Ubuntu 26.10 Installation on the Framework Laptop 16

How to install Ubuntu 26.10 Linux on a Framework Laptop 16

Written By: Matt Hartley



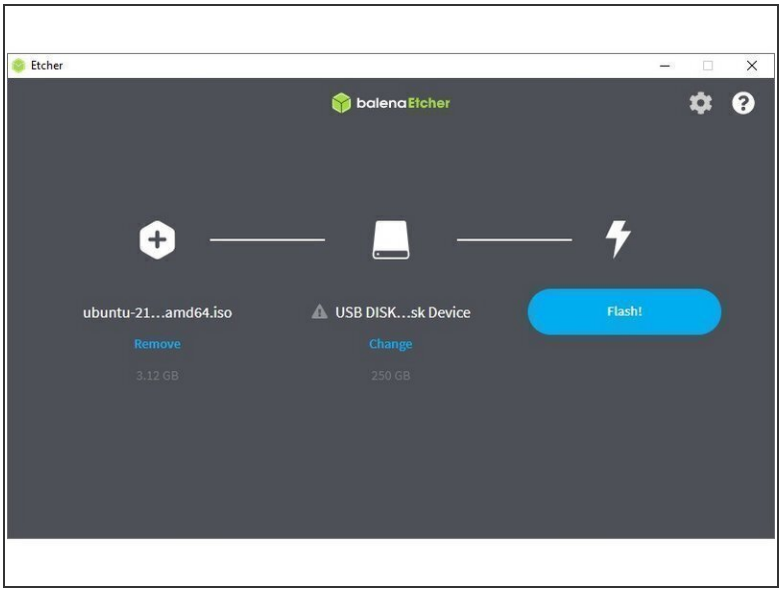
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INTRODUCTION

Once you have your Framework Laptop 16 set up following the Quick Start Guide, you're ready to install your preferred OS. Ubuntu 26.10 works fantastically well.

Step 1 — (From macOS) Preparing USB Ubuntu Installation Media

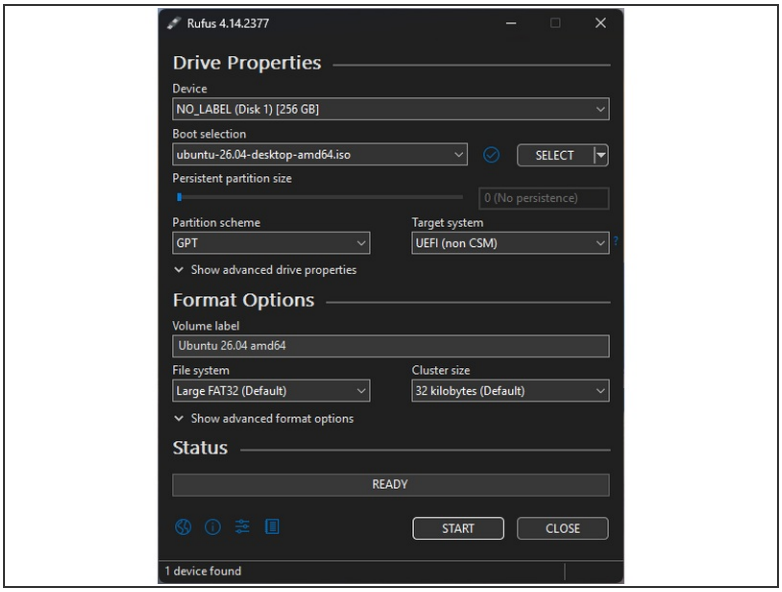


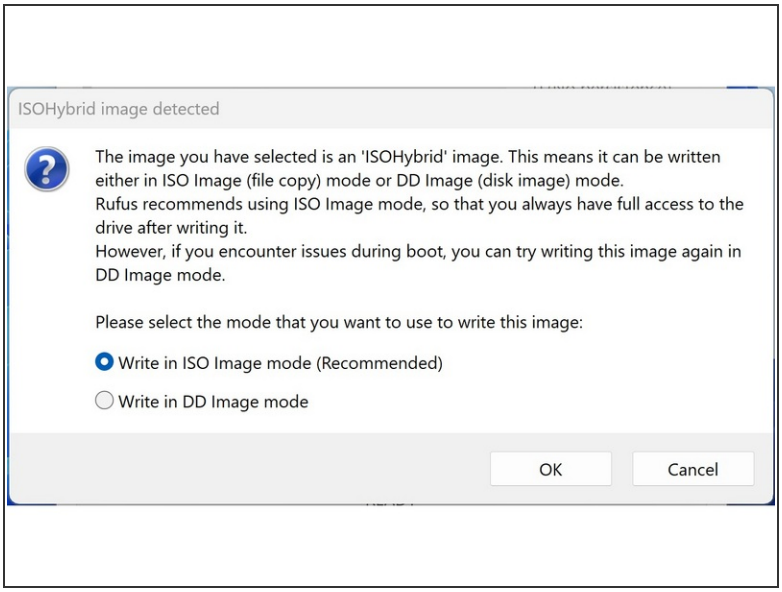


⚠ This process will delete all data from the flash drive being used! Ensure any important data that may be kept on those drives is backed up before continuing.

