

Linux/Unix Virtual Terminal

Linux is a multi-user system, which allows many users to work on it simultaneously. So what if different users need to work on the same system at a time? How do you do that? This is where we need the virtual terminals, let us learn about them.

What are Virtual Terminals?

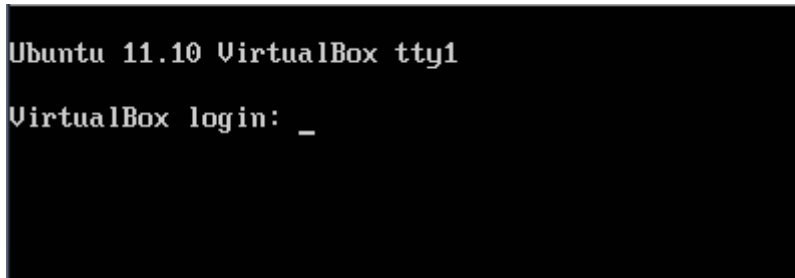
Virtual Terminals are similar to Terminal that you have been using so far. They are used for executing commands and offering input. The only difference is that you cannot use the mouse with the Virtual Terminals. Therefore, you need to know the keyboard shortcuts.

Virtual Terminals enable a number of users to work on different programs at the same time on the same computer. This is the reason they are one of the most distinguished features of Linux.

Starting a Virtual Terminal

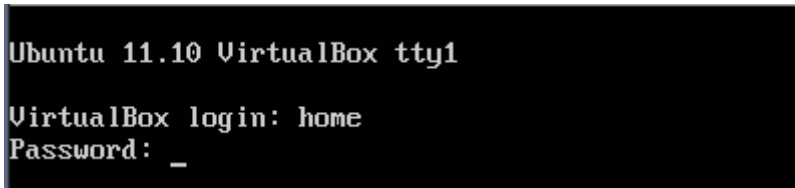
Usually, there are six (default) virtual terminals on a Linux operating system, and you can log into them as different users to conduct different tasks. The steps to launch a Virtual terminal are:

1) Press Ctrl+Alt+F1



```
Ubuntu 11.10 VirtualBox tty1
VirtualBox login: _
```

2) Enter User ID and Password



```
Ubuntu 11.10 VirtualBox tty1
VirtualBox login: home
Password: _
```

3) Now the Virtual Terminal is ready to work on

Navigating through Virtual Terminals

You can navigate between the 6 virtual terminals using the following command.

Ctrl + Alt + F (1 to 6) key

F1 being the first while F6 being the last virtual terminal.

You can work on all of at the same time. To which virtual terminal you are working on, note **tty** given at the top.

```
Ubuntu 11.10 VirtualBox tty4
```

tty is the teletype number which you can also know by typing the command "tty".

```
home@VirtualBox:~$ tty  
/dev/tty4
```

The seventh terminal

The seventh terminal is the one which we have been using so far in Linux tutorials. It can be accessed by pressing the below given key combination.

```
Ctrl + Alt + F7
```