COMP 4511

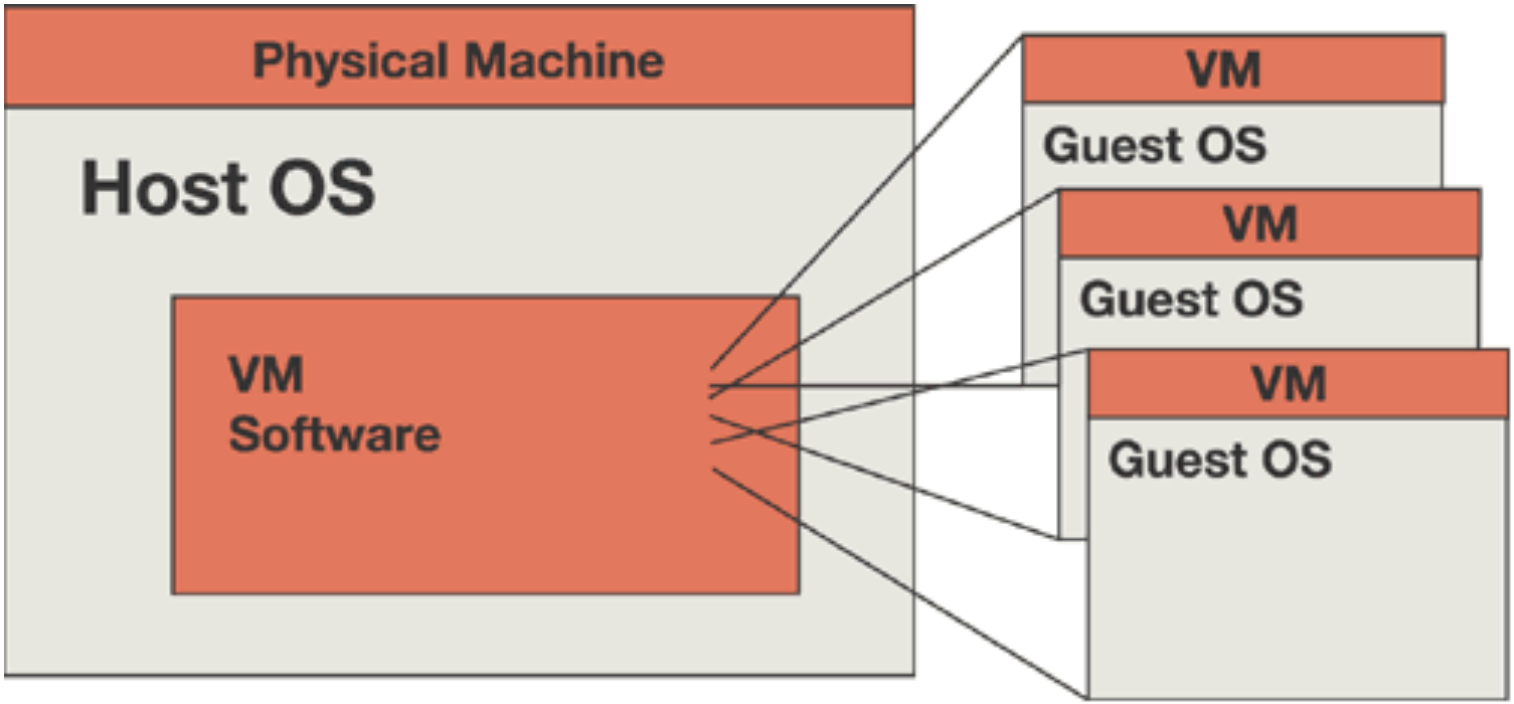
Using Virtual Machine & Compiling Linux Kernel

Goals

- Create a virtual machine from an ISO
- Connect the guest OS (i.e. Ubuntu VM) with the host OS (i.e. your physical OS)
- Compile a new kernel and replace the existing kernel

Host and Guest Operating Systems

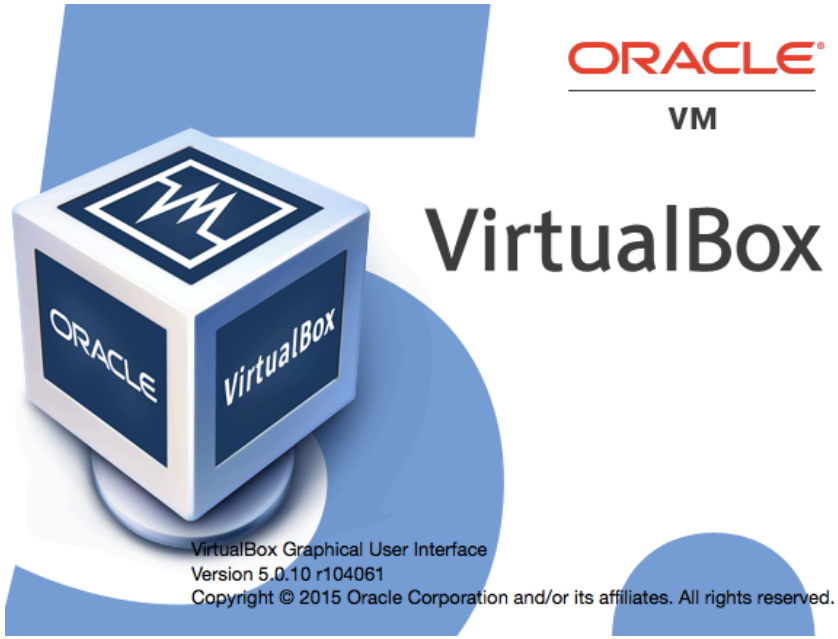
- Relationship among Virtual Machine (VM) software, host operating system, and guest operating system(s)



Reference: http://windowsitpro.com/site-files/windowsitpro.com/files/archive/windowsitpro.com/content/content/42269/figure_01.gif

Prerequisites

- Virtual Machine Software
  - Oracle Virtualbox (https://www.virtualbox.org/)
  - It is cross-platform
- Files
  - Ubuntu ISO (ubuntu-server)
    - If you don't like Ubuntu, you may use another Linux distro
  - Linux Kernel 3.10.94 source files (linux-3.10.94.tar.xz)

