Installation Guide for the CHEOPS Scheduling Feasibility Checker (SFC)

To use the CHEOPS Scheduling Feasibility Checker (SFC) you first have to install and configure the software. This process is described in the following subsection. You will need a total of 15 GB of disk space to install the SFC. Yes, 15 GB ;-)

After you completed the installation process the SFC is ready to be used.

Installing the Scheduling Feasibility Checker (SFC)

Installing the CHEOPS SFC is a two-step process. First, you need to download and install the VirtualBox software. As a second step you must download and configure the SFC virtual image.

Installing VirtualBox

Download and install VirtualBox for your operating system (Windows, OS X, Linux or Solaris): https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads

Warning for OS X High Sierra (10.13) users: You may experience problems when installing VirtualBox. Please refer to the following post to fix the problem: https://github.com/docksal/docksal/issues/417

Warning for Ubuntu users: If you are using Ubuntu 16 or higher, you may experience problems related to using unsigned kernel modules. For further details, please refer to the 'Frequently Asked Questions': https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/cheops-guest-observers-programme/faq

Importing and configuring the SFC virtual image

1. Download the virtual image containing the Feasibility Checker. The download of the 2.8 GB virtual image may take a while.

   ftp cheops_fc@ssh.esac.esa.int:/cheopsfcvm07.ova

   After executing the command you will be asked to provide a password. This password is available via the following web page: https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/cheops-guest-observers-programme/scheduling-feasibility-checker
   Please note that the access to this URL is restricted to registered users only.

   In case a GUI based FTP program like Filezilla is used, then connect with:

Host: ssh.esac.esa.int
Username: cheops_fc
Password: <as published - see above>

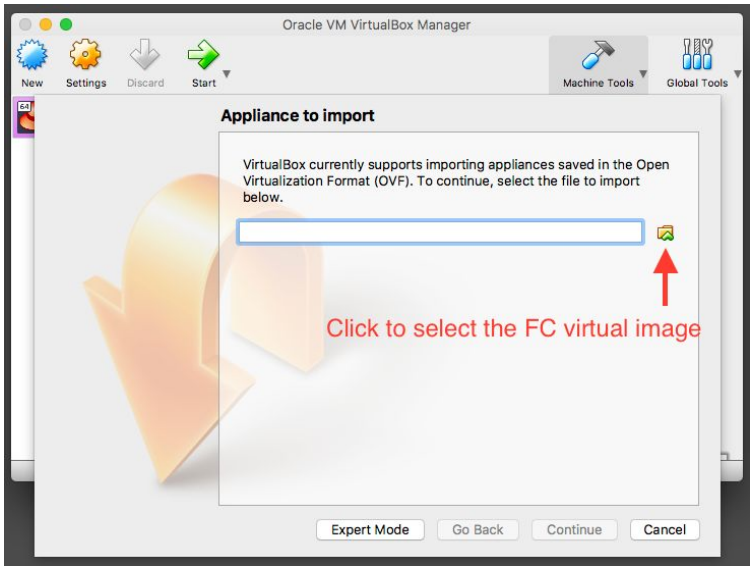
Once logged in via the cheops_fc account, you are in the folder where the file cheopsfcvm06.ova can be downloaded.

In case you do not have a stand-alone FTP client available, you may issue the download command via a web browser that also supports FTP, for example Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer, etc. Please note, Safari under OS/X does not support this.

When using a web browser, use the following URL:
ftp://cheops_fc@ssh.esac.esa.int/cheopsfcvm06.ova

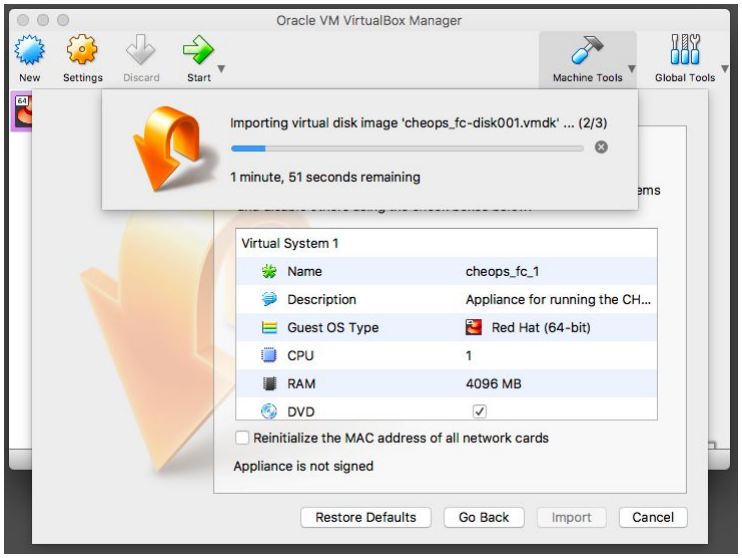
A popup will appear where you can enter the username and password.

