Install a LAN Server on an ARM SBC March 23, 2021

Objective: Install a minimal Operating System on an ARM SBC (Single Board Computer) for use as a simple home LAN server. The server will utilize a micro SD card or eMMC card for the Operating System, one USB 3.0 storage device for the server's DATA, and one USB 3.0 storage device for DATA backup.

Select a port number for SSH

For security reasons, do not use the default SSH port 22. Think of this as a PIN. Instead of Personal Identification Number it is a Port Identification Number. Pick a four or five digit PIN. Go to wikipedia's TCP port list and choose a port number between 8000 and 48000.

TCP and UDP port numbers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_TCP_and_UDP_port_numbers

Unused numbers are not listed. Look for a group of numbers that aren't being used, such as 9339 is listed (used) and the next number listed is 9389. That's a block of 50 port numbers that you can use. Choose something in the middle. If you want a 5 digit PIN scroll to 10,000 and above and look for unused blocks.

9339 Yes Clash of Clans, a mobile freemium strategy video game Unofficial
9389 Yes Yes adws, Microsoft AD DS Web Services, Powershell uses this port Official

The script will prompt you for your chosen SSH port number.

The instructions use host name = enosServer and user name = pshare (public share). If you want to follow the instructions implicitly, use this hostname and username. They can changed to something more appropriate for your use, but be sure to allow for this while following the instructions.

Other information needed:
Desired hostname: enosServer
Desired user name: pshare
Desired Last Octet of a Static IP address for this computer
Desired SSH port number as chosen above
root password
user password

As mentioned above, the SBC server will store your data on an external USB 3.0 SSD enclosure. The option of letting the script automatically partition, format, and mount the USB 3 enclosure will be offered. To utilize this, a USB 3.0 SSD enclosure with a SSD of your choice and capacity, will need to be connected to the SBC before running the script.

The benefits of an ARM SBC device for a headless LAN file server is it's small size and very low power consumption. In our testing we used an Odroid N2, an Odroid XU4, and a Raspberry PI 4b as the test beds. For running a headless server, all three performed well. I am sure there are others available, but these are the three that were available for testing. The main requirements for a good reliable server are, 4 cores, a 1 Gbit ethernet port, and two USB 3.0 connectors for the external SSDs.

The storage device for the Operating System will be either a Micro SD card or an eMMC card. The micro SD card must be at least 16GB, a 32GB gives more head room for logs and etc. Use a good name brand micro SD such as Samsung or SanDisk ultra, not an off brand. SD cards come in different speed classes, 2, 4, 6, and 10, with 10 being the fastest. Since the advent of 4k devices, there is also UHS class speed 1 and UHS class speed 3. UHS = Ultra High Speed. Get at least a class 10 HC1 device. Here is what to look for.



The speed class is the number 10 inside what looks like a C. The speed class is followed by A1 which is a new specification I am not familiar with.

The UHS speed is the number 1 inside a U and also referred to as HC1. This one sold for \$8.98 USD at amazon including a Micro SD to SD adapter.

The Odroid N2 and Odroid XU4 will also run off of eMMC

Theoretically you can install EndeavourOS on any ARM device that Arch Linux Arm supports. To see if your SBC device is supported, go to https://archlinuxarm.org/ Hover over "Platforms" then the Architecture, brand name, etc. to see if your device is supported. Click on your device and get a page with overview and installation tabs.

The first step is to install an Archlinux Arm base image on a uSD or eMMC card.

- 1. Follow the installation instructions for your SBC device on the Archlinux Arm web site listed above.
- There is a script for the Odroid N2, Odroid XU4, or Raspberry Pi 4 series that will install the Archlinux Arm base image for you available at: https://github.com/endeavouros-arm/image-install Instructions are in the README.mb

For the listed devices, number 2 is the recommended way to install the Archlinux Arm base image. Otherwise number 1 will be necessary.

Install EndeavourOS on ARM

The following SHOULD work with any ARM SBC (Single Board Computer) once Arch Linux ARM base is installed on the device.

The default user is *alarm* with the password *alarm*, the default root password is *root*. FYI, alarm = Arch Linux ARM and it is also the default hostname.

To perform the install, the SBC will need to be connected to a keyboard, the ethernet, and a HDMI PC monitor or television.

