Ubuntu 26.04 LTS Installation on the Framework Desktop

How to install Ubuntu 26.04 LTS Linux on a Framework Desktop

Written By: Matt Hartley



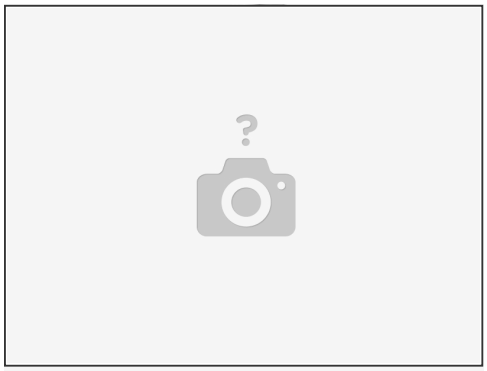
INTRODUCTION

Once you have your Framework Desktop set up following the Quick Start Guide, you're ready to install your preferred OS. Ubuntu 26.04 works fantastically well.

PARTS:

- Storage Expansion Card (1)

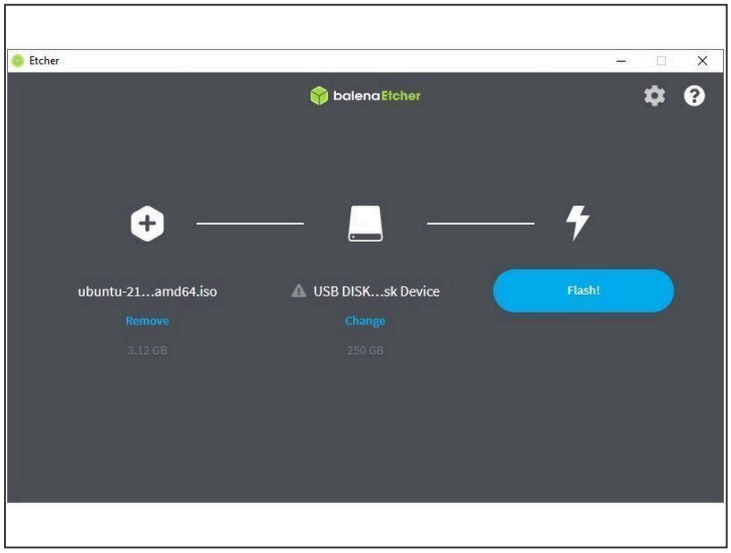
Step 1 — Ubuntu 26.04 on Framework Desktop (300 Series)



This guide is for Ubuntu 26.04 on Framework Desktop (300 Series).