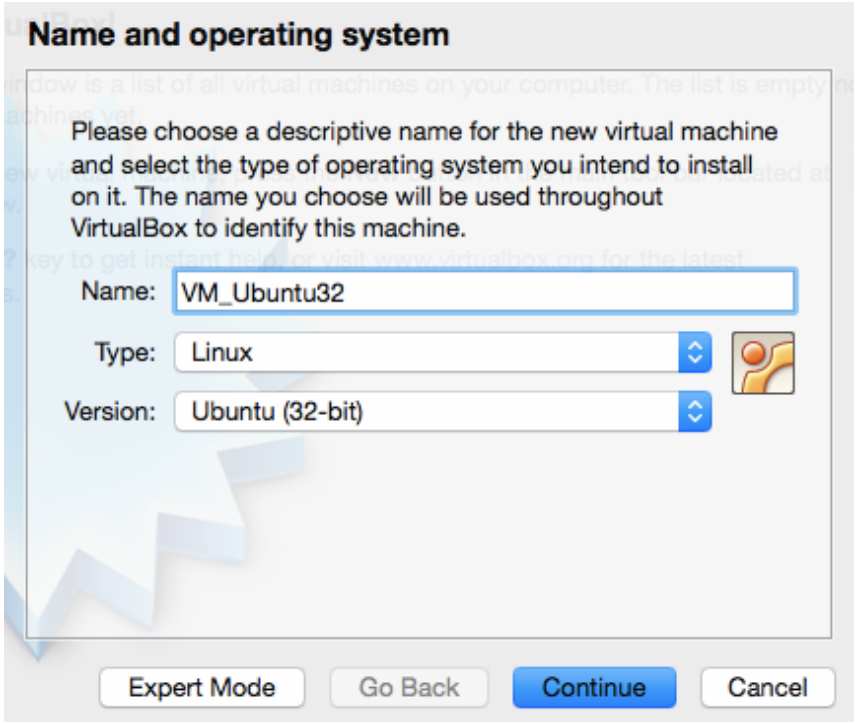


Lab task 1

- Create a virtual machine instance from an ISO

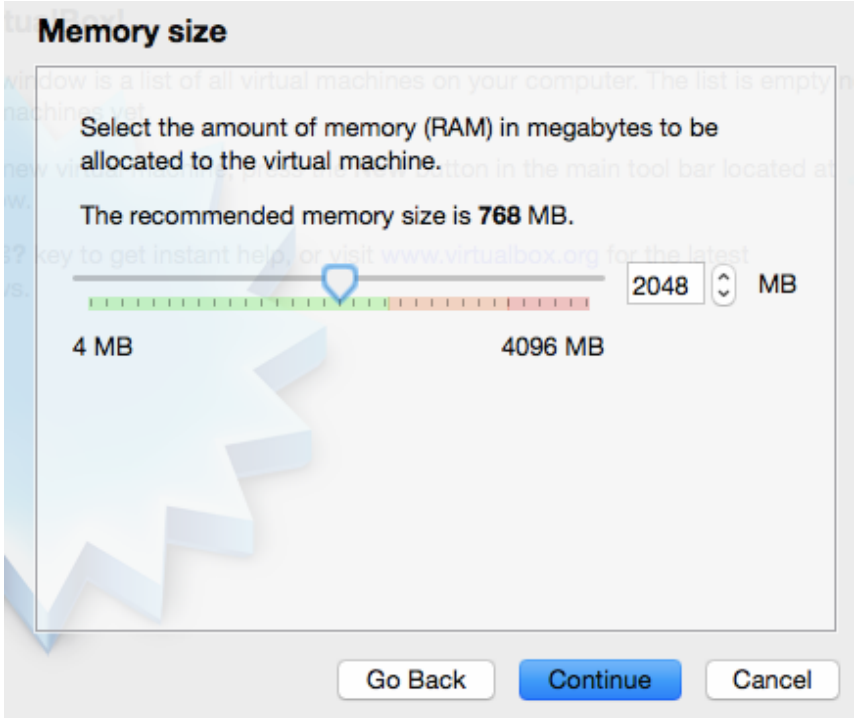
Step 1 – Name your Virtual Machine

- Give a name of your VM
- Select the type as “Linux”
- Select the version as ”Ubuntu (32-bit)”



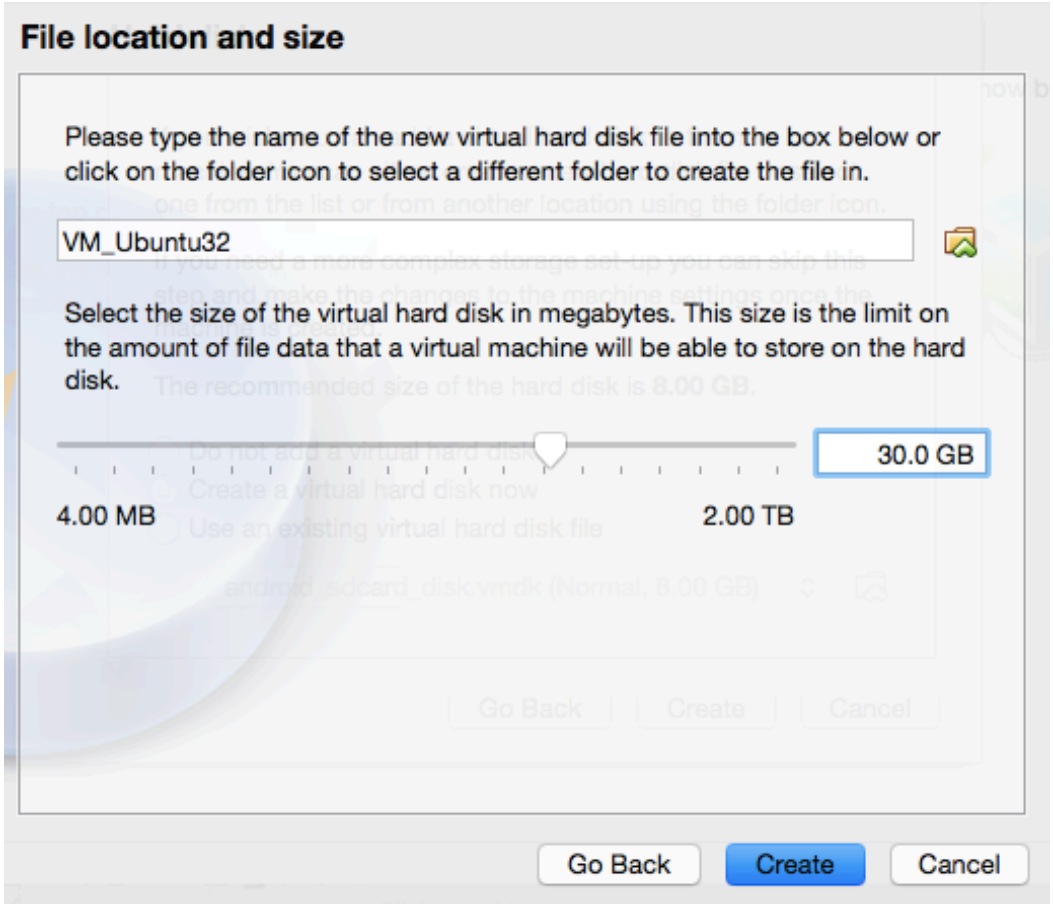
Step 2 – Configure Memory Size

- The default RAM is less than 1GB
- It is recommended to have 2GB (i.e. 2048MB) RAM for the VM if the hosting platform has 4GB of physical RAM



