

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

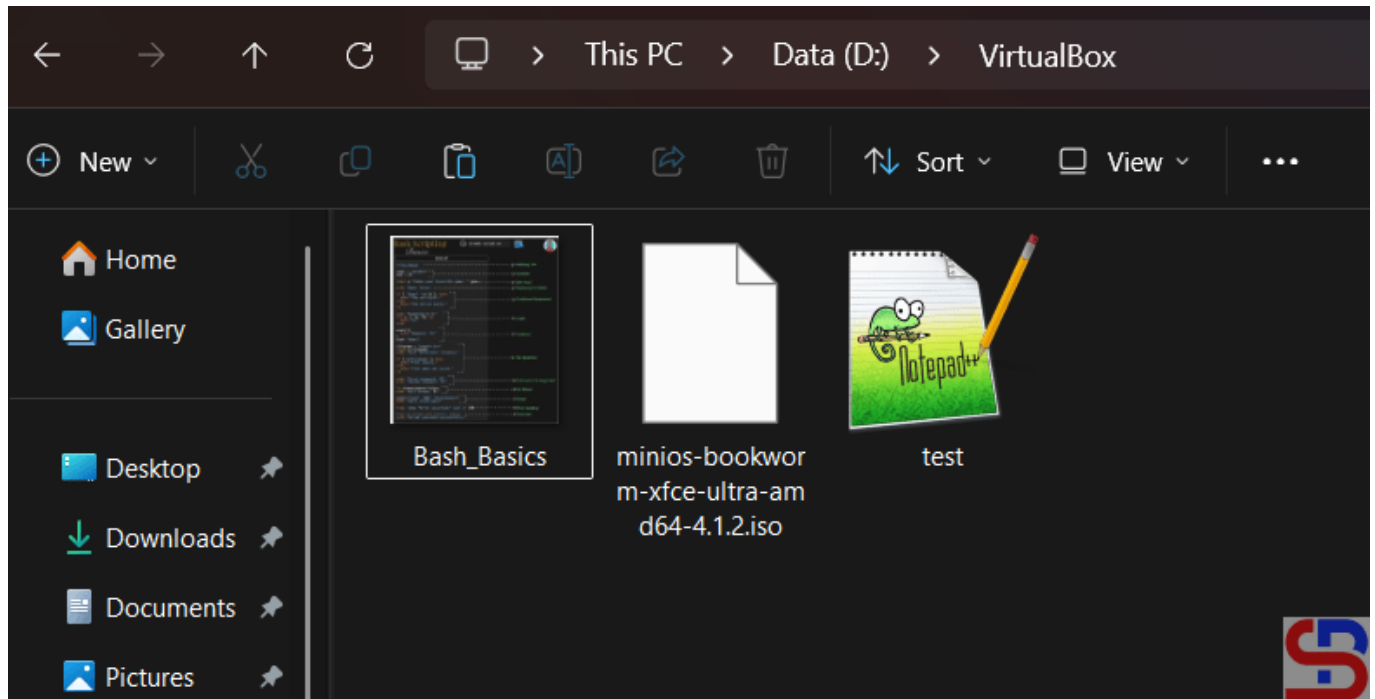
How to share a folder between a Windows host and a Linux guest in VirtualBox?

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

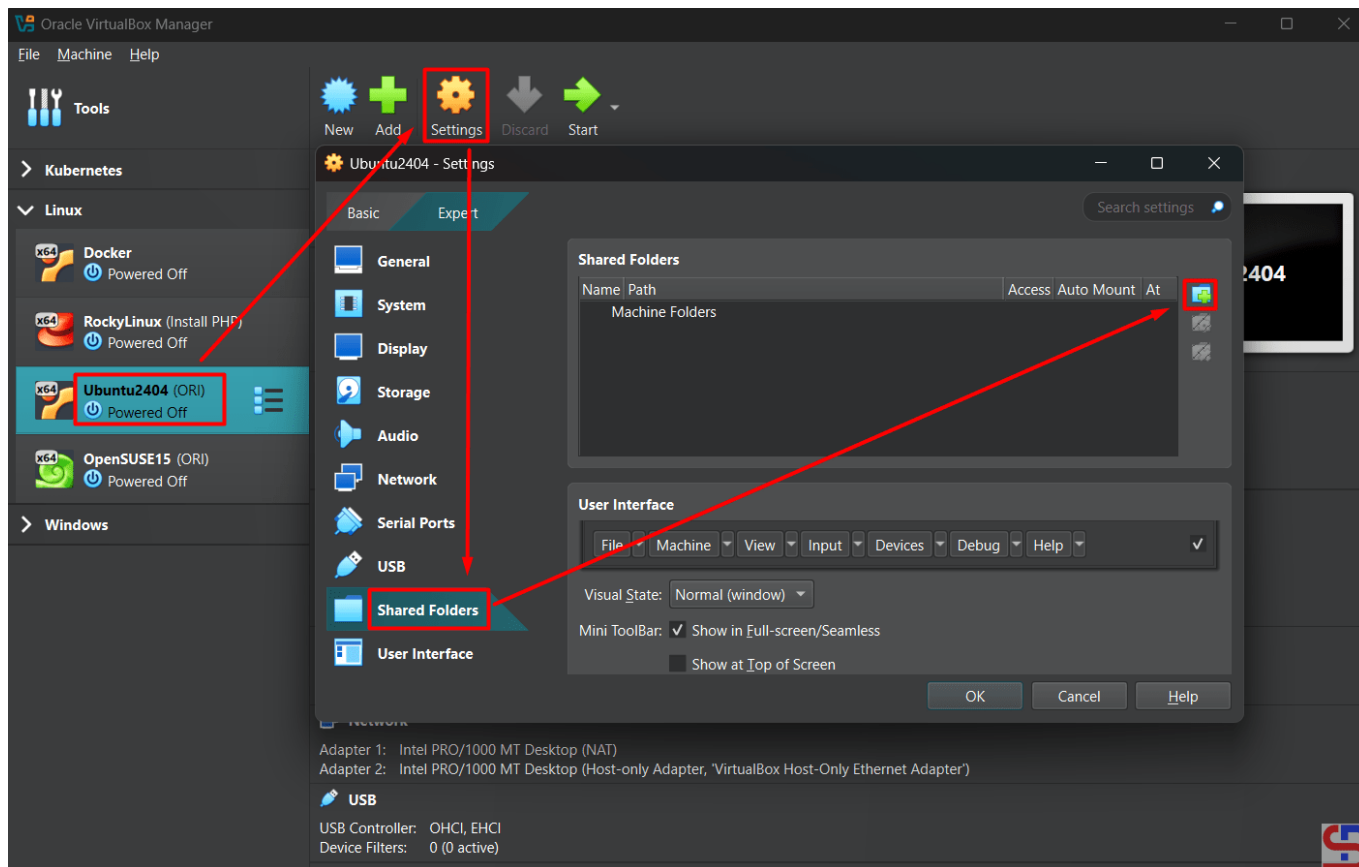
Create a folder on your host and I create a VirtualBox folder on drive D like in the image below:



The shared folder

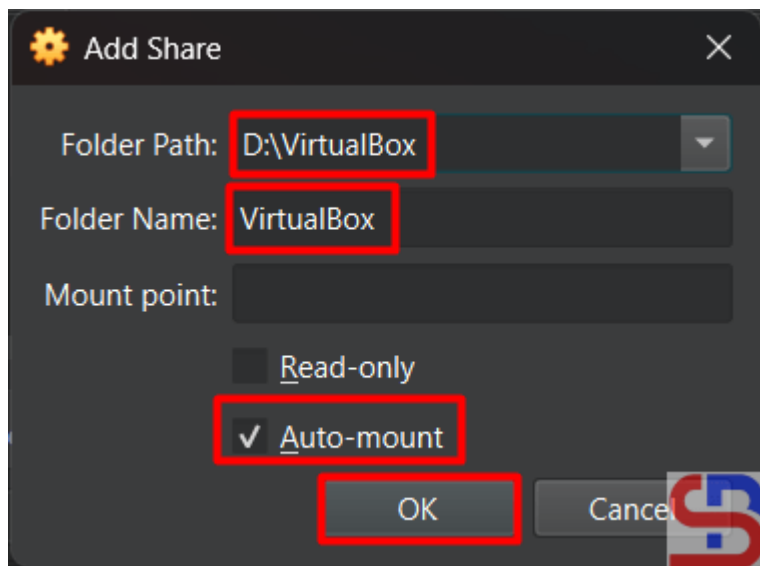
B. In the Guest

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:



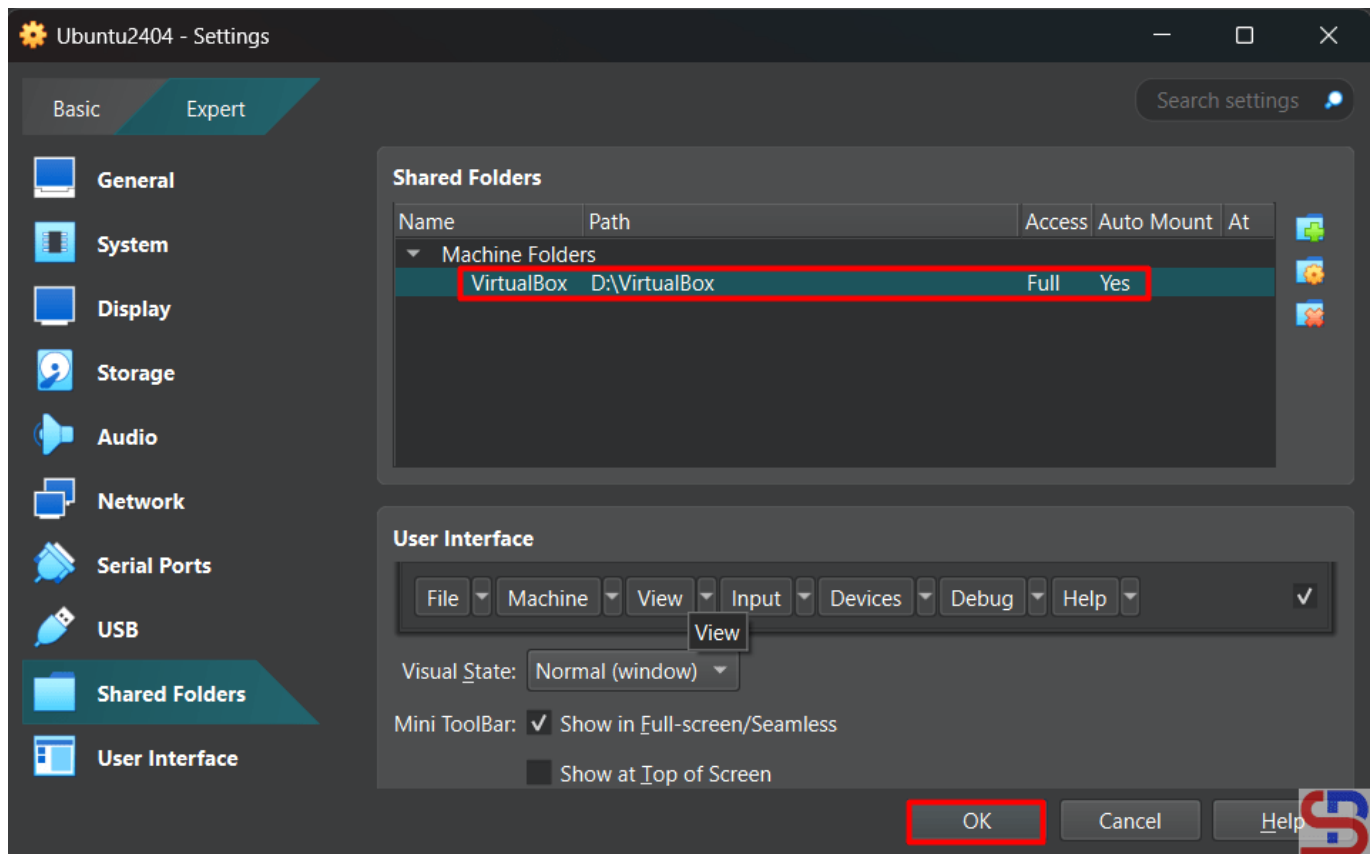
Click the icon in the Shared Folders section

