



Networking Academy: Standalone Access Point Configuration

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Purpose

The purpose of this lab is to set up a standalone access point (AP) that broadcasts a 2.4GHz network using a pre-shared key (PSK) to authenticate users; 5GHz network also using a pre-shared key to authenticate users; and a 5GHz network with enterprise authentication using RADIUS. All these Wi-Fi networks will be secured using WPA2. Additionally, in order to configure the AP to provide internet connectivity for any devices that connect to it, various protocols need to be configured like DHCP.

Background Information

Wireless APs are devices that allow other Wi-Fi devices to connect to it through radio waves, so that those devices can access resources on the network or the internet. There are multiple ranges for these radio waves, but the 2.4GHz and the 5GHz ranges are the most common. Wireless APs are useful for devices that want access to the internet, but also need to be mobile, like phones, tablets, and laptops. But the transmission of data wirelessly may seem like a breach of security because anyone can detect and read the transmissions, there are various ways to encrypt that data. One such way is with AES, an encryption algorithm, making it so that no one can read the data that is sent wirelessly, other than the AP.

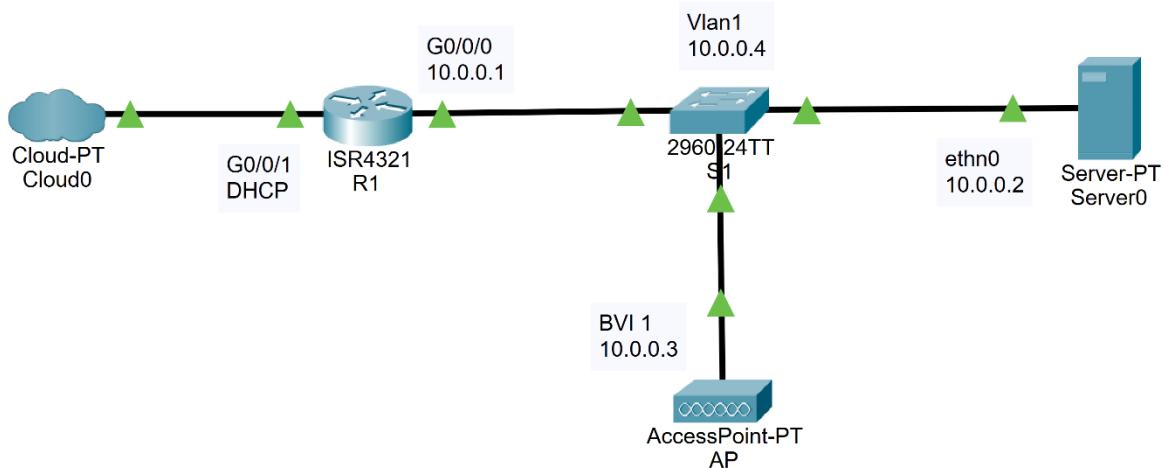
A service set identifier (SSID) refers to a particular wireless network's name transmitted by an AP. SSIDs are what appear when a user attempts to connect to a Wi-Fi network in the settings menu on their device. Basic service set identifiers (BSSIDs) are different from SSIDs and are almost never seen by users. BSSIDs are unique identifier labels that are given to each transmission of an SSID. For example, an SSID of "Floor 1" would have a different BSSID than an SSID of "Floor 2". BSSIDs are used for devices to be able to uniquely identify different Wi-Fi networks, especially when an area has a multitude of APs.

Security is important for wireless networks, especially since it is easy to connect to one. There are multiple forms of security to prevent unwanted devices from joining the network. One such method is to use a password for the Wi-Fi network, only allowing those who put in the correct password to get Wi-Fi. This method is effective but may not be effective enough for a company that wants to protect confidential documents. This is where another method of authentication is used: RADIUS (Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service), a centralized way to authenticate, authorize, and keep track of what users do on the network (accounting). A RADIUS server can be configured to have a separate user for each person who should have access to a network and can bestow different privileges to each user, since both a username and password is required to be authenticated. A bonus of RADIUS is that it can also do accounting for users. Since each user is signed into their account for the network, and administrator can check on any users' recent actions on the network.

Lab Summary

A standalone access point was configured with a 2.4GHz network and 5GHz network using WPA2 and a pre-shared key to authenticate users; Additionally, the access point was also configured to broadcast a 5GHz network with enterprise authentication using RADIUS. As a result, there is a RADIUS server. Lastly there is a router that provides connectivity to the internet through DHCP and NAT for the AP and other connected wireless devices. Further information on setup for this lab is available here: <https://github.com/101zh/StandaloneAccessPointLab>.

Network Diagram with IP



Lab Commands

AP Commands

- **aaa new-model**
 - Enables authentication, authorization, and accounting control commands.
- **aaa group server radius [server-group-name]**
 - Defines a radius server-group.
 - **server [ip-address] auth-port [port-number] acct-port [port-number]**
 - Specifies a radius server with the authentication and accounting ports for it.
- **aaa authentication login [named-authentication-list] group radius**
 - Sets an authentication list for radius.
- **dot11 ssid [service-set-ID]**
 - Enters the configuration mode for a service set ID.
 - **vlan [vlan-number]**
 - assigns the SSID to a VLAN.
 - **authentication open**
 - Configures the SSID to allow any device to authenticate and try and communicate with the access point.
 - **authentication key-management wpa version 2**
 - Configures the SSID to use WPA2 when a device attempts to authenticate with the access point.
 - **mbssid guest-mode**
 - Configures the SSID to allow for multiple SSIDs and to broadcast the SSID name.
 - **wpa-psk ascii 0 [unencrypted-password]**
 - Specifies a clear-text password for the SSID.

- **authentication open eap** [*eap-list-name*]
 - Configures the SSID to use EAP, allowing other authentication methods to be used.
 - **authentication network-eap** [*eap-list-name*]
 - Configures the SSID to use radius for authentication.
- **bridge irb**
 - Configures the access point to use integrated routing and bridging.
- **interface Dot11Radio0**
 - Enters the interface configuration mode for the access point's 2.4GHz radio.
 - **encryption mode ciphers aes-ccm**
 - Sets the 2.4 GHz radio to use AES-CCM for encryption
 - **encryption vlan** [*vlan-number*] **mode ciphers aes-ccm**
 - Configures AES-CCM encryption to be used for the specified vlan with the interface.
 - **ssid** [*service-set-ID*]
 - Specifies an SSID to be transmit on this radio.
 - **antenna gain** [*resultant-antenna-gain-dB*]
 - Sets a value for the antenna gain of the access point's radio; the value determines how focused the signal is for the radio.
 - **mbssid**
 - Enables multiple BSSIDs on the 2.4GHz radio.
 - **station-role root**
 - Configures the access point to be a root, which is the starting point for the transmitting of a network.
- **interface** [*interface-name*] . [*subinterface-number*]
 - Enters interface configuration mode for a subinterface
 - **encapsulation dot1Q** [*vlan-ID*] {**native**}
 - Configures the interface to encapsulate packets using 802.1Q
 - **bridge-group** [*bridge-group-number*]
 - Assigns the interface to a bridge group
- **interface Dot11Radio1**
 - Enters the interface configuration mode for the access point's 2.4GHz radio.
 - **peakdetect**
 - Tells the radio to avoid interfering with other wireless signals
 - **dfs band** [*frequency-band-number*] **block**
 - blocks a particular band of radio waves that the access point won't use. (typically used because of laws that restrict which bands can be used in which areas)
 - **channel dfs**
 - Tells the AP to dynamically select what frequency to be on
- **interface** [*interface-name*]
 - Enters interface configuration mode for any particular interface
 - **mac-address** [*MAC-address*]
 - Sets the mac-address of the interface
 - **ip helper-address** [*ip-address*]

- Indicates a location for UDP broadcast packets. It is often used for DHCP, but there are other uses.
- **radius-server host** [*ip-address*] **auth-port** [*port-number*] **acct-port** [*port-number*] **key 0** [*unencrypted-password*]
 - Specifies a radius server IP, the authentication and accounting ports for it, and the clear-text password for communicating with the radius server.
- **bridge** [*bridge-group-number*] **route ip**
 - Tells a particular bridge group to use IP to route in the group

Switch Commands

- **interface** [*interface-name*]
 - Enters interface configuration mode for any particular interface
 - **switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q**
 - Tells the interface to use 802.1q trunking encapsulation when trunking
 - **switchport mode trunk**
 - Puts the interface in trunking mode, which allows multiple VLANs to go through one port.
 - **spanning-tree portfast**
 - Tells the interface to start forwarding packets the moment it is up

Router Commands

- **ip dhcp excluded-address** [*low-address*] [*high-address*]
 - Excludes addresses from low address to the high address from being distributed to hosts.
- **ip dhcp pool** [*pool-name*]
 - Defines a DHCP pool
 - **network** [*network-number*] [*subnet-mask*]
 - Sets the network for this DHCP pool
 - **default-router** [*ip-address*] [*ip-address2 ... ip-address8*]
 - Defines the default gateway for host devices
 - **dns-server** [*ip-address*] [*ip-address2 ... ip-address8*]
 - Defines the DNS server for host devices
- **interface** [*interface-name*]
 - Enters interface configuration mode for any particular interface
 - **ip nat {inside | outside}**
 - Defines the interface for either “inside” or “outside” network address translation
- **ip nat inside source list** [*access-list-number*] **interface** [*interface-name*] **overload**
 - Indicates a list of addresses to be translated on the inside to one interface with PAT (port address translation)
- **access-list** [*access-list-number*] {*deny/permit*} [*network-number*] [*wildcard-mask*]
 - Denies or permits a range of IP addresses

Problems

There were a multitude of problems in this lab. The first problem encountered was inter-VLAN routing: after setting VLAN interfaces on the switch, the AP couldn't ping any IP except for the IPs on VLAN 1. Then I realized that I had forgotten to make a way for packets to be routed between VLANs. So, I configured a router on a stick to allow packets to be routed between VLANs. Even after that, the access point still couldn't communicate with the internet. After much testing and debugging, I found out that I had conflicting routes of last resort, since a DHCP server already gave it to the router's outward facing interface. Once I removed the conflicting default route, I was able to receive internet connectivity. For the rest of the lab there weren't many other problems, that is until RADIUS configuration. Every time I tried to authenticate a user, the server wouldn't authenticate the user, even though I had connectivity with the RADIUS server. By looking through RADIUS documentation, I found out (the hard way) that users needed to be configured with a reply message for the authentication process for a user to work. I learned a valuable lesson of reading documentation in full without quickly skimming.

Conclusion

This lab was successfully completed, despite the many complex problems faced. During this lab, I had to revisit how to configure inter-VLAN routing. Although I had never configured a standalone access point from console, I was able to configure multiple secure Wi-Fi networks on different radio frequencies.

