Create a Bootable USB

In this tutorial, I will be demonstrating the creation of a bootable USB for a CentOS 7 minimal disk image, using the Etcher utility. This bootable USB will be used for my other tutorial where I demonstrate the installation of CentOS 7 using a bootable USB in a VirtualBox virtual machine. It can be accessed here. Please note that I am using a Windows 7 Pro SP1 host machine.

Prerequisites

- Active Internet Connection

Steps to complete tutorial:

1. Download Etcher
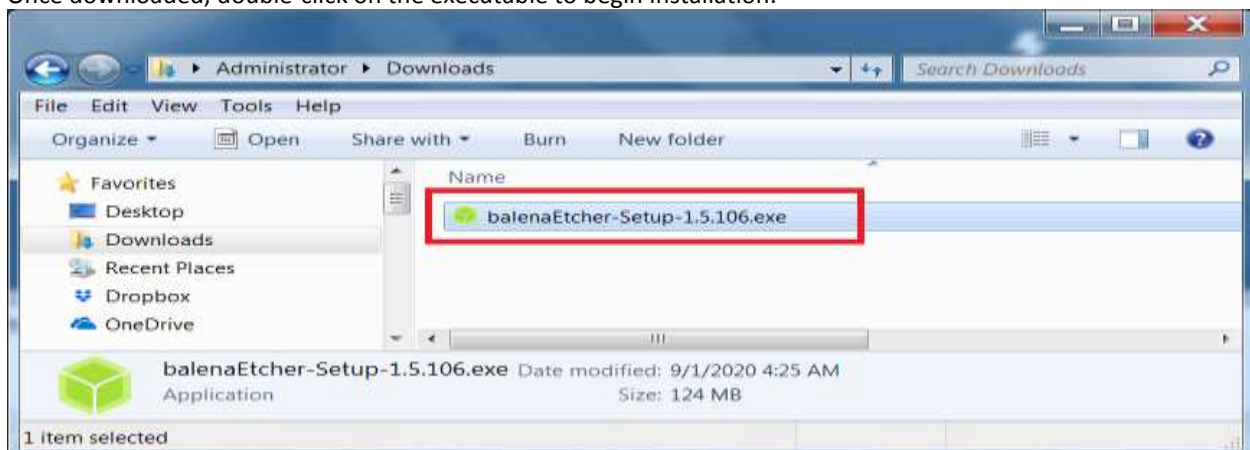2. Install Etcher
3. Download CentOS 7
4. Create a bootable USB

Download Etcher

1. Go to the Etcher site at https://www.balena.io/etcher/ and download the application.
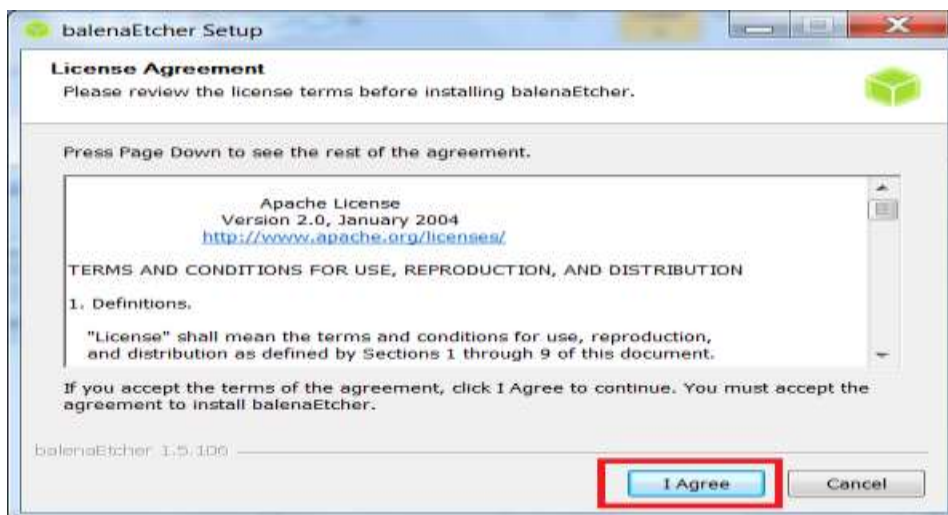

