Installing Guest Additions on an Ubuntu VM in VirtualBox

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Given:
You have installed an Ubuntu Desktop VM through the VirtualBox hypervisor on your computer;
You have **sudo** access to make system-wide changes to the Ubuntu Desktop VM;
You have an Internet connection for your computer.

The version of VirtualBox used in this demonstration is: 7.2.4
The version of Ubuntu Desktop being installed is: 24.04.03

During the creation of a VBox virtual machine, Guest Additions should be installed. However, it may be necessary from time to time to re-install Guest Additions (as when, for example, you upgrade the installed version of VirtualBox hypervisor). In this how-to, we will go step-by-step over creating and installing Guest Additions on an Ubuntu virtual machine in VirtualBox.

"Guest Additions are designed to be installed inside a virtual machine after the guest operating system has been installed. They consist of device drivers and system applications that optimize the guest operating system for better performance and usability."

— 4.1. Introduction to Guest Additions, User Guide for Release 7.2
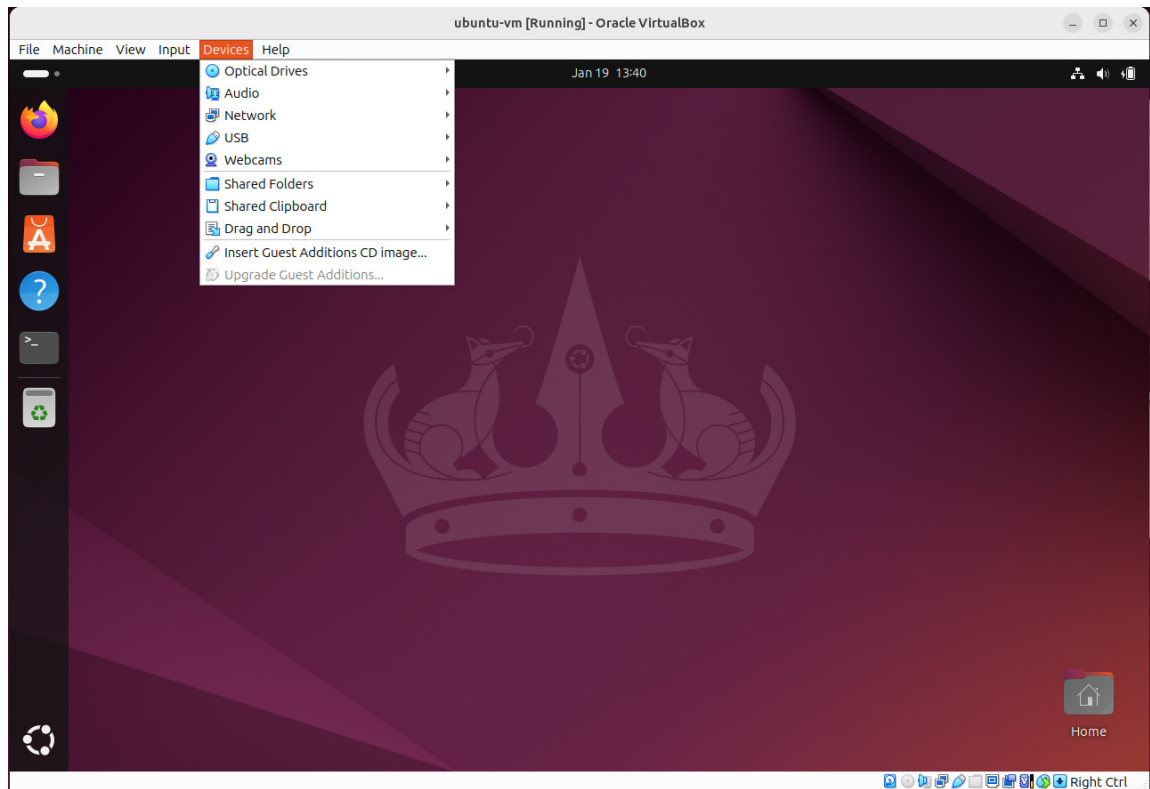https://www.virtualbox.org/manual/

