

As I have grown and gained experience understanding how networks operate, virtual machine technology seems to continuously amaze me anytime it gets a chance. For anyone wanting to make a career change into tech or simply starting their technology journey with networking, this piece of software should not be overlooked in any way.

Virtual machines take up a fraction of the power that a typical home lab rack would require and it virtually takes up zero space as long as your current PC hardware can support the boxes you would like to run virtually. In addition to the cost and space efficiency, there is also a level of insurance that is applied when deciding to utilize VM software. If given the proper configurations, you can break your box a million different ways and not have to fret about any negative effects when concerning your actual home network.

In all honesty, I could go on and on with how much I enjoy and would recommend this type of tool to any tech enthusiast, however, my main objective with this writing is not that. I am wanting to give a brief intro and explanation on virtual machines and how to download one onto your personal computer.

The VM software I am choosing for this guide is open source, popular, and most importantly free.

My first pick when entering the VM world was VirtualBox by Oracle. If just starting out with VM tech, this would definitely be my first suggestion because it is very easy to download and user friendly once ready to start deploying your own virtual operating systems.

You can first begin with simply typing "Virtual Box" into your search engine and hitting enter. The website should be one of the top options and titled "Oracle VM VirtualBox".

virtual box - Google Search

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VirtualBox
Downloadable software

Oracle VM VirtualBox is a hosted hypervisor for x86 virtualization developed by Oracle Corporation. VirtualBox was originally created by InnoTek Systemberatung GmbH, which was acquired by Sun Microsystems in 2008, which was in turn acquired by Oracle in 2010. [Wikipedia](#)

Developer(s): Oracle Corporation

Initial release: 17 January 2007; 17 years ago

Operating system: Windows, macOS (only Intel-based Macs), Linux and Solaris

Original author(s): InnoTek Systemberatung GmbH (2007-2008), Sun Microsystems (2008-2010)

Platform: x86-64 only (version series 5.x and earlier work on IA-32)

Stable release: 7.0.20 / 16 July 2024

Written in: C, C++, x86 Assembly, Python

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Welcome to VirtualBox.org!

VirtualBox is a powerful x86 and AMD64/Intel64 [virtualization](#) product for enterprise as well as home use. Not only is VirtualBox an extremely feature rich, high performance product for enterprise customers, it is also the only professional solution that is freely available as Open Source Software under the terms of the [GNU General Public License \(GPL\)](#) version 3. See "About VirtualBox" for an introduction.

Presently, VirtualBox runs on Windows, Linux, macOS, and Solaris hosts and supports a large number of [guest operating systems](#) including but not limited to Windows (NT 4.0, 2000, XP, Server 2003, Vista, 7, 8, Windows 10 and Windows 11), DOS/Windows 3.x, Linux (2.4, 2.6, 3.x, 4.x, 5.x and 6.x), Solaris and OpenSolaris, OS/2, OpenBSD, NetBSD and FreeBSD.

VirtualBox is being actively developed with frequent releases and has an ever growing list of features, supported guest operating systems and platforms it runs on. VirtualBox is a community effort backed by a dedicated company: everyone is encouraged to contribute while Oracle ensures the product always meets professional quality criteria.

Download VirtualBox 7.0

Hot picks:

- Pre-built virtual machines for developers at [Oracle Tech Network](#)
- [Hyperbox](#) Open-source Virtual Infrastructure Manager [⇒ project site](#)

