



LFA Hotspot Install

SLQ Wiki Fabrication Lab 2026/04/13 01:01

LFA Hotspot Install

01 Getting Started

This guide assumes you have

- linux laptop (Ubuntu)
- ASUS RT-AC68U connect to laptop via ethernet LAN (the yellow ports)
- ASUS RT-AC68U WAN port (blue port) is connected to internet access ¹⁾.
- Two USB sticks - preferably USB3.0 speed.

Install Asus-Merlin Firmware

Download the [asus-merlin firmware](#).

Connect via ethernet port then go to <http://192.168.1.1/index.asp>

Create username and password at the prompt

Go to http://192.168.1.1/Advanced_FirmwareUpgrade_Content.asp and upload your new firmware:

Firmware Version	
Product ID	RT-AC68U
New firmware notification	Click here to configure settings.
Firmware Version	384.9 <input type="button" value="Check"/>
New Firmware File	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/> No file selected. <input type="button" value="Upload"/>

Once this is complete, go to http://192.168.1.1/Advanced_System_Content.asp and Enable SSH (LAN only) and Enable JFFS custom scripts.

Persistent JFFS2 partition	
Format JFFS partition at next boot	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Enable JFFS custom scripts and configs	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Service	
Enable SSH	LAN only ▾
Allow SSH Port Forwarding	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
SSH Port	22

02 LFA Hotspot Quick Install

The quick install builds on the basic steps outlined above to include a basic config, jffs folder settings and a USB data drive image.

Settings and JFFS

First we upload our custom settings and jffs folder. Grab this

zip file

and unzip it, then go to http://192.168.1.1/Advanced_SettingBackup_Content.asp

First upload the .CFG file as settings.

Administration - Restore/Save/Upload Setting	
This function allows you to save current settings of RT-AC68U to a file, or load settings from a file.	
Router settings	
Factory default	<input type="checkbox"/> Restore Initialize all the settings, and clear all the data log for AiProtection, Traffic Analyzer, and Web History.
Save setting	Save
Restore setting	Upload

And the backups_jffs.tar partition

JFFS Partition	
Backup JFFS partition	Save
Restore JFFS partition	Upload <input type="button" value="Browse..."/> No file selected.

Caution!!

Please note the wifi networks are open!! Please configure with a password before using in public.

Test the router over ssh

Test the SSH with the credentials you set up earlier.

You may have to remove the existing ssh keys for your connection to work, as all routers have the same IP.

Make USB Storage

The USB storage is used to store the entware packages and our webserver files. The USB stick should be USB3.0 and big enough to store your LFA files.

[Download the](#)

