



# Puppy Manual

[Read online](#)



# General System Requirements

by **rockedge**

Puppy Linux has many versions, you can visit puppylinux.com, the official site, and find lots of information there. Also, check the Mainline Puppy Linux Distros and Puppy Derivatives topics in this forum.

For best results, it's important for you to match the Puppy version to your computers hardware capabilities.

Puppy's come in 32bit and 64bit (newer) versions. This refers to the CPU's ability.

General hardware minimum system requirements are:

- CPU Type = x86, x86\_64, AMD64
- 32bit Puppy's - CPU = single core Pentium 4 or equiv, RAM = 512mb
- 64bit Puppy's - CPU = 64 bit dual core, RAM = 1gb

**\*NOTE** - 64bit CPU's can run 32bit Puppy's, however, 64bit Puppy's have the best internet capabilities.

If you are unsure about your specifications try booting your system and entering the bios setup during boot (check the internet for how to do this or ask a computer friend to help). Your CPU and RAM information should be contained there. You can also try checking the internet for your make and model, which can give you a general idea.

Last, since 64bit computers can run 32bit Puppys, you can download and run a 32bit Puppy and use that to determine the CPU and RAM.

There are many users running Puppy with less hardware than listed above, but they do so at the cost of performance and usability, particularly related to web browsers and internet access. This is a fact not only for Puppy Linux, but also for Microsoft Windows and Mac's. It is dictated by today's web standards.

**Recommended Puppy versions** - Read the topic **Making a CD or USB for your First Boot**  
Need more help? Join the forum and post your questions in **Beginners Help**.

# What Makes Puppy Different?

by **rockedge**

If you are a MS Windows user and new to Linux or if you have used another Linux distribution you will find Puppy Linux does some things that are different.

Here's some useful examples. Everyone knows if you click the Menu button in the left of the taskbar you get the main menu. In Puppy, if you right click in any empty space on the desktop, you will also get the same menu.

By default, Puppy uses single click mouse action, kind of like web pages, single left click on a folder/directory to open it, single left click on a file to open it. Read the topic: **Single-Click-Or-Double-click** on how to change the mouse/trackpad action.

Unlike Windows or large Linux distributions that install thousands of individual files on your drive, Puppy puts only a few compressed files that are like "Zip" files in Windows (this method is called a "Frugal" install for the efficient way it uses the computers resources). When Puppy boots up, the SFS files are copied into ram memory and Puppy runs completely from ram.. The original compressed files are "read only" so they always remain in like new condition. This goes a long way into making Puppy more stable, secure and bullet proof than other operating systems.

When you make changes, download files, add programs or create documents, etc. they are saved into another file/folder called the **save file** or **save folder**.

This all makes Puppy Linux more flexible to use than almost any other operating system. With its small size it can:

- run completely from a CD or DVD drive
- run completely from a USB flash drive
- run completely from its ISO on a USB flash drive (using special tools)
- run completely from a SD Card (if the computer supports sdcard boot)
- run completely from an external USB hard drive
- run completely from an internal hard drive in its own partition.
- run completely from an internal hard drive in the same partition as MS Windows or another Linux (called dual booting).
- run completely within a Virtual Machine

In addition, you can run more than one Puppy Linux in the same partition. If you like you can have configurations or Puppy's for different purposes. Such as, web surfing, one for games, one only used for financial transactions, one for audio/video processing, one for graphics, etc.

## **Here are some Linux=Windows terms to help you:**

Directory=Folder

Link=Shortcut

Root user=Administrative user

Background=Wallpaper

When you run Puppy you are the Root user. If you're a Linux user who has used "sudo" in terminal commands, Root user does not require sudo.

## **Drive Identification:**

Let's start by defining drive partitions. Most computers have one internal (also called fixed) physical hard drive or solid state drive. Partitioning is when you divide the physical drive into separate spaces. It's like taking a box and putting dividers in it to make separate compartments. Windows uses letters to identify drives and partitions, if you have one physical drive with only one partition it will be C:, two partitions, C: and D:. If you plug in a USB flash drive it will be assigned letters accordingly.

