# How to Run .OVA Virtual Machines on Apple Silicon Using UTM (M1/M2/M3/M4)

`.ova` virtual machines are typically built for **VirtualBox** or **VMware** - but on **Apple Silicon (M1/M2/M3/M4)** **VirtualBox does not work correctly** and **VMware** only supports ARM VMs.

However, **UTM** can run `.ova`-based virtual machines on Apple Silicon, **but not directly**!

You need to extract the `.ova`, convert the disk format, and import it manually into **UTM**.

The following guide shows the full process using **Metasploitable2.ova** as an example.

You would perform this process on the `SprinterToolPro_2026-02.ova` file that you downloaded.

**Step 1 : extract the `.ova file`**

# Run this inside the folder where the .ova file exists:
tar -xvf <filename>.ova

expected output : at least two files

- <filename>.ovf ( configuration file )
- <filename>.vmdk ( virtual disk file )

```
[redacted]-MacBook-Air new % tar -xvf Metasploitable2.ova
x Metasploitable2.ovf
x Metasploitable2.mf
x Metasploitable2-disk1.vmdk
```

Note : if you see more than one `.vmdk`, the VM uses multi-disk snapshots — still fine.

**Step 2 : Convert `.vmdk` to `.qcow2` (UTM-compatible format)**

UTM does **not** support `.vmdk`, so we convert it using **qemu-img**.

You need QEMU installed first:

brew install qemu

Now convert the disk:

qemu-img convert -p -f vmdk -O qcow2 <filename>.vmdk <filename>.qcow2

expected output :

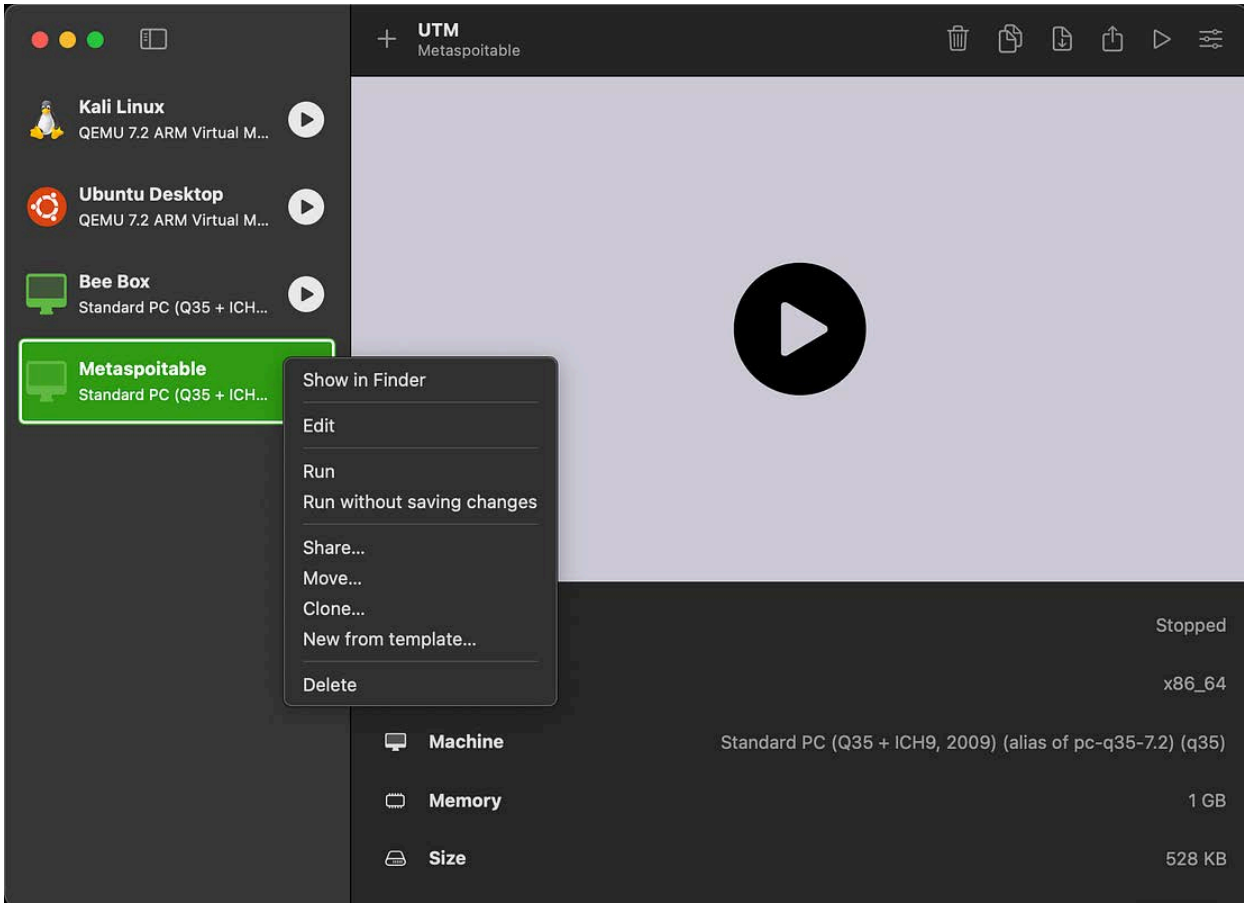
```
[redacted]-MacBook-Air new % qemu-img convert -p -f vmdk -O qcow2 Metasploitable2-disk1.vmdk Metasploitable2.qcow2
    (100.00/100%)
```

