

QRADAR SIEM INSTALLATION GUIDE



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1. Introduction:

This guide provides a step-by-step walkthrough for setting up IBM QRadar Community Edition V7.5.0 in a home lab environment using VMware. QRadar CE is a great option for students, researchers, and cybersecurity enthusiasts who want to explore SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) capabilities in a controlled, non-production environment.

The deployment guide includes hardware requirements, ISO download instructions, VMware virtual machine setup, installation, and the configuration of a useful dashboard extension (Pulse app). By the end of this guide, you'll have a functional QRadar instance running locally and accessible via a web interface.

2. Hardware Requirements:

To install QRadar Community Edition V7.5.0 Update Package 11, your system must meet the following minimum hardware specifications:

- **Memory:** 24 GB RAM (minimum)
- **Disk Space:** 250 GB (minimum)
- **CPU:** 4 cores (minimum), 6 cores recommended
- **Network:** One network adapter with Internet access
- **IP Address:** Static IP required
- **Hostname:** Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN) must be used

3. Downloading the ISO:

- Visit the official IBM QRadar Community Edition page.
- Download the ISO file from:
➤ <https://www.ibm.com/community/101/qradar/ce/>

Community

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IBM Security QRadar Community Edition

Respond to threats, develop, and learn from the comfort of your own home with QRadar Community Edition 7.5.0.

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About QRadar Community Edition

Community Edition is a fully-featured free version of QRadar SIEM that is low memory, low EPS, and includes a 3-month renewable license. This version is limited to 100 events per second and 5,000 network flows a minute, supports apps, but is based on a smaller footprint for non-enterprise use. QRadar® Community Edition empowers users, students, security professionals, and app developers to learn and experience the latest features of QRadar 7.5.0 Update Package 11.

~~50~~ **100**

More events
QRadar Community Edition now allows you to utilize 100 Events per second (EPS) to collect more events.

5000

Flows included
Add flow source to collect up to 5,000 flows per minute (FPM) to monitor how hosts talk to each other in your network.

RH 8.10

OS update
QRadar Community Edition is based off of QRadar SIEM 7.5.0 Update Package 11, which uses Red Hat Enterprise 8.10 (Ootpa) as the

IBM IBM MRS Tool

Download the IBM QRadar Community Edition

Marketing Registration Services



Downloads

By clicking "Download" you agree that you have had the opportunity to review the terms and conditions and that such terms and conditions govern this transaction

Download the IBM QRadar Community Edition

English
2025-04-02

Show 10 entries

Search:

Description	Filename	Size	Action
750-QRADAR-QRFULL-2021.6.11.20250122185136.iso	750-QRADAR-QRFULL-2021.6.11.20250122185136.iso	5.2 GB	Download
750-QRADAR-QRFULL-2021.6.11.20250122185136.iso.sig	750-QRADAR-QRFULL-2021.6.11.20250122185136.iso.sig	684 B	Download
750-QRADAR-QRFULL-2021.6.11.20250122185136.sha256	750-QRADAR-QRFULL-2021.6.11.20250122185136.sha256	65 B	Download
keyCommunityEdition-31XX-QCE10661-100EPS-5KFlow-exp-06302025.key	keyCommunityEdition-31XX-QCE10661-100EPS-5KFlow-exp-06302025.key	915 B	Download

Need help?

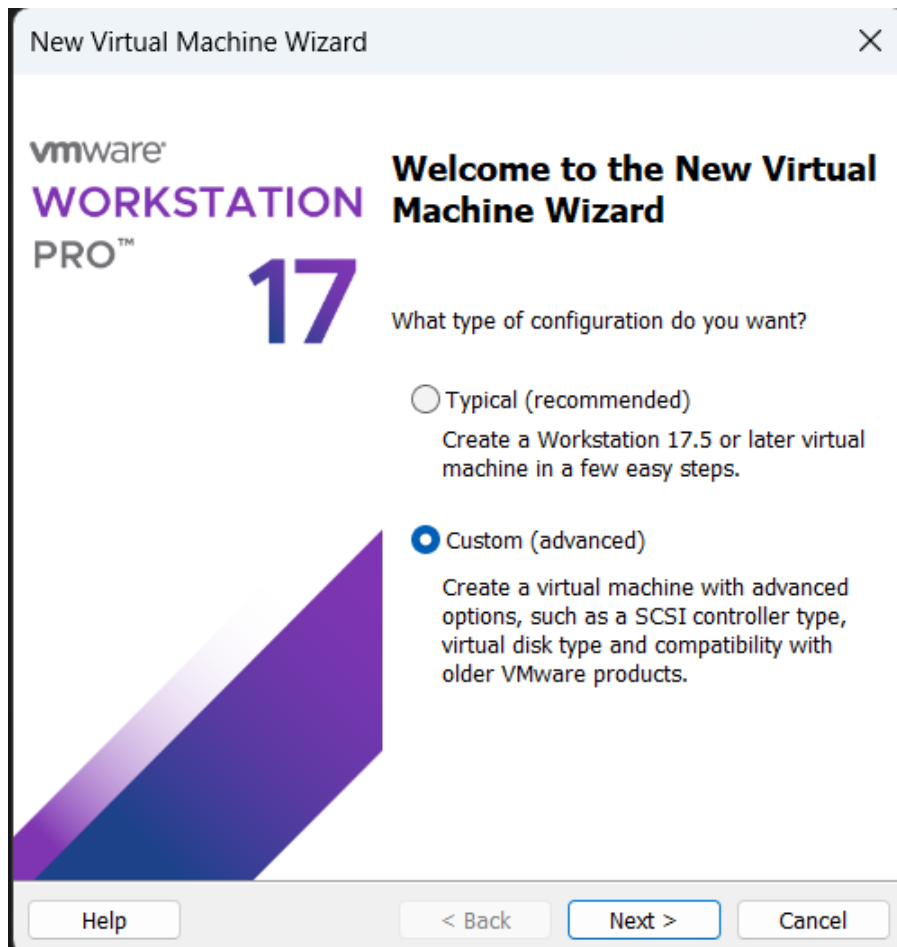
[Sign up support](#)
(English only)

[Sign up end Software t](#)

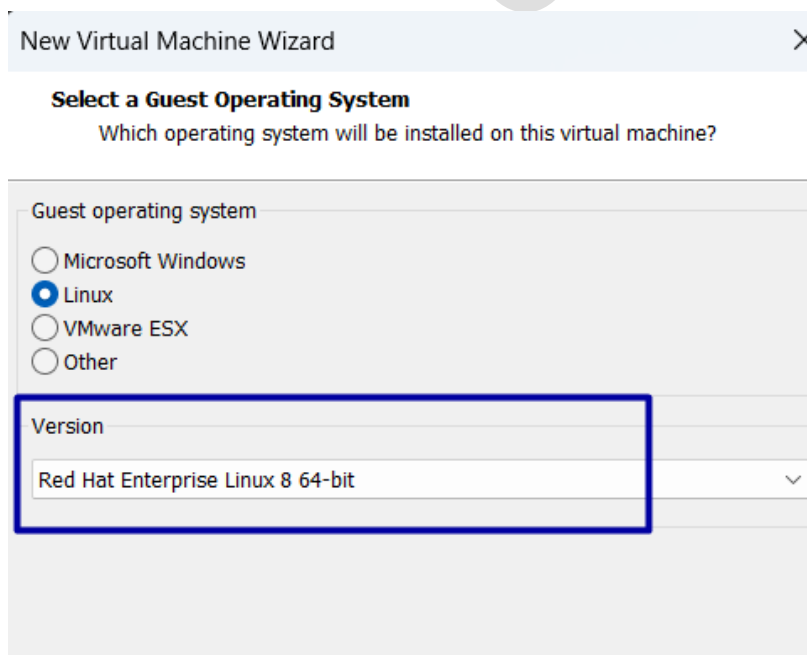
4. VMware Setup:

Create a New Custom VM:

- In VMware, create a new custom virtual machine.
- Select **Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 (64-bit)** as the guest operating system.



