

Easy Linux Tips Project

Easy tips for Linux Mint and Ubuntu, both for beginners and for advanced users.

How to install Linux Mint 19.2 alongside Windows

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Dual boot the easy way

Windows can stay on your computer, when you install Linux Mint 19.2! It's handy to turn your computer into a dual boot machine. That way you can choose each time you turn on your computer, what operating system you want to boot: Mint or Windows.

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It's easy to turn your computer into a dual boot:

Create an external backup of your documents

1. Backup all your documents, pictures, music et cetera, on an external storage volume (DVD-RW, external USB hard disk, flash memory stick).

Let Windows perform a disk check

2. Make Windows perform an error check on the hard disk. In Windows 7, you can do that as follows:

Menu - click the button [Computer](#) - click Local Disk (C:) - in the menu bar, click Properties - tab Tools - Error checking: click the button [Check now...](#)

Check only the first option box:

[Automatically fix file system errors](#)

Click Start.

See this screenshot (click to enlarge):

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This is the new home of the Easy Linux Tips Project (formerly at: <https://sites.google.com/site/easylinuxtipsproject>)

Only for Linux Mint 19.x and Ubuntu 18.04.x

The tips and how-to's on this website are only for Linux Mint 19.x and Ubuntu 18.04.x.

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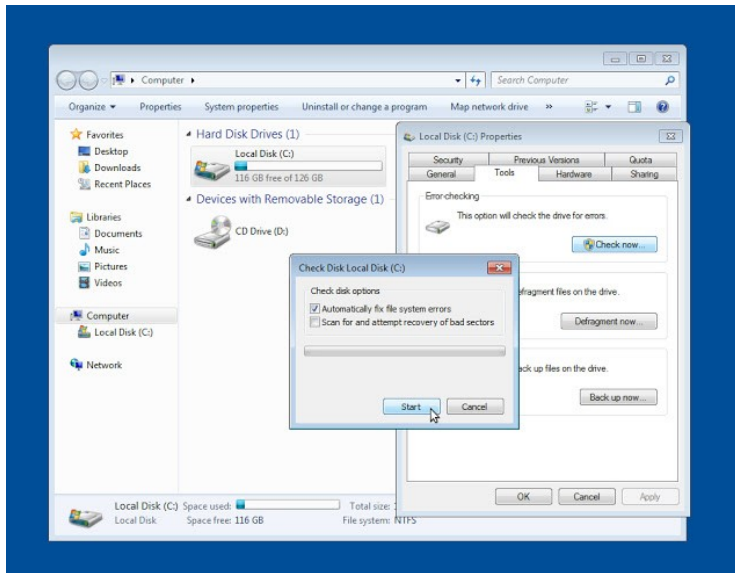
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End of life for Windows 7 is nearing!

Windows 7 will soon receive no security updates anymore.

On January 14, 2020 Microsoft will end its support for Windows 7

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Now Windows will ask for a reboot, in order to perform the error check. So reboot. During the reboot, Windows will do an error check with CHKDSK.

In **Windows 8.x and 10** the procedure is as follows:

- Swipe in from the right edge of the screen and tap [Search](#). Or if you're using a mouse, point to the upper-right corner of the screen, move the mouse pointer down, and then click [Search](#). Enter [This PC](#) in the search box, and then tap or click [This PC](#).

- **Right-click** the drive you want to repair, and then tap or click [Properties](#).

- Tap or click the [Tools](#) tab, and then, under Error checking, tap or click [Check](#).

Administrator permission required! You might be asked for an admin password or to confirm your choice.

- Follow the instructions. You might need to restart your PC after the error checking has finished.

Note: defragmentation is [unnecessary](#)! That saves a lot of time....

- Shut down your computer.

Simplify your hardware

3. It's important to **simplify your hardware**: temporarily unplug all peripherals from your computer, except for display, mouse, keyboard and printer. Do you use an USB hub? Then remove that temporarily as well, and connect mouse, keyboard and printer directly to the USB ports in your computer.

After the installation you can reconnect all your peripherals again; they'll probably work out of the box then.

Wire your computer: temporarily establish internet connection with an ethernet cable, wired internet therefore. If you have a laptop, **connect the power cord** as well: you definitely don't want to run the risk of an empty battery during the installation of an operating system.

Important: the next step, step 4, is only necessary for computers with Windows 8.x or 10. If you have an older Windows, then skip step 4 and proceed with step 5.