Step 2 — (From macOS) Preparing USB Ubuntu Installation Media

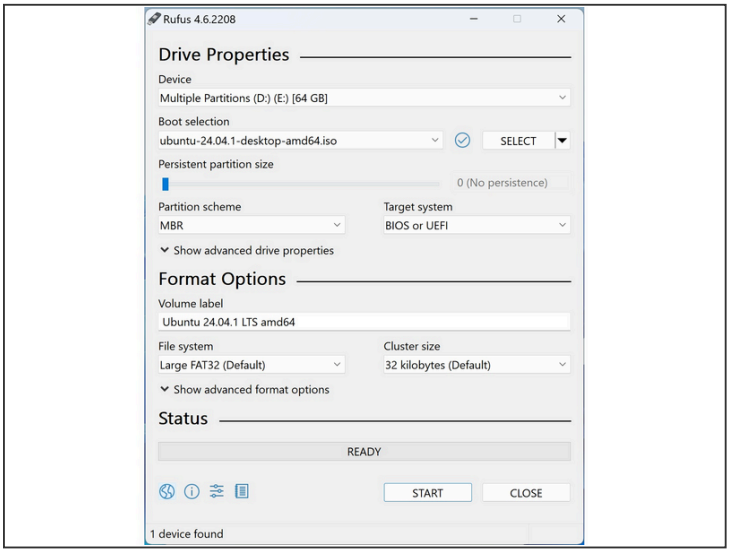


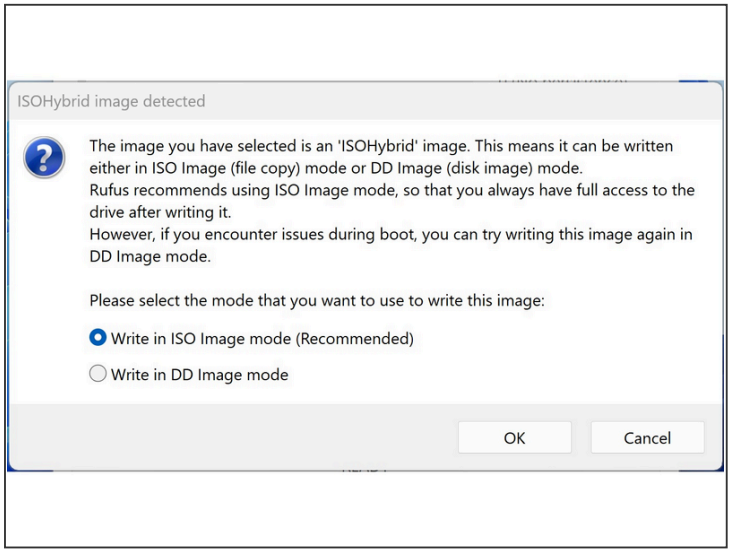


- First, download Ubuntu 26.04 Desktop image from Ubuntu's website. We'll go through the steps in this Guide assuming you have a simple installation scenario of a fresh install on a blank drive.
- Download balenaEtcher as a tool to create the USB installer from the ISO. balenaEtcher is available for MacOS. Install it.

  ⓘ Before booting to the Live USB drive, a note about secure boot.
- Launch balenaEtcher. Insert your USB drive (8GB or larger). Click on "Flash from file" and select the ubuntu-26.04-desktop-amd64.iso that you downloaded. Click on "Select target" and choose your USB drive. Click "Flash" and wait a minute or two for it to complete.
- Once the USB drive creation is complete, you can close balenaEtcher and eject the USB drive from your OS.

Step 3 — (From Windows) Preparing USB Ubuntu Installation Media





⚠ This process will delete all data from the flash drive being used! Ensure any important data that may be kept on those drives is backed up before continuing.

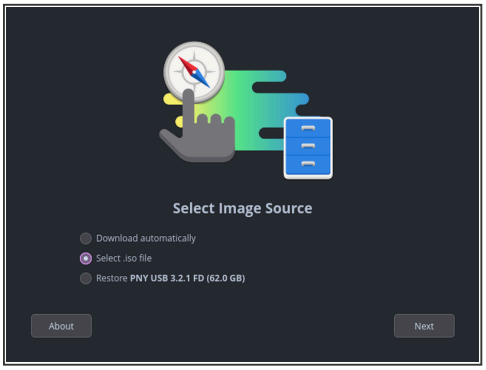
- First, download Ubuntu 26.04 Desktop image from Ubuntu's website. This guide will follow a basic setup that automatically uses the entire disk.
- Download Rufus as a tool to create the USB installer from the ISO. The first item in this list will be a link to install installer for the latest version. Install Rufus using this.
- Open Rufus, from the Device drop-down, select the USB flash drive stick.

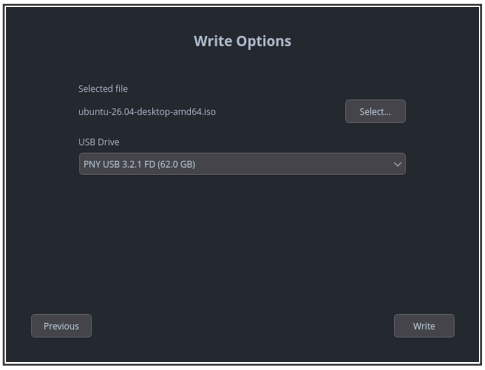
  ⚠ In order to use devices like external hard drives, external solid state drives, or the Framework Storage Expansion Card to create a live USB, *List USB Hard Drives* must be enabled under *Show advanced drive properties*.
- Use the *Select* Button next to *Boot selection* to choose the downloaded Ubuntu ISO.

