXmcy1FxhwFHLX8f6OhgoyVtY.
This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any
 that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 2 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are prompted now
it is to install the new keys
rnrlope@192.168.56.108's password:

Number of key(s) added: 2

Now try logging into the machine, with:   "ssh 'rnrlope@192.168.56.108'"
and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.

rnrlope@workstation:~$
```

3. On CentOS, verify that you have the *authorized_keys*.

```
rnrlope@workstation:~$ ssh rnrlope@192.168.56.108
Activate the web console with: systemctl enable --now cockpit.socket

Last login: Fri Sep 13 23:53:06 2024
[rnrlope@localhost ~]$
```

Task 4: Verify ssh remote connection
1. Using your local machine, connect to CentOS using ssh.
2. Show evidence that you are connected.

Reflections:

Answer the following:
1. What do you think we should look for in choosing the best distribution between Debian and Red Hat Linux distributions?
   - Debian or RedHat should be chosen depending on your unique needs. needs, like the planned use, the available funds, the necessary assistance, and your degree of proficiency with Linux systems. These things should be considered to make the appropriate decision for your surroundings

2. What are the main diffence between Debian and Red Hat Linux distributions?
   - Whereas Red Hat uses yum/dnf as its package manager and .rpm as its package format, Debian uses apt as its package manager and .deb as its package format. While debian distributions like Ubuntu are community-driven and free for everyone to use, Red Hat distributions are typically used for enterprise level server administration and require a paid membership for full support.