



Foxclone User Guide



To navigate round the guide:

- Any item in the contents can be clicked to go to that item.
- At the top of every page is a link that will go to the contents list.
- Any items [highlighted](#) will go to the item, e.g. this will go to the [contents list](#).



Contents

Contents	2
What is it?	4
How should it be used?	5
Installation	6
Linux	6
Multi-boot USB.....	7
Windows.....	8
Boot	9
The desktop.....	11
Foxclone	12
Backup.....	13
What's in a backup?	18
Deleting backup files	19
Restore	20
Clone	23
Clone drive to drive	24
Clone File to Drive	26
Verify	28
Settings	30
What else is in the iso?	32
Accessories	32
Fox guide	32
File manager	32
Image viewer	33
PDF reader	33
Screenshot.....	33
Text editor	34
Timezone	34
Internet.....	35
Pale Moon	35
System tools	36
Disks	36
Disk Usage Analyser.....	37
File recovery	38
Gparted	38
GSmartControl.....	38
Hardware Info.....	39
Terminal	40
TestDisk	40
Preferences	41
Display	41
Connecting to a network	42



Preparing and formatting drives	43
Formatting a drive with Disks.....	43
Formatting a drive with gparted	46
Re-sizing/adding partitions with gparted.....	48
Partition tables	50
MBR partition tables	50
GPT partition tables.....	52
Bootloaders and boot modes.....	53
Known issues	55
Troubleshooting	56
Take a screenshot.....	56
Enable logging	56
To contact us	57
How does it work?	58
Version History	59
The legal stuff.....	62



What is it?

1. Foxclone is a Linux based image backup, restore and clone tool using a simple point and click interface. It takes images of the partitions on your hard drive (HDD) or solid-state drive (SSD) and stores them for later restoration. Image files can optionally be compressed to save space. Foxclone is a front end for the Linux terminal utility [partclone](#).

Backup and restore:

- GPT and MBR/legacy/MSDOS partition tables.
- FAT32, NTFS and ext4 partitions.
- Unknown partition types*.
- Encrypted partitions*.

Clone:

- Direct drive to drive.
- To drive from a full backup.
- From a larger drive to a smaller drive**.

Limitations:

- 64 bit systems only.
- Local drives only
- RAID – no.
- LVM – no.
- Mac filesystems – no.
- English only.

* e.g. the MS reserved partition in a windows 10 installation or a LUKS encrypted partition. foxclone does a byte-by-byte copy of the whole partition as it is unable to determine the used blocks. So, dependent on the size of the partition, it can take a long time

** as long as the total size of partitions on the source drive is less than the size of the new drive and all the unallocated space is at the end of the drive.





How should it be used?

2. It cannot be stressed strongly enough – a partition backup utility such as foxclone or clonezilla or any other image backup tool **should not** be used as your **only** backup tool.
3. A partition backup utility is there for disaster recovery:
 - A failed or failing drive.
 - An operating system borked (usually by the user) to the extent that it will no longer boot.
4. It should not be used as a daily backup tool, why?
 - It is a manual process, you cannot automate it, at some point you will forget to do it.
 - It is slow, you have to backup up **complete** partitions. There is no incremental or differential backup to speed things up.
 - It doesn't understand files and folders, just partitions. Mess up a few files, you have to restore the **entire** partition probably overwriting newer files that were perfectly okay, potentially leaving you worse off.

Problem dependent, it can be a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

5. An image backup tool, such as foxclone, should be used in conjunction with a file level backup tool(s). There are plenty of excellent Linux file backup utilities, [timeshift](#), [backintime](#), [luckybackup](#) to name just three. These:
 - Are installed in your running system. You do not have to boot a separate operating system, e.g. from a USB stick. More convenient.
 - Can be automated to run daily or at whatever frequency you want.
 - Are incremental – they only backup files that are new or changed – so quick.
 - Allow you to restore individual files – just the ones you broke!

Use file level backup as your first line of defence.
Use image backup as your last line of defence.

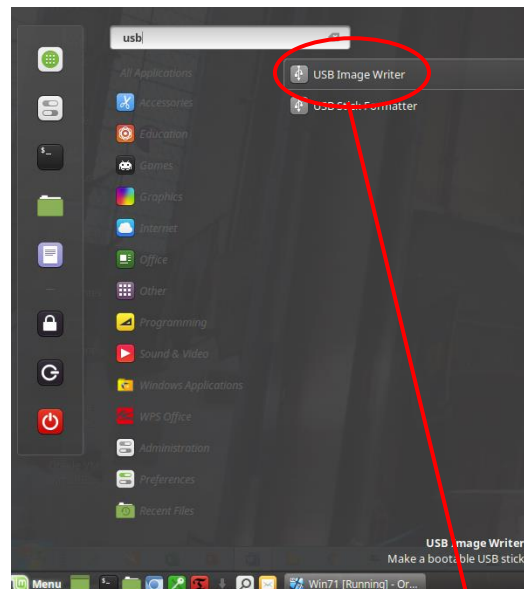


Installation

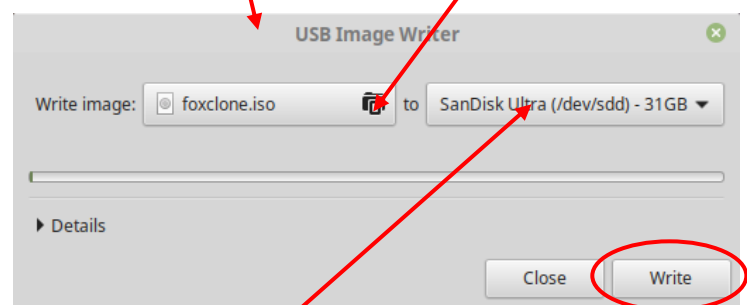
- Download the iso and burn to either a USB stick or CD.

Linux

- If burning to a USB stick use the [USB Image Writer](#) that comes with your distribution. The example is based on Linux Mint.



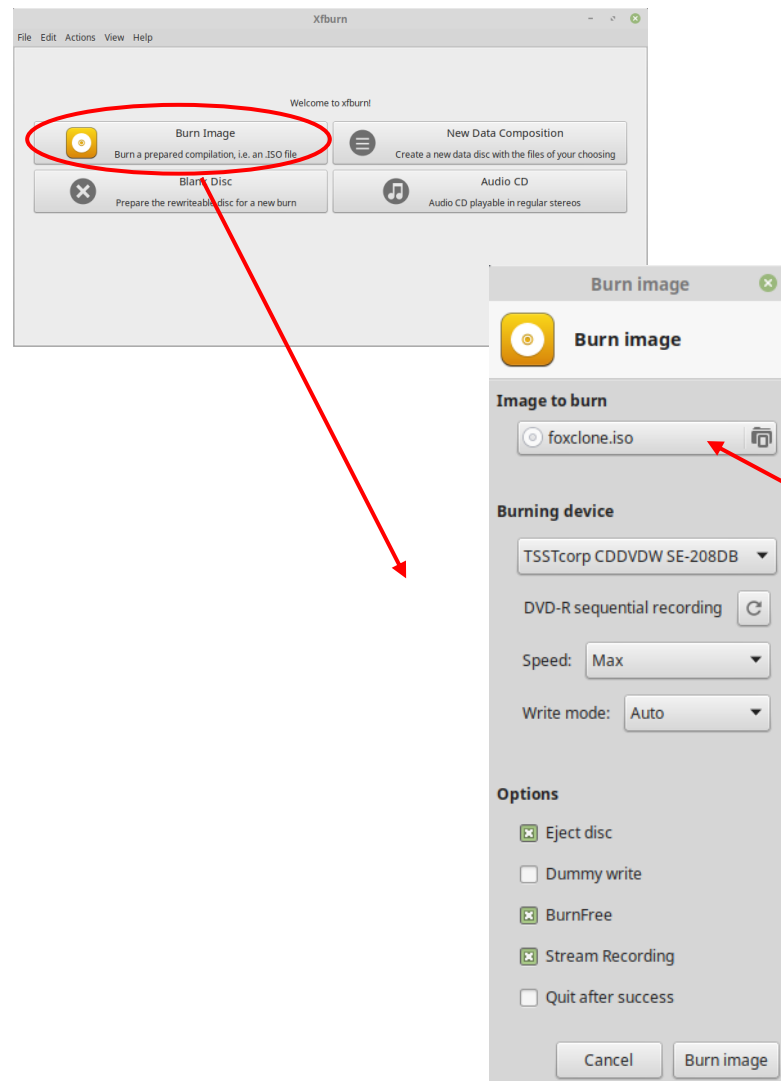
Click to navigate to the download location



Click to select the device – if it doesn't appear, unplug and plug it in again



8. If burning to a CD, there are many Linux utilities, [xfburn](#) is one of the simplest. Install from your software manager/centre if not installed.



Click to navigate to the download location

Multi-boot USB

9. Examples include Ventoy, Pendrive and UNnetbootin – follow the vendor's instructions. Note, when using one of these solutions, foxclone may give warning/error messages as it reads your system. These should not interfere with normal use of foxclone.



Windows

10. There are a number of windows tools available. The example uses rufus, which can be downloaded from <https://rufus.ie/>. The download is a single executable.

Click to select USB stick

Click to browse to the foxclone iso file

Select Write in DD Image

Download required

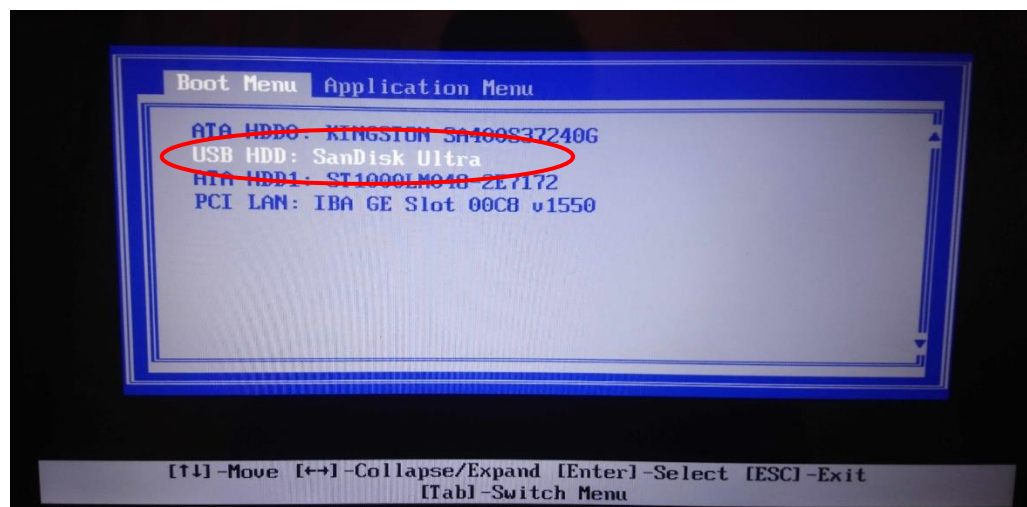
mode. If ISO image mode is selected it is likely that when you boot the usb stick you will end up at the Grub> prompt!

11. The iso can be burnt to CD using windows built in CD writing utilities.



Boot

12. At the manufacturer's splash screen, press the key to get into the boot menu¹. This key varies across PCs, as an example for a Lenovo Thinkpad it is **F12**, on my desktop it is **F11**. Consult your user manual to find out what the key is or google. **Do not confuse the boot menu with the boot priority order settings in BIOS.** The boot menu is a **one time** selection for the device to use to boot the PC. It overrides the normal boot priority order. The next time you boot, the PC will revert to the normal boot order. Virtually all BIOSes support this feature, they just do it differently.
13. The example shows the boot menu for a Thinkpad T430.

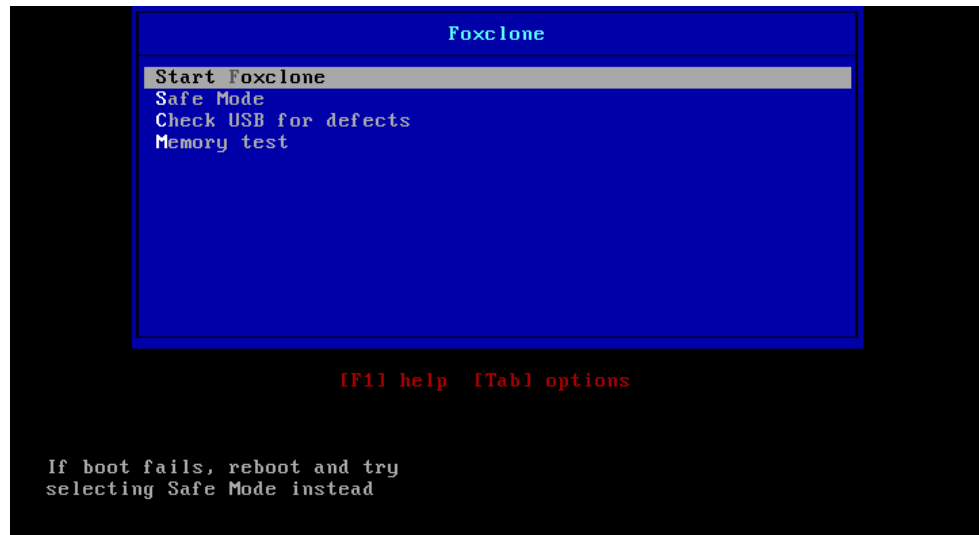


14. If the USB stick (or CD) does not appear in the menu and/or it won't boot:
 - **UEFI and legacy boot.** If foxclone will not boot in UEFI mode, make sure that secure boot is disabled in BIOS. Still no joy – try enabling CSM (compatibility support mode) if that is an option. There may also be other settings for USB boot. No further guidance can be offered – all BIOSes are different.
 - The iso is a minimal 64 bit ubuntu installation running a 5.4 kernel. **This may not boot on some older hardware.**
15. If the USB stick boots, then fails to load – have you got multiple USB drives plugged in? If so, remove all USB drives except for the foxclone USB stick and reboot. When the foxclone USB has booted, **then** plug in the other USB drives **before** running foxclone.

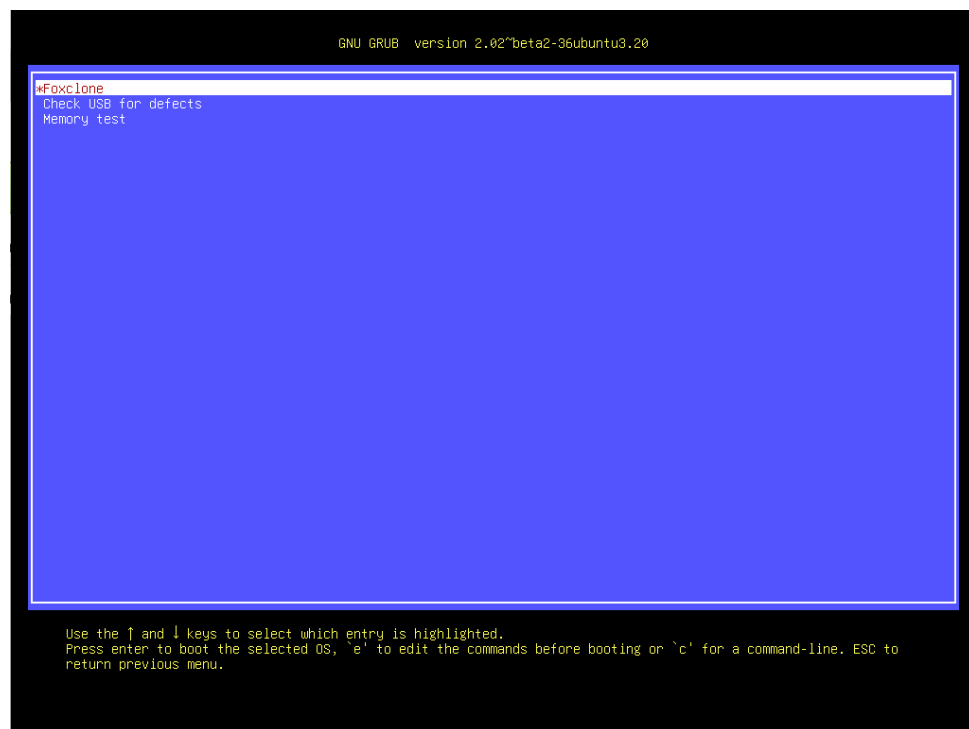
¹ Trouble with BIOS recognising the Fn key on boot? If using a wireless keyboard, try with a wired keyboard.



16. Still not booting, if failing to boot from a USB stick, try:
 - Plugging the USB stick into a USB2.0 port not USB3.x. If that fails...
 - Burn the foxclone iso to CD and boot from that.
17. If booting in legacy mode you will be presented with the isolinux start screen. It will automatically boot into foxclone.

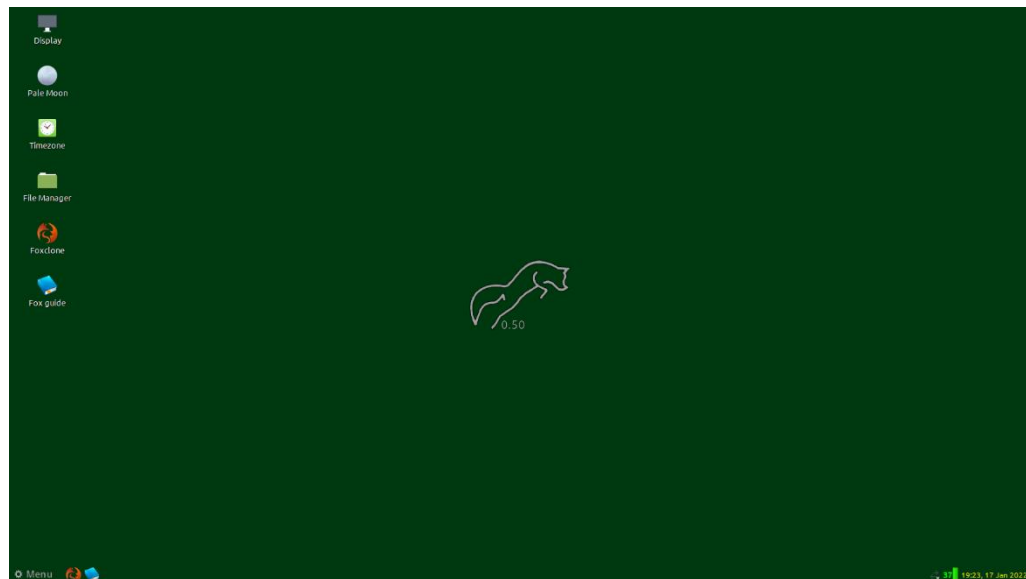


18. If booting in UEFI mode you will get grub. You need to press ENTER to boot foxclone.





The desktop



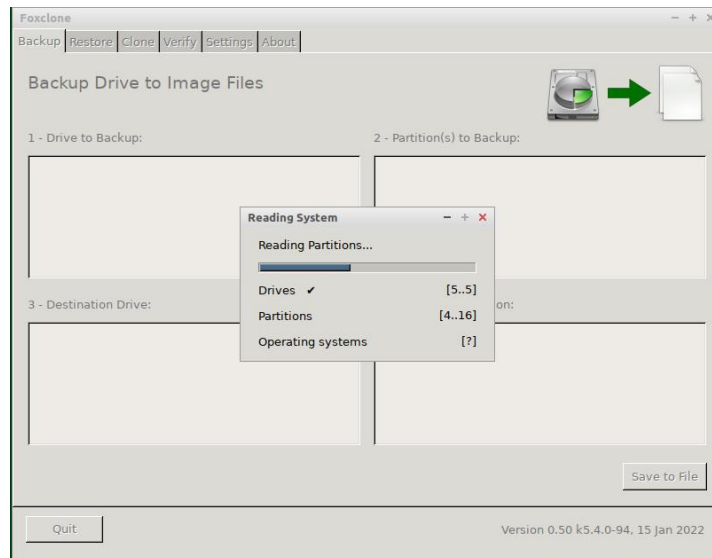
19. **Double click** on any of the launchers on the desktop to start:
 - Display – foxclone should boot into the native resolution for your PC, if not use this to change display resolution.
 - Pale Moon – the web browser for access to the foxclone website.
 - Timezone – if the time displayed in the panel is incorrect, use this to set your timezone (foxclone date/timestamps its backups). Note, it can take a couple of minutes after changing the time zone for it to register in the panel.
 - The File Manager – for access to the files on your system or the network.
 - Foxclone.
 - The User Guide – this document.
20. Bottom left on the panel is the main menu, described further [here](#), with launchers for foxclone & the user guide. These can be activated with a **single click**.
21. Bottom right are icons displaying:
 - Network status – see [here](#) for connecting to a network.
 - CPU temperature² in °C.
 - Battery status – if present.
 - Time/date (see Timezone above).

² Foxclone places a heavy load on the CPU, using all cores when backing up or restoring. Check the temperature periodically. With a laptop make sure the inlet/outlet vents are clear. The CPU should not overheat – it will be automatically throttled when the temperature typically exceeds 100°C.