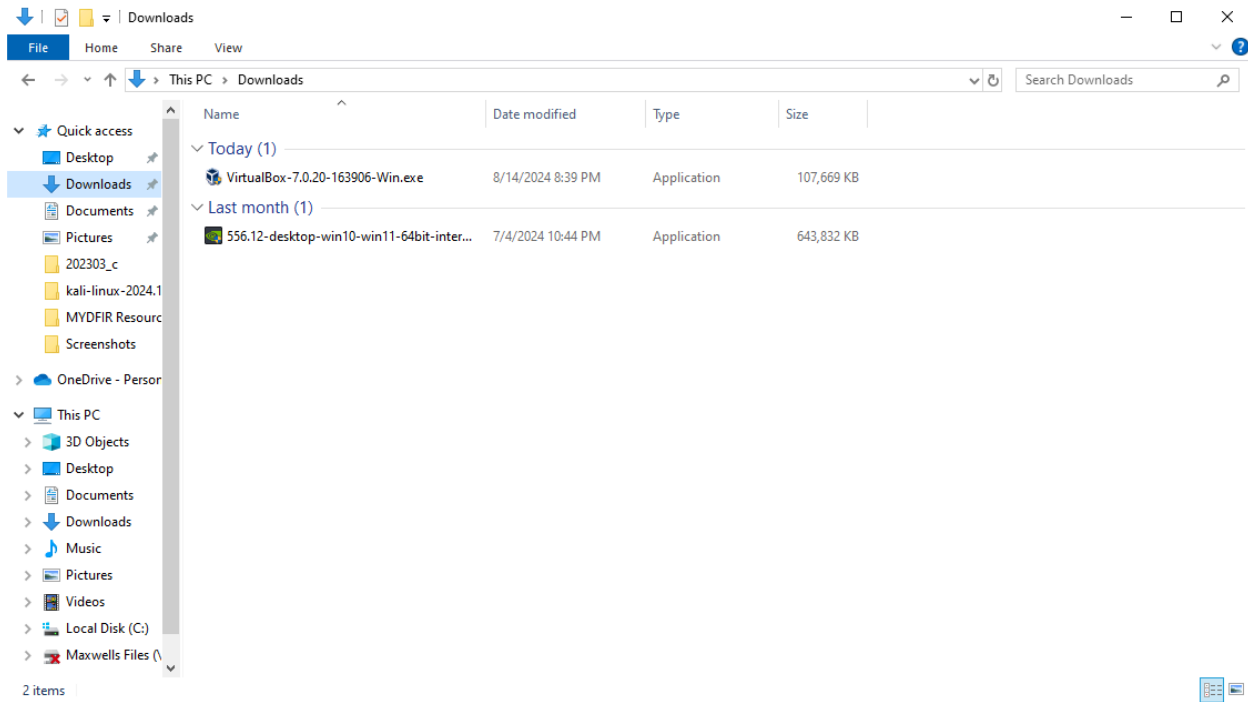
News Flash

- **New July 16th, 2024 VirtualBox 7.0.20 released!**
Oracle today released a 7.0 maintenance release which improves stability and fixes regressions. See the [Changelog](#) for details.
- **New May 3rd, 2024 VirtualBox 7.0.18 released!**
Oracle today released a 7.0 maintenance release which improves stability and fixes regressions. See the [Changelog](#) for details.
- **New April 16th, 2024 VirtualBox 7.0.16 released!**
Oracle today released a 7.0 maintenance release which improves stability and fixes regressions. See the [Changelog](#) for details.
- **Notice March 21th, 2024 Change of login server.**
Starting today, Oracle Single Sign On will ask for your account credentials at [signin.oracle.com](#) and the username and password are now have to be entered on separate pages.
- **New January 16th, 2024 VirtualBox 7.0.14 released!**
Oracle today released a 7.0 maintenance release which improves stability and fixes regressions. See the [Changelog](#) for details.
- **New January 16th, 2024 VirtualBox 6.1.50 released!**
Oracle today released a 6.1 maintenance release which improves stability and fixes regressions. See the [Changelog](#) for details.
- **New October 17th, 2023 VirtualBox 7.0.12 released!**
Oracle today released a 7.0 maintenance release which improves stability and fixes regressions. See the [Changelog](#) for details.
- **New October 17th, 2023 VirtualBox 6.1.48**

