
Fedora 18

Installation Quick Start Guide

Downloading and installing Fedora 18 on most desktop and laptop computers



Fedora Documentation Project

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Abstract

This document shows you how to download and install Fedora. It does not cover every possible scenario, but describes steps that will work in most situations on most common hardware.

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1. Introduction

This guide shows you how to download a Fedora 18 live CD image, burn this image to a disc, and use this disc to install Fedora 18 on a typical desktop or notebook computer. This guide is not a complete description of the installation process and all its options — for greater detail, refer to the *Fedora 18 Installation Guide*, available from <http://docs.fedoraproject.org/>.

2. Requirements

To create a Fedora live CD, you need:

- a broadband connection to the Internet.
- a computer with a CD or DVD burner.
- software that allows you to create a CD from an image file.
- a blank, writeable CD.


If you do not have a fast Internet connection, or if you have a problem creating boot media, downloading may not be an option. Fedora DVD and CD distribution media is available from a number of online sources around the world at a minimal cost. Use your favorite Web search engine to locate a vendor, or refer to <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Distribution>.

The computer on which you intend to install Fedora 18 from the live CD should have:

- a CD or DVD drive, and the capability to boot from this drive.
- a 400 MHz processor or faster
- at least 1 GB of memory (RAM)
- at least 10 GB of permanent storage (hard drive) space.

These specifications represent a bare minimum to use Fedora in graphical mode. Almost any laptop or desktop computer manufactured in recent years will meet these requirements. For more details of the hardware requirements for Fedora 18, refer to the *Fedora 18 Release Notes*, available from <http://docs.fedoraproject.org/>.

If your computer does not have a CD or DVD drive, or is not capable of booting from this drive, then you might be able to install Fedora from a USB storage device such as a USB flash drive. Refer to the *liveusb-creator* page at <https://fedorahosted.org/liveusb-creator/> for instructions.



Do you already have Fedora 18 on CD, DVD, or live USB media?

If you already have Fedora 18 on CD, DVD, or live USB media, you can still use this guide, because many steps will be similar. Skip ahead to [Section 5, “Boot your computer from the CD”](#), then

- continue through the instructions in order if you have a Fedora 18 live CD or live USB device.
- skip ahead to [Section 9, “Keyboard Configuration”](#) if you have a Fedora 18 DVD.

3. Download the Fedora live CD image file

The image file for the Fedora 18 live CD is available from <http://download.fedoraproject.org/pub/fedora/linux/releases/Live/i686/Fedora--i686-Live-Desktop.iso>. Download and save this file to your computer.

4. Burn the image file to CD

The exact series of steps that produces a CD from an image file varies greatly from computer to computer, depending on the operating system and disc burning software installed. Use this procedure as a general guide. You might be able to omit certain steps on your computer, or might have to perform some of the steps in a different order from the order described here.

Make sure that your disc burning software is capable of burning discs from image files. Although this is true of most disc burning software, exceptions exist.

In particular, note that the CD burning feature built into Windows XP and Windows Vista cannot burn CDs from images and that earlier Windows operating systems did not have any CD burning capability installed by default. Therefore, if your computer has a Windows operating system prior to Windows 7 installed on it, you need a separate piece of software for this task. Examples of popular CD burning software for Windows that you might already have on your computer include **Nero Burning ROM** and **Roxio Creator**. If you use a Windows operating system on your computer and do not have disc burning software installed (or you are not sure that the software can burn discs from image files) **InfraRecorder** is a suitable alternative available from <http://www.infrecorder.org/>, and is free and open-source.

The **Disk Utility** software installed by default with Mac OS X on Apple computers has the capability to burn CDs from images built into it already. Most widely-used CD burning software for Linux, such as **Brasero** and **K3b**, also includes this capability.

1. Insert a blank, writeable CD into your computer's CD or DVD burner. On some computers, a window opens and displays various options when you insert the disc. If you see a window like this, look for an option to launch your chosen disc burning program. If you do not see an option like this, close the window and launch the program manually.

2. Launch your disc burning program. On some computers, you can do this by right-clicking (or control-clicking) on the image file and selecting a menu option with a label like **Copy image to CD**, or **Copy CD or DVD image**. Other computers might provide you with a menu option to launch your chosen disc burning program, either directly or with an option like **Open With**. If none of these options are available on your computer, launch the program from an icon on your desktop, in a menu of applications such as the **Start** menu on Windows operating systems, or in the Mac **Applications** folder.
3. In your disc burning program, select the option to burn a CD from an image file. For example, in **Nero Burning ROM**, this option is called **Burn Image** and is located on the **File** menu.

Note that you can skip this step when using certain CD burning software; for example, **Disk Utility** on Mac OS X does not require it.
4. Browse to the ISO CD image file that you downloaded previously and select it for burning.
5. Click the button that starts the burning process.



Check the CD

After the burning process completes, browse to the CD and check its contents. If you have burned the disc correctly, it should contain a number of files and folders, including **GPL**, **README**, **LiveOS**, **EFI**, and **isolinux**. If you see only a single file named **Fedora-18-i686-Live.iso**, you have burned the image file itself to the CD, rather than burning a CD from the image file. In this case, you cannot use the CD and must try again.

5. Boot your computer from the CD

Switch on your computer, load the Fedora 18 live CD into the CD or DVD drive, and restart the computer with the disc still in the drive. Ideally, you should soon see the Fedora boot screen and a ten-second countdown:

