Dedicated To

My Family

Who supported me thick and thinPreface

First, Congratulations on investing your hard-earned money on this book. Who should read this book past this page?? A Techie by heart, A Hobbyist by nature & A Hacker by chance. Someone looking forward to have a rocking time with this magical box, labeled Raspberry Pi.

The Author was as excited as you are right now to begin his hacking spree, but it was when I faced numerous challenges (both on Hardware and Software level), that I decided to capture my daily learning’s in the form of simple notes on notepad. And then, it all started, with my collection of simple notes to capture new learning’s, which has now taken the shape of a book.

The basic idea behind publishing this book, is to cut short the plethora of information available on various websites on how-to build System Image for Raspberry-Pi, and to help readers quickly jump to the practical stuff that matters, without wasting time and energy on.

Everything said and done, I would personally love to hear from you, your suggestions to make this book even better.

Regards,

Sudhanshu Gupta

Founder, CEO

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#### Macintosh HD:Users:sudhanshu:Documents:R_Drive:01_Programming_Stuff:09_SoftwaresUnleashed:QR_Codes:Website_SoftwaresUnleashed:code_small.png

# About the Author

Sudhanshu Gupta (Founder – Softwares Unleashed), is Bachelors in Electronics & Tele-Communications & M.S. in Softwares Systems, and has 12+years of experience in Telecom domain and Embedded Software development.

He had worked with Major Industry giant(s), LG, Infineon, Intel to name a few. Sudhanshu during his stint with the corporate world, has contributed to numerous success stories of Big OEMs (LG, Samsung, Nokia) …cutting short the list.

He is now on a fast track to take his passion forward, i.e. Application Development and Sharing his Technical Knowledge for the benefit of others.

# Table of Contents

About the Author 3

Table of Contents 4

About Raspberry Pi 6

Support Repo – RPI\_IOT\_KERNEL 7

FIRMWARE 7

LINUX 7

TOOLS 7

SUPPORT 7

Preparing Raspberry Pi for First Boot 8

Hardware Requirements 8

Install Raspbian on Your Pi and Connect to It Over SSH 8

Third Party Operating System Images 9

Image Flashing Softwares 10

Step by Step Guide (Building Custom Linux Kernel) 11

1) Get the kernel source 11

2) Get the cross-compiler 11

3) Install necessary packages 12

4) Code Compilation 13

5) Preparing the SYSTEM IMAGE 15

6) Transfer the Kernel Image 16

7) Building the Device Drivers (Modules) 17

8) Updating the GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) firmware 17

9) Transfer the firmware 18

IoT & RaspberryPi 19

1) Cloud Temperature Monitor 19

Further Reading 20

Trouble Shooting Guide 21

Troubleshooting Power Problems 21

How to test the F3 polyfuse 22

Red power LED is on, green LED does not flash, nothing on display 23

Legends 25

# About Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi is a series of credit card-sized single-board computers developed in the United Kingdom by the Raspberry Pi Foundation to promote the teaching of basic computer science in schools and in developing countries. Now over four years old, the Raspberry Pi, a cheap credit card sized computer, has taken the computing and DIY world by storm.

The original model became far more popular than anticipated, selling outside of its target market for uses such as robotics.

Per the Raspberry Pi Foundation, over 5 million Raspberry-Pi(s) have been sold before February 2015, making it the best-selling British computer.

#### Overview

Several generations of Raspberry-Pi(s) have been released. The first generation (Raspberry Pi 1 Model B) was released in February 2012. It was followed by a simpler and inexpensive model Model-A. In 2014, the foundation released a board with an improved design in Raspberry Pi 1 Model B+. The model laid the current "mainline" form-factor. Improved A+ and B+ models were released a year later. A cut down "compute module" was released in April 2014, and a Raspberry Pi Zero with smaller size and limited input/output (I/O) and general-purpose input/output (GPIO) abilities was released in November 2015 for US$5. The Raspberry Pi 2, which added more RAM, was released in February 2015. Raspberry Pi 3 Model B released in February 2016 is bundled with on-board Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. As of December 2016, Raspberry Pi 3 Model B is the newest mainline Raspberry Pi. These boards are priced between US$5–35.

