How To Install Ubuntu 20.04 LTS Desktop (Focal Fossa)

Posted May 25, 2020   UBUNTU   UBUNTU 20.04

☰ **Contents**   ›

Introduction

Ubuntu 20.04 (codenamed Focal Fossa) was released on April 23, 2020. It's a Long-Term Support (LTS) release, meaning that it will receive support and updates until April 2025.

This guide will help you install a fresh copy of Ubuntu 20.04 LTS on your computer.

New Ubuntu 20.04 Features

- **Linux Kernel 5.4** – This version of the Linux kernel adds support for a wider range of processors. It also includes improvements for boot speed, power-saving, and USB-C, plus several security features.
- **Gnome 3.36** – Gnome has been updated and improved. System animations should be smoother and have a lower impact on CPU usage.
- **ZFS 0.8.3 file system** – Improved performance and native encryption.
- **Dark theme**
- **Redesigned login screen**
- **Newer versions of popular programming languages** – Python 3.8, OpenJDK 11, PHP 7.4, Glibc 2.31, Rustc 1.41, GCC 9.3, Ruby 2.7.0, Perl 5.30, Golang 1.13.

Note: If you are looking to upgrade from an older version of Ubuntu, follow our guide on updating to Ubuntu 20.04.

- System requirements (recommended):
  - 2 GHz dual-core processor
  - 4GB memory
  - 25GB available disk space for storage (less if installing the minimal version)
  - DVD drive or USB port
- At least a 4GB USB drive

Step 1: Download the Installation Media

1. In a web browser, visit the Ubuntu download page and pick a version suitable for your machine. The most popular versions include:

- Ubuntu Desktop
- Ubuntu Server
- Ubuntu Derivatives

2. Once you find the version you need, click the green **Download** button. You'll be taken to a thank-you page, and your download should start. (We will download and install Ubuntu 20.04 for desktops.)

The download is an **.iso** file. You can use it to create a bootable USB drive.

3. Save the file to a location of your choice.

Note: If you're installing to a virtual machine (like VirtualBox), you can mount the .iso image directly.

Step 2: Create Bootable USB

You will need a USB drive with 4GB or more. **This process will delete all data on the USB drive.** Make sure to backup any existing data on the USB drive.

Option 1: Create a Bootable USB Drive on Ubuntu

1. Open a **search dialog**, and type *create startup*.

2. If it's not installed, the Software Center will offer the option to install it – choose the option for USB drive, then open the utility.

3. In the top pane, click **Other**, then browse and select the Ubuntu 20.04 .iso file you downloaded.

4. In the bottom pane, select your USB drive.

5. Click **Make startup disk.**

Option 2: Create Bootable USB Drive on Windows

You'll need to install a third-party utility called **Rufus** to create a USB bootable drive.

1. Download the Rufus utility. Scroll down to the download section and click the link to download the latest version of Rufus.

2. Run the file once downloaded.
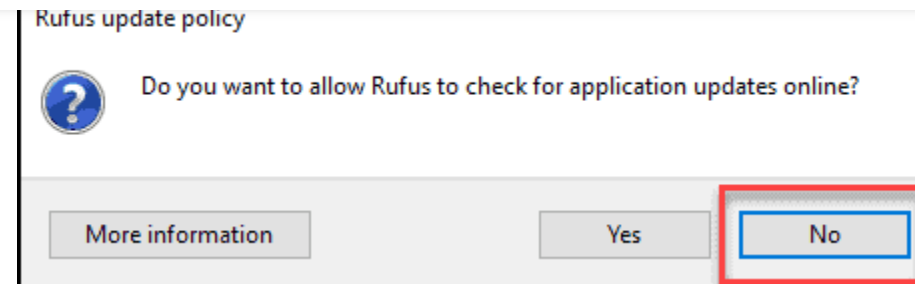
4. The Rufus utility launches. Plug in the USB drive – you should see the drive pop up in the device field.

