How to Install an OS with IPMI

Phil P.
3 months ago · Updated

IPMI (Intelligent Platform Management Interface) is an important tool for any server administrator. With IPMI, you can access the server as if you were physically sitting in front of it with full KVM (i.e., Keyboard, Video, Mouse) access. Also, you can install an OS outside of the OVHcloud templates. This tutorial explains how to access your server using IPMI from a Java applet and how to install an ISO file on it.

> **Note:** Although the Java applet for IPMI can be accessed from macOS, there are some compatibility issues. As a result, it is recommended to use a system running either Windows or Linux if you are using the Java version.

> **Note:** IPMI is not available for GAM2 servers

Prerequisites

Help

- Getting Started with IPMI

Topics

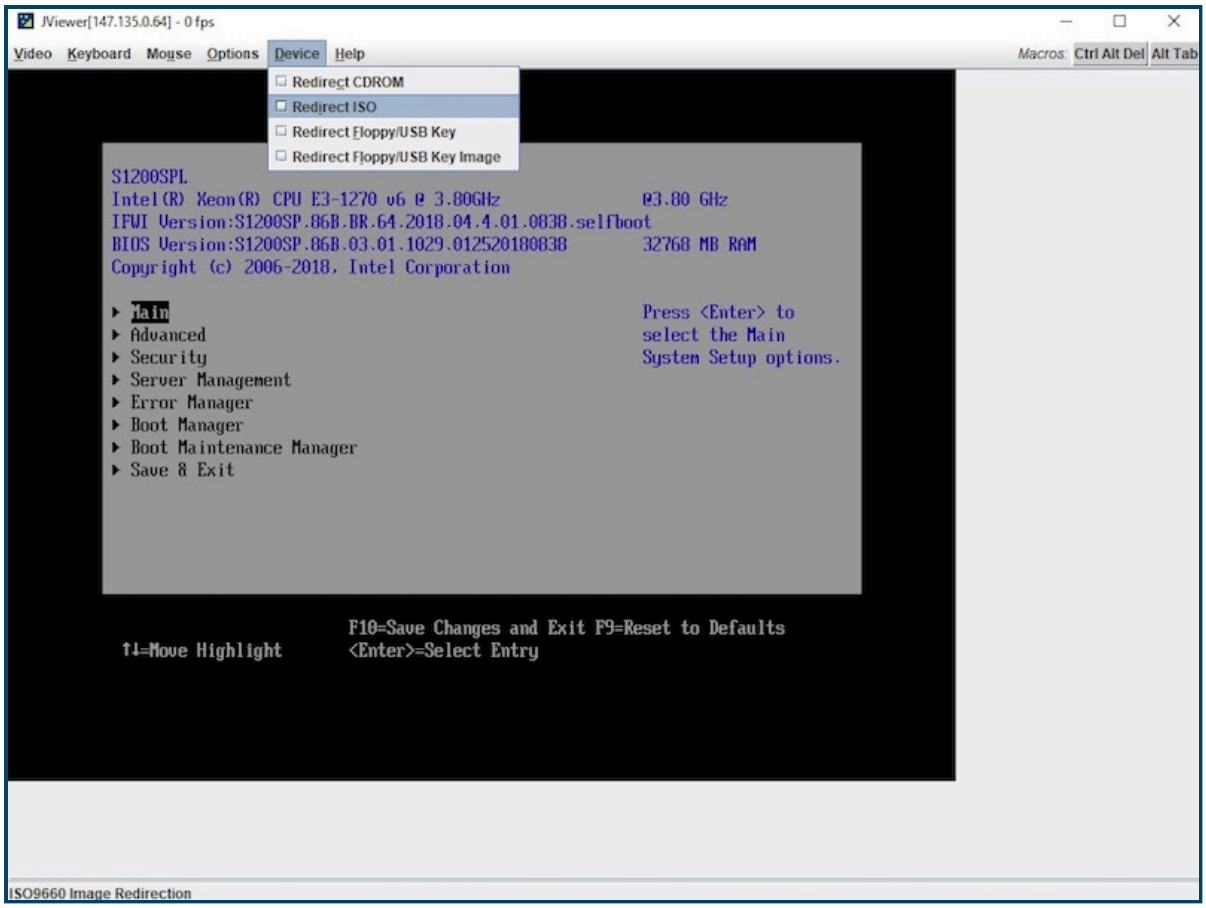
- Installing an OS Utilizing IPMI v1 (Java)
- Installing an OS Utilizing IPMI v2 (Java)
- Installing an OS Utilizing HTML5 IPMI

> **Note:** Depending on the motherboard of your server, there are many different user interfaces for IPMI. We have detailed a few examples in this article.

Installing an OS Utilizing IPMI v1 (Java)

> **Warning:** OVHcloud does not guarantee the functionality of any operating systems installed via IPMI. This route should only be taken by an experienced server administrator.