- First, download Ubuntu Desktop image from Ubuntu's website. Scroll down to Ubuntu 26.10 and click the green Download button next to "Intel or AMD 64-bit architecture". 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-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 2 — (From Windows) Preparing USB Ubuntu Installation Media





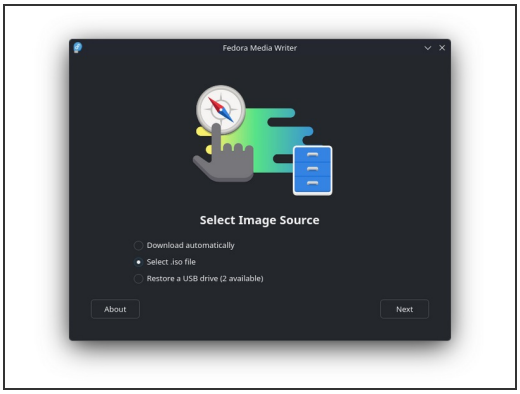
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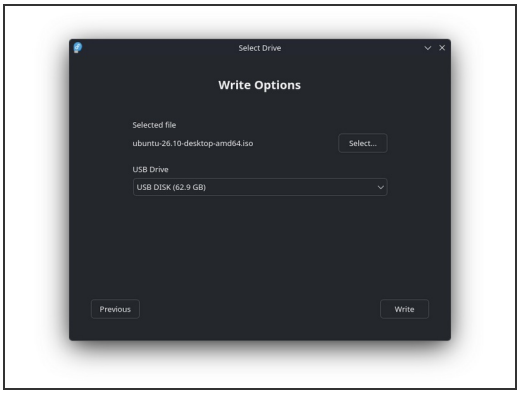
- First, download Ubuntu Desktop image from Ubuntu's website. Scroll down to Ubuntu 26.10 and click the green Download button next to "Intel or AMD 64-bit architecture". This guide will follow a basic setup that automatically uses the entire disk.
- Download Rufus as a tool to create the USB installer 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 3 — (From Linux) Preparing USB Ubuntu Installation Media

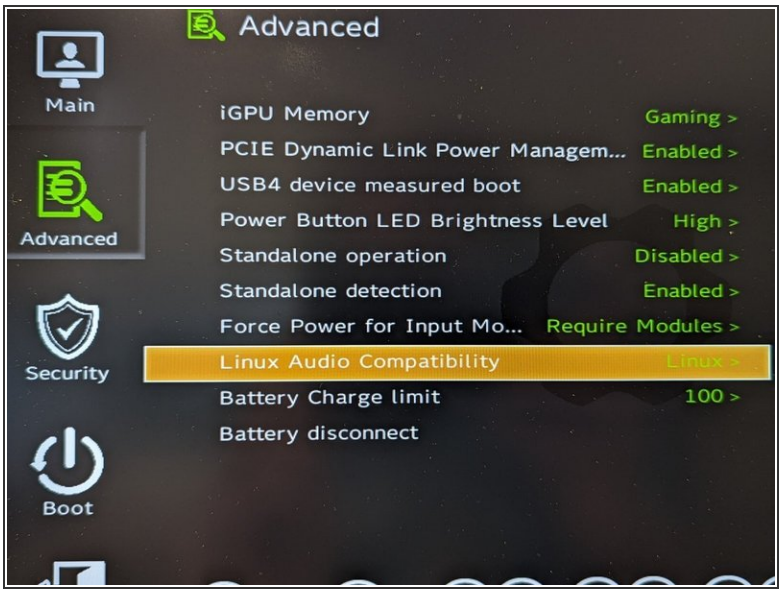


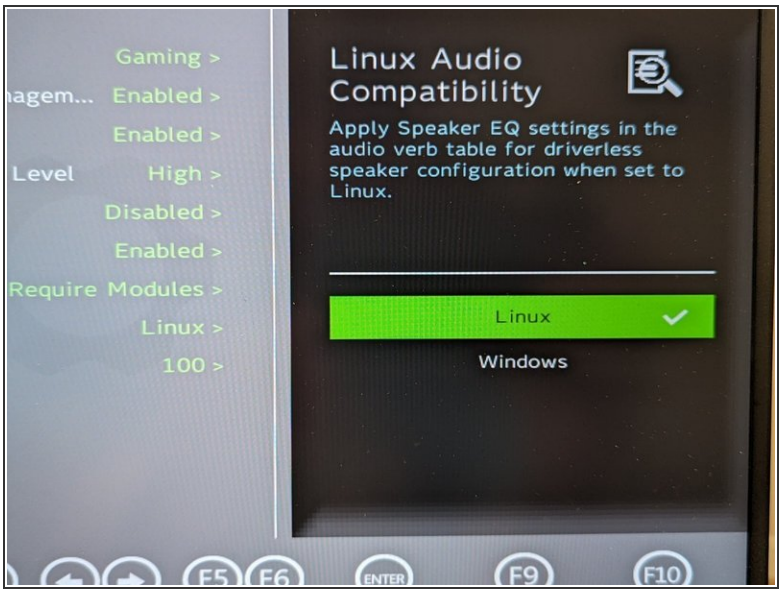




- First, download Ubuntu Desktop image from Ubuntu's website. Scroll down to Ubuntu 26.10 and click the green Download button next to "Intel or AMD 64-bit architecture". We'll go through the steps in this Guide assuming you have a simple installation scenario of a fresh install on a blank drive.
- **Fedora:** 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 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.

