NVIDIA Grace Software with Ubuntu 22.04

Installation Guide

DI-11485-001_05 | April 2024

Document History

DI-11485-001_05

Version	Date	Description of Change
01	August 22, 2023	Initial Release
02	December 18, 2023	● Added Appendix A.1. ● Updated Appendix D.1
03	January 22, 2024	Updated post-install sequence
04	March 8, 2024	Added a note to Appendix A.1 about explicitly requiring the open-source GPU driver.
05	April 30, 2024	● Updated Appendix A.1 with new driver level. ● Added Appendix A.2. ● Updated Appendix D.1 with an additional workaround for the boot issue.

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Introduction

NVIDIA® Grace systems can run the version of Ubuntu Server that is distributed by Canonical and take advantage of the advanced Grace features.

This document explains how to install and configure Grace systems with Ubuntu Server 22.04.3.

> **Attention**: Although it might be possible to use other Linux distributions that are related to (or inspired by) an Ubuntu Server, for example Kubuntu, **only** the Ubuntu Server 22.04 has been pre-validated with the steps in this guide for installation on Grace platforms.

Related Documentation

Refer to the Ubuntu Server documentation for more information about Ubuntu.

Prerequisites

This section lists the required (or recommended) prerequisites.

Access to Repositories

The repositories can be accessed from the internet. If you are using a proxy server, follow the instructions in the Ubuntu Server Installation Guide to ensure that the system can access the necessary URIs.

Installing the Ubuntu Server

Canonical provides several methods to install Ubuntu (refer to the Ubuntu Server Documentation for more information). **Before you install**, review platform-dependent workarounds to determine whether modifications are required for your environment.

This section describes how to install Ubuntu using the Quick Install method and reclaim the disk space used by an existing installation in the process. It describes a minimal installation and assumes that the system has internet connectivity to access updates. If you have a preferred method to install Ubuntu, you can skip this section but ensure that you reclaim the disk space that is used by an existing OS installation.

This method installs Ubuntu Server on the Grace system remotely through facilities hosted on the BMC.

Obtaining the Ubuntu Server 22.04

Obtain the Ubuntu Server ISO for Arm® image (aarch64) and store it on your local disk. Refer to Downloading Ubuntu Server for the instructions.

If you are deploying Ubuntu on Grace-based platforms at-scale, contact Canonical for information about ongoing bug fixes, critical security patching, and long-term support. For information about using Canonical's Ubuntu images on a commercial project, read Canonical's IP policy or contact Canonical.

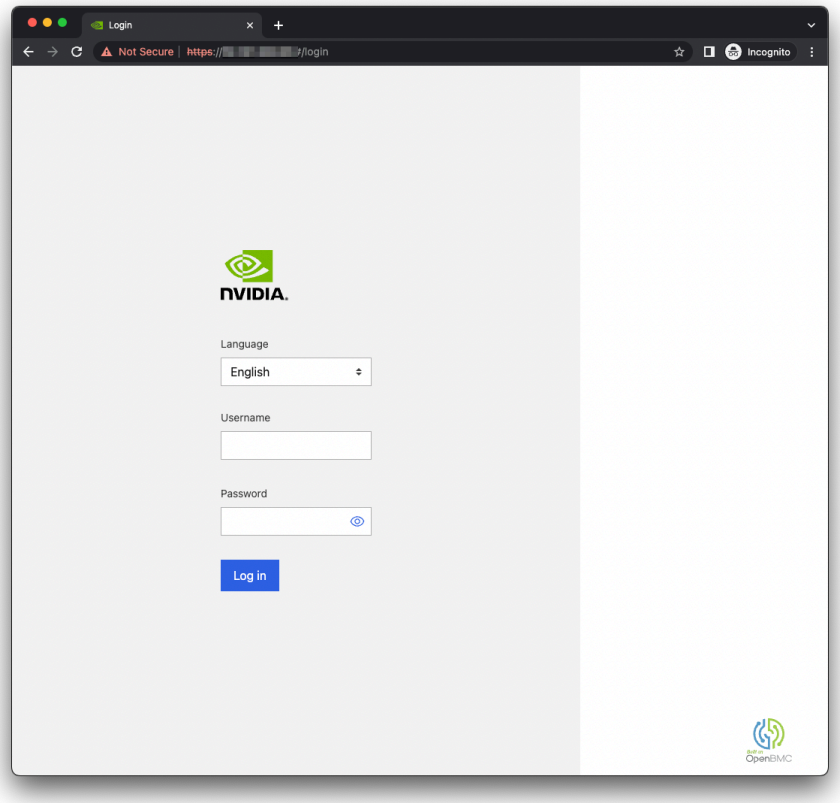
Remotely Booting the Ubuntu 22.04 Server 22.04 ISO

Attention: Here is some important information to know **before** you begin:

- The Grace BMC comes with default login credentials, and NVIDIA recommends that you create a unique user ID and password.
  Contact the system vendor if you have issues logging into the BMC.
- As a performance consideration, for networks that are distributed across a wide geographical area, such as a corporate VPN, we recommend that you use a browser from a host near the target server.
  This can be accomplished by using a remote application software solution, for example VNC, or by exporting the application X session and tunneling over SSH.
- This sequence is intended for the NVIDIA reference BMC, and your results might vary when using an IBV BMC.

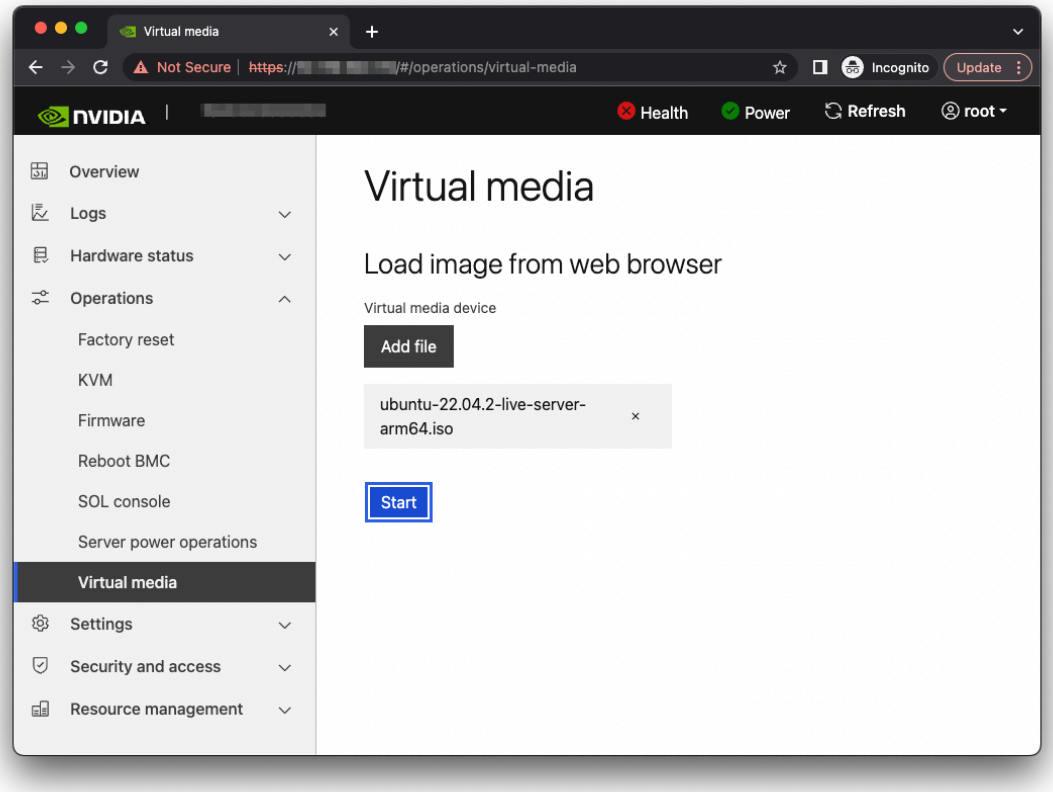
1. Connect to the BMC.
   a. Open a browser in your LAN, navigate to `https://<BMC-IP-address>/`, and log in.

