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Thread: [Can I install windows on an extrnal harrdrive?](#)

Flowerson - April 10, 2018, 4:05 am

Hi all! I'm thinking about going away this weekend and my laptops hard drive broke and all I have is an usb external hard drive. Would there be a way to install windows on it and make it run just like normal? Thanks it is usb 3.0

I won't be doing nothing tooo heavy with it just probably some league of legends and doing a bit of homework!

Thanks all! ^^

Xycon - April 10, 2018, 5:38 am

Honestly ... you can find tons of guides if you would just use google ...

Saltpeter - April 10, 2018, 5:48 am

You can, it would run much slower than if it was on an internal drive though.

Wires - April 10, 2018, 9:40 pm

It's more than possible, just not that it's not going to be as fast.

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/3185777/windows/how-to-install-windows-on-an-external-drive.html>

Eternal. - April 11, 2018, 7:55 pm

Yes, I installed Windows 10 on a USB stick even. It wasn't viable to have on a USB though as it was unusable aside from booting up lol.

werhuman - April 12, 2018, 1:41 pm

I have all my Windows Installs on an external, especially handy when the Notebook or Laptop doesn't have an optical drive for a DVD. As stated it is eminently possible, but slow using a conventional drive... An external SSD however might be quicker... Ideally , and as long as you don't intend updating, borrow an old 8 bit computing trick and put the OS on a Rom chip. I've seen system-on-a chip boards recently that used the latest ARM's and Win 10 on single chips. Granted these are for the industrial market but... When has that stopped the inventive?

Phlox - April 13, 2018, 11:22 am

It is possible to create a portable bootable Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1 and Windows 10 USB flash drive, containing all your software without requiring Windows To Go.

"How to Create a Portable Windows USB Flash Drive"

<http://www.geekpolice.net/t30910-how-to-create-a-portable-windows-usb-flash-drive?highlight=flash>

OrangeBBQ - April 14, 2018, 5:24 pm

Yes it is for whatever reason. Lots of tutorials out there about how to do it.

oscast - April 14, 2018, 5:44 pm

Just find a relatively cheap ssd and carry it around with you.

Renegade - April 17, 2018, 9:08 am

Honestly best bet is pulling your external HDD apart, dismantling the casing of the drive and installing it into your laptop provided the internal drive has SATA ports.

This way it wont be limited by USB port speeds and will read & write alot faster than it would as an external drive.