Install Etcher

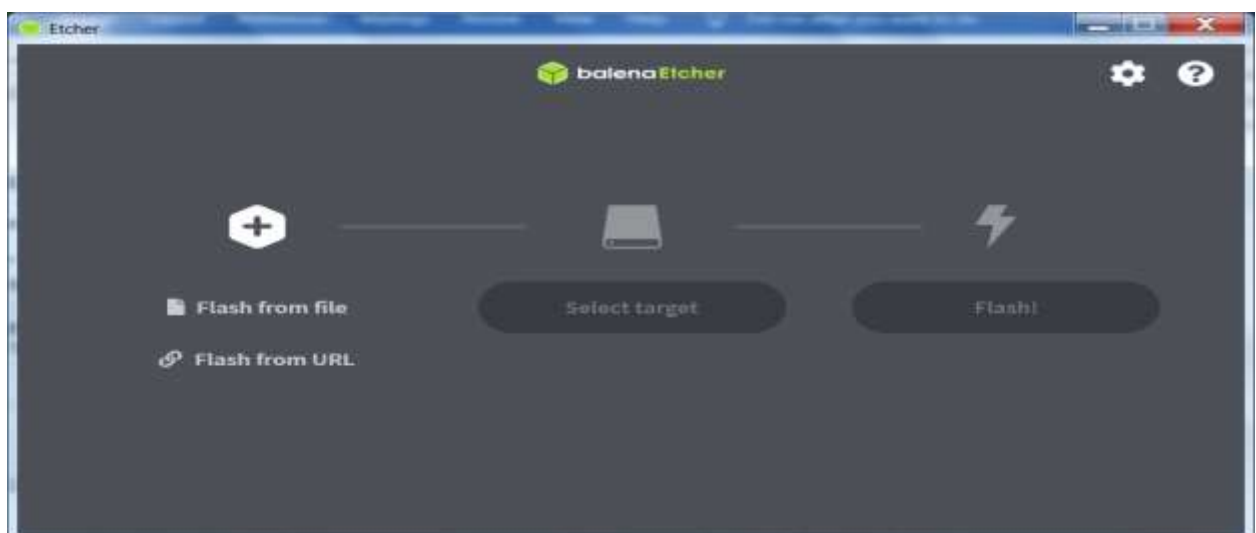Once downloaded, double-click on the executable to begin installation.

Accept the security warning and click **Run**.

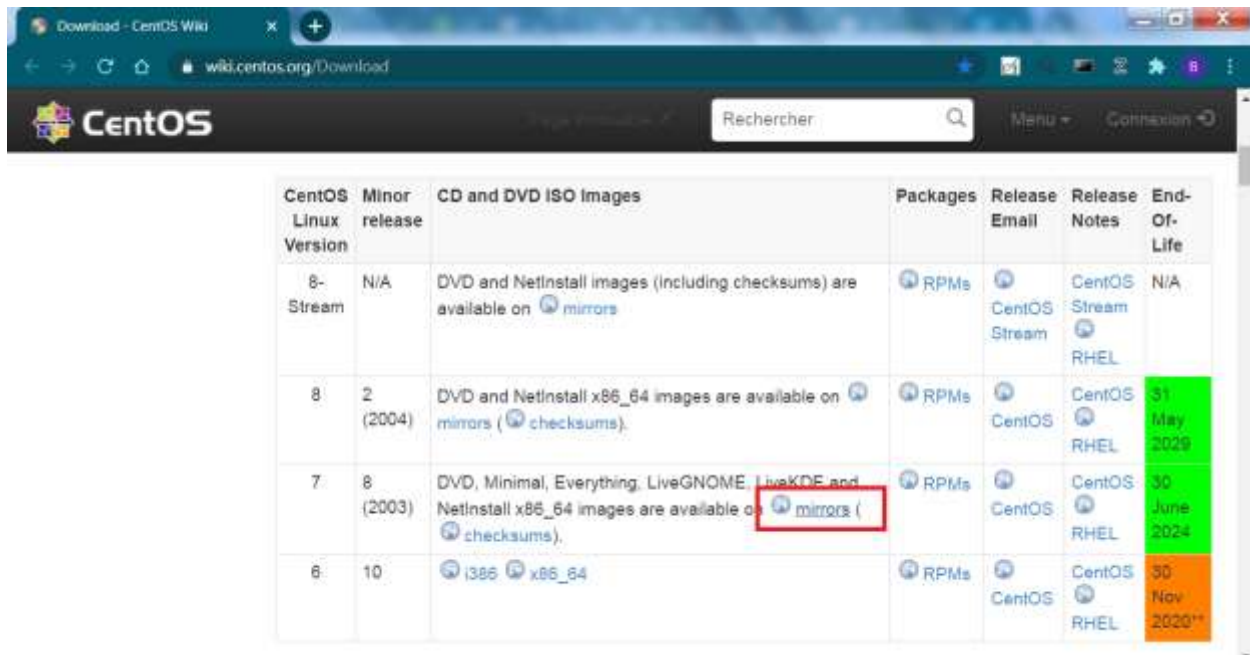
Accept the license agreement and click **I Agree**.

