Getting Started on the Pirate Stick Maiden Voyage

This guide will explain what will be seen and what to do when the Pirate Stick ISO image is first booted up. To create a bootable USB device from the Pirate Stick ISO file please follow the *Pirate Stick Quickstart Guide*. To use the Pirate Stick with VirtualBox, VMware or other virtual machine software, the Pirate Stick ISO is probably all you will need. Consult the specific virtual machine software on using ISO images for more information. This is the very first version and an improved version with more details will be coming soon.

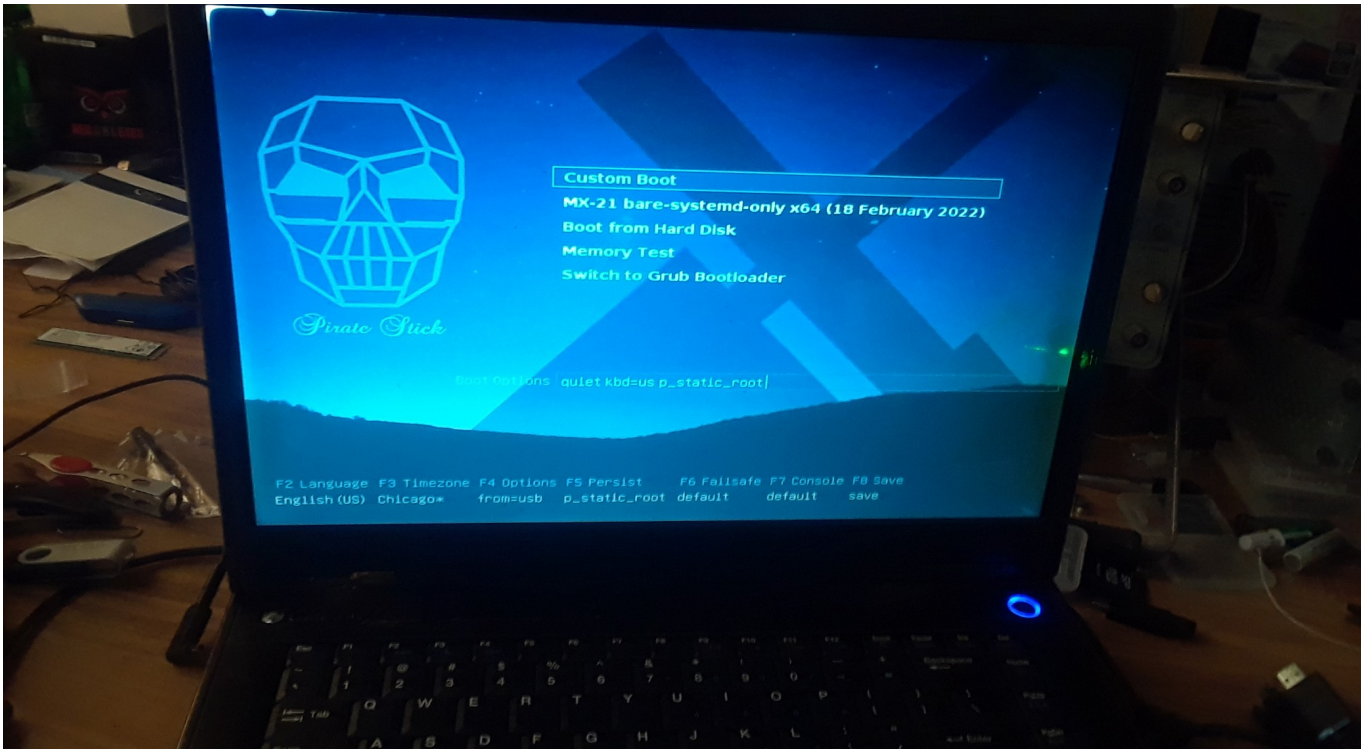
Somebody crack that champagne on the hull & let's get underway!

The first requirement is knowing how to start your computer from the external USB device you loaded the Pirate Stick ISO onto. The only exception to that requirement is booting your Pirate Stick from a virtual machine.