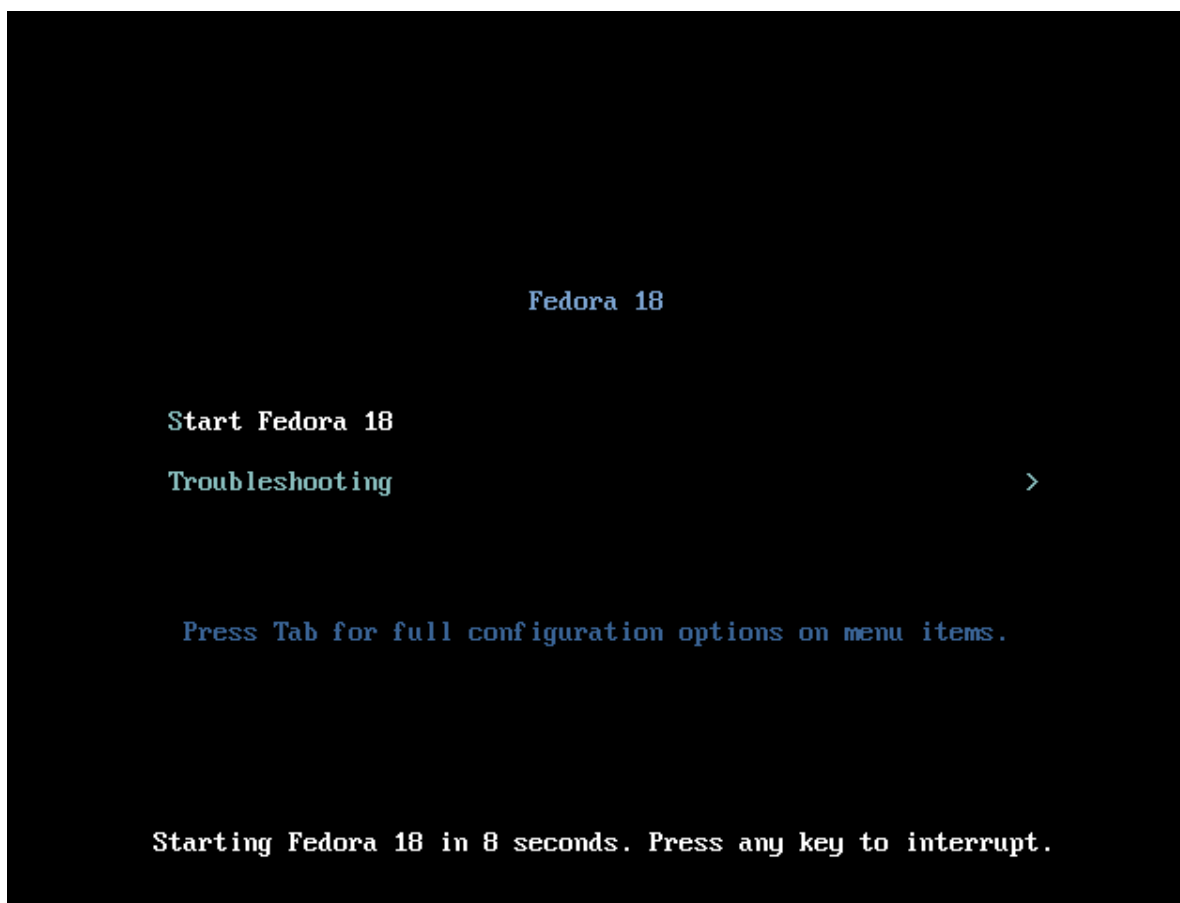


Figure 1. The Fedora live CD boot screen

Either press **Enter** to select the **Start Fedora 18** option, or wait for the countdown to expire.

If you do not see this screen, you might need to select an option manually to make your computer boot from the CD. Power your computer on, and watch the initial BIOS screen for a prompt that indicates which key to use for either:

- a boot menu, or
- the BIOS setup utility

The boot menu option is preferable. If you cannot see such a prompt, consult your manufacturer's documentation for your computer system, motherboard, or mainboard for the correct keystroke. On many systems, the required key will be **F12**, **F2**, **F1**, **Esc**, or **Delete**.

6. Fedora Live Desktop

After a ten-second countdown, your computer loads the Fedora live system and presents you with a login screen:

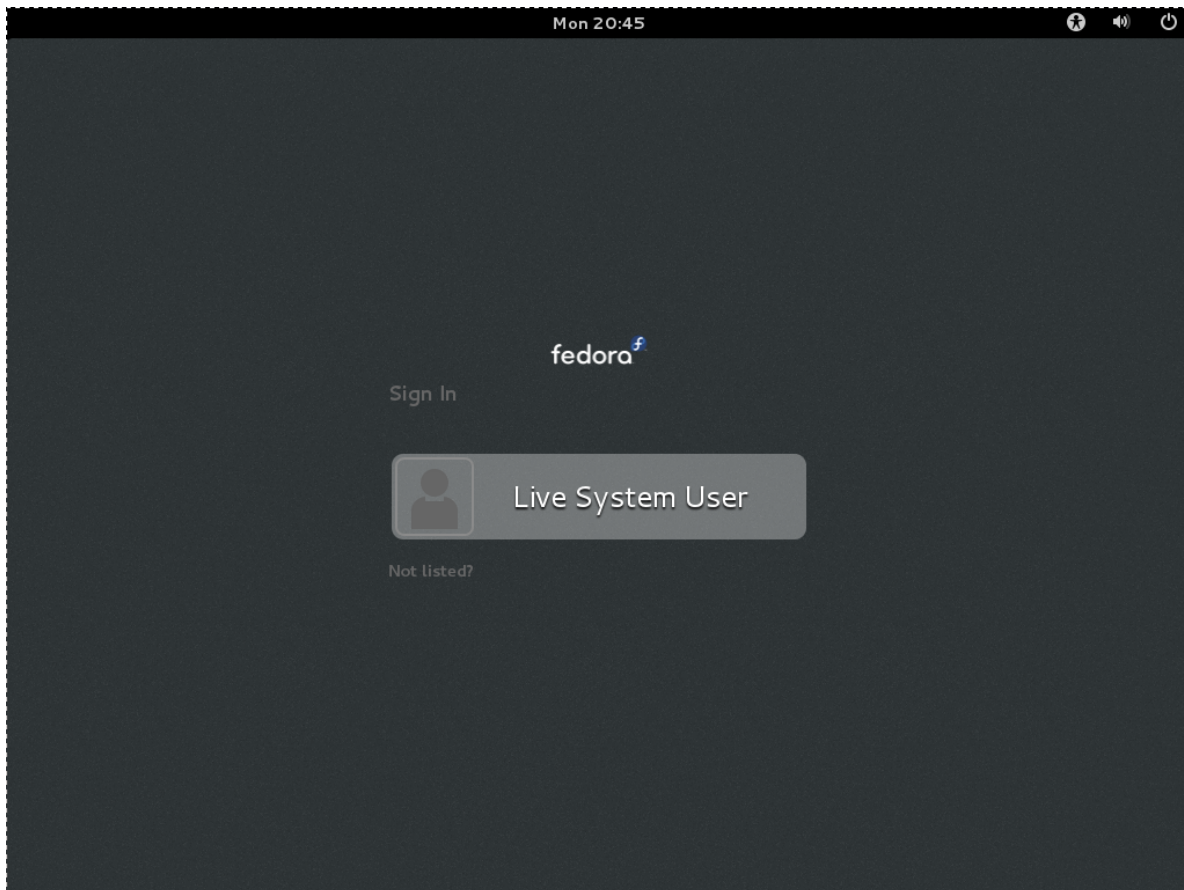


Figure 2. The Fedora live system login screen

Click the **Live System User** button. No password is required. The Fedora live system desktop will then load.

After a few seconds, a menu will appear offering two choices.



Figure 3. Try or install Fedora

To test out Fedora before installing, click **Try Fedora** to browse the desktop interface.

To install Fedora, click **Install to Hard Drive**.

7. Language Selection

At the **Welcome to Fedora 18** screen, use your mouse to select the language (for example, **English (United States)**) you would prefer to use for the installation and as the system default.

Alternatively, type your preferred language into the search box (refer to the figure below).

To also set the keyboard layout to the default for your selected language, click the checkbox below the search box.

Once you have made your selection, click **Continue**.