- Set the USB as the device you wish to write to.
- In the *Boot Selection* drop-down, click **Disk or ISO Image.**
- Click the **Select** button to the right.
- Browse and select the .iso Ubuntu file you downloaded earlier.
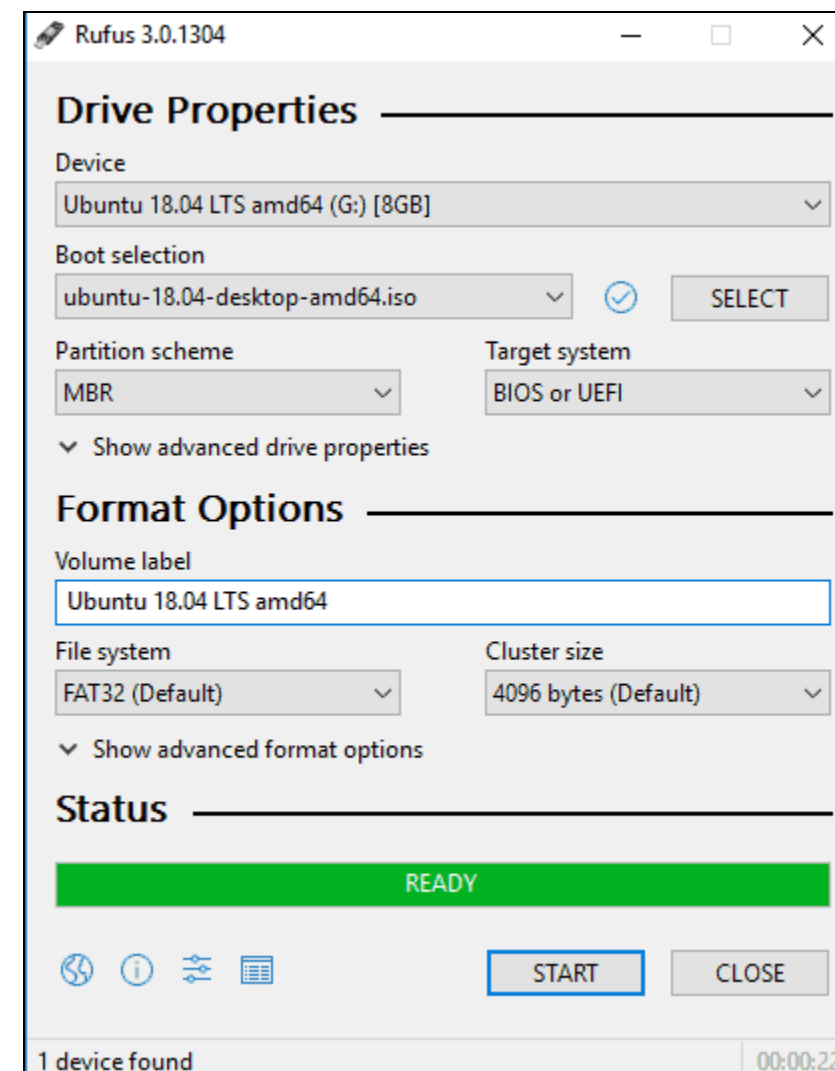
Step 3: Boot up Ubuntu from USB

1. **Turn off your system**. Make sure you remove all other USB devices, such as printers, memory cards, etc.

2. **Insert the Ubuntu USB drive** into the system and turn on your machine.

There are two possible scenarios:

- The computer boots the USB drive automatically.
- You need to manually configure USB booting in the **Boot Menu** or **BIOS/UEFI**.

3. To manually configure the boot order, tap the boot menu key about once or twice per second as soon as the computer powers on.

The boot menu key may be different depending on your computer manufacturer. Below is a list of common boot keys associated to a brand:

Asus	**F8 or Esc**
Acer	**F12, F9 or Esc**
Compaq	**F9 or Esc**
Dell	**F12**
eMachines	**F12**
Fujitsu	**F12**
HP	**F9 or Esc**
Lenovo	**F8, F10 or F12**
Samsung	**F2, F12 or Esc**
Toshiba	**F12**

Your system should start loading the Ubuntu live disc menu.

