

How to Share a Folder Between a Windows Host and a Linux Guest in VirtualBox?

written by sysadmin | 2 July 2025

[The previous article](#) explained how a folder is shared between a Windows host and a Windows guest in VirtualBox. This article will explain how to share a folder between a Windows host and a Linux guest in VirtualBox.

Problem

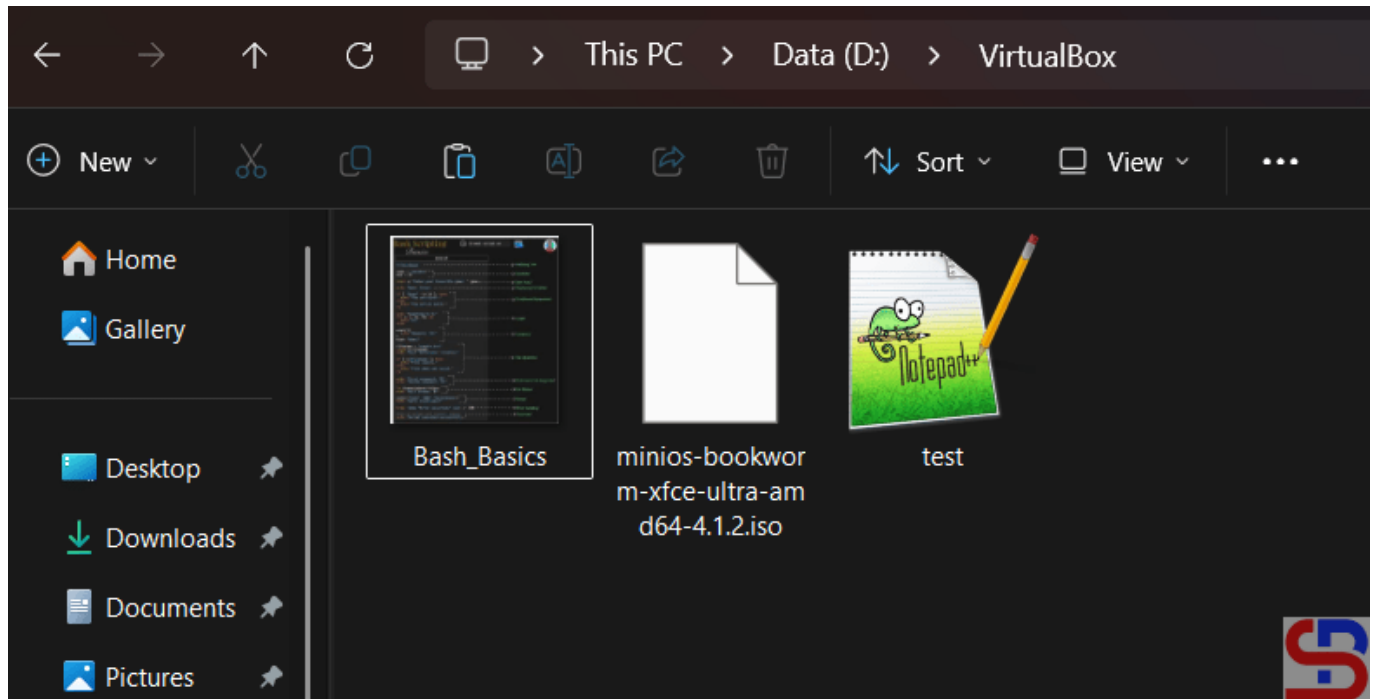
How to share a folder between a Windows host and a Linux guest in VirtualBox?

Solution

I use **VirtualBox version 7.1.4** in this article and below are the steps so that you can share a folder between a Windows host and a Windows guest in VirtualBox:

