Getting Linux

TPC NA 2017

Tom Browder [tom.browder@gmail.com]

Northwest Florida Linux User Group [nwflug.org]

2017-06-21

Preliminaries

My background

- I'm a retired USAF fighter pilot (1987-12-31), and retired engineer (2016-01-01) with ManTech International Corporation (`http://mantech.com`)
- I've used Unix and GNU/Linux and FOSS professionally for over 23 years
- I still use them daily in my personal projects as well as my work on FOSS projects
- Perl 6 is my programmimg language of choice (since 1993)
- My favorite hobby is supporting the development of Perl 6

Pass arounds

- Three color calendars
- Three B and W calendars

Pertinent Links

This link will get you to some public files for the calendar:

<https://computertechnwf.org/2017/sessions/>

Getting Linux

Several Methods

Pros and cons for each:

- Virtual Box
- Live CD/DVD
- Bootable USB drive
- Spare computer (native install; dual or single boot)

We'll use VirtualBox for this presentation

The VirtualBox site

Note:

- the “Downloads” link
- the “End-user docs” link
- the “News Flash” section

The website

After selecting "Downloads"

Don't forget the "Extension Pack"

It's for USB 2/3, and it's not distributable.

Upgrading or installing

When upgrading or installing, you lose network access temporarily.
You may have to uninstall an old version when upgrading.

Selecting the Linux distro

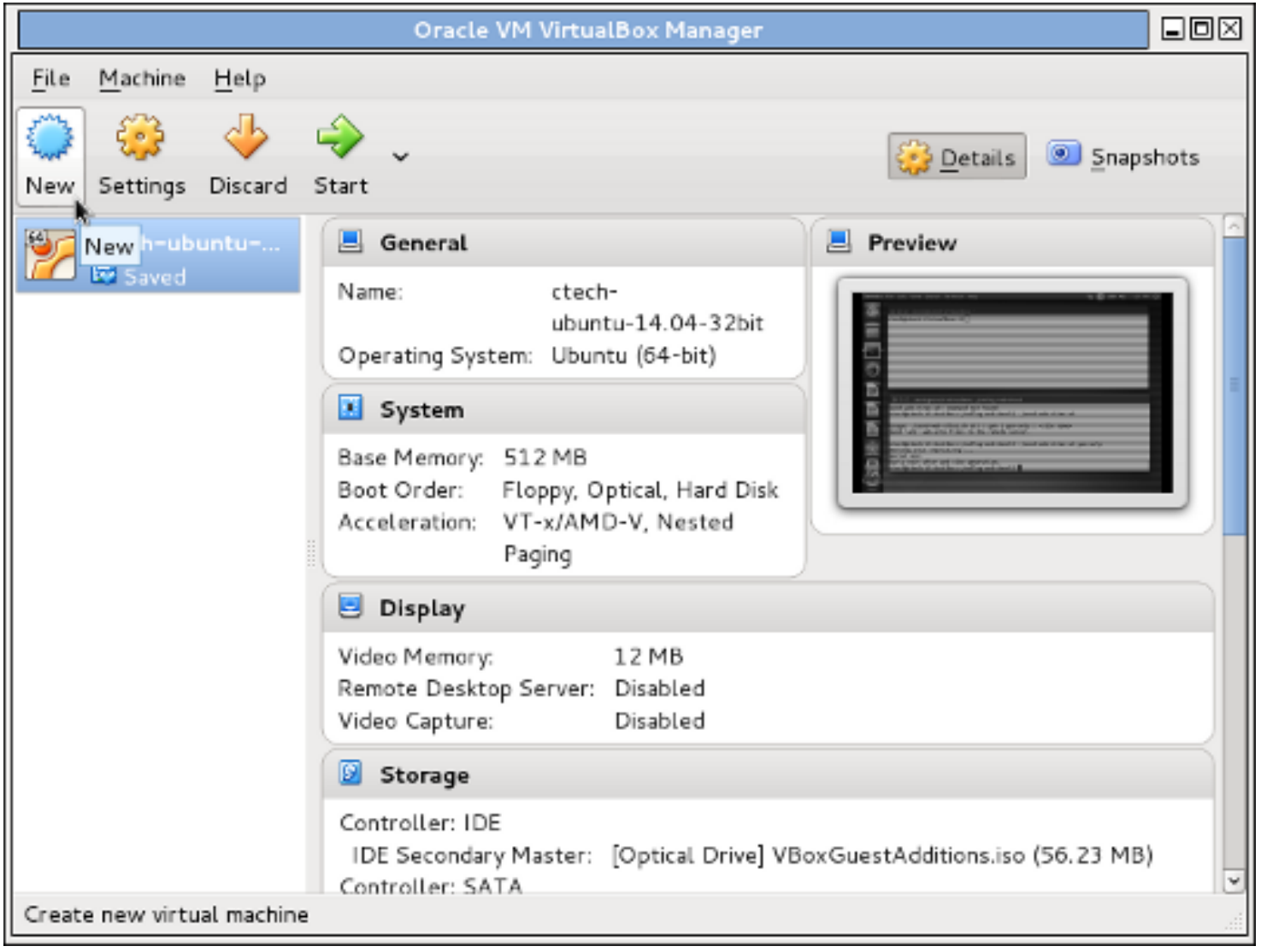
Considerations (* recommended)

- amount of RAM (* 2 GB+)
- 32- or 64-bit (* 64-bit)
- 64-bit guest on 32-bit host? (NOT recommended)
- type network interface (remote access needed?)

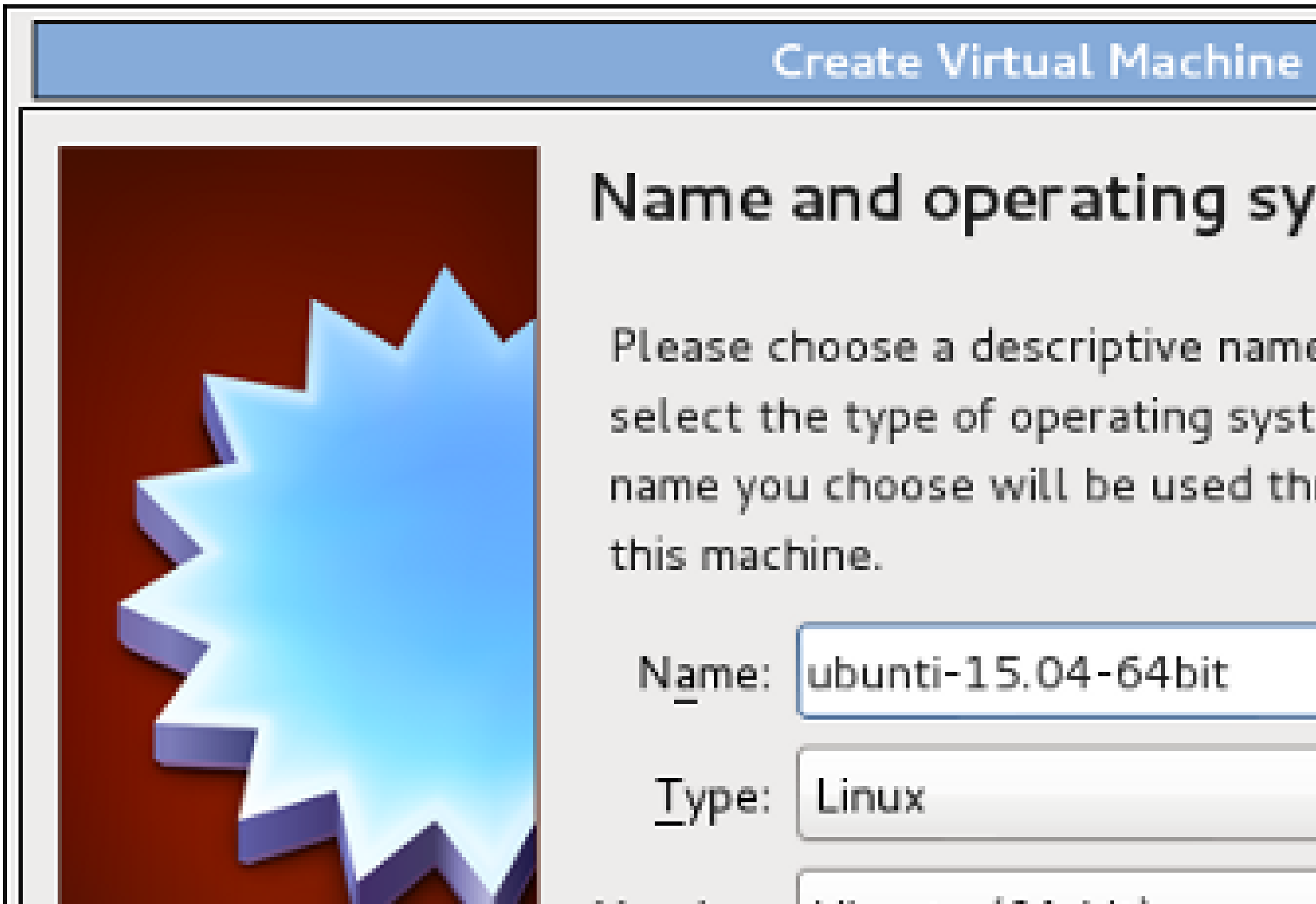
Note we have an Ubuntu 32-bit VirtualBox image on the Computer Tech website.