After the SBC boots up:

Login as root (enter root for the username and root for the password)

ping -c 4 endeavouros.com (check internet connection, should get 4 good pings)

If the ping does not work, mostly involving RPi4b, enter the following

systemctl enable dhcpcd.service

systemctl start dhcpcd.service (then re-check with ping)

use vi or nano to edit /etc/pacman.d/mirrorlist

change this

Geo-IP based mirror selection and load balancing Server = http://mirror.archlinuxarm.org/\$arch/\$repo

To this by adding a # in front of Server to comment out that line

Geo-IP based mirror selection and load balancing

Server = http://mirror.archlinuxarm.org/\$arch/\$repo

Then un-comment servers near you by removing the # from in front of desired mirror URLs.

```
# pacman-key --init
```

pacman-key --populate archlinuxarm

pacman -Syu git libnewt (always update the OS before installing packages)

systemctl reboot & Login as root (do NOT log back in as user "alarm" and use sudo)

RUN SCRIPT TO INSTALL Base OS

```
# git clone https://github.com/endeavouros-arm/install-script.git
```

cd install-script

ls -l

-rwxrwxr-- 1 root root 5607 May 5 01:39 endeavour-ARM-install-V2.X.sh

If endeavour-ARM-install-V2.X.sh is not executable, use chmod to alter it and recheck # chmod 774 endeavour-ARM-install-V2.X.sh

sh endeavour-ARM-install-V2.X.sh (run the installer script)

Choose to install a headless server environment and answer the questions for the install options.

The following procedures are performed.

Configure the specified static IP and configure SSH including the specified port number Configure and enable the ufw firewall

Provides the option to auto partition, format, and mount the USB 3.0 SSD for DATA

The script installs three alias's which you might see in the instructions. alias la='ls -al --color=auto' I think of it as "list all" including dot files alias lb='lsblk -o NAME,FSTYPE,FSSIZE,LABEL,MOUNTPOINT' think "ls blks" (partitions) alias ll='ls -l --color=auto' I think of as "list long".

If the external USB SSD enclosure was formatted, partitioned, and mounted by the script, then you now have an installed and fully configured headless server that is ready to go.

POST INSTALL

Now is the time to do a little exploring and see if everything is as expected.

log in as root using your new root password.

```
# ping -c 4 endeavouros.com (should get 0% packet loss)
# ip addr (line 2: inet should show static IP you entered)
```

date

Thu 23 Jan 2020 01:50:52 PM MST (check time and date are correct)

df -h the root directory will show approximately 1.8 Gbyte used for the install

pacman -Q > pkglist

wc -l pkglist (will show approx 177 packages installed)

177 pkglist

less pkglist (will display installed packages)
htop (will display memory usage)

If you had the script prepare the USB 3 external DATA SSD for you, there should be two directores named /server and /serverbkup. These are the mount points for the DATA device and the DATABKUP device when doing backups. Check the permissions and ownership for these two directories as shown below, which are edited for clarity

```
# Is -I / (listing of the root directory)
drwxrwxr--. root users server
```

drwxrwxr--. root users serverbkup

If they are not correct, issue the following commands as root and recheck

chown root:users /server /serverbkup

chmod 774 /server /serverbkup

ufw status

Status: active

To Action From

9830 ALLOW 192.168.0.0/24

Now anything coming in from any IP address on our private LAN (192.168.0.0/24) going to the ssh port (XXXX) is allowed. The entire world is blocked, except any computer on your ethernet LAN is accepted on port XXXX.

NOTE: On it's own separate SSD you have a working partition at /server for all your data. Always work in /server as a user. Everything in /server should belong to user pshare, including all files and all directories.

You are now finished with your simple Home LAN server install. The monitor and keyboard can be removed to run the server headless. Maintenance can be performed in a Linux Client using SSH. If you chose NOT to prepare the DATA device during install, instructions to manually prepare it are on page 15 of the instructions. Please prepare the USB 3 external DATA SSD before attempting to add any data to the server.

After your first install, as a shortcut you can highlight the actual commands used, and skip all the explanations.

At this point, the server is completely installed and configured. Time to set up a Linux Client to utilize the server.

SET UP A LINUX CLIENT COMPUTER

On a CLIENT LINUX COMPUTER with XFCE or other desk top environment, open a Terminal window. Use the static IP address you established for the server and the host name you decided on. Add the following line to the end of /etc/hosts. This will establish the route to the Server. Your info may be different from the example.

\$ sudo vi or leafpad /etc/hosts (add to end of file)
192.168.0.150 enosServer.localdomain enosServer

This establishes a relationship between the host name of enosServer and it's IP address, kind of like a DNS service. Otherwise you would have to address the server by it's IP address and port number, which can be awkward and hard to remember.

