

How to Install Windows 7 with only USB 3.0 Ports

by [Travis Payton](#) on [March 16, 2014](#) in [Tutorials](#), [Windows](#) • [137 Comments](#)



Background

So if you have tried to install Windows 7 using a USB Flash Drive onto a system that only has USB 3.0 ports you might have found that you couldn't get past the Language Select screen of the installer as your keyboard and mouse didn't work. I recently had this problem when trying to install Win 7 onto my Gigabyte Brix XM12-3227 .



The keyboard and mouse worked great in the BIOS, but as soon as the Windows 7 installation media loaded and I was presented with that familiar Language Select screen, I had no cursor, or keyboard. I tried a couple of other things, like grabbing an older PS/2 keyboard and connecting it via a PS/2 to USB adapter. Same problem. It was at this point I decided to start Googling my problem, and low and behold I quickly discovered that Windows 7 does not

have drivers for USB 3.0 built in. In fact, it doesn't even know what to do with those ports once the BIOS hands over control to the installer image. If your [BIOS has an option to turn off USB 3.0](#), that is probably the easiest option. However my GIGABYTE BRIX had no such option that I could find.

Well, I didn't give up, I knew there had to be a way to add the necessary drivers to the installer, and it turns out there is! This also works great if you want to install from a fast USB 3.0 flash drive! The entire install takes about 5 minutes with one of those.

Step by Step Walk-Through

1. Get the right USB 3.0 Drivers

In order for your installer to work with your computer, make sure you grab the right USB 3.0 drivers. My motherboard used Intel USB 3.0 drivers, and so I downloaded the latest version from Intel's site. Look up your Motherboard's drivers and see which ones you need. For convenience I've added the latest drivers (as of the time of writing) for the most common USB 3.0 controllers. If you are unsure which drivers you need, or have multiple computers you need to install windows on, you can grab all of them.

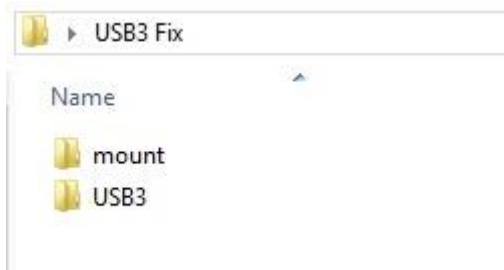
- [Intel eXtensible USB 3.0 Host drivers Win 7](#)
- [Renesas Electronics USB 3.0 Driver](#)
- [VIA VL800/801 & 805/806 USB 3.0](#)

2. Extract the Drivers

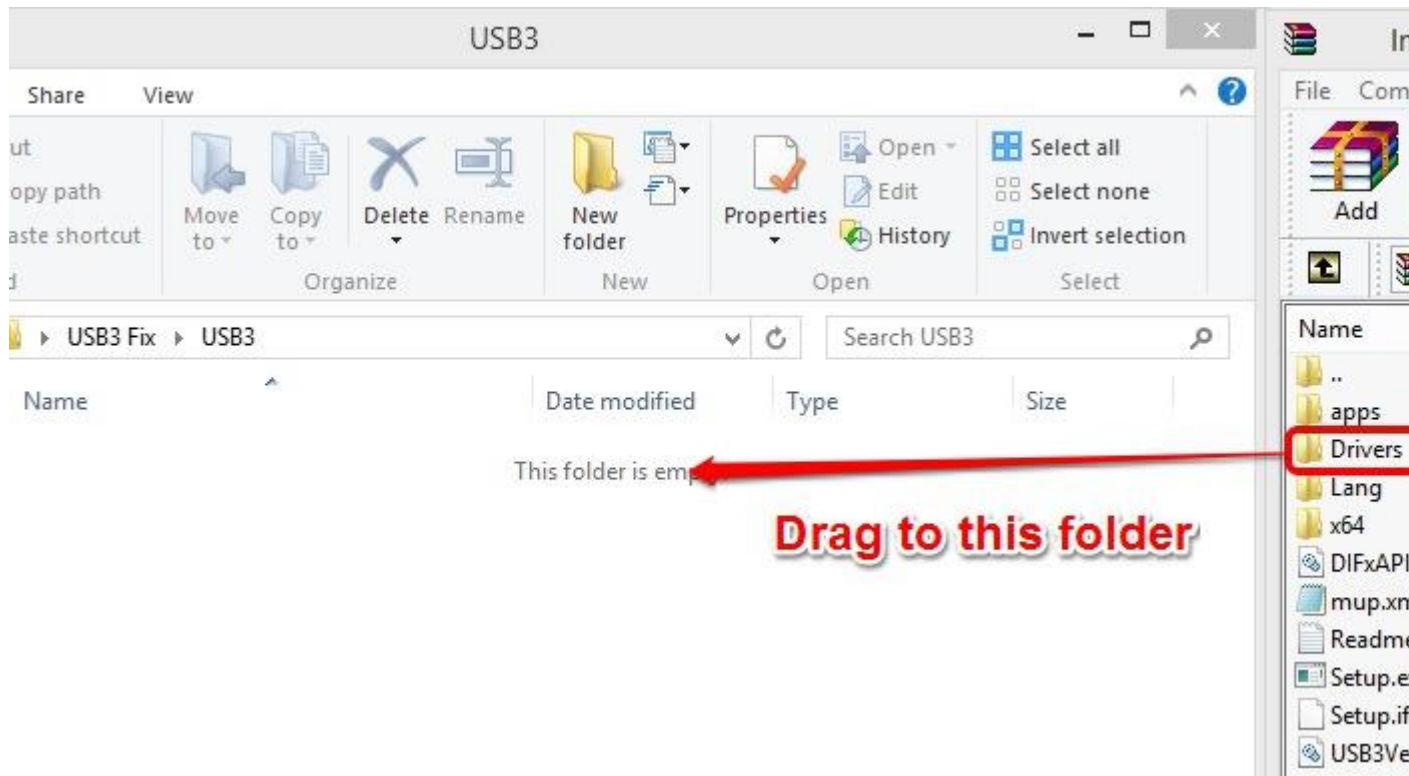
Once you download the drivers we will need to make a folder to place the drivers in. For the purpose of this example lets just call it "USB3 Fix".



