Installers Preparation and Windows 10 OS Installation

This guide covers the essential steps for preparing your system and performing a clean installation of Windows 10. Designed for IT technicians and installers, it emphasizes practices that ensure optimal performance and security.
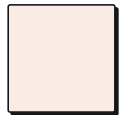
Pre-Installation Preparation

Data Backup

Safeguard all critical data by backing it up to an external drive or cloud storage service before starting the installation.

License Verification

Ensure you possess a valid Windows 10 license key or digital entitlement for activation.

System Requirements

Confirm your system meets the minimum specifications: 1 GHz CPU, 1-2 GB RAM, and 20 GB free disk space.

Driver Collection

Gather all necessary hardware drivers and essential software for a smooth post-installation setup.

Creating Windows 10 Installation Media

The most straightforward method to create bootable Windows 10 installation media is by using Microsoft's official Media Creation Tool.

- Download the **Media Creation Tool** from Microsoft's official website.

- Prepare a **USB flash drive** (minimum 8 GB, preferably blank).

- Run **MediaCreationTool.exe** and select "Create installation media."

- Choose your preferred **language, edition, and architecture** (64-bit is generally recommended).

- The tool will then **download Windows 10 files** and create a bootable USB drive.

Alternative Installation Media Options

Bootable DVD Creation

If a USB drive is not available, create a bootable DVD from an ISO file.

USB Formatting (FAT32)

Format the USB as FAT32 using Disk Management or `diskpart` for BIOS/UEFI compatibility.
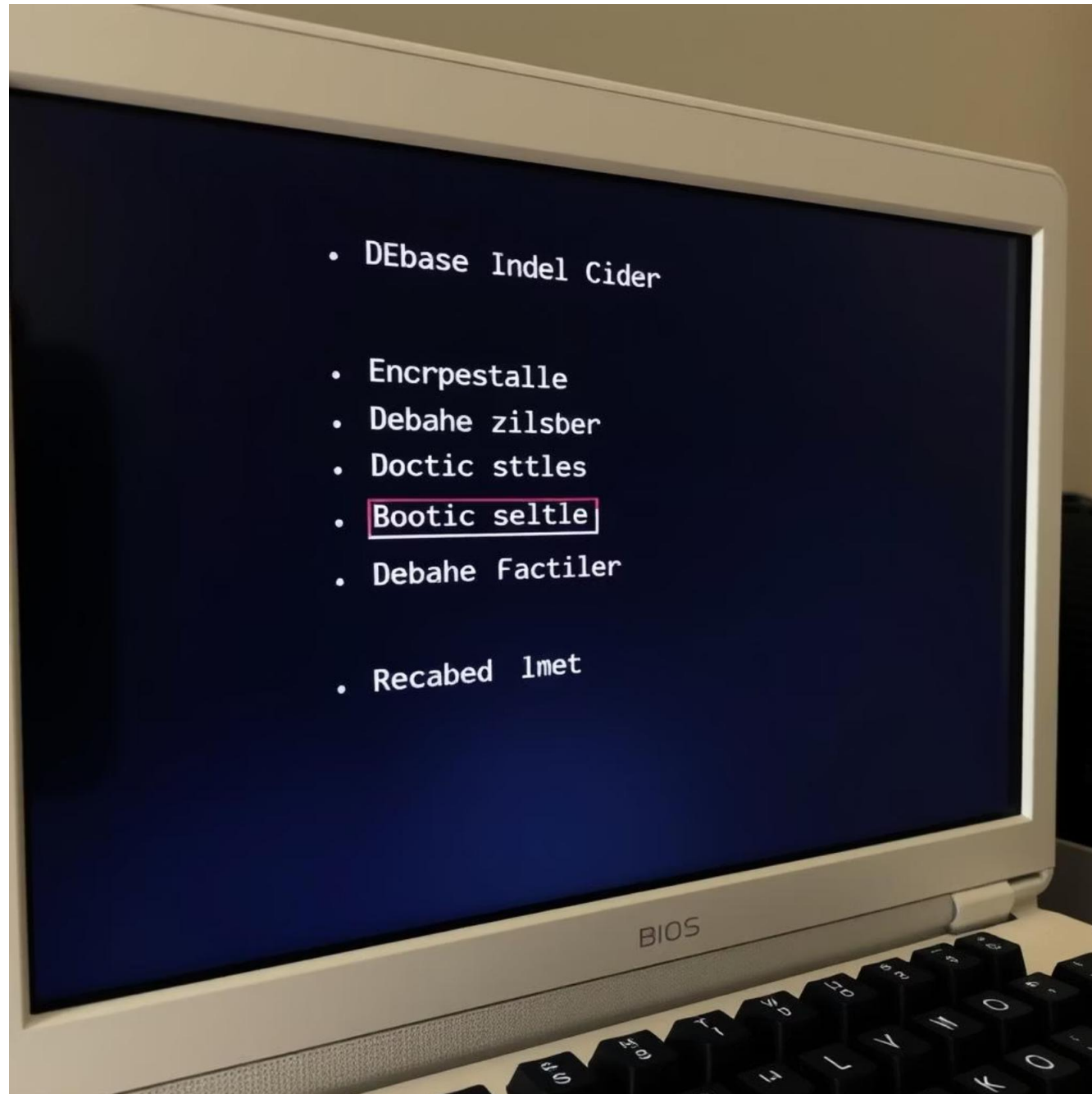
Large File Handling

