

## How to shrink a VirtualBox VDI

The endeavor:

When you are using a VirtualBox VDI it grows with time up to the maximum size of the initial VDI hard disk size. So the command

`df`

in the virtual guest system shows less used hd space than the

`ls -l myGuestsystem.vdi`

command on the command line of the host operating system

First nullify free space:

either:

```
dd if=/dev/zero of=/var/tmp/bigemptyfile bs=4096k ; rm /var/tmp/bigemptyfile
```

or:

```
mount -o remount,ro /dev/sda1
```

```
zerofree /dev/sda1
```

or:

run a live system like

systemrescueCD

and boot the guest-system from the systemrescueCD.iso

```
zerofree /dev/sda1
```

Now run VBoxManage's modifymedium command with the `--compact` option:

```
vboxmanage modifymedium --compact /path/to/thedisk.vdi
```

### Remember:

It may take a lot of time for each task. In my environment a 6TB VDI shrinking to 3 TB used round about 20 hours for each of the to jobs....

So be calm =:-)