Parallel Programming

Installing Virtualbox

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Virtualbox is a virtualization software that enables "guest" operating systems to be installed on the underlying "host" OS without disturbing the host. It will install on all platforms (Windws, Mac, and Linux) although here we are interested mostly on installing a Linux distribution on a Windows platform. If you already have a Linux distribution installed, then of course you can skip the Virtualbox installation and guest OS installation (separate instructions) and go directly to installing the parallel programming software (MPI etc).
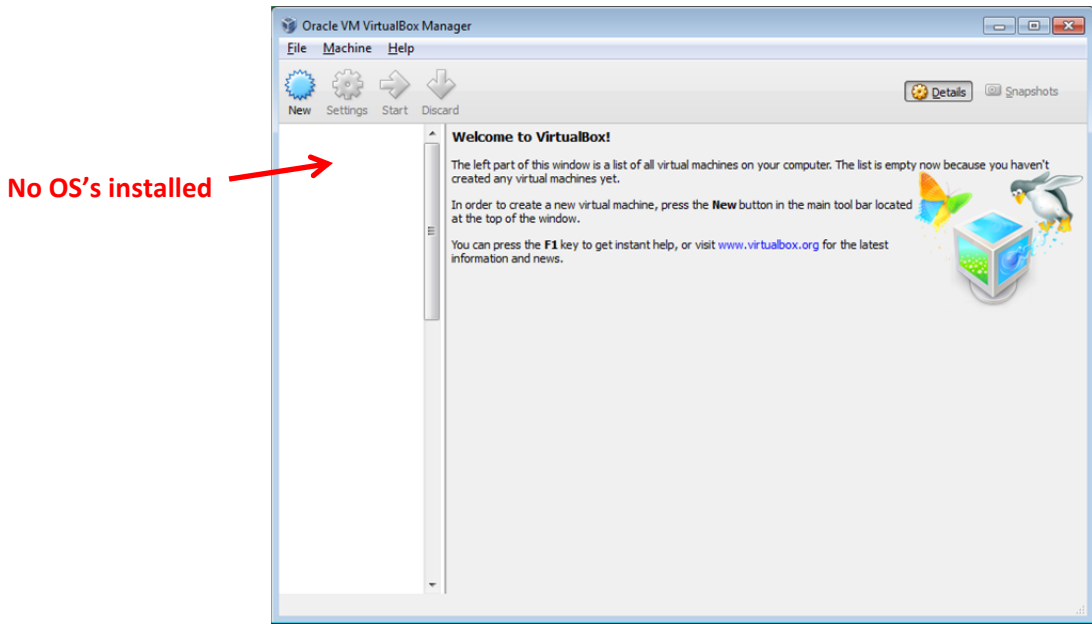
Go to:

https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads

and download VirtualBox to suit your computer[1] and run the installation package package (double-click the downloaded executable file). Our tested installation uses VirtualBox version 4.3.10.

The package installs in **C:\Program files\Oracle\VirtualBox** by default on Windows. Starting VirtualBox for the first time, one gets:

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[1] It does not matter whether you have a 64 bit or 32 bit platform although nowadays one would usually be running a 64 bit processor/OS. VirtualBox supports 32-bit hosts with 64-bit guest OS's.
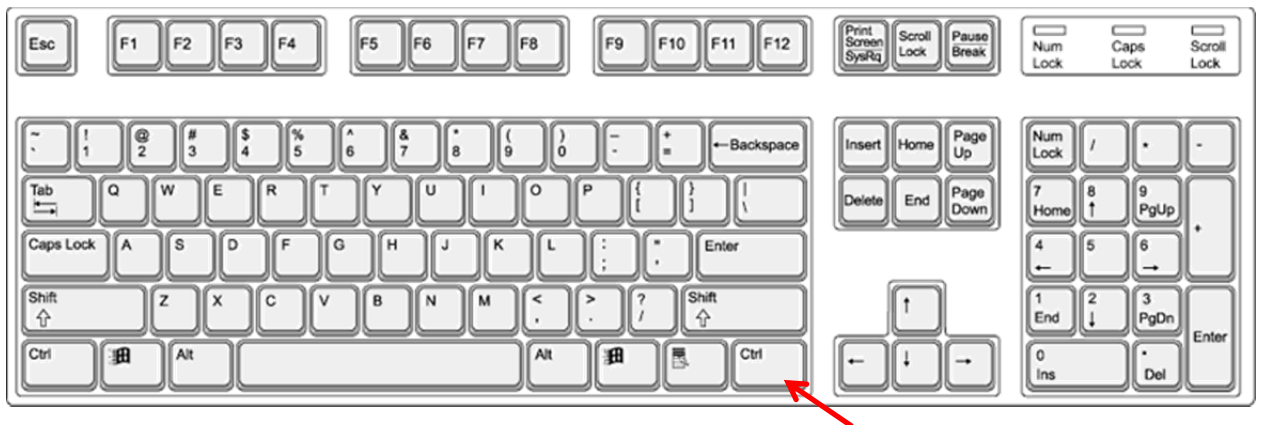
No OS's installed

Now you have to install an OS within the virtual machine. See separate instructions.

FAQ about VirtualBox

1. **Where is the "host" key?**
   "Right control" key, that is, *the control key on the right side of the keyboard* (not the control key on the left side of the keyboard).

   The key for "host key" can be changed under File -> Preferences -> Input -> Virtual. Machine.

2. **Why is there no the machine menu at the top?**
   You are in the scale mode. Switch out of the scale mode with "host key" + C.

3. **How do I make the view bigger?**
   Switch scaled mode ("host key" + C)