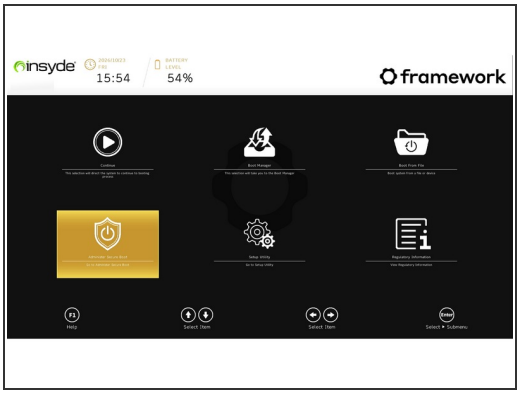
Step 4 — Linux Audio Compatibility

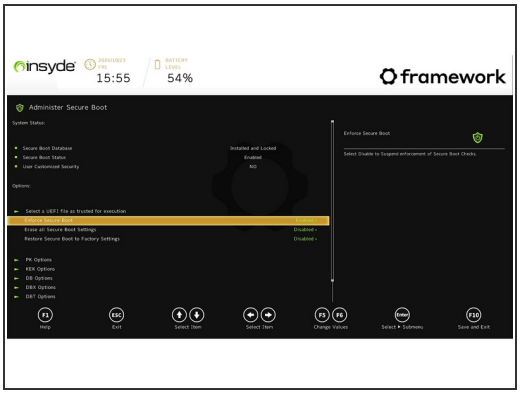


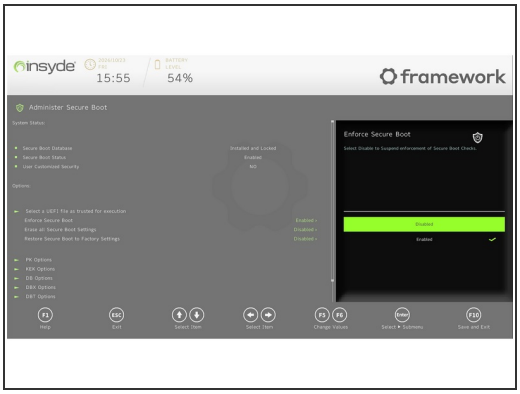


- **Before we begin the installation process** with the Live USB, let's make sure you have your Linux Audio Compatibility set to Linux in the BIOS. Explanation as to what this does can be found here.
- Power on the laptop, repeatedly tapping F2 in order to get into the BIOS. Note: If you're having trouble with this, try again, holding down the Fn key while rapidly tapping F2.
- In BIOS mode, arrow key over to Setup Utility. Press the enter key. Arrow down to Advanced. Then arrow right, then arrow down to Linux Audio Compatibility. Press enter.
- A new box for Linux Audio Compatibility will appear, arrow to Linux, then press enter. Now press F10 key to reboot.
  - ⓘ Now we don't have an OS installed yet. So the reboot won't get us to a running operating system and we fully expect to see an error to this point. Simply press the power button to shutdown.
  - ⓘ The next step is to install Ubuntu.

Step 5 — Secure Boot







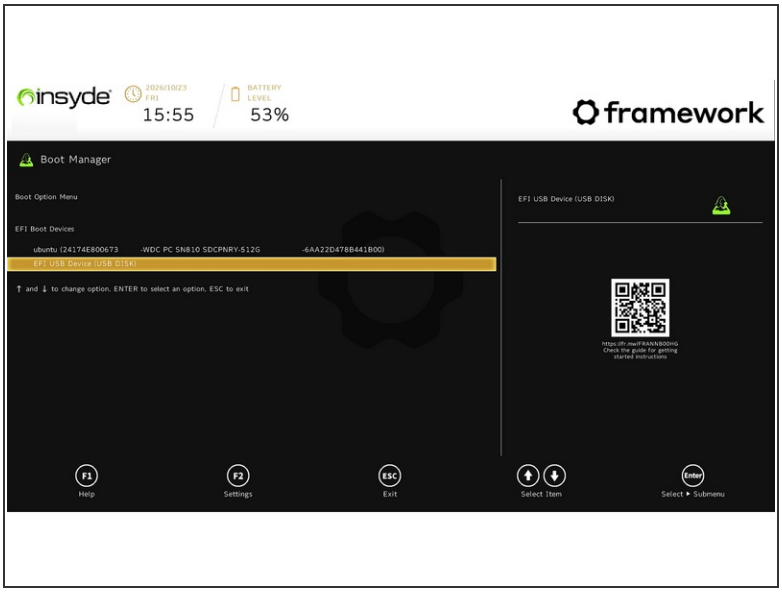
⚠ Ubuntu works with Secure Boot out of the box. Ubuntu Live USBs will boot regardless of whether or not it is disabled. Users who intend to dual-boot with Windows should not disable Secure Boot!