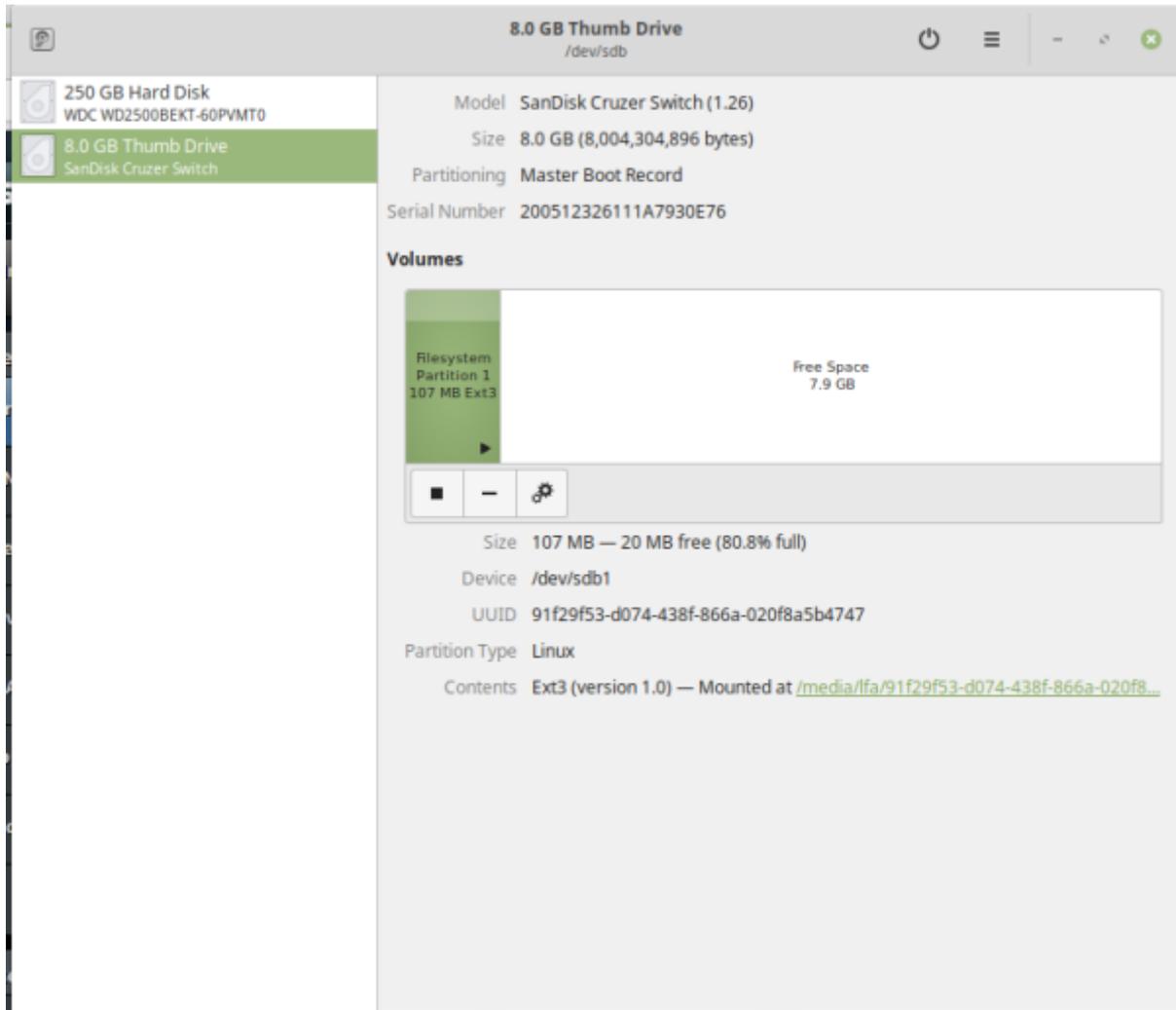
[image file](#)

and unzip it. You will get a disk image (.img) ready to be restored or clone with linux (or maybe mac?). Note this img is small for easy download - you will need to expand it to suit the size of your USB stick to maximize your storage space. We will use [gnome-disk-utilities](#).

