

# Dual drive – system and home on separate drives

## Use scenario

You have an older PC (10 to 15 years old) and want to use it to try Linux. As a beginner, the newness of the tech could be a put-off, but the MX Installer handles all the geeky technical details!

Your PC likely has a small (under 500 Gb) mechanical hard drive. So, you add a budget friendly Solid State Drive (64 Gb is plenty) aka SSD to get a fast Operating System drive. Download the MX Linux ISO of your desktop choice, burn it to a USB, and continue below.

Dual drive uses a sub-option of 'Regular install using the entire disk' choice without making you use the 'Customize the disk layout' with all its inherent complexity.

**Finding the correct drive** - If you are not sure which is the disk drive you want, use the names you see in GParted 🌈 By default, a root partition and swap file will be created.

## The MX Installer will:

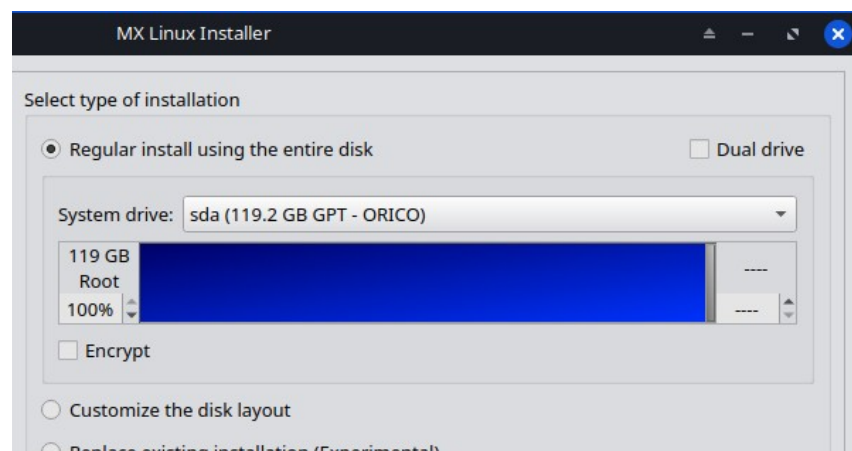
- Automatically partition and format both of the selected hard drives.
- Install the MX Linux system files on the first aka 'System drive:'.
- The second drive will be partitioned and setup for the user 'Home drive:'.

## WARNING

- **Both disks selected will be re-partitioned, with up to 5 partitions total.**
- **ALL existing data on the two drives selected will be lost.**

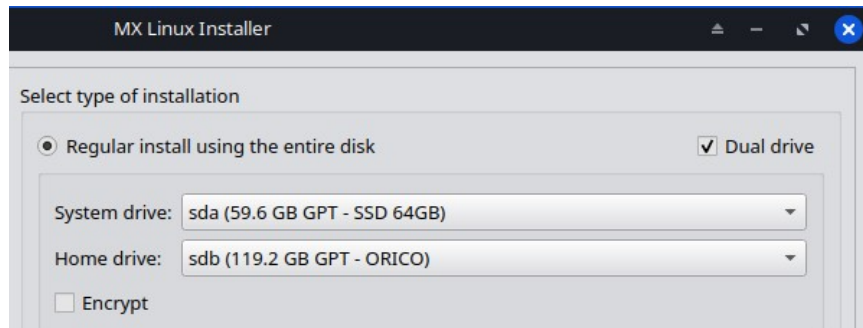
## 1 Starting the installation

Start the MX Installer and click → Next to the 'Select type of installation screen' seen below. Select the option 'Regular install using the entire disk' and then check **Dual drive**.



Click → Next

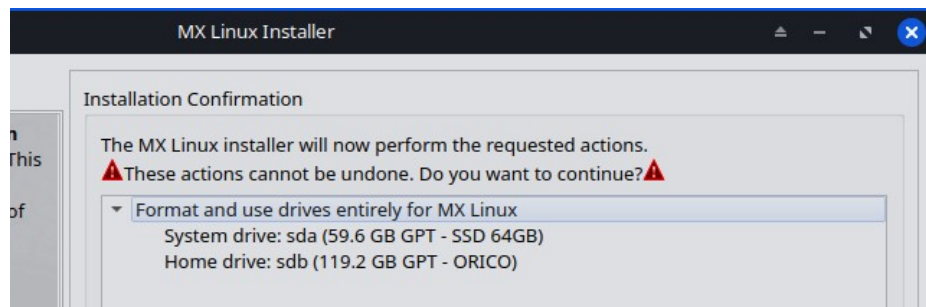
Select with the ▼ pull-downs a drive for System drive: and Home drive:.



