

Q: What are the advantages / disadvantages of LiveCD / LiveUSB / Embedded vs. Full platform?

Q: What's the difference between the .ISO and the .IMG files I can download to install XigmaNAS?

Q: What's the difference between LiveCD / Embedded vs. Full platform?

A:

- Full platform boots and runs from hard disk, none of your RAM is used to store the OS.
- LiveCD/LiveUSB & Embedded platforms boot from disk(CD/DVD, HDD, USB or CF), then load into a RAM drive and run from RAM drive to limit read/write access on disk.

Run LiveCD/LiveUSB saving the configuration on floppy or USB

- The OS will boot and run from CD/USB and the configuration will be loaded from/saved to floppy or USB.
- **Advantages:**
 - Easy to update and maintain.
 - Changes are not saved. If by mistake you delete/modify a system file, just reboot and you get everything like before.
 - Floppies / floppy drives, Flash drives are cheap.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Slow to boot if using CD/DVD or USB 1.0.
 - Floppies / floppy drives can be unreliable.
 - The root file system will use space in your RAM.
 - The root file system will be limited to the amount of RAM it uses/gets allocated.
 - Difficult to customize. Changes are not saved.
 - NAS4Free does not officially support floppies (fdformat utility was removed)

Embedded install on USB or HDD

- The OS boot loader and a compressed XigmaNAS file system will be installed on HDD/USB/CF.
- The OS will boot from HDD/USB/CF and the compressed file system will be decompressed to RAM, and then run from RAM.
- **Advantages:**
 - Easy to update and maintain.
 - Damage resistant: Changes are not saved. If by mistake you delete/modify a system file, just reboot and you get everything like before.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - The root file system will use space in your RAM.
 - The root file system will be limited to the amount of RAM it uses/gets allocated.
 - Difficult to customize. Changes to the OS (deletions/modifications/plugin-ins/additions) are not retained.

Full install on USB/HDD/CF

- The OS is not loaded onto a RAM disk, all reading and writing is done on the hard disk or USB/CF device.
- **Advantages:**
 - Saves RAM, only necessary files will be loaded on RAM.
 - You can define the size of the root filesystem.
 - Easy to customize.
 - You can install extra packages and / or plug-ins.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - None of the listed “advantages” is actually a good thing.
 - Difficult to maintain and upgrade.
 - Any changes (deletions / modifications / plug-ins / additions) are permanent / final.
 - Easy to break the system if you make a mistake.
 - **Must make sure you have a backup of the OS partition before you try to customize.**
 - **Should be installed onto hard drive because constant reads/writes will shorten the useful life of USB flash / CF cards.**

Upgrades to LiveCD/LiveUSB

- Read latest upgrade notes before upgrading.
- **Advantages:**
 - Easy to upgrade. Create new CD or USB and replace old one.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - You must have physical access to the system.

Upgrades to Embedded

- Read latest upgrade notes before upgrading.
- **Advantages:**
 - Easy to upgrade via “System|Firmware” option in WebGUI
 - Physical access to the system not required.
 - Very easy and fast to upgrade and keeping the system updated.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Non

Upgrades to Full install

- Read latest upgrade notes before upgrading.
- **Advantages:**
 - None
- **Disadvantages:**

- You can upgrade a previous **full version only**.
- You must have a cd-rom or extra USB port on the system.
- You must have physical access to the system.

Reference: [Full install vs. Embedded Install? Full install on USB?](#)

Basic | Install & Upgrade | ⇒ All Versions

From:

<https://www.xigmanas.com/wiki/> - **XigmaNAS**

Permanent link:

<https://www.xigmanas.com/wiki/doku.php?id=faq:0075>

Last update: **2018/08/10 22:01**

