



How to mount a VirtualBox shared folder at startup?

Asked 6 years, 9 months ago Active 5 months ago Viewed 213k times



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I have Ubuntu installed in Virtualbox. I want to mount my VirtualBox shared folder in Ubuntu automatically when I log in Ubuntu. I put the following line in my `~/.bashrc` and `~/.bash_profile`:

```
sudo mount -t vboxsf windows_share /media/windows_share
```

where `windows_share` is the name I created with Virtualbox. But everytime I start my Ubuntu, it asks me for passwd since it needs sudo. Is there anyway to automatically mount Windows share without entering password every time I log in?

mount

virtualbox

edited Feb 8 '13 at 21:22

asked Feb 8 '13 at 18:58



tonga

1,117 ● 2 ● 10 ● 9

11 Answers



109



To always mount a Virtual Box "shared folder" on booting an Ubuntu guest we have two options. It is up to personal preference which option works best in our setting.

1. Mount with fstab

To mount a shared folder using the `vboxsf` filesystem provided with [Guest Additions](#) we first need to make sure [prerequisites are met](#). Then we may put the following line in our `etc/fstab` file:

```
<name_of_share> /path/to/mountpoint vboxsf <options> 0 0
```

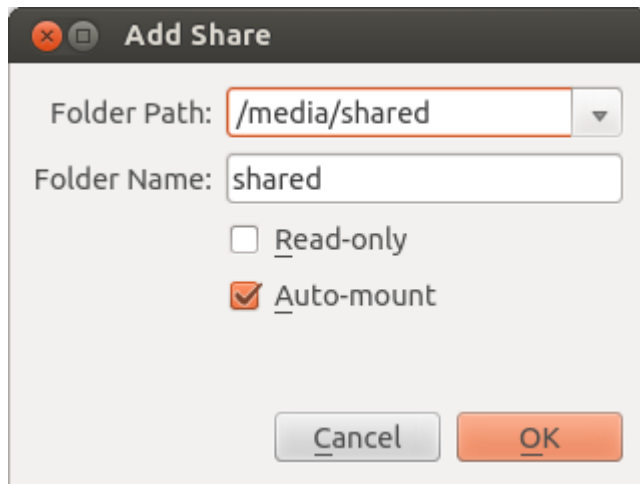
Replace `name_of_share` and `/path/to/mountpoint` with your individual setup (the directory for the mountpoint has to be created first). See the manpage for mount `<options>`. One possibility is to mount with `defaults`, or to give specific mount options (e.g. `rw, suid, exec, auto, users`).

On some systems the `vboxsf` kernel module is not yet loaded at the time `fstab` is read on boot. It may then help to append the `vboxsf` kernel module to `/etc/modules`.

Some systems may need option `comment=systemd.automount` in their `fstab` entry ([source](#)).

2. Mount with Virtual Box "automatic mounting":

In recent releases of Virtual Box we can also automatically mount shared folders on creation:



After a reboot of the guest this shared folder will be mounted to the guest directory `/media/<username>/sf_<name_of_share>` accessible to all users who had been made member of the group `vboxsf`.

edited Dec 15 '17 at 22:06

answered Feb 8 '13 at 19:29



Takkat

119k ● 40 ● 263 ● 386

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- 1 How do you change the mount directory and mount prefix? Do you run some terminal commands in the HOST OS or the GUEST OS? – [CMCDragonkai](#) Jan 18 '14 at 12:12
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- 12 This feature requires that the "virtualbox-guest-utils" service has started, and on Ubuntu 14.04 this service starts later than the filesystems are mounted. This is the reason for "device not found" error when mounting the shares through fstab – [kolypto](#) May 13 '14 at 14:58 ✎
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- 1 @garromark, my only idea is to create an upstart script, which is quite simple. Another option is to put the same fstab entry, but add "noauto" so you just mount it manually. – [kolypto](#) May 19 '14 at 21:56
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- 4 @kolypto, thanks for getting back to me. I actually found two competing solutions, only one of which worked for me: Option 1) (Worked for me), is, as you said, to put `noauto` in the fstab options and then to later mount typically in a startup script (such as `.profile`), Option 2) the main issue being that `vboxsf` isn't loaded prior to fstab running, append `vboxsf` to the file `/etc/modules`, asking the kernel to load the module prior to fstab being run. Maybe this will help someone else. – [garromark](#) May 20 '14 at 22:11
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- 6 please remember to add your user to the `vboxsf` group. You may refer to askubuntu.com/questions/79565/add-user-to-existing-group – [chinloong](#) Dec 25 '15 at 4:01
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1. Edit `/etc/rc.local`

```
sudo -H gedit /etc/rc.local
```

2. Before `exit 0` type:

```
mount.vboxsf windows_share /media/windows_share vboxsf
```

3. Save

4. (Optional) Create a shortcut to the desktop or home folder:

```
ln -s /media/windows_share /home/freddy/Desktop
```