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How to Clean Install Windows 10 from USB

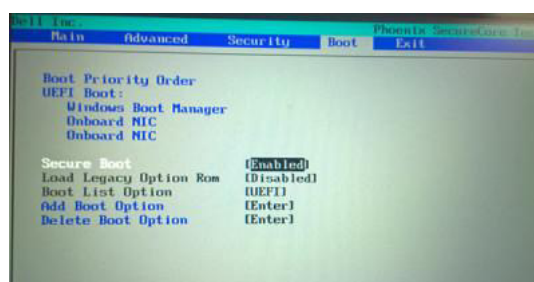
RECOMMENDED: Click here to repair Windows problems & optimize system performance (http://www.reimageplus.com/includes/router_land.php?tracking=twc&lpx=tef)

In this post we will see how to **clean install Windows 10 using a USB flash drive**, on a separate partition. This process can even be used if you want to dual-boot it with another operating system. For this, you will have to first create bootable USB media from ISO for Windows 10 (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/how-to-create-bootable-usb-media-from-iso-for-windows-10>). You will also have to create a separate partition, with at least 16 GB space, using the built-in Disk Management tool, (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/create-new-resize-extend-partition-disk-management-tool>) if you plan to dual-boot it. This is one of its system requirement (<http://forum.thewindowsclub.com/windows-10-management-support/36879-windows-10-system-requirements.html>).

NOTE: Read this post Install Windows 10 after upgrading (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/clean-install-windows-10-after-upgrading>) first.

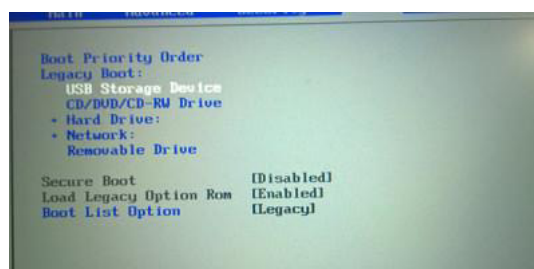
Having done this, you will have to **set your computer to boot from a USB device**. Please be very careful when you change the settings here, lest it make your computer unbootable.

To do this on my Dell laptop, I have to restart it and keep pressing the **F2** key to enter the **Boot Options Setup**. Here you will have to change the boot order. If your device uses **Secure Boot / UEFI**, you will have to change it to **Legacy**. This is how the default setting looked on my laptop.



(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/bios-boot-options.jpg>)

Use the 4 arrow keys of your keyboard, navigate to the Boot tab and change the settings. Disable Secure Boot, enable Legacy option and set Boot List option to Legacy. Next move *USB Storage Device* to the first position and set it to be the first device to boot from. After making the changes, the setting on my Dell laptop looked as follows. It may be a bit different in your laptop.



(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/legacy-boot.jpg>)

Once you have done this, with your USB connected to your laptop, restart the laptop.

Note for Windows 10 users: If you upgrade to Windows 10, the new OS will take the product key and activation details from your earlier OS. These are then saved on Microsoft servers, along with your PC details. If you clean install Windows the first time, you may face activation problems. If you performed an upgrade the first time, activated Windows 10, and then clean installed Windows 10 on the same PC, then there will be no activation issues, as the OS will pull activation details from Microsoft servers. So, if your Windows 10 isn't activated, we suggest you not perform a clean install the first time. First upgrade the first time, Activate it and then Clean Install.

Install Windows 10 from USB

On restart, your computer will boot from the USB, and display the following screen. If you need to see the larger version of any image, please click on the images.



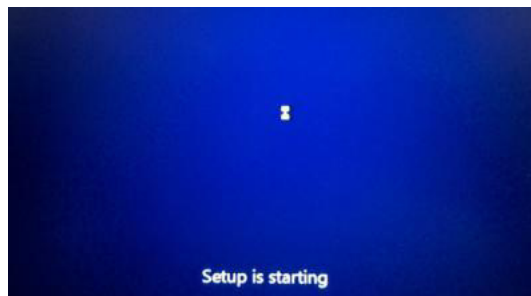
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB.jpg>)

Choose the Language to install, the Time & Currency format and the Keyboard or Input method, and click on Next. You will see the following screen. Click on Install now.



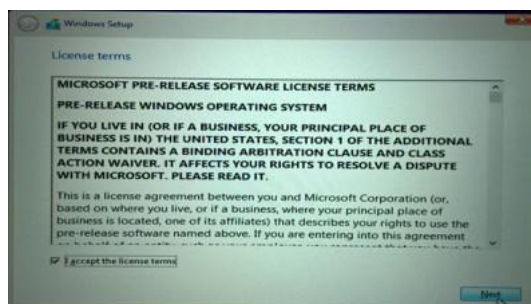
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-2.jpg>)

The setup will start.



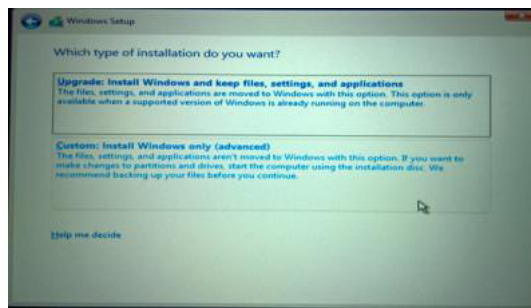
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-3.jpg>)

You will be presented with the License terms. Accept it and click on Next.