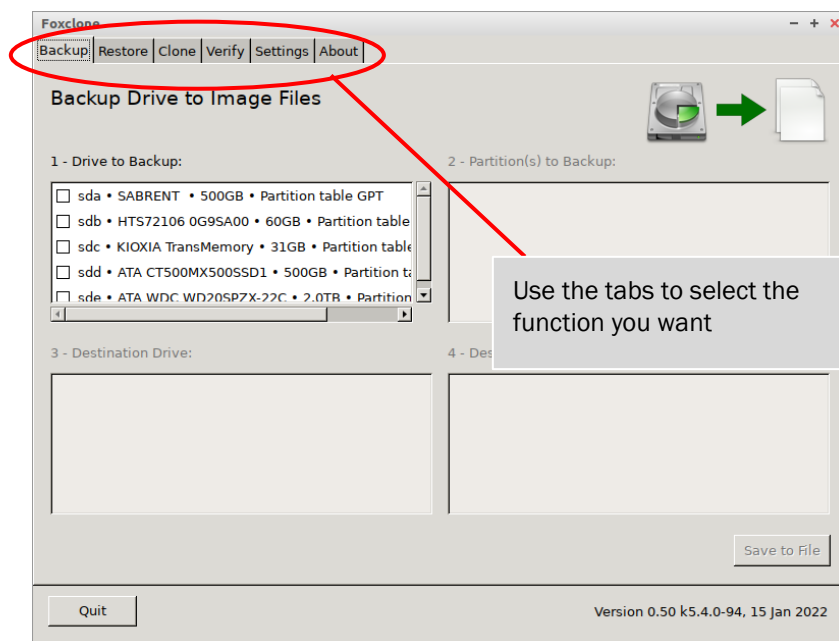


Foxclone

22. Before starting foxclone, plug in any external drives you want to use.
23. To start foxclone, **double click** on the launcher on the desktop or **single click** on the launcher in the panel, or foxclone can be found in the menu under system tools.
24. When it starts, foxclone will search the system for information on the attached drives.

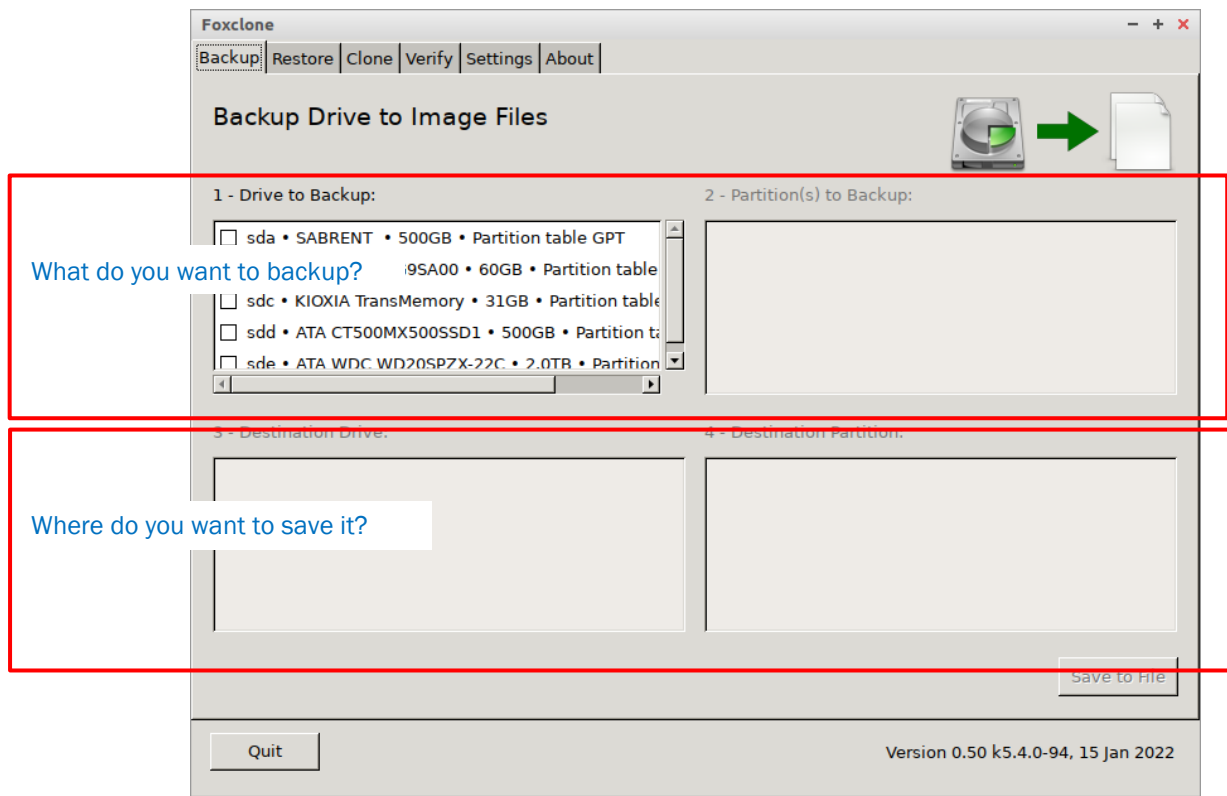


25. It will then display the main window.

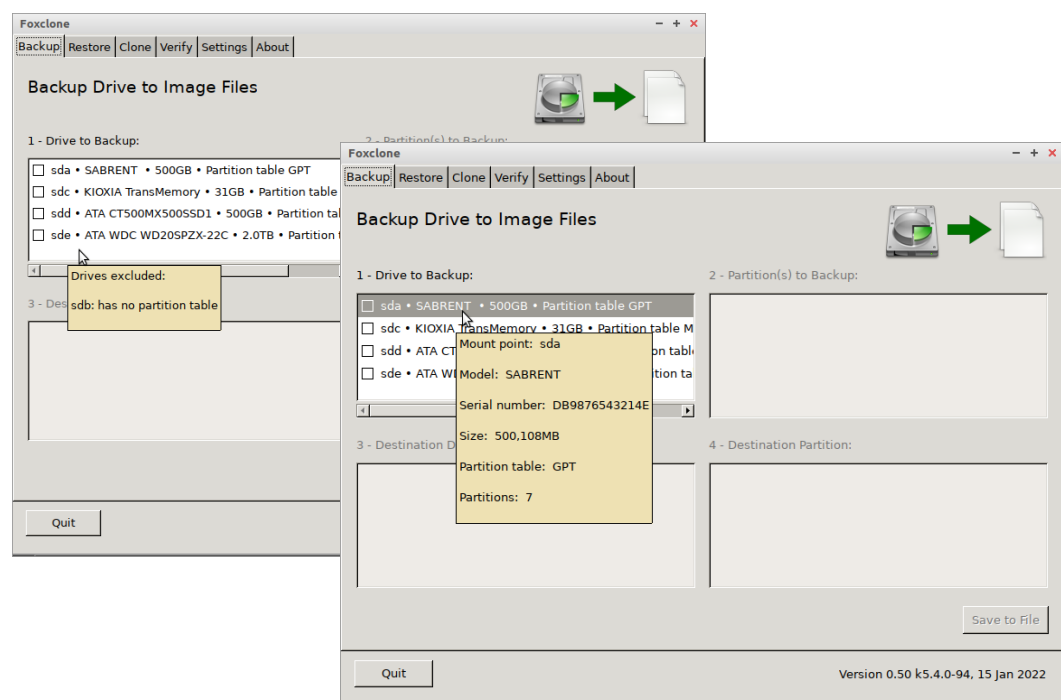




Backup

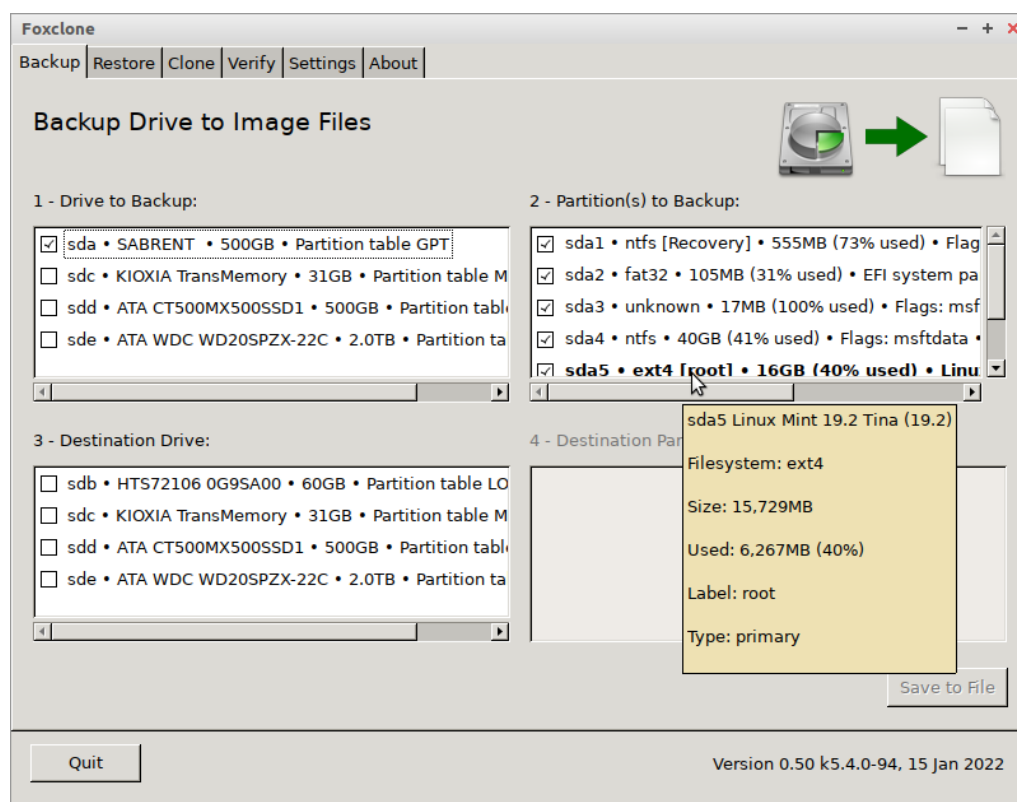


26. Basic information is shown for each drive – its name, size and partition table type. Hover over a drive and a hint will give more information. Hover in the blank space (the window is resizable) and a hint giving information on what drives have been excluded will be displayed. Note when booting with Ventoy the boot drive will be shown (you cannot backup the boot drive).





27. **Click** on the drive that you want to backup (you can only select one). Box 2 will immediately show the partitions on that drive.



28. All partitions are selected by default. If you want to select/deselect individual partition, check the 'enable partition selection' checkbox on the settings tab. Any partition with an operating system is shown in **bold**.

You cannot select

A swap partition – there is no data to backup. foxclone automatically saves the details³ on a swap partition and on a restore will recreate it.

An extended partition on a drive with a legacy partition table – an extended partition is just a special entry in the partition table that points to another partition table that contains details on the logical partitions.

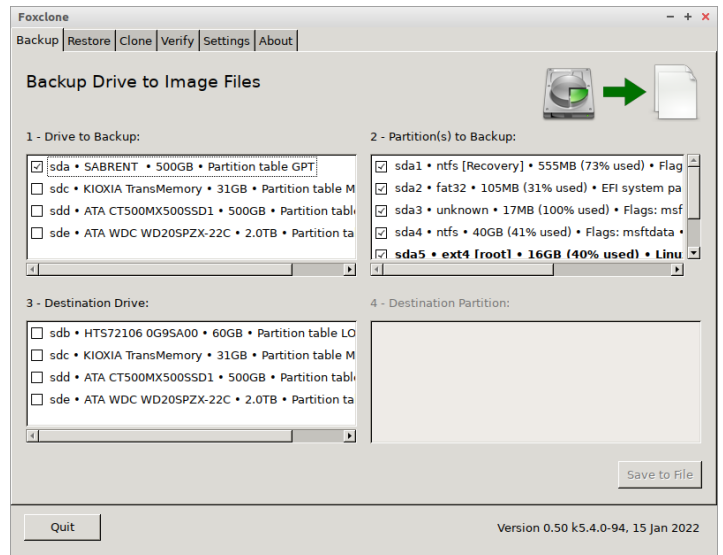
An EFI partition – this contains the bootloader and is automatically backed up.

29. Not happy – wrong drive, not the partitions you expected, just click on a different drive in box 1 and start again.
30. Box 3 is now asking for the drive where you want to save the backup.
31. **Click** on the destination drive and box 4 will show the partitions on that drive.

³ Primarily the UUID – when the swap partition is recreated it uses the same UUID so that Linux does not hang on boot for 90 seconds looking for a swap partition it can't find.



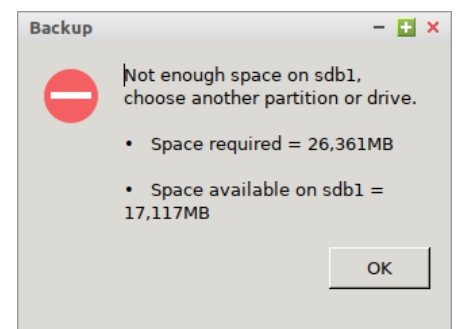
It helps to add labels to all partitions. Where there is a label, foxclone will display it in brackets []. This makes it easier to identify which partition is which.



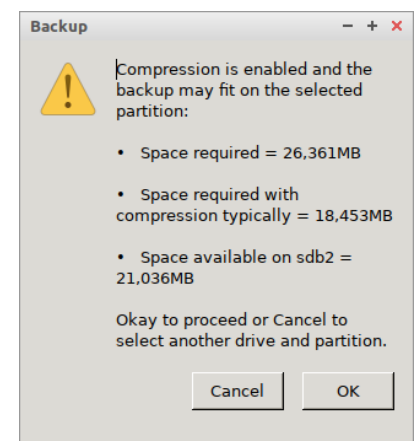
32. **Click** on the partition where you want to save the backup.
33. If there is not enough space on the selected partition, foxclone will display a warning message.

If there is not enough space an error message will be displayed. Choose another partition or another partition on another drive as the backup destination. Or...

If compression is enabled (the default), foxclone will estimate the space required. Where the compressed image size is less than the space available, the user will be given the option of proceeding or cancelling. Foxclone assumes compression will achieve a 30% reduction in image size. This is conservative.

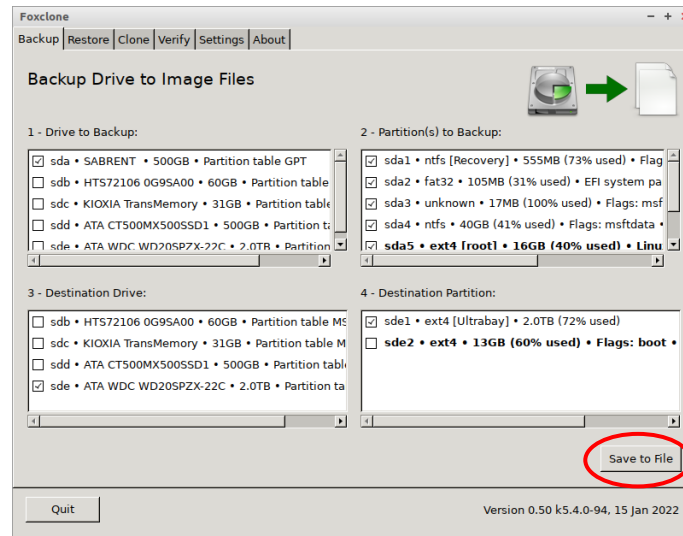


Or





34. When a partition has been selected with enough free space, the **Save to File** button is enabled.



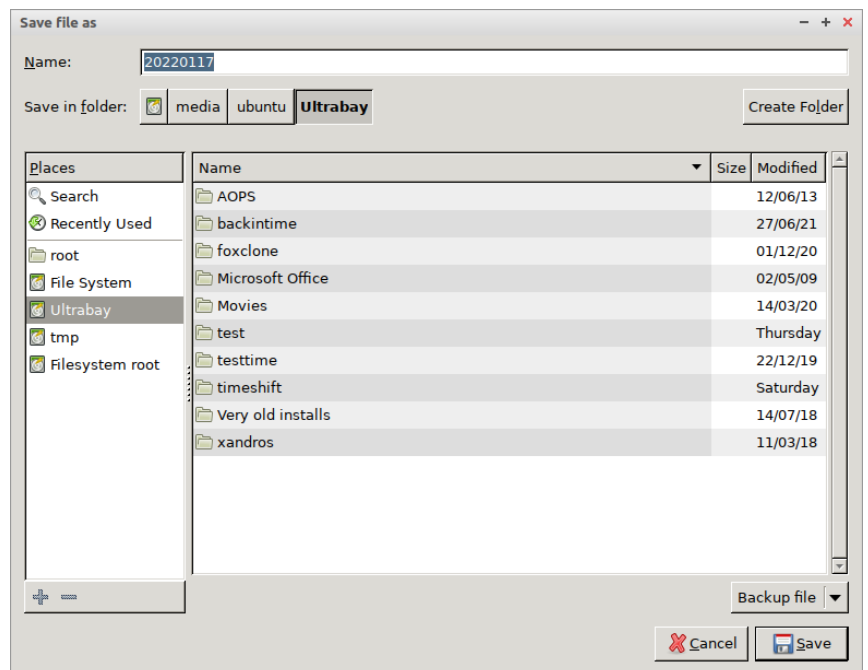
Click to choose the folder & filename for the backup.

35. This then opens up the partition you selected as the destination with the file save dialog where:



Change or accept the backup filename. The default is the current date as **YYYYMMDD**. Foxclone will append **.backup** to the filename you specify.

You can create a new folder or **double click** on an existing folder to open it up as the destination

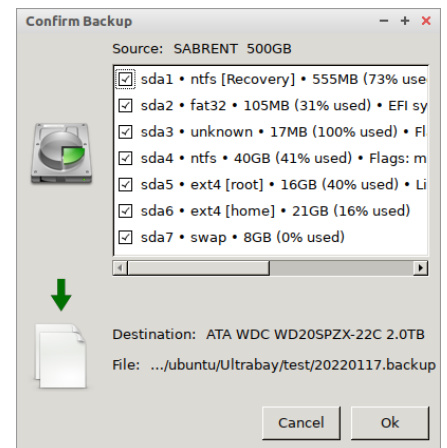


Click **Save** when finished, or cancel to go back.

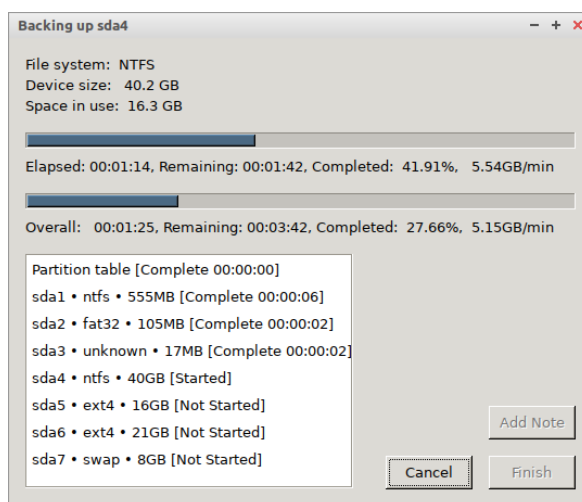


36. Foxclone will now display a confirmation window showing the partitions to be backed up and the destination folder/filename.

This is the point of no return; you are being asked to confirm the backup before starting. Click on **OK** and the backup will start.



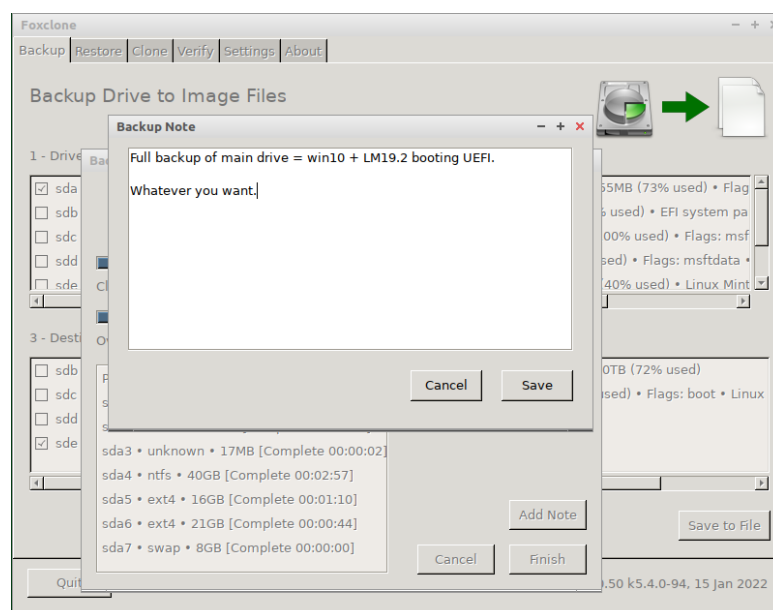
37. As the backup progresses it will display a progress window.



It provides some information on the current partition being backed up, showing progress and overall progress.

This is the only progress window that has a **cancel** button on it. Click it **once** only, it may take a few seconds to respond. You will have to manually delete any backup files that have already been created. When the backup is complete, the **Add Note** and **Finish** buttons will be enabled.

