

# [FAQ] HandyLinux

Welcome to the Frequently Asked Questions of HandyLinux. This page deals with recurring questions in the forum gleaned from version 1.x of HandyLinux. It should, together with the page of [first steps](#), ensure you have a good grasp of your environment.

If you want to add a question here, visit [the dedicated post](#) and feel free to speak in your natural language :) .

## Main

- **Why HandyLinux?**  
[because.](#)
- **Who makes HandyLinux?**  
[crazy people](#) ;)
- **Free and free of charge?**  
yes, minus the “non-free” packages needed and asked for by the community, but always free of charge ! Full sources are available [on the dedicated page](#).
- **Francophone?**  
HandyLinux is built by a French team and is therefore fully Francophone. Our team translates the distribution and the documentation into English, but our preferred audience is the French-speaking.
- **For absolute beginners ?**  
Yes! Handylinux was conceived and designed for those who have very little computer experience, and even for those who have [never touched a computer](#).
- **Why keep Skype in the HandyMenu ?**  
Because it's currently the most popular software for communication. Since a number of our users come from Windows, we feel we must offer the possibility of using this non-free software.
- **Why Iceweasel and not Chromium ?**  
Chromium has more accessibility tools, but they only work with Google Services™ (aka “personal data vacuum cleaners”) which we do not wish to subscribe to.
- **Why “Iceweasel” and not “Firefox” ?**  
[because.](#)
- ...

## Before Installation

- **Know your machine**  
in order to identify the different components of your computer, HandyLinux includes [hardinfo](#) which can be used from a [live session](#).
- **Validate the integrity of an ISO image?**  
From a GNU/Linux machine, validation can be done from the terminal by typing the command “md5sum /path/to/the/ISO/file”. From a Windows machine, please see some [dedicated documentation \(fr\)](#).
- **Boot from USB when the BIOS doesn't allow it?**  
Use a floppy disk which can boot from your USB drive. For more information, see [Smart Boot Manager](#).

- **HandyLinux on a Mac?**

HandyLinux can be installed hassle-free on Apple products containing an Intel processor, but cannot be installed on a PPC machine since that processor architecture is not supported.

- **No installer on the desktop?**

HandyLinux does not have a installer available on the desktop since HandyLinux integrates two kernels (586 & 686-pae) while the installer only works in 586. Which means that in any case, a restart on the 586 kernel is necessary to begin installation... might as well restart and begin the installation directly 😊

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## During installation

- **How long does a HandyLinux installation take?**

Between 12 and 40 minutes, depending on your computer, but in general, you should be able to use your system in 20 minutes.

- **How to really know what's going on?**

The screen displayed during the installation is the “graphical console” of the installer, an interactive interface. To know what's going on beneath the surface, press the [Ctrl]+[Alt]+[F4] keys together and observe the installation process (or understand where it's stuck, if needed.) Pressing [Ctrl]+[Alt]+[F5] will take you back to the graphic interface.

- **Screen capture during installation?**

To alert us of a concern or simply for our information, you can take screen captures during installation using a button dedicated to this purpose. After installation, these images are available in the log folder: (/var/log/install\_bidule.png)

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## After installation

- **Find out what version of HandyLinux I'm using?**

From the HandyMenu > Raiders > Application List > Accessories > “About HandyLinux” :)

- **Go from Windows to Linux without restarting?**

This is only possible if one of the two OSes is being run virtually within the other, using [VirtualBox](#), for example.

- **Automatically start the HandyMenu at startup?**

Yes, just follow the instructions here: [a little tutorial](#).

- **HandyMenu isn't launching anymore....**

99% of the time, it's a problem with the configuration file. Open a terminal window with [Alt]+[F2] and enter “xfce4-terminal” and then the command “rm ~/.handymenu.conf” without the “”. If the problem persists, come tell us on the [forum](#)!

- **Delete Windows after a dual-boot installation?**

No problem, but the steps depend on your partition table. Our team will help you on the [community forum](#).

- **HandyLinuxLight: restart the post-installation?**

Post-installation is controlled by a script. To launch, open a terminal window (HandyMenu > Aventuriers > Terminal) and type the command “sudo /usr/local/bin/handylinuxlight\_postinstall.sh” without the “”.

- **Secure updates?**

All included applications on HandyLinux are digitally signed. There is no risk if you use certified

HandyLinux and Debian software repositories.

- **Burn a CD/DVD ?**

To back-up your data, your music, your videos to a CD or DVD, HandyLinux contains [Xfburn](#).

- **Remote help?**

HandyLinux contains an installer for [Teamviewer](#), a software allowing a remote person to take control of your machine.

- **Defragment the hard drive?**

Defragmentation isn't useful for the file system used by HandyLinux. On the other hand, you may wish to defragment your hard drive before a dual-boot installation.

- **Anti-virus? Firewall?**

No need for anti-virus or other “security” programs with HandyLinux: browse worry-free!

- **Find all the installed programs?**

The HandyMenu collects the most commonly-used applications, but to access all of the programs, you must open the **Application List** from the “Raiders” tab of the HandyMenu or add the “Application Menu” to the dashboard with a right-click > dashboard > add extension.

- **Icons/Recycle Bin/Launchers on the desktop?**

you can choose what type of icon to display from the desktop preferences: right-click on the empty desktop > desktop parameters > icons.

- **Backup my files?**

The best (and most simple) solution is to use a disk cloning software like [clonezilla](#).

- **Always leave the screen on?**

From the detailed configuration options (HandyMenu > Raiders), simply deactivate the screen saver and the power controls for the screen in the options for power settings.

- **Format/Wipe my SD card?**

HandyLinux contains two tools for this. The simplest, the disk utility, allows a quick wipe or format. More information is available on [this page](#).

- **Log on without a password?**

The automatic login is controlled by [SlimConf](#).

- **Change my namme or my password?**

Account configuration is done from the tool “User and Groups” in the “system” section. You can change your full name and the information related to your account, but not your login ID since that is linked to your user folder ~/\$USER. To change your login ID, you will need to go through the terminal; come see us [on the forum](#).

- **Display/hide my desktop?**

From the taskbar, right click then taskbar > add panel > show desktop.

- **Download via P2P or torrenting software?**

You need only install “transmission-gtk” from the [Software Center](#).

- **Rip a CD?**

[asunder](#) does that pretty well ;)

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