



How to Install Kali Linux onto a Virtual Machine

Warning: Obtaining unauthorized access to...

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INTRODUCTION

Warning: Obtaining unauthorized access to another's computer system or systems is illegal under the [Computer Fraud & Abuse Act](#).

The following guide was made with the purpose of educating others on cyber security tools, technologies, and techniques with the intention of educating others on better protecting their own technologies and data. **Please use the knowledge gained from this guide responsibly.**

This guide will demonstrate how a user can install Kali Linux onto the VMware virtual machine software.

Why do people choose Kali Linux?

Kali Linux is one of the most preferred operating systems to perform cyber security and information security tasks due to the following reasons:

- Kali Linux offers more than 600 penetration testing tools from various fields of information security and forensics.
- Kali Linux is highly customizable, which allows for a great deal of versatility in features.
- Multilingual support
- Kali Linux supports a wide range of wireless devices
- Custom kernel which can be patched for injections
- Completely free and open source

Different ways to install Kali

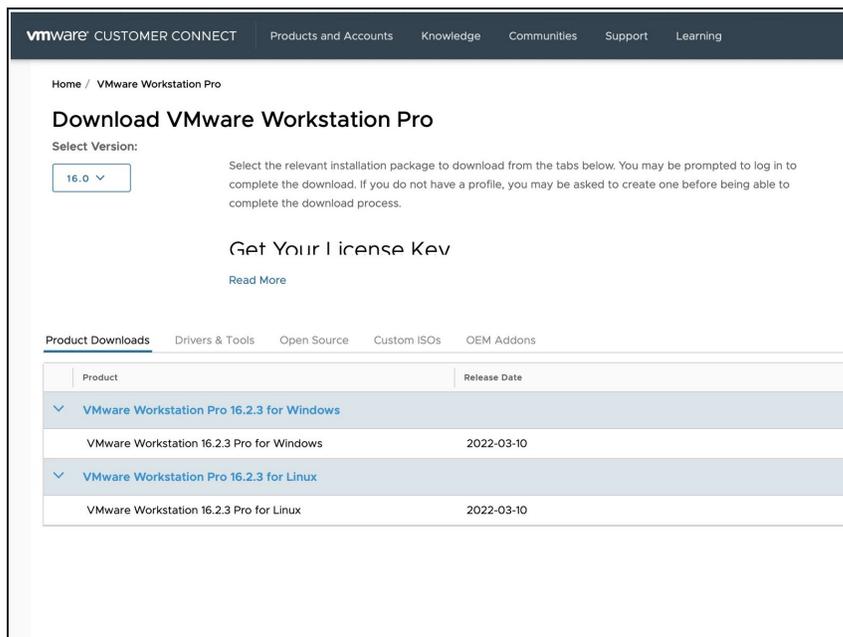
While this guide will show how to install Kali onto a [virtual machine](#) (Offensive security does recommend using [VMware](#) Workstation for running Kali on a VM), Kali supports multiple installation options

- Bootable USB drive
- Hard disk install
- Virtualization software
- Dual boot

Installation Requirements

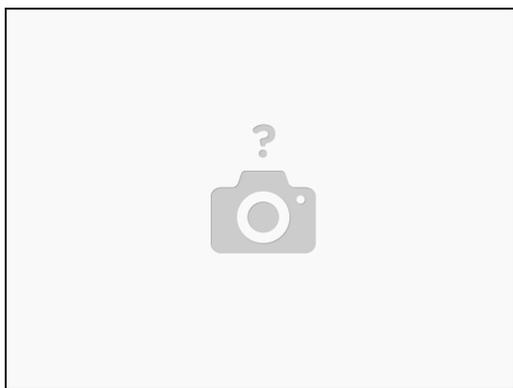
- Minimum of 20 GB of hard drive space is recommended
- A minimum of 4 GB of ram
- CD-DVD Drive / USB Support

Step 1 — Install your VMware software



- Navigate to [VMware Workstation Download Center](#)
- Based on your system requirements, click on **Go to Downloads** for VMware Workstation for either Windows or Linux.
- Click **Download Now**, and if prompted log into your Customer Connect profile. If you don't have one you will need to create one.

