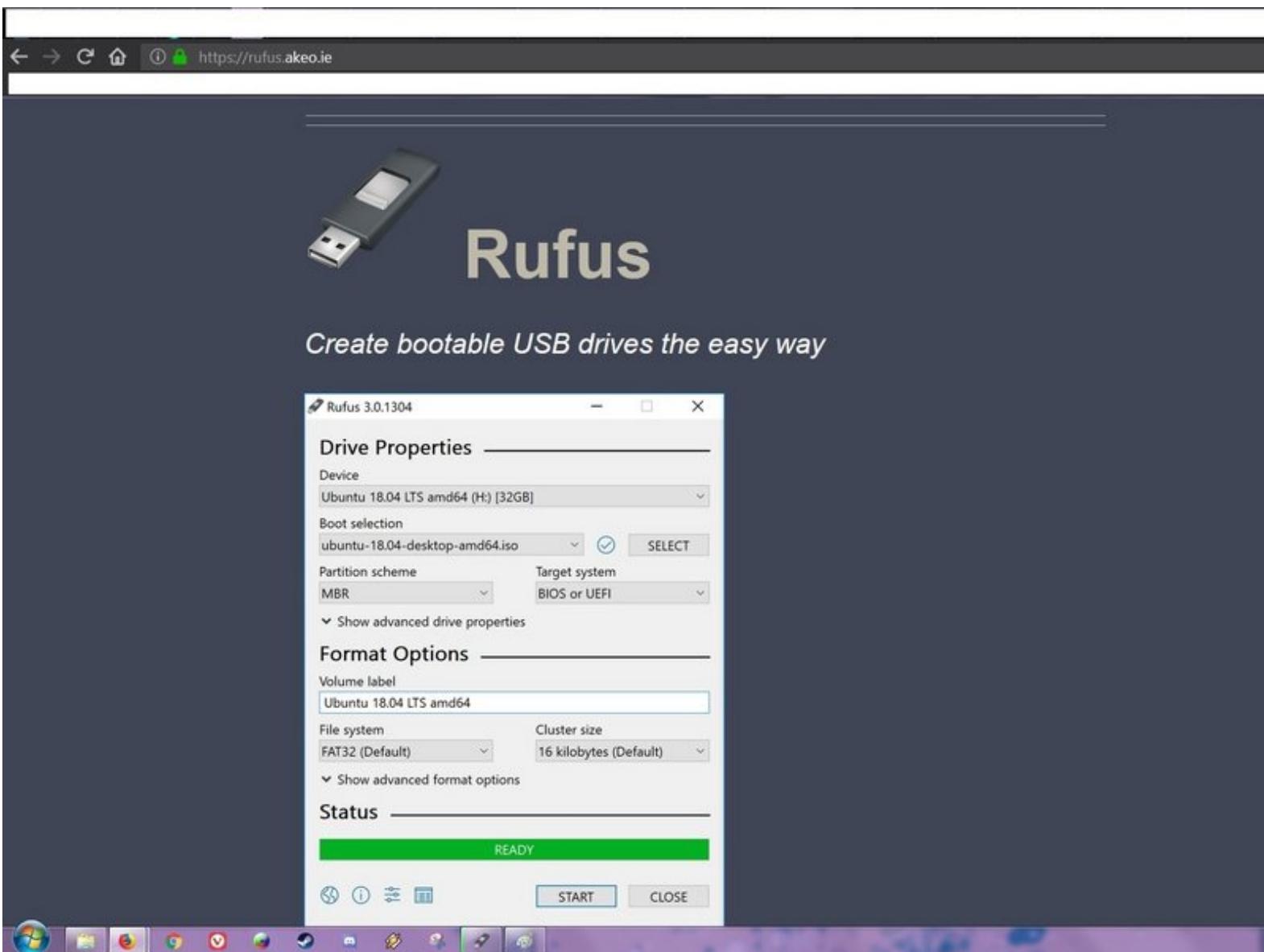




USB Installation Media Creation

This guide shows you how to turn a USB flash drive into Linux installation media. This is extremely helpful for laptops without an internal optical drive.

Written By: Nick



INTRODUCTION

If you are unsure how to write an ISO to a USB flash drive, this guide will show you how to do this using Rufus. Many modern systems do not include an internal optical drive and require a USB drive or optical drive to boot operating system installation media.