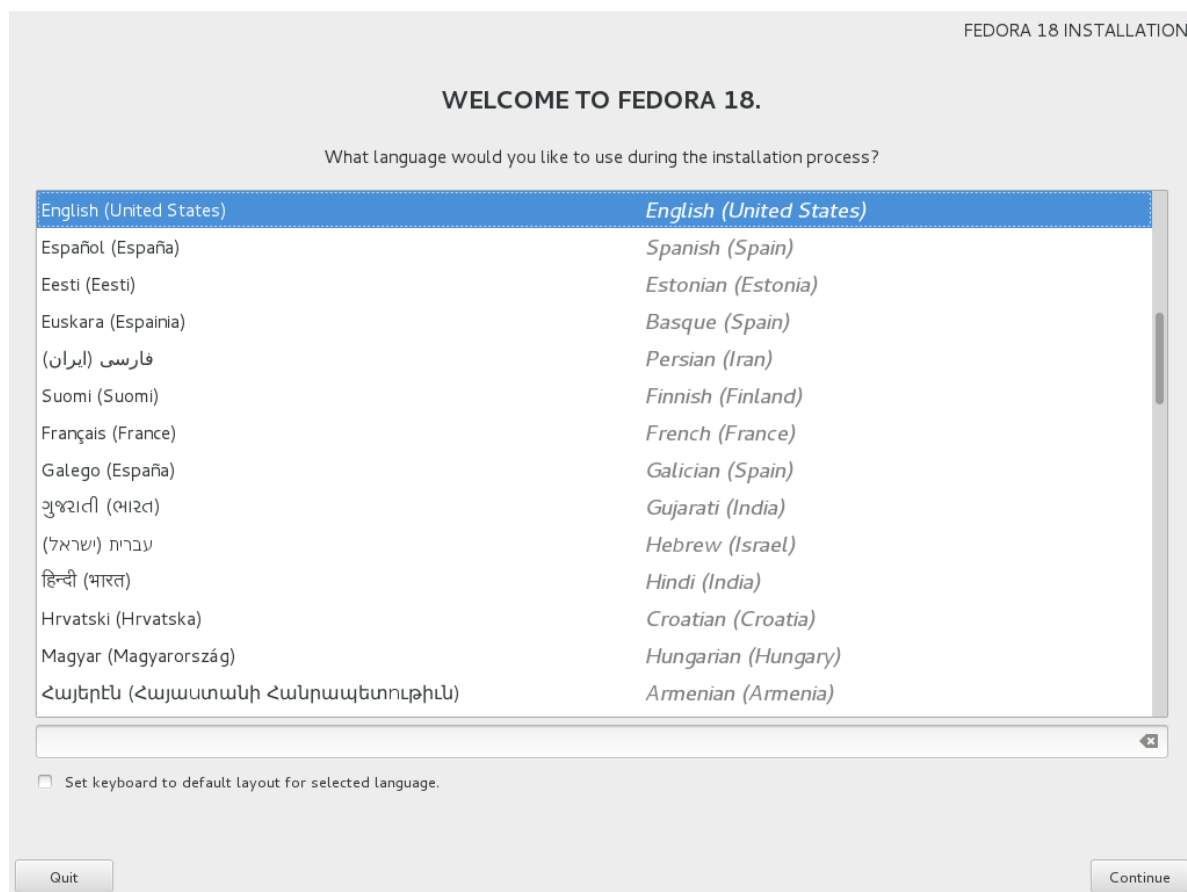


Figure 4. Language Configuration

8. The Installation Summary Menu

The Installation Summary Menu is the central screen for setting up an installation.

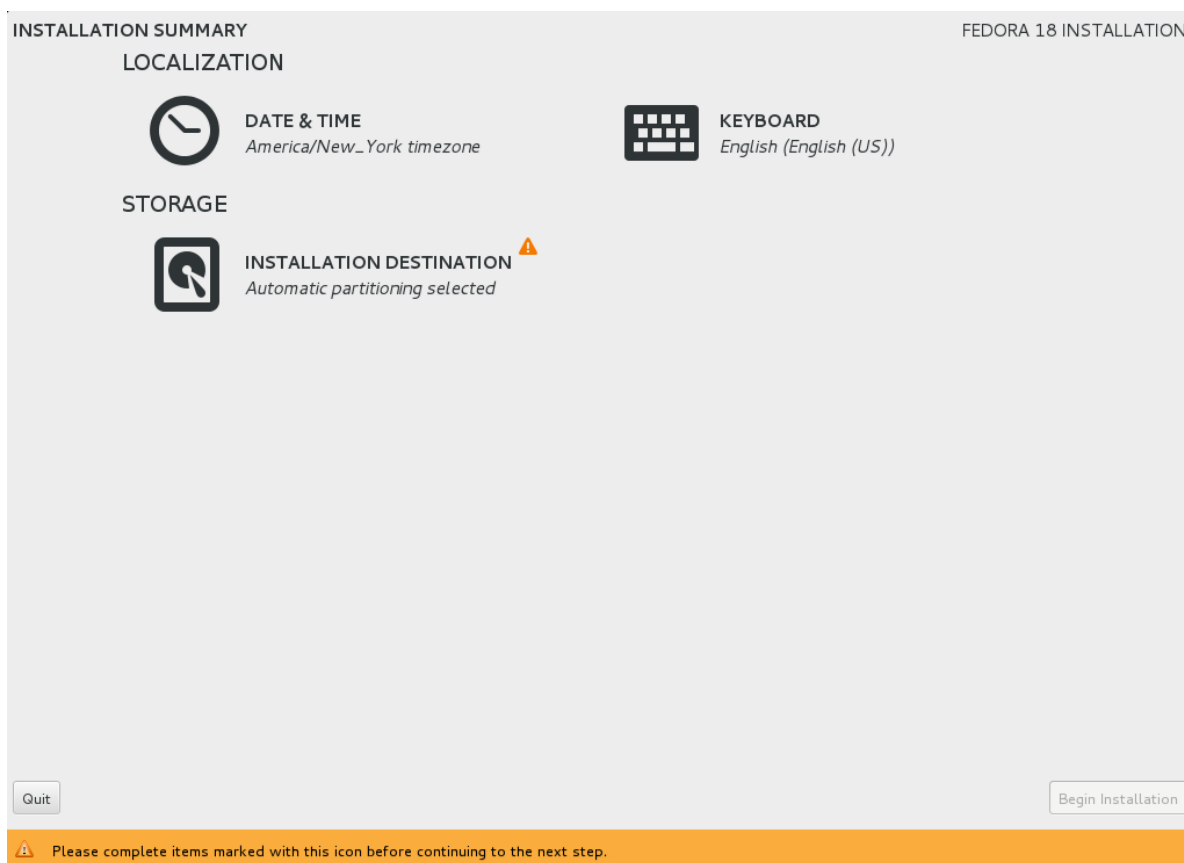


Figure 5. The Installation Summary Menu

Instead of directing you through consecutive screens, the Fedora installer allows you to configure your installation in the order you choose.

Use your mouse to select a menu item to configure a section of the installation. When you have completed configuring a section, or if you would like to complete that section later, click **Done**.

Only sections marked with a warning symbol are mandatory. A note at the bottom of the screen warns you that these sections must be completed before the installation can begin. The remaining sections are optional. Beneath each section's title, the current configuration is summarised. Using this you can determine whether you need to visit the section to configure it further.

Once all required sections are complete, click **Begin Installation** (refer to [Section 13, “Begin installation”](#)).

To cancel the installation, click **Quit**.



Note

When related background tasks are being run, certain menu items may be temporarily grayed out and unavailable.

9. Keyboard Configuration

Select **Keyboard** from the Installation Summary Menu.

In the left-hand pane, **English (United States)** is listed as the keyboard layout, unless you clicked the checkbox in [Section 7, “Language Selection”](#) to set the keyboard layout to the default for your selected language. If so, you may still want to select a more specific layout. For example, if you selected **French** as the language for this installation, the layout listed in the left-hand pane will be **French (French)**. However, you may want to change it to **French (French (Canada))**.

