

Ventoy – How-To

Ventoy allows booting from one or more ISOs without having to burn them to a USB.

USB drive is used throughout this How-To guide and is equivalent to: flash drive, pen drive, jump drive USB stick & jump stick.

1 Introduction

Ventoy is a program that is installed on a USB drive, **NOT** on the PC system. This USB drive then can boot from any of the ISOs on the USB drive. This is a one time per USB installation of Ventoy. Ventoy eliminates having to burn each ISO to a separate USB drive.

Ventoy automatically adds ISOs of your choice to its boot menu so that you can decide which one to use for bootup. Moreover, the USB drive is not dedicated to Ventoy, you can add documents and other files without affecting the Ventoy program operation.

NOTE: after downloading there are 3 major tasks in preparing a Ventoy USB drive prior to use:

- Running the downloaded Ventoy USB preparation installation program (section 2).
- Copying the ISOs to the Ventoy partition on the USB (section 6).
- Booting from the USB – the Ventoy ISO installer starts automatically (section 7).

There's been some confusion on the internet – mostly the blurring together of the 1st & 3rd above tasks.

2 Installation notes

Please backup ALL important data on the USB drive as it will be re-formatted!

Ventoy will prompt you - *'This device will be formatted and all the data will be lost. Continue?'* (Yes/No). Then a Double Check with a Yes/No again.

The Ventoy installation program will create two partitions on the USB drive selected by the user. One is used for Ventoy program itself and the other for the user's ISOs files.

The installation will finish with a notice: *'Congratulations! Ventoy has been successfully installed to the device'*.

3 Linux – Ventoy Installation

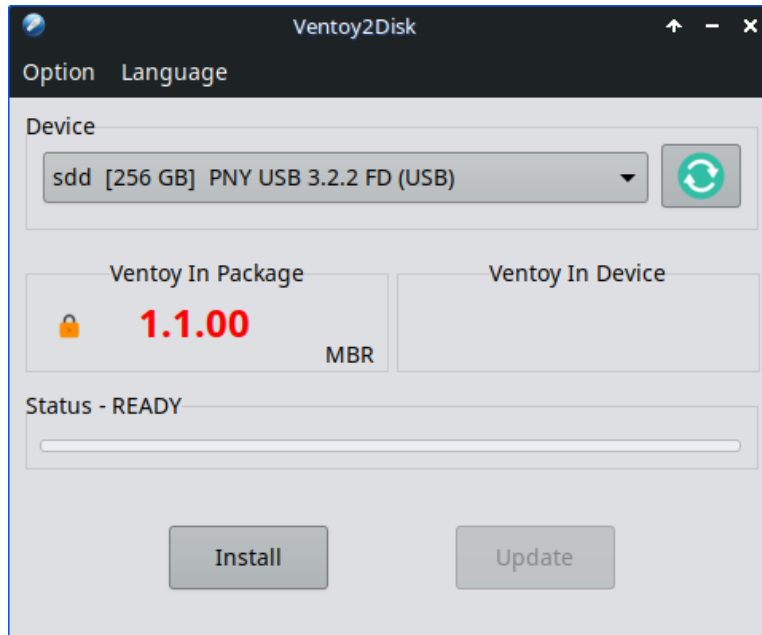
- Download the Ventoy file for Linux from the Ventoy website. <https://www.ventoy.net/>
- In your File Manager navigate to the download location.
- Right click on the downloaded file and choose 'Open with Archive Manager'.
- Click 'Extract', click 'Extract' in the popup and click then click 'Show the Files'.
- Right click the Ventoy folder (example: ventoy-1.1.00)
- Select 'Open Terminal Here' or 'Open in Terminal'.
- Insert the USB drive in a USB3 outlet (if available) ¹

¹ USB3 outlet (blue tab in the center), if available, otherwise the USB2 outlet (black tab in the center).

- Launch the Ventoy installer by typing:

```
sudo ./VentoyGUI.x86_64
```
- Press enter.
- Enter your password and press enter.

If the USB drive does not appear in the 'Device' drop-down list, click the green refresh button to the right.