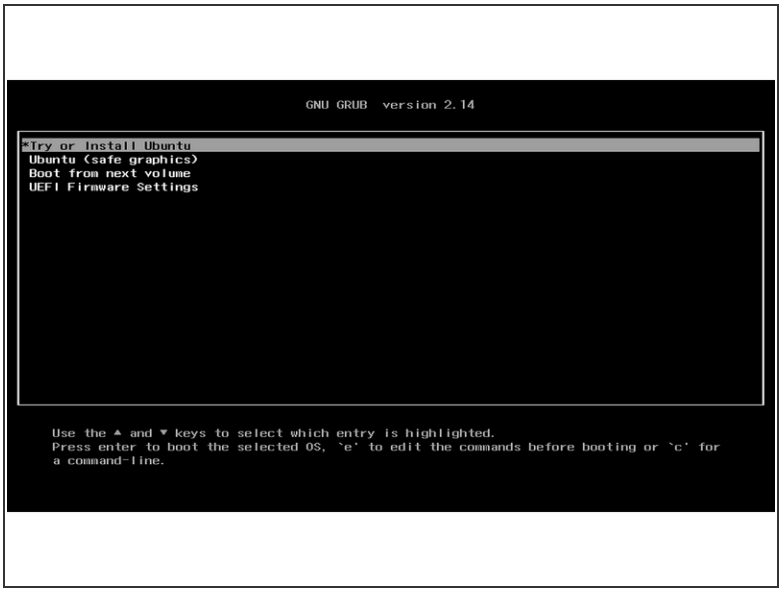
ⓘ If a user has a reason to disable Secure Boot, such as specialized third party devices that require unsigned drivers:

- Boot into BIOS by tapping F2 just before the Framework splash screen.
- Arrow down to Administer Secure Boot. Press enter.
- 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.

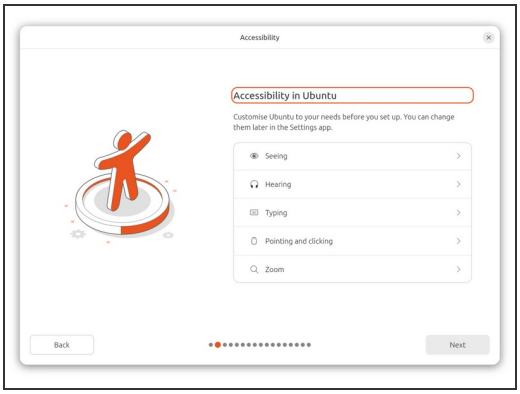
Step 6 — Booting to Live Ubuntu USB

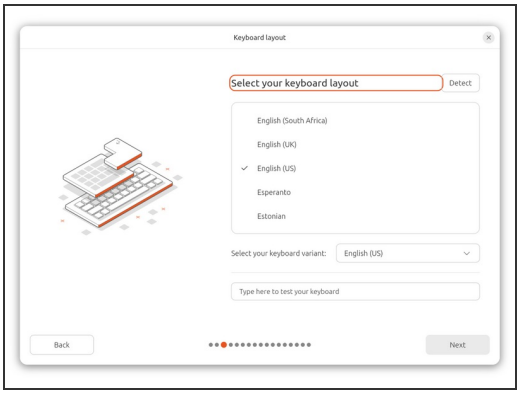


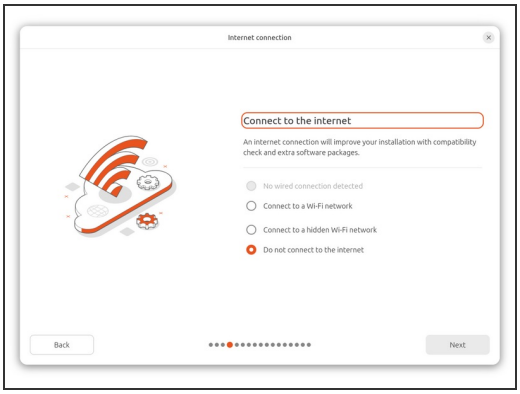


- Boot to Live Ubuntu USB: Insert the USB drive into the powered-off machine, then power it on.
  - ⓘ If there is already an OS installed on the internal storage, enter the Boot Manager by tapping F12 after pressing the power button to turn the laptop on. Tap the F12 key until the message "F12 is pressed. Go to Boot Manager." is displayed or until the Boot Manager appears.
- In the Boot Manager, 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.

