Installing Linux on either a hard drive or flash drive for GIMP and Inkscape. This will also test if your computer has been running slow, if it is either Windows or the machine that is the culprit.

Backup your Windows computer or at least your data or get another hard drive or a flash drive. If you are going to run off a flash drive, get two of them (one for making a bootable Linux drive for installation and one for the target of the installation).

On a functioning Windows computer

Go to the Fedora Spins site.
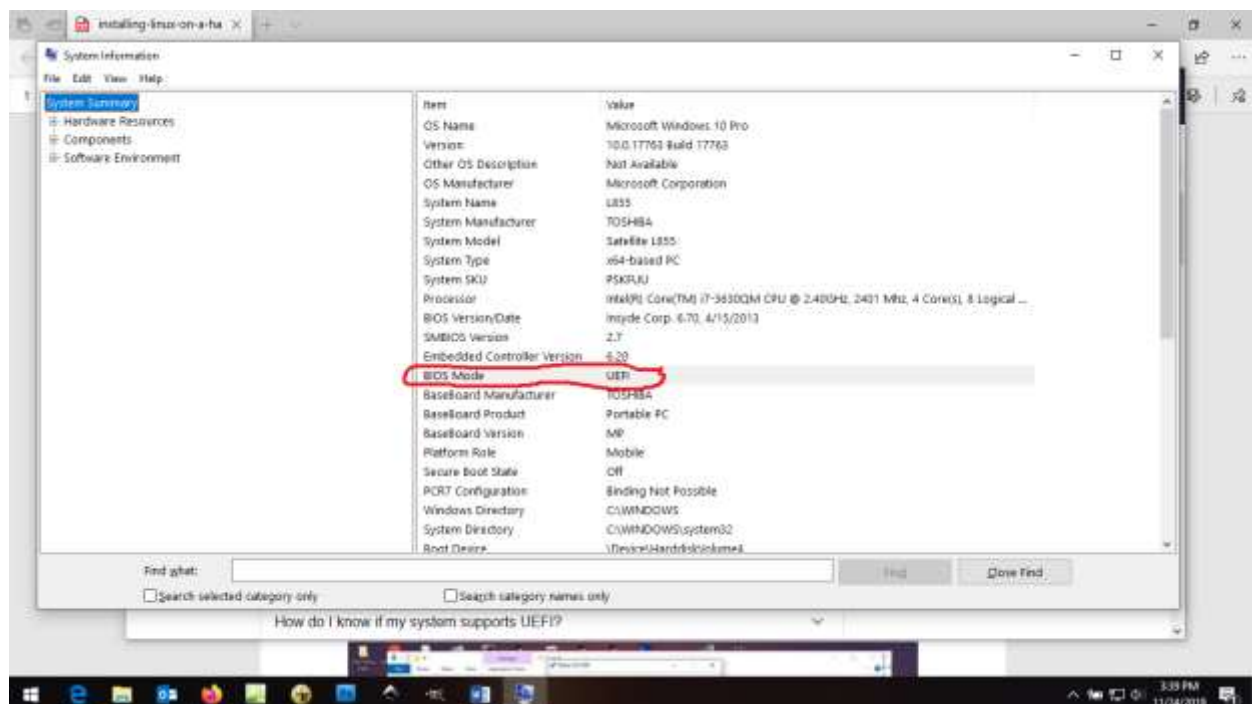
https://spins.fedoraproject.org/

Download a spin of Fedora Linux – I like Cinnamon. About 2.1 GB ISO image. Some work better with less RAM.

Go to Filehippo and get RUFUS (current version).

