



## Installation Guide

Now that you have seen some of how KaOS works in live mode, you might be ready to install. Before doing so, it is best to understand a few things.

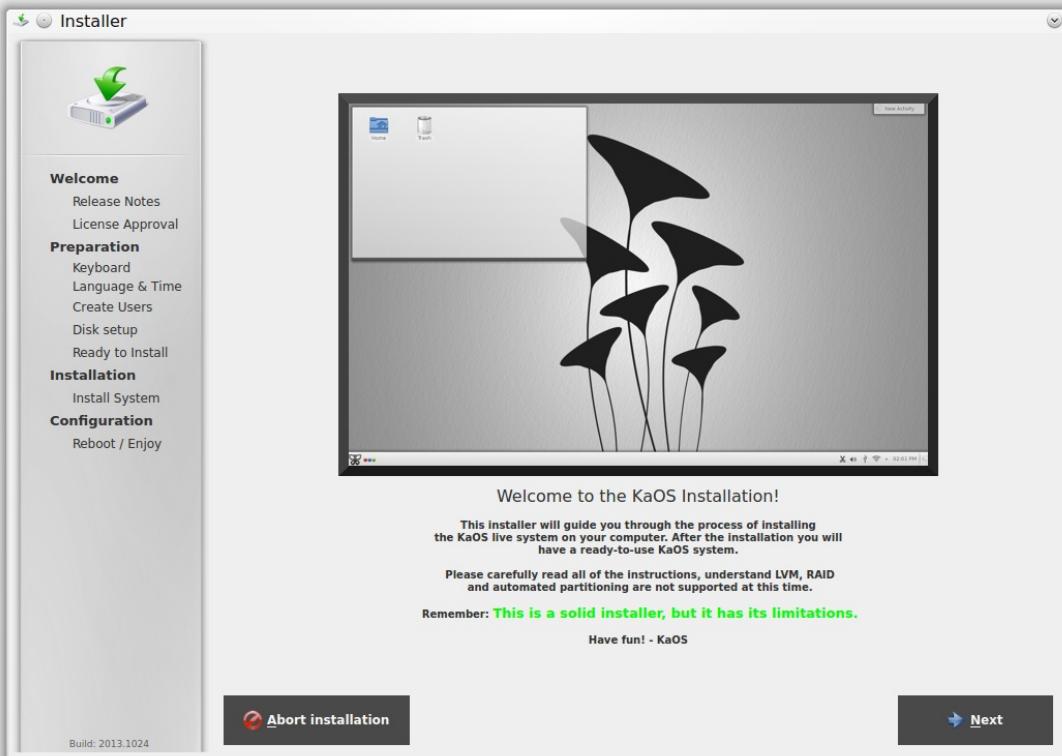
As with any rolling release, updating regularly is a must, fall too far behind, and trying to update then will likely cause issues. Recommended is to update weekly, no less than once a month. If that is something not feasable for you, it might be better to consider using a static distribution, with a six or nine month release cycle.

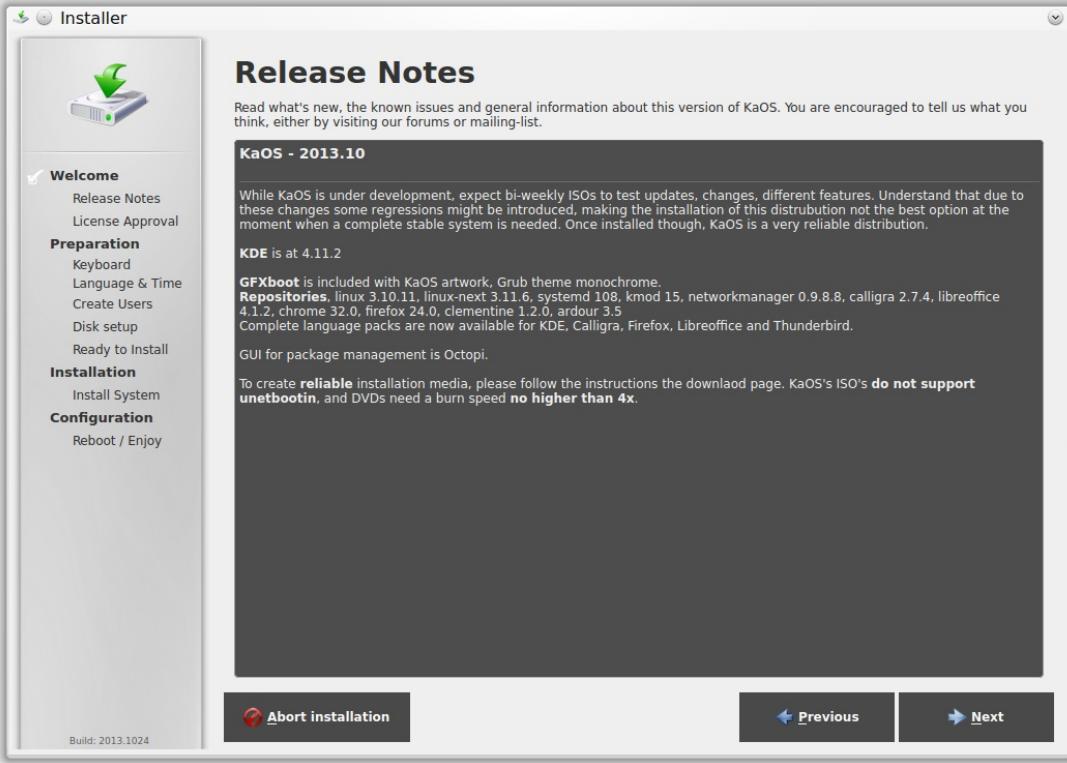
If any instructions are needed for an update to KaOS, <http://kaosx.us/news/> will always warn you for that (which will be shown in Octopi, the package manager too). It is best to familiarize yourself with the command line [package manager "pacman"](#). Any distribution has to implement major changes at times, a rolling distribution has to rely on the package manager to interact with the users to make sure such updates are done correctly, since rolling inherently means, no re-install at set intervals (which with a static distribution can be used to introduce major changes). No GUI for pacman is as powerful as pacman itself in those situation.

The Installer of KaOS is straightforward and easy to use, but lacks some features you'd expect from a modern installer. Automatic partitioning, RAID/LUKS disk setups are not supported, nor is it possible to separate the bootloader install from the /boot partition used (you do have a choice to install to /boot of your chosen disk setup, or not install a bootloader).

