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:

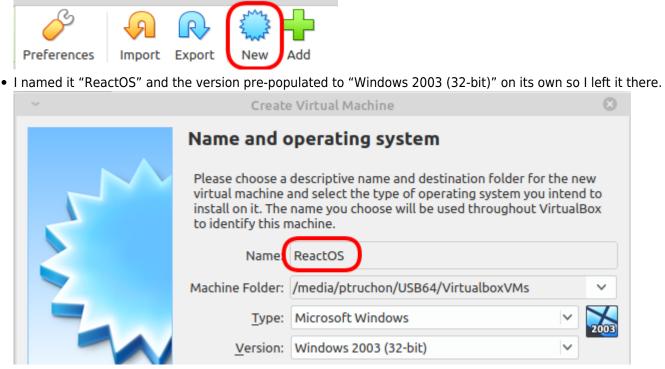
Winlink loads but I can't seem to be able to configure it. Here's what I've done so far and where it fails. If anyone else is interested in tinkering with this, let me know if you manage to get passed any of these issues...

Download ReactOS

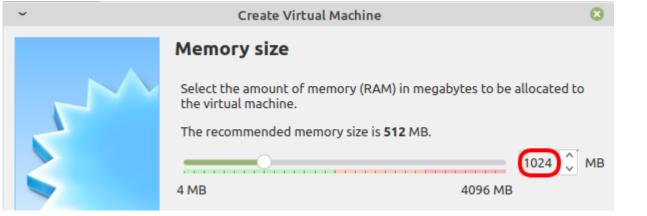
• First step: I downloaded the BootCD (not LiveCD) of ReactOS 0.4.13 and saved it.

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":

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

~	ReactOS - Sett	ings		8
General	Storage			
System	Storage Devices	Attributes		
Display	Controller: IDE	Optical <u>D</u> rive:	IDE Secondary Master	~ _
Storage	ReactOS.vdi		Live CD/DVD	
Audio	Empty	Information		
	le React0S-0.4.13.iso and you should	see:	-	
~	ReactOS - Sett	ings		8
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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.			
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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.

Albanian
Armenian
Armenian
Armenian
Beingali (Saudi Arabia)
Beingali (Bangladesh)
Beingali (India)
Beingali (India)
Chinese (Singappre)
Chinese (Singappre)
Chinese (Singappre)
Chinese (Singappre)
English (United Mingdom)
English (United Mingdom)
English (Canada)
English (Canada)
English (Canada)
English (Canada)
English (South Africa)

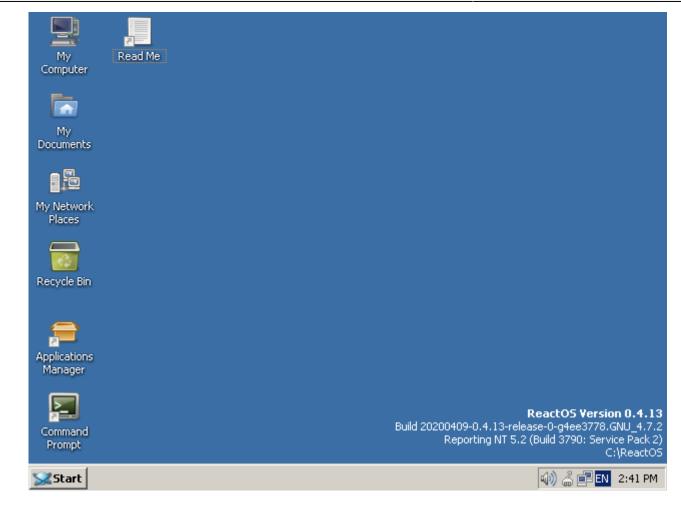
- ENTER = Continue F3 = Quit
- In fact, you'll have to press ENTER a few times until this partition screen. At this screen, you need to press P first, and then ENTER:



• 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:



• That looks promising!



Install Firefox

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

• Click on the Applications Manager:

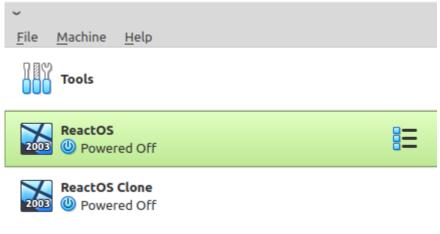


• Search for Firefox and install version 48

🖴 ReactOS Applications Manager			
Eile Programs Help			
2 2 3 2 9	× 📲	firefox	
I Available for installation	Name	Version	Description
	Adobe Flash Player 29 NPAPI 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 works fine. Before we continue, let's create a clone of the Virtualbox install; we'll need it...



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:

Microsoft .NET Framework 3	.5 SP1 Setup		
Welcome to Setup		.net Frai	nework
Be sure to carefully read and und license terms. You must accept th			
MICROSOFT SOF	TWARE SU	PPLEMENTAL	_
Press the Page Down key to see i	more text.		Print
I have read and ACCEPT the t	erms of the License	Agreement	
\bigcirc I DO $\underline{\sf N} {\sf OT}$ ACCEPT the terms of	of the License Agree	ment	
Send information about my se Details regarding the <u>data collect</u> Download File Size:	· ·		
Download Time Estimate:	11 hr 51 min (56	i kbos)	
	1 hr 17 min (512		
		Install >	Cancel
ut then it seems it got stocl	k downloading s	ome components an	d after a while fail
Microsoft .NET Framework 3	3.5 SP1 Setup		
Download and Install Prog	Iress	.net Fra	mework
Downloading:			

Status: Re-establishing connection with the server (attempt 5 of 5).

Total Download Progress: 170 MB / 268 MB

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