Figure 1. BMC Login



2. Download the ISO image to a location that can be accessed by the browser.
3. Set up the ISO image as virtual media.
   a. From the left hand menu, expand **Operations**.
   b. Select **Virtual media**.
   c. Click **Add file**, navigate to the downloaded ISO image, and select it.
   d. To begin serving the ISO image to the target server, click **Start**.

Figure 2. BMC Virtual Media



4. Boot from the virtual media.
   Typically, the default boot order does not boot the CD-ROM image. You can change this in the BIOS or as a one-time option in the boot menu.
   a. Connect to the console.
      i. From the left hand menu, expand **Operations,** and select the SOL **console**.
      ii. Alternatively, SSH to the BMC from a terminal emulator, log in, and at the prompt, run the `obmc-console-client` command.
   b. To bring up the boot menu, press **Escape** or **F11** at the beginning of the boot process.

Figure 3. Console Splash Screen

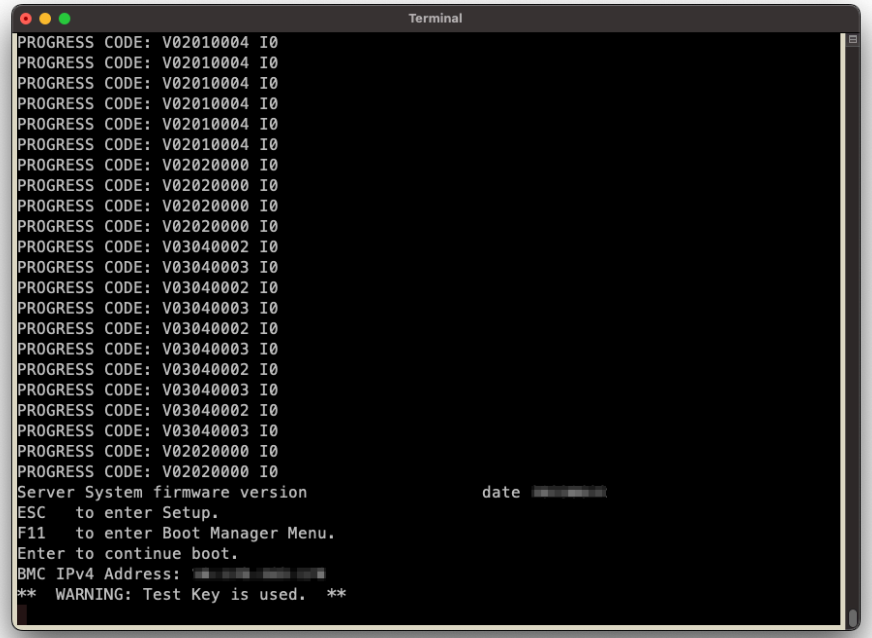
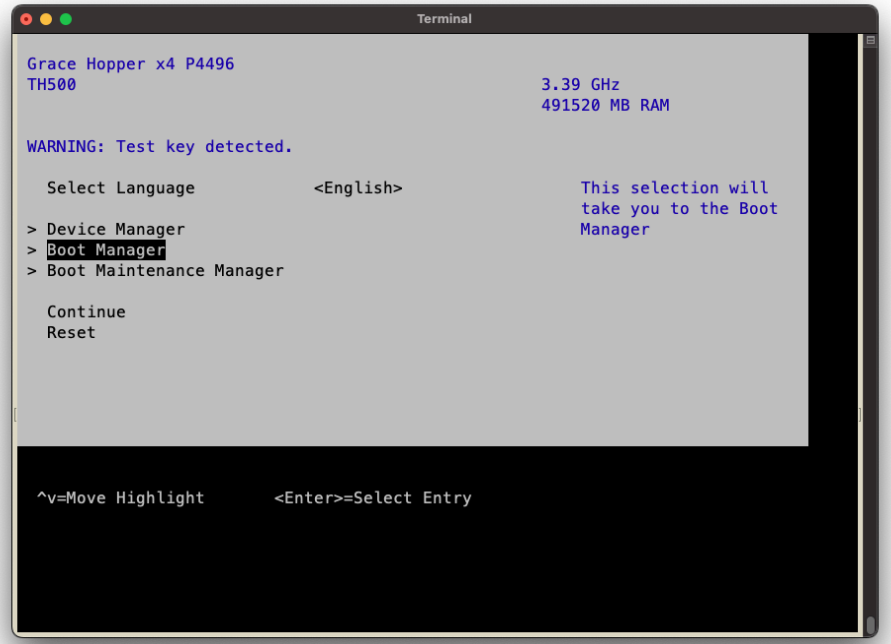
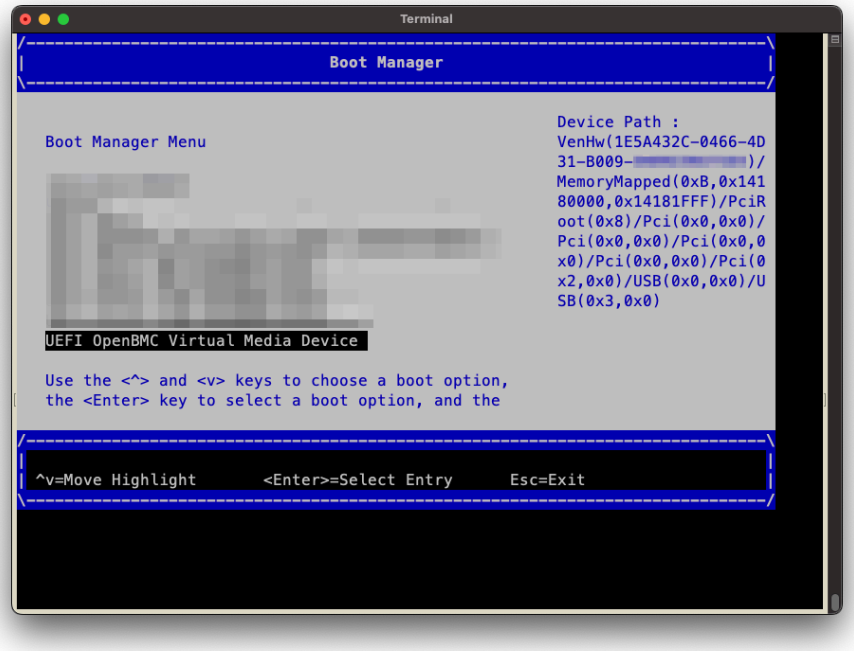


Figure 4. Boot Manager Menu



c. In the boot menu, select **UEFI OpenBMC Virtual Media Device** as the boot device and press **Enter.**
d. Follow the instructions in Installing Ubuntu Server.

