Scotti-**BYTE** Industries

Virtualization Tutorial: Install VirtualBox on a Windows 10 system and Install Ubuntu 18.04 LTS Desktop as a guest Virtual Machine

Once the file saves, choose "Open in Folder".Once the file saves, choose "Open in Folder".Virtualization is a broad topic that includes both container virtualization and machine virtualization.

Containers are either Docker or Linux Containers (LXC). Docker or LXC are very lightweight and use very few resources since they are designed to virtualize an application only and not the entire operating system or the underlying hardware. For that reason, Docker and LXC containers must be Linux applications. Until recently, containers had to be run on Linux only since a key requirement is that the underlying operating system must be Linux. Very recently, the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) was added as a compatibility layer for running Linux binary executables natively on Windows 10 and Windows Server 2019. As of May 2019, WSL 2 was announced which allows an entire real Linux kernel to run under Windows. Container virtualization is a topic all by itself. That's not the subject of this blog.

The other type of virtualization which this blog is focused on is machine virtualization. A virtual machine (VM) is an emulation of an entire computer system hardware including the operating system. VMs provide the complete functionality of a physical computer and are not limited to running just Linux. VMs execute entire operating systems such as Windows, Mac OSX, Android, and all sorts of distros of Linux. A hypervisor uses the underlying virtualization hardware of a CPU chip to allow for native execution of instructions and management of hardware.

It is possible to run a main operating system such as Windows 10 and then to have a Hypervisor running that hosts one or more VMs at the same time. The limitations are only that

the CPU must support hardware virtualization and there must be adequate memory and disk space resources to host all of the VMs that you want to run at once. Hardware virtualization must also be turned on at the BIOS level. Every BIOS is different and hardware virtualization is generally turned on by default. You should be sure that virtualization is turned on (Enabled) in your BIOS.

UNDOARD VEH OUTPUT CONNECTLY-SUB/HUMIJ	Item Help
UNH Frane Buffer Size L Hutoj Init Display First [Onboard] Surround View Disabled	Menu Level ▶
Virtualization LDisabledi AMD K8 Cool&Quiet control [Auto] Hard Disk Boot Priority [Press Enter] First Boot Device [Hard Disk] Second Boot Device [Hard Disk] Third Boot Device [Disabled] Password Check [Setup] HDD S.M.A.R.T. Capability [Disabled] Away Mode [Disabled]	Hardware assisted Virtualization Technology which hel improve performance system running Virtual Machine Softwares. Virtual Machine allows multiple OS on one computer simultaneously.

Hardware virtualization has been supported on both Intel VT-x and AMD-V CPUs since 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Hypervisors are of Type 1 and Type 2. A Type 1 hypervisor runs directly on the hosts hardware to control and manage guest operating systems. For this reason, they are often referred to as bare metal hypervisors. VMware ESXi is probably the best known Type 1 Hypervisor. It would be loaded directly on a system without a host operating system. So, the hardware would be dedicated to running only VMs and nothing else.

A type 2 Hypervisor is more common. Examples of Type 2 Hypervisors are:

VirtualBox - This product is free and is distributed by Oracle. This is the product we will discuss today. It is a very full featured product and allows running multiple VMs: https://www.virtualbox.org/

Hyper-V - This product is part of Windows 10 Professional and Windows Server 2012 and later.

VMware Workstation Player - This is a free Product that allows running one virtual machine on a single host PC. https://www.vmware.com/products/workstation-player.html

VMware Workstation Pro - This is a full blown commercial Type 2 Hypervisor for running multiple VMs. https://www.vmware.com/products/workstation-pro.html

QEMU - QEMU is free and is a very fast and lean hypervisor which allows you to run multiple VMs. https://www.qemu.org/

The purpose of this paper is to document how to install and use Virtualbox.

Go to the virtualbox webpage and download virtualbox.

https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads



Be sure to click "Save" when you download Virtualbox.



Once the file saves, choose "Open in Folder".



2 items 1 item selected 1.98 GB

800 K

Double click to install and follow the defaults.



Restart Windows after the installation completes.

Launch VirtualBox rom the "Oracle VM VirtualBox" icon created on your desktop.



