

Ekos/Indi Pi4 Image Setup

Christopher Kovacs October 22, 2021

Introduction

The installation/deploy scripts allow you to Install Ekos/Indi on a Raspberry Pi 4 (Rpi4) by adding two files to a newly created Ubuntu Raspberry Pi 20.04-3 Release image file. Once installed onto an SD card and system is brought online, a single script can be executed that will install Ekos/Indi with various options and display access. This is a semi-automated process and once started only needs user input during various stages of the installation process.

Required Hardware

- Raspberry Pi 4 with 4 Gb memory (2Gb should work, but not tested)
- Minimum 16GB Class 10 SD card.
- Ethernet cable and router/switch access
- Display/Monitor (should not be required)

Expert Installation Overview

Below is an installation overview for Raspberry Pi experts. This is a is a very short installation overview for people that have previously completed this install process, or are familiar with Raspberry Pi administration.

- Create SD card Image using Ubuntu 20.04.3 LTS 64-bit OS.
- Download the distribution files from git hub:
 - https://github.com/w0anm/Ekos-Indi_RPi_Image (run_first.sh and scripts.tar)
- Mount system-boot partition of the SD card image with Ubuntu image. Copy over the "run_first.sh" and "scripts.tar" files onto the system-boot partition (FAT partition).
- Unmount the SD card and install in the Rpi4, connect ethernet cable and power on the Rpi4.
- Determine the IP of the Rpi4 and open an ssh session using "ubuntu" account and password "ubuntu".
- Once password is updated, re-log into the Rpi4. As the ubuntu user, change directories and execute the "run_first.sh" shell (cd /boot/firmware; sudo bash run_first.sh)
- Answer the prompts and wait until the installation is completed.

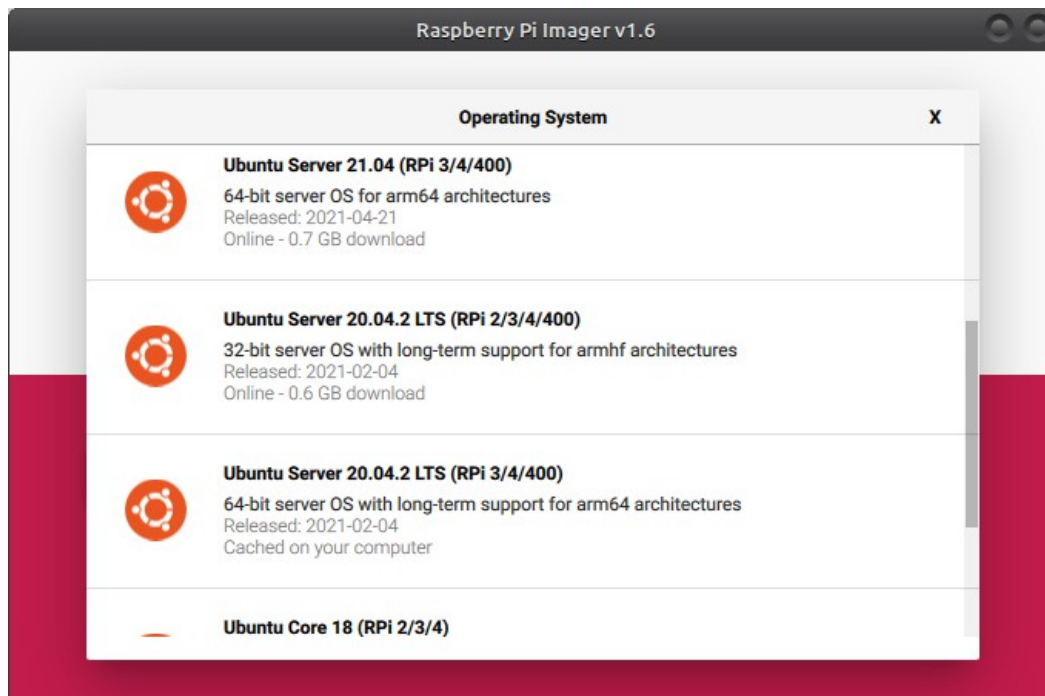
- Reboot, and login using Ekos user. Select to install PHD2 or not.
- Setup WIFI using "wifi_setup.sh"