Configurations

R1 Configuration

```
hostname R1
!
!
!
ip dhcp excluded-address 10.0.0.1 10.0.0.4
ip dhcp excluded-address 10.0.24.1 10.0.24.4
ip dhcp excluded-address 10.0.5.1 10.0.5.4
!
ip dhcp pool vlan1
  network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0
  default-router 10.0.0.1
  dns-server 9.9.9.9 1.1.1.1
!
ip dhcp pool vlan24
  network 10.0.24.0 255.255.255.0
  default-router 10.0.24.1
  dns-server 9.9.9.9 1.1.1.1
!
ip dhcp pool vlan5
  network 10.0.5.0 255.255.255.0
```

```
default-router 10.0.5.1
dns-server 9.9.9.9 1.1.1.1
!
ip dhcp pool vlan50
network 10.0.50.0 255.255.255.0
default-router 10.0.50.1
dns-server 9.9.9.9 1.1.1.1
!
!
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0
no ip address
ip nat inside
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0.1
encapsulation dot1Q 1 native
ip address 10.0.0.1 255.255.255.0
ip nat inside
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0.5
encapsulation dot1Q 5
ip address 10.0.5.1 255.255.255.0
ip nat inside
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0.24
encapsulation dot1Q 24
ip address 10.0.24.1 255.255.255.0
ip nat inside
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0.50
encapsulation dot1Q 50
ip address 10.0.50.1 255.255.255.0
ip nat inside
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/1
ip address dhcp
ip nat outside
negotiation auto
!
!
!
ip nat inside source list 1 interface GigabitEthernet0/0/1 overload
ip nat inside source list 5 interface GigabitEthernet0/0/1 overload
ip nat inside source list 24 interface GigabitEthernet0/0/1 overload
ip nat inside source list 50 interface GigabitEthernet0/0/1 overload
```

```
!
!
!
access-list 1 permit 10.0.0.0 0.0.0.255
access-list 5 permit 10.0.5.0 0.0.0.255
access-list 24 permit 10.0.24.0 0.0.0.255
access-list 50 permit 10.0.50.0 0.0.0.255
!
!
!
end
```

S1 Configuration

```
hostname S1
!
!
!
interface FastEthernet0/1
  switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
  switchport mode trunk
  spanning-tree portfast
!
interface FastEthernet0/2
  switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
  switchport mode trunk
  spanning-tree portfast
!
interface FastEthernet0/3
  spanning-tree portfast
!
interface FastEthernet0/4
  switchport trunk encapsulation dot1q
  switchport mode trunk
  spanning-tree portfast
!
!
!
interface Vlan1
  ip address 10.0.0.4 255.255.255.0
!
interface Vlan5
  ip address 10.0.5.4 255.255.255.0
!
interface Vlan24
  ip address 10.0.24.4 255.255.255.0
!
```

```
interface Vlan50
  ip address 10.0.50.4 255.255.255.0
!
!
!
end
```

AP Configuration

```
service password-encryption
!
hostname AP
!
!
!
aaa new-model
!
aaa group server radius RAD
  server 10.0.0.2 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813
!
aaa authentication login EAP group radius
!
!
!
dot11 ssid 2.4FH
  vlan 24
  authentication open
  authentication key-management wpa version 2
  mbssid guest-mode
  wpa-psk ascii 7 071F205F5D1E161713
    ! ^^ Sets the password
!
dot11 ssid 5GSpaceLasers
  vlan 5
  authentication open
  authentication key-management wpa version 2
  mbssid guest-mode
  wpa-psk ascii 7 044B0A151C36435C0D
!
dot11 ssid 5GSpaceLasersEnterprise
  vlan 50
  authentication open eap EAP
  authentication network-eap EAP
  authentication key-management wpa version 2
  mbssid guest-mode
!
!
```

```
!
bridge irb
!
!
!
interface Dot11Radio0
    no ip address
    ip helper-address 10.0.0.1
    ip helper-address 10.0.24.1
    ip helper-address 10.0.5.1
!
    encryption mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
    encryption vlan 1 mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
    encryption vlan 24 mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
    encryption vlan 5 mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
    encryption vlan 50 mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
ssid 2.4FH
!
antenna gain 0
mbssid
station-role root
!
interface Dot11Radio0.1
    encapsulation dot1Q 1 native
    bridge-group 1
!
interface Dot11Radio0.24
    encapsulation dot1Q 24
    bridge-group 24
!
!
!
interface Dot11Radio1
    no ip address
    ip helper-address 10.0.0.1
    ip helper-address 10.0.24.1
    ip helper-address 10.0.5.1
!
    encryption vlan 5 mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
    encryption vlan 1 mode ciphers aes-ccm
```

```
!
encryption vlan 24 mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
encryption vlan 50 mode ciphers aes-ccm
!
ssid 5GSpaceLasers
!
ssid 5GSpaceLasersEnterprise
!
antenna gain 0
peakdetect
dfs band 3 block
mbssid
channel dfs
station-role root
!
interface Dot11Radio1.1
encapsulation dot1Q 1 native
bridge-group 1
!
interface Dot11Radio1.5
encapsulation dot1Q 5
bridge-group 5
!
interface Dot11Radio1.50
encapsulation dot1Q 50
bridge-group 50
!
!
!
interface GigabitEthernet0
no ip address
duplex auto
speed auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0.1
encapsulation dot1Q 1 native
bridge-group 1
!
interface GigabitEthernet0.5
encapsulation dot1Q 5
bridge-group 5
!
interface GigabitEthernet0.24
encapsulation dot1Q 24
bridge-group 24
```

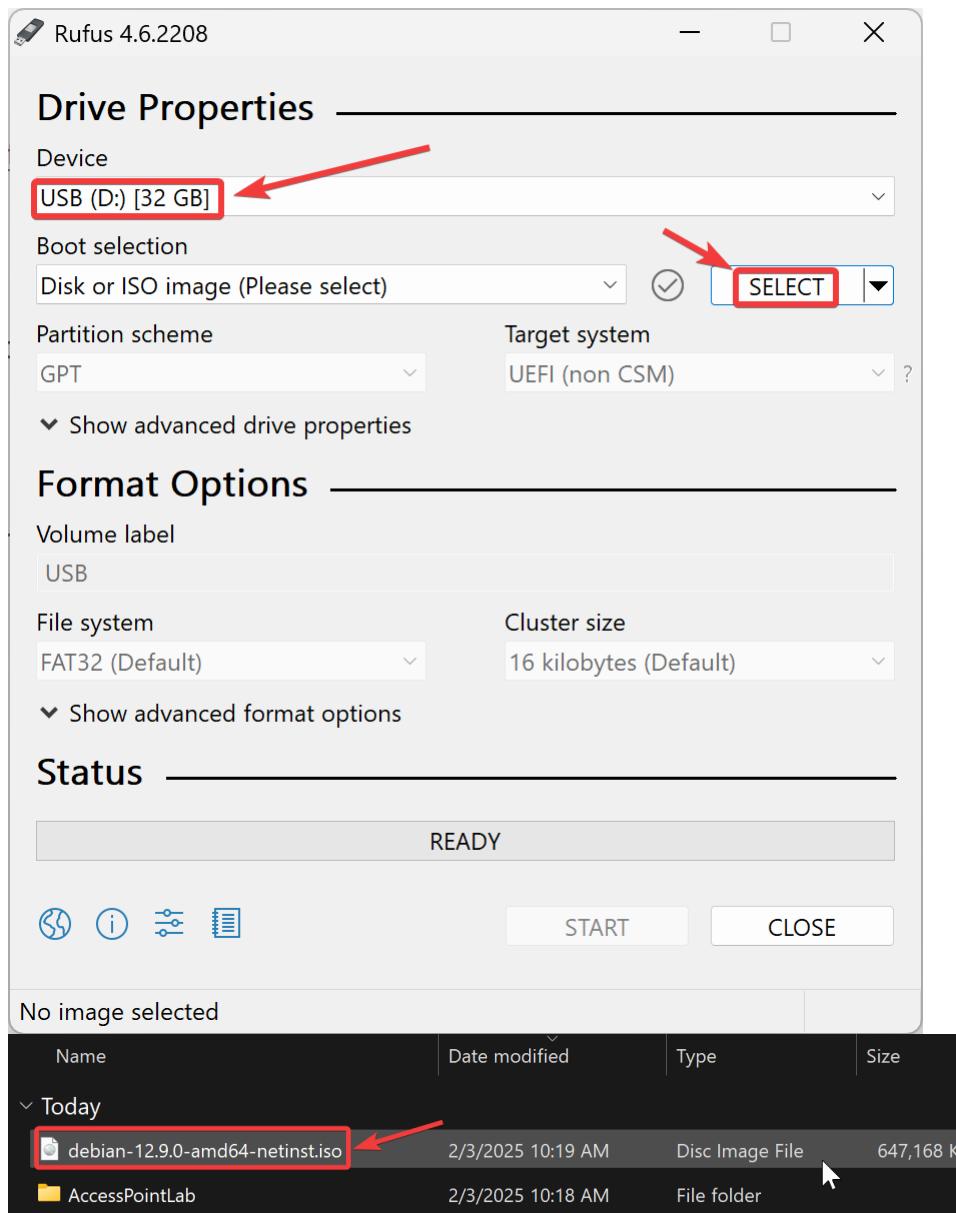
```

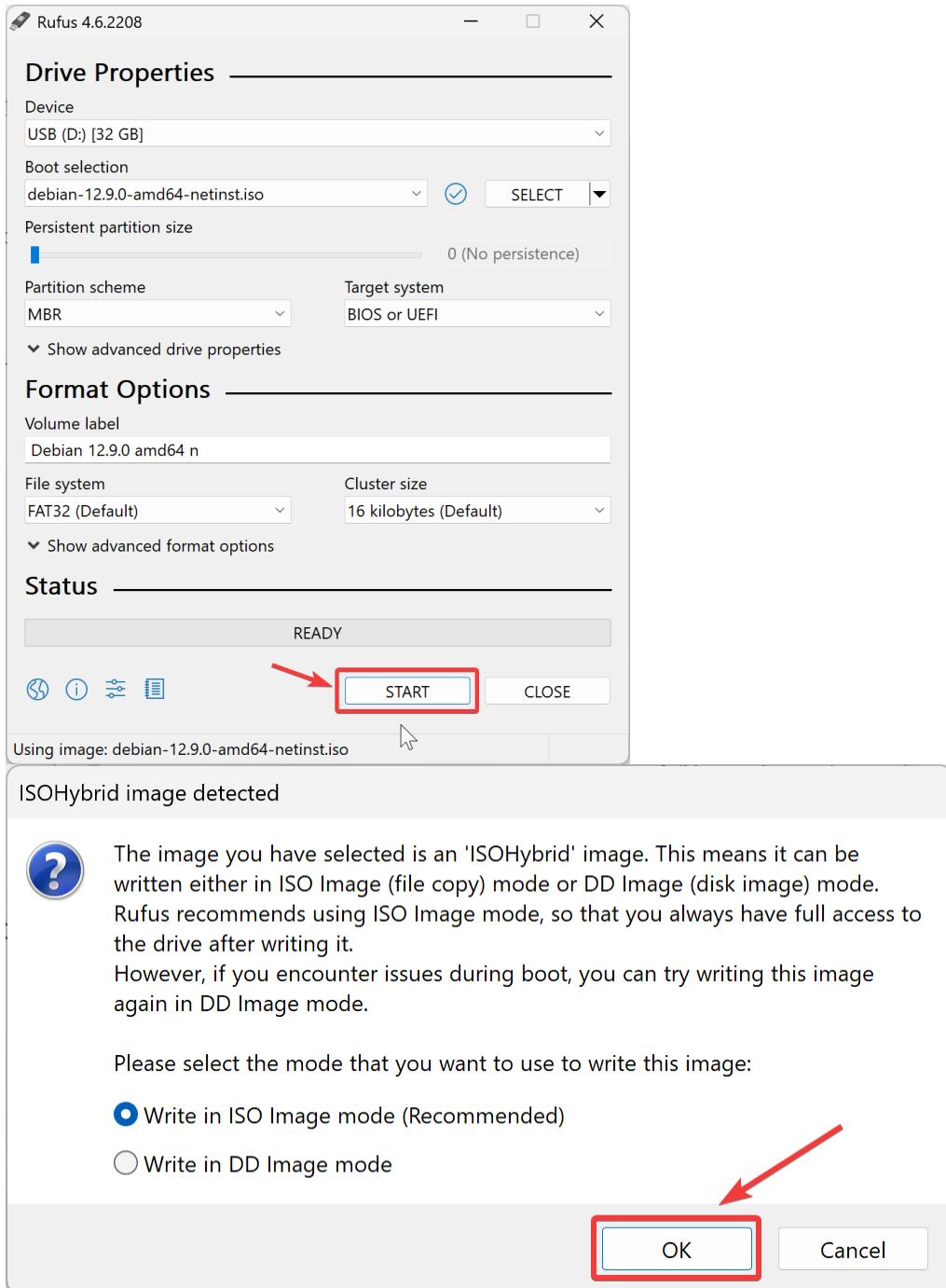
!
interface GigabitEthernet0.50
  encapsulation dot1Q 50
  bridge-group 50
!
!
!
interface BVI1
  mac-address 44d3.ca5a.86ac
  ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
  ipv6 address dhcp
  ipv6 address autoconfig
  ipv6 enable
!
!
!
radius-server host 10.0.0.2 auth-port 1812 acct-port 1813 key 7
111918160405041E00
!
bridge 1 route ip
!
!
end

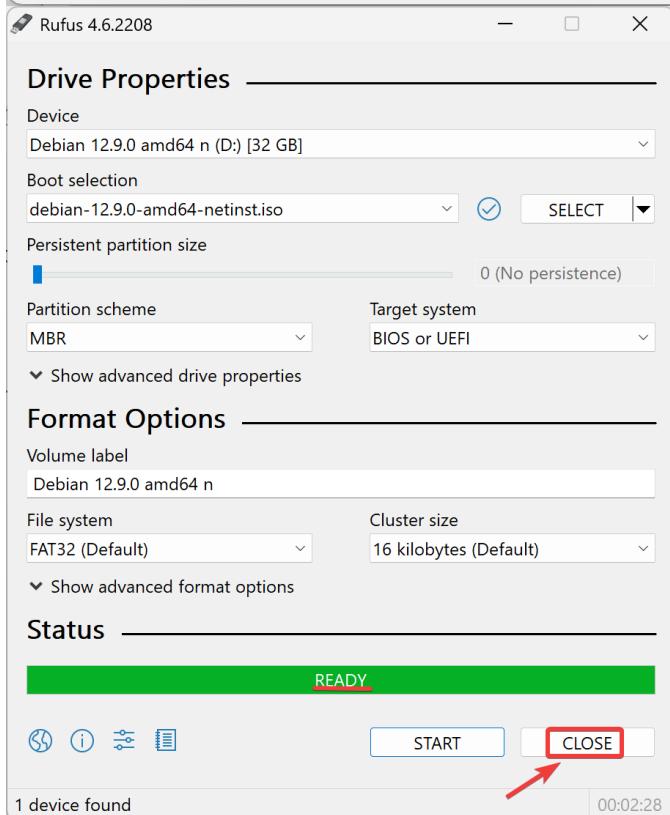
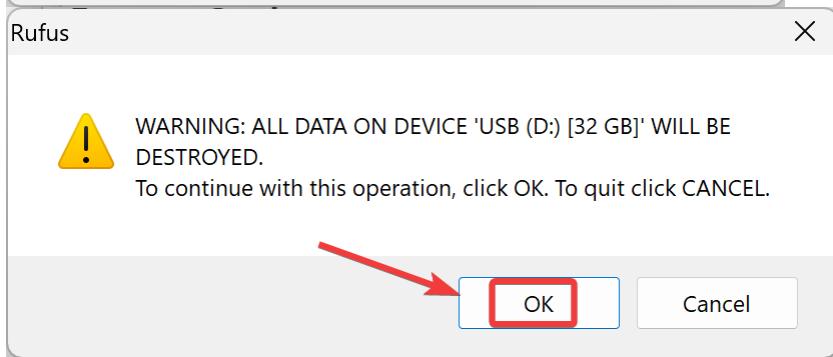
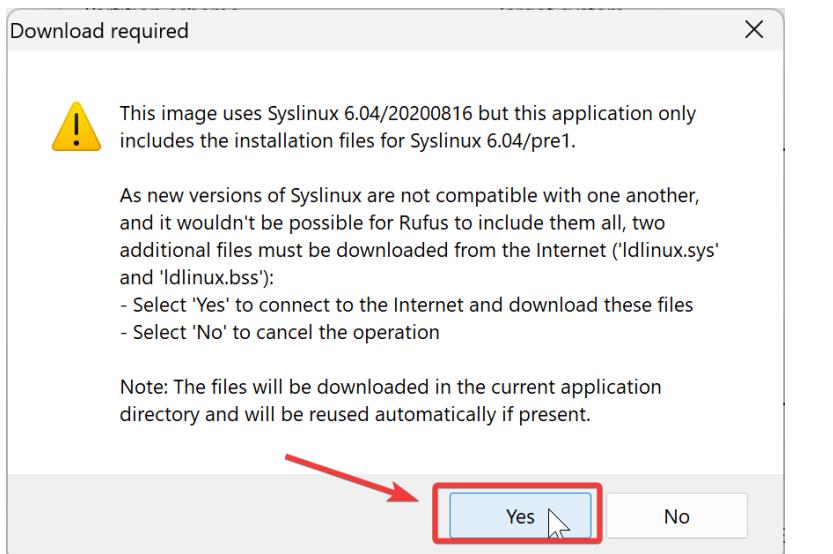
```

