LSU |

Software (https://software.grok.lsu.edu/)

Login (https://grok.lsu.edu/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=https://software.grok.lsu.edu/Article.aspx?articleid=13838)

Browse

VirtualBox 5: Importing and Exporting Virtual Machines

🖶 (https://software.grok.lsu.edu/Article.aspx?articleid=13838&printable=y)

[Return to VirtualBox: LSU Overview] (/article.aspx?articleId=13123)
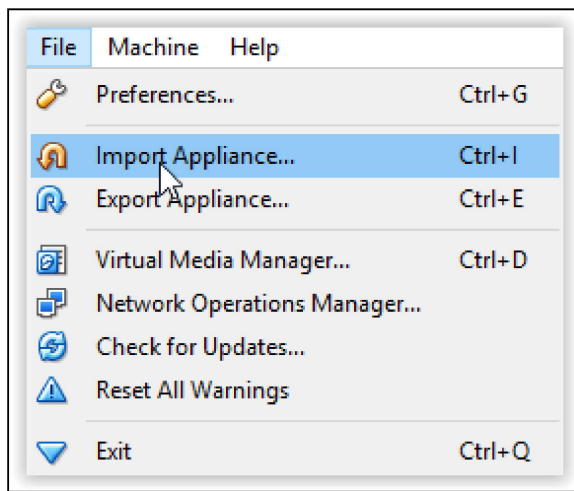
General Information

VirtualBox is capable of importing and exporting virtual machines in the standard Open Virtualization Format (OVF). The Open Virtualization Format is uniform across a wide range of virtualization software products, which allows for virtual machines to be imported to a program like VirtualBox. OVF is supported by VirtualBox with the graphical user interface as well as the command line. This creates the option to package Virtual Appliances, which are disk images combined with configuration settings to be distributed with ease from one virtualization product to another.

A virtual appliance will contain the following files, which must be located in the same directory for the files to be imported by VirtualBox:
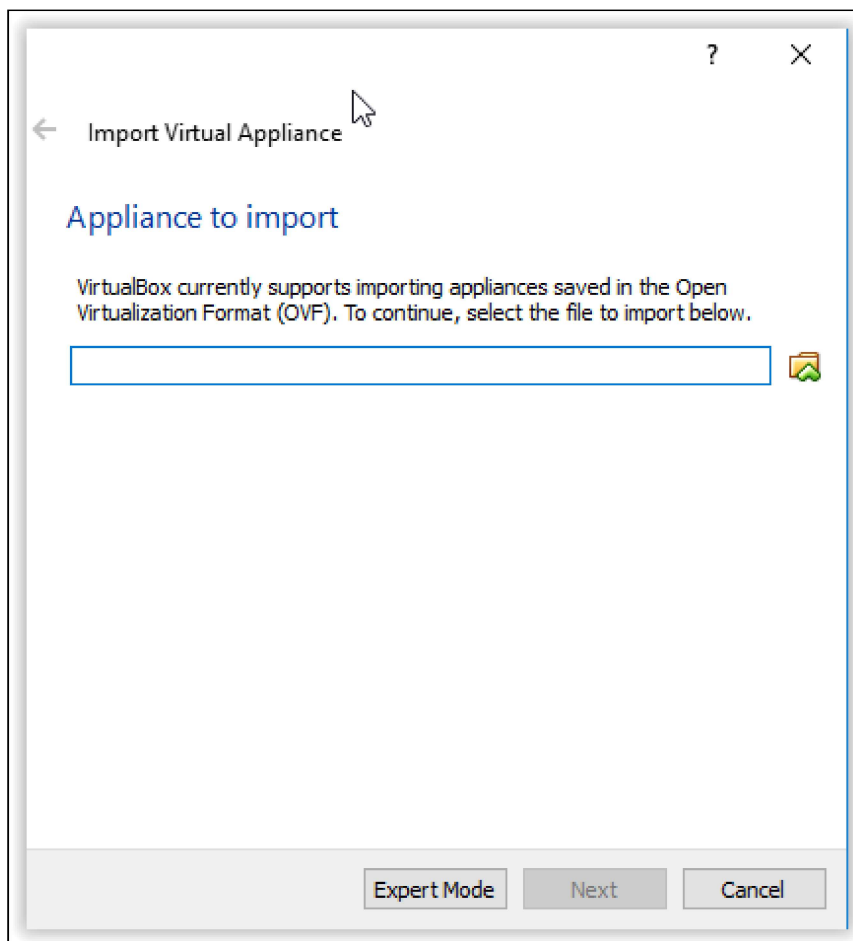
- One or more disk images (usually in VMDK format)
- A textual description file with the .ovf extension (in XML dialect)

