

VirtualBox Use for Ubuntu ISO Testing

Aims

This document aims to provide enough information for people to:

- Understand enough to install and use VirtualBox for Ubuntu ISO testing
- Be able to create, configure and use VirtualBox
- Be aware of the limitations of this kind of testing

Installing VirtualBox

- Prerequisites
 - i386 or amd64 physical host PC running Ubuntu (or Windows or OS X, if really necessary!)
 - Recommended at least 2GB RAM
 - Recommended at least 6GB free disk space (more is better)
- `sudo apt-get install virtualbox -y`

Obtaining an ISO to Test

- See session on zsync
- `sudo apt-get install zsync -y`
- zsync <http://cdimage.ubuntu.com/lubuntu/daily-live/20130601/saucy-desktop-amd64.iso.zsync>

Creating a Virtual Machine

- Step through process in GUI
- Note choice of 64bit vs 32bit default settings
- Suggest 1GB RAM, 6GB dynamic virtual HD

Configuring a Virtual Machine

- Networking types - suggest Bridged
- NIC type - use virtio
- Adding additional disks, serial ports, etc.

Booting and Running a Virtual Machine

- Using GUI
- From CLI
- Ejecting a Virtual CD or DVD

Stopping a Virtual Machine

- Just shut down the VM
- From Virtualbox GUI
- From Virtualbox CLI tools
- Just kill it (if all else fails)

Other VirtualBox Features

These are not needed for ISO testing but nice to know about:

- Installing Guest Additions
- Sharing file space
- Remote Desktop access to virtual screens
- Extension Pack for USB device access

Limitations of Virtual Machine Testing

- Not using real hardware (no BIOS bugs, weird video cards, etc.)
- No wireless NIC access (virtual NICs are "wired" NICs)
- Not easy to test or use special purpose hardware (Braille readers, USB devices, scanners, SCSI controllers, whatever)