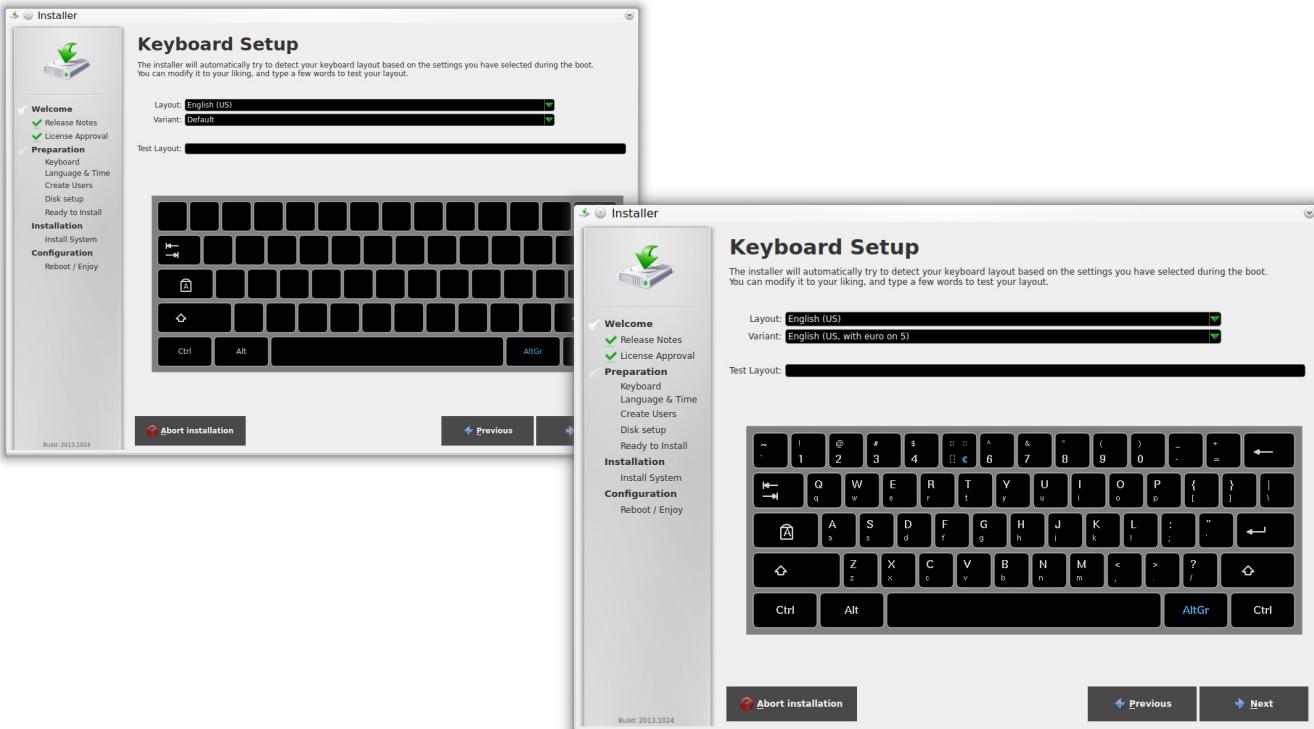
Because automated partitioning is not supported, it is often just as easy to set up your disk before you start the installer.