The program window looks like this:



To create your first virtual machine, we will first need to download an operating system. Let's download Ubuntu 18.04 LTS desktop.

https://ubuntu.com/download/desktop/thank-you?version=18.04.4&architecture=amd64

Be sure to click "Save" and wait for the download to complete. You are downloading Ubuntu 18.04 LTS Desktop which is probably the most popular Linux today. The download is an "ISO" file which is a digital image of a DVD disk.

Virtual machines can run Windows, Android, different Linux Distros, and even Mac OSX.

When the download completes, you will have the following in your download folder.



Go to the Oracle VM VirtualBox Manager window and click "New". Name your virtual machine Ubuntu:

🦸 Oracle VM VirtualBox Manager		- 🗆 ×
File Machine Help		
Tools	3 🙃 🙃 📩 💾 ? X	1
← Create V	tual Machine	
Name a	d operating system	add and pols of
Please cho machine ar The name machine.	se a descriptive name and destination folder for the new virtual d select the type of operating system you intend to install on it. ou choose will be used throughout VirtualBox to identify this	a for
Na	me: Ubuntu	
Machine Fol	ler: C:\Users\vmsma\VirtualBox VMs 🗸 🗸	
т	pe: Linux 🔻 🀓	
Vers	on: Ubuntu_64 🗸 🚽	
		_
	Expert Mode Next Cancel	

The type and version are automatically filled in for you. Click Next and enter the desired memory for your Ubuntu VM. Keep in mind that this memory is deducted from the memory of your main system while the VM is running. So, if you have a system with 16GB of memory and you allocate 4GB to this VM, the main system only has 12GB of memory when the VM is running.

For our purposes, set the memory size to 4096MB since Ubuntu runs very well with 4GB.

? ×

Create Virtual Machine

Memory size

Select the amount of memory (RAM) in megabytes to be allocated to the virtual machine.

The recommended memory size is 1024 MB.

	4096	🖨 MB
4 MB	6144 MB	
	Next	ancel

Next you are creating a virtual hard disk. This disk is emulated inside of a single file in the host operating system. For that reason, a VM can never affect any of the files on the main machine ever.

	?		×
← Create Virtual Machine			
Hard disk			
If you wish you can add a virtual hard disk to the new m either create a new hard disk file or select one from the l location using the folder icon.	achine. Y list or fro	'ou car m ano	n ther
If you need a more complex storage set-up you can skip the changes to the machine settings once the machine is	this step created	and r	nake
The recommended size of the hard disk is 10.00 GB.			
O Do not add a virtual hard disk			
Create a virtual hard disk now			
O Use an existing virtual hard disk file			
Empty			
Create		Cance	el

Default the disk to type "VDI".

	?	×
 Create Virtual Hard Disk 		
Hard disk file type		
Please choose the type of file that you would like to use for hard disk. If you do not need to use it with other virtualizatio can leave this setting unchanged.	the new virtu on software	ual you
VDI (VirtualBox Disk Image)		
○ VHD (Virtual Hard Disk)		
VMDK (Virtual Machine Disk)		
Expert Mode Next	Car	ncel

Allow it to be dynamically allocated. This means that if you create a 40GB disk, that it will only grow to 40GB as it needs the space and not create a 40GB file to begin with.



If you have the space on your hard drive, 40GB is a nice amount of space to load Ubuntu and many programs. If not, you can make the drive as small as 10GB.

		?	×	
← Create Virtual Hard Disk				
File location and size				
Please type the name of the new virtual hard disk file into on the folder icon to select a different folder to create th	o the bo ne file in.	x below	or <mark>c</mark> lick	1
C:\Users\vmsma\VirtualBox VMs\Ubuntu\Ubuntu.vdi				ŗ
Select the size of the virtual hard disk in megabytes. This amount of file data that a virtual machine will be able to s	s size is t store on	the limit of the hard 40	on the d disk.	
	. –			
4.00 MB 2.00	тв			
Crea	ate	Car	ncel	

Next, click settings after clicking create in the above screen.

Go to General, and then the advanced tab and change the shared clipboard and drag and drop to bidirectional.