Figure 1: **The Devices menu in a VBox VM window.**
Please note that close to the bottom of the menu items is **Insert Guest Additions CD image**.
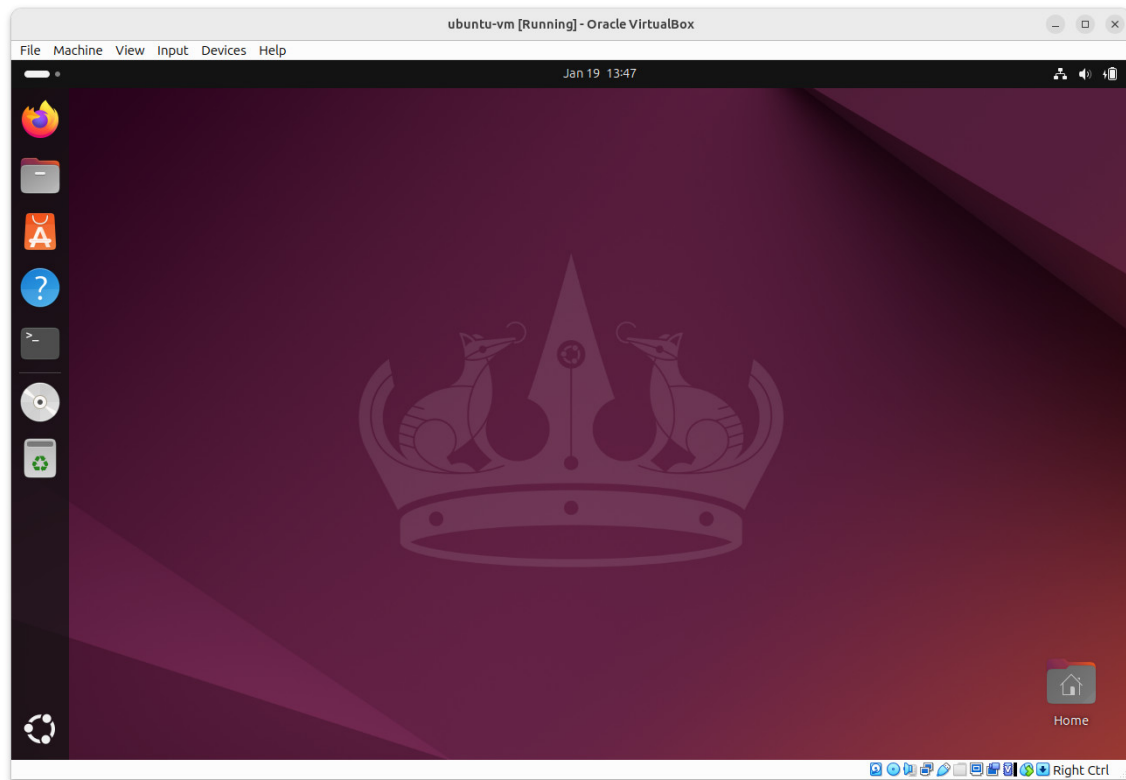Select item.