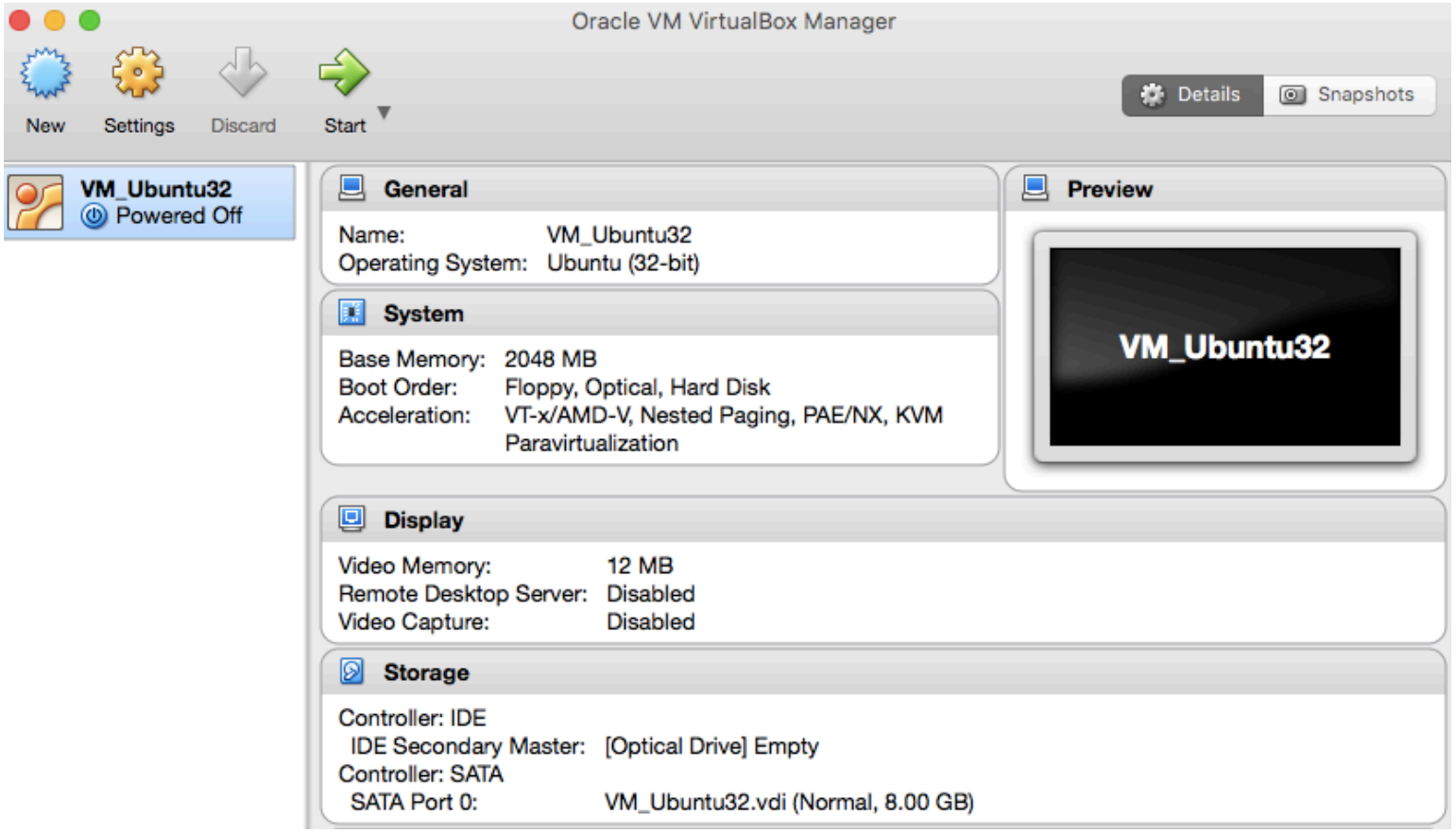
Step 3 – Create a Virtual Hard Disk Drive

- The default value is 8GB
- We may need to increase the amount to 30GB
- Use the default virtual hard disk format: VDI, dynamically allocated



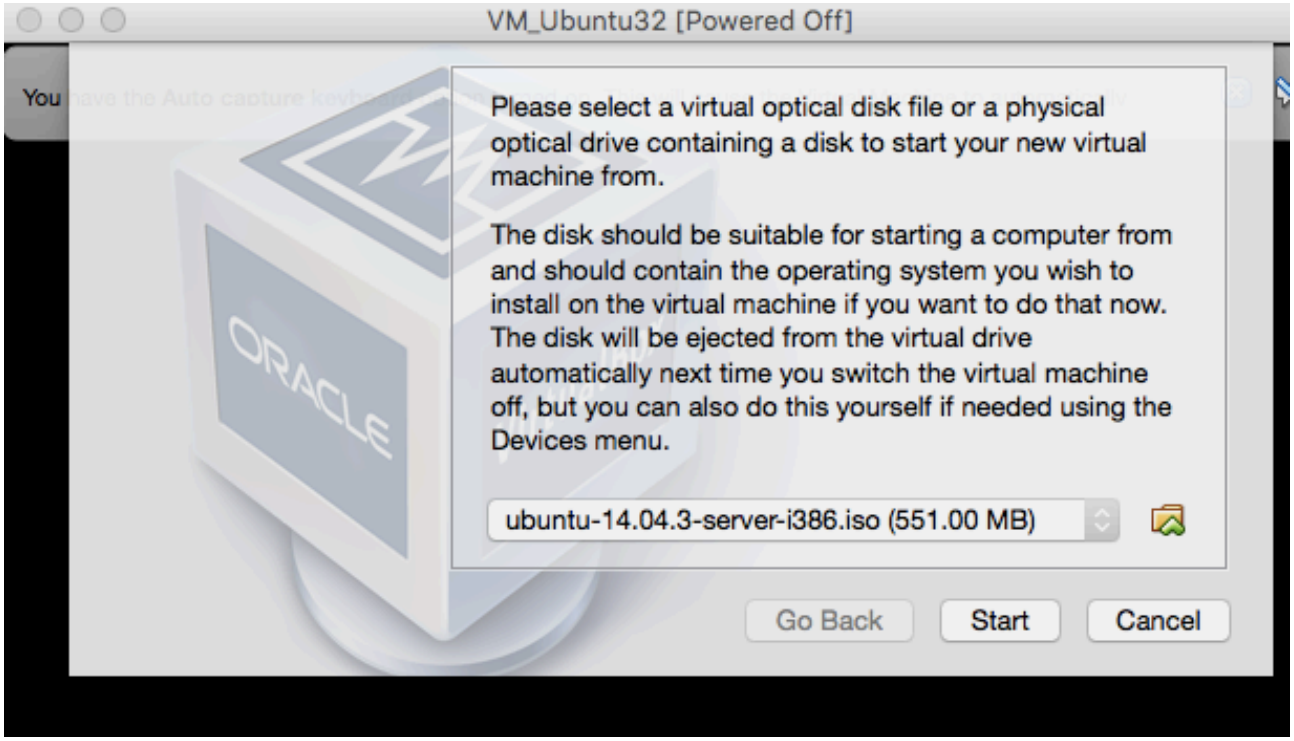
Step 4 – An overview of VM Hardware

- Double-check the virtual hardware settings
- Click the "Start Button" to start preparing a guest operating system