38. To add a note, click on the note button.



39. Click **Finish** to finish – backup done! Then **Quit** on the main window and shutdown from the main menu.



What's in a backup?

40. The screenshot shows the contents of a backup folder. All the filenames start with `20191126 full`. This was the name specified in the backup.

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
20191126 full.backup	911 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:47:17 GMT
20191126 full.grub	1.0 MB	Binary	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:43 GMT
20191126 full.note.txt	110 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:53:43 GMT
20191126 full.sda1.img.gz	390.6 MB	Archive	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:51 GMT
20191126 full.sda1-log.txt	505 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:51 GMT
20191126 full.sda2.img.gz	15.3 MB	Archive	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:53 GMT
20191126 full.sda2-log.txt	506 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:53 GMT
20191126 full.sda3.img.gz	5.7 MB	Archive	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:55 GMT
20191126 full.sda3-log.txt	461 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:55 GMT
20191126 full.sda4.img.gz	5.7 GB	Archive	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:41:55 GMT
20191126 full.sda4-log.txt	513 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:41:55 GMT
20191126 full.sda5.img.gz	6.0 GB	Archive	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:44:16 GMT
20191126 full.sda5-log.txt	513 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:44:15 GMT
20191126 full.sda6.img.gz	3.3 GB	Archive	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:45:52 GMT
20191126 full.sda6-log.txt	512 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:45:52 GMT
20191126 full.sda8.img.gz	2.5 GB	Archive	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:47:17 GMT
20191126 full.sda8-log.txt	513 bytes	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:47:16 GMT
20191126 full.sfdisk	1.4 kB	Text	Tue 26 Nov 2019 11:38:42 GMT

41. The `*.backup` file is a text file created by foxclone describing the backup. It is read by foxclone when a restore is done.

42. The `*.grub` is a copy of the first MB of the drive. On a drive with a legacy partition table this is needed to copy `grub` – the bootloader⁴. This will not be present in the backup of a UEFI system.

43. The `*.note.txt` file is a text file containing the notes made during a backup. If no notes were made

there will be no file.

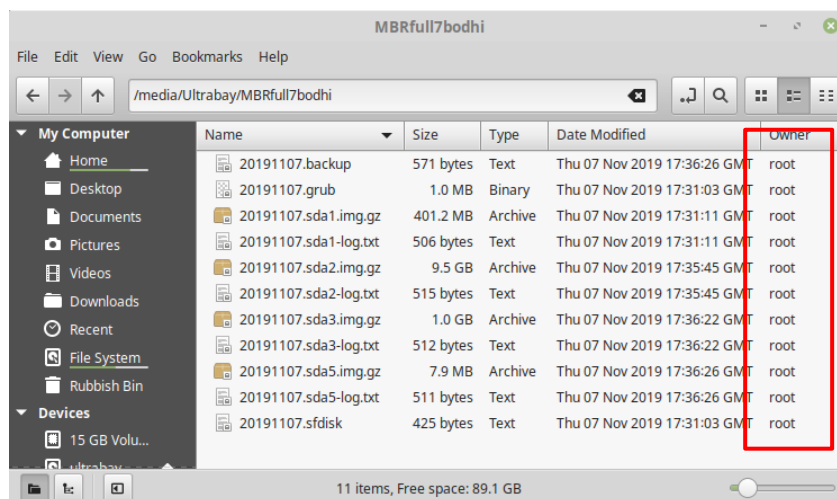
44. This is then followed by pairs of files for each partition backed up. The `*-log.txt` files are log files created by foxclone when doing the backup. They are for information and serve no other purpose.
45. The `*.img` files are the backup image files for each partition that was backed up. The end of the filename varies depending on the settings. If the filename ends:
- `*.img` – then this is an uncompressed image file.
 - `*.img.gz` – this is a compressed image file.
 - `*.img.000` or `*.img.gz.000` – this file is part of an image set for the specified partition where the image has been split across several files. The next file in the set will be `001` and so on.
46. Finally, the `*.sfdisk` file is a text file created by `sfdisk` describing the partition table. It is used by `sfdisk` to recreate the partition table when doing a restore.

⁴ The first stage bootloader lives in the first 512 bytes on the drive. On a legacy install the second stage bootloader 'hides' in the space between the end of the partition table and the start of the first partition (usually at 1MB). This is not required on a GPT format drive booting in UEFI mode.

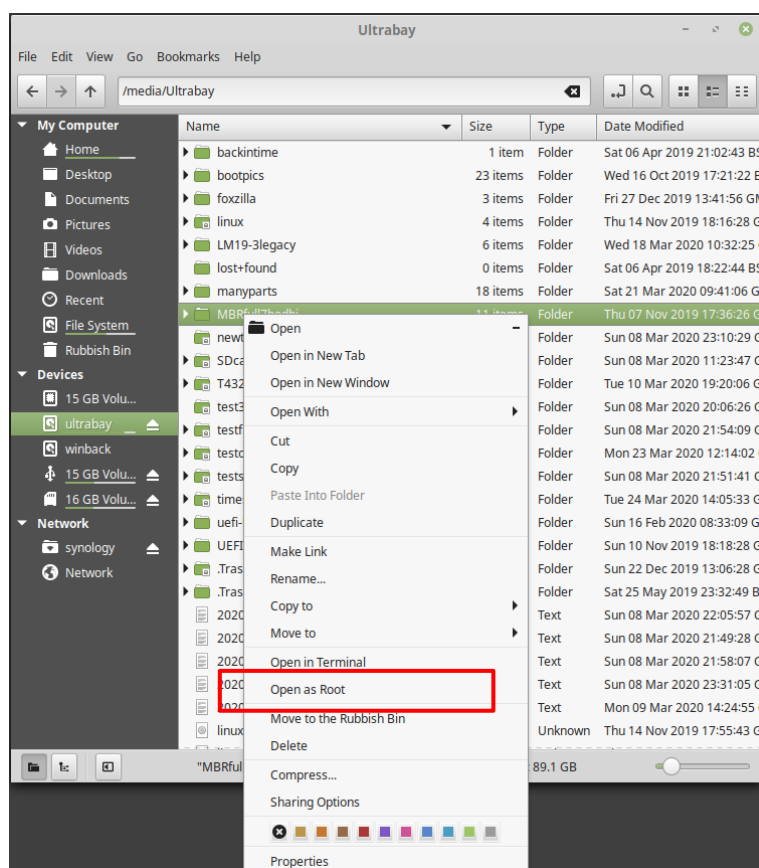


Deleting backup files

47. At some point you will fill up the backup drive and want to delete old backups. The backup files are owned by root, so you can't delete them as an ordinary user.



48. In your file manager, navigate to the folder containing the backup and right click on it, in the example `MBRfull7bodhi`, and 'open as root'. You will then be able to delete the backup files.

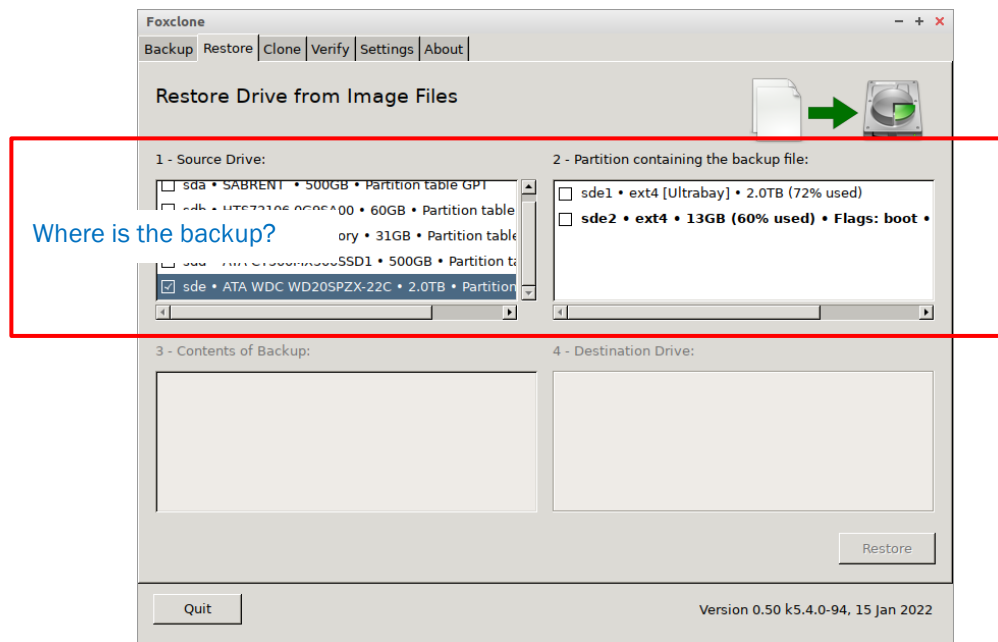




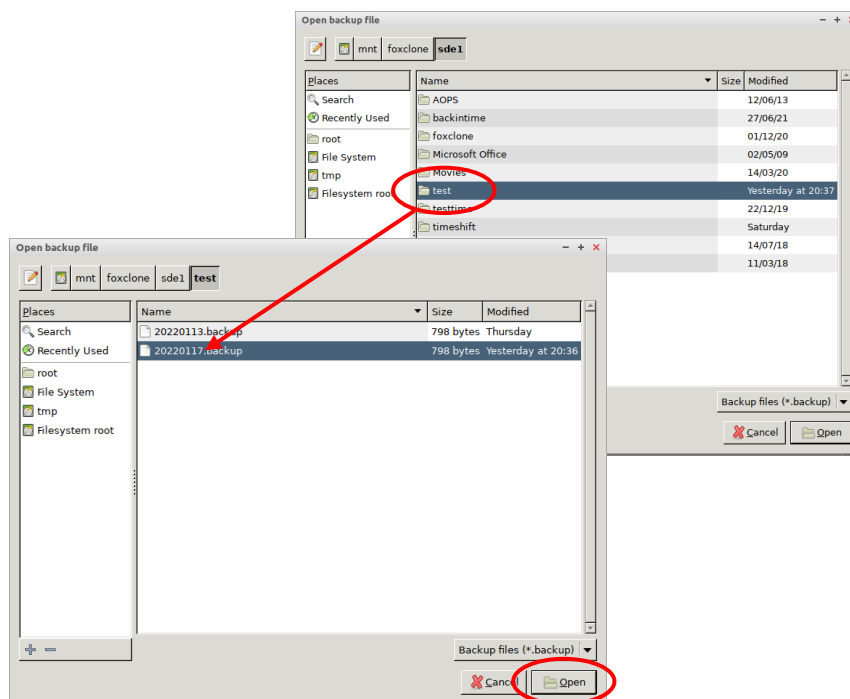
Restore

Restore will **only** restore to the drive the backup was taken from. If you want to restore a full backup to a different drive use [Clone file to drive](#). Note – backups taken using earlier versions may incorrectly identify the drive to restore if there are two **identical** drives in the system, see [version history](#).

49. Box 1 lists all the drives found on the system, select the drive containing the backup. Box 2 will be immediately populated with the partitions on the drive.

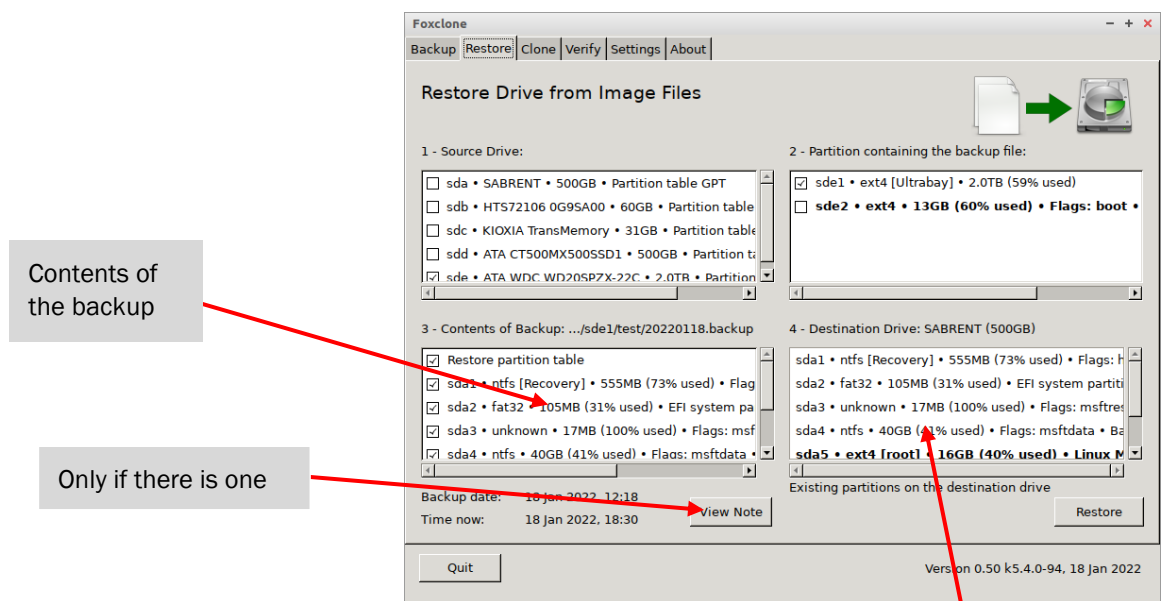


50. As soon as you click on a partition in box 2, the file open window will appear showing the contents of that partition.



Navigate to the backup file and **double click** on it or click the **Open** button.

This will open the backup file, read the content and populate boxes 3 and 4 on the main window.



Box 3 shows the partitions in the backup and box 4 shows the **current** partitions on the destination drive.

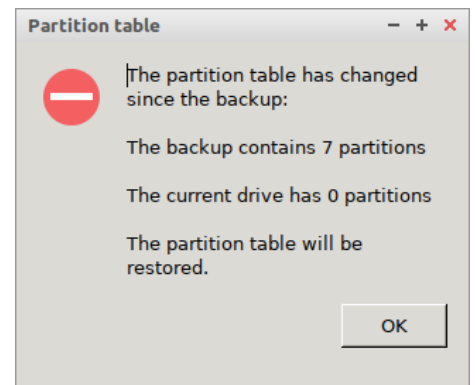
Current content on the destination drive

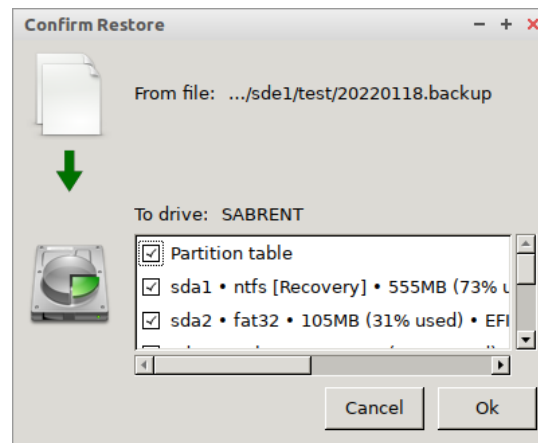
You can **only** restore to the drive that you took the backup from. If you want to restore to a different drive use [clone](#).

51. All the partitions are automatically selected, if you want to change this, first check 'Enable partition selection' on the Settings tab. Then individual partitions can be selected/de-selected for restore.

If you try to de-select 'restore partition table' and get this warning, you should restore **all** partitions (and hope that the backup is a full backup).

52. Foxclone gives the user the choice on what partitions to backup and what to restore. With this flexibility comes the responsibility to ensure the backups held are sufficient. The first backup should **always** be a full backup. Thereafter if no changes are made to the partition sizes or positions, a backup of an individual partition may be sufficient. For example, a later backup of a `/home` partition because that is likely to see more change than the `/` partition – hence keep a more up-to-date copy. **But, shrink, grow or move *any* partition – do a full backup beforehand.**
53. Click the **Restore** button to continue. You get a confirm window – showing what will be restored, **last chance to change your mind.**

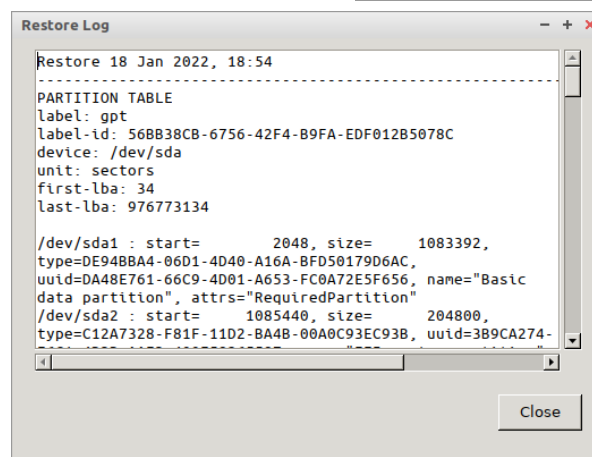
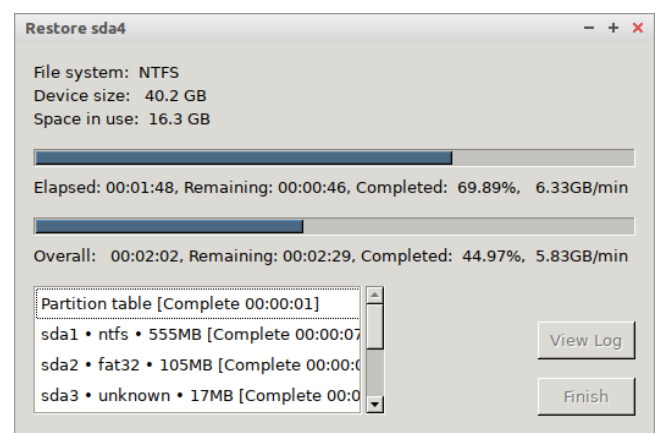




OK to continue and the restore will start.

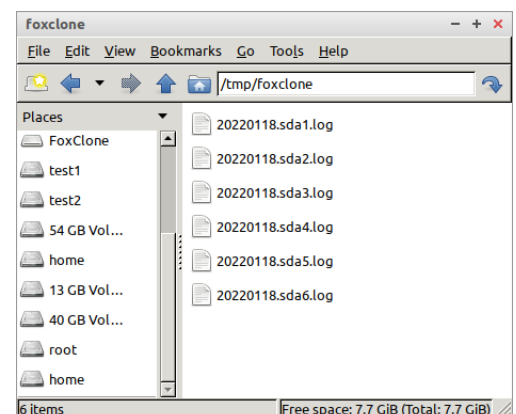
There is no cancel button on restore. To cancel a restore part way through would leave the drive in an unknown state – there would be a complete mismatch between the partition table and the partitions on the drive. It would not boot. Hence, once started, a restore **must** run to completion.

A progress window is displayed. Finish and View Log are enabled on completion.



Clicking on View Log will display a log showing the partition table details and then the output from partclone for each partition restored.

54. View Log displays the log files in /tmp/foxclone. If you want a permanent copy then copy these files to a location on your existing drives using the file manager.
55. Click Finish to close the window, foxclone will reread the drives before enabling the main window. Then Quit on the main window to exit foxclone

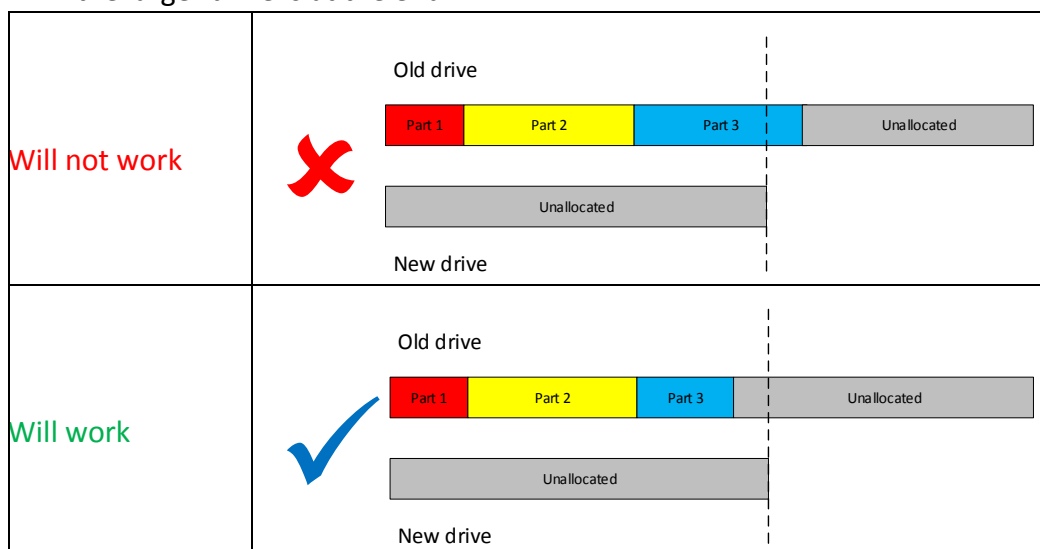




Clone

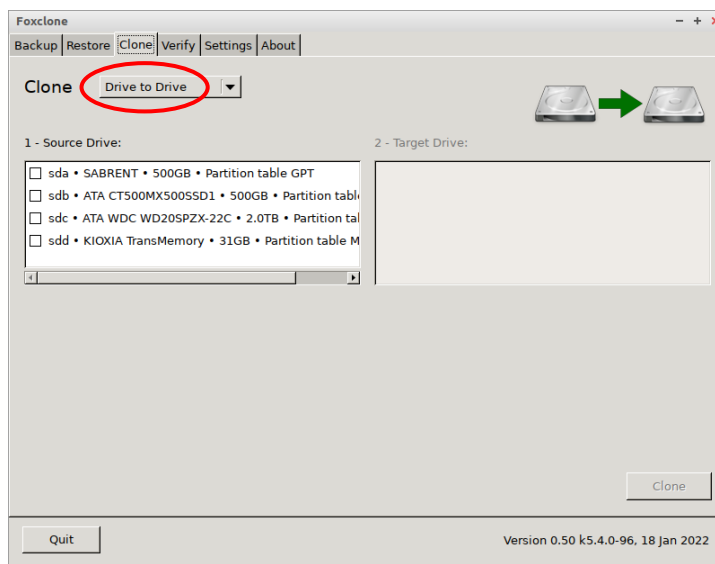
56. Use clone to:

- Change the main system drive from a smaller to larger drive.
- Replace an HDD with an SSD. You can clone from a larger drive (or backup) to a smaller drive as long as the total space used by the partitions is less than the size of the smaller drive and all the unallocated space on the larger drive is at the end.