## Starting the Installer

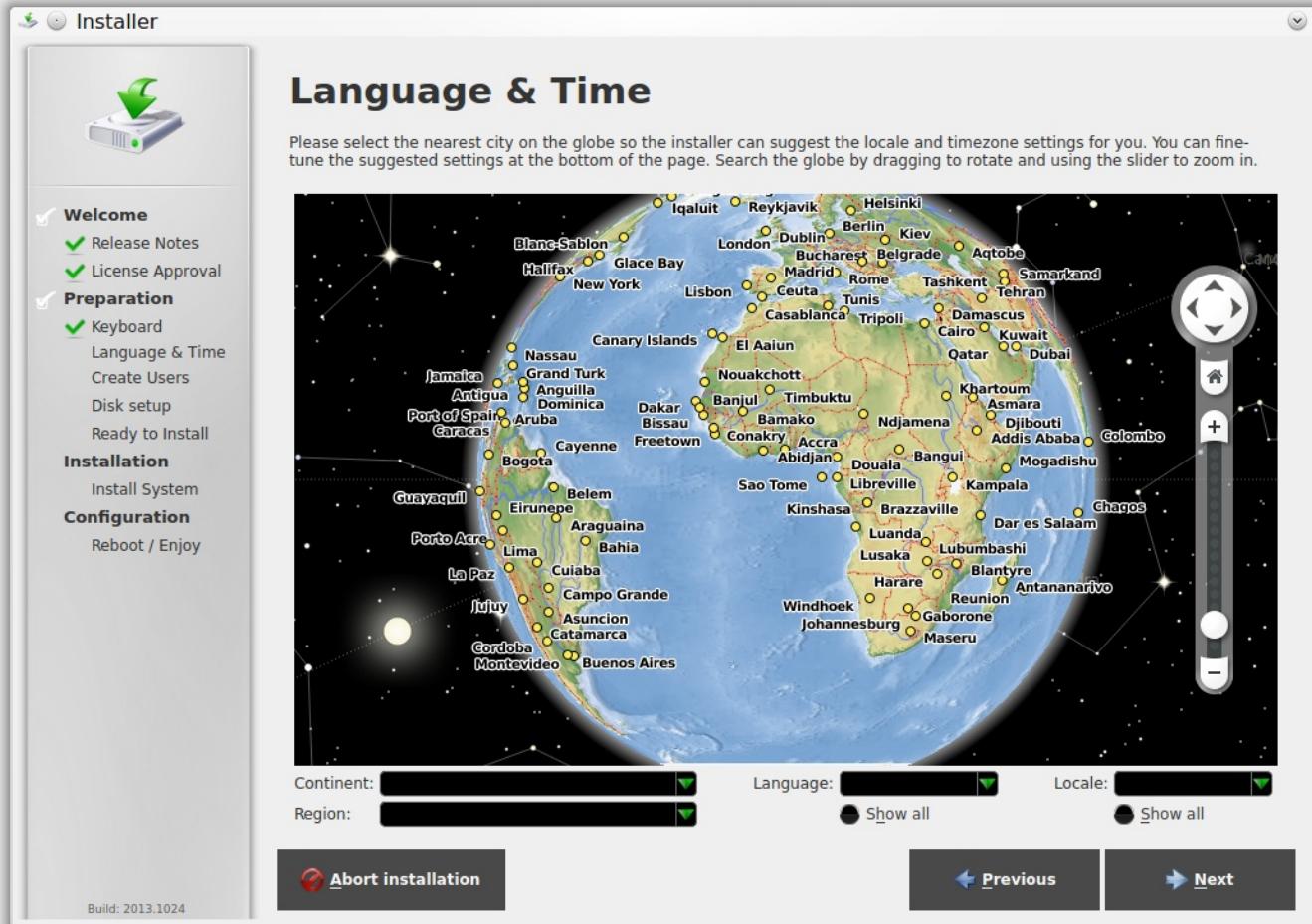




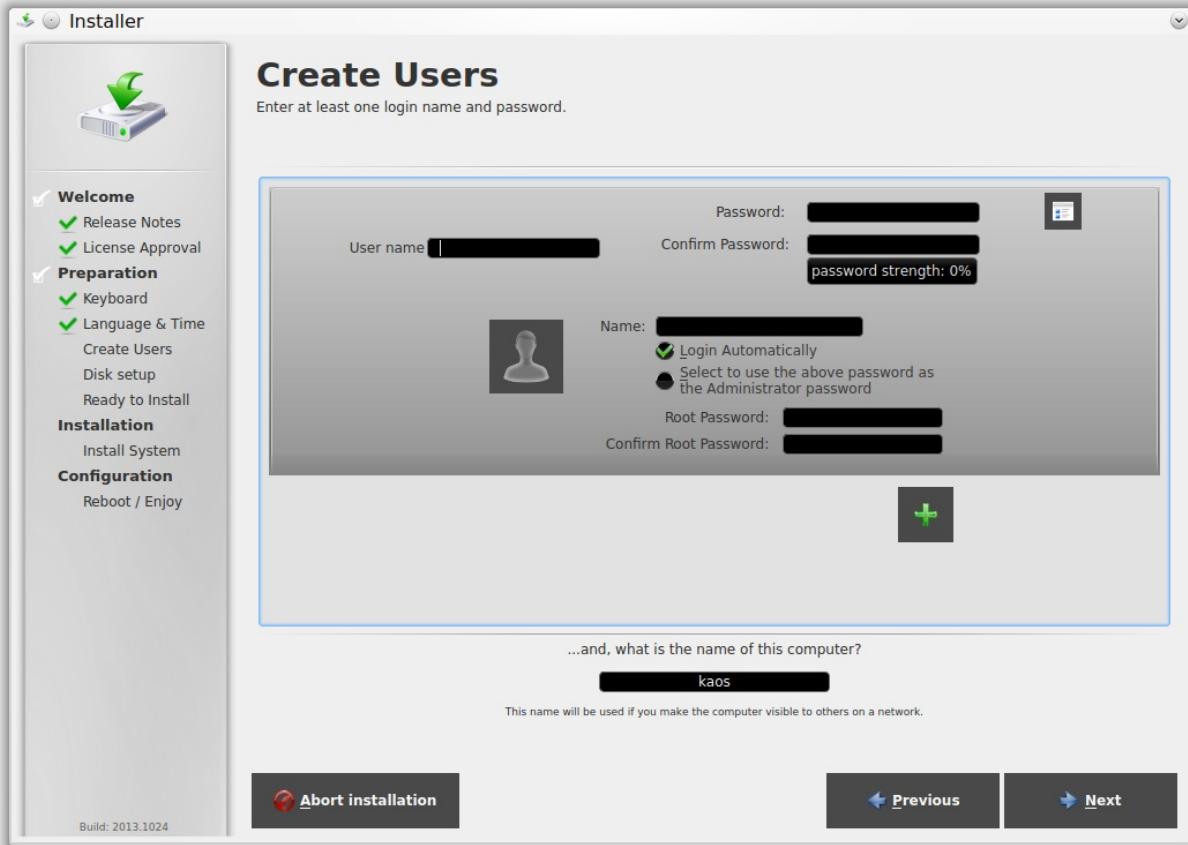
The first two pages give you some background and information of the current release. If you choose "non-free Nvidia" during the start-up of the Live ISO, the next page will show a license agreement, if you do not accept the license, the installer will remove the non-free Nvidia driver at the end of the install.



Next is the Keyboard Setup, once the page opens a blank keyboard shows, select any other language or layout, and the keyboard image will reflect the chosen settings. You can test the layout by typing some in the designed area.

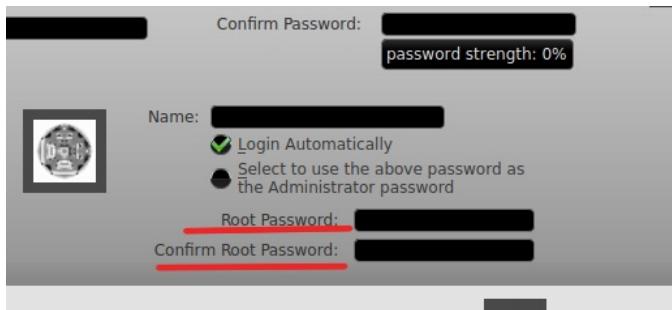


To select your language and time zone, you can rotate the globe by left clicking & dragging with your mouse pointer. To show more cities in the area you moved to, zoom in. You can either zoom by use the slider on the right, or using your mouse wheel. Once you found the city nearest your location, click on it, and you can further fine tune your desired settings by using the drop down menu's below the globe.

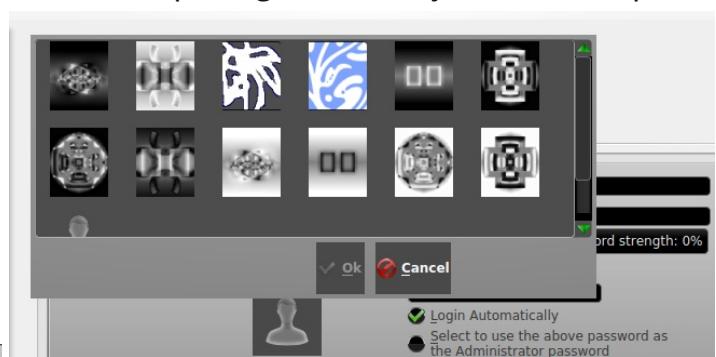


The user creation page gives you the option to create multiple regular users (just click the "plus" button to show the dialog for another user), assign administrator rights with a different root password for the first user and set an avatar. Clicking the face icon will bring up a list of avatars.

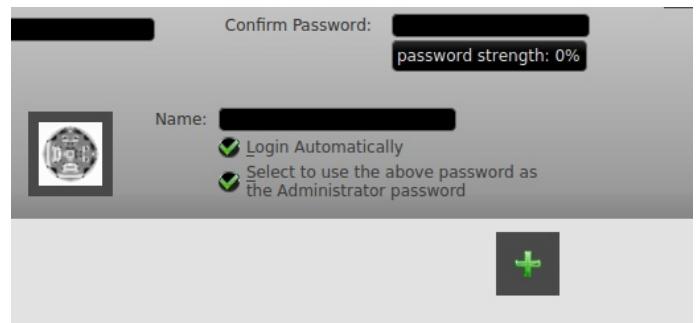
For security reasons, it is advisable to use a different password for root.



Default is set to login without asking for your password, remove the marker to remove password-less login.



The root password box will toggle off, once you mark the box to select same password for root as for the user.



# Partitioning

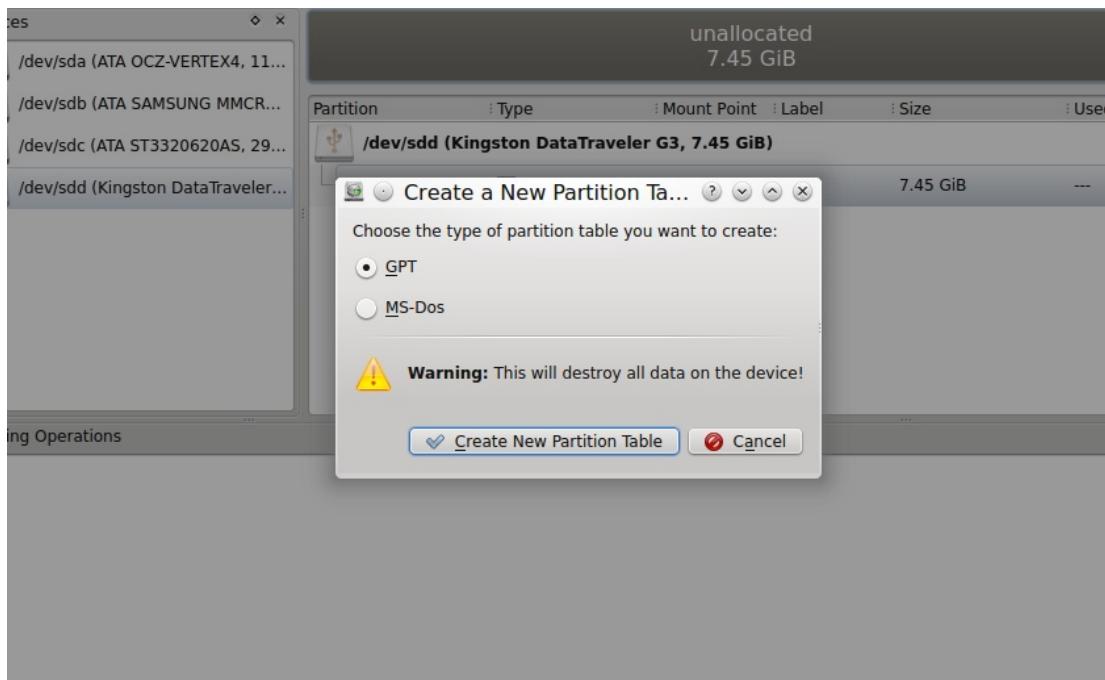
Using the correct partition setup, most suitable filesystem and partition-table is the most challenging part for anyone new to installing an Operating System. **Make sure to back-up any data you might need from your drive before proceeding.**

If you're target install medium (HDD, ssd, usb-stick as examples), is not formatted and partitioned or not set up to your liking, you can do so from within the Installer, or prepare it before starting the Installer.

