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# Installation I

Installing Ruby and Ruby on Rails is something that all developers in any operating system struggle with. Because of the workings of each OS, there are many tools for Linux, Mac OS X, and Windows that people have created to make the life of a RoR developer easier. However, configurations and dependencies are always going to be different depending on the operating system. A developer in one OS will get an error that others in another OS would not. These types of inconsistencies make developing in any language or framework a pain.

## Enter Vagrant

Why Vagrant? (<https://www.vagrantup.com/docs/why-vagrant>) Vagrant is a tool to create configurable development environments.

*... so whether you are working on Linux, Mac OS X, or Windows, all you need is a single configuration file to be running code in the same environment, against the same dependencies in the same way. Say goodbye to "works on my machine" bugs. - Vagrant*

Doesn't this sound awesome? Everyone in this track will be running the same exact environment. Therefore, if you have a configuration or dependency error, the solution can be quickly shared to everyone! This means that all errors are caused by the developer themselves, instead of obscure environment errors. In this chapter, we will see how to use virtual machines, and set up a static IP address for us to interact with our RoR application through a browser.

## Set Up Vagrant

Vagrant allows users to easily create virtual machines. For those unfamiliar with VMs, they are simply a computer within a computer system. For example, you can have a Mac OS X computer running a Windows virtual machine. To spin up a virtual machine, you use VirtualBox, a free virtualization software.

- [Download \(https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads\)](https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads) VirtualBox for your operating system.
- [Download \(https://www.vagrantup.com/downloads.html\)](https://www.vagrantup.com/downloads.html) Vagrant for your operating system.

### Getting Started

The first vagrant command that we are going to learn is `vagrant init`. This built-in command will create a *Vagrantfile*. This file is what Vagrant uses to configure our virtual machines. Let's create a directory and a file to hold our *Vagrantfile*.

```
$ mkdir first_vagrant_box
$ cd first_vagrant_box
$ vagrant init
```

Now you should have a *Vagrantfile* in your directory. Feel free to open it in your text editor but do not edit it yet.

### Boxes

Instead of installing virtual machines from scratch every time, Vagrant uses a base image system to quickly create a virtual machine. These images are called Vagrant "boxes". Vagrant has a whole catalog of public boxes that you can visit at [HashiCorp's Atlas catalog \(https://atlas.hashicorp.com/boxes/search\)](https://atlas.hashicorp.com/boxes/search). Let's add the ubuntu/trusty64 box to our computer.

```
$ vagrant box add ubuntu/trusty64
```

This command downloads that box from the catalog and saves it globally. To see a list of your boxes you can use the `vagrant box list` command.

```
$ vagrant box list
```

Next, we will configure our *Vagrantfile* to use the box that we just downloaded. Open the *Vagrantfile* and add the following code to the `config.vm` section to boot up with our ubuntu box.

```
Vagrant.configure("2") do |config|
  config.vm.box = "ubuntu/trusty64"
end
```

### Vagrant Up

So far, we have done a couple things.

- Downloaded a ubuntu image.

CHECKLIST

- Initialized a directory with a Vagrantfile that uses that image.

Next, we have to actually spin up that image into a running virtual machine. In your console, run:

```
$ vagrant up
```

Once the VM is up and running, we can ssh into it.

```
$ vagrant ssh
```

This command allows you to ssh into your virtual machine and interact with it. Soon, we will install Ruby on Rails on these machines!

### Synced Folder

Everything is great so far, but how do we actually develop with our VM. Unless you are an expert in text editors, writing code in your VMs does not seem like fun. So, Vagrant comes with a synced folder function. To sync a folder into your VM, run:

```
vagrant@vagrant-ubuntu-trusty-64:~$ cd /vagrant
vagrant@vagrant-ubuntu-trusty-64:~$ ls
Vagrantfile
```

This */vagrant* directory in your VM is automatically synced with the host machine's directory where *va* means, if we open another terminal window and create a new file in host's *first\_vagrant\_box* directory

*/vagrant* directory

```
$ cd first_vagrant_box
$ touch is_this_file_synced
```

Moment of truth.

```
vagrant@vagrant-ubuntu-trusty-64:~$ cd /vagrant
vagrant@vagrant-ubuntu-trusty-64:~$ ls
is_this_file_synced  Vagrantfile
```