

Putting KNOPPIX on a USB Drive

The Linux Way

A presentation for the Fresno Open Source Users Group

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www.fosug.org

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Requirements:

- USB Drive \geq 1 Gigabyte
- Linux Computer
- Software:
 - one of: parted, fdisk, QTParted, gParted, etc.
 - syslinux and mtools
- Copy of KNOPPIX from www.pendrivelinux.com
'Simple USB Knoppix Linux tutorial' - Link
Download USBKP.zip

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Assumptions:

- You are familiar with the Linux command line and can open a terminal window and issue some basic commands
- You can determine which device your USB drive is associated with (/dev/sda ,/dev/sdb, etc.) and if different from the examples in this document, you can make the appropriate substitutions.

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Step1:

Insert USB drive, but don't mount it. If your distribution automounts the device, then unmount it.

sudo umount /dev/sda1

Remove any existing partitions on the drive.

sudo parted /dev/sda rm 1

Create a fat32 partition of at least 1 Gigabyte.

sudo parted /dev/sda mkpartfs primary fat32 0 1GB

Make the partition bootable by setting the boot flag

sudo parted /dev/sda set 1 boot on

Mount the USB drive.

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Step 2:

Unzip the contents of USBKP.zip to the newly created partition on the drive.

unzip USBKP.zip -d/media/usbdisk

Step 3:

Run syslinux to install a linux bootloader that will run from the DOS partition on the USB Drive and load the Knoppix kernel.

syslinux -s /dev/sda1

Connect the USB stick to any computer, turn it on and be sure the BIOS is configured to boot from USB Devices

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For future investigation:

- Make the installation behave such that changes survive a reboot.
- Gain a better understanding of syslinux, syslinux.cfg, and any additional changes to this version of Knoppix, so that we can easily make any Live CD installable on a USB Disk.
- Duplicate this document using GUI tools.