- Replace a failed or failing system drive.

57. Clone provides two options, selectable through the drop-down on the clone window:



- Drive to drive – direct copy from one drive to another.
- From backup file to drive – using a previously created **full⁵** backup of the source drive.

⁵ It is up to the user to make sure that the backup selected is a full backup.

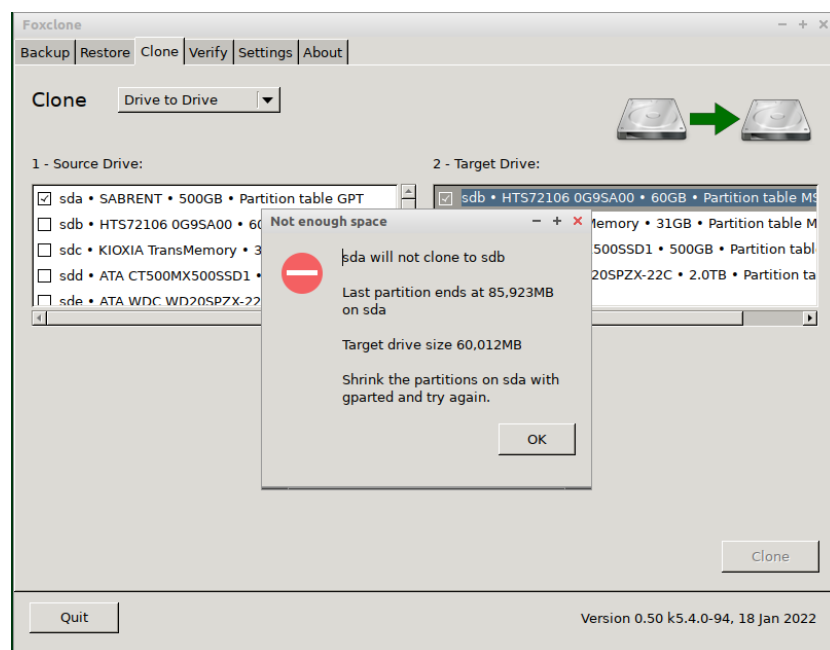


Clone drive to drive

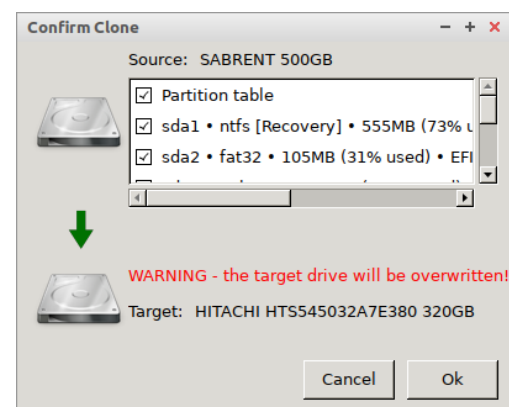
58. With a desktop this is straightforward – find a spare SATA slot on the motherboard and plug the new drive in with SATA cable. With a laptop it helps to have one of these – a SATA to USB cable, not expensive at around \$10. Connect the new drive to it and plug into a USB port.



59. **Click** on the source drive in box 1 and the destination drive in box 2, then **click Clone** to proceed. If there is not enough space on the target drive a warning message will pop up. Shrink the partitions with [gparted](#) and try again, see [here](#) for help on re-sizing partitions.



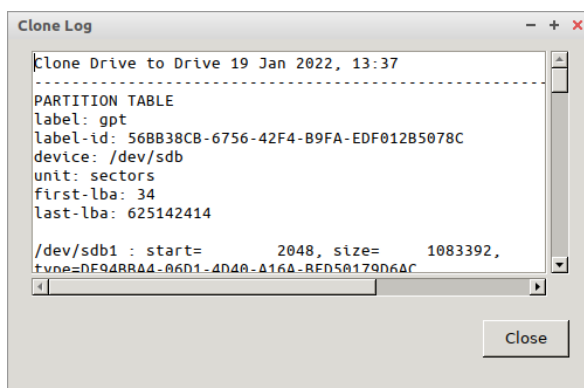
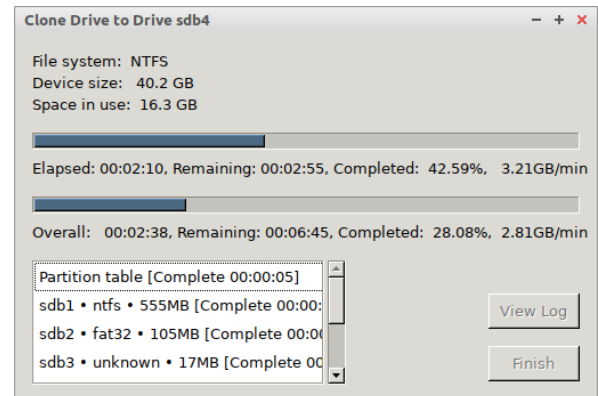
60. When the partitions on the source drive will fit on the target drive the **Clone** button will be enabled, **click** to proceed. A confirm window will open. This shows the source and target drives together with the partitions on the source drive. **This is the point of no return.**



Click **OK** to start the clone.



61. A progress window will appear, the **Finish** and **View Log** buttons are enabled on completion.



62. Clicking the **View Log** button will display the log, showing details on the partition table and each partition cloned to the new drive.

63. Clicking **Finish** will close the progress window. **Foxclone will then re-read the drive information before enabling the main window.**

64. In the main window, then click **Quit** to exit foxclone.

There is no cancel button on clone. To cancel a clone part way through would leave the clone drive in an unknown state – there would be a complete mismatch between the partition table and the partitions on the drive. It would not boot. Hence, once started, a clone **must** run to completion.

65. There are now two issues to resolve:

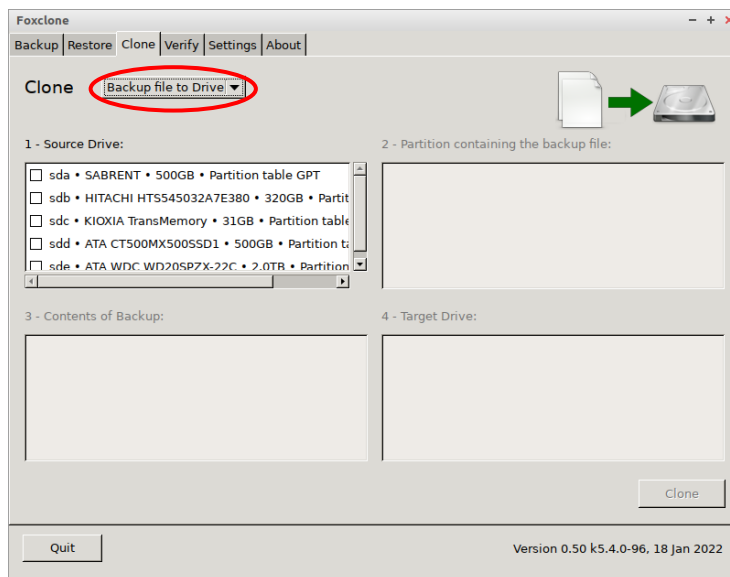
- Un-allocated space – there will be unallocated space on the cloned drive. Foxclone does not adjust the sizes of any partitions to fit the new drive. This can be done with gparted⁶, see [here](#) for help.
- Booting – there are now two **identical** drives connected to the system⁷. If the cloned drive contains an operating system, BIOS is likely to get confused about which drive to boot from and start throwing errors or boot from the source drive. **The simplest solution is to disconnect the source drive, replace it with the clone drive and reboot.**

⁶ If the clone is a boot drive with an operating system, you may want to check that it boots first before adjusting the size of any partitions.

⁷ Specifically, the partitions on the clone drive have identical UUIDs to the partitions on the source drive. When booting Linux with [grub](#) it looks for the boot partition based on the UUID of the partition. A UUID is a unique reference for every partition, e.g. ddc976e3-bc24-4b8d-9151-a72c9013d3e8.

[Return to restore](#)

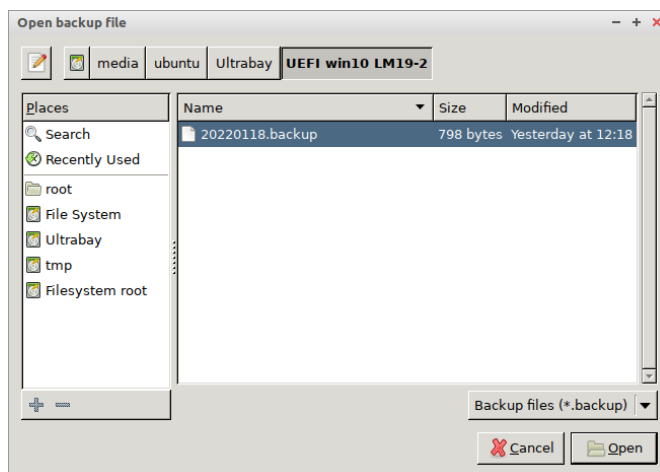
Clone File to Drive



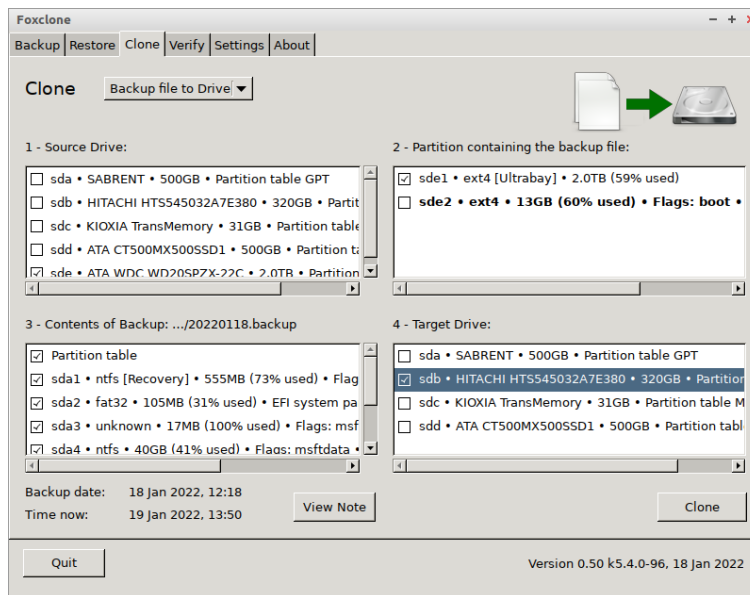
66. Starting point – you must have a **full** backup of the drive you are cloning **from**.

67. Select Backup file to Drive from the drop down. Boxes 1 and 2 are just like a restore – which drive and which partition is the backup on?

As soon as you click on a partition in box 2 it will open up the file dialog to get the backup file.



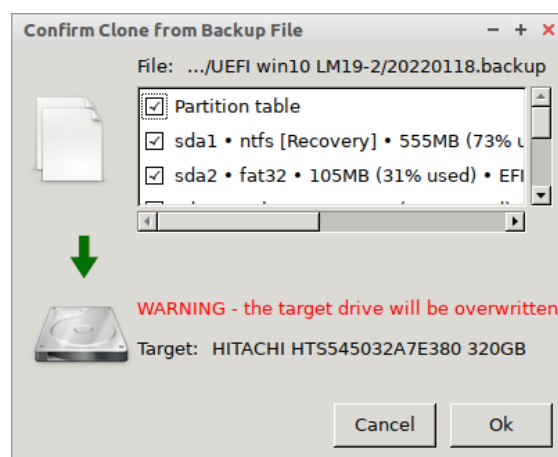
In the example shown, the backup is in a folder **UEFI win10 LM19-2** and it contains a UEF boot installation with windows 10 and Linux mint 19.2.



68. When the backup file is opened, box 3 is populated with the contents of the backup and box 4 is inviting you to select the target drive. Once the target is selected, the **Clone** button is enabled, **click** to continue.

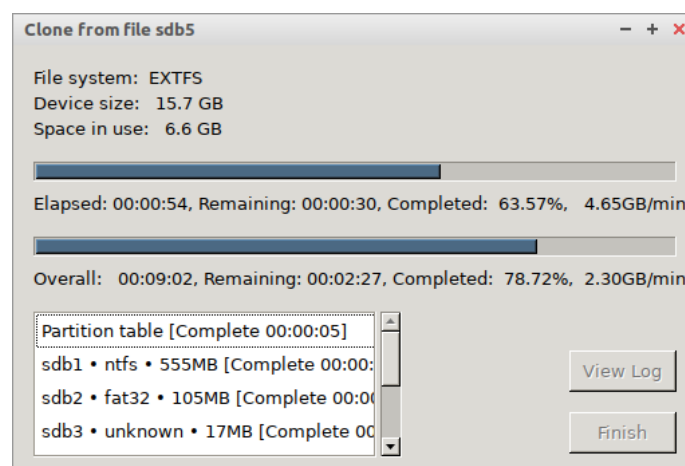
As with clone 'drive to drive', if you click on a drive and it isn't big enough you will get a warning and invitation to select a different drive.

69. A confirm window will pop up identifying the backup & its contents and the target drive. **Last chance to change your mind.**



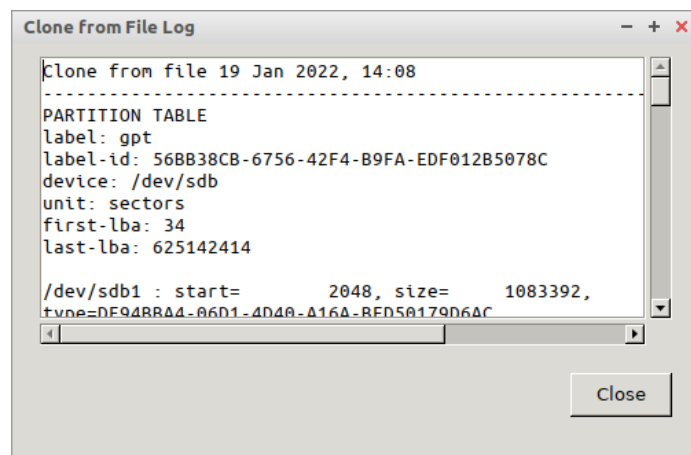
Click **OK** to start the clone.

70. A progress window will appear. The **Finish** and **View Log** buttons are enabled on completion.





Clicking on **View Log** will display a log showing what foxclone has done.

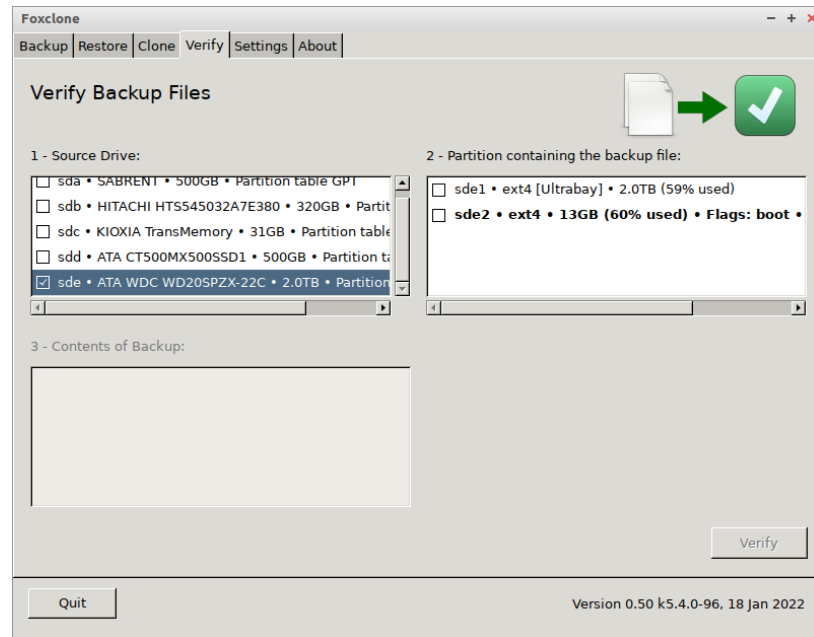


Click **Finish** to close and return to the main window. **As the system has changed, foxclone will re-read the drives and partitions.** Click **Quit** to exit foxclone.

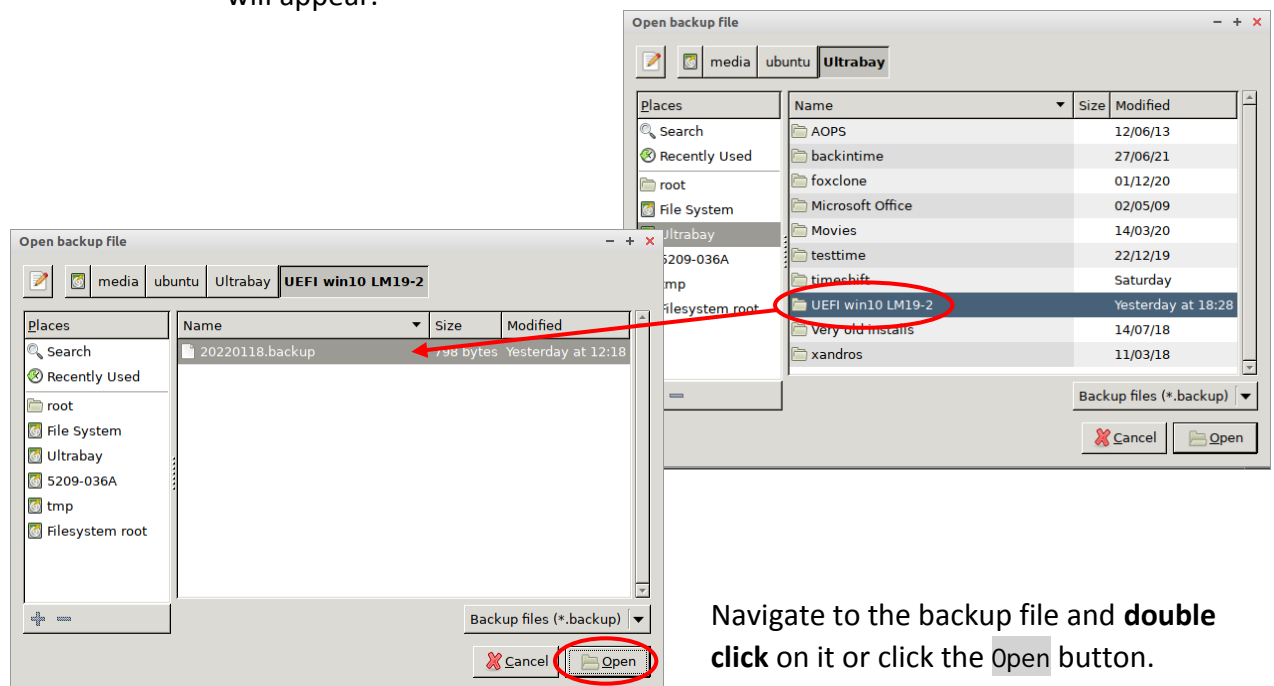


Verify

71. Verify can be used to check the integrity of backup files.



Select the drive containing the backup files and box2 will show the partitions on the drive. Select the partition containing the backup and a file open dialog will appear.

