

Desktop Virtualization

VirtualBox



NREN

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What do we mean?

- Running VMs on your laptop or desktop machine with keyboard and screen
- Especially useful for:
 - Trying out other operating systems
 - Development and test environments (sandboxes)
 - Running foreign applications

Things we like

- Simple to use GUI
- Features
 - Represent the guest's console as a window
 - Easy use of keyboard and mouse
 - Copy-paste between the guest and the host–Disk image management and snapshots
- We are not worried about datacentre-grade scalability

Oracle VirtualBox

- a powerful x86 and AMD64/Intel64 virtualization product for enterprise as well as home use
- 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
- cross-platform virtualization application



Why VirtualBox?

- Pros:
 - Free* and Open Source (GPL)*
 - Available for Windows, Mac, Linux, FreeBSD
 - Good documentation
 - Easy to use and powerful
 - Can run 64-bit guests on 32-bit host (with VT-x)
- Cons:
 - It's owned by Oracle

* Except the optional Extension Pack, which is closed source, free for personal use only

Things you need to know

- Default disk image format is "VDI" and you can choose either fixed or growable
- The default networking mode is "NAT" and you don't need to configure anything
 - Client will pick up IP address (10.0.2.15) via DHCP and can make outbound connections
- The full manual is included (Help > Contents) or you can download it separately

Things you need to know (2)

- Click in the guest window to capture the keyboard and mouse
- **To release the keyboard and mouse, press the "*host key*" which is usually *Right Ctrl***
- You can get better keyboard/mouse integration by installing the "VBox Guest Additions"
 - Then you can simply move your mouse over the window and move it away again
 - Also lets you copy-paste and share files with the guest

Practical exercise

- Install VirtualBox on your laptop
 - if you have more than 2GB RAM and more than 10GB free hard drive space
- Create a VM and install Ubuntu within it
- If you have time: install the VirtualBox Guest Additions and more VMs

More info and documentation

- VirtualBox Homepage
 - <https://www.virtualbox.org/>
- End-user documentation
 - https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/End-user_documentation
- User Manual
 - <https://www.virtualbox.org/manual/UserManual.html>

