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.

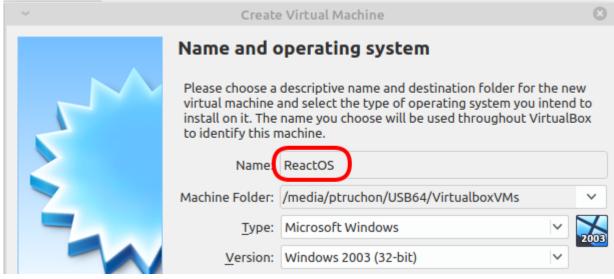
Virtualbox

I used Virtualbox 6.1 under LinuxMint 20 XFCE.

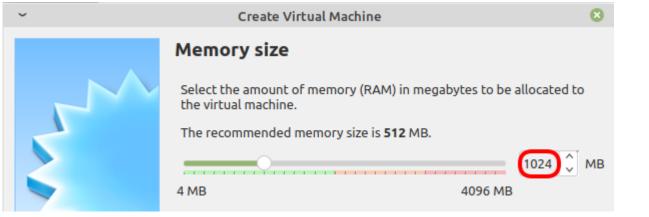
• Create a new machine.



• 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	🔶 Controller: IDE	Optical <u>D</u> rive:	IDE Secondary Master	~ (<u>)</u>
Storage	ReactOS.vdi		Live CD/DVD	
Audio	Empty	Information		
	file ReactOS-0.4.13.iso and you should	See:	-	
~	ReactOS - Sett			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	
	ReactOS-0.4.13.iso	Information		
Back to the first	screen, you can now start the machine.			
٢				
New Setting	s 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
 Albanian
 Albanian
 Albanian
 Albanian
 Albanian
 Arabic (Action)
 Basque
 Belaxusian
 Chinese (Taiwan)
 Chinese (Taiwan)
 Chinese (Taiwan)
 Chinese (Songapore) S.A.R.)
 Chinese (Macau S.A.R.)
 Chinese (Macau S.A.R.)
 Croatian
 Croatian
 Croatian
 Cate I Instance
 Source (Songapore)
 Source
 Source

ENTER = Continue F3 = Quit

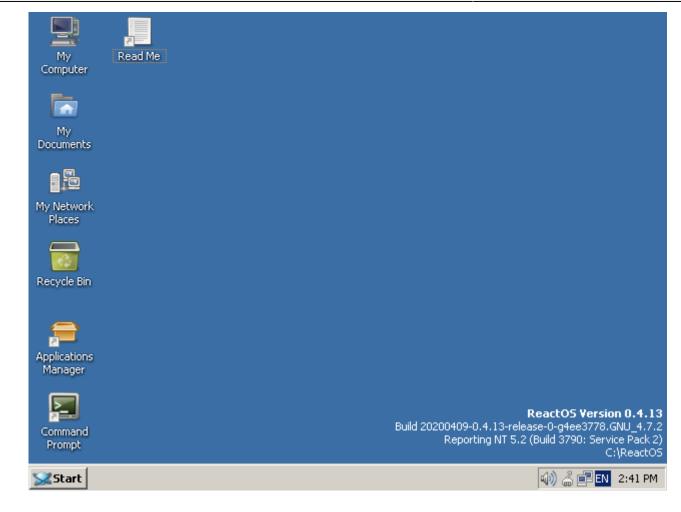
• In fact, you'll have to press ENTER a few times until this next screen, where you need to press P first, and then ENTER:

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:



• 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:

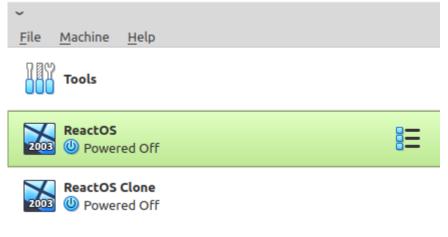


• Search for Firefox and install version 48.

🖶 ReactOS Applications Manager			
<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	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, but we're about to break things so before we continue, let's create a clone of the Virtualbox install...