All models feature a Broadcom system on a chip (SoC), which includes an ARM compatible central processing unit (CPU) and an on-chip graphics-processing unit (GPU, a Video Core IV). CPU speed ranges from 700 MHz to 1.2 GHz for the Pi 3 and on board memory range from 256 MB to 1 GB RAM. Secure Digital (SD) cards are used to store the operating system and program memory in either the SDHC or MicroSD sizes. Most boards have between one and four USB slots, HDMI and composite video output, and a 3.5 mm phone jack for audio. Lower level output is provided by several GPIO pins which support common protocols like I²C. The B-models have an 8P8C Ethernet port and the Pi 3 has on board Wi-Fi 802.11n and Bluetooth.

The Foundation provides Raspbian, a Debian-based Linux distribution for download, as well as third party Ubuntu, Windows 10 IOT Core, RISC OS, and specialized media center distributions. [8] It promotes Python and Scratch as the main programming language, with support for many other languages. The default firmware is closed source, while an unofficial open source is available.

# Support Repo – RPI\_IOT\_KERNEL

This guide comes equipped with support material to speed up and enhance your learning experience, by collating all the necessary tools, kernel, scripts at a single repo. Just in case we missed it, you need to have an account created on [www.github.com](http://www.github.com) to access this support repo.

Git Repo Link: <https://github.com/softwaresunleashed/rpi_iot_kernel.git>

Create an empty folder and type in following command on shell prompt (and wait for few mins):

$ git clone --recursive https://github.com/softwaresunleashed/rpi\_iot\_kernel.git

Note: GIT is a pre-requisite to this step, hence, if GIT isn’t installed yet on your environment, execute the following command to install GIT on your system

$ sudo apt-get install git

This repo contains the following sections:

1. Firmware
2. Linux
3. Tools
4. Support

## FIRMWARE

Official RPi GPU / Firmware (bootloader) are part of this folder.

## LINUX

Based on Official RPi Linux 4.9.x kernel. This kernel includes kernel modifications, scripts, drivers etc. done for learning concepts which are detailed throughout this book.

## TOOLS

Based on Official RPi toolchain package. This toolchain shall be helpful in compiling code or generating RPi understandable binary format.

## SUPPORT

All the support files, misc. scripts, that will assist you throughout this book are added in this folder.

# Preparing Raspberry Pi for First Boot

## Hardware Requirements

1. Raspberry Pi (of course absolute yes!!)
2. Power adapter (your micro usb phone charger will do).
3. Memory Card (MMCSD Class 10 preferred)
4. Wi-Fi dongle (USB) (good to have)
5. Ethernet Cable to connect to network. (If you don’t have a Wi-Fi dongle)
6. USB Keyboard (optional)
7. HDMI Monitor (optional)

You could hook your Raspberry Pi up to a keyboard and monitor and set things up that way, or you can connect to your Pi over SSH and run every step from the comfort of your laptop. Although my personal favourite is SSH method, which is much easier than begging your friend for a random monitor.

## Install Raspbian on Your Pi and Connect to It Over SSH

For the First ever time, you need to insert or flash (as developers like to call it) a Pre-Built on to a SD (Rpi2) / MicroSD card (Rpi3) and insert it in into the designated slots on our magic machine.

You’ll need to choose from one of the following options to flash onto your Raspberry Pi.

Two versions of Pre-Built (and more reliable) OS images for Rpi.

1. NOOBS / NOOBS Lite [ <https://www.raspberrypi.org/downloads/noobs/>]
2. Raspbian Lite / Pixel [ <https://www.raspberrypi.org/downloads/raspbian/> ]

On a newly installed Rasbian image (This is what I have been using most of my time), try connecting to RPI board via the following default credentials:

Username: pi (Default)

Password: raspberry (Default)

Note: You would need keyboard + HDMI monitor for first time login, since SSH is *not* enabled by default.

Lately, there have been substantial development on OS front, and several Third-party vendors have also come up with charming Linux distros apart from Noobs and Raspbian. In case you are in a mood to experiment, choose one variant that suits your taste buds from the section that follows on Third Party OS Images.