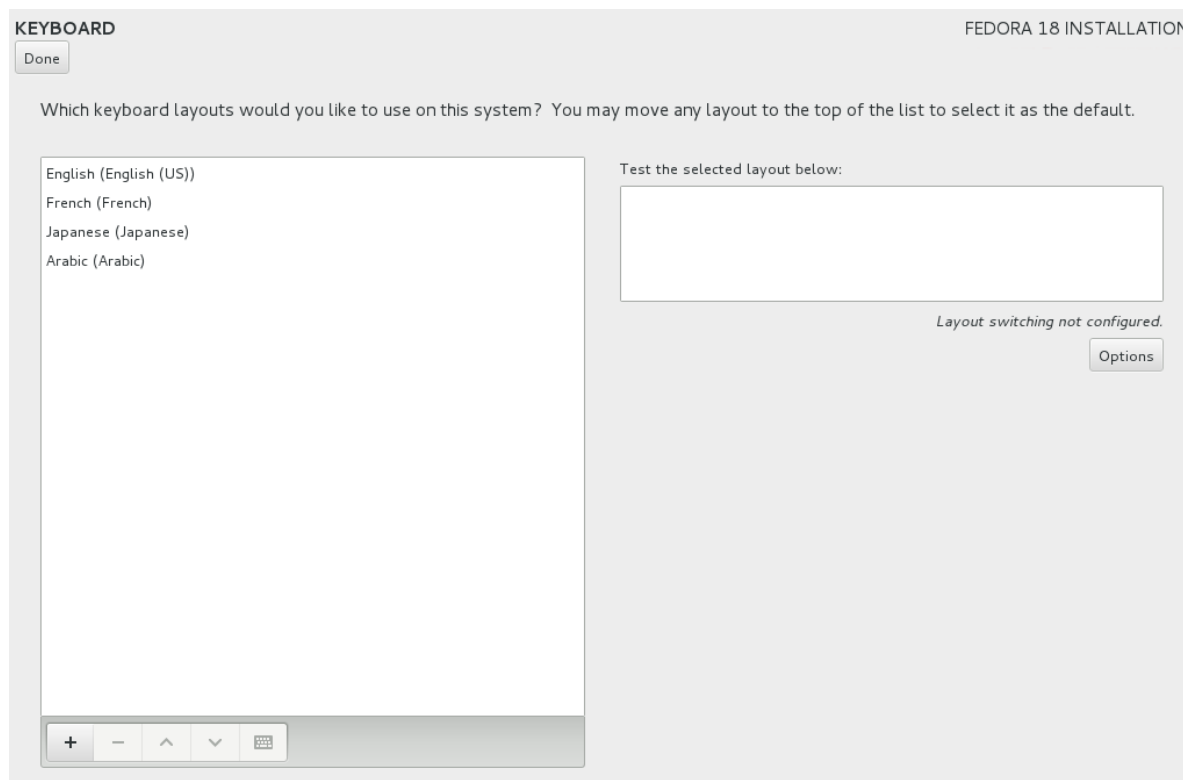


Figure 6. Keyboard Configuration

To change the layout or add additional layouts, click the **+** button and select from the list. To delete a layout, select it and click the **-** button. Use the arrow buttons to arrange the layouts in order of preference. For a visual preview of the keyboard layout, select it and click the keyboard button.

10. Date and time

Select **Date and Time** from the Installation Summary Menu.

Set your time zone by selecting the city closest to your computer's physical location.

There are two ways for you to select a city:

- Using your mouse, click on the interactive map to select a specific city. A red pin appears indicating your selection.
- You can also scroll through the **Region** and **City** drop-down menus at the top of the screen to select your time zone.

If your city is not available on the map or in the drop-down menu, select the nearest major city in the same timezone.

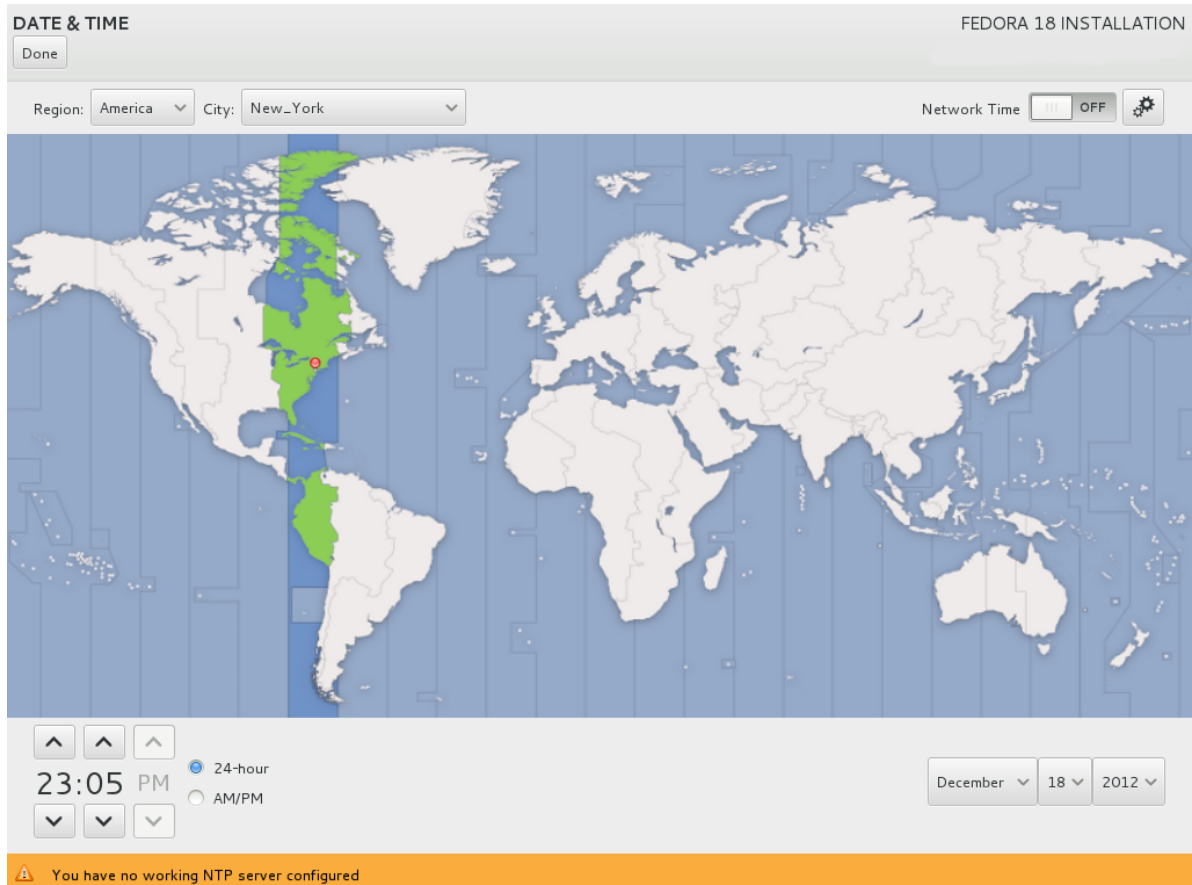


Figure 7. Configuring the Time Zone

Once you have made your selection, click **Done** to return to the Installation Summary Menu.

11. Storage and partitioning

Select **Installation Destination** from the Installation Summary Menu to select and partition the disks Fedora will be installed on.

