

# Accessing the Exercise Environment

## Overview of the Exercise Environment

This course uses a cloud-based virtual environment for hands-on exercises. This environment has been configured with the software and files that you need for the exercises. Some course environments run on one VM, and some include more than one.

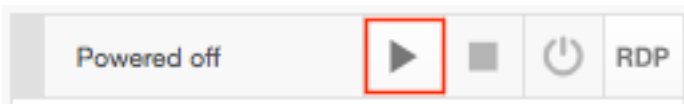
## Opening the Exercise Environment Portal

Each exercise will include a button that allows you to open the exercise environment. The portal will open in a new window or tab. It may take a minute or two to open; please be patient.

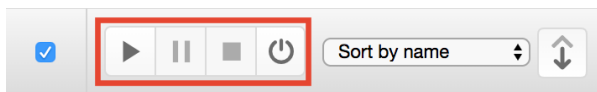
**Note:** The environment portal opens in a new tab or window. If this fails, you might need to enable pop-up windows for this site. If you do not know how to enable pop-up windows for a particular web site in your browser, use a web search engine to search for “enable pop-ups” and the name of your browser program.

## Starting the VM(s)

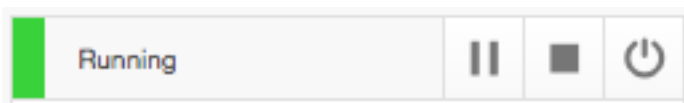
When you first open the portal, the VM(s) will be powered off (shut down). To start a VM, click the play button above the VM name.



If there are multiple VMs in your course environment, you can start (and stop) all of them using the controls on the left above the VM thumbnails.



When the VM has finished starting, its thumbnail will turn green and the status will change to "Running".



At this point, you can click on the thumbnail of the VM screen or the name of the VM to open it.

## Time Limit on Environment Portal

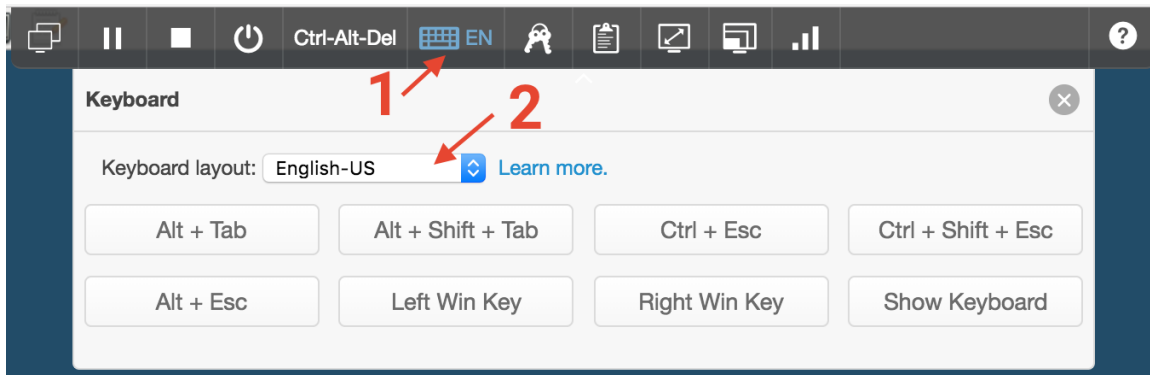
Every environment portal has a time limit. After the configured number of hours has been used, the portal will become inaccessible. The time remaining for a portal is displayed in the upper right corner of the portal screen, as shown below. It is also displayed in the upper right corner of the VM(s) as they are running.



The time provided should be more than sufficient to complete the course exercises. However, if you have difficulty and need more time, please contact [ondemand@cloudera.com](mailto:ondemand@cloudera.com).

## Changing the Keyboard Layout

By default, the VMs are set to use a US English keyboard. If you are using a different keyboard layout, you can change it in the VM using the VM tools at the top of the window, pictured below. Click the keyboard icon, then select the appropriate layout from the drop-down menu.

