

Martin's Ubuntu Blog

Just another Linux blog

Sheevaplug

Ok so I've had my Sheevaplug since January 2009 and have now bricked it at least 3 times trying to be too clever by half! As it's getting to be a regular thing and it always takes me hours to work out what to do, here are my instructions.

I have used the same info. from the page below and added/changed it to reflect my process, please read both to make sure you understand what you are doing! as I take no responsibility for errors blah, blah etc.etc.

I found the "instructions", script & packages on this site

SheevaPlug Installer Page;

http://plugcomputer.org/plugwiki/index.php/SheevaPlug_Installer
(http://plugcomputer.org/plugwiki/index.php/SheevaPlug_Installer#How_to_install_1.0_.3F)

but to be honest they are a bit difficult to follow for a bit of a noob so I've adapted them a bit.

The installer will reflash a bricked plug & can be used to install another distro [I've used Debian Squeeze this time] but if you just want it back to "factory settings" use the packages as they are.

My plug is the BFLS one supplied with Ubuntu Jaunty on the internal flash card and the PC I will use to reflash it has Ubuntu Jaunty on it so although the script includes Windows support I won't mention it here, see the above page for details.

Note::

The runme.php would not run on Ubuntu 10.10 as the version of python on Ubuntu 10.10 has depreciated some terms. I got round this at the time by installing the old 32 bit Karmic Ubuntu and using that but since then I have found the possible answers in this post

<http://plugapps.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=20&t=428#p3178>
(<http://plugapps.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=20&t=428#p3178>)

but not tested the solution yet although I have saved copies of the files it talks about for future use, contact me if you need them.

If you can get onto the plug then backup your stuff as this script will delete the lot, be Warned

First Download the tarball from

<http://www.plugcomputer.org/index.php/us/resources/downloads?func=select&id=5>
(<http://www.plugcomputer.org/index.php/us/resources/downloads?func=select&id=5>)

This includes all the files you need to re flash your sheevaplug with the default install of Ubuntu Jaunty. Check out this post <http://plugcomputer.org/plugforum/index.php?topic=878.0> (<http://plugcomputer.org/plugforum/index.php?topic=878.0>) if you want to Install a Debian system, you can either download the pre-built Lenny or Squeeze rootfs.tar.gz files or use the script that mgillespie has created.

You now need to add the following packages to your host PC, cu, php5-cli, and libftdi1, so install with the following commands in a [Terminal];

```
$ sudo apt-get install cu
```

```
$ sudo apt-get install php5-cli
```

and

```
$ sudo apt-get install libftdi1
```

adding libftdi1 fixes the error message “openocd/openocd: error while loading shared libraries: libftdi.so.1: cannot open shared object file: No such file or directory” latter on.

You now connect the Sheevaplug to your PC with the USB lead [supplied] and issue this command in a [Terminal];

```
$ cu -s 115200 -l /dev/ttyUSB1
```

Note: [you may need to try `cu -s 115200 -l /dev/ttyUSB0` my plug seemed to use either!]

If you get any sort of error message along the lines of

```
cu: open (/dev/ttyUSB1): No such file or directory
```

```
cu: /dev/ttyUSB1: Line in use
```

you need to issue the following commands in a [Terminal] to remove then add the driver support and re try.

```
$ sudo rmmod ftdi_sio
```

followed by

```
$ sudo modprobe ftdi_sio vendor=0x9e88 product=0x9e8f
```

If you now get on then you can proceed to the task at hand, if not it's time to Google!. However I found that I could not get onto the plug sometimes and then realised that the plug end connection of the usb PC to plug cable was working itself out socket in the plug.

Installation

1. Prepare an empty USB stick that is FAT16/32 formatted. [Note: the 2 USB sticks I used were not detected by the plug even though I had used 1 of them before to unbrick my plug, be warned]. Re formatting and unplugging safely etc.etc did not help.

2. Extract the tarball you downloaded earlier into a folder on your PC (for example: ~/plug)

3. Edit the ~/plug/uboot/uboot-env/uboot-mmc-custom.txt or uboot-nand-custom.txt file to the correct MAC address according to the MAC address on the back of the Plug (default set to ethaddr 00:50:43:01:c1:e6). If your system is to boot from the internal flash then it's the nand file you change, if it boots from a flash card in the side slot it's the mmc file you change.