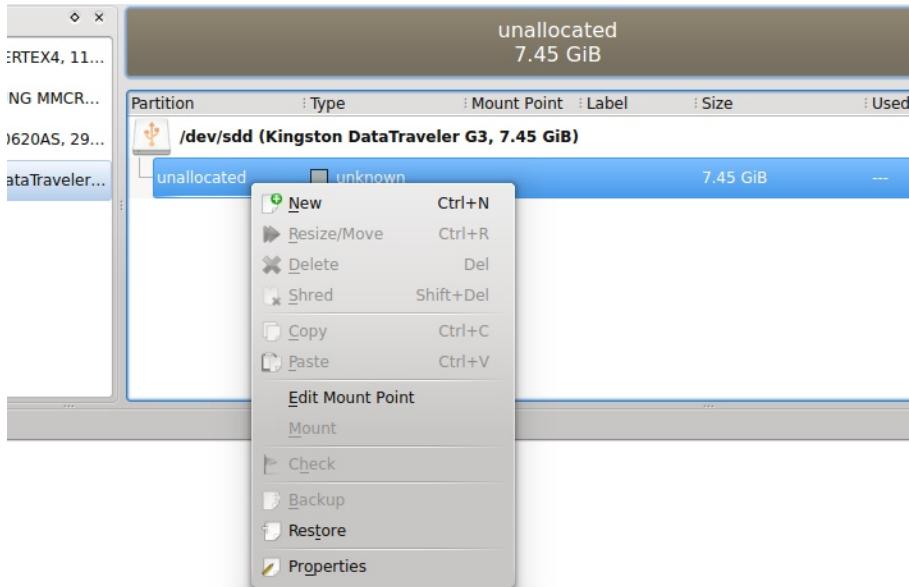
From within the Installer, click the "Advanced" button, this will start Partitionmanager. It will list all available drives on your system (including Live-USB stick, if you run the Live environment from USB).

Select the drive you want to use for this install. If you want to completely clean the drive and start over, or if this drive has no partitiontable at all yet (new media, virtualbox install), you have to make a decision what partitiontable to use. Default in partitionmanager is GPT, ms-dos is the older and somewhat easier option. Advantage of GPT, it can use virtual unlimited primary partitions (ms-dos is limited to four), and it is needed for drives larger than 2 Tb. If you choose to use GPT, please use [this tutorial](#) to set it up correctly, with the needed unformatted partition at the beginning of the drive. If you decide on ms-dos, no extra steps needed.

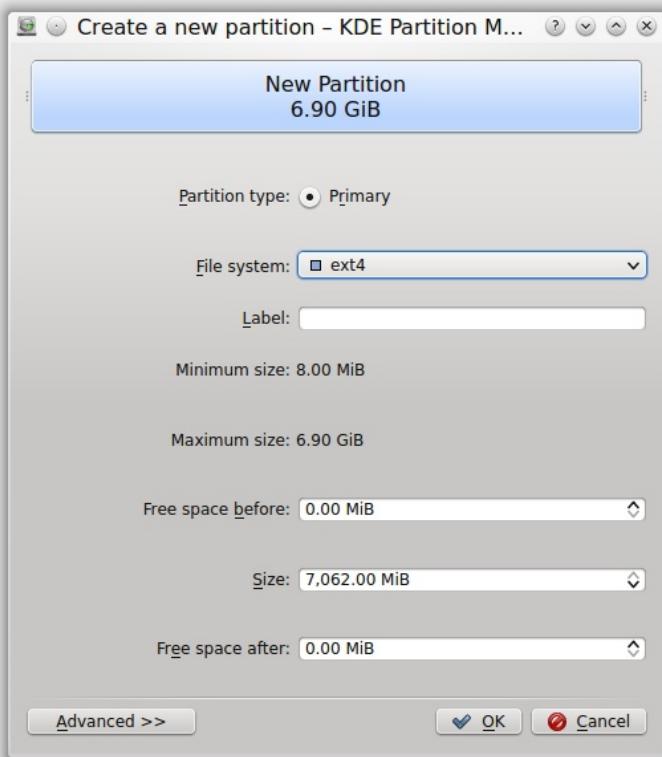
Once the partitiontable is set, you need to partition the drive, minimum needed, one partition for / (root). There are some advantages to using a separate partition for /home, and you might like to have a swap partition for sleep/hibernate. Any other partitions is strictly personal choice, though setting up /usr is not very well supported in systemd (you'll have to use extra steps to make that work correctly). Once you apply all these changes, ANY EXISTING DATA WILL BE LOST from this drive. Partitionmanager will write the chosen setup, once done, close it, and the Installer will show the new setup within a few seconds.



