

Complete Step-by-Step Guide: Running Windows 10 in VirtualBox on Windows 11

STEP 1: Download the Windows 10 ISO

- Go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10>
- Scroll to 'Download Windows 10 Disc Image (ISO File)'
- Under 'Select edition', choose 'Windows 10 (Multi-Edition ISO)'
- Click Confirm, select your language, then Confirm again
- Click the 64-bit Download button and save it to your Downloads folder
- Wait for the download to complete (approx. 5–6 GB)

STEP 2: Download and Install VirtualBox

- Go to <https://www.virtualbox.org/>
- Click 'Download VirtualBox' → 'Windows hosts'
- Run the installer and accept all default settings
- Approve network interface and device software prompts
- Click Finish when installation completes
- Optional: Install the matching VirtualBox Extension Pack

STEP 3: Create a Windows 10 Virtual Machine

- Open VirtualBox and click 'New' (blue star icon)
- Name it 'Windows 10', select ISO Image, and load the ISO file
- Check 'Skip Unattended Installation'
- Set Memory: 4096–8192 MB and CPU: 2–4 cores
- Create a Virtual Hard Disk: 50 GB minimum, dynamically allocated
- Click Finish

STEP 4: Adjust VM Settings

- Select your VM → click Settings (gear icon)
- Under System → Processor: check 'Enable PAE/NX'
- Under Display: increase Video Memory to 128 MB, optionally enable 3D Acceleration

- Click OK

STEP 5: Install Windows 10

- Start the VM to boot from the ISO
- Follow Windows Setup: Language → Install now
- Enter a product key or select 'I don't have a key'
- Choose Windows 10 Pro or Home → Accept terms
- Select Custom install → Drive 0 Unallocated Space → Next
- Wait for installation (10–30 min), do not press keys during reboots

STEP 6: Complete Setup (OOBE)

- Select region and keyboard layout
- Click 'I don't have Internet' → 'Continue with limited setup'
- Create username/password, adjust privacy settings, click Accept

STEP 7: Install Guest Additions

- Go to Devices → Insert Guest Additions CD Image...
- Open the CD in File Explorer → run VBoxWindowsAdditions.exe
- Follow prompts → Install → Reboot Now
- After reboot: resizing, clipboard sharing, and folder sharing will work

STEP 8: Install AlarmWare Software

- Download or transfer the installer into the VM
- Run installer and follow prompts

STEP 9: Connect Hardware (if needed)

- Plug in device to host PC
- In VM menu: Devices → USB → select your device
- Install drivers in Windows 10 guest if needed

STEP 10: Useful Tips

- Exit capture mode: Right Ctrl key
- Shut down: Start → Power → Shut Down
- Take snapshots before installing new software (Machine → Take Snapshot)