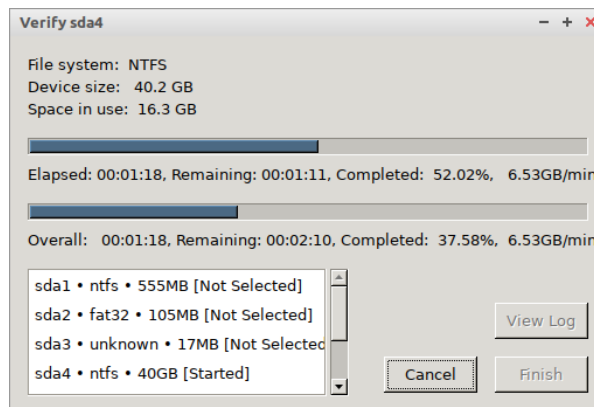
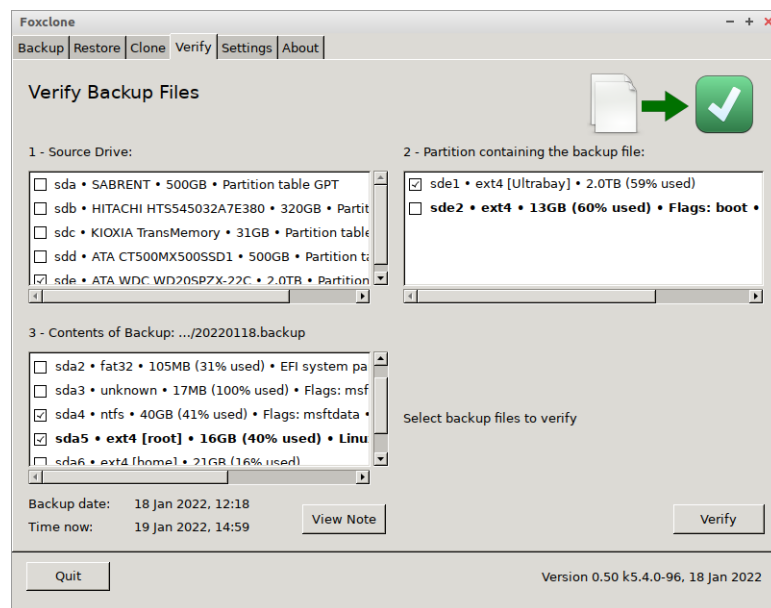


Navigate to the backup file and **double click** on it or click the **Open** button.

This will open the backup file, read the content and populate box 3 on the main window.



72. Click on the partition backup to verify⁸ and then click on the **Verify** button.

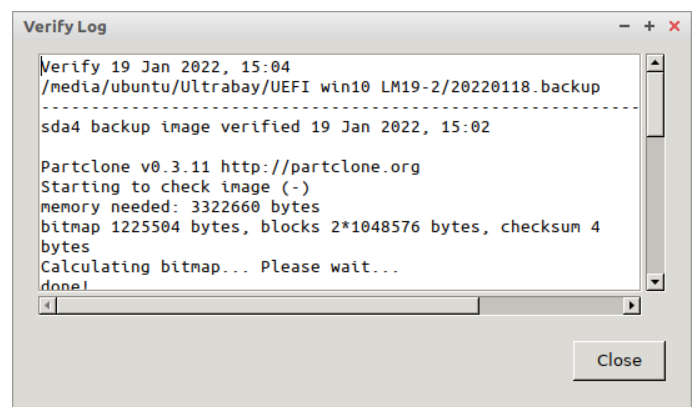


A progress window will appear. When finished the **Finish** and **View Log** buttons will be enabled.

73. The log shows the status of the verify. As each image is checked it creates a text file with the outcome and saves this file in the same folder as the backup. The format of the filename is:

`<backup filename>.<partition>.img.chk`, e.g.
`20191107.sda2.img.chk`

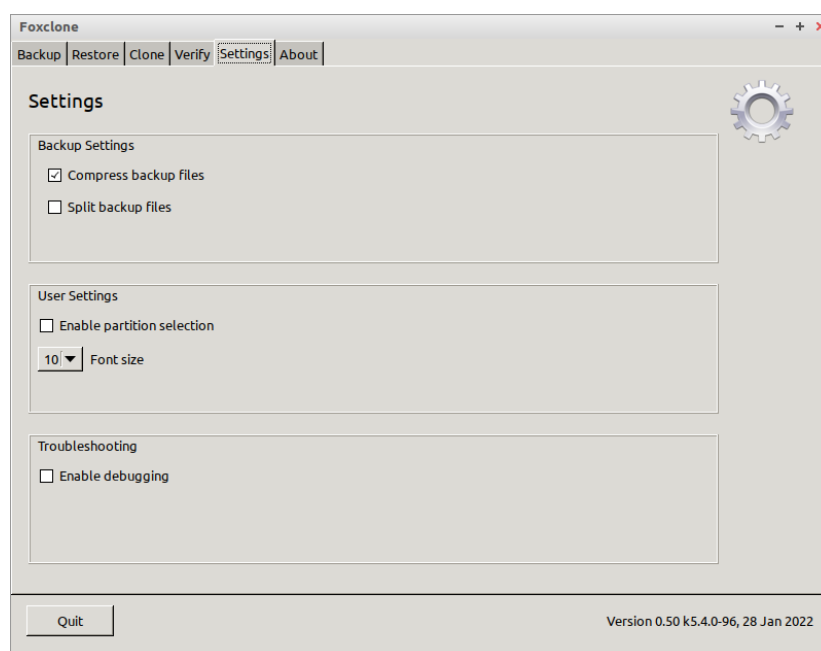
The log window shows the outcome of **all** image checks carried out. Not just the one that has just been done, but also any that have previously been verified.



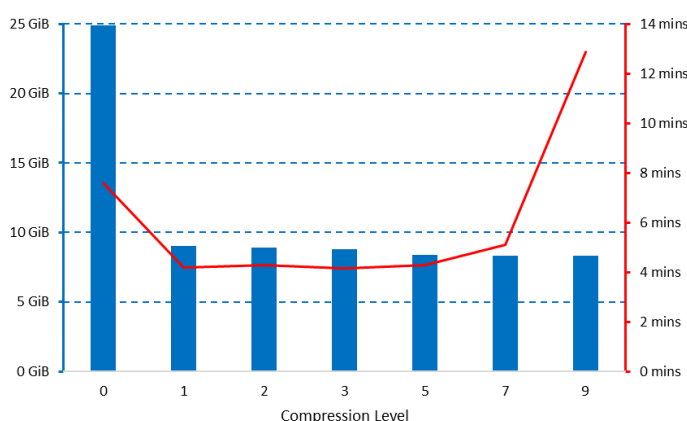
⁸ Extended, swap or partitions with unknown filesystems cannot be selected.



Settings



74. **Compression** – when selected, backup image files will be compressed and will take the form `*.img.gz`. If de-selected the image files are not compressed and take the form `*.img`. Compression will typically reduce the backup file size by 30% or more.
75. In previous versions of foxclone the level of compression was selectable. This has been removed in foxclone50. There is little to be gained by using higher compression levels. Compression is pre-set at level 1.



i7-3632QM (quad core) backing up a Linux Mint root partition from SSD to HDD (5400rpm), both ends SATA3.

Compression achieves a $\frac{2}{3}$ reduction in the image file size.

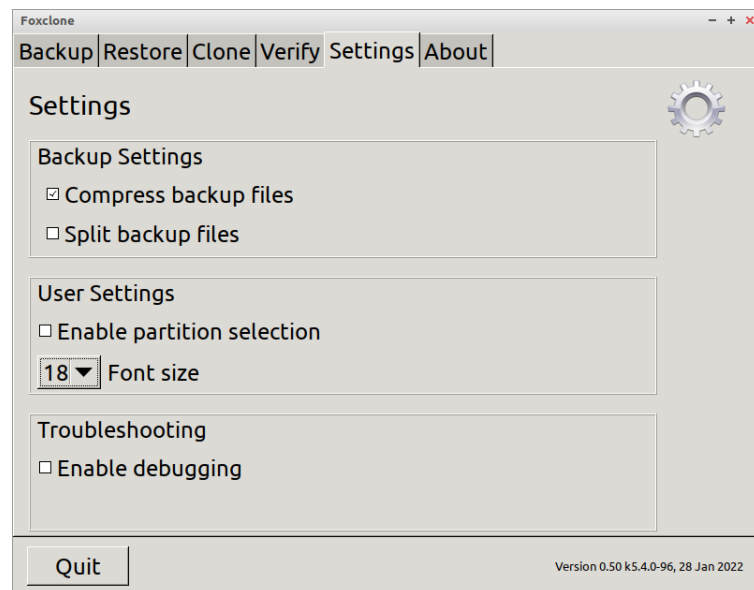
Very similar results were obtained with an external USB3 HDD (Samsung M3 portable).

76. **Split files** – unlikely to provide much benefit with modern filesystems, but included for completeness. It provides the ability to split the backup image files over several files. FAT32 has a file size limit of 4GB⁹. The file size limits on NTFS and ext4 partitions are such as to be irrelevant. If the backup destination is formatted FAT32, foxclone will automatically split the backup files.

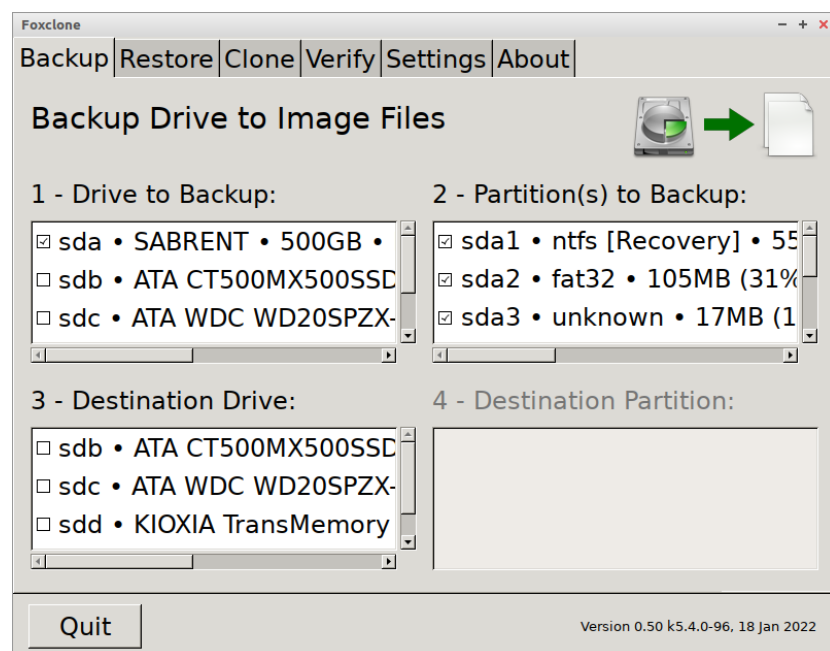
⁹ To be precise, 4GB less one byte, i.e. $(2^{32} - 1)$ bytes.



77. **Enable partition selection** – by default foxclone will select all partitions for a backup or restore. If you want to select individual partitions, enable this checkbox. Be aware that not doing a full backup or restore will cause problems if you subsequently change the partition table (by resizing, moving or deleting partitions). **A restore may not boot.** Foxclone insists on restoring the partition table if it detects that the partition table has changed since the backup.
78. **Font size** – if the default font size is too small, use this setting to increase the size to make it more readable.



You will need to increase the size of foxclone's windows to make more information visible.

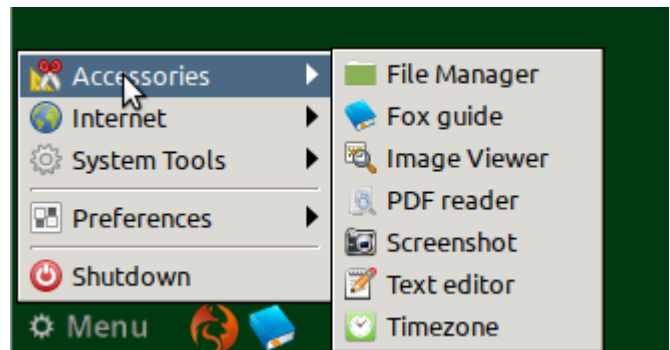




What else is in the iso?

Accessories

► [Return to desktop](#)



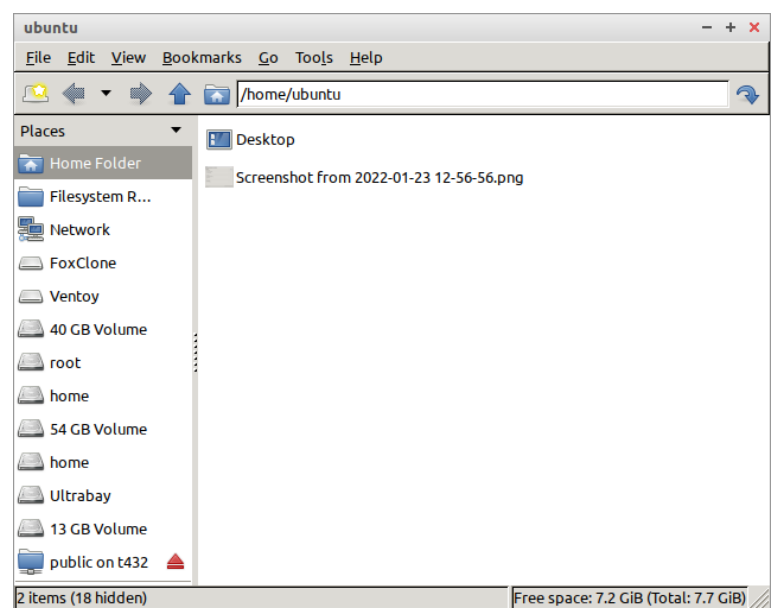
Fox guide

79. This document.

File manager

80. The file manager is pcmanfm.

If a volume showing in the Devices pane is mounted by clicking on it, it will also appear on the desktop. The contents can also be accessed by **double clicking** on the desktop icon.



81. **If any files are saved in foxclone, they will be lost when the system is rebooted.** The file manager can be used to copy any files, e.g. screenshots or error logs to your system so they are available after reboot. The panel on the left shows all the devices (partitions) in the system. **Click** on any one to open.

Note that any partition with a label will display the label name, much more useful than 61GB volume – where you have to open it to look at the contents to figure out what it is.



Image viewer

82. Use to view any pictures, e.g. screenshots. It is easier to **double click** on an image file in the file manager to view it.

PDF reader

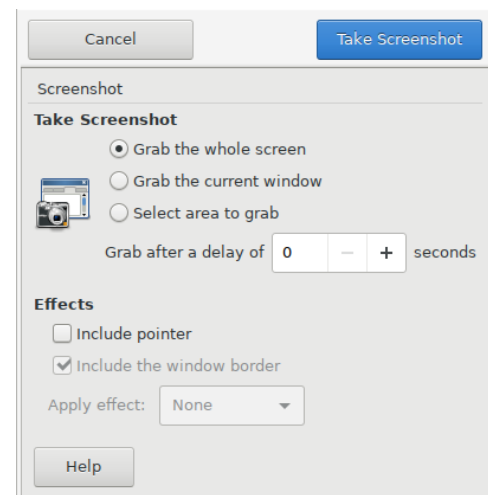
83. The pdf reader is [qpdfview](#) and is used to display this document, the user guide.

Screenshot

84. Screenshots can be taken with the keyboard shortcuts:
- **PrtScn** – will take a screenshot of the whole screen.
 - **Alt + PrtScn** – will take a screenshot of the active window. The screenshot is automatically saved into [/home/ubuntu](#).

[►Return to troubleshooting](#)

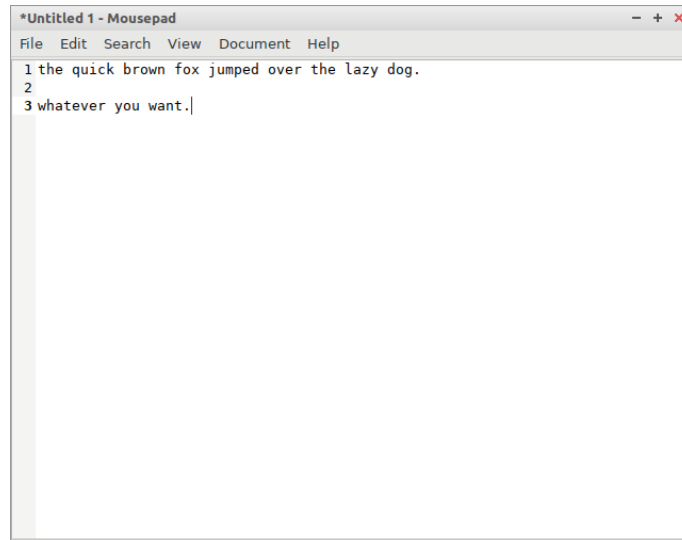
PrtScn will bring up a dialogue, **click** **Take Screenshot** and then **Save** to save a copy to [/home/ubuntu](#).





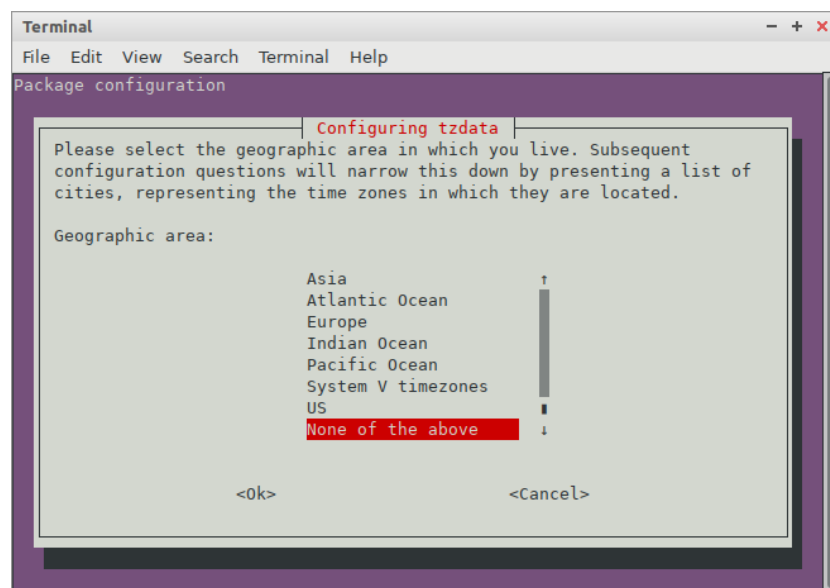
Text editor

85. The text editor is mousepad.



Timezone

86. Foxclone date/timestamps its backups. Use this if the date/time showing (panel bottom right) is incorrect. Timezone sets the timezone.

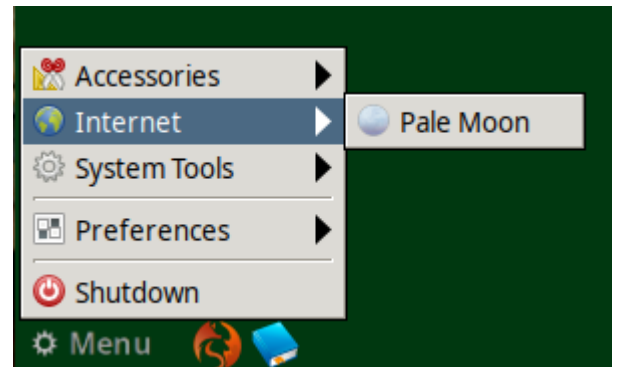


It is a terminal application, use cursor keys to navigate, the **tab** key to move from item to item, **Enter** to select.

Note – after changing the timezone it can take a couple of minutes for the time to be updated in the panel.



Internet



Pale Moon

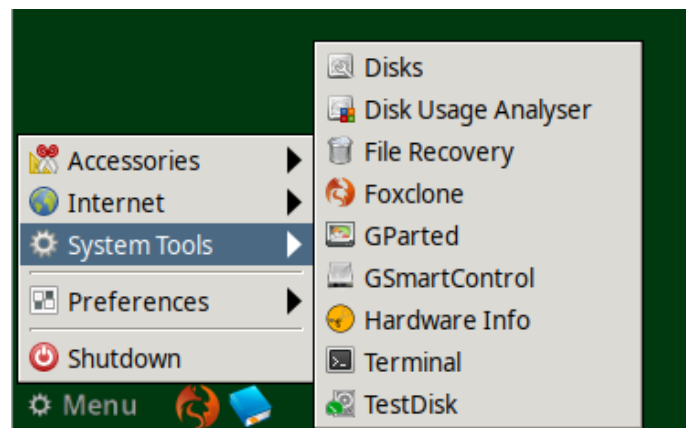
87. The web browser. The default home page is the foxclone website.



You need to be connected to the internet. See [Connecting to a network](#).

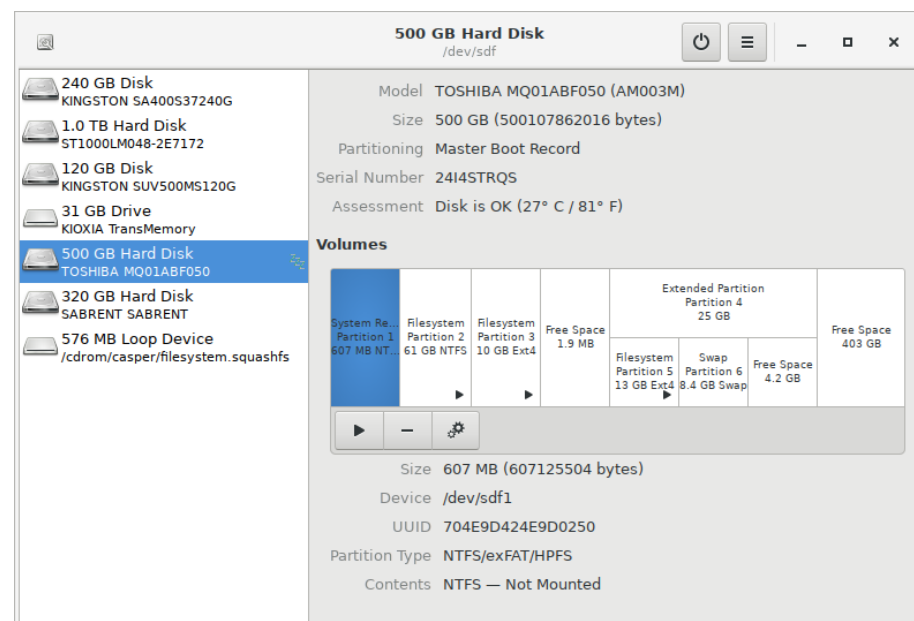


System tools



Disks¹⁰

88. Full name [gnome-disks](#), use to mount and modify partitions.



See [here](#) for more information on using Disks.

