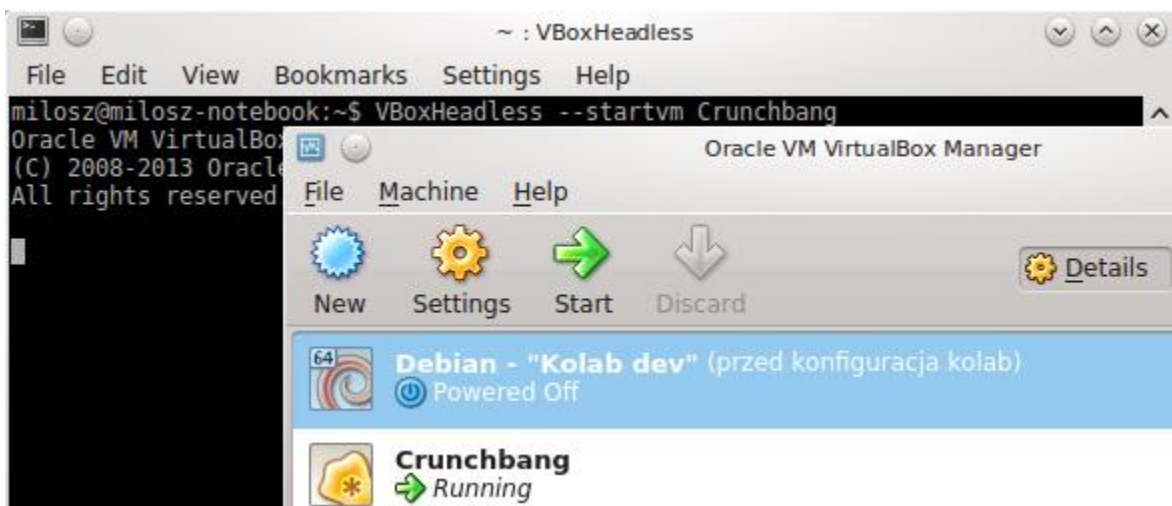


VIRTUALBOX - HOW TO CONTROL VIRTUAL MACHINE USING SHELL

At the beginning of the last year, I wrote about VirtualBox image conversion, so today I will continue this topic further, and describe how to control virtual machine using command line.



How to list virtual machines

To list virtual machines and their UUID execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage list vms  
  
"Debian - "Kolab dev"" {7ccf631e-a792-4aa3-b09c-96298ab41ff2}  
  
"Crunchbang" {d485f4a1-7794-4502-8775-e6f67a16c8dc}  
  
"Deepin" {6ce34e63-3632-42a4-8f6c-216c691c96b2}
```

To pretty print virtual machines use command:

```
$ VBoxManage list vms | sed "s/^\"(.*)\".*\1/"
```

```
Debian - "Kolab dev"
```

```
Crunchbang
```

```
Deepin
```

How to print virtual machine states

To print running virtual machines and their UUID use command:

```
$ VBoxManage list runningvms
```

```
"Crunchbang" {d485f4a1-7794-4502-8775-e6f67a16c8dc}
```

To list virtual machines and their corresponding states execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage list vms -l | grep -e ^Name: -e ^State | sed s/\ \ //g | cut -d: -f2-
```

```
Debian - "Kolab dev"
```

```
powered off (since 2013-07-19T21:17:55.000000000)
```

```
Crunchbang
```

```
paused (since 2013-07-20T10:13:07.771000000)
```

```
Deepin
```

```
powered off (since 2013-06-29T15:56:04.000000000)
```

Slightly different solution:

```
$ VBoxManage list vms -l | grep -e ^Name: -e ^State | sed "s/Name:[ ]*(.*)\1 \ \ /;s/State:[ ]*//" | paste -d " " - -
```

Debian - "Kolab dev" / powered off (since 2013-07-19T21:17:55.000000000)

