

Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR

Posted by Batz - 01 May 2011 09:09

I have spent some time to build a clean install of Windows 2000 Pro (no service packs or updates). I removed programs that are not required and installed JZip (to allow Zip/Unzip).

I chose Windows 2000 because:

1. It is the smallest version of Windows that can run properly on Virtual Box
2. Microsoft are unlikely to get too upset at the distribution of a 12 year old OS!
3. It is not possible to run Windows 98 on Virtual Box properly (it works on VMWare workstation though)

Warlords 3: Darklords Rising is installed and then patched with the US v1.02 patch and then the 'No CD crack' is installed.

I have compressed the resulting virtual hard disk file as much as I can and it comes to 372MB. I am prepared to share this on a request basis (preferably via a private torrent) and/or upload it to this site if admins are agreeable.

All you need is to install Virtual Box and install it (on any current version of Windows).

I have been testing it and it works great. There are a number of advantages to running in a VM.

If people are excited by this idea then I will write some instructions and hints and tips into a page for this site.

Batz

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR

Posted by Lord Snow - 01 May 2011 10:18

Great initiative Ian! 🍌

I was messing around with VirtualBox a couple of weeks ago when I was trying to get DLR to run under Win7. It would be great to have a pre-prepared Win2000 install with DLR on it already. Perhaps K4 and Stormheim could be added too? And Myth while you are at it 🍌

I've often been thinking that one of the threats to the DLR community is that it becomes more and more difficult to attract new players as it becomes more and more difficult to get DLR to run on new versions of Windows. On top of that there is the issue of having to install the 1.02 patch, 'no-cd crack' and K4 heroes and Stormheim and perhaps a particular scenario on top of that. A pre-prepared solution that could work on all kinds of operating systems would be great.

With my installation of VirtualBox I ran into some problems with my graphics card but I'd love to give your pre-prepared installation a try.

Instructions and hints/tips would be much appreciated! 🍌

Lars / Lord Snow

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR
Posted by Onslaught - 02 May 2011 22:30

Great initiative indeed. I can run DLR on Windows 7 but I get colour errors, always at startup and sometimes in mid-game, which makes it unplayable.

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR
Posted by KGB - 03 May 2011 20:33

Batz,

I'd love to host it on this site except that at 387 Mb's its a bit too large a file. I think I only signed up for 1 Gig of space for the entire site and I am not sure there is the bandwidth to have users downloading it.

Plus technically you are breaking 2 copyrights. One on Windows 2000 and the other on DLR itself.

KGB

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR

Posted by Onslaught - 04 May 2011 01:51

KGB is of course right. It is easy to forget the copyright issues. Anyhow, it is not that hard to install and setup virtual machines. Personally I use WMware workstation in my line of work. I have just been too lazy to install DLR on it.

What we could do is post a guide for how to install and setup virtual machines and post it under technical support section of Warlords 3: DLR in the menu to the left. One guide for WMware workstation and one guide for Virtual Box would make sense.

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR

Posted by Lord Snow - 07 May 2011 17:59

I have just tested Batz's VirtualBox install, and it works great! ☺

The system booted up in 25 secs (I timed it) on my machine, and within a few seconds more I was playing Warlords - with sound and everything ☺

I see that technically there are copyright issues, but Win2000 is no longer supported, and Darlords Rising came out 13 years ago, so I wouldn't have any qualms about recommending this solution to someone - even in a public forum. I can't really see anyone caring. I don't imagine Steve Fawkner would mind, do you?

We're doing what we can to promote an old game in an ongoing (I hope ☺) series of games, and thereby also promoting the later games in the series. I don't imagine anyone is still making any real money from Darklords Rising itself.

Concerning Win2000 - well, the newest versions of Windows are struggling/failing to run DLR, so I think

that it is a 100% ethically/morally justifiable to do this.

Arvid, it is true that we could write detailed instructions on how to install VirtualBox and everything else, but I think most people who haven't tried DLR would rather find something else to play if they are faced with having to figure out how to install VirtualBox + Win2000 + DLR + K4 heroes + Stormheim + scenarios and what not. Batz's solution is just so easy! One solution to bind them all! ☺

I'll be more likely to recommend DLR to someone when I can just direct them to a prepared easy solution. It would be great if we could ensure that this solution is always easily available to anyone interested.

I think this could be a great tool for attracting new players.

Lord Snow

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR
Posted by Batz - 14 May 2011 12:14

Thanks for the feedback Snow, glad it works for you. If you have any tips on how you have got it working for you please let me know. I will try and find time to write up a page here.

Does anyone want to play a game of Myth using my VM? I want to see if the events report will break if we all play on identically configured systems.

I suggest me, Lars, + 2 and we play either 1 side each with 4 AI or (preferably) 2 sides each chosen such that each player plays 2 sides in consecutive order e.g. white, yellow.

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR
Posted by Lord Snow - 15 May 2011 11:23

Batz,

All I did was follow the instructions in your email. I didn't encounter any problems whatsoever.

It is hard to say no to another multiplayer game, but I am afraid denial about the burdens of a newborn can only get me so far ☹️

I hope some other players will take you up on the offer. Otherwise I'd be glad to participate sometime in the future when I'm more certain that I'll have time for it.

Lord Snow

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR
Posted by Zyppy - 15 May 2011 21:21

I would love to get a copy of this if possible.

I can only get DLR to run in fullscreen at the moment, and it looks awful on my big widescreen monitor. Only way I can find to get it to run properly in a window would be a virtual machine, which seems quite complex to set up from scratch.

I've sent you a PM. 0 :)

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Re: Pre-built VirtualBox VM w/ Win2000 & W3:DLR
Posted by rand9621 - 10 Jul 2011 02:23

hi i just recently found this sight trying to find a way to play this game how can i get a copy of the Virtual box?

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