

CREATING BACKTRACK 3 LIVE USB DRIVE

MadHatter

Booting to live CDs seems to be sluggishly slow when compared to booting from a USB drive. I previously posted about creating a Live BackTrack 2 USB drive, and here is the instructions for the new BackTrack 3 Beta. They have a special release specifically for USB drives this time around so it's getting easier as new versions are released. Keep in mind that BT3 is in Beta and may still have several bugs. If you would like to run the stable version try BT2. So here is my step by step tutorial on how to create a bootable USB drive running BackTrack 3.

Note: you should use at least a 2GB USB drive to make bootable. The boot files total around 946MB of space on the drive. You may be able to get by with a 1GB drive but it would be pushing it to the limit on space.

1. Go to: http://www.remote-exploit.org/backtrack_download.html Choose the backtrack 3 beta the USB version (unless you want to create a bootable cd choose the CD version).
2. You will need something to extract the files from the RAR archive. WINRAR is my favorite.
3. Once you have a RAR extractor installed then extract all the folders to the destination drive (USB Drive). There should be two folders named "BT" and "Boot" along with a text file called "INSTALL.txt".
4. After extracting the files power down unit and restart (make sure that boot order is changed so it boots from the USB drive first, and keep in mind that some older machines do not support USB boot, so you may need to use the CD version instead.)
5. The first menu you are presented with is the boot menu. The default is to boot into KDE. (you may want to change to a graphics safe environment if it does not work properly the first time on your system but I have yet to see a case where it doesn't work properly at first boot).
6. Just wait and it will boot the rest of the way up and show the back track desktop. Click on the 2nd icon that says "System" that looks like an IC chip. Navigate to MEDIA > Your removable drive (names differ) > BOOT folder. Here you will find a file named "bootinst.sh."
7. Open up "shell" by clicking on the 2nd icon on the left which looks like a monitor with a black screen. Drag "bootinst.sh" to the shell. Click "Paste". Press ENTER.
8. This will now give a warning screen that it will format the drive to boot this distro only. Make sure that the drive listed in that warning is the same as the drive you are browsing (which is shown in the location bar at the top) so that you don't tamper with the

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computer's other drives by mistake. Press ENTER when you are sure. If task completes successfully your drive is now bootable!

CREATING BACKTRACK 2 LIVE USB DRIVE

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A quick How-To for creating a bootable USB drive to load Backtrack 2. This is very easy in windows. I just wanted to note it so I could remember it in the future and so others might not have to dig through the loads of badly organized information on the BackTrack2 forums and wiki. As noted before, this is for windows XP, and I will go ahead and do it step by step.

1. Download the Backtrack2 ISO.
2. Insert your USB drive, and note what drive label it is given (ex: "M:")
3. Use THIS utility (usb_format.exe) to format your USB drive.
4. Format a FAT partition and do not do a quick format.
5. Open ISO that you downloaded in WINRAR.
6. Copy the files from that ISO to the USB drive. Once that transfer is complete, open your flash drive in windows. There should be two folders "boot" and "BT".
7. Go to Start > Run and type "cmd" without the "" and press enter.
8. In this first line, type in the drive letter of your USB drive. (ex: "M:" without "") and press enter.
9. Type in "cd boot" and press enter.
10. Type in "bootinst.bat" and press enter.
11. This will bring up a batch file that will format the drive to boot the distro. Press any key to continue (WARNING: make sure you are doing this on your flash drive. If you do on the same drive as your windows partition you will screw up your MBR, which makes XP unable to boot without being repaired.)
12. If there are no errors, and it says it is ready to boot, then simply press any key to exit the window. Also close your cmd window.

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13. Now you are ready! Just reboot, and make sure you boot from USB instead of the hard drive your windows installation is on. You should be able to boot up Backtrack2 just fine now.

HOWTO:USB STICK FROM OFFENSIVE-SECURITY.COM

MAKE A BACKTRACK2 USB STICK

NOTE: This procedure works on the IRC Addict Pre-Release BT2 and the final release, but it does not work on sidc and earlier versions.

1. Open the backtrack.iso file:

- Option 1. In Windows, use a program such as isobuster
- Option 2. In Backtrack, mount the iso (mount -o loop -t iso9660 yourcd.iso /mnt/iso)
- Option 3. In OSX, mount the iso

2. Extract and copy the /boot and /BT folders from the iso to the USB flash stick.

3. Make the USB Stick bootable:

Warning: the following step makes the device bootable by creating an MBR. Make sure you run this command from the USB stick, not from the mounted iso, otherwise you will corrupt your existing MBR.

- Option 1. In Windows, cd into <path to stick>/boot, and execute the bootinst.bat.
- Option 2. In BackTrack or OSX, cd into <path to stick>/boot, and execute the bootinst.sh