

Tails OS Project

Full Documentation | 10-4-2023

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Purpose

Tails OS is arguably the most anonymous and secure operating system there is. This is because the OS is loaded directly into the memory upon boot which means all of the data will be lost when the computer is powered down. The purpose of this project is to experiment with this operating system and to get familiar with it. I am also curious to experience the Tor browser.

Scope


This is a fairly short and simple project, and the primary goal is to learn about Tails and how to access it. There are a few objectives to complete in order to achieve this goal which are:

- Download the Tails ISO image.
- Flash the ISO on a flash drive.
- Disable secure boot and change the boot drive.
- Boot into Tails.
- Access the dark web.


Project

The first step in this project is to download and ISO image of Tails and flash it on a flash drive. First, I navigated to tails.net then clicked on the Windows installation. This can be seen in the screenshot below.


Your steps




Download Tails




Verify your download




Download *balenaEtcher*



Install Tails using *balenaEtcher*




Restart on your Tails USB stick



Welcome to Tails!

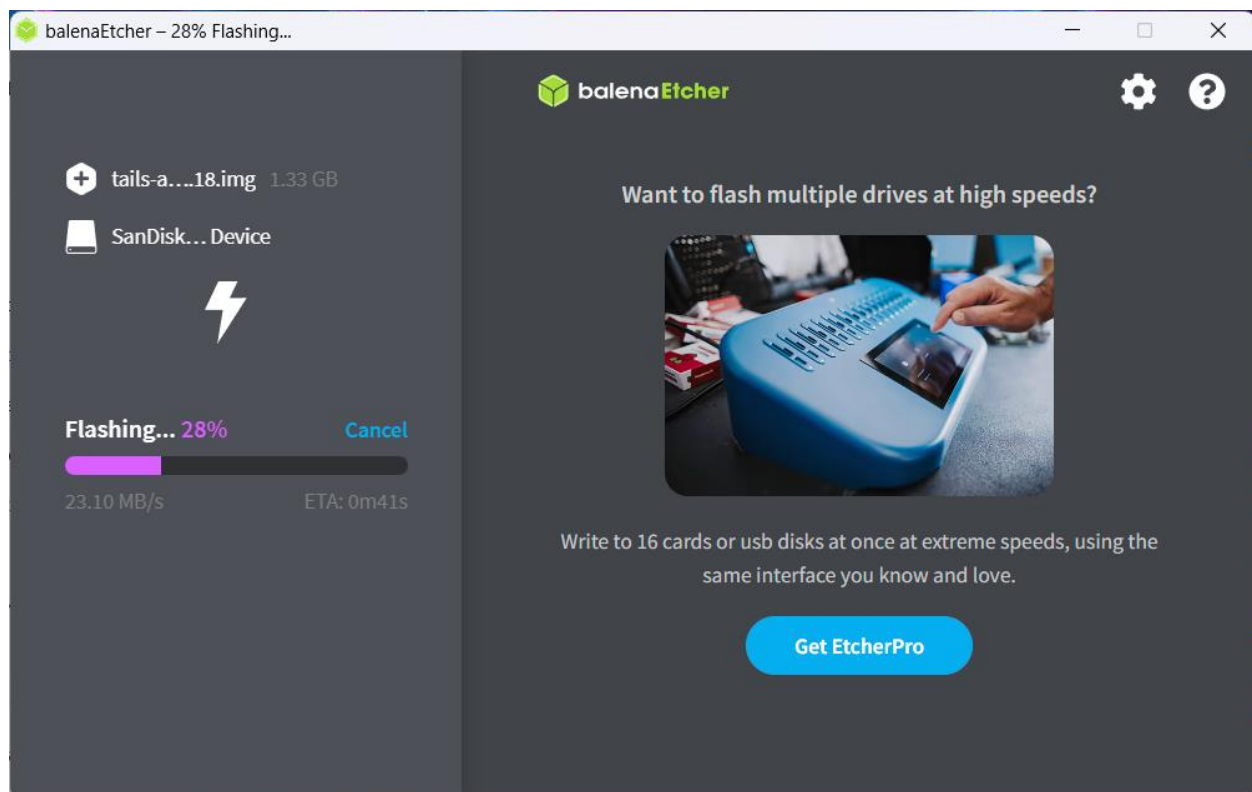
1/9 **Download Tails**



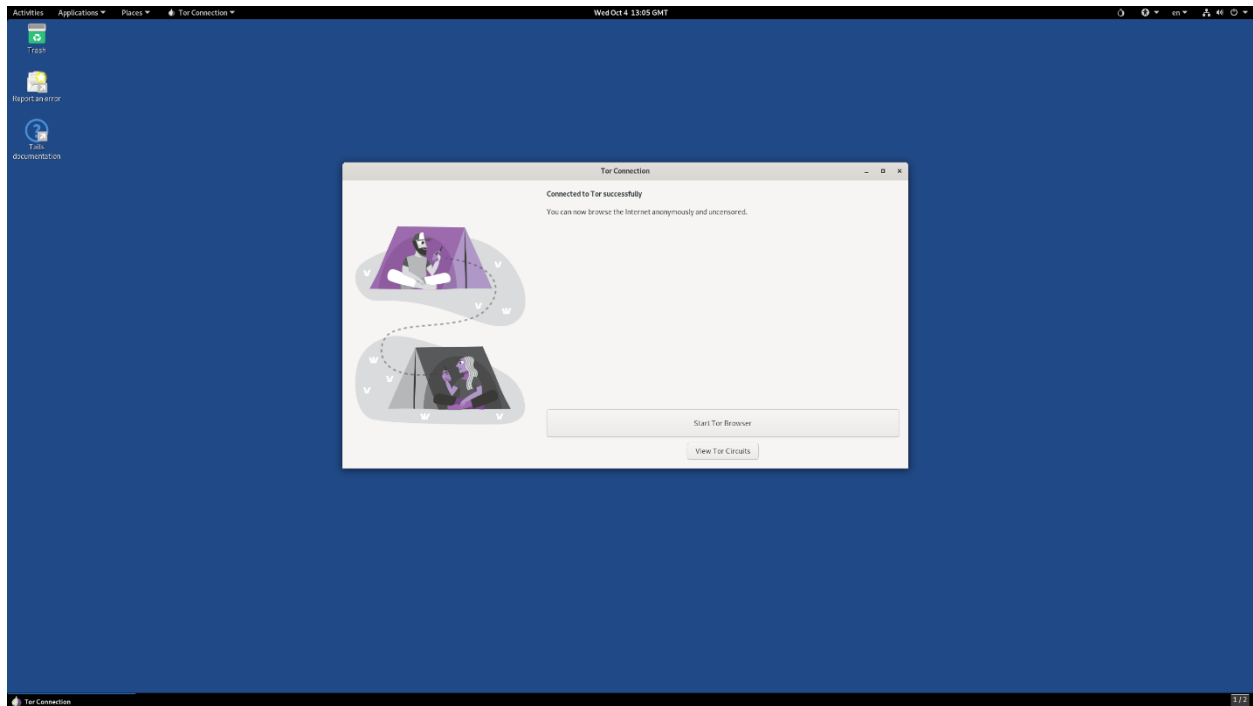
Download Tails 5.18 USB image (1.3 GB)

or download using [BitTorrent](#)

