

Bypassing TPM, Secure Boot, and Microsoft Account During Windows 11 VM Setup

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Category: Windows / Virtualization / Lab Setup

Purpose: Create Windows 11 VMs for a domain lab without being blocked by hardware checks or Microsoft Account requirements.

Background

When installing Windows 11 on VirtualBox or similar platforms, you may encounter the following issues:

- TPM 2.0 or Secure Boot not detected
- Forced sign-in with a Microsoft account

This guide walks through bypassing both roadblocks for lab environments.

Requirements

- Windows 11 ISO
- VirtualBox or other VM platform
- No TPM or Secure Boot hardware needed

Step 1: Bypass TPM, Secure Boot, and RAM Checks

1. When you see a message like “This PC can’t run Windows 11,” press:

Shift + F10

to open Command Prompt.

2. Type:

regedit

3. In Registry Editor, navigate to:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup

4. Right-click **Setup** → **New > Key** → name it:

LabConfig

5. Inside **LabConfig**, create the following **DWORD (32-bit) Values**:

- **BypassTPMCheck** → 1 (Decimal)
- **BypassSecureBootCheck** → 1 (Decimal)
- **BypassRAMCheck** → 1 (Decimal)

6. Close Regedit and the Command Prompt.

7. Click **Back** then **Next** to retry setup.
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Step 2: Bypass Microsoft Account Requirement

Once Windows setup asks you to connect to a network or sign in:

Option A: Use Bypass Command

1. Press:

Shift + F10

2. Type:

oobe\bypassnro

3. The VM will reboot automatically.
4. On reboot, choose:
 - **“I don’t have internet”** or
 - **“Continue with limited setup”**
5. Create a **local user account** to complete setup.

Option B: Temporarily Disable Networking (Optional)

If `oobe\bypassnro` doesn’t show the offline setup:

- Shut down the VM
- In **VirtualBox Settings > Network**, uncheck:

Enable Network Adapter

- Boot the VM and try setup again — no internet = local account path
- Re-enable networking once setup is complete

Result

You now have a clean Windows 11 VM with:

- Local admin account
- No TPM, Secure Boot, or Microsoft Account enforced

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