2. Start the VirtualBox software.
3. Open the ‘File’ menu item and select ‘Import appliance’.
4. Enter the location of the SFC virtual image on your computer.



5. Click on ‘Continue’.

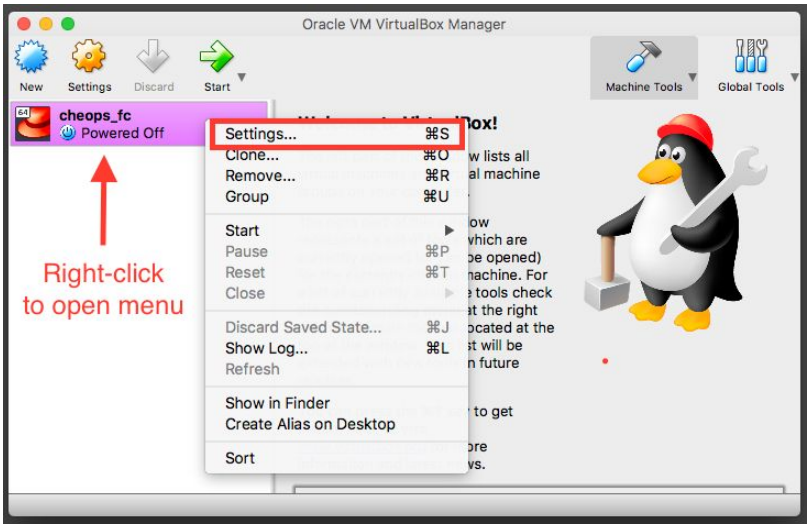
6. Click on ‘Import’.



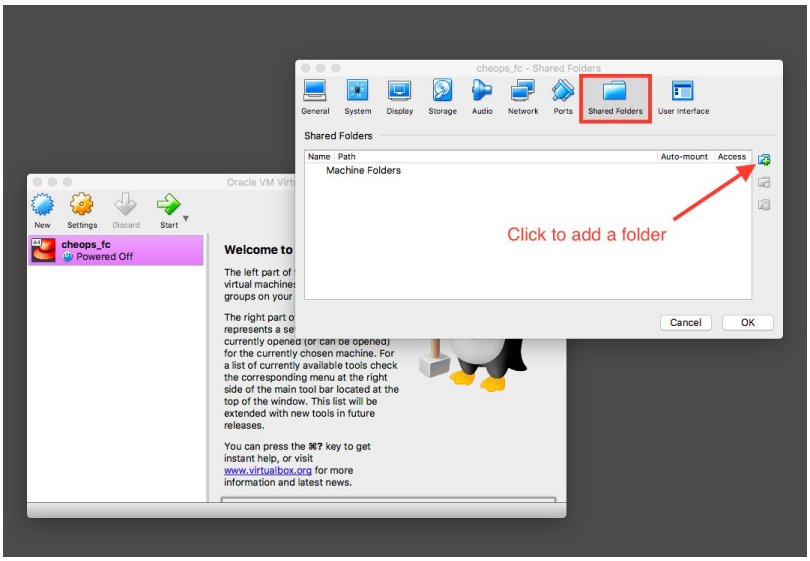
The import may take a while to complete.

7. Define a shared folder in order to easily transfer files between your computer (host) and the SFC virtual machine (guest):

    a. In the VirtualBox main window, open the guest machine's settings by right clicking on the SFC virtual image in the left panel of the main window.
    b. Open the ‘Settings’.



c. Click on ‘Shared Folders’, then click on the "plus" icon to add a folder to be shared between the guest and the host machine.
Make sure to check the "Auto-mount" checkbox. The folder will be mounted as a subdirectory of /media in the guest machine.
Note: this folder should be used to provide the input data (Observation Requests) for the SFC - see below.



d. Close the Settings dialog.

The SFC virtual image is now ready to be used.

End of document