

(../../index.en.html)

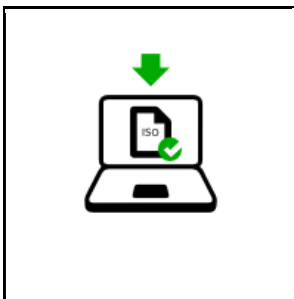
Installation Assistant

Installing Tails on a USB stick from Ubuntu



Start in Ubuntu.

6. Download and verify the Tails ISO image



In this step you will download Tails as an ISO image: a single file containing the whole operating system. For your security, it is very important to also verify your download. We propose you two techniques to do this verification automatically.

We detected that you are running Firefox or Tor Browser.
You can download the ISO image via our Firefox add-on. The add-on verifies your download .

The verification is based on a cryptographic checksum downloaded from our website.

Install Firefox add-on

No restart

(<https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/downloads/latest-beta/673020/addon-67302>)

or

Your BitTorrent client verifies your download automatically based on a cryptographic checksum in the Torrent file.
Download Torrent file (<https://tails.boum.org/torrents/files/tails-i386-1.8.2.torrent>)

16. Install *Tails Installer*

In this step, you will install *Tails Installer*, a program designed specifically for installing Tails. *Tails Installer* is available in:

- Ubuntu 14.04 (Trusty) or later in a PPA (*Personal Package Archive*)

To know your version of Ubuntu, open *System Settings* and click on **Details**.

If it is impossible to install *Tails Installer* in your version of Ubuntu, you can [install Tails using GNOME Disks \(../linux/usb/overview.html\)](#) instead. But it is more complicated and requires two USB sticks instead of one.

1. Make sure that you are connected to the Internet.
2. Start *Ubuntu Software Center*.
3. Choose **Edit ▶ Software Sources...**
4. In the **Software & Updates** dialog, make sure that the *universe* repository (labelled **Community-maintained free and open source software**) is selected.
5. Open the **Other Software** tab, and click on the **Add...** button.
6. In the **APT line** field, specify `ppa:tails-team/tails-installer` and click the **Add Source** button.
7. A new software source named `https://ppa.launchpad.net/tails-team/tails-installer/ubuntu` appears in the list of sources.
8. Close the **Software & Updates** dialog.
9. In the main windows of *Ubuntu Software Center*, search for `tails-installer`.

If no package named `tails-installer` can be found, you might have to reload the cache of *Ubuntu Software Center*, to do so you can either:

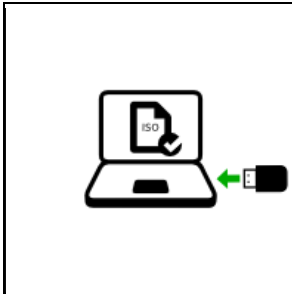
- Execute `sudo update-apt-xapian-index` in a terminal.
- Restart Ubuntu.

10. Select `tails-installer` in the list of packages and click **Install**.
11. After `tails-installer` is installed, close *Ubuntu Software Center*.

6. Install Tails

In this step, you will install Tails on a USB stick using *Tails Installer*.

