



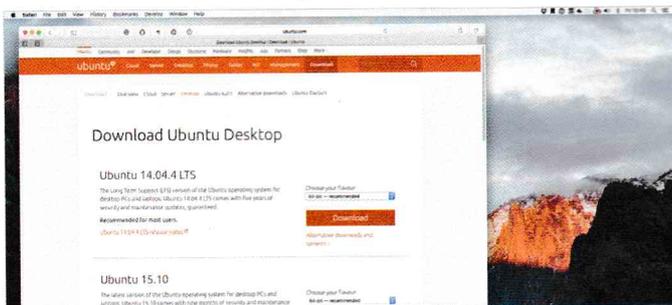
Creating a Linux Installation Disk for Mac

Getting ready to install Linux on a Mac can be slightly more challenging than on a Windows PC. Mostly because Apple has its own EFI (Extensible Firmware Interface) at startup. We'll walk you through the process.

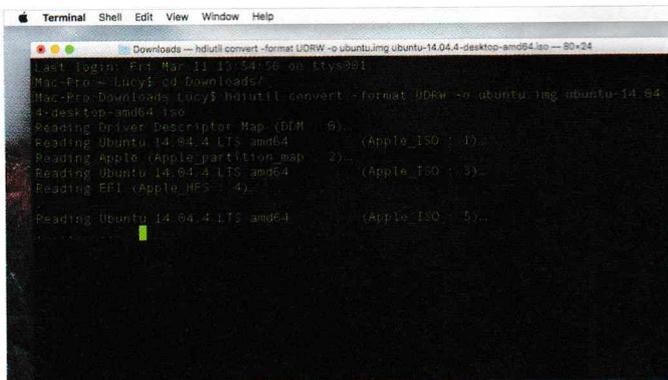
CREATE A USB FLASH DRIVE

Apple removed optical drives from its computers a lot earlier than other manufacturers, so you are more likely to be installing Linux using a USB Flash Drive. We've found this to be more reliable in any case.

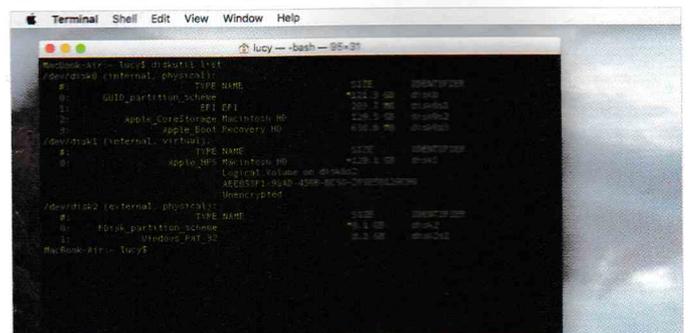
STEP 1 Open the Safari web browser in macOS and navigate to ubuntu.com/download/desktop. Choose "64-bit – recommended" next to Ubuntu 14.04.4 LTS or Ubuntu 16.04 LTE if it is now available; the installation process is the same. Click Download. Scroll down the pay screen and click "Not now, take me to the download". The file is saved to your Downloads folder.



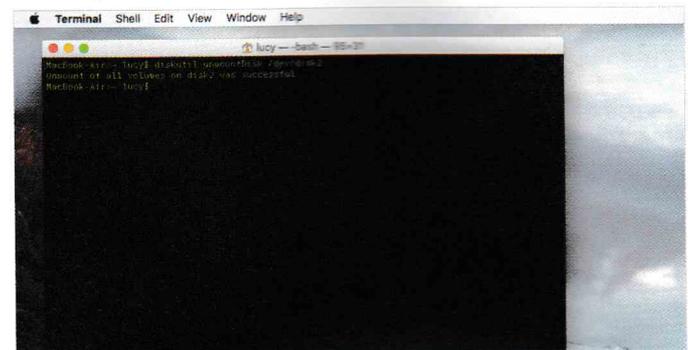
STEP 2 macOS uses a different image format to Windows and Linux, so you need to convert the ISO file to an IMG file. Open Terminal and enter `cd Downloads/` then `hdiutil convert -format UDRW -o ubuntu.img ubuntu-14.04.4-desktop-amd64.iso`. The file is converted and macOS adds ".dmg" to the end.



STEP 3 Type clear into the Terminal console. Now enter `diskutil list` and take a note of all the disk images. They appear as `"/dev/disk0"`, `"/dev/disk1"` and so on. Now insert your USB Flash Drive and enter `diskutil list` again. Spot the new disk number, on most Macs, with a single internal drive; it will be `"/dev/disk2/`.