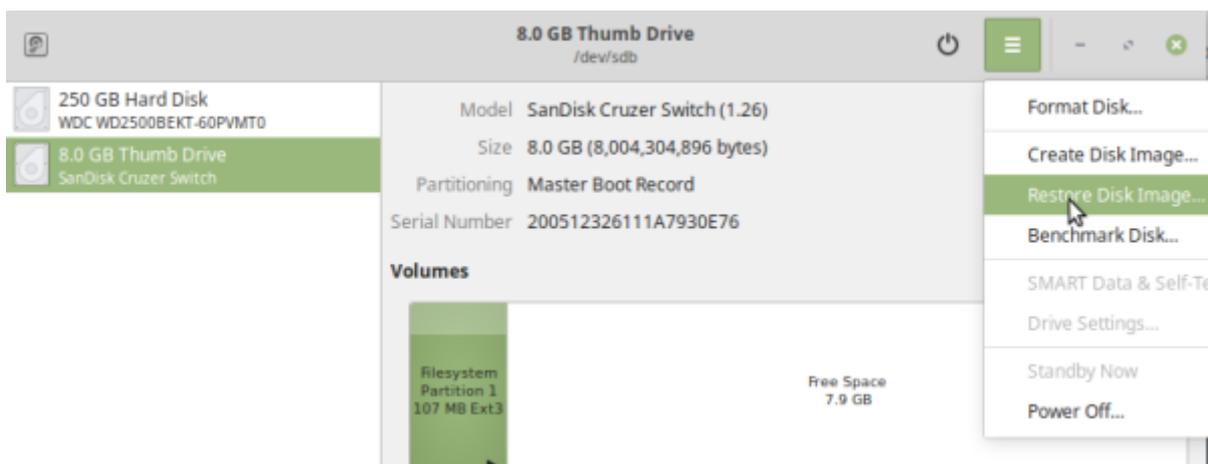
You can install this with

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install gnome-disk-utilities
```

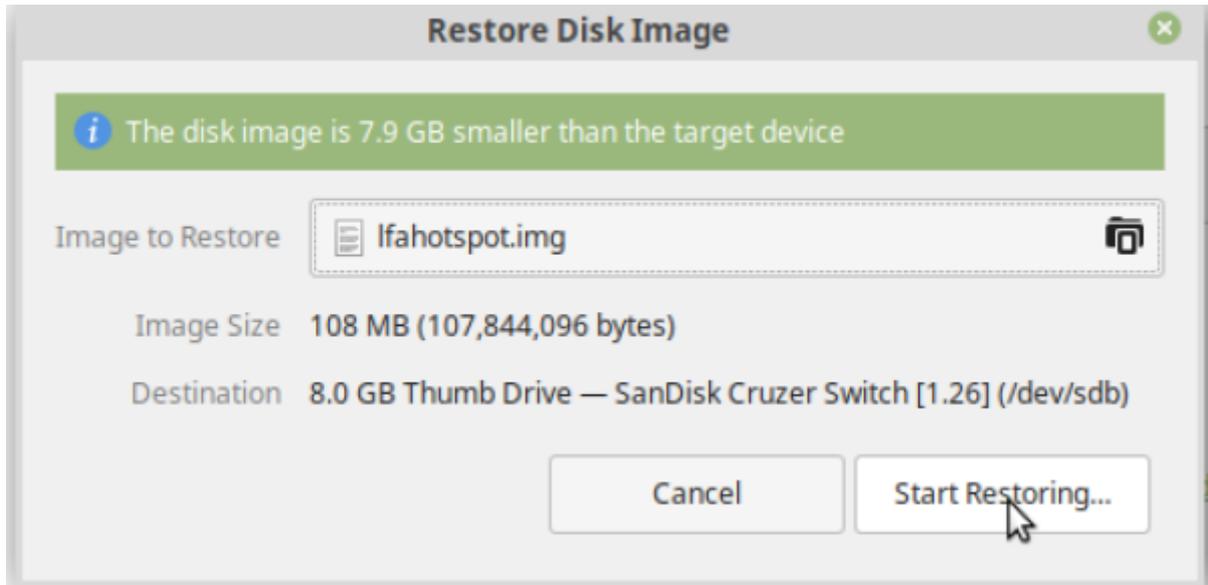
Insert your USB stick (mine is a sandisk cruzer) and launch disks



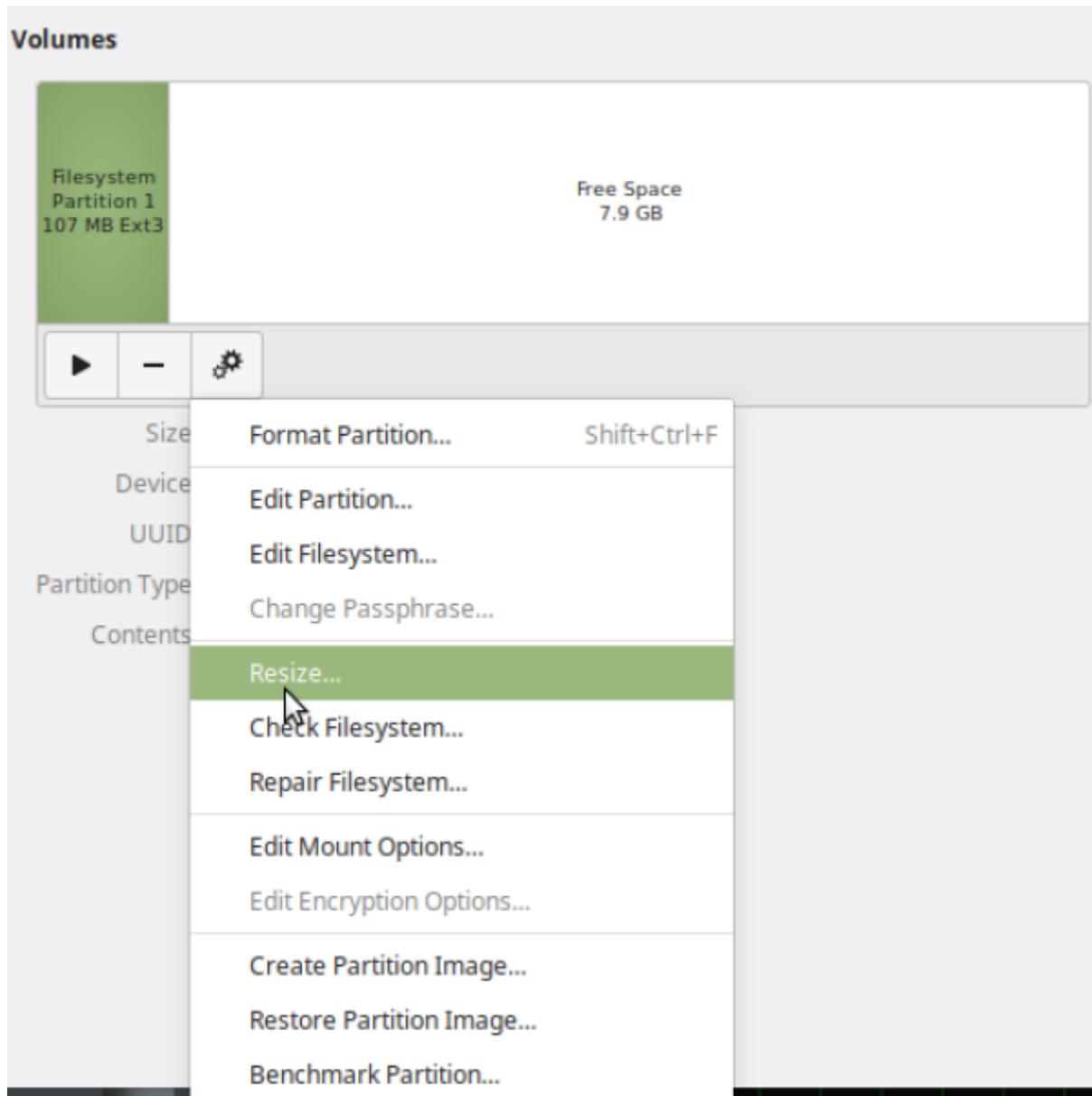
then select the “restore disk image” option.



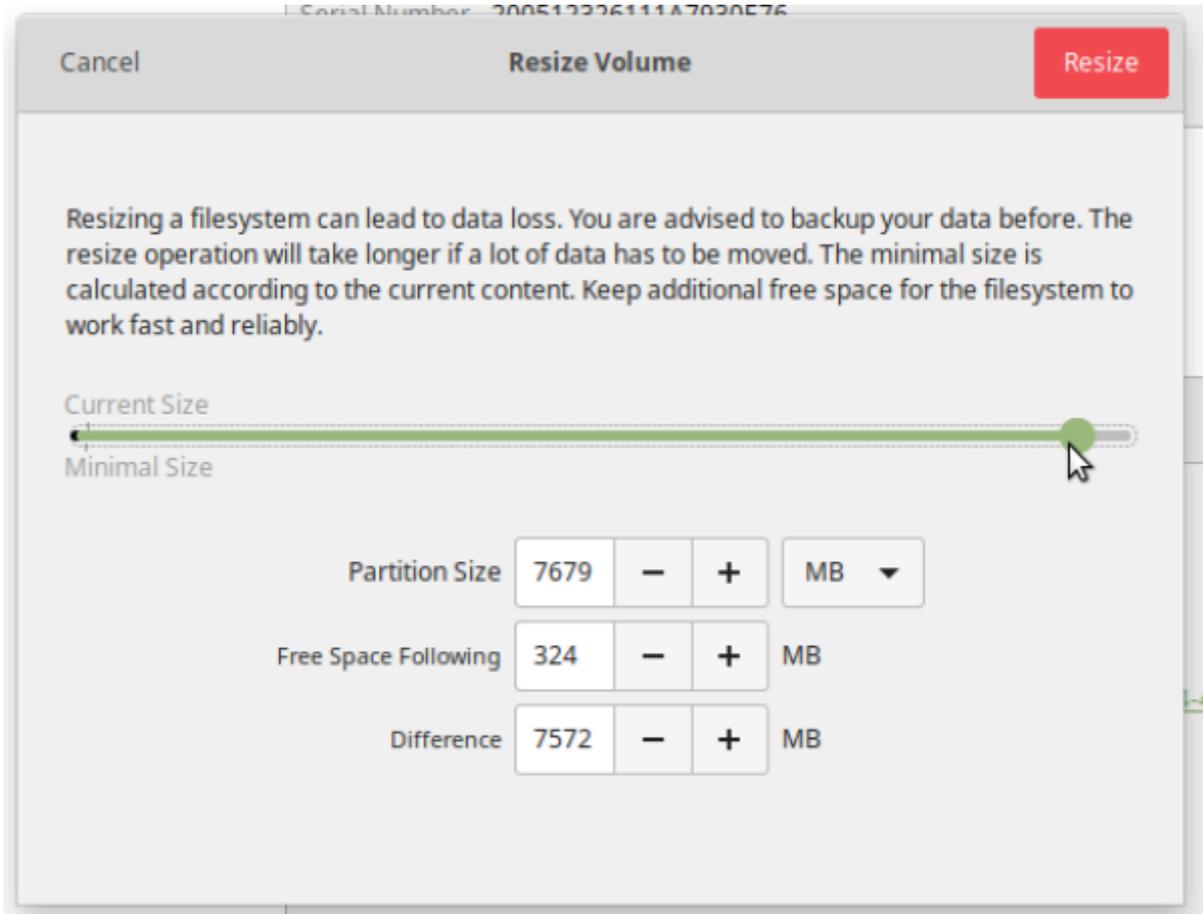
The image should be about 100mB - start restoring it.



Once this is complete - select resize



and drag the slider to resize to close the maximum (always leave a bit of space at the end of the disk)



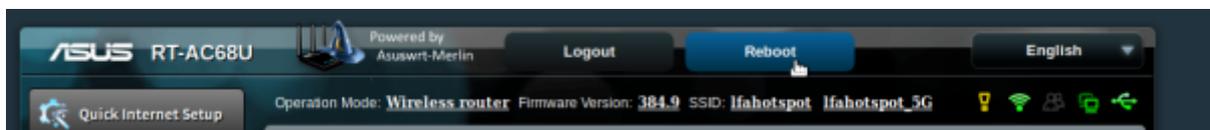
Once the resize is complete, eject the disk from your computer (safely!!) and go to <http://192.168.1.1/index.asp> to check the USB ports on your router. It should be empty.