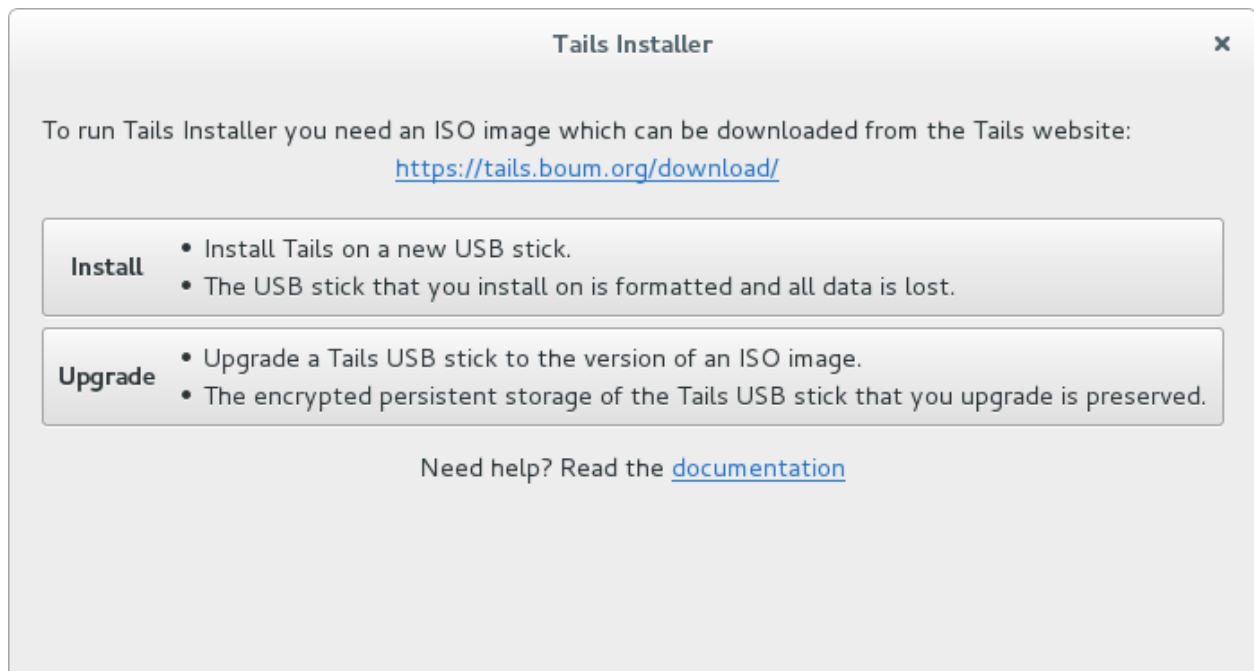
All the data on this USB stick will be lost.

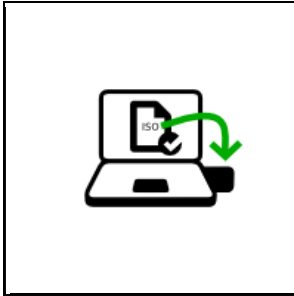


1. Plug the USB stick in the computer.
2. Start *Tails Installer*.



3. Click on the **Install** button.



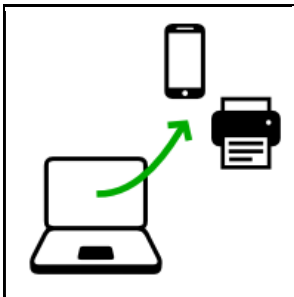


4. Click **Browse** and choose the ISO image that you downloaded earlier. Choose your USB stick in the **Target Device** drop-down list.
5. To start the installation, click on the **Install Tails** button.
6. Read the warning message in the pop-up window. Click **Yes** to confirm. The installation takes a few minutes. At the end of the installation, you are asked for your administration password.

The progress bar usually freezes for some time around 95 percent while synchronizing data on disk.

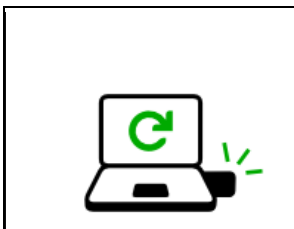
7. Close *Tails Installer*.

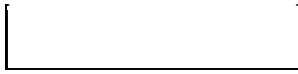
6. Open these instructions on another device



In the next step, you will shut down the computer. To be able to follow the rest of the instructions afterwards, we recommend you either:

- Open this page on your smartphone, tablet, or another computer (recommended).
- Print the rest of the instructions on paper.
- Take note of the URL of this page to be able to come back later:
<https://tails.boum.org/install/debian/usb/>





1. Shut down the computer while leaving the USB stick plugged in.
2. Switch on the computer.
3. If the computer starts on Tails, the **Boot Tails** menu appears. Choose **Live** and press **Enter**.



Most computers do not start on Tails by default. If it does you are lucky. Otherwise, if the computer starts on Ubuntu, refer to the troubleshooting section about .

Tails does not start at all (troubleshooting)

The following section applies if the **Boot Tails** menu does not appear when starting on a USB stick.