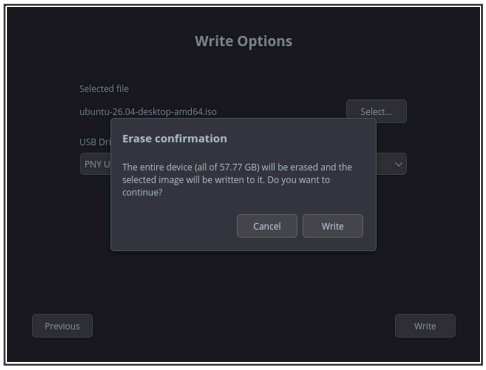
⚠ Set *Partition scheme* to *GPT* to ensure the live USB is properly recognized at boot.

- Click Start. A window will pop up to prompt for a choice between *dd image mode* and *ISOHybrid image mode*. Select *ISOHybrid image mode* then *OK*.

Step 4 — (From Linux) Preparing USB Ubuntu Installation Media

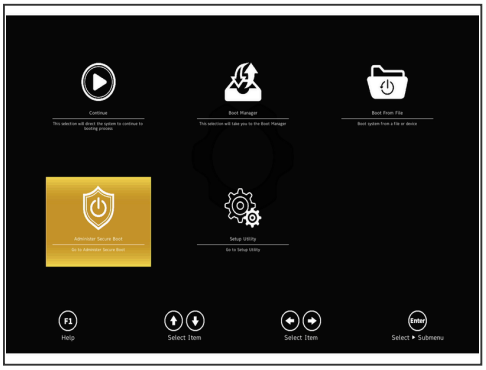




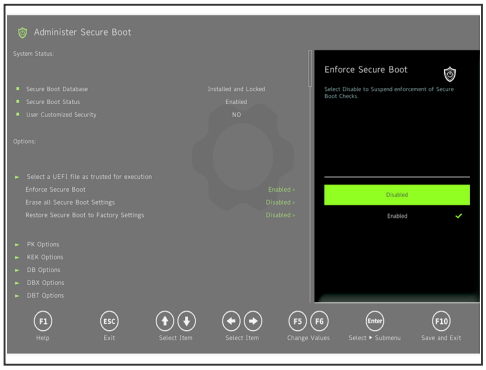


- First, download [Ubuntu 26.04 Desktop image] from Ubuntu's website. We'll go through the steps in this Guide assuming you have a simple installation scenario of a fresh install on a blank drive.
- **Fedora:** Media Writer is already installed on Workstation, so just launch it from the app menu. *Meaning, you are creating Ubuntu USB install media, but creating the media from a Fedora installation elsewhere*.
- **Other distro, Flatpak installed:** Run flatpak install flathub org.fedoraproject.MediaWriter, then launch it from the app menu or with flatpak run org.fedoraproject.MediaWriter.
- **Other distro, no Flatpak** (like Ubuntu being used for USB media creation): Install Flatpak and add Flathub per https://flathub.org/setup
- Insert an 8 GB+ USB key. Back up its contents first, since this erases the entire drive.
- Open Fedora Media Writer, choose **Select .iso file**, and pick the Ubuntu 26.04 Desktop ISO you downloaded.
- Select your USB drive from the device list, double-checking the name and size so you don't wipe the wrong disk.
- **Click Write**, enter your password if prompted, wait for it to finish, then **click Finish** and safely eject the USB.