The guest operating system has to be **Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 64-bit**



New Virtual Machine Wizard

Name the Virtual Machine
What name would you like to use for this virtual machine?

Virtual machine name:

Location:

The default location can be changed at Edit > Preferences.

< Back

Next >

Cancel

Allocate Resources:

- **CPU:** 1 CPU with 4 cores
- **Memory:** 24 GB RAM
- **Disk:** 250 GB (single file, allocated upfront)

New Virtual Machine Wizard



Processor Configuration

Specify the number of processors for this virtual machine.

Processors

Number of processors: 1

Number of cores per processor: 4

Total processor cores: 4

New Virtual Machine Wizard



Memory for the Virtual Machine

How much memory would you like to use for this virtual machine?

Specify the amount of memory allocated to this virtual machine. The memory size must be a multiple of 4 MB.

128 GB -
64 GB -
32 GB -
16 GB -
8 GB -
4 GB -
2 GB -
1 GB -
512 MB -
256 MB -
128 MB -
64 MB -
32 MB -
16 MB -
8 MB -
4 MB -

Memory for this virtual machine:

24576 MB

Maximum recommended memory:

27.4 GB

Recommended memory:

4 GB

Guest OS recommended minimum:

2 GB

The network adapter has to be NAT

The screenshot shows a 'New Virtual Machine Wizard' window with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The title bar reads 'New Virtual Machine Wizard'. Below the title bar, the section is titled 'Network Type' with the question 'What type of network do you want to add?'. The main area is titled 'Network connection' and contains four radio button options:

- ☐ Use bridged networking
Give the guest operating system direct access to an external Ethernet network. The guest must have its own IP address on the external network.
- ☒ Use network address translation (NAT)
Give the guest operating system access to the host computer's dial-up or external Ethernet network connection using the host's IP address.
- ☐ Use host-only networking
Connect the guest operating system to a private virtual network on the host computer.
- ☐ Do not use a network connection

At the bottom of the window, there are four buttons: 'Help', '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'. The 'Next >' button is highlighted with a blue border.

New Virtual Machine Wizard ✕

Select I/O Controller Types
Which SCSI controller type would you like to use for SCSI virtual disks?

I/O controller types

SCSI Controller:

☐ BusLogic (Not available for 64-bit guests)

☒ LSI Logic (Recommended)

☐ LSI Logic SAS

☐ Paravirtualized SCSI

Help < Back Next > Cancel

⚠ Use **SATA** instead of NVMe for disk type. NVMe may not allocate all required resources properly.

New Virtual Machine Wizard ✕

Select a Disk Type
What kind of disk do you want to create?

Virtual disk type

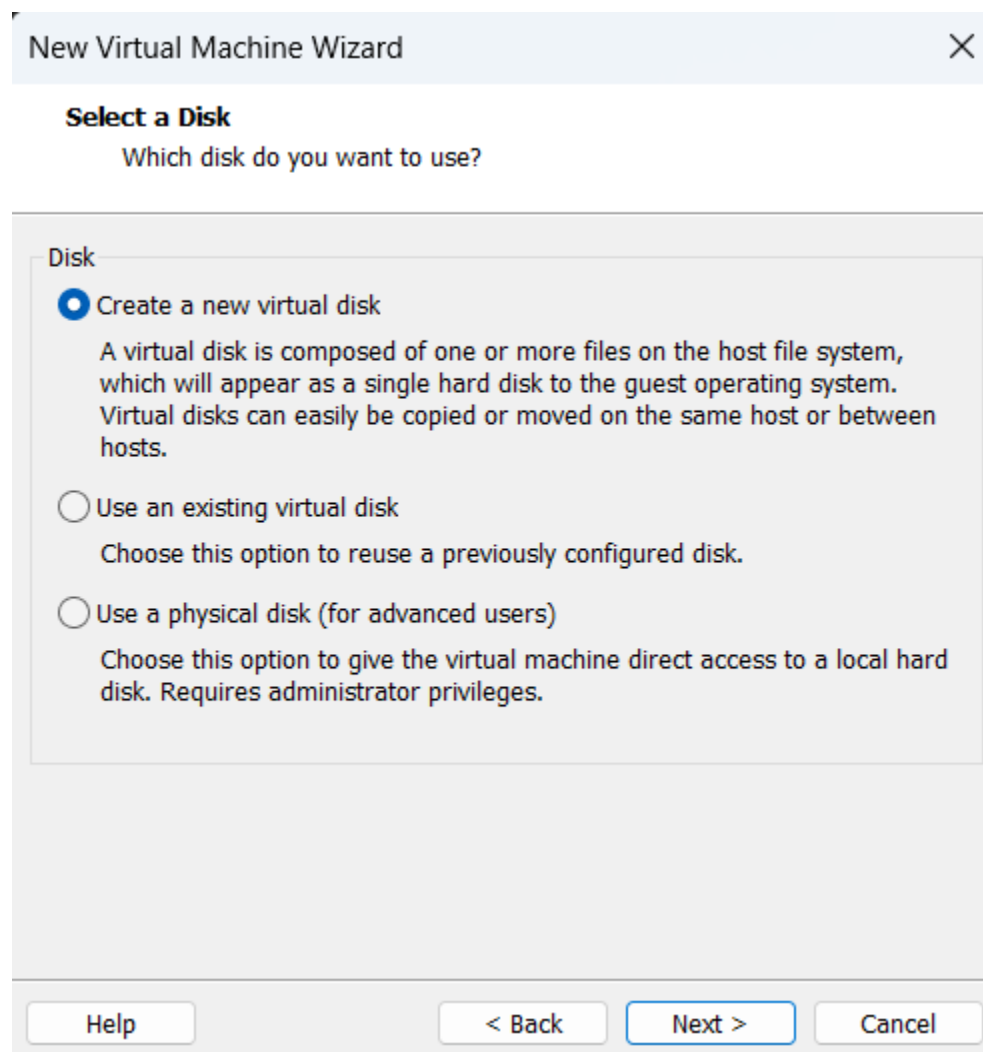
☐ IDE

☐ SCSI

☒ SATA

☐ NVMe (Recommended)

After choosing the disk type I created a new virtual disk.