**Step 3 : Create a VM in UTM**

1. Open **UTM** → **Create a New Virtual Machine**
2. Choose **Emulate** (not Virtualize)
3. Select **Other**
4. Set **Boot Device** → **None**
5. Continue and save the VM

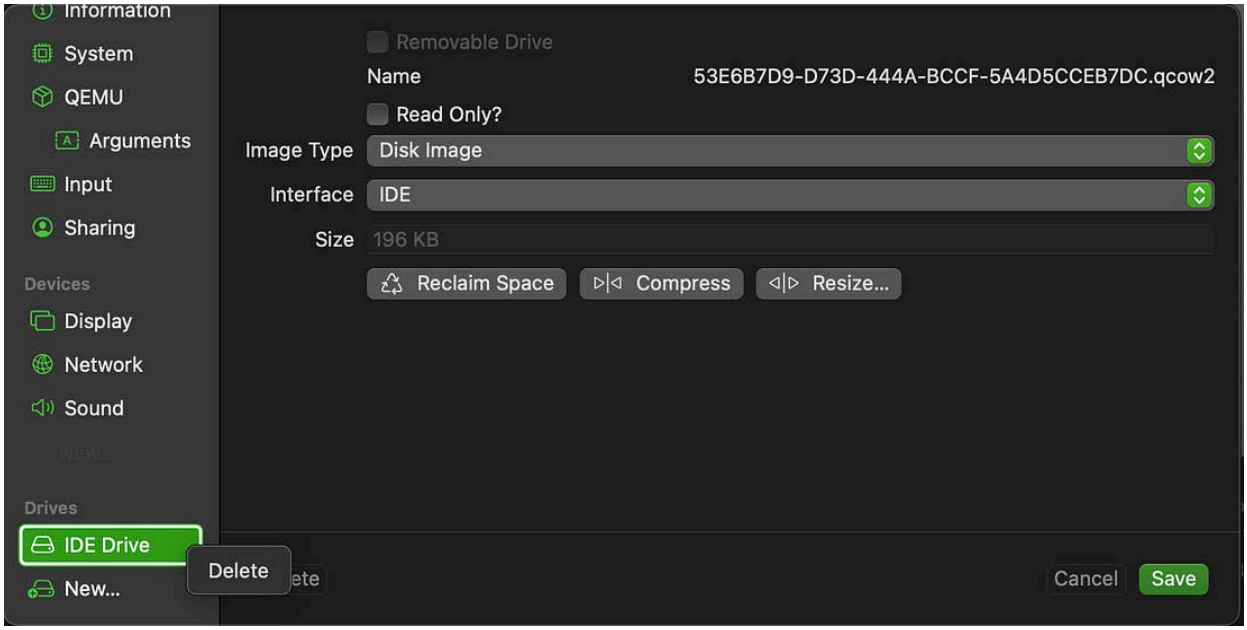
**Step 4 : Import the converted disk into UTM**