Step 5 — Secure Boot







⚠ Ubuntu works with Secure Boot out of the box. Ubuntu Live USBs will boot regardless of whether or not it is disabled. Users who intend to dual-boot with Windows should not disable Secure Boot!

ⓘ If a user has a reason to disable Secure Boot, such as specialized third party devices that require unsigned drivers:

- Boot into BIOS by tapping F2 just before the Framework splash screen.
- Arrow down to Administer Secure Boot. Press enter.
- Arrow down to Enforce Secure Boot. Press enter, select Disabled, and press enter.

⚠ Press F10 to save and reboot. With Yes selected, press Enter.

To enable Secure Boot again, repeat the above steps but select Enable this time.

Step 6 — Booting to Live Ubuntu USB



- Boot to Live Ubuntu USB: Insert the USB drive into the powered-off machine, then power it on.

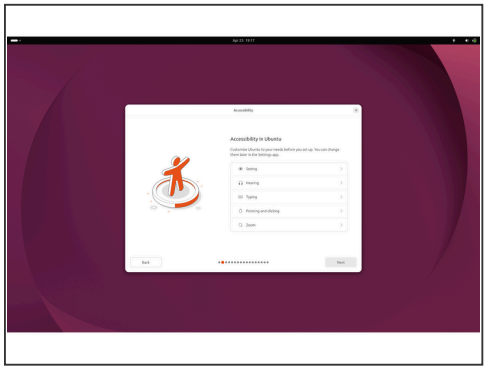
ⓘ If an OS is already installed, immediately begin tapping F12 as soon as the power light comes on. Start tapping before the Framework logo appears.

- At the Boot Option Menu, use arrow keys to select your USB drive (shown as "EFI USB Device (USB Disk)" or similar) and press Enter. On the black GRUB menu, confirm "Try or Install Ubuntu" is highlighted and press Enter.

⚠ If Windows is already installed on the system attempting to boot into a Linux Live USB may result in a "Device is Active" error. This will provide guidance to overcome this error.

- Choose a language: Select English or another preferred language from the list. Click Next.

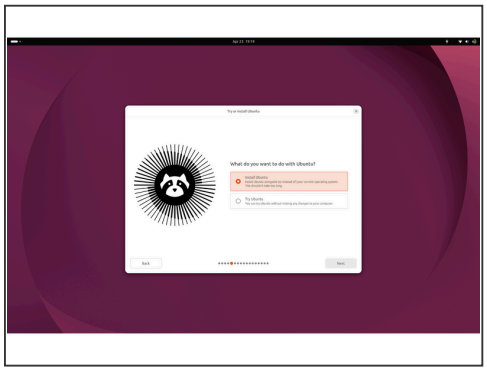
Step 7 — Installing Ubuntu Part 1





- Language: Select your preferred language. Click next.
- Accessibility: Adjust Seeing, Hearing, Typing, Pointing and clicking, or Zoom settings if needed. All accessibility options can be changed later in the Settings app. Click Next when done.
- Keyboard layout: Select your keyboard layout from the list (default is English US). Choose a matching variant from the dropdown on the right. Test the layout in the "Type here to test your keyboard" field. Click Next.
- Internet connection: Choose wired connection, Wi-Fi network, hidden Wi-Fi network, or Do not connect. An internet connection improves the install with compatibility checks and extra software packages. Click Next.

Step 8 — Installing Ubuntu Part 2



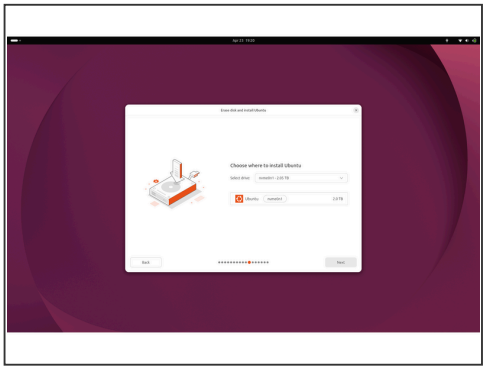


- Try or install Ubuntu: Select "Install Ubuntu" to begin installation. Click Next.
- Type of installation: Select "Interactive installation" for the guided step-by-step setup. Click Next.
- Applications: Select "Default selection" for essentials plus a web browser and basic utilities. Select "Extended selection" if you want an offline-friendly set of office tools included. Click Next.