Split large install.wim files (>4GB) using the DISM tool to fit on FAT32 formatted drives.

Active Partition

Ensure the USB partition is marked as active to enable proper booting.

BIOS/UEFI Configuration for Installation

- Insert the bootable USB into the target PC.

- Access **BIOS/UEFI setup** (common keys: F2, F10, DEL during startup).

- Set the **USB drive as the first boot device** in the boot order.

- **Disable Secure Boot** if necessary, especially for legacy installs.

- Save changes and reboot to begin Windows Setup.

Starting Windows 10 Installation

1

Setup Preferences

Select your language, time format, and keyboard preferences on the initial setup screen.

2

Initiate Install

Click "Install Now" to proceed with the installation process.

3

Product Key Entry

Enter your Windows product key or select "I don't have a product key" if using a digital license.

4

License & Type

Accept the license terms and choose "Custom: Install Windows only (advanced)" for a clean installation.

Disk Partitioning and Formatting

Proper disk partitioning is crucial for a clean and efficient Windows 10 installation. This step involves preparing the hard drive for the operating system.

⚠️ **Data Loss Warning**

Be extremely careful: Formatting or deleting partitions will erase all data on the selected drive. Ensure backups are complete.

- Select the **target drive** where Windows 10 will be installed.
- Use **"Drive options (advanced)"** to delete existing partitions for a completely clean install.
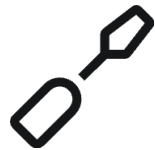- **Create new partitions** or **format existing ones** as needed to prepare the drive.

Installation Process and Initial Setup

THEE :: wilindows 1fa

- Windows will **copy files and install** the OS, restarting multiple times during the process.

- Follow the prompts to configure your **region, keyboard, and network** settings.

- **Create a user account**, with options for a Microsoft Account or a local account (use Shift+F10 to bypass network requirements for a local account).

- Set your **privacy and experience preferences** to complete the initial setup.

Post-Installation Configuration

Driver Installation

Install essential device drivers manually or by running Windows Update. Consider tools like Driver Booster for efficiency.

Windows Update

Run Windows Update regularly to apply the latest patches and security fixes, ensuring system stability.

System Settings

Configure system settings to your preferences and install all necessary applications and software.

Summary and Best Practices

- **Backup Data:** Always backup all important data before any installation.

- **Official Tools:** Use the official Microsoft Media Creation Tool for reliable installation media.

- **BIOS/UEFI Check:** Verify BIOS/UEFI boot order and settings prior to installation.

- **Stay Updated:** Keep Windows updated post-installation for security and performance.

- **Digital License Link:** Link your digital license to a Microsoft account for easy activation and re-installation.