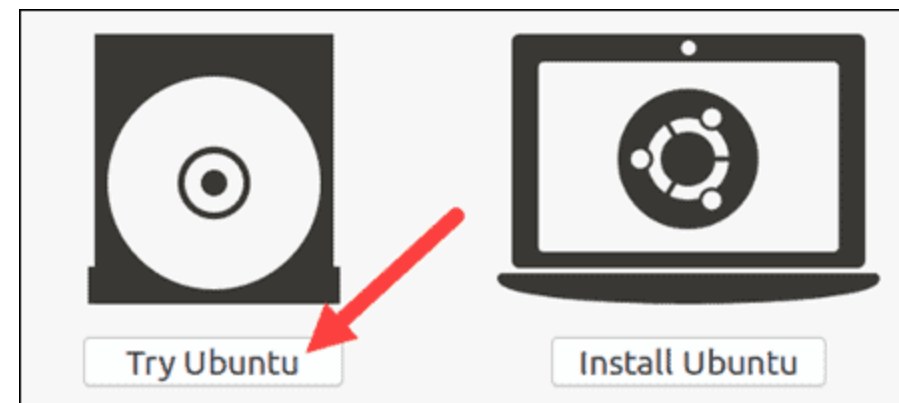**Note:** If you are experiencing issues when booting the USB from the boot menu, try to boot the USB from BIOS/UEFI.

Step 4: Run Ubuntu

You can test Ubuntu 20.04 before you commit to installing it. The .iso includes a live mode that only runs in memory.

Launch this mode by clicking **Try Ubuntu**.

Step 5: Install Ubuntu 20.04 LTS Desktop

To begin the installation, click **Install Ubuntu**.
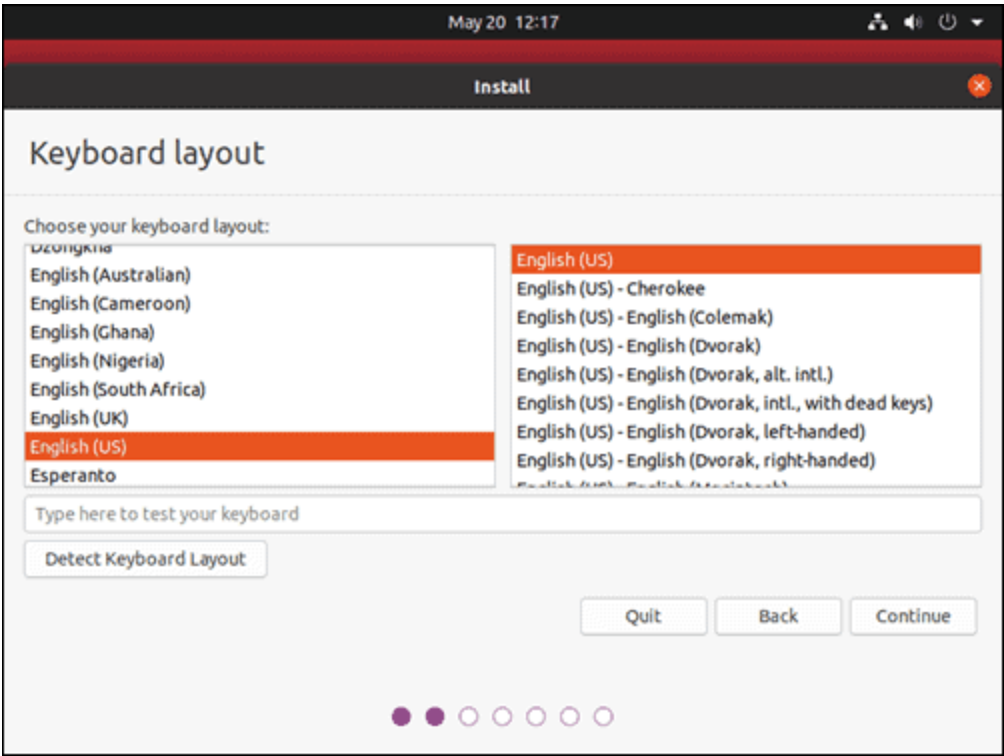
Choose Keyboard Layout

By default, the system will select English and English.

If you have a non-standard keyboard, you can select it in the list. Alternately, click **Detect Keyboard Layout** and the system will automatically choose your keyboard. If you need to test your keyboard, use the labeled field.

When you're ready, click **Continue**.

Choose Starting Applications

productivity software.

