

G53SEC MANUAL: CLONING VIRTUAL MACHINES

INTRODUCTION

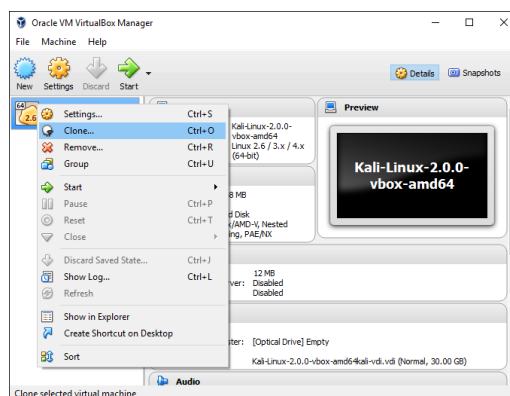
Why install your own OS from a CD when you can simply clone a previously setup one? VirtualBox is smart software; it's even capable of cloning a machine without actually cloning the disk. Only the difference is stored, which keeps disk requirements way down.

This document assumes you're familiar with importing and running VMs, and creating and using VM snapshots. If you are not, please refer to the first help document that describes getting started.



CLONING KALI

When you clone a VM, you can choose to copy the whole disk, or create a linked shallow copy. In a non-lab environment, a full copy might be what is required, but in this case all we need is another machine as quickly and easily as possible – and to save some space on the local disk. Begin by firing up VirtualBox, and make sure that none of the VMs are running. If there are no VMs, obviously you'll need to import them as per the start document.



Right click on a Kali machine, and click Clone. You'll be presented with a small interface to chose the details of the new machine.

Click Expert mode, we'll need all of the settings anyway. Choose a new name for the VM, you'll be using two Kali installations that look identical, so perhaps give it a name relevant to the lab you're in to avoid confusion. I've chosen Kali-Lab4-Server in this case.

Choose linked clone, and click the checkbox to reinitialize the MAC address – it's better all-round if both machines don't have the same physical address. Click clone, that's it! Another snapshot will probably be created automatically for the source machine, as a way of VirtualBox tracking all of the changes. Apart from that both machines will now be completely independent.