## Third Party Operating System Images

You may be interested in trying the following distros for Raspberry Pi, in addition to the ones mentioned above:

1. Ubuntu Mate [ <https://ubuntu-mate.org/raspberry-pi/> ]
2. Snappy Ubuntu Core [ <https://developer.ubuntu.com/core/get-started/raspberry-pi-2-3> ]
3. Windows 10 IOT Core [ <https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/iot/getstarted> ]
4. OSMC – Open Source Media Center [ <https://osmc.tv/> ]
5. LibreELEC [ <https://libreelec.tv/> ]
6. PiNet – Centralized Raspberry Pi Classroom [ <http://pinet.org.uk/> ]
7. RISC OS [ <https://www.riscosopen.org/content/downloads/raspberry-pi> ]
8. Rpi Weather Station [ <https://downloads.raspberrypi.org/weather_station/images/weather_station-2016-03-24/> ]

## Image Flashing Softwares

To flash / burn above OS images to memory card, we need certain specialized software(s) that takes OS Image file as input, converts them into a format that is understandable by target board, and finally copy the contents onto the memory card.

Following are the list of various softwares that can be used to burn RPi OS images onto memory card.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tool Name** | **Windows** | **Linux** | **OSX** | **Link** |
| Etcher | Y | Y | Y | https://etcher.io/ |
|  |  |  |  |  |

# Step by Step Guide (Building Custom Linux Kernel)

Building the system image for raspberry pie is easier than as depicted on various websites. This step-by-step guide will get your brand-new Raspberry Pi box up and running in no time (minus the complex jargon involved). RPi development is best done on an Ubuntu (Debian distro) with access to root privileges on shell. The guide assumes you have access to a shell with root privileges on an Ubuntu laptop / desktop.

NOTE: MAC OSX users may install Virtual Box with the latest Ubuntu distro installed. Then follow the instructions in the subsequent pages. Link to Virtual Box for MAC (<https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>). Also, install the extension pack provided on the website. Extension packs provide a bridge between your host environment (MAC OSX) and the guest environment (Linux Ubuntu)

## 1) Get the kernel source

First things first, we need to pull Linux Kernel source from WWW and store it locally on our hard drive.

~ # mkdir rpi\_4\_x\_xx <enter>

~ # cd rpi\_4\_x\_xx <enter>

~/rpi\_4\_x\_xx # git clone git://github.com/raspberrypi/linux.git <enter>

where x & xx are the major and minor release numbers for Raspberry-Pi Linux kernel. Latest RPI Linux Kernel version as of this writing was 4.9.y.

**Quick Repo Sync Tip:**

If you wish to save some time and download just the latest and greatest Linux Kernel available as of date, append “--depth=1” to the git clone command above. Believe me, it saves a lot of download time (and your broadband data cost), since most of the branching information is redundant to a hobbyist. However, if you are one of those geeky minds who would like to dwell into each commit that has ever been done on the repo, feel free to omit “—depth=1”.

## 2) Get the cross-compiler

Since, we shall be building Raspberry Pi system image on a machine, which would be running a CPU with different architecture, we would require to download a Cross-Compiler. A Cross-Compiler is a program that generates code for a target device (Raspberry Pi in this case), although it is executing on a completely different machine with completely different architecture.

Cross compiling from Linux (pre-built bmc2708\_armv6kz compiler)

~ # mkdir rpi\_tools

~ # cd rpi\_tools

~/rpi\_tools # git clone git://github.com/raspberrypi/tools.git <enter>

NOTE: Install git command if not already installed via the following command

# apt-get install git

## 3) Install necessary packages

* On Ubuntu shell execute the following command (requires root privileges)

# apt-get install gcc-arm-linux-gnueabi make ncurses-dev

* Some Editors are handful, if not already installed

# apt-get install vim-gnome

* For compiling 32bit kernel on 64-bit VM (e.g. Virtual Box), following library needs to be installed.

