How to install Ubuntu onto a Windows tablet

By Nick Peers   April 21, 2016   How To

Hand-held Ubuntu

We decided to go down the Ubuntu route when it came to the Linx 1010 tablet. We're indebted to the hard work of Ian Morrison for producing a modified version of Ubuntu (14.04.3 LTS) that not only serves as a live CD, but also works as an installer.

We experimented with later Ubuntu releases – 15.10 and a the new 16.04 – but while the live distros work fine, installing them proved to be impossible. Still, all is not lost, as you'll discover later on. So, the simplest and easiest way to install Ubuntu on your Z3735F-powered tablet is to use Ian's Unofficial 'official' quasi Ubuntu 14.04.3 LTS release.

This comes with 32-bit UEFI support baked in to the ISO, and includes custom-built drivers for key components including the Z3735F processor and the internal Wi-Fi adaptor. However, there's no touchscreen support, so you'll need to connect the tablet to a detachable keyboard and touchpad.

Download Ubuntu 14.04.3 LTS from Ian Morrison's website by clicking the 'Google Drive' link and select the blue 'Download' link to save Ubuntu-14.04.3-desktop-linuxium.iso file to your Downloads folder. Once done, pop in a freshly formatted USB flash drive - it needs to be 2GB or larger and formatted using FAT32.

The simplest way to produce the disk is to use UNetbootin and select your flash drive, browse for the Ubuntu ISO and create the USB drive. Once written, eject the drive. Plug it into one of the Linx's USB ports, then power it up by holding the power and volume + buttons together.

After about five seconds or so you should see confirmation that boot menu is about to appear – when it does, use your finger to tap 'Boot Manager'. Use the cursor key to select the 'EFI USB Device' entry and hit Return to access the Grub menu. Next, select 'Try Ubuntu without installing' and hit Return again.

You'll see the Ubuntu loading screen appear and then after a lengthy pause (and blank screen) the desktop should appear. You should also get a momentary notification that the internal Wi-Fi adaptor has been detected – one of the key indications that this remixed Ubuntu distro has been tailored for Bay Trail devices.

Up until now you'll have been interacting with your tablet in portrait mode – it's time to switch it to a more comfortable landscape view, and that's done by click the 'Settings' button in the top right-hand corner of the screen and choosing System Settings. Select 'Displays', set the Rotation drop-down menu to 'Clockwise' and click 'Apply' (the button itself is largely off-screen, but you can just make out its left-hand end at the top of the screen as you look at it).

Next, connect to your Wi-Fi network by clicking the wireless button in the menu bar, selecting your network and entering the passkey. You're now ready to double-click 'Install Ubuntu 14.04.3' and follow the familiar wizard to install Ubuntu on to your tablet.

You'll note that the installer claims the tablet isn't plugged into a power source even though you should have done so for the purposes of installing it – this is a symptom of Linux's poor ACPI support for these tablets. We recommend ticking 'Download updates while installing' before clicking 'Continue', at which point you'll probably see an Input/output error about fsyncing/closing – simply click 'Ignore' and then click 'Yes' when prompted to unmount various partitions.

At the partition screen you'll see what appears to be excellent news – Ubuntu is offering to install itself alongside Windows, but this won't work, largely because it'll attempt to install itself to your microSD card rather than the internal storage. This card can't be detected at boot up, so the install will ultimately fail.

Instead, we're going to install Ubuntu in place of Windows, so select 'Something else'. Ignore any warning about /dev/sda – focus instead on /dev/mmcblk0, which is the internal flash storage. You'll see four partitions – we need to preserve the first two (Windows Boot Manager and unknown) and delete the two NTFS partitions (/dev/mmcblk0p3 and /dev/mmcblk0p4 respectively). Select each one in turn and click the '-' button to delete them.

Next, select the free space that's been created (31,145MB or thereabouts) and click the '+' button. First, create the main partition – reduce the allocation by 2,048MB to leave space for the swap partition, and set the mount point to '/', but leave all other options as they are before clicking 'OK'.

Now select the remaining free space and click '+' for a second time. This time, set 'Use as' to 'swap area' and click 'OK'. Finally, click the 'Device for bootloader installation' dropdown menu and select the Windows Boot Manager partition before clicking 'Install Now'.

The rest of the installation process should proceed smoothly. Once it's finished, however, don't click 'Continue testing or Reboot now' just yet. First, there's a vital step you need to perform in order to make your copy of Ubuntu bootable, and that's install a 32-bit version of the Grub 2 bootloader. The step-by-step walkthrough at the end of this tutorial reveals the simplest way to do this, courtesy of Ian Morrison's handy script.