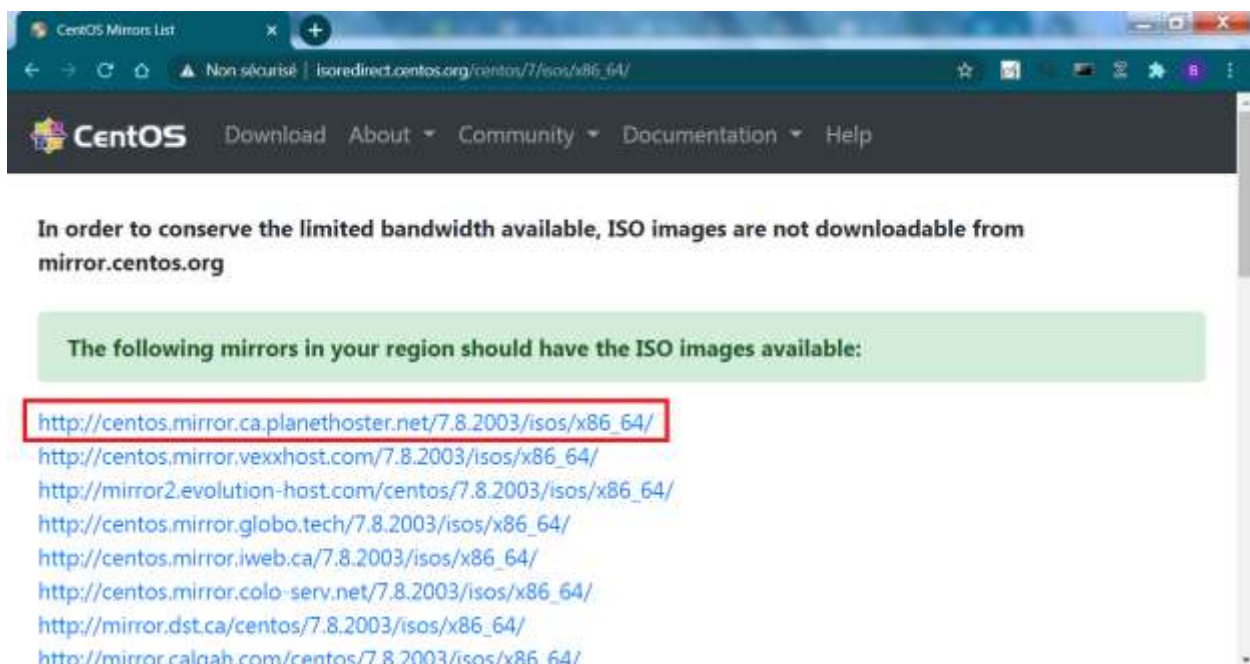Etcher is installed and ready to be used.

Download CentOS 7

Go to the CentOS site at https://wiki.centos.org/Download, and click the **mirrors** link for CentOS 7 (release 8) to display a list of mirrors closest to your region.

CentOS Linux Version	Minor release	CD and DVD ISO Images	Packages	Release Email	Release Notes	End-Of-Life
8-Stream	N/A	DVD and NetInstall images (including checksums) are available on mirrors	RPMs	CentOS Stream	CentOS Stream / RHEL	N/A
8	2 (2004)	DVD and NetInstall x86_64 images are available on mirrors (checksums).	RPMs	CentOS	CentOS / RHEL	31 May 2029
7	8 (2003)	DVD, Minimal, Everything, LiveGNOME, LiveKDE and NetInstall x86_64 images are available on mirrors (checksums).	RPMs	CentOS	CentOS / RHEL	30 June 2024
6	10	i386 x86_64	RPMs	CentOS	CentOS / RHEL	30 Nov 2020**

Select one of the available mirrors closest to you. I usually select the first one in the list.

