

How to instal android on pc

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There are several ways to install Windows 10 on your PC, whether you're upgrading from Windows 7 or 8, installing a new operating system from scratch, or reinstalling a fresh version of Windows 10. There are still ways to get a free Windows 10 upgrade license, too. How to Get a Windows 10 License RELATED: All the Ways You Can Still Upgrade to Windows 10 for Free There are a variety of ways you can get a Windows 10 license for your PC, and many of them are still free. Upgrade from Windows 7 or 8: Microsoft still offers a free Windows 10 upgrade to PC users who use accessibility tools. You can also still install Windows 10 and enter a Windows 7 or 8 key in the installer to receive a free Windows 10 upgrade license. Once you've performed the upgrade once, your PC has a Windows 10 license forever. So, if you upgraded when Windows 10 was released and downgraded shortly after, you're still eligible to upgrade to Windows 10 for free. A license associated with your PC is stored on Microsoft's servers. Buy a new PC with Windows 10: If your PC came with Windows 10 installed, it likely has a license key embedded into its UEFI firmware. The manufacturer paid for a license and you can reinstall Windows 10 on the PC without entering the key. Windows 10's installer will pull the key from a chip on the motherboard. Purchase a Windows 10 license: If you're building your own PC and don't yet have an operating system, you can purchase a Windows 10 license from Microsoft, just as you could with previous versions of Windows. Don't get a license: You can also install Windows 10 without entering a product key. You'll see messages telling you your Windows 10 system isn't licensed and needs to be activated, but it will be completely usable. You can even purchase a Windows 10 license from the Store within Windows 10 to turn it into a properly licensed Windows 10 PC. This is a convenient solution for testing Windows 10 on a PC without purchasing it first. Once you know which method is going to work for you, proceed to one of the sections below to install Windows 10. How to Upgrade to Windows 10 from Windows 7 or 8 RELATED: You Can Still Get Windows 10 for Free from Microsoft's Accessibility Site You can use Microsoft's upgrade tool to install Windows 10 on your PC if you already have Windows 7 or 8.1 installed. This will also make it possible to downgrade and go back to Windows 7 or 8.1 after you perform the upgrade, if you don't like it. If you're taking advantage of the the Assistive Technologies offer, just download the tool from the Assistive Technologies website and click through the wizard. It will give your PC a free Windows 10 license and install Windows 10. The Assistive Technologies offer will expire on December 31, 2017. However, if you take advantage of the offer before then, your PC will permanently have a genuine Windows 10 license. If you're upgrading to Windows 10 for another reason—perhaps you've previously upgraded to Windows 10 on the current PC and it already has a valid license—you can use the Download Windows 10 tool. Click "Download Tool Now", run it, and select "Upgrade this PC". Follow the instructions on your screen to complete the upgrade process. The tool you use will download the Windows 10 installation files and begin the installation process. How to Get Installation Media and Do a Clean Install of Windows 10 RELATED: How to do a Clean Install of Windows 10 the Easy Way If you don't want to upgrade from an existing Windows installation, you can download the official Windows 10 installation media for free from Microsoft and perform a clean install. To do this, visit Microsoft's Download Windows 10 page, click "Download Tool Now", and run the downloaded file. Select "Create installation media for another PC". Be sure to select the language, edition, and architecture you want to install of Windows 10. If you're installing it on a PC with a 64-bit CPU, you probably want the 64-bit version. If you're installing it on a PC with a 32-bit CPU, you'll need the 32-bit version. You can check what type of CPU your PC has if you don't know off the top of your head. If you're installing Windows 10 on the current PC, just keep the "Use the recommended options for this PC" box checked and the tool will automatically download the correct version for your current PC. The tool will allow you to copy the Windows 10 installation files to a USB drive or burn them to a DVD. If you're using a USB drive, it must be 4 GB or larger in size. All files on the USB drive will be erased as part of this process. If you want to install Windows 10 in a virtual machine, select the "ISO file" option here. The tool will download an ISO file, and you can then boot the downloaded ISO in a virtual machine to install Windows 10 inside it RELATED: How to Boot Your Computer From a Disc or USB Drive Once you've created installation media, you'll need to insert it into the PC you want to install Windows 10 on. You then boot from the installation media. This may require modifying the boot order in your PC's BIOS or UEFI firmware. On the Windows Setup screen, select your language, time and currency format, and keyboard layout. Click "Next" to continue. When you reach the installer screen, select "Install Now" and follow the instructions to