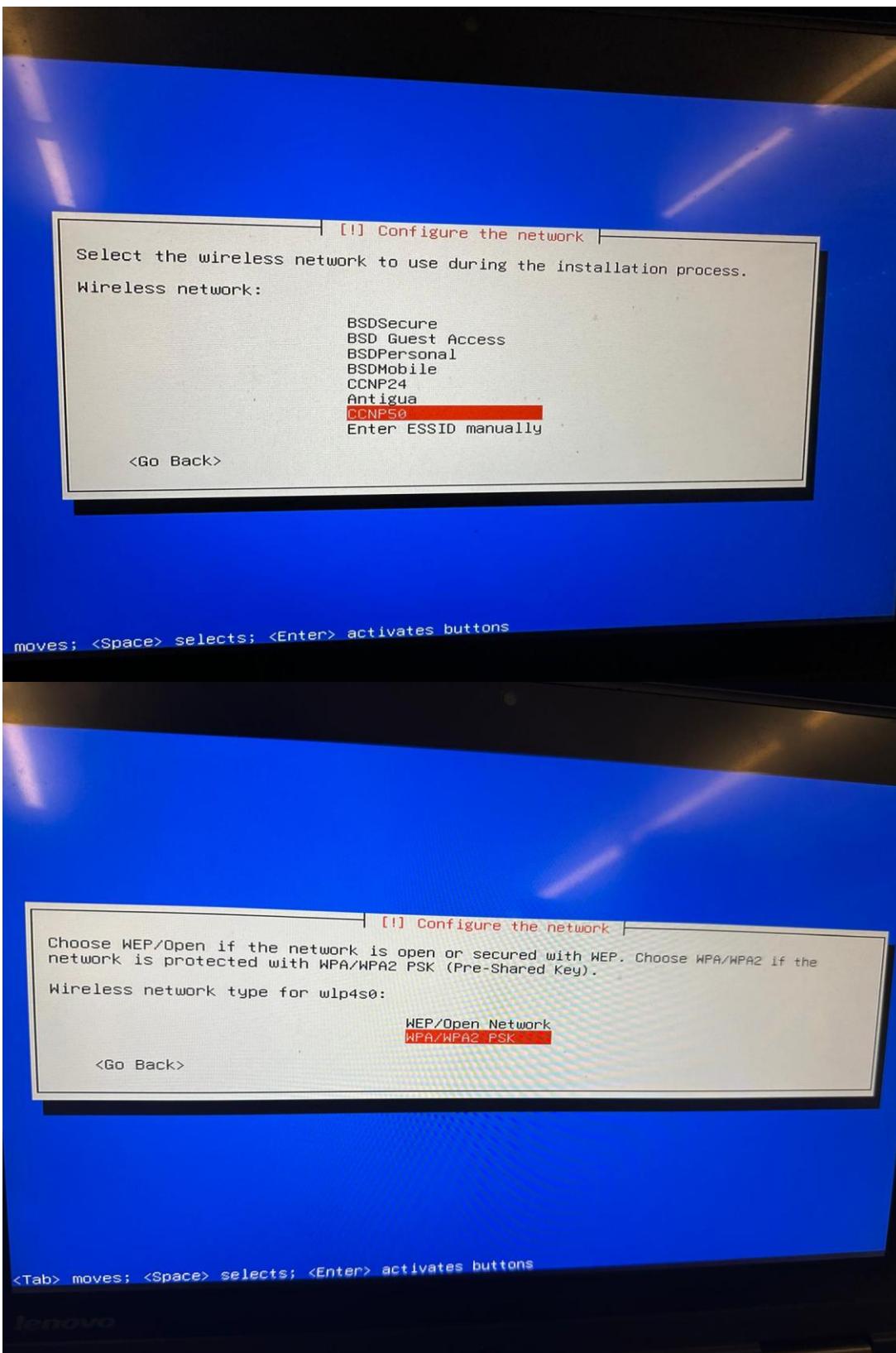
Server Configuration

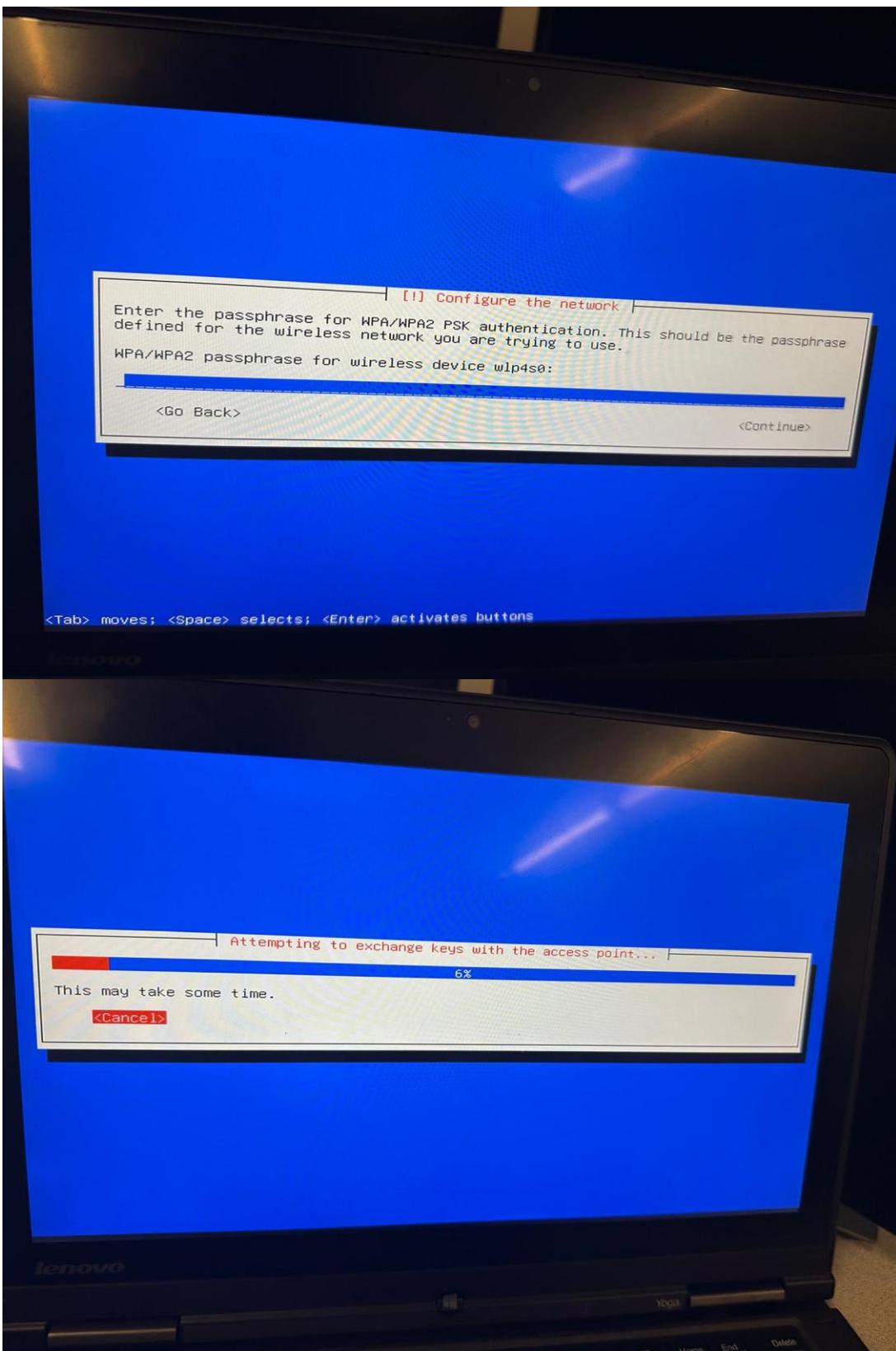
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.debian.org/download>. The page is titled "Downloading Debian". It features a large "Download Debian" button. Below it, there's a note about the version being "Debian 12, codenamed bookworm, netinst, for 64-bit PC (amd64)". A red box highlights the download link "debian-12.9.0-amd64-netinst.iso". An arrow from the left points to this link. Further down, there are sections for "Other Installers", "Related Links" (with links to "Installation Guide", "Release Notes", "ISO Verification Guide", "Alternate Download Sites", and "Other Releases"), and language selection options at the bottom.