It is quite common for computers not to start automatically on a USB stick with Tails installed. Here are two troubleshooting techniques. You should try them one after the other.

GETTING TO THE BOOT MENU

On most computers, you can press a *boot menu key* to display a list of possible devices to start from. The following instructions explain how to display the boot menu and start on the USB stick. The following screenshot is an example of such boot menu:



1. Shut down the computer.
2. Make sure that the first USB stick is plugged in the computer.
3. Identify the potential boot menu keys for the computer depending on the computer manufacturer in the following list:

Manufacturer	Key
Acer	Esc, F12, F9
Asus	Esc, F8
Dell	F12
Fujitsu	F12, Esc
HP	Esc, F9
Lenovo	F12, Novo, F8, F10
Samsung	Esc, F12, F2
Sony	F11, Esc, F10
Toshiba	F12
others...	F12, Esc

4. Switch on the computer.
 - Immediately press several times the first potential boot menu key identified in step 3.
 - a. If a boot menu with a list of devices appears, select your USB stick and press **Enter**.
 - b. If the computer starts on another operating system, then:
 1. Shut down the computer.
 2. Press-and-hold the potential boot menu key identified in step 3.
 3. Switch on the computer again while holding the potential boot menu key pressed.
 - a. If a boot menu with a list of devices appears, select your USB stick and press **Enter**.
 - b. If the computer starts on another operating system or returns an error message, then shut down the computer again and repeat step 4 for all the potential boot menu keys identified in step 3. If none of the potential boot menu keys identified in step 3 work or if the USB stick does not appear in the list, then try the second troubleshooting technique described below.

EDIT THE BIOS SETTINGS

You might need to edit the BIOS settings of the computer.

Search for the user manual of the computer on the website of its manufacturer to learn how to edit the BIOS settings: [Acer](http://us.acer.com/ac/en/US/content/drivers) (<http://us.acer.com/ac/en/US/content/drivers>) , [Asus](https://www.asus.com/us/support/) (<https://www.asus.com/us/support/>) , [Dell](https://www.dell.com/support/home/us/en/19/Products/) (<https://www.dell.com/support/home/us/en/19/Products/>) , [Fujitsu](https://www.fujitsu.com/global/support/products/software/manual/) (<https://www.fujitsu.com/global/support/products/software/manual/>) , [HP](https://support.hp.com/us-en/products/) (<https://support.hp.com/us-en/products/>) , [Lenovo](http://support.lenovo.com/us/en/) (<http://support.lenovo.com/us/en/>) , [Samsung](http://www.samsung.com/us/support/downloads/) (<http://www.samsung.com/us/support/downloads/>) , [Sony](http://esupport.sony.com/US/) (<http://esupport.sony.com/US/>) , or [Toshiba](http://support.toshiba.com/support/products?cat=Computers) (<http://support.toshiba.com/support/products?cat=Computers>) .