Step 7 — Installing Ubuntu Part 1

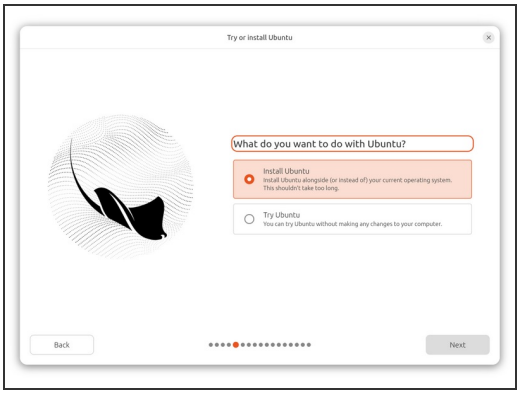


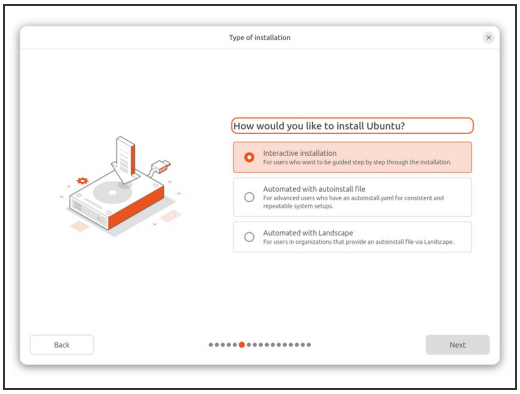


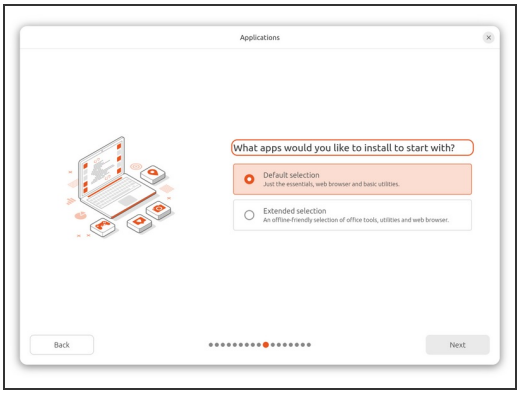


- Language: Select your preferred language. Click next.
- Accessibility: Adjust Seeing, Hearing, Typing, Pointing and clicking, or Zoom settings if needed. All accessibility options can be changed later in the Settings app. Click Next when done.
- Keyboard layout: Select your keyboard layout from the 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



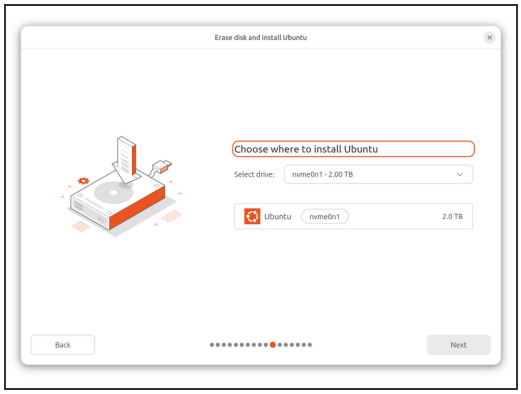


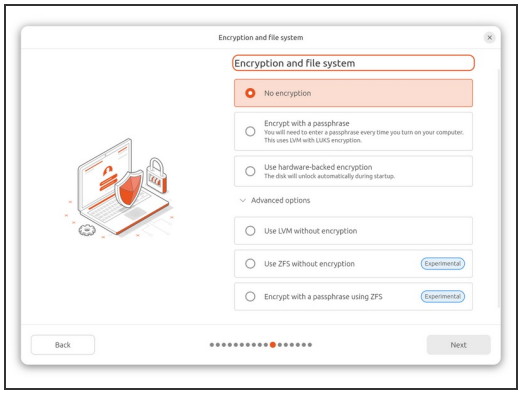


- Try or install Ubuntu: Select "Install Ubuntu" to begin installation. Click Next.
- Type of installation: Select "Interactive installation" for the guided step-by-step setup. Click Next.
- Applications: Select "Default selection" for essentials plus a web browser and basic utilities. Select "Extended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

Step 9 — Installing Ubuntu Part 3







- Optimize your computer: Check "Install third-party software for graphics and Wi-Fi hardware" to include NVIDIA drivers and similar. Check "Download and install support for additional media formats" for MP3, MP4, MOV, and similar. Click Next.

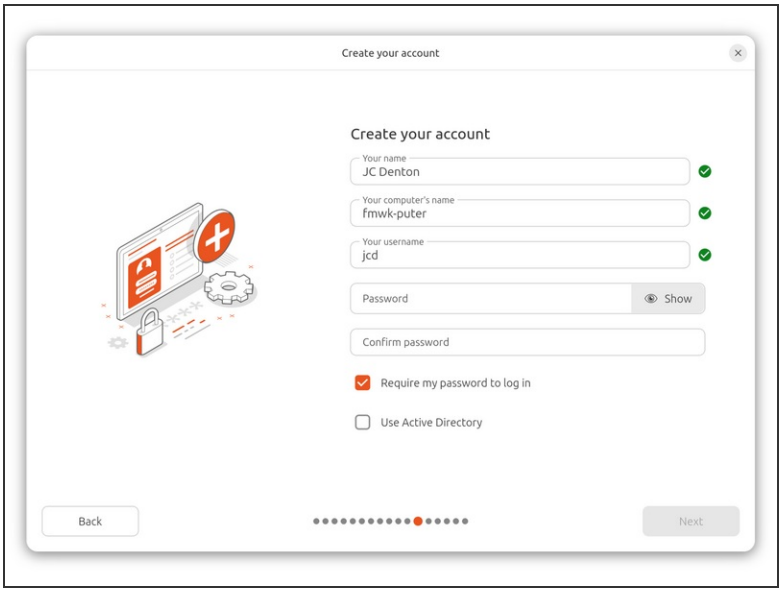
  ⚠ **NVIDIA users**: Please make sure to check the "Install third-party software for graphics and Wi-Fi hardware" boxes! This will ensure your NVIDIA driver for the dGPU is installed and activated, right out of the box without any extra work.

