SIDEBAR Linux

Ventoy Cheat Sheet

Sidebar

Linux · Ventoy Cheat Sheet

One USB stick, many ISOs: install Ventoy to the stick once, copy `.iso` files onto it, and boot to a menu that lists them. Written against Ventoy 1.1.18 (the latest release when this was checked). Installing erases the stick, and nothing here was run on a real PC — see the notes at the bottom.

THE WHOLE JOB, IN ORDER

`1. Download`	From ventoy.net: the windows.zip or the linux.tar.gz; extract it
`2. Back up the stick`	Installing wipes everything on it
`3. Install once`	Windows: Ventoy2Disk.exe → pick the device → Install. Linux: the commands below
`4. Copy ISOs`	Drag them onto the big partition (named Ventoy), subfolders are fine
`5. Eject safely`	Then plug it into the target PC
`6. Boot from USB`	Open the PC's one-time boot menu at power-on (often F12, F2, F10 or Esc; it varies by maker) and choose the stick
`7. Pick an ISO`	Ventoy shows a menu of the images it found; choose one and press Enter

INSTALL FROM LINUX — CHECK THE DEVICE BEFORE YOU WIPE IT

```
# 1. Find the stick: look for the right size and name, NOT your system disk
lsblk -o NAME,SIZE,MODEL,TRAN,MOUNTPOINTS
# 2. Go to the extracted folder (replace x.x.xx with the version you downloaded)
cd ~/Downloads/ventoy-x.x.xx
# 3. Install (replace /dev/sdX with the stick, the whole disk, not sdX1)
sudo sh Ventoy2Disk.sh -i /dev/sdX
# Same, with Secure Boot support:
sudo sh Ventoy2Disk.sh -i -s /dev/sdX
```

VENTOY2DISK.SH OPTIONS (LINUX)

`-i`	Install; refuses if Ventoy is already there
`-I`	Force install (also if Ventoy is already there)
`-u`	Update Ventoy, keeping the files on the stick
`-l`	List Ventoy information for the device
`-s`	Enable Secure Boot support (off by default)
`-g`	GPT partition table (the default is MBR)
`-r SIZE_MB`	Leave free space at the end of the stick (install only)
`-L LABEL`	Name of the big partition (default Ventoy)

WINDOWS

`Ventoy2Disk.exe`	Pick the device; Install for a new stick, Update to upgrade
`Show all devices`	Option that also lists non-USB disks — leave off unless you need it
`Option menu`	Where the Secure Boot and MBR/GPT choices are set, before Install
`MBR / GPT`	Chosen at install only; MBR boots both BIOS and UEFI PCs
`Update`	Leaves the ISOs in place; the app offers it when it sees a newer version on the stick

AFTER THE INSTALL

`2 partitions`	A big data partition for your files, plus a small boot partition Ventoy owns
`exFAT`	Default format of the big one; files over 4 GB are fine
`Reformat it`	NTFS, FAT32, UDF, XFS and ext2/3/4 also work; FAT32 stops at 4 GB per file
`Image types`	ISO, WIM, IMG, VHD(x)
`Menu order`	All subfolders are searched; the list is alphabetical

AT THE VENTOY MENU

`Enter`	Boot the highlighted image (Normal mode)
`F1`	Help
`F2`	Browse files on the stick
`F4`	Boot the PC's own disk instead
`F5`	Tools menu (includes power options)
`Ctrl+r`	GRUB2 mode — try for a Linux ISO that won't boot
`Ctrl+w`	WIMBOOT mode — try for a Windows ISO that won't boot
`Ctrl+d`	Memdisk mode (loads the whole image into RAM)

SECURE BOOT

`Install with it`	-s on Linux; the Secure Boot option on Windows
`First boot`	The PC may show a "Verification failed" screen; press a key to reach the key manager (MokManager)
`Enroll key from disk`	Pick the small boot partition, then ENROLL_THIS_KEY_IN_MOKMANAGER.cer
`Continue → Yes`	Confirm, then reboot; once per PC
`Still blocked?`	Some firmware blocks Ventoy's loader; turning Secure Boot off in the PC's setup is the sure fix

PERSISTENCE (CHANGES SURVIVE REBOOTS)

`sudo bash CreatePersistentImg.sh`	Makes persistence.dat: 1 GB, ext4, label casper-rw
`-s MB / -t FS / -l LABEL`	Size, filesystem, label
`-c persistence.conf`	Needed for Debian, Kali, Clonezilla (file contains / union)
`casper-rw`	Label for Ubuntu, Mint, elementary, Zorin
`vtoycow`	Label for Arch and Fedora (Fedora also needs selinux=0)
`persistence`	Label for Kali and Clonezilla
`ventoy/ventoy.json`	On the stick; its persistence list ties an ISO (image) to a .dat file (backend)
`sync`	Run after copying the .dat file so it is really written
`ExtendPersistentImg.sh`	Grow a .dat file without losing data

WHEN AN ISO WON'T BOOT

`Linux ISO`	Menu → Ctrl+r (GRUB2 mode)
`Windows ISO`	Menu → Ctrl+w (WIMBOOT mode)
`Secure Boot error`	Enroll the key (above), or turn Secure Boot off
`Stick missing from boot menu`	Try another USB port; in setup, check USB boot is on and UEFI/Legacy matches
`Damaged download`	Compare the ISO's checksum with the one the distro publishes
`Very slow`	Use a USB 3 port and stick; live systems and persistence read and write constantly

GOTCHA — THE INSTALL ERASES THE DISK YOU POINT IT AT

On Linux, `-i /dev/sdX` wipes `sdX` without a second chance, so run `lsblk` first and match the stick by size. Pass the whole disk (`/dev/sdb`), not a partition (`/dev/sdb1`). To add or remove an ISO later, just copy or delete the file — do *not* run Install again; use Update only for a new Ventoy version.

WHAT WAS CHECKED ON THIS SHEET

Checked against the official Ventoy start page, its latest-release page on GitHub (version 1.1.18) and its persistence page: install steps, the Ventoy2Disk.sh options, partitions and formats, and the persistence commands and labels. The Secure Boot key steps and the menu hot keys (Ctrl+r, Ctrl+w, Ctrl+d, F1, F2, F4, F5) come from third-party guides and Ventoy's release notes, and I left out F3, F6 and F7 because I could not confirm what they do. Not run: the installer, any boot, or any ISO, so the Windows-GUI wording, the "MBR boots both BIOS and UEFI" line and the "boot menu key" row are from memory and may differ on your PC. Key assignments have changed between Ventoy versions, so trust the menu's own F1 help on your stick.