Installing the Linux guest. . .

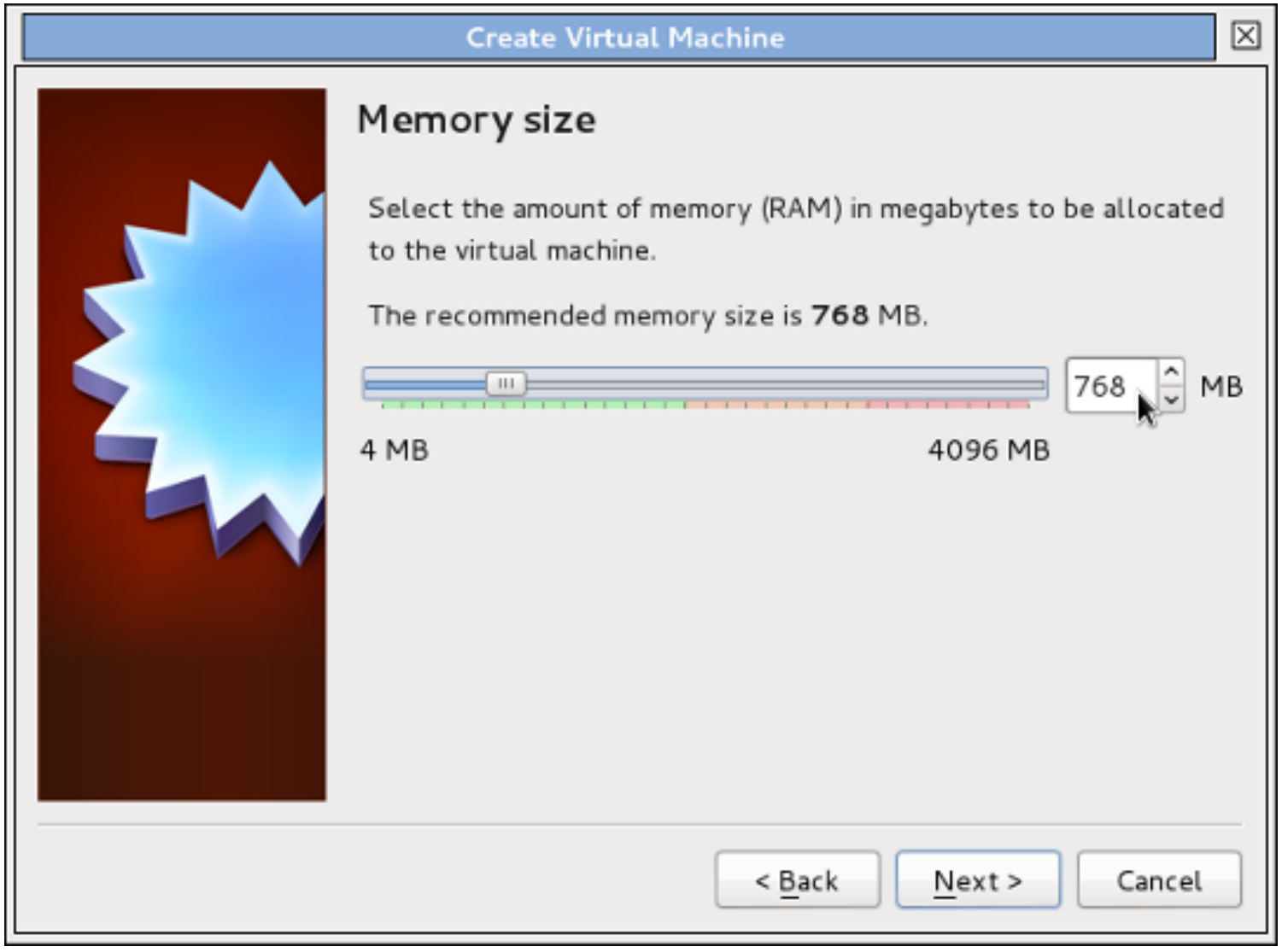
.Creating a new Virtual Machine (VM)