1. Open the VM in UTM → **Edit**

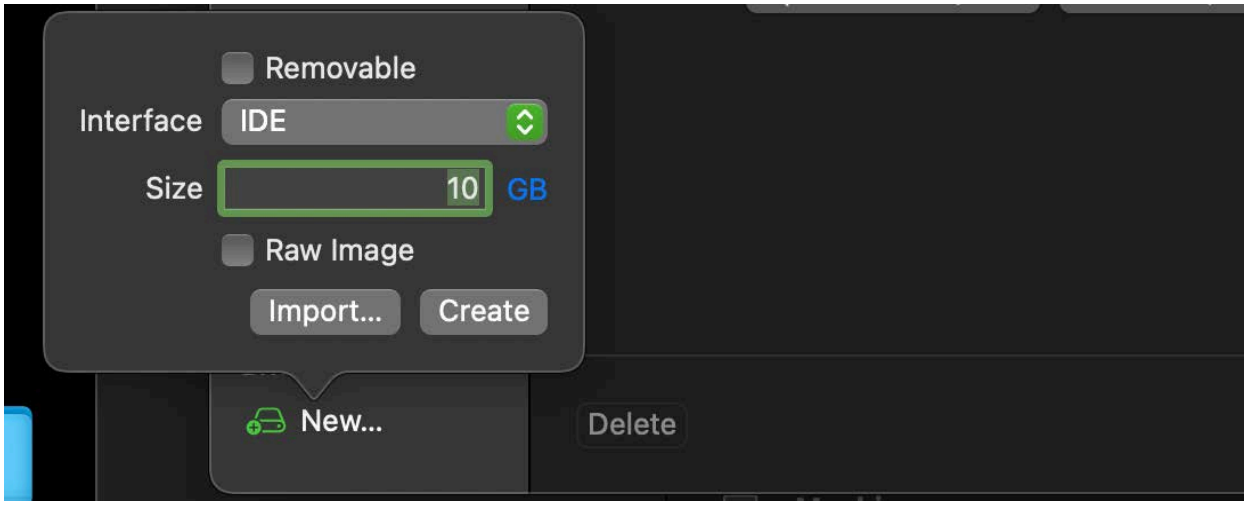



2. Scroll to **Drives**

3. Delete all default drives




4. Click **New** → **“Import”**

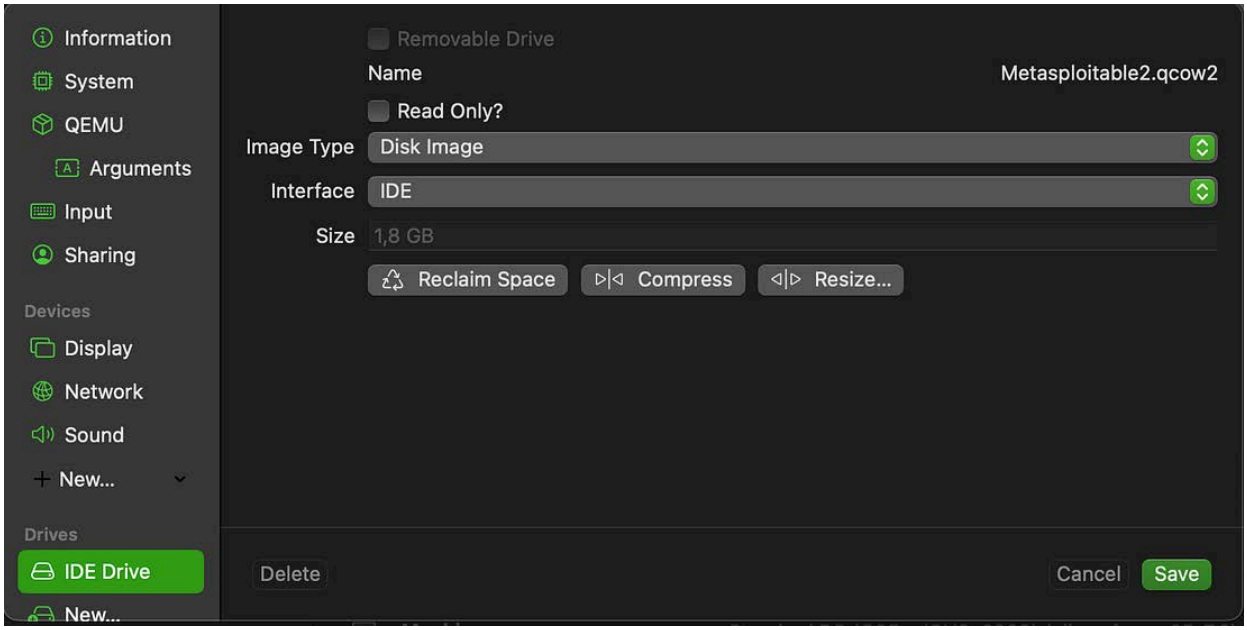



5. Select your `<filename>.qcow2`

Make sure:

— **Image Type** is set to **Disk Image**

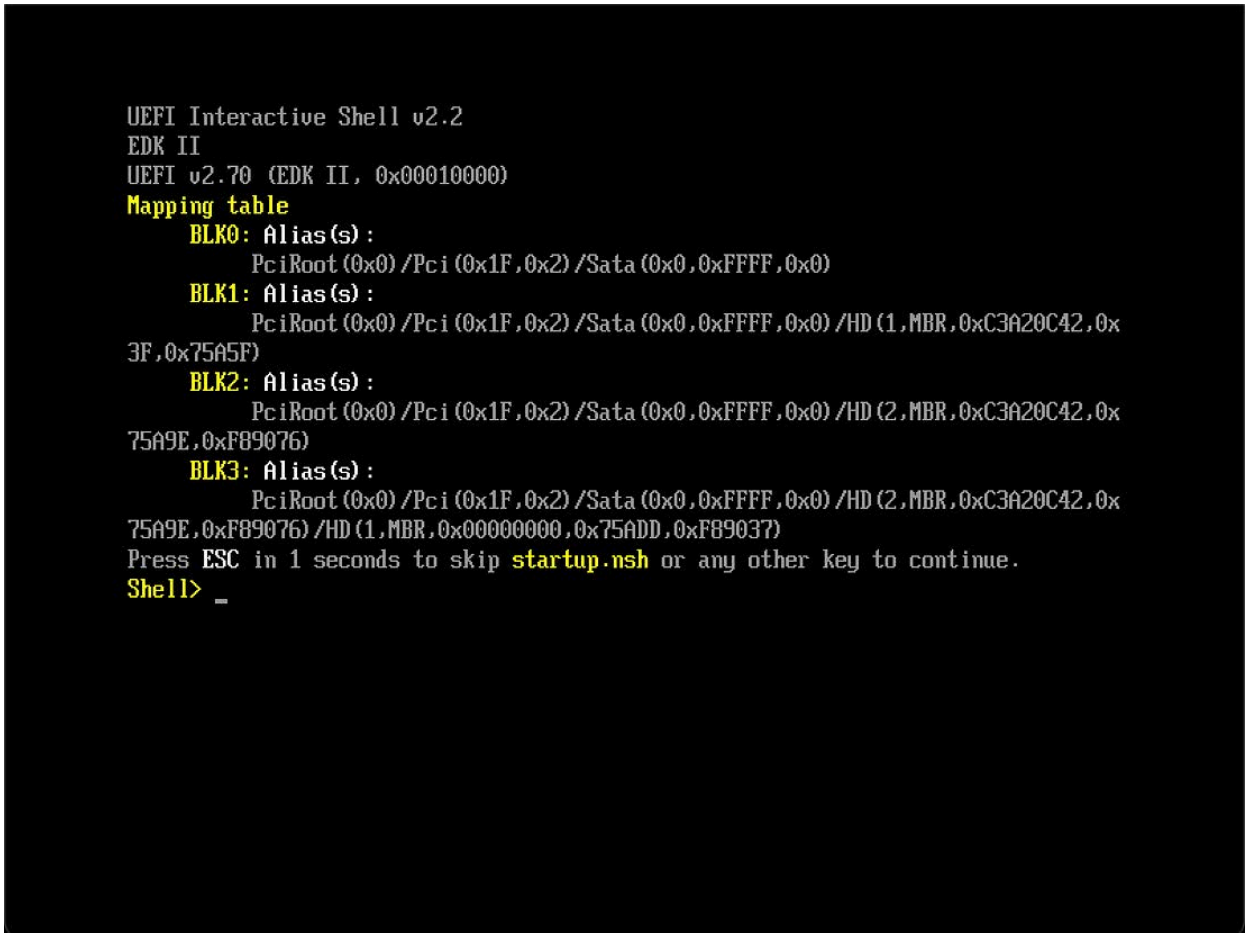
— **Read Only** is unchecked



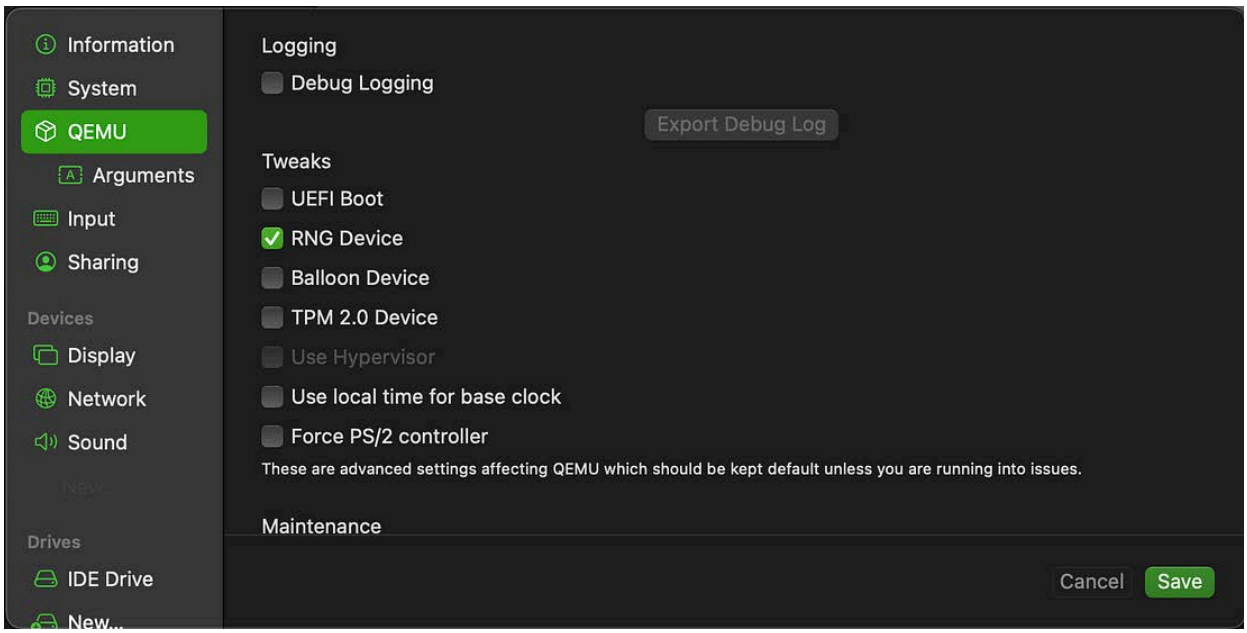

Finally, **save** and run the **VM.**

## Troubleshooting

If you see the “UEFI Interactive Shell” on boot, like the screenshot below, That means the VM is trying to boot in UEFI mode, but the VM expects BIOS boot.




to fix: **Edit → QEMU → disable “UEFI Boot”.**



**Now if you save and run the VM, everything should work fine.**

**Note :** if the VM doesn’t work check that you’re using the right architecture.