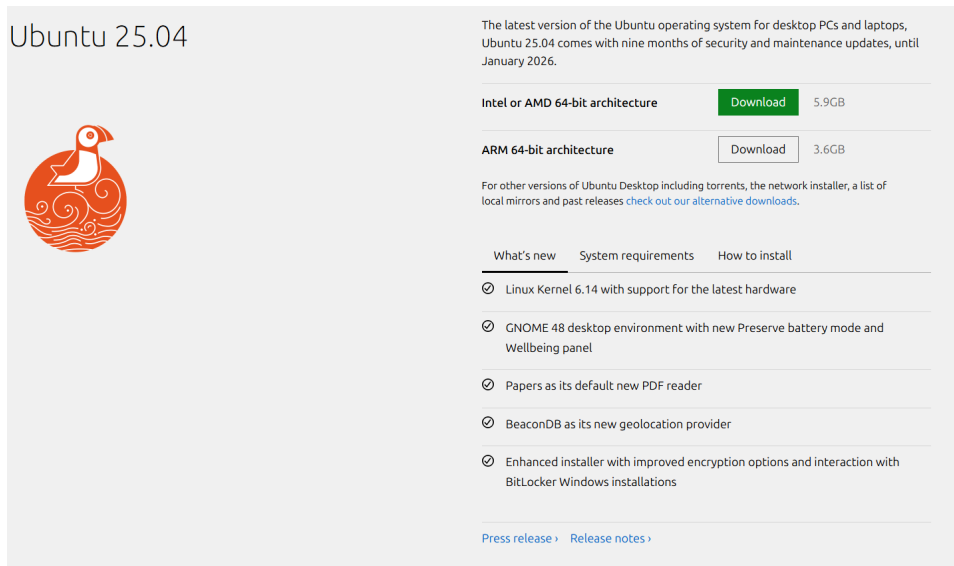
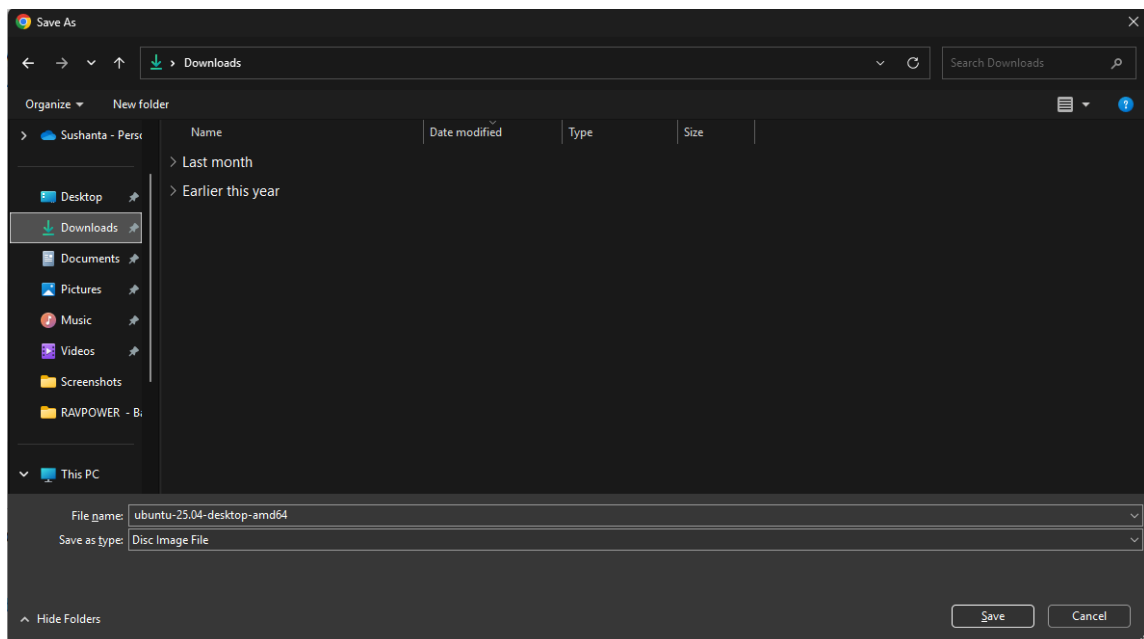


## 1. Download Linux Distro

- First, we will go to the official website of the **Ubuntu distro** - [ubuntu.com/download/desktop](https://ubuntu.com/download/desktop)
- Download the latest version** of the Ubuntu operating system. (At the time of this document, Ubuntu 25.04 is the latest)

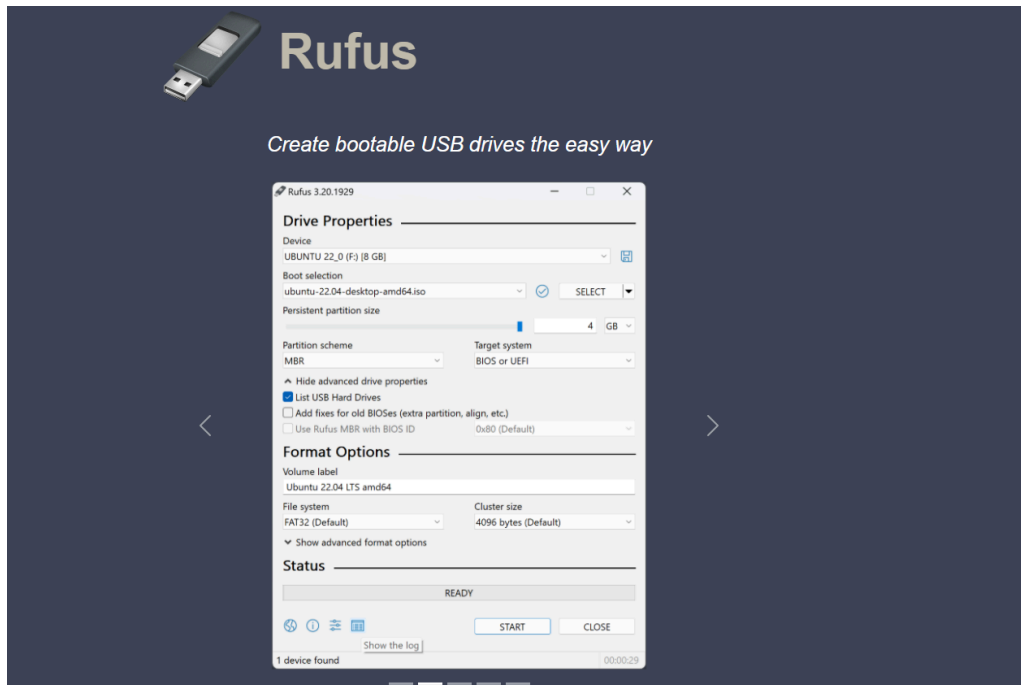


- Once you click download, the process begins. You'll first be directed to a "Sign up for our newsletter" page; you can ignore it if you want. Shortly after, a dialog box will appear, allowing you to **save the ISO file to your computer**.