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:

NET Framework 3	.5 SP1 Setup	
Welcome to Setup	Microsof	Framework
Be sure to carefully read and und license terms. You must accept th I		
MICROSOFT SOF	TWARE SUPPLEM	
Press the Page Down key to see r	nore text.	Print
I have read and ACCEPT the t C I DO NOT ACCEPT the terms of I DO NOT ACCEPT the terms of		
Send information about my set Details regarding the <u>data collection</u>		rporation.
Download File Size:	291 MB	
Do w nload Time Estimate:	11 hr 51 min (56 kbps) 1 hr 17 min (512 kbps)	
		Install > Cancel
But then it seems it got stock	,	ponents and after a while fail
Download and Install Progress		
Downloading:		

Attempt #3

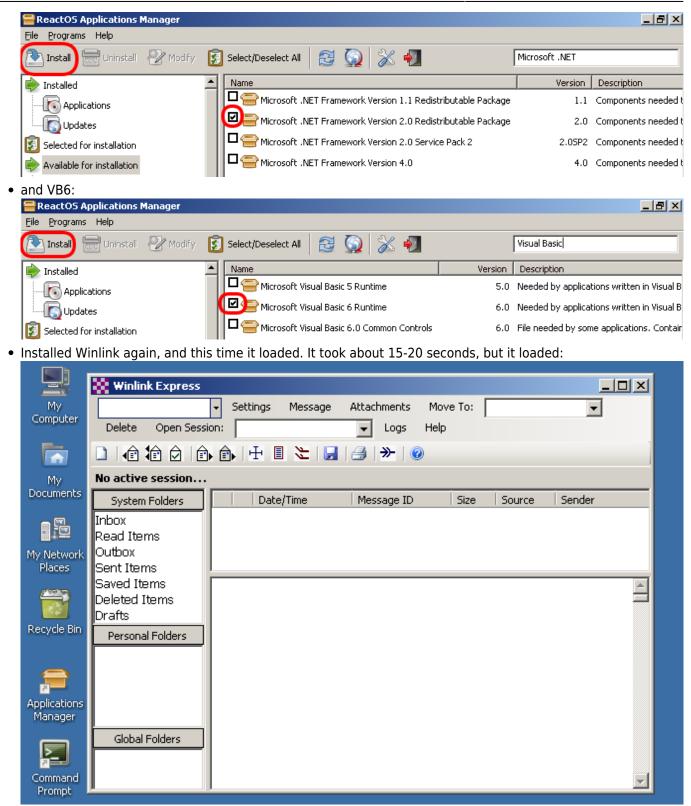
I deleted the machine and re-cloned the clone I made earlier.

Total Download Progress:

• From the Applications Manager, I installed .NET version 2:

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

170 MB / 268 MB



• But unfortunately, when I go to Settings → Winlink Express Setup... and fill out the information, it doesn't "Update".

🗱 Winlink Express Properties		
Call Signs	Contact Information (Option	
My Callsign: VA7FI My Password: ************************************	Name:	
(used for country code)	Street address 1:	
Password recovery e-mail: va7fi@rbox.me	Street address 2:	
(Non-Winlink e-mail address where lost password will be sent when requested)	City:	
Remove Callsign Request password be sent to recovery e-mail	State/Province:	
	Country:	
Auxiliary Callsigns and Tactical Addresses	Postal code:	
Add Entry	Web Site URL (optional):	
Remove Entry	Phone number:	
Edit Entry	Non-Winlink e-mail:	va7fi@rbox.me
	Additional information (option	onal):
My Grid Square: CN89EK Lat/Lon to Grid Square		<u> </u>
Winlink Express registration key:		<u></u>
- Service Codes	Recalculate HF path quality if S	FI changes more than: 30
PUBLIC	Keep logs for 2 📑 weel	s. Keep deleted messages for 30 day:
(Use PUBLIC for ham call signs. Separate multiple service codes by spaces.)	Display list of pending incon	ning messages prior to download
If you change service codes, you must update the list of channels.	Warn about connections to	
		to be sent to the Winlink Development Team st (beta) versions of Winlink Express
	Automatically Install Held-te:	c (beca) versions or wirillink express
Update Cancel		

Attempt #4

I tried the same thing as the previous attempt but with .NET version 4 and Winlink wouldn't even load.



To Be Continued...

... maybe. I don't really know what else to try so I'll leave this aside until I think of something else to try. If you have ideas, please let me know! - *Patrick, VA7FI 2020/09/28 10:15*