install Windows 10 on your PC. When you see the Activate Windows screen, you'll need to either enter a key or skip it. You may not see this screen if Windows 10 automatically detects a key associated with your PC's hardware. If you've never installed and activated Windows 10 on this computer before, enter your Windows 10 key here. If you don't have one, but you have a valid Windows 7, 8, or 8.1 key, enter it here instead. If you've previously taken advantage of the free Windows 10 upgrade offer on this PC, click "I don't have a product key". Windows will automatically activate with a "digital license" associated with your PC's hardware on Microsoft's servers once it's installed. When you reach the "Which type of installation do you want?" screen, click "Custom" to perform a clean installation and remove everything on your PC. (If you've changed your mind and want to upgrade your existing installation, you can click "Upgrade".) On the next screen, select the hard drive you want to install Windows on and erase it. If you have multiple partitions on that drive, you may want to erase those as well. Warning: When you delete a partition, you're also deleting all the files on that partition. Be sure you have backups of any important files before doing this! When you're done erasing partitions, you should have a big block of "Unallocated Space". Select that, click "New", and once it's formatted your drive, click Next. Windows 10 will install itself, and may restart a few times during this process. When it's done, you'll see the normal setup interface you see when setting up Windows 10 on any new PC, where you can add user accounts and adjust various settings. How to Reinstall Windows 10 on a PC That Already Has Windows 10 RELATED: How to Easily Reinstall Windows 10 Without the Bloatware If you already have Windows 10 on your PC and want to perform a fresh install, you can also do that. Windows 10's Creators Update makes it much easier to install Windows 10 from scratch. You can use the "Fresh start" option in Windows Defender to get a completely fresh-from-Microsoft Windows 10 system. Unlike the standard Refresh and Reset options, which preserve any bloatware your PC manufacturer installed, this will wipe away all that manufacturer-installed stuff and just leave a fresh Windows 10 system. If you don't currently have Windows 10 installed or just prefer doing things the old-fashioned way, you can also use the Download Windows 10 application to create Windows 10 installation media and reinstall from scratch, if you prefer. Whether your PC came with a Windows 10 license or you previously took advantage of the free upgrade offer, you won't need to enter a license key during this process. Your Windows 10 license will be automatically acquired from your PC's hardware or via Microsoft's servers. Windows 8's bold grab for tablet relevance may snatch headlines, but it isn't the only operating system looking to extend its established supremacy over a whole new class of devices. As the PC market hemorrhages, more and more manufacturers are turning to Google's Android OS to power PCs that once carried Windows alone. From hybrids to all-in-ones to an Intel-promised flood of incredibly cheap "Droidbooks," Android cometh. But wait! Isn't Android made for smartphones? And weren't the first Android-powered laptops a bit ... disappointing? And aren't there some lingering questions about how Android performs in a PC-type environment? Yup. Fear not, all ye curious. The intriguing Android-x86 project has ported Google's open-source OS from the ARM processors common in smartphones and tablets over to the x86 chips found in everyday computers, so you can take Android for a spin on your PC before plunking cash down on one of the latest examples of computing convergence. And even if you have no plans to buy an Android PC, playing with Android on your current PC is just plain fun. How does Google's mobile-focused operating system stack up on a full-size, not-so-mobile computer? You'll know firsthand after giving Android a test drive in a virtual machine. Why a virtual machine? Admittedly, virtual machines aren't as peppy as physical ones unless you have a bunch of system resources to toss around. And yes, you can install Android on your computer's hard drive—but I don't recommend even dual-booting this particular OS. Hardware support for the operating system can be hit-and-miss, though the Android-x86 project mitigates that somewhat by providing several ISO files built around specific hardware, such as Asus and Lenovo ThinkPad laptops. Even so, running Android in a virtual machine is more consistently headache-free than dual-booting it. (Trust me—I tried it on three different machines.) If you want to dual-boot Android regardless, the steps for doing so are basically the same as dual-booting Windows 8, at least up until the point of actually installing Android. From there, you'll want to pick up from the "Install Android on your PC" segment below. No matter how you decide to roll, you'll need to grab some virtual machine software—we're using Oracle's excellent (and free) VirtualBox for this article—and the latest version of the Android-x86 port available. If an ISO for your specific laptop model is available, grab it. Before we begin, note that you can click any image in this article to expand it to full size. Get