Figure 5. Boot Manager

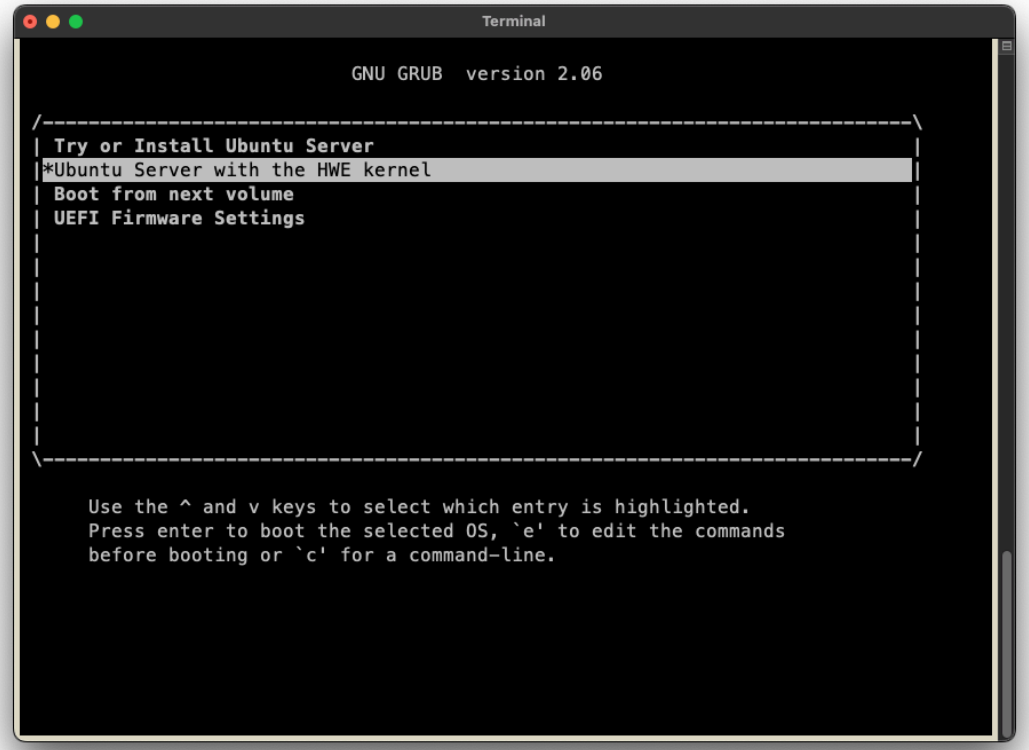


Installing Ubuntu Server

Prerequisites: This section assumes you have already booted the Ubuntu ISO image.

1. After booting the ISO image, the GRUB boot menu will appear.
   The menu will time out after 60 seconds. If no action is taken, it will proceed with booting the default selection (**Try or Install Ubuntu Server**).

Figure 6. GRUB Boot Menu



2. To automate the installation with an autoinstall configuration file, refer to Installing with Autoinstall.
3. Select **Ubuntu Server with the HWE kernel**.
   Refer to the Ubuntu Server Installer Operations for guidance on using the installer.

   The performance of the Virtual Media device on Grace systems has been known to interfere with the Ubuntu installer, and this issue can cause services and cloud-init to time out.

   When this is experienced, a hybrid approach to load the kernel and initial ramdisk and use the network to load the rest of the ISO is required:
   a. Host the Ubuntu Server ISO from a web server.
      This can be an existing web server or a spontaneous web server.
   b. Ensure that **Ubuntu Server with the HWE kernel** selected and press **e** from the GRUB boot menu.
   c. Append `ip=dhcp` and `url=http://webserver:port/path/to/UbuntuServer.iso` to the list of kernel boot parameters.
      When the system has multiple network interfaces, you might be required to configure an interface with DHCP. This can be accomplished by specifying

`ip=:::::<interface_name>:dhcp:::` instead of `ip=dhcp`, and this format can also be used to configure the interface with a static IP address configuration. Refer to the nfsroot documentation for more information about how to use this kernel boot parameter.

d. To boot, click **Ctrl**+**X** or press **F10**.
   The kernel will display output messages to the console after it begins to boot.
e. Stop the Virtual Media device from the BMC web browser console.

The kernel will load the Ubuntu Server ISO from the network and start the installer.

4. Follow the installer prompts to configure the manual installation.
5. Select the text-based installer mode and update the installer if necessary.

Figure 7. Installer Mode Selection

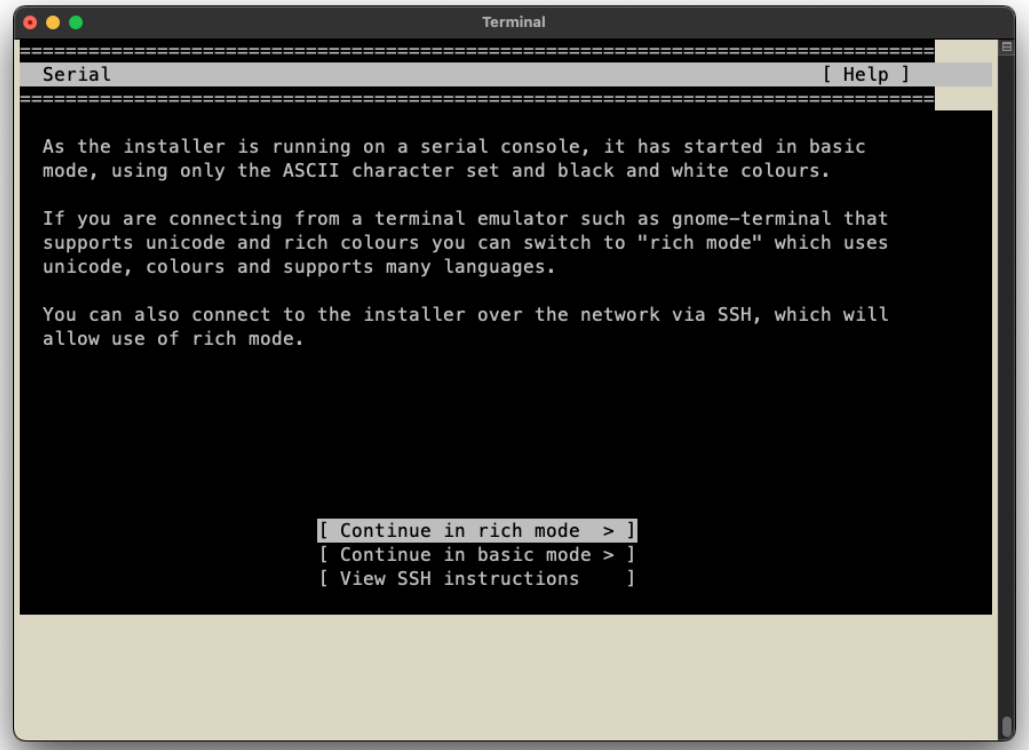
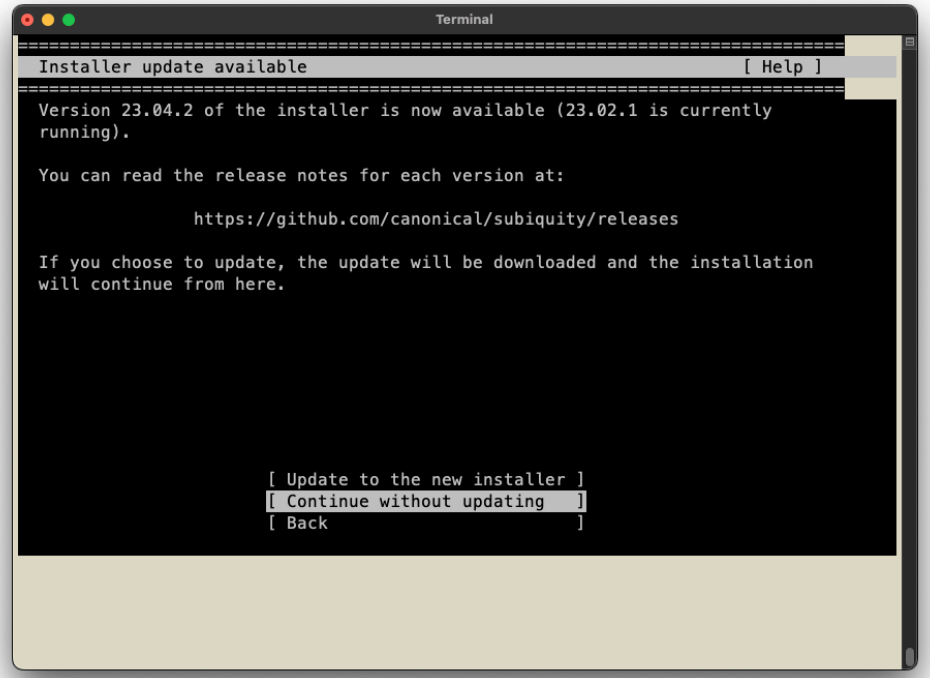
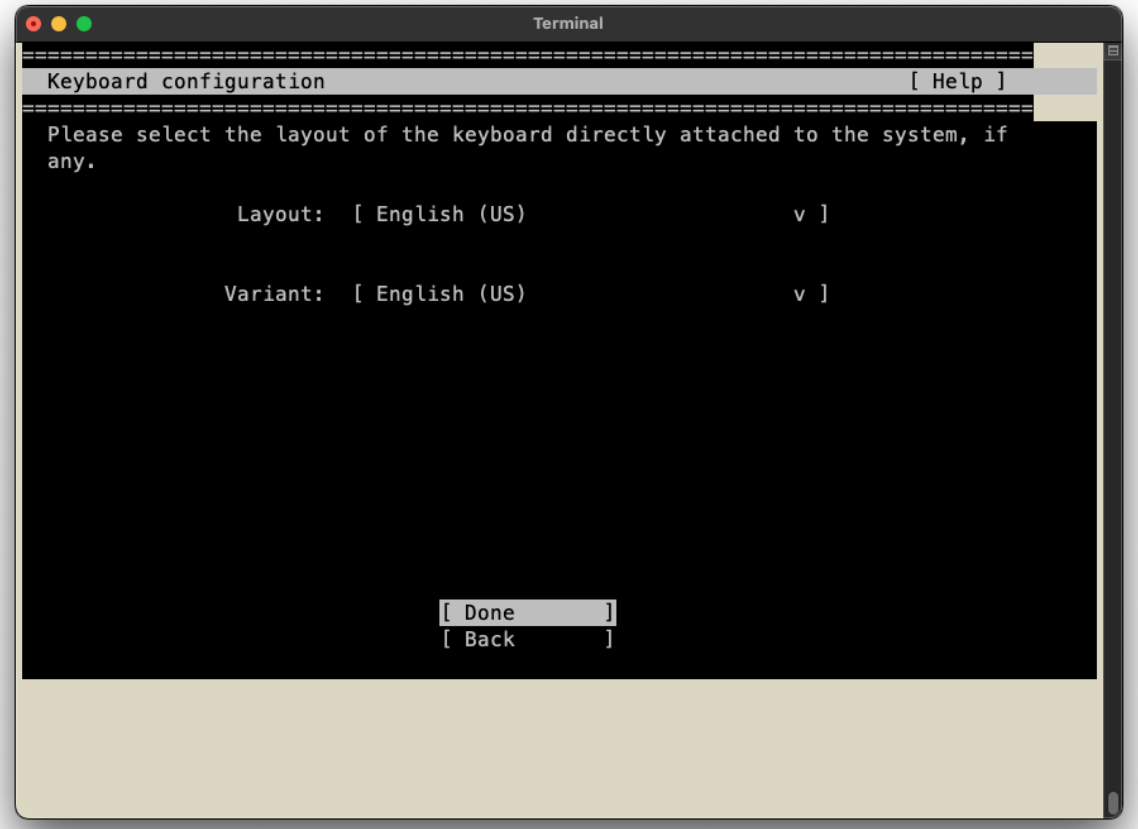


