1. Overview

- Vagrant is a tool for building and managing virtual machine environments in a single workflow.
- Lowers development environment setup time, increases production parity, and makes the “works on my machine” excuse a relic of the past.

“Flexibility joined with consistency”

2. Requirements

- Vagrant supports both Windows and Linux operating systems.
- It does not require any pre-requisite for installation. However, in most cases, it is used alongside Oracle VirtualBox for managing the virtual machines.

3. Architecture

- Uses Provisioners and Providers as building blocks to manage the development environments.
  - Provisioners allow users to customize the configuration of virtual environments. Puppet and Chef are the two most widely used provisioners in the Vagrant ecosystem.
  - Providers are the services that Vagrant uses to set up and create virtual environments.
- Sits on top of virtualization software as a wrapper and helps the developer interact easily with the providers.
- Automates the configuration of virtual environments using Chef or Puppet, and the user does not have to directly use any other virtualization software.
- Machine and software requirements are written in a file called “Vagrantfile” to execute necessary steps in order to create a development-ready box.
- Box is a format and an extension (.box) for Vagrant environments that is copied to another machine in order to replicate the same environment.

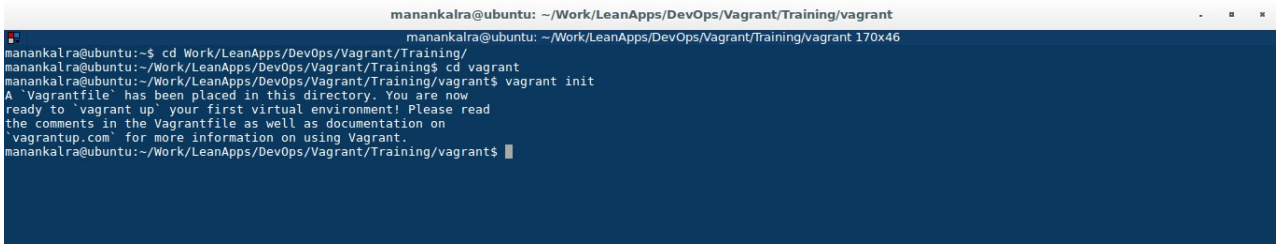
4. Installation for Linux (Ubuntu 16.04 LTS)

- Open Terminal. Run `sudo apt-get update` to update repository information.
- For installing Vagrant, execute `sudo apt-get install vagrant` .
- Additionally, run the `vagrant --version` command to check the version and verify proper installation of Vagrant on your system.
- If VirtualBox isn't already installed, run `sudo apt-get install virtualbox` to install it.

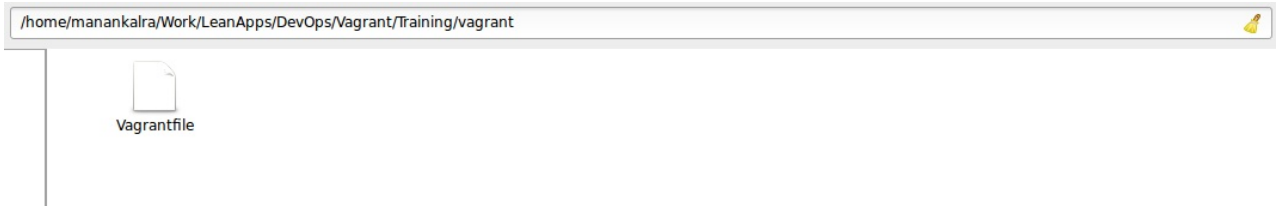
5. Hands-on

a. Initialization

- The first step to begin working with Vagrant is initializing it to generate a *Vagrantfile*. This is done by running the command `vagrant init` in the destination folder. This will generate a text file named 'Vagrantfile' in the current directory.



The *Vagrantfile* is a configuration file containing information about the settings and configurations of the VM. It needs to be generated every time a new VM is to be created by Vagrant.



- Make changes to the *Vagrantfile* according to the configuration needs for the VM.

