

Notes on "Windows on a Raspberry Pi"

There are several sources for the files. The installation utility can be downloaded from WoRproject.ml

They suggest several UUPDump and a couple of other places to get the images for the SD card, but I found that they would not boot on my 2GB Pi-4. Instead I went to insider.windows.com and registered. From there you can download the Microsoft version of Windows for the ARM processor.

The "catch" is that it is a VHDx format — Virtual Hard Drive — and is not accessible from the WoR utility. However, you can go to bullfrag.com for information and download a conversion utility (GImageX.exe) from autoitconsulting.com.

What you do is mount the VHDx, which will make it appear as a drive in file explorer, then use GImageX to create an image from that. The image will be a .wim file - a windows image, I believe, but it will behave like an .iso and will be written to the SD card as a bootable Windows install. The download and the image are both about 8GB but can be zipped to 3.5 if necessary.

From that point, the card booted very well, but somewhat slowly. Because there are no native drivers for the WiFi, you will need a wired connection, but regular Windows software will install fine. I was able to install and run MS Office pro 2010 locally from a disk image. I suspect the Pi4 with 8GB would be the best choice, but I don't have one and didn't do a comparison.

Just for comparison of other OSs I timed the boot times and found:

Raspian — 26 seconds, power on to loaded desktop

Ubuntu — 1 minute 37 seconds power on to loaded desktop

Windows — 2 minutes 53 seconds to the logon screen — instantaneous after entering your PIN to the desktop.

Have fun!

Skip, KB1CNB
kb1cnb@arrl.net