Creating SD Image using the Raspberry Pi Imager

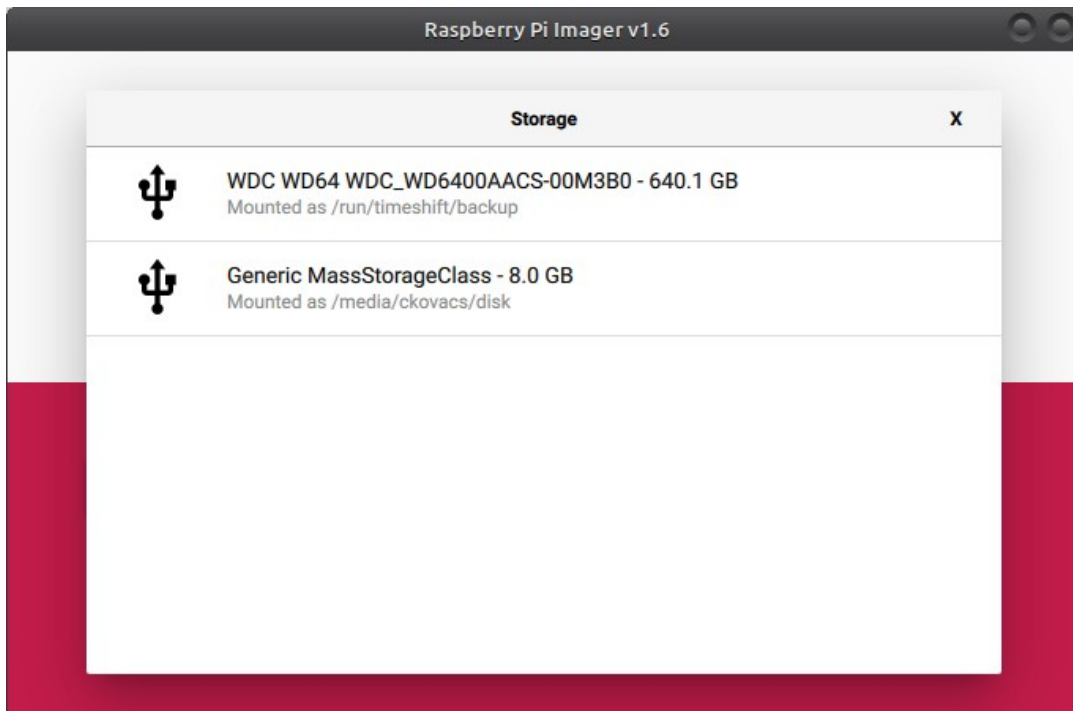
Use the Raspberry Pi Imager to create the SD card image. This software is available for Linux, MAC, and Window systems. (<https://www.raspberrypi.org/software/>)

Raspberry Pi Imager is the quick and easy way to install Raspberry Pi OS and other operating systems on to a micro SD card, ready to use with your Raspberry Pi.

1. Download the Imaging software for your Operating System. This document describes installation using a Linux Desktop, but other operating systems version are similar in operation.
2. Insert an *vfat formatted* SD card in the SD Reader/Writer device.
3. Select "CHOOSE OS", "Other general Purpose OS", "Ubuntu", and "Ubuntu Server 20.04.3 LTS 64-bit OS"



4. Press "CHOOSE STORAGE" button, select your SD card:



IMPORTANT!

Make sure you select the create storage device. If you choose the wrong device, it will override the wrong device and may make your operating system non-functional.

5. PRESS "WRITE" button, verify that you have the correct device and then Select "YES"

Once verify, you can remove the SD card from reader and then press Continue.

Alternative to using Pi Imager for Linux only systems

Alternate Method of creating SD Card from an Image file using Linux "dd" command.