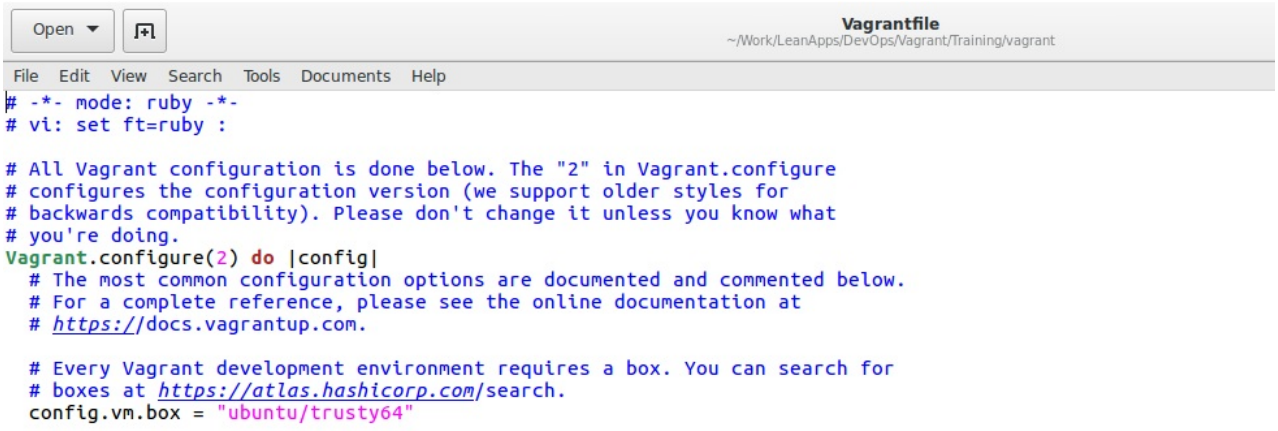
b. Configuration

i. Vagrantfile

- Describes the type of machine required for a project, and how to configure and provision these machines.
- Only one Vagrantfile is needed per project.

ii. Boxes

- Boxes are the package format for Vagrant environments.
- A box can be used by anyone on any platform that Vagrant supports to bring up an identical working environment.
- Edit the *box* according to your choice in the *Vagrantfile*. A search index for boxes can be found here.



iii. Provisioning

- Provisioners in Vagrant allow you to automatically install software, alter configurations, and more.
- Following is an example to provision the installation of Apache Server and git on the machine as a part of the `vagrant up` process:
  - Edit the *Vagrantfile* to add this snippet which is an inline shell command to trigger the required installation.

```
config.vm.provision "shell", inline: <<-SHELL
    sudo apt-get update
    sudo apt-get install -y apache2
SHELL
```

- This snippet can be added to use an external shell script and provision git installation.

  ```
  config.vm.provision "shell", path: "provision-git.sh"
  ```

  Here, *provision-git.sh* contains a shell script to install git.

  ```
  #!/usr/bin/env bash
  echo "Installing git..."
  sudo apt-get install -y git
  ```

