

# WHAT TO DO ABOUT YOUR CRASHED COMPUTER

**If your computer has crashed, whether you see a black screen, or a totally dead blue screen where nothing works, don't give up.**

Before you try to repair your Windows, or re-format your harddrive and re-install Windows (which will cause you to loose all your files, photos, important documents, etc.), there is hope. You can try **Knoppix** to rescue your files before you do anything else; you will have a better than 90% chance to rescue your important files.

## What is KNOPPIX ?

KNOPPIX is a bootable Debian based Live CD with a collection of GNU/Linux software, automatic hardware detection, and support for many graphics cards, sound cards, SCSI and USB devices and other peripherals.

KNOPPIX can be used as a Linux demo, educational CD, **rescue system**, or adapted and used as a platform for commercial software product demos. It is not necessary to install anything on a hard disk. Due to on-the-fly decompression, the CD includes 2 GB of executable software installed on it.

## Knoppix 5.1.1 features:

- Linux Kernel 2.6.19.1
- Debian (Etch/Testing)
- Xorg 7.1, udev 103
- cloop 2.05, realtime decompression with extended block-buffering for reduction of CD/DVD access latency.
- Aufs (Another Unionfs) replaces UnionFS for better stability and performance without a change in functionality
- NTFS-3G (12.12.2006) for full transparent NTFS write support
- FUSE 2.6.1 for filesystem implementation, comprehensive API, secure mounting by non-root users, support for 2.4 and 2.6 Linux kernels, multi-threaded operation, etc.
- Updated ntfsprogs (ntfsresize, ntfsmount, ntfsfix)
- KDE 3.5.5, GNOME 2.16.0
- Integration of 3D desktop beryl+emerald as add-on for KDE
- OpenOffice.org 2.1.0 (German and English)
- X MultiMedia System (XMMS), Ogg Vorbis Audio player, Xine 1.1.2
- The GIMP 2.2.11
- Experimental script for creating a bootable flash-pendrive from a running KNOPPIX live session

**Knoppix**, (also spelled as **KNOPPIX**), is a computer operating system which can be used as a live CD. It is a Debian based Linux distribution, developed by Linux consultant Klaus Knopper.

When repairing systems with non-booting hard drives, live CD operating systems like Knoppix are a much more comfortable environment than the previous solution of boot floppies, thanks to the complete graphical environment and networking

## **What this means for you**

There are two main editions of Knoppix: the traditional Compact Disc (700 megabytes) edition and the DVD (4.7 gigabytes) "Maxi" edition. Each of these main editions have two language-specific editions. One language is English and the other is German.

When starting a program it is loaded from the optical disc and decompressed into a RAM drive. The decompression is transparent and on-the-fly.

Knoppix consists of free software, it is free for everyone and can be downloaded from the net.

## **How it works:**

Before you start, you have to change the boot settings from harddrive to cd-rom drive. To do so, you have to start your PC and push the button (before windows appear) to go to your bios or boot-settings. The buttons are different in every PC, but you can see them when your PC starts. Mostly is it the F10 or F12 button.

Then put the Knoppix cd in your cd-drive and follow the instructions on the screen. Knoppix will start, and you have to wait until it is ready. Then you can see all your drives, your files and all that stuff that is on your PC. You have to look a bit closer, because the drives have different names; instead of C: or D: they are named hda or hd1 etc, but when you look closer, you will be able to see all your files.

Now you can rescue them. If your PC has two cd-rom-drives (and one of them is a cd-burner), you can use one for the Knoppix-live-cd, and the burner to burn your files. A burn program is included in knoppix. If your PC has only one cd-drive, you have a few more options. You can use an external cd-drive, an external hard-drive, or a USB-stick.

I personally prefer the USB stick, because it is the easiest way, and is cheap and comfortable. Mine has a capacity of 2 GB, which means, there is plenty of space for a lot of photos, files, and so on. You just put the stick in the USB port, and a picture of the stick will appear on the screen. You can simply copy your files and paste them in the stick.

After you save all your important things, you can close Knoppix, remove the Knoppix cd, restart your PC and put the settings back to boot from harddrive.

Now you can try to repair or re-install your Windows, or if it is a hardware problem, bring your PC to a repair shop, etc., but your files are saved.

The really good thing is, because Knoppix is a live-bootable, independent operating-system, there is nothing installed on your PC.

Good luck  
Wilma Mang