Step 2 — Download the Kali Linux .ISO file and check the image integrity



- Download Kali Linux from the [official download](#) page, and select the build the best suits your needs.

⚠ Check the integrity of the image you downloaded by comparing the SHA-256 fingerprint of the file and compare it to the hexadecimal numbers on the downloads page.

Step 3 — Launch your new virtual machine



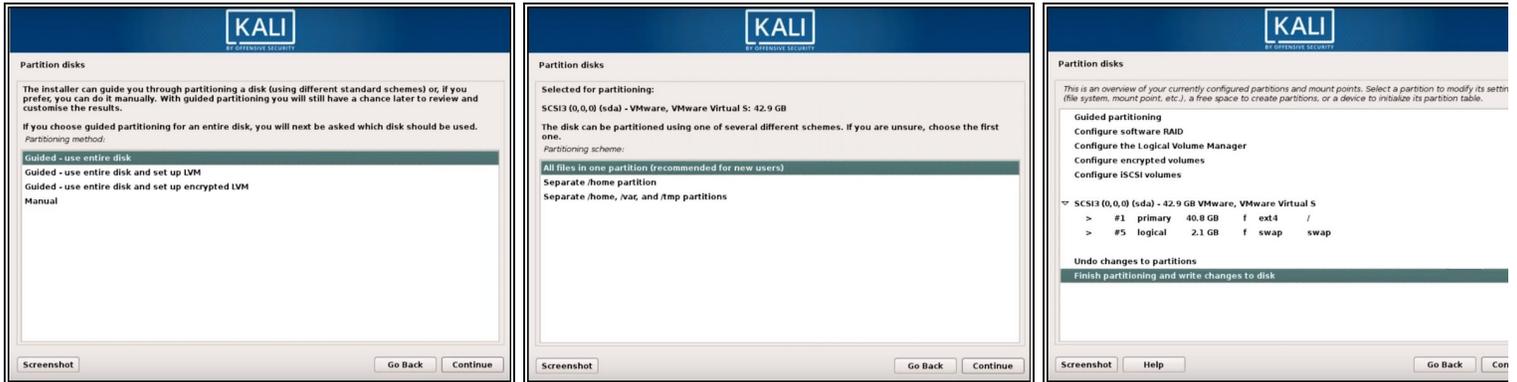
- On the VMware Workstation homepage, click on *create a new virtual machine*
- Choose the Kali Linux ISO file, and select the guest operating system.
 - ⓘ When Configuring your virtual machine, be sure the VM meets the requirements
- Start your newly created virtual machine by selecting the Kali Linux VM, and clicking on the green *Power On* button

Step 4 — Installation Procedure



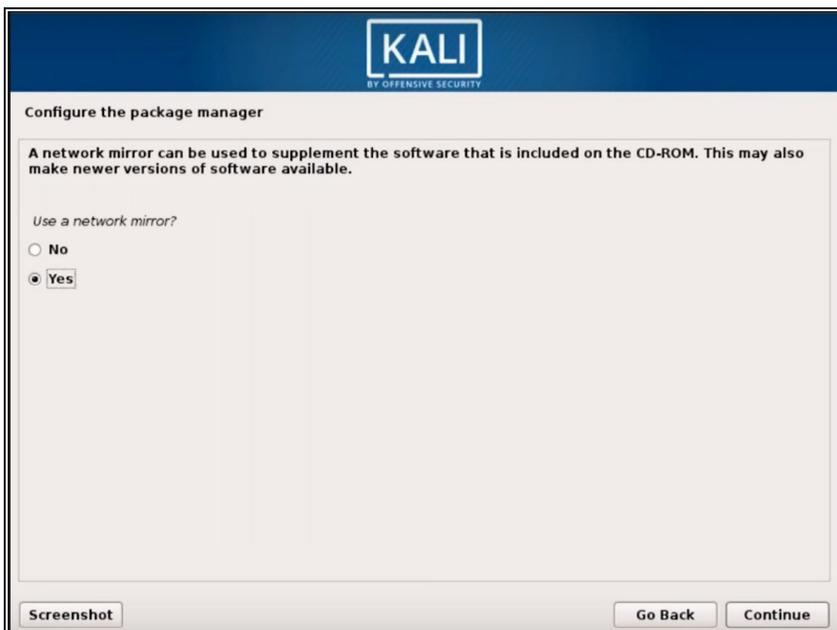
- Once the VM is powered on, you will be prompted to select your preferred installation mode. Choose the **graphical installation** and continue.
- ⓘ The next couple of screens will ask you for basic locale information, keyboard layout, network information, and system password etc.

