

# bhyve graphics

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# What is bhyve ?

(from EuroBSDCon 2013, with additions)

- A “minimally viable x86 hypervisor”
- serial console, PCI virtio block/net, 64-bit host, 64/32-bit guests and extra dev emulations
- Requires Intel VT-x/EPT or AMD SVM/RVI CPU support
- In base-system FreeBSD as of 10.0

# What is “bhyve graphics” ?

- The code bhyve that emulates a mouse, keyboard and a display
- Provides a workstation-style user experience

# Hey, wasn't serial good enough ?

- A serial port emulation will support almost all guest o/s's
- However, the user-experience leaves a lot to be desired
  - A point re-iterated many, many times by users
  - Very different than existing hypervisor experiences

# ubuntu 17.10 server install



# ubuntu 17.10 server login

```
[ OK ] Reached target Remote File Systems.
        Starting LSB: automatic crash report generation...
        Starting Permit User Sessions...
[ OK ] Started Permit User Sessions.
        Starting Hold until boot process finishes up...
        Starting Terminate Plymouth Boot Screen...
[ OK ] Started Hold until boot process finishes up.
        Starting Set console scheme...
[ OK ] Started Serial Getty on ttyS0.
[ OK ] Started Terminate Plymouth Boot Screen.
[ OK ] Started Set console scheme.
[ OK ] Created slice system-getty.slice.
[ OK ] Started Getty on tty1.
[ OK ] Reached target Login Prompts.
[ OK ] Started OpenBSD Secure Shell server.
[ OK ] Started LSB: automatic crash report generation.
[ OK ] Reached target Multi-User System.
[ OK ] Reached target Graphical Interface.
        Starting Update UTMP about System Runlevel Changes...
[ OK ] Started Update UTMP about System Runlevel Changes.

Ubuntu 17.10 ubuntu ttyS0

ubuntu login: █
```

# ubuntu 17.10 desktop ???

```
Successfully activated service 'org.gtk.vfs.Metadata'
A connection to the bus can't be made
Using CD-ROM mount point /cdrom/
Identifying... [e5af3c70da95efb4a84e894f28d2e469-2]
Scanning disc for index files...
Found 2 package indexes, 0 source indexes, 0 translation indexes and 1 signature
s
Found label 'Ubuntu 17.10 _Artful Aardvark_ - Release amd64 (20171018)'
This disc is called:
'Ubuntu 17.10 _Artful Aardvark_ - Release amd64 (20171018)'
Copying package lists...gpgv: Signature made Wed Oct 18 18:53:08 2017 UTC
gpgv:                using RSA key
gpgv: Good signature from "Ubuntu CD Image Automatic Signing Key (2012) <cdimage
@ubuntu.com>"
Reading Package Indexes... Done
Writing new source list
Source list entries for this disc are:
deb cdrom:[Ubuntu 17.10 _Artful Aardvark_ - Release amd64 (20171018)]/ artful ma
in restricted
Repeat this process for the rest of the CDs in your set.

Ubuntu 17.10 ubuntu ttyS0

ubuntu login: █
```

# What about Windows ?

- All 64-bit versions of Windows starting with Vista don't require a graphics adapter
- Server versions support "System Administrator Console" aka SAC; a tmux-like interface on the serial port.
- If an ACPI SPCR table is present, WinPE (1st phase install) will output to the serial port, and Windows server will instantiate SAC on this with VT100 emulation.
- Unattended install required
  - XML script, extremely version sensitive
  - Requires re-pack of UDF-formatted DVD, with virtio net driver "slipstreamed" in to allow RDP access post-install
  - A daunting install experience; black screen of death for desktop versions.
- This is how bhyve first booted Win 2k12 (UEFI already existed).