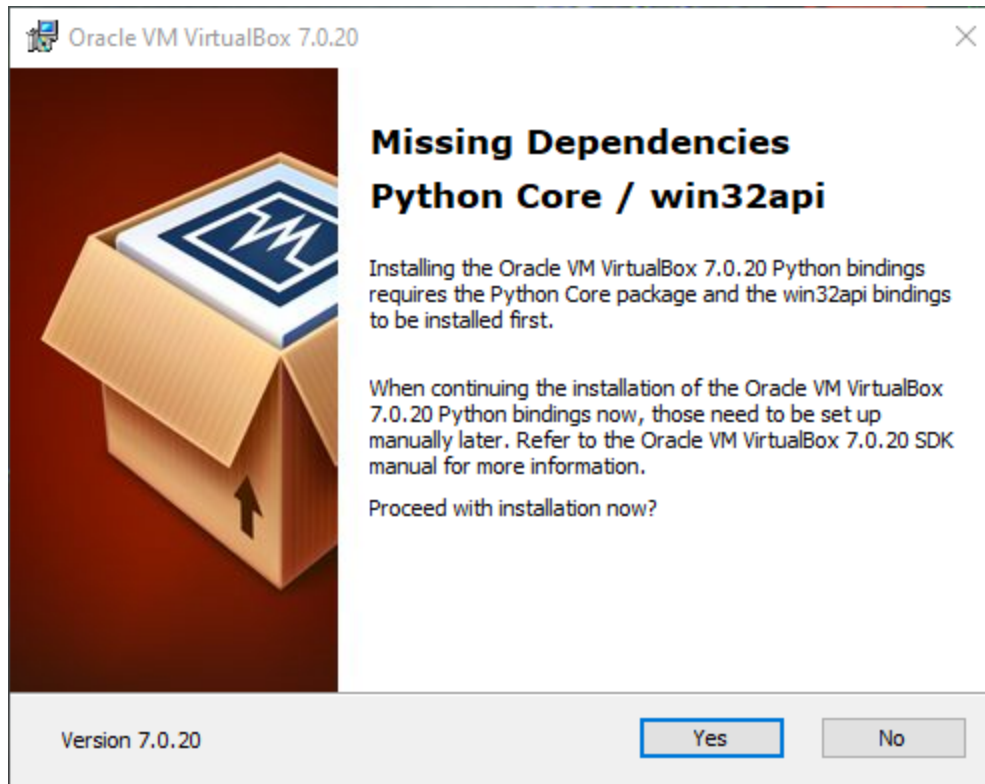
Navigate to the left of the menu and click on "Downloads".

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the VirtualBox website's download page. The browser's address bar shows 'virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads'. The page features a dark theme with a sidebar on the left containing links like 'About', 'Screenshots', 'Downloads', 'Documentation', 'End-user docs', 'Technical docs', 'Contribute', and 'Community'. The main content area is titled 'Download VirtualBox' and includes sections for 'VirtualBox binaries', 'VirtualBox 7.0.20 platform packages' (listing Windows, macOS, Linux, Solaris, and Solaris 11 IPS hosts), 'VirtualBox 7.0.20 Oracle VirtualBox Extension Pack', 'VirtualBox 7.0.20 Software Developer Kit (SDK)', 'User Manual', 'VirtualBox older builds', and 'VirtualBox Sources'. The page also contains a search bar, login/preference links, and a footer with 'Cengage Learning' and 'Canvas' logos.

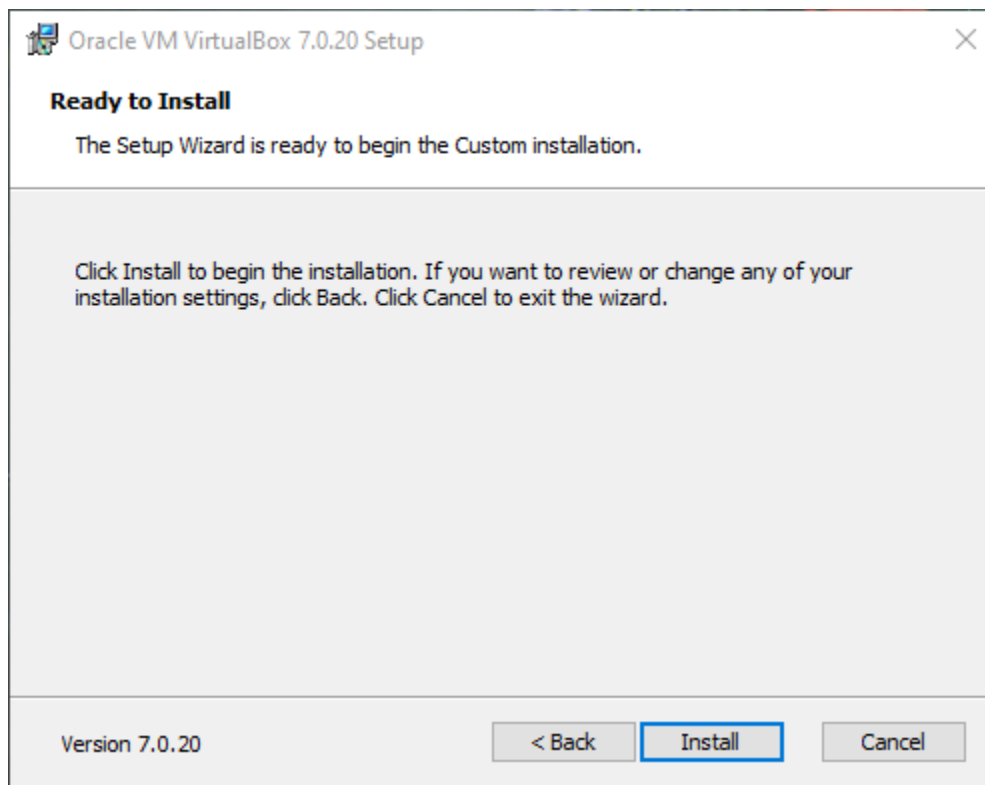
This part will now be more on your preferences and what machine you want to run your VMs on. Since I am currently using a Windows PC, I click on the “Windows hosts” option under “VirtualBox 7.0.20 platform packages”. A file should be sent to your downloads section after selecting your link. Once completed, go to your downloads and select the Win.exe file.