## 2. Download USB Creation Tool

- a. We'll be downloading **Rufus**, a free and open-source application for Windows. It's what we'll use to format and create bootable USB flash drives. If you're on a different operating system, you can use **balenaEtcher** instead.



- b. First, head over to **rufus.ie** to download Rufus. We'll find the download section there. We will get the latest standard release; as of the day of documentation, that's **rufus-4.7.exe**.

## Download

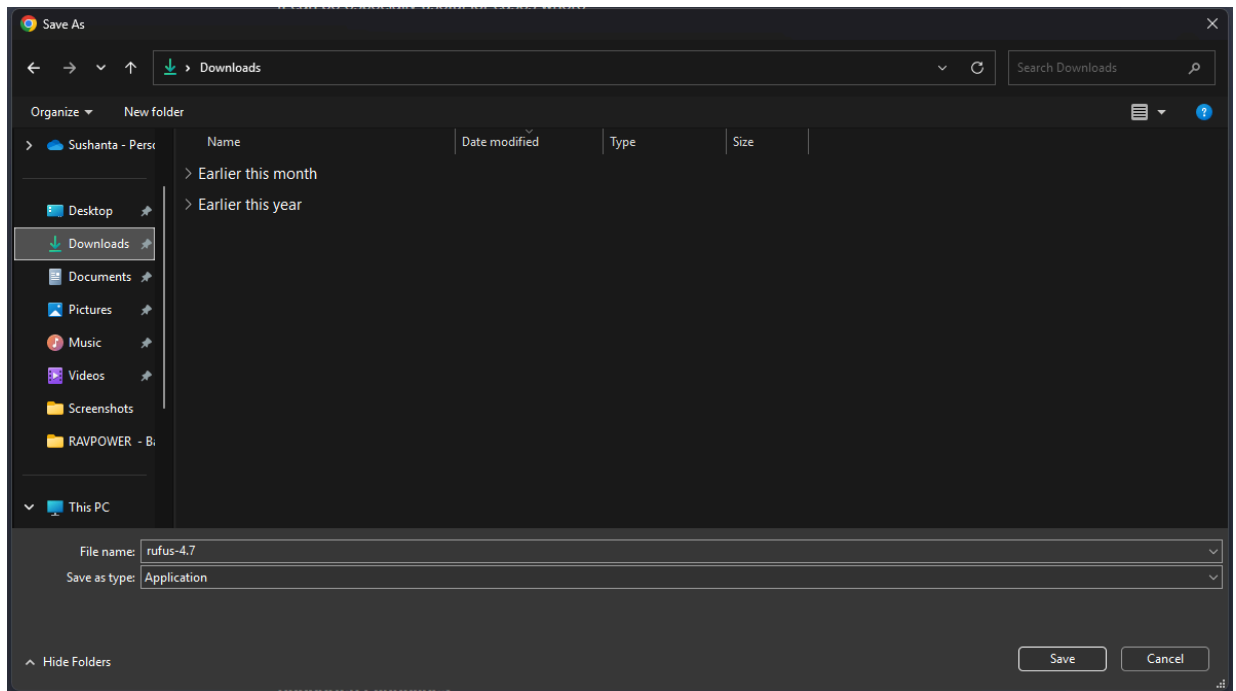
**Latest releases:**

Link	Type	Platform	Size	Date
<a href="#">rufus-4.7.exe</a>	Standard	Windows x64	1.6 MB	2025.04.09
<a href="#">rufus-4.7p.exe</a>	Portable	Windows x64	1.6 MB	2025.04.09
<a href="#">rufus-4.7_x86.exe</a>	Standard	Windows x86	1.6 MB	2025.04.09
<a href="#">rufus-4.7_arm64.exe</a>	Standard	Windows ARM64	5.3 MB	2025.04.09

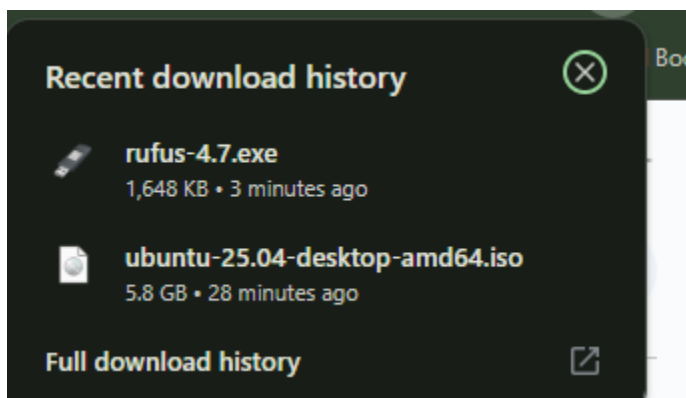
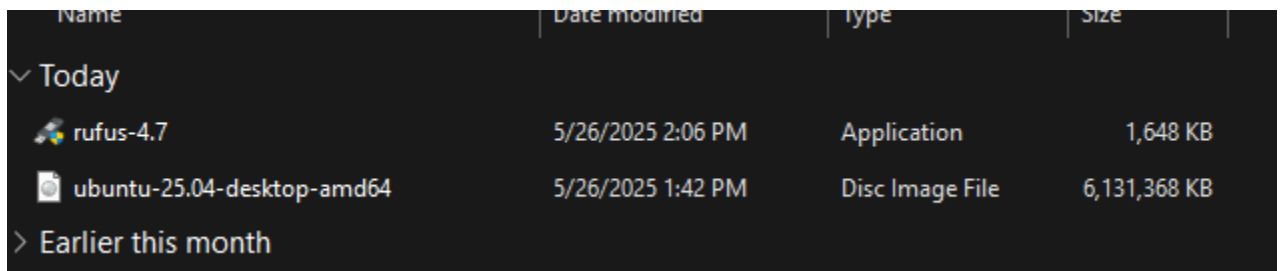
[Other versions \(GitHub\)](#)  
[Other versions \(FossHub\)](#)