Go to System on the left side and uncheck floppy



Go to the processor tab and change to 2 CPUs or more (Perhaps 2 is a good choice on a PC with 4 CPU cores)

Go to Display on the left side and max the Video memory to 128MB

Ubuntu - Settings		?
General	Display	
System	Screen Remote Display Recording	
Display	Video Memory:	128 MB
Storage	0 MB 11	28 MB
Audio	Monitor Count:	8
Network	Scale Factor: All Monitors 🔻	100%
Serial Ports	Min Graphics Controller: VMSVGA	Max
S USB	Acceleration: Enable 3D Acceleration	
Shared Folders		
User Interface		
	Invalid settings detected 🌆 OK	Cance

Go to storage and highlight the empty CD Rom Drive.



Click on the CD icon to the right of "IDE Secondary Master"

General	Storage		
System	Storage Devices	Attributes	
Display	Controller: IDE	Optical Drive: IDE Secondary Master	Choose/Create a Virtual Ontical Disk
Storage	Controller: SATA		Choose a disk file
Audio	🛛 🔝 Ubuntu.vdi	Type: Size:	Host Drive 'D:'
Network		Location:	Remove Disk from Virtual Drive
📡 Serial Ports		Attached to.	
🎐 USB			
Shared Folders			
User Interface			
	👍 💩 🖻 📴		

Click Choose/create an optical disk.

Ubuntu - Optical Disk Selector	?	×
Medium		
Add Create Refresh		
Name Virtual Size		
✓ Not Attached		
Host Drive 'D:'		
<		>
Search By Name 🔻	0	0
Choose Leave Empty	Cance	el



	This P	C > Downloads		ٽ ~		Downloa	ds
ganize 🔻 Ne	v folder						
Quick access	* ~	Name ⁷ Today (1)	Date modified	Туре	Size		
Downloads	*	ibuntu-18.04.4-desktop-amd64	4/9/2020 3:51 AM	Disc Image File	2,076,704 KB		
Documents	*						
Pictures	*						
Music							
Videos							
OneDrive							
This PC							
This PC Network							
This PC							

Click Open.

opicar bisk selecte)r		?
ledium			
Add Create Refresh			
Name	Virtual Size	 	
 Not Attached 			
Host Drive 'D:'			
ubuntu-18.04.4-desktop	-amd64.iso 1.98 GB		
<			
¢ iearch By Name ▼			

Now Click "Choose".

Genera	al Storage	
System System Signal Storage Storage Storage Netwo Serial F USB Shared USB User In	rk Ports IFolders IF	Attributes Optical Drive: IDE Secondary Master Curve CD/DVD Information Type: Image Size: 1.98 G8 Location: C:{Users\vmsma\Downloads\ubun. Attached to:

You can now see above that you have your ubuntu virtual disk image inserted into your virtual DVD disk drive. You can also see that the system knows about your Ubuntu.vdi virtual disk which is an empty file on your windows hard drive in which we will be installing the Ubuntu Linux operating system.

Go to "Network" on the left side and change to "Bridged Adapter" and choose your network card. Note that you might have a choice of your wireless or wired card on your Windows host operating system. Be sure to choose the one that is actually connected to the Internet.

😟 Ubuntu - Settings			?	×
General	Network			
System	Adapter 1 Adapter 2 Adapter 3 Adapter 4			
Display	Enable Network Adapter			
反 Storage	Attached to: Bridged Adapter 🔻			_
🕩 Audio	Name: Intel(R) PRO/1000 MT Desktop Adapter Advanced			•
Network				
Serial Ports				
🌽 USB				
Shared Folders				
User Interface				
	Invalid settings detected <u>M</u>	К	Can	el

At this point, you should be able to hit ok. Note that my screen above has "OK" grayed out and says that their are invalid settings. I only have that because I wanted this guide to be for configuring VirtualBox on Windows and so I created a virtual machine inside of a virtual machine. Not advised.

Next, you should be back to the virtualbox main screen. Click "Start" at the top and your virtual machine should boot up the Ubuntu installation media.

You should get a screen like this after a minute or so.