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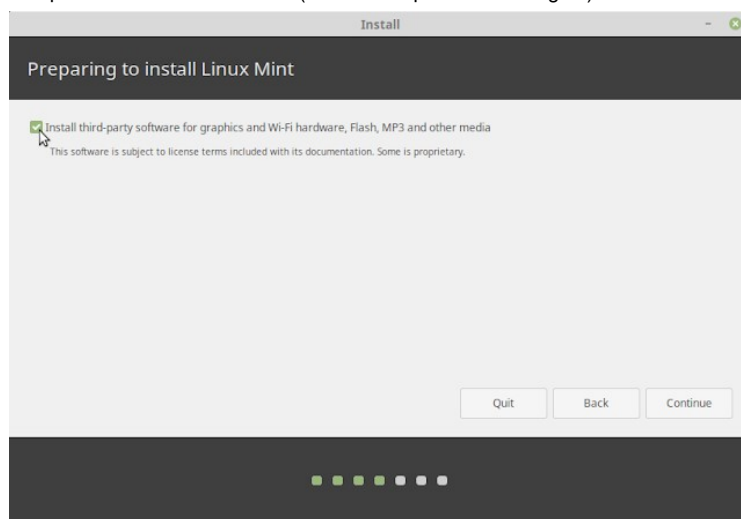
The actual installation

5. a. Boot your computer from the Mint DVD (are the BIOS settings OK for booting from a DVD?), hit the space bar and choose "Check disc for defects", thus performing an integrity check on the DVD. The DVD has to be completely error free. If it's not, burn a new DVD at low speed (4 x).

b. After a few seconds, the Mint DVD will boot automatically. In the trial (live) session you can find out if all your hardware works like it should. **Note:** in the live session Mint functions much slower than usual!

c. You can start the installation by clicking the special desktop shortcut for it. The installer will start by asking you a couple of questions. Only after you have made a choice for partitioning, installation will begin.

You'll be presented with this window (click on the picture to enlarge it):



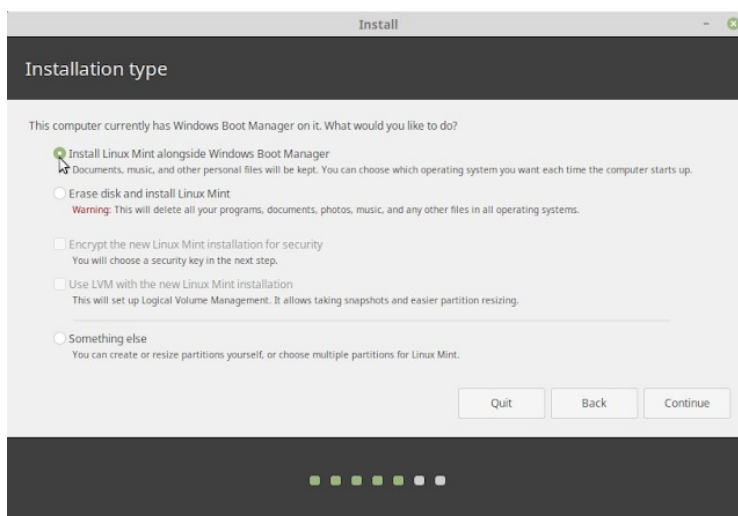
Tick: [Install third-party software \(etc.\)](#) and click "Continue".

Note: did you get a window which also gives you the option to turn off secure boot? Then it's easiest to abort the installation, turn off secure boot in your UEFI (BIOS) settings and start the installation anew.

Because the option "Turn off Secure Boot" in the installer is a bit cumbersome: further on it'll force you to jump through some annoying hoops. Nonsense like: "type the third and the sixth letter of your disabling password".

Turning off secure boot in the UEFI (BIOS) is easier. Afterwards you can start the installation of Linux Mint anew.

Then choose the option [alongside Windows](#) (sometimes called: [Install Linux Mint alongside Windows Boot Manager](#)), so that your Windows will be safe (click on the picture to enlarge it):



Note: When you don't have much experience with Linux yet, then **do not** select the **LVM** option! Because that drastic option is only meant for advanced Linux users. This option can cause a lot of trouble for people with little Linux experience....

The **Encrypt** option is also potentially risky; only use it when it has a clear security advantage. For example on a computer that sometimes leaves your house and which contains sensitive information (like a laptop that you take with you to your work).

But don't apply the Encrypt option on a computer that's always in your house, like a desktop computer which is only in use by you and your family.

The disadvantage of encryption is, that your important data will be forever unreachable when you, for example, forget your password. Encryption is a very powerful tool; like all powerful tools, it should be handled with care.

Click [Continue](#).