To Import a Virtual Appliance in OVF Format

1. Select **File | Import Appliance** from the taskbar at the top of the window.

File	Machine	Help	
🔧	Preferences...		Ctrl+G
🎗	Import Appliance...		Ctrl+I
🎗	Export Appliance...		Ctrl+E
📦	Virtual Media Manager...		Ctrl+D
🖥	Network Operations Manager...		
⟳	Check for Updates...		
⚠	Reset All Warnings		
▽	Exit		Ctrl+Q

2. The **Appliance Import Wizard** will appear. Open the file dialog and select the **OVF text file** with the .ovf file extension.

> ?   ✕
>
> ← Import Virtual Appliance
>
> ## Appliance to import
>
> VirtualBox currently supports importing appliances saved in the Open Virtualization Format (OVF). To continue, select the file to import below.
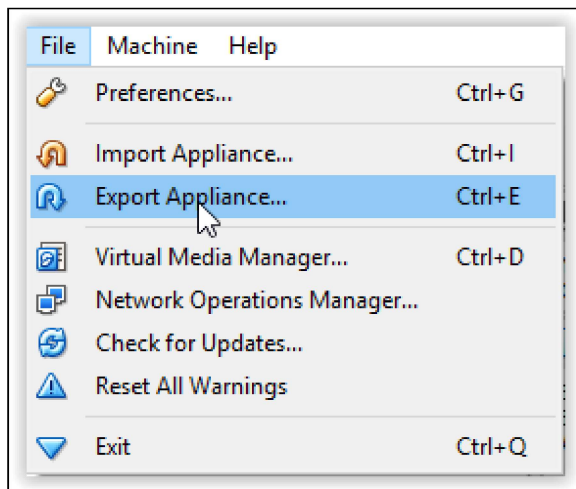>
> [_____] 🗁
>
> Expert Mode   Next   Cancel

3. The wizard will then display the virtual machines in the OVF file. Users can double-click on the description items to configure the settings of the VM. Upon clicking **Import**, the disk images will be copied and the virtual machines will be created according to the settings that are explained in the dialog.
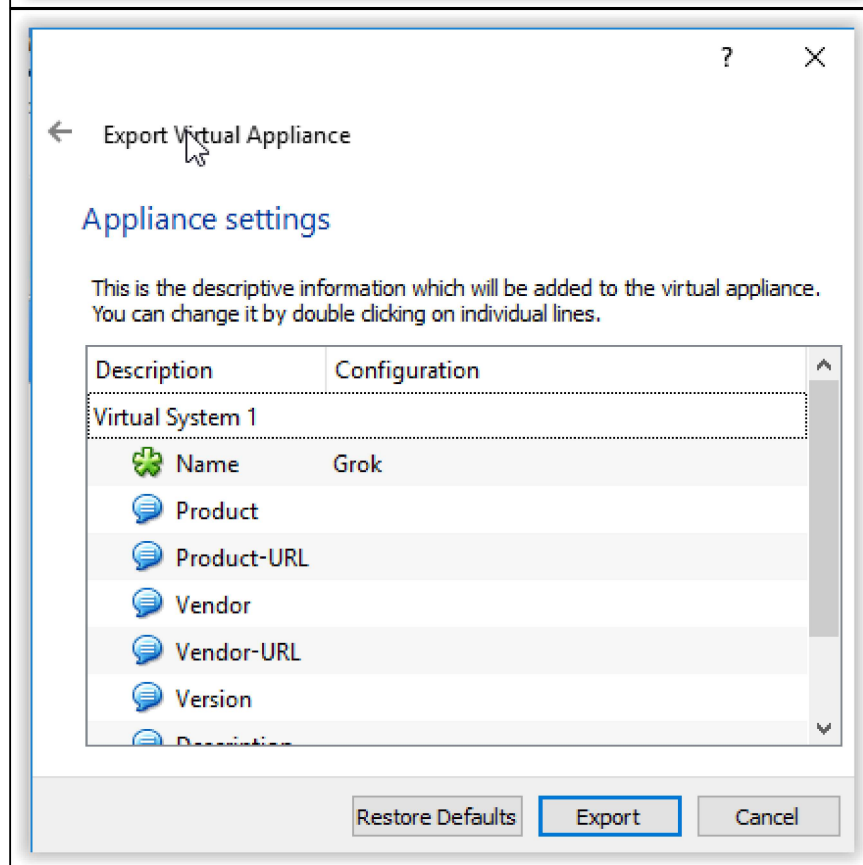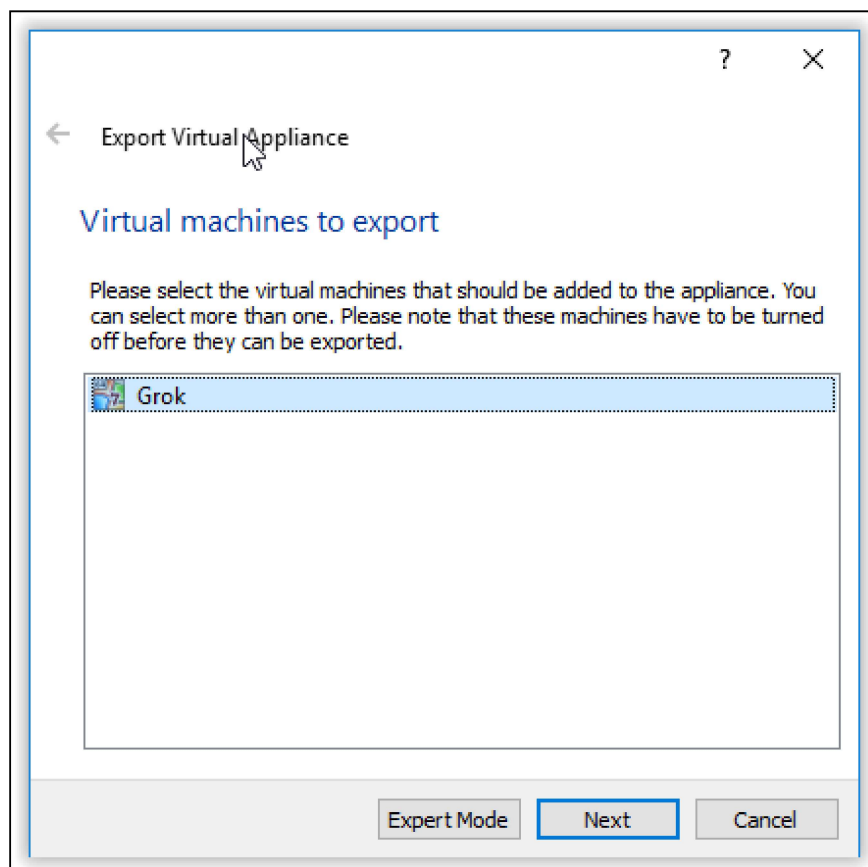
> **NOTE:** *The VMDK images of virtual appliances will need to be decompressed and copied before the VM is able to use it. This is so due to the large size of these files which are usually delivered in a compressed format.*

