

## Loading the Raspbian Operating system onto an SD Card

This tutorial will help you move your downloaded copy of the Raspbian operating system's raw image from your windows computer to an SD card.

### Windows: Loading Raspbian onto an SD Card

If you downloaded Raspbian to a Windows machine, follow these steps to load Raspbian onto an SD card:

1. If you do not already have one, download and install a disk image writer utility onto your Windows machine. The Win32DiskImager utility from <https://launchpad.net/win32-image-writer> is recommended.

The screenshot shows the SourceForge project page for 'Image Writer for Windows'. The page includes a header with the project name and navigation tabs (Overview, Code, Bugs, Blueprints, Translations, Answers). Below the header, it states the tool is used for writing images to USB sticks or SD/CF cards on Windows. The page also mentions the project's history, its migration to SourceForge, and where to download it. A 'Project information' section lists the maintainer (ImageWriter Developers), development focus (trunk series), programming languages (C++, QT), and licenses (GNU GPL v2, GNU LGPL v2.1). A 'Series and milestones' section shows a timeline of versions (0.4, 0.5, 0.6) with dates. At the bottom, there are links to view milestones and source package recipes.

**Image Writer for Windows**  
Overview Code Bugs Blueprints Translations Answers

Registered 2009-04-19 by Michael Casadevall

This tool is used for writing images to USB sticks or SD/CF cards on Windows.

This program was initially written to fill a need for Ubuntu Jaunty (9.04) Netbook Remix. Recently, it has grown in popularity for other project developers, namely Arm development projects (Android, Ubuntu on Arm, etc). Anyone is free to branch and modify this program. Patches are always welcome.

This project is currently being migrated to Sourceforge. Please be patient.

Downloads are now on Sourceforge only.