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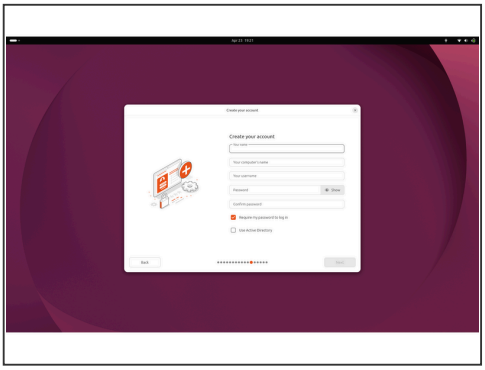
Step 9 — Installing Ubuntu Part 3





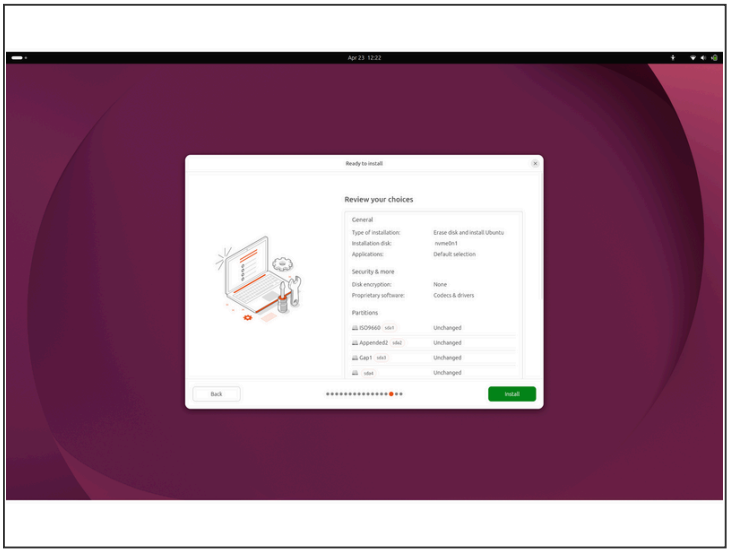
- Optimize your computer: Check "Install third-party software for graphics and Wi-Fi hardware." Check "Download and install support for additional media formats" for MP3, MP4, MOV, and similar. Click Next.
- Disk setup: Select "Erase disk and install Ubuntu" for a clean install. Warning: this wipes all data and partitions on the target drive. Other options: install alongside an existing OS, erase only an existing Ubuntu install, or manual partitioning. Click Next.
- Choose the installation drive: Select the target drive from the "Select drive" dropdown, for example nvme0n1. Confirm the Ubuntu entry below shows the correct drive name and size. Click Next.

