

How to Create Bootable USB Drive to Install Windows Vista

This tutorial will help you in creating a bootable USB drive of Windows Vista which you can use to install Vista in any system. It might become very useful when you don't have access to DVD drive.

1. First format your USB drive in NTFS file system. You can do it by attaching your USB drive to your system and then format it from My Computer window.
2. Now open Command Prompt window from Start menu. Right-click on Command Prompt entry in start menu and select "Run as administrator" option.
3. Now type **diskpart** in Command Prompt window and press Enter. It'll launch DiskPart program:

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.0.6001]
Copyright (c) 2006 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>diskpart

Microsoft DiskPart version 6.0.6001
Copyright (C) 1999-2007 Microsoft Corporation.
On computer: UG-PC

DISKPART> _
```

Now provide following command:

```
list volume
```

It'll show a list of all drives in your system. Look for your USB drive entry. As in the below screenshot, the USB drive is "G" which you can determine from its "Type" entry.

Now you have to select the USB drive volume by providing select volume no. command. Since in our case volume no. of USB drive is "Volume 4", the command would be:

```
select volume 4
```

Now we have to make this drive active. So provide active command:

```
active
```

Now exit from DiskPart using **exit** command.

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```
DISKPART> list volume

   Volume ###  Ltr  Label            Fs          Type          Size
   -----  ---  -
   Volume 0          F          DUD-ROM          0 B
   Volume 1          C          WOW              NTFS        Partition     20 GB
   Volume 2          D          STARTS          NTFS        Partition    4997 MB
   Volume 3          E          NOW              FAT32       Partition     31 GB
   Volume 4          G          VISHAL          FAT32       Removable    1953 MB

DISKPART> select volume 4

Volume 4 is the selected volume.

DISKPART> active

DiskPart marked the current partition as active.

DISKPART> exit

Leaving DiskPart...

C:\Users\Administrator>_
```

4. Now we need to create Boot sector on USB drive. We'll use "bootsect.exe" utility for this task. You can find this utility in Windows Vista setup disk. It'll be present in "Boot" directory.

Now provide following command in Command Prompt:

```
bootsect /nt60 G:
```

Here G is drive letter of USB drive. Replace it with the correct drive letter if your system has some other letter for USB drive.

```
E:\boot>bootsect /nt60 g:
Target volumes will be updated with BOOTMGR compatible bootcode
G: <\\?\Volume{810fd39b-7d9a-11dd-8889-0015aff4c61d}>

    Successfully updated NTFS filesystem bootcode.
Bootcode was successfully updated on all targeted volumes.
```

5. At last, copy all files/folders from Vista Setup DVD to your USB drive and you are done.
6. Now you can boot using your USB drive and can install Windows Vista in any system.

Creating a Bootable USB Windows Vista Drive

I've been wanting to create one of these for ages, mostly to install Vista on to DVDLess Laptops and I spotted Jorke doing an OS from his USB Memory stick, ok, so just how did you create it?? Well here's what you need to do!!

1. Format the USB stick as NTFS

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2. Make USB Volume Active
3. Load up an (elevated) command prompt window
4. Run diskpart.exe and then set your drive and partition to point to the stick. Make sure you set the partition as Active. Do this by:-
 - list volume (to determine the volume number for your drive, in my case 2)
 - Select volume 2
 - Active

```
DISKPART> list volume

Volume ###  Ltr  Label          Fs          Type          Size         Status       Info
-----
Volume 0    E    FRMCFRE_EN_   UDF         DUD-ROM       2943 MB      Healthy
Volume 1    C                 NTFS        Partition     75 GB        Healthy      System
Volume 2    G    Vista x86 S   NTFS        Removable     15 GB        Healthy
Volume 3    D                 FAT         Removable     1921 MB      Healthy

DISKPART> select volume 2

Volume 2 is the selected volume.

DISKPART> list volume

Volume ###  Ltr  Label          Fs          Type          Size         Status       Info
-----
Volume 0    E    FRMCFRE_EN_   UDF         DUD-ROM       2943 MB      Healthy
Volume 1    C                 NTFS        Partition     75 GB        Healthy      System
* Volume 2  G    Vista x86 S   NTFS        Removable     15 GB        Healthy
Volume 3    D                 FAT         Removable     1921 MB      Healthy

DISKPART> active

DiskPart marked the current partition as active.
```

Create Boot Sector

There's a tool in Vista called bootsect.exe. Cant find it? Its on the Vista DVD itself in the Boot directory.

Run `bootsect /nt60 <drive letter of your USB drive>`

```
E:\boot>bootsect /nt60 g:
Target volumes will be updated with BOOTMGR compatible bootcode.
G: <\\?\Volume{810fd39b-7d9a-11dd-8889-0015aff4c61d}>

    Successfully updated NTFS filesystem bootcode.
Bootcode was successfully updated on all targeted volumes.
```

Copy over Vista and Boot Files

From the Vista DVD copy the:

- Boot directory
- Sources directory and

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- the files in the root directory

and you should be good to go!!

A Bootable USB Utility to Create Bootable USB Drive to Install Windows Vista, Server 2008 and 7

Imagine a situation where you need to install Windows Vista or 7 in a system but you don't have access to DVD drive. We all know Windows Vista, Server 2008 or 7 comes in DVDs and you'll need a DVD drive to install them. Then how will you install them? The solution is, you can create a bootable USB drive which can be used to install Windows without using DVD drive.

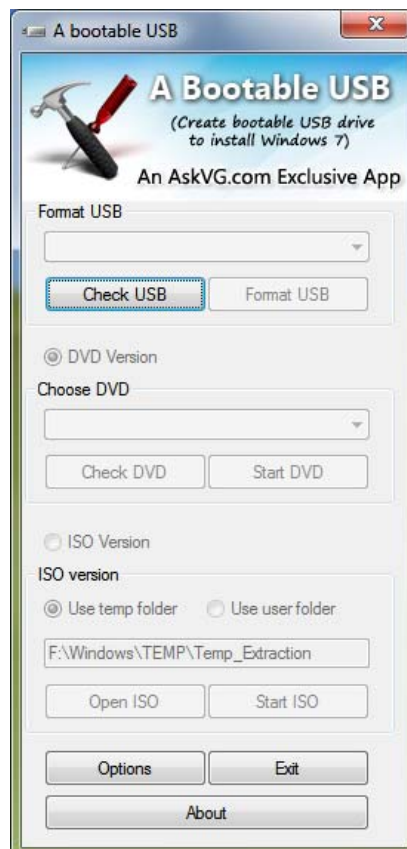
The above method is very easy to follow but wouldn't it be great if we can use a utility to do the whole task automatically? The "A Bootable USB" utility creates a bootable USB drive to install Windows Vista, Server 2008 or 7.

Prerequisites:

- A USB Drive (4 GB or more)
- Windows Vista, Server 2008 or 7 ISO image or DVD
- Host OS: Windows Vista (SP1 or SP2), Server 2008 or 7

How to Use:

Once you meet the requirements, run the utility. Its a portable utility so doesn't need installation. Simply run it and check the option "I have read and accepted the following License Agreement". Now click on OK button and it'll launch the main application.



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It also shows a Help window so that you can use the utility easily. The utility requires only 4 easy steps to follow:

- Check USB drive (To check whether your USB drive is attached or not)
- Format USB drive
- Choose DVD or ISO image (To copy the required files to USB drive)
- Start the process to create bootable USB drive

It also works in 64-bit Windows versions.