



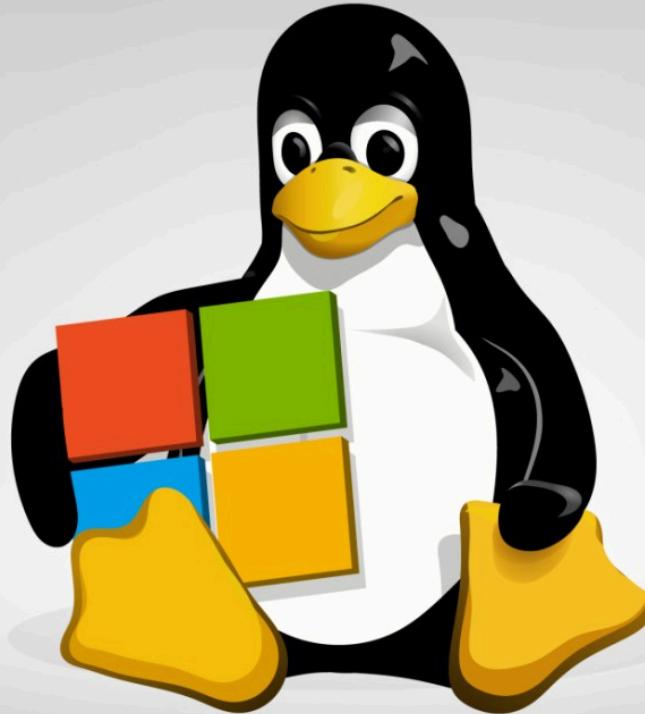
Articles

People

Learning

Jobs

Get the app



How to Install WSL on Non-System Disks: Step-by-Step Guide



Ambu Vijayan

R-Programmer, Bioinformatician

Published Mar 25, 2023

+ Follow

Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) is a useful tool for developers who need to use Linux-based command-line tools on their Windows systems.

By default, WSL is installed on the system disk, but it is possible to install it on a non-system disk as well.

In this article, we will guide you on how to install WSL on a non-system disk.

Step 1: Open Windows PowerShell

Like

Comment

Share



11 · 1 Comment

To do this, search for PowerShell in the Start menu, right-click on it, and choose "Run as administrator."

Step 2: Enable WSL

Once you have opened PowerShell, type the following command to enable WSL on your system:

```
Enable-WindowsOptionalFeature -Online -FeatureName Microsoft-Windows-Subsys:
```



Press Enter to execute the command. This will enable WSL on your system.

Step 3: Create a directory for WSL on the non-system disk

Now, switch to the non-system disk where you want to install WSL.

For example, if your non-system disk is drive E:, type the following command to change the current directory to E:

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> E:
```

Next, create a directory named WSL using the following command:

```
PS E:> mkdir WSL
```

Recommended by LinkedIn

```

Setting up libjsoncpp-dev:amd64 (1.7.2-1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.25-0ubuntu9) ...
~/TicketingSystem -> TicketingSystem [master] $ ant build
Buildfile: /home/binhongLee/TicketingSystem/build.xml

build:
[echo] build host platform is: Linux
[echo] detected a Linux host
[echo] includepath is /usr/include/jsoncpp
[cc] 5 total files to be compiled.
[cc] Starting Link
[echo] to run the program, input './bin/main' into the command line.

BUILD SUCCESSFUL
Total time: 4 seconds
~/TicketingSystem -> TicketingSystem [master] $ ant test
Buildfile: /home/binhongLee/TicketingSystem/build.xml

build:
[echo] build host platform is: Linux
[echo] detected a Linux host
[echo] includepath is /usr/include/jsoncpp
[cc] Starting dependency analysis for 5 files.
[cc] 5 files are up to date.
[cc] 0 files to be recompiled from dependency analysis.

no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
binhongLee > mnt > e > GitKraken > TicketingSystem > Fixing-travis.yml > $ git add ./Fixing-travis.yml
binhongLee > mnt > e > GitKraken > TicketingSystem > Fixing-travis.yml > $ git commit -m "Merge install and uninstall scripts for mac and Linux"
[Fixing-travis.yml_Zebeddd] Merge install and uninstall scripts for mac and Linux
5 files changed, 16 insertions(+), 18 deletions(-)
delete mode 100755 mac.install.sh
delete mode 100755 mac.uninstall.sh
binhongLee > mnt > e > GitKraken > TicketingSystem > Fixing-travis.yml > $ git push
warning: push.default is unset; its implicit value has changed in
Git 2.0 from 'matching' to 'simple'. To squelch this message
and maintain the traditional behavior, use:
git config --global push.default simple
When push.default is set to 'matching', git will push local branches
to the remote branches that already exist with the same name.
Since Git 2.0, Git defaults to the more conservative 'simple'
behavior, which only pushes the current branch to the corresponding
remote branch that 'git pull' uses to update the current branch.

```

Use Terminal in Windows with Style



Make Windows Great Again!

Seth Wahle · 7 years ago

ZSH and Oh-My-Zsh on Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL)

ZSH and Oh-My-Zsh on Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL)

Dananjaya Fernando · 1 year ago

Step 4: Download and extract Ubuntu for WSL

Next, navigate to the WSL directory using the following command:

PS E:> cd WSL

Download the Ubuntu appx package using the Invoke-WebRequest command:

```
PS E:\WSL> Invoke-WebRequest -Uri https://aka.ms/wsl-ubuntu-1804 -OutFile U
```



This will download the appx package to the current directory.

Next, rename the appx package to a zip file and extract its contents:

```
PS E:\WSL> move .\Ubuntu.appx .\Ubuntu.zip
```

```
PS E:\WSL> Expand-Archive .\Ubuntu.zip
```

This will extract the contents of the zip file to a directory named Ubuntu.

Step 5: Install Ubuntu on WSL

Next, navigate to the Ubuntu directory using the following command:

```
PS E:\WSL> cd .\Ubuntu\
```

List the contents of the directory using the following command:

```
PS E:\WSL\Ubuntu> ls
```

You should see a file named ubuntu1804.exe.

This is the executable file for the Ubuntu distribution.

Run this file using the following command:

```
PS E:\WSL\Ubuntu> .\ubuntu1804.exe
```

This will start the installation process for Ubuntu on WSL.

Follow the prompts to create a default UNIX user account.

Step 6: Set Ubuntu as the default distribution

Once the installation is complete, open PowerShell again and navigate to the WSL directory on the non-system disk.

Type the following command to list the available distributions:

```
wslconfig /l
```

You should see a list of installed distributions, including Ubuntu.

Type the following command to set Ubuntu as the default distribution:

```
wslconfig /setdefault Ubuntu-18.04
```

Step 7: Activate WSL 2 (Optional)

If you want to use WSL 2 instead of WSL 1, you need to activate it.

To activate WSL 2, run the following command in PowerShell:

```
dism.exe /online /enable-feature /featurename:VirtualMachinePlatform
```



Restart your computer and then download and install the WSL 2 update from the Microsoft Store or from the following link: https://wslstorestorage.blob.core.windows.net/wslblob/wsl_update_x64.msi

After installing the update, set Ubuntu to use WSL 2 by running the following command:

```
wsl – set-version Ubuntu-18.04 2
```

You will also get a Ubuntu icon in start menu to run it

Now you are ready to rock n roll on your Linux in windows with no space wasted in your precious "C" Drive.

Extras: Here are the links for all available distros.

The following distros are available:

- [Ubuntu](#)
- [Ubuntu 20.04](#)
- [Ubuntu 20.04 ARM](#)
- [Ubuntu 18.04](#)
- [Ubuntu 18.04 ARM](#)
- [Ubuntu 16.04](#)
- [Debian GNU/Linux](#)
- [Kali Linux](#)
- [SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12](#)
- [SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP2](#)

- [SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP3](#)

- [openSUSE Tumbleweed](#)

- [openSUSE Leap 15.3](#)

- [openSUSE Leap 15.2](#)

- [Oracle Linux 8.5](#)

- [Oracle Linux 7.9](#)

- [Fedora Remix for WSL](#)

Bioinformatics Daily

749 followers

+ Subscribe

Siyam Afroz

Programmer | Web Developer

3w

Does it still work as of April 2024?

Like · Reply

To view or add a comment, [sign in](#)

More articles by this author

[How to Install and Set Up
Plex Media Server on...](#)

Apr 10, 2023

[Expanding Nextcloud
Storage Space with an...](#)

Apr 6, 2023

[How to Install Nextcloud
on an Old PC with Ubuntu.](#)

Apr 6, 2023

[See all](#)

Insights from the community

Business Operations

How can you customize your Linux experience as a beginner?

IT Services

What are the key differences between Windows and Linux operating systems?

Software Development

How can you navigate the Linux command line more efficiently?

Computing

How do you choose the best partition scheme for dual booting Windows and Linux?

IT Operations Management

How do you monitor and manage memory usage effectively on Linux and Windows?

GNU/Linux

How do you use grub2 commands and options to boot into different modes and kernels?

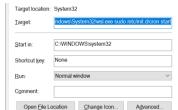
Show more ▾

Others also viewed



Step by Step Procedure to Install WSL2 on Windows And Run Ubuntu on Windows Using WSL2

Arun KL · 1y



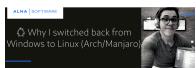
WSL and Linux Daemons Including Cron

John West · 3y



Windows: my new Linux OS

Jorge Lopes · 3y



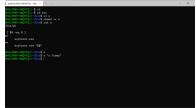
Why I switched back from Windows to Linux (Arch/Manjaro)

Michael Lazarski · 3y



Now run openSUSE Linux on Windows 10 - Here's How

Tanya Singh · 7y



Windows Subsystem for Linux Command Shortcuts

John West · 3y

Show more ▾

Explore topics

Sales

Marketing

Business Administration

HR Management

Content Management

Engineering

Soft Skills

See All

© 2024

Accessibility

Privacy Policy

Copyright Policy

Guest Controls

Language

About

User Agreement

Cookie Policy

Brand Policy

Community Guidelines