Oracle VirtualBox Release Notes for Release 7.1





Oracle VirtualBox Release Notes for Release 7.1,

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Preface

Provides a summary of new features and changes in this release of Oracle VirtualBox.

Audience

This document is intended for both new and existing users of Oracle VirtualBox. It is assumed that readers are familiar with Web technologies and have a general understanding of Windows and UNIX platforms.

Related Documents

The documentation for this product is available at:

https://docs.oracle.com/en/virtualization/virtualbox/index.html

Conventions

The following text conventions are used in this document:

Convention	Meaning
boldface	Boldface type indicates graphical user interface elements associated with an action, or terms defined in text or the glossary.
italic	Italic type indicates book titles, emphasis, or placeholder variables for which you supply particular values.
monospace	Monospace type indicates commands within a paragraph, URLs, code in examples, text that appears on the screen, or text that you enter.

Documentation Accessibility

For information about Oracle's commitment to accessibility, visit the Oracle Accessibility Program.

Access to Oracle Support for Accessibility

Oracle customers that have purchased support have access to electronic support through Oracle Accessibility Learning and Support.

Diversity and Inclusion

Oracle is fully committed to diversity and inclusion. Oracle respects and values having a diverse workforce that increases thought leadership and innovation. As part of our initiative to build a more inclusive culture that positively impacts our employees, customers, and partners,

we are working to remove insensitive terms from our products and documentation. We are also mindful of the necessity to maintain compatibility with our customers' existing technologies and the need to ensure continuity of service as Oracle's offerings and industry standards evolve. Because of these technical constraints, our effort to remove insensitive terms is ongoing and will take time and external cooperation.



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New Features for Release 7.1

This section describes the new features in release 7.1 of Oracle VirtualBox.

For a more detailed list of changes, see Change Log.

Improvements for Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Integration

The following improvements have been made for using Oracle VirtualBox with Oracle Cloud Infrastructure.

- Cloud virtual machine changes. A cloud virtual machine (cloud VM) is a type of VM that represents an Oracle Cloud Infrastructure instance.
 - Cloning a cloud VM. Right-click the cloud VM and select Clone.
 - When you clone a cloud VM, a copy of the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure instance for the cloud VM is created and associated with the new cloud VM.
 - Resetting a cloud VM. Use the Reset option in the Machine menu.
 - The Oracle Cloud Infrastructure instance is stopped, then restarted automatically.
 - Cloud VM performance monitoring. Cloud VMs are now included in the VirtualBox Manager performance monitoring tools. This means that you can monitor an Oracle Cloud Infrastructure instance remotely using Oracle VirtualBox.

The VBoxManage cloud command can be used to display performance metrics for a cloud VM instance. See VBoxManage Command Line Changes.



To monitor a cloud VM, the Compute Instance Monitoring plugin must be enabled and running on the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure instance. See the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure documentation for more details.

 Importing and exporting virtual machines. Multiple images can now be used when importing a VM from or exporting a VM to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure.

See Using Cloud Virtual Machines for more details.

VirtualBox Manager Changes

The following list shows the main improvements to the VirtualBox Manager user interface in this release:

- Experience levels. A basic or expert user interface can be selected, depending on the user level. See Experience Levels for VirtualBox Manager.
- Create Virtual Machine workflow. The Create Virtual Machine workflow includes the following changes:

- Subtype. A subtype field has been added to the Name and Operating System page.
 This enables you to specify the exact version used for the guest operating system.
 - For example, if the **Type** is Linux, the **Subtype** might be Oracle Linux and the **Version** might be Oracle Linux 8.x (64-bit). See Creating a Virtual Machine.
- Cloud VM performance monitoring. Cloud VMs are now included in the VirtualBox Manager performance monitoring tools. See Improvements for Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Integration.
- VISO Creator tool. When creating a new VISO, you can now import ISO files and also specific files from an existing ISO file.
- Soft keyboard. New icons have been added, for some common keyboard tasks.
- Virtual machine status bar. The Processor icon now uses a solid color bar to indicate CPU activity.
- Shared Clipboard. Clipboard file transfers between the host and guest can be enabled or disabled using a check box on the Device, Shared Clipboard menu in the guest.
- Tool Settings. Settings and preferences for tools such as VISO Creator, Log Viewer, and Guest Control File Manager are now displayed in a tab view.
- Guest Control File Manager. File navigation is improved, with new toolbar icons and controls.

Experience Levels for VirtualBox Manager

In this release, you can select an *experience level* for the VirtualBox Manager user interface. The following experience levels are available:

- Basic. A limited number of settings and tools are shown.
 - This level is suitable for a first time user of Oracle VirtualBox.
- Expert. All available settings and tools are shown.
 - This level is suitable for an experienced user of Oracle VirtualBox, who needs more control of virtual machine settings.

The experience level can be configured in the following places in VirtualBox Manager:

- The Welcome screen, for new installations with no existing VMs.
- The Preferences window.
- The Settings tabs for a VM.

See Experience Levels for VirtualBox Manager.