Step 5 — Disk partitioning



- Once your basic system configuration is set, the installer will ask you to choose a partitioning option for your virtual disk. Choose **Guided - Use Entire Disk** for the easiest option.
- Select the partitioning disk and hit continue.
 - ⓘ It is highly recommended that you choose the **All files in one partition** option if you are a new user.
- Confirm all the changes that are made to the changes to the disk on the host machine.
 - ⚠ This will **Erase Data on the Virtual Disk**. This shouldn't effect data on the host machine, but it is worth noting.

Step 6 — Configure the Package Manager



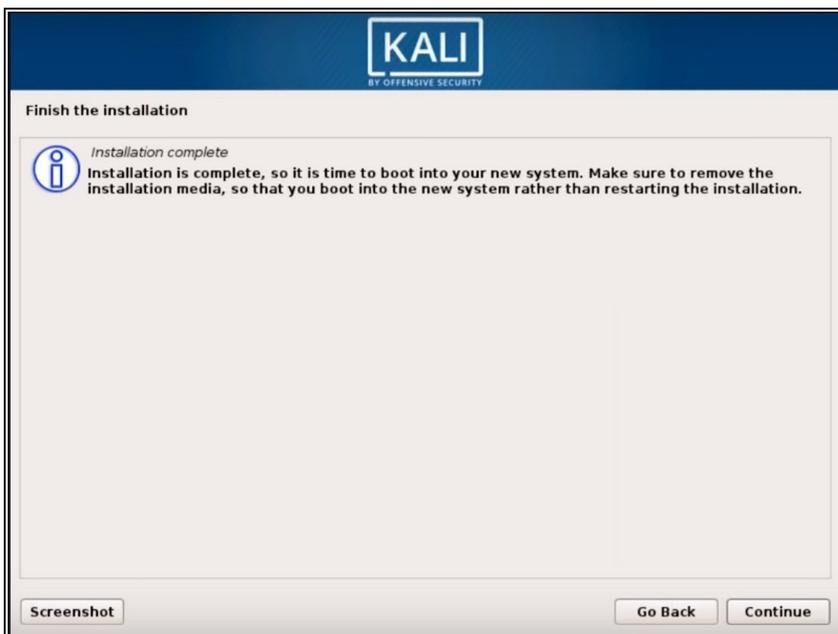
- Once the necessary files are installed the installer will ask if you want to set up a **Network Mirror**.
 - ⓘ Enabling this function will allow you to use the Kali repositories, and is highly recommended if you want to obtain future pieces of software and updates.

Step 7 — Install GRUB boot loader



- Once you have selected your package manager option you will be asked to install the GRUB boot loader.
- Select **Yes** and pick the device to write the necessary boot loader information onto the information to the virtual disk

Step 8 — Finished



- Once the installer finishes installing the **GRUB** to the disk, click on **Continue** to finish the installation process.

Congratulations! You have installed Kali Linux, and are now ready to begin your journey into exploring Kali Linux. But, the most important thing you should take away from this guide is to remember to use this information responsibly. **Obtaining unauthorized access to another's computer system or systems is illegal under the [Computer Fraud & Abuse Act](#).**

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