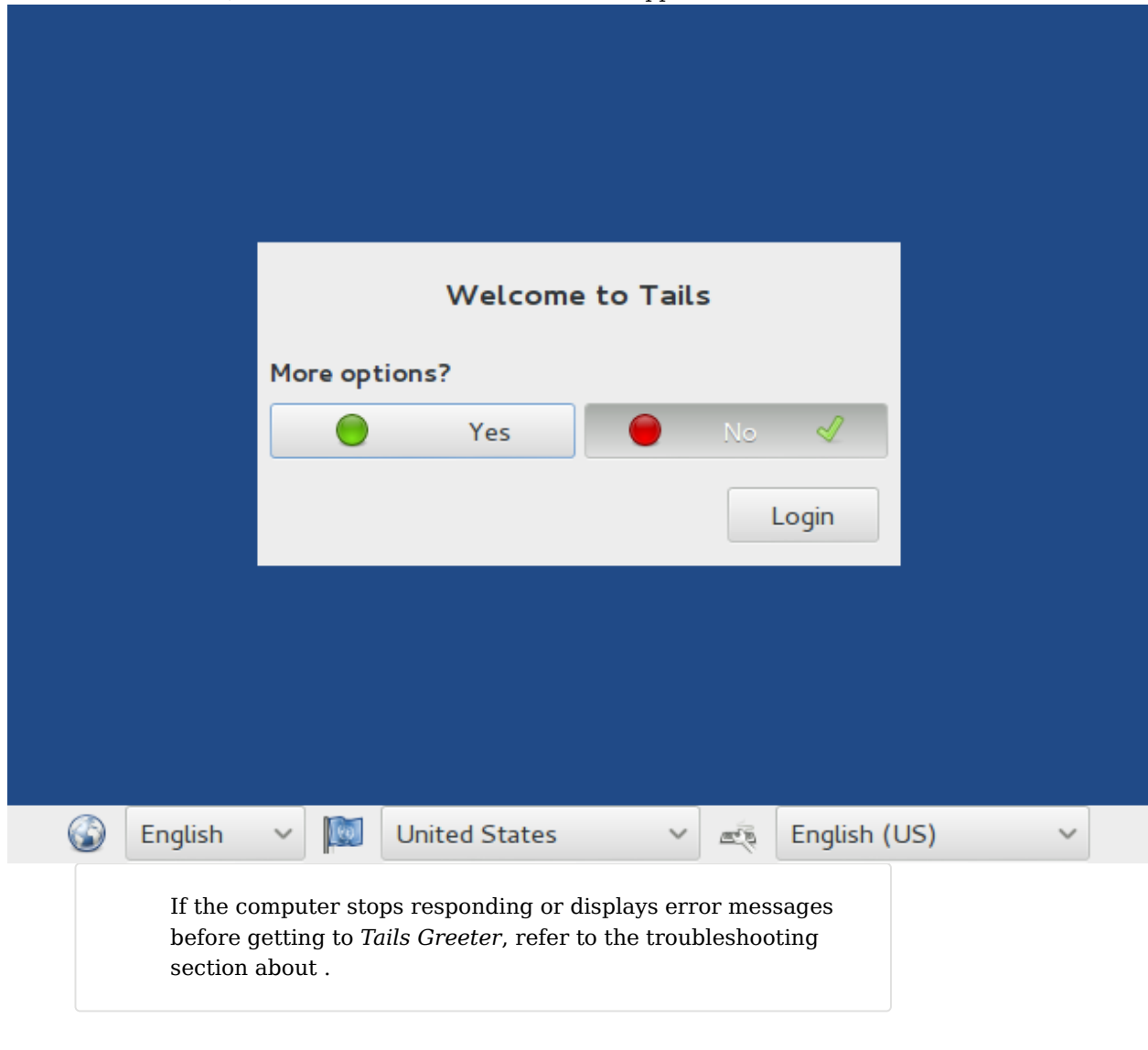
In the BIOS settings, try to apply the following changes one by one and restart the computer after each change. Some changes might not apply to certain computer models.

Take note of the changes that you apply to the BIOS settings, to be able to revert them if they prevent the computer to start on its usual operating system.

1. Edit the **Boot Order**. Depending on the computer model you might see an entry for **removable devices** or **USB media**. Move this entry to the top of the list to force the computer to try to start from the first USB stick before starting from the internal hard disk.
2. Disable **Fast boot**.
3. If the computer is configured to start with **legacy BIOS**, try to configure it to start with **UEFI**. Else, if the computer is configured to start with **UEFI**, try to configure it to start with **legacy BIOS**. To do so, try any of the following options if available:
 - Enable **Legacy mode**
 - Disable **Secure boot**
 - Enable **CSM boot**
 - Disable **UEFI**
4. Try to upgrade the BIOS to the latest version provided by the manufacturer.
If none of these options work, please [report the problem to our support team](http://tails.org/doc/first_steps/bug_reporting/tails_does_not_start.en.html) (http://tails.org/doc/first_steps/bug_reporting/tails_does_not_start.en.html).

We are sorry but you might not be able to use Tails on this computer.

4. After 30-60 seconds, another screen called *Tails Greeter* appears.



Tails does not start entirely (troubleshooting)

The following section applies if the **Boot Tails** menu appears but not *Tails Greeter* when starting Tails.