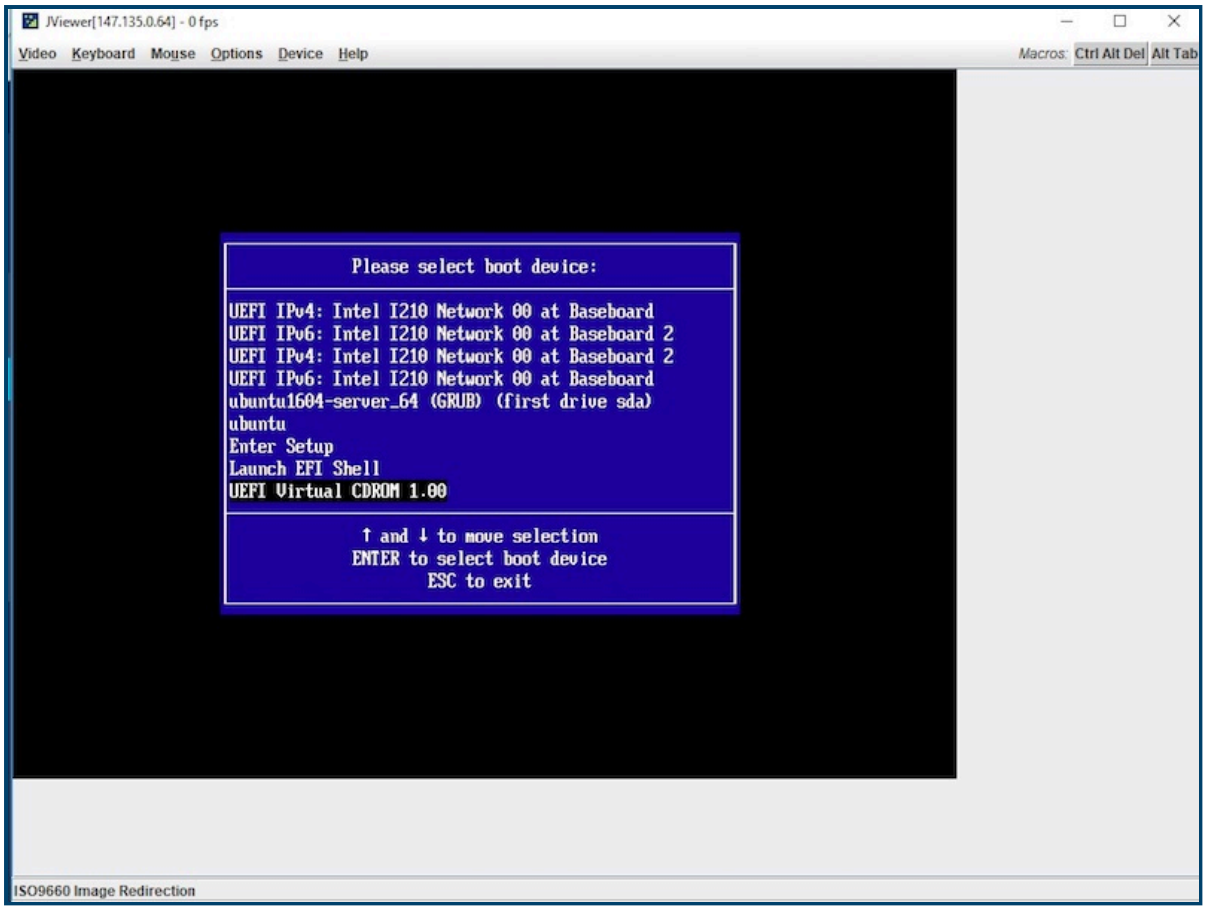
To begin, open IPMI in a Java applet as described in the article Getting Started with IPMI. Then, click **Device** from the menu bar and select **Redirect ISO** from the drop-down menu.



Next, select the ISO you wish to use from your local computer's file system. Once you have selected your ISO, press the **Ctrl Alt Del** button in the top-right corner of the screen to reboot the server. Press the appropriate F key to access the boot options.

> **Note:** You may need to use the soft keyboard for inputs to register in IPMI. To access this, click the **Keyboard** option from the menu bar at the top of the window. Then, select **Soft Keyboard** from the dropdown menu and click **Show**.

Select the **UEFI Virtual CDROM 1.00** option from the boot menu to start the server from the ISO attached previously.