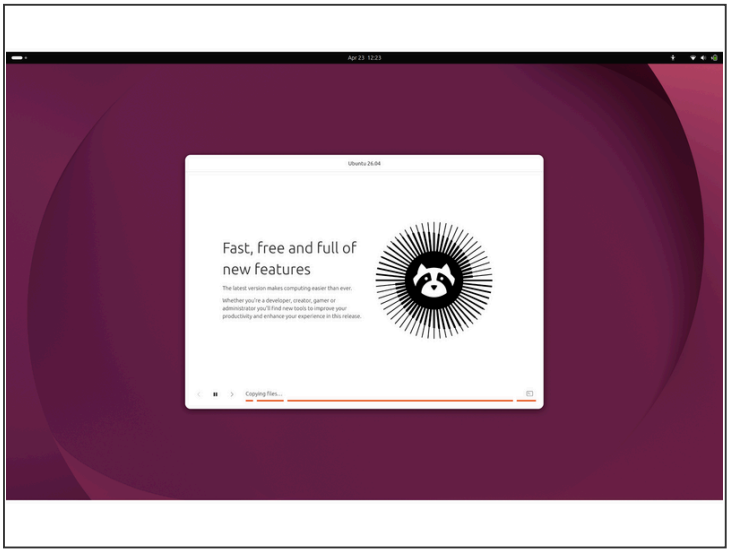
Step 10 — Installing Ubuntu Part 4


- Encryption and file system: Select "No encryption" for an unencrypted install. Select "Encrypt with a passphrase" to require a passphrase at every boot. Select "Use hardware-backed encryption" to have the disk unlock automatically at startup. Click Next.
- Create your account: Enter your name in the "Your name" field. Enter a hostname in the "Your computer's name" field. Enter a username in the "Your username" field.
- Enter a password, then enter it again in the "Confirm password" field. Leave "Require my password to log in" checked unless you want auto-login. Check "Use Active Directory" only if joining an AD domain. Click Next.
- Select your timezone: Confirm the Location field matches your city or region. Confirm the Timezone field matches your zone. Click on the map to adjust if the values are wrong. Click Next.

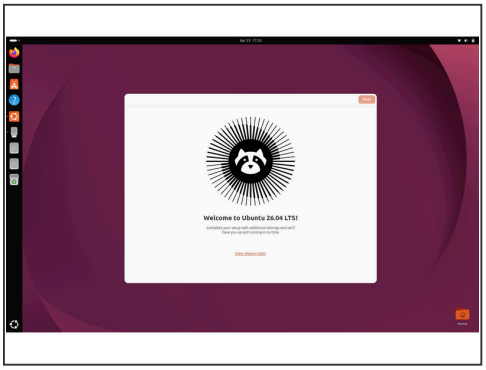
Step 11 — Installing Ubuntu Part 5

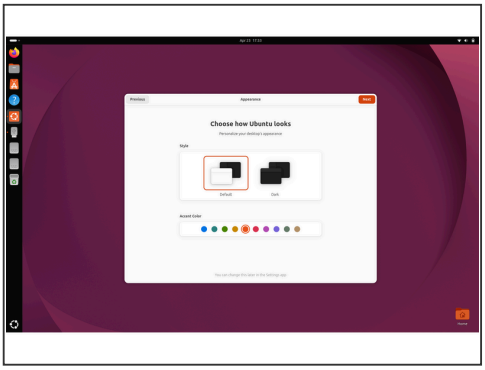


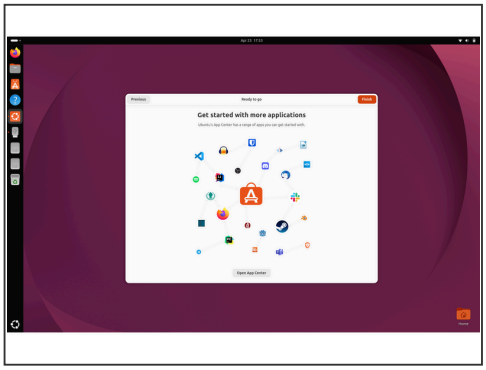


- Review your choices: Verify Type of installation, Installation disk, and Applications under General. Verify Disk encryption and Proprietary software under Security & more. Verify the Partitions list. Click Install to begin.
- Installation runs: The installer copies files and displays a slideshow while it works. When finished, you will be prompted to remove the USB and reboot.