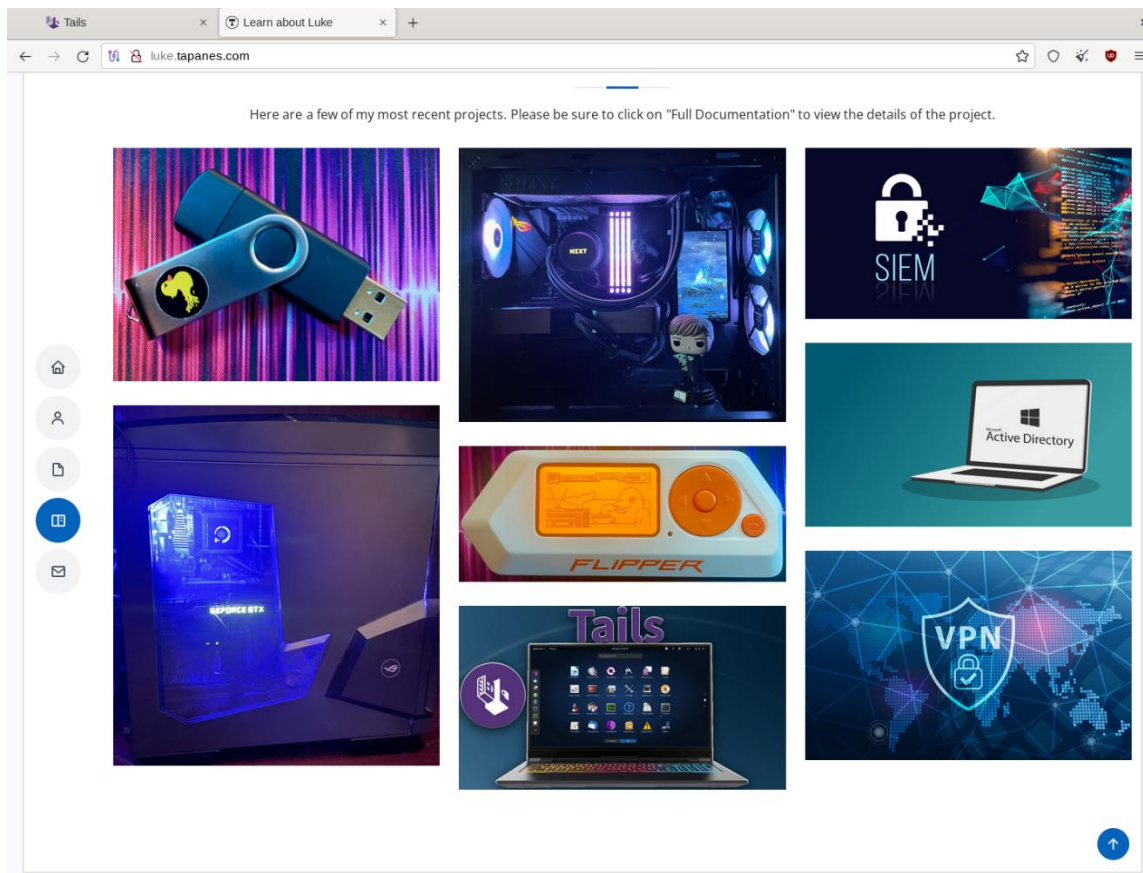
The next step is to flash this image on a flash drive. This is a straightforward process and the tool I used to do this BelanaEtcher. By flashing the image on a flash drive, the flash drive will become bootable with tales. This can be seen in the screenshot below.



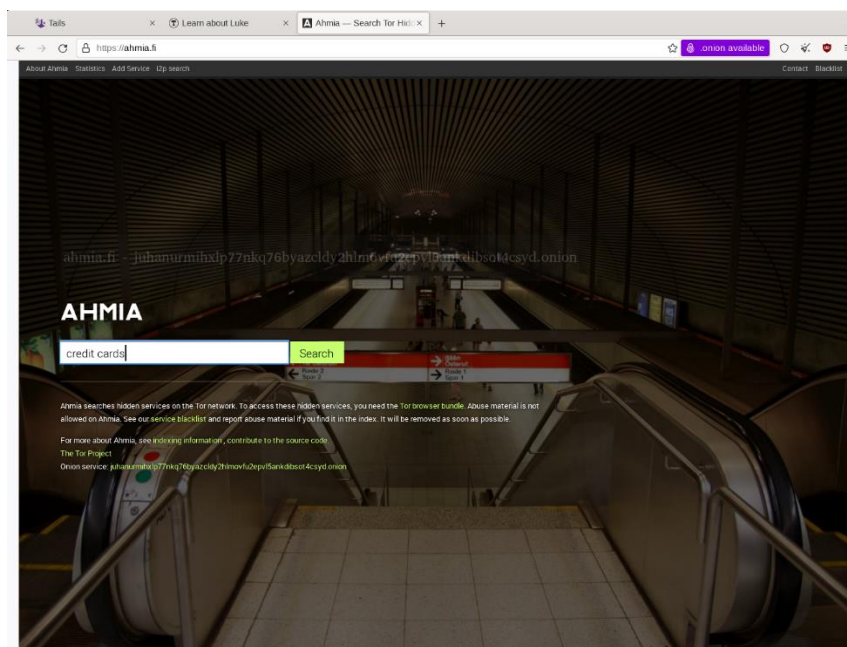
Now that the flash drive is bootable, it is time to reboot the computer and change a few BIOS settings. The first setting is to disable secure boot and the second setting is to change the primary boot drive to the drive that contains Tails OS. After clicking “save and exit,” the system then booted directly into Tails OS. This can be seen in the screenshots below.



