Linux Installation – Debian 10.1

This document will guide you through the process of installing Debian 10.1 using virtualization software. This process can be repeated for most installation processes in a virtual machine, with small changes depending on your circumstances or preference. For this instance, we will be installing into Oracle VM VirtualBox (version 6.0.10)

Assuming we have already installed VirtualBox and a working internet connection on our computer, head to the official website of your distro of choice and download an .iso image of your installation media.

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Next you will create a new machine in Virtualbox using the “New” button.

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Give it a name. Hit Next. We are going to accept all the default options when configuring the VM (virtual machine) itself. Any changes can be made at your own discretion and preference.



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Description automatically generatedNow we can start the VM by pressing the Start button.

Here we need to tell VirtualBox where our Linux .iso file is. Click the yellow folder icon and navigate to where you saved your file. Once you’ve done this, press Start.

Now your VM is started and you should be at the startup screen for you installation media.

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We are going to follow the graphical installation. Press enter on the first option to continue.   
On the following 3 screens, simply press Continue on each to accept English, Unite States, and American English as your language, location, and keyboard options. Make any changes necessary if you require different options.

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Now it will prompt you for a host name for your system. We are going to change ours to “debian-vm”

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On the next page, “Configuring the Network” we are going to leave the domain name blank and hit continue, as we are not joining a network domain.

The next screen will set up the root user password. We are going to assign the root account a password of “toor”. In a system that will be networked and accessible by many users, you would choose a much stronger password, but for our purposes a short and easy to remember password is fine.

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Next we will add your own user account for regular use. You never want to do your daily system tasks as a root user, you will break something important eventually.

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Enter your full name, and then on the next screen you can choose your username. This will be used for logging into the system.

Next we need to password protect our user account. Choose something you’ll remember, you’ll use this often.

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Next choose your time zone. We are choosing Eastern as that is where we are right now.

The next screen will ask you about disk partitioning. We are going to accept the guided partitioning without any extra options.

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Hit continue on the next screen to use your virtual hard disk image you created earlier.

Hit continue again to accept all files on one partition.

Hit continue a third time to finish writing changes to the disk.

On the next screen, tick the “Yes” option to agree to writing changes to disk.

The installation will then begin. This will take some time.

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Once completed, hit continue with “No” ticked as we don’t have any further disks to scan.

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Hit continue on the next 2 screens to accept United States as your mirror location, and deb.debian.org as your default mirror.

Hit continue on the next screen without entering anything to bypass setting up a network proxy.

Another installation process will begin. This may take awhile.

On the next screen it will ask you about sharing statistical data about the packages you download. Select yes or no based on your preference and then press continue.

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Now we are going to select our software. We are going to choose the GNOME desktop environment as well as the SSH server, in addition to the print server and standard system utilities that should already be checked off.

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Hit continue to install your software. This may take awhile.

After the installation completes, hit continue to accept the installation of the GRUB boot loader onto the hard disk.

Select the VBOX HARDDISK as the target for installation.

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The installation will continue and then finish.

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Hit continue to complete installation and reboot system

Upon reboot, the system will automatically boot into your newly installed Linux system.

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Success!