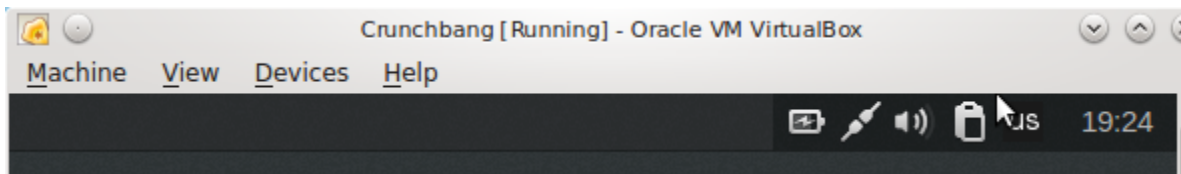
Crunchbang / paused (since 2013-07-20T10:13:07.771000000)

Deepin / powered off (since 2013-06-29T15:56:04.000000000)

How to start virtual machine

You are not forced to use *VirtuaBoxManager GUI* as it is not desirable in every case, it is also not very ergonomic to use mouse all the time.

Standard GUI



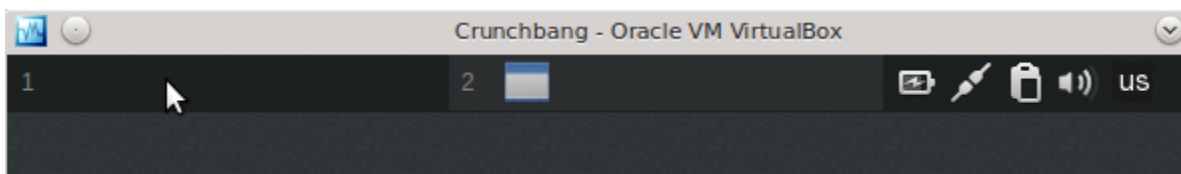
To start virtual machine `Crunchbang` using standard GUI execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage startvm Crunchbang --type gui
```

You can safely omit *type* parameter in the above mentioned command as the standard GUI is used by default:

```
$ VBoxManage startvm Crunchbang
```

Simple GUI



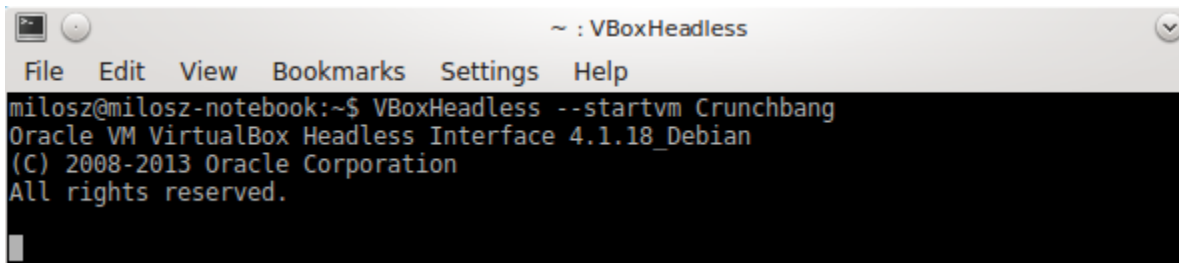
To use simple GUI without controls use command:

```
$ VBoxSDL --startvm Crunchbang
```

To start virtual machine using simple GUI without controls in the background execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage startvm Crunchbang --type sdl
```

Headless



To start virtual machine without GUI in the background execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage startvm Crunchbang --type headless
```

To start virtual machine without GUI execute command:

```
$ VBoxHeadless --startvm Crunchbang
```

Headless with VNC

To start virtual machine without GUI, but enabled VNC service execute command:

```
$ VBoxHeadless --startvm Crunchbang --vnc --vncport 5901 --vncpass passw
```

How to pause virtual machine

To pause virtual machine execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage controlvm Crunchbang pause
```

How to resume paused virtual machine

To resume virtual machine execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage controlvm Crunchbang resume
```

How to reset virtual machine

To reset virtual machine execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage controlvm Crunchbang reset
```

How to power off virtual machine

To power off virtual machine execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage controlvm Crunchbang poweroff
```

How to save state and then stop virtual machine

To save state of the virtual machine and then stop it execute command:

```
$ VBoxManage controlvm Crunchbang savestate
```

Source: <https://blog.sleeplessbeastie.eu/2013/07/23/virtualbox-how-to-control-virtual-machine-using-command-line/>