Since the SSH port that the enosServer listens on was changed from the default port 22, the Client computer needs to know which port to use.

\$ sudo vi or leafpad /etc/ssh/ssh_config (change the following line.)
FROM #Port 22 TO Port 9XXX (Use the same port # as in the server)

The SERVER's firewall was setup during installation to accept requests from any CLIENT computer on our LAN at Port 9XXX.

CONFIGURE THE CLIENT FIREWALL

If you already have a firewall installed, or you don't want a firewall, skip this section.

\$ su (Then enter your root password)
pacman -S gufw (install ufw firewall)
ufw status (check status of ufw)

Status: inactive

ufw logging off (otherwise logging appears on screen & makes a mess of DMESG)
ufw default deny (denies all incoming UNSOLICITED traffic, solicited traffic passes)

ufw enable

systemctl enable ufw.service # systemctl start ufw.service

systemctl reboot (then log back in as user)

\$ sudo ufw status Status: active

Connect to enosServer with SSH

In a terminal window, as a user try to connect to enosServer \$ ssh pshare@enosServer (if you happen to be at root, dont try to SSH as root)

If you successfully communicated with enosServer, you will get something similar to: The authenticity of host '[enosserver]:9XXX ([192.168.0.XXX]:9XXX)' can't be established. ECDSA key fingerprint is 54:fa:20:25:c1:91:d3:3d:4c:8c:47:02:32:f2:5e:8e. Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)?

The above dialog is a one time thing. Type in "yes", the connection should be completed and you will be asked for pshare's password. You should then have a terminal prompt of [pshare@enosServer ~]\$

You are now logged into enosServer as user pshare. Pay attention to the prompt, it will always let you know which computer you are in and the user name. The SSH server on enosServer was configured to NOT allow login as root. If you need to use root for administration, type in su and enter your server's root password. Anything you type in the Terminal window will now be executed in the enosServer computer. You can execute pacman -Syu or perform other administrative routines.

Type in

exit (if you are in as root)

\$ exit (exit again as user. This is the proper way to log out of a network connection.)

You should be back to your client computers prompt.

On the LINUX CLIENT COMPUTER, do not terminate your enosServer session by clicking on the X (close) button at the top right of your terminal window. After properly disconnecting from the enosServer you should return to your local prompt in the terminal window. Now you can close your Client side terminal window by typing in exit once more.

SSH into enosServer and bypass the password

This is all and good, but it is a pain to have to enter the password all the time. Now ssh keys may need to be generated in our client computer as user.

```
$ II .ssh
-rw-----. 1 don don 1831 Jun 8 2019 id_rsa
-rw-r--r--. 1 don don 406 Jun 8 2019 id rsa.pub
```

If the II command produces the above results, you already have ssh keys. You can skip the instructions in the box. If you don't have ssh keys, enter the following commands

The id_rsa file is your PRIVATE SSH Key and you should never do anything with it. Don't copy, move, or otherwise mess with it. Just leave it alone. The id_rsa.pub file is your PUBLIC SSH Key. We need to export your PUBLIC SSH Key to the enosServer.

```
As user
```

\$ ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub <u>pshare@e</u>nos<u>Server</u> enter pshare's password when requested.

You will be returned to your client's prompt. Now try to log into enosServer \$ ssh pshare@enosServer

You should now be logged into enosServer as pshare without having to enter your password. To do administration, just ssh into the Server from a client terminal window Once in enosServer change to root and do most anything you want from a nice GUI terminal window with mouse, scroll bars, cut and paste, etc. The server and client are now configured to remotely administer the server.

[pshare@enosServer ~]\$ exit repeat exit until back in the client computer.

Use FUSE and SSHFS to view Server data in a file manager

Now we will set up FUSE and sshfs to use a Thunar window to access the files on the server. IN THE CLIENT COMPUTER as user install sshfs. \$ sudo pacman -S sshfs

IN THE CLIENT COMPUTER, in a Terminal window as user \$ mkdir /home/\$USER/enosServer (make a mount point for the enosServer)