In the figure above, sda is the new SSD drive. The hard drive maker and size is often shown. Once you are satisfied with your choices, click → **Next**

## 2 Final Review and Confirmation

An 'Installation Confirmation' message will ask you to confirm your choice: '**Format and use drives entirely for MX Linux?**' The Installer will also list the drives you had selected earlier.



**Please review this list carefully.** This is the last chance to check, review and confirm the actions of the MX installation process before proceeding.

Click **Start**

## 3 Swap and Hibernation

### **Create a swap file**

A swap file is more flexible than a swap partition; it is considerably easier to resize a swap file to adapt to changes in system usage.

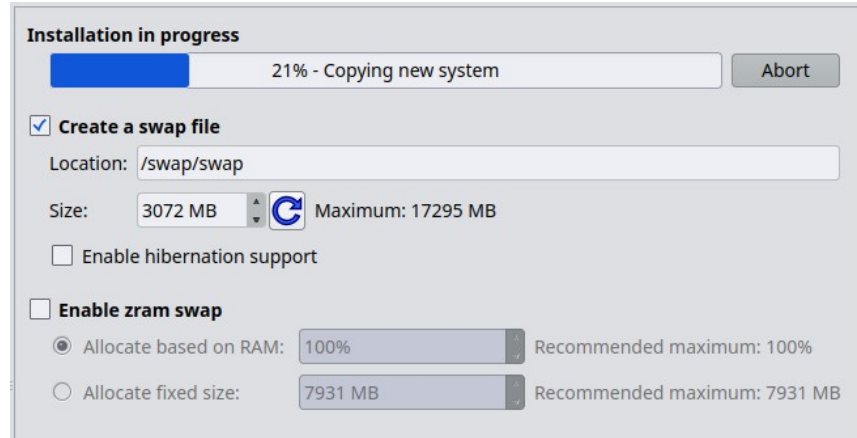
By default, this is checked if no swap partitions have been set, and unchecked if swap partitions are set. This option should be left untouched, and is for experts only. Setting the size to 0 has the same effect as un-checking this option.

### **Enable hibernation support**

Hibernation is an alternative to suspend, and is used to write the RAM of your system to disk and shut down the machine. Upon restarting, the applications you had open when initiating hibernation will be in place without reopening them.

## Enable zram swap

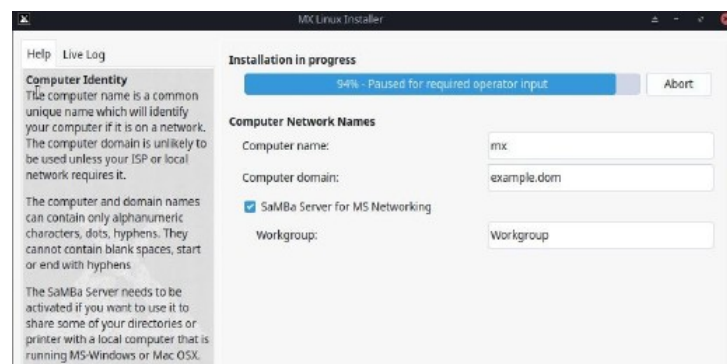
The zram swap option is a method of putting swap space in RAM. A compressed swap device is placed in RAM. It may be used in conjunction with other forms of swap, or on its own.



*Swap file choices*

## 4 Computer Network Names

**Computer name** - Many users choose a unique name for their computer: laptop1, MyBox, StudyDesktop, UTRA, etc. You may also just leave the default name MX as it is.



*Computer Network Names*

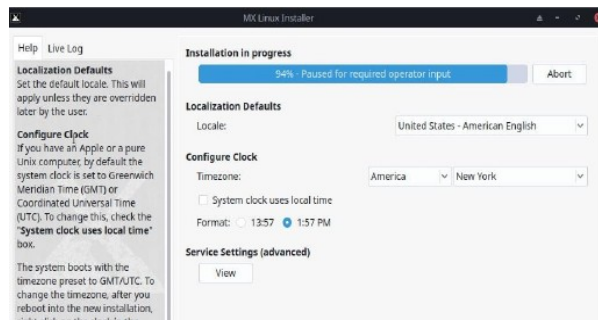
**Computer domain** – Can be left as-is unless you have reason to change it.

**Samba Server for MS Networking** - If you are not going to host shared network folders aka SMB on your PC, then you can disable (uncheck) Samba. This will not affect your PC's ability to access Samba shares hosted elsewhere on your network.

You can just click '**→ Next**' here once you have finished on this screen.

## 5 Localization Defaults

The default settings will usually be correct here. These settings can be changed when you have booted into MX Linux.