4. Copy all the files from ~/plug/installer to the USB stick.

NOTE: that the files should be written to the root directory of the USB stick. For example:

```
$ sudo cp -a ~/plug/installer/* /media/usb-pen/
```

5. You should now have a copy of the following;

1. Init ramdisk (initrd)
2. Kernel modules (modules.tar.gz)
3. README.txt
4. Root file-system (rootfs.tar.gz) Note if you are installing Debian, replace this file with the Debian version you have either downloaded or created with the mgillespie's script.
5. ubuntu-sheevaplug.sh
6. Kernel (uImage)

6. Copy the uboot image (named uboot.bin) to the ~/plug/uboot/ directory, if it's not there, mine was.

7. Safely remove the USB stick from the host PC, power off the plug and plug the USB stick into the Plug's USB host interface (not via a USB HUB I disconnected all other peripherals also!)

8. Connect the Plug to your PC with it's USB cable.

9. On your PC in a [Terminal] again change to the working directory

```
$ cd ~/plug
```

and run the runme.php file with the command;

sudo php runme.php and either nand or mmc, nand if your system is on the internal flash mmc if on an external card, in my case;

```
$ sudo php runme.php nand
```

If you get an error message along these lines of;

Error: unable to open ftdi device: device not found

Runtime error, file "command.c", line 469:

```
**** openocd FAILED
```

```
**** Is the mini USB cable connected?
```

```
**** Try powering down, then replugging the Sheevaplug
```

then try issuing these commands in a [Terminal] to delete and reload the driver, then retry;

```
$ sudo rmmod ftdi_sio
```

```
$ sudo modprobe ftdi_sio vendor=0x9e88 product=0x9e8f
```

[and make sure the USB cable at the plug end is firmly in]

If all goes well the process should start and end a couple of minutes later with a “beep” to indicate that the uboot install process has finished with the following message. [no beep on my plug]

```
**** U-boot should be up and running now. Open your console ...
```

Now, open another Terminal and log with this command

```
$ cu -s 115200 -l /dev/ttyUSB1
```

if you get this message;

```
## Booting image at 00800000 ...  
Bad Magic Number
```

as I did when using the first USB stick, then the process probably has not found the USB Stick and not loaded the o/s. You could try running the command;

```
run recover1
```

but in my case it just did not like the USB stick and I had to use another

If all goes well you should now see the o/s being installed with the final lines being..

```
* Starting kernel log daemon...
```

```
Ubuntu 9.04 ubuntu ttyS0
```

```
ubuntu login: [ OK ]
```

```
* Starting OpenBSD Secure Shell server sshd [ OK ]
```

```
* Starting periodic command scheduler crond [ OK ]
```

```
* Restarting OpenBSD Secure Shell server sshd [ OK ]
```

with just an unhelpful flashing curser, in the centre of the last line!

After pressing [Enter] you get:

```
Ubuntu 9.04 ubuntu ttyS0
```

```
ubuntu login:
```

Just login with the default user **root** and password **nosoup4u**

done!!

About these ads (<http://wordpress.com/about-these-ads/>)

VonHaus 3 Pc Titanium Premium Extra Strong ...	SanDisk 64 GB 2.5 Inch Internal SSD 475 ...
£89.99 (plus delivery)	£42.96 (plus delivery)

Tags: [bricked](https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/bricked/) (<https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/bricked/>), [Jaunty](https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/jaunty/)
(<https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/jaunty/>), [Linux](https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/linux/)
(<https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/linux/>), [Maverick](https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/maverick/)
(<https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/maverick/>), [Maverick Meerkat](https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/maverick-meerkat/)
(<https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/maverick-meerkat/>), [Sheevaplug](https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/sheevaplug/)
(<https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/sheevaplug/>), [Ubuntu](https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/ubuntu/)
(<https://myubuntublog.wordpress.com/tag/ubuntu/>)

This entry was posted on 2, January 2011 at 4:51 pm and is filed under [Maverick Meerkat](#), [Meerkat](#), [Sheevaplug](#), [Ubuntu](#), [Ubuntu Jaunty](#), [Ubuntu Karmic](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

[The Kubrick Theme](#). [Blog at WordPress.com](#).
[Entries \(RSS\)](#) and [Comments \(RSS\)](#).

© Follow

Follow “Martin's Ubuntu Blog”

Build a website with WordPress.com