Linux identifies drives with letters and numbers, which gives the user more information about the actual drive. If you have one physical drive with only one partition it will be sda1, two partitions,

sda1 and sda2. If you plug in a USB flash drive with one partition it will be sdb1. Puppy displays icons for the drives and partitions it finds in the lower left of the desktop.



drive\_icon.jpg (4.12 KiB) Viewed 1409 times

Here we have one hard drive with three partitions, sda1, sda2, and sda3, plus we have one USB flash drive with one partition sdb1.

If you click one of the icons it will open in the default file manager, named Rox. Opening a drive partition this way does two things, first it “mounts” the partition and second it shows the contents in the file manager. This brings us to the next topic.

**Mounting/Unmounting drives:**

When a drive is mounted the operating system sets up communications and creates a location in the file system that shows and accesses the contents. Windows and some other Linux’s automatically mount drives when they are attached. Puppy recognizes drives when they are attached (the icon will appear), but they are not mounted until you open them. USB drives must be unmounted before removing them (same as with Windows). Right clicking the drive icon will let you unmount it.

**Need more help? Join the forum and post your questions in Beginners Help.**

# Making a CD or USB for your First Boot

by **rockedge**

## This topic covers booting from either CD or USB.

If you are using a computer that meets the system criteria in **General System Requirements**, then we suggest you try one of the following:

### Mainline Distro's:

- **Dpup Stretch 7.5 for 32bit computer**
- **Fossapup64 9.5 for 64bit computers**

### Remasters with some extras and better new user help files:

- **Friendly-Bionic32 for 32bit computer**
- **Friendly-Fossa64 for 64bit computers**

If you don't want to attempt to create your own CD or USB and don't have someone who can help you we suggest you try Ebay. Search "puppy linux cd or usb", several of the sellers offer to create a version of your choice.

**DISCLAIMER** - the Puppy Linux Forum is not affiliated with any Ebay seller.

The three common ways to do your first boot with Puppy are from CD, USB or dual boot with MS Windows. Here we will discuss making a bootable CD or USB.

Older computers will be limited to booting from a CD. If your computer is any of these you will most likely need a CD to boot.

made before 2005

CPU is a single core ("Netbook" computers are one notable exception that are single core and USB bootable)

**NOTE:** Newer computers that have a CD/DVD drive can also use a CD to boot.

### What you will need to make a bootable CD:

- A computer running MS Windows or some version of Linux, with a CD Writer drive.
- CD burning software, if you don't already have this, try one of these free programs
- MS Windows - BurnCDCC\*, (tested) available here <https://www.terabyteunlimited.com/download/set-speed-slider-to-CD-4X>
- Linux - XFBurn, (tested) check your official repository
- A blank writable CD

Download the Puppy Linux ISO file of your choice, then use the burning software to make the bootable CD.

### What you will need to make a bootable USB:

- A computer running MS Windows or some version of Linux.
- USB installing software, try one of these free programs
- MS Windows - Rufus, (tested v3.17) available here <https://rufus.ie/en/>

NOTE: Use Rufus v3.17 portable from here <https://www.fosshub.com/Rufus-old.html>

More about **Rufus** (advanced user topic) -> <https://forum.puppylinux.com/viewtopic...522#p40522>

If you are making the USB with a Linux computer you have to know if the target computer is MBR or UEFI boot. Read *Booting from a USB or CD with a UEFI Boot Configuration* for help if needed.

- Linux UEFI - Rosa Image Writer, (tested) available here [http://wiki.rosalab.ru/en/index.php/ROSA\\_ImageWriter](http://wiki.rosalab.ru/en/index.php/ROSA_ImageWriter)
- Linux MBR - Unetbootin, (tested) available here [https://unetbootin.github.io/linux\\_download.html](https://unetbootin.github.io/linux_download.html)
- A blank USB, minimum 2gb (you should erase any existing files)

Download the Puppy Linux ISO file of your choice, then use the USB installing software to make the bootable USB.

**ALTERNATE PROGRAMS:**

There are many other CD burning and USB installing programs, however, you will probably find they require more knowledge and more settings to use. For CD's, be sure you are "burning the ISO" and not just coping it to the CD. Worse, some of the programs cannot produce a Puppy USB that can be booted on some computers. We highly recommend you use one of the tested programs for best results.

**Need more help? Join the forum and post your questions in Beginners Help.**