

How To Install and Run a Kali Linux Virtual Machine

These instructions are for readers using Windows with VirtualBox already downloaded and installed.

How to create the Kali Linux virtual machine:

Step 1) Go to <https://www.kali.org/get-kali/#kali-installer-images>.

Step 2) Click the download button for the x86_64 Installer for Windows. It will be a file named “kali-linux-2025.4-installer-amd64.iso.”

Step 3) Open VirtualBox either by double-clicking its desktop icon or by searching for it in the Windows Start Menu.

Step 4) Click **New** to open the dialog popup to create a new virtual machine.

Step 5) Click the arrow to the left of “Virtual machine name and operating system” to expand the section.

Step 6) Type the desired virtual machine name in **VM Name**. For instance, you can type “TestKaliLinux.”

Step 7) Type the desired location to save the virtual machine in **VM Folder**. This will most likely be in your VirtualBox folder, “C:\Users\username\VirtualBox VMs.”

Step 8) Click the **kali-linux-2025.4-installer-amd64.iso** for **ISO Image**.

Step 9) Leave the remaining fields as they are.

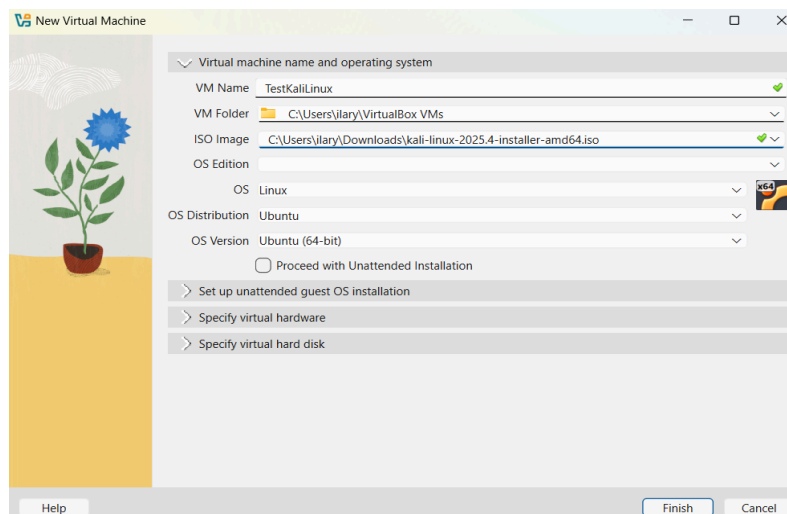


Figure 1. Virtual Machine Setup, depicting Steps 5-9. (Screenshot by Ilarya Franco)

Step 10) Click **Finish** to create the virtual machine.

How to configure the Kali Linux virtual machine:

- Step 1)** Click the Kali Linux virtual machine listed in the left-hand menu of the VirtualBox window.
- Step 2)** Click **Start** (Green Arrow) to run the machine.
- Step 3)** Click **Graphical Install** on the Kali Linux installer menu.
- Step 4)** Press the **Enter** key on your keyboard.
- Step 5)** Scroll down to the language you wish to use during the installation process and click it.
- Step 6)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 7)** Scroll down to your location and click it to set your timezone.
- Step 8)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 9)** Select the keymapping you are using for your keyboard. For American users, this will be English (American).
- Step 10)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 11)** Enter the hostname you wish to use to identify your system to the network. By default, the hostname will be “kali.”
- Step 12)** Leave the domain name blank.
- Step 13)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 14)** Type in your full name. If you are concerned about privacy, you can choose to enter a fake name; however, this is the name your user will be associated with.
- Step 15)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 16)** Type in the desired username for your account. The username should start with a lower-case letter and use only lower-case letters and numbers.
- Step 17)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 18)** Type a strong password and re-enter it to verify it.
- Step 19)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 20)** Scroll down and click your timezone.
- Step 21)** Click **Continue**.
- Step 22)** Click **Guided - use entire disk**.
- Step 23)** Click **Continue**.

Step 24) Click **SCSI3 (0,0,0)(sda) - 26.8 GB ATA VBOX HARDISK**.

Step 25) Click **Continue**.

Step 26) Click **All files in one partition (recommended for new users)**.

Step 27) Click **Continue**.

Step 28) Click **Finish partitioning and write changes to disk**.