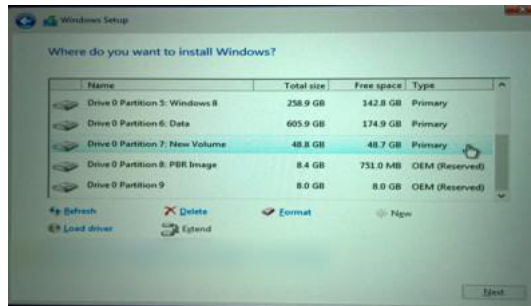
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-5.jpg>)

You will be asked, the type of installation you want. Do you want to upgrade your existing Windows installation and keep the files and settings, or do you want to Custom install Windows. Since we want to go in for a fresh or clean install, select **Custom Install**.



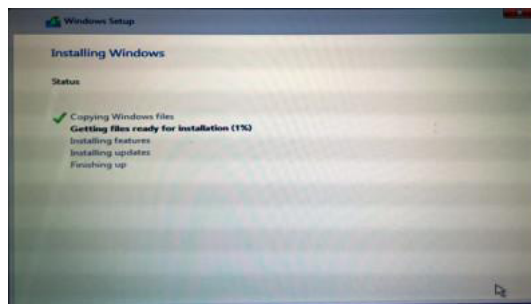
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-6.jpg>)

Next you will be asked the Partition where you want to install **Windows 10** (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/windows-10-faq>). Select your partition carefully and click Next. If you did not create a partition earlier, this setup wizard also lets you create one now.



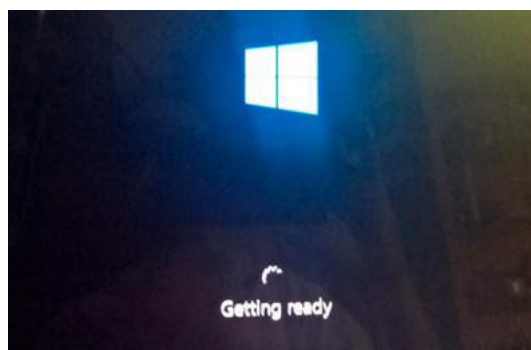
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-7.jpg>)

Windows 10 installation will start. It will copy setup files, install features, install updates if any, and finally clean up the residual installation files. Once this is done, your PC will restart.



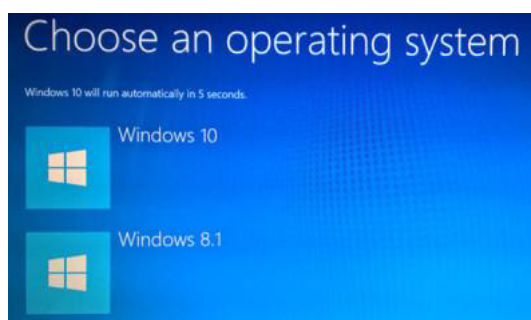
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-8.jpg>)

On restart, you will see the following screen.



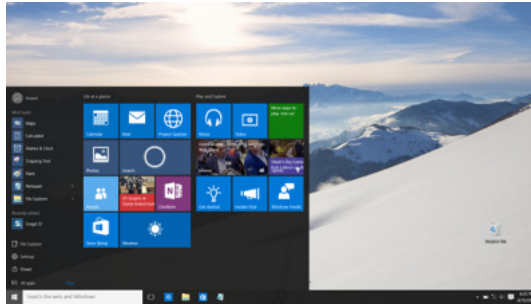
(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-9.jpg>)

If you are dual-booting it, you will be greeted with the following screen. If Windows 10 is the only operating system on your computer, you may be taken to the log in screen directly.



(<http://thewindowsclub.thewindowsclubco.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/install-Windows-10-from-USB-dual-boot.jpg>)

Windows 10 will ask you a few basic questions about your preferences, before completing the installation and taking you to the Windows 10 desktop.



Once the installation is completed, remember to reverse the changes in the Boot Option setup.

This post will show you how to install any version of Windows from one USB flash drive (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/install-any-version-windows-usb>).

See this post if you receive Windows cannot be installed to this disk. The selected disk is of the GPT partition style (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/windows-cannot-be-installed-to-this-disk>) while installing Windows 10. If you have any questions, feel free to visit our Windows 10 Forums (<http://forum.thewindowsclub.com/>).

How to directly clean install Windows 10 without upgrading first (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/directly-clean-install-windows-10-without-upgrading>) may also interest you. Windows OEM computer users always have the option to Restore Factory Image (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/reset-restore-factory-image-settings-windows-10>).

RECOMMENDED: Download this tool to quickly find & fix Windows errors automatically (http://www.reimageplus.com/includes/router_land.php?tracking=twc&lpx=slm)

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Posted by AnandK@TWC (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/author/anand>) on June 16, 2015 , in Category Windows (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/category/windows>) with Tags Installation (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/tag/installation>), Windows 10 (<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/tag/windows-10>)

Anand Khanse is the Admin of TheWindowsClub.com, a 10-year Microsoft MVP Awardee in Windows (2006-16) & a Windows Insider MVP. Please read the entire post & the comments first, create a System Restore Point before making any changes to your system & be careful about any 3rd-party offers while installing freeware.