



How to do a fresh install of OS X El Capitan from USB drive

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Pegasi Knowledge

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How to do a fresh install of OS X El Capitan from USB drive

I had to do a reinstall of my 2013 MacBook Pro and the stock installer would give me the old one which I would then need to upgrade to El Capitan. In computer world I prefer clean installs over upgrades as it always leaves residue from the older OS so I did it with USB drive and wrote it down below.

My USB drive was from a Linux install and OSX could not make heads or tails from it with GUI tools. But luckily OSX has command line tool diskutil that can.

Preparing

- Get a USB drive minimum of 8G size. It does not matter if OSX detects it or not. Hard reboot your computer and insert it.
- Download El Capitan from Apple Store.
- Open up a terminal and issue below commands in this terminal session.
- If you need to back up your stuff do it now as it will all be lost soon :)

Format USB ready for usage with installer

This is simplest done with diskutil. Let's first look at what drive the USB is.

```
diskutil list
```

Then reformat the entire disk for install use this command, replacing diskN with the disk you see above as your USB drive:

```
diskutil eraseDisk JHFS+ ElCapInstall diskN
```

Make USB installation media

Once El Capitan has downloaded from Apple store make an install media with below command:

```
cd /Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ El\ Capitan.app/Contents/Resources  
sudo ./createinstallmedia --volume /Volumes/ElCapInstaller --applicationpath  
/Applications/Install\ OS\ X\ El\ Capitan.app --nointeraction
```

Reboot and install

Reboot computer with command

```
sudo reboot
```

And hold option (alt) key while restarting. Select El Capitan installer media and the rest should be self explanatory.