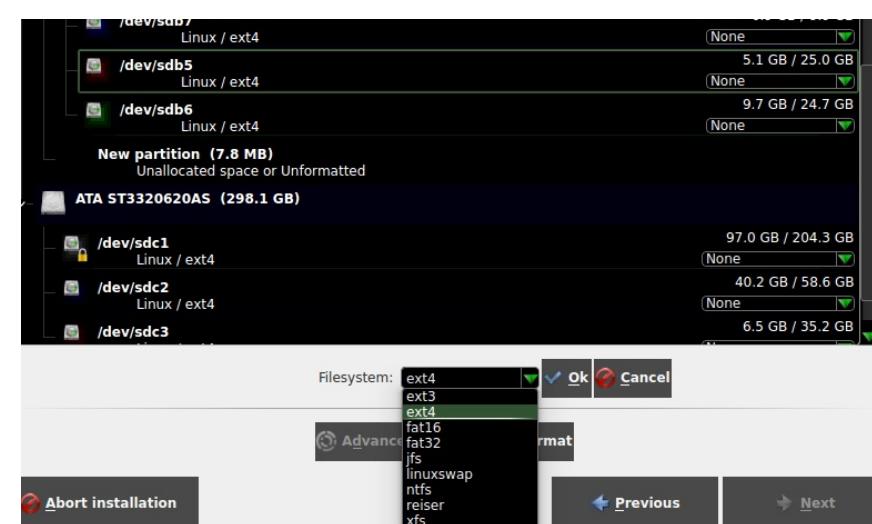
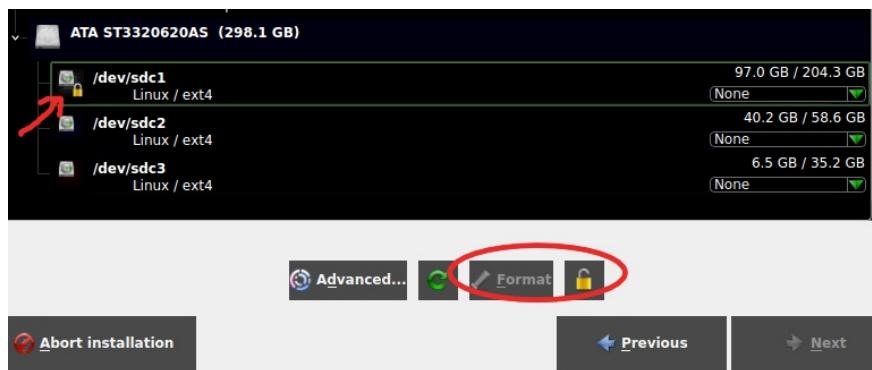
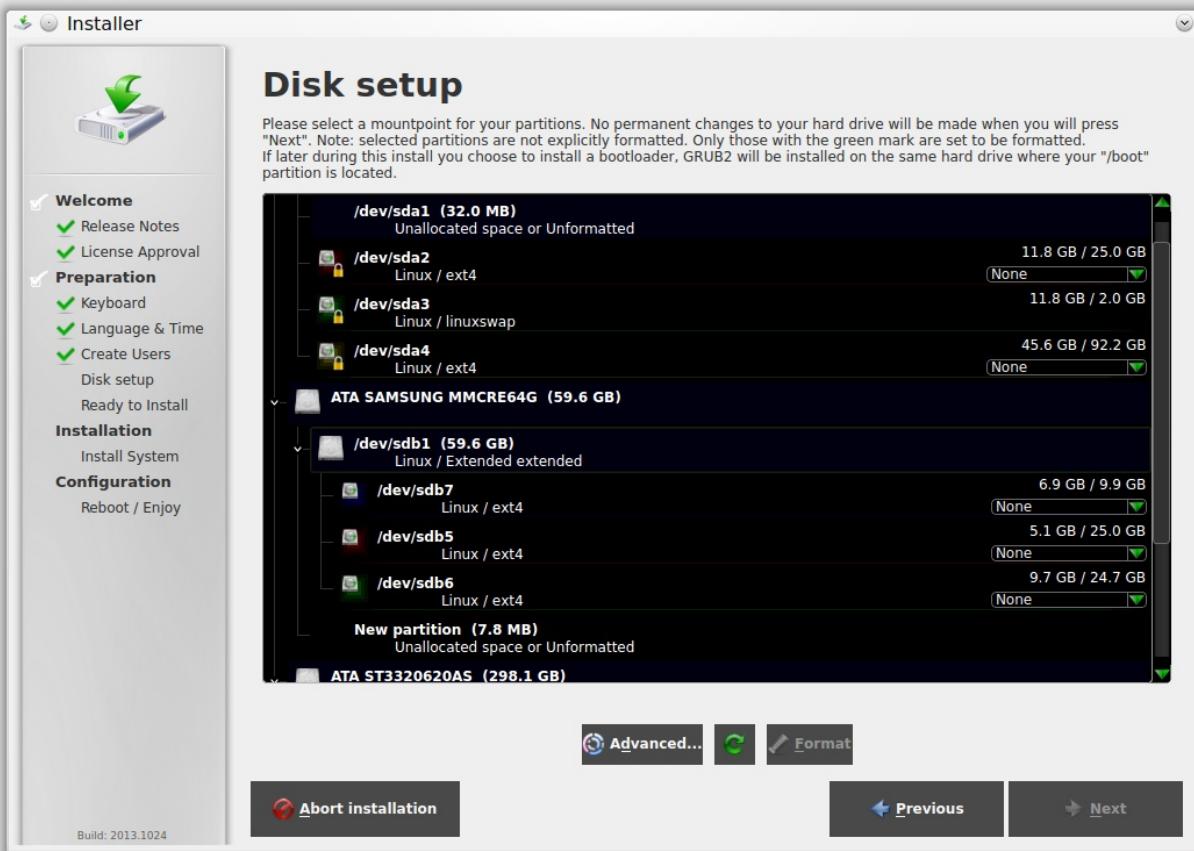
Right clicking the target drive in the left column, brings the option "New partition table", once selected, this window shows.



Right clicking the highlighted drive to set up a new partition by selecting "New".

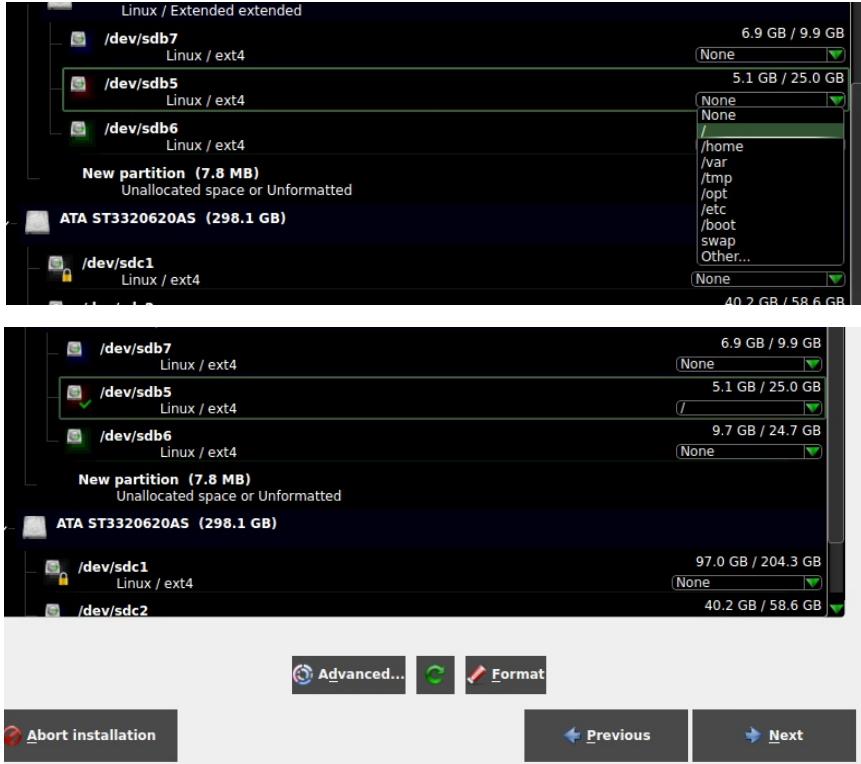


For filesystem in KaOS, ext4 is the best choice.  
Setting an optional label makes it easier to detect different partitions later on.