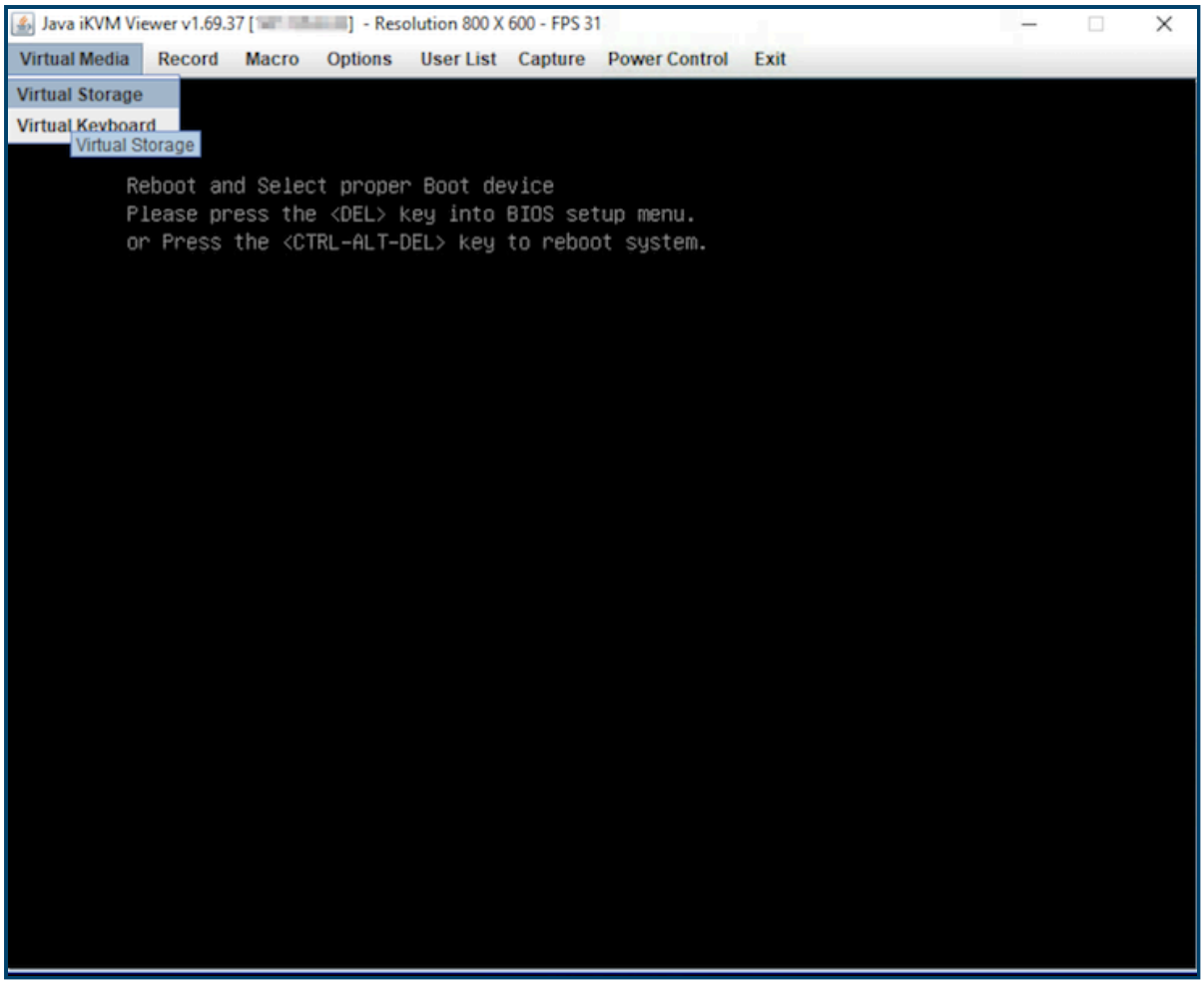


Complete the steps required to install the operating system. Do not forget to remove the ISO from the **Redirect ISO** option.

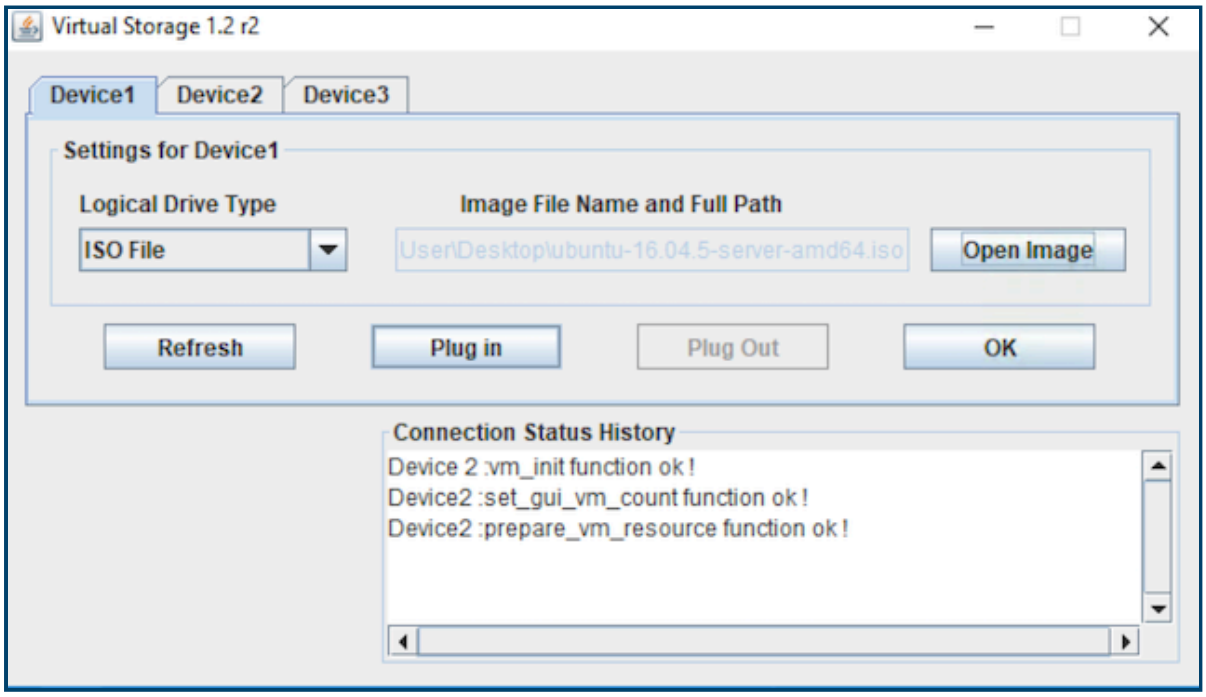
Installing an OS Utilizing IPMI v2 (Java)

> **Warning:** OVHcloud does not guarantee the functionality of any operating systems installed via IPMI. This route should only be taken by an experienced server administrator.

To begin, open IPMI in a Java applet as described in the article Getting Started with IPMI. Then, click **Virtual Media** and select **Virtual Storage**.