Check that the USB drive shows up



Then reboot the router.



And your hotspot is ready to [set-up](#)

LFA Hotspot from Scratch

Building the hotspot from scratch involves formatting a USB drive using the router, installing the required opks, then copying the AULFA develop files from github.

SSH into your ASUS

```
ssh user@192.168.1.1
```

Now its time to make a USB formatted flash drive for storage. Follow the guide below and make a EXT4 formatted disk on the device itself, or use your linux disk utility of choice²⁾

<https://github.com/RMerl/asuswrt-merlin/wiki/Disk-formatting>

Install Entware (OPKG)

<https://github.com/RMerl/asuswrt-merlin/wiki/Entware>

install required packages:

```
opkg update
opkg install daemontools-encore haveged lighttpd lighttpd-mod-accesslog
lighttpd-mod-alias
lighttpd-mod-cgi logrotate lua rsync uuidgen
```

Download the lfa hotspot files:

<https://github.com/AULFA/hotspot.lfa.one/archive/develop.zip>

and unzip on local machine.

cd into it then use rsync to copy the files - remember to replace user with your username:

```
rsync -aP jffs/ user@192.168.1.1:/jffs
```

```
rsync -aP storage/ user@192.168.1.1:/tmp/mnt/sda1
```

now reboot

```
/sbin/reboot
```

1)

Internet access for the hotspot is not essential for the simple install instructions

2)

use only ext2 or ext3 format in this case to avoid unsupported feature errors