Guide for installing Ubuntu Linux 8.10

Dual boot with Windows XP

Useful links for downloading needed files and more detailed directions for some of these operations are available here

Whenever you think you need further assistance, click on the link above and search the web pages provided there. Prior to doing anything else, it's strongly recommended that you back up all your important files. Things sometimes don't go entirely according to plan. Once you have backed up your system, proceed as follows.

From within Windows:
1. Download Ubuntu Live CD as an ISO image.
2. While you wait for Ubuntu Live CD to complete downloading, you can learn more about Linux and its different distros. Go to the useful links page and click on the link 'Switch to Linux,' just below the penguin. You will find different reasons why Linux is considered a better operating system than Windows. Alternatively, you can click on the penguin itself. This latter link will lead you to Wikipedia.
3. Burn CD. Use an ISO image. Don't create a Data CD! If your computer does not have ISO recording capabilities (Windows XP doesn't bring them by default), you can download 'ISO Recorder' and install it.
4. Label Windows partition to WinXP in My Computer. Probably your Windows partition is C:
5. Restart computer. Enter system BIOS and select CD-ROM as first booting device. Boot from Ubuntu Live CD.

From Ubuntu Live CD:

If your computer has only Windows installed, and there is only one partition, you might want to skip setting up all the partitions and go directly to step 10. In that case, choose the automated installation you will be offered. Split the hard disk in two partitions approximately the same size and move on to the 'Who are you' section. If you want to set up the partitions yourself, creating a 'share' partition for sharing files between Windows and Linux, continue with step 6.
6. Go to System→Administration→Partition Editor.
7. Analyze system partitions. Figure out which one is the Windows partition (most likely it'll be /dev/sda1) and shrink it to leave room for other operating systems.
8. Create the following partitions (some of them might exist already). Use the empty (unallocated) space for the new partitions.
   Don't forget to label them. You can use GParted for this job. It comes with built-in...
Double check that everything is correct before proceeding to the installation.

9. Install Ubuntu with the following settings:
   a) Select the location nearest you.
   b) Choose a keyboard layout. Type some special characters you might need, in order to double check the layout you selected.
   c) Prepare disk space: 'Manual'.
   d) Prepare partitions: Only format the root partition (/dev/sda2 in our example).
      ➢ Edit /dev/sda1 Use as NTFS Mount point: /mnt/WinXP
      ➢ Edit /dev/sda2 Use as EXT3 Mount point: /
      ➢ Edit /dev/sda3 Use as SWAP AREA Do not mount
      ➢ Edit /dev/sda5 Use as NTFS Mount point: /media/Shared_Files

   Mounting the share partition in /media, makes it show up on the desktop. This is convenient since 'share' is a shared partition and must be easily accessible for all users.
   e) Who are you?
      ➢ Name: IES Adormideras
      ➢ Login: adormideras
      ➢ Password: Wait for your teacher to assign a password
      ➢ Computer's name: pc01, pc02, ...
   f) Do NOT import any settings
   g) Ready to install
      ➢ Advanced. Make sure the following conditions are met:
         · 'Install boot loader' is checked
         · Device for boot loader installation: /dev/sda. First hard disk's MBR.

10. When the installation completes, restart your computer. Hopefully, you are all set and you will be able to use your new Ubuntu Linux operating system.

From your brand new operating system

11. Get a feel of Ubuntu. Click on 'Applications', 'Places', and 'System'. See what is kept in these and other places on the top panel. Find the 'Shut down' button and study the possibilities offered. Do the same with the bottom panel.
12. Right-click on an empty space in your desktop and change its background image. You can add more images to the list that pops up. Try the folders
    a) /usr/share/backgrounds
    b) /mnt/WinXP/WINDOWS
    c) /mnt/WinXP/WINDOWS/Web/Wallpaper

   You can access your Windows partition from Ubuntu! It's mounted to /mnt/WinXP. It works as if it were a folder inside Ubuntu's file system.
13. Open your home folder (Places OHome Folder) so you can tell the differences in what you are doing next. Try different 'Themes' and observe how your home folder's aspect changes. Drag it to another spot in your desktop and notice what happens with different 'Visual Effects' selected. Pick out the settings you like the most.
14. Use your Ubuntu system and enjoy.