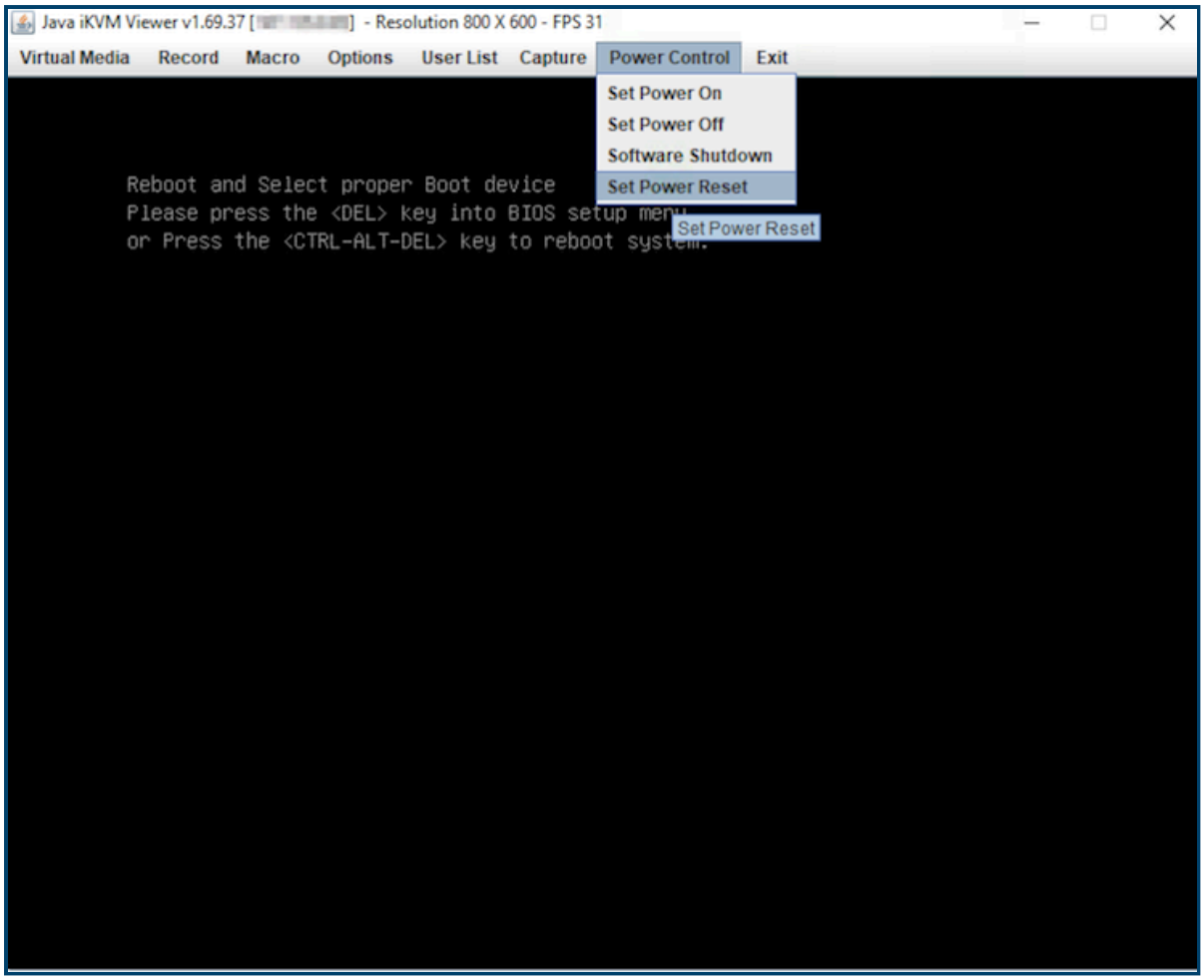


From the new screen, select **ISO File** from the **Logical Drive Type** drop-down. Next, click **Open Image** and navigate to your ISO file. Finally, click **Plug in** and **OK** to finish.



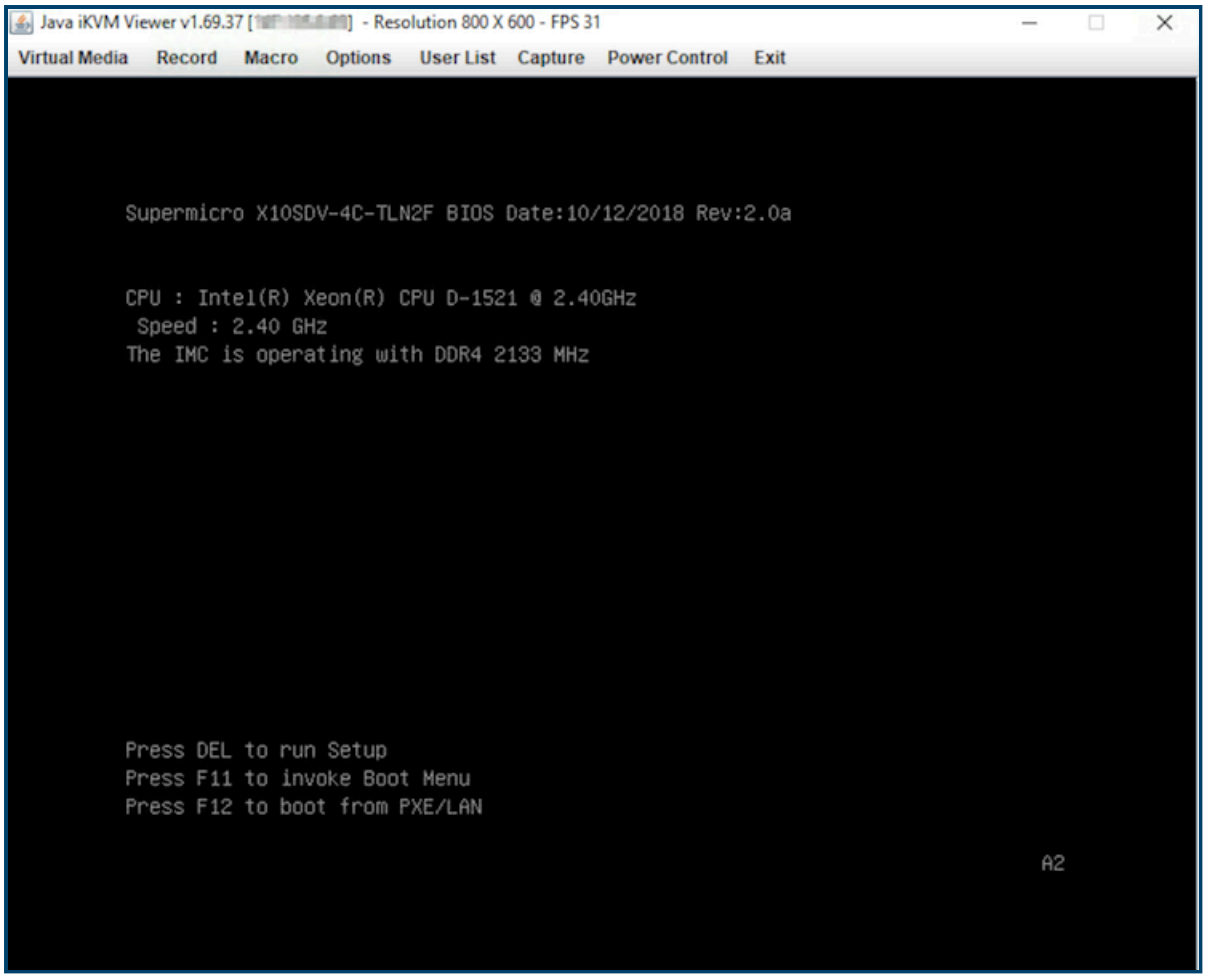
In order to be able to boot from our ISO file, we need to access the BIOS and switch our boot options. To do so, select **Power Control** and click **Set Power**

