



SARTrack Limited

How to install SARTrack on a Linux computer

Ubuntu with WINE, for people who are new to Linux

Please note: SARTrack does not officially support Linux, but we will try to help where we can.

This document describes how to install SARTrack on an Ubuntu Linux computer. Other Linux distributions should work too, but Ubuntu is the most common one for a desktop computer.

Why Linux? No more Windows updates with big downloads and long restarts (just when a SAR Operation has to start), and older computers with little memory work well again: old laptops can be used again. And Linux is free.

I installed and tested this on Ubuntu 22.04, the current version when it was written (July 2022). Newer versions work much the same way, but some names have changed: see the notes below.

What you need

- A PC or laptop with at least 2 GB of memory.
- An empty USB stick (everything on it is wiped).

1. Make an Ubuntu USB stick

- 1) On a Windows PC, download the Ubuntu Desktop installation (an ISO file) from ubuntu.com, and save it.
- 2) Download the latest version of Rufus (rufus.ie), and save it.
- 3) Insert the empty USB stick.
- 4) Run Rufus, select the Ubuntu ISO file and your USB stick. The default settings are fine, but do tick 'Add fixes for old BIOSes': some PCs need it.
- 5) Rufus makes a USB stick that the PC can start Ubuntu from.

2. Install Ubuntu

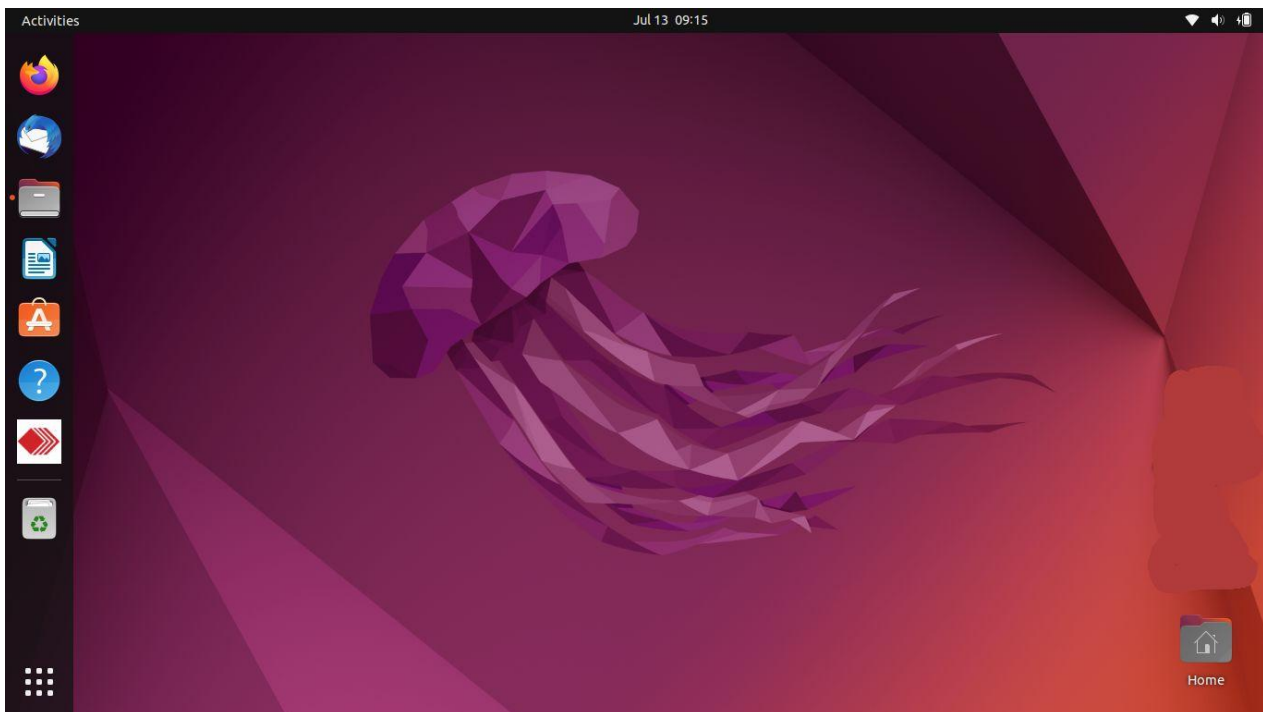
Insert the USB stick into the PC that gets Linux, and restart it. The PC must now start from the USB stick, not from its own disk: press **F2**, **F12** or sometimes **Esc** many times while it starts, to get into its BIOS (search the Internet for your computer when in doubt). In the BIOS: choose UEFI if possible, switch 'Secure Boot' off if possible, switch 'Legacy boot' on if possible, and move the USB stick to the top. The Rufus documentation helps with problems.