I allocated 250 GB disk size so it can run smoothly and checked the option allocate all disk space now and stored the virtual disk as a single file

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Specify Disk Capacity

How large do you want this disk to be?

Maximum disk size (GB): 250

Recommended size for Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 64-bit: 20 GB

☒ Allocate all disk space now.

Allocating the full capacity can enhance performance but requires all of the physical disk space to be available right now. If you do not allocate all the space now, the virtual disk starts small and grows as you add data to it.

☒ Store virtual disk as a single file

☐ Split virtual disk into multiple files

Splitting the disk makes it easier to move the virtual machine to another computer but may reduce performance with very large disks.

Help

< Back

Next >

Cancel

New Virtual Machine Wizard

Ready to Create Virtual Machine

Click Finish to create the virtual machine. Then you can install Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 64-bit.

The virtual machine will be created with the following settings:

Name: Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 64-bit

Location: D:\QRadar

Version: Workstation 17.5 or later

Operating System: Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 64-bit

Hard Disk: 250 GB, Pre-allocated

Memory: 24576 MB

Network Adapter: NAT

Other Devices: 4 CPU cores, CD/DVD, USB Controller, Sound Card

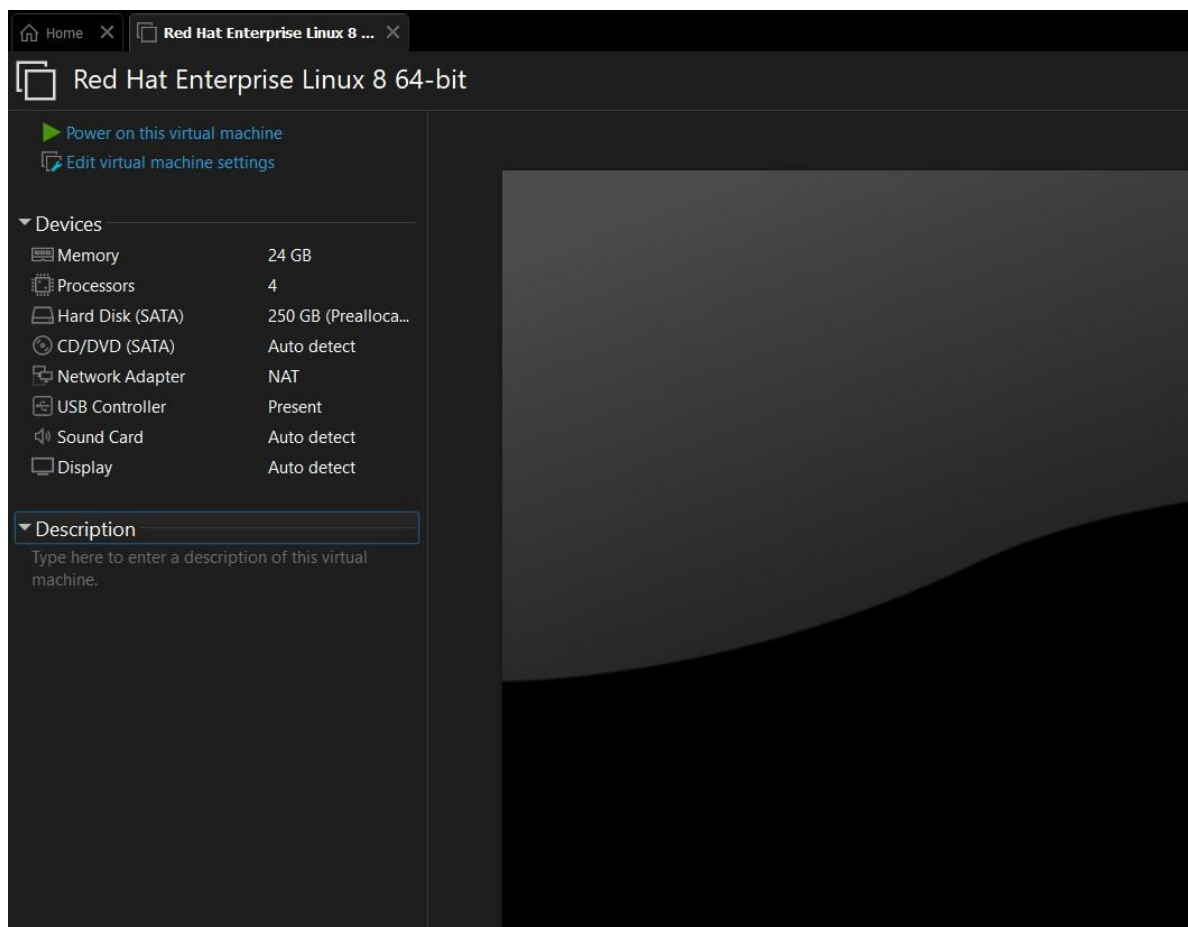
Customize Hardware...