A. In the Host

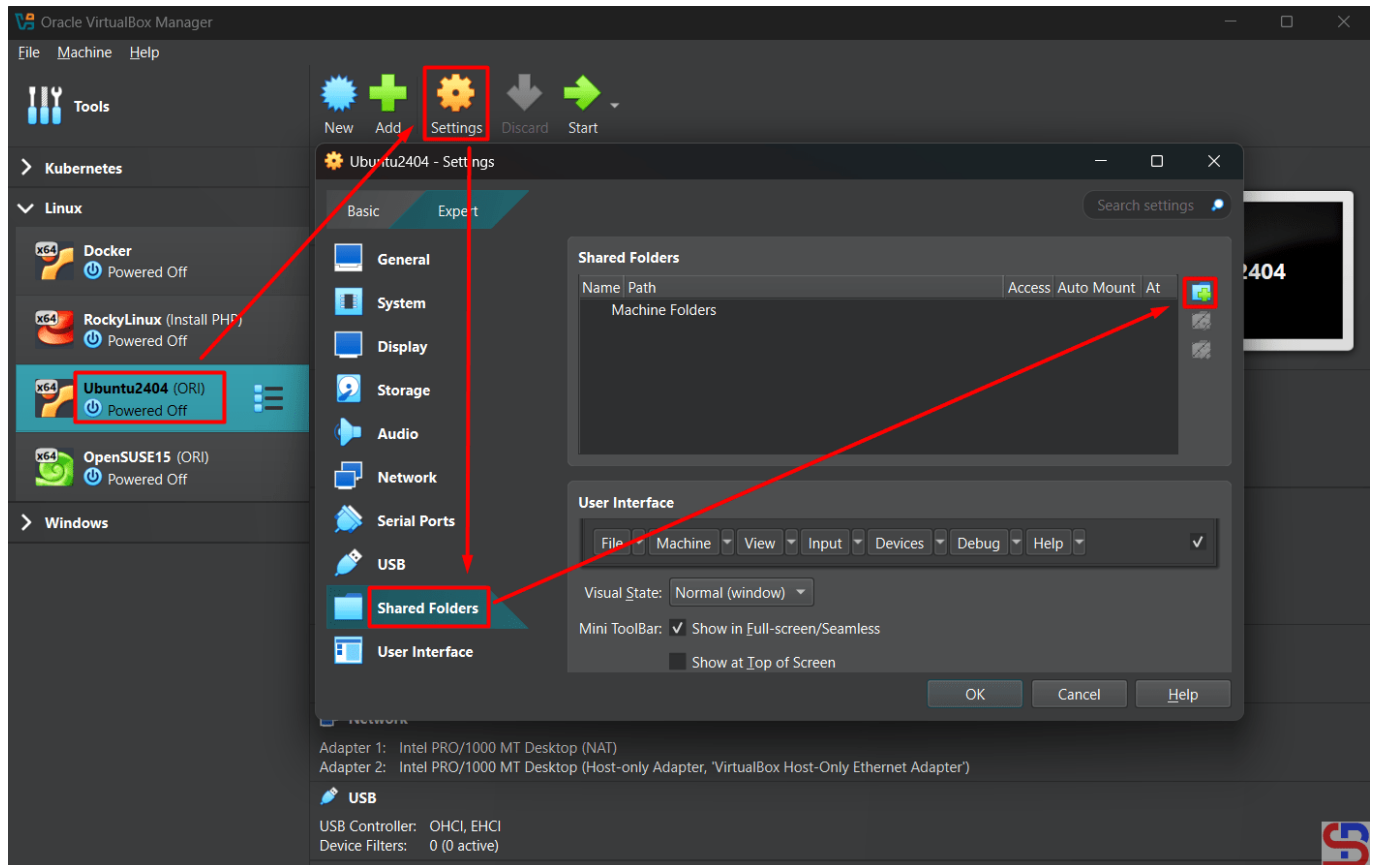
Create a folder on your host and I create a VirtualBox folder on drive D like in the image below:



The shared folder

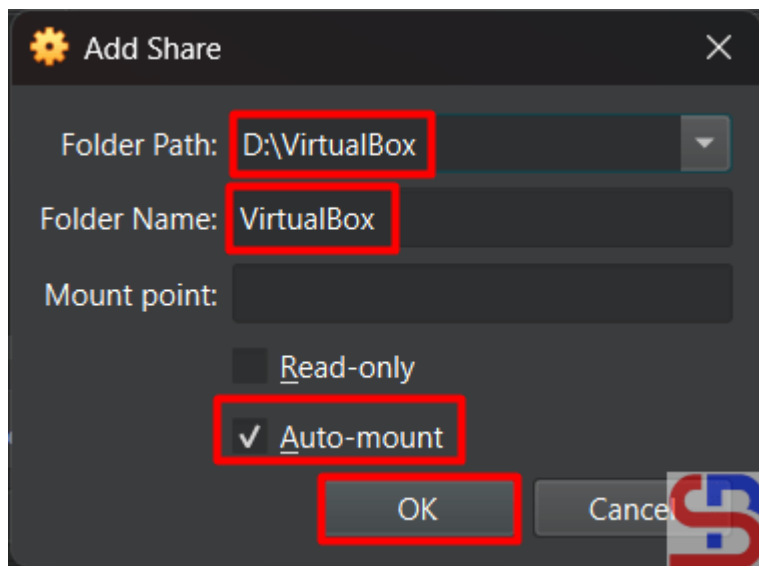
B. In the Guest

You don't need to install a driver if you use Linux as a guest. You need to configure the shared folder in VirtualBox. Go to **Settings – Shared Folders** and click the icon like in the image below:



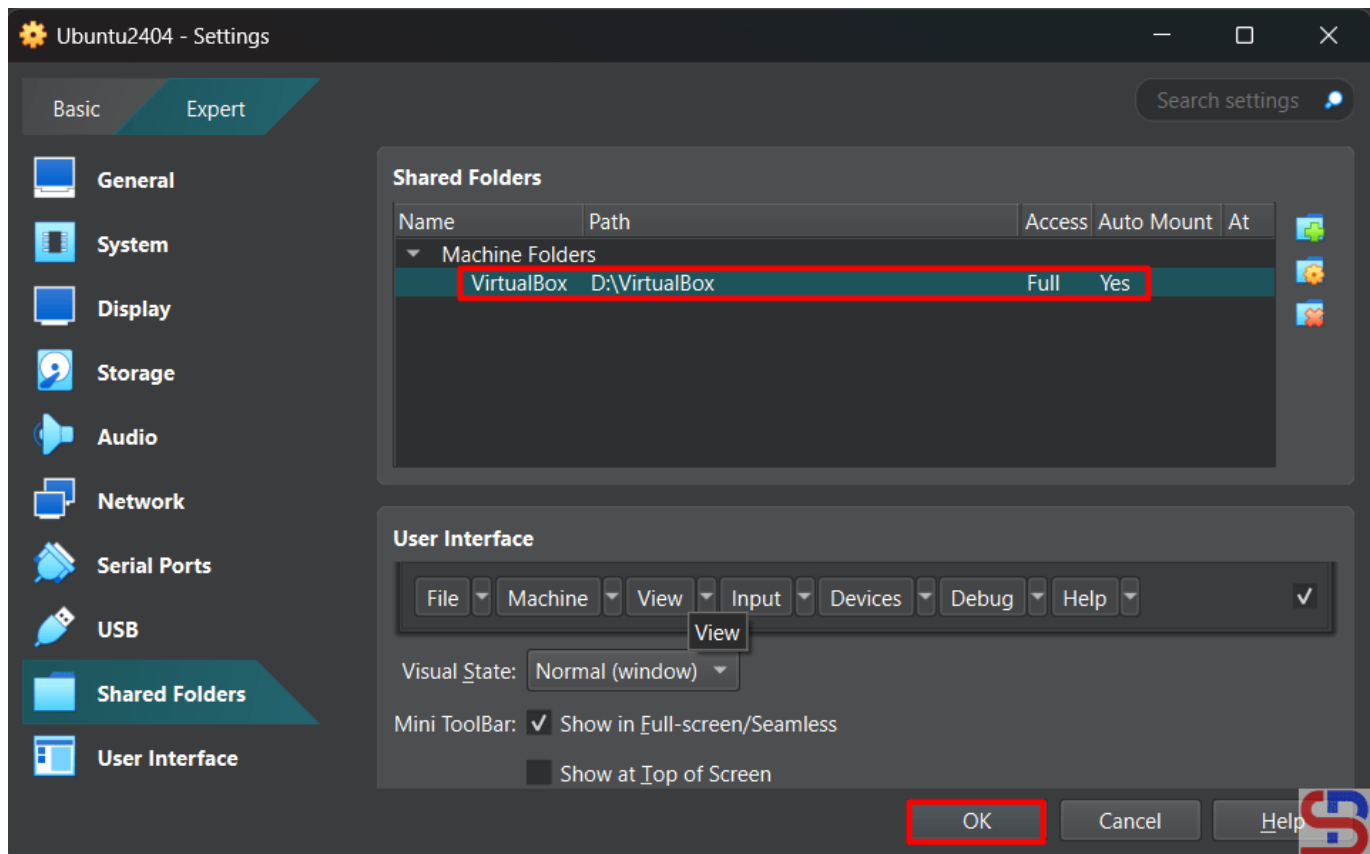
Click the icon in the Shared Folders section

Fill the columns like in the image below:



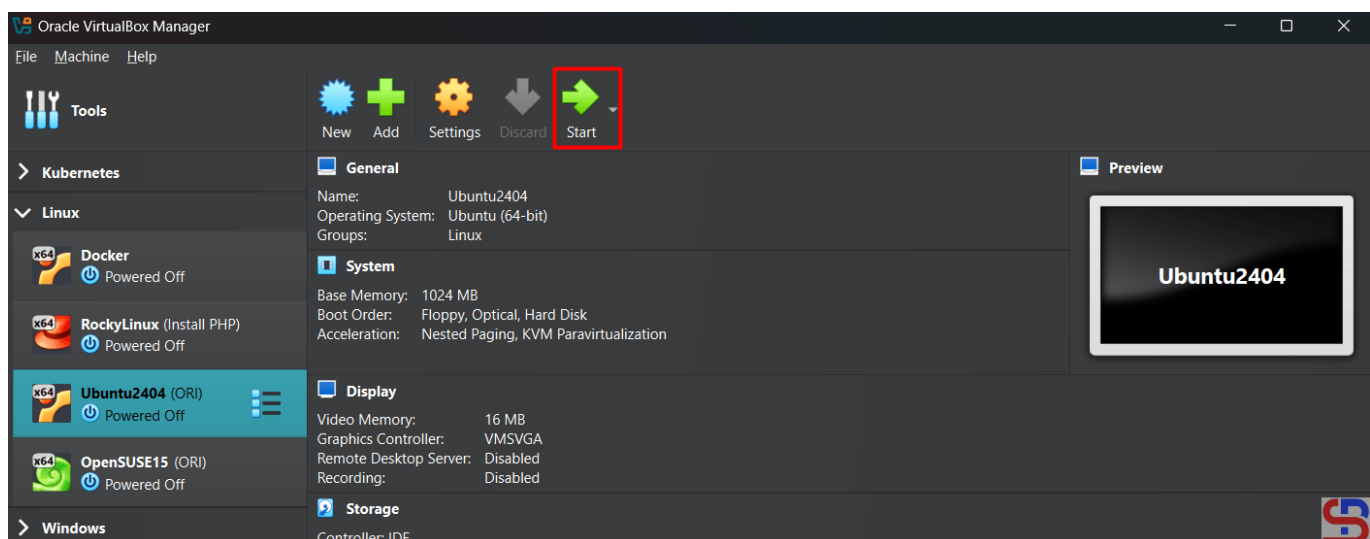
Settings the shared folders

Click the **OK** button and the shared folder will appear like in the image below:



The shared folder appears

Click the **OK** button. After that, turn on your virtual machine by clicking the **Start** button like in the image below:



Turn on the VM

Make a folder in Linux and I created a folder `/mnt/shared` using the command below:

```
sudo mkdir /mnt/shared
```

Execute the below command to mount the shared folder with your folder:

```
sudo mount -t vboxsf VirtualBox /mnt/shared
```

And you should be able to access the shared folder as shown in the image below:

```
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ sudo mkdir /mnt/shared
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ sudo mount -t vboxsf VirtualBox /mnt/shared
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ ls -al /mnt/shared/
total 1463561
drwxrwxrwx 1 root root      4096 May 31 15:53 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root      4096 May 31 16:01 ..
-rwxrwxrwx 1 root root    84756 Dec 13 10:58 Bash_Basics.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx 1 root root 1498591232 May 31 09:37 minios-bookworm-xfce-ultra-amd64-4.1.2.iso
-rwxrwxrwx 1 root root       40 Dec 17 08:11 test.txt
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ df -h
Filesystem                Size      Used Avail Use% Mounted on
tmpfs                     97M        1.1M   96M    2% /run
/dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-ubuntu--lv 9.8G      4.7G      4.7G   51% /
tmpfs                     481M          0   481M    0% /dev/shm
tmpfs                     5.0M          0   5.0M    0% /run/lock
/dev/sda2                 1.7G      184M     1.5G   12% /boot
tmpfs                     97M         12K    97M    1% /run/user/1000
VirtualBox                 246G      204G     42G   84% /mnt/shared
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
```

Accessing the shared folder

You can add or remove the file in the shared folder like in the image below:

```
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ cd /mnt/shared/
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:/mnt/shared$ ls
Bash_Basics.jpg  minios-bookworm-xfce-ultra-amd64-4.1.2.iso  System Volume Information  test.txt
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:/mnt/shared$ touch file_from_linux_cli.txt
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:/mnt/shared$ ls
Bash_Basics.jpg  file_from_linux_cli.txt  minios-bookworm-xfce-ultra-amd64-4.1.2.iso  System Volume Information  test.txt
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:/mnt/shared$
```

Create a new file in the shared folder

Note

If you restart the Linux on your virtual machine, you will lose your shared folder and you have to be recreated. To avoid that, then use the command below to configure the **/etc/fstab** file so that the shared folder is not lost when this virtual machine is restarted:

```
echo 'VirtualBox      /mnt/shared      vboxsf  rw 0 0' | sudo tee -a /etc/fstab
```

Any guest using any Linux distribution should be able to follow the above instructions.

References

docs.oracle.com
debugpoint.com