Reset.

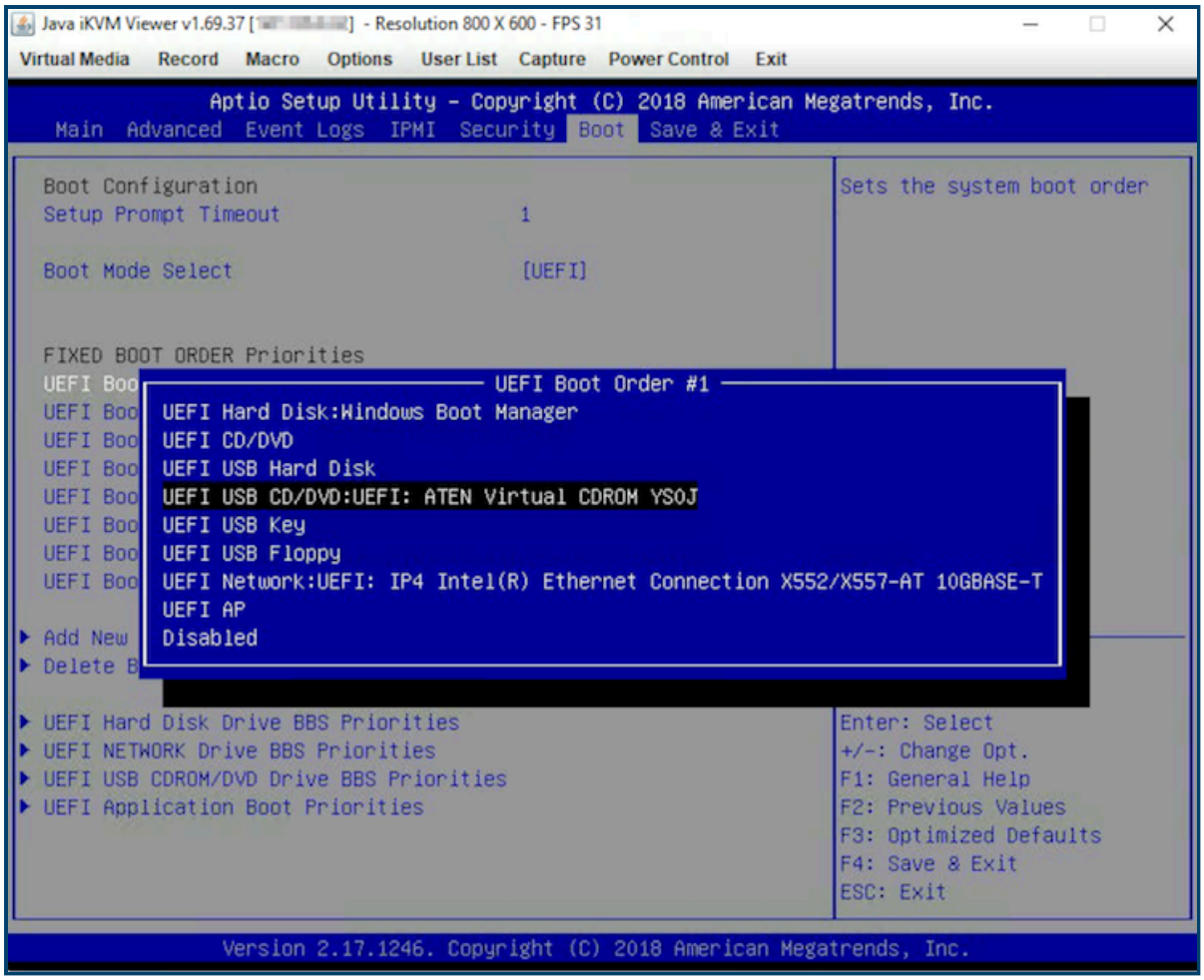


> **Note:** You may need to use the soft keyboard for inputs to register in IPMI. To access this, click the **Virtual Media** option from the menu bar at the top of the window. Then, select **Virtual Keyboard** from the drop-down menu.