# w2k12r2 install experience

```
Computer is booting, SAC started and initialized.  
  
Use the "ch -?" command for information about using channels.  
Use the "?" command for general help.  
  
SAC>  
EVENT: The CMD command is now available.  
SAC>  
EVENT: A new channel has been created. Use "ch -?" for channel help.  
Channel: SACSetupAct  
SAC>  
EVENT: A new channel has been created. Use "ch -?" for channel help.  
Channel: SACSetupErr  
SAC>█
```

# w2k12r2 install error

```
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          [0x0605b3] IBS      Callback_WinPE_SetSourceMedia
Info_Unattend:Show flag for early F6 UI page is being to set to [Hide]
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          [0x064047] IBSLIB MarkUnattendSettingAsProcesse
d: Marking unattend setting [Diagnostics] as processed.
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          [0x064047] IBSLIB MarkUnattendSettingAsProcesse
d: Marking unattend setting [ProductKey\ProductKey] as processed.
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          [0x060114] IBS      Callback_Productkey_Validate_
Unattend:User specified an unattend xml file.
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          [0x060115] IBS      Callback_Productkey_Validate_
Unattend:Using ProductKey WillShowUI value of [OnError]; retrieving key from un
attend file...
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          IBS      Callback_Productkey_Validate_
Unattend:Look for ei.cfg.
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          IBS      Callback_Productkey_Validate_
Unattend:Look for pid.txt file.
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          [0x060118] IBS      Callback_Productkey_Validate_
Unattend:Validating Product key
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Error         [0x060120] IBS      Callback_Productkey_Validate_
Unattend: An error occurred preventing setup from being able to validate the pr
oduct key; hr = 0x80070002[gle=0x00000002]
2017-11-09 22:52:19, Info          [0x0640ae] IBSLIB PublishMessage: Publishing me
ssage [Windows cannot read the <ProductKey> setting from the unattend answer fi
le.]
```

# w2k12r2 SAC

```
SAC>?
ch          Channel management commands. Use ch -? for more help.
cmd         Create a Command Prompt channel.
d           Dump the current kernel log.
f           Toggle detailed or abbreviated tlist info.
? or help   Display this list.
i           List all IP network numbers and their IP addresses.
i <#> <ip> <subnet> <gateway> Set IPv4 addr., subnet and gateway.
id          Display the computer identification information.
k <pid>     Kill the given process.
l <pid>     Lower the priority of a process to the lowest possible.
lock        Lock access to Command Prompt channels.
m <pid> <MB-allow> Limit the memory usage of a process to <MB-allow>.
p           Toggle paging the display.
r <pid>     Raise the priority of a process by one.
s           Display the current time and date (24 hour clock used).
s mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm Set the current time and date (24 hour clock used).
t           Tlist.
restart     Restart the system immediately.
shutdown    Shutdown the system immediately.
crashdump   Crash the system. You must have crash dump enabled.
SAC>
SAC>
SAC>
```

# The UEFI frame buffer

- The OVMF build of UEFI supported the “Graphics Output Protocol” interface
  - Qemu had a number of SVGA+ emulations; S3, etc
  - However, UEFI only requires a linear frame buffer
  - A random experiment in providing this at a fixed address showed Windows writing to this, even with no PCI adapter for it.
- Could this be the solution for installation ?
  - Would it work with other o/s's ?
    - Yes, it totally did.

# Getting bits to users

- bhyve is a FreeBSD base-system component
  - so, can't link against Xorg/SDL libs
- VNC looked the obvious next choice
  - IETF spec
  - Many free clients available
  - Protocol didn't appear too onerous
  - Also provided keyboard/mouse input

# Prototyping VNC

- Started out writing a simple program using Cairo rendering chars to a bitmap on keyboard input
- Used the GPL'd libvnc to get something going.
  - Very useful to tcpdump to see what really goes on
- Then, started implementing a from-scratch BSD-licensed version
  - Harmed many VNC viewers in the process
  - This gave the skeleton of a VNC server

# The “fbuf” device emulation

- bhyve implements a proprietary PCI frame buffer emulation
  - The opposite of the bhyve only-emulate-well-supported-devices philosophy
  - But, with UEFI, guests accept what the GOP protocol reports
    - and since bhyve provides UEFI, a custom driver is provided for this
- 8MB of frame buffer memory provided with 32-bit pixels. Resolution can be changed on the fly (though usually only in UEFI on a GOP requests)

