FingerGear™ Computer-On-a-Stick™

USB Flash Drive with Onboard Operating System
Featuring a Microsoft-Compatible Office Suite, Mozilla FireFox Web Browser, Universal IM, and Much More…

Plug the **Computer-On-a-Stick™** (COS) into your PC or Laptop and instantly transform your old environment into a new and powerful secure workstation – without software installation!

- ✓ Use the COS when your PC or Laptop's existing OS slows to a crawl or simply fails.
- ✓ Use the COS to create and edit Windows-compatible files & documents. Works with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Paint, and more…
- ✓ View and create Adobe PDF files
- ✓ Retains your own customized desktop settings, address book, or bookmarks each time you plug into a different host PC.
- ✓ Significantly reduce exposure to viruses, worms and spyware.
- ✓ Connect to remote PCs or servers with secure connectivity tools, including VNC, SSH and RDP.

Operation

1. Insert the mini CD into your PC or Laptop's CD-ROM drive.
2. Insert the COS into any available USB Port.
3. Restart your Computer. When your system starts, set your login password (optional).
4. Have Fun!

Features

- High Speed Access (USB 2.0)
- Startup complete typically within 40 seconds
- Shutdown in seconds
- Configure to boot direct from USB drive without CD on many newer systems
- Non-volatile Flash memory. Write-protected OS
- Compressed utility optimizes use of space and reduces the risk of unauthorized modifications
- No hard disk needed

Software Specifications

- Linux 2.6.x Series Kernel
- Gnome Graphical User Interface Desktop
- Mozilla Firefox Web Browser
  - ✓ OpenOffice Productivity Suite, including
  - ✓ OpenOffice Writer for Word Processing
  - ✓ OpenOffice Calc for Spreadsheets
  - ✓ OpenOffice Draw for Vector Drawings
  - ✓ OpenOffice Impress for Slideshow Presentations
- Evolution Email
- GAIM Instant Messaging Client - compatible with MSN Messenger, Yahoo IM, AIM, ICQ, and more.
- Remote SSH Access Applications (SSHFS, VNC, RDP)
- PDF Creator & Viewer
- Automatic Network Configuration - DHCP
- PPP Stack enabling Dial-out Option

Minimum System Requirements

- One USB port (USB 2.0 recommended)
- A BIOS supporting CD-ROM or direct USB boot option
- Any x86 CPU, keyboard and mouse
- 128Mb of RAM or more
- A monitor supporting 1024x768 pixel resolution

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the COS portable from one PC to another PC with a different Operating System?
YES, as long as the PC's operating system supports FAT or FAT32 formatting (most do), and the PC has the proper USB drivers installed. The COS is designed as a standalone device with its own Operating System and does not use or change the host PC's native software. The COS will run on any Intel x86 processor, which includes all Pentium processors. Since the Macintosh processor does not currently use the x86 architecture, the COS is not bootable from a Macintosh. However, the COS can be used as a standard USB Flash Drive for transferring files between a Macintosh and other PCs using the "Public" folder.

How do I set up the device to always act as my default drive without using the boot CD?
Restart your computer, when prompted, hit the ESC key. On some machines, it may be the F2, F9, or F12 key, so pay close attention to what the startup screen says. Using the arrow keys, navigate to the Boot Order screen and move the FingerGear device to the top of the list as the default device. Don't worry, if it is not plugged in, your PC will boot from the next device on the list automatically. Save and exit (F10). If you computer does not list the FingerGear device as an option, then you will need to use the boot CD to use the COS on that machine.

I lost my original boot CD-ROM. Can I burn a new one?
Yes. If you have lost or misplaced the original boot CD-ROM that was included with the product, you can download the boot software from the FingerGear website and create a new bootable CD. Using your CD ROM software, be sure to select "Burn Image" using the downloaded *.iso CD image file. *Nero*, *MagicISO* and *Roxio* all offer software programs that provide *.iso file burning capabilities.

Can I unplug the COS and plug it in again during a session?
No. If you unplug the device while the OS is running from it, you will receive some strange error messages when you try to continue working on it. Also, if you haven't saved your files, you will lose any changes to them. Do not remove the device until after you have powered down.

Are there public and private partitions on the COS?
Yes. The COS is partitioned into public and private partitions. The Operating System is protected in the private partition of the device, while the device features a 'Public' folder that enables the user to plug the device into other PCs and easily share files in this folder without having to boot from the device or authenticate a fingerprint. Files that have been saved to other locations on the device are not viewable and cannot be shared in this manner.

Can I use the COS as a regular Flash Drive without booting from it?
Of course. The COS contains a folder called "Public" which is accessible by any other Windows, Macintosh, and Linux machine (any machine which supports FAT and FAT32 formatted devices). You can access the "Public" folder even if you do not boot from the device. When saving data to this folder, keep in mind that files in this folder are accessible to anyone who plugs in the device. If you want to keep files private you can do so from within the COS environment by saving your files to a directory at a level above the Public directory. Only the Public directory will be visible on other PCs when using the device as a standard USB flash drive (i.e., when you are not booting from it.)

What happens if I reformat my COS?
You cannot reformat your COS without reformatting the entire drive. If you reformat the device, you will erase all data, and you will also erase the entire FingerGear Operating System. Currently, FingerGear does not offer the Operating System as a download to restore the OS. The device, if reformatted, will behave as any standard USB 2.0 flash storage device.

How can I safely remove my COS?
It is important that you shut down the COS before removing it by clicking the exit icon with the red arrow in the lower right of your screen. If you remove the COS before doing this, you may need to perform a hard reboot.

Does the COS leave cookies, bookmarks, email, or any other traces on the host PC?
No. There is no trace left on the host machine by the COS. All of your personal settings are stored directly to the USB device for optimal security and portability.