*Locale, Clock, Timezone, and Service Settings*

**Locale** - Set the default locale. This will apply unless they are overridden later by the user.

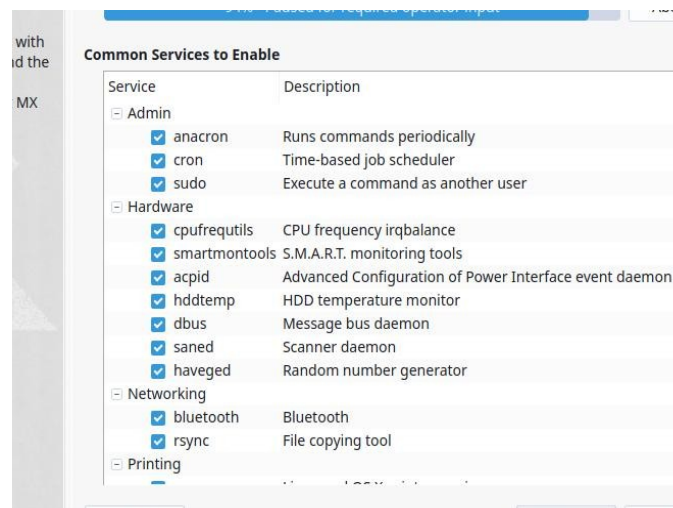
**Configure Clock** - If you have an Apple or a pure Unix computer, by default the PC clock is set to Greenwich Meridian Time (GMT) or Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). To change this, check the "**System clock uses local time**" box.

The system boots with the timezone preset to GMT/UTC. To change the timezone, after you reboot into the new installation, right-click on the clock in the Panel and select Properties.

**Service Settings (advanced)** - Services are applications and functions associated with the kernel that provide capabilities for upper-level processes. If you are not familiar with a service, you should leave it alone.

These services and functions require time and memory, so if you are concerned about the capacity of your computer, you can look at this list for items that you are sure you do not need.

If you later want to change or adjust the startup services, you can use a MX Tool called MX Service Manager, which is installed by default.



*Enable/Disable Services*

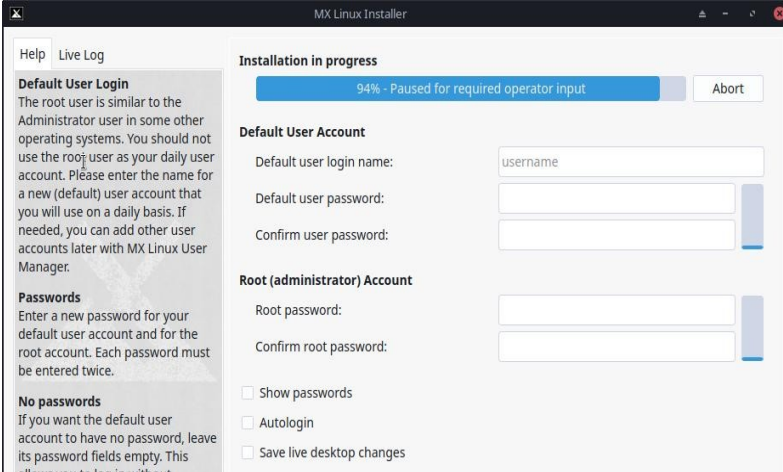
## 6 User Account Configuration

**No passwords** - If you want the default user account to have no password, leave its password fields empty. This allows you to log in without requiring a password. Obviously, this should only be done in situations where the user account does not need to be secure, such as a public terminal.

### Default User Account

The level of security on the passwords you choose here will depend greatly on the setting of the actual computer. A home desktop is generally less likely to be broken into.

If you check Autologin, you will be able to bypass the login screen and speed up the boot process. The downside of that choice is that anyone with some kind of access to your computer would be able to log directly into your account.



*User Configuration*

### Root (Administrator) Account

The root user is similar to the Administrator user in some other operating systems. You should not use the root user as your daily user account.

The root account is disabled on MX Linux, as administrative tasks are performed with an elevation prompt for the default user. Enabling the root account is strongly recommended for antiX Linux.

You can later change your **autologin** preferences on the 'Options' tab of the MX User Manager. You can transfer any changes you make to your Live desktop to the Hard Drive installation by checking the last box. A small amount of critical information (e.g., the name of your wireless Access Point) will be translated automatically.

## 7 Installation completed

After the system copy is finished and the configuration steps are complete, an 'Installation Complete' screen will be presented, and you are ready to go!

**Congratulations!** You have completed the installation of MX Linux.

If you do **not** want to reboot after finishing installation, **uncheck** the 'Automatically reboot the system when the installer is closed' option before clicking '**→ Finish**'.

Click '**→ Finish**'

Please direct ALL support requests to the MX Linux Forum -- <https://forum.mxlinux.org/>

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