

VirtualBox Configuration Summary Sheet (Non-Network)

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1. System Settings

Boot Order

- Defines the order of devices to boot from: Floppy, Optical, Hard Disk, Network.
- Set Optical first when installing an OS from ISO.

Chipset: PIIX3 vs ICH9

- **PIIX3** (default): Compatible and stable with most guest OSes.
- **ICH9**: Supports PCI Express and more devices; advanced use cases.

EFI/BIOS

- **BIOS (Legacy)**: Suitable for older OS installations.
- **EFI (UEFI)**: Required by some modern OSes (e.g., Windows 11).
- Enable only when the OS explicitly requires it.

2. Processor Settings

Enable PAE/NX

- Allows 32-bit guest OS to access more than 4GB RAM (Physical Address Extension).
- Required by some Linux distributions.

Execution Cap

- Limits the percentage of host CPU time used by the VM.
- Useful for reducing CPU usage on host under heavy load.

3. Display Settings

Video Memory

- Allocates VRAM to the VM display (up to 128MB).
- Affects graphics performance and resolution support.

3D / 2D Acceleration

- Enables hardware-accelerated graphics.
- Requires Guest Additions to function properly.
- May cause compatibility issues on some guest OSes.

4. Storage Settings

Disk File Type

- **VDI (VirtualBox Disk Image)**: Default format, supports all VBox features.
- **VHD**: Compatible with Microsoft Hyper-V.

- **VMDK:** Used by VMware, good for interoperability.

Disk Allocation

- **Dynamically Allocated:** Grows as needed, saves host disk space.
- **Fixed Size:** Pre-allocates full disk space, slightly faster I/O.

5. Guest Integration

Shared Clipboard

- Enables copy-paste between host and guest.
- Requires Guest Additions.

Drag and Drop

- Allows file dragging between host and guest.
- Needs Guest Additions; choose direction (Host to Guest or Bidirectional).

Shared Folder

- Allows a host folder to be mounted inside the guest.
- Requires Guest Additions and proper user group permissions.

6. Cloning Virtual Machines

Clone Types

- **Full Clone:** Independent copy, does not rely on original VM.
- **Linked Clone:** Saves space by referencing original disk; not portable alone.

Cautions When Cloning

- Update hostname, MAC address, and IP if running multiple clones.
- Linked clones are ideal for temporary testing only.
- Consider snapshot state when cloning; you can include or exclude snapshots.

Note: Networking settings are excluded in this sheet and will be covered in a separate session.