

# Install Ubuntu / Linux on a Dell Vostro 3350

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<https://www.bortzmeyer.org/dell-vostro-3350.html>

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I just installed Ubuntu on a Dell Vostro 3350 laptop. This article documents a few things about this machine and the issues I had. The main one is that this PC is very recent and therefore works **only** with "bleeding edge" software, requiring a beta version of Ubuntu.

I first tried to install Ubuntu from an USB key, created on an older machine via System -¿ Administration -¿ Startup disk creator and using the currently stable version of Ubuntu, "Natty Narwhal" <<http://ftp.crihan.fr/releases/natty/>>. F12 at startup to boot on the USB key, the system starts and then I have only a "zebra" screen with moving color lines. I tried several things, for instance using the `nomodeset` option (keep a key pressed to have the startup menu, then F6, then choose `nomodeset`, then Escape). Here, the kernel boots but `initramfs` says "Unable to find a medium containing a live file system". Various tricks found on the Web such as option `all_generic_ide` or changing the order of boot devices in the BIOS did not work. (But it may help to read in detail the excellent `LiveCDBootOptions` <<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/LiveCDBootOptions>> documentation.)

The solution was to create a new USB key, with an image of the most recent Ubuntu, "Oneiric Ocelot" <<http://ftp.crihan.fr/releases/oneiric/>>. It was at this time still beta but I was lucky, Beta 1 <<https://wiki.ubuntu.com/OneiricOcelot/TechnicalOverview/Beta1>> works fine. (This version is now officially released.)

Here is a list of what seems to work on the machine :

- The screen, at 1360x768,
- The sound (and I was able to see an episode of Game of Thrones at high definition),
- The Ethernet network,
- Wi-Fi.

Things which do not work include :

- Among ACPI things, suspension works fine but hibernation does not : the machine does not complain but shuts down instead of going to sleep.

I did not test yet :

- Gadgets such as the fingerprint reader or the webcam.

Some good texts to read :

- A good documentation on some installation problems <<http://www.tuxgarage.com/2011/01/ubuntu-maverick-blank-screen-problem.html>> **(but was not sufficient in my case)**
- An experience with this machine <<http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=1800160>> (quite different from mine, probably because, under the same name, Dell uses different components). The author was able to install but had screen problems afterwards.
- The Dell Vostro 3350 is officially certified for Ubuntu <<http://www.ubuntu.com/certification/hardware/201101-6951>>, which does not say a lot. Read a good explanation why certification is useless <<https://answers.launchpad.net/ubuntu-certification/+question/164793>> : the certified components are described here <<http://www.ubuntu.com/certification/hardware/201101-6951/components>>.

The PCI cards are described here (en ligne sur <https://www.bortzmeyer.org/files/dell-vostro-3350->  
Here are the boot messages of the machine (en ligne sur <https://www.bortzmeyer.org/files/dell-vostro-3350-boot>).