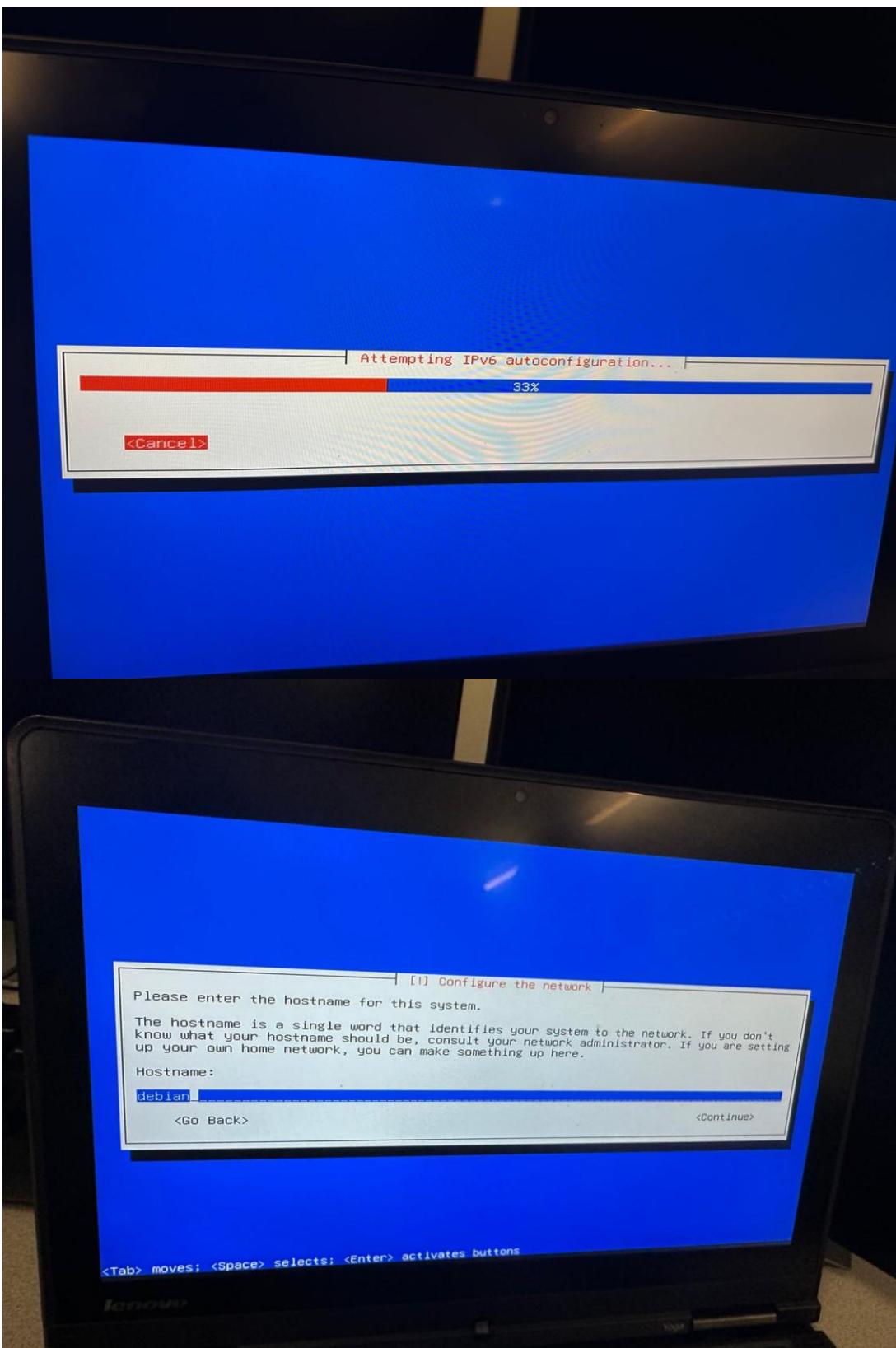


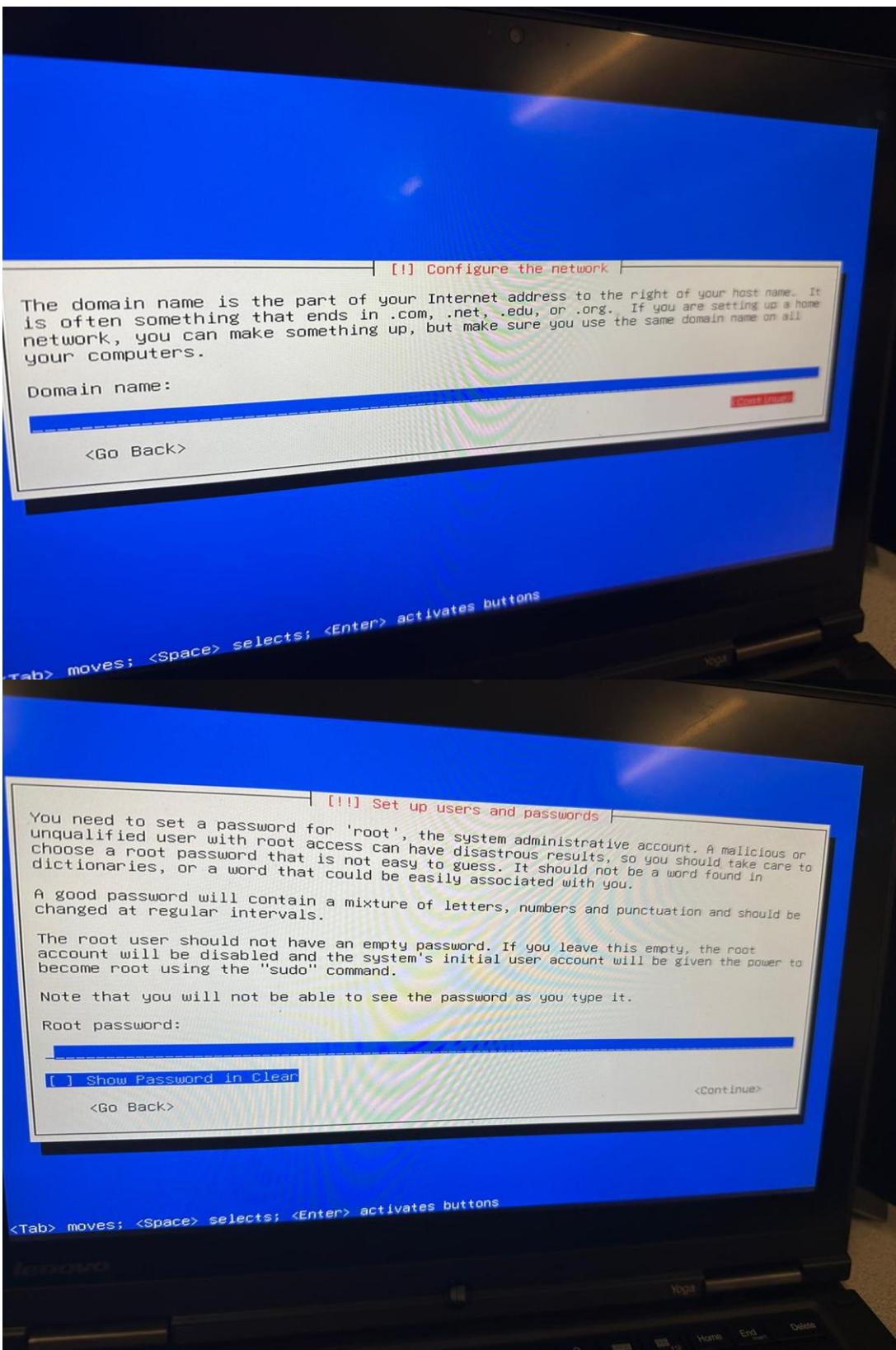












The bottom window is titled "[!!] Set up users and passwords" and contains the following text:

You need to set a password for 'root', the system administrative account. A malicious or unqualified user with root access can have disastrous results, so you should take care to choose a root password that is not easy to guess. It should not be a word found in dictionaries, or a word that could be easily associated with you.

A good password will contain a mixture of letters, numbers and punctuation and should be changed at regular intervals.

The root user should not have an empty password. If you leave this empty, the root account will be disabled and the system's initial user account will be given the power to become root using the "sudo" command.

Note that you will not be able to see the password as you type it.

Root password:

Show Password in Clear

<Continue>

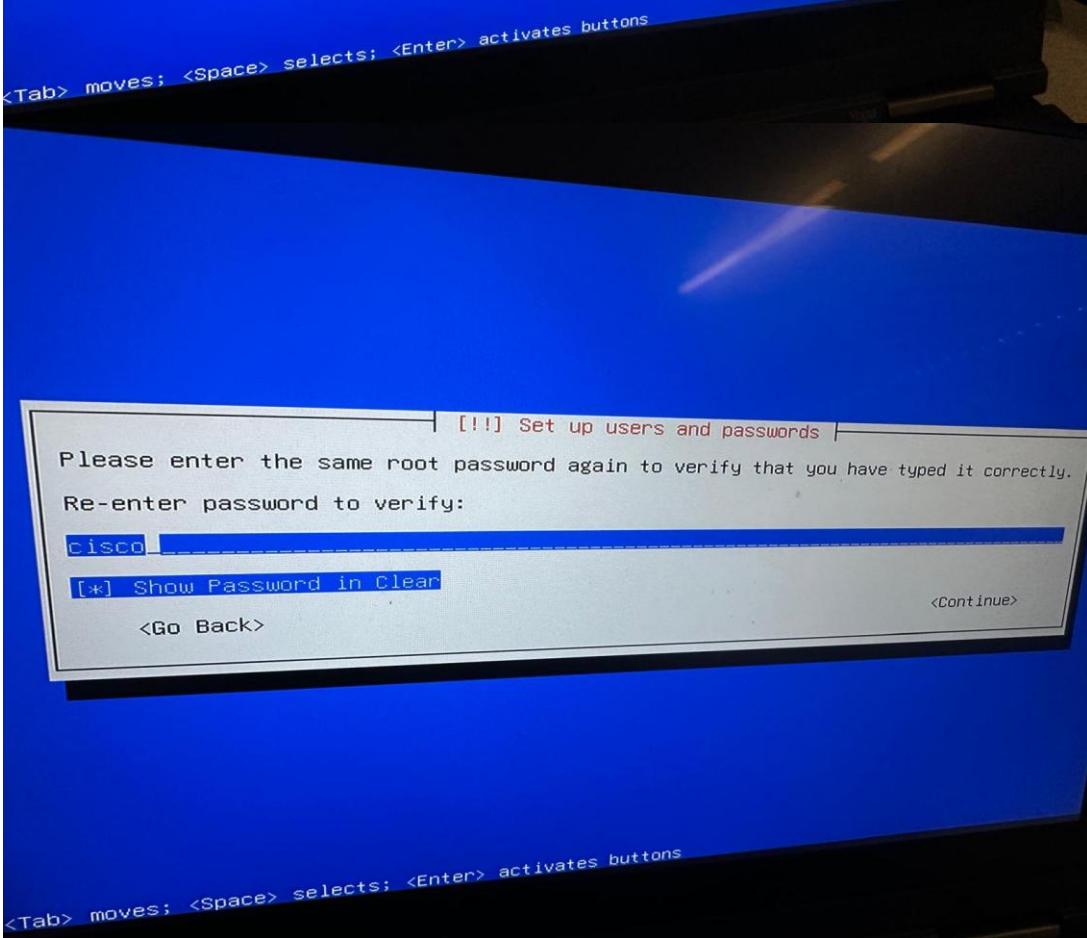
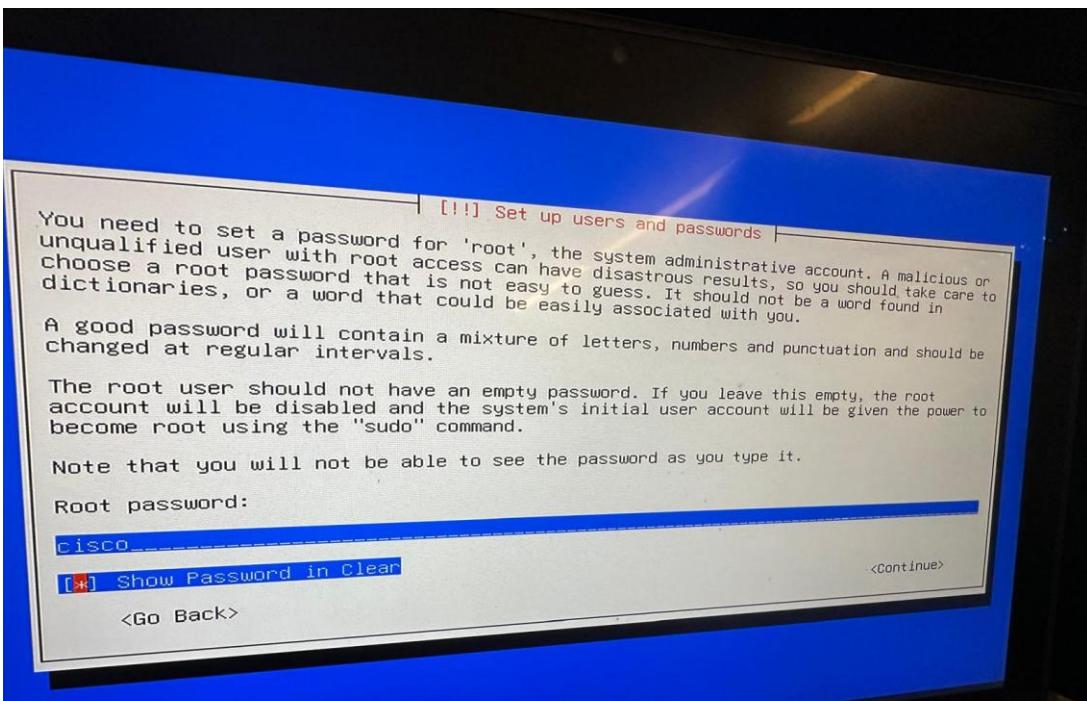
<Go Back>