< Back

Finish

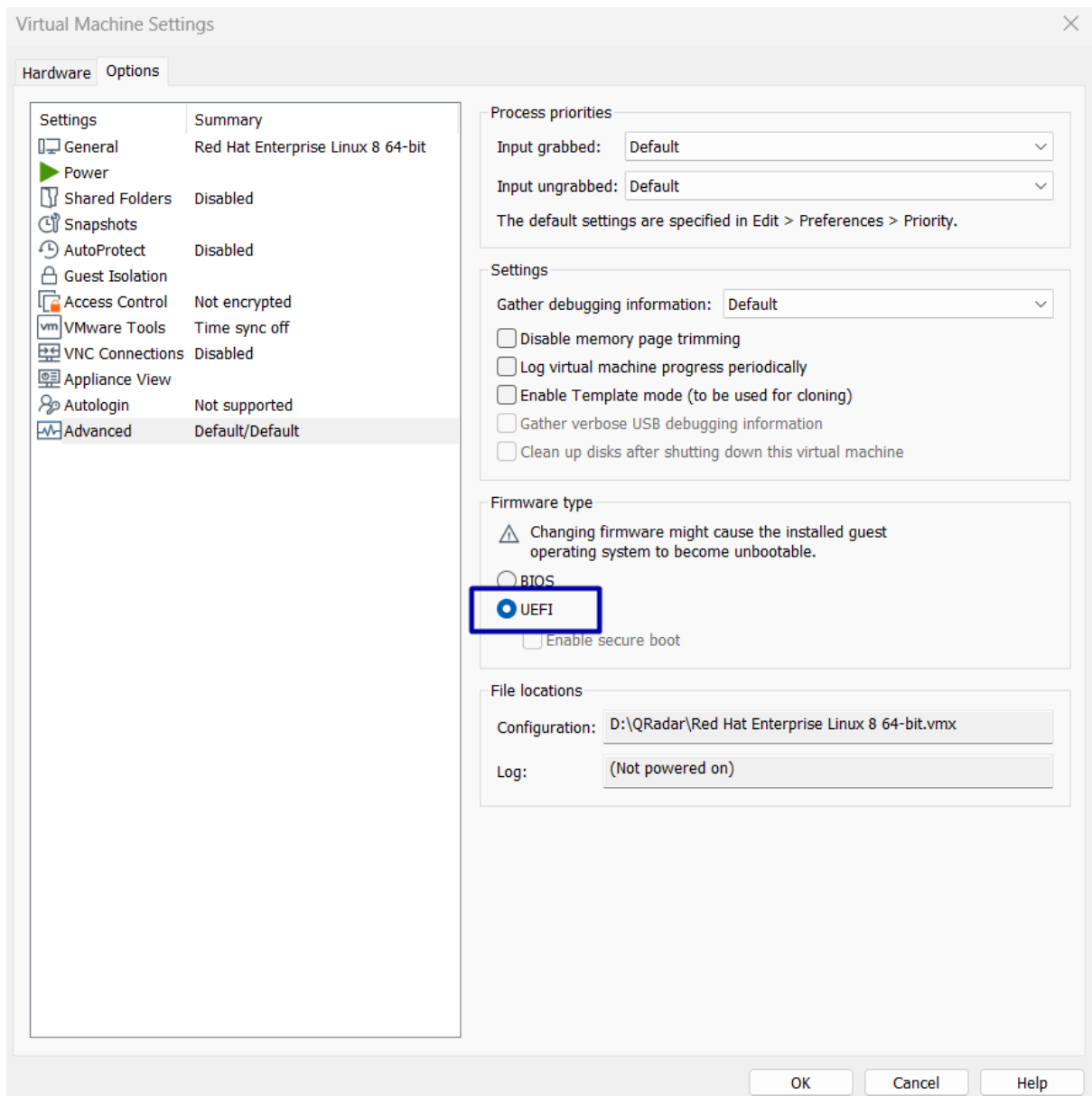
Cancel

Now our VM has been created now we have to proceed to the next options



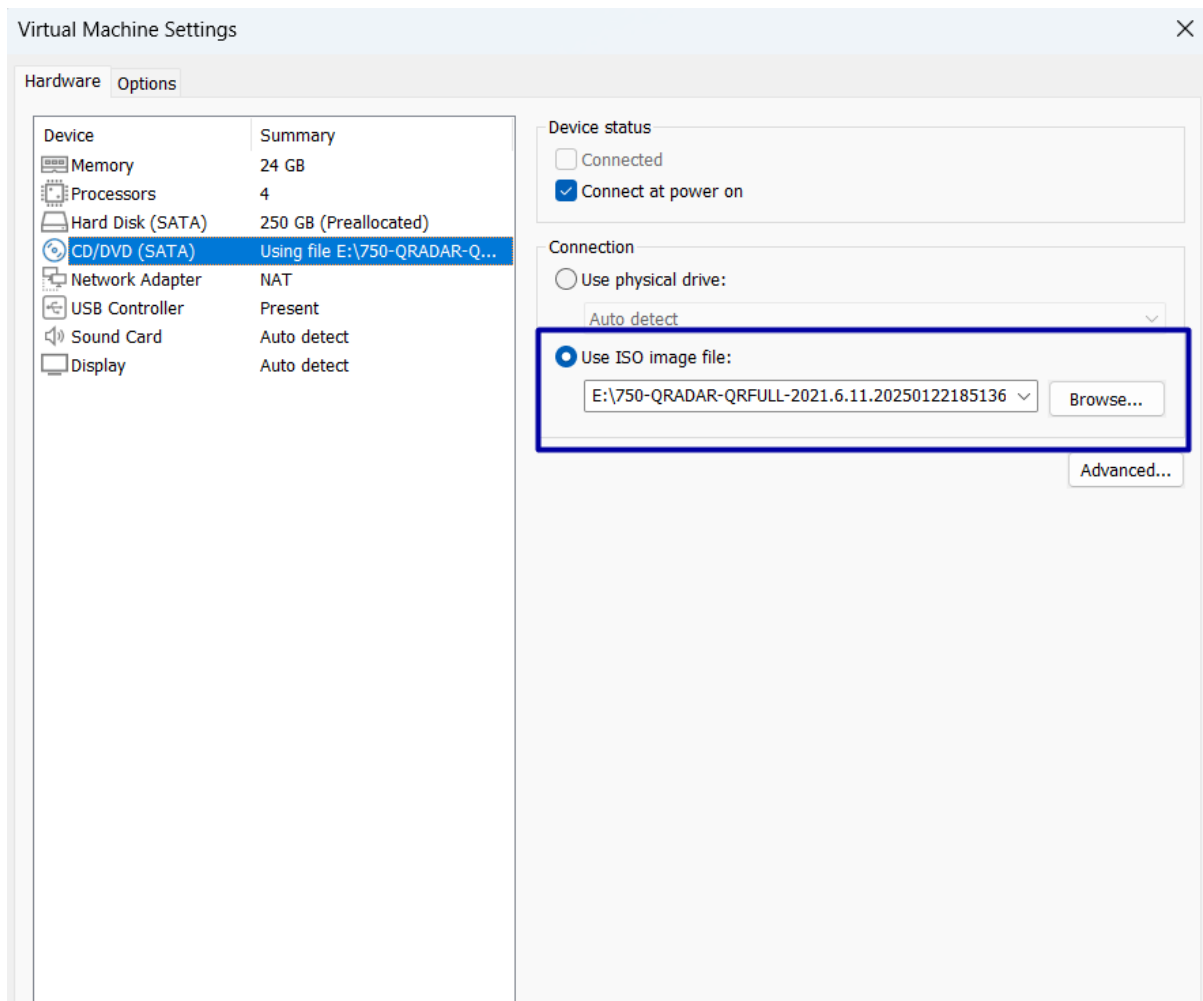
BIOS Settings:

- If you encounter boot issues, enable **UEFI mode**:
 - Go to VM Settings → Options → Advanced → Check **UEFI Firmware**



Boot from ISO:

- Mount the downloaded QRadar ISO file and boot the virtual machine from it



5. Installation:

Begin Installation

- Start the VM and allow the installation to run.
- Agree to the license agreement when prompted.

Install Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.10

Install Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.10 using Serial console

Test this media & install Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.10

Test this media & install Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.10 using Serial console

Troubleshooting -->

Use the ▲ and ▼ keys to change the selection.

Press 'e' to edit the selected item, or 'c' for a command prompt.

The selected entry will be started automatically in 50s.