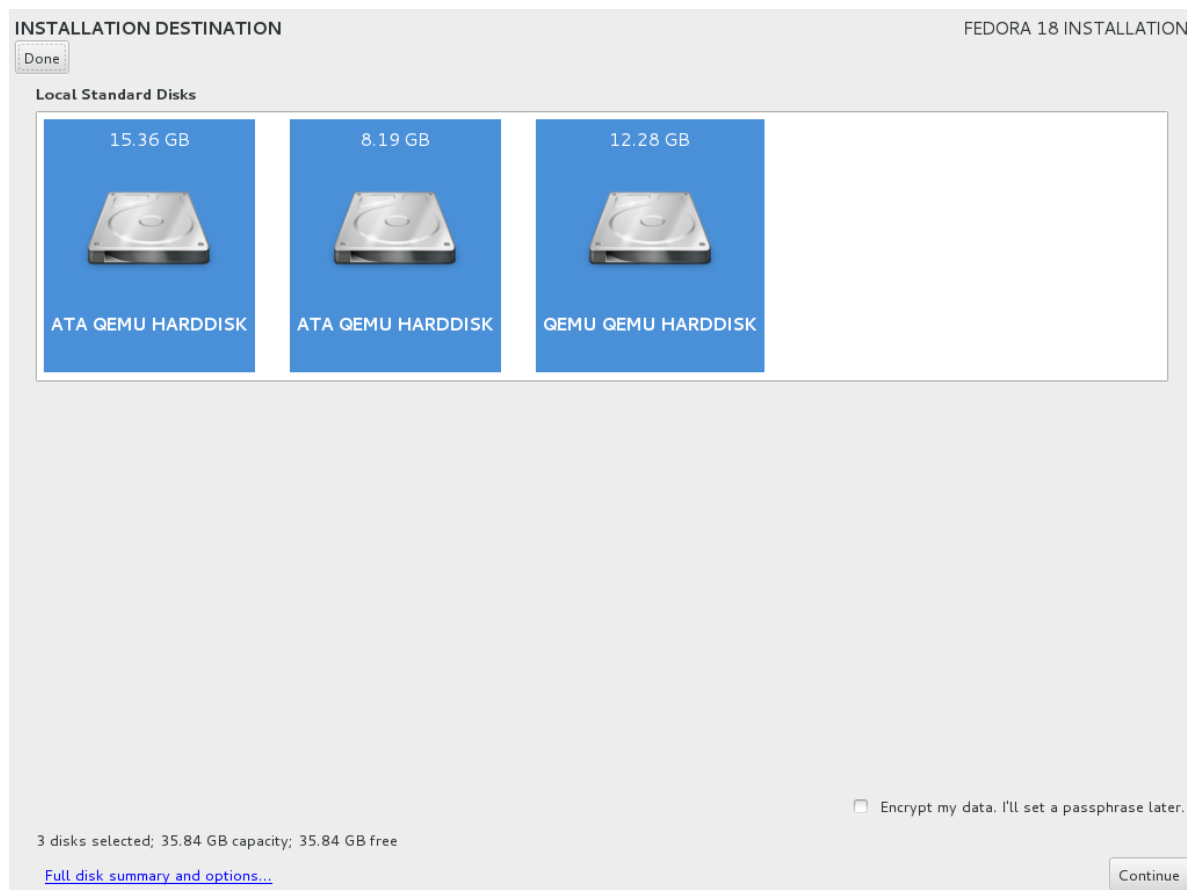



Figure 8. Disk Partitioning Setup

On this screen you can choose to create the default partition layout automatically, or choose to partition storage devices manually to create a custom layout.

Choose the disks to install Fedora on by clicking their graphical representations from the pane at the top of the screen. Each disk is marked with its label and size. Hold down **Ctrl** or **Shift** while clicking on the disks to select or unselect multiple disks.

You may want to simply install Fedora on all available disks. However, if you want to retain data or previously installed operating systems on one or more of those disks, do not include them in the installation.

**Warning**

All data will be erased during installation from the disks you select at this stage. Do not select disks that contain data you want to preserve.

Click **Continue** once you have made your selections.

The **Installation Options** dialog now appears, informing you if there is enough space on the selected drive to install Fedora.

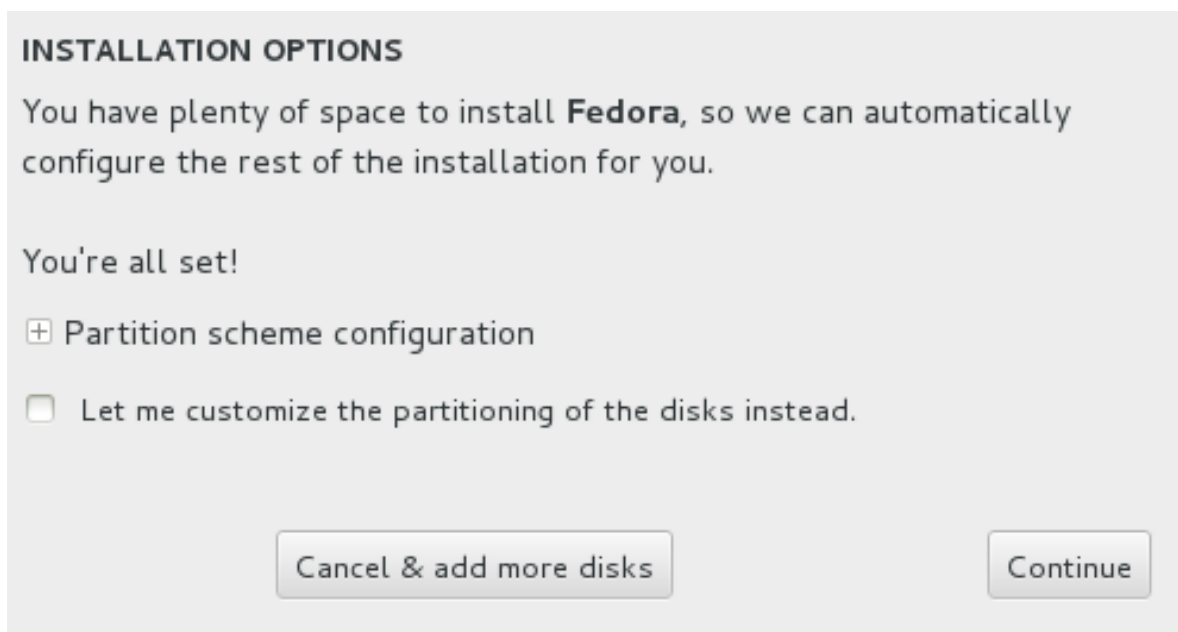


Figure 9. Installation Options dialog

To create and edit the partitions yourself, check the box labeled **Let me customize the partitioning of the disks**, then click **Continue** to reach the **Manual Partitioning** section. Refer to the *Fedora Installation Guide* for instructions on manual partitioning.

Click **Continue** to allow Fedora to automatically configure the partitions for you and return to the Installation Summary Menu.

12. Software Selection

If you install from a Fedora Live image, you cannot make package selections. This installation method transfers a copy of the Live image rather than installing packages from a repository. To change the package selection, complete the installation, then use the **Add/Remove Software** application to make desired changes.

If you are installing Fedora from a DVD, refer to [Appendix A, Software Selection](#) for details of package selection.

13. Begin installation

When all required sections of the Installation Summary Menu have been completed, the yellow admonition at the bottom of the menu screen will disappear and the **Begin Installation** button can be selected.

If you have finished customizing your installation and are certain that you want to proceed, click **Begin Installation**.



Last chance to cancel safely

Up to this point in the installation process, the installer has made no lasting changes to your computer. When you click **Begin Installation**, the installer will allocate space on your hard drive and start to transfer Fedora into this space. Depending on the partitioning option that you chose, this process might include erasing data that already exists on your computer.