In order to conserve the limited bandwidth available, ISO images are not downloadable from mirror.centos.org

The following mirrors in your region should have the ISO images available:

http://centos.mirror.ca.planethoster.net/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/
http://centos.mirror.vexxhost.com/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/
http://mirror2.evolution-host.com/centos/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/
http://centos.mirror.globo.tech/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/
http://centos.mirror.iweb.ca/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/
http://centos.mirror.colo-serv.net/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/
http://mirror.dst.ca/centos/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/
http://mirror.calgah.com/centos/7.8.2003/isos/x86_64/

Once you are on the selected mirror site, select the **CentOS 7 minimal ISO** to download.
Note, if you select the torrent download, you will need to have BitTorrent, or another, peer-to-peer file sharing application to download the file. In both instances (direct download OR peer-to-peer), an ISO image is downloaded.
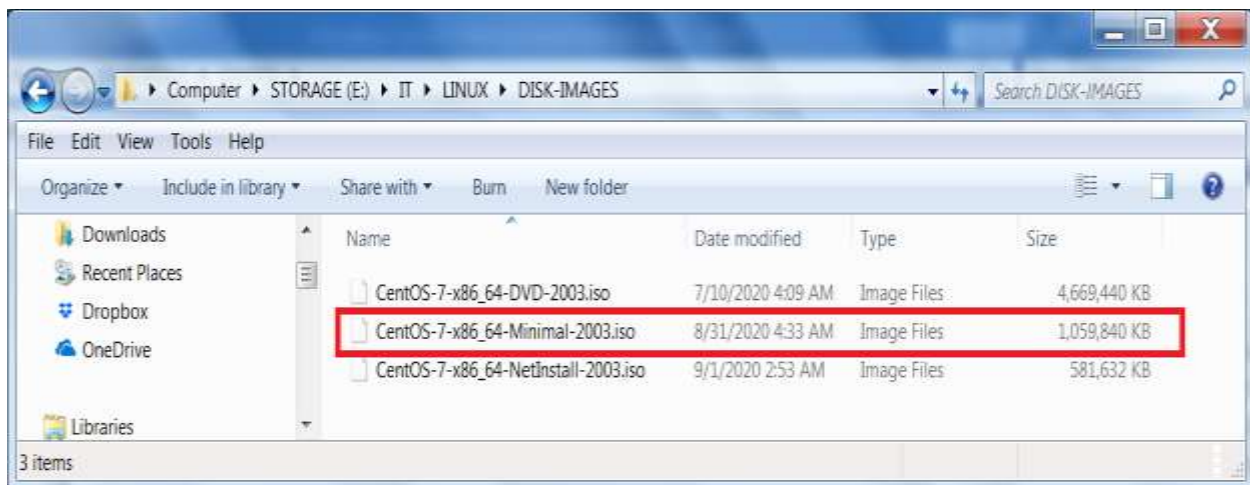

Once you click the link, the **CentOS 7 minimal ISO image** will be downloaded to your local Downloads directory. I have moved my downloads to a location where they can be easily accessible. Note, I have downloaded three versions: DVD, Minimal and NetInstall. Their sizes differ because they contain different contents. Below, I've listed the main differences:

- **DVD** – full install including GUI desktop environment
- **Minimal** – usually for server installations that require manual configurations
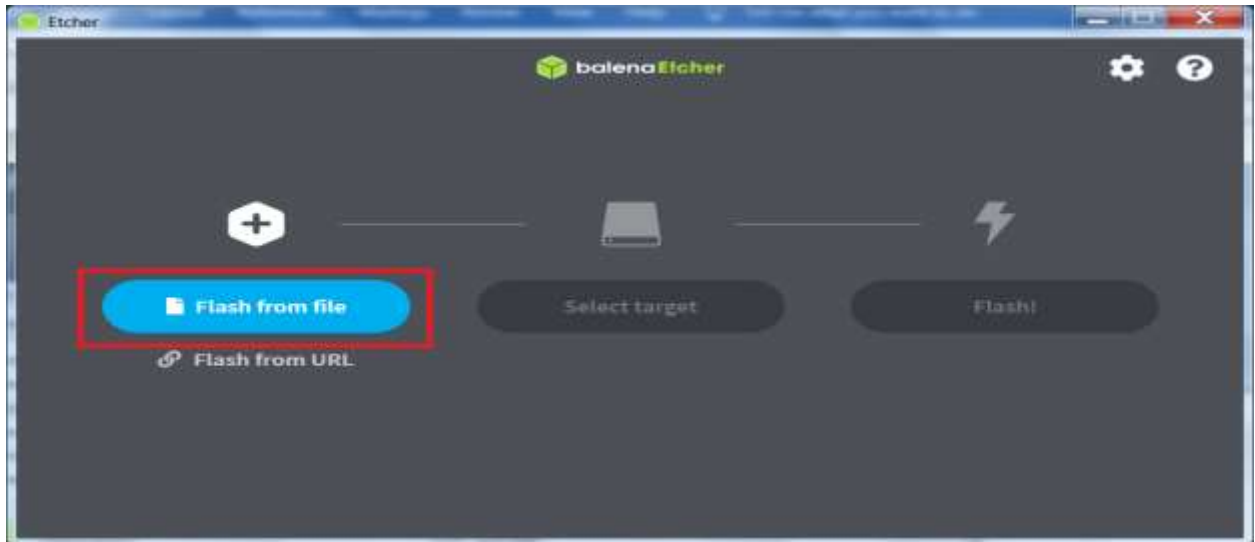- **NetInstall** – boot DVD for installing from a network server