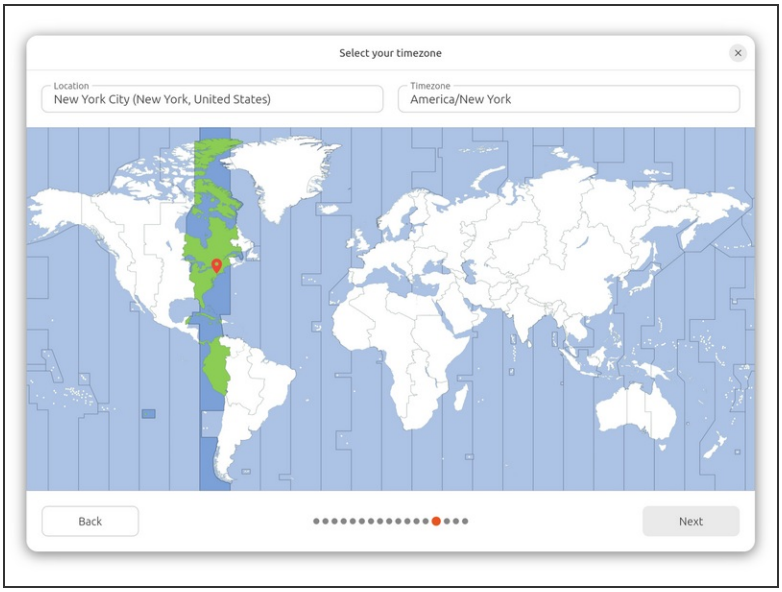
- Disk setup: Select "Erase disk and install Ubuntu" for a clean install. Warning: this wipes all data and partitions on the target drive. This guide does not cover the manual partitioning option. Click Next.

- 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.

- Encryption and file system: Select "No encryption" for an unencrypted install. Select "Encrypt with a passphrase" to require a passphrase at every boot. Click Next.

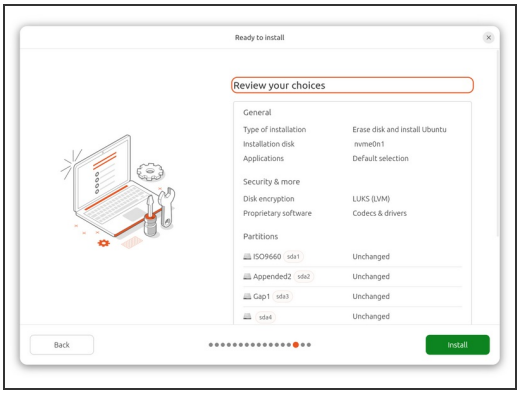
Step 10 — Installing Ubuntu Part 4

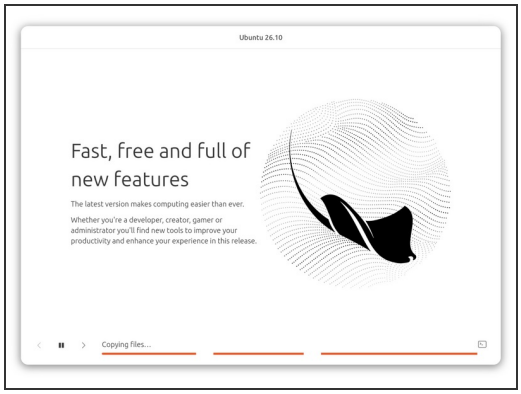


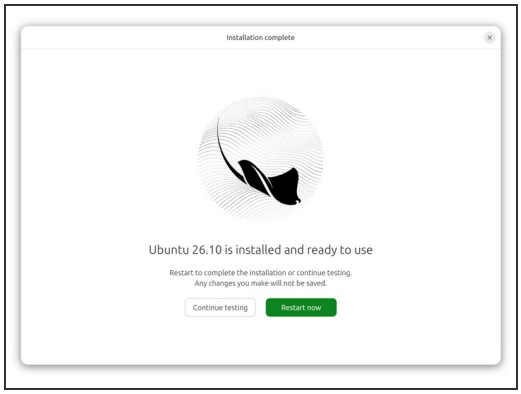


- Create your account: Enter your name in the "Your name" field. Enter a hostname in the "Your computer's name" field. Enter a username in the "Your username" field.
- Enter a password, then enter it again in the "Confirm password" field. Leave "Require my password to log in" checked unless you want 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