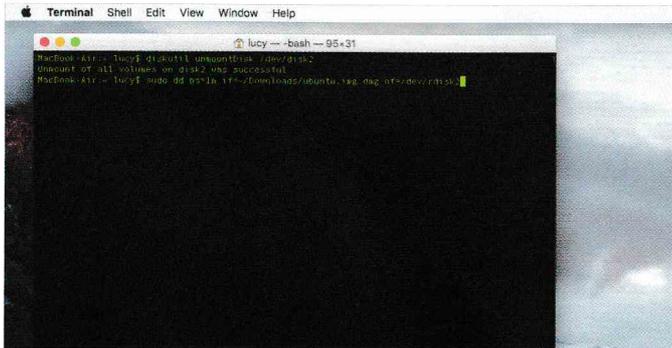
STEP 4 You need to unmount the disk before writing to it. Unmounting is different to ejecting, an unmounted disk is still in the system but the volumes are not hooked up to macOS, enabling you to write over the whole flash drive. Enter `diskutil unmountDisk /dev/diskN`, replacing "N" with the number you got from Step 3.





STEP 5

Enter the following command to copy the image file from your Downloads folder to the Flash drive. Enter `sudo dd bs=1m if=~/.Downloads/ubuntu.img.dmg of=/dev/rdiskN`. You won't get any feedback in Terminal but wait for it to copy.



STEP 6

When it's finished, you'll get an Alert saying "The disk you inserted was not readable by this computer." Don't worry, this is because Linux uses a different file system to macOS and we're going to be writing over macOS with Linux. Click Eject to remove the volume from macOS.



BURN DVD

If your Mac is fitted with an optical drive, then it's a good idea to create an installation DVD. The disc will be a robust restore solution in case you use or reuse your USB Flash Drive; and it's a sound optional installation.

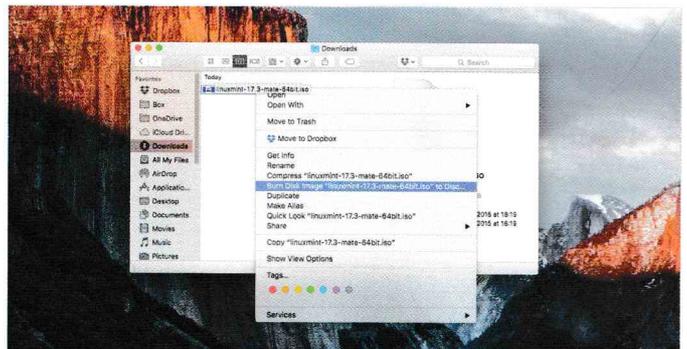
STEP 1

Download the ISO file for your Linux installation. For a change, we're going to download Linux Mint with the MATE desktop (linuxmint.com/download.php). Click the 64-bit link next to MATE. A list of download mirrors will appear. Choose one close to your location.



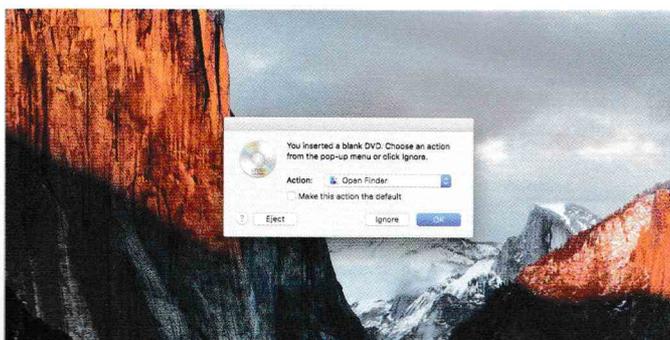
STEP 3

Open the Downloads folder in Finder, Command-N to open a new Finder window then click Downloads in the sidebar. Control click the ISO file you downloaded and chose Burn Disk Image.



STEP 2

The ISO file will be saved to your Downloads folder. Insert a recordable DVD into your Mac. Note that it has to be a DVD Recordable, not a CD. An alert window will appear offering actions. Ensure that Open Finder is displayed in the Action window and click OK.



STEP 4

Click the Reveal arrow to the right of "Burn Disk In: SuperDrive" to display the Options. Change the speed to 4x and ensure that Verify burned data is selected. Click Burn and wait for the recording to take place. You now have your installation DVD.