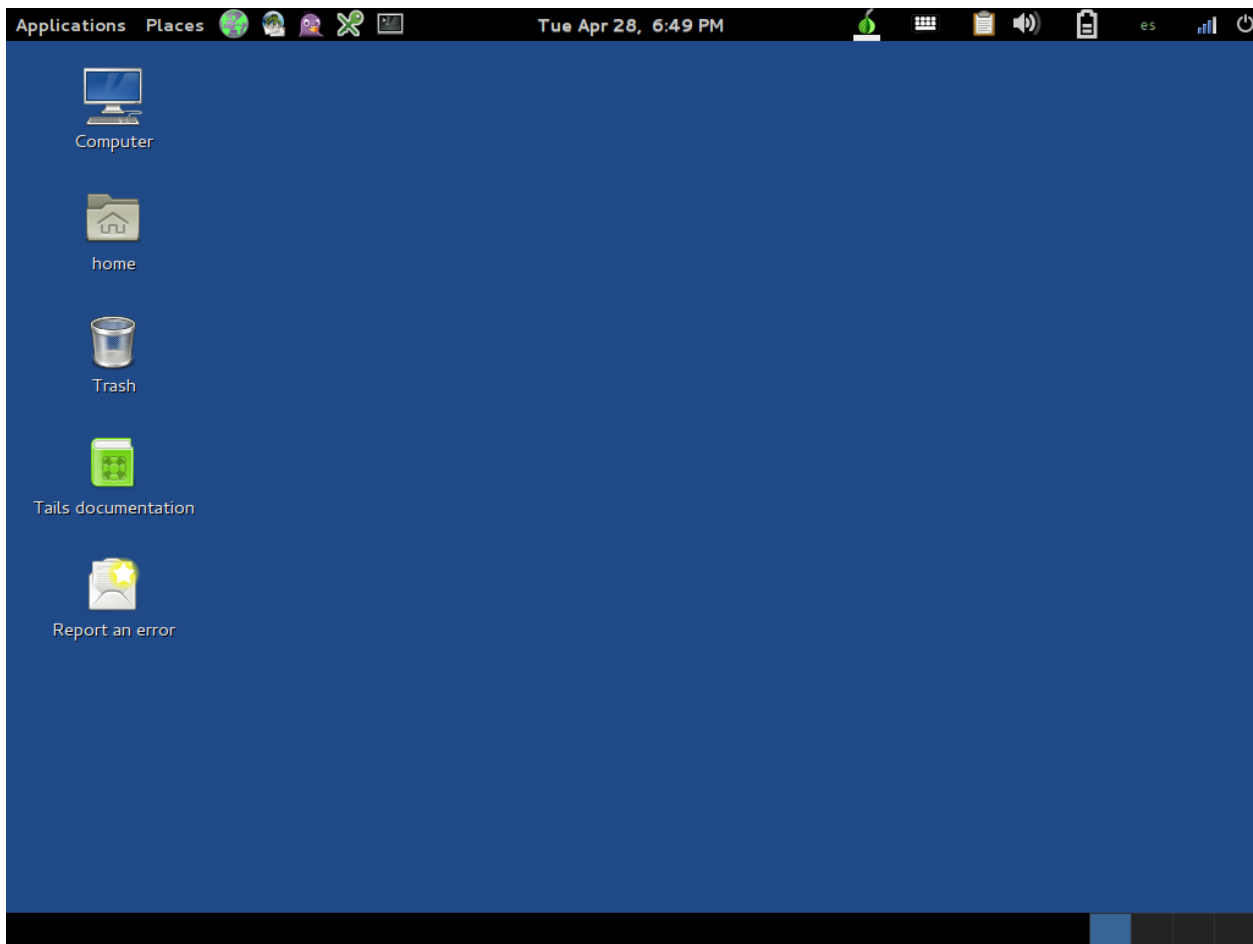
1. Restart the computer on the first USB stick.
2. In the **Boot Tails** menu, choose the **failsafe** mode which might work better on some computers.
3. If the **failsafe** mode does not work better, restart the computer again on the first USB stick.
4. In the **Boot Tails** menu, press **TAB**. A command line with a list of boot options appears at the bottom of the screen.