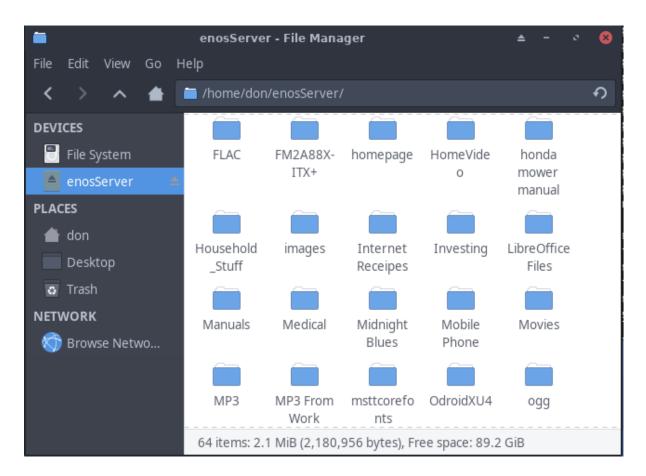
The /home/\$USER/enosServer directory is a Mount Point for the enosServer. You should never add any directories or files locally in this directory. If enosServer is not mounted, the enosServer directory should always be empty.

Here is the part you've been waiting for. Still in the CLIENT LINUX COMPUTER, as user \$ sshfs pshare@enosServer:/server /home/\$USER/enosServer \$

It should complete without any errors.

Launch Thunar, then Click on Home and click on enosServer. You should see the file "test" that was created when the DATA SSD was added.

Ideally, the enosServer folder should have nothing but sub folders to organize your data. Eventually as the enosServer folder is filled up, it could look something like this.



Also notice in the left column under the DEVICES, the enosServer Icon. Click on that, or click on username under PLACES then click on enosServer folder.

Under DEVICES the enosServer Icon also has a unmount icon at the right side. DO NOT try to un-mount the enosServer by clicking on this.

sshfs uses the FUSE kernel module to fool your client computer into thinking the /server directory on enosServer is a local directory named /home/\$USER/enosServer. Anything you can do on a local directory, you can now do on the remote computer's directory. This is how you will manage the content on the enosServer's DATA drive. Add files, delete files, add/delete folders just like you do on your local Drive. So, manage data files with sshfs, and do maintenance on the Operating System by using ssh pshare@enosServer. Once set up maintenance is usually just doing updates with pacman -Syu and data backups.

Use the following to unmount enosServer. In the Client computer type in the following: \$ fusermount -u /home/\$USER/enosServer OR \$ fusermount -u enosServer Direct Thunar to the /home/\$USER/enosServer directory, and it should be empty. Because there isn't a remote directory mounted there anymore.

AUTOMATE THE MOUNTING PROCESS

This is all fine and dandy, but who wants to type in these commands all the time, much less remember the exact Syntax for the commands? Let's automate this process some. Here are the instructions for XFCE, it should be doable in any Desktop Environment.

Mount enosServer with a desktop launcher

IN THE CLIENT COMPUTER as user in user's home directory

\$ Is -I

drwx----. 2 username username 4096 Jan 31 20:34 bin

Look for a directory named bin. If bin doesn't appear, use mkdir to create one \$ mkdir bin

After creating bin, you may want to use

\$ chmod 700 bin

to change the permissions as above for security reasons.

\$ cd bin

Using your favorite text editor, create a file named AutoMountServer.sh and add these 3 lines \$ vi AutoMountServer.sh

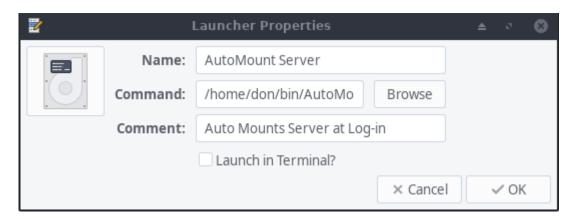
#!/bin/bash (the first two characters are # then an exclamation mark) sshfs pshare@enosServer:/server /home/\$USER/enosServer exit (type in exit as the last line of the file, then close file)

\$ chmod 754 AutoMountServer.sh (make AutoMountServer executable) \$ II

-rwxr-xr- - don don 47 Jan 8 AutoMountServer.sh

\$ sudo pacman -S alacarte

click on EndeavourOS at the left of the panel – Settings – Main Menu In the left hand column, select System – then click on + New Item



Fill in Name: with what ever you want to call this launcher

Fill in Command: Browse to /home/username/bin/ AutoMountServer.sh

Fill in Comment: with whatever you want Launch in Terminal? Leave it unchecked

Click on image at the far left and navigate to a desired icon

+ Other Locations – Computer – usr – share – icons – Adwatia – 32x32 – devices – drive-harddisk.png select the icon, back in Launcher Properties click OK

Log off, then Log in so XFCE4 can detect the changes. home/enosServer should be empty. Click on EndeavourOS button – System – AutoMountServer The server should be mounted on enosServer

You could right click on the launcher and add it to the Desktop or the Panel.