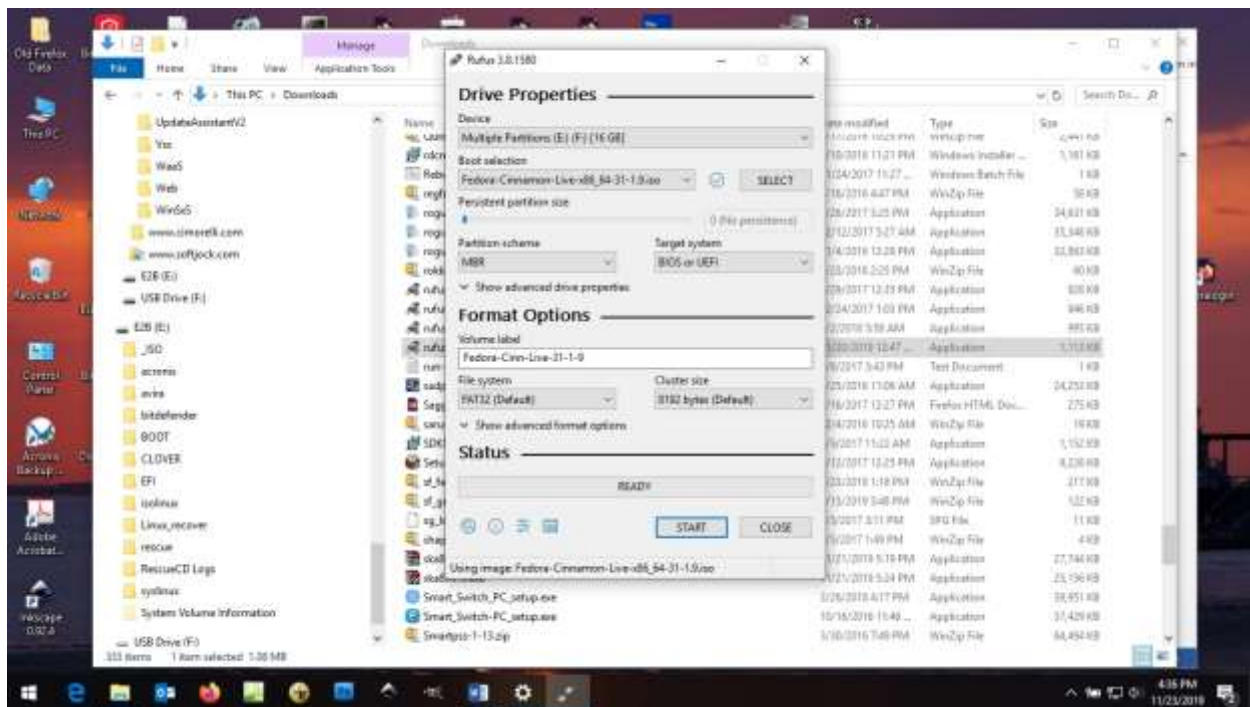https://filehippo.com/search/?q=rufus   Download the latest variant

Get a flash drive – a 16GB or greater is good to use and less than $10. Check to see if your computer is using CMS or UEFI for drive access. (For Windows, UEFI supports Bitlocker to encrypt your drive, so if you are running Bitlocker, you have UEFI). Check your BIOS for which. How to check:

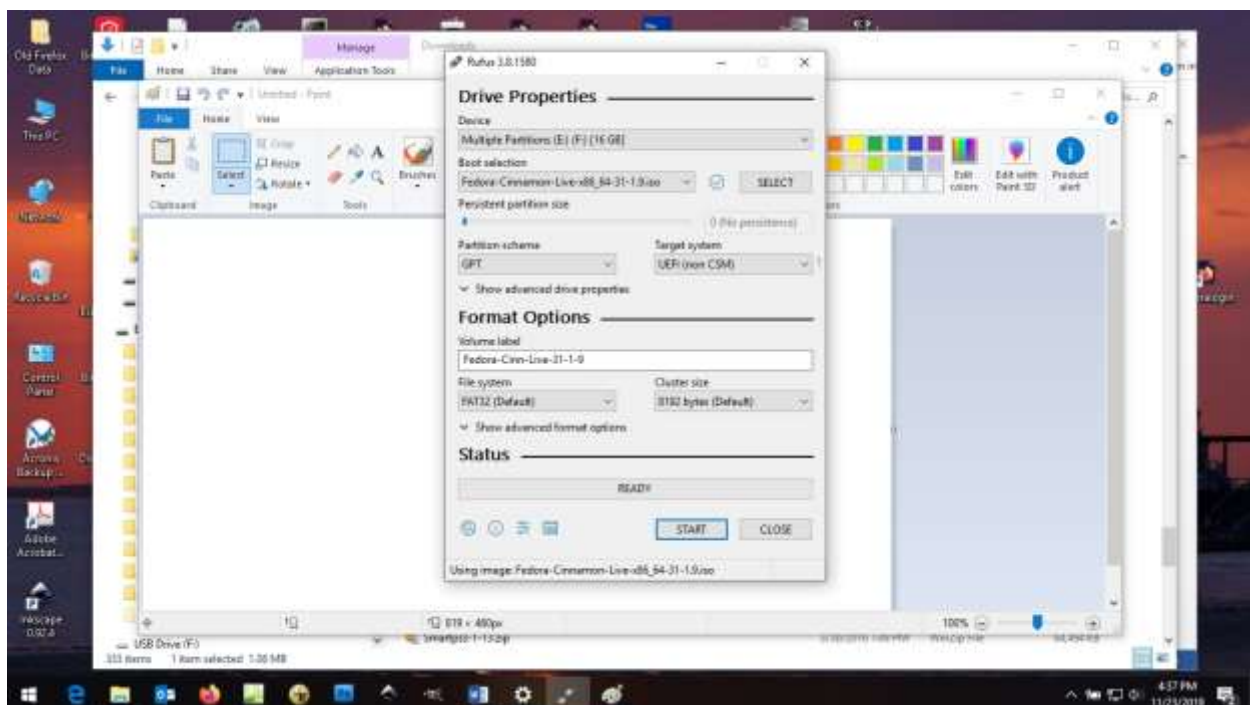In Windows, click Start, Run, **msinfo32.exe** and you get this:

On the same Windows computer that you downloaded the Linux .iso file – run RUFUS. Select the Linux .iso file you downloaded and for partition scheme use MBR for CMS or GPT for UEFI.

For CMS/MBR use this:

For UEFI use this:

After running RUFUS you will have a drive you can boot from and it will start Fedora Linux.

Copy your windows fonts to this bootable Linux installation drive:

Copy c:\windows\fonts to x:\ (where x: is the RUFUS Linux installation flash drive)

Create a directory (buttons) on the same flash drive and copy your existing Inkscape images or graphics files to x:\buttons (on the flash drive). You can do this later if you have a lot of files.

Ensure you have your old PC either backed up or swap the existing Windows hard drive with a new one. I like to keep my Windows drive separate and switch as needed. Drives are cheap and redundancy is a welcome savior. Get an SSD from Amazon for under $100 – 256GB is good unless you are a glutton for doing lots of graphics.

Boot from the RUFUS Linux drive. At startup, press F12 to select the drive to boot from. If your USB drive does not show up, and it is in a USB 3.0 port, you may have to select CMS boot in the BIOS and reboot. Check your computer manual to enter ths BIOS – usually F2 at bootup or possibly pressing a NOVO button on Lenovos. Some computers do not recognize USB 3.0 drives under UEFI (Toshibas are notorious for this). If in doubt, get a USB 2.0 flash drive – slower but effective.

Install on your hard drive (or see below to setup on a flash drive) – let Fedora set it up for you if you are a novice. Give a ROOT password and setup a user as an Administrator (check the box for administrator when creating the user).

After installation – boot your laptop.

Attach to either WiFi or Ethernet.

Open a command window (known in Linux as a Terminal)

At the user@localhost ~]$ type   **su –** (that's su space hyphen)

It sets you up as a super user. Type in the root password and you should get a root@localhost ~]# prompt.

When you have done this, update your machine.

root@localhost ~]# **dnf update –y**   (this runs an update without pressing "y" for each entry)

root@localhost ~]# **dnf install gimp –y**

root@localhost ~]# **dnf install inkscape –y**

Run another update to verify you have the latest and greatest.

root@localhost ~]# **dnf update –y**

If you were using Inkscape, GIMP, or other graphics packages you need the fonts you used.

At the root@localhost ~]# **nemo** – this opens file manager as root (needed to copy to usr/share/fonts).

From the flash drive copy all files from /fonts/*.* to /usr/share/fonts (this gives you your Windows fonts under Linux)

root@localhost ~]# **Ctrl-C** exits nemo

At the root@localhost ~]# **exit**   (returns to your user account)

I create a folder off home/username as buttons.

user@localhost ~]$ **mkdir /home/username/buttons**

Copy all the files from the flash drive\buttons to home/username/buttons

Open one of those files in Inkscape and see if your fonts have transferred and the image looks OK.

All you have to do now is setup your printer as per the manufacturers Linux instructions.

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If your computer works OK, and your Windows computer was sluggish, your problem with slowness is Windows. If your computer is still really slow – get a new machine.

Notes – if you get those horrid black and white icons in GIMP, click Edit, open preferences, Interface, Icon Themes, and pick the Legacy.

For Inkscape icons, in Linux go to all Apps, System Settings, Themes, change Icons to Fedora.

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LINUX Installation to a flash drive

You can also install Linux on a flash drive that you can boot from without disturbing the Windows setup.

After creating the RUFUS bootable Linux drive, insert a second flash drive.

Boot from the RUFUS bootable Linux flash drive (like above).

When installing to a hard drive, select the **second flash drive**, vice your Windows hard drive. It will give you a way to use a machine as a different identity than your Windows ID. Linux is free as are all the apps it uses. You can take that drive to any machine and boot as Linux. So, in a nutshell, your entire graphics package is portable.

For my computer I have both a CMS and UEFI bootable Linux flash drive. All you have to do is change the BIOS boot parameters to use either CMS or UEFI. RTFM. I also have multiple hard drives for one machine in the event of drive failure.

If you are an adventurist, load WINE and then some Windows packages. That's another story…..