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Linux Formatting a CDRW / DVD Media (blank media) Commands

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I blank / format my CDRW / DVD media under Linux using a shell prompt?

A. You can use wodim (cdrecord) to record data or audio Compact Discs on an Orange Book CD-Recorder or to write DVD media on a DVD-Recorder

Task: Find out device name

Find find out your CDRW drive name by entering following command:

[1]

```
$ cdrecord -scanbus
```

or

```
$ wodim -scanbus
```

Output:

```
scsibus1:
        1,0,0   100) 'TSSTcorp' 'CD/DVDW SH-S182D' 'SB04' Removable CD-ROM
        1,1,0   101) *
        1,2,0   102) *
        1,3,0   103) *
        1,4,0   104) *
        1,5,0   105) *
        1,6,0   106) *
        1,7,0   107) *
```

Note that 1,0,0 is the device name you need to use.

Task: Formatting a cd rw on Linux

Insert CD and enter following command to format CDRW (note for formatting DVD use dvd+rw-format command, see below):

```
$ cdrecord blank=fast dev=1,0,0
```

OR

```
$ sudo cdrecord blank=fast dev=1,0,0
```

Above command will blank a CD-RW and exit or blank a CD-RW before writing. The blanking type is fast, but it may be one of the following:

- all : Blank the entire disk. This may take a long time.
- **fast**: Minimally blank the disk. This results in erasing the PMA, the TOC and the pregap.
- **track** Blank a track.
- **unreserve** Unreserve a reserved track.
- **trtail** Blank the tail of a track.
- **unclose** Unclose last session.
- **session** Blank the last session.

Task: Formatting a dvd rw on Linux

Use dvd+rw-format command [2] to formats dvd disk in the specified dvd drive such as /dev/dvd:

```
$ dvd+rw-format -force /dev/dvd
```

OR

```
$ sudo dvd+rw-format -force /dev/dvd
```

Task: Using GUI tool - k3b

k3b is a CD/DVD burning tool. It can format CD/DVD RW. First install k3b:
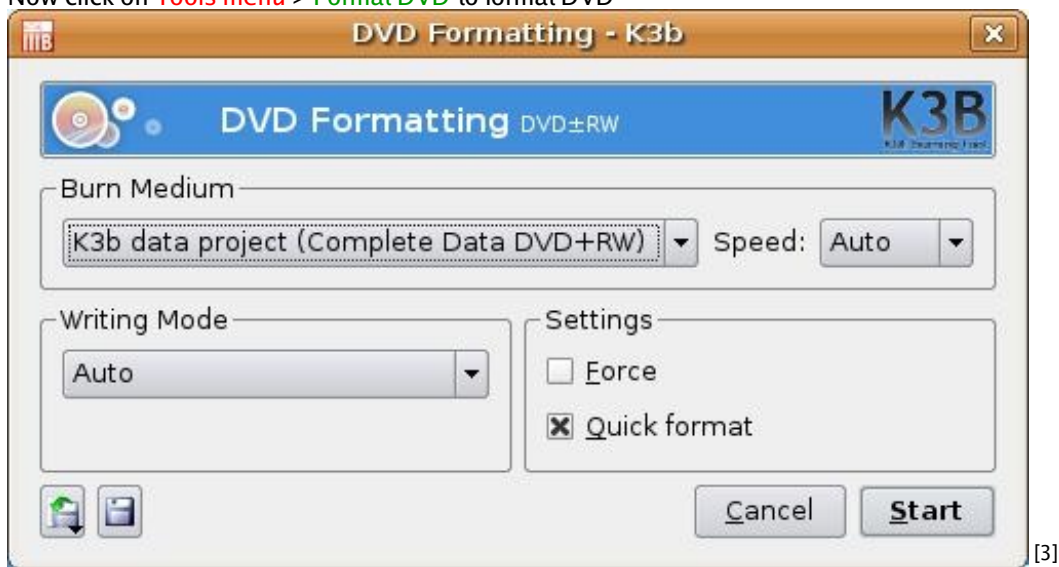
```
$ sudo apt-get install k3b
```

Start k3b from menus or just type

```
$ k3b &
```

Now click on Tools menu > Erase CDRW to format CDRW
OR
Now click on Tools menu > Format DVD to format DVD

[3]

See also:

- [Howto: Linux write bur data to DVD or DVD/RW](#) [2]

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[2] dvd+rw-format command: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/howto-linux-write-burn-data-to-dvd-or-dvdrw.html**
[3] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-linux-format-cdrw-dvdrw/linux-blanking-formatting-cdrw-cd-dvd-media-using-k3b/**

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