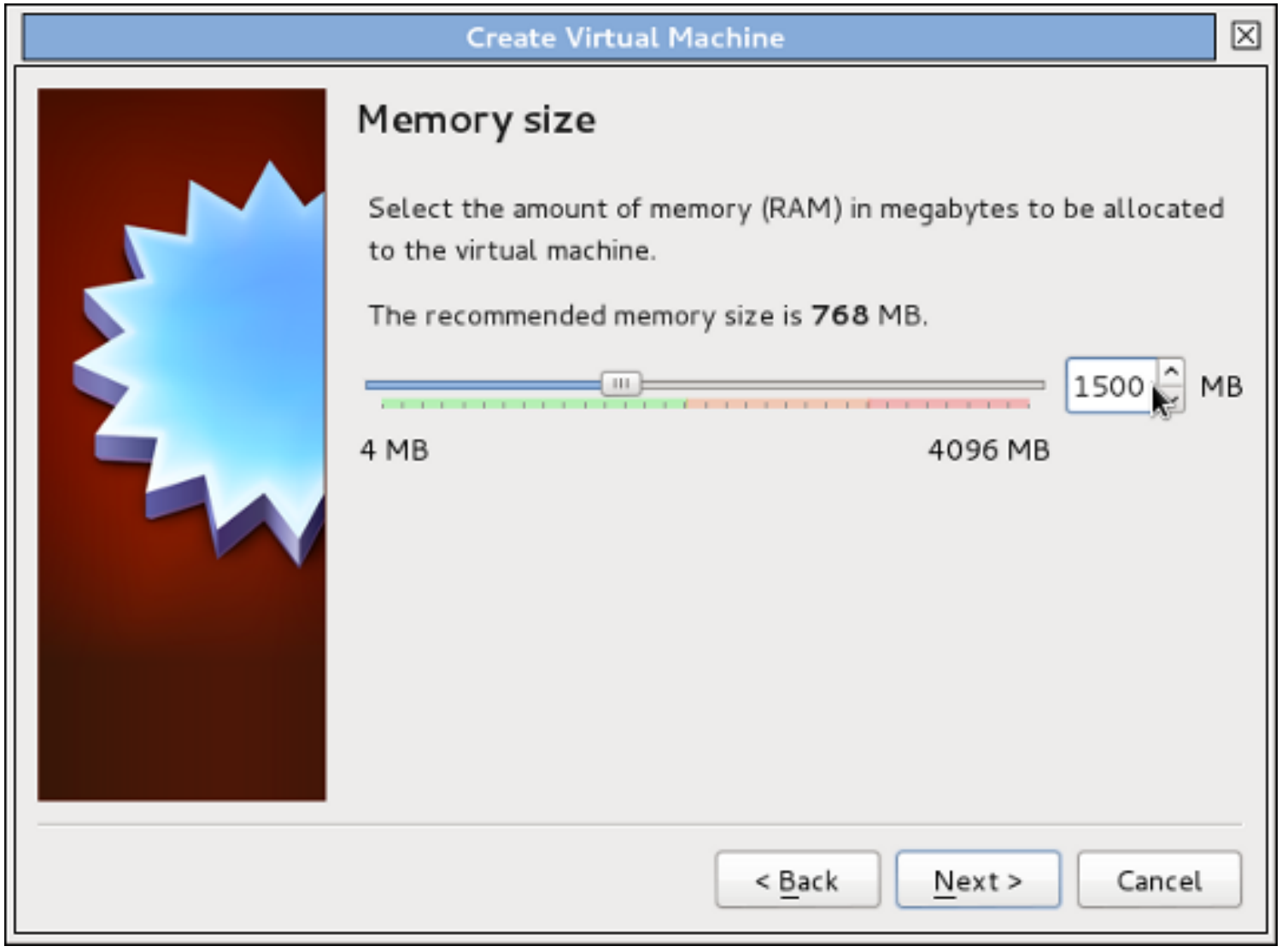
Naming the VM



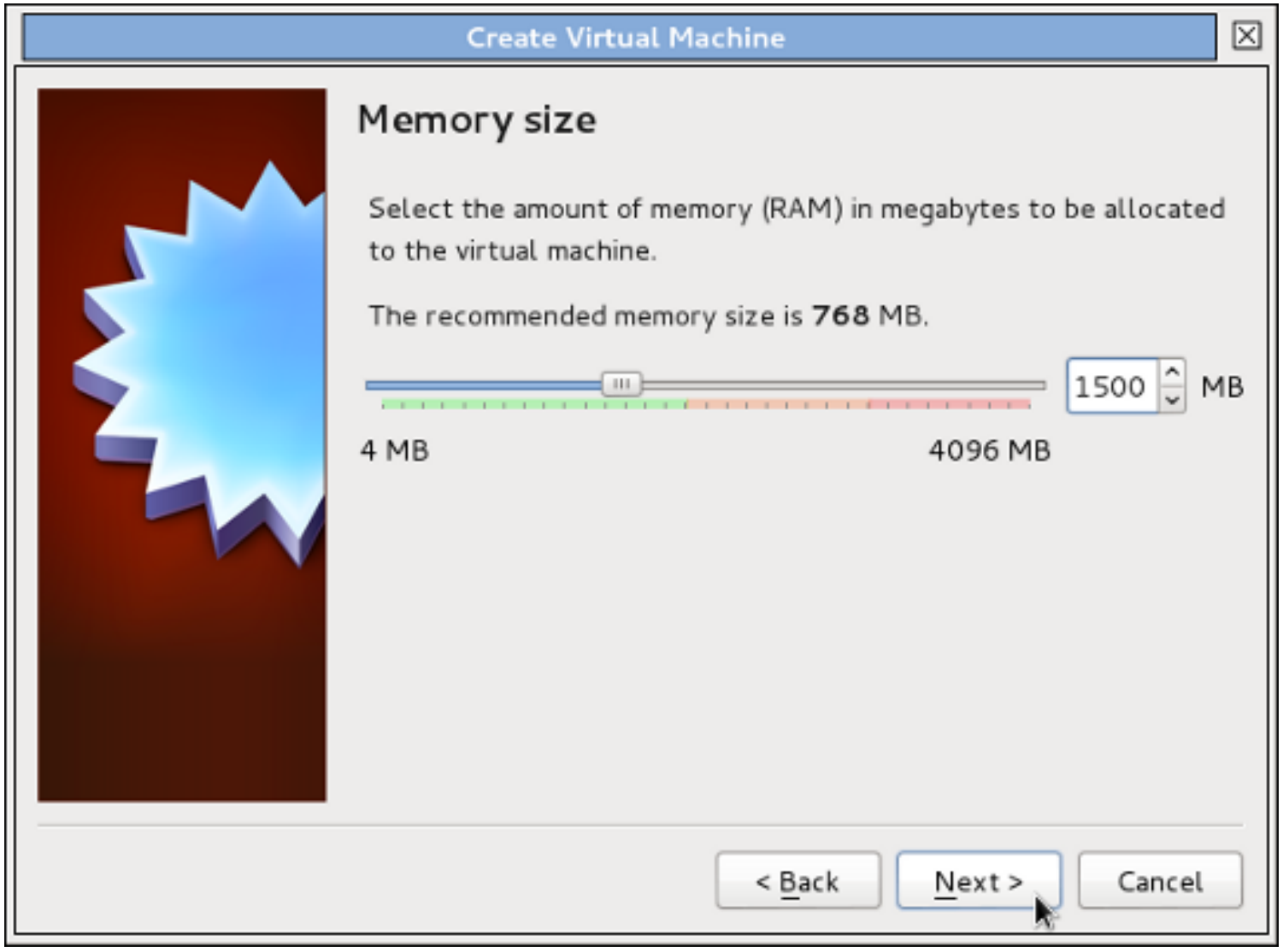
Choose RAM allocation



May need at least 1.5 Gb

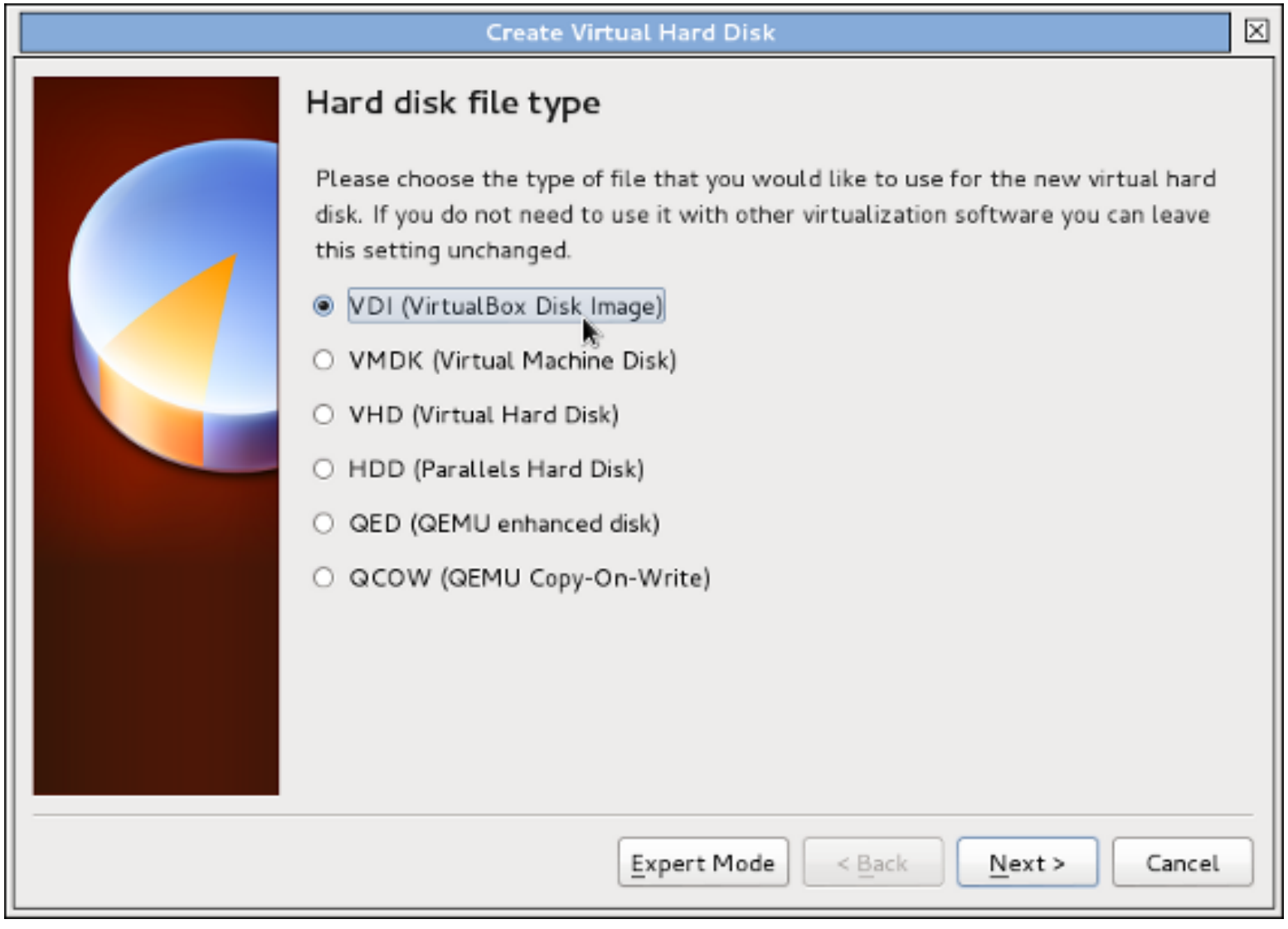


Select “Next”