Figure 8. Installer Updates



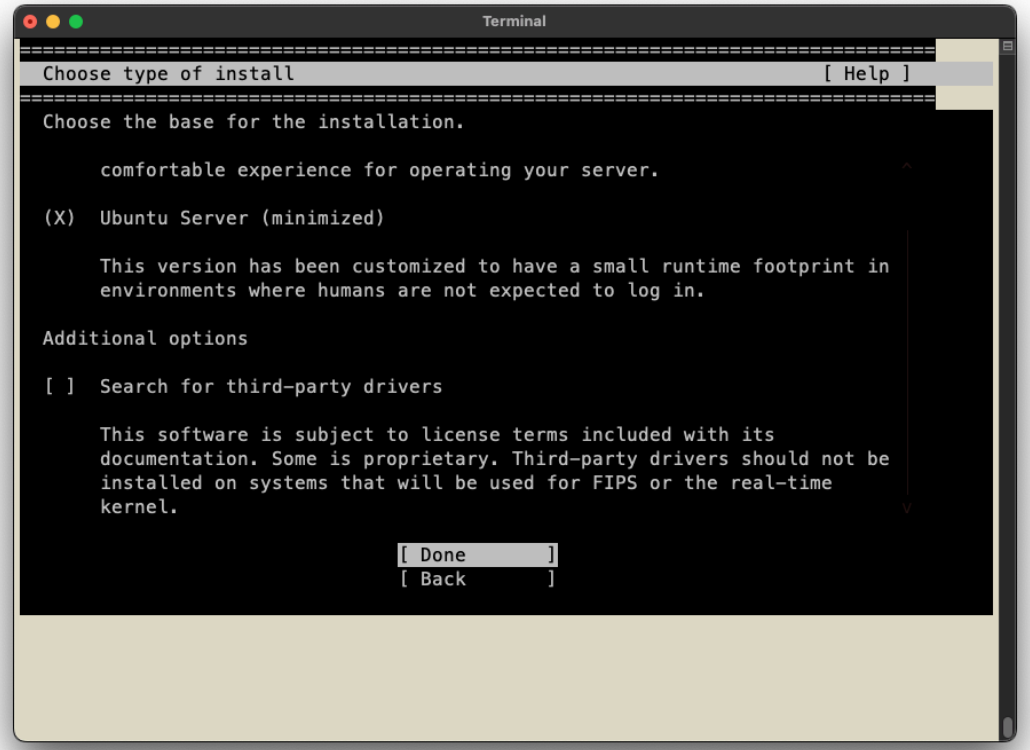
6. Select the **Keyboard** configuration.

