ReactOS Attempt

I recently just learned of ReactOS, a Free and Open Source Operating System that has been in the works for over 20 years and aims to be able to natively run Windows programs and drivers. The program is still feature-incomplete alpha software, but I thought it could be a good way of running ham radio programs made for Windows so I gave it a try in Virtualbox and tried to install Winlink.

TLDR:

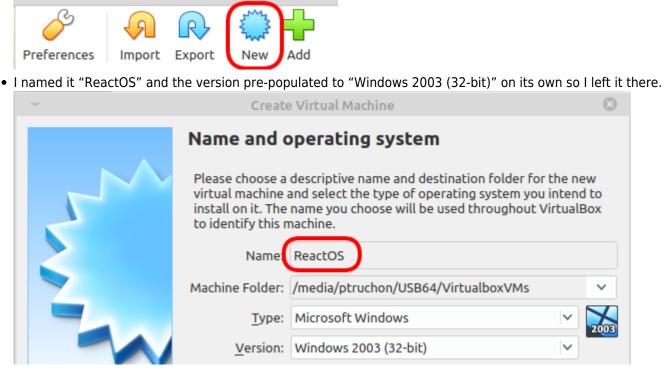
Winlink loads but I can't seem to be able to even configure it properly. Here's what I've done so far and where it fails. If anyone else is interested in tinkering with this, let me know if you manage to get passed any of these issues...

Download ReactOS

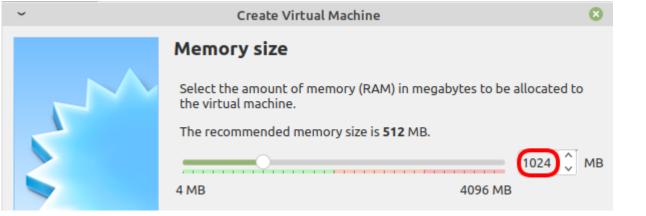
• First step: I downloaded the BootCD (not LiveCD) of ReactOS 0.4.13 and saved it.

Virtualbox

- I used Virtualbox 6.1 under LinuxMint 20 XFCE.
- I created a new machine:



• I doubled the RAM to 1024MB



• To load the "install CD", click on the word "Storage":

Controller: IDE		
IDE Primary Master:	ReactOS.vdi (Normal, 20.00 GB)	
IDE Secondary Master:	[Optical Drive] Empty	

~	ReactOS - Settin	ngs		8
General	Storage			
System	Storage Devices	Attributes		
Display	合 Controller: IDE	Optical <u>D</u> rive:	IDE Secondary Master	~ O ~
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• Back to the first scree	en, you can now start the machine.			

Install ReactOS

• The install screen will start and you simply press ENTER.

 ReactOS 0.4.13 Setup

 Language Selection

 • Please choose the language used for the installation process. Then press ENTER.

 • This Language will be the default language for the final system.

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ENTER = Continue F3 = Quit

• In fact, you'll have to press ENTER a few times until this partition screen. At this screen, you need to press P first, and then ENTER:

	list below shows existing partitions and unused disk e for new partitions.
•	Press UP or DOWN to select a list entry.
•	Press ENTER to install ReactOS onto the selected partition.
•	Press P to create a primary partition.
•	Press E to create an extended partition.
•	Press L to create a logical partition.
•	Press D to delete an existing partition.
20) GB Harddisk Ø (Port=Ø, Bus=Ø, Id=Ø) on uniata [RAW]
	Unpartitioned space 20479 MB

• ReactOS will show a bunch more screens, simply follow the prompts. It'll reboot and install more things. Then at some point, it'll ask to remove the CD. This is done using the CD icon at the bottom of the Virtualbox screen:



Install Firefox

Now that ReactOS is installed, we're ready to install some programs.

• Click on the Applications Manager:



• Search for Firefox and install version 48

ReactOS Applications Manager			
<u>File</u> Programs Help			
🔊 🖶 🖓 🖪 🛛 🚱 🚺	× 🖅 🛛	firefox	
Available for installation	Name	Version	Description
Audio	Adobe Flash Player 29 NPAPI Plugin	29.0.0.171	Flash Player plugin for
Video	Contraction Provided Action Pr	28.0	A popular Web browse
Graphics	Mozilla Firefox 3.6	3.6.28	A popular Web browse
Games & Fun	Mozilla Firefox 48	48.0.2	A popular Web browse

• Once Firefox is installed, do **not** let it update; that broke it for me.

Up to this point, everything worked fine. What follows is a list of different things that I tried, which didn't work.

Attempt #1

- The first thing I tried was to install Winlink Express.
- It installed but wouldn't load at all.

Attempt #2

This Winlink with Wine page says to install these in the following sequence:

- 1. .NET 3.5 sp1
- 2. "Microsoft Visual Basic 6 Runtime Service Pack 6"
- 3. "Microsoft HTML Rendering Engine 8"
- 4. "Visual C++ 14.0"

I got stock at step 1...

• At first, it looked like it was gonna work:

SMicrosoft .NET Framework 3	.5 SP1 Setup		
Welcome to Setup	Microsoft	Framev	vork
	erstand all the rights and restrictic e license terms before you can ins		
MICROSOFT SOF	TWARE SUPPLEME	NTAL	
Press the Page Down key to see r	nore text.		Print
I have read and ACCEPT the t I DO <u>N</u> OT ACCEPT the terms of I DO <u>N</u> OT ACCEPT the terms of Send information about my se		pration.	
Details regarding the <u>data collecti</u>	on policy		
Download File Size:	291 MB		
Download Time Estimate:	11 hr 51 min (56 kbps) 1 hr 17 min (512 kbps)		
	[Install > 0	ancel
But then it seems it got stocl	< downloading some compo	nents and after	a while faile
NET Framework 3	3.5 SP1 Setup		
Download and Install Prog	ress Microsoft	Framev	vork
Downloading:			

 ${\bf Status:}\ {\rm Re-establishing\ connection\ with\ the\ server\ (attempt\ 5\ of\ 5).}$

Total Download Progress: 170 MB / 268 MB