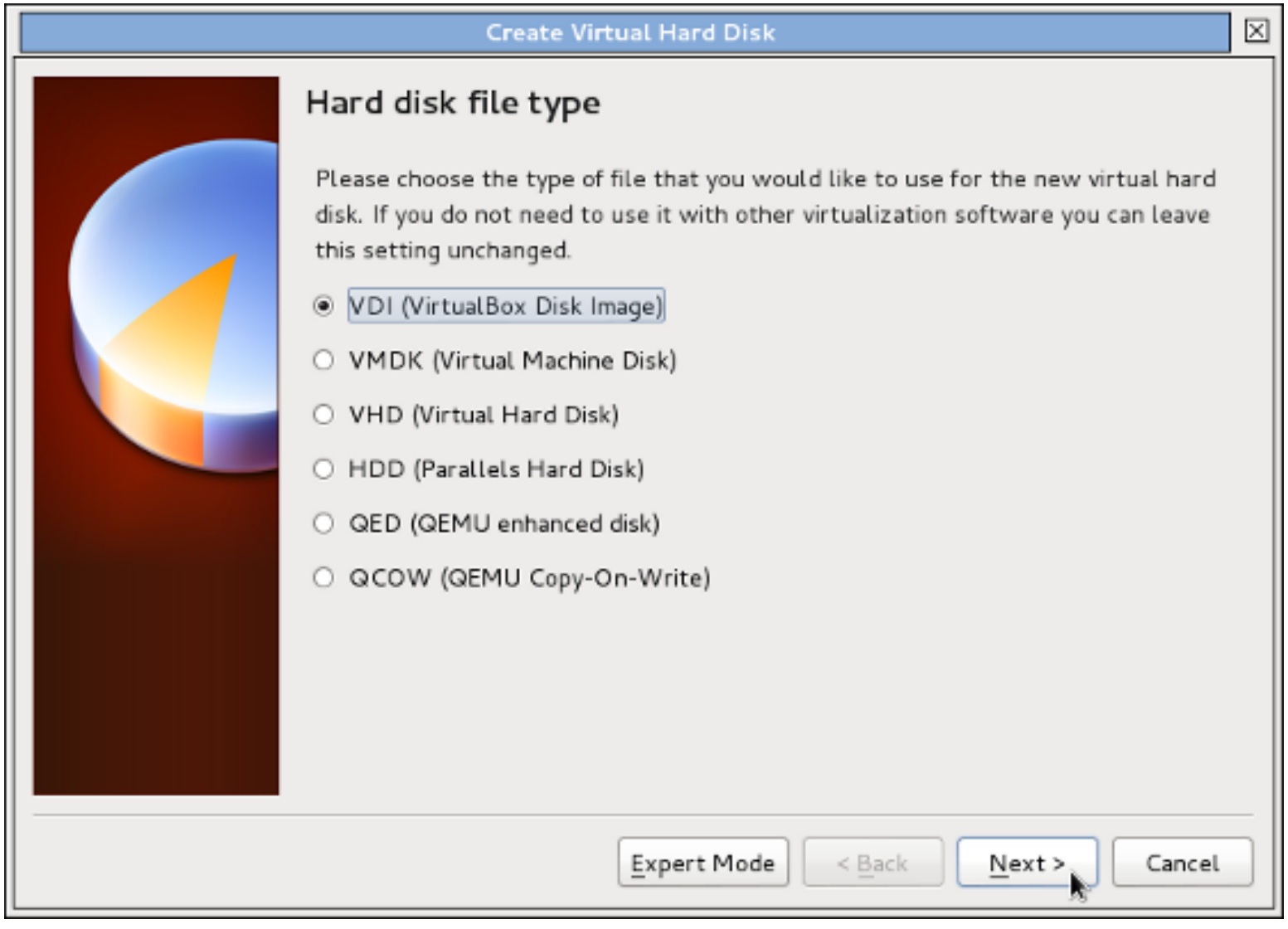

Create Virtual Machine
Memory size
Select the amount of memory (RAM) in megabytes to be allocated to the virtual machine.
The recommended memory size is 768 MB.
1500
MB
4 MB
4096 MB
< Back
Next >
Cancel

Creating a virtual hard disk

Use the default disk type (VDI)

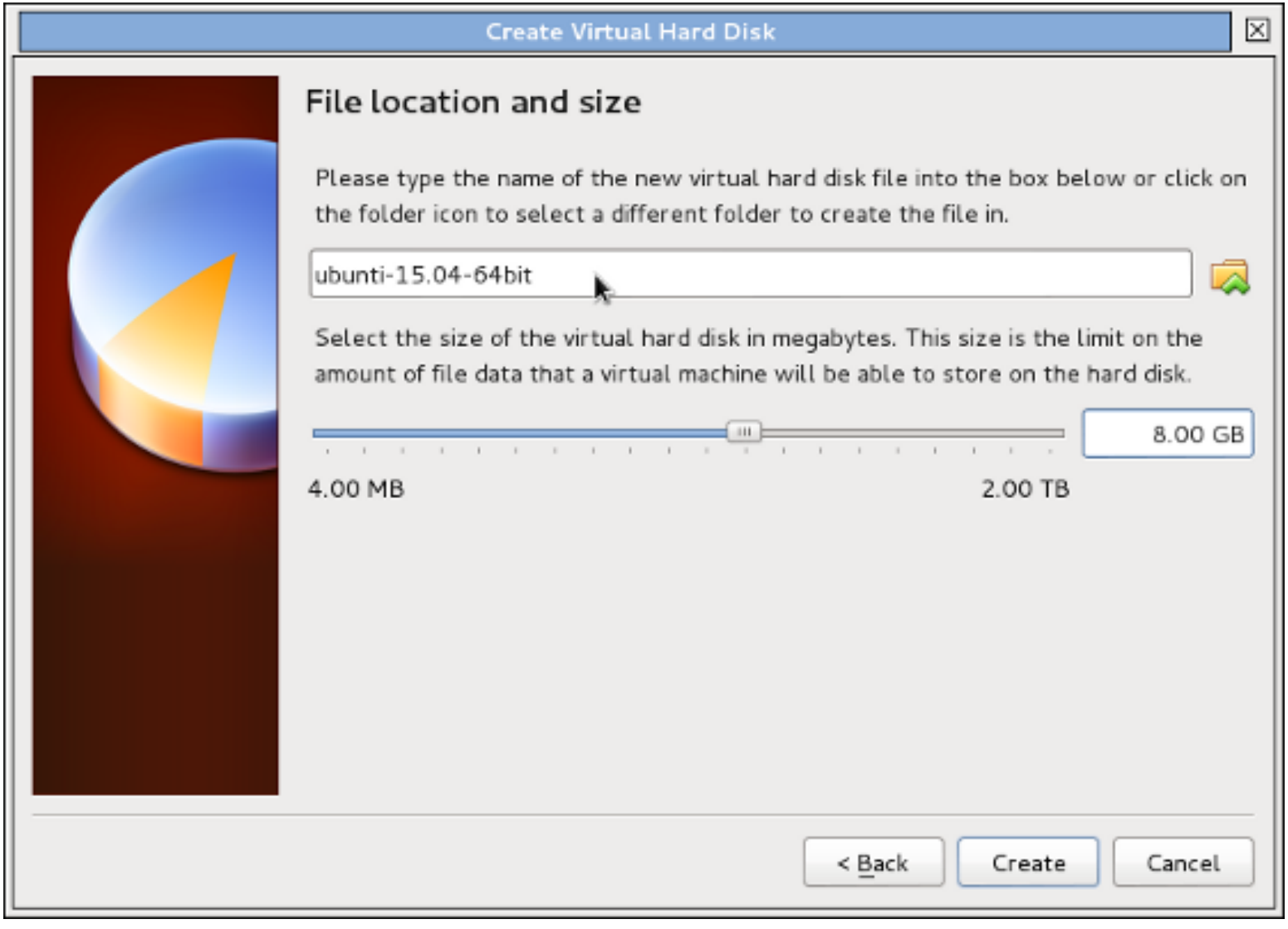


Select “Next”


Create Virtual Hard Disk
Hard disk file type
Please choose the type of file that you would like to use for the new virtual hard disk. If you do not need to use it with other virtualization software you can leave this setting unchanged.
VDI (VirtualBox Disk Image)
VMDK (Virtual Machine Disk)
VHD (Virtual Hard Disk)
HDD (Parallels Hard Disk)
QED (QEMU enhanced disk)
QCOW (QEMU Copy-On-Write)
Expert Mode
< Back
Next >
Cancel

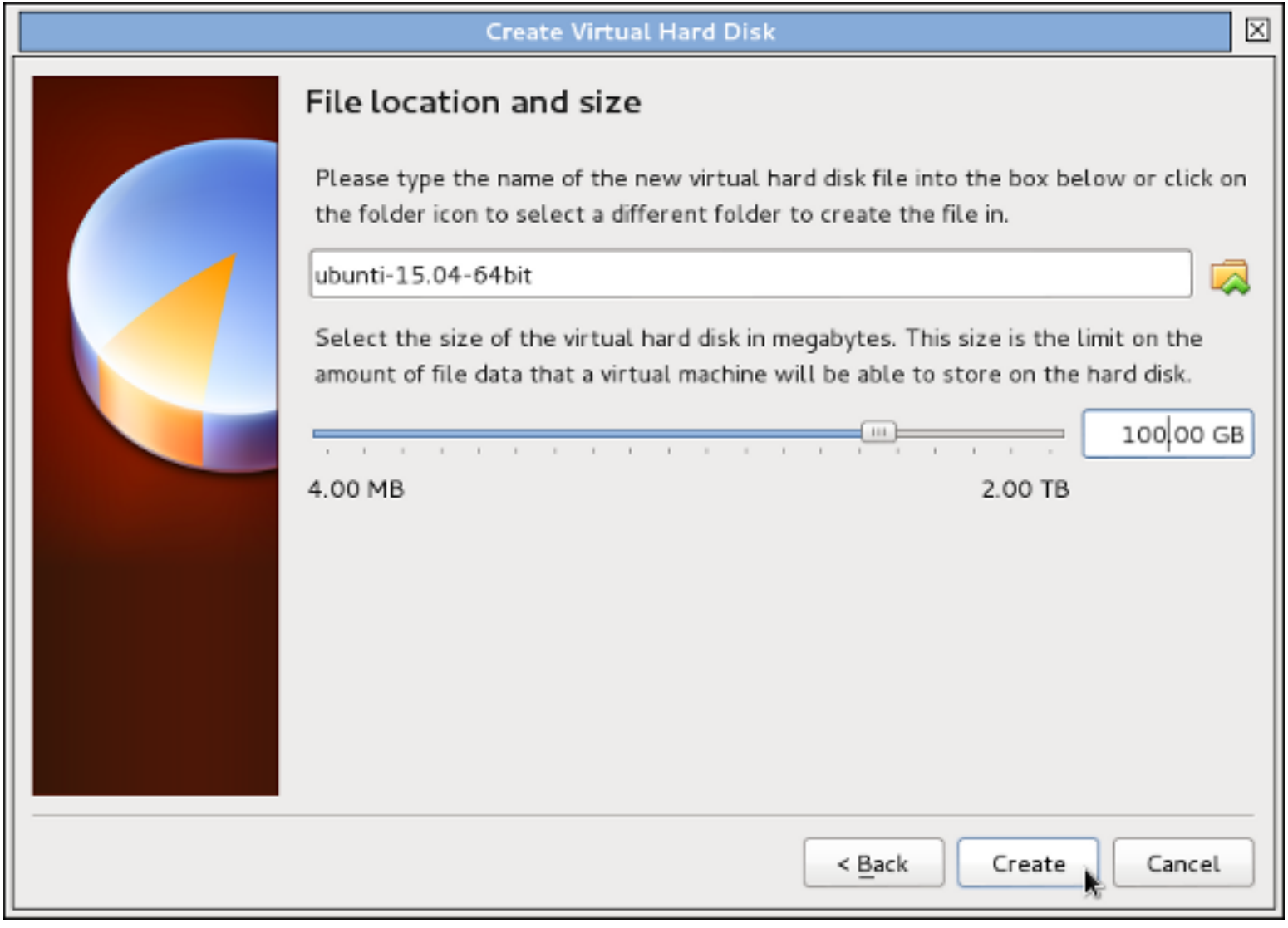
Choose “Dynamically allocated”