# “fbuf” #2

- Guest frame buffers accesses are NOT emulated, but passed through
  - No instruction emulation required (most likely exotic instr's)
- Host memory is inserted into the guest EPT map to create the frame buffer
  - Marked as non-executable
- Guest rendering runs at memory bandwidth
  - Not through slow vesa/scfb bus-attached mem
  - But, non-accelerated



# fbuf: meet VNC

- fbuf memory has to be passed to a user
- The age-old technique of “screen scraping” is used
  - The screen is sampled every 1/30 seconds
- Sending the entire frame buffer in this interval requires a lot of b/w
  - So, run a CRC over each 32x32 pixel “tile”, and don’t send the region if the CRC of the current screen is equal to the previous.
    - If more than XXX % of cells have changed, give up and send the whole thing instead of tiny rectangles
  - A simple compression technique that works very well, and doesn’t use a lot of CPU when idle.
  - Some older VNC clients really don’t like it.
  - Also: use zlib compression if the client supports it.
- No CPU used when VNC not connected

# The mouse

- VNC provides absolute mouse coordinates
- bhyve emulates a PS2 keyboard/mouse controller which hooks up to the VNC server
- Unfortunately, the PS2 mouse only supplies relative coordinates.
  - Most guests implement s/w mouse acceleration
  - fbuf provides no h/w cursor rendering (avoiding guest drivers), so guests will s/w render
  - This results in the mouse “running away” from the VNC cursor