To Export a Virtual Appliance in OVF Format

1. Click the VM. Select **File** | **Export Appliance** from the taskbar at the top of the window.

2. The **Appliance Export Wizard** will then appear. Various windows will allow users to merge many virtual machines into an OVF appliance and to choose a target location where the VMDK and OVF files will be stored. The conversion process will then be initiated.

? ✕

← Export Virtual Appliance

Virtual machines to export

Please select the virtual machines that should be added to the appliance. You can select more than one. Please note that these machines have to be turned off before they can be exported.

> 🖥 Grok

Expert Mode | Next | Cancel

? ✕

← Export Virtual Appliance

Appliance settings

This is the descriptive information which will be added to the virtual appliance. You can change it by double clicking on individual lines.

Description	Configuration
Virtual System 1	
🍀 Name	Grok
💬 Product	
💬 Product-URL	
💬 Vendor	
💬 Vendor-URL	
💬 Version	
💬 Description	

Restore Defaults | Export | Cancel

Referenced from: Virtualbox.org (http://www.virtualbox.org/)

Article ID: 13838

Last Updated: 7/28/2016 11:34:27 AM

Need more help? Open a Help Desk Ticket! (https://itservice.lsu.edu/MRcgi/MRentrancePage.pl)

We love feedback! Please Help us improve this article.

Article Rating (Optional):

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | Not Rated |

Email Address (Optional, unless you would like to hear back from us):

Comments:

GROK is a resource of Louisiana State University developed and maintained with support of the LSU Student Technology Fee. We love getting feedback from the general public, but our support efforts are generally dedicated to the LSU community. Thanks for your understanding!

| Submit |

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70803

webmaster@lsu.edu (mailto:webmaster@lsu.edu)

Provide website feedback. (http://www.lsu.edu/feedback/index.php)

(h... f. (ht... y.

Information Technology Services (http://lsu.edu/its)
200 Frey Computing Services
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Telephone: 225-578-3375
Fax: 225-578-6400