During the bootup process, press the `DEL` key when prompted to access the BIOS. You may also press the `F11` key and navigate to the BIOS by selecting the option **Enter Setup**.



In the BIOS, navigate to the **Boot** tab and change the **UEFI Boot Order #1** to **UEFI USB CD/DVD:UEFI: ATEN Virtual CDROM YSOJ**.

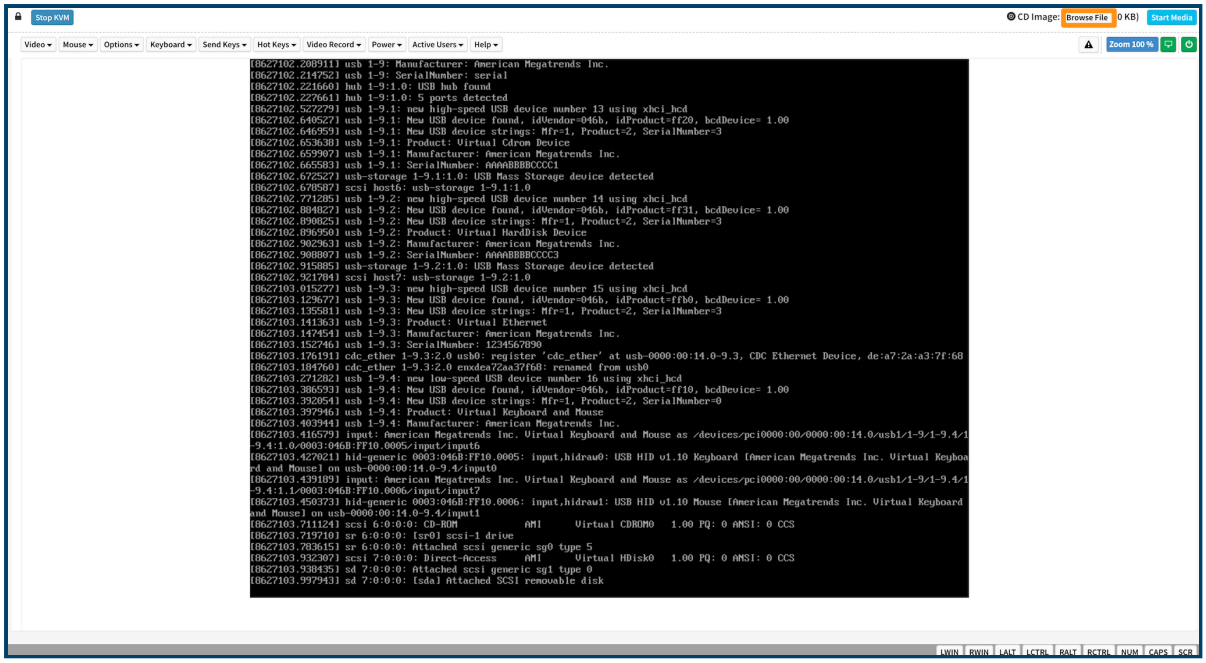


Lastly, press the F4 key to save your changes and restart the server.

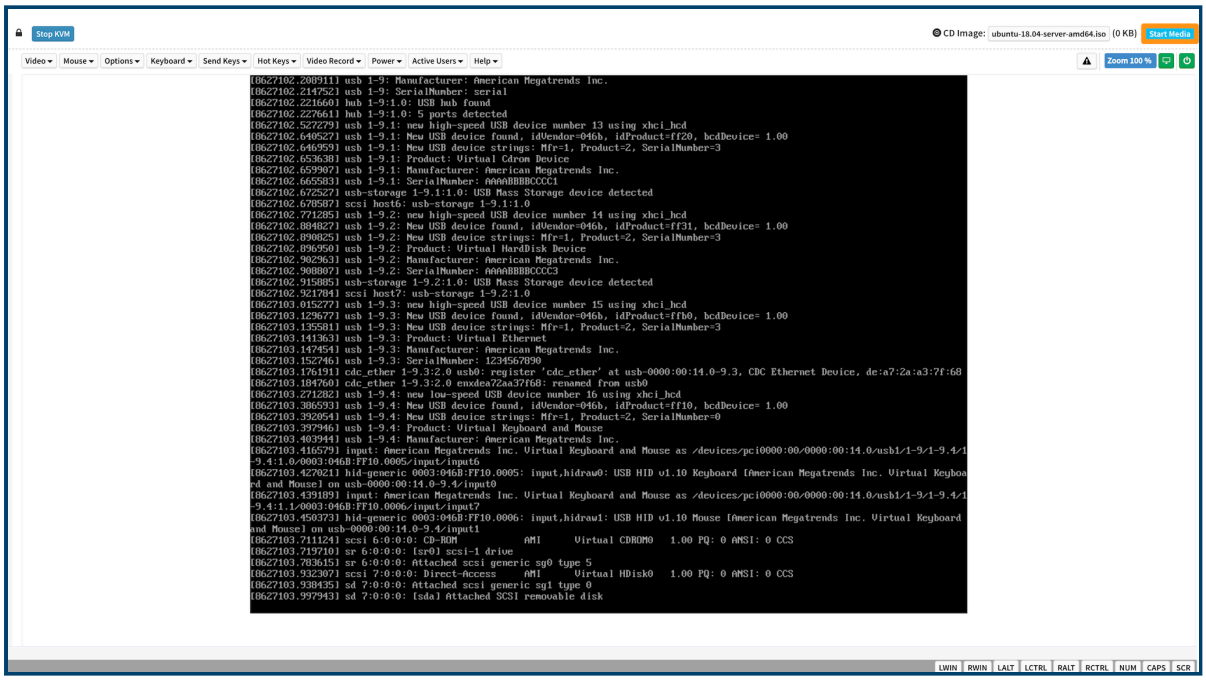
Installing an OS Utilizing HTML5 IPMI

> **Warning:** OVHcloud does not guarantee the functionality of any operating systems installed via IPMI. This route should only be taken by an experienced server administrator.