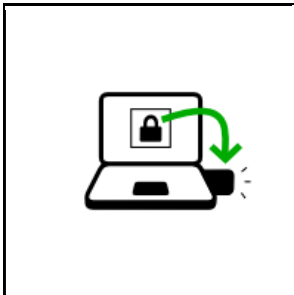
5. Press the **Backspace** key several times to remove the `quiet` option from the command line.
6. Type `debug nosplash` to add these options to the command line.
7. To start Tails, press **Enter**.
8. Hopefully, error messages now appear when starting Tails. You can [send them to our support team by email \(././support/talk.en.html\)](mailto:././support/talk.en.html), for example by taking a picture of the last screen and error messages.
9. If the error message is `/bin/sh: can't access tty; job control turned off` followed by `(initramfs)`, then try removing the `live-media=removable` option from the boot command line. If removing `live-media=removable` allows you to start Tails, please report the problem to our support team (././support/talk.en.html). This contributes to improving the [list of problematic USB sticks \(././support/known_issues.en.html#problematic-usb-sticks\)](https://tails.boum.org/support/known_issues.en.html#problematic-usb-sticks). Then try installing Tails on another USB stick.

Removing the `live-media=removable` option might be dangerous. If an adversary had access to the computer and installed a malicious Tails on an internal hard disk, the computer might start on the malicious Tails instead of on the USB stick.

-
5. In *Tails Greeter*, select your preferred language in the drop-down list on the bottom left of the screen. Click **Login**.
 6. After 15-30 seconds, the Tails desktop appears.



16. Create an encrypted persistent storage (optional)



You can optionally create an *encrypted persistent storage* in the remaining free space on the Tails USB stick to store any of the following:

- Your personal files and working documents
- Some of your settings
- Your encryption keys

The data in the encrypted persistent storage:

- Remains available across separate working sessions.
- Is encrypted using a passphrase of your choice.

The encrypted persistent storage is not hidden. An attacker in possession of the USB stick can know whether it has an

encrypted persistent storage. Take into consideration that you can be forced or tricked to give out its passphrase.

It is possible to open the encrypted persistent storage from other operating systems, but it might break your security. Other operating systems should probably not be trusted to handle sensitive information or leave no trace.

Create the persistent storage

1. Choose **Applications** ▶ **Tails** ▶ **Configure persistent volume**.
2. Specify a passphrase of your choice in both the **Passphrase** and **Verify Passphrase** text boxes.

We recommend choosing a long passphrase made of five to seven random words. [Learn more. \(https://theintercept.com/2015/03/26/passphrases-can-memorize-attackers-cant-guess/\)](https://theintercept.com/2015/03/26/passphrases-can-memorize-attackers-cant-guess/)

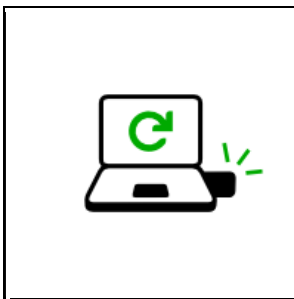
3. Click on the **Create** button.
4. Wait for the creation to finish.

If you close the assistant before the creation finishes, you might not be able to start Tails from this USB stick anymore.

5. The assistant shows a list of the possible persistence features. Each feature corresponds to a set of files or settings to be saved in the encrypted persistent storage.