1. To down load the Ubuntu image, go to the following URL:
<https://ubuntu.com/download/raspberry-pi>
2. Scroll down and find the Ubuntu 20.04.3 LTS - Click on 64 bit image download button
3. When the "Save" popup is displayed, Press "OK" to save.
4. Once it's downloaded, Open a Terminal window and Change directories to the Download Area.
5. Place a SD card in the SD card Reader. The Auto Mounter will mount this card and you may see the file manager open.
6. In the Terminal window, type:
df

.
.
.

/dev/sd11	258095	60737	197358	24%	/media/ckovacs/system-boot
/dev/sd12	2808520	1846248	799892	70%	/media/ckovacs/writable

This will show the file systems mounted. Look for the SD device with the proper Size. In this example it will be `/dev/sdb`. Alternatively, you can use the "lsblk" command to identify the SD device name.

7. In the Terminal window, type:

```
sudo umount /dev/sdb1
```

8. This will un-mount the device but keep the device available to use. To transfer the image to the device, the "dd" command will be used. Type in the terminal window:

```
sudo dd if=<image_file> of=<device> bs=1M
```

Where `<image_file>` = the image file name, `<device>` = is the device without the partition number (`/dev/sdb`).

Below is an example of using device `/dev/sdb`:

```
sudo dd if=ubuntu-20.04.3-preinstalled-server-arm64+raspi.img of=/dev/sdb bs=1M
```

Note: Make sure you are using the correct device. If you don't use the correct device, it will corrupt the device specified, or create an image file in the `/dev` directory.

9. This command will take about 5 minutes to completed. Be patient and wait for the prompt to return. Once completed, remove the SD card from the reader/writer.

Adding Necessary Files to SD Image

Before you can use the newly created SD card, there are files that need to be installed in order to automatically install all necessary packages, files, and file modifications.

1. Download from Github the distribution zip file.
2. Unzip the file in a temporary directory. There will be two files, "run_first.sh" and "scripts.tar"
3. Re-insert the SD card into the reader. The Windows/Linux auto-mounter will mount the newly created system-boot filesystem (FAT Partition) in the image file system.
4. Using the file manager, copy the "run_first.sh" and "scripts.tar" files into this filesystem/folder (`/media/<userid>/system-boot/`).
5. Once added, eject and remove the SD card.

Installation Process

The installation process for Ekos/Indi on a Rpi4 has been simplified by using scripts to automate the process. Once the software is installed, log into the Rpi4 server as "ekos" user and optionally install PHD2 software and setup WIFI network access.

Installation

1. Connect the Rpi4 directly to your router or switch via an ethernet cable. Optionally, connect a monitor/keyboard to the Rpi4.
2. Install the newly created/modified SD card in the Rpi4.
3. After booting ssh into server or use Display/Monitor to login. Verify ip address and that system is on the network.
4. Insert the modified SD card image into the Rpi4 and power the pi. Wait about 60 seconds, then using an ssh connection via an ssh client (or keyboard/monitor), login using user "**ubuntu**" and the password "**ubuntu**".
5. You will immediately be prompted for a new password. Make sure you know/record this password. Once the ubuntu user account password is successfully updated, you will be terminated from the session and you will need to re-login using your new password. If you make a mistake either entering the current password, or new password, you can re-login to the Rpi4 and start the process over.
6. Once you've log into the Rpi4, change directories to /boot/firmware:

```
cd /boot/firmware
```
7. Now start the installation process by typing:

```
sudo bash run_first.sh
```

This will start the installation process. You will be prompted for various information during this process. When prompted for the lightdm greeter, select "lightdm" as shown below.

Package configuration

Configuring lightdm

A display manager is a program that provides graphical login capabilities for the X Window System.

Only one display manager can manage a given X server, but multiple display manager packages are installed. Please select which display manager should run by default.

Multiple display managers can run simultaneously if they are configured to manage different servers; to achieve this, configure the display managers accordingly, edit each of their init scripts in /etc/init.d, and disable the check for a default display manager.