Click on "Install Ubuntu"



😰 💿 💯 🗬 🖉 🗐 🛡 🖆 🕅 🔇 💽 Right Ctrl

Choose English as above and continue



Check the options as above and continue



Choose erase disk and install ubuntu as indicated above. Don't worry, this is erasing the virtual disk ubuntu.vdi which is a single file on your windows system. Remember that the VM cannot see your windows disk directly.

Next, click "Install Now"



Click Continue in the screen above.

Thu 11:44	
Install	
Where are you?	
Chicago	
E	Back Continue

Set your time zone above and press continue.

🙁 🗖 ubuntu	[Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox	
File Machine View Input Devices Hel	р	
	Thu 06:45	- 0 -
	Install	
Who are you?		
Your name:	scott] 🗸
Your computer's name:	scott-VirtualBox	
	The name it uses when it talks to other computers.	
Pick a username:	scott	
Choose a password:	Fair password	
Confirm your password:	•••••••	
	O Log in automatically	
	Require my password to log in	
	Back	Continue
		🖥 💟 🚫 🛃 Right Ctrl

Enter the data above to name your Ubuntu computer name and to create an account. Then press continue.

8	ubuntu [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox						
File	Machine	View	Input	Devices	Help		
					Thu 06:	46	∔ •0 ▼
					lastal		
					Instat		
	Welco	me t	o Ub	untu			
	Fast a versio than e to loo	nd full on of Ub ever. He k out fo	of new puntu m ere are pr	features, nakes com just a few	the latest puting easier cool new things		
	Configu	iring tin	ne zone.				Skip
							🛇 🗆 🖻 🖶 🕅 🔇 🗣 Right Ctrl

Installation continues as shown above.



Click Restart Now above to reboot your Ubuntu VM.



Click on your username above and enter your password.



Once signed on, click through the above welcome screens. You can bypass "Livepatch". Once you click "Done" you will probably be presented with updates.



Click install now.

Activities			Thu 06:55	_ <u></u> ⊕ →
3				
	©-	Authentication Re To install or remove s authenticate. scott Password:	e quired oftware, you need to	
?		Cancel	Authenticate	
a				
• • • • • • • • •				

Enter your password and click "Authenticate".

	Ceneral		Drovio
	ubuntu [Running] - Oracle VM	VirtualBox	_
File Machine View Input	Devices Help		
Activities	 Optical Drives 	•	_ + ● 🕛 🔻
	璭 Audio	•	
	P Network	•	
	🖉 USB		
Trash	Webcams	•	
	Shared Folders	•	
	📋 Shared Clipboard	•	
	🛐 Drag and Drop	•	
	Insert Guest Additions CD image.		
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A			
a			
•••			
	Gile in the the winter of a stimulation		

Go to the "Devices" pulldown menu and choose "Insert Guest Additions CD Image".



Choose "Run" when the above screen comes up.



Type your password again and click authenticate.



The script to run the guest additions runs above. Guest additions add proper screen control, resolution, and resizing and also gives you mouse and pointer control and drag and drop features from the host to the VM. Press Return and the terminal window will exit.



Right click on the Guest additions CD above and eject it.

You will notice that you can resize your Ubuntu VM now that guest additions are installed.



Click the power button in the upper right and reboot your VM.



The system reboots

Thu 07:06	€) → <u>+</u> •0) ⊕ →
scott Not listed?	
ubuntu®	

Click on your username

	Thu 07:07	0 -	. ()	Ф -			
	scott						
	Password:						
	I						
	Cancel 🔅 Sign In						
ubuntu®							

Enter your password



Click the upper right again. This time choose the wrench/screw driver icon.



The system settings screen appears. This is where you can change many of the system settings in Ubuntu. Click "Details"

< Details		About 🔵 🗊 😣
+ About		
⊙ Date & Time		
Sers		
★ Default Applicat	tions L Device name Memory Processor	Jbuntu 18.04.4 LTS scott-VirtualBox 9 3.8 GiB 1 Intel [®] Core [™] i7-8700 CPU @ 3.20GHz × 2
	Graphics	s llvmpipe (LLVM 9.0, 256 bits) = 3.28.2
	OS type	64-bit
	Virtualization Disk	 Oracle 42.0 GB
		Check for updates

This will show the basic VM stats.

