Resolve Attached Media Conflicts In VirtualBox

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By 5 Comments

At the end of my previous post Moving A VirtualBox VM With Snapshots, I described a common VirtualBox error you may experience when you try to clone virtual machines and move them around. The error is associated with VirtualBox Guest Additions which is usually installed across individual virtual machine instances.

This error may also occur when you revert virtual machine snapshots or update attached storage. The error is as shown below (I didn't bother hiding my user name or directory structure. So the exact error will be unique to each specific user):

> Failed to open virtual machine located in C:/Users/Ehi Kioya/VirtualBox VMs/DEV2010/DEV2010.vbox.
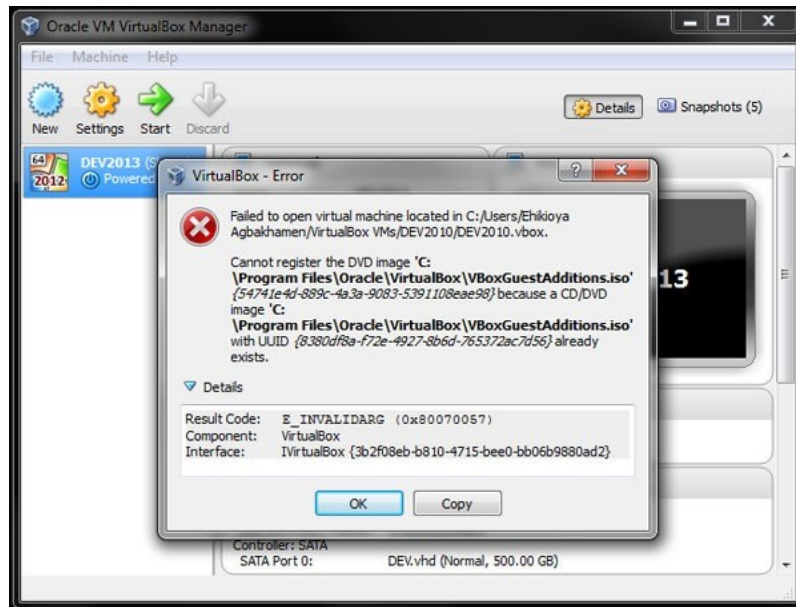>
> Cannot register the DVD image 'C:\Program Files\Oracle\VirtualBox\VBoxGuestAdditions.iso' {54741e4d-889c-4a3a-9083-5391108eae98} because a CD/DVD image 'C:\Program Files\Oracle\VirtualBox\VBoxGuestAdditions.iso' with UUID {8380df8a-f72e-4927-8b6d-765372ac7d56} already exists.
>
> Result Code: E_INVALIDARG (0x80070057)
> Component: VirtualBox
> Interface: IVirtualBox {3b2f08eb-b810-4715-bee0-bb06b9880ad2}

Here's how it looks:

Assuming you have one working guest virtual machine and you are trying to add a new virtual machine from a clone, you may go about fixing it with any of the two methods below. I found the second method always works.
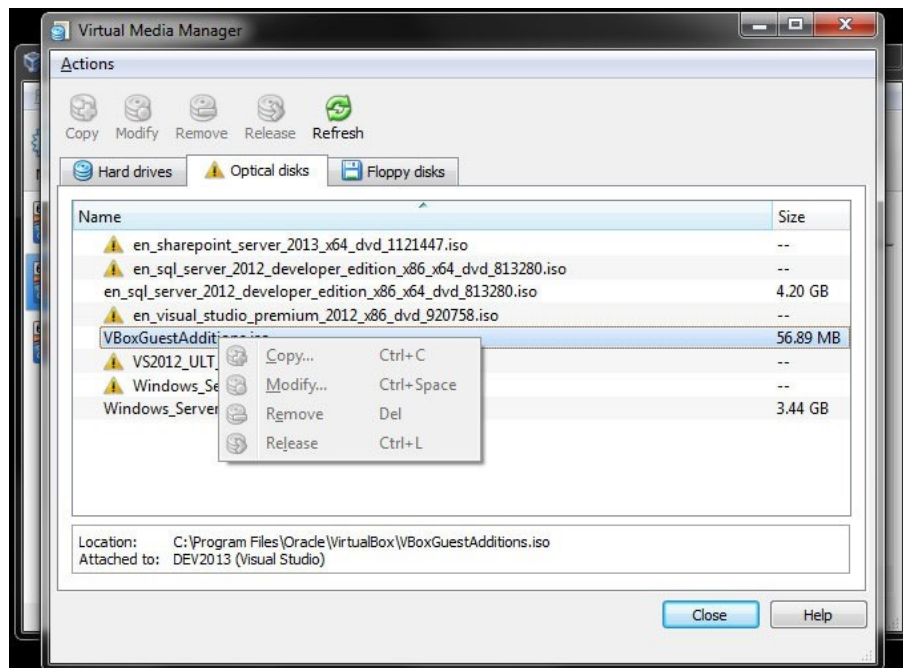
Fix It From The VirtualBox UI

Step 1:
Make sure your working guest machine is shut down and not in a "Saved" or "Running" state.

Step 2:
From Oracle VM VirtualBox Manager, select **File >> Virtual Media Manager**. Go to the **Optical disks** tab and see if you can release and remove the old VBoxGuestAdditions.iso from there.

If this does not work, use the second *full-proof* method below. It involves modifying a bit of XML 🙂

Edit The VirtualBox Machine Definition *(.vbox)* File

Step 1:
You may want to shut down your working guest machine (just to be safe). However, this may not be very necessary since we will be editing the *.vbox* file of the new cloned machine you want to add. We will not touch the existing working machine.

Step 2:
Go to the home folder of the new virtual machine you're trying to add and locate the Virtual Machine Definition *(.vbox)* file. Take a backup just in case.

Step 3:
Open the file in your favorite XML editor. Notepad will suffice too. Locate the section that has the tag *<DVDImages>*. This is the attached media section.

Step 4:
Edit this section and remove the line containing the offending image and UUID, leaving the opening and closing section tags *<DVDImages>* and *</DVDImages>* in place.

In my case, I had to change this:

```
<DVDImages>
    <Image uuid="{54741e4d-889c-4a3a-9083-5391108eae98}" location="C:/Program Files/Oracle/VirtualBox/VBoxGuestAdditions.iso"/>
</DVDImages>
```

To this:

```
<DVDImages></DVDImages>
```

Step 5:
Save the file. This will resolve the attached media conflict and you can now add your newly cloned virtual machine the usual way.

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