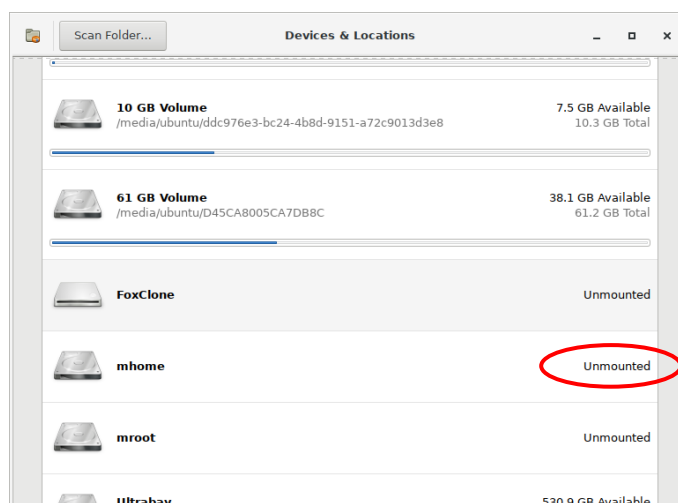
¹⁰ Installed by default in most Linux distributions.



Disk Usage Analyser¹¹

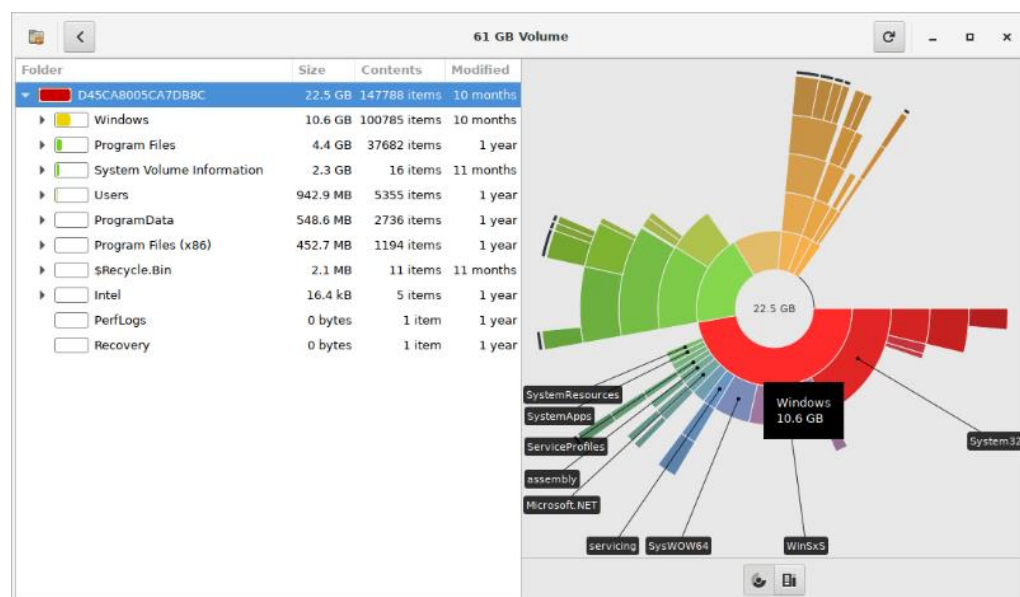
89. This provides a graphical display of file/space usage within a partition. From the initial screen select the volume (partition) to

If a volume is not mounted, use the file manager to mount it (click on it in the devices pane)



be analysed.

Be warned – depending on the number of files and used space on a partition it can take a long time to display. The screenshot is a windows 10 C: partition.



¹¹ Installed by default in most Linux distributions.



File recovery

90. A terminal program, [photorec](#), for 'disaster recovery' to recover deleted files or lost data from a reformatted partition or corrupted file system.

```
Terminal
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
PhotoRec 7.0, Data Recovery Utility, April 2015
Christophe GRENIER <grenier@cgsecurity.org>
http://www.cgsecurity.org

PhotoRec is free software, and
comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.

Select a media (use Arrow keys, then press Enter):
>Disk /dev/sda - 500 GB / 465 GiB (R0)
Disk /dev/sdb - 500 GB / 465 GiB (R0) - CT500MX500SSD1
Disk /dev/sdc - 2000 GB / 1863 GiB (R0) - WDC WD20SPZX-22CRAT0
Disk /dev/sdd - 30 GB / 28 GiB (R0) - KIOXIA TransMemory
Disk /dev/dm-0 - 667 MB / 637 MiB (R0) - KIOXIA TransMemory

>[Proceed] [Quit]

Note:
Disk capacity must be correctly detected for a successful recovery.
If a disk listed above has incorrect size, check HD jumper settings, BIOS
detection, and install the latest OS patches and disk drivers.
```

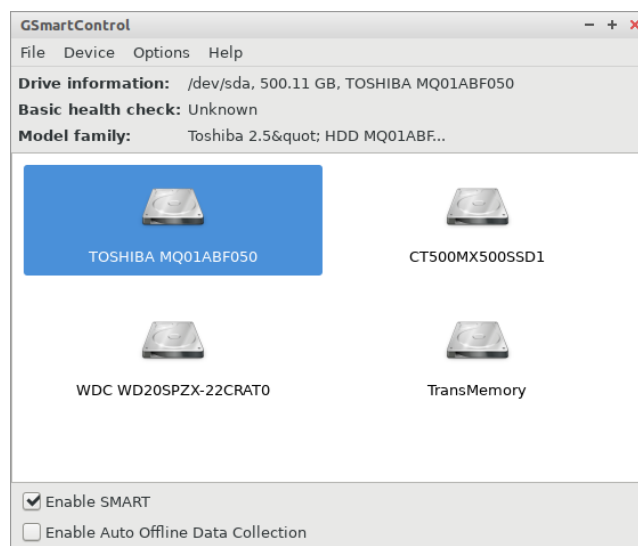
More information and a step-by-step guide can be found here:

https://www.cgsecurity.org/wiki/PhotoRec_Step_By_Step.

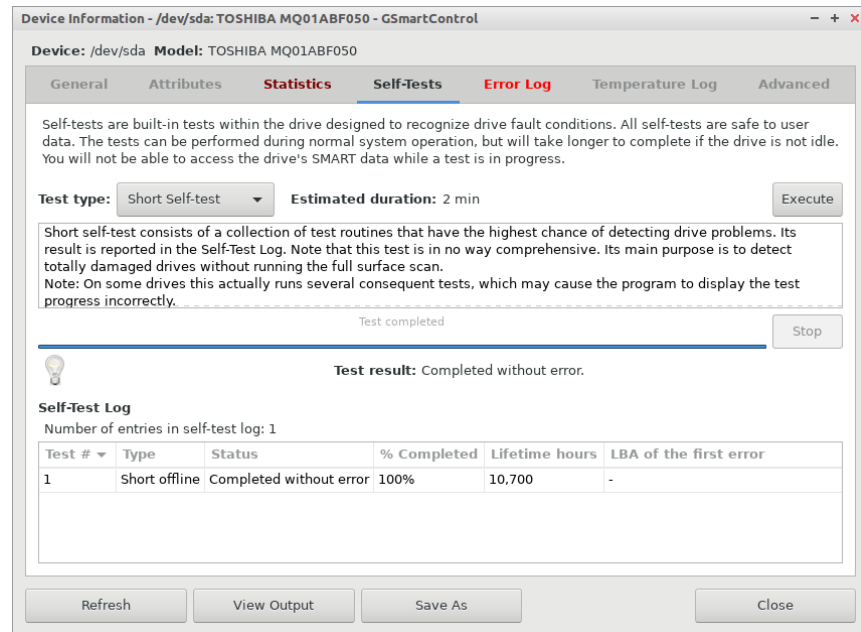
Gparted

91. The standard Linux partition utility. More information [here](#).

GSmartControl



92. A tool for querying and controlling SMART (self-monitoring, analysis and reporting technology) data on hard disks and solid state drives. It allows you to inspect the drive's SMART data to determine health as well as run various tests on it.

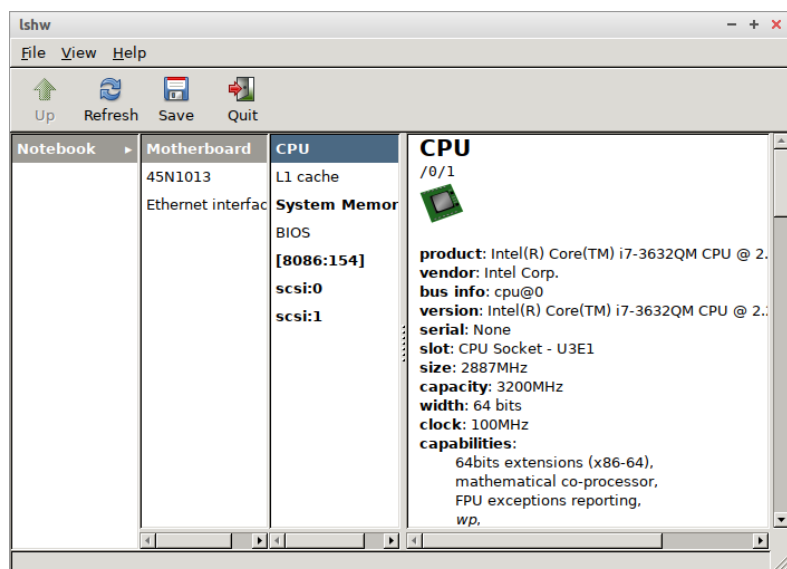


More information:

<https://www.Gsmartcontrol.sourceforge.io/home/index.php/About>

Hardware Info

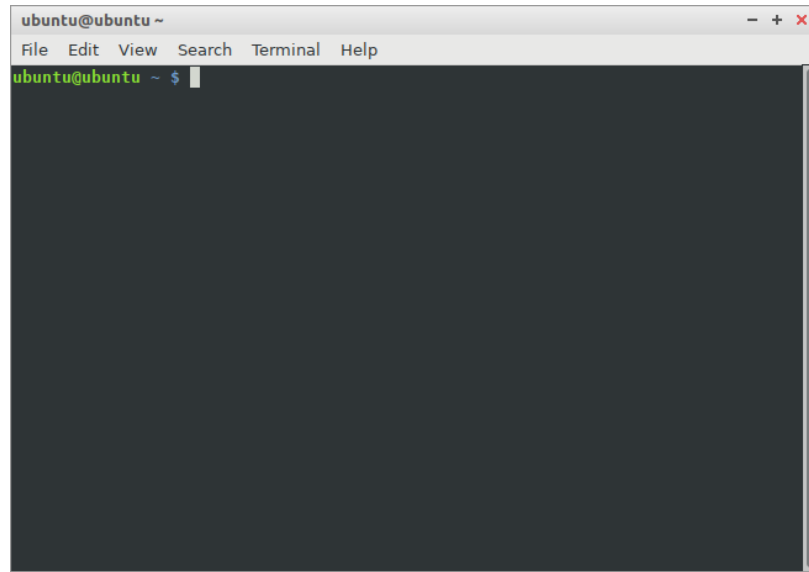
93. A graphical front end for `lshw` – to view various hardware details about the system.





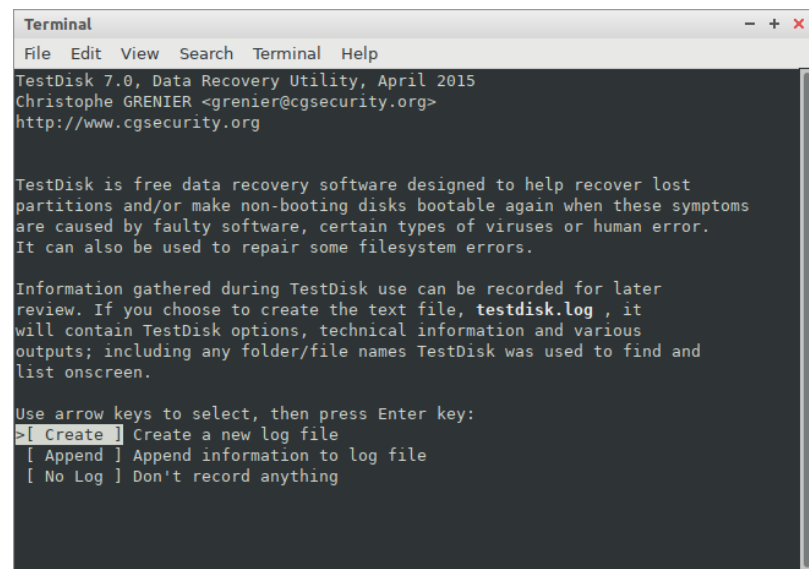
Terminal

94. [gnome-terminal](#), for running terminal commands.



TestDisk

95. A terminal program for data recovery. To quote *“is powerful free data recovery software! It was primarily designed to help recover lost partitions and/or make non-booting disks bootable again when these symptoms are caused by faulty software”*.

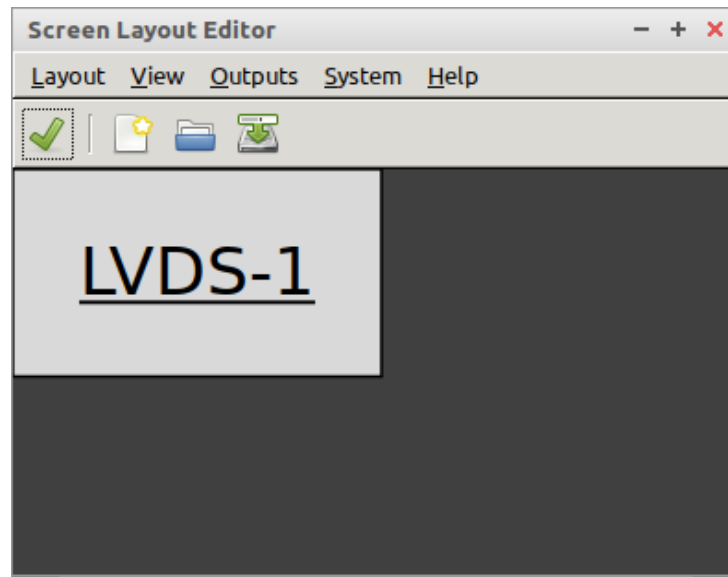


More information and a step-by-step guide can be found here:
https://www.cgsecurity.org/wiki/TestDisk_Step_By_Step



Preferences

Display



96. Use to change display resolution. As an alternative to running Display, **right click** on the desktop.

Right click on the screen shown (LVDS-1), select Resolution and change as appropriate.

Useful if foxclone does not set the screen to the native resolution or if you want to reduce the resolution to magnify the screen to make it easier to read.


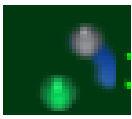
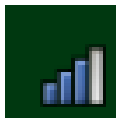

The display resolution can also be changed by **right clicking** on the desktop.

97. When finished [Layout > Apply](#).



Connecting to a network

98. Network status is shown by the icon bottom right of the screen:

			
Not connected Default	Connecting	Wireless connected	Wired connected

99. To connect to a wired network simply plug in an ethernet cable. To connect to a wireless network, click on the network icon:

► [Return to desktop](#)

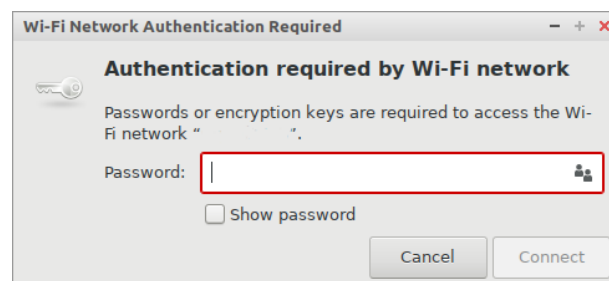
► [Return to web browser](#)

► [Return to contact us](#)



Click on the network to connect

You will be prompted for the wifi password.





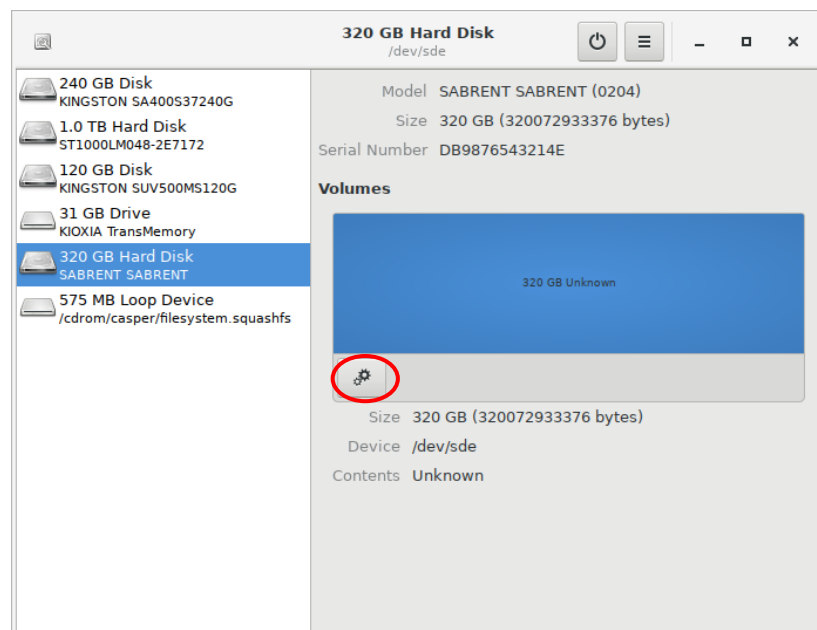
Preparing and formatting drives

100. When you buy an external drive, e.g. an external USB HDD, it will come formatted, normally fat32. There is no need to do anything unless you want to reformat it to ntfs or ext4, just plug it in and use it.
101. If you buy an internal bare drive it will come **unformatted**. If you want to use the new drive for an operating system, you don't need to do anything, the installer will format the drive for you. If you want to use it as a data drive you will need to format it.
102. There are two Linux programs for formatting drives:
 - [gnome-disks](#). This is installed by default in most Linux systems and normally appears as 'Disks' on the menu);
 - [gparted](#). The gnome partition editor, this is not normally installed, but can be installed via the software manager or whatever software installation tool is provided with your Linux distribution.

Formatting a drive with Disks

103. When you start Disks you are presented with this screen.

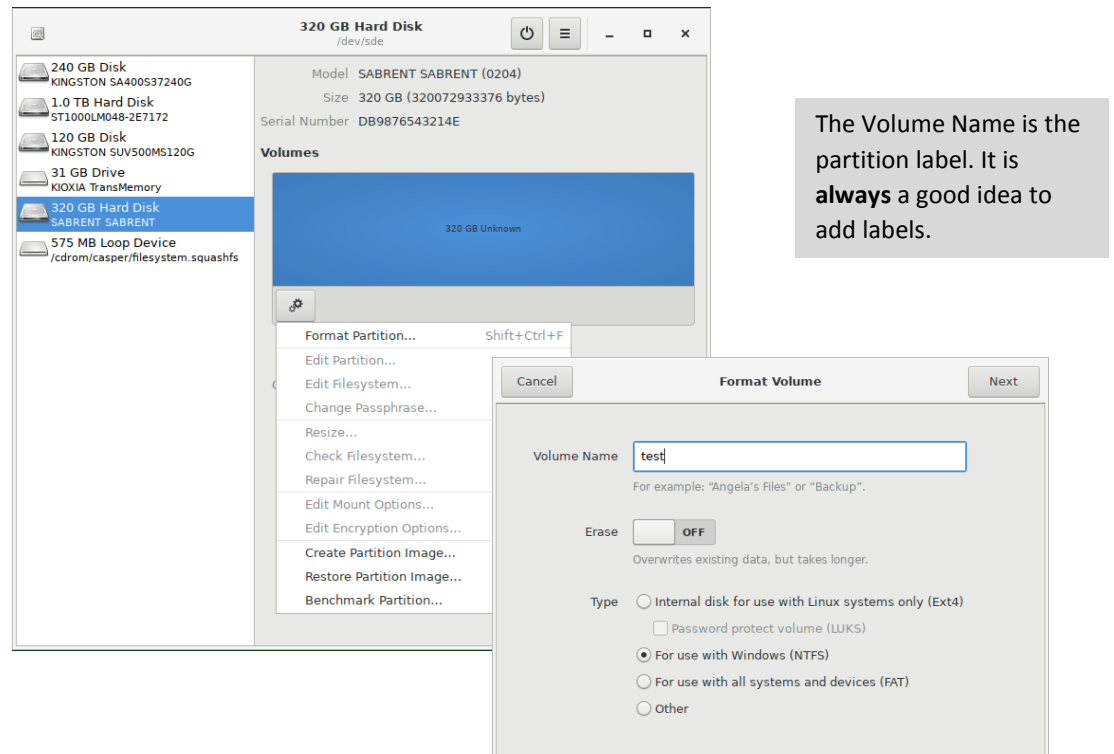
► [Return to Disks](#)



On the left, the drives in your system are shown, on the right, the contents of the selected drive. The gear icon provides options on what to do with the contents. The screenshot shows a 'new' unformatted drive.