3.1 Linux Installation to USB

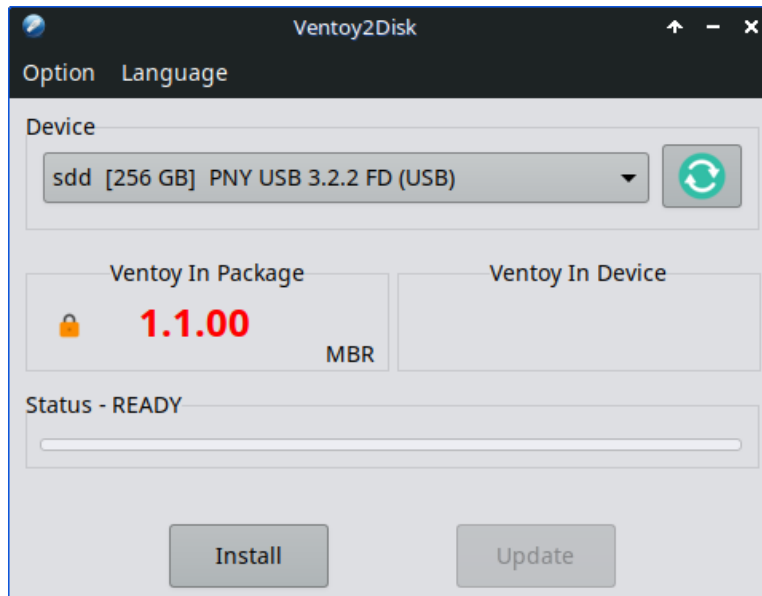
Once you have verified the correct USB drive is selected click 'Install'.

4 Windows – Ventoy Installation

- Download the file for Windows from the Ventoy website <https://www.ventoy.net/>
- Click to highlight the downloaded file and then right click and choose Extract.
 'Compressed folder Tools' appears as a tab.
- Click 'Extract All' and accept the popup by clicking 'Extract'. A new Window File Explorer window appears.
- Double click on the [folder name] name.
- Double Click on the file 'Ventoy2Disk.exe'.
- For the 'User Access Control' popup click 'Yes'.
- In 'Device' select the USB drive you want Ventoy installed on.

4.1 Windows Installation to USB

Once you have verified the correct USB drive is selected click 'Install'.

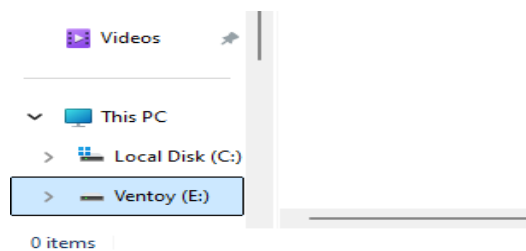


5 Download the ISOs for your Ventoy drive


Download your ISOs from the Internet and temporarily save them to your 'Desktop' folder. Once copied to your Ventoy drive you can move them to your 'Downloads' folder.