Home page Sourceforge project Wiki Screenshots External downloads

**Project information**

**Maintainer:** ImageWriter Developers

**Development focus:** trunk series

**Driver:** ImageWriter Developers

**Programming Languages:** C++, QT

**Licences:** GNU GPL v2, GNU LGPL v2.1

**Series and milestones**

trunk

0.6 2012-04-18

0.6

0.5 2012-03-18

0.5

0.4 2012-01-03

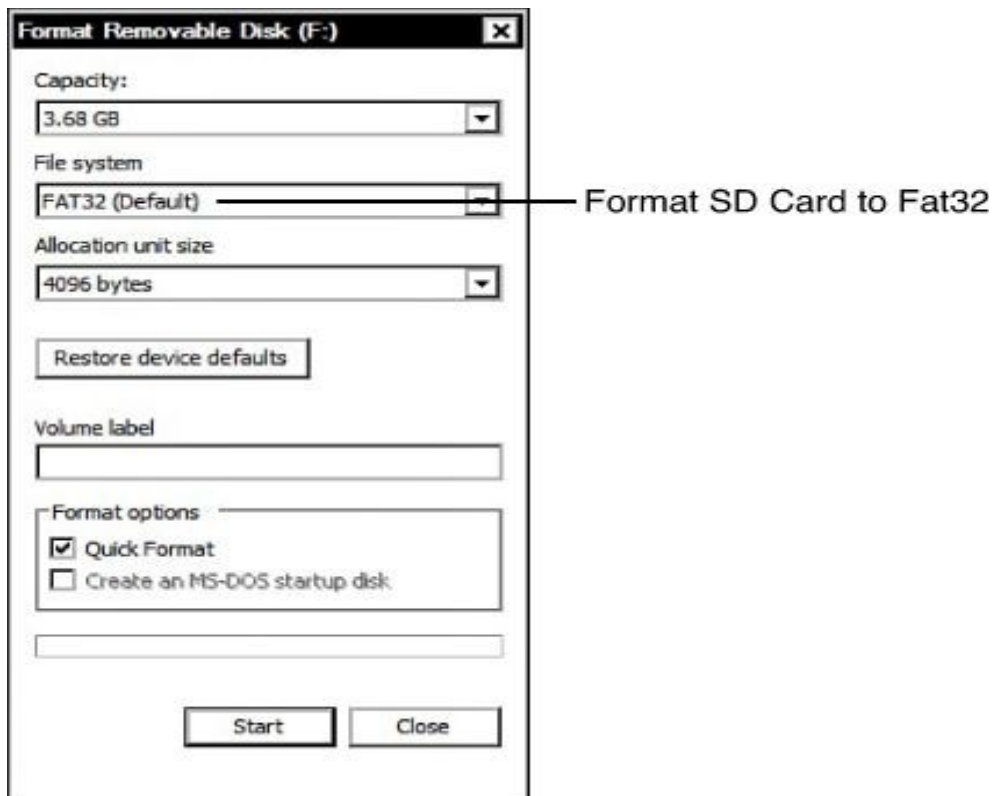
0.4

Image Writer trunk series is the current focus of development

View milestones View source package recipes

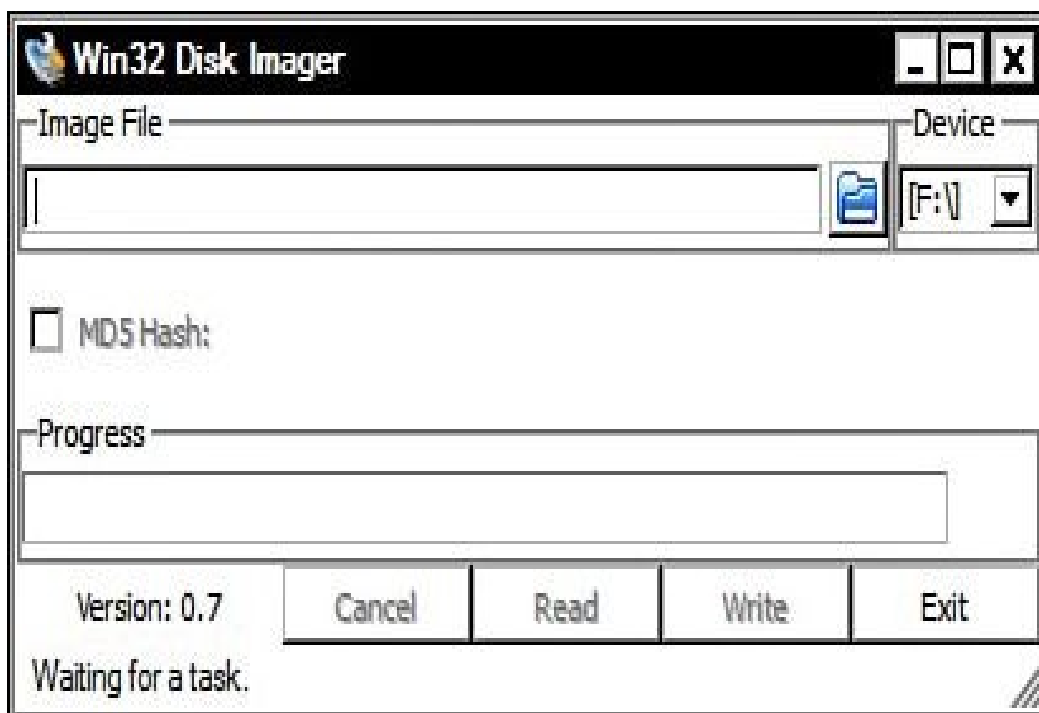
2. Load your SD card into your SD card reader. Take note of the drive letter that Windows assigns to it (for example, F:).

3. If you are using a brand-new, never-been-used SD card, you can skip this step. If you are not using a brand-new SD card (or if this is your second attempt at moving the operating system to the SD card), you need to format it. Format the SD card to FAT32 with one partition. Check the below figure.