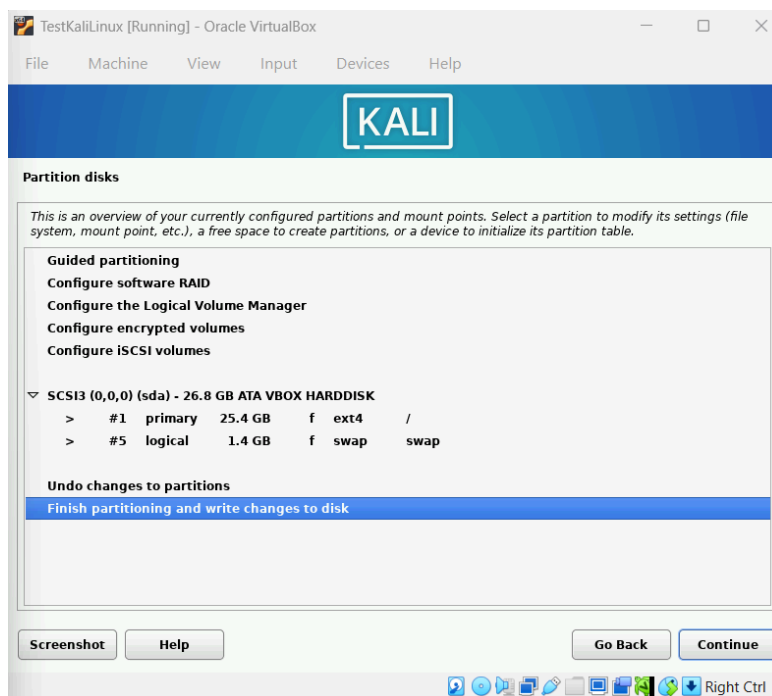


Figure 2. Summary screen depicted in Step 28. (Screenshot by Ilarya Franco)

Step 29) Click **Continue**.

Step 30) Click **Yes** to write the changes to disk.

Step 31) Click **Continue** and wait for the base system to be installed. (This may take a few minutes.)

Step 32) Leave the default selections for the additional software to install. These are

- Desktop environment [selecting this item has no effect]
- ...Xfce (Kali's default desktop environment)
- Collection of tools [selecting this item has no effect]
- ...top10 -- the 10 most popular tools
- ...default -- recommended tools (available in the live system)

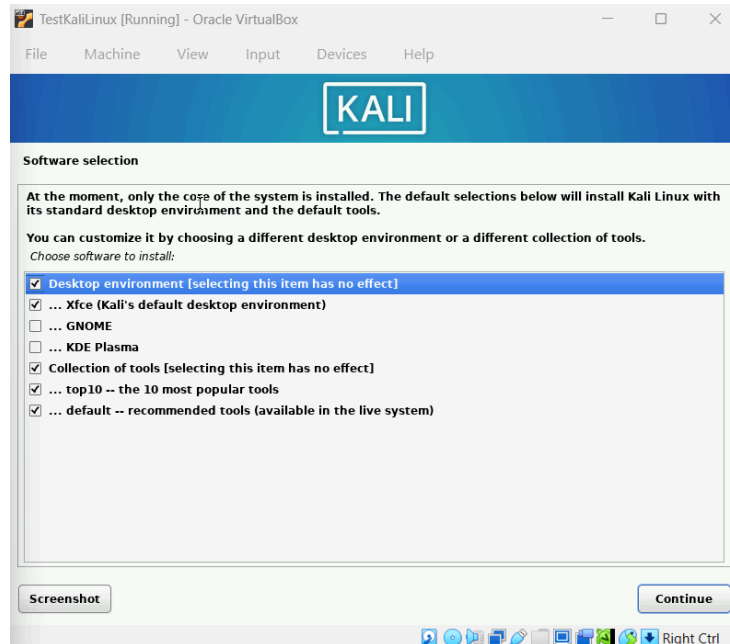


Figure 3. The default software selections from Step 32. (Screenshot by Ilarya Franco)

Step 33) Click **Continue** and wait for the software to be installed. (This may take a few minutes.)

Step 34) Select **Yes** to install the GRUB boot loader.

Step 35) Click **Continue**.

Step 36) Click `/dev/sda (ata-VBOX_HARDDISK_###)`.

Step 37) Click **Continue** to reboot the system. This will open the virtual machine for you.

Step 38) Type the username and password you configured in Steps 16-18 to log in to the machine.

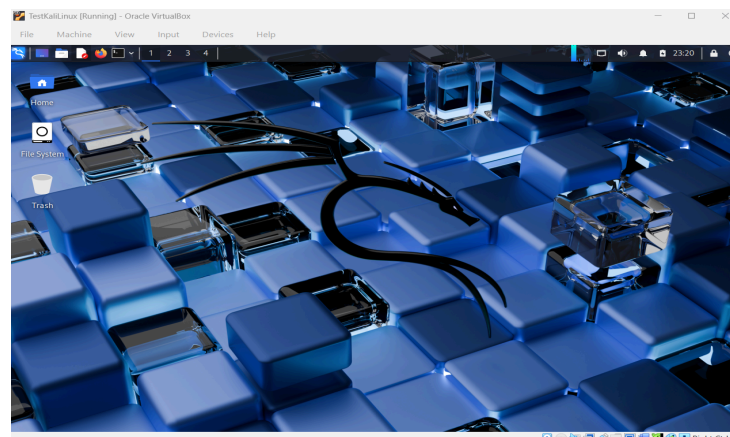


Figure 4. Desktop view of the Kali Linux virtual machine from Step 38. (Screenshot by Ilarya Franco)