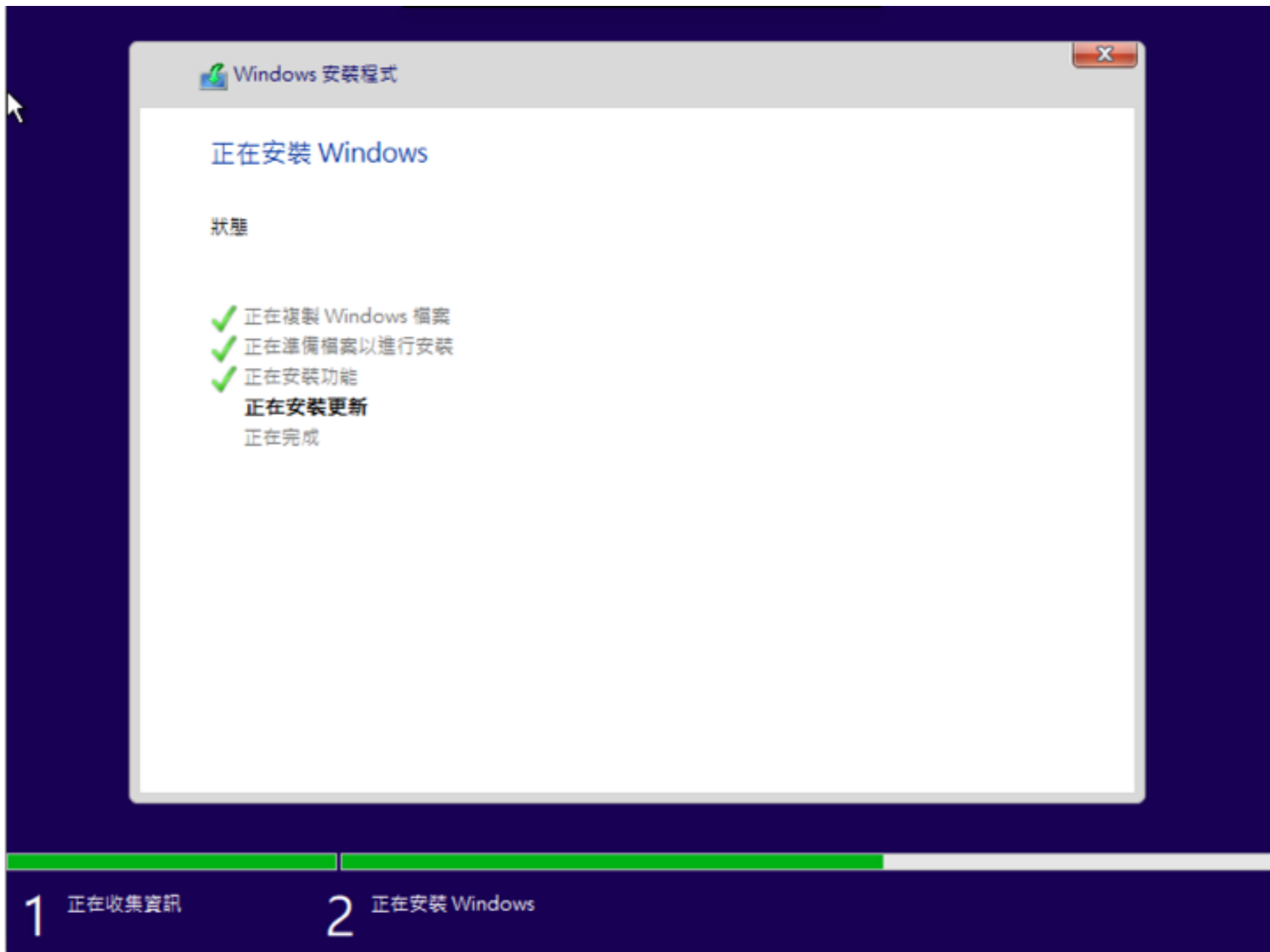
# Fixing the mouse

- Tablet devices provide absolute coordinates
  - Good match for VNC
- Hard to find a generic tablet device
  - Solution was to implement a USB XHCI controller
    - XHCI supports MSI, and much friendlier on the system than an EHCI controller emulation (legacy intr's only, polling required)
      - Provides a future path for USB emulations/passthru/etc
  - Tablet device attachment hooked up to VNC to provide absolute coords
  - Downside: XHCI not supported in older guests (Win7)
  - Bigger downside: still not supported by FreeBSD :(

# The keyboard

- The bhyve ps2 keyboard emulation was hooked up to VNC
- Every single x86 guest in existence supports this h/w
  - A USB keyboard attached to XHCI doesn't add much value
- VNC provides Xorg scan-codes
  - A very reasonable and proven format
  - Unfortunately, the mix of VNC clients and non-US keyboards creates a torrid mix
  - A large percent of bhyve graphics issues relate to this issue