Figure 2: **Mounting the Guest Additions CD image.**
Please note the CD image icon that appears in the Favorites bar on the lefthand side of the desktop.
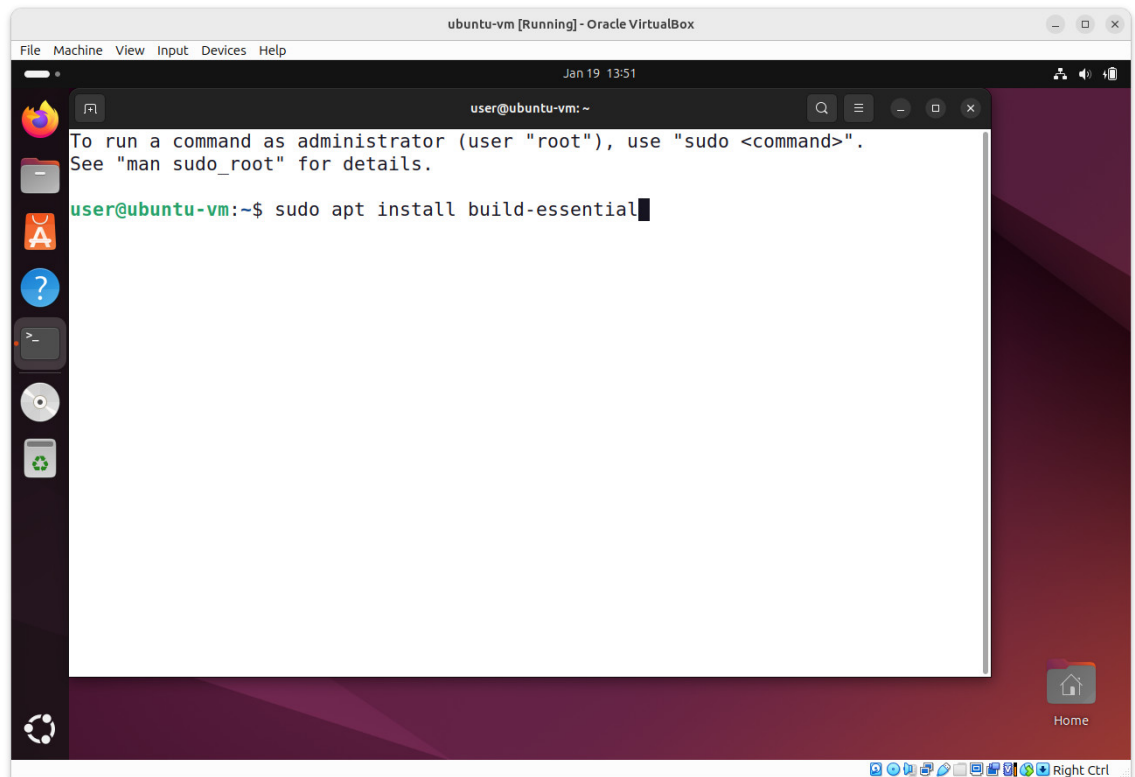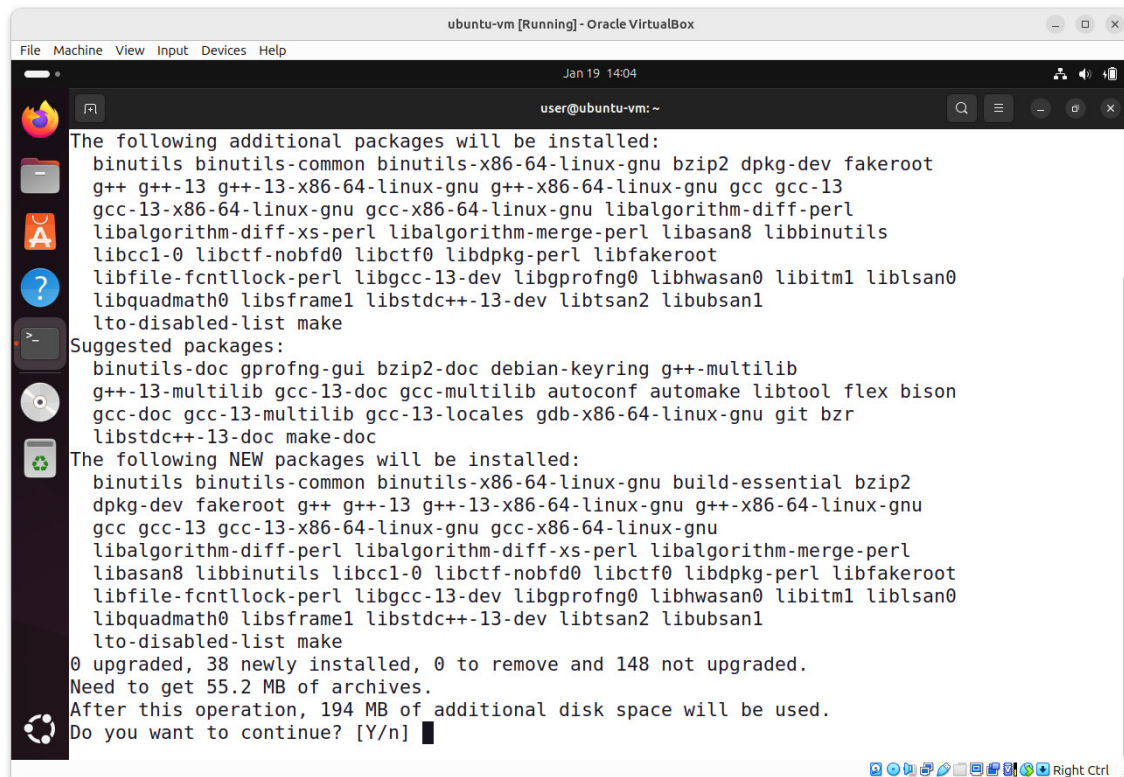Now launch the terminal window.

