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Linux on Windows 10: Running Ubuntu VMs just got a lot easier, says Microsoft

Ubuntu VMs can now be launched from Hyper-V Quick Create and use RDP for enhanced session mode.

By [Liam Tung](#) | September 18, 2018 -- 11:44 GMT (12:44 BST) | Topic: [Enterprise Software](#)

Ubuntu maintainer Canonical and Microsoft have teamed up to release an optimized Ubuntu Desktop image that's available through Microsoft's Hyper-V gallery.

The Ubuntu Desktop image should deliver a better experience when running it as a guest on a Windows 10 Pro host, [according to Canonical](#) (<https://blog.ubuntu.com/2018/09/17/optimised-ubuntu-desktop-images-available-in-microsoft-hyper-v-gallery>).

The optimized version is Ubuntu Desktop 18.04.1 LTS release, also known as Bionic Beaver.

Microsoft's work with Canonical was prompted by its users [who wanted](#) (<https://blogs.technet.microsoft.com/virtualization/2018/02/28/sneak-peek-taking-a-spin-with-enhanced-linux-vm/>) a "first-class experience" on Linux virtual machines (VMs) as well as Windows VMs.

To achieve this goal, Microsoft worked with the developers of XRDP (<https://github.com/neutrinolabs/xrdp>), an open-source remote-desktop protocol (RDP) for Linux based on Microsoft's RDP for Windows.

Thanks to that work, XRDP now supports Microsoft's Enhanced Session Mode, which allows Hyper-V to use the open-source implementation of RDP to connect to Linux VMs.

This in turn gives Ubuntu VMs on Windows hosts a better mouse experience, an integrated clipboard, windows resizing, and shared folders for easier file transfers between host and guest.

Ubuntu Desktop 18.04 LTS also includes XRDP pre-configured for Enhanced Session Mode.

That's the same way Enhanced Session Mode improves the Windows VM experience, but instead relies on Microsoft's RDP to connect Hyper-V with those VMs.

Microsoft's [contribution to XRDP](#) (<https://blogs.technet.microsoft.com/virtualization/2018/02/28/sneak-peek-taking-a-spin-with-enhanced-linux-vm/>) allowed XRDP to use Hyper-V sockets, labeled hv_sock, which "supply a byte-stream based communication mechanism between the host partition and the guest VM".

The other key piece for improving the Linux VM experience on Windows hosts is Microsoft's Hyper-V Quick Create VM setup wizard.

"With the Hyper-V Quick Create feature added in the Windows 10 Fall Creators Update, we have partnered with Ubuntu and added a virtual machine image so in a few quick minutes, you'll be up and developing," [said](#) (<https://blogs.windows.com/buildingapps/2018/09/17/run-ubuntu-virtual-machines-made-even-easier-with-hyper-v-quick-create/#dblvb07rX6Mm85xr.g7>) Clint Rutkas, a senior technical product manager on Microsoft's Windows Developer Team.

"This is available now -- just type 'Hyper-V Quick Create' in your start menu."

Using Hyper-V Quick Create, developers can simply select Ubuntu Desktop 18.04.1 LTS Hyper-V image from the OS menu, and they'll be guided through the setting-up of a user account, location, and time zone.

After setup, Enhanced Session Mode will be automatically enabled, and users are prompted to select a display resolution.

Users will then see an XRDP prompt to login and then need to ensure 'Xorg' is selected from the menu to log in to an Ubuntu desktop session.

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In a wide-ranging interview at Open Source Summit, Torvalds talked about programmers, Linux, and open-source development.

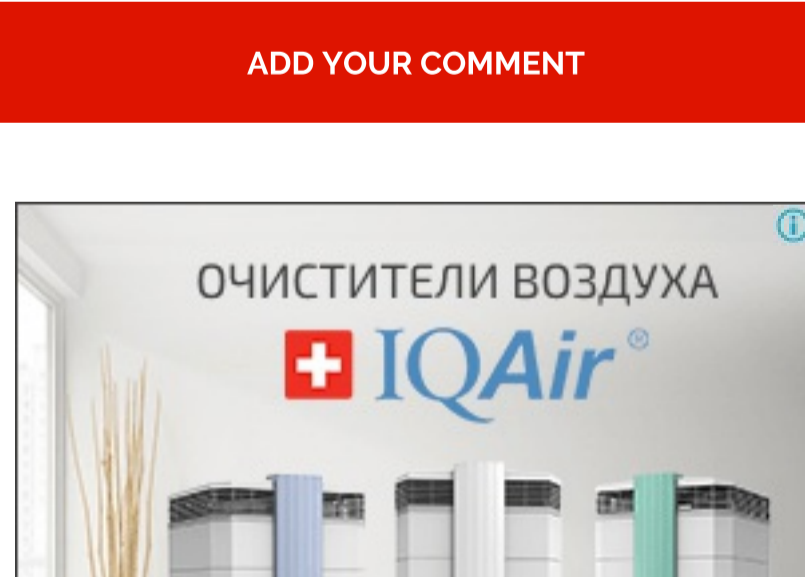
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