The bar on the left of the screen is called the "Unity menu". Click on the orange suitcase looking icon. This is the "Store".

Activitie	es 🛯 🖄 Ubuntu Software 🔻			Thu 07:14			# ● Ů ▼
6			All	Installed	Updates		Q = = 8
	Featured Application Thunderbird Mail					E	
	Categories						
A	Audio & Video		Communication	& News		Productivity	
?	🎮 Games		Ø Graphics & Phot	ography		🛊 Add-ons	
	Editor's Picks	cherrytree ****	implenote ****	Chromium *****	Plex Media Ser ****	Signal Desktop	ncspot ****
•••	Recommended Product	tivity Applications					More

You can install thousands of applications from here.

	ubuntu [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox						
File Ma	chine View Input Device	s Help					
Activitie	s 🕅 🗌 Full-screen Mode	Host+F		Thu 07:15			₩ •• •
	Seamless Mode	Host+L	All	Installed	Updates		Q 🔵 🖻 😣
	Scaled Mode	Host+C					
	Feat Adjust Window Siz	e Host+A					
	Take Screenshot	Host+E	and std., and excitate even		and the second s		
	Recording	HUSLTE		State of Lot of			
	Remote Display		A 444				
	🖬 Menu Bar	•			- YEF - YEF		
	📃 Status Bar	•	A STREET, STRE	A DE LA DE		and the second	
	😼 Virtual Screen 1	•					
-0-	Categories						
A	J Audio & Video		Communie	ation & News		Productivity	
?	🞮 Games		Ø Graphics 8	Photography	*	Add-ons	
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	Editor's Picks						
		4	5	0			
	Slack	cherrytree	Simplenote	Chromium	Plex Media Ser	Signal Desktop	ncspot
	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
	Recommended Produ	ctivity Applications					More
Culture 1							
Switch be	tween normal and full-screen	node Solus Budale					🗄 📺 🏹 🐼 💌 Right Ctrl

Click on "View" and then "Full Screen Mode" as in the screen shot above. This will make your VM full screen instead of in a window. If you move your cursor to the bottom middle of the screen. you will notice a slide up window that will let you get out of full screen mode. Shutting the VM down will also exit the window, of course.

The nine dot icon in the lower left of the screen on the Unity menu is the "App Drawer. Click it to see apps on the system.



You can also change the context of the app drawer from frequently used applications to ALL apps. You can also type in the search field at the top of the app drawer to find an application or a link to install an application that you do not have loaded.

Since this blog was about installing virtual box and a test VM, I will leave you to playing with your Ubuntu VM. Be sure to perform an orderly shutdown of your Ubuntu from the menu as opposed to Xing the window which is like hitting the power button. That's never a good thing to do on a physical computer either.

I have a lot of virtual machines on my VirtualBox. Here is what my menu looks like. You will notice below that I have created "Groups". I have Apple, Android, Windows, and Linux.



So far we learned how to create a guest Ubuntu virtual machine instance on the Virtual Box hypervisor. We learned that Virtual Box is a type 2 hypervisor because Virtual Box is an application running under the hosted operating system. In our installation, Windows 10 was the hosting operating system.

Recall that we created a virtual disk named "ubuntu.vdi" which is a single file on the host operating system that emulates a hardware hard drive.



In the "settings" of the Ubuntu Virtual Machine guest, we defined motherboard settings as follows.



Notice that the "Enable EFI (special OSes only) checkbox was unchecked. Since this was the case, we are emulating a BIOS based motherboard with a Master Boot Record (MBR) formatted partition table. The drive has a single EXT-4 partition in which all data is stored. An MBR is a special boot sector at the very beginning of the disk that holds the information on how the logical partitions containing the file systems are organized on the drive.

The MBR also contains executable code that functions as a boot loader for the installed operating system. The organization of the partition table in the MBR limits the maximum addressable storage space of a partitioned disk to 2 TiB. The only way that an MBR formatted disk can contain more data is if the logical block size is increased. For that reason, most newer systems do not use MBR formatted partition tables.