# apt-get install lib32z1-dev

* Installing QT libs for using Graphical Interface to select Kernel config options ($ make xconfig)

# apt-get install qt4-dev-tools libqt4-dev libqt4-core libqt4-gui

# apt-get install qtlib4\*

## 4) Code Compilation

#### 1#. Go to the build directory on PC

# cd <path\_to\_kernel\_source\_directory>/linux/

#### 2#. Firstly, ensure your build directory is clean:

<path\_to\_kernel\_source\_directory>/linux/ # make mrproper

#### 3#. Define Cross-Compiler & Processor Architecture

From this point on, if you are cross-compiling, please substitute <your\_compiler> with your compiler binary prefix (e.g. <your\_compiler>=arm-bcm2708hardfp-linux-gnueabi- or arm-linux-gnueabihf-) as each compiler will be named slightly differently. Check your toolchain folder for the compiler you wish to use to compile Linux Kernel for RPi.

Debug Note: Do *not* forget the hyphen (-) at the end of the compiler name. This has caused lots of time wasted and errors resulting in “xxxxxxxxx command not found”.

If you are building on the RPi (although we won’t recommend that as build process would be quite slow), remove ARCH=arm CROSS\_COMPILE=<your\_compiler> from each command.

#### 4#. Kernel Config File

You will want to get a working kernel configuration (.config) to start from.

If you are one of those lucky few, who got RPi with a pre-installed image loaded on the memory card, you can get the config file by executing following command on the shell (on the RPi):

/raspberryPi\_root\_folder # zcat /proc/config.gz > .config

& then copy .config file to your build directory (on PC).

PS: /proc/config.gz isn’t available on Raspbian Jessi distro. Support is available on Wheezy Raspbian distro only.

OR

**Alternatively**, the default configuration is available in the downloaded kernel source in <path\_to\_kernel\_src\_dir>/linux/arch/arm/configs/bcmrpi\_defconfig.

Copy (& rename) bcmrpi\_defconfig to .config in the build directory

OR

**Alternatively**, execute the following command on shell

<kernel\_src\_dir> $ export ARCH=arm

<kernel\_src\_dir> $ export CROSS \_COMPILE=arm-bcm2708hardfp-linux-gnueabi-

<kernel\_src\_dir> $ make bcmrpi\_defconfig

#### 5#. Setting Build Environment

Ensure that your configuration file is up-to-date by executing the following command...Textual, Sequential access to configuration parameters. (**Quite tedious)**

# make ARCH=arm CROSS\_COMPILE=<your\_compiler> oldconfig

OR

Optionally, if you want to tweak the configuration Graphically & more Organized -- **Better**), run this command on shell:

# make ARCH=arm CROSS\_COMPILE=<your\_compiler> <config\_targets>

Use any one of the following <config\_targets>:

config :- Update config using a Line-oriented program

nconfig :- Update config using a ncurses menu based program

menuconfig :- Update config using a menu based program

**xconfig :- Update config using a QT based front-end**

gconfig :- Update config using a GTK based front-end

NOTE: The configuration info is stored in ".config" file on exit from the configuration menu.

The file is in the "build artifacts folder" (if mentioned explicitly by the macro KBUILD\_OUTPUT)

e.g. In the build script we can mention the build output folder as

export KBUILD\_OUTPUT=\_build\_output\_folder

#### 6#. Let the Build Begin

Once you have made necessary changes in the Linux Kernel of RPi, you can trigger the build with the following command and have a cup of coffee or your lunch. This shall take time for the first fresh build. Incremental builds there-after shall be much less time consuming.

# make –j<N> ARCH=arm CROSS\_COMPILE=<your\_compiler>

If you are on a multi-core machine, you can make the build faster by appending -j<N> to the build command above. Where ‘N’ is the number of cores on your system plus one.

Quick Tip: Don’t bother to clean object files, in case changes are made only in source files…A change in header file, deserves a cleaner build with object files and library files deleted manually.

## 5) Preparing the SYSTEM IMAGE

Once your linux kernel is successfully built, you need to pack the kernel such that Raspberry Pi likes to have it. Follow the steps below…

#### 1#. Get Build Tools

Because of the way, the memory addresses are arranged in the Broadcom SoC (The CPU used on Raspberry Pi), you will need to prepare the compiled image, before uploading it to Memory Card.