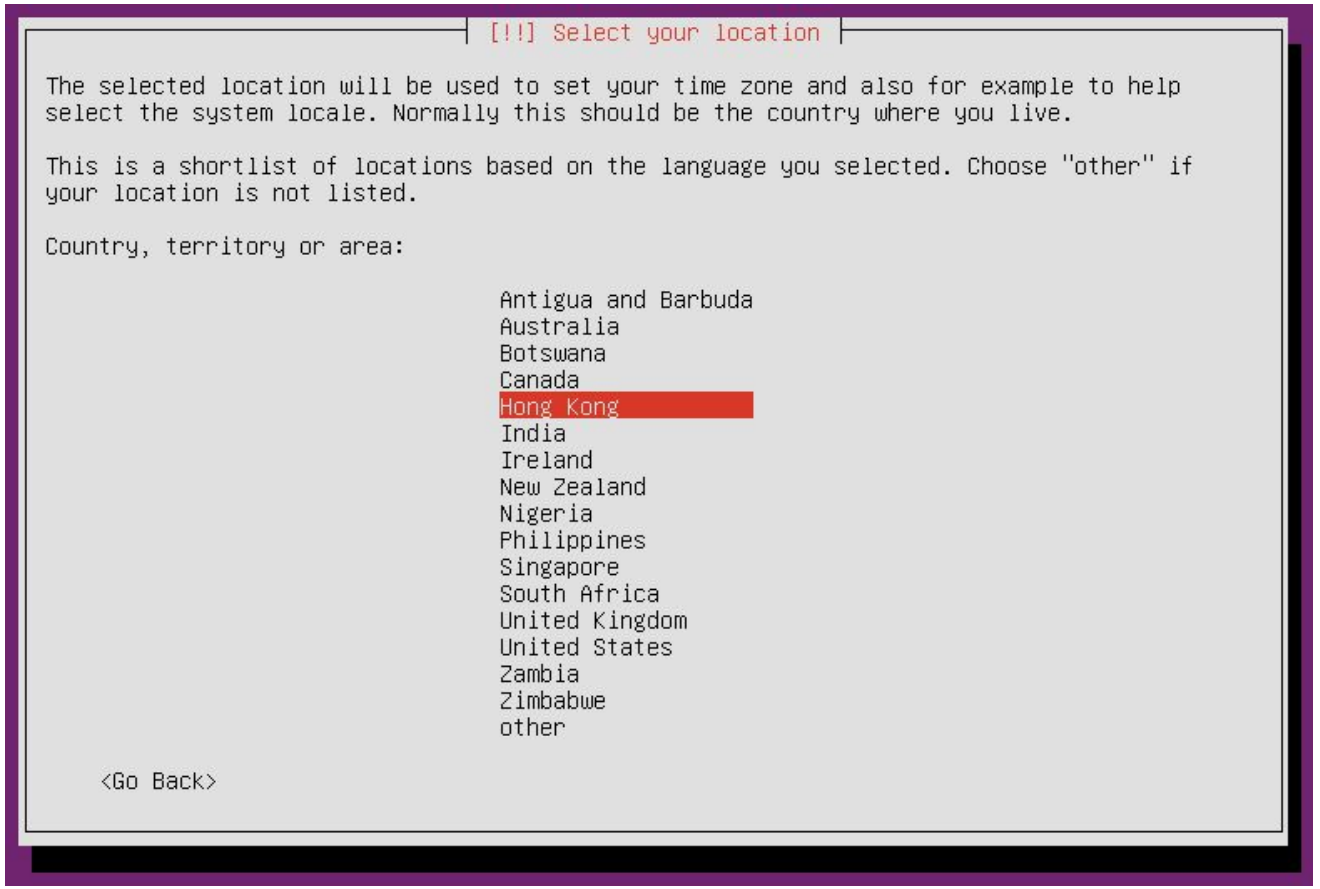
Step 5 – Preparing a Guest OS

- In the previous steps, we configured the virtual hardware
- Next, we need to install a guest operating system (Ubuntu) to the VM hardware
- The guest OS consists of a default kernel together with a number of software application
- Once we boot up, we will re-compile a new kernel from source, and then replace the existing kernel of the guest OS



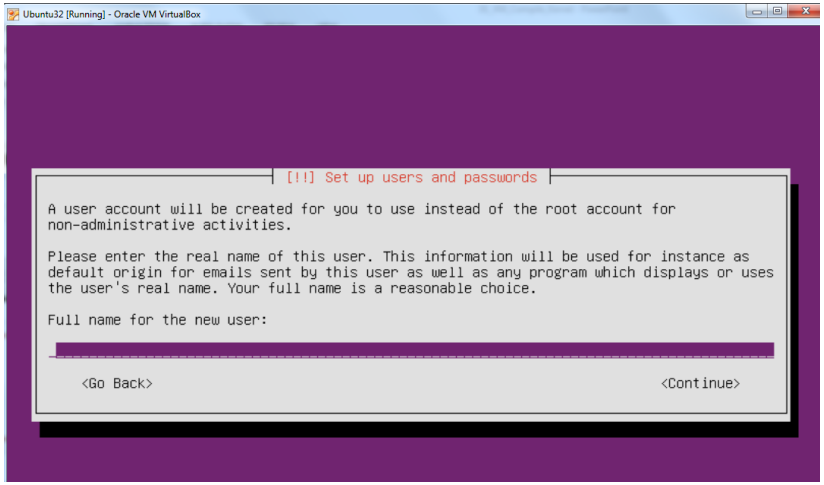
Step 6 – Select your location

- Accept the default settings until the page of selecting your country
- In this page, please specify "Hong Kong"



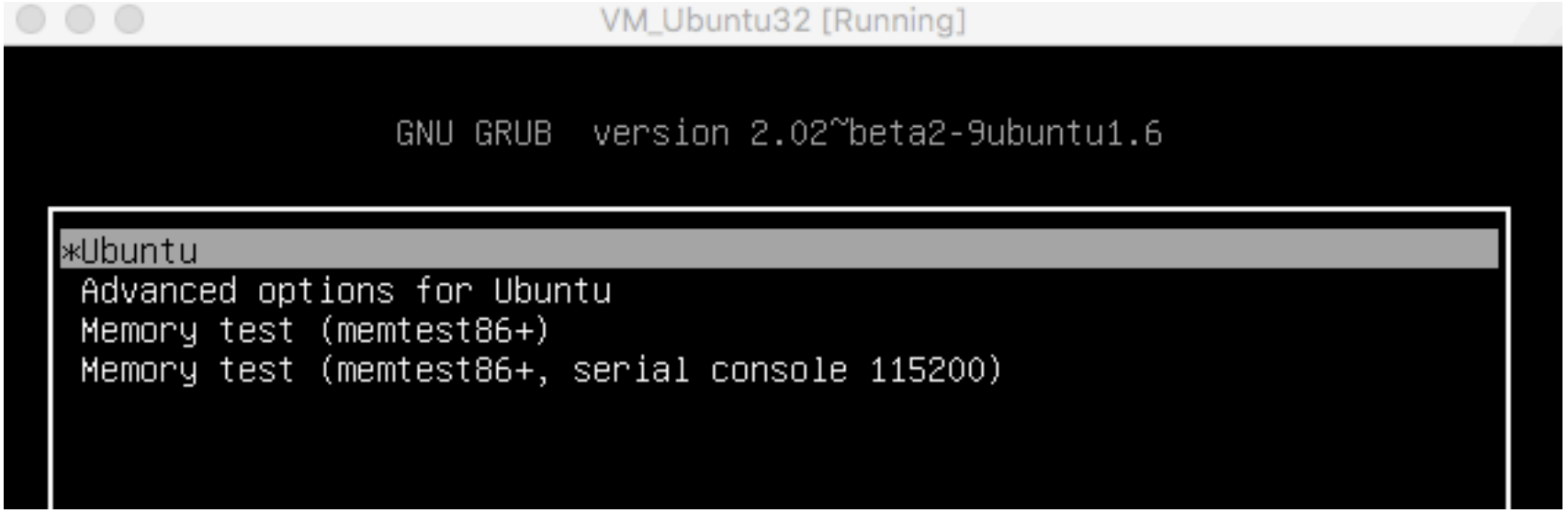
Step 7 – Setup the default administrative account