Step 12 — Installing Ubuntu Part 6

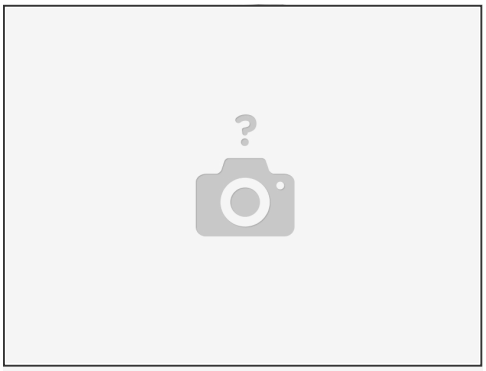






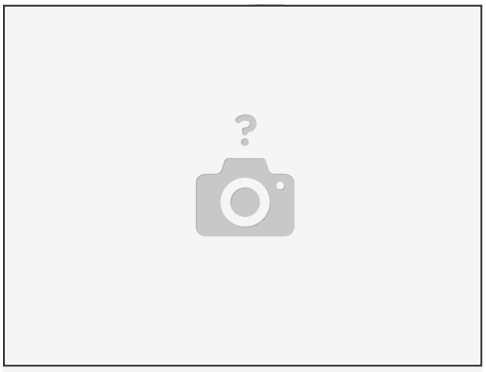
- Remove the USB and reboot: When the installer finishes, click "Restart now" in the dialog. When prompted with "Please remove the installation medium, then press ENTER," unplug the USB drive. Press Enter to reboot into the installed system.
- First boot - log in: At the GDM login screen, click your username. Enter the password you set during installation. Press Enter or click Sign In.
- Welcome to Ubuntu: The setup assistant opens with "Welcome to Ubuntu 26.04 LTS!" Click "View release notes" if you want to read what's new. Click Next to continue.
- Location Services: Toggle "Location Services" on if you want apps to determine your geographical location. Leave it off to keep location access disabled. Click Next. This can be changed later in the Settings app.
- Help Improve Ubuntu: Toggle "Share system data with the Ubuntu team" on or off (hardware info, language, timezone). Toggle "Share error reports with the Ubuntu team" on or off (crash reports and related system logs).
- Appearance: Select "Default" for a light window style or "Dark" for a dark window style. Choose an accent color from the row of colored circles. Click Next. This can be changed later in the Settings app.
- Ready to go: The final "Get started with more applications" screen appears. Click "Open App Center" to browse additional apps now, or skip it. Click Finish to close the setup assistant.

Step 13 — Completing Setup



- Click here for the completion guide for the Framework Desktop.
- Important expansion card behavior.

Step 14 — Recommended: Updating to the latest firmware

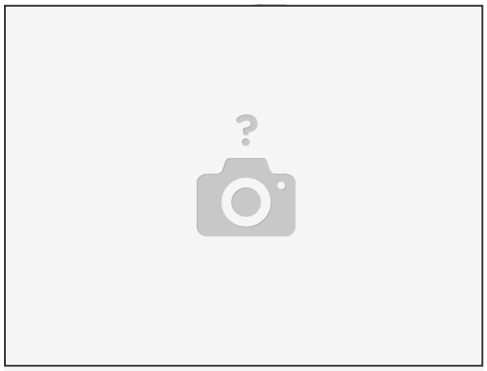


- How to check the BIOS version. Go to and click upper left corner where you see the horizontal line, search terminal and launch it. Please follow this link to copy and paste the code into your terminal, then press enter. The output will tell you which Framework Desktop you have and also which BIOS version you're using.
- The output will tell you which Framework Desktop BIOS version you're using.

⚠ Framework Desktop firmware update link for the 300 Series.

⚠ **IMPORTANT**: Per the instructions above, we do NOT recommend updating BIOS and firmware using various GUIs. We recommend using fwupdmgr as provided in the step above. Using GUIs can potentially create issues that would not be present using fwupdmgr directly.

Step 15 — Troubleshooting



- Please visit our troubleshooting guide first.
- If you need additional help, feel free to visit our active support community.

Enjoy using Ubuntu on your Framework Computer!