

## Practical exercise 2-7: Working with Environmental Variables

This Practical Exercise will take students through the use of environmental variables in a Linux OS. This includes entries within, modifying and exporting a modification.

Open VirtualBox and start the openSUSE VM. Run snapshot 2-1 for the correctly configured environment. To run snapshot 2-1:

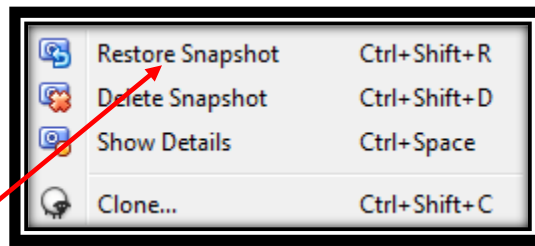
1. Open the Oracle VM VirtualBox manager by double clicking this icon on your desktop:



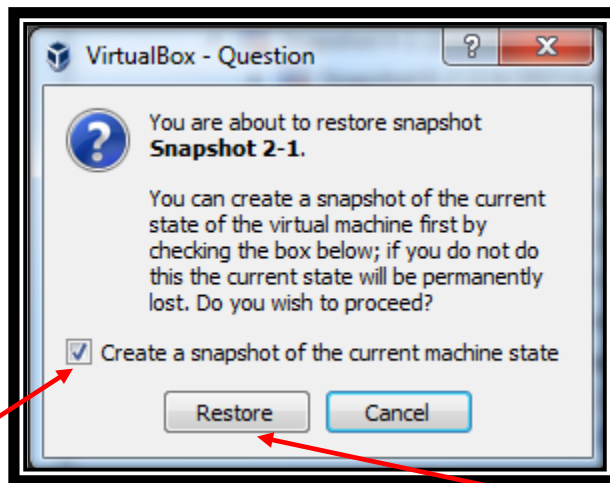
2. Click "Snapshots" in the top right of the Oracle VM Virtualbox Manager.



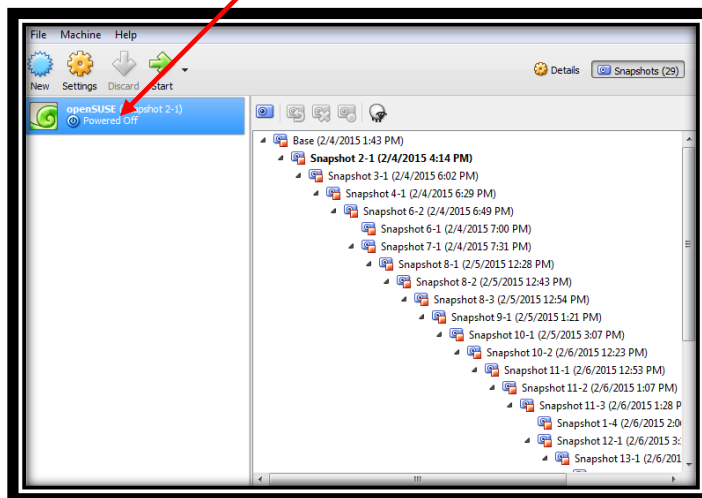
3. In the right side box populated with snapshots scroll up and find the one titled "Snapshot 2-1" and right click on it. The following box should appear:



4. Select "Restore Snapshot" and the following pop-up should appear:



5. Uncheck the "Create a Snapshot of the current machine state" box and then click the "Restore" button.
6. You should now see in the left box the openSUSE (Snapshot 2-1) with a status of "Powered Off." Power it on by double clicking it.



7. A separate window should open and you should see the openSUSE Linux OS booting.
8. Log in as the user student with the password: **student**; then press CTRL+ALT+F1.
9. At your login prompt, authenticate to the system as the user: **student** and password: **student** again.
10. Change to your root user account by entering **su** – followed by your root password.
11. At the shell prompt, view the value of the following environment variables by entering the following commands:

```
echo $PWD  
echo $HOME  
echo $EUID  
echo $PATH  
echo $PS1
```

12. Change your shell prompt to display the currently logged-in user, the name of the Linux host, the current time, the full path to the current working directory, and a colon by doing the following:

At the shell prompt enter **PS1="[u@\h \t \w]:"**. The prompt should immediately change.

At the shell prompt, enter **export PS1**.

At your shell prompt, enter **ls ~ -a**.

Which file would you edit on your particular distribution if you wanted to make the changes to your PS1 environment variable persistent?

**--End of Practical Exercise--**