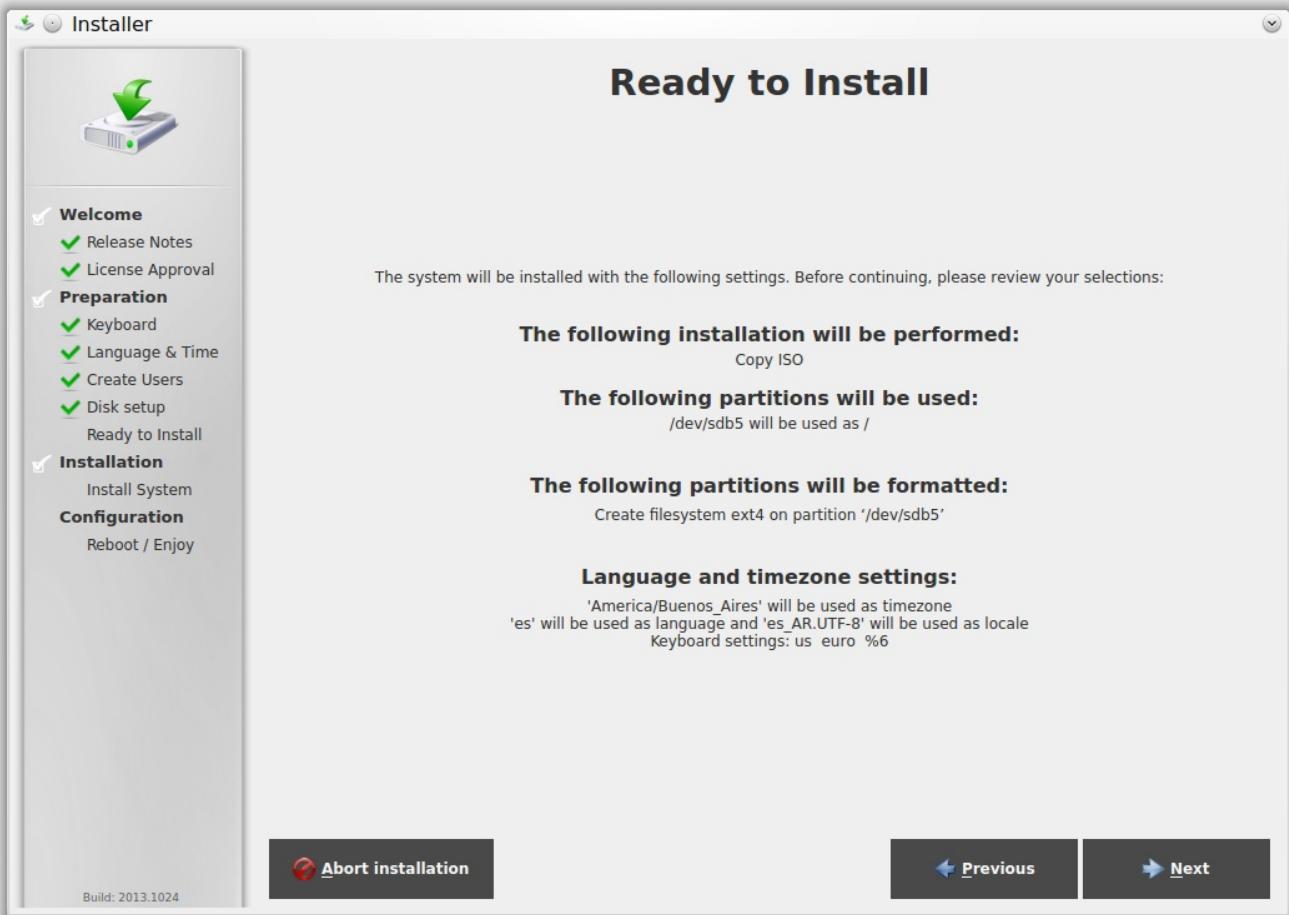
After closing the partitionmanager, or if your discs were already set up, you'll see a screen similar to this. The lock icons under a drive mean the drive is mounted, and to use a drive as your install target, it can't be mounted. Clicking the lock icon, will unmount the selected partition.

Once your target drive is unmounted, highlight it, and select "Format" (unless you just used partitionmanager for this step), and choose your desired filesystem. The root partition needs to be formatted, if old files are still present, it will most likely result in a broken install. Repeat these steps for any other partition you want to use for this install.

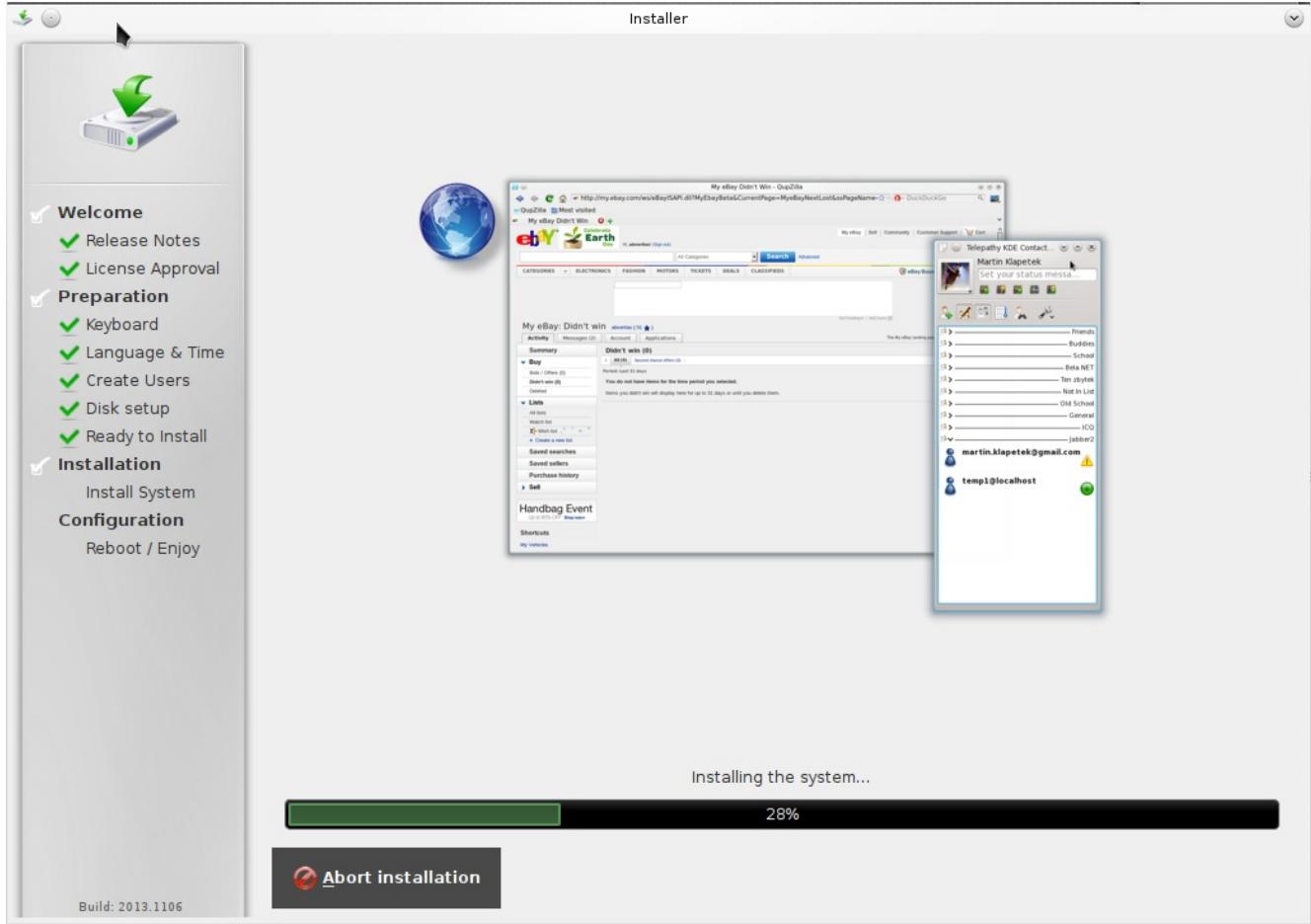


Next assign a mountpoint for each partition you want to use. / (root) needs to be set, any other partitions are optional

