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Thread: [How to Install Ubuntu on Android!](#)

blerhotel - March 21, 2013, 12:34 pm

This should work on all androids, Post below your device and if worked or not :)

We will be running Ubuntu under Android OS, which just means that we will be running a virtual Ubuntu OS that runs on top of the Android OS. You will still have your normal android too.

Make sure your device IS rooted!

your Android OS must support loop devices. Most newer Android smartphones/tablets come with this support so we can mount our Ubuntu image as a loop device. If not, you will either have to build your own kernel with support for loop devices or you can try an aftermarket ROM for your phone as most aftermarket ROMs come with support for it.

How to check kernel

How do you know this? Just try installing Ubuntu and if it doesn't boot, your Android device needs a kernel with loop device support. Otherwise you are fine to keep on going!

How to Install Ubuntu on Android! (Windows)

First, download the following Ubuntu.zip file [Here](#), unzip and copy over the whole ubuntu directory to the SD card of your Android smartphone/tablet device:

(OH turn USB storage ON then copy over the Ubuntu folder to the root directory of your SD card.)

1) Remember!, make sure you have your Android smartphone/tablet "rooted"!

2) You must have Android SDK installed or have access to adb.exe.

3) Make sure your Android phone/tablet is in debugging mode. Go to Settings->Applications->Development and make sure USB Debugging is checked ON.

4) Connect your device to your computer via USB cable and set the USB mode to Just Charge this is a MUST.

5) Your Android device should be recognized as "ADB Device" under Device Manager. If not, install appropriate drivers.

which are below!

For all HTC Android smartphones/tablets (such as G2 Phone, Nexus One), you can download Windows drivers here:

HTC Windows 64-bit driver download [Here](#)

32 bit [here](#)

6) Open up a command prompt by typing "cmd" under Start->Search programs and files.

7) Browse to your SDK directory where you installed the Android SDK (You would of installed it):

Then go into platform-tools directory:

9) Type “adb devices” to double-check your Android device is recognized.

if you get an empty device, that means you didn't install the drivers for your phone/tablet correctly.
(Go back to #5)

10) Type “adb shell” to enter the Android shell.

Then type “su” to enter super user mode, then type “cd /sdcard” and “cd ubuntu” to enter the ubuntu directory in your SD card of your Android device.

11) Next, type “sh ubuntu.sh” to run the script which will basically get your Ubuntu image ready to run on your Android smartphone/tablet.

You may get errors but ignore them it usually still works.

12) Type “bootubuntu” to enter Ubuntu. (Next time you enter Ubuntu, you just need to type “bootubuntu” from your /sdcard/ubuntu directory, no need to run ubuntu.sh again.

If you got “root@localhost” at this point, congratulations! This means your Android OS comes with loop device support and Ubuntu is now running “chrooted” on top of your Android OS!!!

However, if you failed at this point, your Android OS probably doesn't support loop devices, try installing another ROM or compiling your own kernel with loop device support.
but i can't help with that goodluck on your own

How to Install Programs on your Ubuntu!

Once you've got Ubuntu running on your Android device,

Type “apt-get update” to update, this is the first thing you will need to do before installing any new programs.

How to Install OpenSSH-server on your Android Ubuntu!

Type “apt-get install openssh-server” to install OpenSSH-server. What is OpenSSH-server? If you want to connect to your Android Ubuntu via an IP address you will want to do this.

How to Install TightVNCServer on your Android Ubuntu!

If you want to access the GUI of your Android Ubuntu, you can install TightVNCServer, itll let you to access the Android Ubuntu with an Android VNC app on your Android smartphone/tablet or even access it remotely from your desktop computer.

Type “apt-get install tightvncserver” to install.

How to Fix Language Issues

Above is after I connected to my Android Ubuntu via SSH2. Well, for some reason my default language switched to German. To fix that, just type "export LANG=en_US.UTF-8":
Pretty easy.

How to Start TightVNCServer!

Next, let's start the TightVNCServer and connect to it from our Android phone and my Windows 7 desktop:

Type "export USER=root" and "vncserver -geometry 1024×800".

Here, you can change the resolution settings 1024×800 to the resolution of your liking.

Now your TightVNCServer is ready to accept any incoming connections from your phone or computer. Just point to the correct IP address and use port number 5901 to connect. easy enough? right?

On your Android smartphone, just download the free app "Android-VNC-Viewer" and set the IP address to "127.0.0.1" and port number 5901 to connect.

And you should be able to get into your Ubuntu like this:

You can also use desktop software like TightVNC Viewer and connect to your phone.

Do "ifconfig" to find out what your IP address is in your Android Ubuntu.

In this example, mine was connected to "192.168.1.131".

Then connect to "192.168.1.131:5901" on your TightVNC Viewer:

Problems?

Troubleshooting

Ubuntu not running?

Try typing "cp" under Android shell and if you get an error message, it means you need to install Busybox. [Install this](#)
and try again.

Getting Following errors?

Err <http://ports.ubuntu.com> karmic/main Packages
404 Not Found

Err <http://ports.ubuntu.com> karmic/universe Packages

404 Not Found

W: Failed to fetch <http://ports.ubuntu.com/ubuntu-ports/dists/karmic/main/binary-armel/Packages.gz> 404 Not Found

W: Failed to fetch <http://ports.ubuntu.com/ubuntu-ports/dists/karmic/universe/binary-armel/Packages.gz> 404 Not Found

E: Some index files failed to download, they have been ignored, or old ones used instead.

Try:

```
cat > /etc/apt/sources.list
```

```
deb http://old-releases.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/ karmic main universe
```

Then hit Ctrl+D twice and Enter.

This will update the Ubuntu sources.

Updated it, still works.

Nixing - March 21, 2013, 1:08 pm

Thank you for the great tutorial, it's amazing!

Sapphire_Star - March 21, 2013, 7:27 pm

You can also just chroot into an Ubuntu ARM image, works on all devices with root, and requires only one command.

tron - March 21, 2013, 9:53 pm

There is an ubuntu installer app for android, that way you don't need a pc or window\$.

Tron

escosk8r - March 24, 2013, 9:36 am

Ubuntu Touch Developer's Edition just came out, it only supports nexus devices that I'm aware of but it is Sherealy amazing to say the least. It's like full-fledged Windows 8 running on an Android tablet. I personally have the nexus 10 and it's not the official release yet but it is definitely worth trying out.

Here's the link to the Ubuntu Touch wiki install page if anyone if interested:

<https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Touch/Install>

Ynne - March 24, 2013, 2:52 pm

Nice tutorial indeed, will be helpful.

Toph Beifong - March 27, 2013, 10:21 am

this looks decent, might try with my phone. Not a chance id try it with my tablet though, wouldnt want to risk it.

Chrona - March 27, 2013, 10:24 am

Seems like a really great guide. I would try this out, but I don't want to mess up my Galaxy S3, anyways looks legit. Good luck to all members testing this out.

blerthotel - *December 19, 2013, 4:03 pm*

Updated this. It's still working as of now. 20/12/2013