VirtualBox up and running Once you've downloaded all the software, open VirtualBox and click the big blue Open button in the toolbar to begin. A Create Virtual Machine window will appear. Name your digital Android PC anything you like, but be sure to select Linux as the type of operating system, and Linux 2.6 as the version. Click Next. In the option screens that follow, you have to configure your VM's hardware allocation. Give it at least 512MB of RAM if you can, though Android-x86 can run on 256MB of RAM if you're using a resource-strapped PC. The more memory you can spare, the smoother the results will be, though you don't want to allocate so much to Android that your native experience suffers while the VM is active. Create a virtual hard drive using the default options, adding more storage if you wish. (Remember: Android was made for phones, so it doesn't take much space, even with multiple apps installed.) Boom! The VM appears in the VirtualBox manager. Next, you need to point the VM at your Android-x86 ISO. Click the Storage button in the VM manager and, in the window that appears, select the Empty option underneath "Controller: IDE" to bring up various "Attributes" options to the right. There, click the disc icon to the right of "CD/DVD Drive" and select Choose a virtual CD/DVD disk file from the drop-down menu that appears. Simply browse your hard drive and select the Android-x86 ISO to load it in the virtual machine, and then click OK when you're done. You're not quite finished yet, though. Click the Audio option, and in the window that appears, click the drop-down "Audio controller" box and select ICH AC97. If you leave it on the default Soundblaster 16 setting, your Android VM's audio won't work properly. Got it? Great! Now you're ready to install Android on your PC. The process is a bit trickier than your standard Windows installation. Install Android on your PC Click the name of your Android-x86 VM in VirtualBox's left pane, and then click the big green Start arrow. After clicking OK on any dialog boxes that pop up—be sure to read them!—you'll quickly notice that you can't use your mouse during installation. Use the arrow keys to scroll down to Installation, and then press Enter. Press Enter to select Create/Modify partitions on the next screen as well. If you usually stick to graphical interfaces, the next menu may throw you for a loop, but it's nothing to be scared of. Just navigate to New and press Enter again. Select Primary as the partition type, and then press Enter once more to set the partition to the default size. You'll see the following screen. Press Enter on the Bootable option, which should add 'Boot' under the "Flags" listing, next to the computer name. With that done, select the Write option. A warning appears, threatening that writing to disk will wipe any data already on the disk. Who cares? This is a virtual machine, you silly installation software. Type yes, and then press Enter yet again. Highlight the Quit option and press Enter to return to the Choose Partition screen, which now lists the 'sda1' partition you created on the virtual hard drive. Press Enter again. You'll see a list of formatting options. Select ext3, press Enter, and select Yes when asked if you really want to format the disk. Do you want to install boot loader GRUB? Yup! You also want to install the /system directory as read/write when asked. Aaaaand there's the screen we've been waiting for. Run Android-x86. Assess Android You're going to set up the operating system the way you would on a new Android phone or tablet. It's pretty straightforward, and you can even connect the Android-x86 VM to your Google account. But before you do that, you need to coax a mouse cursor on screen, because trying to navigate a touchscreen-optimized OS by keyboard is maddening. Click Machine in VirtualBox's toolbar, and select Disable Mouse Integration. Dialog boxes may appear: If so, click through them and continue. Disabling mouse integration allows you to manually control whether your mouse is controlling your primary OS or Android-x86. Pressing the right Ctrl button on your keyboard switches between the two operating systems. To swipe, click and hold the mouse button, and then move the mouse. With that taken care of, you're free to explore Android on your PC! Don't expect a flawless experience with Android-x86. You can't sync your Google account's apps to the VM, despite what the setup process implies—at least not yet. (Fortunately, Android-x86 ships with Google Play installed, and most apps I've tried work just fine, though you might notice the occasional wonkiness.) Nor does the virtualized OS work with any of the touchscreen displays I've tried. And yes, performance can be kind of poky, no matter how much RAM you toss at Android-x86. That being said, giving Android a whirl on your PC will nevertheless give you a good feel for what's possible on an Android-powered laptop. The result isn't perfect, but if you give it a shot, I think you'll wind up pleasantly surprised. Android wasn't made for big screens, but all those smartphone-optimized apps hold up okay, and a ton of them are completely free, completely awesome, and can't be found on proper PCs. And hey—for what it's worth, the Android Gmail interface blows away the ugly webmail UI.

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