To revise any of the choices that you made up to this point, return to the relevant section of the Installation Summary Menu. To cancel installation completely, click **Quit** or switch off your computer. To switch off most computers at this stage, press the power button and hold it down for a few seconds.

After you click **Begin Installation**, allow the installation process to complete. If the process is interrupted (for example, by you switching off or resetting the computer, or by a power outage) you will probably not be able to use your computer until you restart and complete the Fedora installation process, or install a different operating system.

14. The Configuration Menu and Progress Screen

Once you click **Begin Installation** on the Installation Summary Menu, you will be directed to the Configuration Menu and Progress Screen. Fedora reports the installation progress on the screen as it writes the selected packages to your system.

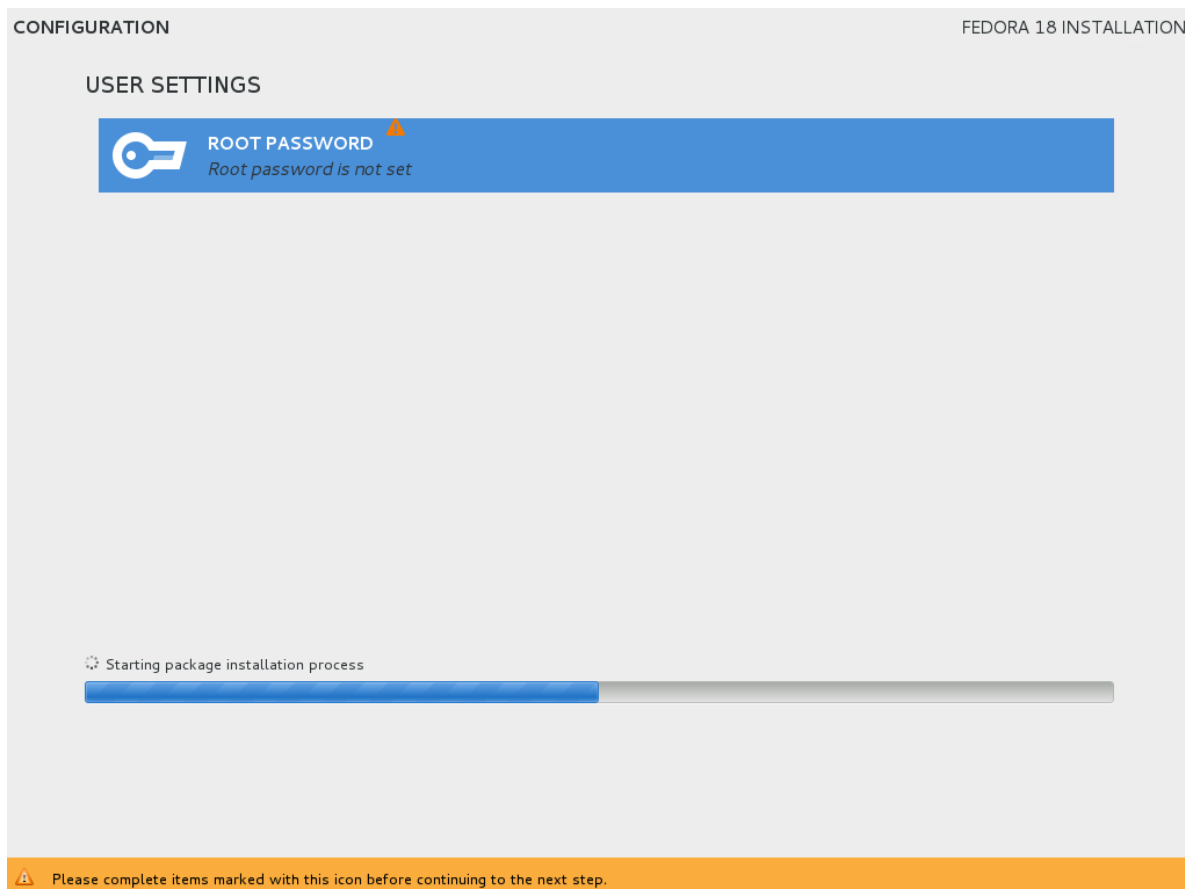


Figure 10. Installing packages

While the packages are being installed, more configuration is required. Above the installation progress bar is the **Root Password** menu item. The root password can be configured either while the packages are being installed or afterwards, but you will not be able to complete the installation process until it has been configured.

15. Set the Root Password

Setting up a root account and password is one of the most important steps during your installation. The root account is used to install packages, upgrade RPMs, and perform most system maintenance. Logging in as root gives you complete control over your system.

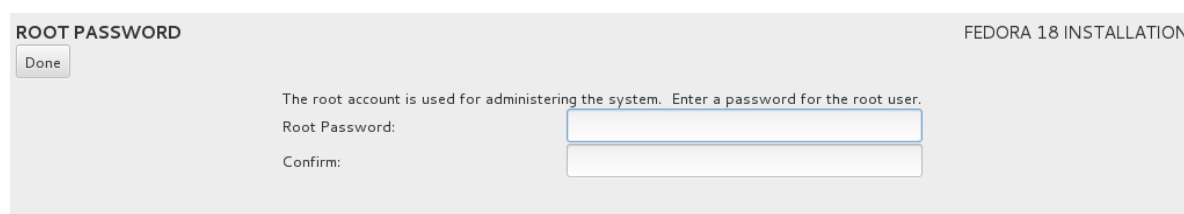


Figure 11. Root Password

Click the **Root Password** menu item and enter your nominated password into the **Root Password** field. Fedora displays the characters as asterisks for security. Type the same password into the **Confirm** field to ensure it is set correctly. After you set the root password, click **Done** to return to the Configuration Menu and Progress Screen.

16. Reboot your system

Once the packages are installed and you have set the root password, click the **Quit** button that will appear at the bottom of the screen to exit to the Live Desktop.