Default display manager:

gdm3

lightdm

<Ok>

Installation will start by copying over and extracting the script files and execute the start install script. The following will occur and can take up to an 45 minutes to complete:

- system update and upgrade
- setup timezone (**you will be prompted for timzone**)
- hostname change
- ekos user add
- package installation which includes:
 - desktop
 - indi packages
 - web manager (download/compile)
 - lightdm Greeter (**you will be prompted selecting display manager, choose lightdm**)
 - x11vnc
- unnecessary packages
- system file installs
- Setting up services and stopping unnecessary services. **You will be prompted for vnc-server password as shown below:**

```
Setting x11vnc password...
Enter VNC password:
Verify password:
write password to /root/.vnc/passwd? [y]/n y
Password written to: /root/.vnc/passwd
```

- cleanup installation files
- System Reboot.

Once rebooted, you'll need to login using "**ekos**" user as outlined in the next section.

Ekos first login

Wait a minute or so for the system to reboot. Log back into the indi-server using the "ekos" user.

Once logged into the server, you will be prompted if you want to install PHD2. This will take some time to build and install. If you select "no" to the option, you can still build PHD2 by using the command:

```
_phd2_install.sh
```

WIFI Setup

I created a simple comand line script to configure an WIFI setup. This sets up the netplan for the WIFI interface for the desired SSID/Password. To use this script, type:

```
wifi_setup.sh
```

Then enter the SSID and password when prompted as shown below:

```
wifi Module: wlan0
```

```
what is the wifi ssid you want to connect to (Case sensitive)?  
myssid
```

```
what is the wifi password? myssidpassword
```

```
Creating new file using:
```

```
  wifis:
```

```
    wlan0:
```

```
      dhcp4: true
```

```
      optional: true
```

```
      access-points:
```

```
        "myssid":
```

```
          password: "myssidpassword"
```

Applying the new net plan...

Once entered, the script will generate a netplan and then apply. You can verify that you have access to the WIFI network by using:

```
ip a s
iwconfig
```

Below is an example output:

```
ip a s
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state
UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: eth0: <NO-CARRIER,BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP> mtu 1500 qdisc mq
state DOWN group default qlen 1000
    link/ether dc:a6:32:94:3e:64 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
3: wlan0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc
fq_codel state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether dc:a6:32:94:3e:66 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 192.168.15.62/24 brd 192.168.15.255 scope global
dynamic noprefixroute wlan0
        valid_lft 85668sec preferred_lft 85668sec
    inet6 fe80::dea6:32ff:fe94:3e66/64 scope link
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

```
iwconfig
eth0      no wireless extensions.

lo        no wireless extensions.
```

```
wlan0     IEEE 802.11  ESSID:"myssid"
          Mode:Managed  Frequency:5.2 GHz  Access Point:
98:DA:C4:86:55:2B
          Bit Rate=433.3 Mb/s   Tx-Power=31 dBm
          Retry short limit:7   RTS thr:off   Fragment thr:off
          Power Management:on
          Link Quality=67/70  Signal level=-43 dBm
          Rx invalid nwid:0  Rx invalid crypt:0  Rx invalid
frag:0
```



```
Tx excessive retries:0 Invalid misc:0 Missed  
beacon:0
```

Added Useful Programs

I have added extra programs/scripts. These programs/scripts include switching between x11vnc server access, creating a Rpi4 Hotspot network, and backup scripts. Below describe the programs and usage.

Using Lightdm and x11vnc Server

Normally, the Lightdm X Display Manager (Lightdm) and x11vnc is disabled. If you want to use these optional remote methods of access, you will need to run the following script:

vnc_greeter_control.sh

Window Management Utility

- 1 - Start/Stop x11vnc Service (with window Manager)
- 2 - Start/Stop Window Manager Greeter
- 3 - Exit

Enter selection:

Option 1 allows you to startup a vnc session and optionally starting that service on reboot.

Hotspot Network

This script enables the Rpi4 to become a hotspot. The script defaults for the hotspot network name and password is:

```
HOTSPOTNAME=EkosHotSpot  
PASSWORD=Ekos4192
```

This script should be executed in a separate ssh session or window as this will continue to function until the ssh session is killed or terminated using "control-c". You will need to connect up to the hotspot just like any other WIFI network using the above settings.

sysinfo

This is a simple program that shows basic information (was part of the initial login).

sysinfo

System information as of Fri Oct 15 12:04:10 CDT 2021

