

How to try Linux on your current platform

If you've been thinking of using Linux it's a great idea to try it out first, and see if you like it and to check that your hardware works well with it. Fortunately it's very easy to do this without making any changes to your existing system using a Live session booted from a USB stick.

Most Linux distributions have great guides on this process. Below covers the basic steps but please follow the specific documentation for more detailed steps.

- **Ubuntu:** <https://ubuntu.com/tutorials/try-ubuntu-before-you-install>
- **Fedora:** <https://getfedora.org/en/workstation/download/>

General steps are:

1. Download the iso image from your distro of choice. Note for Fedora, if you use the Fedora Media Writer program you can skip this step as it will do it for you!
2. Write the image to an empty USB stick. Great free tools to do this are [Rufus](#) or [Fedora Media Writer](#)
3. Take your freshly written USB key and insert it into the powered down installation platform. It is recommended to disable secure boot. If secure boot is enabled (or to check its status) power on the device and press F1 during the early boot to enter the BIOS configuration utility. Check under the security tab for your secure boot settings.
4. Power on the device and press F12 during early boot to enter the Boot Menu. Navigate down to your "USB HDD" device and press Enter.
5. At the GRUB menu that will be displayed the default option is usually the option you want - but check that it is something like 'Try Ubuntu without installing' or 'Test this media & start Fedora-Workstation-Live'.
6. Let your system boot and follow any instructions. You should land on your distro's desktop (perhaps after a prompt on whether to try Linux or start an installation). Explore the system and see what you find. Check out some of the open-source applications to see how they compare.