Inside that folder create 2 separate folders: "USB3" and "mount".



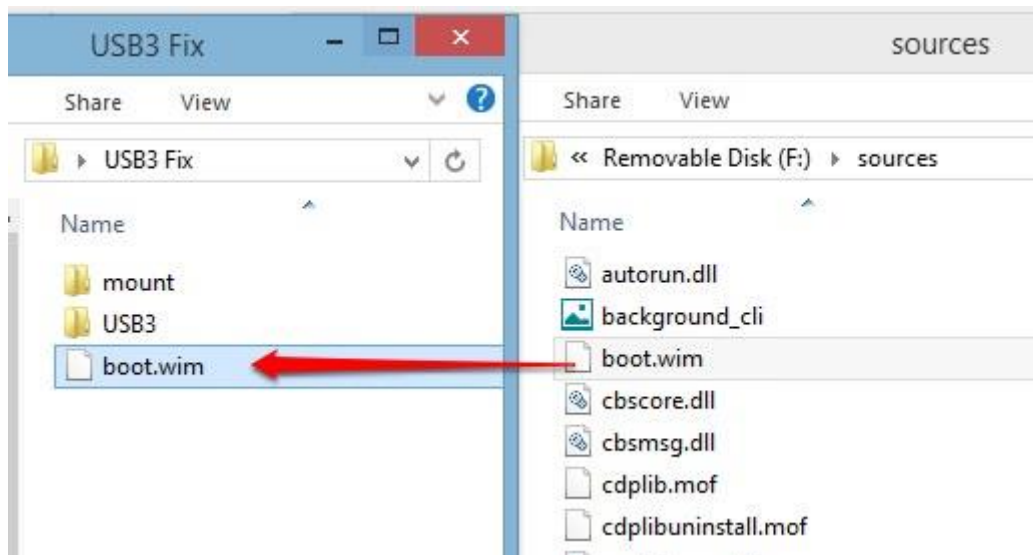
Now extract all of the drivers into that **USB3** folder.



3. Get the “boot.wim” and “install.wim” files

*** Thanks for all the comments pointing out that you also need to update the install.wim file!

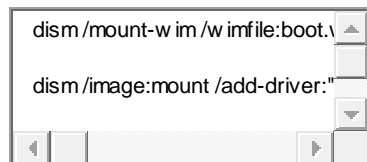
Next we need to get the files we need to install the drivers into. Open up your USB thumb drive that has your Windows 7 image on it and go the Sources folder. Move the “boot.wim” file and “install.wim” into your “USB3 Fix” folder we created earlier.