When the PC starts from the USB stick, choose **Install Ubuntu**, and then the full installation.

I recommend using the whole disk for Ubuntu: this deletes Windows. A PC that can start either Ubuntu or Windows (dual boot) is possible too, but the installation then takes a lot longer: it has to move data on the disk to make room.

Important: tick the option to install **third-party drivers**, or your WiFi (and other things) may not work. And **write down the login and password** you give: Ubuntu asks for that password every time you install software, and for some commands.

After the installation and a restart, the screen looks something like this:



The Ubuntu desktop (22.04)

- **Bottom left:** all installed applications.
- **Top left, 'Activities':** the applications that are running, to switch between them.
- **Top right:** the small battery icon opens a menu with WiFi, power and the Settings.
- **Left, the icon with the 'A':** Ubuntu Software, to find and install more software (in newer Ubuntu versions: the App Center).

3. Install WINE

WINE lets Windows programs run straight from the Linux desktop.

- 1) Click the Ubuntu Software icon ('A').
- 2) Click Search (top left), type **Wine**, and wait while the list of software is downloaded. This can take a while.
- 3) You should now see **Wine** and **Winetricks**. Install **Wine** first, and wait: depending on your Internet connection this can take quite some time.
- 4) Then open the **Terminal** (the Linux command prompt): click the bottom-left icon and choose Terminal. Enter these commands (copy and paste):

```
sudo dpkg --add-architecture i386
winecfg
sudo ln -s /usr/share/doc/wine/examples/wine.desktop /usr/share/applications/
```

winecfg starts WINE for the first time and opens a window: just close it with OK. The last command was needed with Ubuntu 22.04 and the WINE version of then: the script 'Wine Windows Program Loader' (wine.desktop) was not installed in /usr/share/applications/, and without it a Windows .exe program cannot be started from the desktop.

Now go back to Ubuntu Software and install **Winetricks** too. SARTrack does not need it, but it includes a powerful Explorer program, much like Windows Explorer: see below.

Newer Ubuntu versions (24.04 and later): the App Center may not offer Wine. Then install it from the Terminal instead (these commands have not been tested by SARTrack yet):

```
sudo dpkg --add-architecture i386
sudo apt update
sudo apt install wine wine32:i386 winetricks
winecfg
```

4. Install SARTrack

Open the Firefox web browser and download the SARTrack Terminal from sartrack.nz/Downloads.html. It ends up in the Downloads folder.



Click on  which opens the “Files” window. In the Downloads directory, right-click on the SARTrack_Inst.exe, then select “Open with Other Application”. In that list you should now see “Wine Windows Program Loader”. If ‘Wine Windows Program Loader’ is not in that list, see ‘Problems’ below.

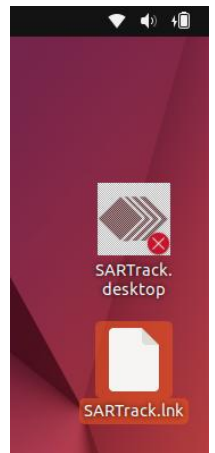
Choose it: the normal SARTrack installation window appears. After the installation there are two new icons on the desktop.