Automatically Mount Server at Log in

It would be nice to have AutoMountServer run every time you log in.

Go to "EndeavourOS" in the panel, click on "Settings", click on "Session and Startup" Select "Application Autostart" and hit the +Add.

Name: MountServer

Description: Auto Mount enosServer

Command: Navigate to /home/\$USER/bin/AutoMountServer.sh

Trigger: on login

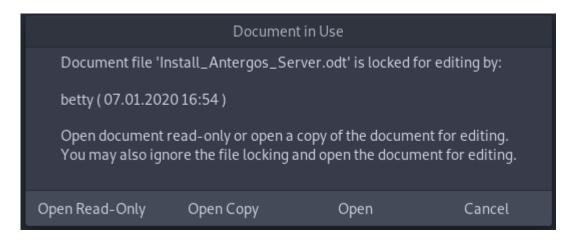
Reboot, and enosServer should be automatically mounted at login. Extremely simple for any level of Linux user. Once set up for a user, all that user has to do is log in and enosServer is ready to use. Check that Thunar and the enosServer are mounted.

This is how I set up my server access for my convenience, otherwise the wife would be continuously asking "How do you do that again?".

The variations are many. If you don't want the server mounted without entering a password, then don't create any SSH keys. Now when the server is auto-mounted or mounted by clicking on the launcher, you will be prompted for pshare's password.

If you don't want the server to auto-mount at login, don't add it to Session and Startup. With no SSH Keys and no auto-mount at log in, the server would not mount until you manually launched it and then entered the password.

At least in LibreOffice, if someone else has a file open when you try to open it you get:



This is a good thing if multiple people in the household share files. If this happens, I would suggest clicking Cancel.

Try to avoid shutting down the computer with a file open on the server. Next time you try to open that file, you may get a similar warning as above saying the file is locked for editing by you. Improper shut downs can leave a lot of things hanging.

Configure any other Linux machines you have exactly like we did this one. Yes, all Linux Client machines will mount the server as user pshare. You could create different users on the server that match the user names of all users accessing the server. In fact, that is what you would want to do in an Enterprise environment. But that can make administration a nightmare, plus this can cause a lot of permission problems between users. We want to keep our home file server as KISS as possible. This way every file and every directory on the server will have pshare as the owner and pshare as group. When we set up the Samba server, we will mount SMB shares as user pshare. That way when someone writes files from a Windows machine, the files will still have pshare as the owner and pshare as group. Everything will be very homogeneous on the Data Drive. Out of the box, SSH will allow up to ten simultaneous connections per SSH server IP address, in this case 192.168.0.1.150 most households don't have ten Linux boxes. But if you need more, edit the sshd config file on the server and change MaxSessions to something higher than ten. I don't know how many simultaneous SSH sessions a single user (pshare) can have, but I have never exceeded it so far. As an experiment, I had 3 Windows computers and 4 Linux computers simultaneously on the server, all 7 streaming music, and performing other server tasks. The server never missed a beat. For a simple home server, it works great.

Manually Installing a USB 3 SSD for the DATA Partition

To install a SSD in a USB 3 enclosure as an external DATA partition. This SSD can be any size you want. Then this USB 3 SSD can be mounted during boot up in /etc/fstab as /server.

Power off the SBC ARM server computer and connect a USB 3 external enclosure with a SSD installed. Boot up the computer and login as root.

```
# cd
                          ( go to /root directory )
# lh
        (Odroid N2 should look similar to this, Odroid XU4 will have one mmcblk partition)
NAME
             FSTYPE
                        FSSIZE
                                   LABEL
                                            MOUNTPOINT
sda
└─sda1
                                    XXXXX
                ext4
mmcblk0
                vfat
                           252M
                                     BOOT
                                               /boot
   -mmcblk1p1
   -mmcblk1p2 ext4
                           56.8G
                                     ROOT
```

/dev/mmcblk1 is our OS device. /dev/sda is our target device. If the device is brand new and has never been partitioned it may look different. We have determined that /dev/sda is our new device (your setup may be different such as /dev/sdb etc)

Partition the USB SSD as one partition that uses all the space in the SSD CAUTION: This WILL erase ALL DATA on your SSD.

```
# fdisk /dev/sda ( or adjust to /dev/sdb or whatever is relevant )
```