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```

[ OK ] Stopped target Local File Systems (Pre).
[ OK ] Stopped target Paths.
      Stopping iSCSI UserSpace I/O driver...
[ OK ] Closed Open-iSCSI iscsid Socket.
[ OK ] Stopped iSCSI UserSpace I/O driver.
[ OK ] Started Plymouth switch root service.
[ OK ] Started Setup Virtual Console.
[ OK ] Closed Open-iSCSI iscsiui Socket.
[ OK ] Stopped udev Kernel Device Manager.
[ OK ] Stopped Create Static Device Nodes in /dev.
[ OK ] Stopped Create list of required static device nodes for the current kernel.
[ OK ] Stopped dracut pre-udev hook.
[ OK ] Stopped dracut cmdline hook.
[ OK ] Closed udev Kernel Socket.
[ OK ] Closed udev Control Socket.
      Starting Cleanup udevd DB...
[ OK ] Started Cleanup udevd DB.
[ OK ] Reached target Switch Root.
      Starting Switch Root...
[ OK ] Started Tell Plymouth To Write Out Runtime Data.
[ OK ] Started Import network configuration from initramfs.
      Starting Create Volatile Files and Directories...
[ OK ] Started Create Volatile Files and Directories.
      Starting Update UTMP about System Boot/Shutdown...
[ OK ] Started Update UTMP about System Boot/Shutdown.
[ OK ] Started Rebuild Dynamic Linker Cache.
      Starting Update is Completed...
[ OK ] Started Update is Completed.
[ OK ] Reached target System Initialization.
[ OK ] Listening on Open-iSCSI iscsid Socket.
[ OK ] Listening on D-Bus System Message Bus Socket.
[ OK ] Listening on Open-iSCSI iscsiui Socket.
[ OK ] Reached target Sockets.
[ OK ] Reached target Basic System.
      Starting Restore /run/initramfs on shutdown...
      Starting Login Service...
      Starting Anaconda NetworkManager configuration...
[ OK ] Started Hardware RNG Entropy Gatherer Daemon.
      Starting OpenSSH ecDSA Server Key Generation...
      Starting pre-anaconda logging service...
      Starting Terminate Plymouth Boot Screen...
      Starting OpenSSH rsa Server Key Generation...
      Starting Hold until boot process finishes up...
      Starting OpenSSH ed25519 Server Key Generation...
      Starting Service enabling compressing RAM with zRam...
[ OK ] Started Daily Cleanup of Temporary Directories.
[ OK ] Reached target Timers.
[ OK ] Started Restore /run/initramfs on shutdown.
[ OK ] Started Anaconda NetworkManager configuration.

```