As many laptops (and in some cases, desktops) begin to lose the internal DVD drive and your only choice is to choose between an external optical drive (with a USB performance penalty) or a USB flash drive (which can be erased and modified if firmware needs to be placed into the media after creating it, for example) without after purchase upgrades, it is typically better for most users to get a USB flash drive and not deal with optical media.

Unless your application **REQUIRES** a DVD, it is generally better to get a 16GB USB flash drive and avoid all of the hassles that come with using optical media since it is no longer convenient on optical drive-less laptops and now requires another purchase to do so.

Read me: Regarding other operating systems besides Linux

Important: OSes without USB boot support are not guaranteed to work. While the risk of a problem is very low, results outside of Linux are NOT GUARANTEED.

This guide was originally written just for Linux. However, it can be used with any operating system that supports USB boot and is not tied to one specific operating system in practice.

Since these operating systems may create unforeseen issues not anticipated by the author, you are on your own finding an image and if something goes wrong as there will be no in-guide help. Take these questions to Answers, as it is the only place they will be answered. This is to avoid problems and end user confusion.

Guide notes

- ***If you have a used USB drive, format it outside of Rufus before use.***
- ***CD/DVD creation is not covered. If you need this version, [refer to Revision 1](#).***
- ***This guide is on Revision 3. If you need to use Rufus 2.x, [refer to Revision 2](#).***

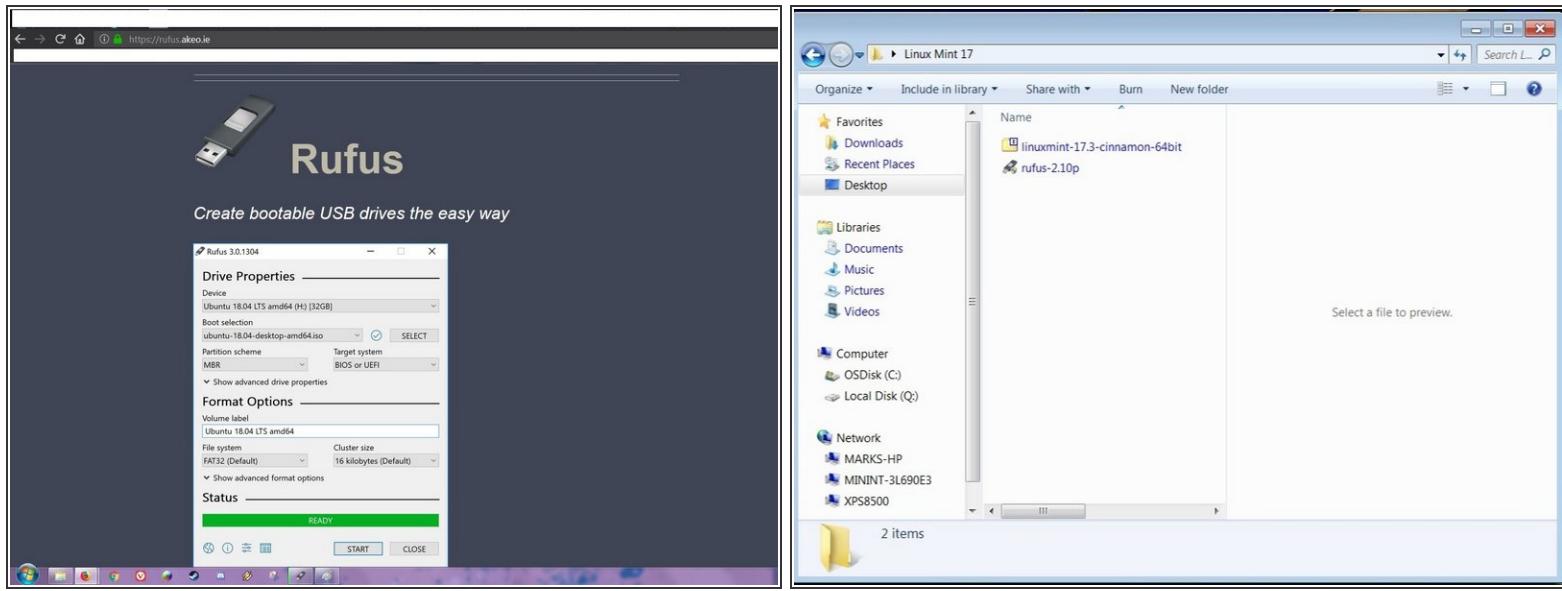
TOOLS:

- **USB Flash Drive (1)**

16GB+

Used to hold the ISO once written to the drive.