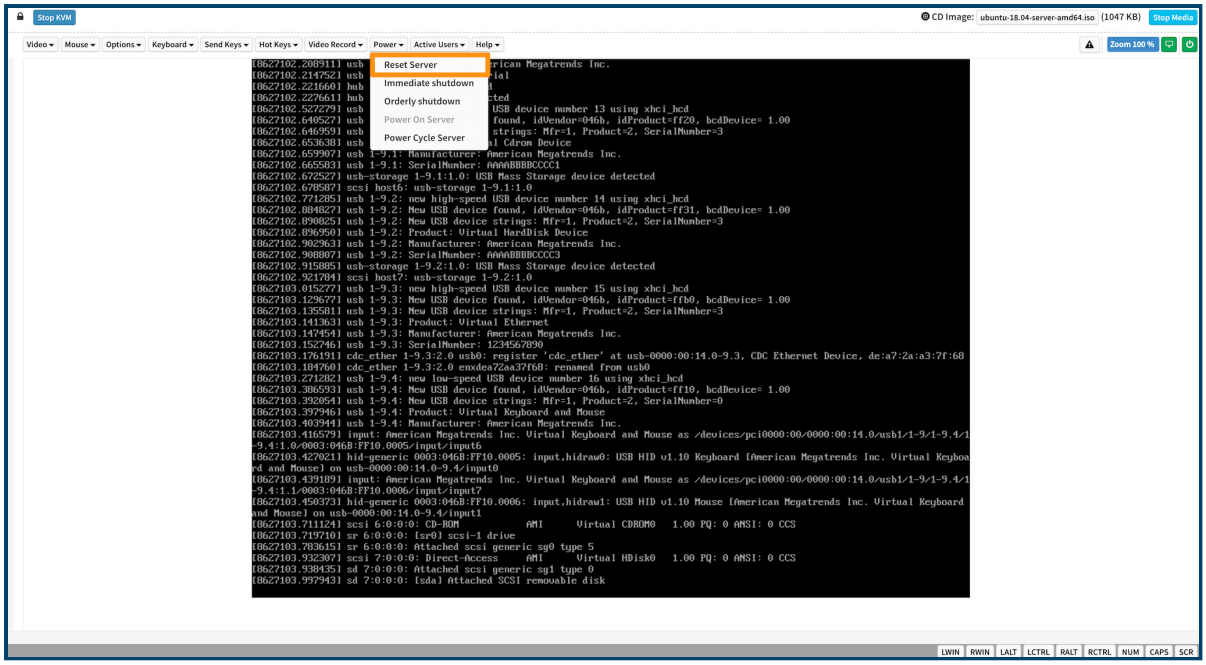
To begin, open IPMI in the HTML as described in the article Getting Started with IPMI. On the top-right of the IPMI UI, click the **Browse File** button next to "CD Image" and select the ISO you wish to use from your local machine.



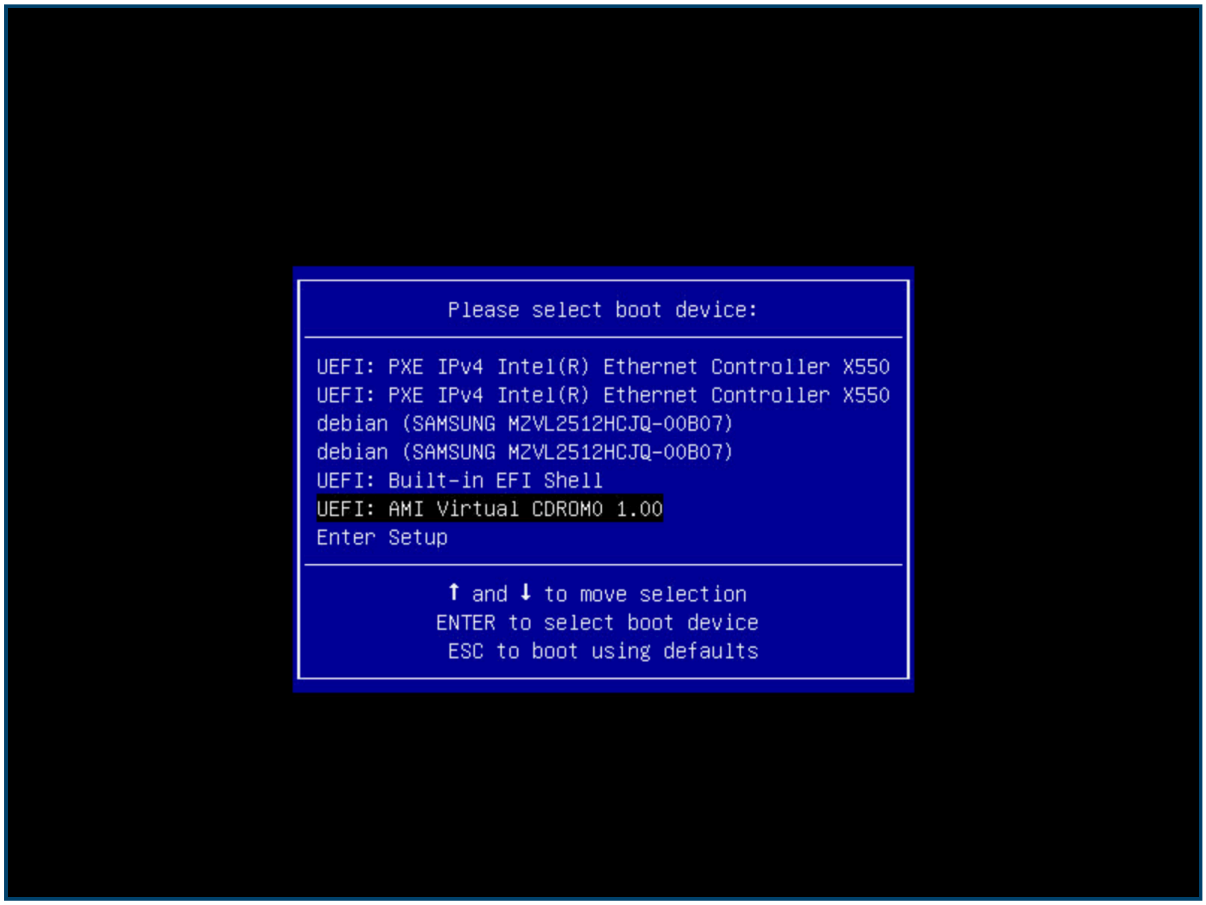
Click **Start Media** in the the top-right corner of the screen.