4. Assuming that you have downloaded the Raspbian operating system zip file already, extract the operating system image from the zip file. Note where the image file is currently located on the Windows system. For example, it may be in your Downloads directory.

5. Run the Win32DiskImager program. A window similar to the one below appears on your screen.



In the Device section of the Win32DiskImager window on the right side of the window, click the down arrow. Select the drive letter of your SD card that you noted in step 2.

## Watch Out!: Wiping the Wrong Disk

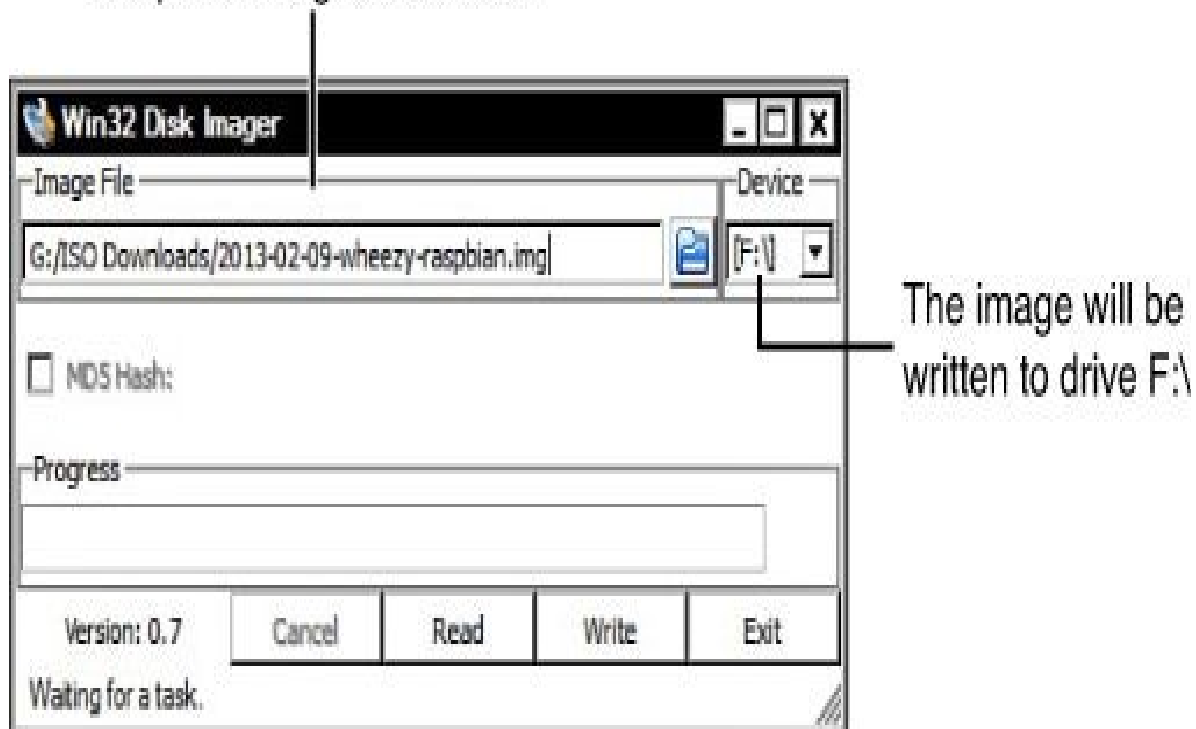
If you select the wrong letter in Win32DiskImager window's Device section, you might wipe out the wrong disk, such as your computer's primary hard drive. That would be bad.

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In the Image File section of the window, click the file folder icon. Navigate to the location of your Raspbian image file. Click the file name to select it . See the below figure.

Now click the Write button in the Win32DiskImager window to write the image file to your SD card. This may take a little while, so be patient.

Raspbian image is selected



When Win32DiskImager is done writing the image, click the Exit button to close the program. Now you can eject the SD card from your SD card reader. The Raspbian operating system is now loaded on your SD card.