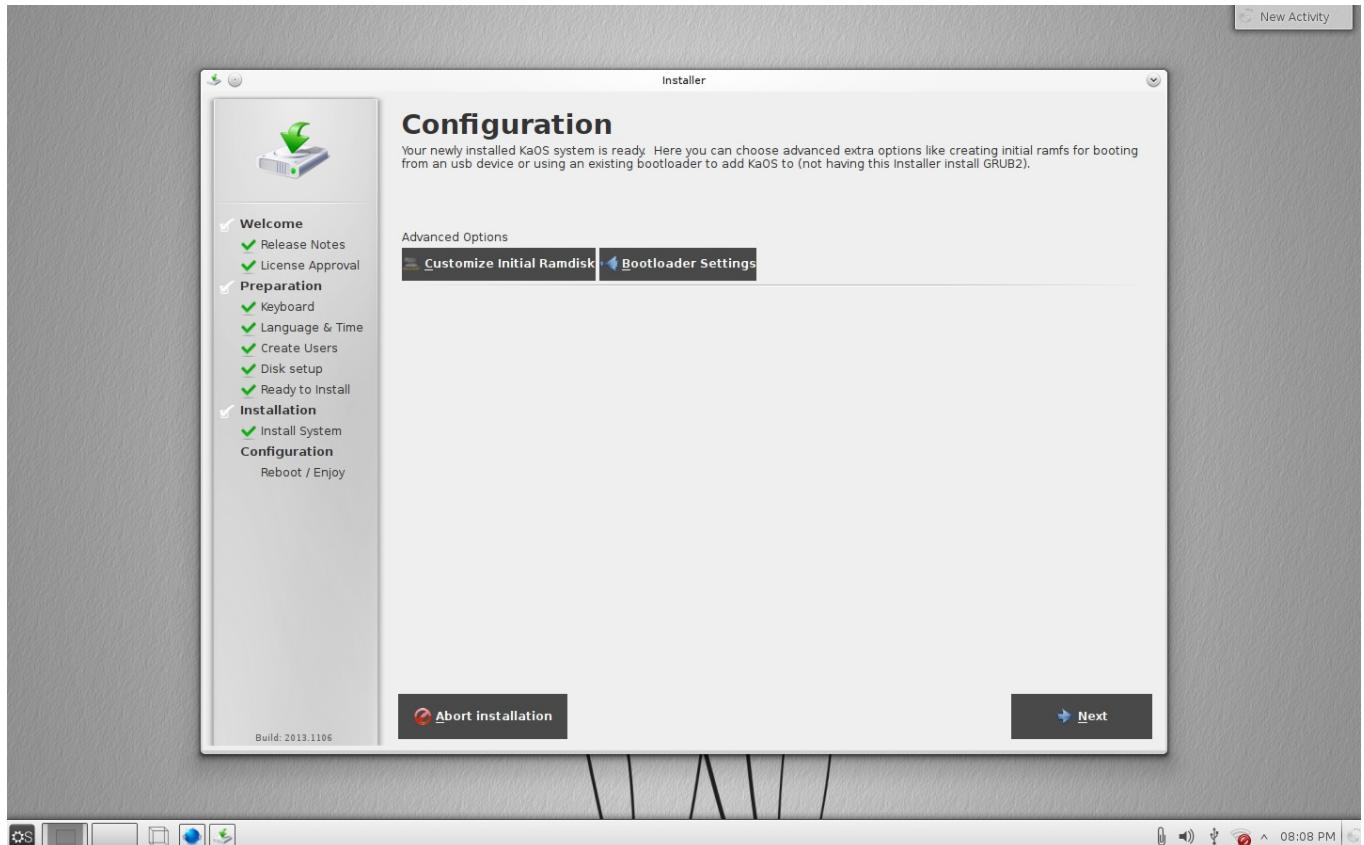
Once root is set, the Next button will become active again. Partition(s) marked for formatting will have a green marker below the drive icon. No changes will happen when you click the Next button, you will get a chance to review all your chosen settings, and go back, if things are not exactly as you want them.



All looking as it should? Then clicking Next will start the actual formatting and installation.