Figure 3: **Installing the build-essential tools.**
The tools needed to compile the code in the Guest Additions CD image. The tools are available for download in online Ubuntu repos.

We use the sudo command to run the statement as a superuser because the tools are installed in system directories; and we use the apt tool to instruct our system to fetch the tools from those repos and install them.

After hitting **ENTER** to execute this statement, you will be prompted to authenticate with your password. Enter your password, then hit **ENTER** again.

Figure 4: **Build-essential apps and libraries to install.**
apt enumerates the items it will install on the system from enabled repos.
Enter "Y" and hit ENTER to continue. Let apt run to completion.

Once the installation finishes, double-click on the Guest Additions CD image to open it.
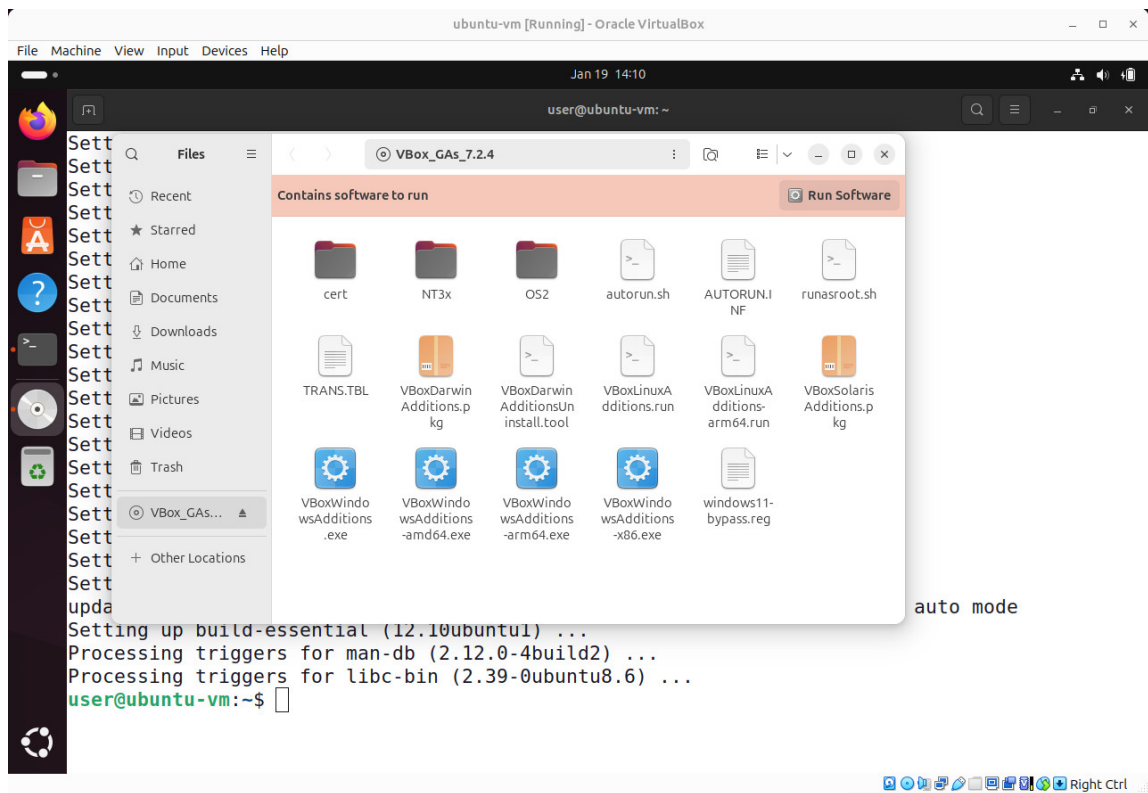
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Figure 5: **The Guest Additions CD image, opened.**
Please note the **Run software** button in the upper righthand corner of the window. Click it.
You'll get a pop-up windows that asks if you're sure you want to run the software. Click the **Run**
button and authenticate.

It may take several minutes for the Guest Additions to be compiled and installed.
Once finished, reboot the VM for changes to take effect.

This ends this how-to on installing an Ubuntu VM in VirtualBox.