There is a program called the Gnome Partition Editor (GParted) which can examine and manipulate disk partitions. Boot up your Ubuntu Virtual Machine, log in, and open the app drawer. In the search field at the top, type "gparted".

Activities		Thu 13:44	. ‡. •0) () →
		Q gparted C	
	📩 Ubuntu Software	CParted Create, reorganize, and delete partitions	

You will note that gparted is listed as available from the Ubuntu Software store, but is not presently installed. Click on "gparted" above to install it.

<	GParted	
	GParted **** (134) Create, reorganize, and delete partitions	
	to No screenshot provided	
	GParted uses libparted to detect and manipulate devices and partition tables while several (optional) filesystem tools provide support for filesystems not included in libparted.	

You will be asked for your password, and then "gparted" will be installed. You have an option to launch it from the store, but exit the store instead. Open the app drawer again.

Activities			T	Thu 13:48			₩ 40 Q -
(a)			Q Type to search				
9							
		-	27				
0	AisleRiot Solit	Calculator	Calendar	Cheese	Files	Firefox Web B	
			~				
?	GParted	Input Method	Language Sup	LibreOffice Calc	LibreOffice Dr	LibreOffice Im	•
		5	8 0	100			0
	LibreOffice W	Livepatch	Mahjongg	Mines	Power Statistics	Remmina	
	Rhythmbox	Settings	Shotwell	Simple Scan	Software & Up	Software Upd	
			Frequent	All			

If the app drawer is set to show all programs, Gparted will be listed. Click on it to launch it. It will ask for your password.

lelp			
		/dev/sda	(40.00 GiB) 📫
/dev/sda1 40.00 GiB			
t Size	Used	Unused	Flags
40.00 GiB	8.04 GiB	31.95 GiB	boot
1.00 MiB			
	/dev/sda1 40.00 GiB It Size 40.00 GiB 1.00 MiB	/dev/sda1 40.00 GiB It Size Used 40.00 GiB 8.04 GiB 1.00 MiB	/dev/sda1 40.00 GiB It Size Used Unused 40.00 GiB 8.04 GiB 31.95 GiB 1.00 MiB

You can see in "gparted" above that there is a 40GB partition formatted ext4 (the most common linux file format). Note that drives in linux have names like /dev/sda, /dev/sdb, /dev/sdc and so on. The first partition on a drive would be sda1, then sda2, and so on. Everything in Linux is a file. That includes disk drives. Windows gives drives letters like C, D, and E. That is inefficient since you run out of letters in that scheme pretty quickly on a large system. The yellow highlight above shows the used space. We have 8GB used on our 40GB drive partition.

if we had checked the "Enable EFI" box, we would have booted the initial installation CD Rom through the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) found on all newer computers. Had this been the case, we would have been emulating an EFI based firmware. This would have triggered the operating system installation to create a Globally Unique Identifier (GUID) formatted

partition table. A GUID partition table (GPT) is a newer standard than MBR. All modern computers support GPT. GPT's use logical block addressing on hard drives like MBR, but it uses 64 bits for logical block addresses, allowing a maximum disk size of $2^{**}64$ sectors. For disks with 512 byte sectors the maximum size is 9.4 ZB (9.4 x 10**23) as opposed to the 2TiB for 512 byte sectors that MBR can support.

📃 General	System
 System Display Storage Audio Network Serial Ports USB Shared Folders User Interface 	Motherboard Processor Acceleration Base Memory: 4 MB 32768 MB 4 MB 32768 MB Boot Order: ✓ Optical ✓ Pinting Device: USB Tablet Pointing Device: ✓ Enable J/O APIC ✓ Enable EFI (special OSes only) ✓ Hardware Clock in UTC Time
	≭ <u>C</u> ancel

I had previously built an Ubuntu that used EFI. Because the "Enable EFI" checkbox is checked above, this makes the emulated system an EFI based system and so we will have a GPT partition table.

