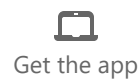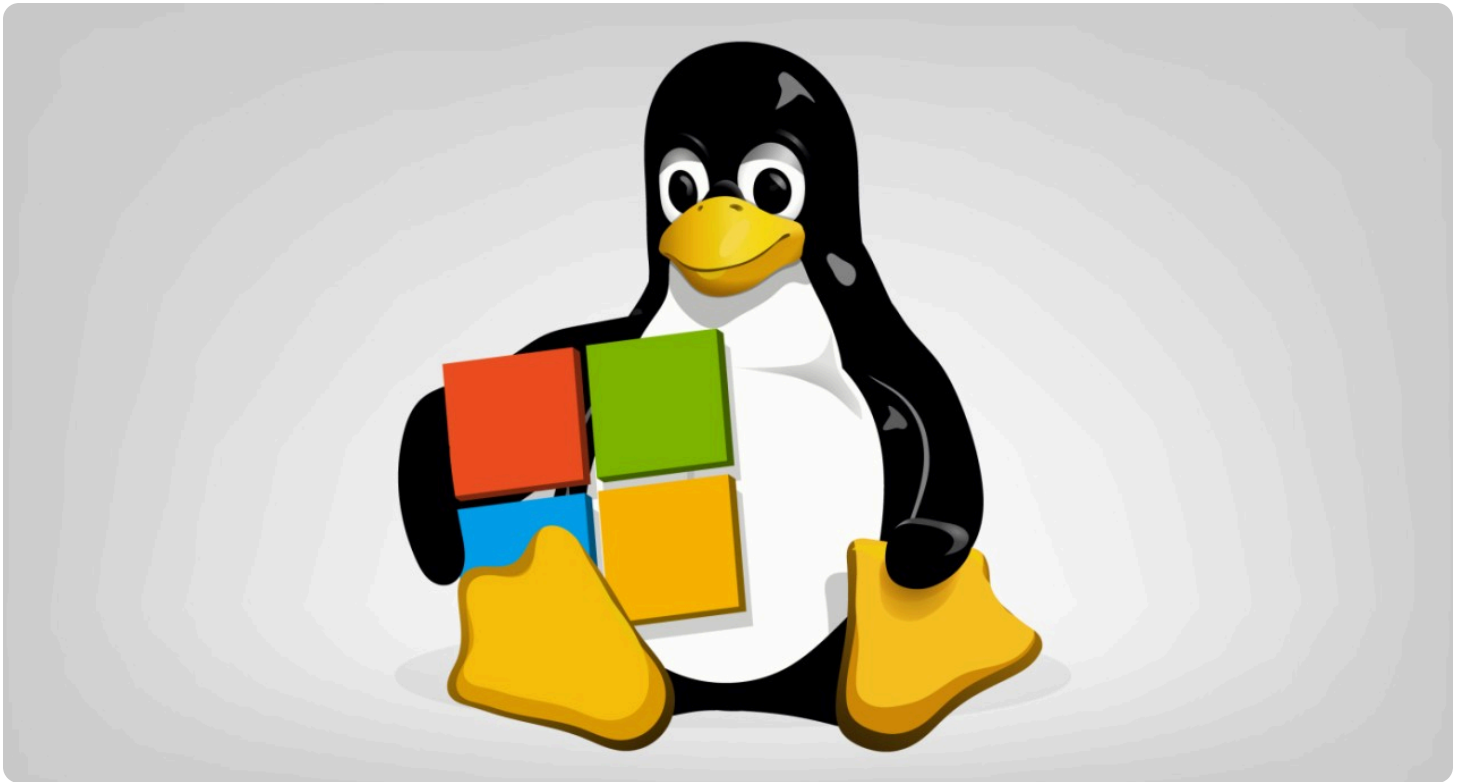# How to Install WSL on Non-System Disks: Step-by-Step Guide

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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

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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
```

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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](#)

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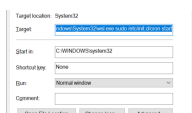How do you use grub2 commands and options to boot into different modes and kernels?

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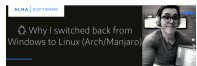
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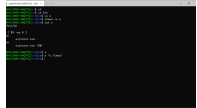
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