Command o (That's lower case o...create a new empty DOS partition table)

Command n (add a new partition)

Partition type: p (p = primary)

partition number: 1

First sector: enter to accept default Last sector: enter to accept default

Partition #1 contains a ext4 signature. (this warning may not appear, if so yes)

do you want to remove the signature? yes

Command: w (write partition table to disk and exit)

mkfs.ext4 -L DATA /dev/sda1 (format our new partition to ext4, -L DATA is the label)

Modify /etc/fstab

Find the UUID that was assigned at formatting for the DATA SSD partition.

lsblk -o NAME,FSTYPE,LABEL,UUID /dev/sda

NAME FSTYPE LABEL UUID

sda

L—sda1 ext4 DATA 373fec37-5b49-44ba-b618-0009613e3ca0

you should see /dev/sda1 with a nice label of "DATA" and its UUID number. Copy the UUID number on a sheet of paper.

cp /etc/fstab /etc/fstab.orig (always make a back up of config files before editing)

Using vi or nano, add the following line at the end of the /etc/fstab file

UUID=Your-UUID-Number /server ext4 defaults,noatime 0.2

close /etc/fstab

We need to create a mount point for the external DATA SSD and the external BKUP SSD # mkdir /server /serverbkup

The /server directory is used for mounting the USB SSD DATA partition The /serverbkup directory is used for mounting the USB BACKUP SSD partition. You should never put any files or sub-directories in these reserved directories.

mount -a (should show no errors if fstab is correct, if not edit /etc/fstab again)

```
# df -h /dev/sda1 (should show our new /server )
Filesystem Size Used Available Use% Mounted on
/dev/sda1 229G 61M 217G 1% /server
```

If sda1 now shows a mount point of /server then the fstab is configured correctly. If not, try editing /etc/fstab again.

IMPORTANT: Set ownership and permissions on our mounted external SSD device # chown root:users /server /serverbkup # chmod 774 /server /serverbkup

You should now have something similar to this snippet.

II /

```
drwxrwxr- - 46 root users 4096 Aug 15 22:15 server drwxrwxr- - 46 root users 4096 Aug 15 22:15 serverbkup
```

Ensure the directories have the correct ownership (root users) and permissions drwxrwxr-- If they are not correct, repeat the above commands until they are correct.

If you edit the /etc/fstab file for any reason, after reboot be sure to check /server and /serverbkup for the permissions and ownership again as editing fstab has a nasty habit of changing stuff when mounting devices to /

systemctl reboot

If the computer takes a long time to boot up, you made a typo and it can't find the SSD. After it times out, and it will take a while, try to get a Console window Ctrl-Alt-F2

Type in your root password and do a blkid to check the UUID & device name such as /dev/sdb Edit /etc/fstab and look for typos. When you find your mistake, reboot and see what happens.

NOTE: On it's own separate SSD you have a working partition at /server for all your data. Always work in /server as a user. Everything in /server should belong to user pshare, including all files and all directories.

Flash an eMMC card on Odroid XU4

On an Odroid XU4, if you opt to use a emmc card as the boot device, then additional steps are necessary. There are many opinions on micro SD VS emmc. The choice is yours.

To create an emmc card, first create a micro SD card as above including booting up the Odroid-XU4, installing keys, and update. Now that everything is working up to this point, place the emmc card on the emmc to microSD converter card. Then into the USB SD READER. Boot up the x86 64 computer with the latest EndeavourOS ISO.

Now repeat the above steps for the micro SD card but with the emmc card. When you shut down the x86 64 computer come back here and do the following.

Set the boot switch on the Odroid-XU4 board next to the HDMI jack to the uSD position (to the left). Ensure the micro SD card is in the XU4 SD slot. On the back side of the Odroid-XU4, Connect the eMMC module to the XU4, ensuring you hear a click when doing so. Connect a monitor, keyboard, ethernet, & apply 5VDC.

The default user is *alarm* with the password *alarm*, the default root password is *root*. Login as root

```
# cd /boot
# sh sd_fusing.sh /dev/mmcblk0
```

fusing should take place without errors. Poweroff the Odroid. Remove the micro SD card. Switch the boot selector switch to emmc (to the right). Power up the Odroid. You should now be running on the emmc card. Login as root.

```
# pacman-key --init
# pacman-key --populate archlinuxarm
# pacman -Syu
```

Now go back to page 4 "Install EndeavourOS on ARM" section and continue installation.