Install Linux Mint: Step by Step

From download to first boot

1. Back up

Copy your important files to an external drive or cloud storage.

2. Download

Get the ISO file from the official site, linuxmint.com. Check its checksum with sha256sum so you know it is not damaged.

3. Make a USB

Use a USB stick of 8 GB or more and a tool such as USB Image Writer, Rufus or balenaEtcher. This erases the stick.

4. Boot from it

Restart and open the boot menu (often F12, F10, Esc or Del, depending on the maker). Choose the USB stick.

5. Try it first

The live session runs from the USB. Check that Wi-Fi, sound, screen and keyboard work.

6. Start the installer

Double-click Install Linux Mint, then pick your language and keyboard layout.

7. Choose the disk

Erase disk removes everything on it. Installing next to another system is for experienced users, so back up first.

8. Finish

Enter your name, password and time zone. When it finishes, restart and remove the USB stick.

Installing can erase files. Back up first, and ask the computer's owner before you start.

Tip: Not sure? Stay in the live session. Nothing is installed until you choose to.

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