Creating a new Vagrant base box from an existing VM

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Typically my Vagrant workflow starts with a official base box provided by Ubuntu. With help of a Vagrant provider `vagrant up` will create a virtual machine (VM) using specified base box.

Then using either Puppet provisioner or `apt-get` I normally install/update required packages and libraries in my VM.

Once install/update is finished, sometime I prefer to repackage updated virtual machine as a new base box to avoid repeating the install and update process. Also repackaging allows me to work offline as no provisioning is required.

First step is to get id or specific name of VM from your Vagrant provider. If you are using VirtualBox as provider you can see a list of virtual machine with their specific machine. For example following image illustrate two VM running under VirtualBox `Node_default_1387087098` and `Blogs_default_1386384681`
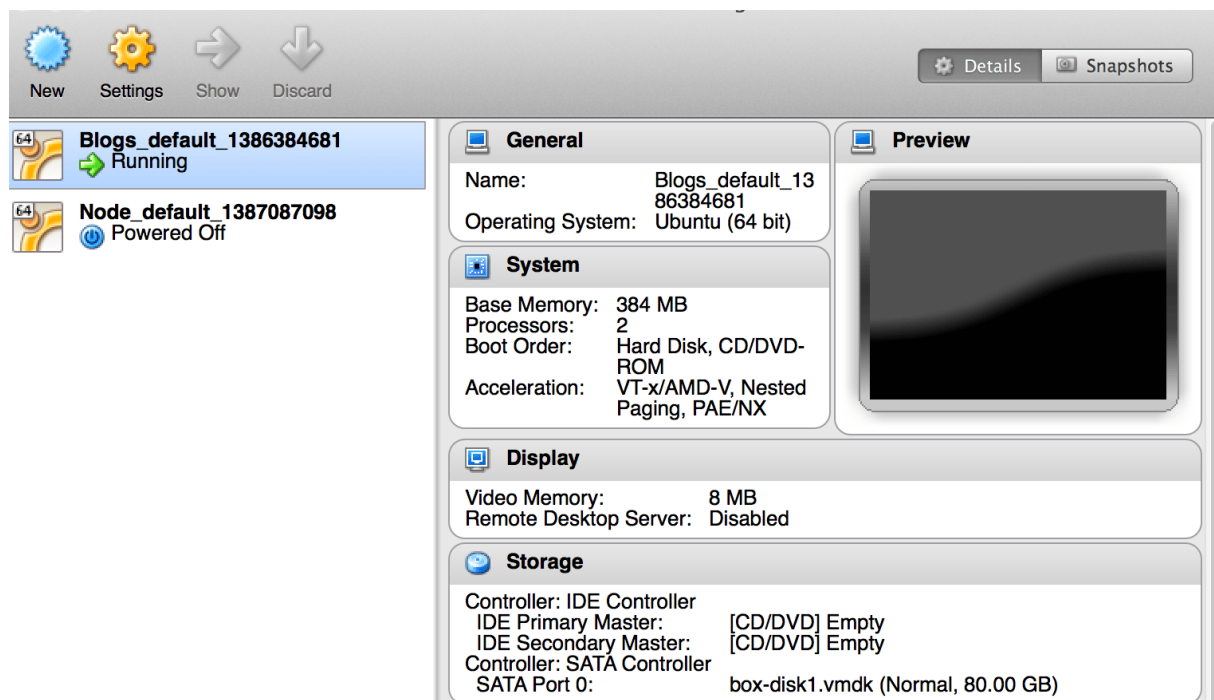

Figure 1: Get VM List from VirtualBox

Once you have specific name for VM which you want to repackage, you can run

```
vagrant package --base SPECIFIC_NAME_FOR_VM --output /yourfolder/
    OUTPUT_BOX_NAME.box
```

So for instance, if I am interested to repackage VM `Node_default_1387087098` then I will run,

```
vagrant package --base Node_default_1387087098 --output /myfolder/
    precise64Node.box
```

```
Abhisheks-MacBook-Pro:Node abhishektiwari$ vagrant package --base Node_default_1387087098
 --output /Users/abhishektiwari/Boxes/precise64Node.box
/Applications/Vagrant/embedded/gems/gems/vagrant-1.3.4/lib/vagrant/util/which.rb:32: warn
ing: Insecure world writable dir /usr/local/bin in PATH, mode 040777
[Node_default_1387087098] Attempting graceful shutdown of VM...
[Node_default_1387087098] Clearing any previously set forwarded ports...
[Node_default_1387087098] Creating temporary directory for export...
[Node_default_1387087098] Exporting VM...
[Node_default_1387087098] Compressing package to: /Users/abhishektiwari/Boxes/precise64No
de.box
```

Figure 2: Packaging VM as new base box

Please note I named output box as `precise64Node` as original base box is `precise64` and I repackaged for Node specific uses. It is just a personal convention.

Now you can use this new base box like any other Vagrant box.

```
Abhisheks-MacBook-Pro:VWork abhishektiwari$ vagrant box add precise64Node /Users/abhishek
tiwari/Boxes/precise64Node.box
Downloading or copying the box...
/Applications/Vagrant/embedded/gems/gems/vagrant-1.3.4/lib/vagrant/util/which.rb:32: warn
ing: Insecure world writable dir /usr/local/bin in PATH, mode 040777
Extracting box...te: 145M/s, Estimated time remaining: 0:00:01)
Successfully added box 'precise64Node' with provider 'virtualbox'!
```

Figure 3: Using new base box