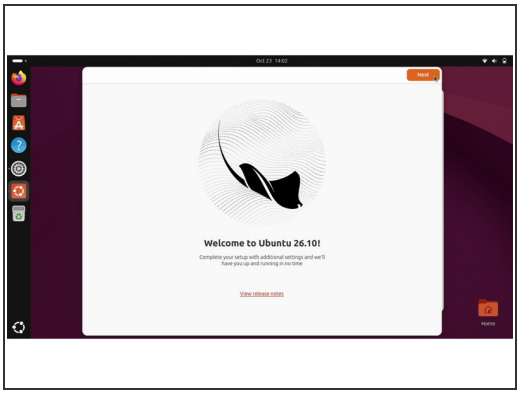


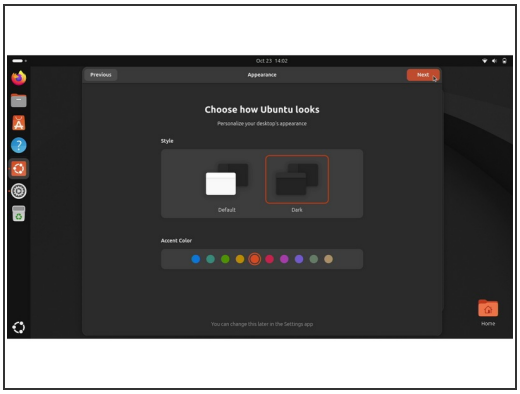


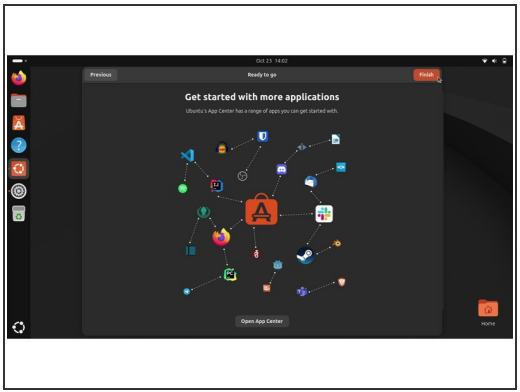


- Review your choices: Verify Type of installation, Installation disk, and Applications under General. Verify Disk encryption and Proprietary software under Security & more. Verify the Partitions list. Click Install to begin.
- Installation runs: The installer copies files and displays a slideshow while it works. When finished, there will be a prompt to "Continue testing" or "Restart now". Choose "Restart now".
- When the Live USB attempts to shut down, it should display a screen prompting the user to remove the USB drive and press enter to restart. If the shutdown process appears to get stuck, remove the USB drive and press enter.

Step 12 — Installing Ubuntu Part 6

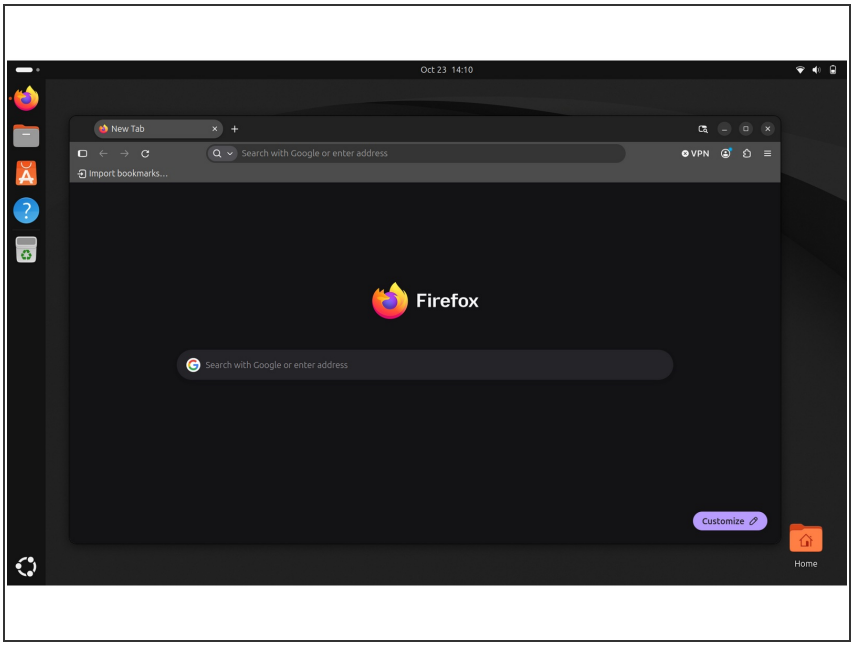






- First boot - log in: At the GDM login screen, click your username. Enter the password you set during installation. Press Enter or click Sign In.
- Welcome to Ubuntu: The setup assistant opens with "Welcome to Ubuntu!" Click "View release notes" if you want to read what's new. Click Next to continue.
- 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



- We're almost done. Please follow the links to your individual Framework Laptop 16.
  - Click here for the completion guide for **Framework Laptop 16 (AMD Ryzen™ 7040 Series)**.
  - Click here for the completion guide for **Framework Laptop 16 (AMD Ryzen™ AI 300 Series)**.

Our recommendations for Optimizing Ubuntu Battery Life. This includes **important** expansion card behavior.

Step 14 — NVIDIA Hybrid Mode BIOS settings



- Your Framework Laptop 16 with the NVIDIA dGPU module can operate in two primary graphics modes you will want to explore. You can switch between them in your laptop's BIOS settings.

⚠ To access this section of your BIOS: Tap F2 when you boot and see your Framework Splash screen (Framework logo). Arrow over to Setup utility. Click enter. Down arrow to Advanced on the left side. Right arrow to NVIDIA Mux. Enter key. Make your selection, press enter. Press F10 and press enter again to save changes and reboot.

