Getting Slackware

The official way to do this is, of course, to get it from slackware.com.

Personally, I have getslack, a bash script based on (more accurately, a trimmed-down version of) the excellent (he termed it *infamous*) mirror-slackware-current.sh by Alien Bob. When going down this path, the next step would be to prepare the installation media.

Slackware Installer ISO Image

I no longer need an ISO image (refer to USB installer below). But, I have my slack2iso script (also based on Alien Bob's script) that can help in creating one using the tree downloaded by getslack.

Slackware USB Installer

Alien Bob has provided a script to make/setup/configure a USB-based Slackware installation media. I wanted to do something simpler using the existing files in the Slackware tree that I mirrored using getslack (mentioned above). So, here is how I got that working.

- 1. Create a FAT32 partition
 - use fdisk and make sure it is bootable (bootable flag enabled)
 - use mkdosfs (e.g. mkdosfs -F 32 /dev/sdb1)
- 2. Use syslinux to provide bootloader
 - create a /linux/boot/syslinux folder on the USB
 - ∘ type

syslinux -d /linux/boot/syslinux /dev/sdb1

Note: On newer syslinux, use -i to indicate new installation

- a file ldlinux.sys should appear in /linux/boot/syslinux
- 3. Copy boot facilities from Slackware tree to the media
 - copy a kernel from slackware tree to /linux/boot (I used huge.s)
 - o copy initrd.img and message.txt to /linux/boot
 - o copy isolinux.cfg to /linux/boot/syslinux as syslinux.cfg
 - edit syslinux.cfg accordingly (initrd, kernel params, etc.)
- 4. Copy slackware<64> in the Slackware tree (I used a shorter folder name like slack on the USB)

And... we're done! Now we have a simple Slackware USB Installer and install it on every computer we

can get our hands on! 💙

Note: GPT Disks and EFI

Things moving to (U)EFI and GPT... slowly leaving legacy BIOS and MBR.

Instead of MBR, we use GPT partitioning scheme:

- supports bigger disk
- supports EFI booting (easier to maintain actually :p)

Partition codes are 2-bytes instead (only 1-byte on MBR's partition table). Among the common ones:

- EF00 (EFI System Partition): this is what EFI boot look for
 - format FAT32

mkdosfs -F 32 -n MY1EFI /dev/sdxx

- 0700 (MS Basic Data): Windows Partition
 - format NTFS

mkntfs -f -L MY1WIN /dev/sdxx

- 8300 (Linux filesystem): Linux Partition format EXT4

mkfs.ext4 -L MY1LIN /dev/sdxx

Once boot using EFI, efibootmgr tool can be used (available on Slackware 14.2)

• to create an entry labelled Slackware with loader file named \efi\slackware\elilo.efi located on first partition of first disk (/dev/sda1)

```
efibootmgr -c -d /dev/sda -p 1 -L "Slackware" -l
"\efi\slackware\elilo.efi"
```

to delete an entry xxxx (bootnum)

efibootmgr -b xxxx -B

to re-order boot sequence

```
efibootmgr -o xxxx,yyyy,zzzz
```

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