```

Verifying syslinux.x86_64 (376/482)
Verifying syslinux-nonlinux.noarch (377/482)
Verifying systemd.x86_64 (378/482)
Verifying systemd-libs.x86_64 (379/482)
Verifying systemd-pam.x86_64 (380/482)
Verifying systemd-udev.x86_64 (381/482)
Verifying tar.x86_64 (382/482)
Verifying teamd.x86_64 (383/482)
Verifying timedatex.x86_64 (384/482)
Verifying tpm2-ss.x86_64 (385/482)
Verifying trousers.x86_64 (386/482)
Verifying trousers-lib.x86_64 (387/482)
Verifying tzdata.noarch (388/482)
Verifying unbound-libs.x86_64 (389/482)
Verifying usermode.x86_64 (390/482)
Verifying util-linux.x86_64 (391/482)
Verifying vim-minimal.x86_64 (392/482)
Verifying virt-what.x86_64 (393/482)
Verifying which.x86_64 (394/482)
Verifying xbps.x86_64 (395/482)
Verifying xkeyboard-config.noarch (396/482)
Verifying xmlsec1.x86_64 (397/482)
Verifying xmlsec1-openssl.x86_64 (398/482)
Verifying xz.x86_64 (399/482)
Verifying xz-libs.x86_64 (400/482)
Verifying yum.noarch (401/482)
Verifying zlib.x86_64 (402/482)
.
Installing boot loader
.
Performing post-installation setup tasks
.
Configuring Red Hat subscription
...
Configuring installed system
.....
Writing network configuration
.
Creating users
Configuring addons
Executing com_redhat_kdump addon
Executing org_fedora_oscaps addon
..
Generating initramfs
...
Storing configuration files and kickstarts
.
Running post-installation scripts

```

lanacanda11@main: Z:shell 3:log 4:storage-log 5:program-log Switch Tab: Alt+Tab Ctrl+Tab

Then comes the license agreement we have to agree with it

Lawful Use of Program:

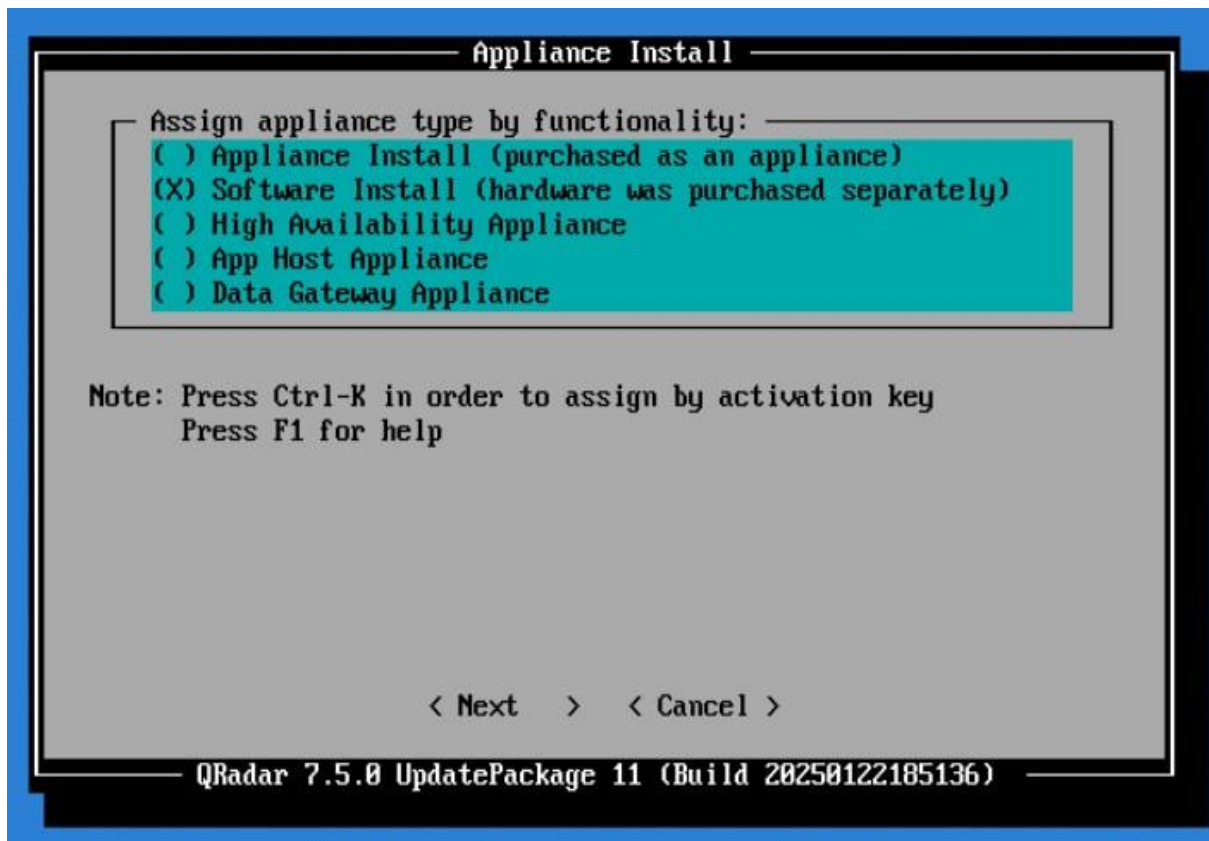
This Program is designed to help Licensee improve its security environment and data. Use of this Program may implicate various laws or regulations, including those related to privacy, data protection, employment, and electronic communications and storage. The Program may be used only for lawful purposes and in a lawful manner. Licensee agrees to use the Program pursuant to, and assumes all responsibility for complying with, applicable laws, regulations and policies. Licensee represents that it will obtain or has obtained any consents, permission's, or licenses required to enable its lawful use of the Program.

L/N: L-BQXT-NQCKJ7
D/N: L-BQXT-NQCKJ7
P/N: L-BQXT-NQCKJ7

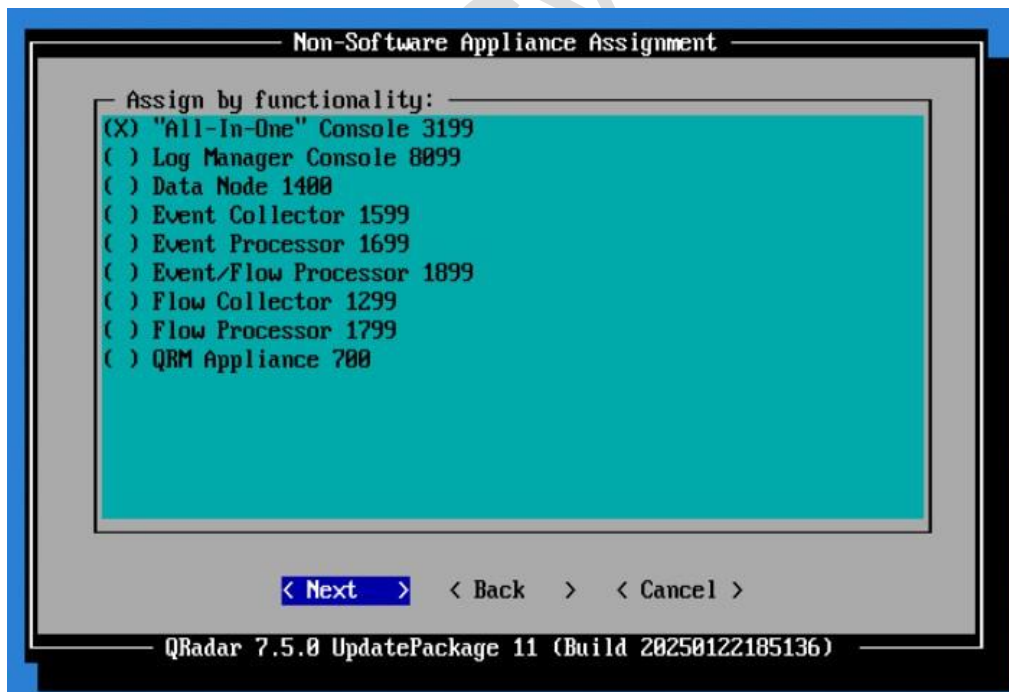
Do you accept this license agreement (yes or no)? yes_

Software Install Selection

Now the most important steps comes we have to choose the Software Install option we can arrow keys and space bar for choosing options.



We have to choose all in one deployment



The setup type will be normal we will not be setting up HA

————— Type Of Setup —————

Choose the type of setup: —————

(X) normal Normal Setup (default)

() recovery HA Recovery Setup

< Next > < Back > < Cancel >

————— QRadar 7.5.0 UpdatePackage 11 (Build 20250122185136) Appliance 3199 —————

————— Date/Time Setup —————

Setting the date and time manually or by specifying an NTP/RDate server.

Manual setting: —————

Current Date (YYYY/MM/DD): 2025/04/12

24h Clock Time (HH:MM:SS): 12:42:38

Time Server name or IP address: —————

Time server: —————

< Next > < Back > < Cancel >

————— QRadar 7.5.0 UpdatePackage 11 (Build 20250122185136) Appliance 3199 —————

Internet Protocol Setup

Choose which Internet protocol version to use: —

☒ ipv4 Internet Protocol version 4
☐ ipv6 Internet Protocol version 6

Choose interface configuration mode: —

☒ No Do not use bonded interface configuration mode

< Next > < Back > < Cancel >

QRadar 7.5.0 UpdatePackage 11 (Build 20250122185136) Appliance 3199

Management Interface Setup

Select management interface: —

☒ ens160 + MAC 00:0c:29:e8:8a:b1

Note: If the interface has a link (cable connected), a plus (+) is displayed before the description.

< Next > < Back > < Cancel >

QRadar 7.5.0 UpdatePackage 11 (Build 20250122185136) Appliance 3199

I used my VMware Network Adapter VMnet8's subnet for my QRadar's Network Setup

```
Ethernet adapter VMware Network Adapter VMnet8:
  Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
  Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::b8ae:7909:843:1ab2%11
  IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.139.1
  Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
  Default Gateway . . . . . : 