**System Requirements:**  
Windows 8 or later. Once downloaded, the application is ready to use.

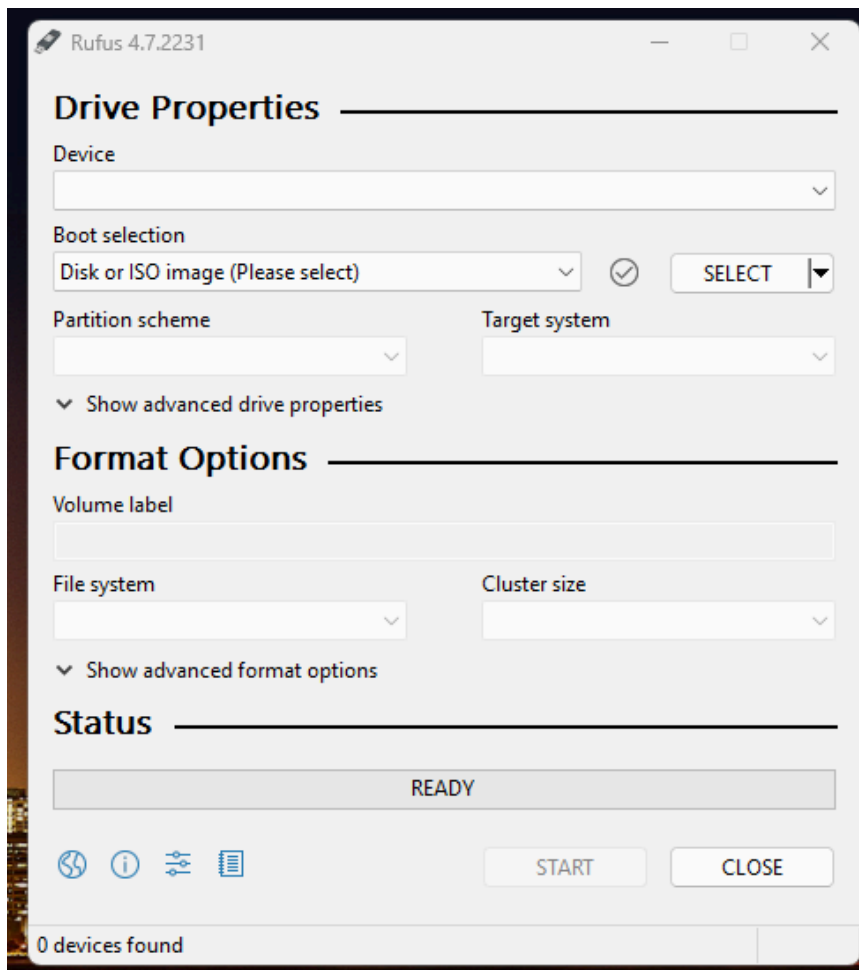
- c. You'll be **prompted to save** the application file to your computer.



- d. Find the downloaded application file, either in the folder where you saved it or by checking your browser's **downloads** section.



- e. When we **double-click** on the application file, it will automatically open the app, there's no installation process required.

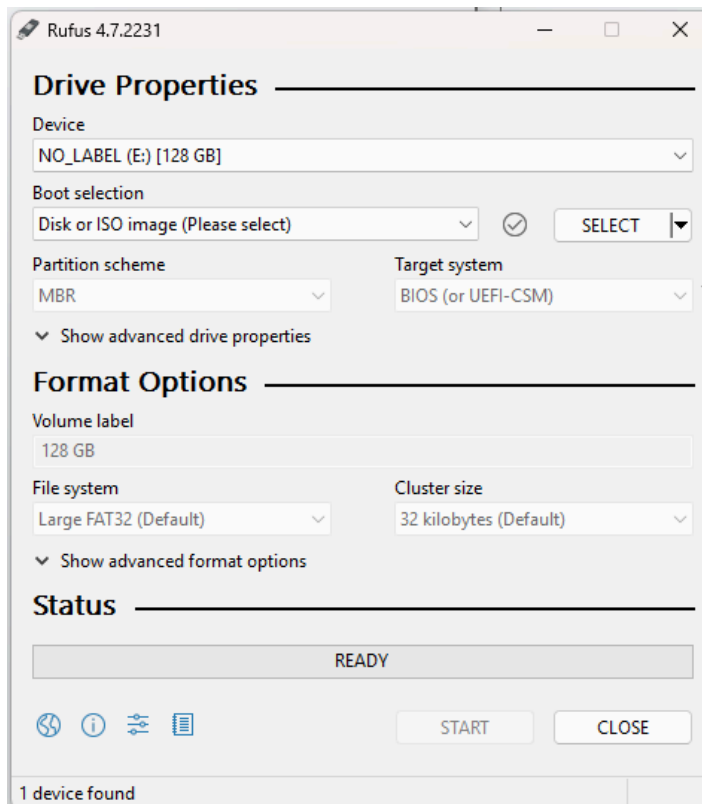


### 3. Create the Bootable Linux USB Drive

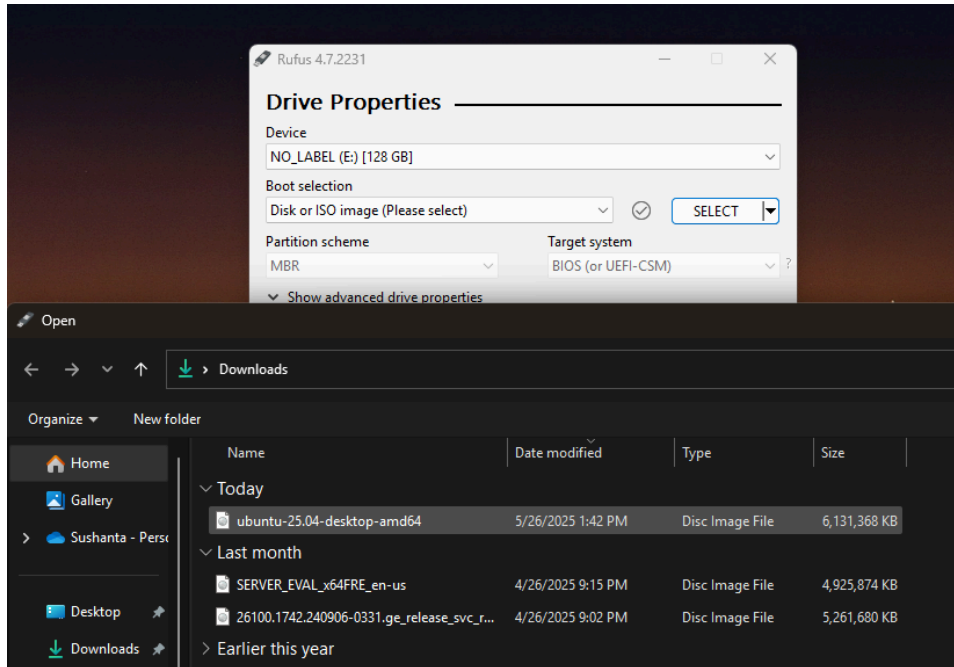
- a. First, we will need a USB drive (preferably 8GB or more).
- b. I personally use a **SanDisk 128GB Ultra Fit USB**—it's reliable, cost-effective, and so tiny you barely notice it when it's plugged in.



