Prepare (Burn) USB drive on Linux - Install Linux USB drive instead of CD / DVD

Author : admin

If you have a new Laptop and you planned to install a Linux any distribution OS on it but the laptop is a **new hardware model and doesn't have a CD / DVD drive** as most of notebook nowadays you might be wondering how to setup **USB Linux bootable image**, well you can simply **use your favorite distro provided ISO** (Debian / Ubuntu / Fedora) whatever burn it to a **USB flash drive** and boot from USB the Linux installer program. of course assuming ou have it configured in your **UEFI BIOS.**
For the task you need to Burn the respecive distribution **ISO to the USB using simple command line**.

To do so simply download your Linux distribution latest ISO file and issue with root in **physical terminal / gnome-terminal** or **konsole**.

cat debian-linux-iso-name.iso > /dev/sdb; sync

WARNING DATA DANGEROUS!!!
If you happen to keep any data on the USB flash drive, above command would wipe it out from **USB drive** so be sure to prepare your existing data a backup somewhere before proceeding.

Also beware to not provide the wrong **/dev/sdb** device to the command as you might end up wiping out your Hard Drive (SDD) drives or other attached external hard drives under **/dev/sdb.**
Thus in advance be sure to check the exact USB /dev/ name using commands such as:

```
linux:~# fdisk -l
...

Disk /dev/sdb: 3.8 GiB, 4007657472 bytes, 7827456 sectors
Units: sectors of 1 * 512 = 512 bytes
Sector size (logical/physical): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
I/O size (minimum/optimal): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
Disklabel type: dos
Disk identifier: 0x04030201

Device     Boot Start     End Sectors  Size Id Type
/dev/sdb1        1080 7827455 7826376  3.7G  c W95 FAT32 (LBA)

linux:~# dmesg|grep -i sdb
...
```

dmesg - output is pretty verbose so I'm skipping completely its output.

```
linux:~# lsusb
Bus 002 Device 004: ID 04b3:3107 IBM Corp. ThinkPad 800dpi Optical Travel Mouse
Bus 002 Device 002: ID 8087:0024 Intel Corp. Integrated Rate Matching Hub
Bus 002 Device 001: ID 1d6b:0002 Linux Foundation 2.0 root hub
Bus 001 Device 003: ID 04f2:b221 Chicony Electronics Co., Ltd integrated camera
Bus 001 Device 014: ID 0951:1607 Kingston Technology DataTraveler 100
Bus 001 Device 002: ID 8087:0024 Intel Corp. Integrated Rate Matching Hub
Bus 001 Device 001: ID 1d6b:0002 Linux Foundation 2.0 root hub
```

```
linux:~# lsblk |grep -i /media
??sdb1               8:17   1   3.7G  0 part /media/hipod/KINGSTON
```

An alternative way is to use the good old **dd** tool.

```
linux:~# dd if=/your/path/debian-7.5.0-amd64-netinst.iso of=/dev/sdb bs=4M
sync
```

Its even possible to **create the bootable Linux image** to USB with a simple **cp** command instead of catting like:

```
linux:~# cp Fedora-Workstation-Live-x86_64-28-1.1.iso /dev/sdX
```

sync

Finally ***unmount the USB drive*** (if it was mounted during the command operations):

linux:~# **umount /media/hipod/KINGSTON**

For Windows users to burn the ISO files you can use anything starting from Nero / CDBurnerXP or if you prefer free software use
Win32DiskImager or use Rufus to create it.

Enjoy booting and installing your Linux via USB :)