You'll also be asked to confirm other options:

- **Download updates while installing Ubuntu** – This does the work of downloading large package files during the installation. Once the installation finishes, the packages will be ready to apply as updates.
- **Install third-party software for graphics and Wi-Fi hardware and additional media formats –** Some hardware, like graphics cards and wi-fi cards, do not have open-source driver support. Also, some media formats, such as .wmv, do not fall under the GPL license. If you need support for these, you'll need to agree to additional terms of use.
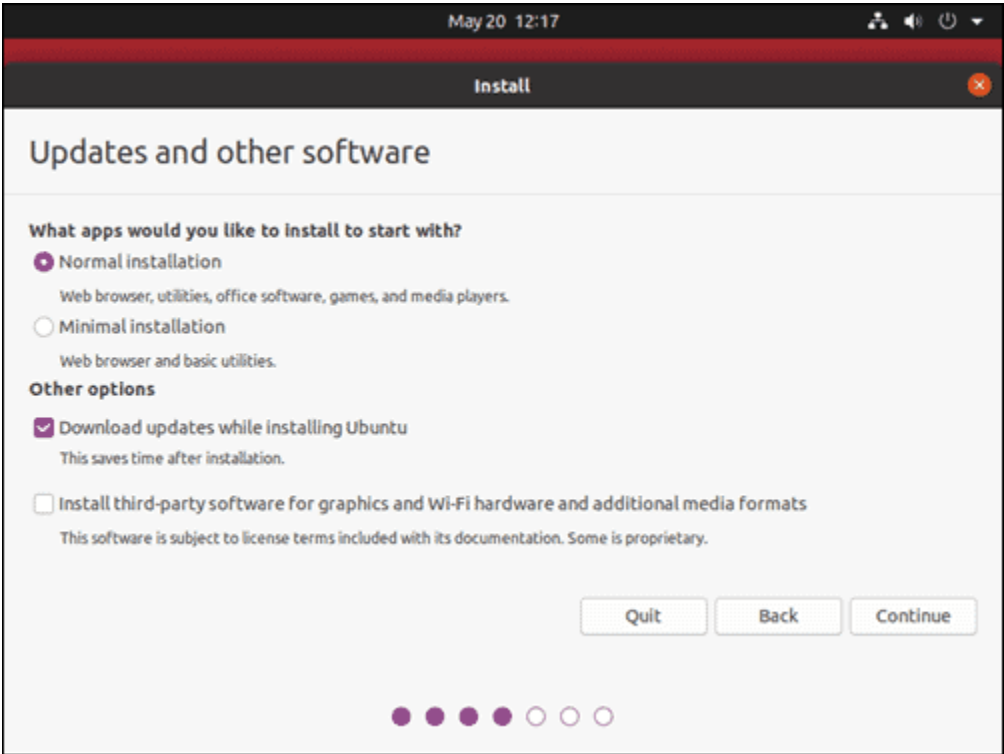
Disk Partitioning

Next, you'll be presented with an **Installation Type** dialog. You can wipe the hard drive clean prior to installing Ubuntu by clicking **Erase disk and install Ubuntu**. If you go this route, skip ahead to the next step.

Advanced users may want to edit **Advanced Features**. Use this to specify your own disk partitions or set other advanced options:

gparted tool.

- **Encrypt the new Ubuntu installation for security**: This will encrypt the drive's contents. You'll choose a security key, which will be required to decrypt and use the drive.
- **Experimental: Erase disk and use ZFS**: ZFS refers to *Zettabyte File System*, but it has grown into a hybrid file system and volume manager. Since it's still being tested, avoid this setting on mission critical production systems.

If you'd rather create your own hard drive partitions, click **Something Else**.

The next screen will allow you to create your own partition table and logical drives. This lets you divide a physical hard drive into different partitions. The operating system sees partitions as individual drives.

Note: Some users create their **/home** directory on a separate partition. If the operating system needs to be reinstalled, the partition with the /home directory is unaffected.

Click **Continue** to apply your changes to the drive partitions.

You'll be asked to **Write changes to disks?** None of the options you've selected are permanent until you click **Continue** on this screen. Click **Continue** to proceed.

Select Time Zone

Once the system formats the disk partitions, the installer will ask **Where are you?**

Type the nearest large city into the box, and the system will **set your local time zone**.

Click **Continue**.

Create User Account

Next, you'll need to configure a user account. Fill in the following fields:

- **Name:** Your actual name.
- **Computer name:** This is the hostname or network name.
- **Username:** The user account name you want to use.
- **Password:** Enter and confirm a strong password – the installer will automatically evaluate your password strength.
- **Log in automatically:** This is not recommended for publicly accessible servers.
- **Require my password to log in:** This is recommended for publicly accessible servers.

Click **Continue** to install Ubuntu.

Once the installer finishes, remove the Ubuntu installation media. You'll be prompted to **Restart Now**.