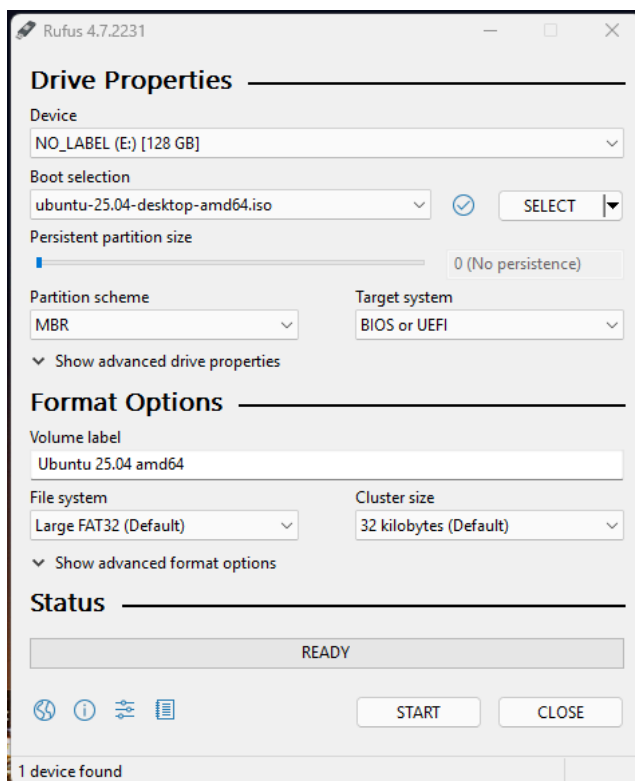
- c. Now, we are going to insert your USB drive and open Rufus. Under "Device," we should see something like **NO\_LABEL (E:) [128 GB]**.



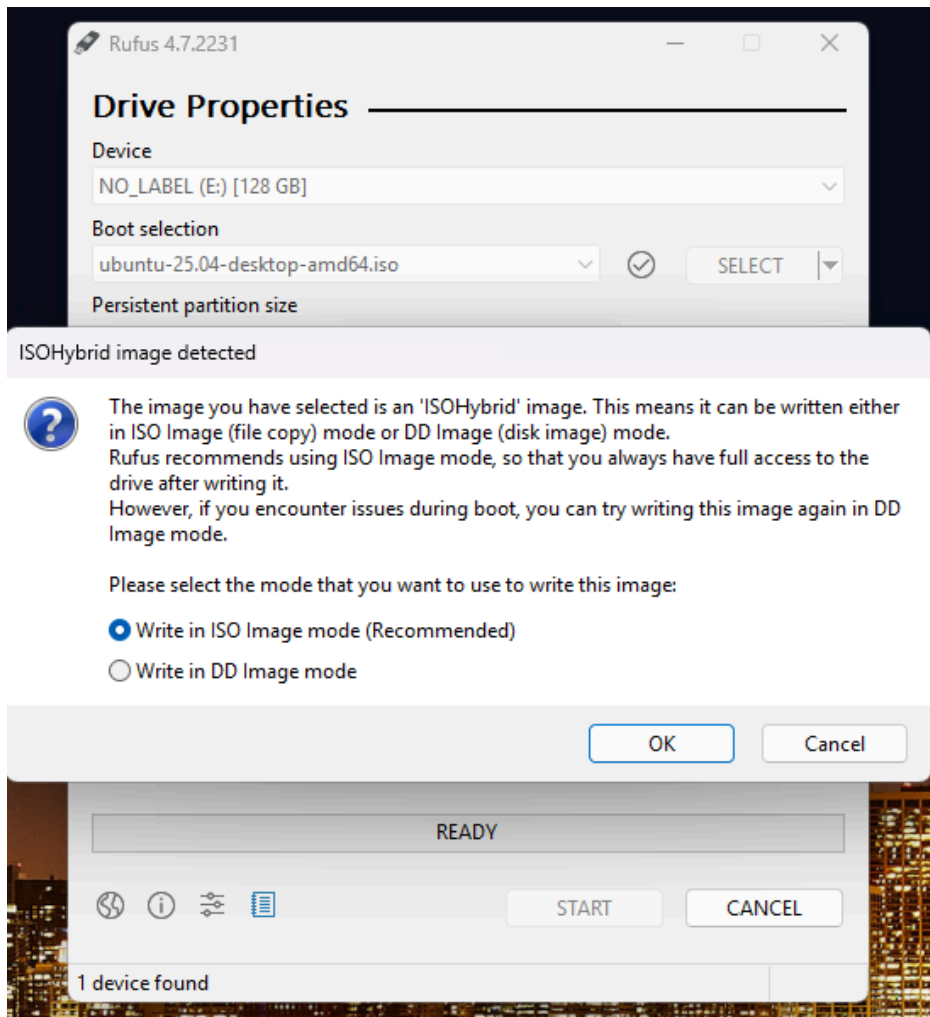
- d. Now we are going to click on **SELECT** under **Boot selection**, and it will let us select our iso file.



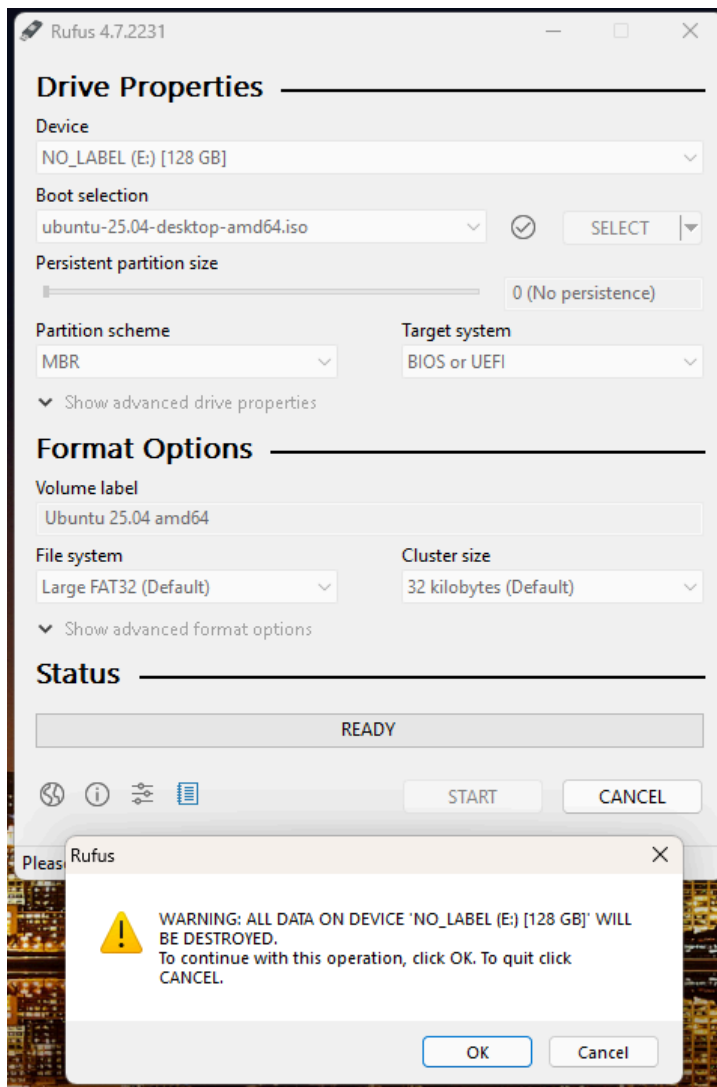
- e. Now, we are going to **verify** that everything looks good.



