



**Newsletter** 

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## How to Recover Your PC Using an Android Device

PC won't boot? No other computer available to make a recovery USB? Here's how to create a bootable USB in Android without a PC.

BY CHRISTIAN CAWLEY UPDATED MAR 10, 2022



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Your PC's operating system crashed, and the only chance of recovery is an ISO file flashed to a USB stick.

But if you don't have a spare PC to create installation media with, don't worry. Android has you covered. Here's how to recover your system by making a bootable USB from Android without a PC.

#### Your PC Is Toast: What Now?

We've all been there: your PC won't load. Perhaps a virus has compromised the operating

system, or the hard disk is failing and needs replacing. There's data you need to recover, but you have no way to burn a recovery disk.

You may think your PC is the only device you have that can download and burn ISO files (disk images saved as a single file). Or is it?

If you have an Android phone or tablet on hand running Android 3.1 or later, the device probably has <u>USB On-The-Go (OTG)</u> support. This means you can attach USB devices to your phone or tablet, like a mouse, keyboard, or even a USB storage device.

This is the path you can use to recover your PC. Download the recovery disk ISO file, connect the USB device to your tablet or phone, and burn the ISO file using a dedicated app.

You'll basically be able to boot your laptop from your Android phone.

#### Download an ISO to Use Android as a Bootable USB

If you have an Android phone or tablet with OTG support, there's a good chance you can use it to fix your PC.

But wait: have you diagnosed the problem? Before proceeding with recovery, search online to check what the boot issue might be. Think about the symptoms, what your PC did before it crashed, and how long you've had the problem. This approach will help you to decide what path to take later when burning an ISO.

For repair, you might require a dedicated recovery disk, or simply a fresh version of your preferred operating system. However, if you're not sure, opt for the recovery disk. If your Android device has enough storage space, find a suitable disk image ISO file and download it. If you're low on space, try a tiny Linux distro.

Try to use your home network connection for this, rather than mobile internet. Downloading an operating system will use several gigabytes of data, which could eat up your entire

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mobile allowance.

Make a Bootable USB With ISO 2 USB for Android

Once you've downloaded the ISO you want, you'll need a tool to burn it with. On Windows,

you would probably choose Rufus, but this is not available for Android. However, several

Rufus-like alternatives are available.

Of these, the most reliable is the ISO 2 USB Android utility. This basically does the same job

as Rufus, turning a portion of your phone's storage into a bootable disk.

Download: ISO 2 USB (Free)

With this, you can make a bootable pen drive with Android, small enough to keep in your

pocket for emergencies.

**Create Bootable ISO Media on Android** 

The next step is to connect a USB storage device to your phone using an OTG adapter. This

is an affordable cable that you can purchase from mobile phone retailers or online. Two

types are available: one for phones with USB-C ports, and another for devices with micro-

USB ports.

Once connected to your phone, simply plug a USB flash drive into the OTG adapter. You can

write your downloaded ISO to this destination in the app.

Begin by connecting the USB drive via the OTG cable, then in ISO 2 USB:

1. Tap the first **Pick** button

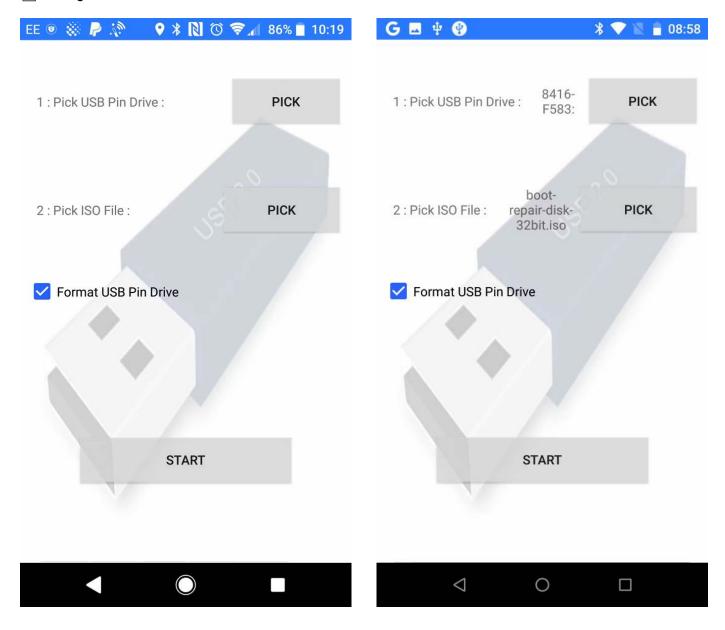
2. Choose your USB drive

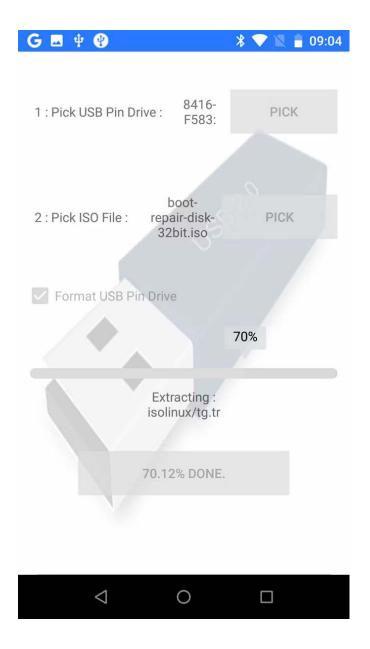
3. Proceed to the second **Pick** button

4. Select the **ISO** file

5. Tap **Start** to begin writing the data

3 Images





Be sure to accept Android's permissions requests throughout; the app will request access to your media files, as well as the USB drive.