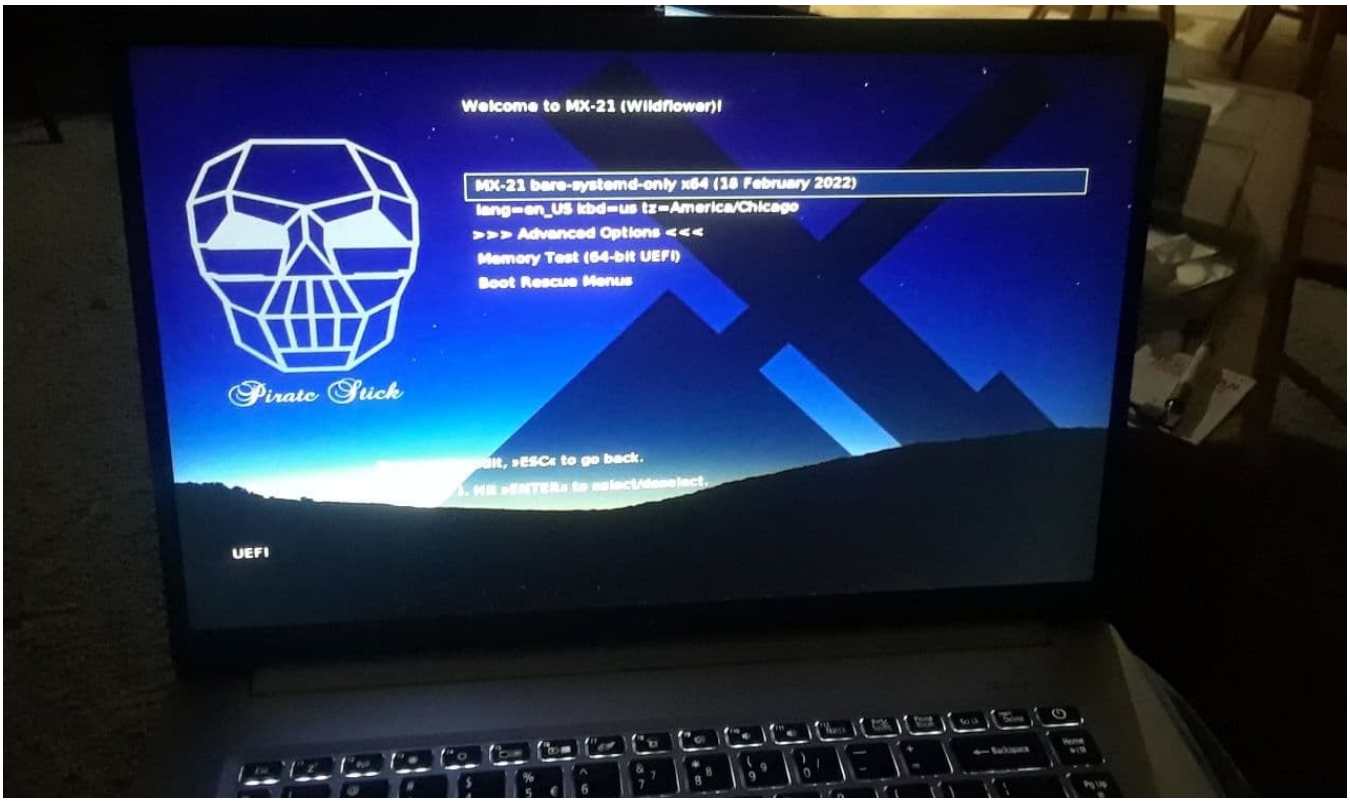
Setting up your computer so it will boot from an external USB drive is very machine specific. Fortunately there are many resources online to help you with that. If you use a Windows 10 computer this 3 minute video may help: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry3BgjFBAW0 Although it was produced for Asus computers, the portion related to Windows 10 and Secure boot are applicable regardless of computer manufacturer.

Older computers typically use "BIOS booting" while newer computers generally use "UEFI booting" as shown in the video above. The Pirate Stick ISO can be booted from either boot method. When a computer is first started it may briefly display function keys to choose a boot device or access the machine's setup if it is BIOS booting. It may take several resets to see what you need to see.

When ready, insert the Pirate Stick, disconnect any network cable attached and power up the machine. A successful USB boot start will look something like this for a computer using BIOS booting:



For a UEFI system it will look more like this:



When this appears a 1 minute timer starts and the computer will continue to boot up process unless a key is pressed to stop it. Do that now and take a few moments to look over the options you have.

The default boot options provided should be fine, and provide the live session with persistence, meaning it will save the changes you make to it on the USB drive and restore them when it is booted the next time. You should verify the boot options before you press Enter to continue.

How that is done will vary depending on the type of boot (BIOS or UEFI) being used. For BIOS systems press the F keys to review & make your selections. Use the **Advanced Options** menu for UEFI systems.

Verify **lang**=en_US, **kbd**=us, **tz**=America/Chicago **persistence**=p_static_root **from**=usb. The main thing is to set persistence to p_static_root and language to en_US. The other items such as time zone and keyboard can be set to your preference. Press the F8 key for BIOS or **Advanced Options** menu for UEFI systems to save your boot options.