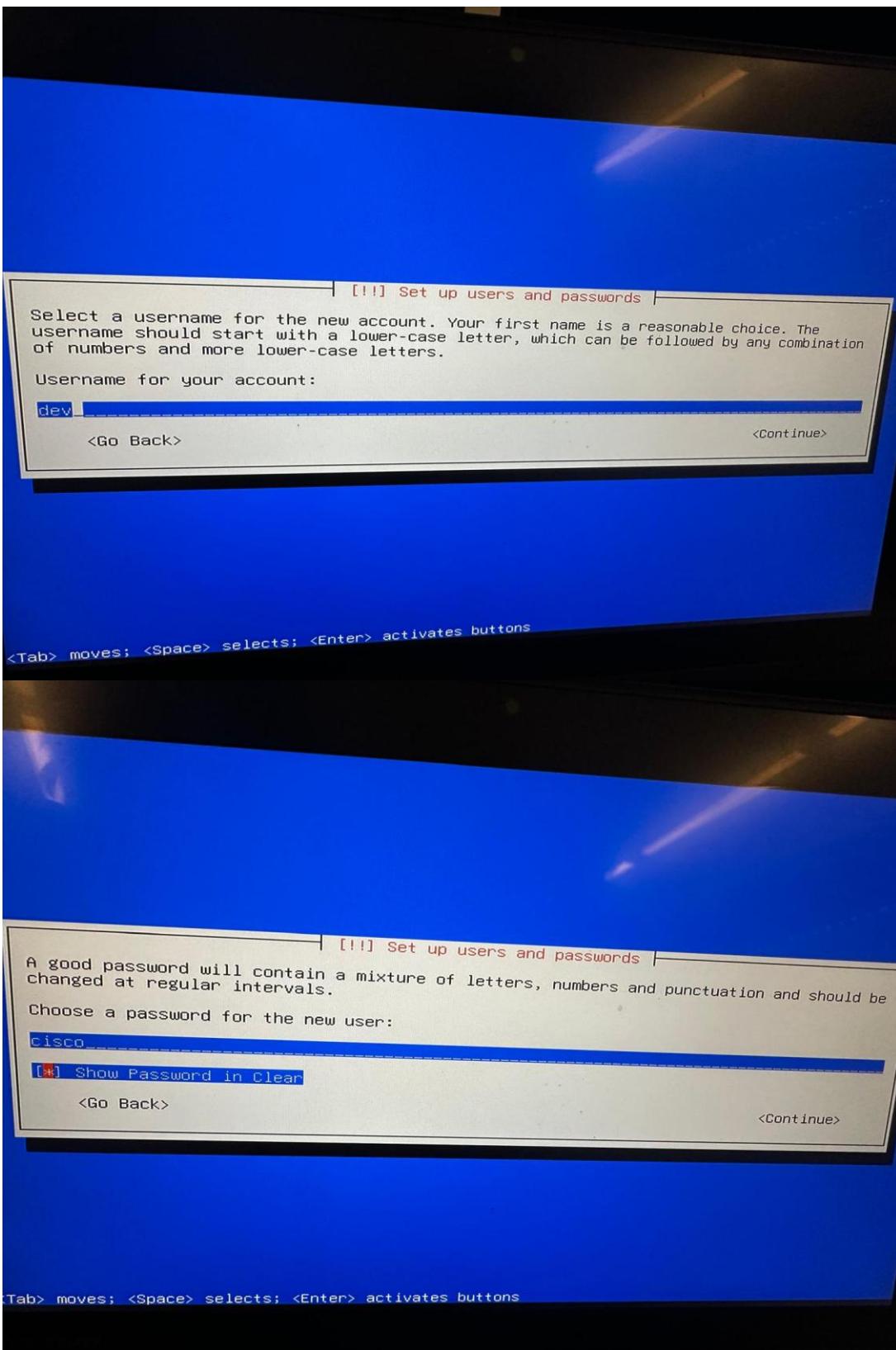
<Tab> moves; <Space> selects; <Enter> activates buttons