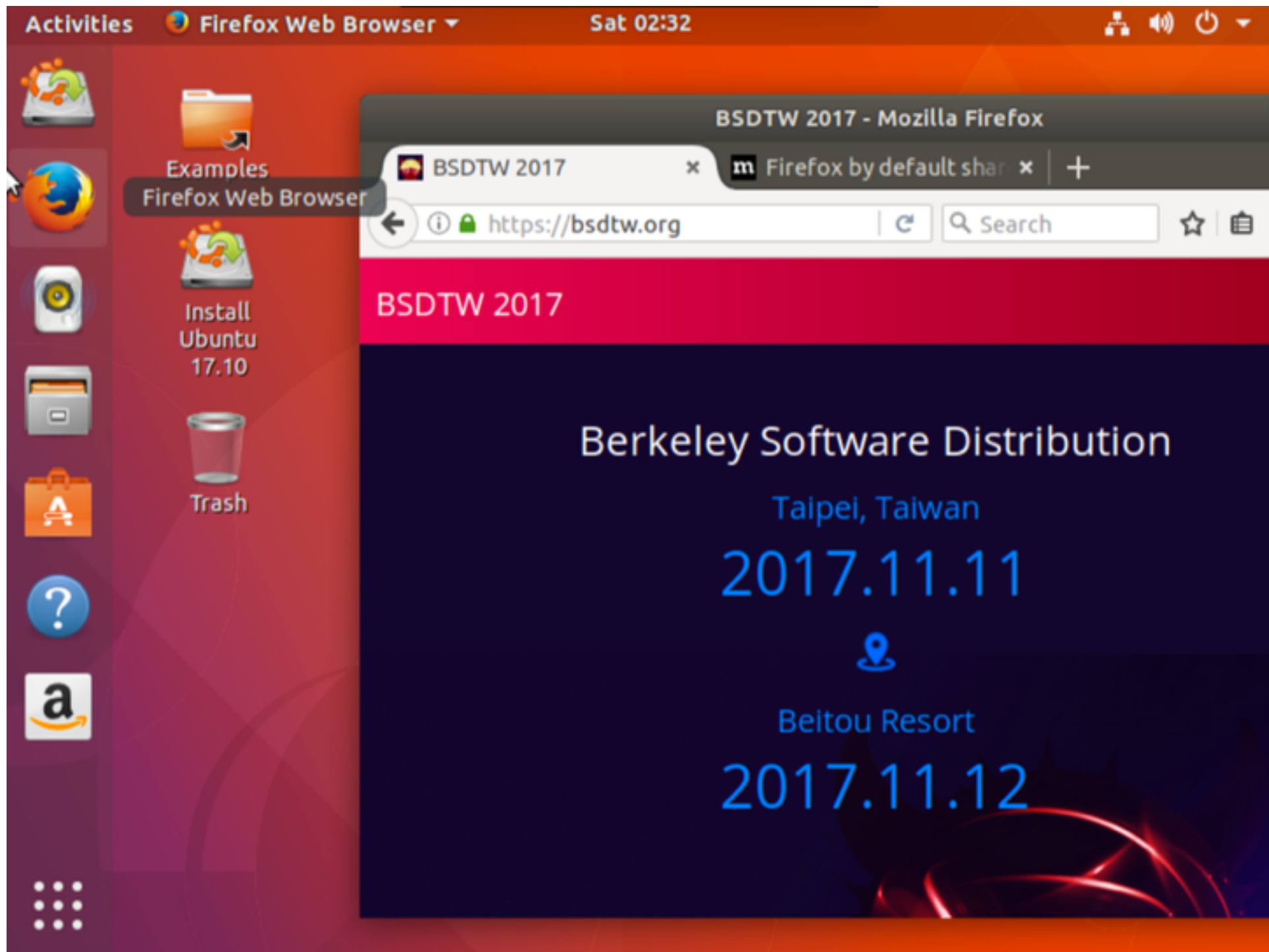
# w10-ct install



# w10-ct setup



# ubuntu 17.10 desktop



# What about VGA ?

- VGA (more likely SVGA+) emulation was considered early on
- However, it is extremely complicated to support all the various modes
  - Only supports a limited resolution.
- An emulation has been written, though not fully enabled
  - Renders the various modes into the linear frame-buffer to allow export with VNC
  - Requires trapping all accesses for fidelity e.g. planar modes: extremely slow
  - UEFI CSM has a BIOS INT10 interface to support this
- Existing keyboard/mouse



# The collision of VGA and UEFI

- Windows Vista, 7, and Server 2k8 require both UEFI GOP and BIOS INT10h
- VGA registers are accessed
- Fixed by:
  - an INT10h 16-bit asm stub in non-CSM UEFI that reports the required VESA BIOS info
  - partial VGA register implementation
- Unfortunately this breaks OpenBSD UEFI since it thinks the system is VGA, so yet another option required to allow that (“vga=off”)
- Currently forces resolution to 1024x768 regardless of config, though that is fixable

# Futures

- PCI passthru of graphics adapters
  - Allows full-speed 3D rendering
- USB keyboard support
- Expand VNC client support
  - Fix language keyboard issues
- External API for non-VNC viewers (FreeRDP, Spice)
- Worth supporting virtio graphics emulation ?

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- [peter.fang@tidalscale.com](mailto:peter.fang@tidalscale.com) for Win10/CT support

# w10-ct