- Accept the default settings until the page to set up users and passwords
- Create the default administrative account by inputting your own username and password
- Note:
  - By default, the **root account password** is locked in Ubuntu
  - We need to create an account with administrative rights, and later on using **sudo** to do administrative tasks
  - We will re-visit how to use "sudo" command later



Step 8 – Boot up the Guest OS

- Accept the default settings until the guest OS is installed
- When the system is re-booted, the GNU GRUB screen will be shown
- GNU GRUB is the default boot loader of Ubuntu Linux distro

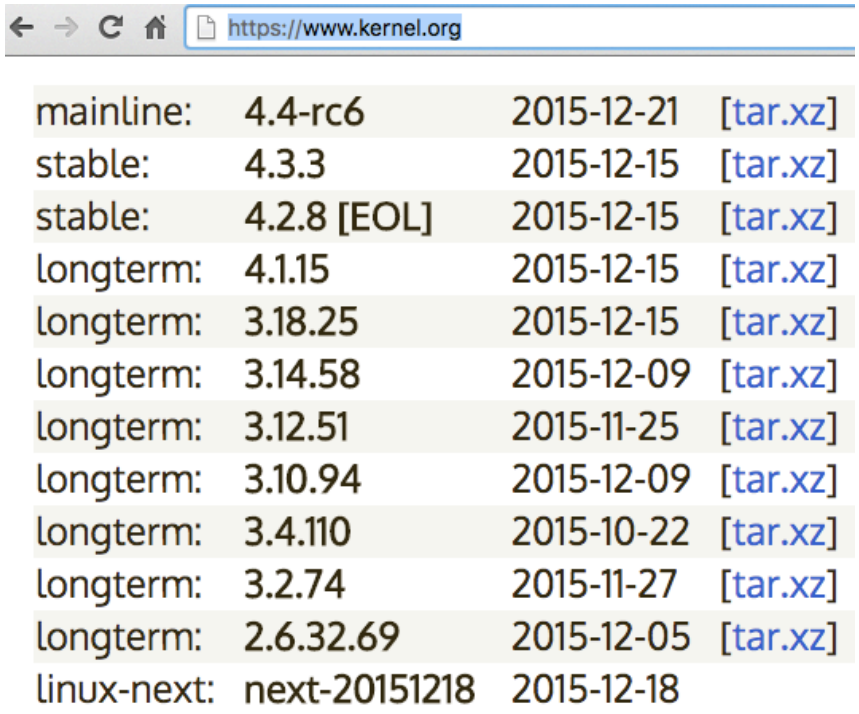


Step 9 – Login to the Guest OS

- Enter the username and password to login to the guest OS
- Check the default Linux Kernel
- Command: uname –r
  - The default Linux Kernel of the guest OS will be shown (i.e. Kernel version 3.19.0-25-generic)

Note: Ubuntu LTS ≠ Linux Kernel LTS

- LTS = Long-term Support
- The Linux Kernel development is managed by Linux Foundation, while Ubuntu development is managed by Canonical Ltd.
- Ubuntu 14.04 is LTS Linux distro, but it ships with a non-LTS Kernel (3.19.0)
- To download and check information related to Linux kernel, visit https://www.kernel.org/



Step 10 – Command to shutdown the guest OS & introduction of "sudo" command

- In this course, we are going to use a guest OS without any graphical user interface
- Command to shutdown
  - poweroff
  - By default, it is not allowed

```
cspeter@ubuntu:~$
cspeter@ubuntu:~$
cspeter@ubuntu:~$ poweroff
poweroff: Need to be root
cspeter@ubuntu:~$
```

- To carry out administrative tasks:
  - Use "sudo" and type in the password everytime (safer) **OR**
    - Enable the root password
      - "sudo passwd root" and
      - Change to root by "su –"
- Example:

```
cspeter@ubuntu:~$
cspeter@ubuntu:~$ sudo poweroff
[sudo] password for cspeter:
```

Lab task 2

- Connect your guest OS (i.e. Ubuntu VM) and your host OS (i.e. your physical OS)

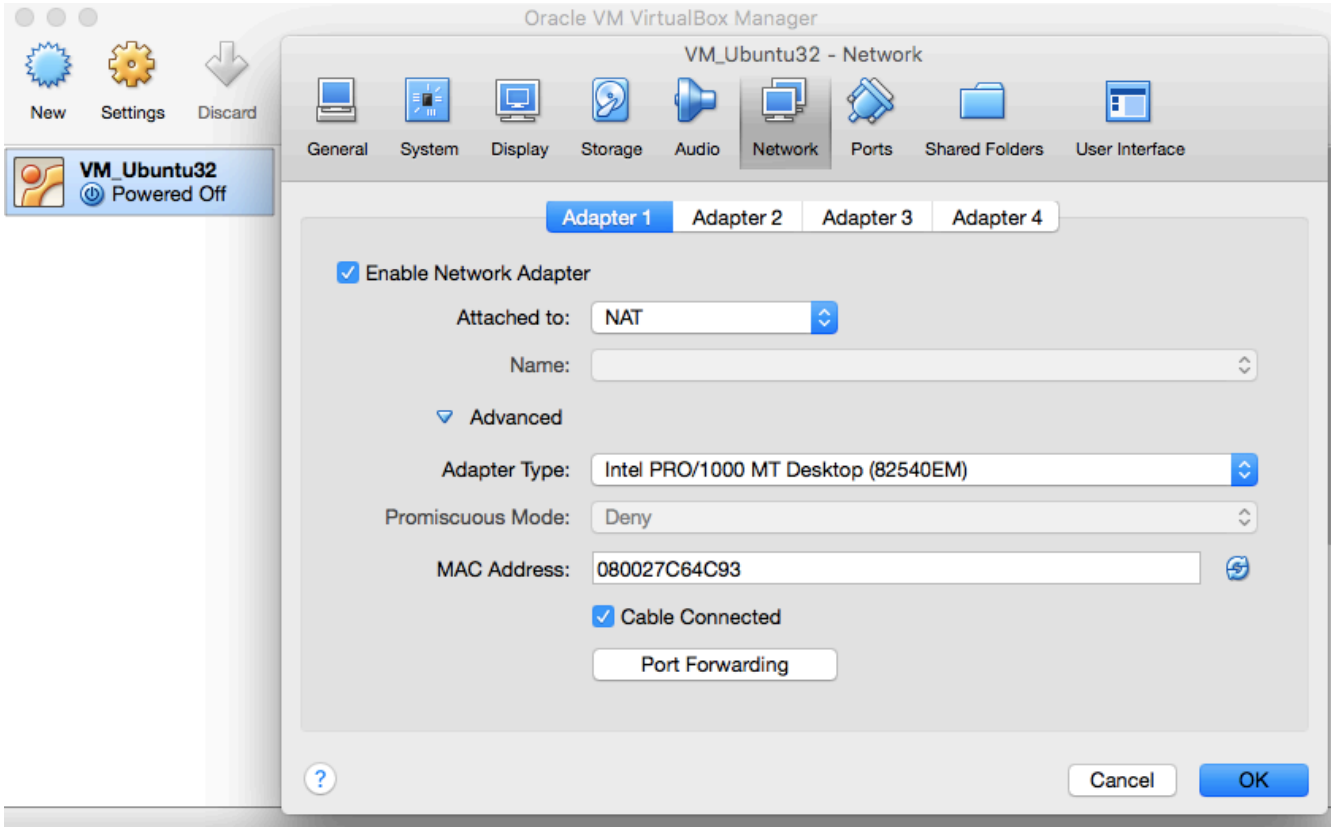
Reference: http://stackoverflow.com/questions/5906441/how-to-ssh-to-a-virtualbox-guest-externally-through-a-host