Figure 9. Keyboard Selection



7. Select the base for the installation.

Figure 10. Installation Selection



8. Configure the network connections, proxy settings, and Ubuntu archive mirror.

Figure 11. Network Connections

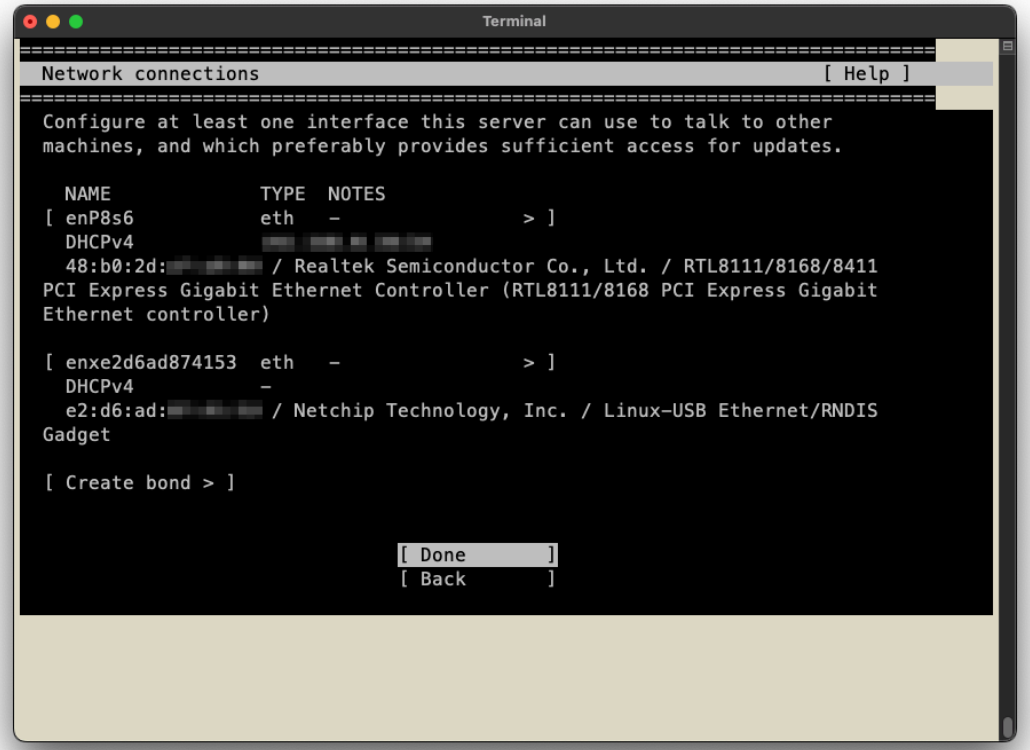


Figure 12. Proxy Configuration

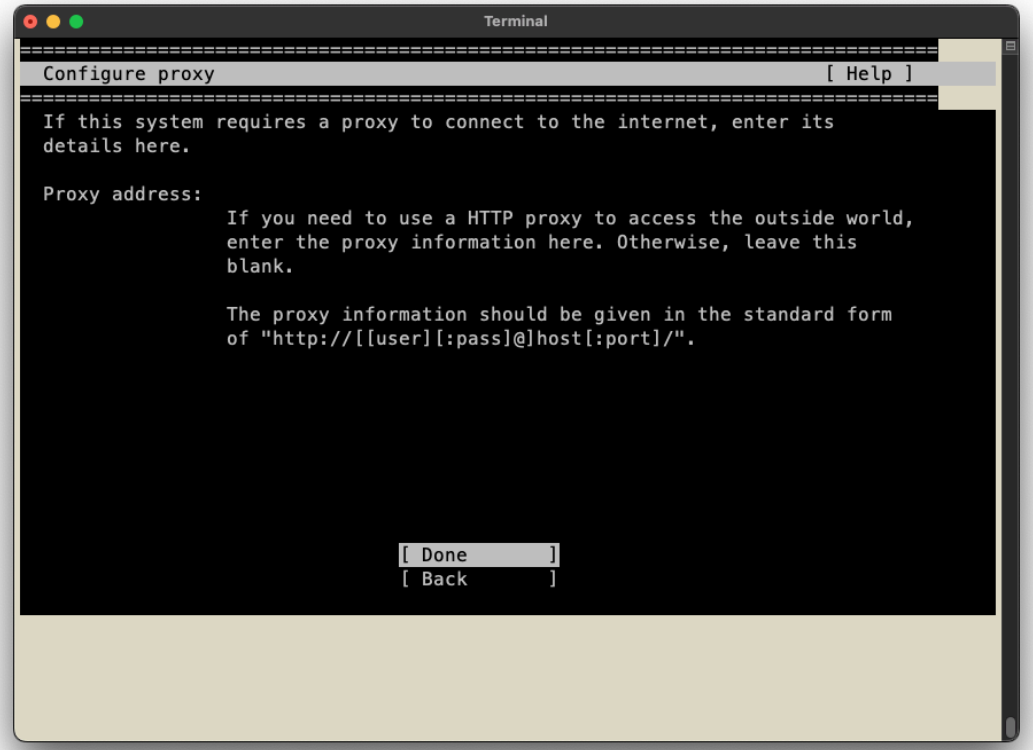
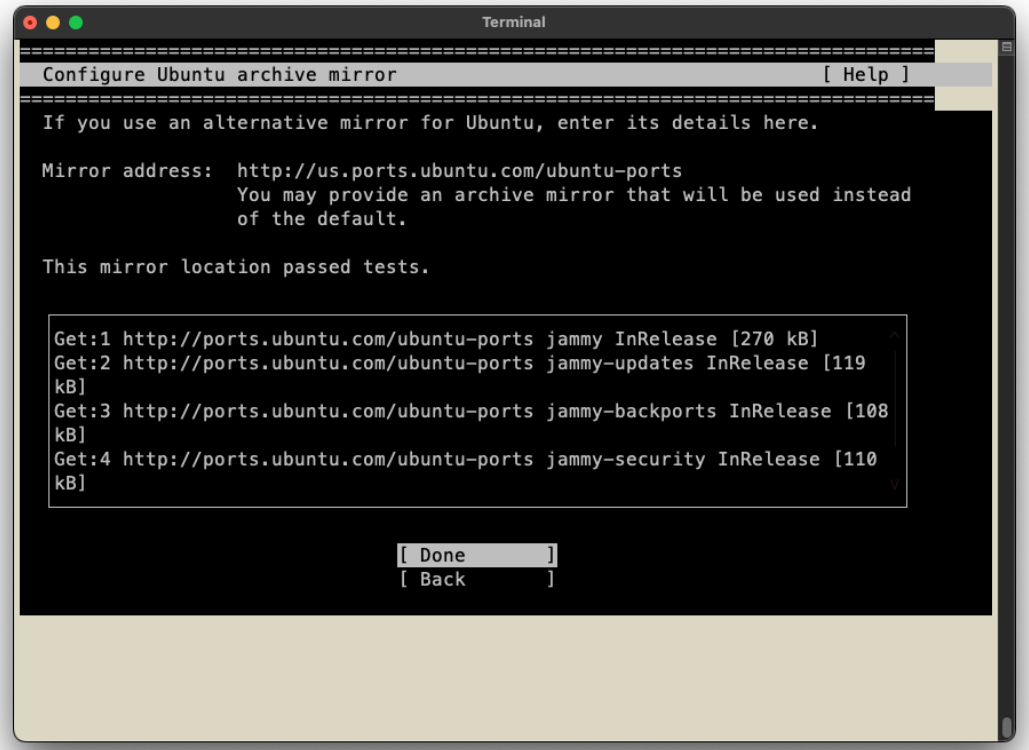


