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. It's 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...

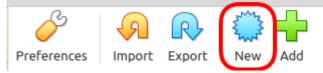
Download ReactOS

• First step: Downloaded the BootCD (not LiveCD) of ReactOS 0.4.13 and save it.

Virtualbox

I used Virtualbox 6.1 under LinuxMint 20 XFCE.

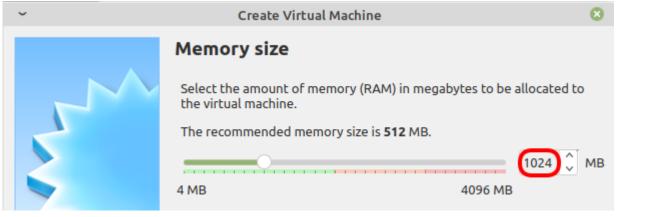
• Create a new machine.



• Name it "ReactOS" and the version will pre-populate to "Windows 2003 (32-bit)" on its own.



• 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	~
Storage	ReactOS.vdi		Live CD/DVD	
Audio	Empty	Information		
	e ReactOS-0.4.13.iso and you should	see:	-	
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System Display Storage	Storage Devices Controller: IDE ReactOS.vdi ReactOS-0.4.13.iso	Optical <u>D</u> rive:		▼ ⊙

Install ReactOS

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• 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 Arabica (Saudi Arabia) Areacia (Saudi Arabia) Areacia (Latin) Basque Belasusian Chinese (Latin) Bengslii (Bangladesh) Bengslii (Bangladesh) Bengslii (Bangladesh) Bengslii (Chinese (Taiwan) Chinese (Taiwan) Chinese (Taiwan) Chinese (Hong Kong S.A.R.) Chinese (Hong Kong Kong S.A.R.) Chinese (Hong Kong Kong Kong Kong Kong Kong K

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

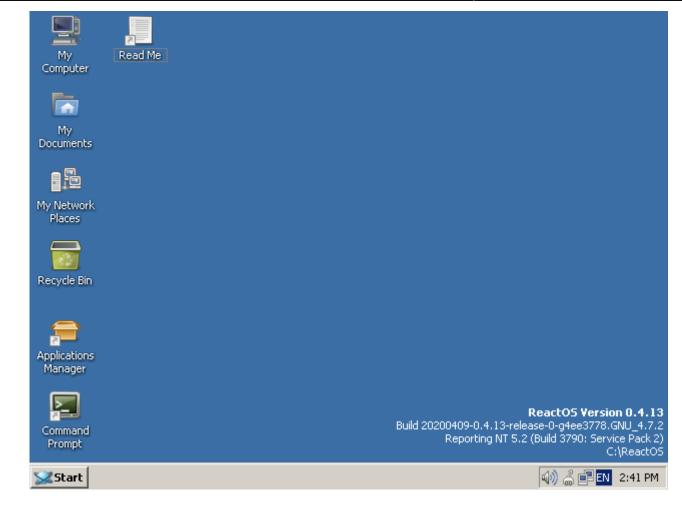
The spac	list below shows existing partitions and unused disk e for new partitions.
•	Press UP or DOWN to select a list entry.
•	Press ENTER to install ReactOS onto the selected partition.
•	Press P to create a primary partition.
•	Press E to create an extended partition.
•	Press L to create a logical 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! ReactOS has a Windows 2000 look, which I personally prefer to all the other versions of Windows.



Install Firefox

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

• Click on the Applications Manager:

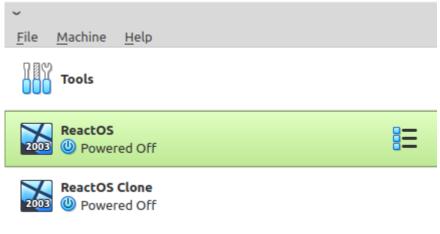


• Search for Firefox and install version 48.

🖴 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	Framework
	lerstand all the rights and restriction ne license terms before you can inst	
MICROSOFT SOF	TWARE SUPPLEME	NTAL
Press the Page Down key to see i	more text.	Print
• I have read and ACCEPT the I	terms of the License Agreement	
O I DO NOT ACCEPT the terms of		
Details regarding the <u>data collect</u>		
Download File Size:	291 MB	
Download Time Estimate:	11 hr 51 min (56 kbps) 1 hr 17 min (512 kbps)	
		Install > Cancel
ut then it seems it got stocl	k downloading some compor	nents and after a while fail
Microsoft .NET Framework :	3.5 SP1 Setup	
Download and Install Prog		Framework
Downloading:	.1 🕰 (

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

 Total Download Progress:
 170 MB / 268 MB