Connecting the Guest OS and the Host OS

- We have 2 operating systems
  - The Guest OS (Ubuntu Linux VM server)
  - The Host OS (Windows/Mac OS X/Linux)
- We may need to transfer files between them
  - For example, the guest OS don't have graphical user interface. We may need to download the Linux kernel source code zip file from the host OS and transfer it to the guest OS
- Solution: Port forwarding
  - We are going to setup port forwarding in Oracle Virtualbox

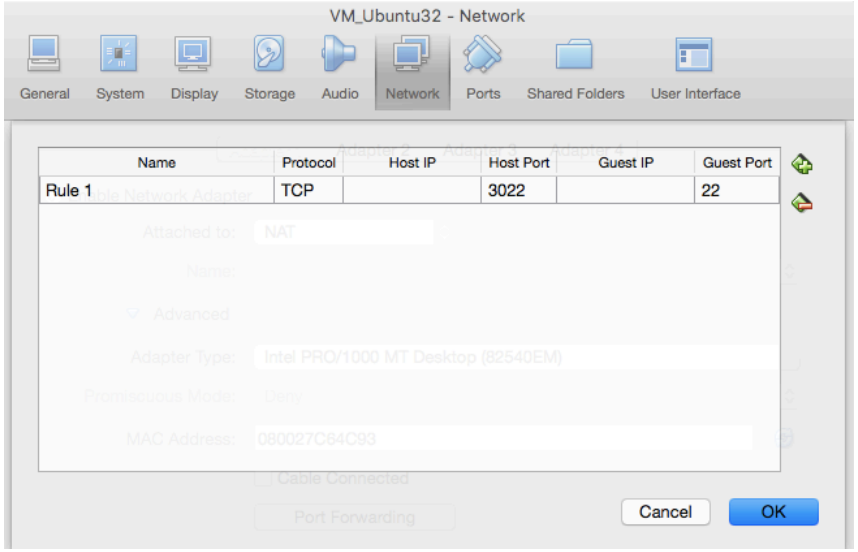
Step 1 – Configure the Network Settings

- Select your VM instance (i.e. VM_Ubuntu32)
- Click "Settings" button, a dialog will be prompted
- Click "Network" button, select "Adapter 1"
- Click "Port Forwarding" button at the bottom



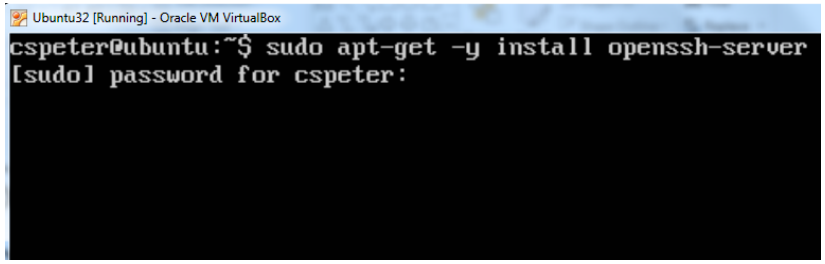
Step 2 – Configure Port Forwarding

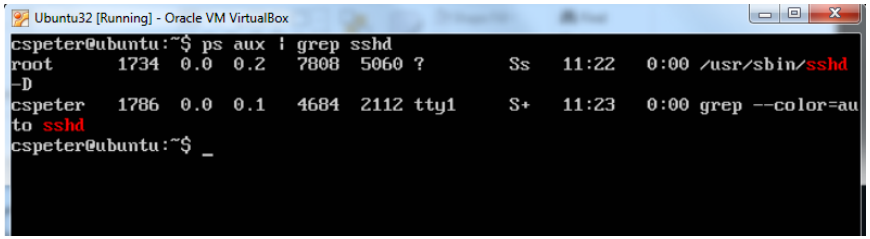
- Port forwarding setup
  - SSH (Secure Shell) runs on TCP and the default port is 22
  - For file transfer, SFTP is used. SFTP is a subsystem of SSH, so it also runs on TCP port 22
  - For the host port, you are free to use any reasonable port above 3000 (e.g. 3022)
  - Leave the host IP and guest IP as blank (i.e. Any IP)
  - Remember to click "Ok" at the end
- Meaning of this port forwarding rule
  - In your host computer (i.e. the computer running Virtualbox), connecting to localhost with port 3022 is equivalent to connecting the VM port 22



Step 3 – Install Open SSH Server on the Guest OS (i.e. Ubuntu VM)

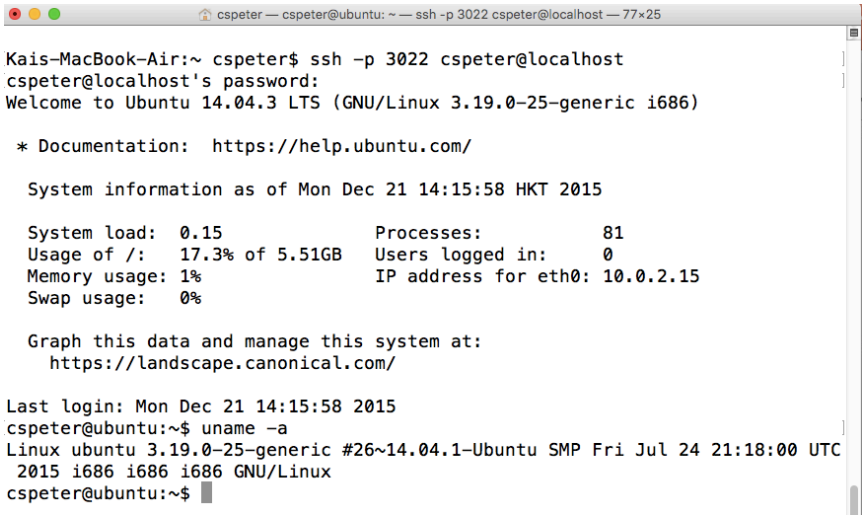
- In Ubuntu, **apt-get** will be used to install/remove software packages
  - yum will be used for other Redhat-based Linux distributions
  - You can treat it as a Windows update / Mac App Store without GUI
- As software installation is an administrative task, remember to use "sudo" command
- The exact command to install Open SSH Server is:
  - sudo apt-get –y install openssh-server
  - -y means saying "yes" for all options
  - You can also check whether the SSH daemon is running or not