Potential problem: no option to preserve Windows

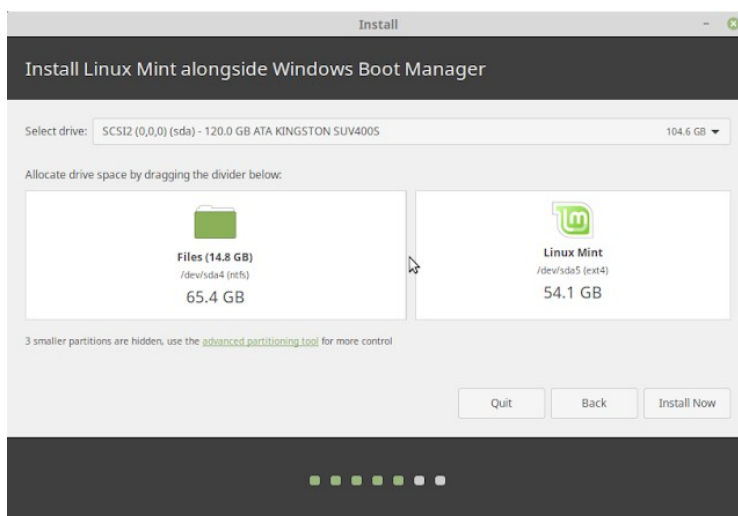
6. Doesn't the installer offer you the option to preserve Windows and install Linux Mint alongside Windows? Then cancel the installation and have a look at [this potential solution](#) (written for Ubuntu, but applicable in Mint as well).

Disk partitioning

7. One of the last questions will be a disk partitioning proposal. The installer will namely propose to free some space on the hard disk. Thus leaving somewhat less space for Windows, and allowing Mint to be put on the cleared space.

Don't worry: the installer respects the disk space that's already used by Windows files, and only proposes to divide the remaining unused space on the hard drive.

This proposal looks approximately like this (click on the picture to enlarge it):



The mouse pointer is at the divider: move the divider at will. Your new Mint is on the right side.

In principle, you could simply agree with this proposal of the installer. However, on small hard drives the installer tends to underestimate the disk space (the surplus empty "breathing space") needed by either Windows or Mint. So you may want to increase the disk space for either Windows or Mint, by moving the slider with your mouse.

Click [Install now](#).

Note: Give Mint preferably no less than 20 GB. Mint is the block on the right.

In other words: the installer assumes automatically (by default) that you don't want to wipe Windows and that you want a dual boot computer. Mint is user friendly!

Note: Can't you finish the installation because it stalls halfway? Then maybe [removing the slideshow can solve it](#) (item 4).

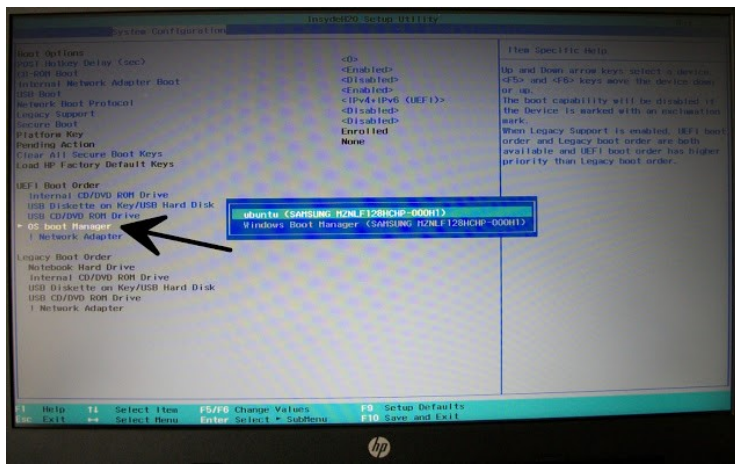
Now the installation of Mint takes place, and in the end you'll have a dual boot computer.

Is there no boot menu and does Windows 10 start rightaway?

8. On modern computers who were sold with a pre-installed Windows 8 or 10, sometimes you don't get to see a boot menu after a seemingly succesful installation of Linux Mint. Instead of that, Windows boots rightaway, just as if no Linux Mint has been installed at all.

Usually you can fix that by another change of the configuration of the UEFI (BIOS). In the "boot options" of the UEFI, find the item "OS boot manager". Select it, press Enter and place Windows Boot Manager at the bottom (for HP laptops you can do that by means of the F5 key).

See the screenshot below, of the relevant part of the UEFI settings of an HP laptop (click on the image to enlarge it):



Note: in the UEFI settings of an Acer laptop, I've seen a weird problem: after installation of Linux Mint, there were **two** instances of Windows Boot Manager in the boot priority. It turned out that the second one was actually the Linux Mint bootloader.... So all I had to do was to put that one on top of the list.

Windows has to adjust itself

9. The first time you start Windows in the dual boot configuration, Windows will discover that its disk space has shrunk. Windows has to adjust itself to that.

During the first Windows boot you might therefore see a blue screen with white letters, informing you that Windows is checking the hard disk and "repairing" it with the application CHKDSK. Simply let it do its job.

Afterwards Windows will want to reboot. Go along with it. Then Windows will be used to its new disk space and will function normally.

Done! What's next?

10. That's it! You're done. Now you can reboot into Mint and start polishing your new operating system. Mint comes in several desktop editions, so I've made three different pages:

[10 things to do after installing Linux Mint with the Cinnamon desktop](#)

[10 things to do after installing Linux Mint with the MATE desktop](#)

[10 things to do after installing Linux Mint with the Xfce desktop](#)

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