

How to install a fully portable desktop on a USB for on-the-go access

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As a writer, there are certain situations where I'd like to carry with me a fully-encapsulated desktop. That way I can boot into that desktop, do some work, save said work, and shut down. With this I could use any PC and know that:

No virus or malware would infect my work

No changes would be made on the ?guest? PC

This sort of environment is good for many types of users and is possible, thanks to a portable Linux distribution called Porteus. Porteus is based on Slackware and allows you to boot into Linux from a flash drive, save any/all work to the flash drive, and then take that work with you. It's a full-blown distribution that runs either the KDE or Xfce desktop (depending upon your architecture and which version you download). The 64-bit version of Porteus offers either the standard KDE or Xfce desktops, whereas the 32 bit version runs Razor-qt (a KDE 3-based desktop). I want to walk you through the installation of Porteus on to a USB drive so you can enjoy a Linux desktop on the go (screenshot from Porteus below). We'll do this by downloading the ISO image and then extracting what we need from the ISO.

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