



Start Ashington OS from USB

Choose a one-time start for occasional use, or set automatic USB startup for a PC you use regularly. Both options run Ashington OS from the USB rather than installing it over Windows.

Option 1: use the one-time boot menu

The table gives likely boot-menu controls. Keys and menu names vary by model; watch the manufacturer logo or consult the PC manual.

PC manufacturer	Likely boot-menu control
Dell	F12
HP	Esc, then F9
Lenovo	F12 or Fn+F12; some models have a Novo button
ASUS notebook / all-in-one	From power off, hold Esc while pressing Power
Acer	F12
MSI	F11
Microsoft Surface	Hold Volume Down, press and release Power, then release Volume Down when spinning dots appear

1. Plug in the Ashington OS USB before turning on or restarting the PC.
2. Immediately use the boot-menu control for your model. Watch for "Boot Menu" or "Boot Options."
3. Choose the USB entry. It may show the drive brand and size, such as PNY 32GB. Choose its UEFI entry if offered.
4. Press Enter. If another menu appears, choose Start Ashington OS.

Choose the USB startup entry. Do not choose an installer or a format option. If the key does not work, fully turn off the PC and try again, or check its manual.

If startup does not go as expected

USB missing: Try another USB port and check the model-specific USB boot instructions.

"No boot device": A missing or unbootable internal drive does not prevent USB use if the remaining hardware supports it. Select the Ashington OS USB.

Windows asks to format the USB: Cancel. Do not format the drive.



Start automatically every time

Option 2: put the USB first in BIOS/UEFI

On many PCs, a saved boot order lets Ashington OS start automatically while its USB is connected. You then do not need to select it from the one-time boot menu on each startup.

1. Connect the Ashington OS USB before turning on the PC.
2. Enter BIOS/UEFI Setup using the setup key shown at startup or listed in the PC manual. This can be different from the boot-menu key on page 1.
3. Find Boot Order, Boot Priority or Boot Sequence. Move the USB or its USB/UEFI entry ahead of the internal drive or Windows Boot Manager.
4. Keep the internal boot entry available if you want Windows as a fallback. Choose Save Changes and Exit, then test a restart with the USB connected.

A saved boot preference is not a saved session. The boot order remains set until changed or reset. Downloads, browser history and other changes kept only in the temporary live session do not survive shutdown. Save files you need to a separate writable drive.

Some PCs do not offer a persistent USB-first option. Menu names vary by model. If the USB is absent or cannot boot, the PC normally tries the next enabled boot device; it may show a boot error if none is usable. To return to Windows first, put Windows Boot Manager or the internal drive back at the top.

Choose a task after Ashington OS starts

Recover Files: Copy readable files from a source opened read-only to a separate physical drive. Recovery needs storage that is present and readable.

Open Files: Load UR Viewer Web in Chromium, then select a supported local file. Internet is required; DOCX and XLSX are outside the current Viewer scope.

Browse Web: Use Firefox for streaming, web conferencing and ordinary websites. Chromium is also available for ordinary browsing.

Connect to Another PC: Prepare an eligible Windows host with RDP Host Setup, then connect over a trusted network. Matching Undo restores the host settings saved by Setup.

First browser opening: Firefox may take about two minutes to appear and Chromium about one minute on a test PC. Click once and wait. Timings vary; later openings in the same session are usually faster.

Finish safely: Save your files and wait for recovery synchronization. Click the KDE icon at the extreme lower left, then Shut Down at the bottom of the shutdown page. Wait until the PC is off before removing the USB.