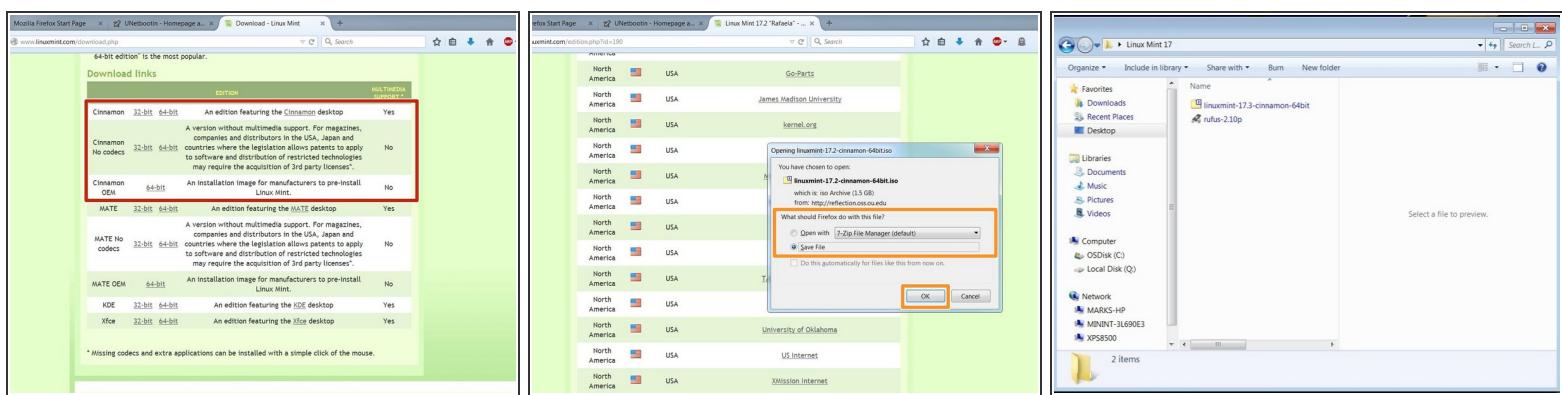
Step 1 — Download Rufus



(i) A new USB drive is recommended. If you reuse a spare drive, format it before use.

- Plug your USB drive in. This will make it available immediately.
- To write the ISO to the drive, download [Rufus](#). Place this somewhere it is easily found.

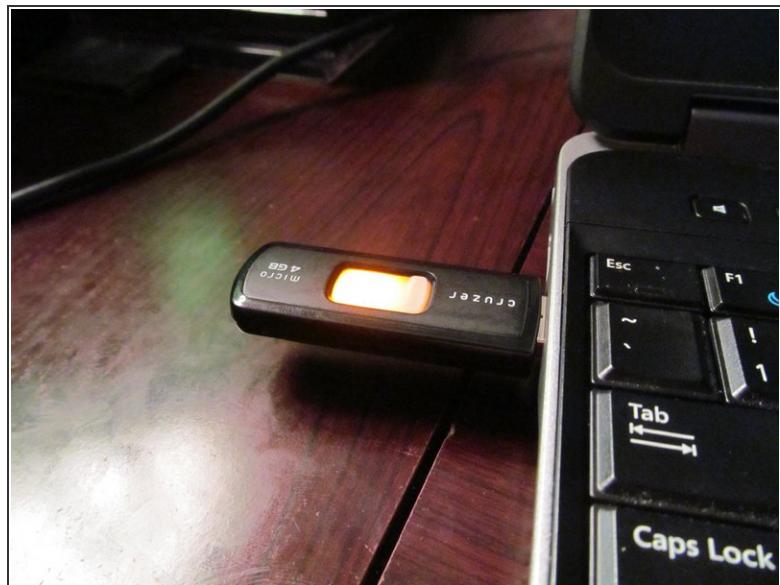
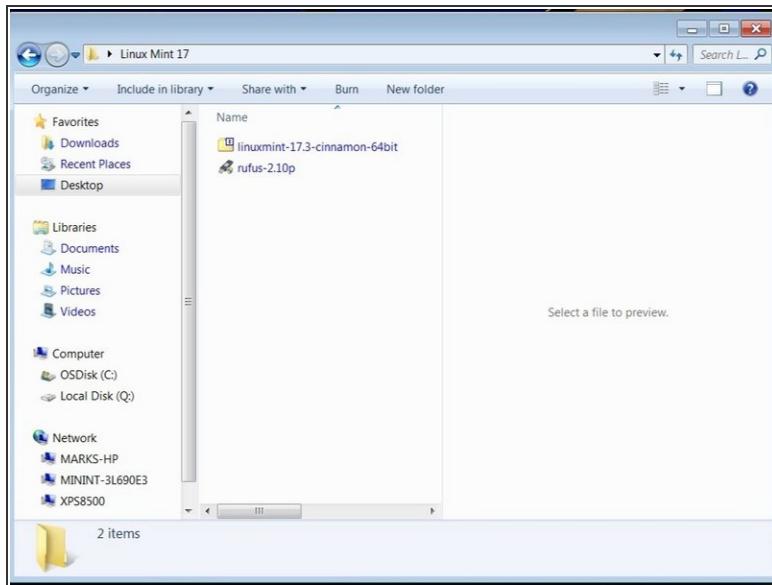
Step 2 — Download a Linux ISO