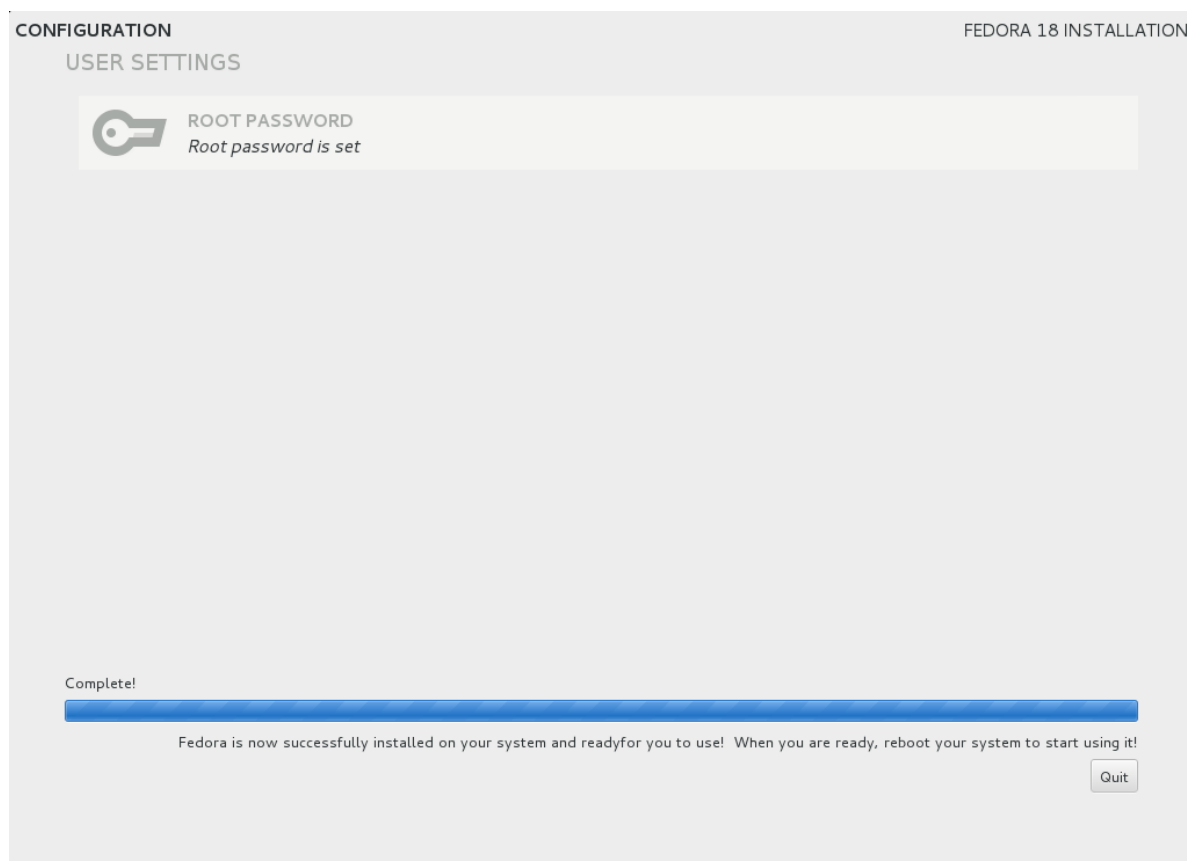


Figure 12. Packages installed

Click **Live System User** in the top right of the Live Desktop. Click **Power Off** from the drop-down menu that appears, then **Restart** to reboot your system and begin the Firstboot process.

17. Welcome to Firstboot

Firstboot launches the first time that you start a new Fedora system. Use **Firstboot** to configure the system for use before you log in.

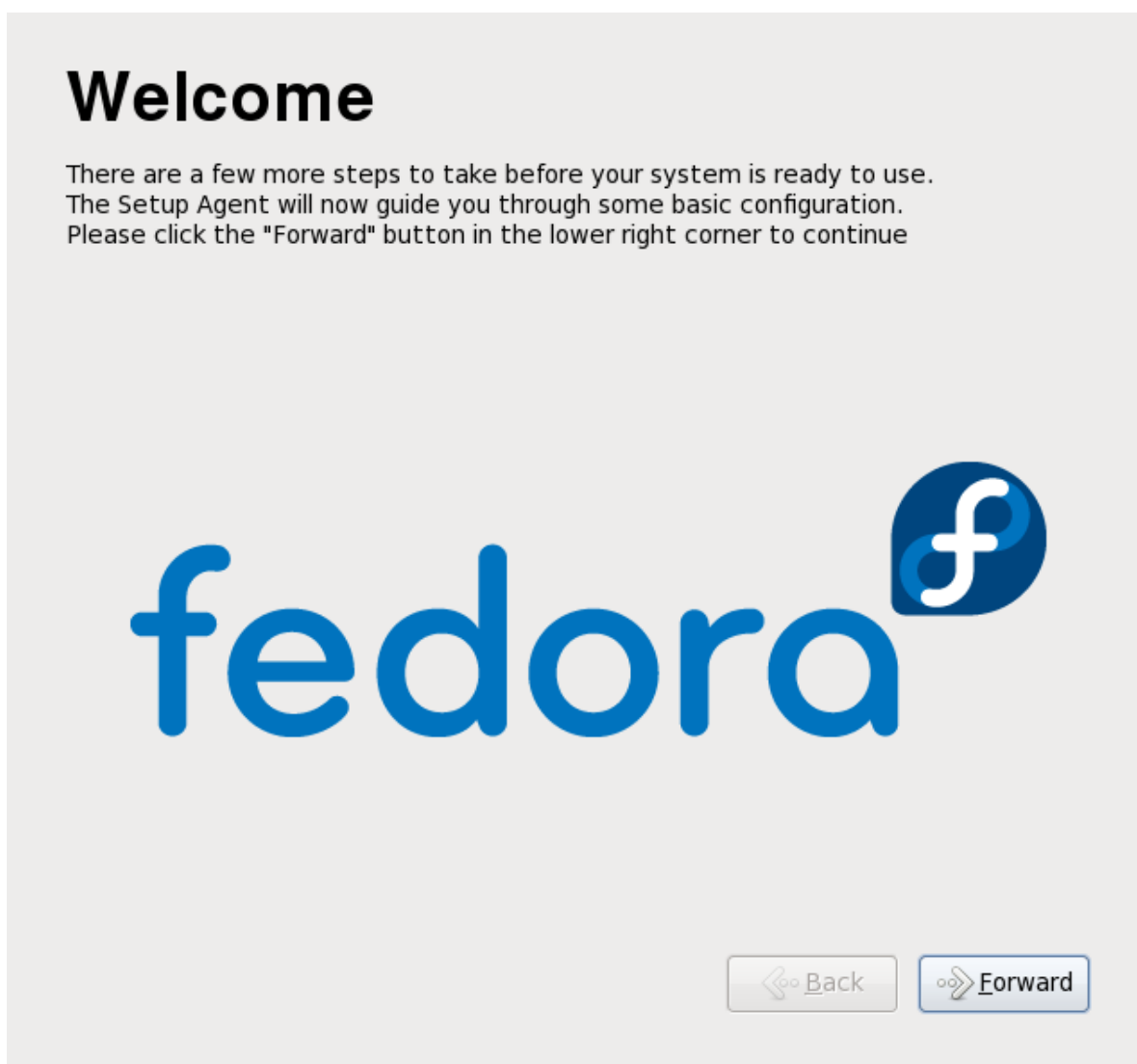


Figure 13. Firstboot welcome screen

Select **Forward** to start **Firstboot**.

18. License Agreement

This screen displays the overall licensing terms for Fedora. Each software package in Fedora is covered by its own license. All licensing guidelines for Fedora are located at <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Legal/Licenses>.

License Information

Thank you for installing Fedora. Fedora is a compilation of software packages, each under its own license. The compilation is made available under the GNU General Public License version 2. There are no restrictions on using, copying, or modifying this code. However, there are restrictions and obligations that apply to the redistribution of the code, either in its original or a modified form. Among other things, those restrictions/obligations pertain to the licensing of the redistribution, trademark rights, and export control.

If you would like to understand what those restrictions are, please visit <http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Legal/Licenses/LicenseAgreement>.

Understood, please proceed.



Figure 14. Firstboot license screen

If you agree to the terms of the licence, click **Forward**.

19. Create User

Create a user account for yourself with this screen. Always use this account to log in to your Fedora system, rather than using the root account.

Create User

You must create a 'username' for regular (non-administrative) use of your system. To create a system 'username', please provide the information requested below.

Full Name:

Username: ☐ Add to Administrators group

Password:

Confirm Password:

If you need to use network authentication, such as Kerberos or NIS, please click the Use Network Login button.

If you need more control when creating the user (specifying home directory, and/or UID), please click the Advanced button.

