

# Ubuntu Server + Fluxbox on Mac OSX using VirtualBox

March 31, 2013

**Update**, April 20, 2014:

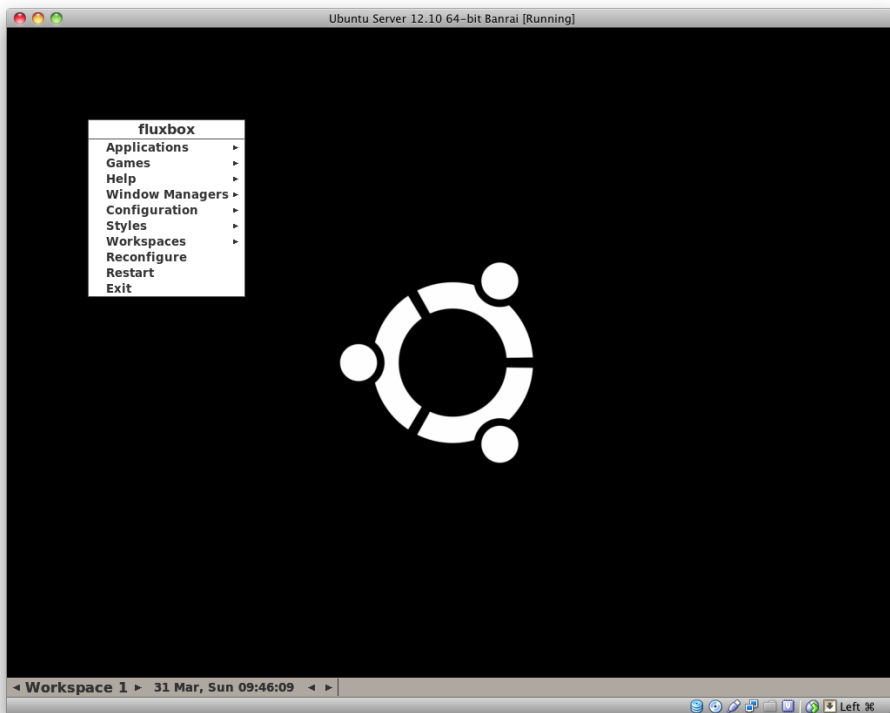
[Here's a newer version of this post, with a downloadable vdi package](#)

I like [Mac OSX](#) as a general computing environment, but I prefer [Debian](#) (and more recently [Ubuntu](#)) for development.

Instead of running my Mac in [dual-boot mode](#), I tried using [VirtualBox](#) to run [Ubuntu Desktop](#).

Unfortunately, the virtual image was unusable: even at two gigabytes of memory (the most allowed by the vm) it was painfully slow, and using the [dash](#) was basically impossible.

But since my development environment consists mostly of [ROXTerm](#) and [emacs](#), I wanted to see how [Ubuntu Server](#) plus a [lightweight window manager](#) such as [Fluxbox](#) would work instead.



*Fluxbox running like a champ on Ubuntu Server in VirtualBox*

It's been terrific so far, and the setup was simple:

1. After downloading the Ubuntu Server iso file, I [created a new virtual image](#) and used the iso as the base media
2. Once installed, I [followed the instructions](#) for setting up Fluxbox without a login manager:

```
sudo apt-get install xorg fluxbox fluxconf
```

3. Then, I started Fluxbox for the first time:

```
startx
```

4. For the [Guest Additions](#) installation, I installed these packages first:

```
apt-get install dkms build-essential linux-headers-generic
```

And then requested the guest additions from the VirtualBox menu: **Devices -> Install Guest Additions** which "loads" the guest additions virtual disk. Under gnome or kde the disk gets mounted automatically, but in Fluxbox I had to mount it myself before running the install script:

```
sudo mount /dev/dvd /media/cdrom
cd /media/cdrom
sudo sh ./VBoxLinuxAdditions.run
```

 Bitcoin Donate: [14TM4ADKJbaGEi8Qr8dh4KfPBQmjTshkZ2](https://www.blockchain.com/transaction/14TM4ADKJbaGEi8Qr8dh4KfPBQmjTshkZ2)