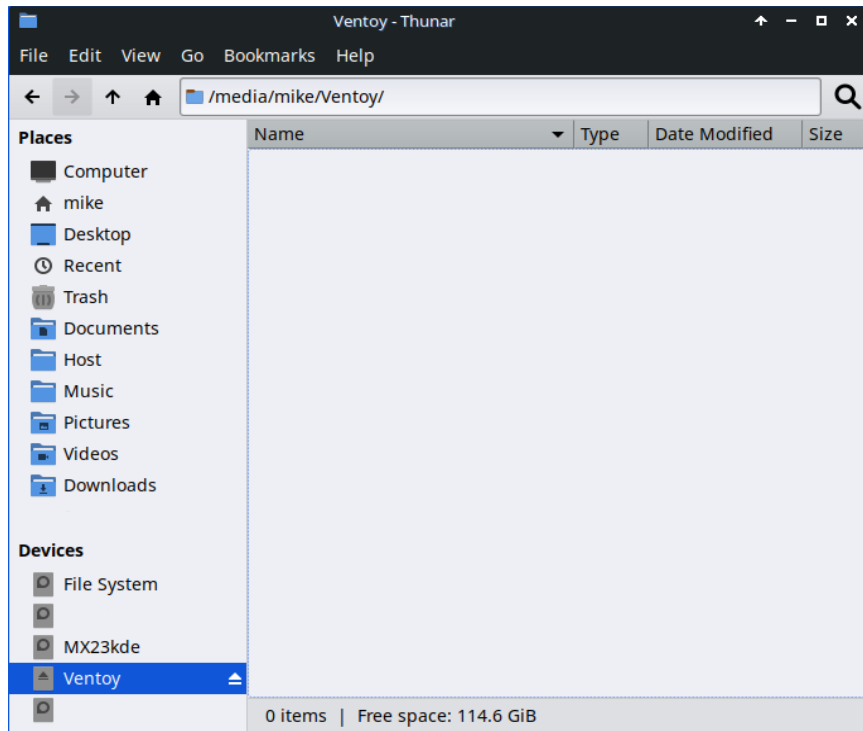
6 Preparing the USB drive for usage

- Insert the Ventoy drive into a USB port on your PC. Your File Manager should open automatically with the Ventoy drive highlighted. In the example below Windows File Explorer is showing 'Ventoy (E:)'.
• Resize the File Manager to cover only part of the screen. (Super + right-arrow).
- Ensure that the 'Ventoy' drive (in This PC) is highlighted. See below.
- Click, Drag and Drop each ISO to the windows File Manager window open space.



Windows 11 File Explorer is showing 'Ventoy (E:).'

WARNING: Do **NOT** eject the USB' drive immediately after copying your ISOs. Data is still being copied and the USB drive should **NOT** be immediately disconnected. Use the 'Unmount drive' (upward facing arrow ) in the 'System Tray' after taking some time (~1/2 to 1 minute) to wait.



Caja, Nemo and Thunar File Manager shows **Ventoy** at lower left in 'Devices' section. **Dolphin** shows **Ventoy** in the 'Removable Devices' section.

7 Booting the Ventoy USB



Insert the prepared USB into a USB jack and start the PC. Use the 'One time boot' menu keystroke (F12, F9, F2 or Esc – machine dependent). Choose your USB and press enter.

Use you Up/Down arrow keys to select the desired ISO and press enter.

Secondary Boot Menu

A. The below window appears when you select a Windows ISO:



1. Use WIMBOOT mode only when you run into problem with the default mode.
2. WIMBOOT can only be used to boot official Windows ISO files and some WinPE ISO files.

B. The below window appears when you select a Linux ISO:

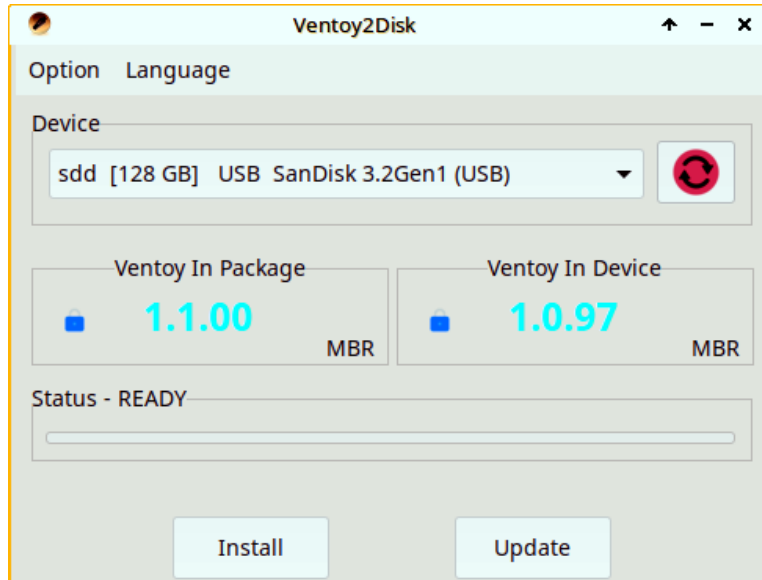


1. Use GRUB2 mode only when you run into problem with the default mode.
2. GRUB2 mode can only be used to boot Linux ISO which contains grub2 configuration file and can not be used to boot Windows/WinPE/Unix ...

8 Updating Ventoy

Below it shows 'Ventoy In Package' of the installed version (1.1.00). You can press the 'Update' button to update the Ventoy software on the USB drive. This will not affect the ISOs or documents.

Below example is before 'Update' is clicked.



9 Persistence

<https://ostechnix.com/create-persistent-bootable-usb-using-ventoy-in-linux/>

Persistence helps to save the state of a live system.

Linux vDisk Boot Plugin https://www.ventoy.net/en/plugin_vtoyboot.html

Alternative to persistence: "This plugin is used by Ventoy to boot vdisk file (vhd/vdi/raw ...with a Linux distro in it) on a real machine.

Ventoy home page <https://www.ventoy.net/en/index.html>