

Linux Installation

Choose a boot option

But, first: This is a proceed-at-your-own-risk tutorial. Also, note that I'll be referring to the old PC as the "destination system."

Here's the overall process in a nutshell:

- Step 1: Download a Linux OS. (I recommend doing this, and all subsequent steps, on your current PC, not the destination system. Although the latter is an option if it's malware-free and in decent working order, everything will get done faster and more easily on your primary machine.)
- Step 2: Create a bootable CD/DVD or USB flash drive.
- Step 3: Boot that media on the destination system, then make a few decisions regarding the installation.

The first part is easy: Just download Linux from Mint or Ubuntu or whatever site hosts the version you want. That download will likely consist of a single ISO file. Note: An older computer may have a 32-bit processor, which won't work with 64-bit versions of Linux.

The 2nd part -- creating boot media -- requires a little thought. The fastest, easiest method is to use a flash drive, even if the destination system has a CD/DVD drive. Indeed, the only reason not to go the flash-drive route is if the destination system won't boot (or boot properly) from one. (I've encountered this problem a few times, even after tweaking the BIOS boot settings and actually selecting "USB drive" from a pop-up boot menu.)