Note, to avoid wasting local disk space, I did not download the "**Everything**" ISO image. As it's name states, it contains the complete set of packages for CentOS 7.
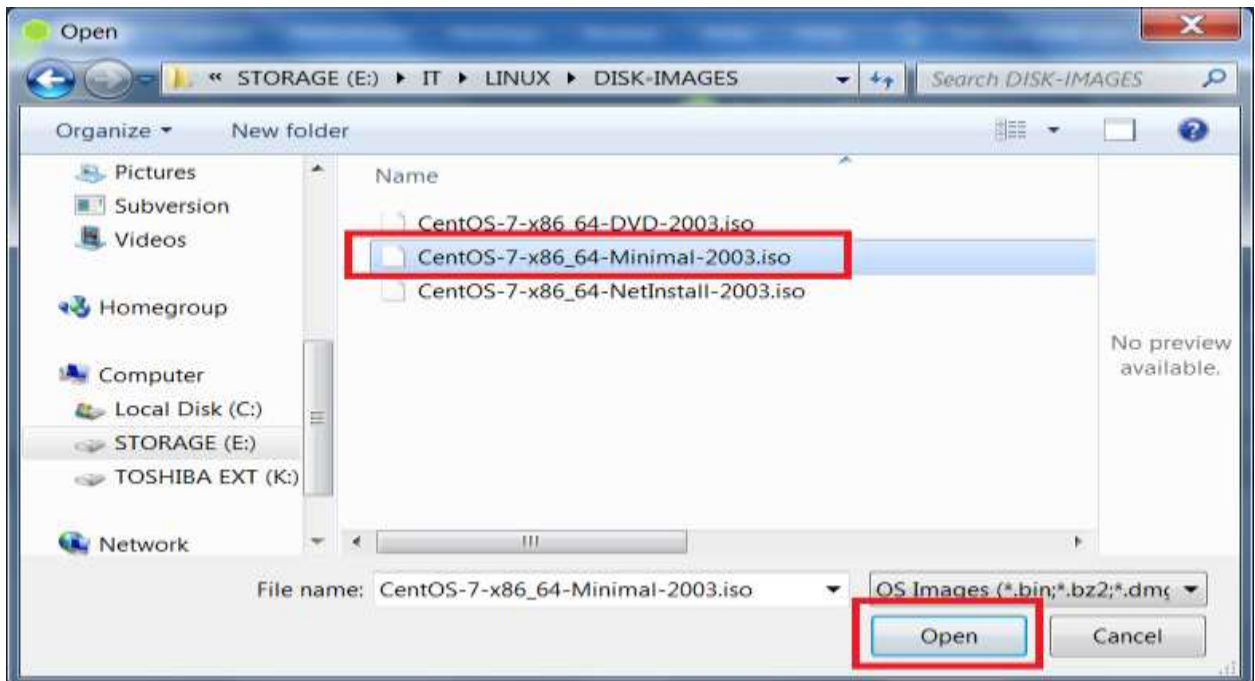
Create a bootable USB