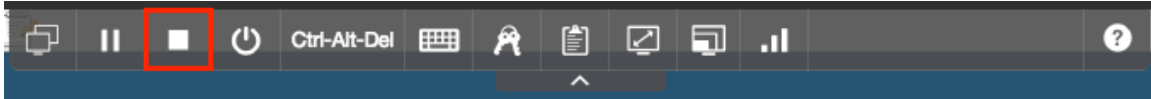


If you change the VM keyboard layout, you must also change the keyboard layout setting within the VM's operating system, which is CentOS. Select **System** -> **Preferences** -> **Keyboard** -> **Layout** to change the OS keyboard language.

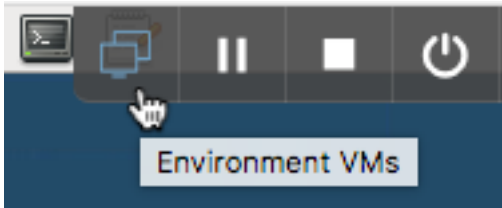
## Shutting Down VM(s)

**Note:** To preserve the time remaining in your environment portal, make sure to shut down all your VM(s) each time you are done using them.

To stop a VM, click the **Shut Down** icon (pictured below) in the VM toolbar. This is the equivalent of shutting down the machine from the operating system. In other words, all your windows and applications will also shut down.



If your course environment includes more than one VM, make sure to shut them all down. To do so, first click the **Environment VMs** option in the VM toolbar, as shown below.

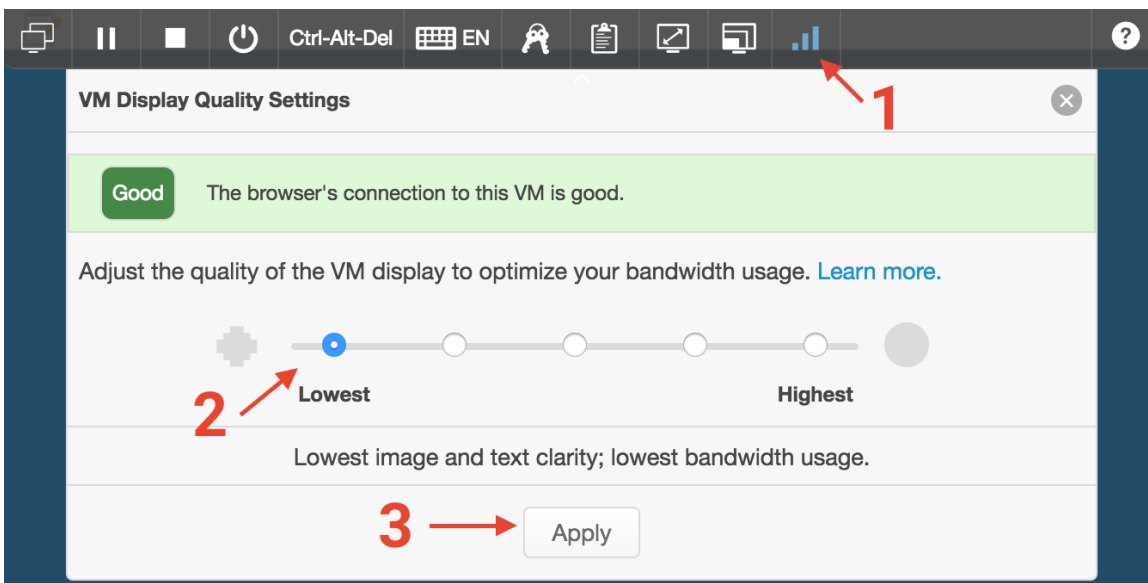


Then select **View all VM(s)**. This will return you to the original portal screen, where you can use the set of controls at the top of the VMs tab to stop all the VMs at once. If it appears that it is taking a long time for one VM to shut down, try refreshing the browser window.

If a VM is not responding to the shut down request, you can use the **Power Off** option (icon with a circle and a line). This is equivalent to unplugging or powering off the machine without using the OS shutdown. The **Power Off** option should only be used if the **Shut Down** command is not working.

## Troubleshooting Performance Issues

If the VM window is responding slowly, try lowering the VM Display Quality setting. To do this, click on the **Quality** icon in the VM toolbar, select a lower setting, and click **Apply**.



You can also try running the [Skytap Connectivity Checker](#) tool. (Skytap is the provider that hosts our virtual environments.) Select the region closest to you for the connectivity test and use the links in the tool to troubleshoot your issue.

If you are still having issues with VM access, please email [ondemand@cloudera.com](mailto:ondemand@cloudera.com).