- f. When we click **START**, a new dialogue box will open. It will allow us to write the image in ISO or DD mode. We are going to go with **ISO Image mode**.

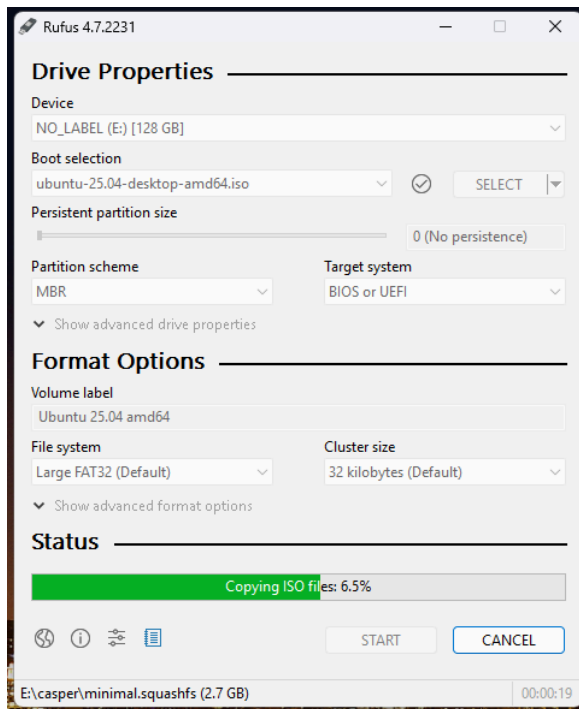


- g. We will be prompted with a warning message, **“All data on the device will be destroyed”**. We are going to click OK.

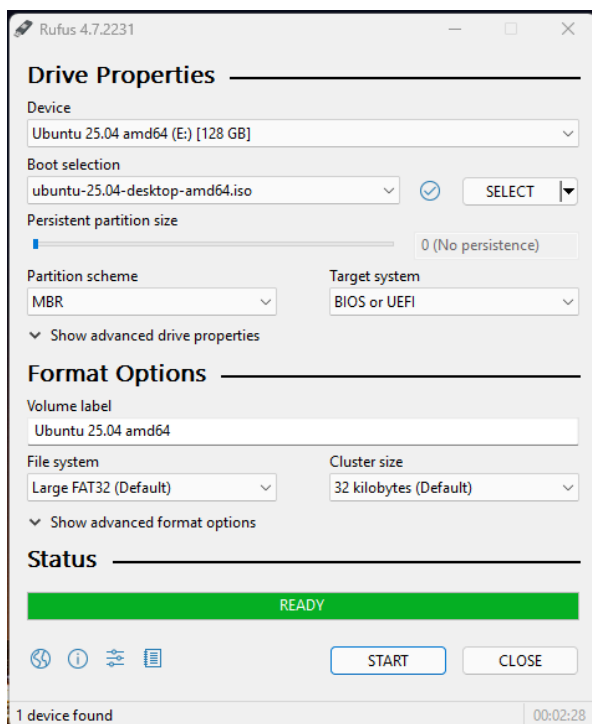




- h. The process is started, and as we can see, the status shows “**Copying ISO File.**”



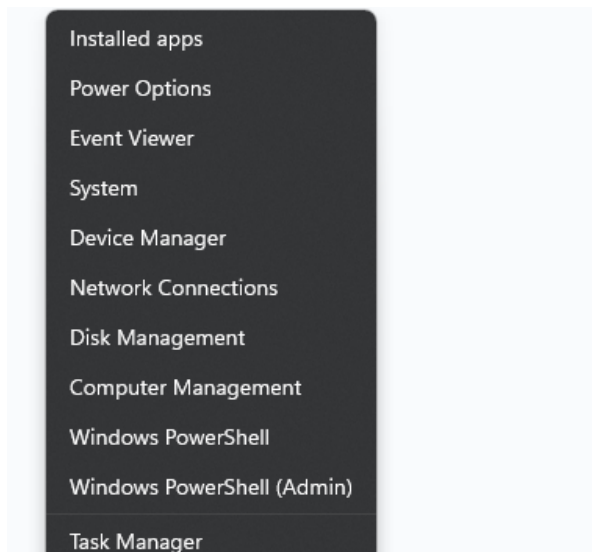
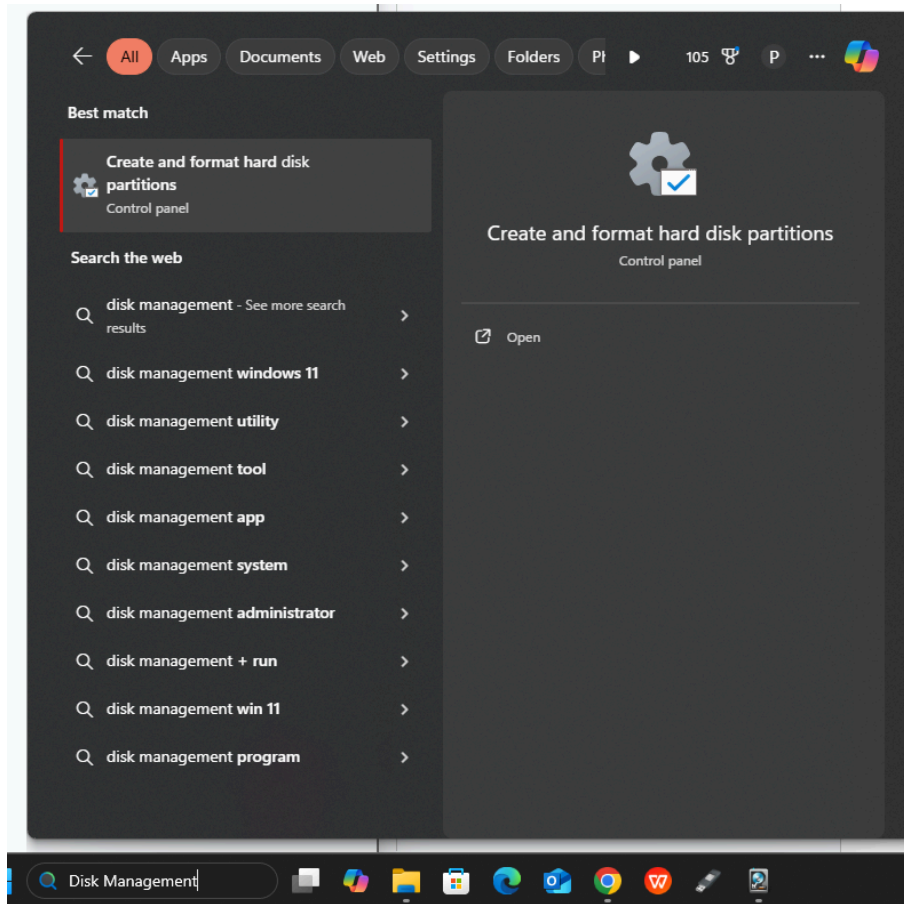
- i. And, the drive is ready, and we can see the **Device** name has changed.