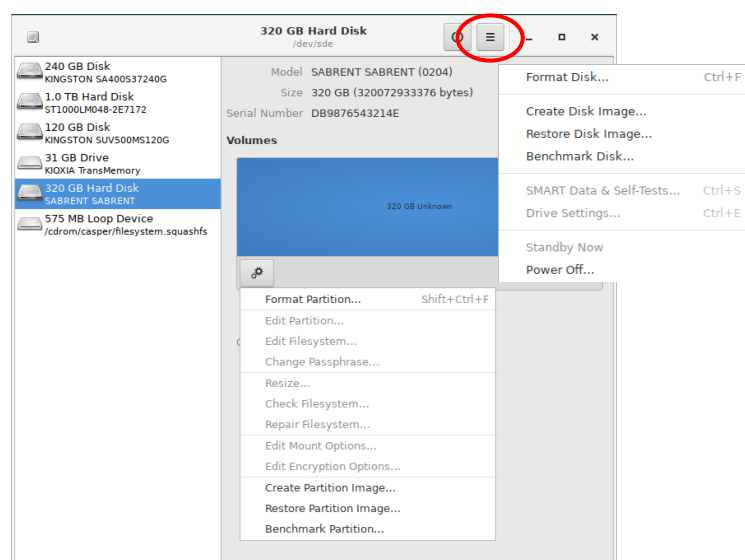
104. A common mistake for newbies using Disks with a new drive is to click on the gear icon and select format.

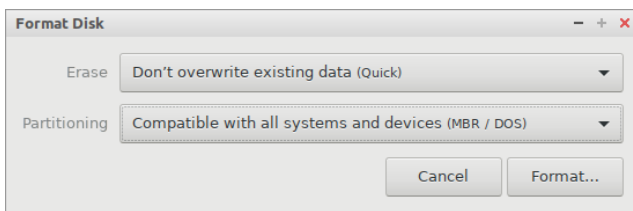


The outcome is a partition on a drive with no partition table. If you try and backup this partition with foxclone it will give you a [warning](#). While not necessarily bad, you will not be able to:

- Use the partition as a destination for Timeshift snapshots.
- Add more partitions.

105. The *correct* way to format the drive is to add a partition table and **then** add partitions. Instead of clicking on the gear icon, **click** on the hamburger icon at the top of the screen and select *Format Disk*.



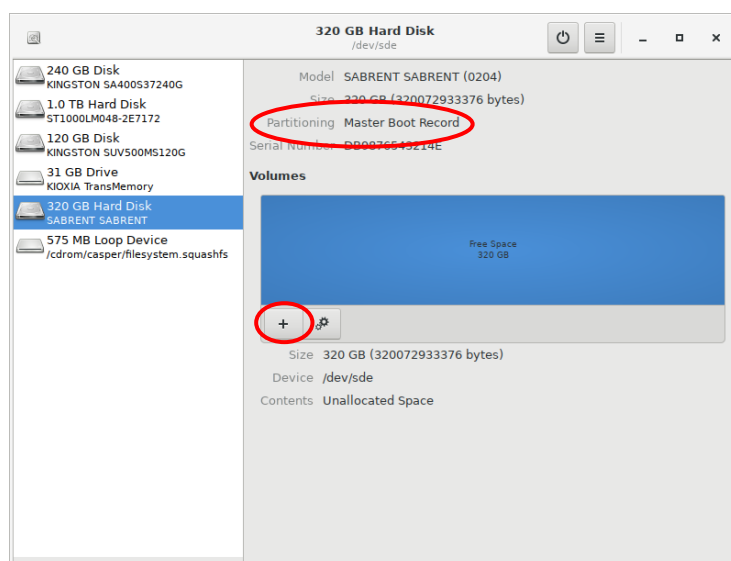


Two choices are provided:

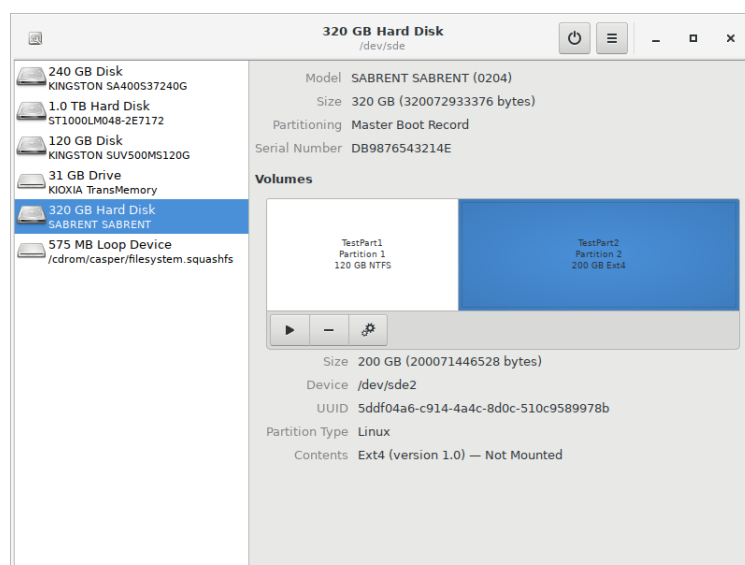
- Compatible with all system (MBR), and
- Modern systems (GPT).

If in doubt, choose GPT and **click** **Format**. An overview of partition table types is given [here](#).

106. When finished, not much has changed, but you now have a **+** button and the screen shows you now have a partition table.



Click **+** to add partitions – you can now have more than one partition and set the size of each partition. Here I have created two partitions, one ntfs and the other ext4 with the labels **TestPart1** and **TestPart2**. The display is also now showing information about the selected partition.

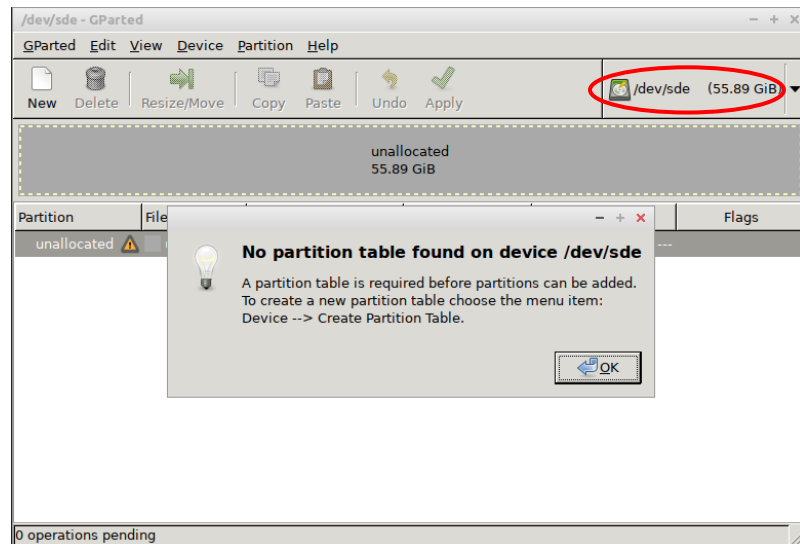




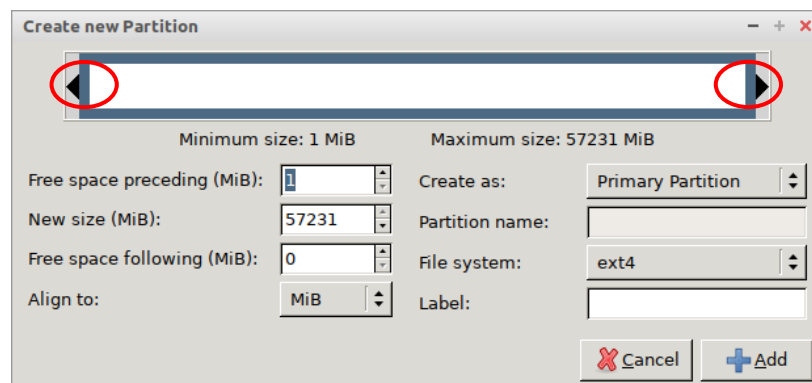
Formatting a drive with gparted

107. This is the same un-formatted drive used in the Disks example. Now when I try to create a partition on it (by **right clicking** in the unallocated area and selecting **new**), **gparted** gives me an error message. The drive is selected from the 'drop down' top right.

[Return to gparted](#)



108. To create a partition table, on the menu select **Device > Create Partition Table**. Select the partition table type (msdos = legacy = mbr, or gpt) and **click Apply**. More on partition tables [here](#).
109. To add a new partition, **right click** in the unallocated area and select new.

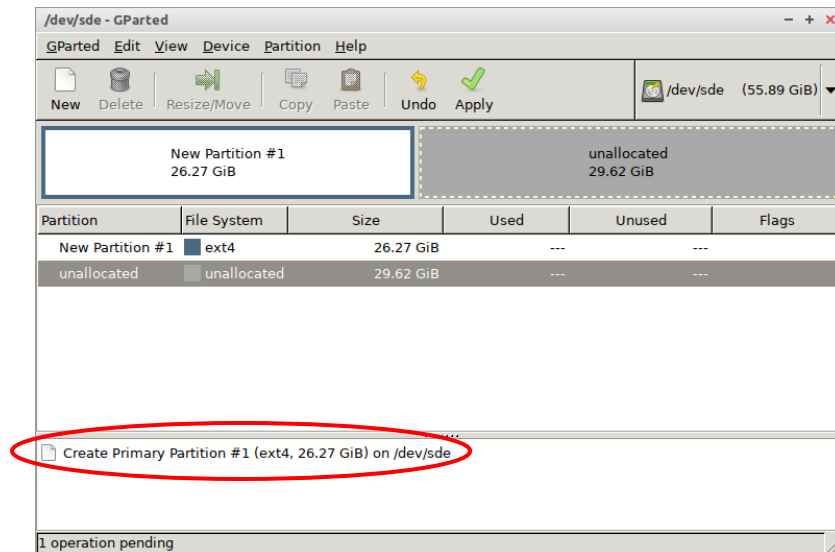


110. The size can set by either entering the numbers or dragging the handles at the top, then **click +Add**. **Do not change the value shown for Free space preceding for the first partition on an MBR drive**¹². Don't forget to add a label.

¹² IF an operating system is going to be installed, the second stage bootloader ([grub](#) for Linux) hides in the space between the end of the partition table and start of the first partition.

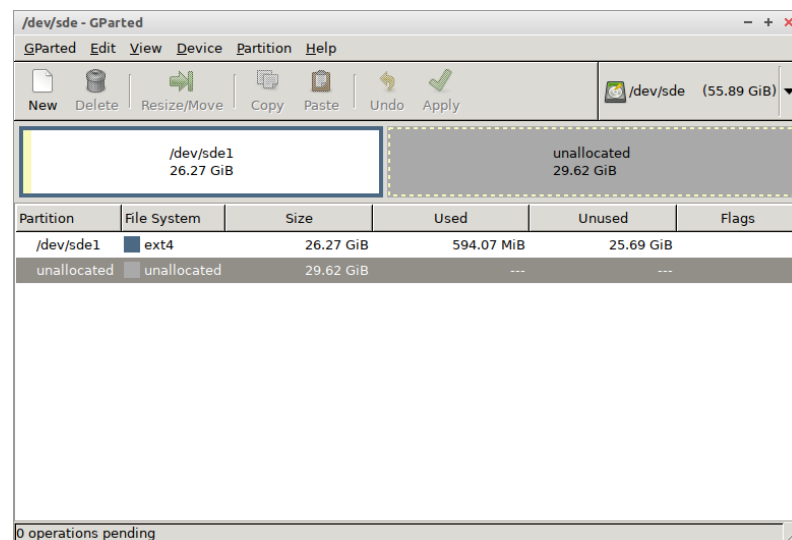


111. Add as many partitions as required. At the bottom of the screen **gparted** will show a list of tasks to perform.



gparted will **not** make any changes to the drive until you select **Edit > Apply All Operations** from the menu.

112. The outcome is shown below, the panel on the left can be displayed from **View > Device Information** on the menu.



113. Once you have created the partition, add a label. Always add a label! Linux will automount your partitions at `/media/you/labelname` if you have a label. If you don't have a label, it will use the UUID, e.g. `/media/you/d29bacfb-3d33-48ea-b1d4-caa0906e9694`, not user friendly.

Create a label by right-clicking on the partition. From the menu select **Label file system**.



114. One 'issue' with **gparted** is that if you create an ext4 partition with it, the partition will be owned by root, so you won't have write access. To fix this, boot your system as normal, mount the partition (in your file manager **click** on it – it should be showing in the panel on the left under devices) and in a terminal:

```
sudo chown $USER:$USER /media/you/mylabel
```

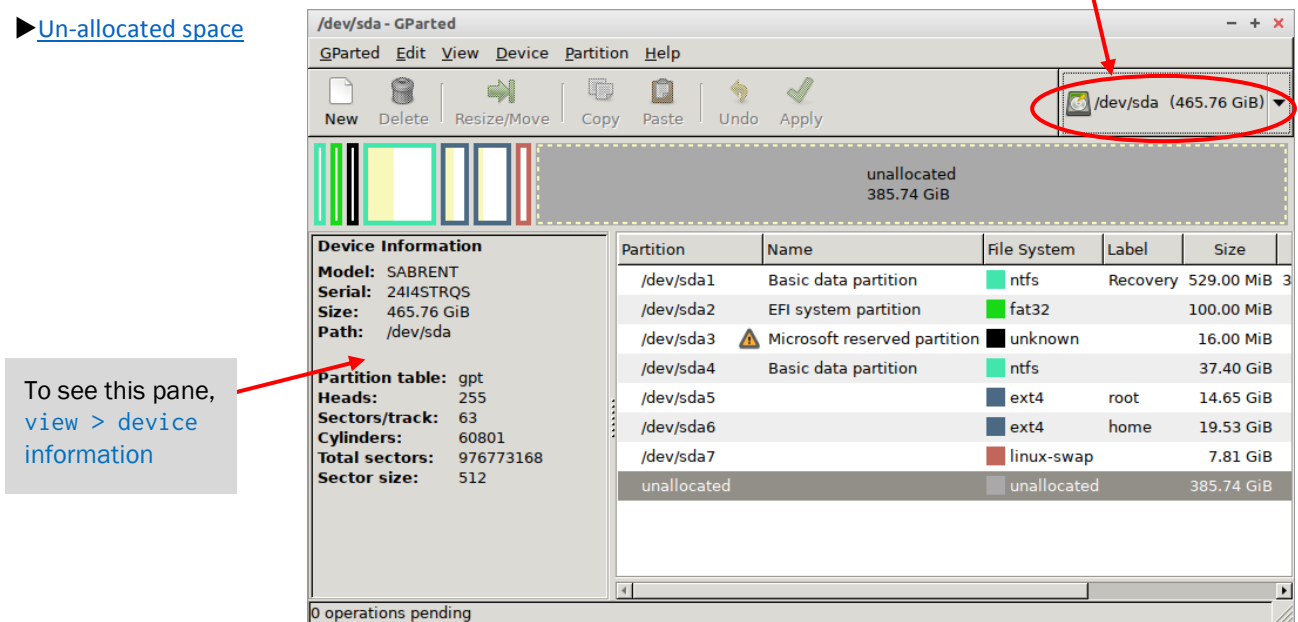
replacing **you** with your username and **mylabel** with the label you gave it when you created the partition¹³. This changes ownership from root to you.

Re-sizing/adding partitions with gparted

115. **gparted** can be found on the menu under system tools. It is the standard Linux partition editor. The screenshot shows the results of cloning a 240GB drive to a 320GB drive¹⁴. The drive is selected from the 'drop-down' top right.

► [Return to clone](#)

► [Un-allocated space](#)



116. The drive is a dual boot Windows and Linux mint install on a drive with a gpt partition table. There are three partitions for linux, two ext4 (/ and /home) and a swap partition. To use the unallocated space, either:

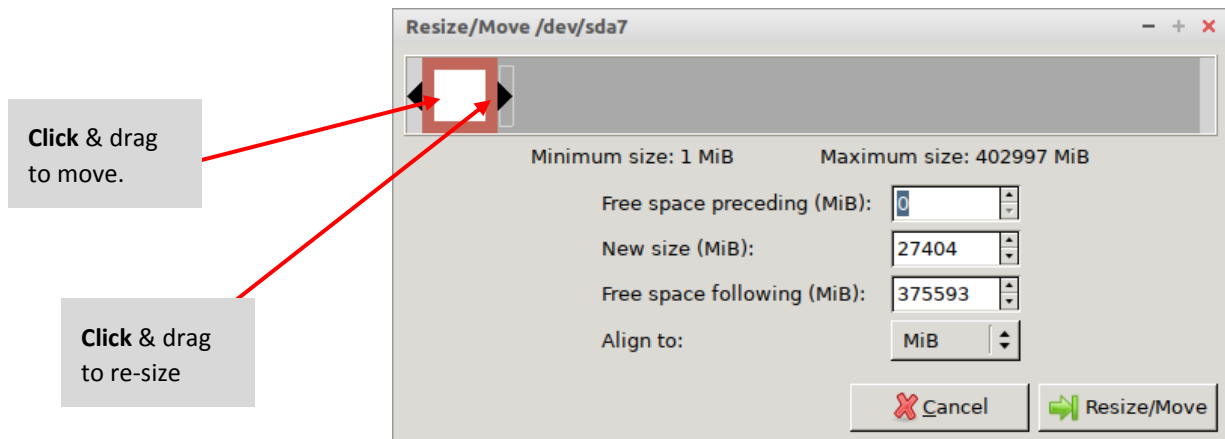
- The swap partition (sda7) must be moved to the right.
- The /home partition (sda6) needs to be re-sized.

Or a new partition needs to be created in the unallocated space.

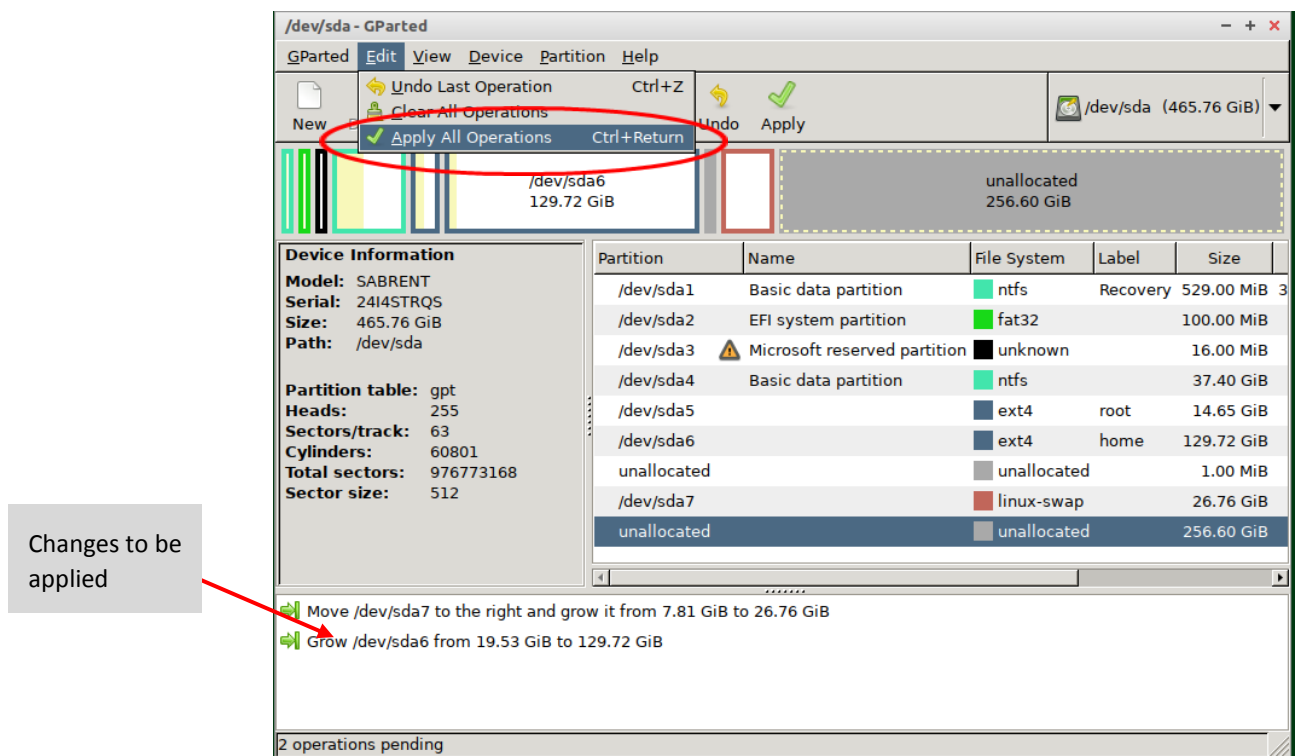
117. To resize or move an existing partition, **right click** on it and select **Resize/Move**. **Click & drag** on the partition to move it or **click & drag** on the right arrow to grow it, or enter the numbers. **Click** on **Resize/Move** to finish.

