



Silenda Flash

as a portable workstation



System requirements:

Two 4GB USB drives. One USB drive will be used to prepare and install Tails; the second USB drive will run the OS.

A mobile device, like a phone or tablet, and an app that scans QR codes.

Two to three hours of time. The installation process is relatively painless, but make sure you allocate enough time to read all the documentation, download software, and to prepare your machine.

Step 1: Learn

Tails is not a magic bullet, and it cannot protect against compromised hardware, compromised software, or user error. These steps may seem simple, but for Tails to provide proper protection it's essential you follow the most current documentation on the boum.org website. Installing Tails is fast and simple. Understanding how to use the security tools inside the operating system takes planning and preparation.

Make sure you read the Tails About and Warning pages to understand what Tails does and does not do.

Make sure that your system meets the minimum requirements.

Join the Tails XMPP chat, and communicate with developers and community members

Server: conference.riseup.net

Room: tails

TLS/SSL

Step 2: Download and authenticate

Make sure your local machine is secure and virus-free.

Download and install Firefox.

Install the Tails browser addon. This plugin will be used to verify the OS image file download.

Download Tails by navigating directly to <https://tails.boum.org/install/index.en.html> and selecting your operating system.

Or download the Tails torrent file here: <https://tails.boum.org/torrents/files/tails-i386-2.5.torrent>.

After you download, to prevent man-in-the-middle attacks you must verify Tails.

Step 3: Install

Insert your first USB drive.

Download the Universal USB Installer from the Installation page.

Windows users will be guided through an installation wizard and prompted to install the Tails image on the USB drive.

Important: use your mobile device to open the Instructions URL. In the next step you will need to restart your machine. This instruction list will walk you through getting back online fast.

Restart your computer. During the bootup process, press the Boot Menu Key, usually F12 or esc, and select Boot Tails from your USB drive.

Follow the instructions on the Welcome to Tails prompt.

Next, insert your second USB drive.

Under Applications click Tails Installer and follow the prompts to install Tails on your second USB drive.

After the installation completes, shut down your computer.

Remove your first USB drive, leaving the second USB drive attached.

Repeat the startup process and run Tails.

Linux users will feel at home and comfortable with Tails. Tails 2.0 is based on the Debian kernel and runs GNOME 3.1. In addition to the built-in security features, Tails is packaged with a Linux open source productivity suite, including OpenOffice, GIMP, and Audacity.



1. About the flash drive

Copy all the necessary data from it to other media (in the process of writing OS files - all data from it will be deleted).

I would also recommend formatting it to the FAT32 file system (to do this, go to "This computer", click on the flash drive with the right mouse button and select "Format" from the menu).

2. About the ISO image

It is highly advisable to use a "clean" ISO image with Windows 10: i.e. do without any "20-in-1" fees. In my opinion, the best solution would be to download the ISO file from the Microsoft website. To make it very simple now - just download a tool (utility) from Microsoft, run it, and select ISO download from the menu. In order to "correctly" write ISO to a USB flash drive, you need a special program. One of the simplest and most effective (for the current task) is Dism ++. In my article below, I will use it exactly.

After starting Dism ++ - go to the "Advanced" section and select the "Recovery" function. Then set the following parameters (see the screen below, I marked them with numbers): specify the ISO file that we prepared in the previous step; specify the letter of the flash drive (on which you plan to install the OS); check the boxes next to the items: "Windows ToGo", "Add Boot Loader", "Format"; click OK. Next, the process of copying the installation files to the USB flash drive will begin. I note that it lasts quite a long time: in my case it took about an hour (and this is when connected to USB 3.0).

If the files were copied successfully, at the end of the operation you should see the message "Image recovery was successful." See example below.

3. First boot from the resulting flash drive (setting)

After the ISO image has been extracted in a special way to a USB flash drive, you need to install * Windows OS (i.e. boot from this USB flash drive and give the OS time to prepare and configure the system).

To boot from a USB flash drive, you need to configure the BIOS accordingly, but in my opinion, it is still best to use the boot menu. In my case, in the boot menu, the flash drive was called "InnostonInnoston 1.00".

Then you will see the "familiar" messages from Windows: exactly the same as during a normal OS installation (for example, "devices are being prepared ...").

I note that during the installation of Windows 10 on a USB flash drive, the computer may reboot 1-2 times. Each time boot the computer from "our" flash drive (note: just after rebooting - the computer can boot Windows from the hard drive, and, of course, the installation will not continue).

During the installation process, Windows will prompt you to configure the network, set security settings, enter the administrator login and password, etc. I omitted all these windows as not informative.

Tip: Do not set any network parameters during the installation process. There is a possibility that Windows, having gained access to the Internet, will start downloading updates and the process may take a long time!

In general, at the end of the installation, you will see the usual familiar desktop. Now the flash drive is ready and you can start using it .

4. Using a flash drive

As noted above, a flash drive prepared in this way will work on modern computers and laptops (under UEFI). I note that it is highly advisable to connect it to USB 3.0 ports - otherwise there is a risk that you will simply get tired of waiting for the download (after using the SSD, wait 3-5 minutes to turn it on).

I will add one more thing: immediately after loading Windows 10 - 2-3 minutes (in my case) it was not responsive, and the disk load reached 100%. Therefore, the total time to boot the OS from a USB flash drive is at least 5-6 minutes! Only after such a period of time can you begin to use it relatively comfortably.



Current Situation

Yes, Whonix™ can be used on a USB.
Select a suitable host operating system.
Install it on USB.
Install a supported virtualizer.
Finally install Whonix™.

At this time, Whonix™ does not provide a USB creator / image.
There are a number of online guides explaining how to install Linux on a USB [archive]. These instructions can be followed to create a live Whonix™ USB, with the exception that both a supported virtualizer and Whonix™ must also be installed on the external media.
If it is actually booting into non-persistent live boot is what you're interested in, look into live mode.

VM Live Mode Host Live Mode Whonix™ on USB

Specifically useful as a host operating system on USB is Debian or Kicksecure in combination with the grub-live software package which makes it possible to boot the host operating system into Host Live Mode.

Advantages

A higher level of security is attained by installing the host operating system(s) required for Whonix™ on a dedicated, (encrypted), external disk(s) like a USB flash drive, FireWire or eSATA device:
Using external media reduces the risk of other operating system(s) infecting the Whonix™ host operating system.
When Whonix™ disk(s) are not in use, they can either be removed or hidden.

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