Fill the columns like in the image below:



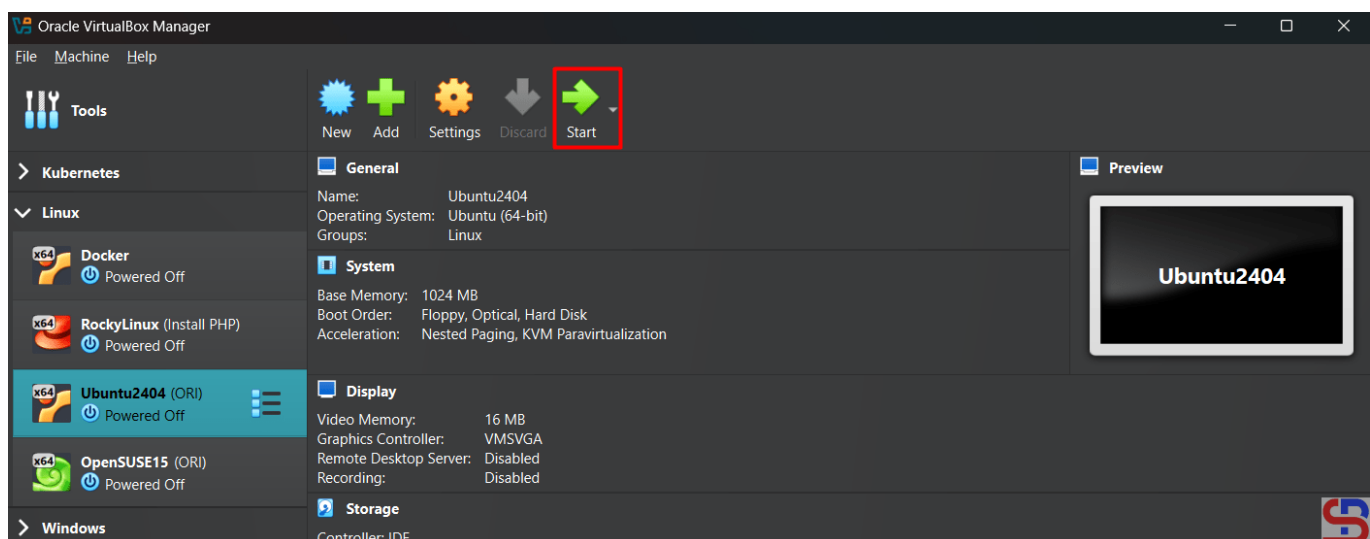
Settings the shared folders

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

[How to Share a Folder Between a Windows Host and a Windows Guest in VirtualBox?](#)

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VirtualBox has a feature where you can access the files on a folder in your host from your virtual machine. For example, your host is Windows and you want to send some files to your Windows virtual machine.

Problem

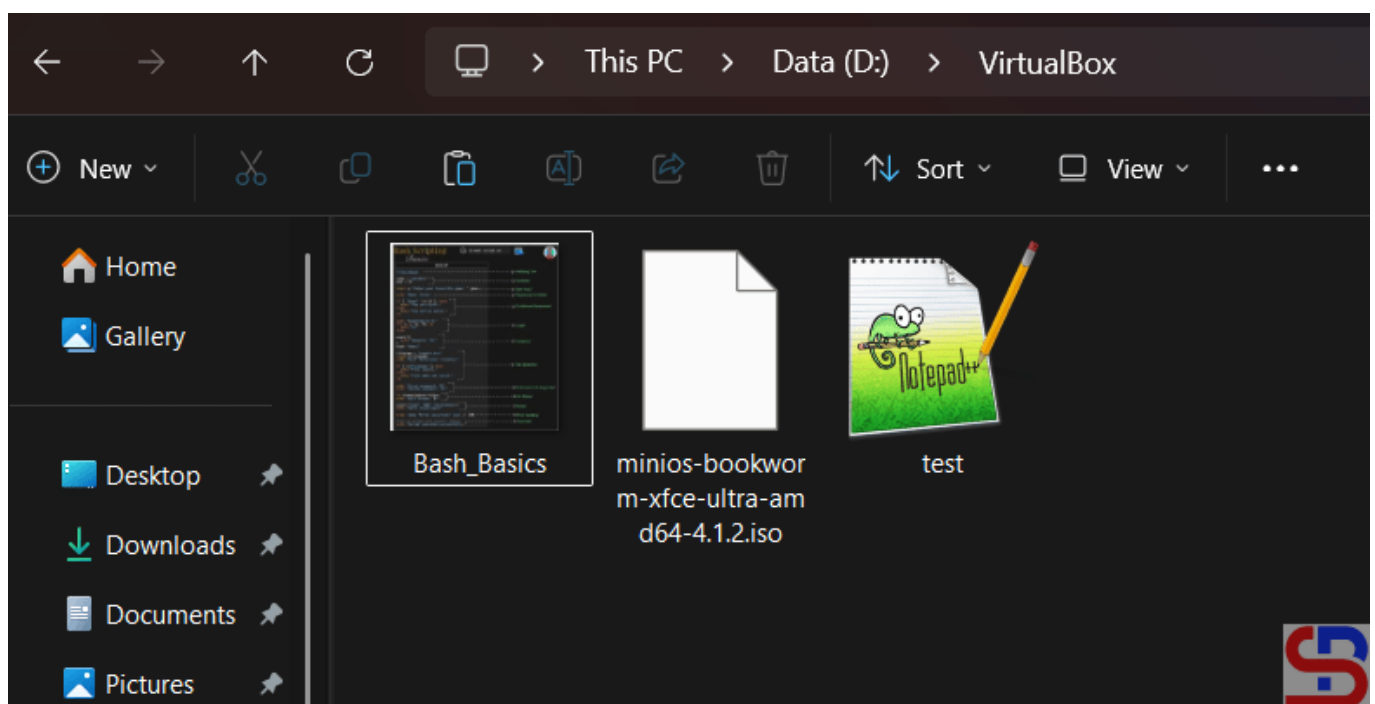
How to share a folder between a Windows host and a Windows guest in VirtualBox?

Solution

You can view or change the files from your host system from within the guest system using Oracle VM VirtualBox's shared folders capability. Shared folders physically reside on the host and are then shared with the guest, which uses a special file system driver in the Guest Additions to talk to the host. For Windows guests, shared folders are implemented as a pseudo-network redirector and the Guest Additions provide a virtual file system. For Linux and Oracle Solaris guests, 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:

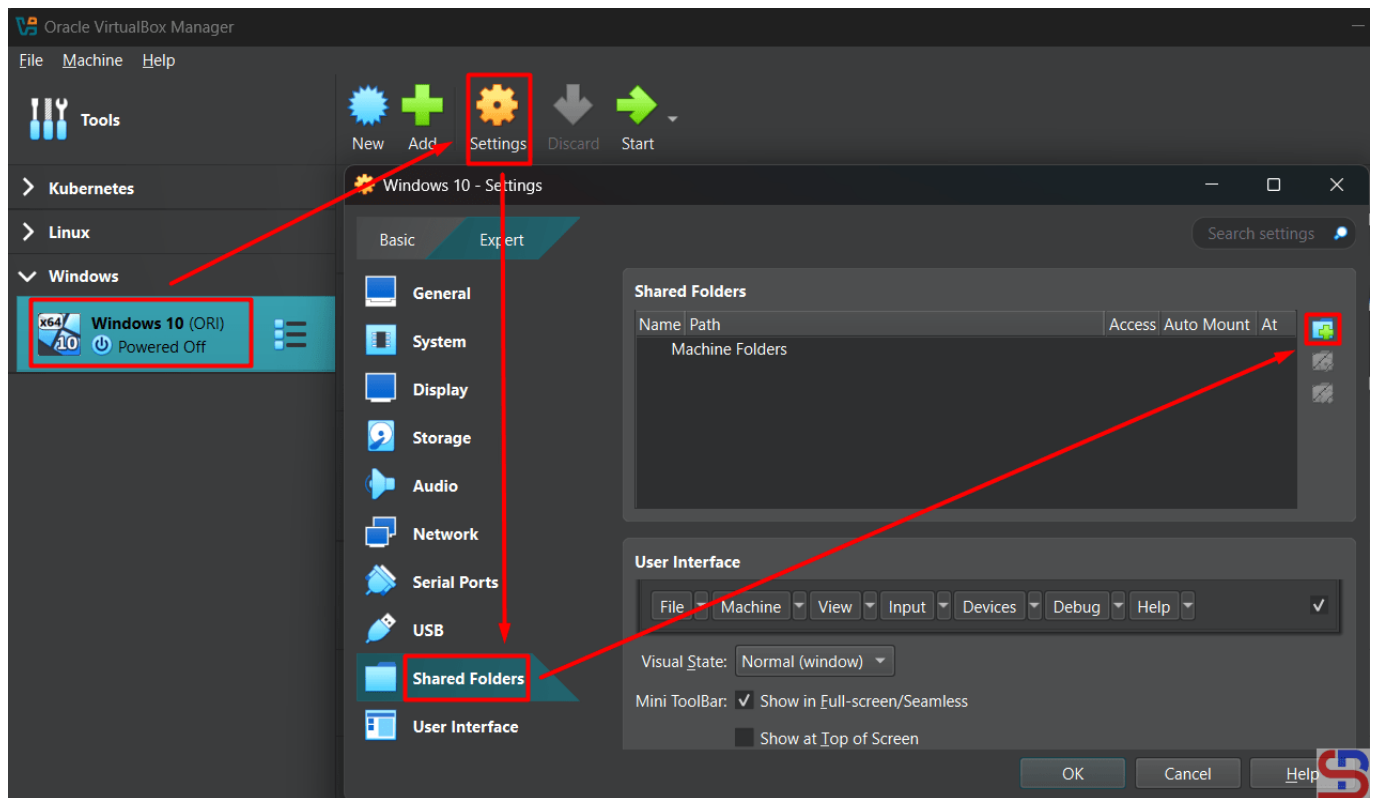


The shared folder

B. In the Guest (VirtualBox)

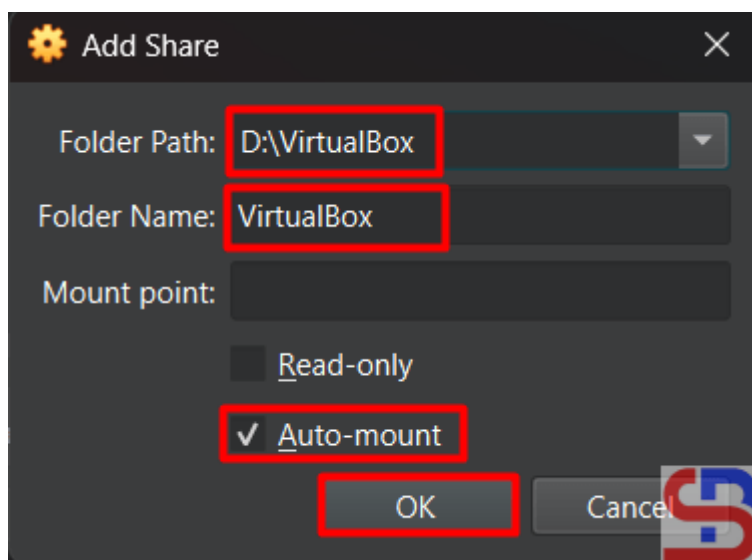
To connect the folder, you need the driver to connect them and the driver has been provided by VirtualBox that is available in an ISO file. Go to [this page](#) to install the driver. After you install the driver, configure the shared

folder in VirtualBox. Go to **Settings – Shared Folders** and click the icon like in the image below:



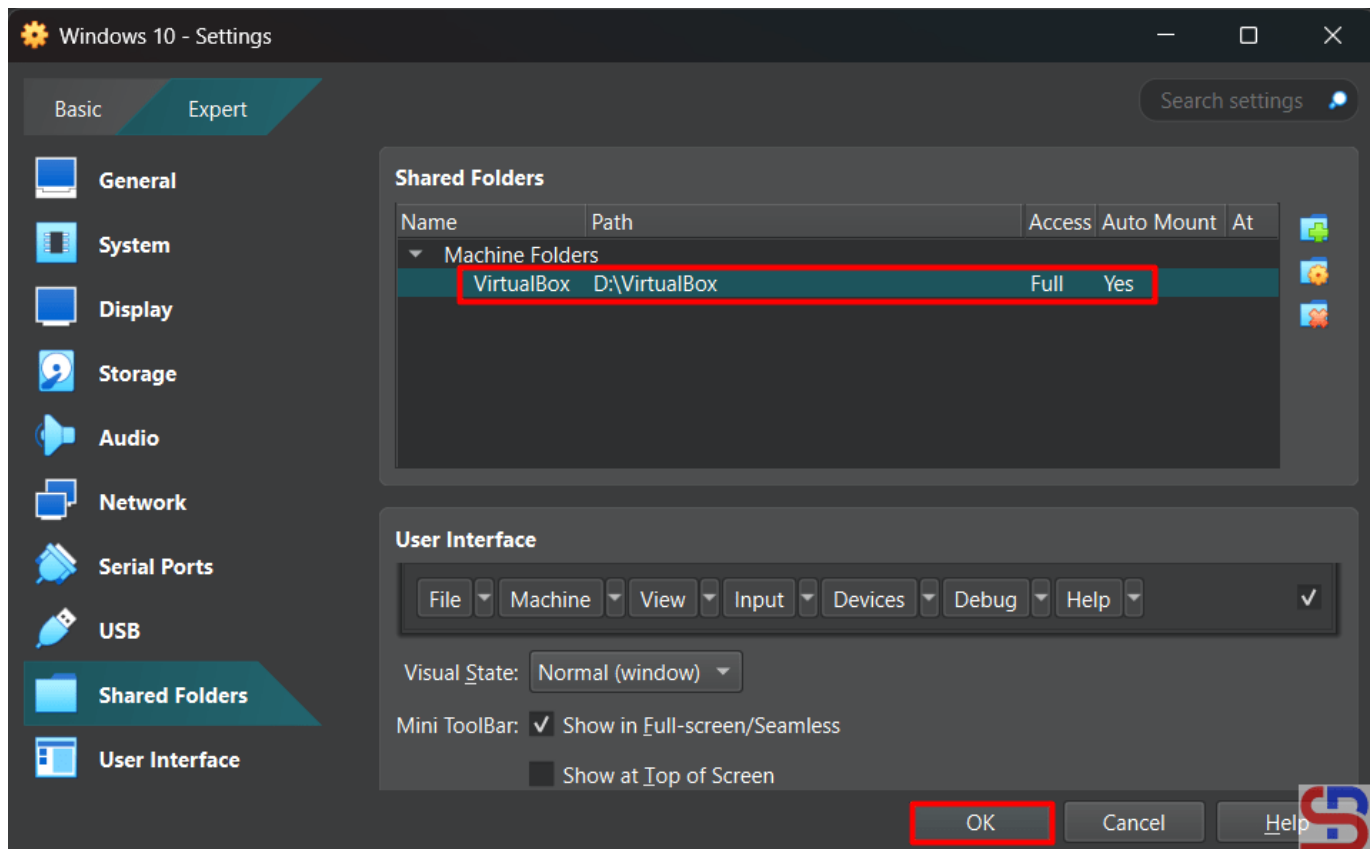
Click the icon in the Shared Folders section

Fill the columns like in the image below:



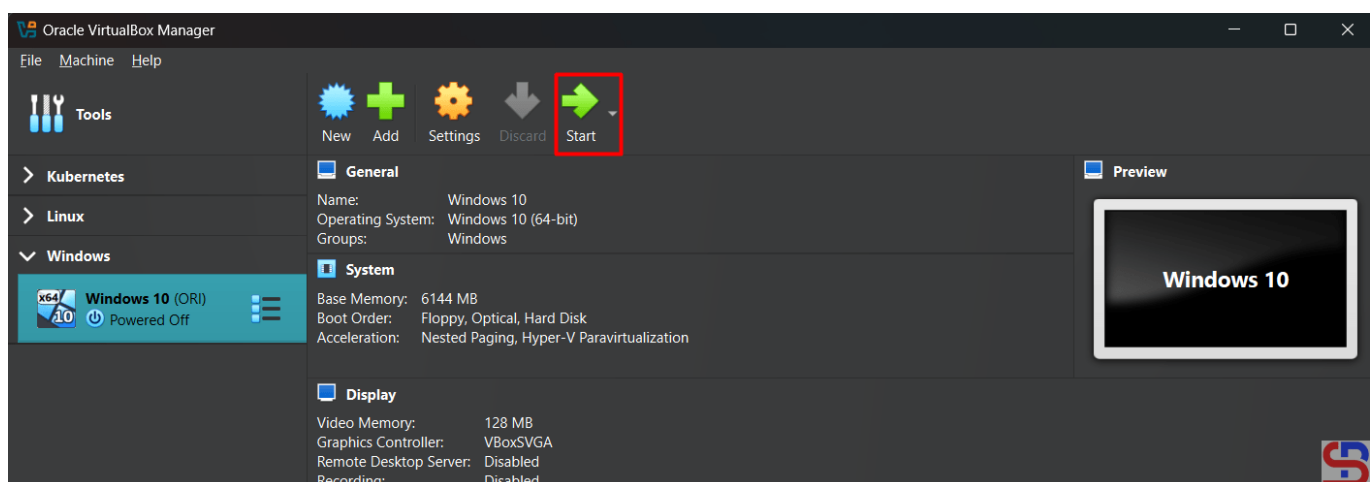
Settings the shared folders

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



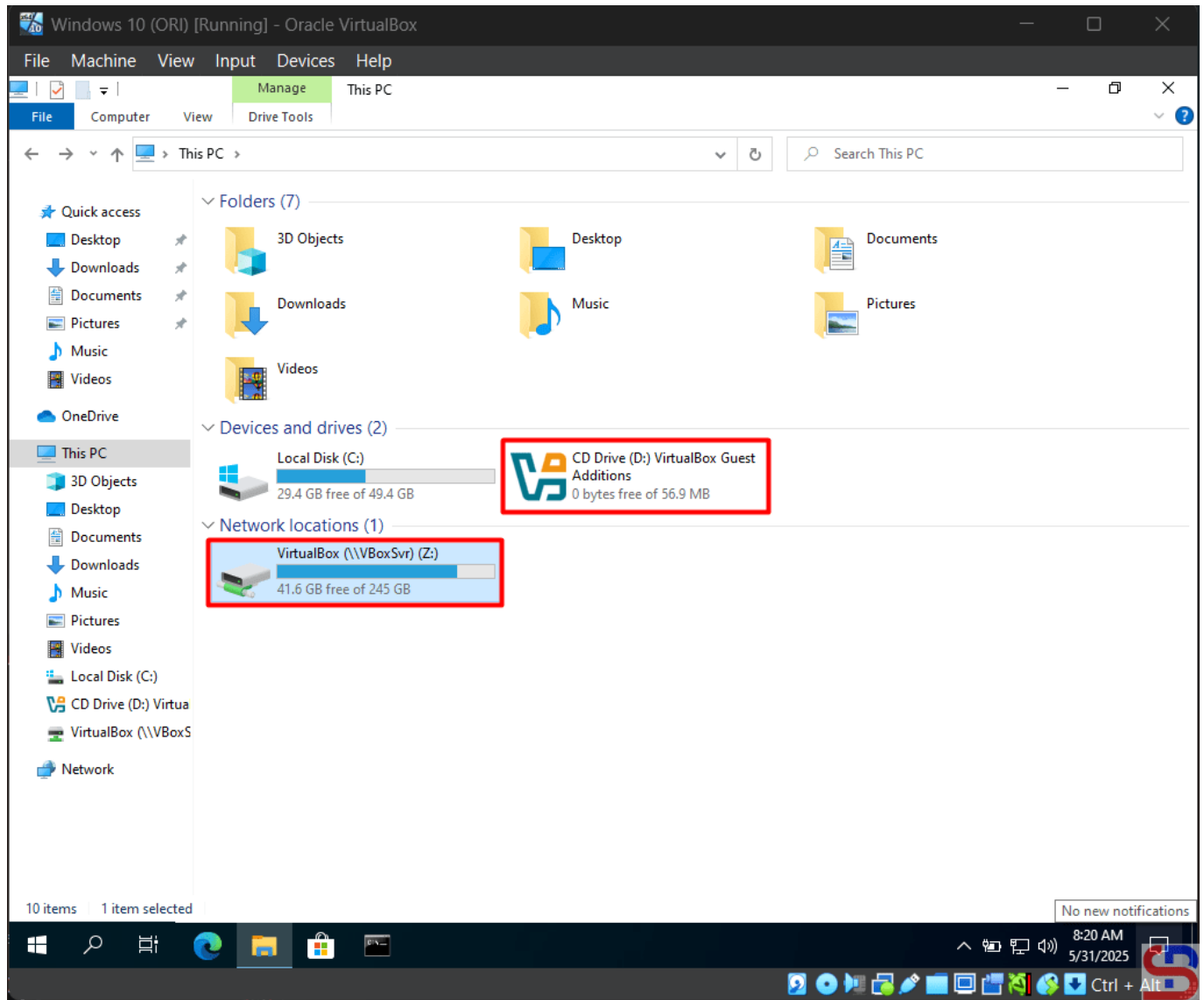
The shared folder appears

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



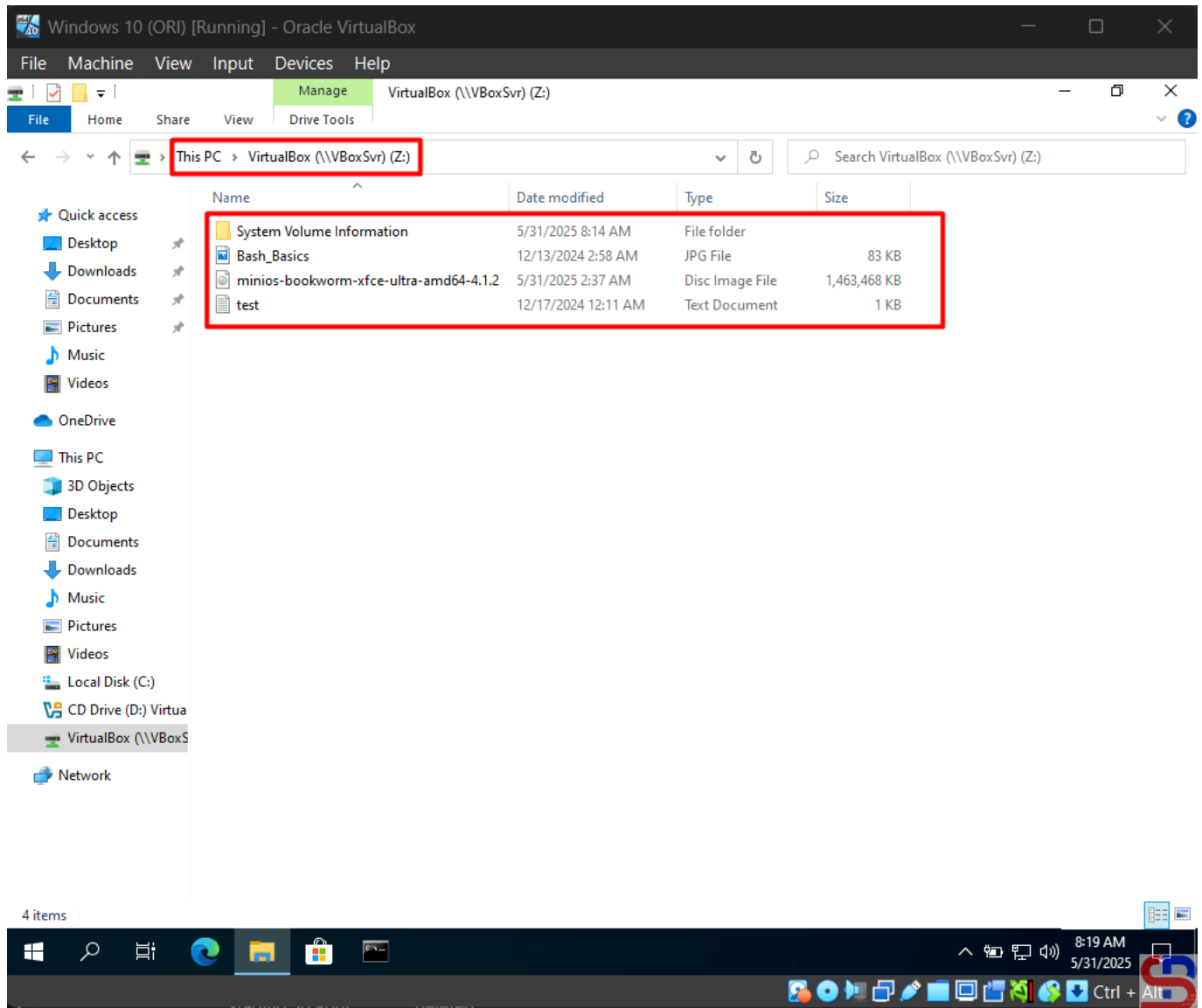
Turn on the VM

Go to **This PC** page and you will see the view in the image below:



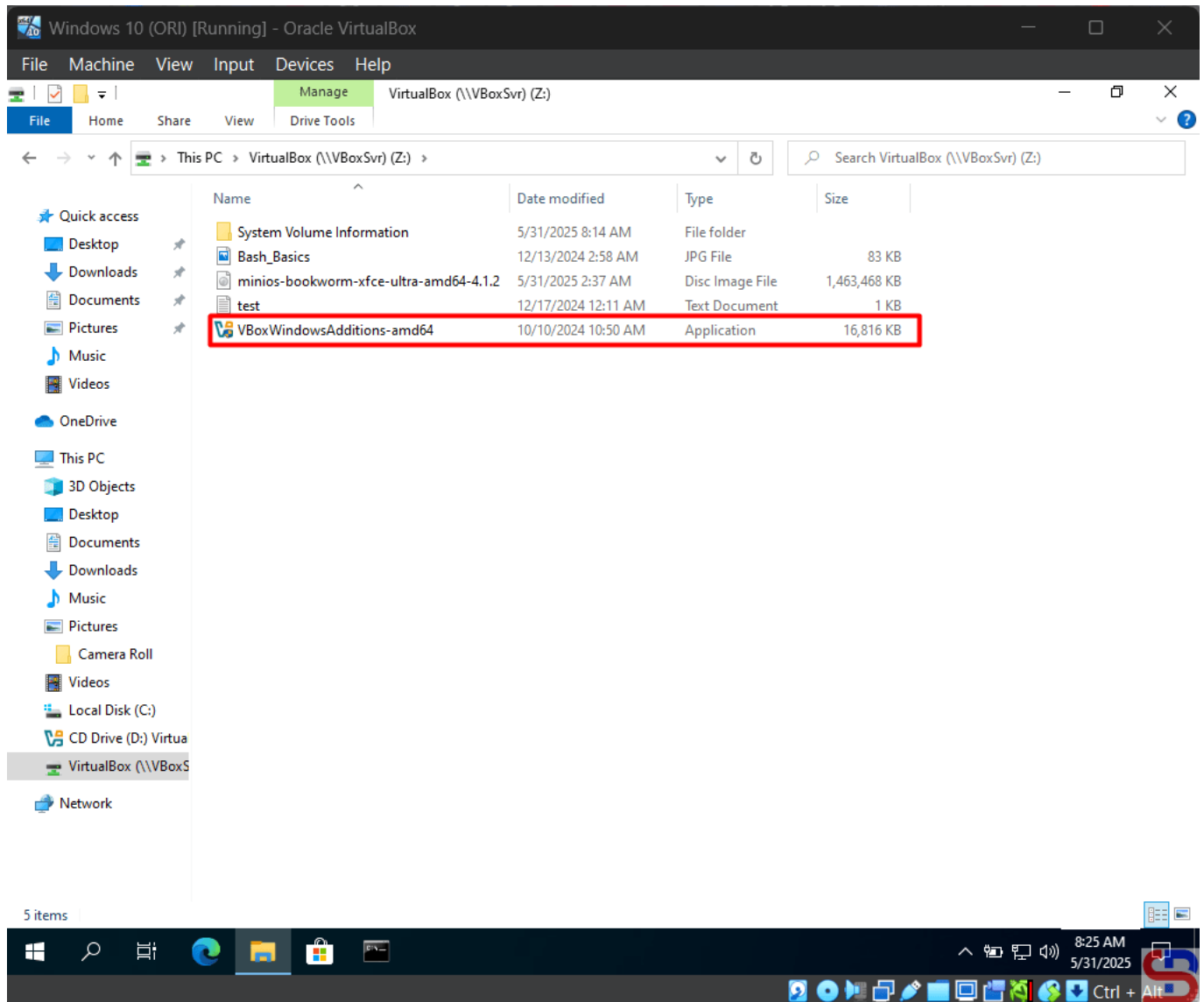
This PC image

Double-click the **VirtualBox (Z:)** and you should be able to access the folder like in the image below:



Access the shared folder

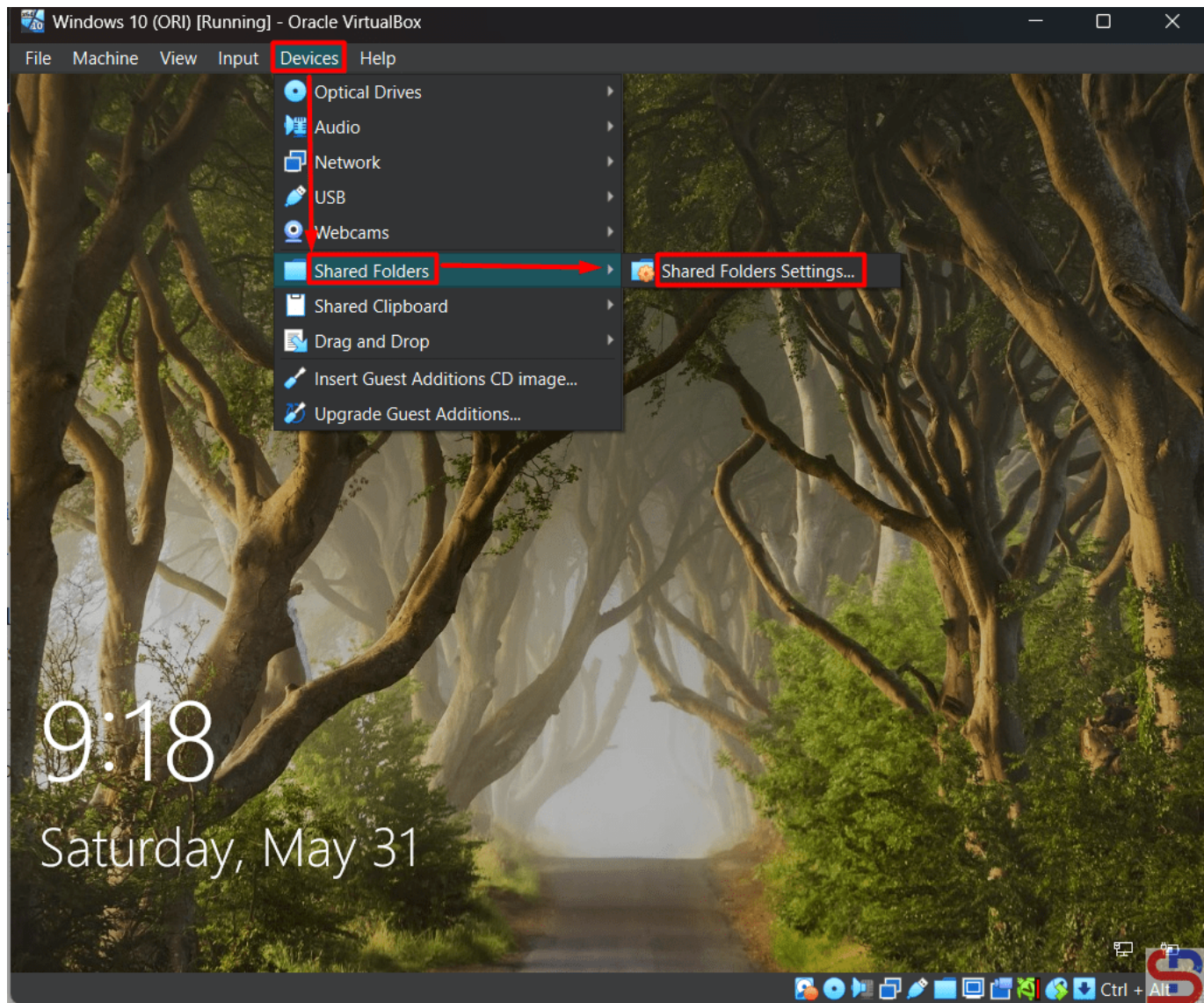
Now, you can access the shared folder and you should add the file like in the image below:



Add the file to the shared folder

Note

You can configure the shared folder or mount the iso after you turn on the virtual machine like in the image below:



Configure the shared folder after turning on the VM

References

[virtualbox.org](https://www.virtualbox.org)
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
docs.oracle.com
blogs.oracle.com

[How to Install the VirtualBox Guest Additions?](#)

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The Guest Additions in VirtualBox is used to optimize the

guest operating system for better performance and usability.

Problem

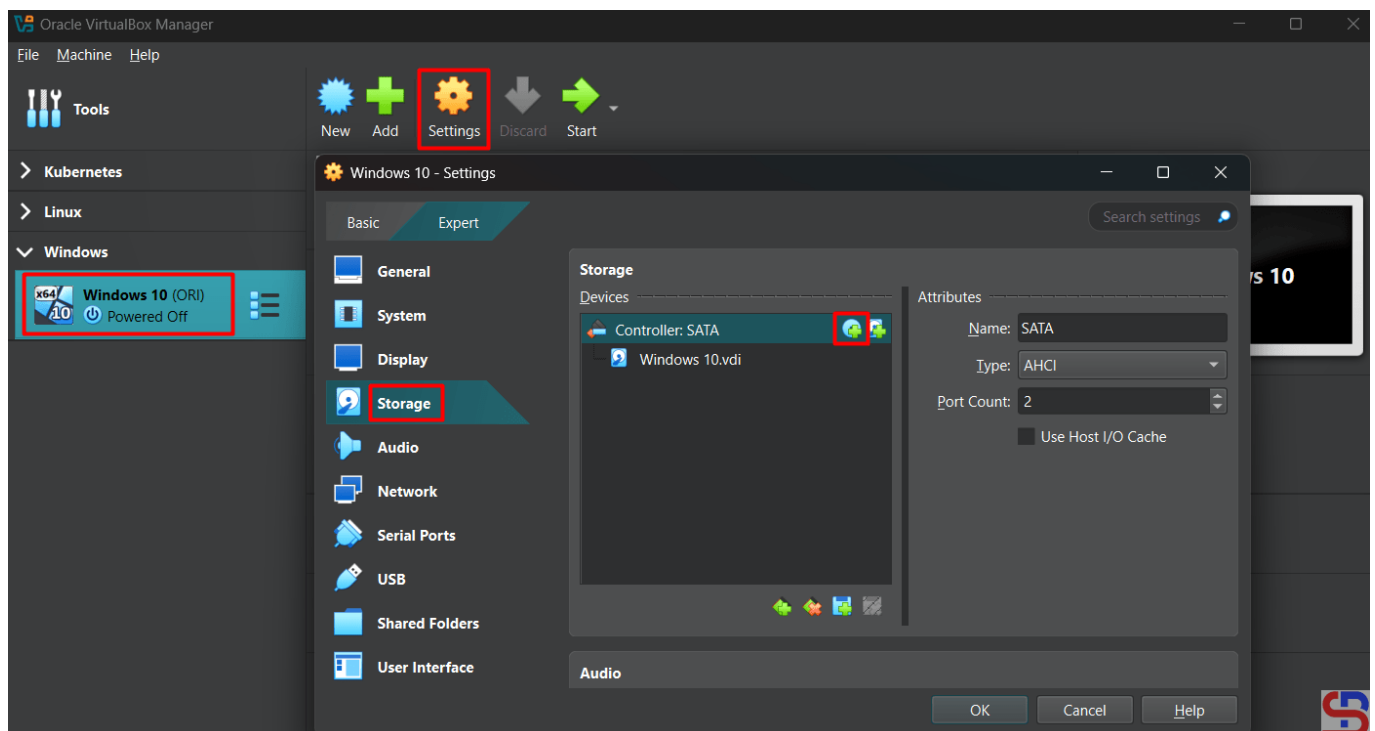
How to install the VirtualBox Guest Additions?

Solution

The Oracle VM VirtualBox Guest Additions for all supported guest operating systems are provided as a single CD-ROM image file which is called VBoxGuestAdditions.iso. This image file is located in the installation directory of Oracle VM VirtualBox. These are the steps to install the ISO in the Windows and Linux guests.

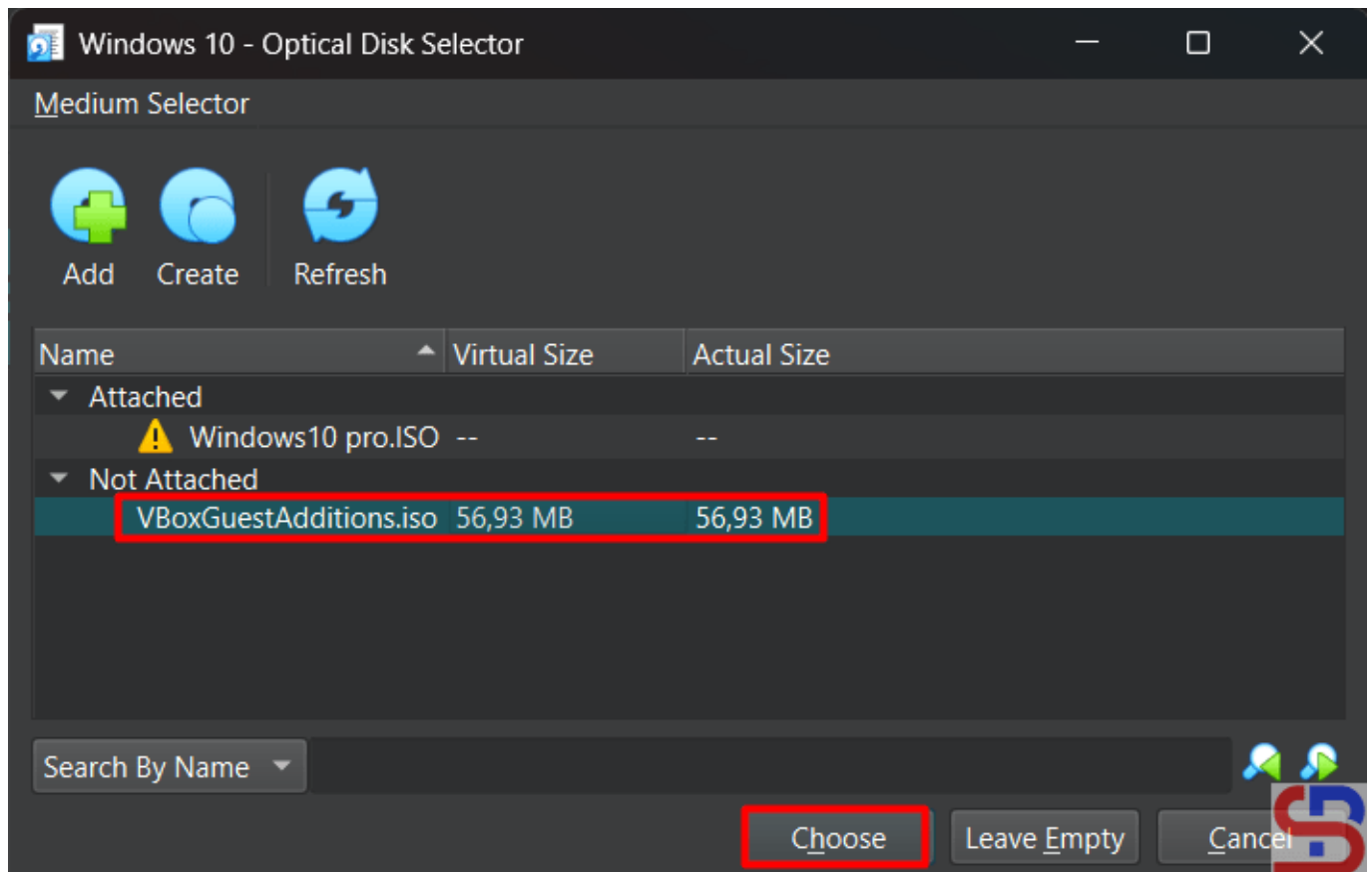
A. In the Windows guest

Open your VirtualBox, click your guest or your virtual machine, click **Settings** – **Storage**, and then click the icon like in the below image:



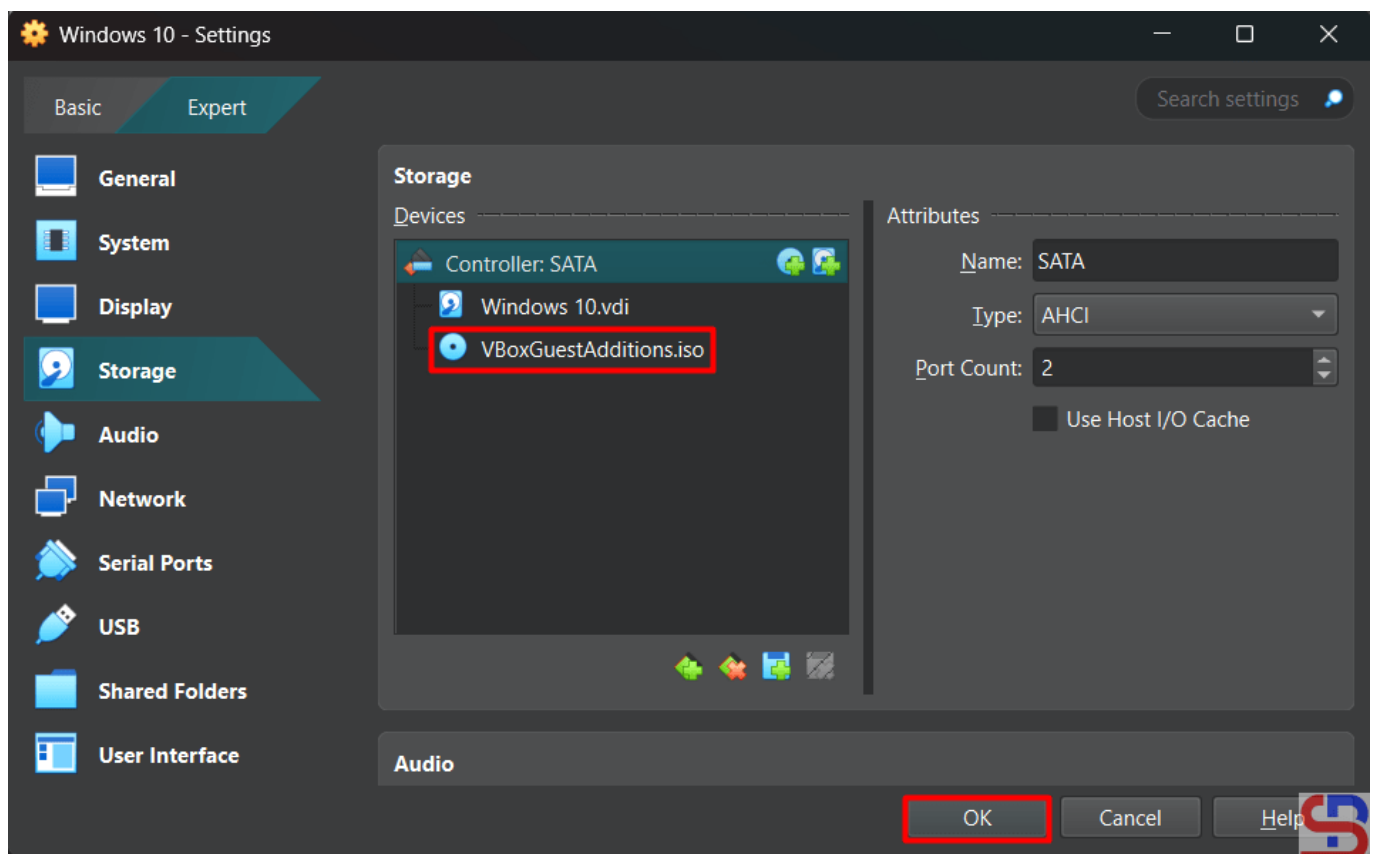
Click the icon in the Storage

Choose the **VBoxGuestAdditions.iso** like in the below image:



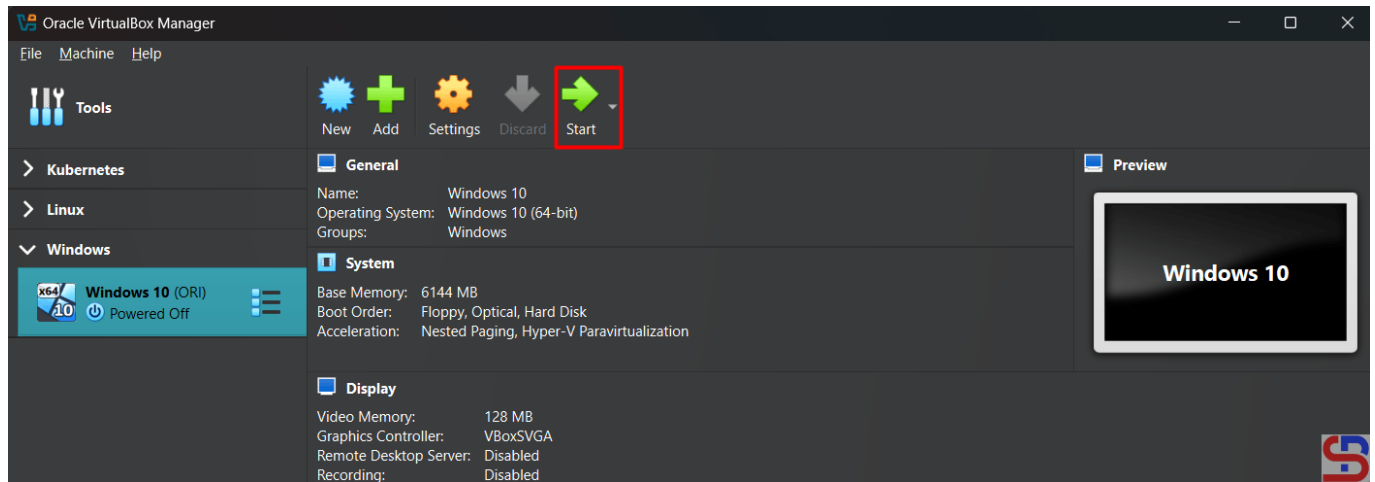
Choose the iso

Click the **Choose** button and the iso will appear like in the image below:



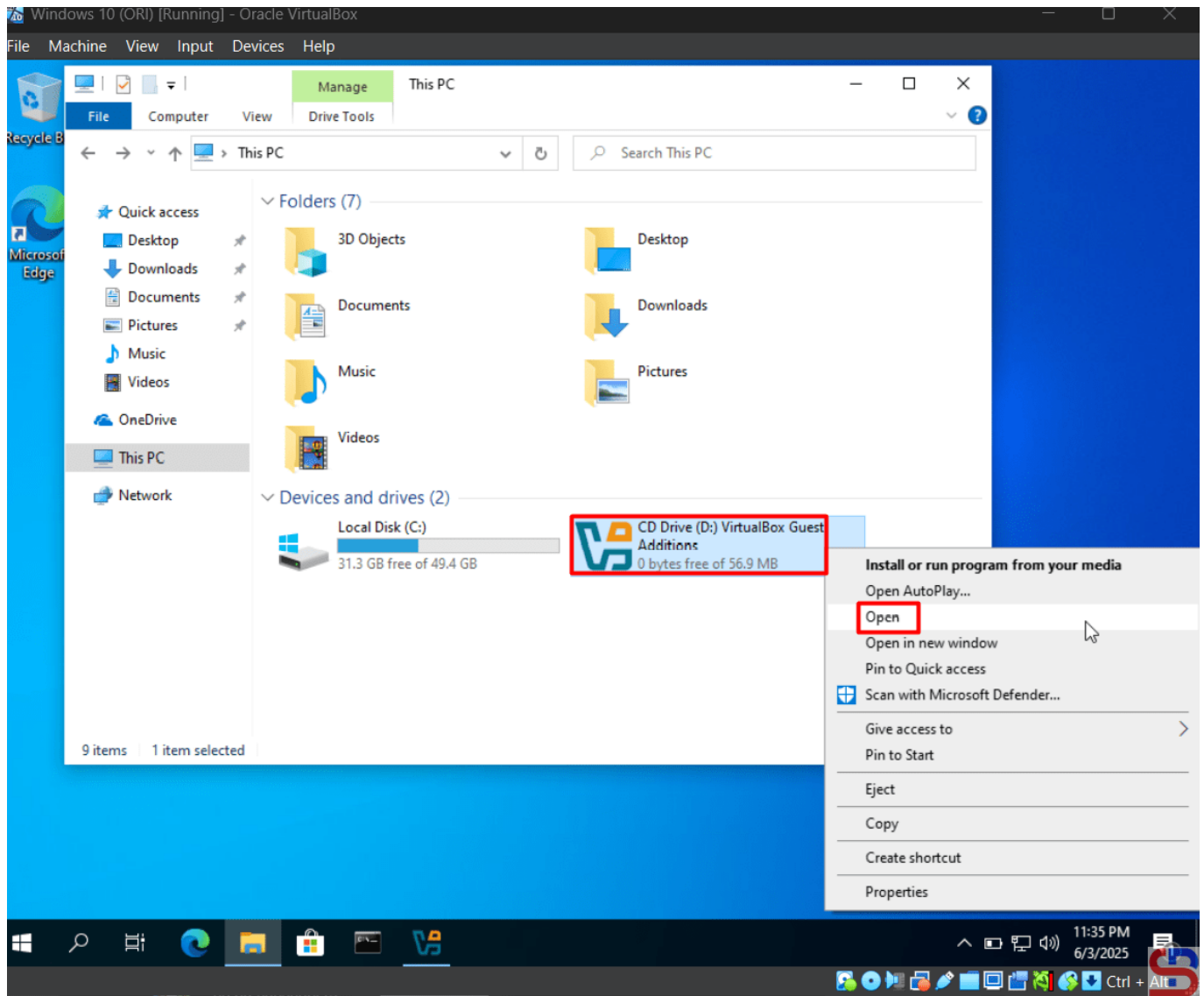
The iso appear

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



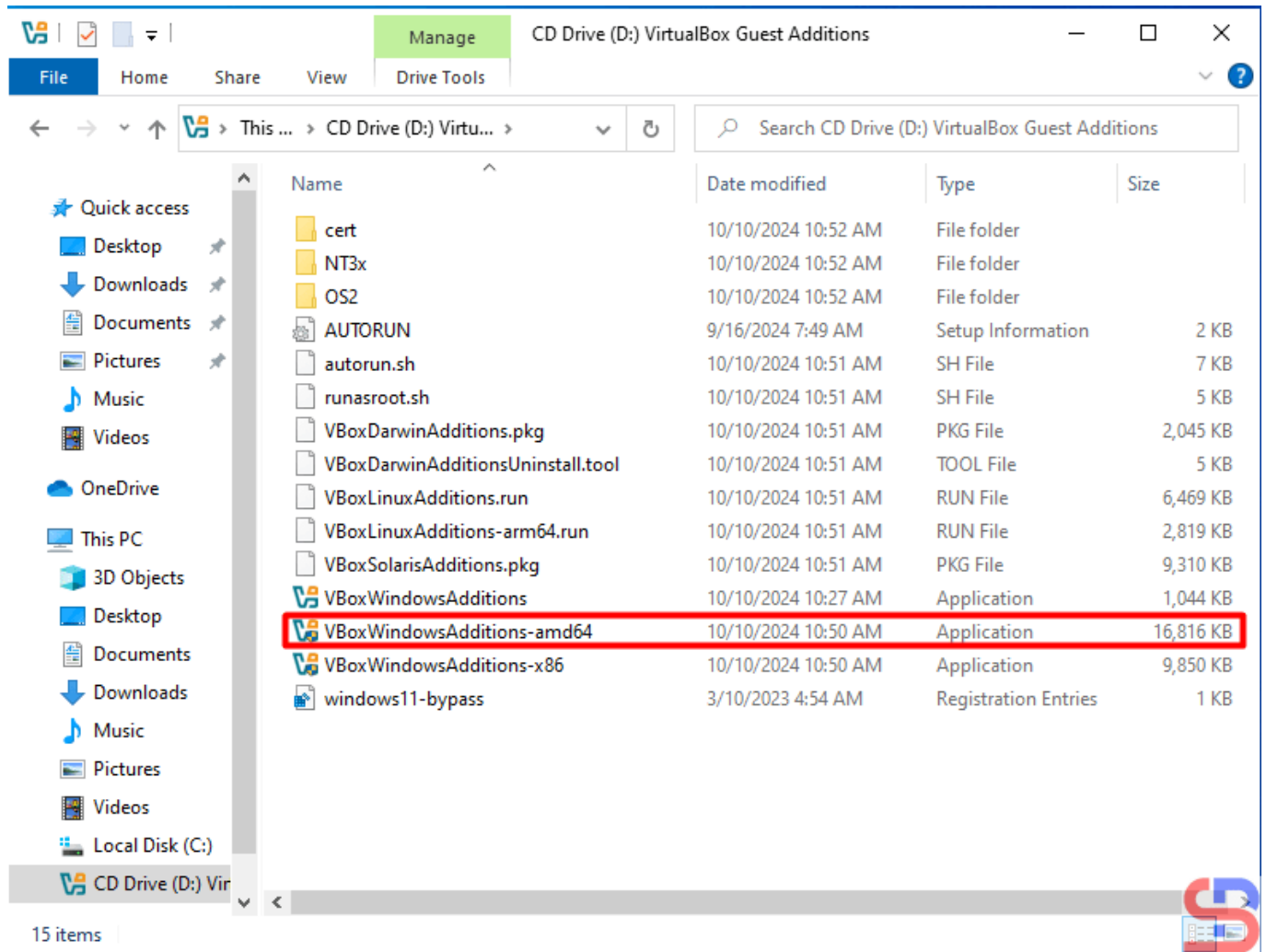
Turn on the VM

Go to This **PC** page and you will see the view in the image below:



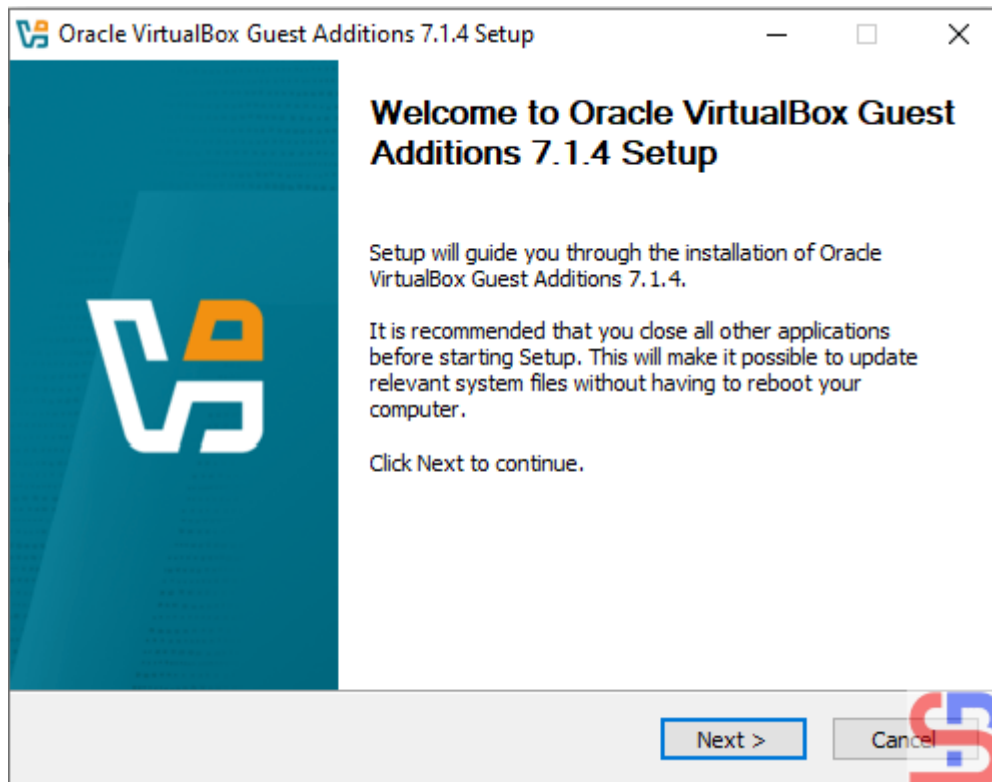
Right-click the CD

Right-click the CD Drive and click **Open**, so there is a display like in the image below:



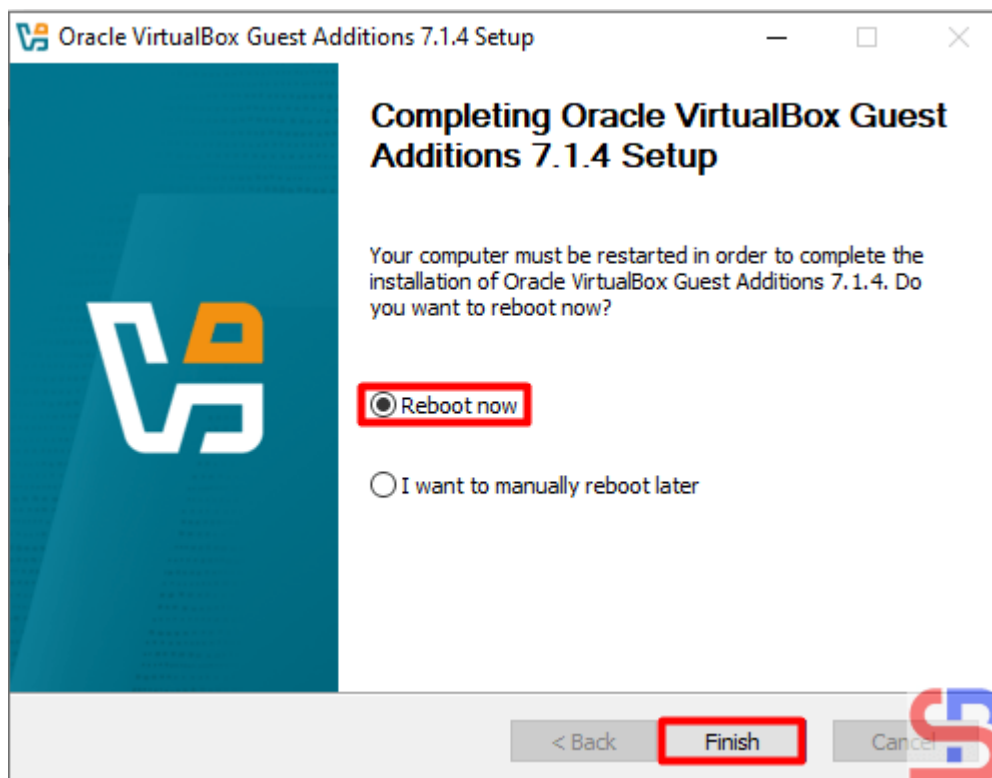
Choose the installer

Double-click on the installer in the red box if your guest is 64-bit, and display it like in the image below:



The installation will start

Click the **Next** button and continue until the driver installation is successful until it displays as shown in the image below:

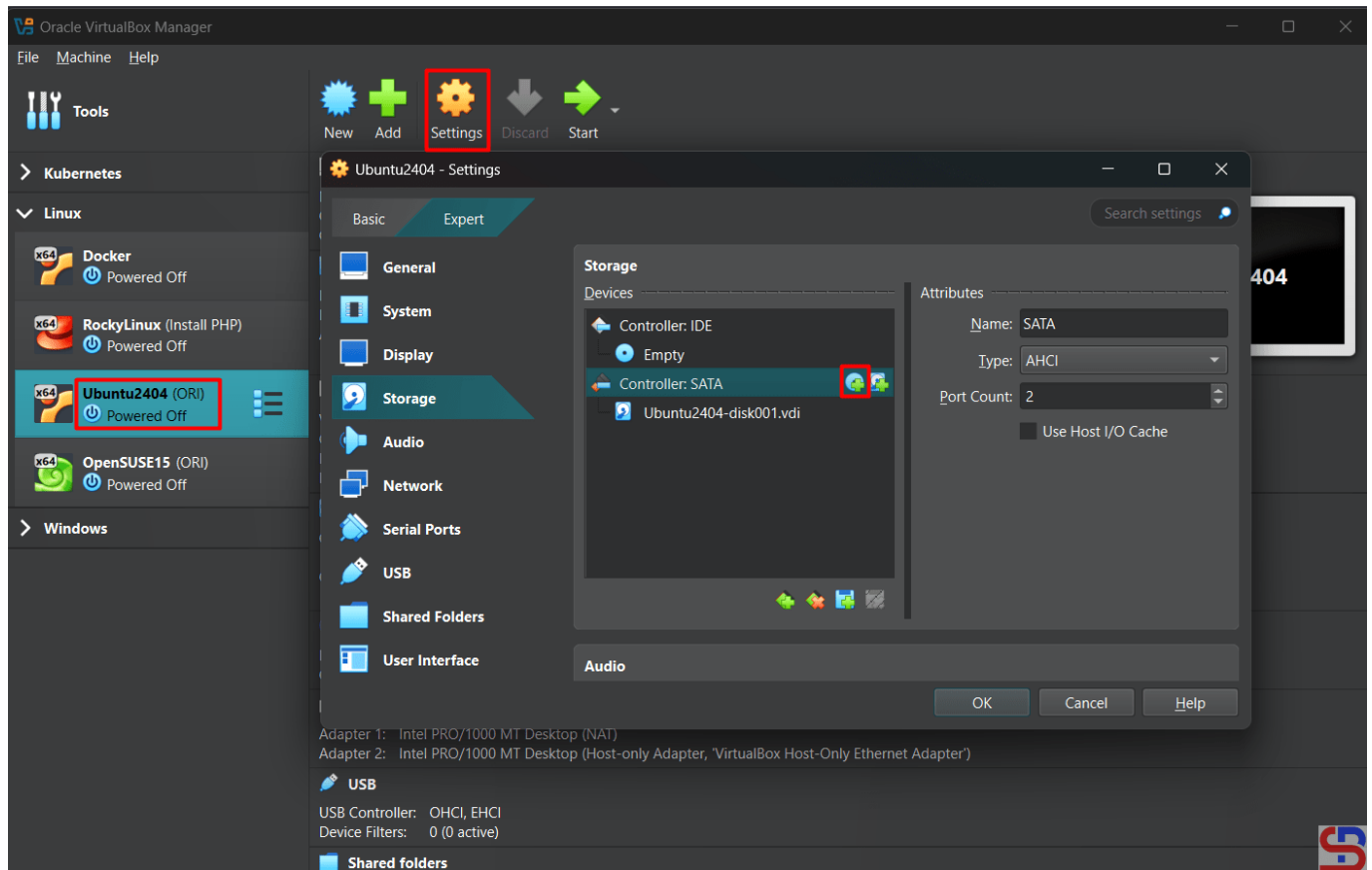


The installation ends

Choose the **Reboot** now and click the Finish button.