Wireless LAN adapter Wi-Fi:
```

Below is my network setup

Network Information Setup

Enter network information to use:

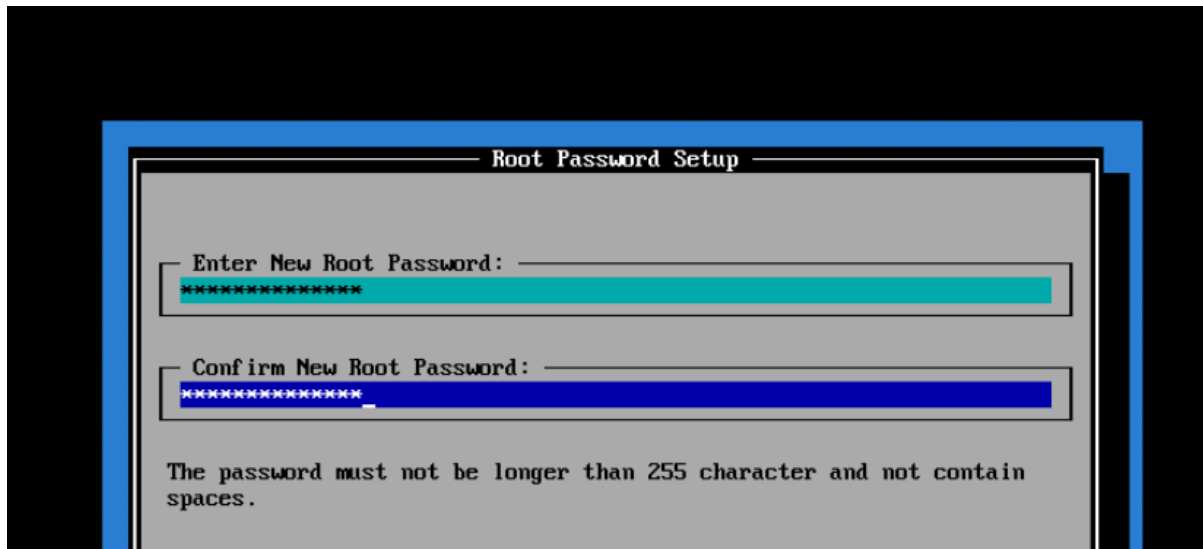
Hostname: qradar.homelab.com

IP Address:	<u>192.168.139.100</u>	Primary DNS:	<u>9.9.9.9</u>
Network Mask:	<u>255.255.255.0</u>	Secondary DNS:	<u>8.8.8.8</u>
Gateway:	<u>192.168.139.1</u>	Public IP:	

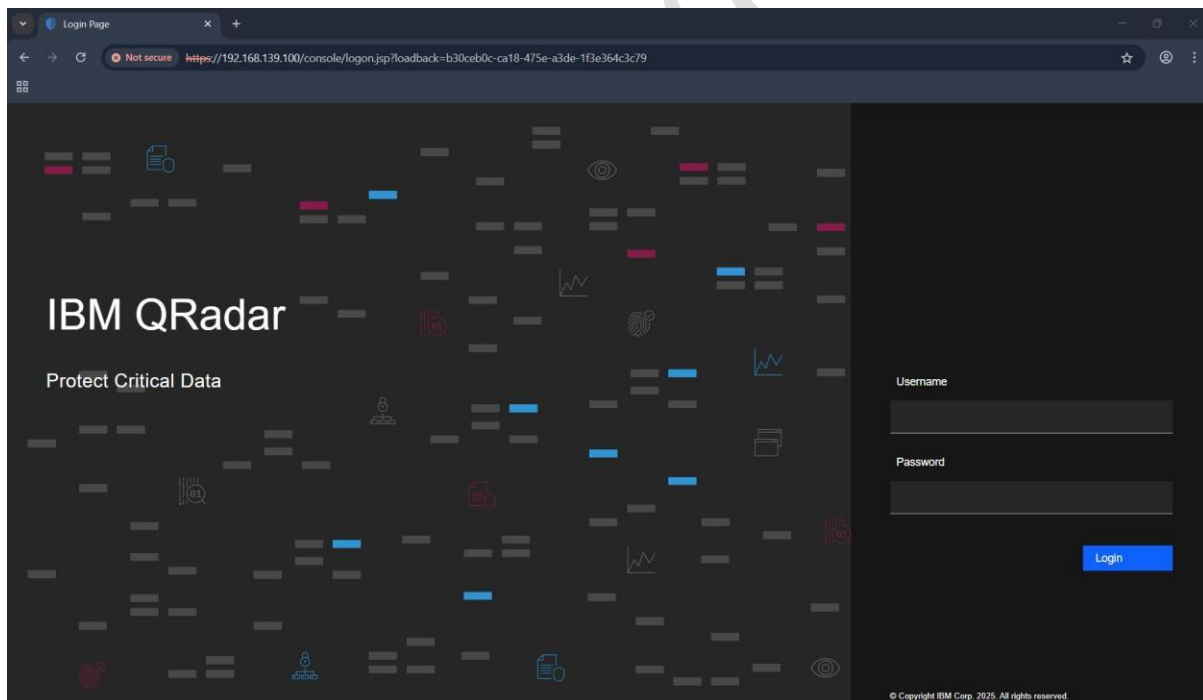
< Next > < Back > < Cancel >

QRadar 7.5.0 UpdatePackage 11 (Build 20250122185136) Appliance 3199

Then we have to setup root and GUI password



- The system will install DSM components and finalize setup.
- Once completed, you can access QRadar from a browser using your assigned IP, for example:
➤ <https://192.168.139.100>
- Use the credentials that you entered in password setup



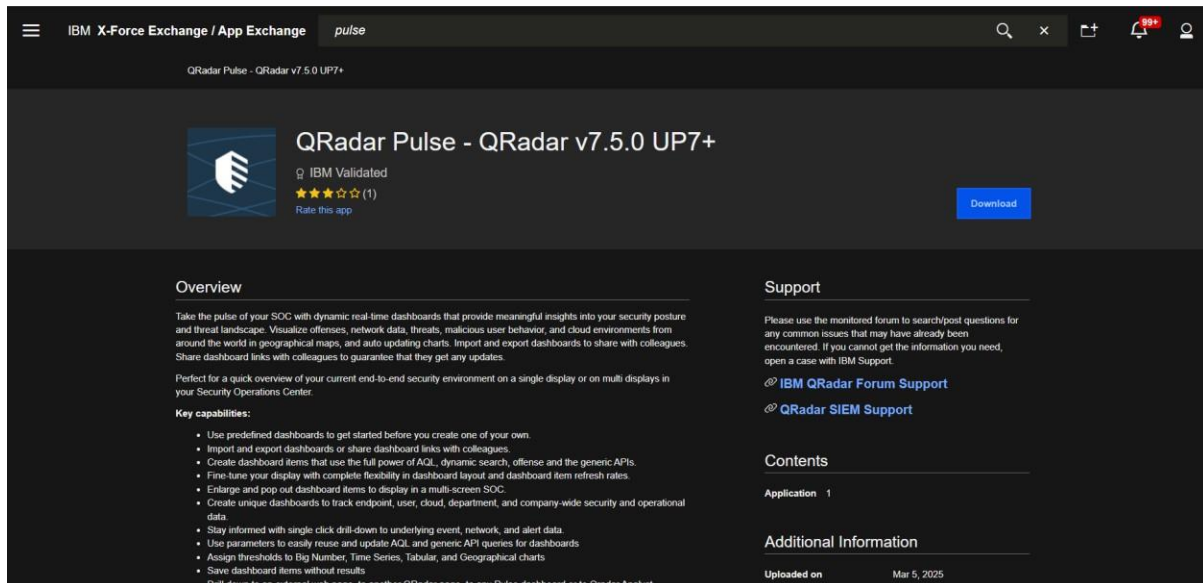
6. Pulse App Setup for Dashboards:

To enhance visualization and build custom dashboards in QRadar Community Edition, the **Pulse App** can be installed from IBM's X-Force App Exchange. Follow these steps to install it:

i. Download the App:

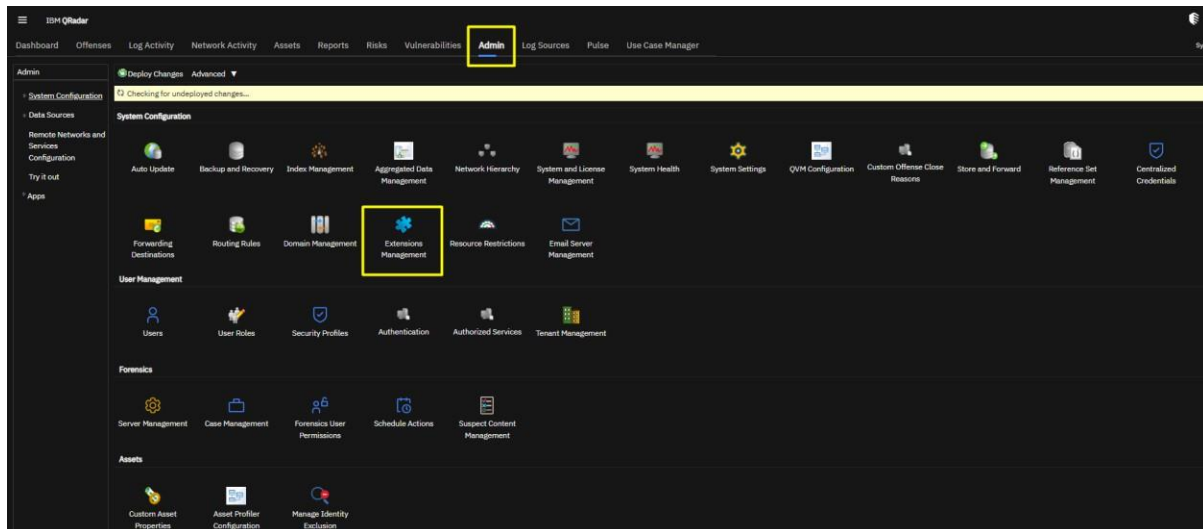
- Visit the following link and download the ZIP file for the Pulse App:

✚ [Pulse App on IBM X-Force Exchange](#)



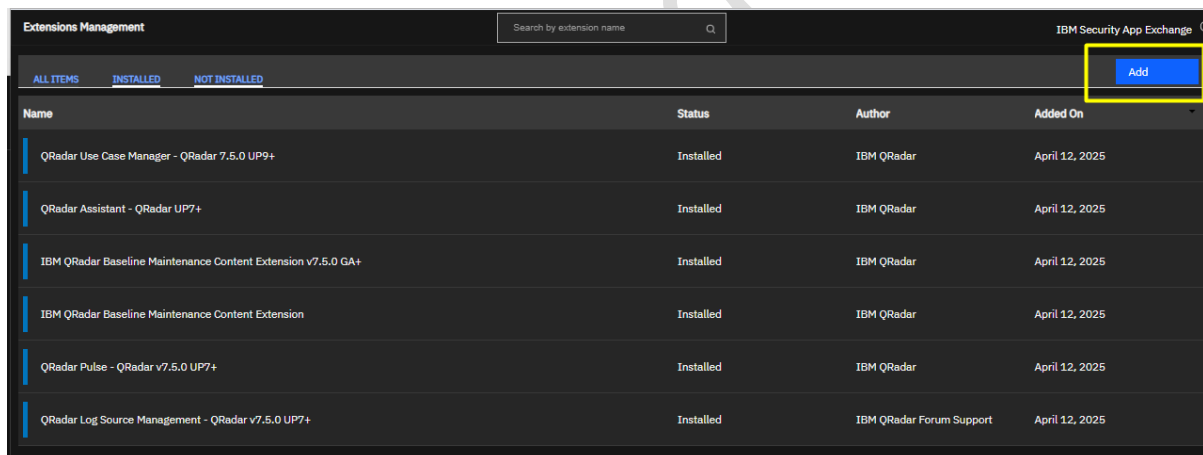
ii. Access Extension Management:

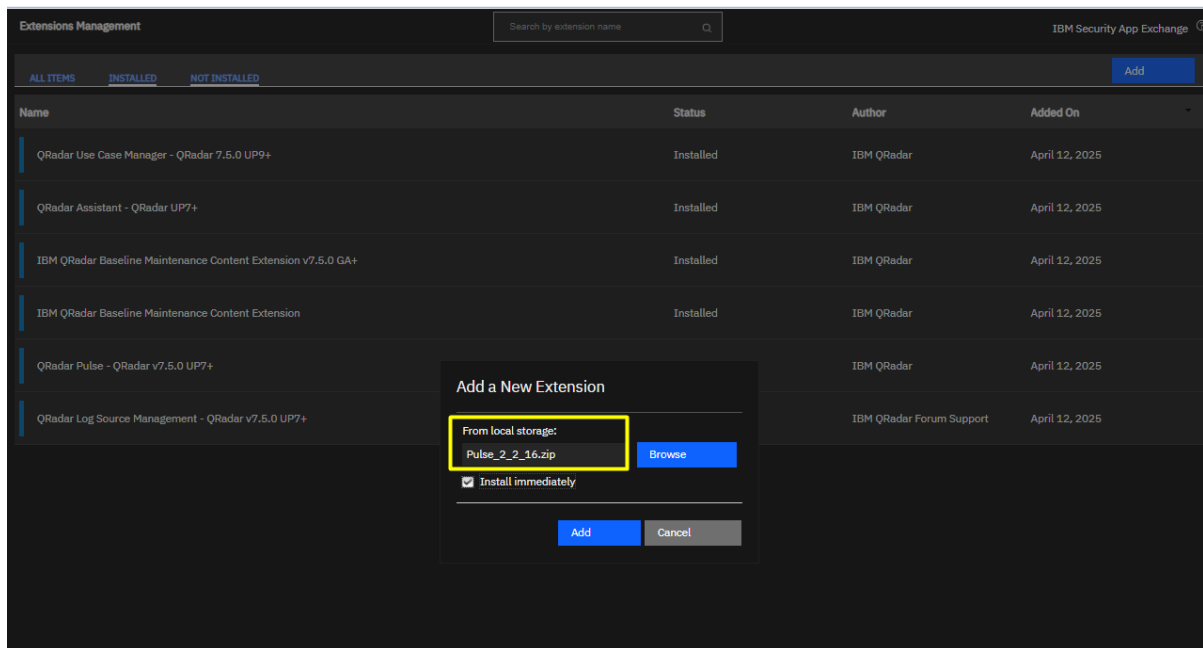
- Log in to the QRadar web interface.
- Navigate to the **Admin** tab.
- Under **System Configuration**, click on **Extension Management**.



iii. Install the App:

- In the Extension Management window, click **Add**.
- Upload the downloaded Pulse App ZIP file.
- QRadar will begin the installation automatically.






iv. Post-Installation:

- After successful installation, the Pulse App will appear under the **Dashboard** section.
- You can now view built-in statistics and visualizations, and also create your own custom dashboards tailored to your needs.



 **Tip:** In addition to the Pulse App, QRadar supports a variety of other apps available via the IBM X-Force Exchange to further extend functionality for orchestration, monitoring, and threat intelligence.

7. Conclusion:

With the steps outlined above, I have successfully deployed IBM QRadar Community Edition in a virtualized home lab environment. This setup provides a hands-on opportunity to explore QRadar's powerful SIEM capabilities, monitor data flows, analyze security events, and build custom dashboards using the Pulse app.

Whether you're preparing for certification, running personal security research, or testing integrations, this home lab setup will serve as a solid foundation for your cybersecurity journey.

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