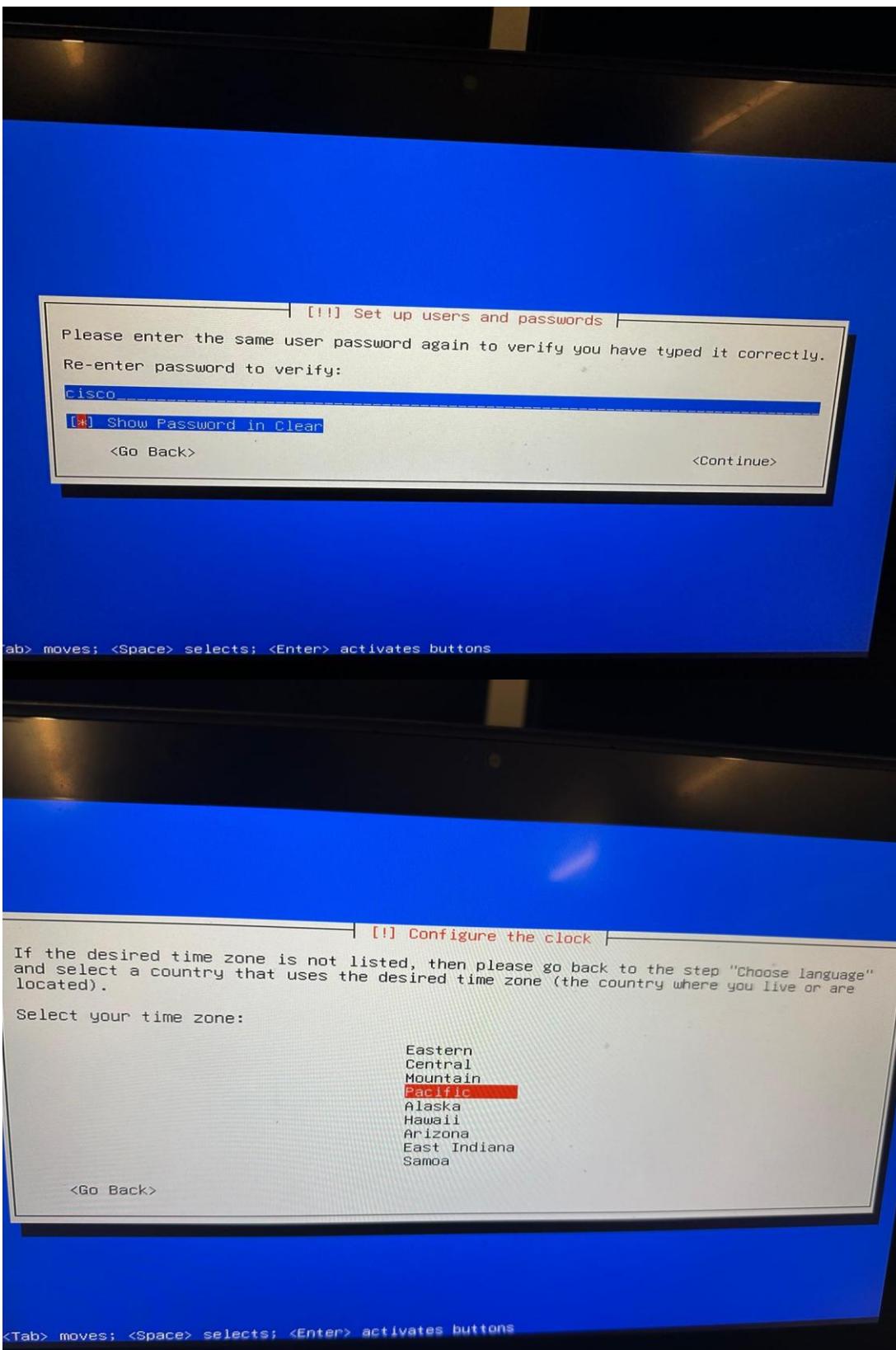
LENOVO

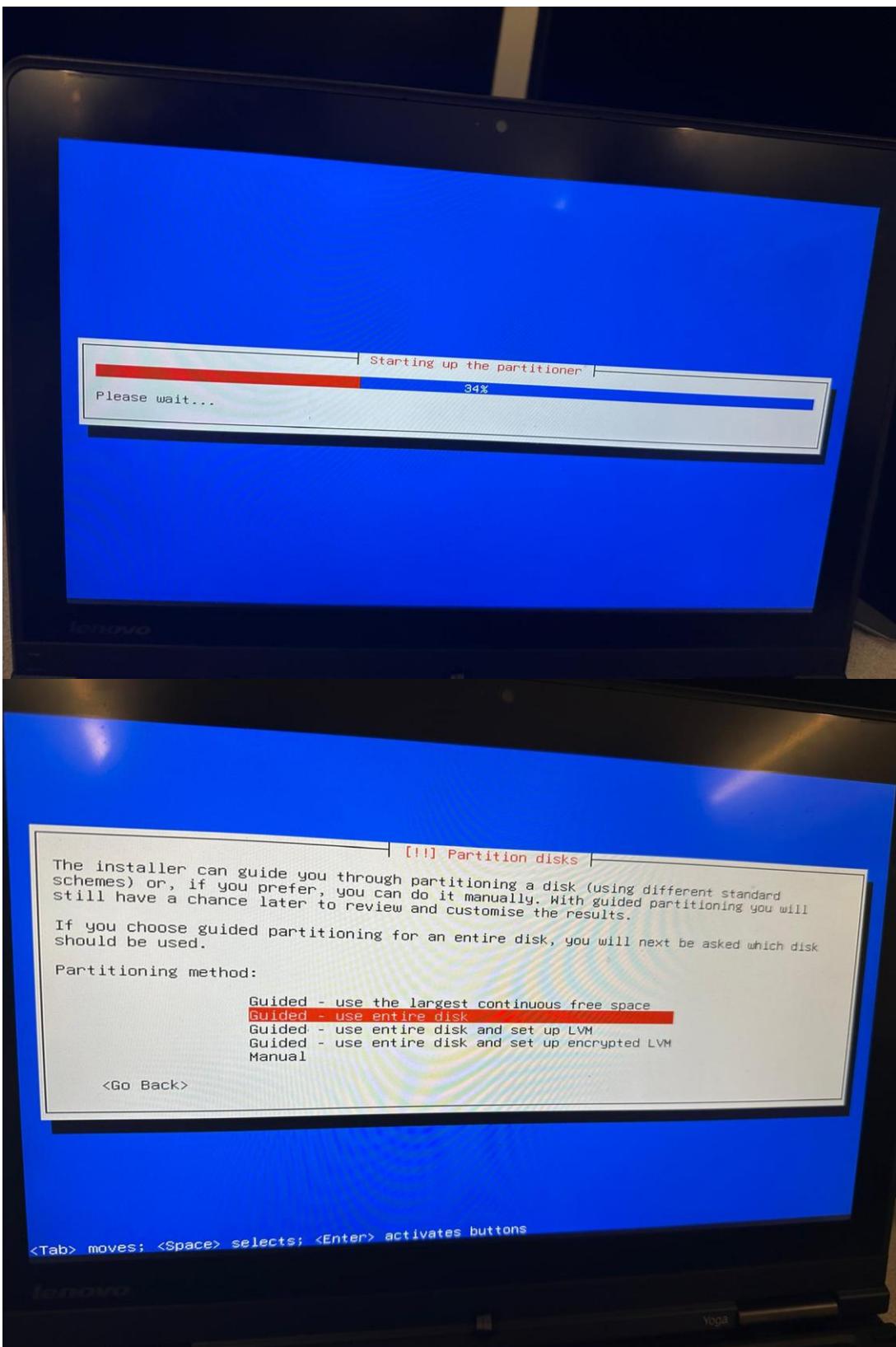
Yoga

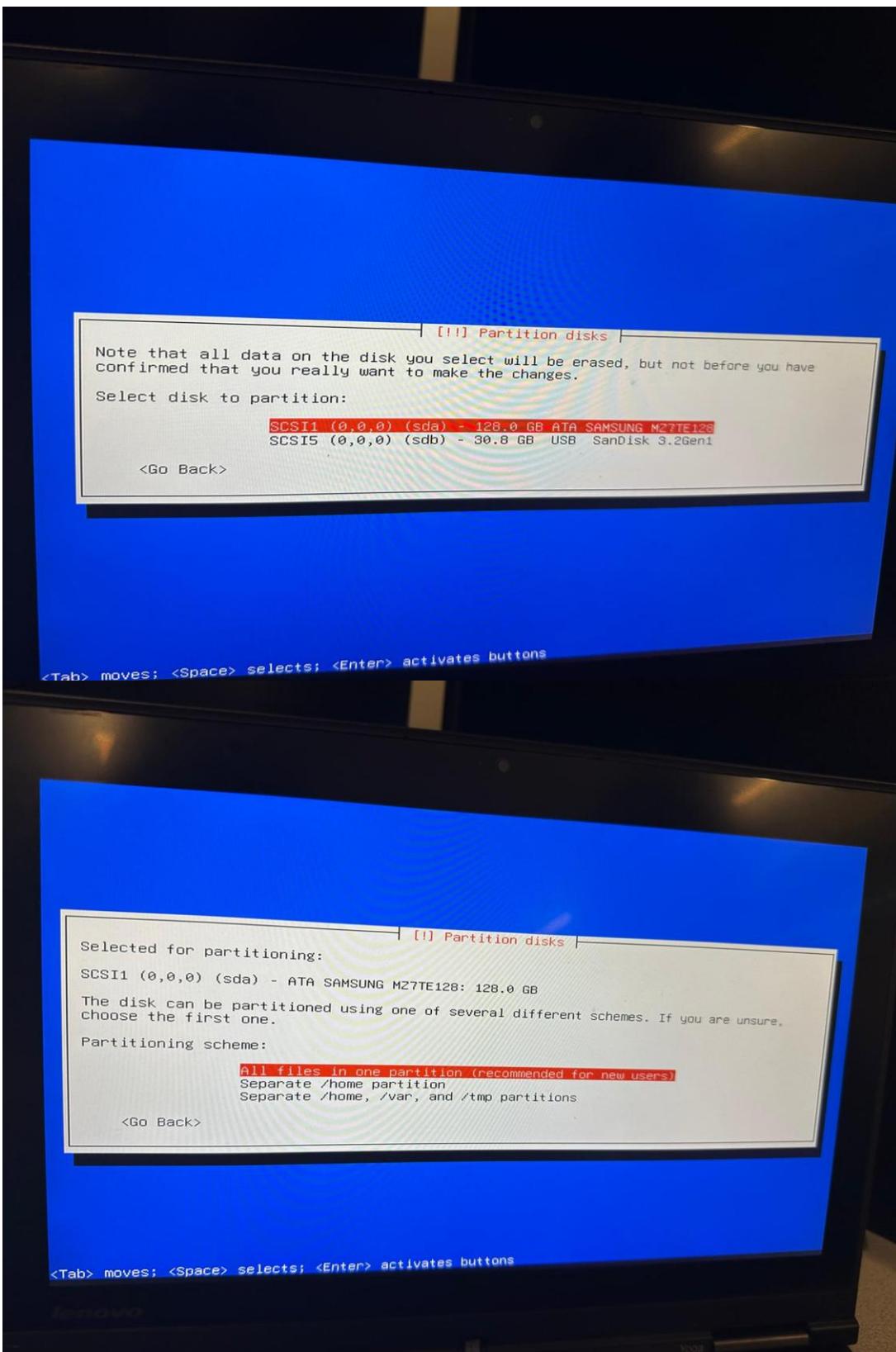
Home End Delete

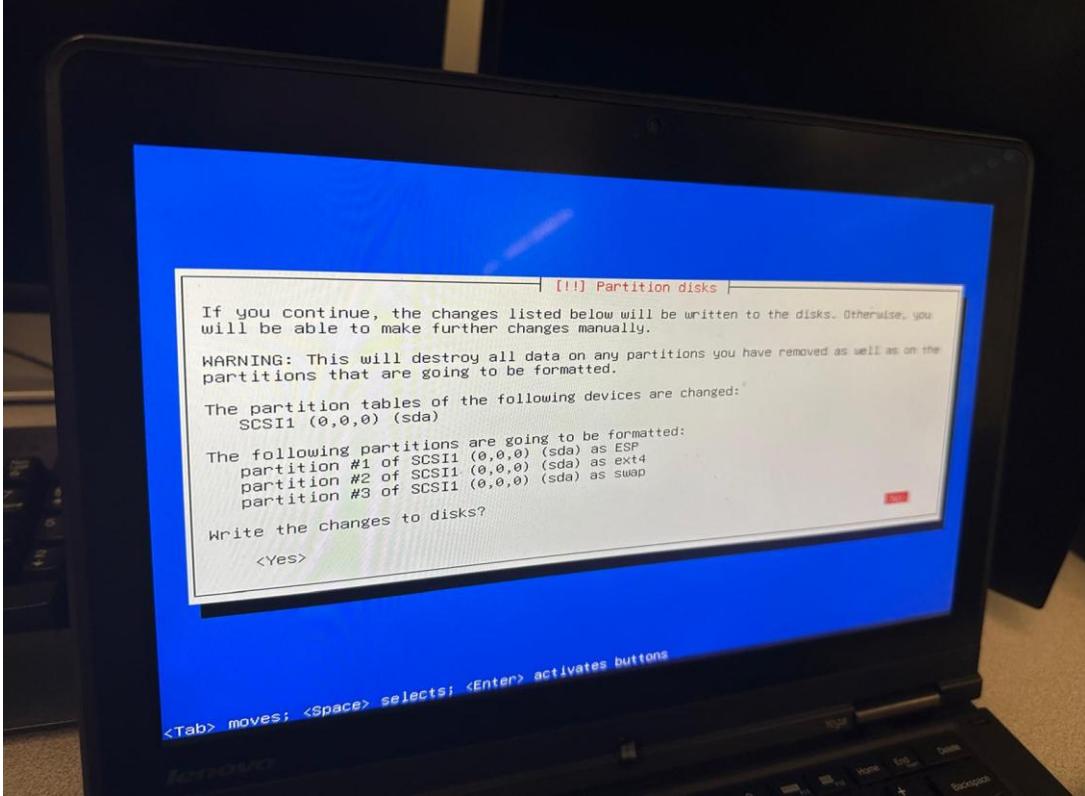
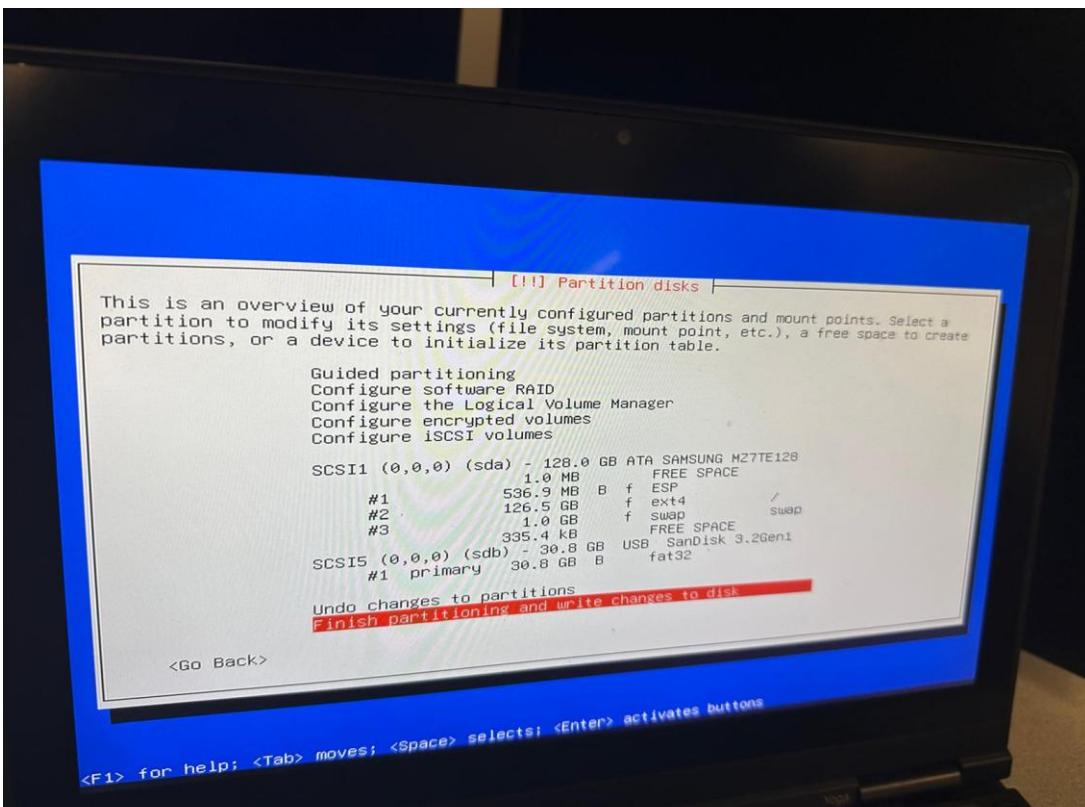