The icon “SARTrack Desktop” is invalid, and you should delete it (right-click, Move to Trash).

The icon **SARTrack.Ink** is the shortcut. I recommend adding SARTrack to the Favourites on the left as well: click the bottom-left icon, find SARTrack, right-click it and choose **Add to Favorites**. SARTrack now starts with a click on its icon.

The SARTrack Database Server can be installed on Ubuntu the same way.

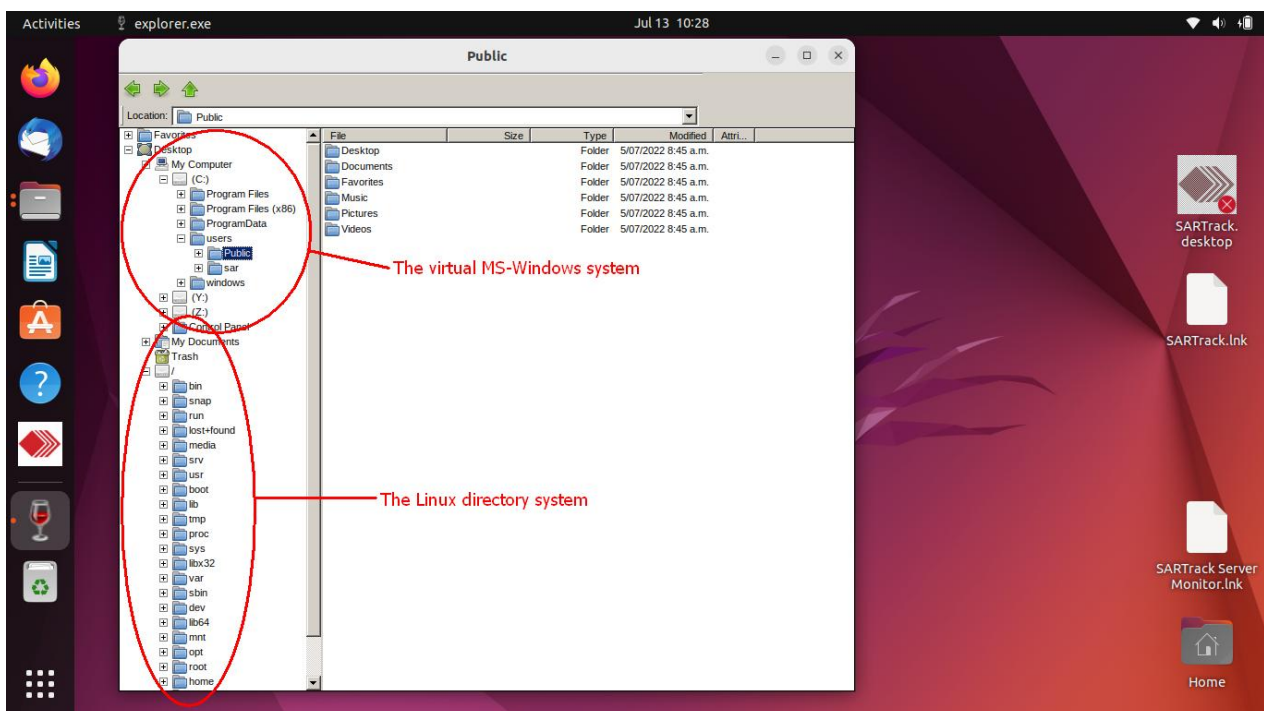


The Winetricks Explorer

There is really only one reason to use Winetricks: the Explorer program in it. Opening it is a bit of a hassle (at least in my version):

- Click the applications icon (bottom left), and click **Winetricks**.
- Ignore any warnings about 64-bit or 32-bit: close that window.
- Click OK in the next window: change nothing there.
- In the last window, choose **Explorer** and click OK. Explorer opens; the other windows come back behind it: close them with Cancel a few times.