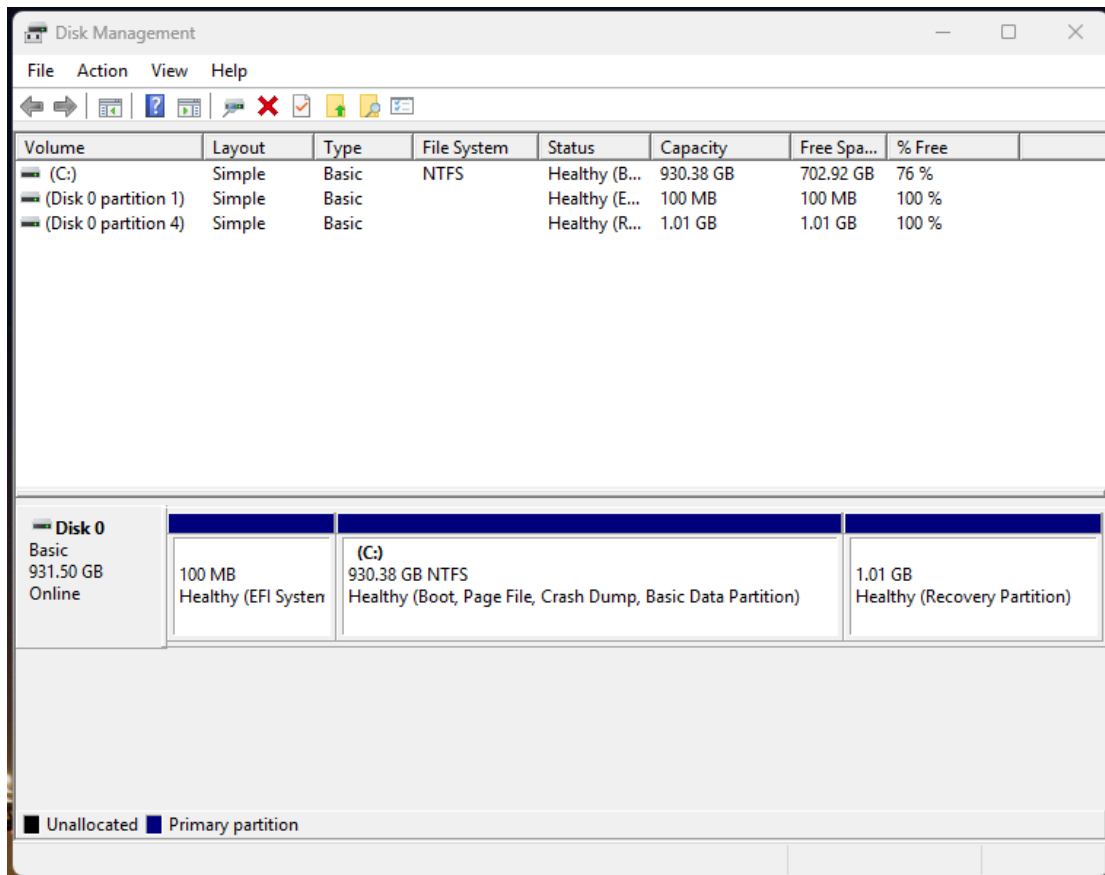
#### 4. Windows Partition

*We need to make space on your hard drive for the Linux installation.*

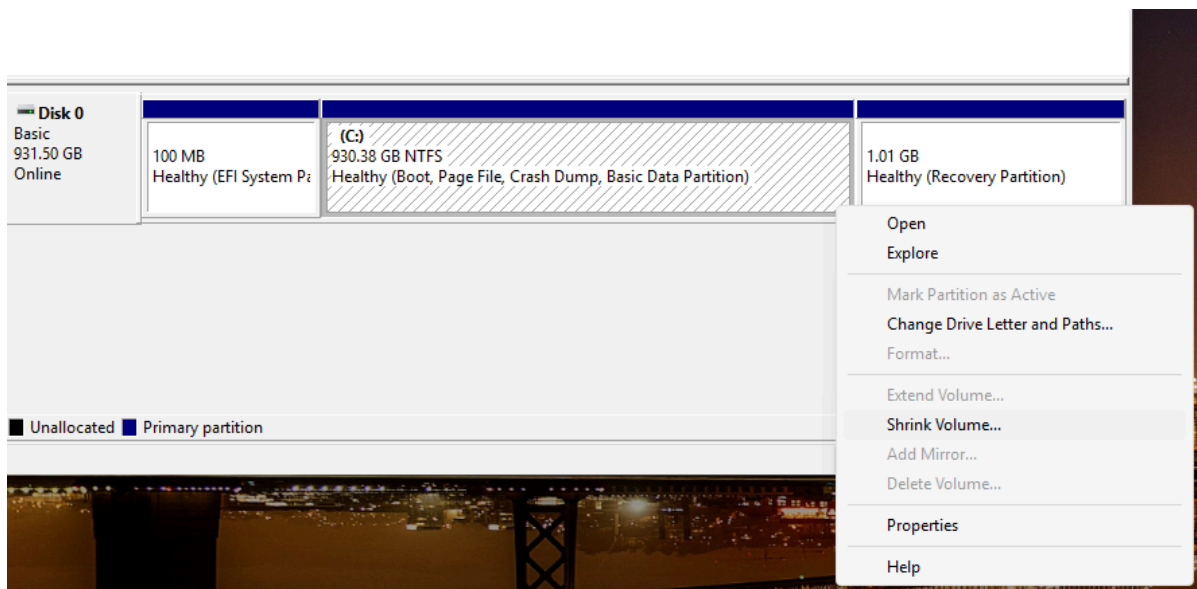
- a. **Search for Disk Management** in the search bar, or right-click on the Windows icon on the taskbar and click on Disk Management.



