

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Is it possible to use a flash drive as a portable OS?](#)

f0b_t3st4 - March 1, 2018, 1:32 pm

I know I can use a flash drive to install OS's, but, is it possible to not install the OS in a computer, but just carry the USB with you, plug it in anywhere and boot the PC from that flash drive?

I mean, everytime I used a flash drive to install an OS, I could boot from it, but the OS that loaded was like a trial version, always with the "Install" button to actually install the full OS in the computer, also I know you can't (usually) write to disk while running that trial version OS from the flash drive.

I also think you can do the same with an SD card.

But what I actually want is to carry my OS around in the USB, the full one, and to be able to write to disk.

So my question is, is it possible?

And also, additional question; If it were possible, can you also do it from a CD-R?

Thanks in advance and have a nice day!

Edit: I've just learnt about live CD distros. Quick definition: you can run them directly from a CD or flash drive, and I suppose SD cards too. I'm just trying one right now. I downloaded DamnSmallLinux cause it was funny, Puppy Arcade cause I like games, phlak-0.3 because I want to, and Kali Linux. They are in order or first to try to last to try.

It is almost bed time, so I will post a reply to this post by tomorrow maybe.

Have fun!

CKkio23 - March 2, 2018, 10:58 am

(Mar 1, 2018 02:32 PM)f0b_t3st4 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I know I can use a flash drive to install OS's, but, is it possible to not install the OS in a computer, but just carry the USB with you, plug it in anywhere and boot the PC from that flash drive?

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Yes live cds are portable but to save files onto them you need to make them persistent. i would recommend you using a Samsung T3 External HD for a completely portable os with all your documents, use linux LVM to encrypt your os or something after initial boot to protect your files.

datguy.dev - March 2, 2018, 6:15 pm

The process is different between OSes and the machine in question. Not sure which options you want or have. But Microsoft has Windows-To-Go to make things easy and Linux is pretty well covered if you search. Some distros require setup, then some are supported like with Kali. So it's quite a personalized task.

But I've never heard of anyone doing so only from a CD/DVD.... I don't believe that is a thing because how data is written is quite different and not as flexible. You can do this with anything flash storage media though. However, one got'cha that you may come across is some PCs refuse to boot from an SD card. But will from USB etc. Consider read and write speeds.

?Ñåzg?! - March 12, 2018, 6:59 pm

puppy linux is made to work on a usb flash drive