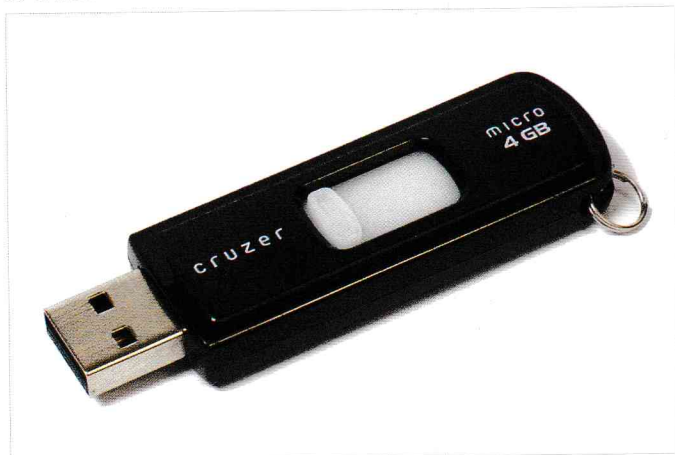# Installing Linux on a Mac

Apple Macs make great Linux machines. They are solidly built computers, with good keyboards and high-quality displays. Although it's trickier to install Linux on a Mac than on an old Windows PC, it's perfectly possible. Here we'll show you how.

APPLE QUIRKS

It wouldn't be Apple without a few quirks, and there are some pitfalls to be wary of when installing Linux on a Mac. You'll need to replace the whole of macOS with Linux, and older machines need tweaking to boot properly.
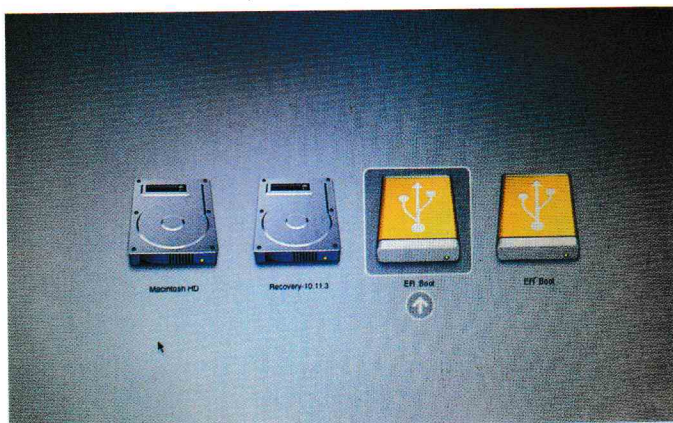
STEP 1 Most Macs lack an optical drive, so we're going to focus on installing Linux from a USB stick. Create a Linux installation USB disk (by following the previous tutorial). Ours is going to contain a Ubuntu installation file.
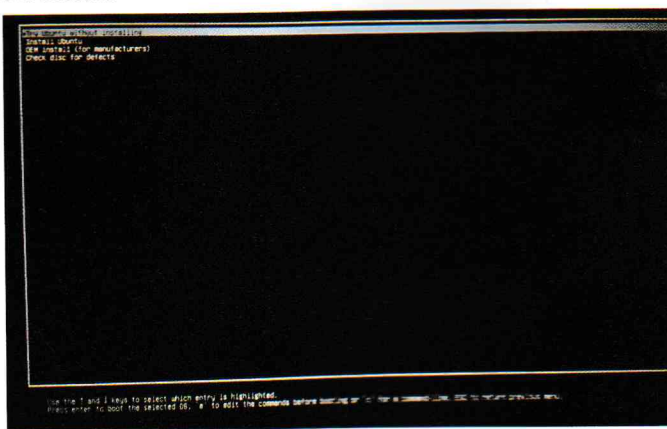
STEP 2 Shut down your Mac and attach the USB stick to a spare USB port. Hold down the Option key (marked "alt" on most Mac keyboards) and press the Power button. Keep holding down the Option key until the Startup Disk screen appears. Select the first EFI Boot option and press Return.
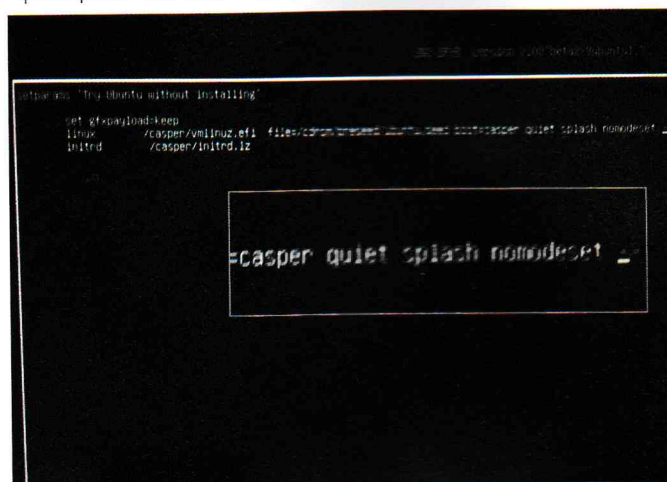
STEP 3 Instead of the usual flashy splash screen you'll get a black and white text display with four options: "Try Ubuntu without installing", "Install Ubuntu", "OEM install" and "Check disk for defects". Stop right there. Notice the other options at the bottom.
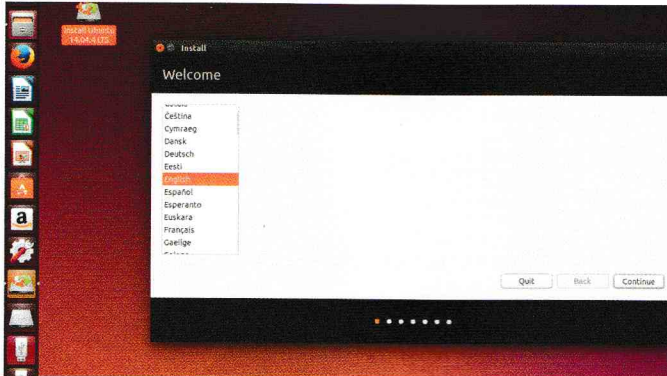
STEP 4 Press "e" to edit the boot entry. Edit the line that begins with "linux" and place the word "nomodeset" after "quiet splash" and before the "--" (as shown in the picture). Press F10.
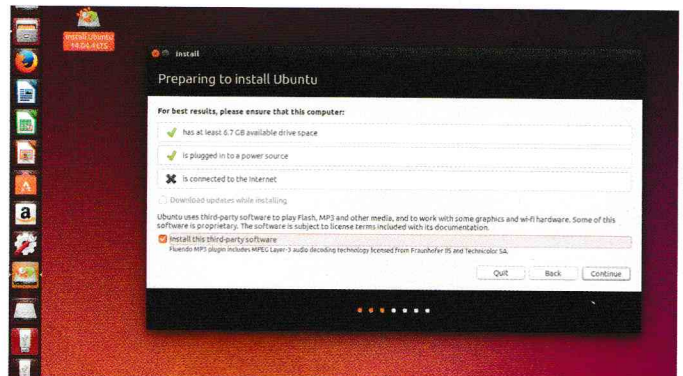
STEP 5 Ubuntu will now boot into the trial mode and after briefly displaying the Ubuntu splash screen, your Mac will display the Ubuntu desktop. Double-click the icon marked "Install Ubuntu". Select English in the Welcome screen and click Continue.
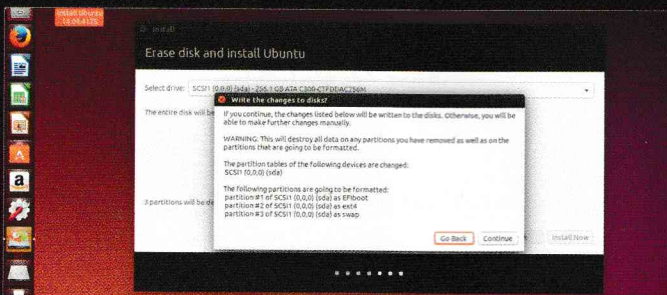
STEP 6 Select the "install this third-party software" option and click Continue. Click Yes if you get an alert about the /dev/sdb partition. Ensure that "Erase disk and install Ubuntu is selected" and click Continue.
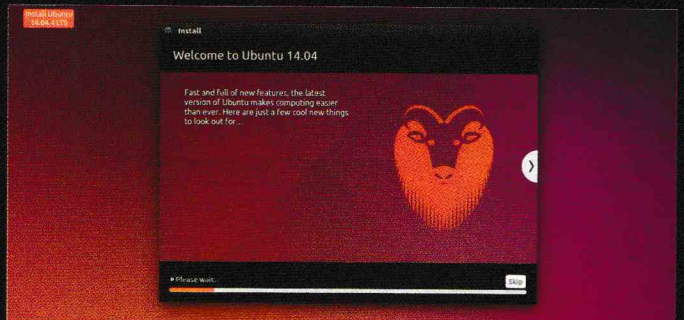
ERASE DISK