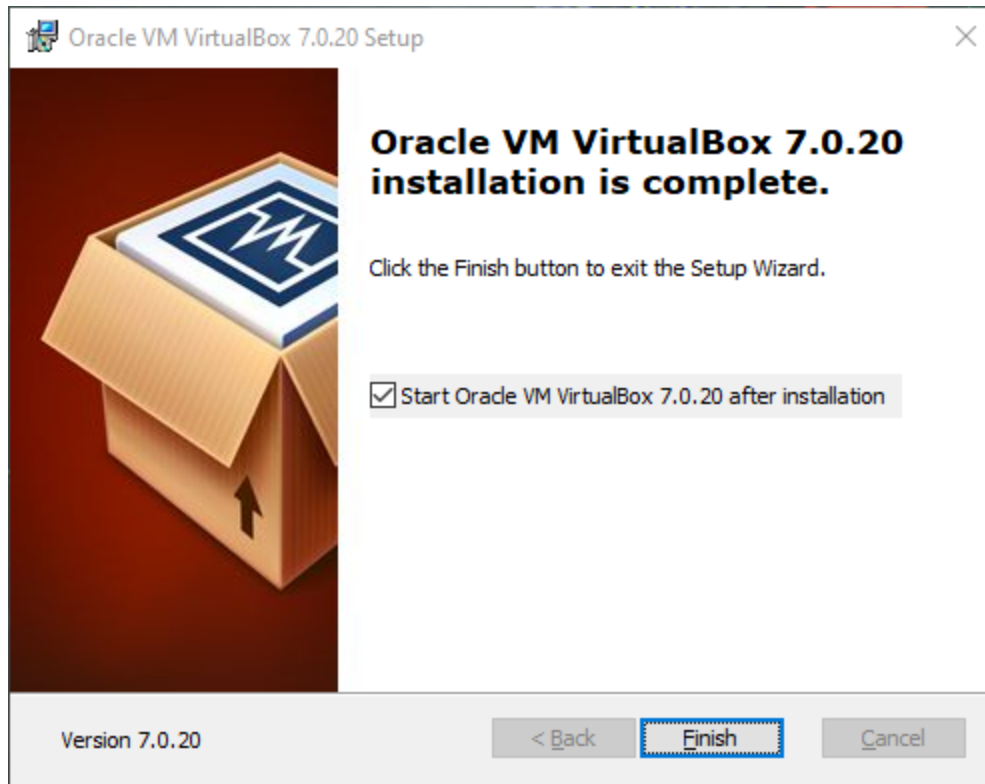
Select “yes” when prompted with the user account control prompt. There should then be a welcome prompt from VirtualBox where you will need to select “next” at the bottom. There will then be a short series of options you will be given before installing and running the software fully. My recommendation, if you’re just starting and not sure what to do, is to just select all of the default options that you should be prompted with and not change anything until you have gotten more experience with using VirtualBox. You also may be prompted at a certain point asking to install certain dependencies. Select “yes” to install them.



Select "install" when finished.



Select "finish" and be sure that you are configured to start VirtualBox after installation.



Congratulations on downloading what I find to be one of the most valuable tools you could have as a tech professional. I can almost guarantee that you will see and likely need to utilize this technology some time in your professional career and hopefully you will appreciate the experience that is able to be built now to prepare for when that time comes. Thank you for reading this guide and be sure to read any other articles or projects if you're curious.