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:

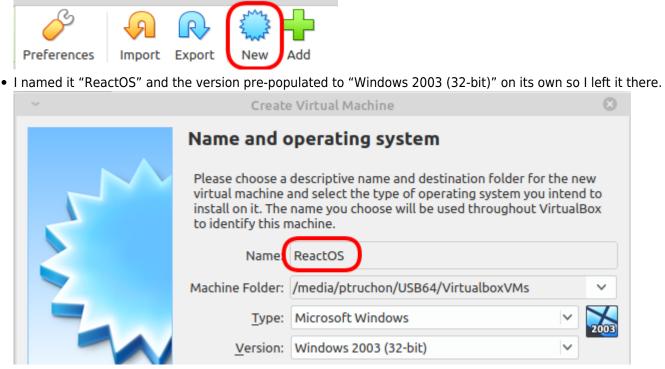
Winlink loads but I can't seem to be able to even configure it properly. Here's what I've done so far and where it fails. If anyone else is interested in tinkering with this, let me know if you manage to get passed any of these issues...

Download ReactOS

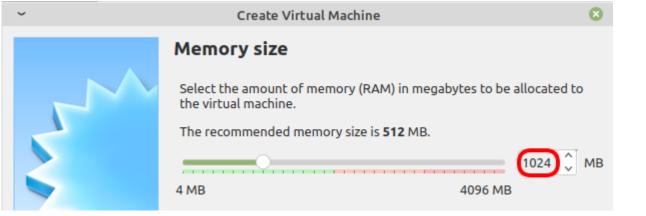
• First step: I downloaded the BootCD (not LiveCD) of ReactOS 0.4.13 and saved it.

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":

Storage		
Controller: IDE IDE Primary Master: IDE Secondary Master:	ReactOS.vdi (Normal, 20.00 GB) [Optical Drive] Empty	
 Select "Empty" and click 	on the CD icon.	

~	ReactOS - Sett	ings		8
General	Storage			
System	Storage Devices	Attributes		
Display	合 Controller: IDE	Optical <u>D</u> rive:	IDE Secondary Master	~ O ~
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Storage	ReactOS.vdi		Live CD/DVD	
	ReactOS-0.4.13.iso	Information		
Back to the first s	creen, you can now start the machine.			
۲				
New Settings	Discard Start			

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

• 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:

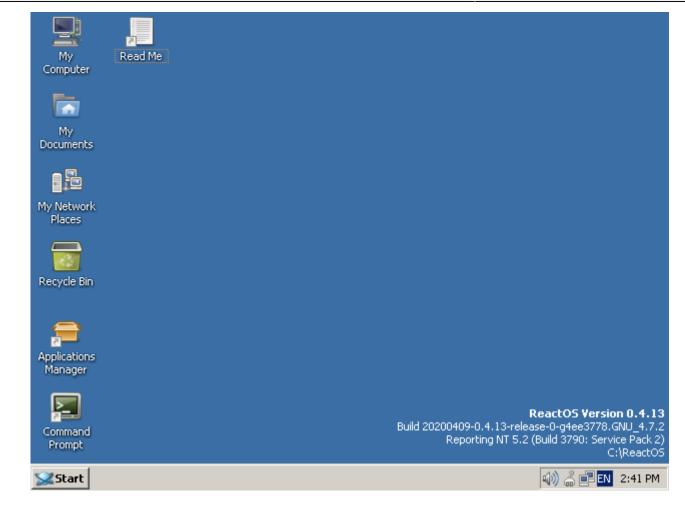
The spac	list below shows existing partitions and unused disk e for new partitions.
•	Press UP or DOWN to select a list entry.
•	Press ENTER to install ReactOS onto the selected partition.
•	Press P to create a primary partition.
•	Press E to create an extended partition.
•	Press L to create a logical 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:



ENTER = Continue F3 = Quit

• That looks promising!



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			
Eile Programs Help			
2 🔁 🔁 🔁 🔂	* 📲	firefox	
I Available for installation	▲ Name	Version	Description
Audio	Adobe Flash Player 29 NPAPI I	Plugin 29.0.0.171	Flash Player plugin for
Video	Mozilla Firefox 28	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...

t first, it looked like it was g Microsoft .NET Framework 3		
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• But then it seems it got stock downloading some components and after a while failed:

Kicrosoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 Setup	
Download and Install Progress	. Framework
Downloading:	
Status: Re-establishing connection with the serv	er (attempt 5 of 5).
Total Download Progress: 170 MB / 268	MB