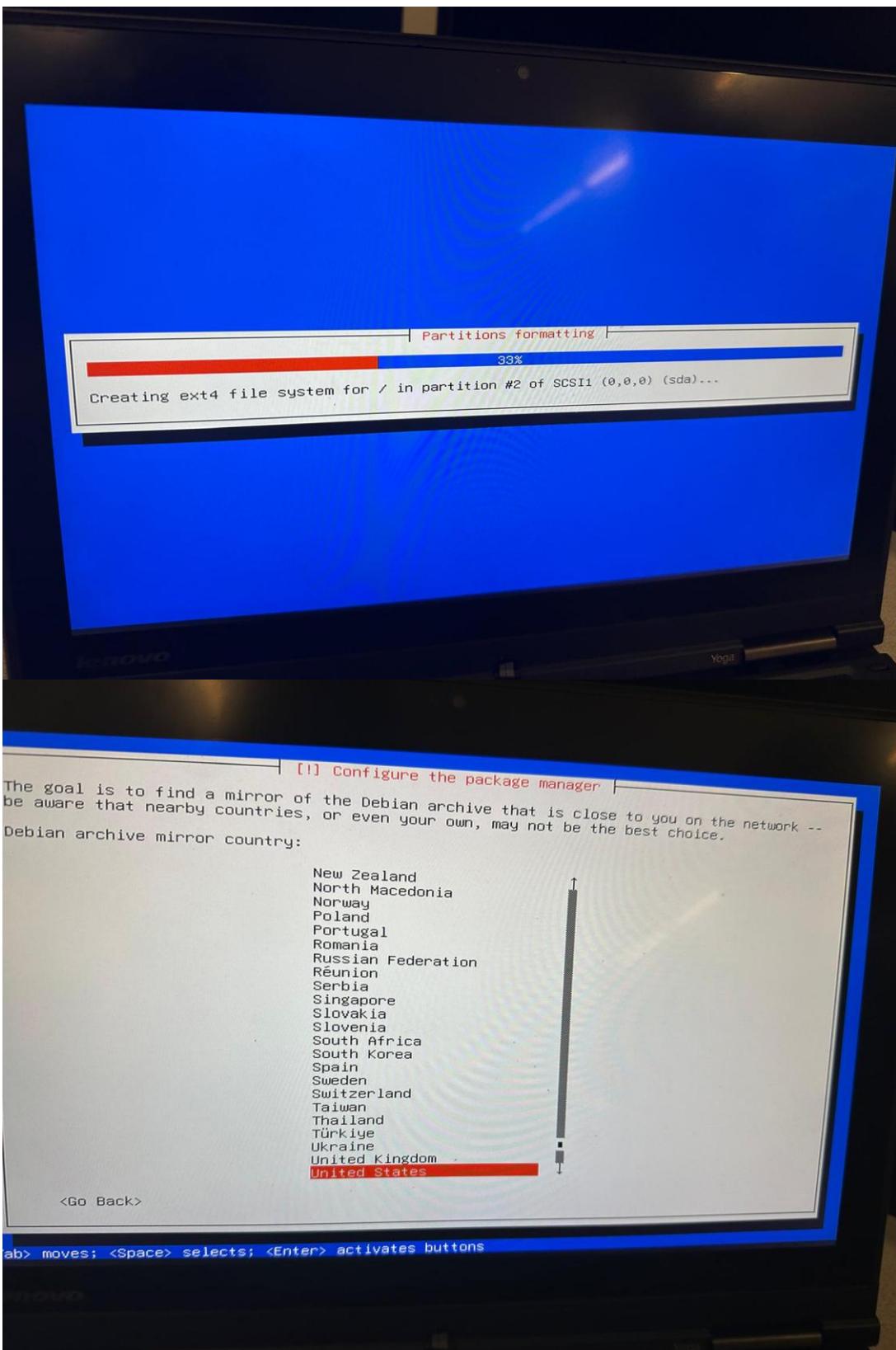


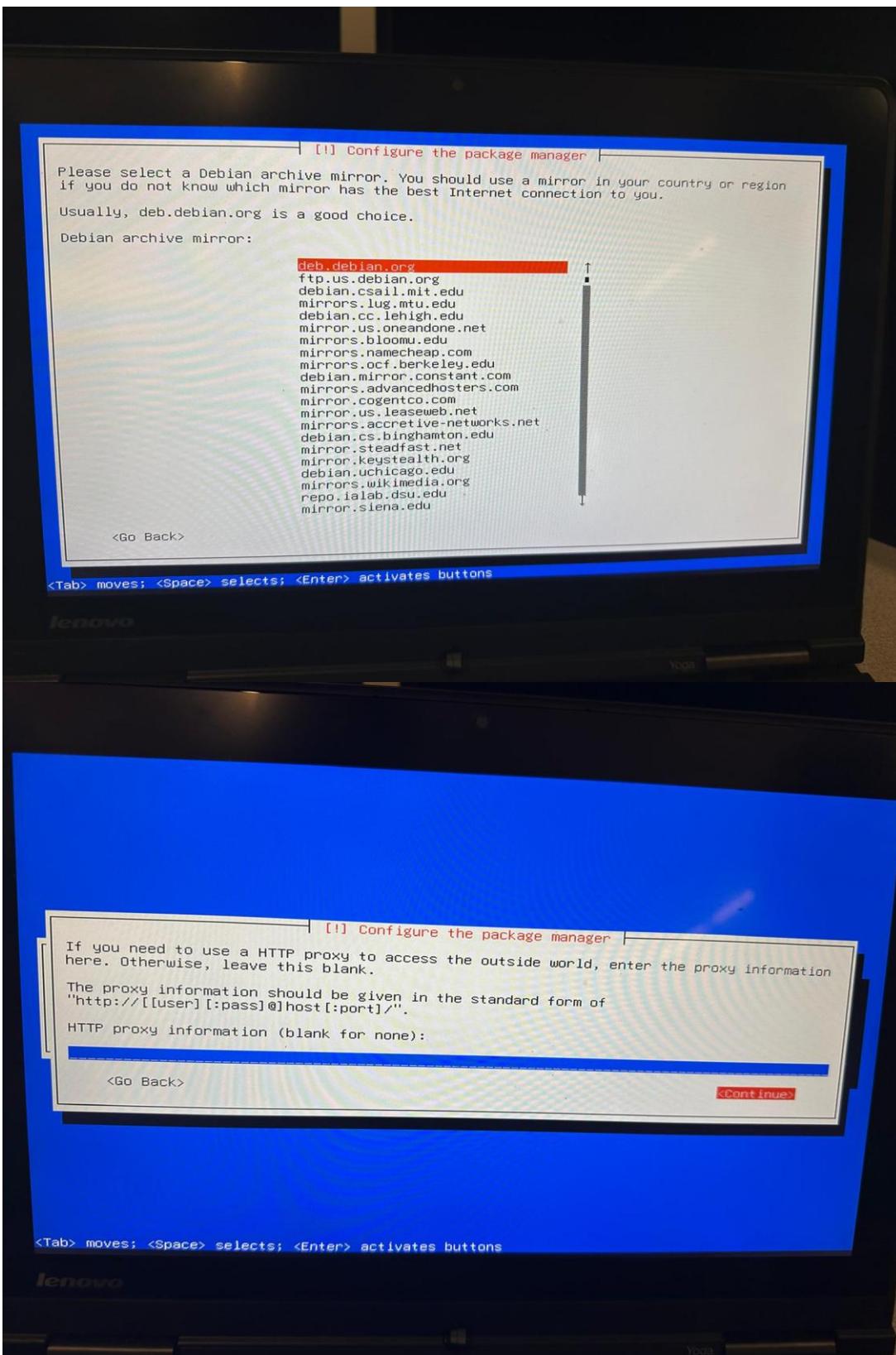


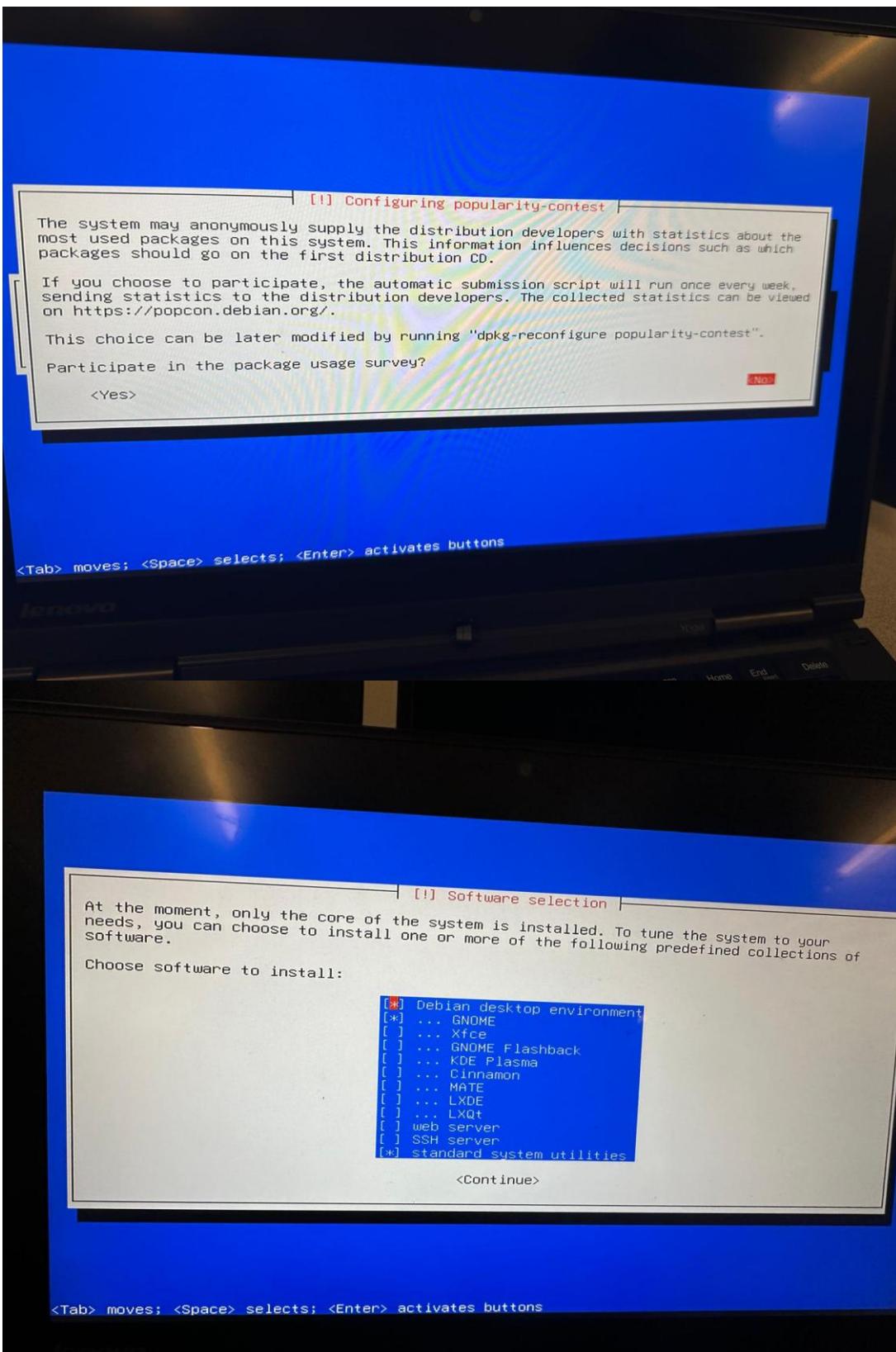


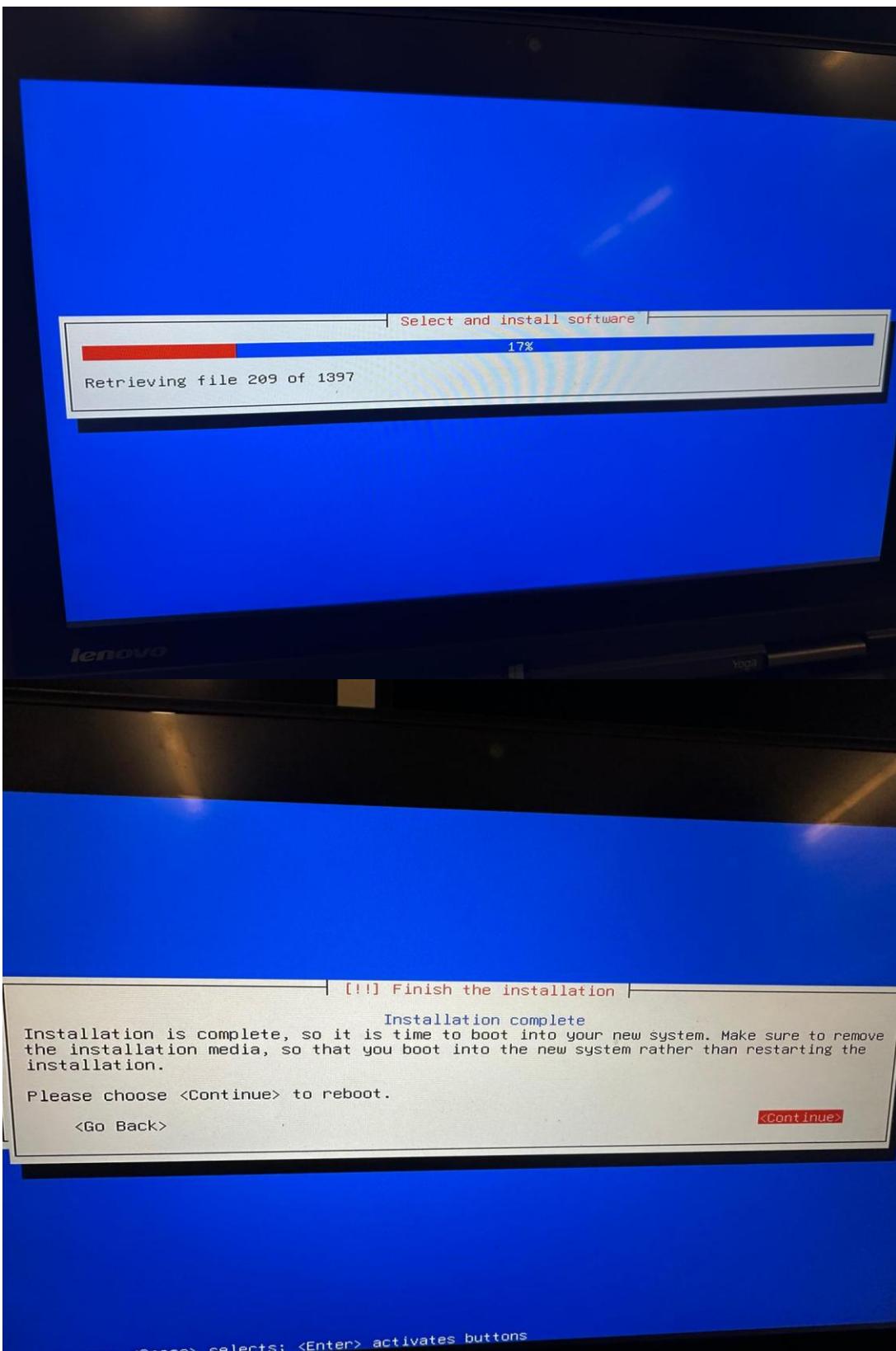


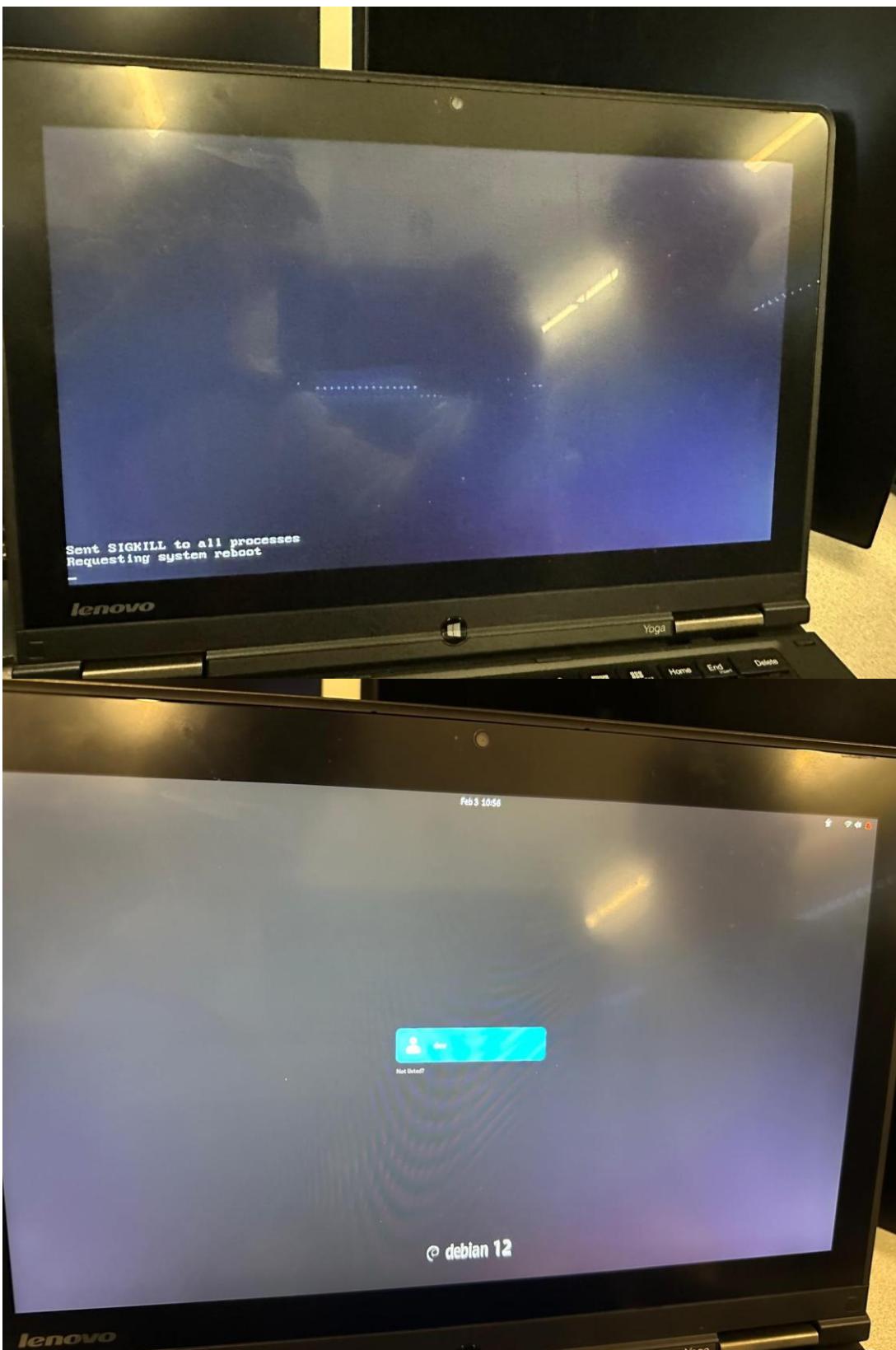


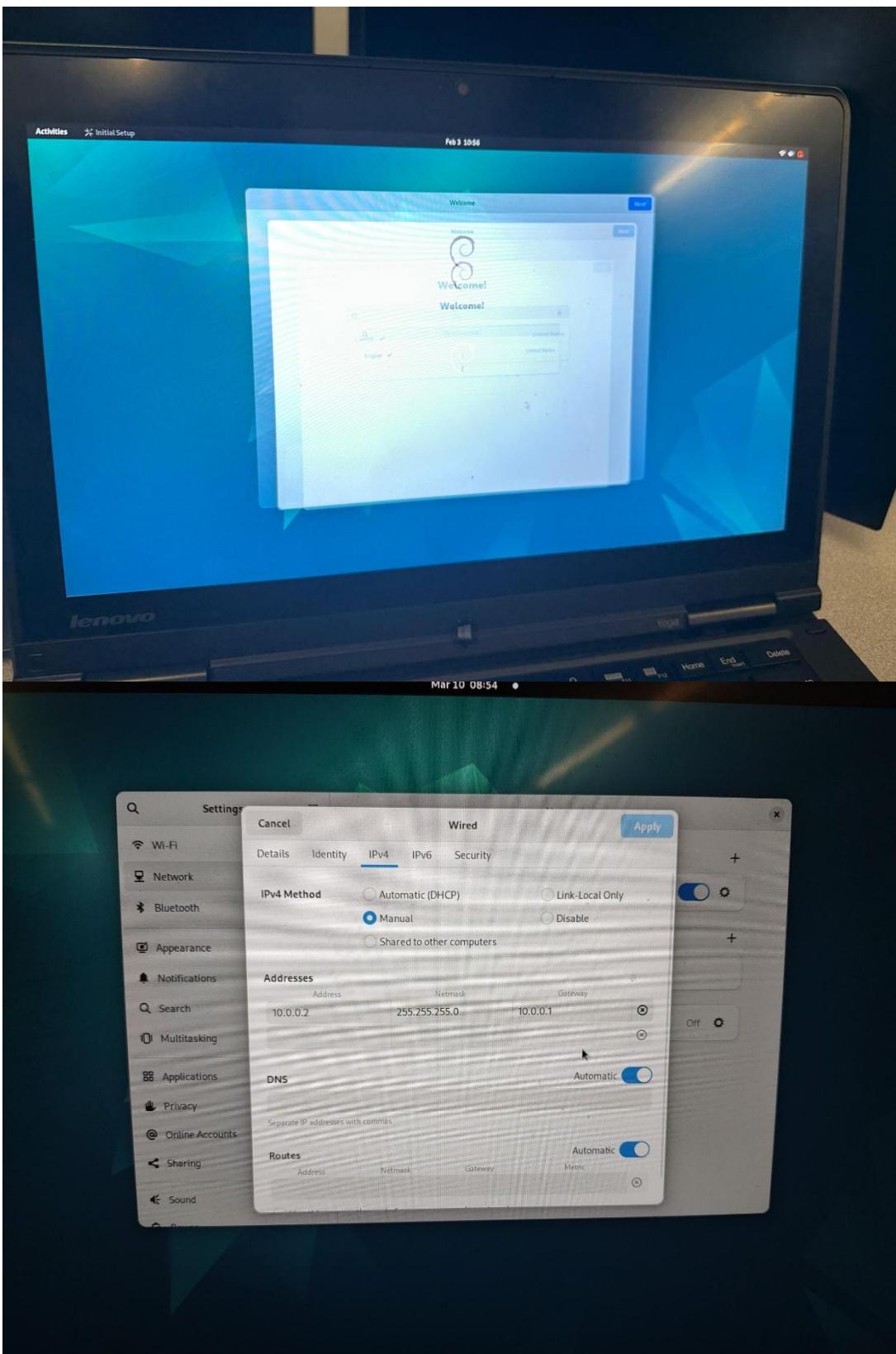












FreeRADIUS Configuration

```
# lines with "#" are comments
# some comments will explain how to do something or
# tell you to do something

su -l
adduser <user> sudo
sudo apt install freeradius

# Confirm installation of freeRADIUS

cd /etc/systemd
sudo nano logind.conf

# Set HandleLidSwitch to ignore and uncomment the line
# Purpose: make a laptop running freeRADIUS doesn't sleep when the lid
is closed.

# Note: depending on the version of freeRADIUS or the distro of linux,
# freeradius configuration files could be stored in other locations.
cd /etc/system/freeradius/3.0
sudo nano clients.conf

# Add a client. For example:
# client apFH {
#     ipaddr = 10.0.0.3
#     require_message_authenticator = no
#     secret = password
#     nas_type = "other"
#     proto = "*"
# }

cd /etc/system/freeradius/3.0/mods-config/files
sudo nano authorize

# Add some users. For example:
# admin    Cleartext-Password := "password"
#                 Reply-Message := "Hello, %{User-Name}"
#
# username Cleartext-Password := "password"
#                 Reply-Message := "Hello, %{User-Name}"

sudo systemctl start freeradius
```