



Creating an Ubuntu Boot Volume

Required: USB drive (at least 4GB), keyboard and mouse, internet connection

Optional: Hard drive (at least 25GB, can be internal or external)

1. Download an ISO image file for Ubuntu, which can be found [here](#).
2. Download one of the following applications:
 - a. [Rufus](#) (Windows only)
 - b. [BalenaEtcher](#) (Windows/Mac/Linux)
3. Insert the USB drive into your computer, and flash it with the Ubuntu image file.
 - a. *If using Rufus:*
 - i. Launch Rufus. Under “Device”, select the USB drive you’ll use to install.
 - ii. Under “Boot Selection”, select “Disk or ISO image (Please select)”. Next to this, click “SELECT” and choose the Ubuntu image file.
 - iii. Under “Partition scheme”, choose GPT. Then select “UEFI” for “Target system” (this should already be selected by default).
 - iv. Click “START”, and wait for the process to complete.
 1. If prompted with a pop-up window asking to select an image mode, select “ISO Image mode” (if it isn’t selected already).
 2. A warning will appear saying that all data will be erased from the USB drive. Hit “OK” to continue.
 - v. Once the progress bar says “READY”, Rufus can be closed and the USB drive can be safely removed.
 - b. *If using BalenaEtcher:*
 - i. Launch BalenaEtcher. Click “Flash from file”, and select the Ubuntu image file.
 - ii. Click “Select target”, and select the USB drive you’ll use to install.
 - iii. Click “Flash!”, and wait for the process to complete.
 - iv. Once flashing is complete, the USB can be safely removed.
4. Insert the USB drive into the VCS (while powered off), and make sure the keyboard is connected.
 - a. If you are installing Ubuntu on an internally-installed SSD, make sure that it has been properly installed.
 - b. If you are installing Ubuntu on an external drive, make sure that it is plugged in.

5. Turn on the VCS. As soon as it begins to power on, hit ESC several times until the UEFI screen appears.
6. Select “Boot manager”, and then select the USB drive. This will take you through one or more boot screens until reaching the Ubuntu install screen.
7. Follow the instructions on screen to install Ubuntu.
 - a. To install Ubuntu on a separate drive, choose “Something else” when you reach the “Installation type” screen. This will allow you to select a different drive.
8. Once installation is complete, the VCS will restart. Remove the USB drive, and hit ESC again while the VCS turns on to reach the UEFI screen.
9. Select “Boot manager”, and then select the drive where Ubuntu was installed. Once it finishes booting, Ubuntu is ready to use!

Creating a Debian Boot Volume

Required: *USB drive (at least 4GB), hard drive (at least 10GB, can be internal or external), keyboard and mouse, internet connection*

1. Download an ISO image file for Debian, which can be found [here](#). Click on “*debian-live-10.6.0-amd64-gnome.iso*” to download the correct file.
2. Download one of the following applications:
 - a. [Rufus](#) (Windows only)
 - b. [BalenaEtcher](#) (Windows/Mac/Linux)
3. Insert the USB drive into your computer, and flash it with the Debian image file.
 - a. *If using Rufus:*
 - i. Launch Rufus. Under “Device”, select the USB drive you’ll use to install.
 - ii. Under “Boot Selection”, select “Disk or ISO image (Please select)”. Next to this, click “SELECT” and choose the Debian image file.
 - iii. Under “Partition scheme”, choose GPT. Then select “UEFI” for “Target system” (this should already be selected by default).
 - iv. Click “START”, and wait for the process to complete.

1. If prompted with a pop-up window asking to select an image mode, select "ISO Image mode" (if it isn't selected already).
 2. A warning will appear saying that all data will be erased from the USB drive. Hit "OK" to continue.
- v. Once the progress bar says "READY", Rufus can be closed and the USB drive can be safely removed.
- b. *If using BalenaEtcher:*
 - i. Launch BalenaEtcher. Click "Flash from file", and select the Debian image file.
 - ii. Click "Select target", and select the USB drive you'll use to install.
 - iii. Click "Flash!", and wait for the process to complete.
 - iv. Once flashing is complete, the USB can be safely removed.
4. Insert the USB drive into the VCS (while powered off), and make sure the keyboard is connected. Make sure that your VCS is connected to the internet.
 - a. If you are installing Debian on an internally-installed SSD, make sure that it has been properly installed.
 - b. If you are installing Debian on an external drive, make sure that it is plugged in.
5. Turn on the VCS. As soon as it begins to power on, hit ESC several times until the UEFI screen appears.
6. Select "Boot manager", and then select the USB drive. Once you reach the Debian boot screen, select "Graphical Debian installer".
7. Follow the instructions on screen to install Debian.
 - a. You will be prompted to enter domain and host names during the install process. These are not necessary, but can be entered if desired.
8. When you reach the "Partition disks" screen, select the hard drive that you would like to have Debian installed onto.
 - a. For the most straightforward partitioning process, we recommend selecting one of the "Guided partitioning" options.
9. Once installation is complete, the VCS will restart. Remove the USB drive, and hit ESC again while the VCS turns on to reach the UEFI screen.
10. Select "Boot manager", and then select the drive where Debian was installed. Once it finishes booting, Debian is ready to use!