Figure 15. Firstboot create user screen

20. Date and Time

If your system does not have Internet access or a network time server, manually set the date and time for your system on this screen. Otherwise, click the **Synchronize date and time over the network** checkbox to configure your system to use *NTP* (Network Time Protocol) servers to maintain the accuracy of the clock. NTP provides time synchronization service to computers on the same network. The Internet contains many computers that offer public NTP services.

Date and Time

Please set the date and time for the system.

Date and Time

Current date and time: Thu 18 Feb 2010 11:18:30 AM EST

☐ Synchronize date and time over the network

Manually set the date and time of your system:

Date

< February >
< 2010 >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Time

Hour : 11

Minute : 14

Second : 57

Back
Finish

Figure 16. Firstboot date and time screen

Click **Finish** to complete and exit **Firstboot**.

21. Your installation is complete

Fedora is now installed on your computer. Log in with the username and password that you created during the installation process.

To learn more about Fedora, visit the Fedora Project website at <http://fedoraproject.org/>. If you need help installing or using Fedora, visit <http://fedoraproject.org/en/get-help>.

22. We Need Feedback!

If you find a typographical error in this manual, or if you have thought of a way to make this manual better, we would love to hear from you! Please submit a report in Bugzilla: <http://bugzilla.redhat.com/bugzilla/> against the product **Fedora Documentation**.

When submitting a bug report, be sure to mention the manual's identifier: *installation-quick-start-guide*

If you have a suggestion for improving the documentation, try to be as specific as possible when describing it. If you have found an error, please include the section number and some of the surrounding text so we can find it easily.

A. Software Selection

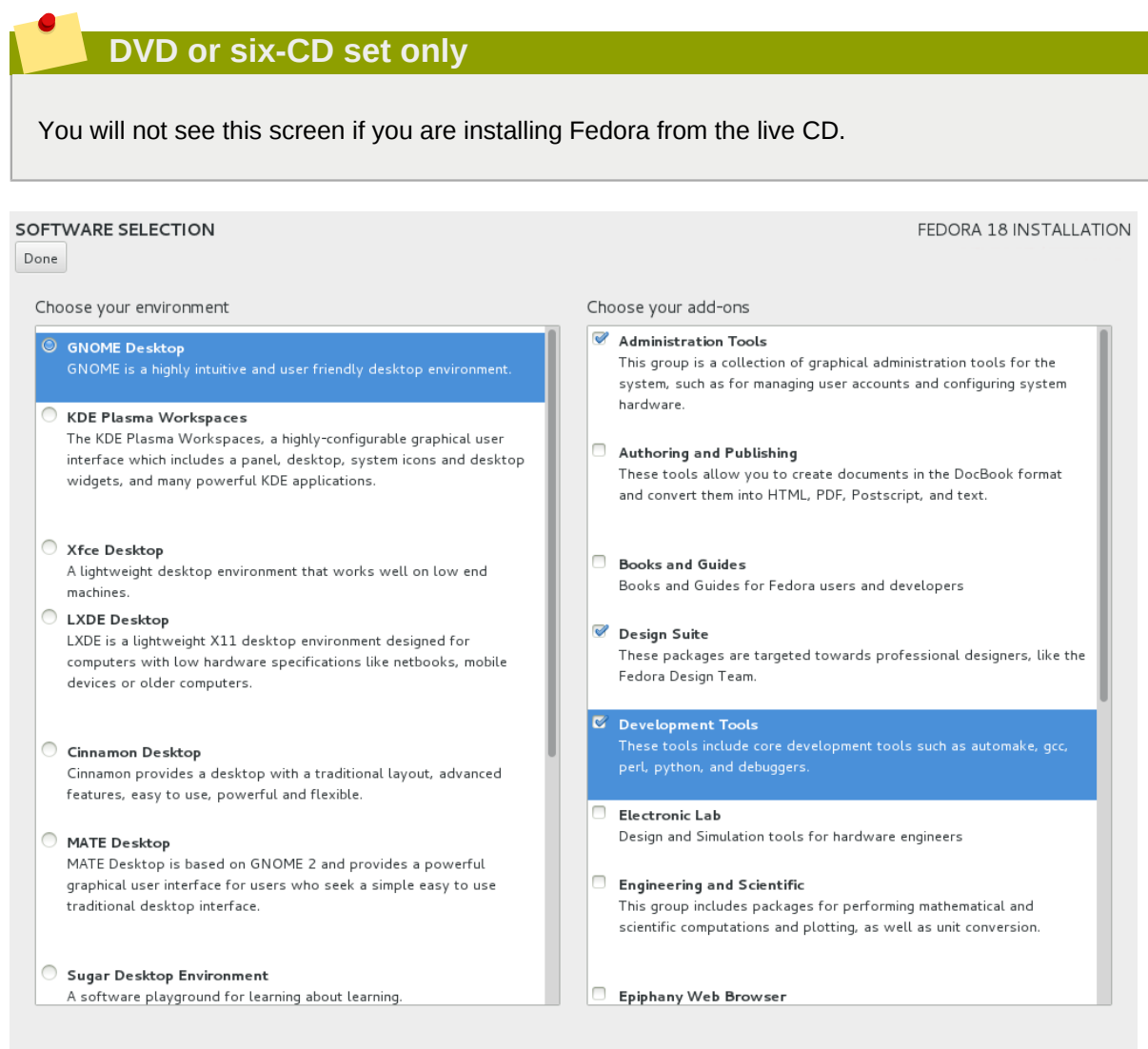


Figure A.1. Software Selection

To specify which packages Fedora will install, select **Software Selection** from the Installation Summary Menu.

By default, Fedora installs the GNOME Desktop Environment, but in **Software Selection** you can choose from a range of other environments and customise additional packages to be installed as add-ons. Available environments are listed in the left-hand pane. To select an environment, click the radio button that corresponds to one of the following options:

Graphical Desktops (multiple options, one radio button each)

Fedora offers a variety of graphical desktop environments, which can be enhanced with add-ons such as the **LibreOffice** productivity suite, graphical tools such as the **GIMP**, and multimedia applications. The available environments are:

- GNOME Desktop
- KDE Plasma Workspaces
- Xfce Desktop
- LXDE Desktop
- Cinnamon Desktop
- MATE Desktop
- Sugar Desktop Environment

Development and Creative Workstation

This option provides the necessary tools to compile software and develop graphics and other content on your Fedora system.

Web Server

This option provides the **Apache** web server.

Infrastructure Server

This option provides a server for operating network infrastructure services.

Basic X Window System

This option provides the X Window System without a full graphical desktop environment.

Minimal Install

This option provides only the packages essential to run Fedora. A minimal installation provides the basis for a single-purpose server or desktop appliance and maximizes performance and security on such an installation.



Note

Only one desktop environment can be selected at install time. To install additional environments once Fedora is installed, use the **Software** tool or the **yum groupinstall** command.

Fedora will automatically install the base and mandatory packages for the environment you select, but you can select additional package groups, or add-ons, from the right-hand pane. The list of add-ons is refreshed when a new environment is selected. Add-ons range from common utilities such as **Administrative Tools** and **LibreOffice** to specialist tools such as **Medical Applications** and **Robotics**.

To specify add-ons for installation as part of the environment, select the check box next to each add-on.

Once you have selected an environment and any additional packages you may wish to install, click **Done** to return to the Installation Summary Menu.

B. Revision History

Revision 1.0-0 Mon Mar 11 2013

Updates for Fedora 18

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