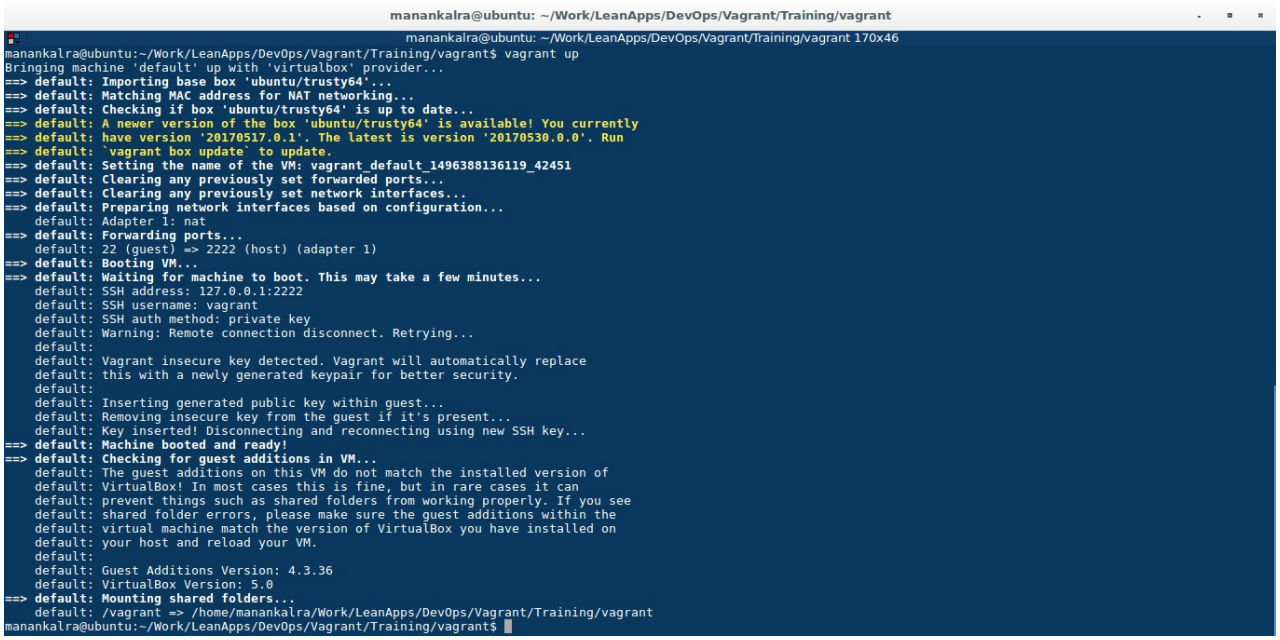
- Now `vagrant up` will install all the configured packages automatically.

Other configuration settings may involve: Networking, Synced Folders, Multi-Machine, Providers, Plugins, Push, Share etc.

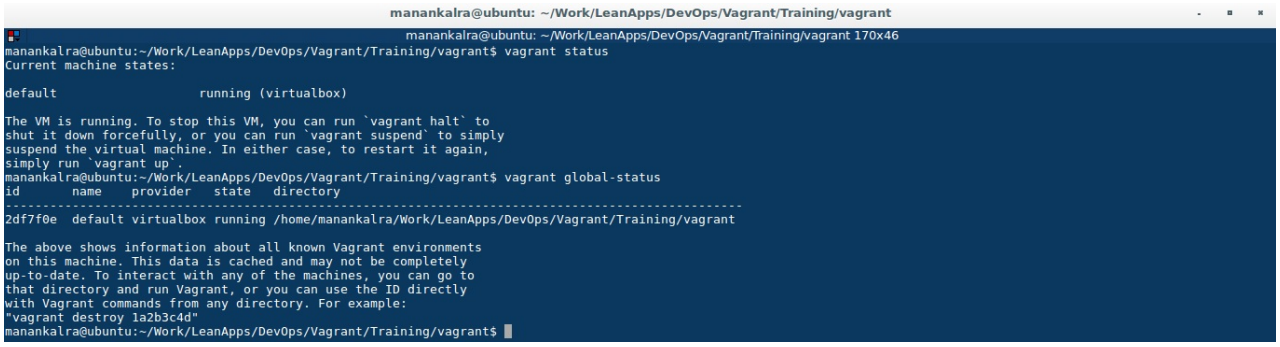
c. Running the VM

- After the *Vagrantfile* has been changed to contain the required configurations for the new VM, execute **`vagrant up`** from the same directory where the 'Vagrantfile' was generated.