If you haven't got the tools directory from the GIT repo, do so now:

# cd ~/rpi\_tools/compiler/tools

~/rpi\_tools/compiler/tools # git clone git://github.com/raspberrypi/tools.git

OR

DOWNLOAD\_FROM\_LINK\_TO\_TAR\_BALL:

https://github.com/raspberrypi/tools/

#### 2#. Make Image

In the toolchain set, there is a folder called mkimage. Enter this directory, and then run the following:

# ~/rpi\_tools/compiler/tools/mkimage/imagetool-uncompressed.py <kernel\_build\_dir>/arch/arm/boot/zImage

Location of "kernel.img”:

Above command will output a file called "kernel.img" (in the same folder where the python script "imagetool-uncompressed.py" is located.)

Quick Tip [1]: Above python script expects boot-uncompressed.txt file to be present in the same folder as the imagetool-uncompressed.py script. Hence, to get rid of any errors, we need to be execute the python script from the “mkimage” folder, so that boot-uncompressed.txt is available to the python script.

Quick Tip [2]: If you get error regarding "python2" not available, try creating a soft link to python2 as follows: (not sure why this is needed, but it worked for me)

# ln -s /usr/bin/python2.6 /usr/bin/python2

## 6) Transfer the Kernel Image

Copy your new kernel.img file into the RPi boot partition, though preferably as a new file (such as kernel\_new.img) just in case it doesn't work. If you're building on the RPi, just copy the file to /boot.

If you use a different filename, edit **config.txt** change the kernel line:

---

# Comment out the below line

#kernel=kernel.img

# Add this new line in /boot/config.txt

kernel=kernel\_new.img

---

## 7) Building the Device Drivers (Modules)

Now you need to transfer the Device Drivers (aka Modules).

In the build directory, run the following (substituting <modules\_path> for a folder somewhere (e.g. ~/modules):

<path\_to\_kernel\_source\_directory>/linux/ # make ARCH=arm CROSS\_COMPILE=<your\_compiler> modules\_install INSTALL\_MOD\_PATH=<modules\_path>

The contents of this directory should then be copied into the RPi root directory.

NOTE: If you have rebuilt the new kernel with exactly the same version as the one that's running, you'll need to remove the old modules first. Ideally this should be done offline by mounting the SD card on another system.

## 8) Updating the GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) firmware

Your RPi should now be ready to boot the new kernel. However, at this point it's recommended (not necessary) that you update your GPU firmware and libraries. This is required if you've just moved from 3.2 to 3.6 as the firmware interface has changed.

The "firmware" and "boot files" should be updated at the same time to ensure that your new kernel works properly

"master" - This is the version of firmware currently used in Raspbian (i.e. it works with the 3.2 kernel).

"next" - This is a development branch which provides a newer GPU firmware to work with the updated drivers in the 3.6 kernel.

For the "master" branch:

<path\_to\_folder\_where\_firmware\_is\_to\_be\_stored> # git clone git://github.com/raspberrypi/firmware.git

For the "next" branch:

<path\_to\_folder\_where\_firmware\_is\_to\_be\_stored> # git fetch git://github.com/raspberrypi/firmware.git next:refs/remotes/origin/next

## 9) Transfer the firmware

a) Firstly, update the required boot files in the RPi boot directory with those you've downloaded. These are:

-1- bootcode.bin

-2- fixup.dat

-3- start.elf

Next, you need to copy the VC libraries over.

There are two copies of this: one for **hard float** and one for **soft float**.

To find the correct one that you should be using, run the following command (substituting the program name for your compiler binary as required):

# arm-none-linux-gnueabi-gcc -v 2>&1 | grep hard

If something prints out, and you can see **--with-float=hard**, you need the hard float ones.

NOTE: The current version of Raspbian uses hard float.

b) Remove the /opt/vc directory from the RPi root, then:

For hard float, copy vc from the hardfp/opt directory into /opt in the RPi root directory

Otherwise copy vc from the top-level opt directory into /opt in the RPi root directory.

# IoT & RaspberryPi

## 1) Cloud Temperature Monitor

Have you ever dreamt of controlling your home’s cooling/heating equipment, just to make that perfect ambience by the time you reach your home? All this and more, without you clicking a single button.

Monitoring the temperature of your home remotely, and that too without your intervention could be a bliss, not to mention the optimized communication between various IoT enabled devices, that help minimize your electricity bills.

