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## Ubuntu Linux format USB pen drive

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**Q.** How do I format a USB pen drive under Ubuntu Linux for ext3 file system?

**A.** You can format USB pen drive with the help of following commands:

[a] **fdisk** : Partition table manipulator for Linux

[b] **mkfs.ext3** : Create an ext2/ext3 filesystem by formatting given partition name (/dev/partition)

[c] **e2label** : Change the label on an ext2/ext3 filesystem

First make sure USB pen is not mounted. Click on Places > Computer > Select USB pen > Right click > Select **Unmount Volume**.

Let us assume that /dev/sda1 is your partition name for USB pen. To format type the following command (Open X terminal and type the command)

```
$ sudo mkfs.ext3 /dev/sda1
```

**Caution:** Careful while entering device/partition name; wrong name can wipe out entire hard disk!!!

Now use e2label command to change the filesystem label on the ext3 filesystem located on device /dev/sda1:

```
$ sudo e2label /dev/sda1 usb-pen
```

You can also create an MS-DOS/Windows XP file system under Linux, enter:

```
$ sudo mkfs.vfat /dev/sda1
```

Now you are ready to use USB pen.

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