```
System load: 0.94      Temperature:      28.2 C  
Usage of /: 20.7% of 218.54GB Processes:          163  
Memory usage: 9%      Users logged in:    1  
Swap usage: 0%        IPv4 address for wlan0: 192.168.15.62
```

Backup Script

I have added a backup scripts that you can use to create a backup either onto a nfs mounted filesystem, or a thumb-drive. I recommend using a SanDisk Ultra (r), USB 3.0 Flash Drive.

<i>File</i>	<i>Description</i>
/usr/local/sbin/image_backup.sh	Creates a backup image on a usb thumb drive formatted as vfat. (Wrapper for sys-imagebkup)
/usr/local/sbin/image_nfs_backup.sh	Creates a backup image on to an nfs mounted filesystem. (Wrapper for sys-imagebkup)
/usr/local/sbin/sys-imagebkup	Main imaging backup script
/usr/local/etc/image_backup.conf	Configuration file for backup. Make sure you review and update.

The scripts will take a current running system and create an image backup. This image backup can then be used to create another SD card image. SD cards do have limited write access counts and can fail. This is useful to backup and restore the system.

Formatting a USB drive for use with image_backup.sh script

You must partition and format the USB drive. This can be done using the Rpi4.

1. Insert the usb drive into the Rpi4 usb port.
2. Verify that the device can be see by the Rpi4 by using the following command:
sudo lsblk

```
NAME          MAJ:MIN RM  SIZE RO TYPE MOUNTPOINT
sda            8:0    1 28.7G  0 disk
└─sda1         8:1    1 28.7G  0 part
mmcblk0       179:0    0 14.9G  0 disk
├─mmcblk0p1   179:1    0 256M  0 part
└─mmcblk0p2   179:2    0 14.6G  0 part /
```

3. If the device is mounted, see above "MOUNTPOINT", you must un-mount the device:
sudo umount /dev/sda1
4. Create partition on the device, so use the following commands to remove an existing partition and and create a new one:

sudo fdisk /dev/sda

- a) Delete existing partitions by using selecting "**d**" and then enter at the prompt.
- b) Create a new partition by entering "**n**" and then return at the prompt and when prompted for partition type, enter "**p**" for primary.
- c) Then press "enter" at each prompt to except all of the defaults.

d) Finally, verify that the partition is created by entering "p" at the prompt and the device partition information will be displayed. and finally use the "w" enter, to write the changes to the device.

For example:

```
Command (m for help): n
Partition type
  p   primary (0 primary, 0 extended, 4 free)
  e   extended (container for logical partitions)
select (default p):p
Partition number (1-4, default 1): <enter>
First sector (2048-120176639, default 2048): <enter>
Last sector, +/-sectors or +/-size{K,M,G,T,P} (2048-120176639, default
120176639): <enter>
```

Created a new partition 1 of type 'Linux' and of size 57.3 GiB.

```
Command (m for help): p
Disk /dev/sdf: 57.31 GiB, 61530439680 bytes, 120176640 sectors
Disk model: SanDisk 3.2Gen1
Units: sectors of 1 * 512 = 512 bytes
Sector size (logical/physical): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
I/O size (minimum/optimal): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
Disklabel type: dos
Disk identifier: 0x0e9d9c79
```

Device	Boot	Start	End	Sectors	Size	Id	Type
/dev/sdf1		2048	120176639	120174592	57.3G	83	Linux

```
Command (m for help): w
The partition table has been altered.
Calling ioctl() to re-read partition table.
Syncing disks.
```

5. Once the partition has been created, you can then use the following command to create an exfat file system:

```
sudo mkfs.exfat /dev/sda1
mkexfatfs 1.3.0
Creating... done.
Flushing... done.
File system created successfully.
```

6. Now label the newly created file system:

```
sudo fatlabel /dev/sda1 backup_imgs
```

You can ignore the warning about lowercase labels/

Image Backup Process

You will need a exfat formatted usb thumb-drive (see above previous section).

1. mount usb drive:

```
sudo udiskctl mount -b /dev/sda1
```

2. Make sure that /boot/firmware is mounted by entering the command:
sudo mount /boot/firmware

3. Start the backup process by executing:

sudo image_backup.sh

At the prompt, you have to enter a selection. This selection can be an existing image file or a "New" file. If a "New" selection is used, it will create a new image. If you use an existing image, it will overwrite/resync the old image and will be faster.

Also, you will be prompted for a image size. The default size is the size of the SD card. You can reduce this value to save time or if the SD card is very large. The typical size for this image is about 9000MB (9Gb). This value must be larger than the actual overall filesystem size. You do not need to use the default value if the SD card in the Rpi4 is large, ie 32G, but can be created smaller.

4. When completed, umount usb drive:

sudo udiskctl unmount -b /dev/sda1
-or-
sudo umount /dev/sda1

Once the disk is unmounted, you can remove this driver and use the image file on the usb drive to create a new SD card image which is a snapshot of the mount OS on your Rpi4.

Below is an example execution:

```
sudo udiskctl mount -b /dev/sda1
sudo image_backup.sh
```

```
+=====+
| Please insert an exFAT formatted usb thumb drive for |
| your backup.                                         |
| Press any key when disk has been inserted, or  (Ct1-C) to abort.. |
+=====+
```

```
Checking for media, please wait... Premount-/media/root/backup-imgs
found media.  [/media/root/backup-imgs]
```

```
+=====+
| Select an existing backup image file to update by entering the number |
| next to the file.                                                       |
| -OR-                                                                    |
| Select the number corresponding to "New" to create a new backup image. |
+=====+
```

```
1) .
2) New
=== Please select:  2
```

```
executing --> /usr/local/sbin/sys-imagebkup -s 9000 -n /media/root/backup-imgs -
m /mnt/bkup -f indi-server_2021-10-19-1318.img -b /boot/firmware
Creating NEW Image File: indi-server_2021-10-19-1318.img
```

```

/media/root/backup-imgs
Creating image file.  working [2724]... [/] 1+0 records in
1+0 records out
1048576 bytes (1.0 MB, 1.0 MiB) copied, 0.0968456 s, 10.8 MB/s
Image creation complete.
GNU Parted 3.3
Using /media/root/backup-imgs/indi-server_2021-10-19-1318.img
Welcome to GNU Parted! Type 'help' to view a list of commands.
(parted) mktable msdos
(parted) unit s
(parted) mkpart primary fat32 2048 526335
(parted) mkpart primary ext4 526336 18431999
(parted) quit
mkfs.fat 4.1 (2017-01-24)
fatlabel: warning - lowercase labels might not work properly with DOS or windows
mke2fs 1.45.5 (07-Jan-2020)
Creating filesystem with 2238208 4k blocks and 559728 inodes
Filesystem UUID: 59505467-ea81-49fa-bbac-e5d89e81353c
Superblock backups stored on blocks:
    32768, 98304, 163840, 229376, 294912, 819200, 884736, 1605632

Allocating group tables: done
Writing inode tables: done
Creating journal (16384 blocks): done
Writing superblocks and filesystem accounting information: done

-----

Running backup now...
    This could take up to 50 minutes to completed. Please wait..
=====

    Working [4101]....
Update completed, umounting image, please wait..

Differences between existing /etc/fstab and new /etc/fstab:

Differences between existing /boot/firmware/cmdline.txt and
/mnt/bkup/boot/firmware/cmdline.txt:
    Finished.
-----

    OK to remove USB drive ...

Completed.

sudo udisksctl unmount -b /dev/sda1

```

Restore Backup

To Restore, copy image to a system that has the tool to create SD cards from images such as Pi Imager (v1.6 or higher).

Select "**Use custom, Select a custom .img from your computer**", under "Choose OS" drop down . You will be prompted to select an image name. (See below).

Follow the same process as you did when creating the initial installation of Ubuntu. See above "Creating SD Image using the Raspberry Pi Imager".