Figure 13. Ubuntu Mirror Selection



9. Select a storage configuration and confirm the destructive action.

Figure 14. Guided Storage Configuration

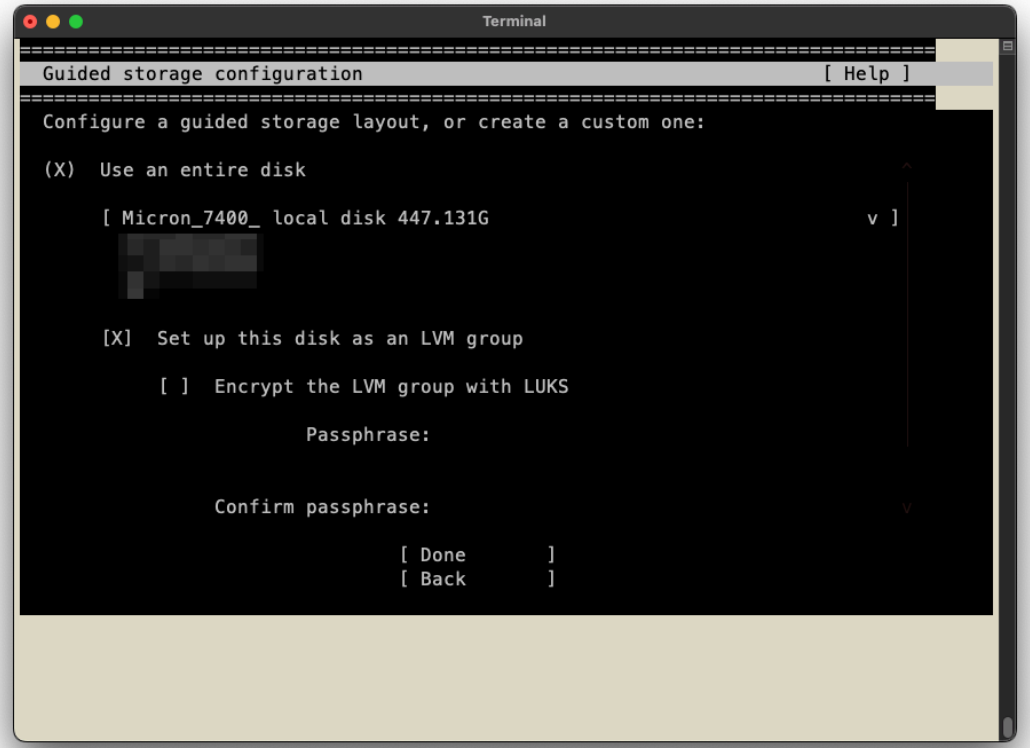
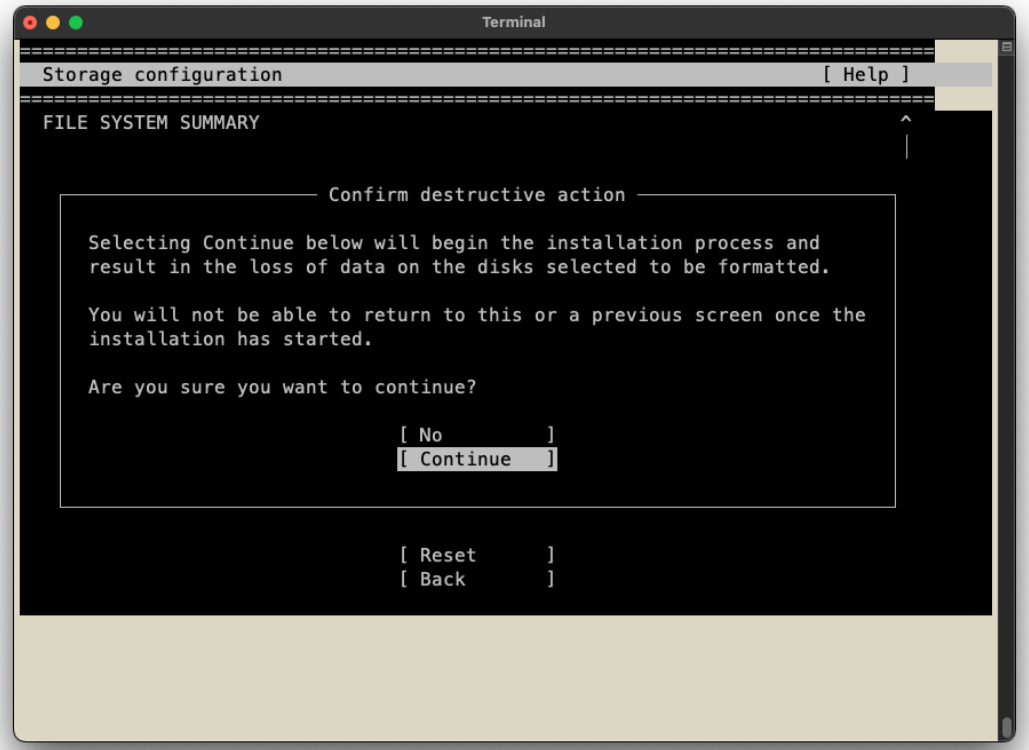


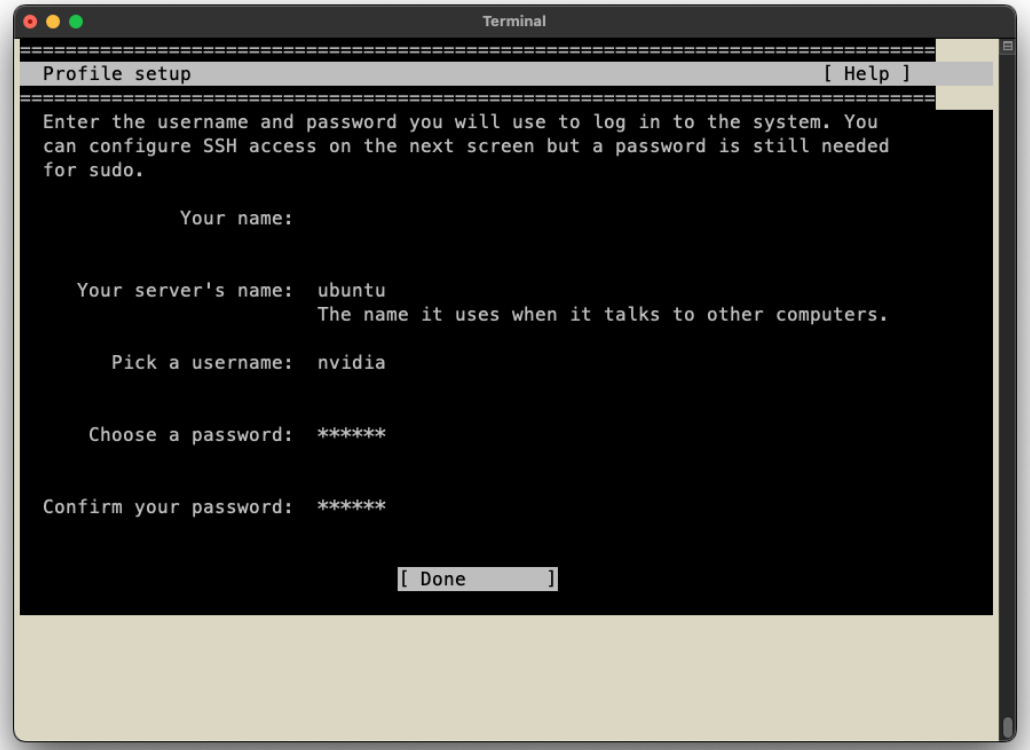
Figure 15. Storage Configuration Summary

Figure 16. Storage Configuration Confirmation



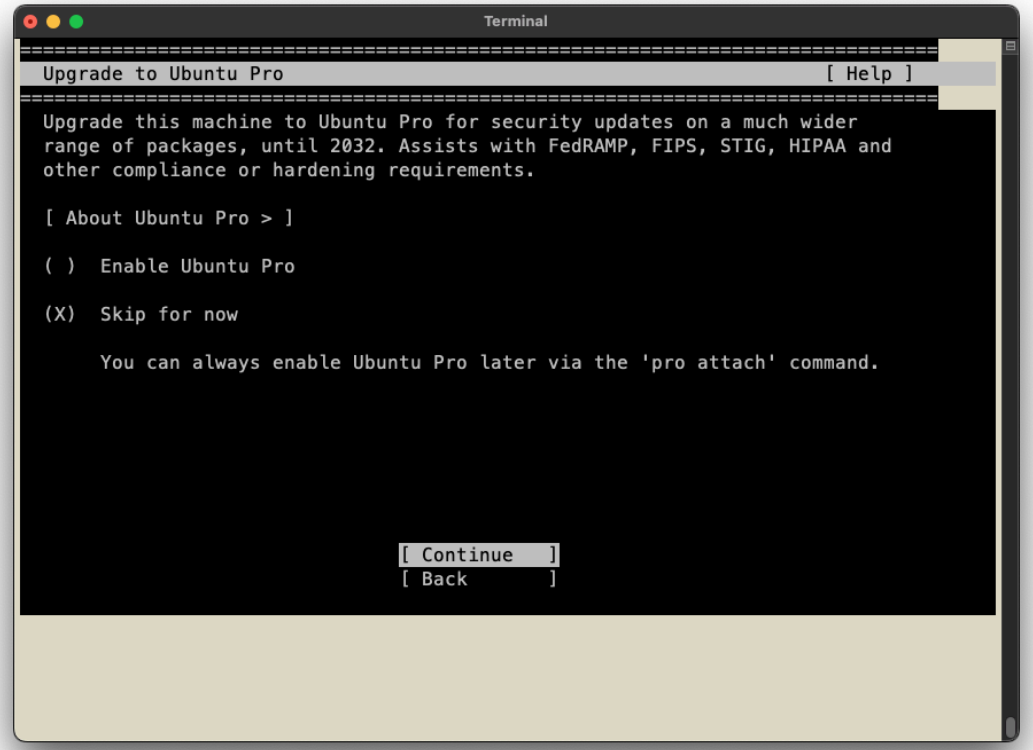
10. Select the system hostname and create a username and password.