Normally accept the default name

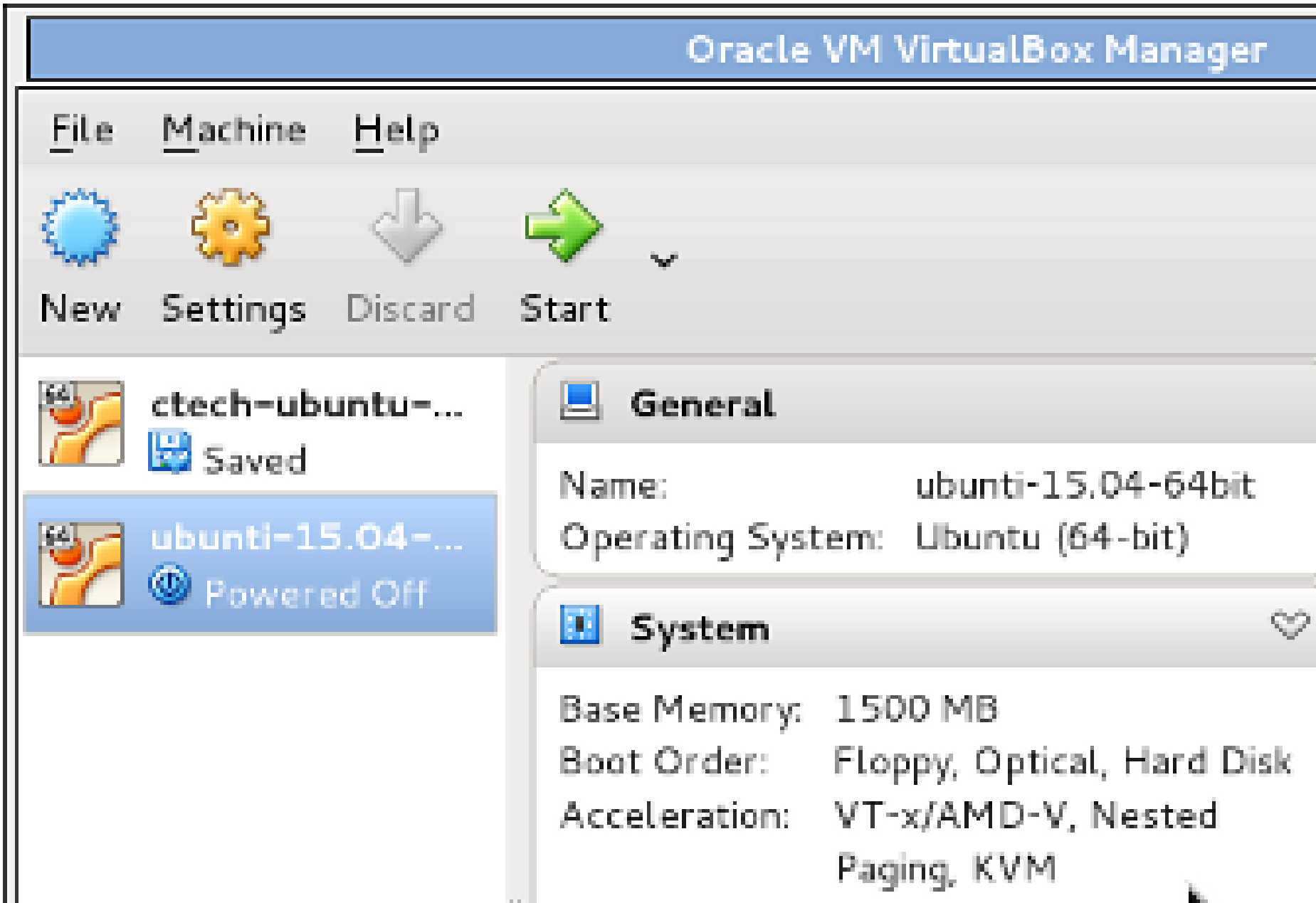


Be generous selecting disk size

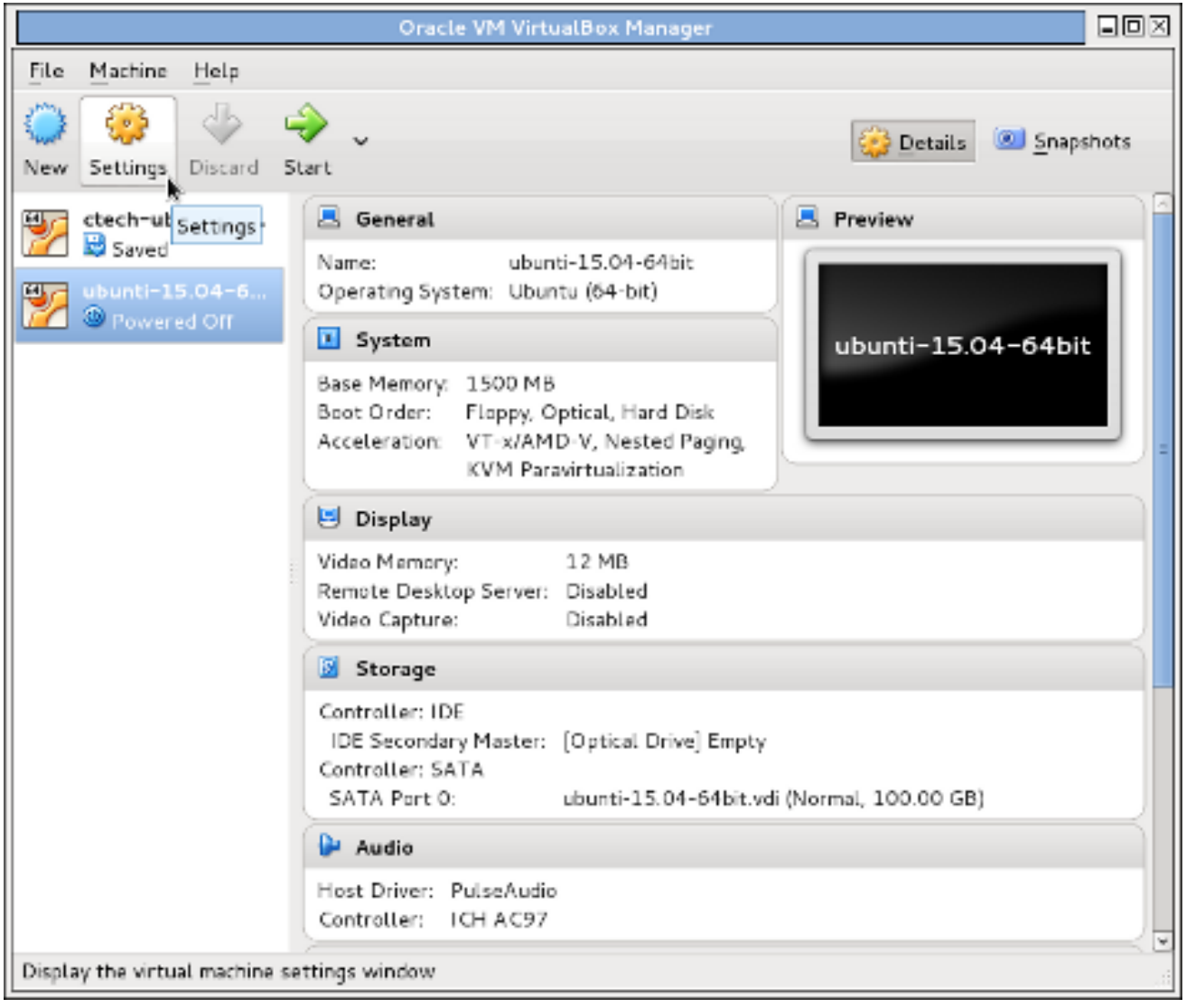
.Then select "Create"