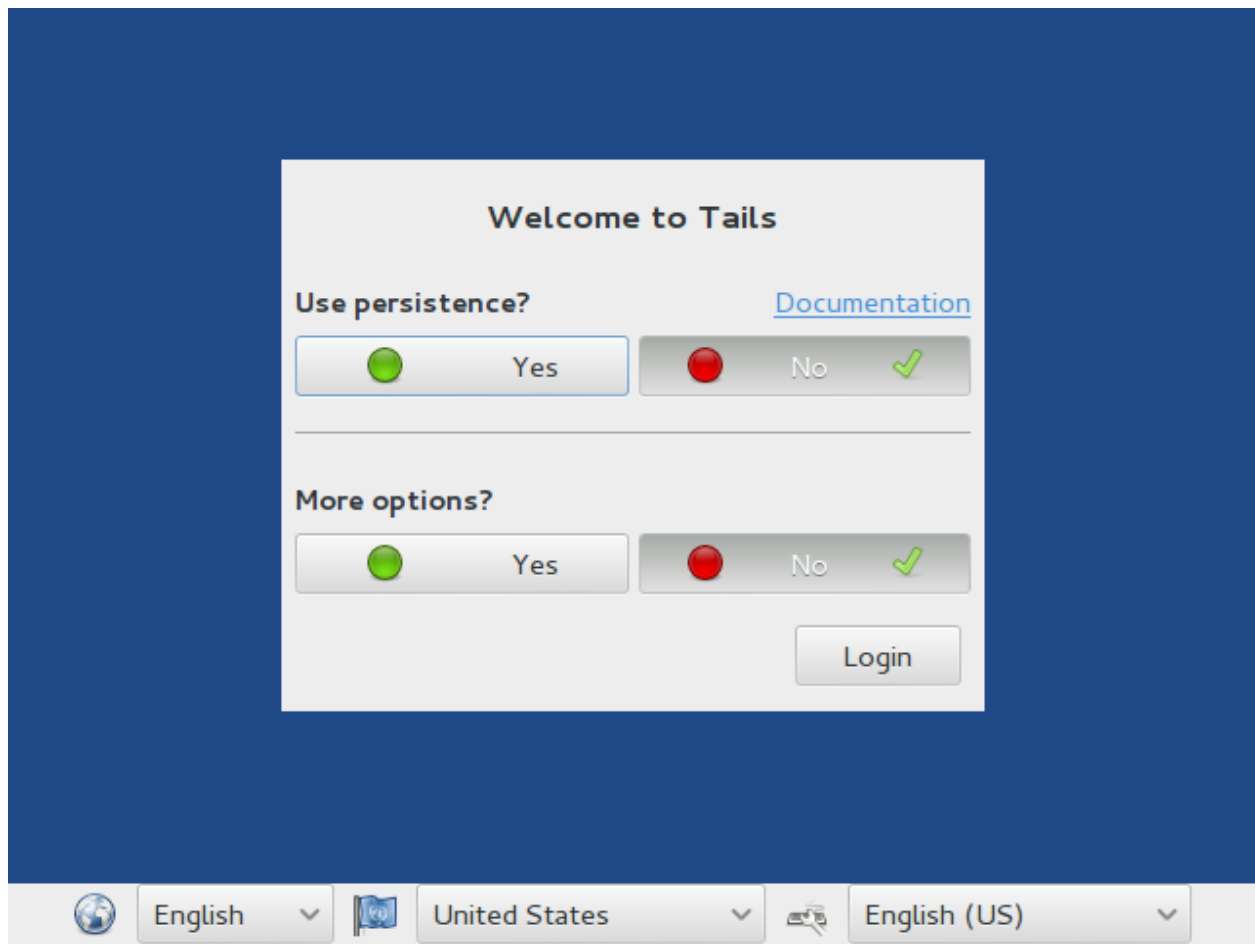
We recommend you to only activate the **Personal Data** persistence feature for the time being. You can activate more features later on according to your needs.

6. Click **Save**.



Restart and activate the persistent storage

1. Shut down the computer and restart on the Tails USB stick.
2. In *Tails Greeter*:



- Select your preferred language in the drop-down list on the bottom left of the screen.
 - In the **Use persistence?** section, choose **Yes** to activate the encrypted persistent storage for the current working session.
 - Enter the passphrase of the persistent volume in the **Passphrase** text box.
 - Click **Login**.
3. After 15–30 seconds, the Tails desktop appears.
 4. You can now save your personal files and working documents in the **Persistent** folder. To open the **Persistent** folder choose **Places ► Persistent**.



You now have a working Tails, congrats!
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Tails does not protect you from everything! Have a look at our **warnings** ([../../doc/about/warning.en.html](#)).



If you face any problem, use the **Report an error** launcher on the Tails desktop or visit our **support pages** ([../../support.en.html](#)).

We hope you enjoy using Tails :)