In Explorer you can browse both the virtual Windows drive (C:\) and the Linux folders, and move files between the two. Copy and paste only works inside the Explorer window itself, not between Explorer and the Linux ‘Files’ program or the desktop.



The Winetricks Explorer

Problems: 'Wine Windows Program Loader' missing?

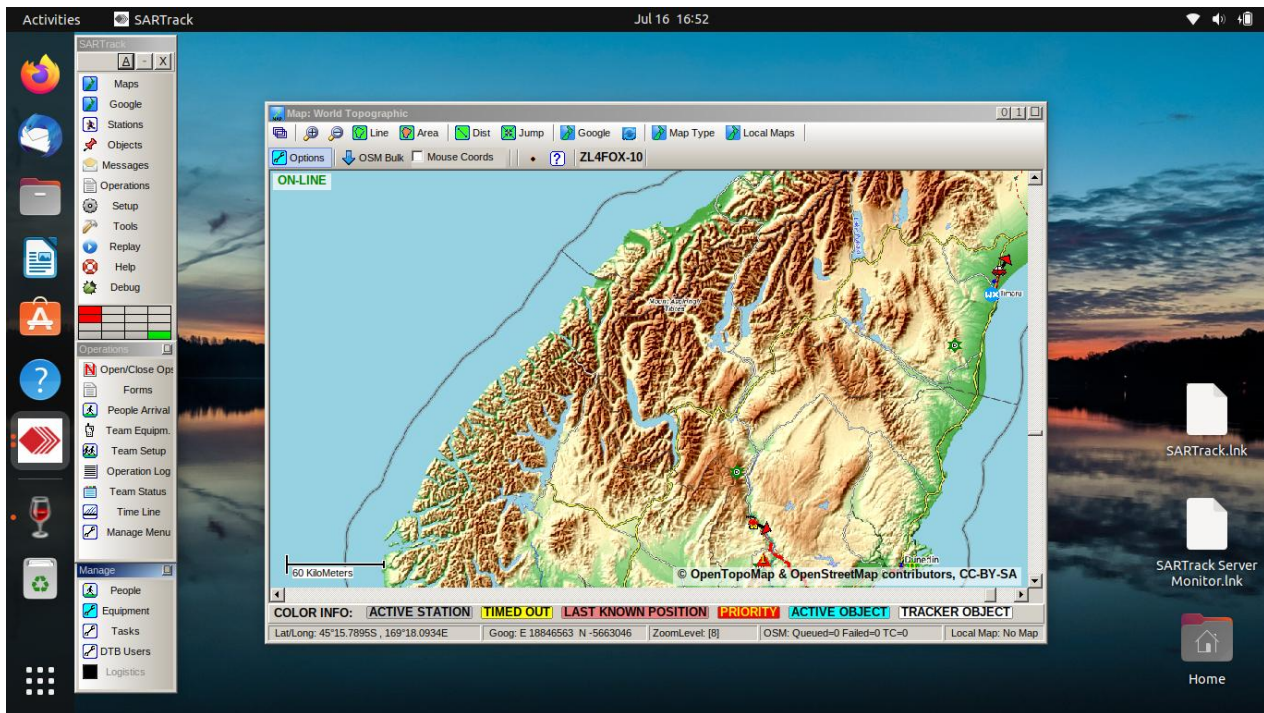
Without it in the 'Open with' list, no Windows program can be started. It should be in this Linux folder: /usr/share/applications/wine.desktop. WINE installs it, but (in my version) not in the right place. If it is not in /usr/share/doc/wine/examples/ either, it was installed somewhere else: search your system for 'wine.desktop' and link that one, as in step 3.

Feedback

I am very interested in your experience: when something does not work, when you find a better way, or when things have changed since I wrote this, please let me know: support@sartrack.nz.

Thanks,

Bart Kindt, Developer and CEO, SARTrack Limited, sartrack.nz



SARTrack on Ubuntu, as it looks when everything is done (a 2022 version of SARTrack)

28 October 2026.