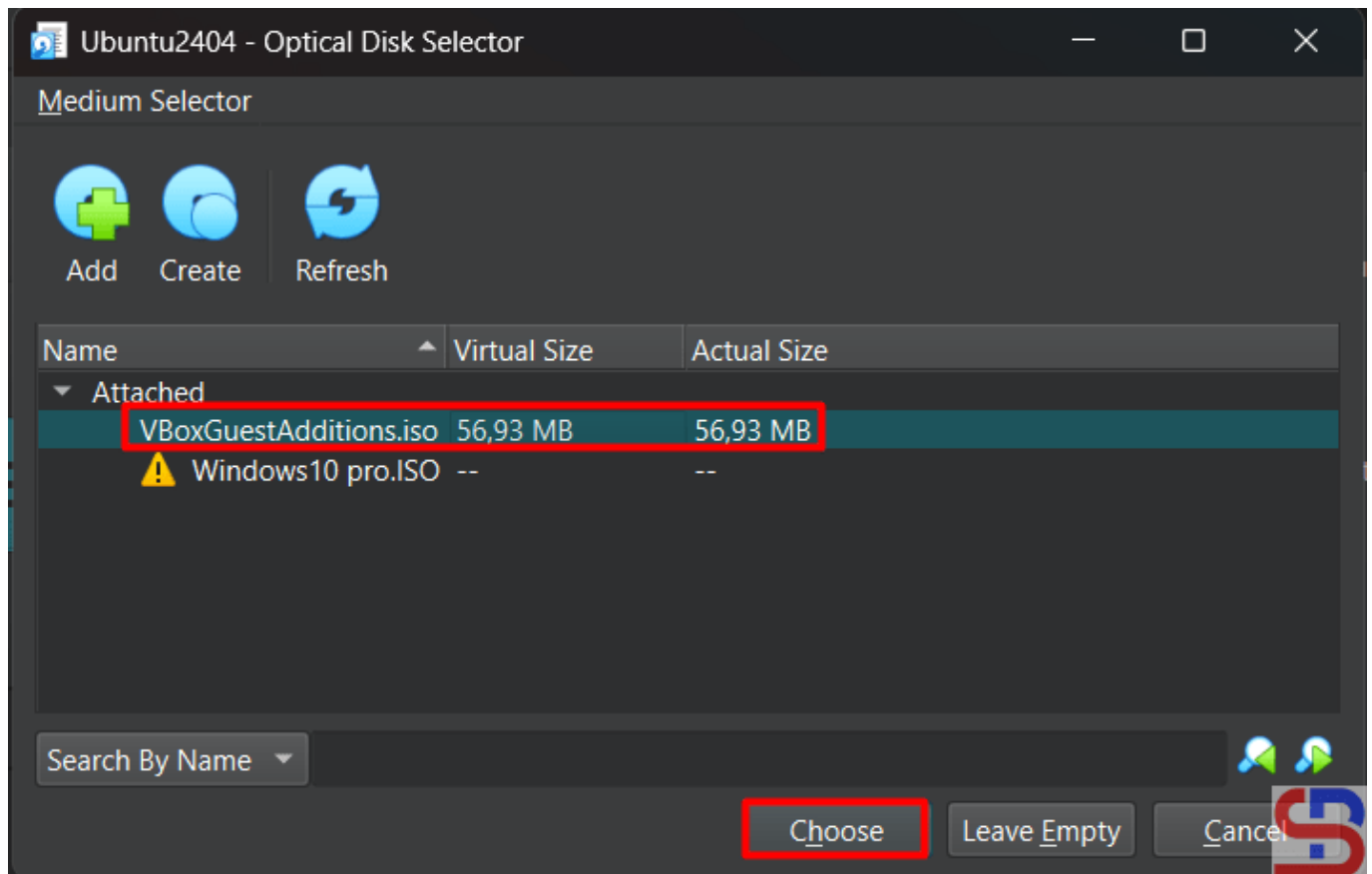
B. In the Linux guest

Open your VirtualBox, click your guest or your virtual machine, click **Settings – Storage**, and then click the icon like in the below image:



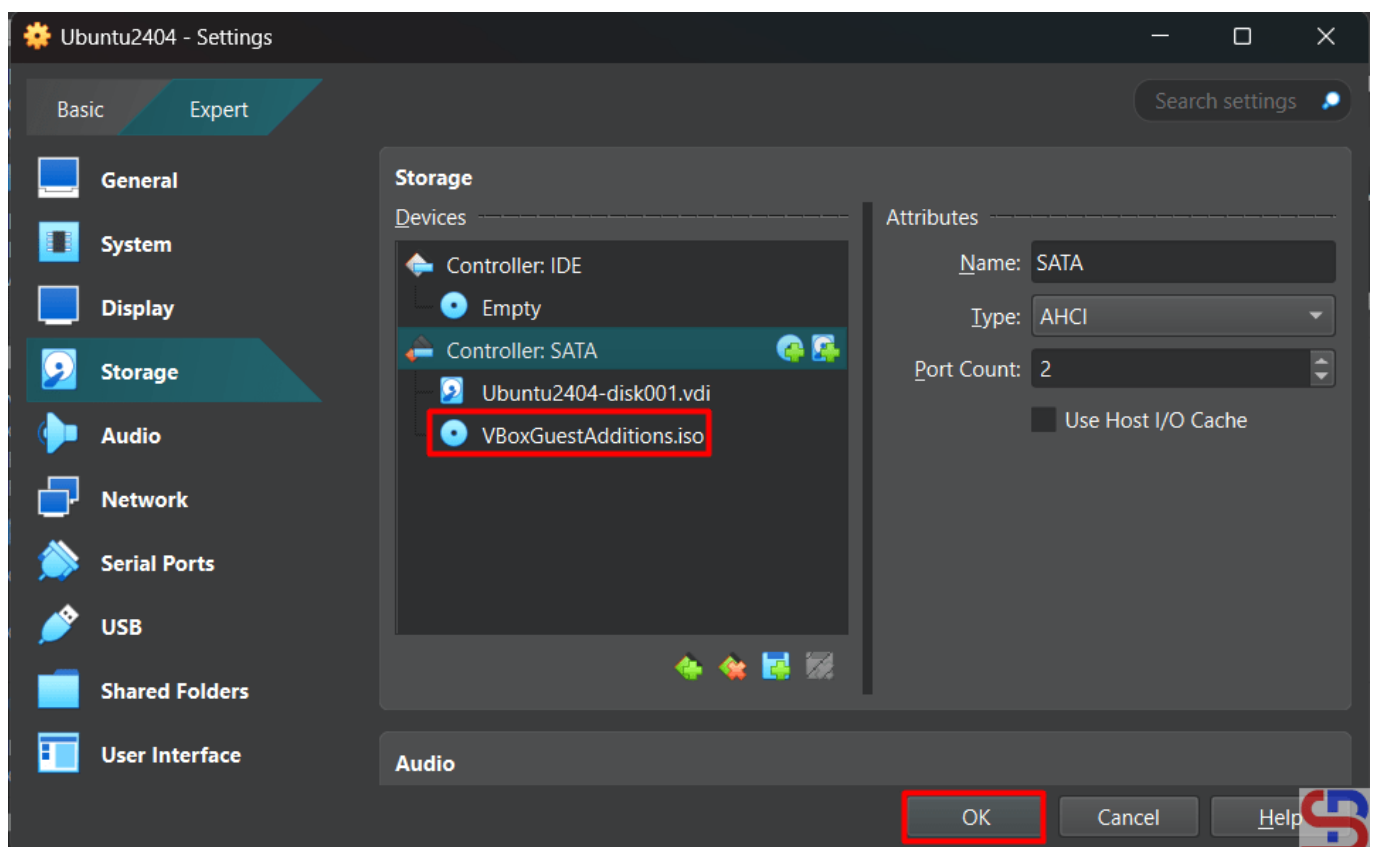
Click the icon in the Storage section

Choose the **VBoxGuestAdditions.iso** like in the below image:



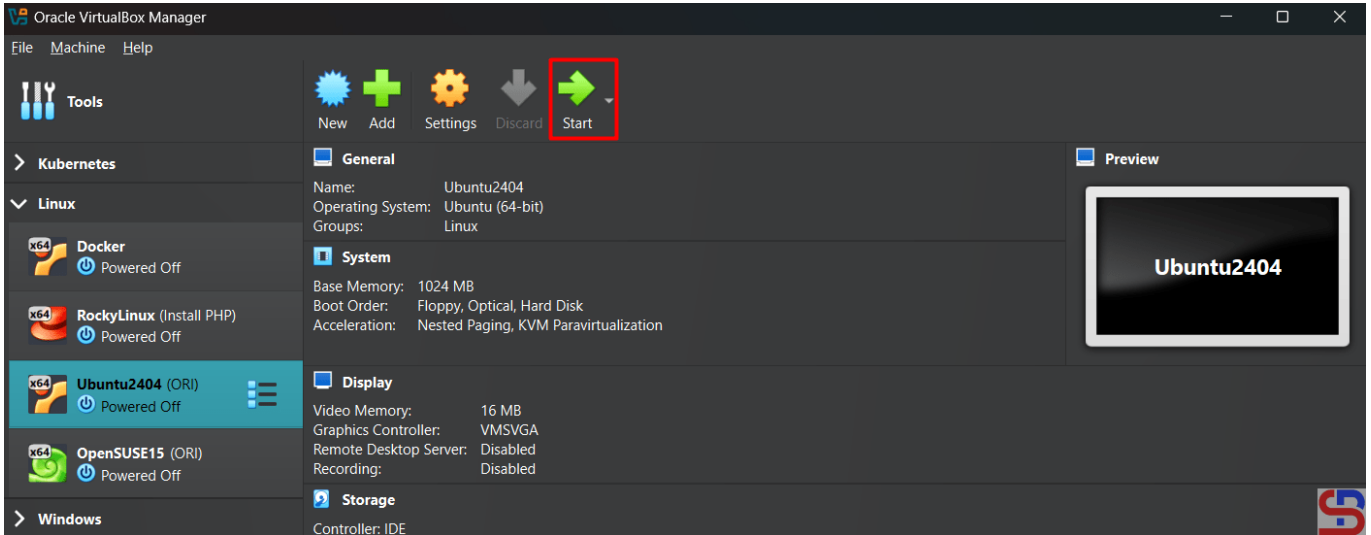
Choose the ISO

Click the **Choose** button and the iso will appear like in the image below:



The ISO appear

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/cdrom` using the command below:

```
sudo mkdir /mnt/cdrom
```

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

```
sudo mount /dev/sr0 /mnt/cdrom/
```

Install some packages by running the command below:

Ubuntu

```
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install -y bzip2 tar gcc make perl
```

RockyLinux/AlmaLinux/CentOS

```
sudo dnf install -y bzip2 tar gcc make perl
```

OpenSUSE

```
sudo zypper install -y bzip2 tar gcc make perl
```

After installation, go to the folder cdrom:

```
cd /mnt/cdrom
```

Execute the command below and wait until finish:

```
sudo sh VBoxLinuxAdditions.run
```

After that, reboot your virtual machine.

Note

Guest Addition will be very useful if your guest uses graphics such as Windows OS or Linux that have graphics because it will improve performance and usability such as Mouse pointer integration, better video support, shared clipboard, and so on. But if you use the Linux CLI in the guest, this guest addition will not be useful.

References

[virtualbox.org](https://www.virtualbox.org)
blogs.oracle.com
[greenwebpage.com](https://www.greenwebpage.com)