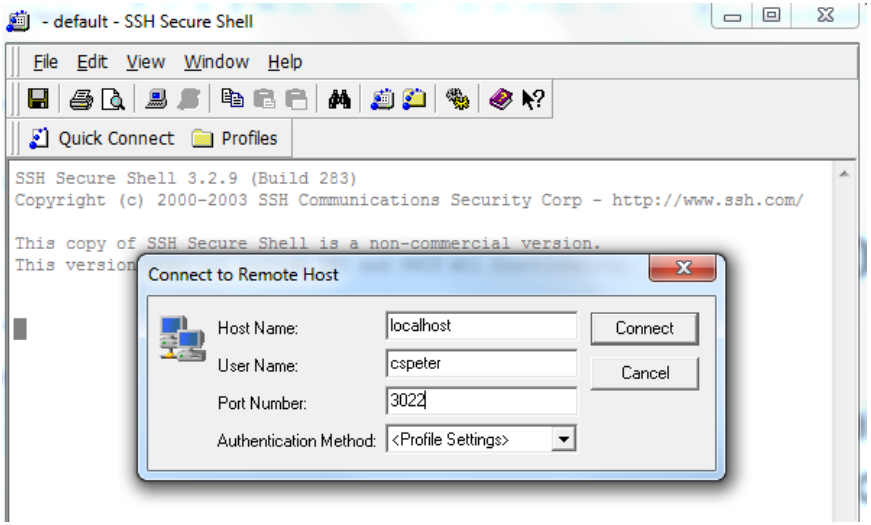


Step 4 – Connect your guest OS via SSH

- Open a terminal / SSH Secure Shell client at your host OS
- Connecting to the guest OS by specifying
  - the client port as "3022" and
  - the server computer as "[your user name]@localhost



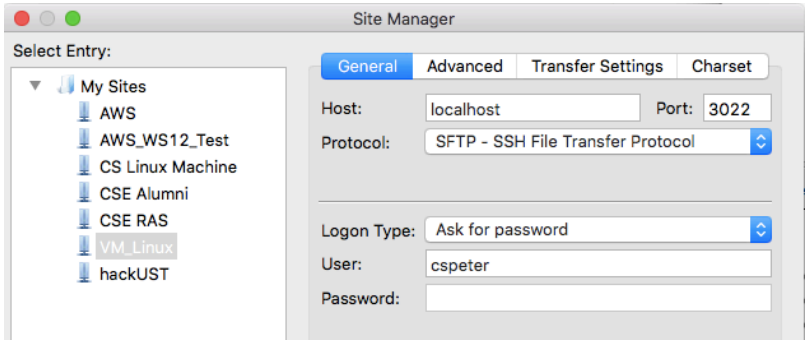
Example: Connecting via Terminal (Mac OS X)



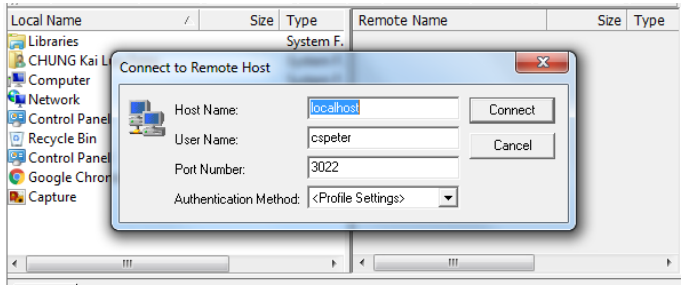
Example: Connecting via SSH Client (Windows)

Step 5 – Transfer files via SFTP using Filezilla

- It is possible to configure a FTP client and transfer files via SFTP
- Open Site Manager, Create a new site
- Parameters
  - Host: localhost
  - Port: 3022
  - Protocol: SFTP
  - Logon Type: Ask for password
  - User: [Your username]
- Click "Connect"



Example: FileZilla file transfer setup (Mac OS X)



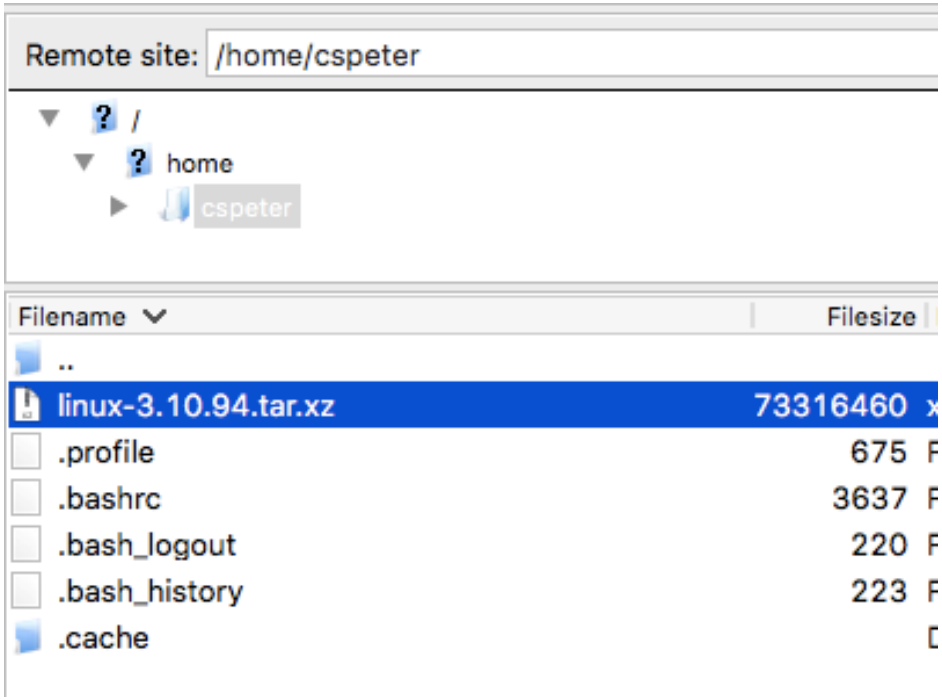
Example: SSH client file transfer setup (Windows)

Lab task 3

- Compile a new Linux kernel and replace the existing kernel

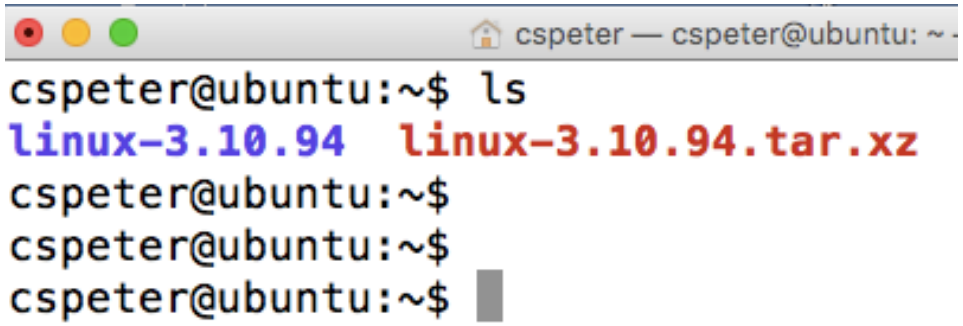
Step 1 – Preparation for Linux Kernel Compilation

