

Installing a Different OS onto a ThinkPad

NOTE:

The following steps were for a T14/T15 ThinkPad.

The OS was installed onto a MacBook Pro M1.

What You Need:

- **Access to a working computer**

To download the new OS files

- **Empty USB**

(Yellow to not confuse with HardDrive)

(16GB is very safe, but you can check the size of the OS file)

(Usually under 10GB)

- **An empty 2.5" SATA/SSD HARD DRIVE**

- This is located inside of the ThinkPad

- **SATA/SSD to USB 3.0 Adapter**

For formatting the SSD HARD DRIVE

- **Teeny tiny screwdriver:**

For removing the back of the ThinkPad



Linux: Ubuntu

This will cover the installation of Ubuntu, but if you want to explore distrowatch.com is a great resource for Linux Based systems.

Before you Start:

Formatting the SSD Drive:

Ensure your SSD disk is formatted correctly and read by computer:

- You will need : Sabrent 2.5" SSD HARD DRIVE/SSD to USB 3.0 Adapter

With Terminal:

In your terminal, check to see if it is listed

```
$ diskutil list
```

If it is readable, you can unmount it:

(replace diskX with listed disk, make sure it is correct)

```
$ diskutil unmountDisk /dev/diskX
```

If it is not empty, we want to erase and format it:

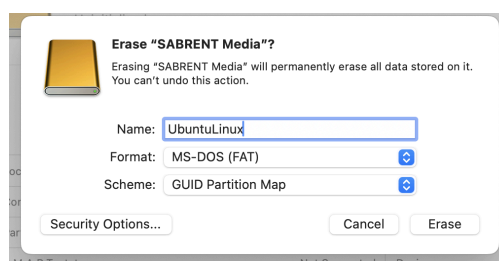
```
$ diskutil eraseDisk FAT32 UBUNTU GPT /dev/diskX
```

After this, you can safely eject:

```
$ diskutil eject /dev/disk4
```

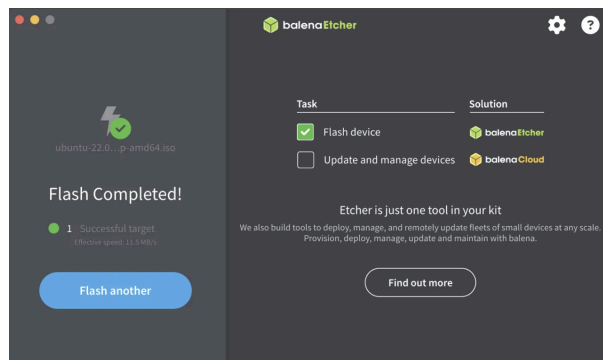
With Disk Utility:

- Find your SSD hard drive in Disk Utility
- Make sure you are at the root of the drive
- Erase it
 - Format SSD HardDrive as FAT



Part 1. On your Mac:

- Download Ubuntu Desktop ISO from ubuntu.com
 - releases.ubuntu.com/jammy/
- Download and install balenaEtcher
 - etcher.balena.io/#download-etcher
- Insert a **USB** drive (8GB+ capacity)
- Use balenaEtcher to write the Ubuntu ISO to the **USB** drive
- Result should look like this:



Part 2: Prepare the SSD:

- Connect the WD Blue SSD to your Mac using a **SATA/SSD** to **USB** adapter

Part 3: Install the SSD:

- Power off ThinkPad
- Remove bottom cover
- Install **SSD** in SATA slot
- Replace cover

Part 4: Install Ubuntu:

- Insert **USB** drive into ThinkPad
- Power on and press F12 for boot menu
- Select **USB** drive
- Choose "Install Ubuntu" and follow installer prompts:
 - Select language
 - Choose "Erase disk and install Ubuntu"
 - Select your timezone
 - Create user account
- Wait for installation to complete
- Remove **USB** drive and restart



Windows (harder)

Part 1: Download Windows 10:

- Go to: www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/
- Go to Microsoft's official Windows 10 download page:
www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10ISO
- Click "Download Windows 10 Disk Image (ISO)"
- Choose Windows 10 (multi-edition ISO)
- Select your language
- Click "64-bit Download"
 - The ISO file will be about 6GB
- Once the ISO is downloaded
- Use the Terminal to properly create the Windows installation drive.
 - Then prepare the **USB** drive:

Part 2: Download Windows 10:

In the Windows iso file, there is one extremely large file (sources/install.swm) that you cannot normally download. For this, you have to split it manually through the Terminal, and then safely merge it back into one.

In Terminal:

1. Identify your **USB** drive

```
$ diskutil list
```

2. Take note of your **USB** drive identifier (like /dev/disk2)
3. Unmount the drive (replace X with your disk number)

```
$ diskutil unmountDisk /dev/diskX
```

4. Format the drive with ExFAT

```
$ diskutil eraseDisk ExFAT "WINDOWS10" MBR /dev/diskX
```

```
$ git -C $(brew --repository homebrew/core) reset --hard HEAD.
```

If you don't have Homebrew installed, run:

```
$/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL  
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)"
```

Install the wimlib library:

```
$ brew install wimlib
```

Split the install.swm file:

```
$ wimlib-imagex split /Volumes/CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-US_DV9/sources/install.wim  
/Volumes/WINDOWS10/sources/install.swm 4000
```

(INCOMPLETE TODO)

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