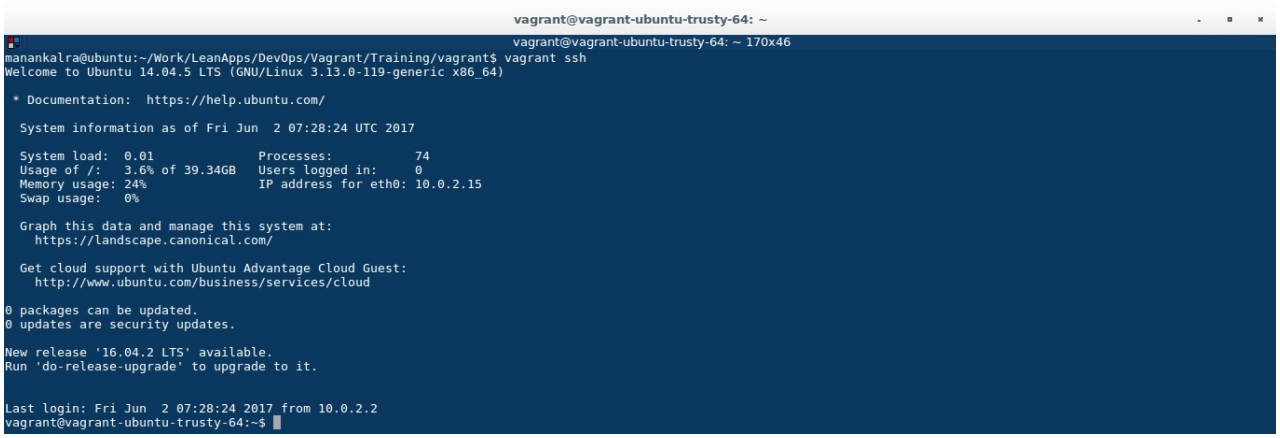
This will start the process of fetching the box file for VM creation, creating the VM with the stated configurations, and booting it automatically after creation.



- Status of the created VM can be checked by executing **`vagrant status`** or **`vagrant global-status`**



- To enter the newly created VM, execute **`vagrant ssh`**.

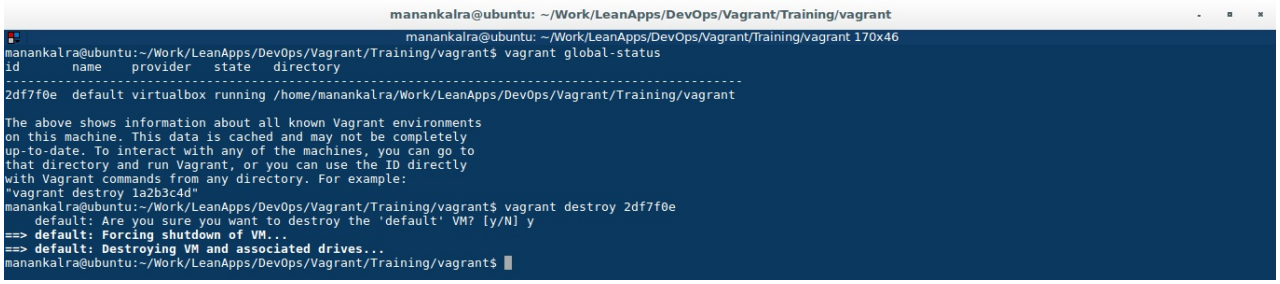


Commands can be executed in the new VM from this shell prompt. Alternatively, you can also enter the new VM via Virtualbox.

- At any point, run **`logout`** command in the shell prompt of the VM to exit from the VM and return to the host machine where you installed Vagrant.

d. Destroying the VM

- Execute **`vagrant destroy <id>`**.



6. List of commands

- `--version` : print the version and exit
- `box` : manages boxes: installation, removal etc..
- `destroy` : stops and deletes all traces of the vagrant machine
- `global-status` : outputs status Vagrant envisonments for the user
- `halt` : stops the vagrant machine
- `help` : shows the help for a subcommand
- `init` : initializes a new Vagrant environment by generating a Vagrantfile
- `login` : login to Hashicorp's Atlas
- `package` : packages a running vagrant environment into a box
- `plugin` : manages plugins: install, uninstall, update etc.
- `port` : displays information about guest port mappings
- `powershell` : connects to mahcine via powershell remoting
- `provison` : provisions the vagrant machine
- `push` : deploys code in this environment to a configured destination
- `sdp` : connects to machine via RDP
- `reload` : restarts vagrant machine, loads new Vagrantfile configuration
- `resume` : resume a suspended vagrant machine
- `snapshot` : manages snapshot: saving, restoring etc.
- `ssh` : connects to machine via SSH
- `ssh-config` : outputs OpenSSH valid configuration to connect to the machine
- `status` : outputs status of the vagrant machine
- `suspend` : suspends the machine
- `up` : starts and provisions the vagrant environment

> Run `vagrant list-commands` for additional and more advanced subcommands.