# Creating bootable Solaris 11 USB drive

Download the requisite Solaris OS image from Oracle here. You may need to create a free account first.

*Note that if you are building a SPARC server e.g. T8-2, it comes with Solaris pre-installed. You should start with this document here, connecting to the ILOM System Console via the SER MGT Port using the instructions here.*

> *The instructions from Oracle are as follows, but I don't like the way they say to use dmesg | tail to identify the USB device when **lsusb** to identify the make and model and **df -h** to identify the device name provide much clearer, humanly readable output.*

- **On Linux:**
  a. **Insert the flash drive and locate the appropriate device.**

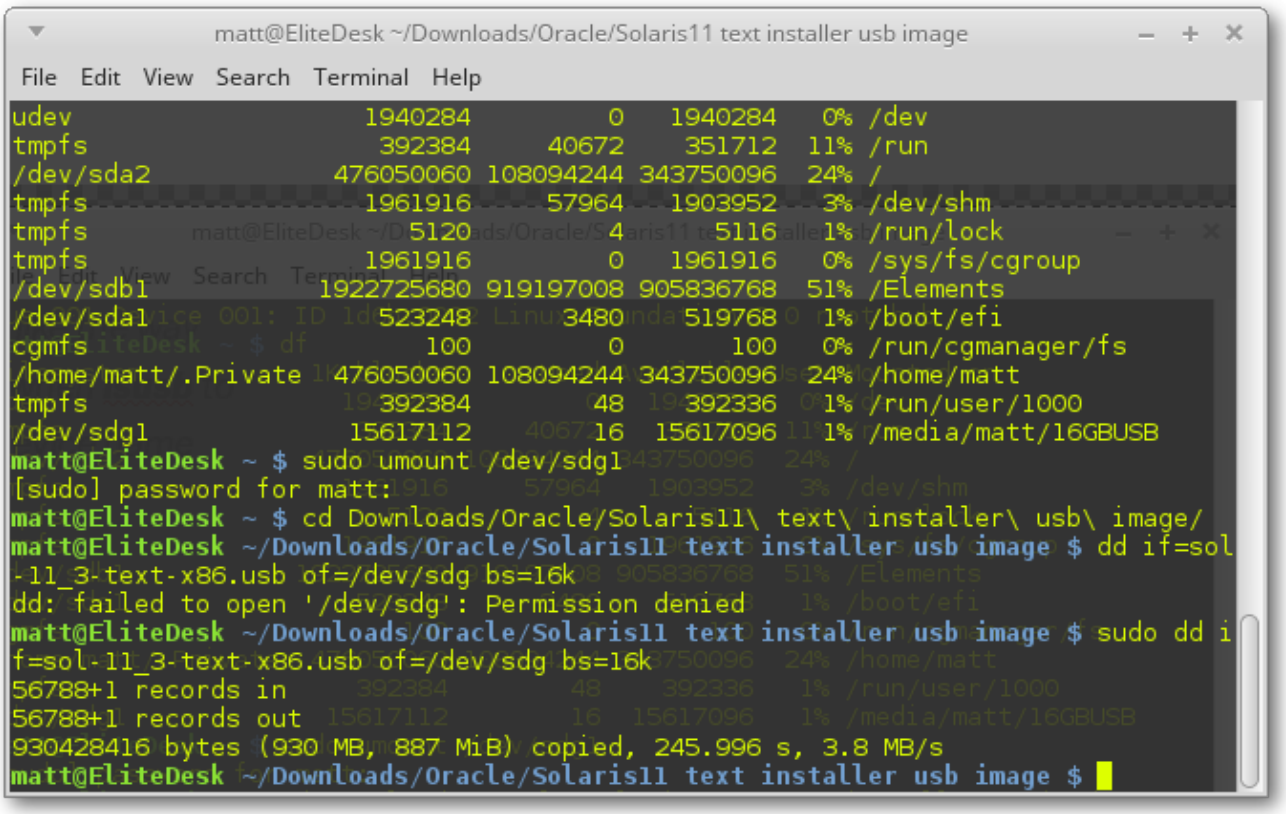
     **# dmesg | tail**

  b. **Copy the image.**

     **# dd if=/*path*/*image*.usb of=/dev/disk*N* bs=16k**

For other client operating systems such as Solaris itself or MacOSX, instructions from Oracle can be found here.

> *In my case, the USB stick was mounted to /dev/sdg1 automatically when plugged into Linux desktop, so I unmounted /dev/sdg1 then changed to the directory containing my Solaris 11 image, then used dd as shown in the screenshot below.*




The commands are therefore,

**df -h** to Identify the USB device e.g. /dev/sdg

**sudo umount /dev/sdg1** to unmount the filesystem on the USB device

**cd ~/Downloads/Solaris11** to change to the location of your downloaded image file

**sudo dd if=sol-11_3.usb of=/dev/sdg bs=16k** to write it to the USB device

Since dd is a block level, not a file level copy, you don't need to make the USB device bootable or anything like that. That's all contained in the blocks copied to the device.