Following pages will take you through

# Further Reading

<http://elinux.org/RPi_Kernel_Compilation>

<http://elinux.org/RPiconfig>

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/>

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/resources/learn/>

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/documentation/linux/kernel/building.md>

<http://www.howtogeek.com/276468/how-to-use-a-raspberry-pi-as-a-networked-time-machine-drive-for-your-mac/>

<http://www.howtogeek.com/138281/the-htg-guide-to-getting-started-with-raspberry-pi/all/>

# Trouble Shooting Guide

There would be times, when our friendly device RPi is distressed and may give you hard time going around. Following section provides real life problems encountered and Tips & Tricks on how they were fixed.

Priceless!!!

## Troubleshooting Power Problems

[ [http://elinux.org/R-Pi\_Troubleshooting - Troubleshooting\_power\_problems](http://elinux.org/R-Pi_Troubleshooting#Troubleshooting_power_problems) ]

If you think you have a problem with your power supply, it is a good idea to check the actual voltage on the Raspberry Pi circuit board. Two test points labelled TP1 and TP2 are provided on the circuit board to facilitate voltage measurements.

Use a multimeter which is set to the range 20 volts DC (or 20v =). You should see a voltage between 4.75 and 5.25 volts. Anything outside this range indicates that you have a problem with your power supply or your power cable.

Note: Even if the multimeter shows the correct voltage, you may have some power supply problems. A multimeter only displays the average voltage. If there are very short-lived dips or spikes in the voltage, these will not be shown by the multimeter. It is best to measure voltage when Pi is busy.

If your voltage is low, it could be:

* The power supply produces too low a voltage
* The power supply cannot supply enough current, which results in a voltage drop. Make sure Power supply is labelled as at least 700mA. (Some cheap power supplies don't deliver what is labelled).
* The Micro USB power cable is low quality. Some Micro USB cables have very thin conductors, resulting in enough voltage drop for RPi to fail even if the power supply itself is fine.
* Attached USB devices want too much power. The Pi is only designed for up to 100mA USB devices. A USB device wanting more than that will cause a voltage drop.
* The F3 Polyfuse could be blown or bad, see below for how to test.

Note: keyboards with LCD displays, built in USB hubs, backlights, etc. are likely to be problematic. Try to use a basic one. Wi-Fi dongles are also unlikely to work when directly connected. Connect high powered USB devices to a powered USB hub.

Try booting without HDMI, Ethernet or USB device plugged in, and see if the voltage improves.

 

## How to test the F3 polyfuse

1. Remove all the things plugged into your Raspberry Pi, including SD card.
2. Locate the TP2 test point on the top of the board.
3. Turn your board over and find the TP2 test point on the bottom of the board. One lead of your multi-meter will always be on the TP2 point on the bottom of the board for all tests.
4. Plug your power supply into the micro usb port and power your board.
5. Place one lead of your multi-meter on the TP2 point on the bottom of the board and one lead on the side of the F3 fuse closest to the edge of the board. Note the voltage. This is the voltage coming into your RPi from your power supply.
6. Keeping one lead on TP2, move the other lead to the side of F3 closest to the SD card slot. This is the voltage coming out of the F3 fuse.



If the voltage is different by more than about 0.3v you probably have an issue with the F3 fuse.

When polyfuses "blow" their resistance increases dramatically, thereby limiting the voltage that can pass through them. If your power problem suddenly appeared after your board was known to be working fine, it is probable the fuse is just "blown" and will return to normal. Polyfuses recover from the tripped state to near their normal value in a few minutes, but do take some hours to fully recover so leave it unpowered and check it again in a little while. If your power problem has been since the first time you plugged in your board, the fuse was probably bad when it arrived and should be returned to place you purchased it.

Also, on a related issue, do note that if you do not power the PI in the "official manner", that is through its micro-USB port, but use any alternative way (such as through the GPIO header, the test points TP1 and TP2), but also by back-powering it, you are bypassing the PI's input polyfuse protection device! This can have extreme consequences if ever you manage to put more than 6V on the PI, even for a very short period. As this causes the overvoltage device D17 on the PI to trigger and short the 5V supply! Without the polyfuse limiting the current through D17, it will burn out, probably melting the PI's enclosure with it, (if you have any) and possibly causing a fire-hazard. It will probably also create a permanent short of the 5V supply! So be warned, and if you use back power make sure your hub or its PSU has a fuse to prevent this from happening. If not, add your own fuse.