			/dev/sda - GPa			- 🗆 ×
GParted Edit V						
E U New Delete	→• Resize/Move	Copy Paste	5 🗸 Undo Appl		/dev	
			/dev/sda2 39.71 GiB			
Partition	File System	Mount Point	Size	Used	Unused	Flags
/dev/sda1 🤷	fat32				292.89 MiB	
/dev/sda2 🤷	ext4		39.71 GiB		28.60 GiB	
unallocated	unallocated		1.00 MiB			

In the screenshot above, you can see an example of a GPT formatted drive. Note that there is a /dev/sda1 partition that id formatted "fat32", followed by the /dev/sda2 drive which is formatted ext4 and contains the operating system. GPT formatted systems have a boot partition, rather than a boot block. The boot partition can actually boot several operating systems from multiple partitions on the same drive. I have a desktop computer that dual boots Windows 10 and Ubuntu 18.04. The efi boot partition contains the instructions to boot each installed operating system from the partition on the drive on which it was installed. MBR formatted disks can only boot a single operating system. I do not generally create VMs with with GPT partitions, because I do not generally need a VM to host more than one operating

system or a virtual drive larger than 2TB.

I have created VMs with GPT formatted drives to test installation of a particular operating system with EFI. I do this as a test bench and so it is helpful at times.

The lock next to the drive partition indicates that it is mounted and therefore locked against making changes to the partition while it is booted. To make changes to an existing partition, the technique is to boot a "Live CD". In the case of Ubuntu and many other Linux Distros, booting the installation CD and choosing the "Try out Ubuntu" option as opposed to the installation option lets you run the OS from a CD, thereby giving you the option to modify the partitions on the hard drive while the operating system is not running.

Once such example might be using Gparted to shrink an existing partition to make room for a new partition to add an OS to a drive. Gparted lets you resize, add, delete, move and copy partitions. Gparted can managed many disk drives.

80			/dev/nv	/me0n1 - GPar	ted			
GParted Edit View	Device Partiti	on	Help					
	66.					🦲 /dev/nv	me0n1 (!	931.51 GiB)
0		_			2	🦲 /dev/sd	а	(7.28 TiB)
			/d 93	ev/nvme0n1p1 1.27 GiB	1	🦲 /dev/sd	c (500.00 GiB)
						🦲 /dev/sd	d	(1.00 TiB)
Partition	Name	File	System	Mount Point	Size	/dev/sd	e	(20.00 GiB)
/dev/nvme0n1p2 🔍	EFI System		fat32	/boot/efi	250.00 MiB		5 15 T T MILE	
/dev/nvme0n1p1 🔍	Linux filesystem		ext4	1	931.27 GiB	422.77 GiB	508.50 GiB	

The display above shows you Gparted on my desktop computer. Note sda, sdb, sdc, sdd, and sde are all separate drives. My main system drive is /dev/nvme0n1. My main drive is an NVME drive and so that is why the different nomenclature.

Gparted can be used to manage drive partitions from all operating systems including Windows and even Macintosh.

800		/dev/sdc	- GParted		
GParted E	dit View Device Partition	n Help			
				/dev/sdc	(500.00 GiB) 💲
	8	Create ne	w Partition		
Partition					Flags
/dev/sdc1	Minimur	n size: 1 MiB	Maximum size: 92	btrfs	ot, esp
unallocate	Free space preceding (MiB):	0	Create as:		1.
	New size (MiB)	929 *	Partition name:	ext2	
			Farcicionname.	ext3	
	Free space rollowing (MIB):	0	File system:	ext4	
	Align to:	MiB ‡	Label:	F2FS fat16	
				fat32	
				linux-swap	
0 operations	s pending			lvm2 pv	
			Sec. 2 and	ntfs	
				reiser4	
					Section Reality
					State State
				cleared	'A
				unrormatted	

In the screen shot above, you can see how many formatted file system types are supported. In order to enable the ones that are grayed out, I only need to install a driver.



If you open the app drawer in Ubuntu and type "disks" in the search field, a program called "disks" will be displayed. Launch it.



"Disks" shows you all of the disks on your system and lets you do some rudimentary management of them, although not nearly as much as gparted can do.

I hope this update explaining MBR disks vs. GPT Disks and MBR booting vs. EFI booting has been helpful.

Understanding disk and partition structure is not only valuable in reference to the creation and management of virtual machines.

Disk management is critical to configuring bare metal desktops and servers as well.