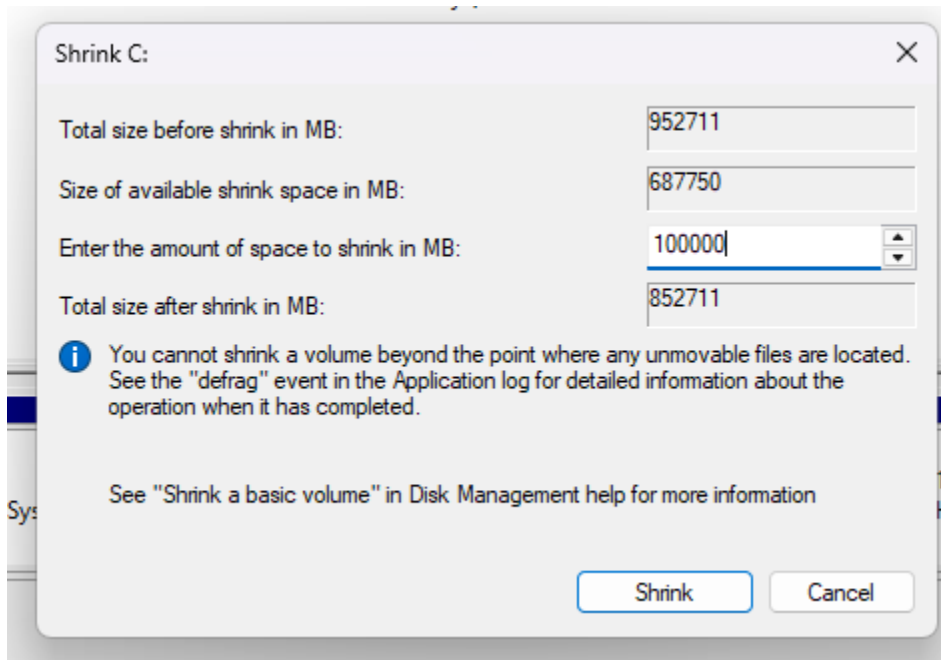
- b. The Disk Management window will open, and it should show your **partitions and disk status**.



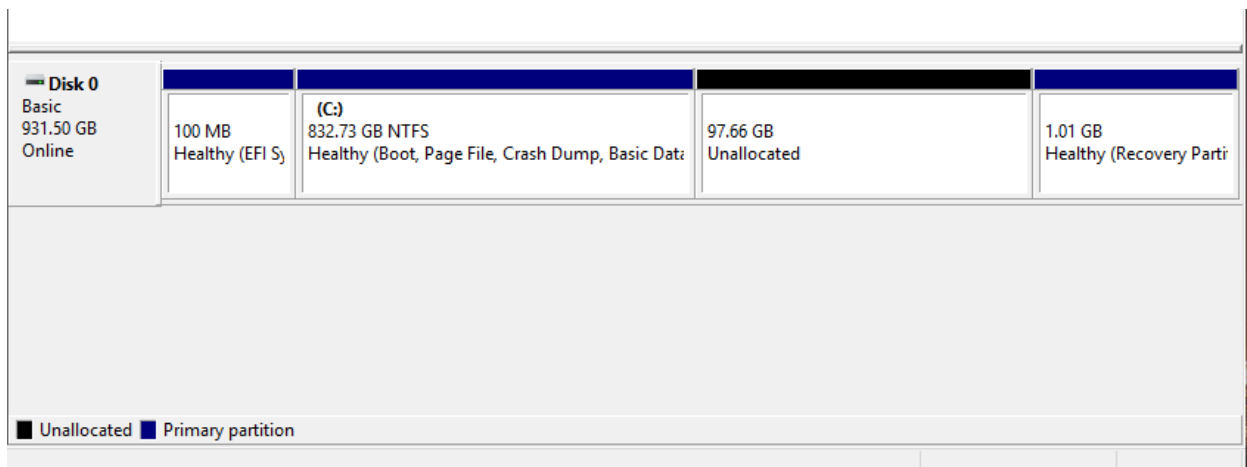
- c. Next, we will right-click on the main Windows partition labeled **(C:)** and select **"Shrink Volume."**



- d. A dialogue box will open, and we will **enter the amount of space** we want to allocate for our new OS. I will allocate 100GB, which will be 100000 MB. Then we will click “**Shrink**”.



- e. Now we see it shows 97.66GB as **unallocated space**. We'll need this unallocated space on our drive for the new operating system.

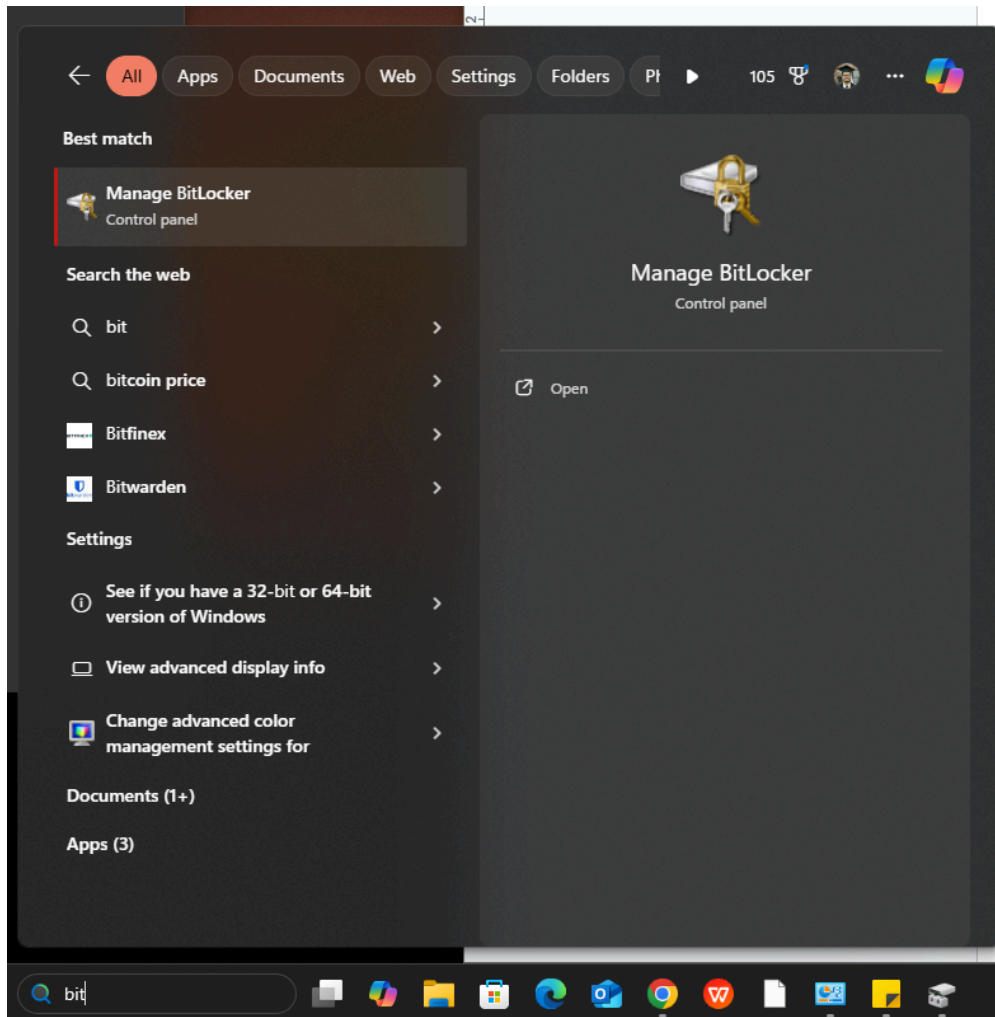


- f. With the partitions **now configured**, we'll proceed to setting up the computer's BIOS.