## Red power LED is on, green LED does not flash, nothing on display

[ [http://elinux.org/R-Pi\_Troubleshooting - Red\_power\_LED\_is\_on.2C\_green\_LED\_does\_not\_flash.2C\_nothing\_on\_display](http://elinux.org/R-Pi_Troubleshooting#Red_power_LED_is_on.2C_green_LED_does_not_flash.2C_nothing_on_display) ]

A faintly glowing steady green LED means **no boot code has ever been executed**, as almost the first thing the boot code does is to turn the faint glow off! When flashing/blinking, the green LED should be as bright as the red LED.

There is a difference between the quad core Pi 2 (BCM2836) and the other models if there is no SD card inserted, or the SD card is improperly formatted. The former will have both red and green lights on bright and steady. The latter will have only the red light on.

This indicates:

* The Raspberry Pi cannot find a valid image on the SD card. Turn the board over to check that the card is inserted correctly; the insertion force is much larger than for some laptops.
* Check that you have correctly written a Raspberry Pi image to the card by using a MAC or PC and browse for the following files:
  + bootcode.bin
  + fixup.dat
  + start.elf amongst others
* Did you have admin rights when you used the SD-card writer software? Without it the software might go through the motions without doing anything!
* Older images do not load boot code for revB boards with the Hynix chip. Use release 2013-02-09 (?) or later. (I observe a single blip on the green activity LED)
* It is also possible that the image you are writing to the card is corrupt, as downloads do occasionally end up corrupted or truncated. You can check with a checksum utility to verify the integrity of the download.
* The SD card may itself have an issue. (This one I faced myself, my RPi board dint boot up due to the broken MicroSD converter).
* Try with no cables connected except the USB power lead, and SD card inserted. You should see flashing of the OK light for ~20 seconds. If that helps, plug in cables one at a time to identify which is interfering with boot.
* Confirm the USB cable is properly seated in the power slot. The red power LED does not necessarily mean it is fully connected.
* Look at the SD card holder on the Raspberry Pi carefully. At first glance it may look fine but the contacts must be springy and they must protrude at least 2mm as measured from the lower edge of the holder to the top of the contact bulge. This happens due to the solder process and the type of holder used. Some of the solder residue falls into the contact cavity restricting the springiness and the height that the contact protrudes. You can fix this yourself but remember you can void your warranty. The contacts are delicate so be careful. Insert a needle pin under the contact bulge and pull lightly up until the one end of the contact unclips. Clean the cavity where the contact unclipped from of any solder or other residue by blowing into the cavity. Clip the contact back into the cavity by lightly pushing it into the cavity. Do this for all the contacts.
* Ensure that when your SD Card is fully inserted that the longer metal spring contacts (one clearly visible on the end of the slot, and one hidden in the side nearest the power connector) are closed. These are used to detect the presence of an SD Card therefore if no contact is made then the Raspberry Pi won't attempt to access the card.
* Check carefully for any cracks or damage to the SD Card slot, if the sides are damaged then the card may not be making proper contact with the pins (can usually confirm this if your Raspberry Pi boots if you manually hold the SD Card in position).
* The voltage is too low (below 5 V), try a different power supply and/or cable. The R-Pi needs a supply rated for 700 mA or more. Some supplies labelled as such cannot provide their rated current while maintaining 5V.
* If for whatever reason the main polyfuse F3 has been overheated previously it may happen that it hasn't completely recovered, in which case, if you turn the PI on, a considerable amount of energy from the power supply is lost in the fuse and doesn't reach the PI. Try if the polyfuse seems hot.
* Some problems have been reported if the ambient temperature is low that might be related to micro-fractures, fissures in solder or other issues. Try warming the Raspberry Pi with a hair dryer for just a few seconds (do not use excessive heat or you may cause irreversible damage!) and reconnect the power.

# Legends

RPi – Raspberry Pi

SoC – System on Chip

VC – Video Core