4. Update the “boot.wim” and “install.wim” Files

Open up your cmd shell as an administrator. (Click Start on windows 7, or Windows Key + Q on Windows 8, type in “cmd” and then right click on the cmd application and choose Run as Administrator.)

Once open, navigate to the USB3_Fix folder in the cmd shell, and type in the following commands in this order to update the boot.wim file:



1 `dism /mount-wim /wimfile:boot.wim /index:2 /mountdir:mount`

2

3 `dism /image:mount /add-driver:"usb3" /recurse`

4

5 `dism /unmount-wim /mountdir:mount /commit`

```
Administrator: Command Prompt
C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix>dism /mount-wim /wimfile:boot.wim /index:2 /mountdir:mount

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 6.3.9600.16384

Mounting image
[=====100.0%=====]
The operation completed successfully.

C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix>dism /image:mount /add-driver:"usb3" /recurse

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 6.3.9600.16384

Image Version: 6.1.7600.16385

Searching for driver packages to install...
Found 6 driver package(s) to install.
Installing 1 of 6 - C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix\usb3\Drivers\HCSwitch\x64\i
usb3hcs.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 2 of 6 - C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix\usb3\Drivers\HCSwitch\x86\i
usb3hcs.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 3 of 6 - C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x64\iusb3
hub.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 4 of 6 - C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x64\iusb3
xhc.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 5 of 6 - C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x86\iusb3
hub.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
Installing 6 of 6 - C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix\usb3\Drivers\Win7\x86\iusb3
xhc.inf: The driver package was successfully installed.
The operation completed successfully.

C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix>dism /unmount-wim /mountdir:mount /commit

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 6.3.9600.16384

Image File : C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix\boot.wim
Image Index : 2
Saving image
[=====100.0%=====]
Unmounting image
[=====100.0%=====]
The operation completed successfully.

C:\Users\Travis\Desktop\USB3 Fix>
```

Next do the same thing to the “install.wim” file. This file has a couple different index values depending on what type of windows you are installing. You can list all of the indexes and their contents by typing in:

```
dism /Get-WimInfo /WimFile:inst
```

1 dism /Get-WimInfo /WimFile:install.wim

It will give you the output of the different installers and their indexes:

```
Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool
Version: 10.0.10240.16384

Details for image : install.wim

Index : 1
Name : Windows 7 HOMEBASIC
Description : Windows 7 HOMEBASIC
Size : 11,707,704,502 bytes

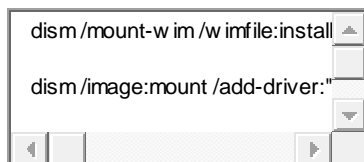
Index : 2
Name : Windows 7 HOMEPREMIUM
Description : Windows 7 HOMEPREMIUM
Size : 12,220,130,696 bytes

Index : 3
Name : Windows 7 PROFESSIONAL
Description : Windows 7 PROFESSIONAL
Size : 12,120,429,592 bytes

Index : 4
Name : Windows 7 ULTIMATE
Description : Windows 7 ULTIMATE
Size : 12,283,036,052 bytes

The operation completed successfully.
```

If you want to update all of them you will have to repeat the below process for each of the indexes you want to update. For me, I'm just installing Windows 7 Professional, so I'm going to just update that one.



```
dism /mount-w im /w imfile:install
dism /image:mount /add-driver:"
```

1 dism /mount-wim /wimfile:install.wim /index:3 /mountdir:mount

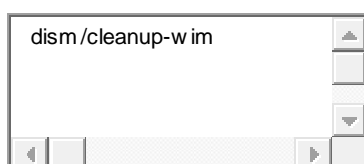
2

3 dism /image:mount /add-driver:"usb3" /recurse

4

5 dism /unmount-wim /mountdir:mount /commit

If you are encountering dism errors when trying to run the above commands make sure that your wim files are successfully unmounted by running the following command:



```
dism /cleanup-w im
```

1 dism /cleanup-wim

After that command finishes, try mounting the wim that was giving you errors again and adding the drivers.

*Thanks to Jason for pointing out the dism /cleanup-wim command. For more information about troubleshooting wim mounting see [this awesome post](#).

5. Replace the “boot.wim” and “install.wim” files

Now you're done! Simply place the modified “boot.wim” and “install.wim” file back into the “sources” directory on your Win 7 iso bootable USB thumb drive and everything should work as expected!

Hope this saves people the 30 minutes it took me to find a solution that worked! Thanks goes to Rakeesh who originally posted this workaround at forums.mydigitallife.info.