Figure 17. System Profile Selection



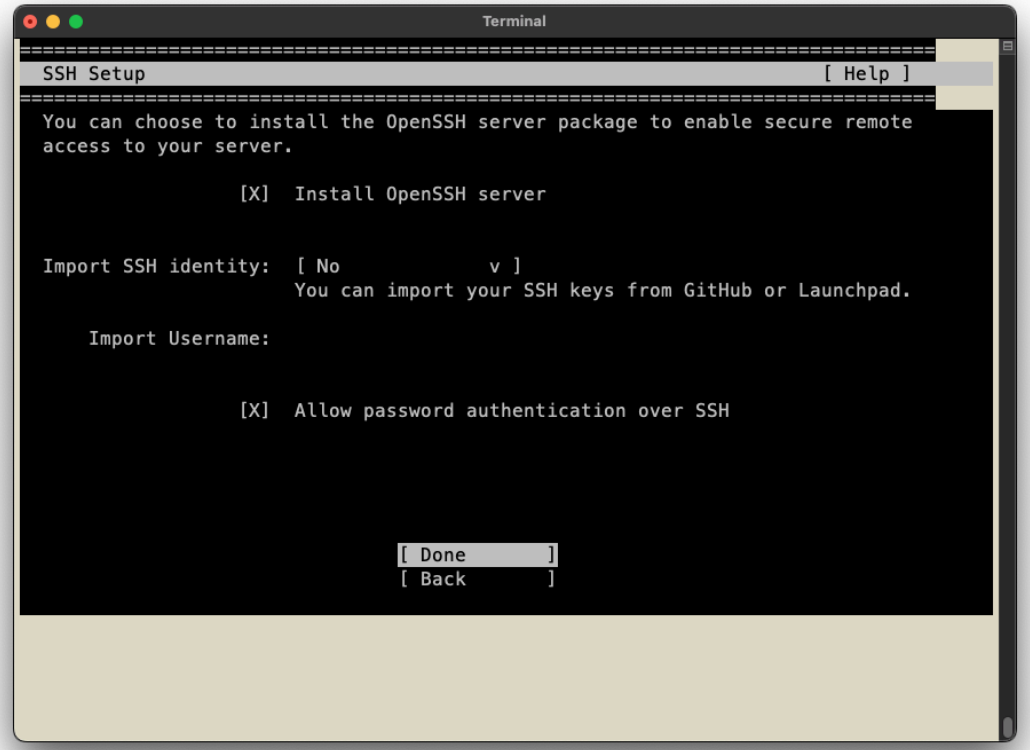
11. Select or decline the Ubuntu Pro option (refer to Ubuntu Pro for more information).

Figure 18. Ubuntu Pro Selection



12. Select the system SSH server and settings.

Figure 19. SSH Selection



13. Select the featured Ubuntu server snaps.

Figure 20. Server Snap Selection

14. System installation begins, wait for the **Install Complete** banner and the **Reboot Now** option before proceeding to the next step.

Figure 21. Installing System

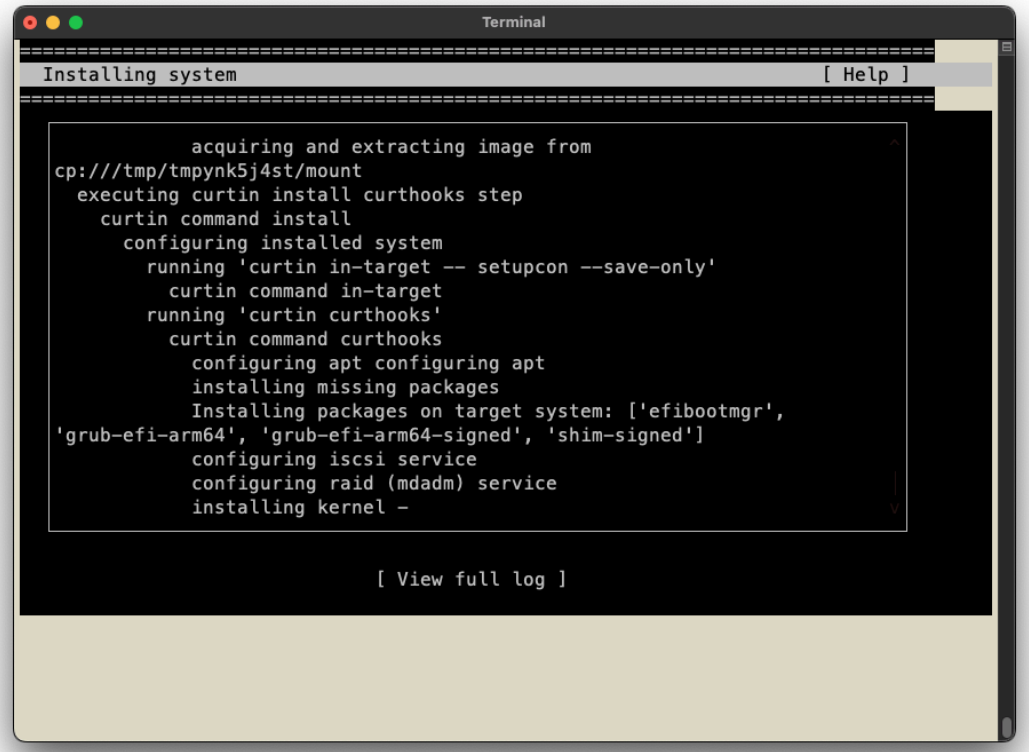
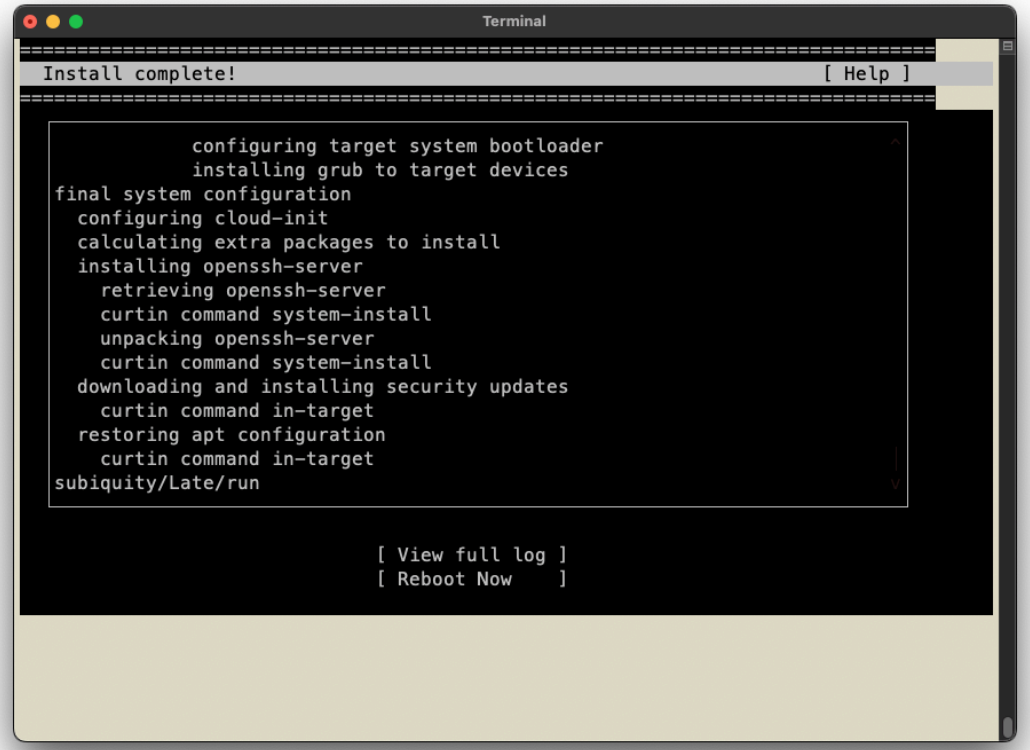