Arm Hosts

This release includes an installation package to run Oracle VirtualBox on an Arm host platform. Note the following:

- Apple silicon CPUs. An installation package is provided for Apple silicon hosts.
 See Available Installation Packages.
- Guest operating systems for Arm hosts. Oracle Linux for Arm (aarch64) can be used as a guest OS, when running on an Arm platform host.





x86_64 VMs on an Arm host are not supported.

See Guest Operating Systems.



For known limitations when using an Arm platform host, see Arm Platform Host Limitations.

VBoxManage Command Line Changes

The following VBoxManage command changes have been introduced:

- VBoxManage createvm: The new --platform-architecture option is used to specify either an x86 or Arm architecture for the VM.
- VBoxManage modifyvm: The --chipset option now includes a setting for Arm platforms.
- VBoxManage cloud instance clone: Creates a clone of an existing cloud VM instance.
- VBoxManage cloud instance metriclist and VBoxManage cloud instance metricdata: Commands used to display performance data for cloud VM instances.
- VBoxManage unattended: You can specify passwords for an administrator and a user account on the guest operating system.

Software Development Kit Changes

The application programming interface (API) has been redesigned for this release.

See the SDK Programming Guide and Reference for more details of the changes.



API bindings for Python version 2.x are now marked as being deprecated and will be removed in a future version of Oracle VirtualBox. Upgrade your code to use Python version 3.



Change Log

This section summarizes the changes between Oracle VirtualBox versions. Note that this change log is not exhaustive and not all changes are listed.

Oracle VirtualBox version numbers consist of three numbers separated by dots where the first and second number represent the major version and the third number the minor version. Minor version numbers of official releases are always even. An odd minor version number represents an internal development or test build. In addition, each build contains a revision number.

Version 7.1.2 (2024-09-26)

This is a maintenance release. The following items were fixed and/or added:

- GUI: Added multiple window layout and translation related fixes
- GUI: Fixed an issue that meant VMs created using Unattended Install were not removed cleanly
- GUI: Added an option to change the remote display security method
- GUI: Removed the BETA label from the macOS/Arm UI
- NAT: Fixed slow performance on Windows host (bugs #22164 and #22180)
- NAT: Fixed DHCP problems with certain guests when domain is empty
- 3D: Fixed enabling 3D acceleration in the VM settings
- 3D: Fixed black screen with Windows VMs
- 3D: Fixed rendering issues caused by incorrect view handling
- 3D: Added possibility to enable 3D acceleration function for Arm platform VMs
- GCM: Fixed problem with loading saved state created by 7.0.x
- API: Fixed an issue with incorrect handling of NVRAM state with legacy BIOS and its removal on VM deletion
- API: Fixed UEFI Secure Boot state querying when the VM was never started
- Guest Additions: Fixed error message on automatic upgrading
- SDK: Fixed building code using the XPCOM bindings (bug #22174)

Version 7.1.0 (2024-09-09)

This is a major update. The following new features were added:

- GUI: Modernized look and feel, offering a selection between Basic and Experienced user level with reduced or full UI functionality
- OCI Integration: Performance dashboard now shows resource usage for cloud VMs
- OCI Integration: Clone compute instances
- OCI Integration: Reset compute instances

- Oracle VirtualBox Extension Pack: Update to the PUEL license, removing the evaluation option. For evaluation use of the Extension Pack, please download it from the Oracle Software Delivery Cloud
- VRDE: If user does not set up TLS with custom certificates, enable it with self-signed certificate, including issuing a new one before the old one expires
- NAT: New engine with IPv6 support
- macOS/Arm host: Arm virtualization for Linux and BSD VMs
- Linux host and guest: Added Wayland support for Clipboard sharing (bug #20808)
- Shared Clipboard: Added initial support for transferring files on Linux and Windows hosts / guests. This requires the 7.1 Guest Additions to be installed. See User Guide for known limitations
- Screen Recording: Significant performance improvements for the encoding pipeline, resulting in less CPU usage while recording is active. This requires 7.1 Guest Additions to be installed on Windows guests

In addition, the following items were fixed and/or added:

- VMM: Fixed EFLAGS.TF handling for CPUID instructions when Hyper-V is being used (bug #17961)
- virtio-net: Follow up fixes for FreeBSD 12.3 and pfSense 2.6.0 (bug #21201)
- EFI: Ability to add new Microsoft DB/KEX certificates to newly created VMs
- Oracle Extension Pack: Fixed shipping the cryptographic support module for full VM encryption
- GUI: Improved overall accessibility
- GUI: Update the version of Qt used
- Unattended Installation: Added support for subiquity- / cloud-init-based installers; this
 enables installing more modern Linux-based guest OSes in Unattended mode
- Unattended Installation: Added support for specifying separate passwords for the user and admin / root accounts
- VBoxManage: Added ability to show and (re-)attach to a (video) recording progress of a VM
- VBoxManage: Added the ability to query the guest's mount points via a new "mount" Guest Control sub command. Requires at least 7.1 Guest Additions
- Python: Our API bindings for Python 2.x is now marked as being deprecated and will be removed in a future version. Please upgrade your code to use Python 3
- VBoxShell: Lots of smaller and bigger bugfixes + Python 3.x compatibility

Change Logs for Legacy Versions

To view the change log for a legacy version of VirtualBox, see the documentation for the relevant Oracle VirtualBox release.

Change logs are also available at:

https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Changelog.