It shouldn't take long to complete; once done, remove the USB device, insert it in your PC, and begin recovery. Remember to change the boot order in your computer's BIOS to enable booting from USB.

### **Turning an Android Phone Into a Bootable Linux Environment**

Don't have a USB flash drive or a USB to OTG cable? If your Android device is rooted, you can try an alternative approach.

DriveDroid is a useful utility that lets you boot your PC directly over a USB cable using any ISO or IMG file stored on your phone. You just need your Android smartphone or tablet and a suitable cable---no flash drives required.

Download: DriveDroid (Free) | DriveDroid Paid (\$1.99)

It's important to note that **this is only an option for rooted devices**. Even then, some phones may not work as intended due to kernel quirks.

#### How to Recover a PC Using DriveDroid

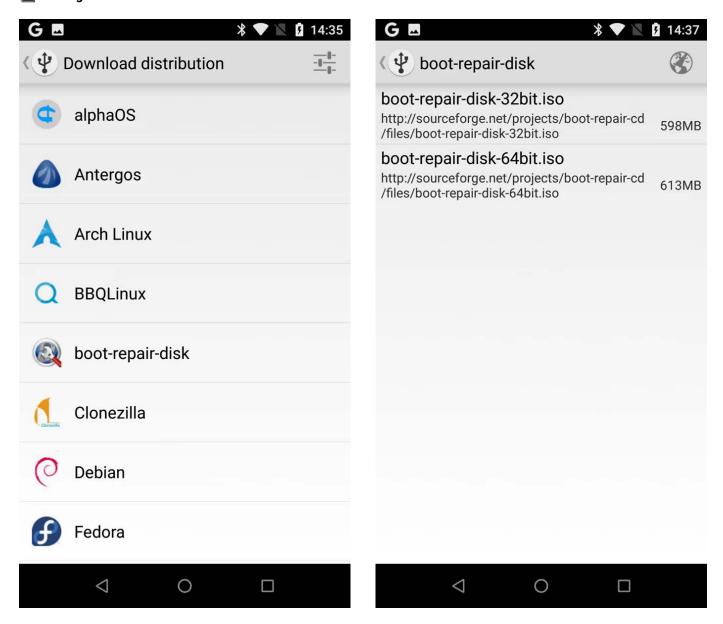
The <u>DriveDroid website</u> offers tutorials for installing different operating systems. A massive selection is available, from Ubuntu to ZorinOS, Tiny Linux, Gentoo, Arch Linux, and other top Linux distros. If you have a legal copy of Windows, this can also be used.

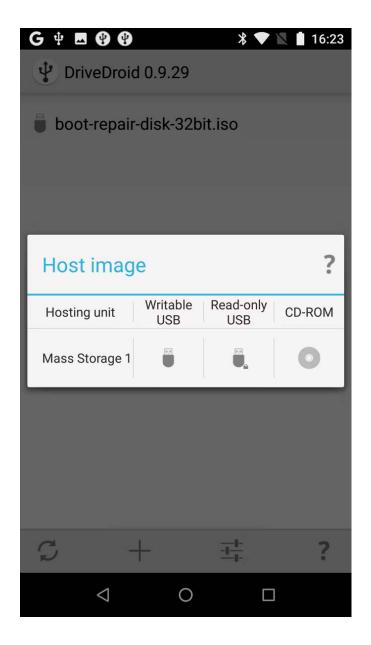
You now have everything you need to boot your PC from Android.

The process for setting up DriveDroid and installing an operating system is relatively straightforward.

- 1. Run DriveDroid and Grant root permissions
- 2. Next, click **Download** and select an OS to download to Android. (If you're trying to recover your PC choose **boot-repair-disk**, or **CloneZilla**)
- 3. Wait for the download to complete
- 4. In the DriveDroid app, select the ISO
- 5. In the options, choose **standard USB storage**, **read-only USB storage**, or **CD-ROM (t**his determines how the ISO behaves when you reboot your computer
- 6. Next, connect the Android device to your PC and reboot
- 7. With your computer's boot order configured to boot USB devices, the downloaded operating system will boot from your phone
- 8. Recover your PC or install a brand-new OS

3 Images





Take care with the OS selection, as various options are presented, typically a recent build, in 32-bit or 64-bit flavors. Be sure to select the OS that suits the build of the PC you're attempting to recover.

If you followed those steps, congratulations---you just used your phone as a bootable USB device!

# How to Install Windows 1 Tom an Android Phone to PC Subscribe to our newsletter

There is another benefit of using the DriveDroid app rather than ISO 2 USB. DriveDroid's paid option adds the ability to install Windows 10 from an Android phone or tablet.

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So if RELAXIED TOPALES you, and the recovery tools don't repair your Windows partition, you can samply pein straign or partition on your PC using your Android phone in under an hour.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

That's not bad for an Android app. (1728 Articles Published)



Two Options to Recover Your PC With Android
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If your PC is out of action, you can install a new operating system or run a recovery environment thanks to Android. Two solid options are available:

POLL

• ISO 2 USB: Lets you burn an ISO file directly to a USB flash drive over USB-OTG.

Would you rather pay for fast internet, or get slow internet for free?
DriveDroid: Enables you to store bootable ISO files on Android. With the paid version,

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