How to Install Linux on Intel NUC Mini PC

First let's collect the parts we need to do this.

1. Intel NUC with HDMI display, Keyboard and Mouse attached and connected to the Internet. Most Intel NUCs preinstalled with Windows 10 or Windows 11. If your Intel NUC has no operating system, you need another computer to create a USB Linux Live Flash Drive, otherwise you can use the NUC itself to perform these preparatory steps.

2. Obtain a USB-A Flash Drive. Example is a Sandisk 32GB. This is probably the smallest one commonly available.

3. On the running Intel NUC, Go to Ubuntu.com and select the Downloads section. Then proceed to download
Ubuntu 22.04 LTS
You will get a file with an ".iso" extension.

4. We will assume here that your available computer is Windows since the Intel NUC itself is preloaded with Windows. The next step is to obtain software that can be used to flash the ISO Ubuntu image to the USB flash drive.

The recommended software for flashing a boot drive is Balena Etcher. This can be found at https://balena.io.

Download the version applicable to you. For this scenario we will use the Windows Portable Version.

Then run the Balena Etcher executable you downloaded. Select the Ubuntu ISO file as your source and select your target as the USB Flash Drive and begin the flashing.

After completion, you will now have a permanent Ubuntu Live USB flash drive which you can use to install Linux over and over.

5. Next step is to allow the Intel NUC to boot from the USB Drive. This is no longer allowed in modern versions of computers because of a feature called Secure Boot. So we need to turn off Secure Boot.

To this, when you boot the Intel NUC, tap on F2 a few times. This should bring up the BIOS Setup screen.

How this appears will depend on the version of the NUC. What you are looking for is Secure Boot option which may be in an Advanced section.

Find the option to turn off Secure Boot. Then, save your settings using the appropriate Function key as instructed on the screen (these unfortunately are different for different BIOS versions).

After saving the BIOS settings you can restart the Intel NUC.

6. Next, upon restarting the Intel NUC, when you see the Intel Logo, start tapping on F10. This will give you the boot order and from here you can select the USB as the start up device.

Then continue. The Ubuntu Live will start from the USB Flash Drive.

Select Try and "Install Ubuntu." and choose the default options when presented.

When asked to provide a username, use the name "braxrouter". This is IMPORTANT. Do not use any other login name.

Set the Device name to NUC.

Set the initial password to "hidemynet".

And finish the installation.

Ubuntu will now be installed.