¹³ If you didn't give the partition a label it will mount using the UUID, something like [/media/you/ddc976e3-bc24-4b8d-9151-a72c9013d3e8](#) = not user friendly.

¹⁴ Note gparted shows sizes and usage in GiB, **not** GB, where 1GiB = 1.074 GB, <https://www.gbmb.org/gib-to-gb>



118. When finished, [Edit > Apply All Operations](#) or click the apply icon.





Partition tables

119. A partition table sits at the beginning of a drive and tells the operating system:

► [Return to format drive](#)

- How many partitions.
- Where they are (start and finish, hence size as well).
- The filesystems on the partitions, e.g. ntfs or ext4.

There are a number of different partition table types, but for practical purposes only two need to be considered – MBR and GPT. The choice of partition table type is driven by a number of factors, but mainly how the computer will boot – in legacy mode or UEFI mode.

MBR partition tables

120. Also known as legacy or msdos. As the name implies, the original standard for partition tables¹⁵. The partition table lives in the first sector (512 bytes) on the drive, so not a lot of space considering that some boot code has to fit in there as well.

121. The original characteristics of a legacy partition table were:

- A maximum of four partitions.
- A maximum partition size of 2TiB¹⁶.
- A maximum file size of 2TiB.

The limit on the number of partitions was a constraint and in 1986 a kludge was introduced – the extended partition. The extended partition is just a pointer in the partition table that points at another partition table that contains 'logical' partitions. So today a legacy partition table has:

- A maximum of four **primary** partitions **or** three **primary** partitions and one extended partition.
- An extended partition contains **logical** partitions.
- A maximum partition size of 2TiB.
- A maximum file size of 2TiB.

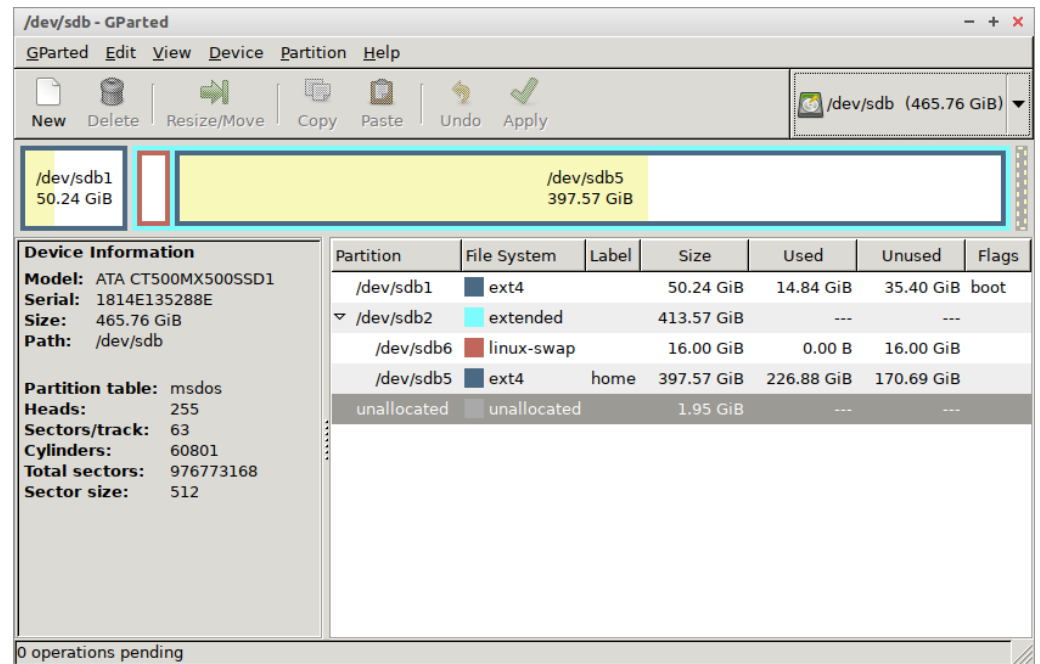
A takeaway from this is that if you have a drive larger than 2TiB (quite common now), you **must** format it with a GPT partition table.

¹⁵ Defined in 1983, so it is a miracle that it is still in use today. At the time a typical hard drive was 5MB or 10MB, enormous, that is, if you could afford one.

¹⁶ With a 512 byte sector size, by changing the sector size, e.g. to 4096 bytes, larger partitions could be used.



122. The screenshot ([gparted](#)) shows a Linux on a drive with a legacy partition table.



There is one primary partition, sdb1 (the / partition), and an extended partition sdb2. Inside the extended partition are two logical partitions, sdb6 for swap and sdb5 for the /home partition.

123. Not particularly tidy, all three partitions could have been primary partitions leaving room for either one further primary partitions or an extended partition (if more than one additional partition is needed – these would be created as logical partitions).

Note logical partitions will always start at sdX5 irrespective of the number of primary partitions you have.

124. A further thing to note with the latest ubiquity installer (used in Linux Mint 20 and a number of other 'buntus). An automatic '*erase and install*' option in legacy mode will create a primary fat32 partition (of no use to anyone) and then put everything else in an extended partition. This is a good reason for pre-partitioning your drive with [gparted](#) and using the '*something else*' option during install.
125. This is a useful Wikipedia article on [legacy partition tables](#).



GPT partition tables

126. Also known as a GUID¹⁷ partition table, a GPT partition table fixes the shortcomings of the legacy partition table. To do this, it is bigger, a legacy partition table is 1 sector at the start of the drive, a GPT partition table occupies the first 34 sectors. The characteristics of a GPT partition table are:
- A maximum of 128 primary partitions, plenty enough for everyone and no need to mess around with extended partitions.
 - A maximum drive size of 8ZiB. That is 8,388,608TiB (I had to look it up). It will be a while before we hit this limit.
- For practical purposes, maximum file sizes are so large as to no longer be a concern. There is one exception, fat32, with a maximum file size of 4GB¹⁸.
127. A further advantage of a GPT partition table is that there is a backup copy stored at the end of the drive. If the primary partition table at the start of the drive gets corrupted, it can be fixed. With a legacy partition table, if it gets corrupted, that's it, you've lost the contents of the drive.
128. Another feature of a GPT partition table is that it will allow you to assign a name to a partition in addition to a label. I've yet to find a use for the partition name.
129. Another Wikipedia article, this time on [GPT partition tables](#).

¹⁷ Globally Unique IDentifiers.

¹⁸ Which is why foxclone automatically switches on file splitting when backing up to a fat32 partition.



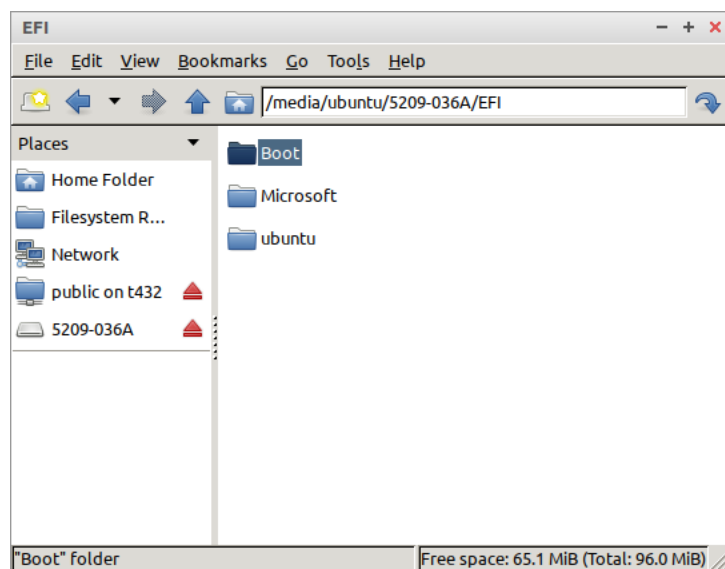
Bootloaders and boot modes

130. The two types of partition table are associated with two different boot modes:

- MBR/msdos/legacy drives boot, unsurprisingly, in legacy mode.
- GPT drives boot in UEFI¹⁹ mode.

It is possible to boot in UEFI mode from a legacy drive or boot legacy on a GPT drive, but that's outside the scope of this guide.

131. With legacy mode, the boot list in BIOS points at the boot drive, typically defined as `HDD0`, `HDD1` and so on. BIOS then looks on that drive for the initial boot code which shares the first sector with the partition table. Not much space there, so this points at the second stage bootloader (for Linux this is normally `grub`). This 'hides' in the space between the end of the partition table and start of the first partition. This in turn, in Linux, points at `/boot` in your boot partition (normally `/` unless you have a separate `/boot` partition).
132. UEFI is the modern standard and just about every computer since about 2008 will support UEFI boot. If your computer came with Windows 10 installed it will almost certainly be UEFI boot. If Windows 7, then probably legacy boot.
133. In UEFI, BIOS is more intelligent and looks for a special EFI partition on the drive and executes the programs in it. Instead of the boot entries in BIOS being specified by drive, e.g. `HDD0`, they are specified by the operating system, so you will see entries like `ubuntu` or `windows boot loader`. In the EFI partition is an `EFI` folder and inside that folders for each operating system. This is the contents of the EFI folder on a dual boot system, Windows with Linux Mint.



¹⁹ Unified Extensible Firmware Interface.



134. This is what the drive looks like in [gparted](#). It is dual boot, Windows 10 and Linux Mint.

Partition	Name	File System	Label	Size	Used	Unused	Flags
/dev/sda1	Basic data partition	ntfs	Recovery	529.00 MiB	386.21 MiB	142.79 MiB	hidden, diag
/dev/sda2	EFI system partition	fat32		100.00 MiB	34.86 MiB	65.14 MiB	boot, esp
/dev/sda3	Microsoft reserved partition	unknown		16.00 MiB	---	---	msftres
/dev/sda4	Basic data partition	ntfs		37.40 GiB	15.19 GiB	22.21 GiB	msftdata
/dev/sda5		ext4	root	14.65 GiB	6.13 GiB	8.52 GiB	
/dev/sda6		ext4	home	19.53 GiB	3.53 GiB	16.00 GiB	
/dev/sda7		linux-swap		7.81 GiB	0.00 B	7.81 GiB	
unallocated		unallocated		385.74 GiB	---	---	

0 operations pending

- Compared to the [gparted](#) screenshot of a legacy drive you can see an additional column for the [partition name](#).
- There is no extended partition – no need.
- The EFI partition is [sda2](#), it's not very big (doesn't need to be) but it **must** be formatted fat32 and **must** have the flags [boot](#) & [esp](#) set (this is what tells BIOS that it is the EFI partition).

135. What type of partition table should I use?

- If in doubt use GPT.
- If your drive is larger than 2TiB you **must** use GPT.
- If you want to dual boot Linux with windows and you are putting Linux on a separate drive, format the second drive the same as the first. So if windows is booting in legacy mode, format the second drive legacy and install Linux in legacy mode. If windows is booting in UEFI mode, format the second drive GPT and install Linux in UEFI mode.



Known issues

136. Foxclone51 – fixes two bugs in foxclone50:

- A legacy install with a GPT partition table and *bios_grub* partition would not correctly backup/restore/clone. It failed to copy/restore grub, the bootloader. This affected a small percentage of users who installed mint or any other ubuntu derivative using the ubiquity installer, were booting legacy and selected “erase and install”.
- Foxclone showing an error on start if any drives in the system had more than nine partitions.

137. Initial issue foxclone50 – none.



Troubleshooting

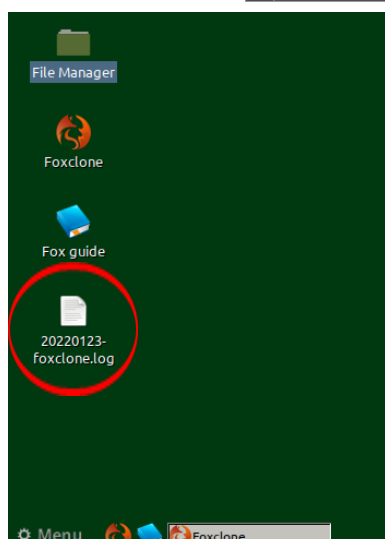
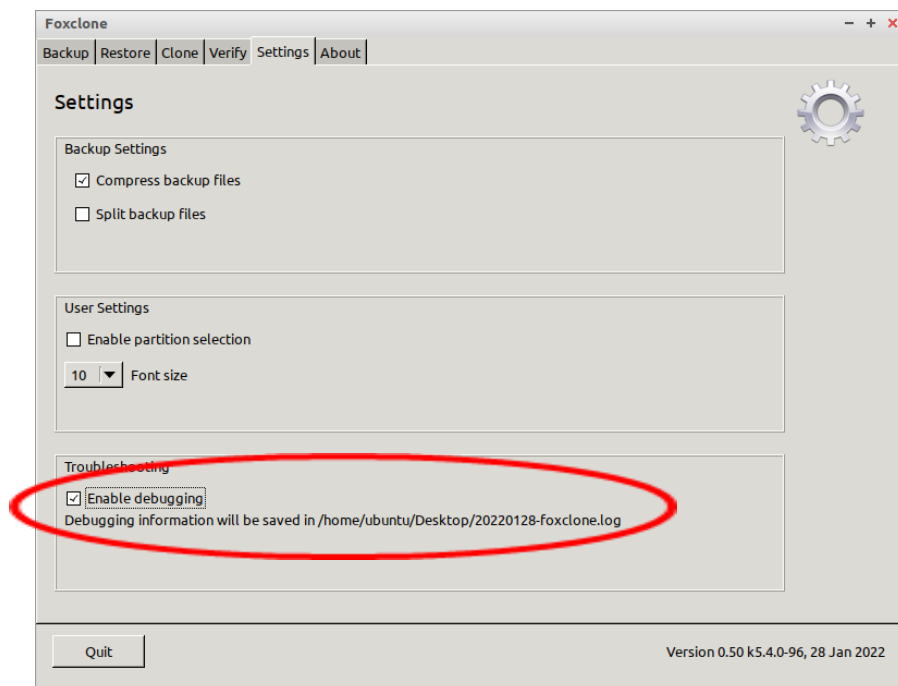
138. Run into problems? Provide as much information as possible to assist fault finding.

Take a screenshot

139. If it will help troubleshooting take a [screenshot](#). Press **PrtScn** or it can be found on the [Menu > Accessories](#). Save the file and then use the file manager to copy the screenshot file to one of your drives so it will still be there after you reboot.

Enable logging

140. If the problem with foxclone is repeatable, then enable logging on the settings tab.



When logging is enabled, foxclone will tell you where the log file is saved, it should appear on the desktop. It saves information on your system and the output of foxclone actions.

Use the file manager to copy the file to one of your drives and email it to help@foxclone.com.



To contact us

141. Email help@foxclone.com with any screenshots and/or text files with foxclone output. The more information describing the problem, the easier it is for us – help us to help you.
142. Or, [connect to the internet](#), **click** contact on the website and fill in the on-line form.



How does it work?

143. Foxclone is a front end for [partclone](#), a terminal utility that backs up and restores a variety of partition types to/from image files (<https://www.partclone.org>). In addition to [partclone](#), foxclone also uses:
- [blkid](#) – to get partition labels. Also to determine the UUID of swap partitions so that when cloned, a swap partition has the same UUID and Linux will not hang for 90 seconds trying to find the wrong swap partition.
 - [blockdev](#) – to get the size of a drive in blocks.
 - [cmp](#) – on restore to compare partition tables to determine if changed.
 - [dd](#) – to copy and restore [grub](#) on a legacy drive.
 - [df](#) – to determine the number on used 1k blocks in a partition
 - [grep](#) – to filter output from other terminal commands.
 - [hdparm](#) – to get the serial number of a sata drive.
 - [killall](#) – to kill [partclone](#) when a backup is cancelled.
 - [mkdir](#) – make a folder.
 - [mkswap](#) – restore or clone a swap partition.
 - [mount](#) – mount a partition.
 - [nvme](#) – to get the serial number of a NVME drive.
 - [os-prober](#) – search for installed operating systems.
 - [partclone](#) – backup and restore partitions.
 - [parted](#) – get information on the drives and partitions in the system.
 - [partprobe](#) – to force the kernel to re-read the partition table after a change.
 - [pigz](#) – a multi-threaded alternative to [gzip](#). Used to compress and decompress image files.
 - [pkexec](#) – together with a set of defined policies allows foxclone to run with root privileges.
 - [rmdir](#) – remove a folder.
 - [sfdisk](#) – backup and restore partition tables.
 - [swapon](#) & [swapoff](#) – to turn swap on and off.
 - [umount](#) – unmount a partition.
 - [uname](#) – get the kernel version running in the ISO.



Version History

V50	<p>A complete rewrite of foxclone, primarily to improve maintainability. Basic functionality is unchanged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmetic changes to the user interface. • Most windows are resizable. • Logging is simpler. • More error checks when backing up/restoring. • No grub file on a backup from a drive with a gpt partition table (not needed). • Now supports exFAT. <p>In the iso:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting timezone added. • LightDM replaces slim as the display manager.
V46	<p>Fixes two bugs saving grub (the bootloader) in a backup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With spaces in either the folder or filename a grub file would not be saved. • On a large drive with the last partition starting at about 1TB or greater, a grub file would not be saved. <p>These bugs are only relevant to a backup of a drive booting in legacy mode. When booting in UEFI mode, grub (the bootloader) is stored in the EFI partition.</p>
V45	<p>Fixes a self-inflicted error restoring from a backup of a pcie NVME drive.</p>
V44	<p>In foxclone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify tab added with the ability to check image files. • Log button added on most progress windows providing the ability to view logs generated in a restore or clone. • Bug fix – previously an attempt to clone from an NVME pcie drive (or backup of an NVME pcie drive) to a sata drive would fail, now fixed. • Bug fix – a backup or restore started shortly before midnight and continuing past will now display the correct time to completion. <p>In the ISO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The build scripts have been completely re-written. The outcome is largely unchanged from the previous version.
V42	<p>In foxclone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The warning message that foxclone can't find a serial number has been removed (usually applies to USB sticks – adding no value).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of drive with no partition table, but a valid filesystem has been changed. Previously foxclone ignored the drive. Now it will allow it as a backup destination but will not allow it as a source. • Partition information displayed in list/checkboxes has been changed. • Default compression level changed to 1. Slightly faster with slightly larger backup files. • Minor bug fixes. • Significant update to the user guide. <p>In the ISO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thunar replaces pcmanfm as the file manager. • qpdfview replaces evince as the PDF viewer (user guide). • Networking enabled. • Pale Moon added as a web browser for access to the foxclone website.
V40	In previous versions, a restore identifies the drive to restore using the model name (as returned by parted). This may cause a problem in systems with two <u>identical</u> drives. A backup taken with V40 now records the drive model name and serial number.
V39	Foxclone was hanging on a restore from a backup where the backup files were split. Bug fixed.
V38	In V37 cloning to a 2TB drive was reporting not enough space due to use of 32 bit integer functions. Changed to 64 bit functions and problem fixed.
V37	Where the backup destination is on a fat32 partition, automatically switches on 'split files' with a file size of 2048MB to avoid breaching the 4GB file size limit on a fat32 partition.
V36	Checks for any MS reserved partitions and sets the filesystem to unknown. V35 was incorrectly identifying an MS reserved partition as ext4 on a GPT format PCIE NVME drive.
V35	On a restore checks to see if the mount point for a drive has changed since the backup, e.g. from sdc to sdd. If changed asks the user if they want to continue the restore using the new mount point.
V34	Stops the user trying to backup or clone to/from the foxclone boot drive. Allows for more than 9 partitions on a drive (why would you want to do this?).



V33	Runs foxclone as root – users were having problems saving backups to partitions they had created on external drives and were owned by root. Bug fixes for NVME drives. Default mount point in foxclone changed from <code>/media/foxclone</code> to <code>/mnt/foxclone</code> . In LM19.3 was causing problems with the file manager trying to auto open partitions mounted in <code>/media</code> .
V32	Checks for ownership of the backup destination and rereads the system after a restore or clone. Minor internal changes.
V31	Bug fix to handle bios_grub partitions, found after testing with hybrid UEFI/legacy installs.
V30	Identifies drives with a valid filesystem but no partition table (<code>gnome-disks</code> allows you to do this) – not good practice. A warning is flagged up and the drive is ignored.
V25	Initial beta issue for testing.



The legal stuff

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A copy of the GNU General Public License is available on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html>.

You can also obtain it by writing to the Free Software Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin Street - Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1335, USA.

If you are running foxclone from the ISO, other software in the ISO is subject to its own licensing terms, specifically Pale Moon (the web browser) is licenced for use under the Mozilla Public License 2.0 (MPL 2). Licencing for individual software packages in the ISO can be found in

</usr/share/doc/package/copyright>.