

ALE USB Thumbdrive HOWTO

Head over to the ALE download area.

First grab the ALE PKGBUILD.

You'll also need to download the ALE Default kernel. Of course you can always build yours.

You will also need to build some other packages. Don't worry, they're not hard to build (i.e. they don't take time). I've submitted these packages to Contrasutra, so hopefully, he'll be able to test them and put them in his TUR. The packages you'll need to build and install are:

syslinux, which depends on Mtools (Grab the PKGBUILDS on the download area)

ms-sys (PKBUILD available on the download area)

mtools (also available on the download area)

dosfstools (in the Arch repositories)

Vim.

Make sure you build all the packages, and install, preferably in this order: vim, dosfstools, mtools, syslinux, ms-sys, and ale (umm...sorry if I make you use vim, I'll still customize the scripts latter on.

Ale stores all its configuration files in /etc/ale, and all other stuff in /var/ale I suggest that first, you go thru the whole process with the default settings, to get used to how it works, then you can tweak.

Note that for most of this stuff you'll have to be root, since you deal with loop devices, mounting, etc. I suggest you create a working directory, cd into it, and su to root.

Next run mkaleinitrd (This creates the ale initrd image and the compressed initrd image. You'll use the compressed image, initrd.gz

Next run `mkalelooproot_inet` (This uses `pacman` to configure your system to `*go*` if you have an internet connection). This will create a 250MB file called `aleroot.img` in your present working directory

If you don't have an internet connection, run `'getalepkgs'` then `'mkalelooproot'`, to achieve the same thing. When running `getalepkgs`, answer 'N' to synchronizing databases.

Now stick in your 256MB USB thumb drive, and run `'mkalebootdisk'`. You'll have to answer the questions correctly. Note that you don't have to edit `syslinux.cfg` when it comes up. It will boot the `initrd` as a ram disk. To get it to boot the root image, change the `root=/dev/ram0` to `root=/dev/loop0`

Finally mount the USB disk, and copy `initrd.gz` to the mounted partition. Copy `aleroot.img` to the mounted partition and change its name to `root.img`

Plug in the USB disk into a USB bootable system and boot into your Linux system.

Remember that this is an initial release. Other modifications are coming up. But still drop me a complaint, a bug, or a suggestion to `essiene` at `datavibe.net`