ⓘ The third option, Advanced Optimus, behaves like NVIDIA Hybrid Mode on Linux. So we will forgo it for this guide.

ⓘ NVIDIA Hybrid Mode (Traditional Optimus): This is the default and most battery-efficient mode.

- Display Path: The integrated AMD GPU (iGPU) is always connected to the display. When the NVIDIA GPU (dGPU) is used for a demanding task, it renders the frames and copies them to the iGPU to be shown on the screen.
- Switching: Applications run on the power-saving iGPU by default. Steam uses dGPU this automatically for games.
- Performance: Small but measurable latency and FPS penalty compared to direct dGPU output because every frame must traverse the iGPU.

Step 15 — NVIDIA GPU-Only (Discrete Mode)



- Your Framework Laptop 16 with the NVIDIA dGPU module can operate in two primary graphics modes you will want to explore. You can switch between them in your laptop's BIOS settings.

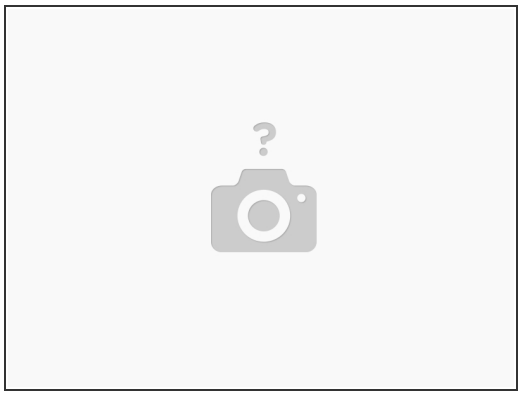
⚠ To access this section of your BIOS: Tap F2 when you boot and see your Framework Splash screen (Framework logo). Arrow over to Setup utility. Click enter. Down arrow to Advanced on the left side. Right arrow to NVIDIA Mux. Enter key. Make your selection, press enter. Press F10 and press enter again to save changes and reboot.

- The third option, Advanced Optimus, behaves like NVIDIA Hybrid Mode on Linux. So we will forgo it for this guide.

- NVIDIA GPU-Only (Discrete Mode)
  - Display Path The dGPU drives the panel 100% of the time. The iGPU is fully disabled.
  - Switching: No switching possible without reboot — you must go back into BIOS or flip the MUX manually to return to Hybrid mode.

- Performance: Maximum performance and lowest latency, because there is no iGPU in the pipeline.

Step 16 — Recommended: Updating to the latest firmware



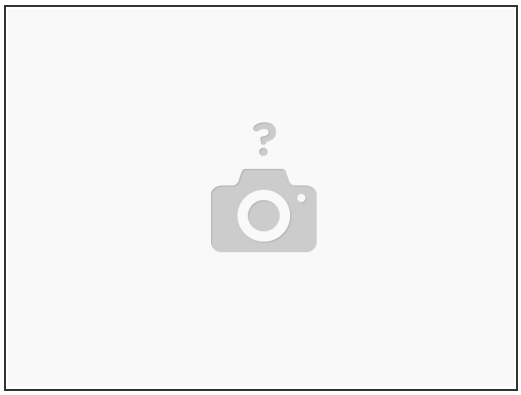
- How to check the BIOS version. Go to and click upper left corner where you see the horizontal line, search terminal and launch it. Please follow this link to copy and paste the code into your terminal, then press enter. The output will tell you which Framework Laptop 16 you have and also which BIOS version you're using.

⚠ For Framework Laptop 16 AMD Ryzen 7040 Series, you can check here for the latest firmware.

⚠ For Framework Laptop 16 AMD Ryzen AI 300 Series, you can check here for the latest firmware.

⚠ **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.

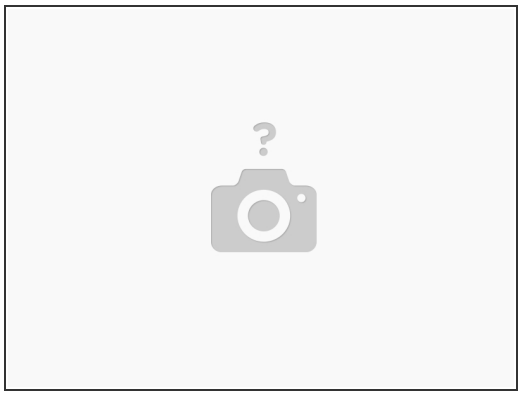
Step 17 — Using Discrete Graphics with Steam



- **Framework Laptop (7040 Series):** If you are looking to run Steam games, please follow our guide links below.
  - One NVMe Drive Guide.
  - Two NVMe Drives Guide.
- **Framework Laptop (AI 300 Series):** If you are looking to run Steam games, please follow our guide links below.
  - Gaming on Steam with Ubuntu; One or Two NVME Drives Guides.
  - With the proprietary NVIDIA driver installed, Steam games work with the dGPU without any extra work.

⚠ If you are unsure if something is using the dGPU, install and run nvtop. Look to the GPU section to see which is running during game play. You can alt-tab key to access this from within a game.

Step 18 — Troubleshooting Ubuntu



- Expecting two-finger right clicking and need help? The touchpad help guide is here.
- 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 Laptop 16!