# Setting Up VirtualBox with Ubuntu Linux VM

# Directions:

**Step 1:** Check to see if Virtualization is enabled on your computer. Go to Task Manager—Click Performance—click CPU and look for Virtualization: Enabled.

A screenshot of a graph

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A computer screen shot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect. If not enabled, go to bios on your computer with F2 (if using a Dell or Lenovo)-click Advanced-Change Virtualization to Enabled. If not using a Dell or Lenovo, use the hot key for your computer to access your system bios. (Google it, if you don’t know it.)

**Step 2**: Go to **ubuntu.com/download/desktop**. Click Download 24.04.3 LTS. When it completes the download the .iso image by the same name can be found in your downloads folder. You will access your .iso image later for the VM.



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**Step 3**: Go to **virtualbox.org** and click Download.

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**Step 4:** Click on Windows hosts (if using a machine with Windows operating system).

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**Step 5:** Click Yes to the following question:

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**Step 6**: Click Next in the following window:

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**Step 7:** Click Next in the following window: (for 7.2.4)

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**Step 8:** Click Next in the following window (for 7.2.4):

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**Step 9:** Click Yes to proceed with installation now (for 7.2.4)

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**Step 10:** Click Yes in the following window: Don’t be concerned about the contents of the second paragraph. (Yours will be 7.2.4)

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**Step 11:** Click Next to accept the defaults (for 7.2.4):

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**Step 12:** Click Install to begin installation (for 7.2.4):

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**Step 13:** Click Finish to exit the Setup Wizard (for 7.2.4):

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**Step 14:** Look for the shortcut on your desktop to VirtualBox and open it:

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You are now looking at Oracle VirtualBox Manager. **Step 15:** Click to use Basic Mode. A screenshot of a computer

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By choosing Basic Mode you should have fewer steps to complete. Unfortunately, I could not find an image to show you at this point.

Now we’ll create the virtual machine for Ubuntu Linux. **Step 16:** Click the New button or click on “Create a new Virtual machine (VM):

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**Step 17:** I had already downloaded Ubuntu to my computer via Ubuntu.com/download/desktop. To access it for the following I had to click an arrow (to the right of Edition and choose Other, then click on the .iso file in my Downloads to get it to feed into the ISO Image: area.

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**Step 18:** In our classroom and the CIS lab, we are keeping the default username (**vboxuser**) and password (**changeme**) so any student can use any computer in our classroom or any of the computers in our lab that contain VirtualBox. You may want to change the Username and password for security purposes for your own computer. (I chose not to change this on my home computer.) Click Next after making that decision.

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***For your information***: Our ISS specialist set Base Memory to 4 GB (4000 MB) for RAM and Processors to 4 CPUs. (Classroom computers have 16 GBs of RAM, as does my home computer.) Here are AI’s recommendations:

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**Step 19:** I followed our ISS specialist’s recommendations for my home computer (4 GB for RAM and 4 CPUs). Remember, that 1 GB = 1000 MB. This is what I saw when I originally set up VirtualBox 7.1.6 on my pc for spring semester 2025. The steps to set Base memory, Processors (Number of CPUs), and Disk Size were in two different windows. You can still use mine as examples of compiling the same data in one window for VirtualBox 7.2.4 (that we are using for fall 2025). When you scroll to the next window, you will see what I set for my Disk Size. (Remember, these first two examples were taken from my set up for an older version of the VirtualBox software, but I did not modify any settings when I updated to VirtualBox 7.2.6 for fall semester 2025.

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**Step 20: I** kept the defaults for the next screen (create a Virtual Hard Disk with 25.00 GB)

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Here’s another example (taken from a video I watched on YouTube). I only captured this image to show you where you will supply the same information (from my two windows from my older VirtualBox software) to one window for VirtualBox 7.2.4. I suggest you continue to use the recommendations of MCC’s technician but use your own discretion.

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**Step 21**: Summary of my choices. Keep in mind that I was setting this up on my own home computer. Click Finish.

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Error occurred for me . . . . This is a very common error, folks. If it happens to you, reboot your computer. That cured the problem for me.

A screenshot of a computer error

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**Step 22:** When I got to this next window, I clicked the arrow to the right of Start and selected **start without GUI** and was given a few screens to respond to as well as what additional apps I wanted. I chose to skip the ones where I was given the option to “skip” and chose X (in upper right corner) to close the App choices.

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If you are now seeing the following window, click the green arrow that has “Show” underneath it:

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When I downloaded my first copy of VirtualBox (spring semester 2025), I was given a few more screens to respond to concerning what additional apps I wanted. I chose to skip the ones where I was given the option to “skip” and chose X (in upper right corner) to close the App choices. Since I only had to update my software for this semester, I don’t know if you will encounter those same options when you download the current version of VirtualBox or not.

**Step 23:** If you kept the default username, you will see **vboxuser** as the username. Press enter to continue.

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**Step 24:** If you kept the default password, key in **changeme** (in lowercase) as the password and press enter. If you changed the password, key it in.

A screenshot of a login screen

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You should see the Ubuntu desktop. (My camera did not pick up the menu in the upper left corner in this shot.)

A computer screen with a logo

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**Step 25:** Click the app icon in the bottom left corner of the window.

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**Step 26**: You can either key in terminal in the search box or locate and click the Terminal app in the grouping.

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Your terminal window will look like this one, if you kept the default username. A shell prompt’s content varies depending on Linux distro, whether using a boot stick, using a server, or using a virtual machine (like us). The **~ (tilde)** represents your **home** directory (where you naturally default as a “**regular user**” (which is how you will be characterized for this course). The **$** represents the fact that you are a “**regular user**”. (The “root”/superuser/system administrator’s symbol is a #. Even though you can take on the role as superuser, we will **NOT** be doing so in this course. That will be left for a class to come!) Your shell prompt is where you will enter commands. You will always default to your home directory “account”. Mine is **vboxuser**, since I chose to use the default username.

**Step 27:** To close the Terminal window, key in the command **exit** at the shell prompt and press enter or click the “x” in the upper right.

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**Step 28:** Select Machine from the menu in the upper left corner and click Shutdown to shut down the virtual machine.

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**Step 29:** Once you are back to Oracle VirtualBox Manager, you can click the “x” in the upper right corner to close VirtualBox

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