Installing Ubuntu Linux on a tablet

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS FOR YOU…

techradar.

▶

NOW PLAYING

01:48
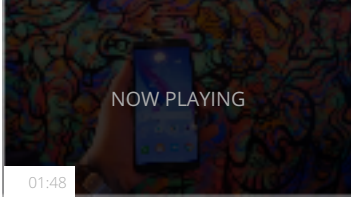
Honor 9 Lite Hands-on Review

04:10
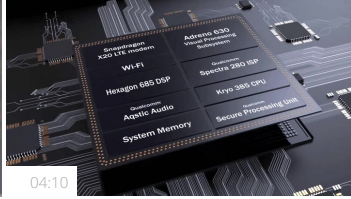
Samsung Galaxy S9 Rumor round-up

techradar

02:49

Top 5 Smartphones

techradar

Galaxy Note 8 review VIDEO

04:27

Samsung Galaxy Note 8 review

RELATED ARTICLES

The best Linux web hosting services of 2018

How to watch Alpine Skiing at the Winter Olympics 2018: Live stream all the action online from anywhere

techradar

The best President's Day sales and deals 2018: here's what's on sale today

How to watch Biathlon at the Winter Olympics 2018: Live stream all the action online from anywhere

SEE MORE HOW-TO ARTICLES ▶

✉ **TECH DEALS, PRIZES AND LATEST NEWS**

Get the best tech deals, reviews, product advice, competitions, unmissable tech news and more!
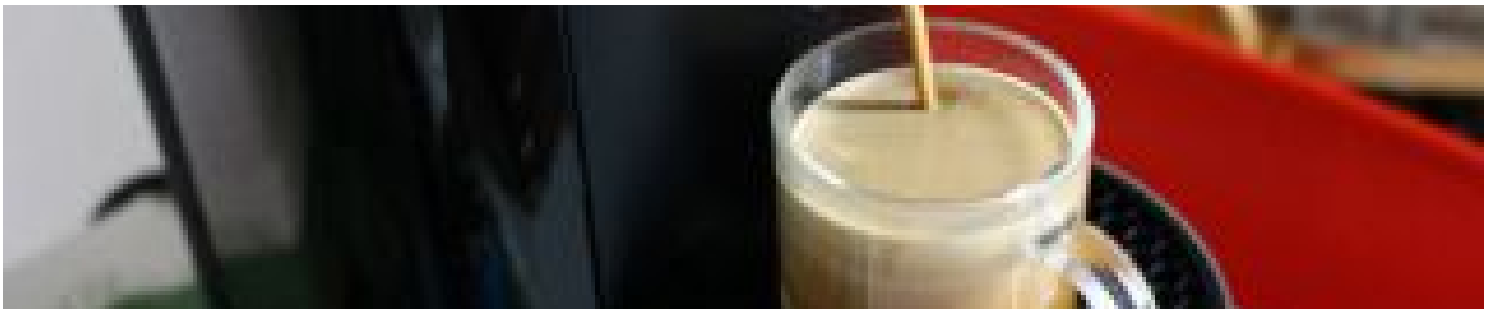
Your email address

LEARN MORE ▶

No spam, we promise. You can unsubscribe at any time and we'll never share your details without your permission.

MOST POPULAR   MOST SHARED

1 Best coffee machines

2 **How to install Kodi on Chromecast**

3 **Samsung Galaxy Note 9 release date, price, news and leaks**

Tablets deals   ?

	PLANS	UNLOCKED
BUNDLE		

Lenovo Yoga Book

	amazon marketplace	**$273.99**
texts		VIEW
		at <u>Amazon Marketplace</u>

Lenovo Yoga Book

	Jet	**$297.57**
texts		VIEW
		at <u>Jet</u>

Lenovo Yoga Book

	Walmart	**$339**
texts		VIEW
		at <u>Walmart</u>

Lenovo Yoga Book

	Lenovo	**$579.99**
texts		VIEW
		at <u>Lenovo USA</u>

We check over 130 million products every day for the best prices

VIEW ALL DEALS

POWERED BY **techradar**

?   **ABOUT OUR DEALS**

We sort through thousands of deals to offer the best prices from the most trustworthy retailers. You can support us by clicking these independently selected links, as we may earn a commission on any purchase you make, at no extra cost to you.

<u>Contact us</u> if you have any questions or have found a better price

Do you find our price comparison useful?

Yes 👍 | No 👎

TechRadar is part of Future plc, an international media group and leading digital publisher. **Visit our corporate site**.

About Us

Terms and conditions

Privacy policy

Cookies policy

Advertise with us

Yes 👍 | No 👎