Figure 22. Installation Complete



15. Once the installation has completed, select **Reboot Now**.

16. After the system reboots, log in using the credentials that were specified during the installation.

17. Run the following commands to update the system and install the NVIDIA optimized Ubuntu kernel variant and reboot:

```
sudo DEBIAN_FRONTEND=noninteractive apt purge linux-image-$(uname -r)
linux-headers-$(uname -r) linux-modules-$(uname -r) -y
sudo apt update
sudo apt install linux-nvidia-64k-hwe-22.04 -y
sudo reboot now
```

> **Note:** This sequence installs the latest available kernel. If you encounter issues after installing this kernel, it might be a known issue with a workaround described in Appendix D.

18. The system will reboot.
    The installation on Grace is now complete.

Appendix A: Installing Software

The Ubuntu Server uses the `apt` package manager to install, update, and remove packages. The utility can also be used to manage repositories. For more information about using `apt`, refer to Ubuntu Package Management.

A.1 NVIDIA GPU Driver and CUDA Toolkit

Refer to the NVIDIA CUDA Installation Guide for Linux for detailed instructions about how to install the NVIDIA GPU driver and CUDA support for Ubuntu. The `R535.129.03` driver is the minimum level required for the Hopper GPU.

The following commands can be used to install the minimum levels required for the Hopper GPU:

```
sudo apt-get install linux-headers-$(uname -r)
wget
https://developer.download.nvidia.com/compute/cuda/repos/ubuntu2204/sbsa/cuda-keyring_
1.1-1_all.deb
sudo dpkg -i cuda-keyring*.deb
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install cuda-toolkit-12-4 -y
sudo apt-get install nvidia-kernel-open-550 cuda-drivers-550 -y
sudo mkdir /lib/systemd/system/nvidia-persistenced.service.d
sudo dd status=none of=/lib/systemd/system/nvidia-persistenced.service.d/override.conf
<< EOF
[Service]
ExecStart=
ExecStart=/usr/bin/nvidia-persistenced --persistence-mode --verbose
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
EOF
sudo reboot now
```

Note: The open-source GPU driver is required for Hopper GPUs.

A.2 NVIDIA MLNX_OFED

Refer to the NVIDIA MLNX OFED Linux Drivers for the current version, release notes, and the user manual. The Grace platform requires one of the following `NVIDIA MLNX_OFED` versions:

- `MLNX_OFED v24.01-0.3.3.1` (or later)
- `MLNX_OFED LTS v23.10-0.5.5.0-LTS` (or later)

To install NVIDIA MLNX OFED on Ubuntu 22.04:

1. Add the NVIDIA MLNX OFED repository to your system.

```
wget -qO - http://www.mellanox.com/downloads/ofed/RPM-GPG-KEY-Mellanox | sudo gpg
--dearmor -o /usr/share/keyrings/GPG-KEY-Mellanox.gpg
echo "deb [signed-by=/usr/share/keyrings/GPG-KEY-Mellanox.gpg]
https://linux.mellanox.com/public/repo/mlnx_ofed/latest/ubuntu22.04/arm64 /" | sudo
tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/mlnx.list
sudo apt-get update
```

> **Note:** This sequence configures the repository for the latest available version of NVIDIA MLNX OFED. If you need a specific version, replace `<latest>` with the version. For example, to get the latest 23.10 LTS version, use the following URI: https://linux.mellanox.com/public/repo/mlnx_ofed/latest-23.10/ubuntu22.04/arm64/

2. Install the NVIDIA MLNX OFED software.

```
sudo apt-get install mlnx-ofed-all -y
```

3. Update the device firmware with the version in the `MLNX_OFED` package.

```
sudo apt-get install mlnx-fw-updater
```

4. Reboot the system.

```
sudo reboot now
```

Appendix B: Changing the BMC Login

The NVIDIA Grace servers include a base management controller (BMC) for out-of-band management of the Grace system. NVIDIA recommends that you create a unique username and password as soon as possible.

Appendix C: Automated Installation

This section provides information about automated installations.

C.1 Installing with Autoinstall

Autoinstall allows you to automate the installation process by providing a configuration file with the answers to commonly asked installation questions. For Grace platforms, NVIDIA provides the following Autoinstall template: https://repo.download.nvidia.com/baseos/ubuntu/ubuntu-files/2204/arm64/ai/user-data.grace

For more information about using Autoinstall files with an Ubuntu Server, refer to the *Ubuntu Autoinstall Guide* and the Curtin documentation.

In these files, there are tags that you must replace with site-specific information including the following:

- User
- Timezone
- Hostname

Each tag is in the `<CHANGE_YOUR_xxxx>` form and must be replaced with your information.

1. After you customize the autoinstall file for your installation, place that file in a location that can be accessed by NFS, FTP, HTTP, or HTTPS.

> **Note:** The Ubuntu autoinstall expects the following files to be in the location:
> - user-data
> - meta-data
> - vendor-data.
>
> You must rename `user-data.grace` to `user-data` and create the other two files. These files can be empty.

2. After booting from the installation medium, when the grub menu appears, press **e** to edit the grub entry and append the following to the list of kernel boot parameters:

```
autoinstall ds=nocloud-net\;s=http://url.to.autoinstall.files/
```

Appendix D: Platform-Dependent Workarounds

Some Grace platforms require temporary (or permanent) alterations to their configurations to work around known issues, such as hardware errata. These workarounds are described in the following sections by the corresponding Grace platform.

D.1 All Grace Platforms

The Ubuntu 22.04.3 installation media does **not** carry a patch that is required to resolve an issue with the `ast` driver that is used to interface with the AST2600 BMC. The absence of this patch can manifest a variety of issues, including kernel hangs and distorted output from the on-board VGA port. Instead of trying to workaround this issue with the Ubuntu 22.04.3 installation media, to resolve the issue, NVIDIA recommends that you use the pre-tested 22.04 LTS daily installer image that contains a later kernel, which includes the `ast` driver patch. NVIDIA has worked with Canonical to pre-validate this daily installer ISO and ensure that its URL remains active until 22.04.4 is released in early 2024.

- Kernels version 6.5.0-1014 and later introduce a new `coresight_etm4x` module that might be incompatible with earlier firmware versions and ultimately prevent the system from booting. NVIDIA recommends that you update the system firmware to the latest version.

  If the system still cannot boot after updating the firmware, to avoid loading the `coresight_etm4x` module, append the following to the list of kernel boot parameters:

  ```
  module_blacklist=coresight_etm4x
  ```

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