Now that we have Etcher installed and a CentOS 7 ISO disk image downloaded, let's perform a test to confirm that Etcher is working properly. We'll create a bootable USB using our CentOS 7 ISO.
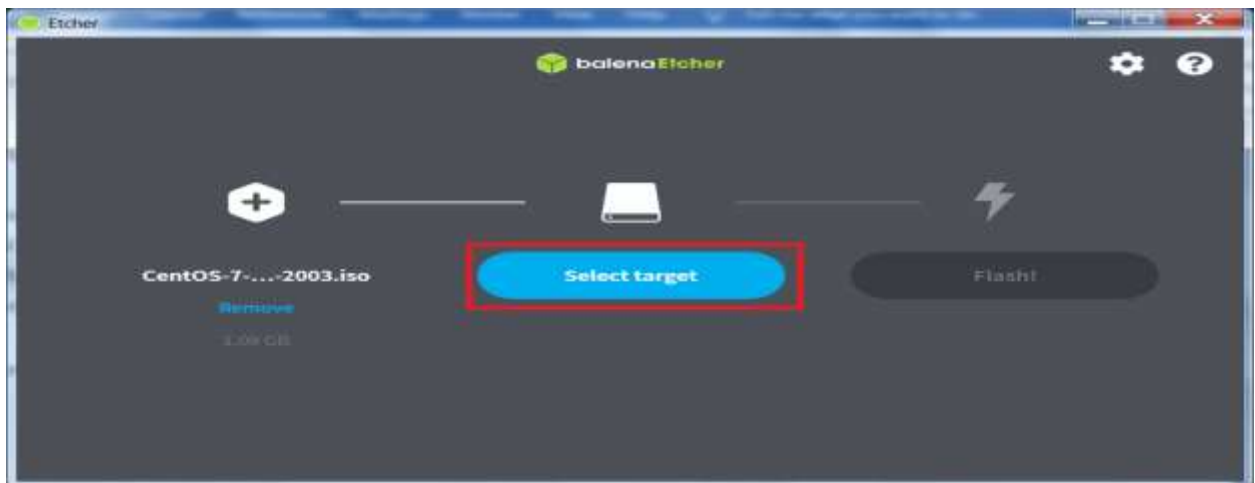First, on the application console, click the "**Flash from file**" button and navigate to the ISO you wish to create a bootable USB from.
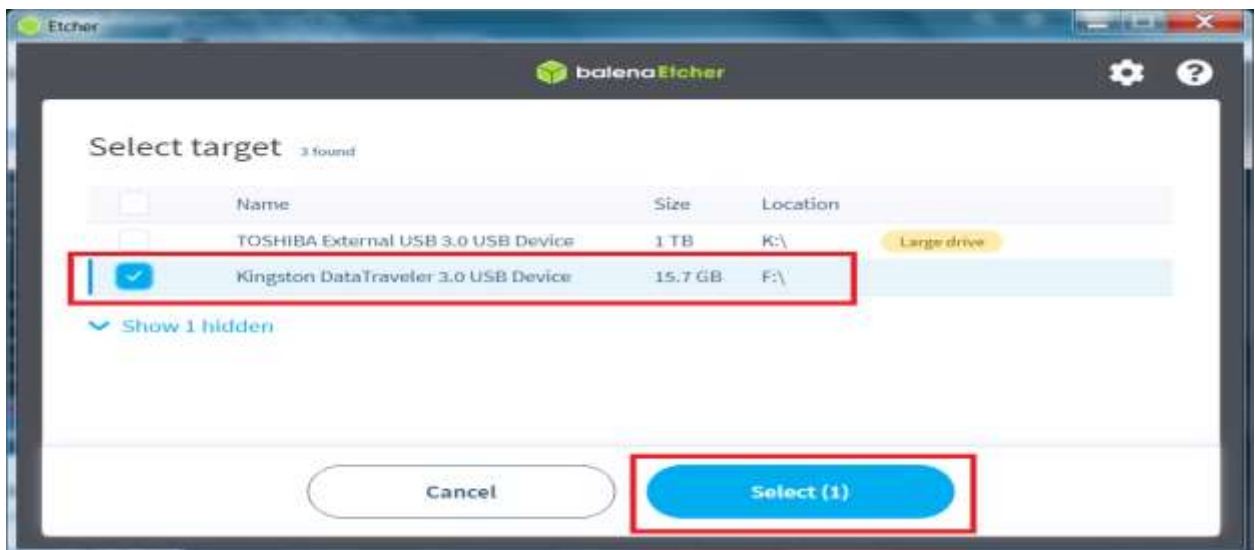
Once you've selected your ISO image, click **Open**

