

# IBM-OS/2

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## Introduction :-

OS/2 developed as an alternative to MS-DOS, was developed by a team of programmers from Microsoft and IBM, with Microsoft doing most of the programming. It was designed to be shipped with the IBM PS/2 (Personal System 2) as an alternative to MS-DOS and Windows. Having better features like voice recognition and inbuilt support for Java.

In 1991, after four years of development, Microsoft and IBM decided to stop the partnership, with Microsoft putting up Windows as a direct competitor. The last major update, OS/2 Warp was released in 2001 and support was plugged in the year 2006. The project has since been sold to other companies, although still managed to withhold a portion of the enterprise market. Years later it was still found on some servers and even ATMs on the street. It wasn't offered in a retail package, but for those who had a contractual agreement with IBM for OS/2 support. After this the foundation of OS had evolved into what is now known as "eComstation".

In this guide, I'll be using Oracle VirtualBox 6.1.18 on a Windows 10 machine. For this guide you'll need to have :-

- Oracle VirtualBox installed
- CDs (&) ISO images of IBM OS/2 Warp 4.52v.



## Installation :-

- The final release, OS/2 Warp 4.52, which is being installed, comes with driver files needed to run it on a generic computer. Installing earlier versions will require extra patching.

## Requirements :-

1. OS/2 boot CD
2. OS/2 client CD
3. Suitably setup Virtual Machine.

## Procedure :-

- The boot CD and the client CD's are available for download from several websites. Out of these, we have sourced today from ;

<https://winworldpc.com>

- In virtualBox, to install OS/2, a special machine configuration is available. In the create new machine window, the 'IBM OS/2' option is available in the drop-down menu.
- On selecting OS/2 Warp 4.5 in the Version and clicking next. VirtualBox suggests 128 MB of RAM, and a 2GB virtual hard disk which are both acceptable. I decided to use 256 MB of RAM with a 4.3GB hard disk. This version of OS/2 requires a minimum of 120 MB, though with all features installed can exceed up to 450 MB of disk space.

More on specifications are as follows. :-




• The specifications are as follows :-

- Type : IBM OS/2
- Version : OS/2 Warp 4.5
- RAM : 256 MB (for better support)
- Chipset : PIIX3 (south bridge-emulated)
- Processor : 1 (1 thread out of 12 possible threads)
- Video RAM : 5 MB
- Storage : 2GB IDE hard disk

⇒ To begin installing, choose the OS/2 boot disk image in the storage dropdown and start the machine.

⇒ The VM boots off the selected disk and displays a prompt to insert the OS/2 Warp CD-ROM (in below steps).

⇒ At this point, from the storage dropdown, choose the OS/2 Warp Client CD and in the VM, press ENTER, use host key i.e., (right ctrl) to  switch VM and host.

⇒ This begins the installation and displays the initial welcome pages, Agreements page etc, which can be leaved as default, by pressing Enter.

⇒ On the next page issuing a warning about minimum disk size (120 MB) press Enter and this drops users in the Disk formatting tool.



- Press F5 here to see the physical disks, choose the 2GB IDE disk attached, then press ENTER to create a new bootable volume, choose the drive letter (C:\|) and press enter. Assign the drive a name.
- After this press F3, choose 'Save changes and Exit' and reboot the device, following the same two disc procedures as earlier.
- On rebooting and going through the welcome screens again, we get to the disk selection process, where the newly created disk partition has to be chosen. Installation starts here with file copying.
- The installer now switches to graphical mode, displaying options for applications and features and device settings. change the 'Country/Region' option and use the defaults for everything else.
- In the following screens, choose the required software options and features, additional applications, set the hostname and domain name (call capital), user name and password. If intending to use the Internet, follow the next step (8) leave at default and press Next. This completes the installation process.
- To make the internet work, remove default network device, choose 'AMD PCNet Ethernet Adapter' set protocol to TCP/IP.

Following pages will show stepwise pictorial view of installation process of OS/2 followed by Features of OS/2.