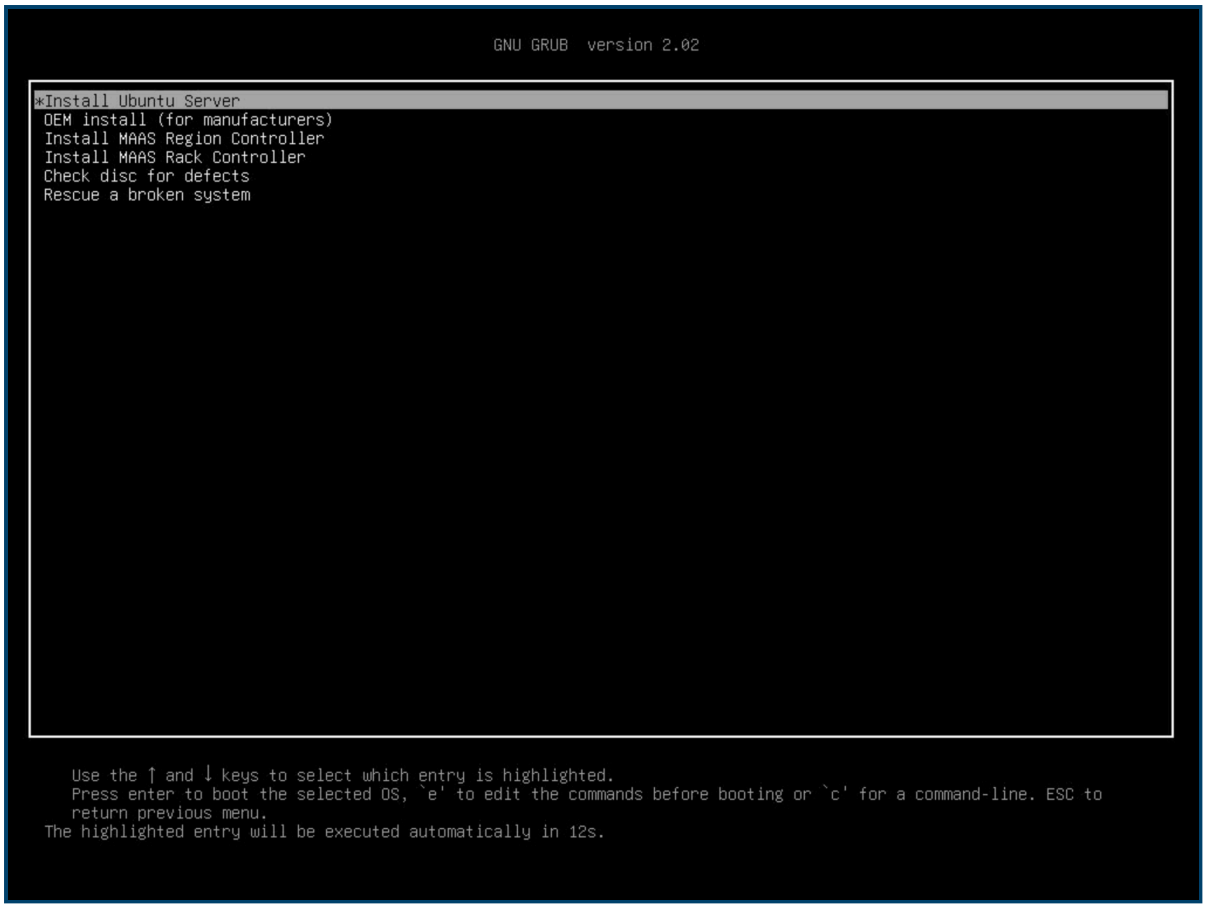
Next, on the top menu, click the **Power** drop-down menu and select **Reset Server**.



When the boot options come up, click `F10` on your keyboard to enter the boot options menu. Once you are in the boot options menu, choose the **UEFI: AMI Virtual CDROM0 1:00** boot option.



Choose the option to install your OS (in this example, we are using Ubuntu Server).



Proceed through the installation of your OS. Please allow a few minutes for the server to load the installation menu.

Conclusion

IPMI is an important tool for an experienced server administrator. Whether you need to access the BIOS, install a custom OS, or just access your server directly from the OVHcloud Manager, IPMI will allow you to accomplish your most important tasks.

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