## 5. Disable BitLocker

*If we have BitLocker enabled, we are going to disable it.*

- a. We will search for BitLocker and click on the Manage BitLocker option.



- b. There will be an **Suspend BitLocker** option; we will click it, and it will take some time for BitLocker to be suspended and the drive to be decrypted.

## 6. Adjust BIOS/UEFI Settings

*Since I'm unable to capture screenshots of the BIOS/UEFI configuration, I've done my best to make the instructions as comprehensive as possible.*

- a. If we've unplugged the bootable USB drive, we will insert it back into your computer now.
- b. We will restart the computer. As it boots up, repeatedly **press the F2 key** (or sometimes F10, Del, or Esc, but F2 depending on your computer) to enter the BIOS/UEFI setup.
- c. We will navigate through the BIOS menus, looking for a section related to **"Boot," "Boot Options,"** or **"Security."**
- d. We will look out for **"UEFI"** mode and make sure it is enabled and "Legacy BIOS" is disabled.
- e. Also, we look for **Secure Boot** and **disable it**. While some Linux distros support Secure Boot, especially Ubuntu, it's often easier to disable it for dual-booting. We will be able to re-enable it later if needed.
- f. Now, in the Boot section, find the **"Boot Order"** or **"Boot Priority"** settings.
- g. We are going to move the **USB drive to the top of the boot order**.
- h. We will **save our BIOS changes** (usually by pressing F10 or navigating to an "Exit" tab and selecting "Save Changes and Exit").
- i. Finally, we will restart the computer.

## 7. Install Ubuntu alongside Windows

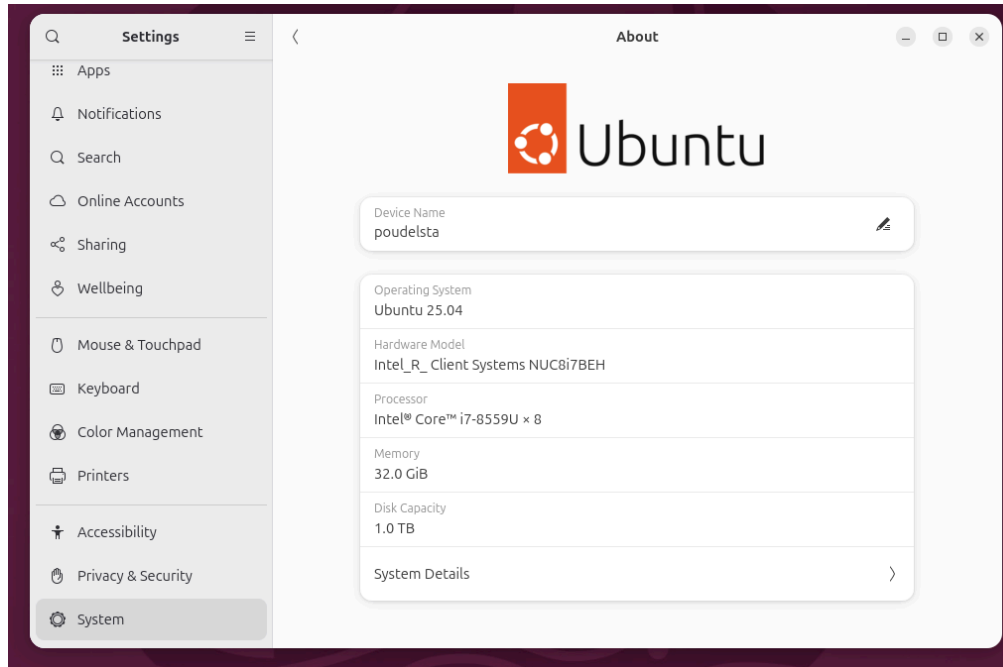
- a. The computer should now **boot from the USB Drive**.
- b. When the Ubuntu installer starts, we'll usually have an option to **"Try or Install Ubuntu."** Will hit enter.
- c. We'll see options for **language, keyboard layout**, and more. After selecting our preferences, we'll be given the choice to **"Try Ubuntu"** or **"Install Ubuntu."** I'll be installing it, but feel free to try it first if you prefer.
- d. We'll see two installation choices: **"Interactive Installation"** or **"Automated with autostall file."** We'll go with the **Interactive Installation** because it's simpler and easier to follow, especially if you're new to Linux. The automated option is generally for experienced users.

- e. Next, we'll have two installation choices: **"Default Selection"** or **"Extended Selection."** The Default Selection installs only essential applications. The Extended Selection is great if we want to be more offline-friendly, as it pre-installs a wider range of apps, saving us from having to install them later. So, we will select **"Extended Selection."**
- f. We will be prompted to **"Install third-party software for graphics and wifi hardware."** We will click on the box and continue.
- g. Now, the most important part: **"How would you want to install Ubuntu?"** either **"Install Ubuntu alongside Windows boot manager,"** or **"Erase disk and install Ubuntu."** We will choose the first option.
- h. Next, we will be asked to for "Encryption & Filesystem." Here we are provided with a couple of options. **"No encryption"** and **"Encrypt with a passphrase."** We will continue with no encryption option. If you want to encrypt, you can do so here.
- i. Here, we will be prompted to **"Create an Account"**, we will answer the required fields, and continue.
- j. We will be asked to **review your choice**. If everything looks good, we will finalize it.
- k. Ubuntu is now installed and ready to go! We'll be prompted to restart your device. **Remember to unplug the USB drive** before you press Enter to restart.

## 8. Reboot and Select OS

- a. Upon reboot, we should see the **GRUB (GRand Unified Bootloader)** menu. This menu will give us the option to choose between **"Ubuntu"** and **"Windows Boot Manager"** as well as a couple of other options.
- b. We will use the arrow keys to navigate and Enter to select the operating system we want to boot. We will **try both OS to see if everything is normal**.

## 9. Ubuntu is ready!



10. Now, let's **go back to Windows 11** and check the disk management again to see what has changed. We can see that the partition we created earlier is not allocated and is in use for Ubuntu.