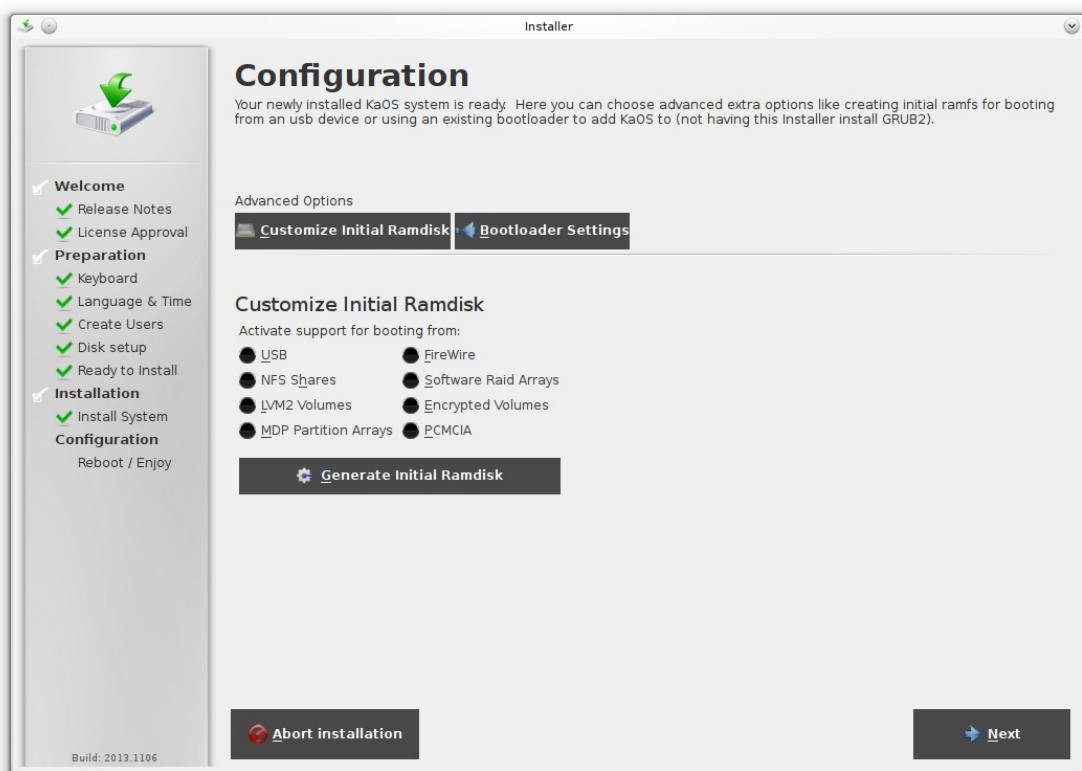


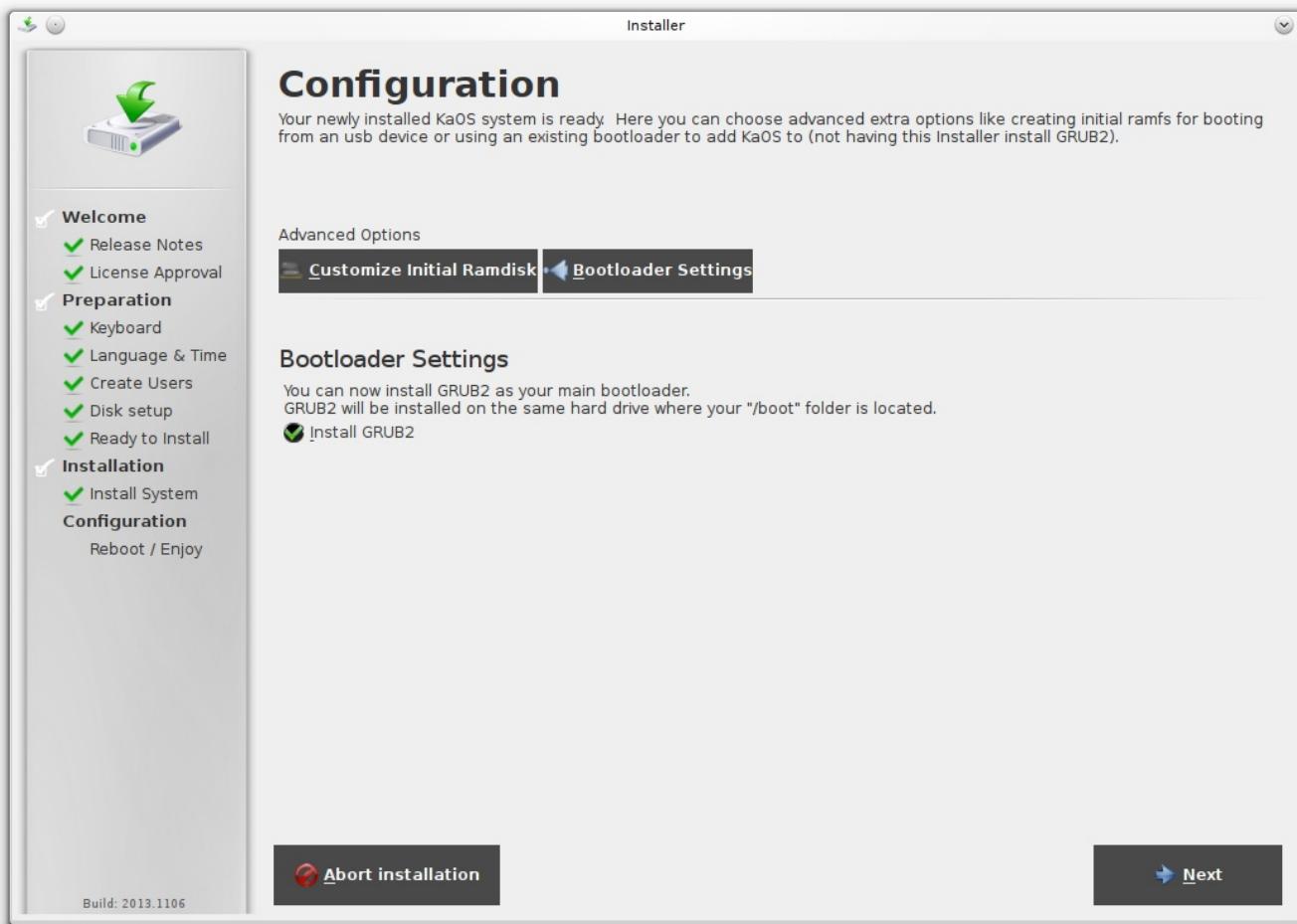
While the system is being installed, a slideshow is shown, and you can follow what the installer is doing at the different stages. Expect this part to take between 5-10 minutes depending on your settings and speed of the target drive. At around 75%, the copying of the files is completed, then the installer will create the users, remove Live system specific packages, install additional packages, remove any language packs & drivers not needed for your specific hardware and settings.



The Configuration will follow once the installation has completed.

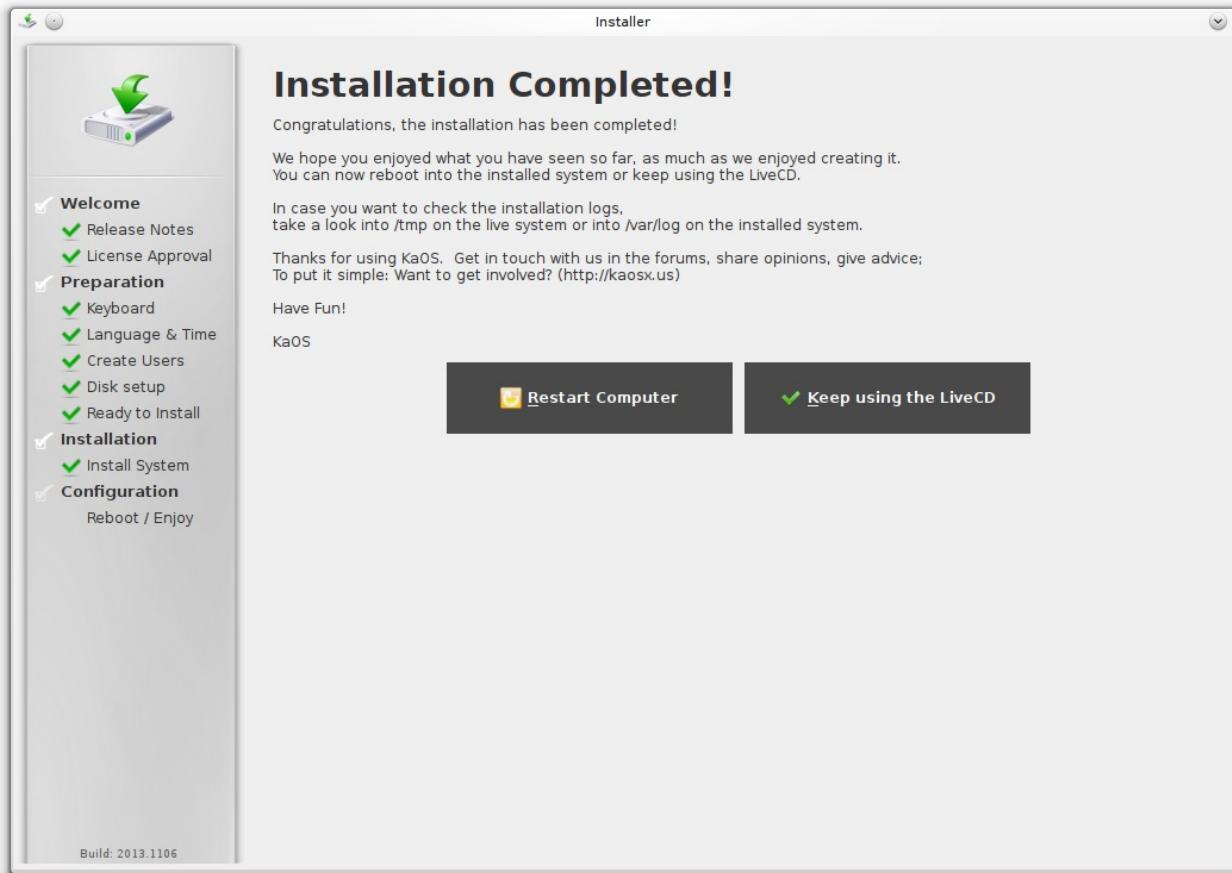
There are two options here. The first one is for customizing the Ramdisk. If you installed to an USB disc or stick, you need to click this option, mark "usb" and select Generate Initial Ramdisk. This will setup the correct settings to boot from your USB device.





Second option on this page is to set the Bootloader. Currently the Bootloader can only be installed to the same partition were /boot resides (so if you only choose root for the entire install, /boot will be inside that root partition). If you already have Bootloader from another OS, you can add KaOS to that Bootloader, and choose to not install one here.

If you selected to install the bootloader, clicking Next will start the installation of GRUB, checking for other Operating Systems, and if more are present, they will be added, meaning that on booting your system, you can choose which Operating System to start.



This page concludes the installation process.

Hopefully this Guide has answered any questions you had about using this Installer. If anything is not clear enough, then it would be really appreciated, if you can get in touch to get the needed changes in.