Next, insert your empty USB into an open port and click the "**Select target**" button to choose the location you wish to save the flashed image.
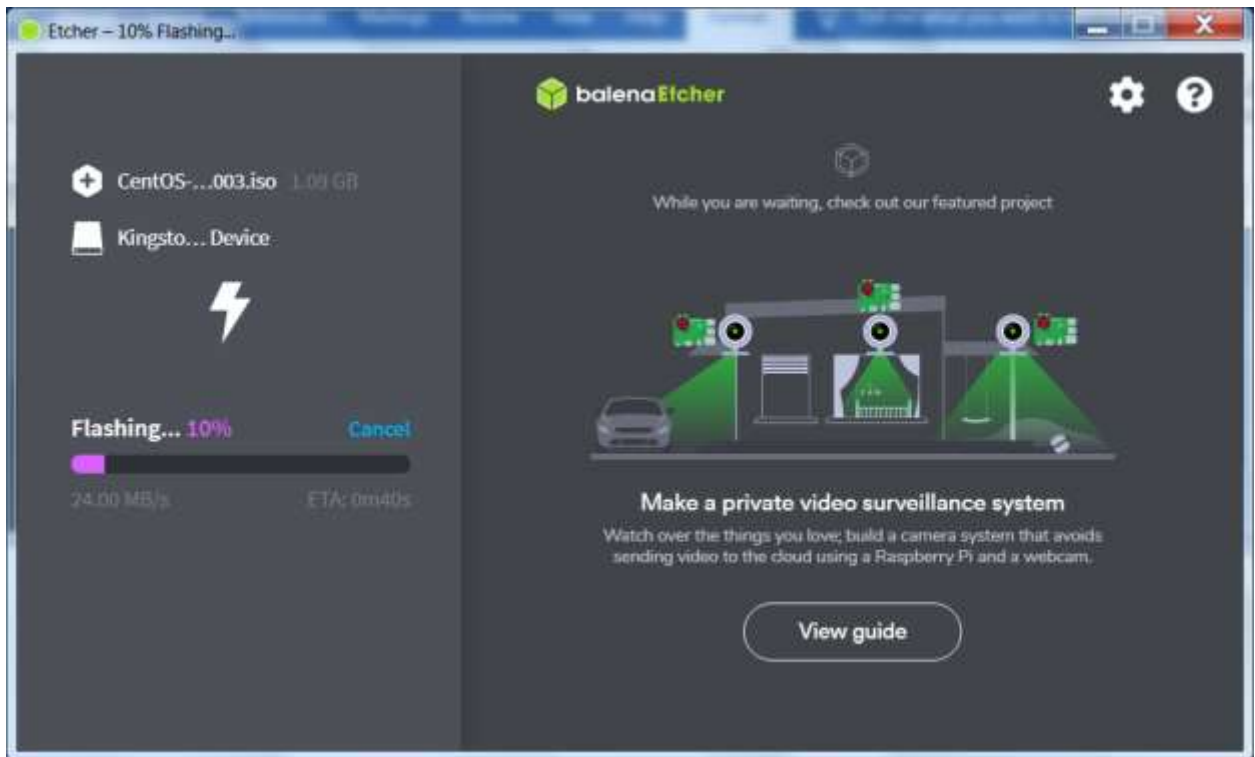

Ensure the correct destination target is selected (your empty USB), and click the **Select (1)** button.
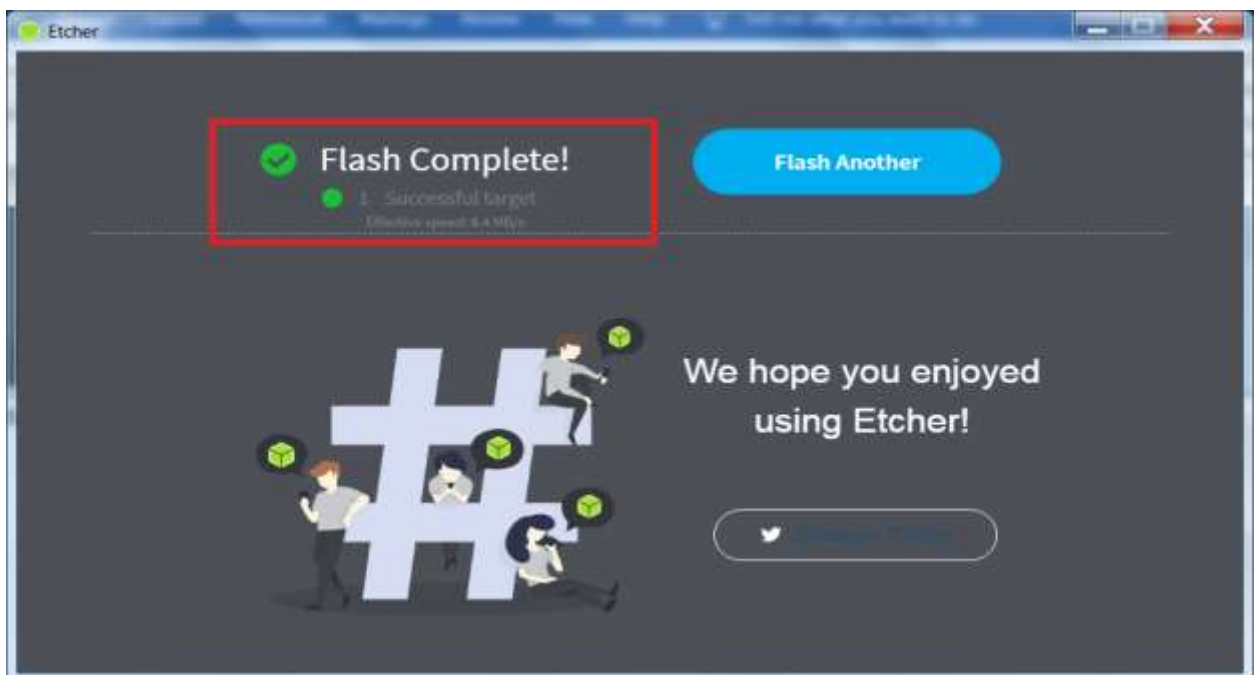