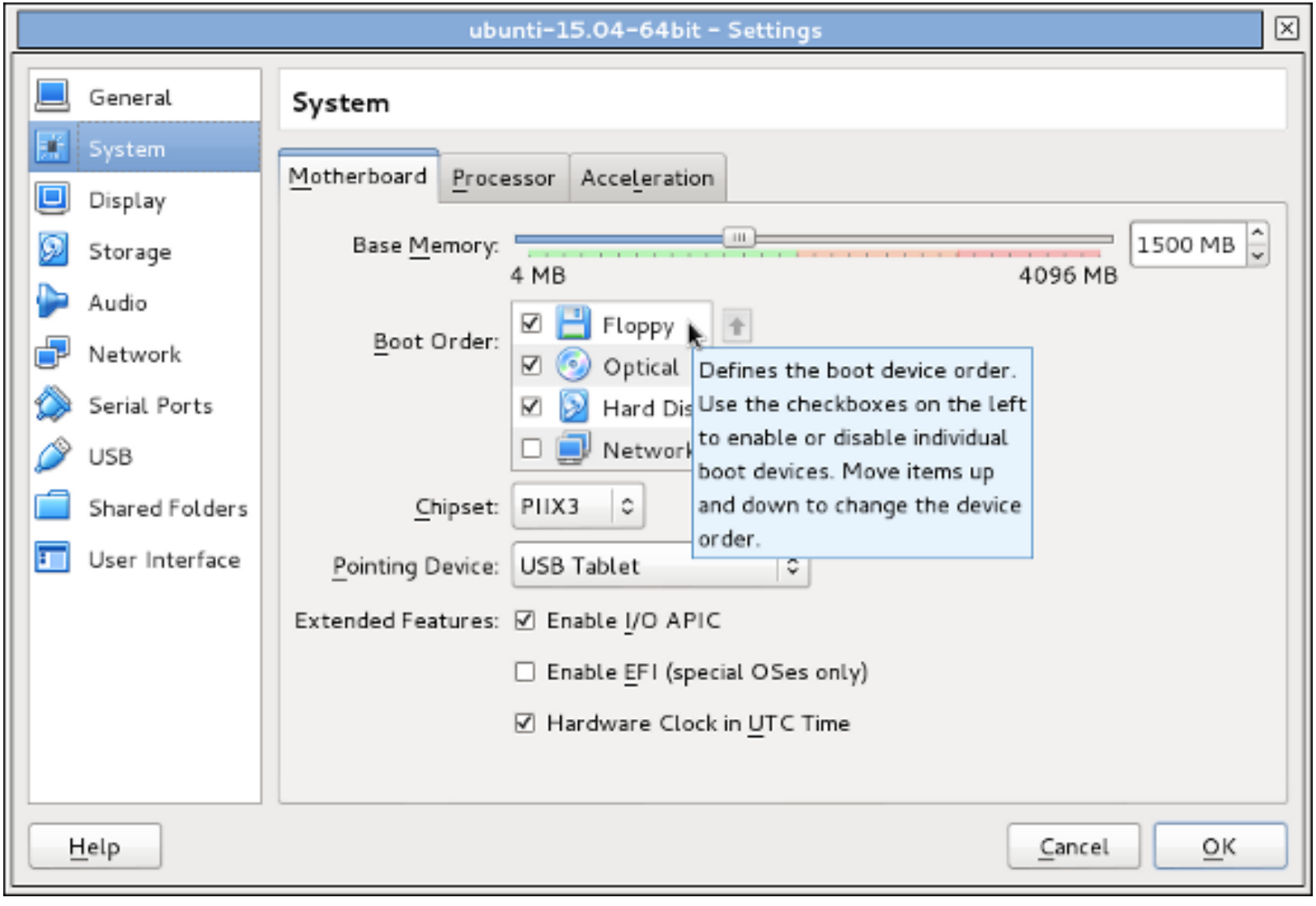
The new VM appears in the list



More VM settings to be made

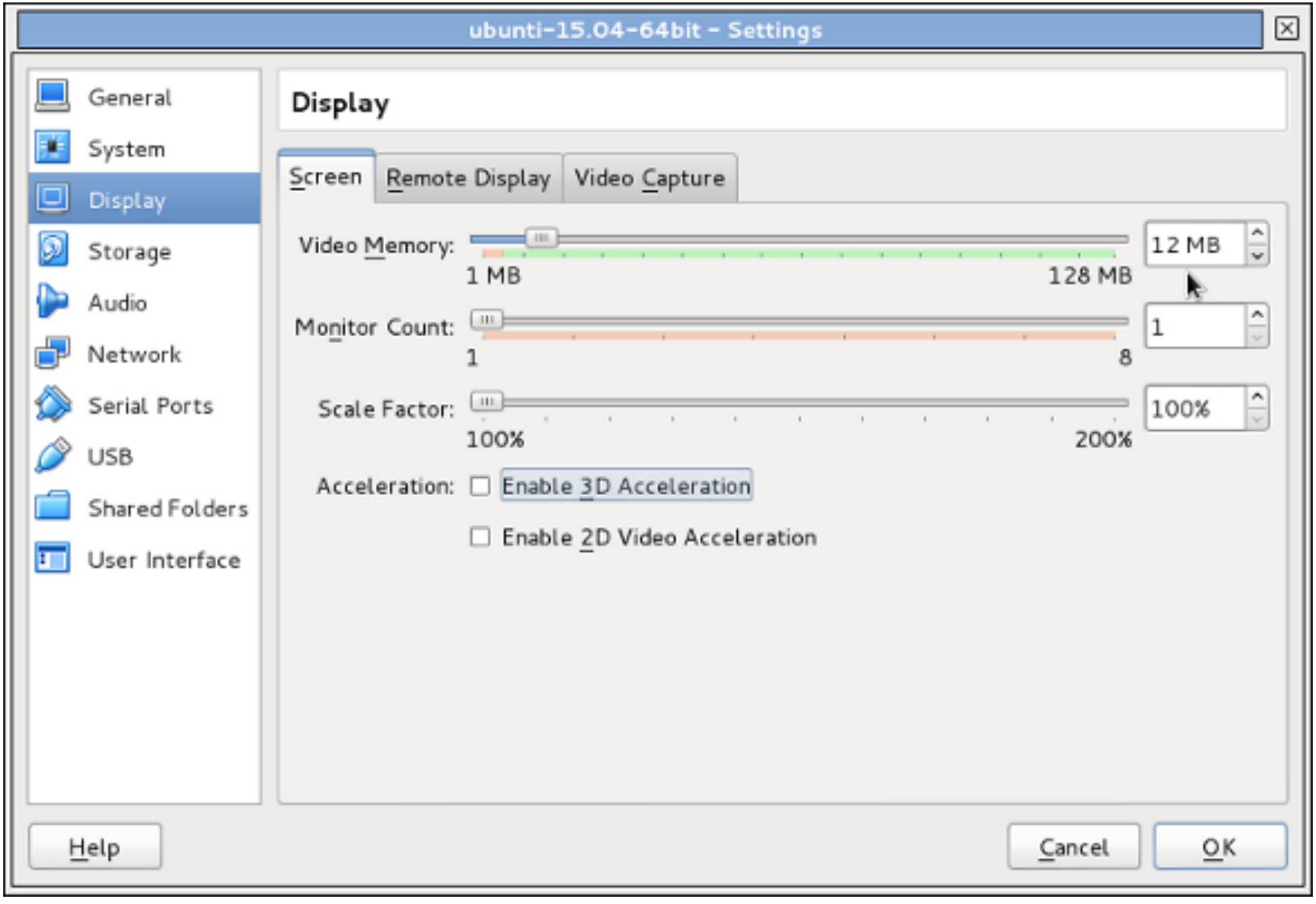


System options

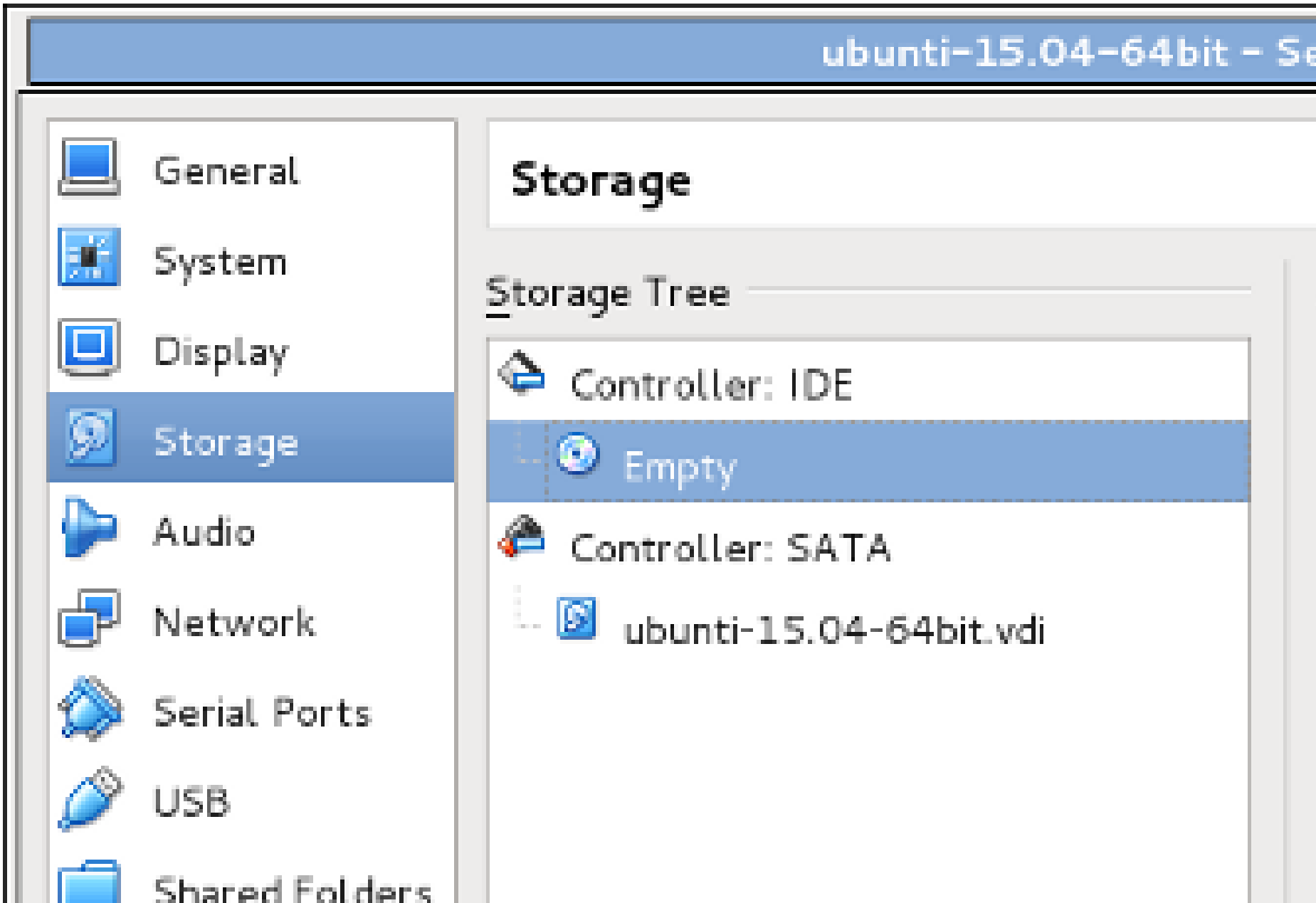


Display options

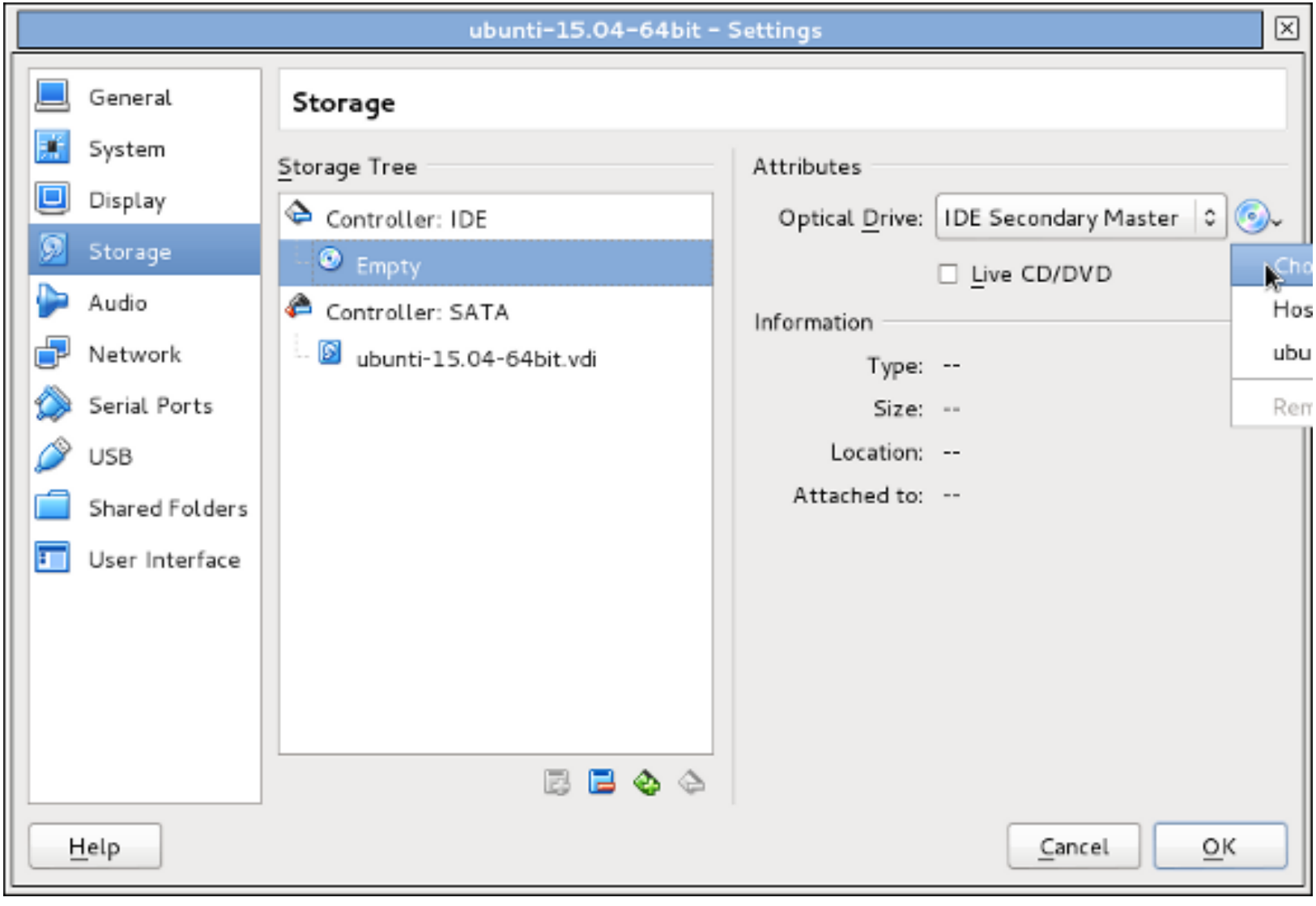
.I normally choose 24 Mb



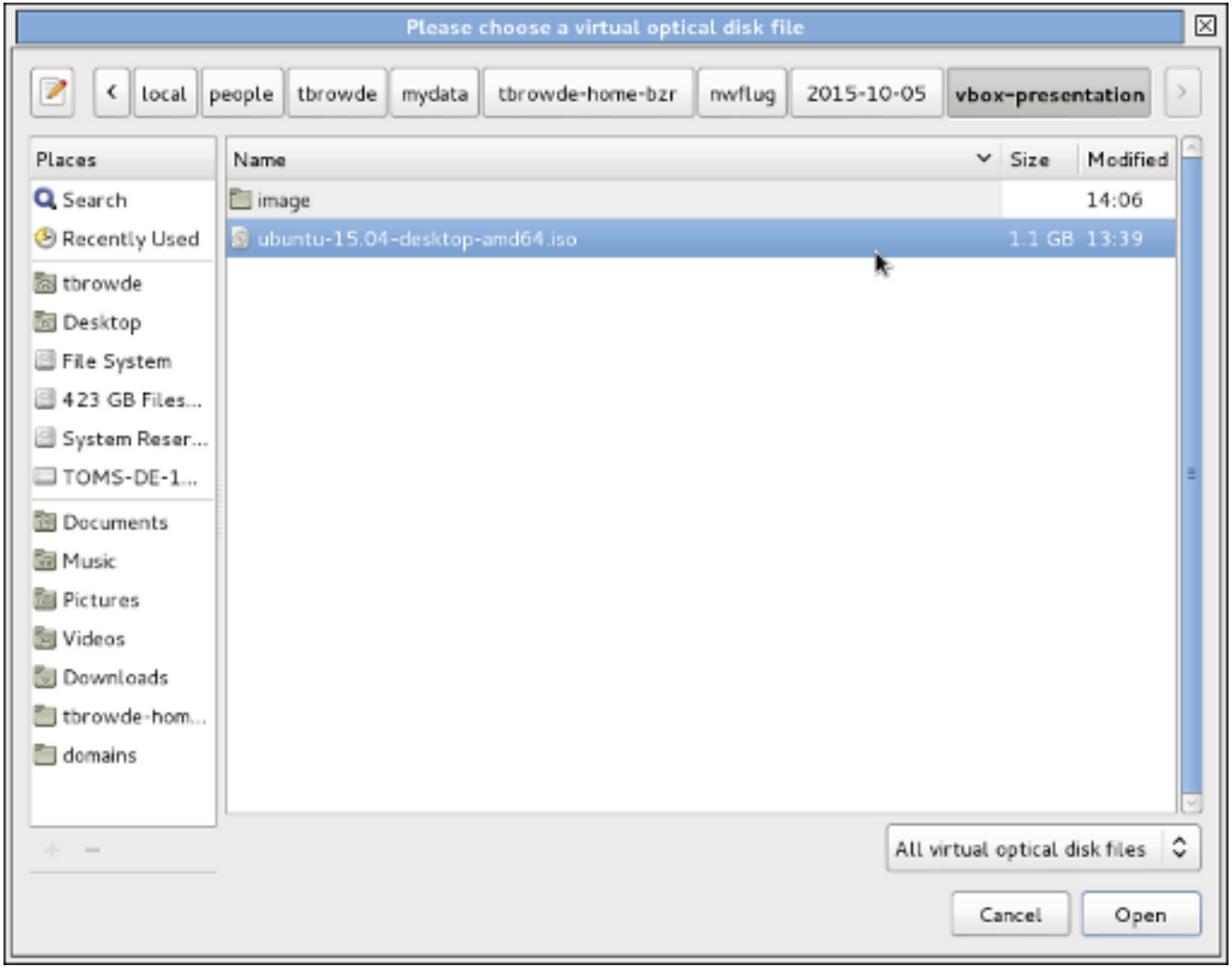
Attach the installation CD/DVD



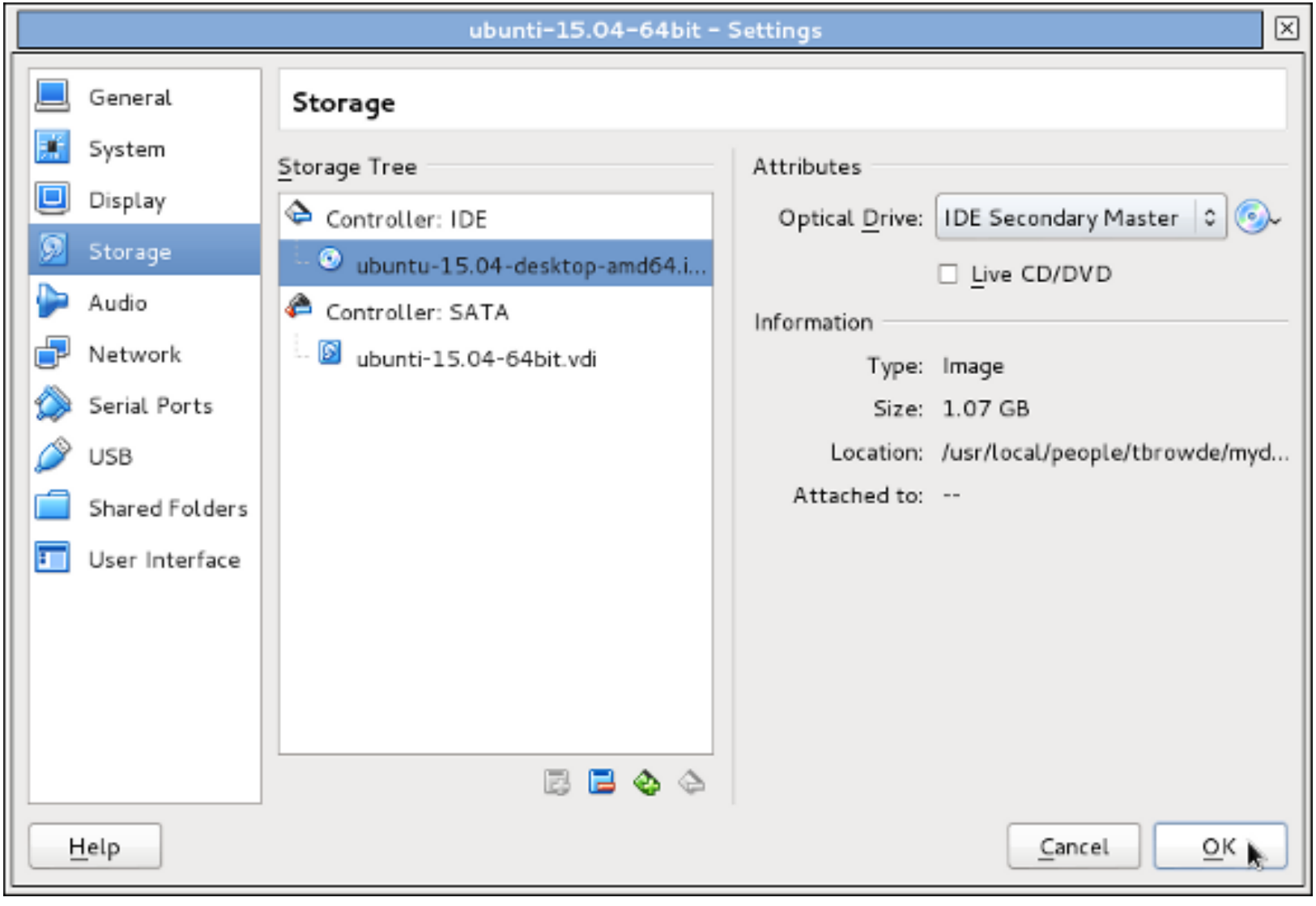
Navigate to the location



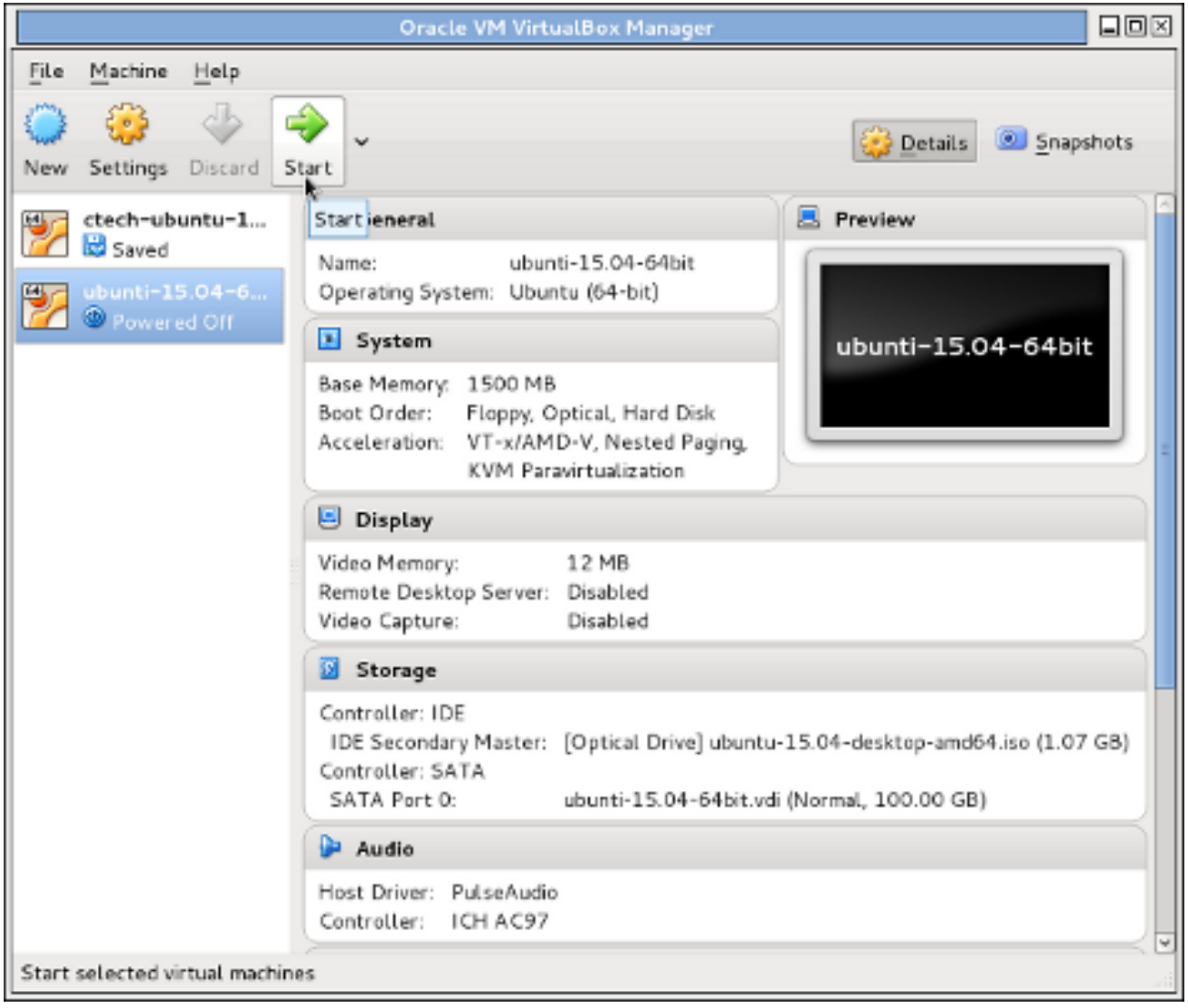
Select the desired CD/DVD



Check the desired CD/DVD shows as attached



Now start the VM



Oops!

I made a typo on the guest name. We can rename the host easily, but we have to remove the disk and create a new one to rename it, which is too complicated for me.

The easiest thing to do is to start all over again and use the correct spelling OR accept the misspelled hard disk name.

After installation

After starting and finishing the installation, you'll want to install "Guest Additions" to have the windowing and other features work well.

Please experiment and read the excellent documentation–there's much more that can be done to tweak a host but this should get you started.

Summary

- A live CD/DVD is the easiest way to test a Linux distro.
- VirtualBox is the easiest way to have and use a Linux distro.
- A bootable USB drive may be even better (I have no experience with it).
- A native installation is best.
- I have a Debian 8 host running on VB on my small laptop.
  - I'll have it at the NWFLUG table after the 1100 session.

Finally

- I am glad to help via e-mail (please mention TPC NA 2017 in the subject):
  - [**tom.browder@gmail.com**]