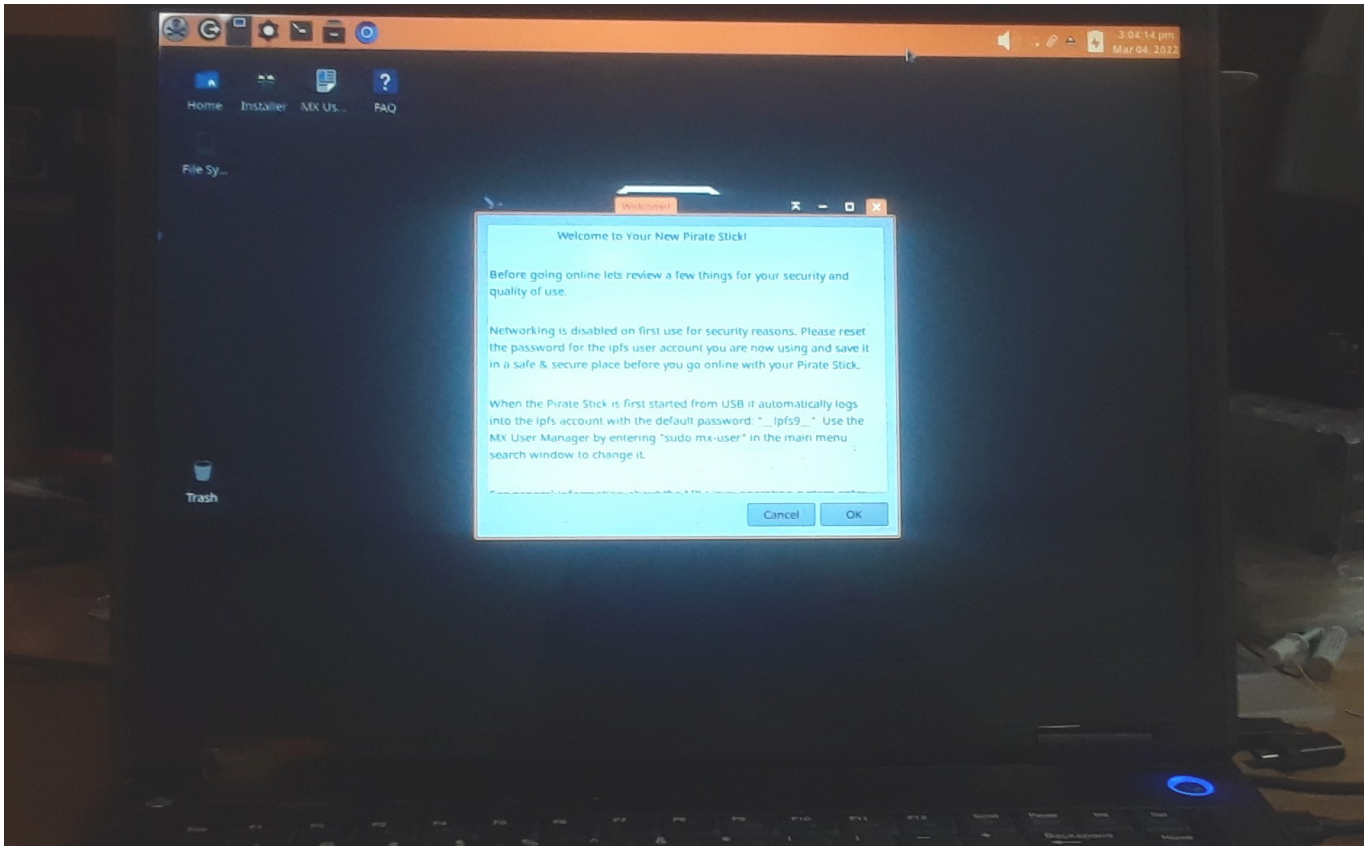
When everything is setup highlight the **MX-21 bare-systemd-only** menu item and press the Enter key.

The last step required is to set the size of the persistent file system and the system swap to be used. Note that all of this pre-boot setup is only required once. You can elect to change it later if you like.

Select the size of the persistent root file system. The choice to make here depends on the size of the USB device the Pirate Stick is installed. I have only used the custom option (2) here and selected the biggest value offered, so I cannot provide any other suggestions at this time.

The next question asks whether to create ands use a swap file. Select y for yes and pick a swap file size from the list. A good rule of thumb is 1/2 size of RAM, typically 1GB or 2GB. The more RAM in your system the smaller the swap can be. However, this is not a critical choice.

After answering the swap file questions the computer will generate the swap file and continue the boot process. When the boot process is complete the desktop will appear as shown below:



First Steps After Booting

- Read the Welcome text, it provides important information you need to know
- Reset the ipfs account password!
- Take the MX-Linux tour to get oriented with your new operating system

When you are ready, connect to the Internet. Your Pirate Stick will be active immediately. It may take some time for your Pirate Stick node to become fully bootstrapped into the IPFS network. The network bandwidth used will be heavier initially and taper off to a steady level in a short while. Please be patient. Creating a replacement infrastructure to the highly centralized and optimized Internet that took decades to create will not happen quickly, but we’re off to a great start to help make it happen with the Pirate Box.