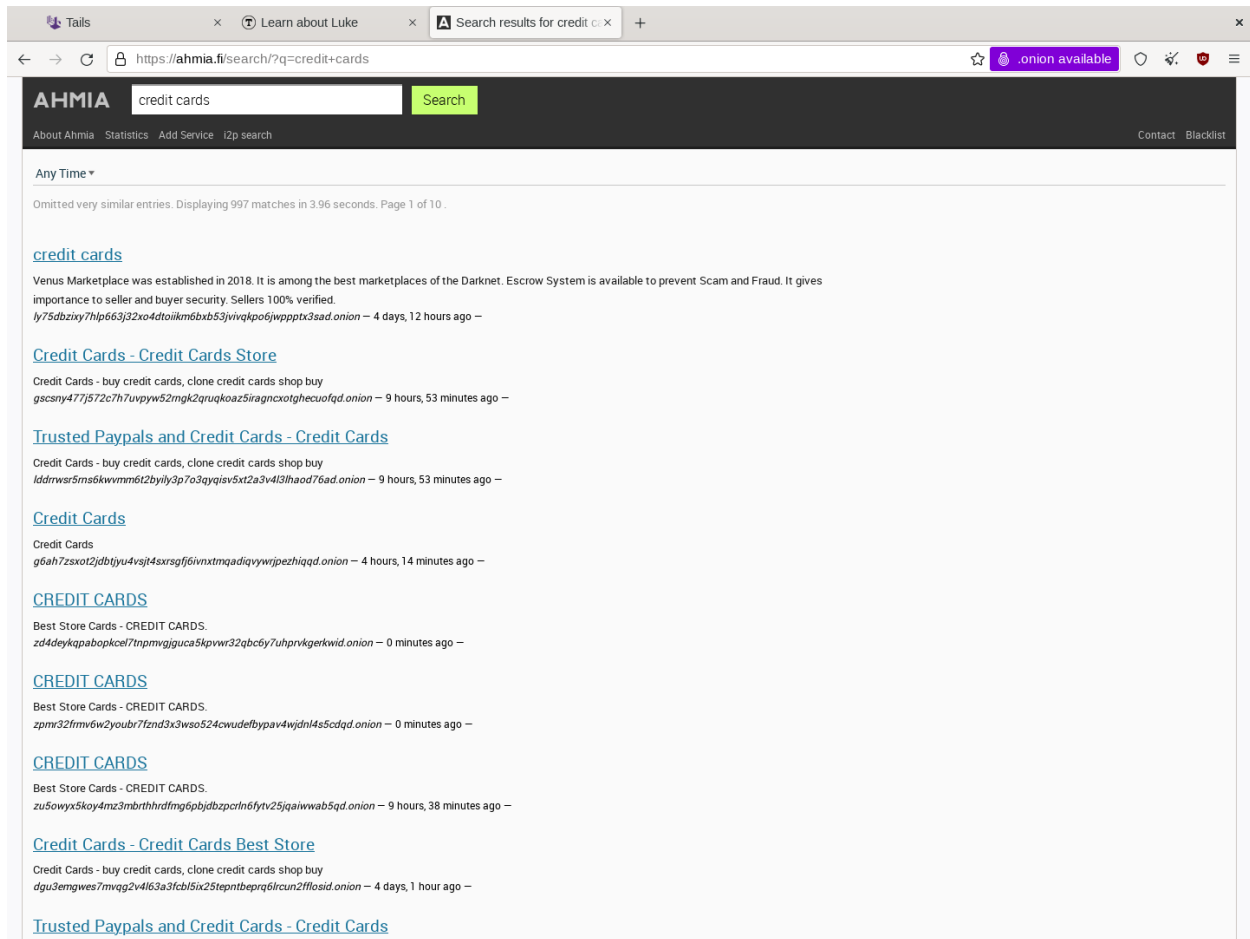
The final step in this project is to access the Tor browser (Dark Web). After configuring the browser, I first visited my website to test the connection. This can be seen in the picture below.



Now that I knew that the connection worked, I navigated to Ahmia. Ahmia is a search engine for “.onion” extensions which means that this search engine is specifically meant for browsing the dark web.



I have completed the objective by this point but just for fun, I searched “credit cards” in the search engine. Sure enough, there were loads of pages selling stolen credit cards.



Lessons Learned

All in all, this was a new experience. It was very insightful to see how easy it is to be anonymous and to access the dark web. To recap this project, I successfully:

- Downloaded the Tails ISO image.
- Flashed the ISO on a flash drive.
- Disabled secure boot and changed the boot drive.
- Booted into Tails.
- Accessed the dark web.