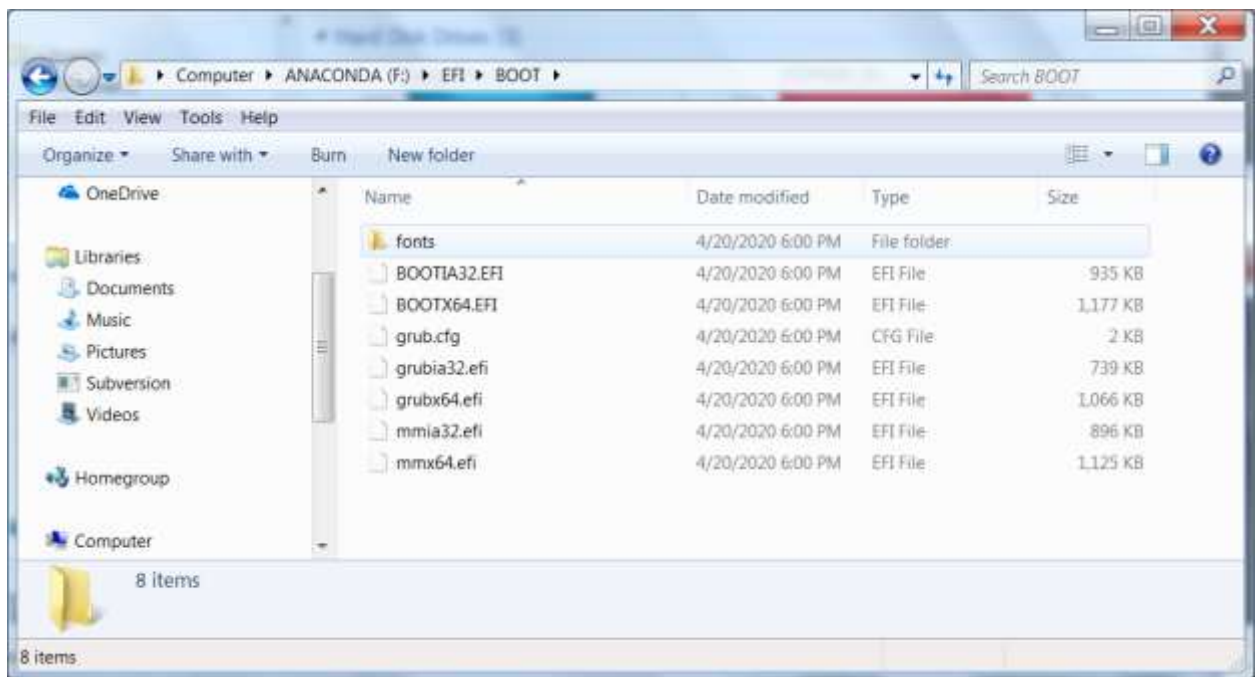Click the **Flash!** button to create the bootable USB stick.

Etcher is in the process of creating your bootable USB.

Once the operation has completed, you can use your bootable USB to install the CentOS 7 operating system on a physical PC or in a VirtualBox VM (virtual machine).

Here is a listing of the contents of my newly created bootable USB for CentOS 7.

Please note that the procedure to create a bootable USB, using Etcher, is very straight forward.

Hopefully, you've enjoyed completing this tutorial and would like to use your newly created CentOS 7 bootable USB to install the operating system.

In one of my other tutorials, I demonstrate the creation of a VirtualBox VM (virtual machine) and the installation of CentOS 7 using a bootable USB. It can be accessed **here**.

If you would like see more of my tutorial offerings, they can be accessed **here**.