⚠️ **FTP is safer for most people. *Torrent clients require additional configuration not covered in this guide.***

- After downloading Rufus, download the ISO for your selected Linux distro.
- At the download prompt, select **Save file** and click **OK**.

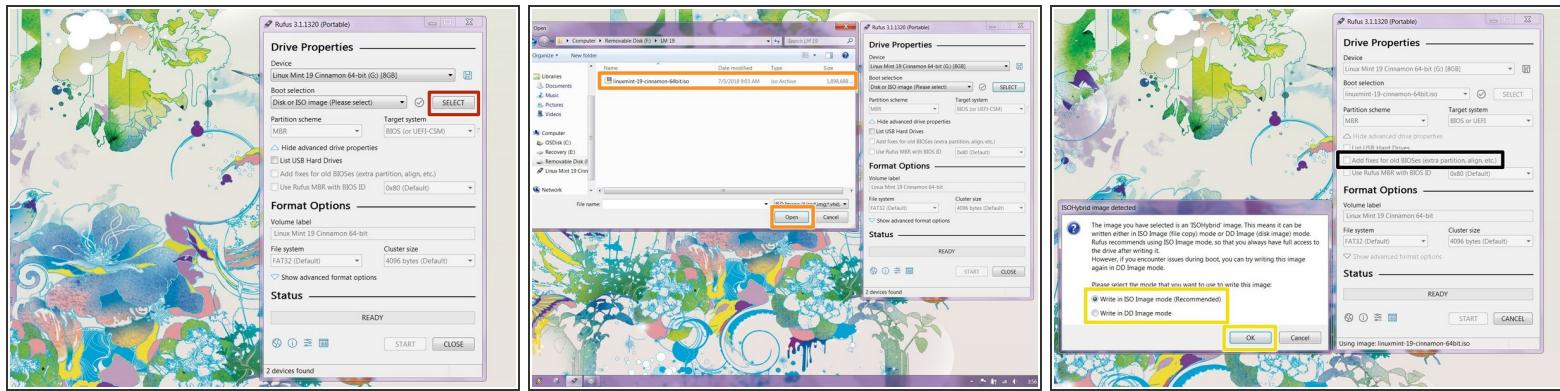
Step 3 — Locate the ISO



(i) Default download location: ***Windows 7/8.x/10: Downloads***

- Plug the USB drive in now if this is not done yet.
- Locate where the ISO was downloaded to. ***This is typically in the default download location.***

Step 4 — Write the image to your USB drive



⚠ This procedure will erase your USB drive. Make a backup before proceeding!

- ⓘ If you are having problems booting on legacy hardware, select **>Add fixes for older BIOSes**.
- Open Rufus and click **SELECT**.
- Find the ISO you want to use. Once found, click **Open**.
- Rufus will ask you to choose **ISO or DD** mode. If you are unsure, choose **ISO mode**.
- After locating the ISO and selecting a USB drive, click **Start** and then **OK**.
- **Rufus will prompt a format warning.** Click **OK** on the format warning and the image will be written to the drive.