- Upload the Linux Kernel source code zip file (linux-3.10.94.tar.xz) to the home directory of Ubuntu VM



Step 1 – Preparation for Linux Kernel Compilation

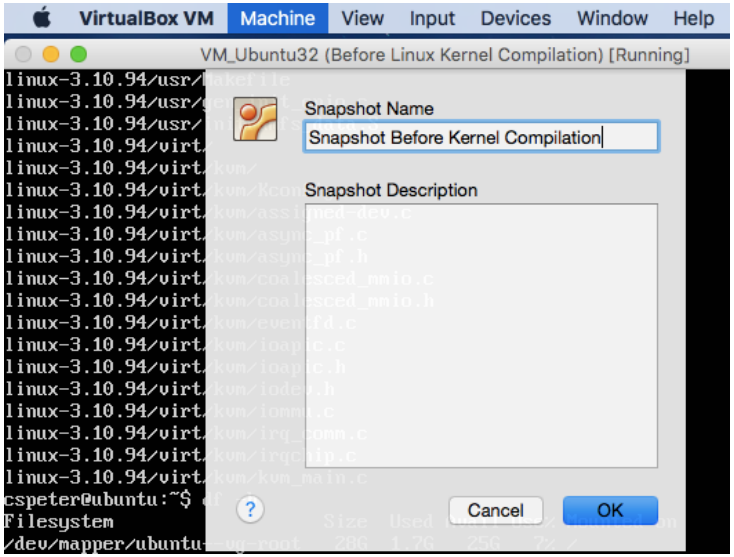
- Downloads the package lists from the repositories
  - sudo apt-get update
- Download the missing packages for kernel compilation
  - sudo apt-get install -y gcc make wget libncurses5-dev
- Unzip the source code package using the "tar" command
  - tar xJvf linux-3.10.94.tar.xz
- Expected result:



Suggestion: Take a snapshot before Linux Kernel Compilation

- A VMware snapshot is a copy of the virtual machine's disk file at a given point in time
- Snapshots provide a change log for the virtual disk and are used to restore a VM to a particular point in time when a failure or system error occurs
- Let's take a snapshot before Kernel compilation

- Machine > Take Snapshot

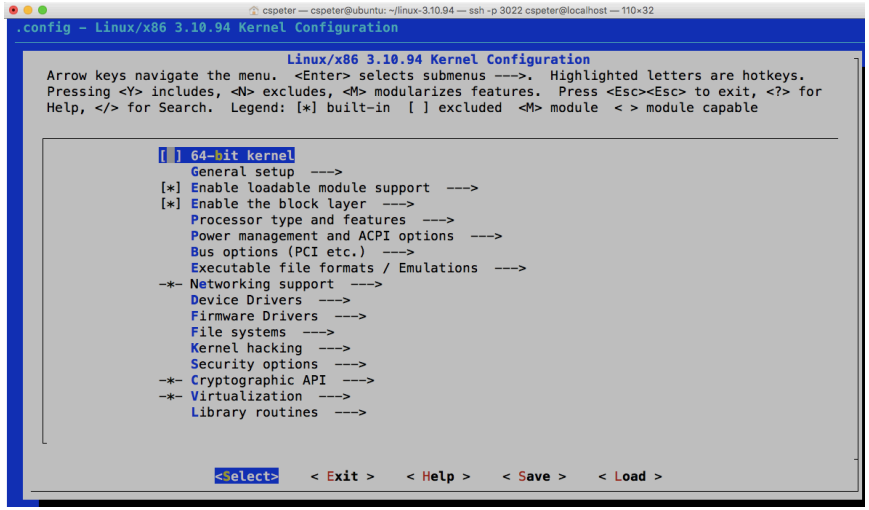


Step 2 – Creating .config for kernel compilation

- Before kernel compilation, a configuration file (.config) is necessary in the top Linux kernel source directory
  - /home/[your username]/linux-3.10.94

```
cspeter@ubuntu:~$ ls
linux-3.10.94  linux-3.10.94.tar.xz
cspeter@ubuntu:~$ cd linux-3.10.94/
cspeter@ubuntu:~/linux-3.10.94$ pwd
/home/cspeter/linux-3.10.94
cspeter@ubuntu:~/linux-3.10.94$
```

- Download the config file provided on the course web and put it at the top directory of Linux Kernel source code
- After that, start the Linux Kernel configuration
  - sudo make menuconfig



Step 3 – Configuration of .config

- Linux is an open-source kernel, it is possible to customize it to optimize your desired performance
- In this course, we don't need device drivers such as USB support, sound card support
- Menu Control
  - Arrow keys to navigate the menu
  - Enter to select submenus
  - Pressing <Y> to include the feature
  - Pressing <N> to exclude
  - Pressing <M> to include the feature as a module (Modules will be explained later in this course)
- Note: Remember to choose "Save" at the end of configuration

- Example: Sound card support can be disabled if needed

```
< > Multimedia support  --->
    Graphics support  --->
< > Sound card support  --->
    HID support  --->
```

If you make some mistakes, the new kernel may not be bootable

Don't worry!
If we make any mistake, we can restore from the snapshot and start over!

Step 4 – Linux Kernel Compilation

- Make sure that the current directory is located at the top Linux kernel source directory
- Make sure that .config is created

```
cspeter@ubuntu:~/linux-3.10.94$ pwd
/home/cspeter/linux-3.10.94
cspeter@ubuntu:~/linux-3.10.94$ ls -al .config
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 131198 Dec 21 16:21 .config
cspeter@ubuntu:~/linux-3.10.94$
```

- Command to start Linux kernel compilation
  - Command: sudo make –j4
    - -jX is a speed up option if we have multiple processors
  - It will take around 25 minutes in a lab machine
- Tips
  - You can press Ctrl-C to stop the build process and then poweroff,
  - Re-compile later by "sudo make" again

Step 5 – Install the Compiled Kernel Image

- After kernel compilation, we need to install modules and the kernel image
  - sudo make modules
  - sudo make modules_install
  - sudo make install
  - It is important to make and install the modules first, and make install second
- Installed modules:
  - /lib/modules
- Installed kernel images:
  - /boot

Step 6 – Configure the boot loader

- The final step is to configure the boot loader
- Edit the file by the following command:
  - sudo nano /etc/default/grub
- As we need to select our new kernel during boot time, we need to increase the timeout of the boot loader
  - GRUB_TIMEOUT=10
- After that, save the file and type in the following command to update the boot loader
  - sudo update-grub
- Reboot the machine by typing the following command:
  - sudo shutdown –r now

Step 6 – Reboot and Check

- Select the new kernel in the boot loader (GRUB) menu
- Once the system is booted, login and check if you have the new kernel being used
  - uname –r
  - The expected kernel version is 3.10.94
  - Congratulation! Now, we have a customized Kernel, smaller in size and boot much faster than the bundled kernel