We're now ready to wipe macOS and replace it with Ubuntu Linux. Remember that this process will wipe all of the data from your Mac's main hard drive. Be sure that you have backed up any macOS files you need before continuing.
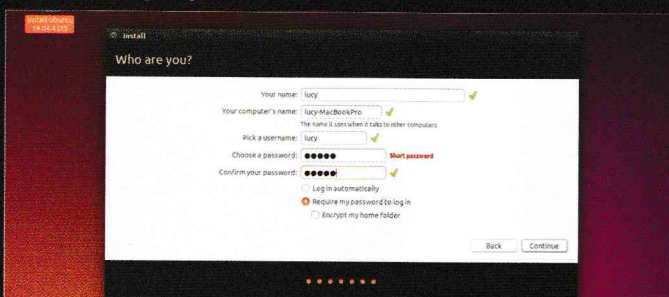
STEP 1 Ensure that Select Drive is displaying the main hard drive in your Mac. Unless you have multiple drives attached it will only display the main drive (and not the USB installation drive). Click Install Now. A warning screen will appear: click Continue.

STEP 3 Click Restart Now at the Installation Complete window. Remove the USB installation drive and press Return. Hold down Power to switch off your Mac, then hold down Shift and Switch press Power to boot into GRUB mode.

STEP 2 Click on the map to select your location and click Continue. Choose your Keyboard layout and click Continue. Now enter your name and the password you'll use to unlock your Ubuntu linux machine. Click Continue and Linux will begin installing on your Mac.

STEP 4 Press "e" in the GRUB mode to edit the boot parameters. Use the cursors to move to the bit after "ro" but before "quiet splash" and enter "nomodeset" (as shown). Press F10 to save the parameters and boot Ubuntu. You'll now be able to use Linux on your Mac.